

Golden Nuggets

SACRAMENTO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

APRIL 2012, NO. 4

Tuesday April 24, 7PM

From Burlesque to B Street: the History of Sacramento Theater

A Conversation with Melanie Smith, James Wheatley, Larry Shumate & Ray Tatar
Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Bldg.
5380 Elvas Ave., Sacramento



California Landmark 595, August 2006

Text by Melanie Smith and Maryellen Burns

Sacramento has the distinction of hosting the first permanent theater in California, The Eagle Theater. Built of wood frame and canvas at the foot of the Sacramento River, it opened on September 25, 1849 featuring a hastily put together minstrel show, with traveling actors from San Francisco and Stockton. Gold Rush Sacramentans delighted in its entertainments, until it was inundated in the floods of 1850, three months later.

As early as 1851, The Sze Yup Association bought a building on 1st Street, between 5th and 6th, and put in a 100-seat theater. They produced puppet shows and live performances from Chinese theater, with their accompanying orchestras.

By 1856, Sacramento was home to a half dozen more theaters, and dozens of touring theater companies, including the company of Junius Brutus Booth and his son, Edwin Booth. Other performers included the young writers Mark Twain and Bret Harte, who provided lectures at the Sacramento and Metropolitan Theaters and in theaters throughout the foothills.

The Sacramento area currently has the distinction of hosting more community or “little” theaters than any other region in the state and numerous equity or professional theaters, as well. How did that happen? Join us on Tuesday, April Tuesday, April 24, 7 PM, at the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Building, 5380 Elvas Avenue, Sacramento, to take a kaleidoscopic walk through different areas of Sacramento’s always bustling theater scene. SCHS Board member Maryellen Burns will present a brief introduction, followed by Ray Tatar of The California Stage, Larry Shumate, professor emeritus of theater from Sacramento State, James Wheatley of Celebration Arts and Melanie Smith, former ARC Theater Arts instructor and longtime theater director and choreographer, who will explore *From Burlesque to B Street - the History of Sacramento Theater*.

Sacramento Central Library Features
May *Capital Decades: 1930s Series*



The central library at 828 I Street will sponsor four presentations on different aspects of Sacramento in the 1930s. All programs begin at 6 PM Tuesday evenings starting May 8th. The May 22 program at the right will be our member meeting. Or choose another one you prefer. Programs are free but you must register to receive a confirmation number that admits you. See www.saclibrary.org/?pageId=1346.

Capitol Decades: Motion Pictures

Tues. May 22, 6-8 PM

Movie Authority Matias Bombal

Film Clips of the 1930s

&

Broadway Entertainment District

Central Library Main Galleria

828 I St., Sacramento



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Published at least bimonthly, September to June
 Editorial & Layout: Patricia Turse
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OUT & ABOUT

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE & CONTACT
Fri thru Sun April 20-22	10 AM -5 PM	Trader's Fair: California's First Mall Annual Trader's Fair brings the hustle and bustle of pioneer trading days back to life. Vendors selling pioneer goods, musket and cannon demonstrations, and artisans creating goods for sale fill the Fort with activity for the entire family.	Sutter's Fort State Historic Park 2701 L St., Sacramento 916-445-4422
Sat & Sun May 5 & 6	Usually, multiple tours in various spots at 10-12 AM and 2-4 PM	Sacramento's Jane's Walk. Jane's Walk USA is a series of free neighborhood walking tours that helps put people in touch with their environment and each other by bridging social and geographic gaps. Sacramento's 2011 tours were popular and the 2012 schedule is coming soon.	May 5-6 walk schedule details coming soon to web pages below: www.sacoldcity.org
Tuesday May 8	6-8 PM	Capital Decades: City Life Opening the Capital Decades series is an introduction to life in 1930s Sacramento including industry and labor, Hoovervilles, recreation and amusements, and schools. Presented by William Burg, James Scott, Tom Tolley and Amanda Graham. Free.	Sacramento Central Library Main Gallery 828 I Street Registration required at www.saclibrary.org/?pageId=1346
Tuesday May 15	6-7:30 PM	Capital Decades: Fashions and Styles The Sacramento Art Deco Society presents a fashion show featuring eveningwear of the 1930s. Free, but you must register online.	Sacramento Central Library Main Gallery 828 I Street Registration required at www.saclibrary.org/?pageId=1346