

Historic Hemet Theatre

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HHT CELEBRATES 100 YEARS IN THE VALLEY

Built in 1921, The Historic Hemet Theatre is one of the oldest movie houses in the country. But one step inside and you will discover that behind its modest exterior is also the most charming old theatre you have ever seen.

Eight years ago, the Historic Hemet Theatre Foundation began operating the venue as a community arts center. The team set out to not only preserve a treasured valley landmark, but to use the venue to enrich the community with affordable high-quality entertainment and help bring Hemet's Historic Downtown District back to life.

Since then, over 60,000 patrons have visited HHT and over 100 different bands have performed. Now, HHT is not only one of the most historic building in the valley, but it is quickly becoming the valley's largest tourist attraction.



CIRCA 1925

This year, the Historic Hemet Theatre celebrates its 100th anniversary a series of special events, starting with last month's joint mixer hosted by the Hemet San Jacinto Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Greater San Jacinto Valley Chamber of Commerce. It was a spectacular event with dozens of dignitaries, hundreds of guests, topped off with a live concert by "Pure Bread," performing their nostalgic Tribute to Bread. Downtown Deli & Coffee Company, Harvard St Bakery & Deli, and Too Haute to Handle provided the refreshments.

The "Century Celebration" mixer event was only the beginning of a year of special events.



PURE BREAD PERFORMS AT HHT

Future events include a Hemet Heritage Foundation presentation on the history of the theatre, a screening of Michael Tennant's "Mr. Whittier's Hemet" about the founding of the town, a ghost-hunting tour, a Christmas Carol Sing-a-long, and an elegant gala, "Vintage Vegas" (Dec 4). Other special events will continue into next year.

Meanwhile, progress continues on the renovation of the theatre. The City of Hemet has already approved over \$1M in improvements to the interior of the building.

Remodel of the lobby is nearing completion, including 3 custom wall murals by artist Dan Melendez. It is hoped that by the end of the year, funding can be found to complete the handicap accessible restrooms.

Installation of \$30k worth of surround-sound speakers (donated by the old Costa Mesa Mall Theater) will allow HHT to meet qualifications for showing first-run films.



RENOVATED LOBBY WITH MURALS BY DAN MELENDEZ

The redesigned second floor will include a Museum of Early Film, dedicated to William Martin and will feature several pieces of historic projection equipment as well as office space and meeting rooms.

New challenges arose last month with new leaks in the 100-year-old water pipes and the breakdown of one of the building's four air conditioning units.

Be sure to visit the HHT website (<http://www.historichemettheatre.com>) for a more detailed walk through the history of the theatre. And don't forget to stop by the Box Office and check out the new lobby.

Information on all theatre events is available at www.HistoricHemetTheatre.com or by calling (951) 658-5950. Box Office is open Monday thru Friday, 11am – 5pm.