

Historic Hemet Theatre

PRESS RELEASE – November 20, 2017

Susan Carrier (951) 551-5363 susan@valleyhappenings.com



HHT HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER THE VALLEY...

After four years of shoe-string budgets and snail-paced progress, the Historic Hemet Theatre Foundation is nearing the point of purchasing the vintage movie house. Still, much is left to be done to build a community arts center that will do so much for the valley... that is already doing so much for the valley.

This past weekend, the Valley Queens Scholarship Pageant filled the auditorium with some of our best and brightest young women. This annual event is one of my favorites - a very quintessential small town event to crown Miss Hemet and Miss San Jacinto (along with "teen," "junior teen" and "Mrs" title holders). With HHT as the backdrop, the pageant is just stunning to watch.

In fact, more than a dozen times a year local nonprofits like the Scholarship Pageant use HHT to host a fundraiser, present an educational program or hold a club social event. The Foundation provides the facility at a discount of 50% or more to encourage nonprofits to expand their community impact. But the impact of this community arts center is so much more...

- Community Heritage - HHT is one of the oldest movie houses in the country. Anyone growing up in this valley has fond memories of the Martin Family's old theatre. Nearly 100 years of community has been shared in that old building. We cannot allow valley become just another graveyard for a vintage theater. At HHT, over 100 volunteers are dedicated to keeping the heritage alive.

- Cultural Enrichment - Old movies and tribute concerts are just part of the programming at the Foundation. HHT provides quality entertainment and educational events with affordable ticket prices. The size of the auditorium makes it the largest facility of its kind in this area (Temecula's largest theater is half the size). The acoustics and layout of the auditorium are so ideal -- it is true that they just don't make them like this anymore. Just ask anyone who has been to an HHT event... or any of the performers that rave about the sound, the atmosphere, the warm audiences they find here.

- Economic Revitalization - HHT is proud to be part of the revitalization of the historic downtown district. The events at the theatre not only bring valley residents to the downtown district, but patrons from across southern California are drawn to Hemet for top-quality concerts with affordable ticket prices. The valley's snow-birds love this lovely vintage auditorium... a great reason to keep coming back here each year... And a reason for residents to have hope for a brighter future for our valley.

But community arts centers need the support of their community to survive. Similar venues get 40% or more of their funding from sponsors, grants and donations. Currently, HHT receives less than 15% of its revenue from gifts. If this arts center is to survive, it will be because the valley

community banded together to keep this project alive. The Soboba Foundation recently became the first organization to provide major funding to the project. Much more is needed for renovations, updated sound and lighting equipment and more.

On Saturday December 2nd, the Foundation is hosting a gala event to benefit the Building Fund. VINTAGE VEGAS will be an elegant evening of Las Vegas entertainment, unique food tastings, and more -- all to benefit the Building Fund of the Historic Hemet Theatre Foundation. Won't you add your support to that of your neighbors?

The evening will include a buffet of elegant hors d'oeuvres and desserts, followed by a Tribute to The Rat Pack, featuring "The Pack" from Las Vegas. Over 40 gift baskets will be raffled off as well as a Grand Prize Drawing. Please join us and help fuel the dream...

Visit www.HistoricHemetTheatre.com for a full lineup of events or stop by the ticket office Monday thru Friday 11am - 6pm. (951) 658-5950.