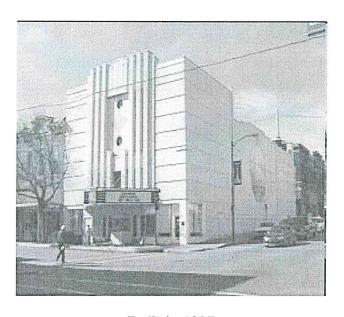
City of Leavenworth, Kansas

Parks & Recreation Department

Performing Arts Center

(Formerly the Hollywood Theater)



Built in 1937

5th & Delaware Streets

City of Leavenworth, Kansas Parks & Recreation Department

Performing Arts Center

5th & Delaware Streets

The Performing Arts Center, formerly called the Hollywood Theater, was Leavenworth's only movie palace. Its decorative Art Deco exterior and opulent interior treatments are hallmarks of the movie palaces that were built across America in the 1920's and 1930's. The theaters were designed to be showplaces, with sumptuous appointments, inviting the rich and poor alike to share the lavish surroundings and escape into celluloid fantasies.

Built in 1937 - 1938 to the design of Robert Boller, it was part of the Dubinsky theater chain. Boller Brothers were the prominent Kansas City, Missouri, movie theater design firm responsible for many movie palaces built throughout the Midwest and southwest. Some Boller Brother designed theaters in Kansas are the Fox in Hutchinson, the Fox-Watson in Salina, the Granada in Emporia, and the Booth in Independence.

In the late 1970's, a local amateur theater group approached the City of Leavenworth about taking over the Hollywood Theater, which was being replaced by a new four-plex. The City agreed and Mr. Stan Durwood, the owner, donated the building to the City. Since that time, the City has spent approximately \$200,000 on renovation work. While most of this has been City funds, donations from Hallmark Cards, Melissa Etheridge, fundraisers, and a state grant have helped defray the costs.

The Performing Arts Center is the home of the River City Community Players, who produce six or seven theater events annually. In addition, the theater is available on a limited basis for other user groups. In the past there have been magic shows, country western shows, gospel shows, dance recitals, rock concerts, children's movies, a wedding, and a funeral held in the theater. In 1999, the New Christy Minstrels put on two shows at the Performing Arts Center. Rock star Melissa Etheridge, a Leavenworth native, performed in the theater during her high school years.

City of Leavenworth, Kansas

Parks & Recreation Department

Performing Arts Center

5th & Delaware Streets

Technical Data

Stage Size

24' wide by 20' deep with a 4' thrust

20' wide by 8' lower stage

Instruments Available

10 each

6" ellipsoidals

6 each

8" ellipsoidals

14 each

6" fresnels

1 each

1,500 watt follow spot

Dimmer Unit

24 channel two scene pre-set/programmable, Strand MX24

Electrical Circuits

On stage:

13 circuits on 1st electric

4 circuits on 2nd electric

4 color strip on 3rd electric

Front of House:

5 on stage floor

8 circuits in balcony

220 Circuits:

In basement, electrician required

Electrical Outlets:

2 each 20 amp (1 SR, 1 SL)

Power into the Building

800 amps

Dressing Rooms

2 back stage, makeshift

(no running water or bathrooms back stage and no hot

water in entire building)

Repairs & Improvements at the Performing Arts Center

New roof Constructed larger stage Installed new carpet twice Replaced boiler Replaced air conditioning Replaced primary wiring Painted interior Patched and painted exterior Installed fire sprinkler Renovated marquee Installed handicapped-accessible restroom Repaired bathroom walls Replaced curtains Installed lighting and sound systems Constructed light and sound control booth Removed balcony seats to make room for storage