



## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

### LOOKING BACK 1916–1965

The Pantages, which now seats 1014, opened in 1916 as a vaudeville house and part of Greek immigrant Alexander Pantages' renowned consortia of theatres. It was designed by the Minneapolis firm of Kees and Colburn in an Art Moderne/Beaux Arts style. The Pantages' first show was a vaudeville lineup that included singers, comedians and a banjo player. In 1922, the Pantages was remodeled by renowned theatre architect Marcus Priteca and a new stained glass dome was added. In 1945, Edmond Ruben purchased the Pantages and renovated it by adding bird's-eye maple. The grand reopening was on April 14, 1946 with a screening of *Gilda*. In 1961, Ruben sold the Pantages to Ted Mann, who owned six other downtown Minneapolis theatres including the Orpheum Theatre. Mann renovated the Pantages yet again, and reopened it as the Mann Theatre on March 15, 1961 with the movie *Spartacus*. That same year, United Artists previewed *West Side Story* at the Mann and the film went on to win 10 Academy Awards. In 1965 director Robert Wise, recalling his success with *West Side Story*, decided to sneak preview his new movie, *The Sound of Music*, at the Mann. It was terrific success and went on to become the longest running film in Twin Cities history – just under two years. The theatre operated sporadically from 1965 through 1984, continuing to show movies including the Mann's last Twin Cities premiere of *Annie* in 1982.

### RENOVATION 1984–PRESENT

In 1984, the Mann Theatre closed and remained shuttered until 1997, when current Hennepin Theatre Trust President/CEO Tom Hoch and Historic Theatre Group President Fred Krohn initiated a five-year effort to save and restore the Pantages Theatre. During the renovation, architectural drawings were found and used to restore much of the theatre's decorative plasterwork and the stained-glass "monitor," a false skylight in the center of the auditorium's ceiling. In cooperation with the City of Minneapolis, on November 7, 2002 the completely renovated Pantages re-opened at a cost of \$9.5 million. Since then, the intimate Pantages has presented a range of music and theatre including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Vince Gill, Feist, Todd Rundgren, The Blenders and collaborative productions with Twin Cities' organizations including the Jungle Theater, the History Theatre, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres and Theater Latté Da.



Photo: Minneapolis Public Library

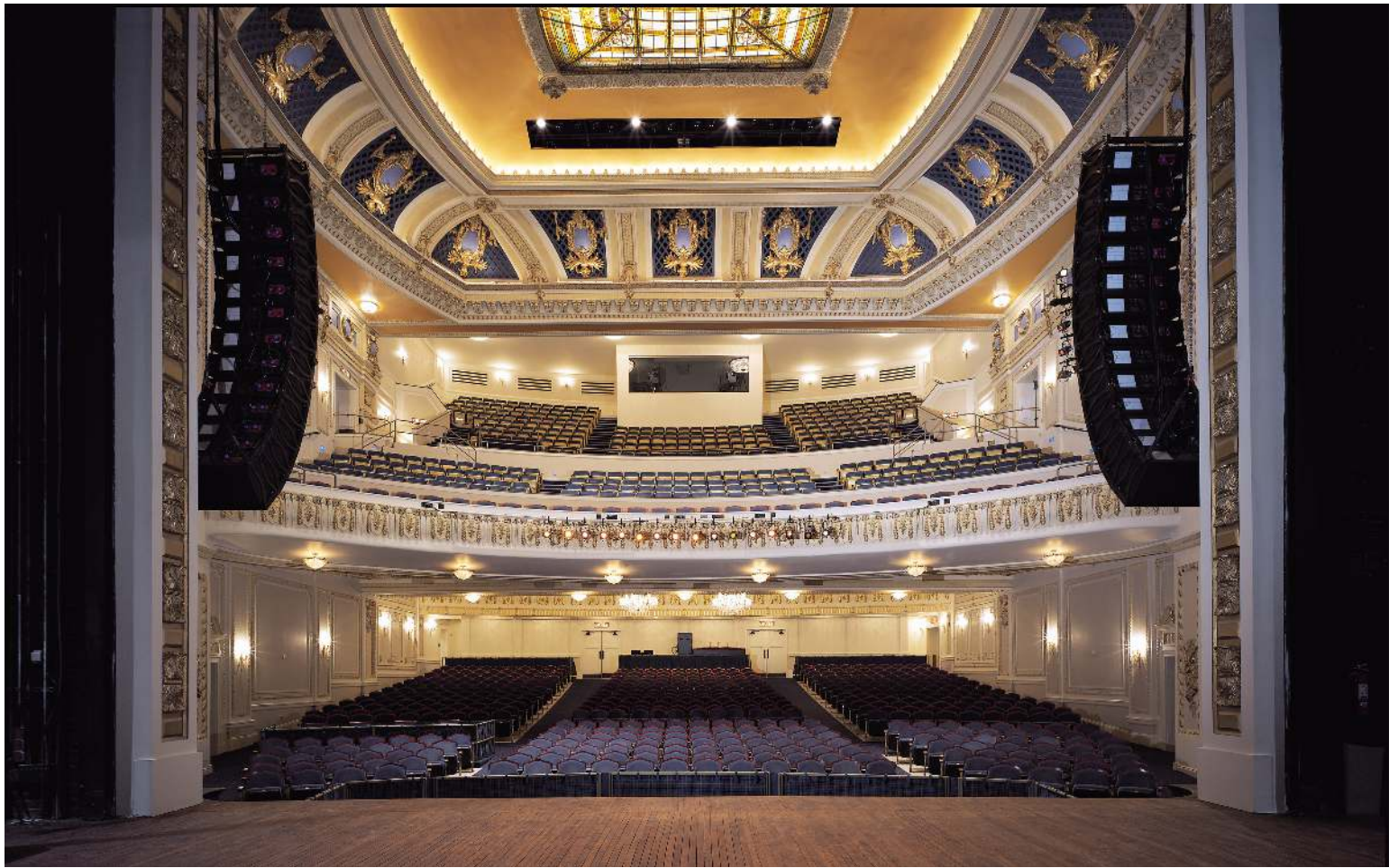
**EVERYONE HAS A  
THEATRE STORY.  
TELL US YOURS!**

If you, or someone you know, has an interesting story or experience connected to the State, Orpheum, Pantages or Century Theatre, we would love to capture it for our archives. Please e-mail us at [info@hennepintheatretrust.org](mailto:info@hennepintheatretrust.org).



Hennepin Theatre Trust, owner of the historic Orpheum, State, Pantages and New Century Theatres, is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to arts-inspired community cultural development.  
Pantages Theatre • 710 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis • [www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org](http://www.HennepinTheatreTrust.org) • 612.455.9500





### **TOUR ALL OF THE TRUST'S THEATRES – TOURS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

Take a walking tour of Hennepin Theatre Trust's State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres! Experienced guides highlight architecture and historical facts and stories about the venues that anchored the region's "Theatre Row." Hour long tours are offered twice a month and begin at the State Theatre Box Office. Tickets are \$5 per person. Group tours are also available but must be arranged in advance. Discounted rates are available for educational organizations. For more information on these tours, please visit our website at [www.hennepintheatretrust.org](http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org).



### **YOU CAN JOIN US IN PRESERVING OUR HISTORY!**

Please join Hennepin Theatre Trust in preserving and maintaining these three magnificent theatres to keep them open, active and accessible! To find out how you can support this work, please contact Individual Giving Coordinator Kathryn Tjaden at [kathryn.tjaden@hennepintheatretrust.org](mailto:kathryn.tjaden@hennepintheatretrust.org) or 612.455.9516.