

Historic Hemet Theatre

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CHAMBER NONPROFIT AWARD PRESENTED TO HHT

Last week, the Historic Hemet Theatre Foundation ended its 2017-2018 fiscal year, closing the books on an exciting year for the valley's acclaimed Community Arts Center. And topping off the year's achievements was the announcement Friday night that the Foundation had been voted "Non-Profit of the Year" by the members of the Hemet San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce.

This was the second time that the Chamber presented this award to the HHT Foundation, the first in 2015 as the venue was just beginning to gain popularity. Chamber awards have boosted community awareness and helped the Foundation raise funds toward the mission to preserve the 1921 movie house, enrich the local culture with the arts and revitalize Hemet's Downtown District.

During this sixth year of operations, HHT hosted 134 events including 20 shows in their popular Tribute Mania Concert Series. The series brings top tribute bands to the old movie house, where great acoustics, a huge dance floor and a wildly enthusiastic audience combine to create the best concert venue in southern California.

This year more than a dozen organizations have used the theatre to raise money or host free programs for the community. Over 100 local residents volunteer their time to staff the shows and maintain the facility.

In March 2018, the Foundation completed the purchase of the old movie house and began the extensive process of renovating the 97 year-old theatre. Already auditorium seats have been replaced with plush seats donated by the Academy Theatre in North Hollywood. Volunteers will soon be installing updated surround-sound speakers and projection equipment. The lobby will receive a much-needed paint job and new carpeting. Funds are now being raised to update the restrooms and provide an upgraded green room for performers.

There is a variety of ways that supporters can get involved. The Century Club is a fundraiser that is providing the funds needed for renovations from the top of the roof to the bottom of the auditorium in time for the theatre's 100th birthday in 2021. Donors that pledge at least \$500 will receive recognition on a permanent plaque in the lobby, recognizing those that help prepare HHT for its next century serving the community.

Sponsors of the Tribute Mania Concert Series receive recognition during concert events and can receive special incentives, including free tickets, promotion on concert flyers and a wall banner on the side of the theatre. Local business can also get involved by donating a gift basket for the Building Fund Raffles held at each major event.

The Tribute Mania Concert Series at HHT continues this week with Kenny Cetera's Chicago Experience on Saturday July 7th, followed by a Tribute to The Bee Gees with Bee Gees Gold on Saturday July 14th, Tribute to The Eagles with Desperado on Saturday August 4th, and Tribute

to Abba by Abba Fab on Saturday August 18th. Showtime for all Tribute Mania concerts is 7:00 pm, with doors open at 6:15 pm. Tickets are \$22 presale / \$25 day of show.

HHT also features classic films for just \$5 every Monday and Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm. Coming up on Monday July 9th, Charlie's (Big Hearted) Aunt (1940) starring Arthur Askey, Richard Murdoch, and Graham Moffatt, and on Tuesday July 10th, Charlie Chan's Secret (1935) starring Warner Oland, Rosina Lawrence, and Charles Quigley.

Information on all theatre events is available at www.HistoricHemetTheatre.com or by calling the ticket office, (951) 658-5950. A weekly email blast of upcoming events is available by enrolling on the website.

Event tickets are available online at www.PurplePass.com or at the theatre ticket office. Ticket Office hours are Monday thru Friday 11 am to 6 pm. Tickets are also available at the Downtown Deli, 113 N Harvard St and the Harvard Street Music Exchange, 134 S Harvard St.