

Historic Hemet Theatre

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HISTORIC HEMET THEATRE COMES BACK TO LIFE

The hottest new venue sensation in the Inland Empire is also one of the oldest. Built in 1921, the Historic Hemet Theatre is one of the oldest movie houses in the country. Now, under new ownership of a 501(c)3 foundation, the venue is earning a reputation as one of the best venues in Southern California.

The Historic Hemet Theatre Foundation took over operation of the facility in 2013, attracting a growing crowd of fans with its "Tribute Mania" concert series. In March the Foundation completed the purchase of the property and started plans for a million dollar renovation in time for a 100th birthday celebration in three years.

Plaster and paint have already transformed the lobby, replicating an art deco flair of the 1930's based on photo archives. New carpet and concession area are in the works for the next couple of months. Enlarged restrooms and improved green room facilities for performers are on the drawing board, along with a restoration of the pointed marquee with classic neon lights from the 1940's.

This cozy little venue has a charm that is captivating. The rather plain exterior conceals a 400-seat auditorium with an adorable art deco decor. Music fans are thrilled by the great bands, wonderful acoustics, and a big dance floor at the foot of the stage to rock the night away. Visiting bands are stunned by the enthusiasm of the Hemet audiences -- cheering, clapping and dancing more than anywhere else they perform.

And awards are piling up. The Hemet San Jacinto Chamber of Commerce presented HHT with its Nonprofit of the Year award in 2015 and 2018. The San Jacinto Chamber named it Business of the Year in 2016, and in 2017 Inland Empire Magazine called HHT "Best Live Theater Venue."

Upcoming concerts in the Tribute Mania Series include Tribute to The Cars with Heartbeat City (Oct 6), Tribute to Foreigner featuring 4NR (Oct 20), Tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival with Fortunate Son (Nov 3), Tribute to Neil Diamond with Dean Colley and Hot August Night (Nov 17), Tribute to Queen featuring Queen Nation (Dec 8), and Cash, Killer and the King: a tribute to Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Elvis (Dec 15).

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. 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.