

Live Theater and the Performing Arts

CENTER THEATER GROUP:

Comprised of three venues: the Mark Taper, the Ahmanson and the Kirk Douglas Theaters.

- ❑ Mark Taper: Nationally recognized for work of outstanding quality and its development of new voices for the theatre, the Taper is both mid-sized and intimate, with 747 seats. This theater offers an interesting season of contemporary drama. The Taper has a five to six play subscription season which usually runs from September to August. The 2009-10 season offers *Pippin*, *Lydia*, *Uncle Vanya*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Palestine*, *New Mexico*, and *Parade*, a Tony Award winning musical. Located in downtown Los Angeles at the Music Center.
- ❑ Ahmanson Theater: With a variable seating capacity from 1,600 - 2,000, the theatre can accommodate a great variety of plays, from the intimate to the spectacular. The 2009-10 season offerings include *Spamalot*, *South Pacific*, *Dreamgirls*, and *Mary Poppins*. Located in downtown Los Angeles at the Music Center.
- ❑ Kirk Douglas Theater: the newest and most intimate of Center Theatre Group's family of theatres with a seating capacity of 317. The 2009 schedule includes, *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, a world premiere drama set against the backdrop of the Iraq War about two homesick American soldiers, a tormented Iraqi, and a displaced tiger who collide on the streets of Baghdad. Located in downtown Culver City.

CORONET THEATER: 366 N. La Cienega Blvd., West Hollywood (310-657-7377).

www.coronet-theatre.com. This small theater, situated in a pretty little courtyard set back from the street, is the home of the L.A. Public Theater.

THE GREEK THEATRE: 2700 N. Vermont, Los Angeles (323-665-1927)

<http://www.greektheatre.com/> An outdoor theater nestled in the picturesque setting of Griffith Park. The Greek is one of Los Angeles' most historic entertainment venues and has played host to some of the biggest names in entertainment, from pop to classical, reggae to rock. The 75-year-old Greek seating 5700 offers entertainment to every segment of the population. The 2009 season, opening in May and ending in October, includes The Allman Brothers, Flight of the Concorde, Counting Crows, Lyle Lovett, Jackson Browne, Los Lonely Boys/ Los Lobos, John Legend, Flogging Molly and more. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.

HOLLYWOOD BOWL: 2301 N. Highland Avenue, Hollywood (323-850-2000)

www.hollywoodbowl.com. This outdoor amphitheater nestled in the Hollywood Hills is the summer home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. An excellent jazz series is offered on Wednesday nights, featuring well-known artists. The 2009 season Spectaculars include Faith Hill, Patti LaBelle, Aretha Franklin, Guys and Dolls, John Williams, Tchaikovsky Spectacular with Fireworks, Mozart Under the Stars, and what is now a tradition, a movie sing-a-long, complete with costume parade. This year's musical is The Sound of Music. Concertgoers are encouraged to picnic in the several designated areas; food and wine may also be purchased at the Hollywood Bowl Patio Restaurant. An excellent public transportation system allows patrons to ride express buses directly to the Bowl from all parts of L.A. Parking at the Bowl is \$14-\$30. Bleacher seats are from \$1.00 on week nights; \$4.00-\$7.00 on weekends; box seats are usually

sold out to subscribers. The Bowl season is from July-September, with a fireworks display opening and closing the season.

KODAK THEATRE: 6801 Hollywood Blvd, Hollywood (323-308-6300)

Kodak Theatre is the crown jewel of the Hollywood and Highland entertainment complex, located in the heart of historic Hollywood. The theatre has hosted a range of prestigious artists and events including the Academy Awards® Ceremonies, Celine Dion, Prince, Elvis Costello, Barry Manilow, American Ballet Theatre, Moscow Stanislavsky Ballet, AFI Life Achievement Award to Tom Hanks, ESPY Awards, American Idol finals, Dixie Chicks and more. There are also guided tours available seven days a week from 10:30am to 4:00 pm from June 1 to August 31. Tickets for the tours are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and children 17 and under, free for children under 3. For information call (323) 308-6300.

MORGAN-WIXSON THEATRE: 2627 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica

<http://www.morgan-wixson.org/> (310-828-7519) Six musical and non-musical plays a year are performed by the Santa Monica Theatre Guild, a non-profit volunteer community theatre. The Youth Education/Entertainment Series (Y.E.S.) offers four youth productions each year with performances Saturday and Sunday mornings, and one Youth Musical each November/December. The Morgan-Wixson is also home to Kids On Stage, a performing arts program for kids and young adults. Plays are \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students; and musicals are \$23 for adults and \$18 for seniors and students. They hold summer day camps, after school programs and classes. For more info on KOS, visit www.kidsonstage.com.

MUSIC CENTER OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY: 135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles (213-972-7211) www.musiccenter.org. This is a four-building complex located in downtown L.A and covering 11 acres. The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, seating 3,197 is the home of the Los Angeles Opera and the Music Center Dance. The Mark Taper Forum, a smaller, modern theater, and The Ahmanson Theater, are part of the Center Theater Group. The newest venue is the Walt Disney Concert Hall, designed by architect Frank Gehry. The Disney encompasses two outdoor amphitheaters, including Keck Children's Amphitheatre seating 300 and a second performing space that accommodates 120. The centerpiece of the Disney Concert Hall is a 2,265-seat auditorium with natural lighting in which the audience surrounds the orchestra. The Disney Hall is home to the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

ODYSSEY THEATRE ENSEMBLE: 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles (310-477-2055)

www.odysseytheatre.com. The Odyssey Theatre Ensemble has won many prestigious awards for excellence in innovative contemporary theatre. It is a small 3-theater complex which offers innovative and experimental productions of drama, comedy and classical works. *A Number* is a gripping dramatic consideration of what happens to autonomous identity in a world where people can be cloned; *Bach at Leipzig* is a hilarious look into the lives and struggles of 6 working-class organists vying for the biggest break in their lives; *The Accomplices* is the true story of Peter Bergson, who shook up the U.S. State Department and the American Jewish establishment in his fight to rescue European Jews from the Nazis.

THE PANTAGES: 6233 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood (323-468-1770)

www.nederlander.com or www.broadwayla.org

A gorgeous, highly ornate art deco theater first opened in 1930 and recently restored. Seating almost 2700, it is used almost exclusively for lavish musicals. The 2009-10 season offerings include *Phantom of the Opera*, *Grease*, *Rent*, *Dirty Dancing*, *Mama Mia*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, and *Cats*.

PEPPERDINE CENTER FOR THE ARTS: <http://arts.pepperdine.edu>

Pepperdine University, 24255 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu (310-506-4522) Each year the Center is host to over 250 public events, including performances by international touring stars and visual artists, student productions, and exhibitions and performances by community groups such as the Malibu Ballet Society, Children's Theatre Experience, and Malibu Art Association. The Smothers Theater, which seats 450, is nestled in Pepperdine's beautiful campus overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and provides a wonderful theater experience. They present a variety of musicals, dramas, comedies, dance attractions and children's shows.

SANTA MONICA CIVIC AUDITORIUM: 1855 Main Street, Santa Monica (310-458-8551).
www.santamonicacivic.org

A variety of events are held here, including jazz and rock concerts, trade fairs, antique shows, dog and cat show, chocolate fairs and the International Gem & Jewelry Shows. Its unique hydraulic floor enables the Civic quickly to convert from a 3,000 seat performance space to a 27,000 square feet exhibit space. Home to the Santa Monica Symphony.

SANTA MONICA PLAYHOUSE: 1211 4th Street, Santa Monica (310-394-9779).

www.santamonicaplayhouse.com One of the country's most respected intimate theatrical centers, the Playhouse is the only theatre of its kind to have produced continuously for almost half a century, and the first to have state-of-the-art technology without compromising the true spirit of the European Repertory theatre. Actors' Repertory Theater (ART) is the award-winning resident performing company at Santa Monica Playhouse. Theater workshops for both kids and adults, Family Theater Productions, theater field trips for schools and more. Family Theater birthday parties, tea parties and lunchtime fairy tale party packages are available.

SHRINE AUDITORIUM: 665 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles (213-748-5116)

www.shrineauditorium.com A huge theater which has hosted numerous awards ceremonies including the Grammy Awards, the American Music Awards and the Soul Train Awards. The Shrine also hosts performances by major dance and music companies, including the American Ballet Theater, The 2006 Miss Universe competition was held in the Shrine. Built in 1925 and designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style with numerous Moorish details. The Arabian tent-like interior has a large canopied ceiling. Seats 6,485.

UNIVERSAL AMPHITHEATRE (GIBSON AMPITHEATRE): 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City (818-622-4440). The Amphitheatre is a magnet for performers from around the world and has been the site for events of worldwide interest, hosting a Pope as well as a President. Virtually every star in every musical genre has graced the stage, from Eric Clapton to Eddie Murphy, Nine Inch Nails to Frank Zappa, and Rod Stewart to the Royal Danish Ballet. The Amphitheatre also provides a perfect home for awards shows and fundraisers: MTV Music Awards, VH1 Honors, the Academy of Country Music Awards, and more. Seats over 6,000.

WILL GEER THEATRICUM BOTANICUM: 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga (310-455-2322) Box office 310-455-3723. www.theatricum.com This rustic outdoor amphitheatre seating 299 is located in the heart of Topanga Canyon. They present Shakespeare and contemporary classic plays from June-October. Peter Alsop's Kid's Koncerts have become a regular addition to the Repertory Season, along with Theatre for Kids by Creative PlayGround. Family Funday Performances are held on Sundays at 11am, throughout the summer. In addition, educational summer youth programs offer a nurturing, creative environment for weekday activities. In the off-season, Theatricum offers educational programs, workshops, and enrichment programs for local public and private schools. Surrounded by a four-acre botanical garden, this is a good spot for family outings and a picnic before shows.

WILSHIRE THEATER: 8440 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills (323-655-0111).
www.nederlander.com

This elaborate late 1920's Art Deco structure sits at the edge of Beverly Hills. Concerts, dramas, comedies, and musicals are offered. The 2009 Game Show Awards were held here.

Try www.calendarlive.com for the Los Angeles Times online Calendar section. You will find many listings on what to see and experience in the city.