



A VISIT TO



The
Lensic
Performing Arts Center

ALL ABOUT THE LENSIC



- The Lensic was built in 1931 as a vaudeville venue where people could see the great singers, actors, dancers, and comedians of the day. It also showed a lot of movies.
- The founder, Nathan Salmon, was born Na'aman Soleiman in Biskinta, Syria, July 1866. He arrived in New York at age twenty-one and traveled the roads of the Southwest selling goods from a wagon.
- On his way to Durango, he was stranded by a snowstorm in Santa Fe. Down to his last twenty-five cents, he pawned his watch to have enough money to settle in Santa Fe selling goods. He soon prospered and bought a store where the Plaza now is located.
- By 1930, he and his son-in-law announced plans to build the theater to offer live performances and movies to Santa Fe's 11,000 residents.
- The Lensic got its name through a contest. The name was picked because it uses all the letters of the founder's grandchildren's names (Lila, Elias John, Nathan, Sara, Mary Irene, and Charles) and suggested the "lens" of a movie projector.
- Through the 1950's the Lensic thrived, though as time went on, the city grew and other entertainment options became available and the Lensic could not keep up with the technical requirements of new events.
- In the 1990's, the theater started to fall apart and closed its doors in 1999. A group of dedicated people brought the theater back to life and reopened in 2001.
- The Lensic now hosts over 200 events in the theater, works with 19 other venues to host live shows in New Mexico, hosts 50+ free shows on the Plaza and in the Railyard, and reaches over 13,000 students a year!

QUESTIONS

- What happens in a vaudeville theater?

- Who founded the Lensic? _____

- What years did the theater close and reopen? _____

- Can you come up with a different name using the letters L, E, N, S, I, C?

GOING TO THE THEATER

Going to the theater is a unique experience. At the theater, everyone has an important role to play. The performers on stage could not do it without you—the audience. Unlike seeing a movie, the people on stage can see and hear the people sitting in the seats. Here are a few ways you can help make the show even better.

- **Participate!** Clapping or applause often happens at the end of a song or performance. Clapping in the middle of a song can be disruptive, though sometimes the performer will ask you to clap or make noise at certain times. Look for cues from the performer on when to participate.
- **Focus on the show.** There is a lot to explore in every performance! Look at the stage and see what you notice:
 - What are the lights doing? Who is on stage? What are they holding or bringing on and off stage?
 - Listen to all of the sounds and noises: Are there instruments? How are they using their voices? Is it loud or quiet?
 - There will be a lot to share! Please save conversations for after the show ends.
- **Be respectful of the space and others.** Take care of your space by sitting in your seat correctly and leaving nothing behind. Respecting your neighbors' space allows everyone to enjoy the show.
- **There are a few things that are not allowed in the theater.** Eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed in the theater. This can be noisy and make a mess in the dark. Using your phone or taking photos or video during the performance is also not allowed. The performers and your neighbors can see the glowing screens and it can be distracting.
- **Restrooms.** Please use the restrooms before leaving school. You do not want to miss any of the show!
- **Need assistance or have questions?** The Lensic Ambassadors and staff are here to help! Look for people with Lensic name badges.

THINGS TO LOOK FOR

What color
are the
seats?

Was the curtain up
or down when the
show started?



Stormy!
He is on the
top of our
building
and on our
logo.



Were any instruments used in the
show?



PERFORMING ARTS CENTER VOCABULARY



Theater: The building where the performing arts and show take place.

Orchestra: The seating on the ground level.

Balcony: The seating that is up the stairs and higher than the other seats.

House: The part of the theater where audiences sit.

Stage: The part of the theater where the performers are.



Intermission: This is theater's version of halftime. Many shows have a 10 to 15 minute intermission.

Lobby: The part of the theater where you wait before the house opens.

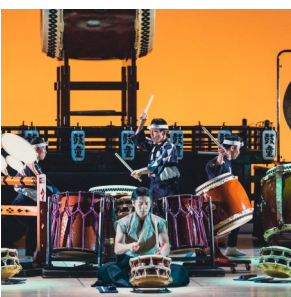
Box Office: The part of our theater where you purchase tickets. Ours is located at the front of our building. If you come with your school, you do not have to go to the Box Office.

TYPES OF PERFORMING ARTS



There are lots of things to see at a performing arts center! These are all forms of expressing things and telling stories creatively in front of an audience. Some common types of performing arts that you will see are:

- **Music:** Making music is the process of creating sounds or rhythms with instruments or the human voice. Sometimes it is performed by one person or a group.
- **Dance:** Dance uses physical movement as the main type of expression. It can be performed by one person or a group. Dancers use their bodies to tell stories and express feelings. Dance often uses music and costumes to help tell their stories.
- **Theater:** A group of actors portray a cast of characters to tell a story through a play or musical.
- **Opera:** This type of art blends music, singing, and drama through highly trained performers using their voice and instruments. It is often very elaborate with its' sets, costumes, and staging.



BEFORE THE SHOW

- What type of performing arts do you want to see? Why?

- How is live theater different than watching a movie?

- What book or movie do you think would be fun to see as a live performance?

AFTER THE SHOW

- What did you notice about the show?

- How did you feel watching the performance?

- What message, story, or experience do you think the performers were communicating?

- Do you have any questions about the show or for the performers?
