

The Granada Gazette

GRANADA SIGNS BROADWAY AGREEMENT

FALL 2006

The Presenters come to town

Santa Barbara's historic Granada Theatre has signed an agreement with Theater League, Inc., one of the nation's largest not-for-profit musical theater presenters, to develop an annual series of Broadway musicals. The 2007-2008 Broadway at The Granada series is expected to feature current Broadway hits *Mamma Mia*, *Hairspray*, *Movin' Out* and more.

Joining Theater League founder and president Mark Edelman in the new Granada series will be Tony Award winning producer Steve Traxler of

Jam Theatricals and Adam Epstein, long-time Santa Barbara touring Broadway presenter. Jam won



Tony Awards for the Broadway productions of *Spamalot* and *The History Boys*, as well as a revival of *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Theater League is part of the Independent Presenters Network, producer of *The Color Purple* on Broadway.

With this announcement, The Granada becomes the area's premiere venue for first-class touring Broadway entertainment. Beginning with the 2007-2008 season, The Granada will host an annual series of Broadway hits and classic musicals, some produced in Santa Barbara. Educational and outreach programs will enhance the series and maximize community involvement.



Theater League's Mark Edelman (center) with Adam Epstein and Steve Traxler

Granada Executive Director Peter Frisch said, "Mark, Steve and Adam bring more than fifty years of touring Broadway experience to Santa Barbara. Having these top-flight presenters working for us gives The Granada triple the influence in the marketplace. And with our state-of-the-art theater, Central Coast patrons will have access to the nation's very best talent and productions right in our own downtown cultural district."

In addition to the Broadway series, Theater League will sponsor its popular *Theater ROCKs* (Reach Out to Kids) and *Kids Not on Broadway* programs. "Engaging young people and whole families is an important part of our mission," explained Edelman. "We need to thrill not only today's Broadway theatergoers, but the next generation of musical theater fans, too." A summer festival featuring some of the most promising new musicals is also in the planning stages.



Breaking News

NEW RESIDENT COMPANY

We're delighted to announce that the Santa Barbara Choral Society has joined the Santa Barbara Symphony, Opera Santa Barbara and State Street Ballet as a new resident company in The Granada. The oldest of Santa Barbara's performing arts companies, the group is a semi-professional chorus comprised of 100 member singers drawn primarily from the Santa Barbara area. Since its inception in 1948, the Choral Society has offered the community an opportunity to discover and enjoy a diverse repertoire of choral music.

FAMILY SERIES PROMISES FUN FOR ALL

Planning is underway for The Granada's Family Series, a four-event subscription offering featuring sophisticated fare from outstanding national and international touring companies. These productions will offer a stylish introduction to the best of the performing arts for children eight years old and up and a surprisingly entertaining time for Mom and Dad as well.

VISITORS WELCOME, STORIES WANTED!

Want more information about The Granada? Take a peek at our newly updated website, www.granadasb.org. You'll find all the latest information about the renovation project, the history of the theatre and the vision for the restored Granada. If you have a special, personal memory of The Granada, we'd love to hear about it! Please drop us a line at info@granadasb.org. We'll be sharing some of your stories in the upcoming **Memory Lane** section of the website. All submissions will become the property of SBCPA and may be used in other Granada publications.

NEW TO THE GRANADA

Santa Barbara Center for the Performing Arts is honored to have two new Board members joining our organization:

Dr. Anna J. McDonald, currently Vice President of Human Resources and Administration at the Fielding Graduate Institute, brings a great knowledge of organizational operations to the Granada board. Her love of the performing arts is shared by her daughter, four-time Tony Award-winning actress and singer, Audra McDonald.

Recently retired County Arts Commissioner Patrick Davis brings a lifetime of experience and expertise to the Board and will provide sage advice about regional fundraising with a special emphasis on foundation funders.

A warm welcome to the newest members of The Granada team!

Behind The Scenes with Roger Phillips

Arts Aficionado, Eclectic Musician, Interior Designer for the Granada Restoration Project

Although local architect and designer Roger Phillips retired in 2002, he was delighted by the opportunity to contribute his special passion and expertise in historic theatres by serving as designer and consultant for The Granada Restoration Project.

A California native, Roger was born in Bakersfield. "Originally I wanted to be a lawyer," he admits, "But I went to a very large high school that offered mechanical drawing classes taught by an experienced architect, and I began to consider architecture as a career."

A local club offered a yearly architectural competition to high-school students and Roger's submissions won 1st and 2nd places in the two years he submitted designs. After graduation, unbeknownst to him, his instructor packed up Roger's latest drawings and model and sent them to a national program called the Industrial Arts Awards.

"I was seventeen, just out of high school, and I got a phone call from Western Union saying that I had won an all-expenses paid trip to Detroit for myself and my instructor. I had no idea what it was all about and thought it must be a joke my friends were playing on me," he laughs.

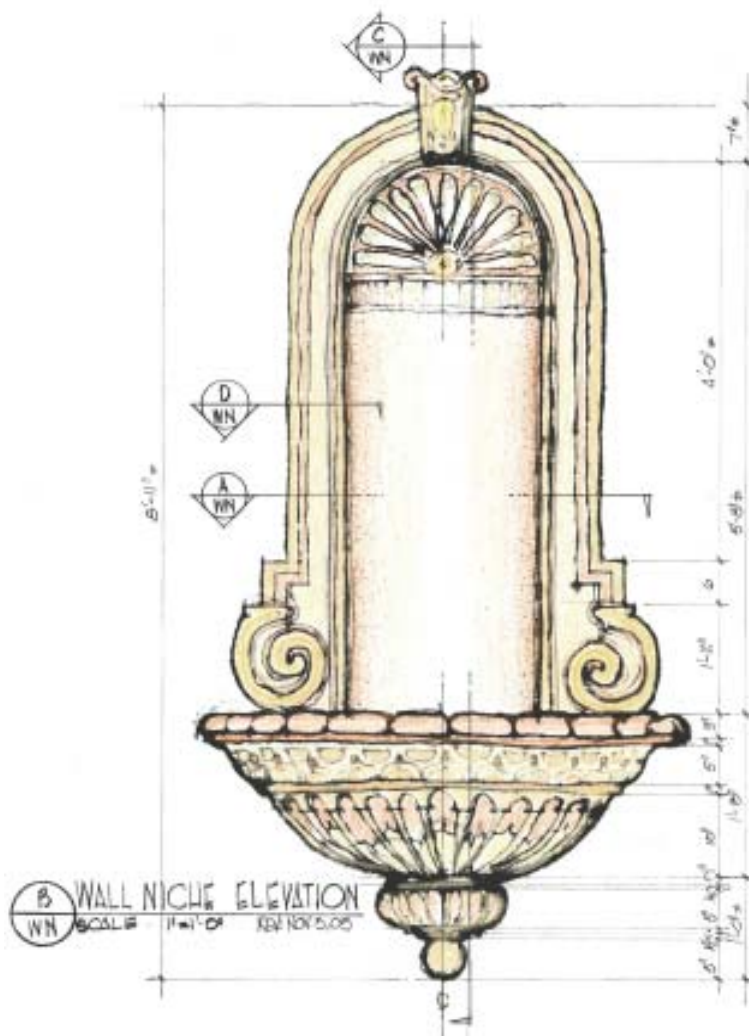
Roger had a fantastic experience on the trip, which confirmed his desire to be an architect. He went on to attend UC Berkeley College of Architecture to learn his craft and also worked part-time for local architects throughout college. After graduation, he came to Santa Barbara to work for a prestigious local firm.

"The company was founded in 1906 by A.B. Higginson. Its name has changed over the years as partners came and went, and today is known as Phillips Metsch Sweeney Moore." The firm celebrates its hundredth anniversary this year.

"My interest in the arts started in elementary school," he remembers. "Our school had a well-equipped theatre and in fifth grade I was selected to sing in a quartet and also be the emcee for a show. I was so impressed by the bigness of the space and loved all of the aspects of putting together the production. I've been enamored of music and theatres ever since."

That first performance also carried over to a love of four-part harmony. "I've been performing in barbershop quartets in Santa Barbara for a number of years. I remember going a competition with my group in a big theatre in Pasadena and walking out onto that stage and feeling just as scared as I was at that fifth-grade show."

"I always had a special fascination with opera houses and movie palaces," Roger admits. "In college, I loved attending the beautiful historic San Francisco theatres. Even now, every time I travel, I try to sneak into the local opera house or theatre to take a look. If I had been born 100 years earlier, I would have loved to work on the design of the Paris Opera."



Phillips' rendering of the restored wall niche

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Another special interest is the huge pipe organs that were installed in many of the theatres built in the 1920s and 1930s. Roger was key in finding and acquiring the pipe organ that was installed here in Santa Barbara in the Arlington Theatre.

He is proud to have designed or worked on the restoration and construction of numerous local theatres in the forty-four years he has lived in Santa Barbara, including Lotte Lehmann Hall, Westmont College theatre, Santa Barbara High School auditorium, The Arlington, the Fiesta 5 and the Metro 4. Roger has also designed movie houses for Metropolitan Theatres in Palm Springs and Marina del Rey.

Roger and his wife Diana have been ardent fans of CAMA productions for many years and Roger serves on their board. "CAMA is one of the many marvelous groups that exists in Santa Barbara," he says. "The organization has been bringing major international talent here for eighty-seven years, which is something really special."

An avid ukulele player, he maintains a large collection of vintage ukuleles. "Ninety-eight percent of the ones that are made are like toys, but there are true quality ukuleles out there as well."

Roger continues to serve as in-house designer and consultant for Phillips Metsch Sweeney Moore on historic preservation and performing arts projects. He has completed hundreds of drawings for the restoration.

"I was thrilled to work on The Granada," he says enthusiastically. "It's exciting to see the renovation underway. Yes, it will be thoroughly updated, but because of the wonderful way it's being restored - what people will see will simply look like a beautiful historic theatre. Just from looking at it, you won't suspect it has been updated to modern-day standards. It will maintain that appearance of old-world glamour and beauty that makes these historic theatres so exciting and meaningful."



(N) PHOTO of PORTION of EXISTING CAST SCREEN
(PB) SCALE = 1/8" = 1'-0"
NOV. 1, 05



(L) PROSCENIUM SCREEN DETAIL
(PB) SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"
NOV. 1, 05

NEW CAST SCREEN TO MATCH - SEE ACTUAL SAMPLE OF EXIST'G

Photo of a portion of the existing Cast Screen

Rendering of the Proscenium Screen detail

Featured Board Member: Spotlight On Hal Conklin

Mayor, Movie Critic, Visionary



Hal Conklin's love affair with historic theatres started early. Growing up in the Bay Area, he loved going to the beautiful local movie palaces. However, in 1963, he attended the closing night of San Francisco's Fox Theatre, an historic, 5,000-seat gem, and soon after watched its demolition.

When the nearby Paramount was also torn down, he realized he was witnessing the end of an era. Eighteen years later, he would move to Santa Barbara and be delighted by the city's beautiful historic theatres, making a vow to preserve them.

"My father had been an orchestra leader, and music was always an important part of our family life. He would play the piano and sing tenor, I'd sing bass (after my voice changed), and my mom and sister would round out our quartet," says Hal. "In fact, for five years after I moved here, my wife and I still maintained season tickets to the San Francisco Civic Light Opera. The arts are so significant to me."

Always concerned with the environment, Hal became co-director of the Community Environmental Council in 1972. Two years later, after starting the first recycling program in Santa Barbara, he was encouraged to run for City Council. His first election victory led to 18 years of public service, first as a City Council member, and later, as Mayor. He also became the head of the Renaissance Fund to promote the arts in downtown Santa Barbara.

"In 1984, Patrick Davis, the Redevelopment Agency and I sponsored 'Arts Edge,' an event to examine the economic impact of the arts on cities. What we learned was so significant that it transformed planning and fundraising for the arts in Santa Barbara."

"I'm most proud of four arts objectives I was able to accomplish while in elected office. One was that we raised the bed tax to support funding for the arts. We also funded a Redevelopment Agency study and learned that we needed to restore our existing theatres instead of building a new facility. With public participation, we designed a new downtown retail center, which resulted in the Paseo Nuevo. The arts were a central part of that proposal, and the theatres in the Paseo are centrally located as a result. We also established an Opportunity Investment Fund, which launched new arts groups in Santa Barbara such as the International Film Festival."

Between 1987 and 1991, Hal and his co-workers created a Cultural Arts District, bringing all of the theatre

owners together to follow a master renovation plan. First in line was The Lobero, then the Santa Barbara Bowl, then The Granada, then The Arlington. "Fifteen years later, it's noteworthy that we're working on the third theatre on that list," he says proudly.

Hal's efforts earned him the honor of being named the 1992 Citizen of the Year by the Santa Barbara Downtown Organization.

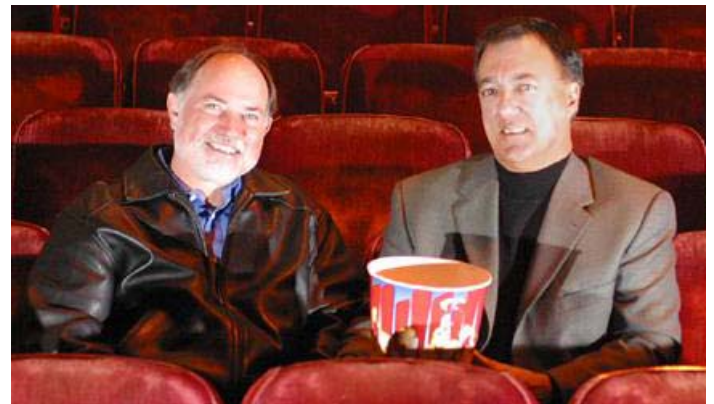
"In 1996, the community agreed that it was vital to restore State Street above Carrillo. The Granada was the natural anchor for this project." With that decision, Hal began working with others to build the board of the Santa Barbara Center for the Performing Arts.

"We want the broadest base of participation by local arts organizations, the highest level of quality in our offerings, and to become known as a major destination in California for the performing arts," he says. "The Granada Restoration Project is the culmination of my investment in the downtown area."

Hal's love for the arts has also manifested in other arenas. In the 1990s, the News-Press asked him to collaborate on some articles about human values in films. The series proved so popular that it became a weekly column, running for seven years. Hal and his co-writer, pastor Denny Wayman, later compiled their reviews of over 600 movies on a website, Cinema In Focus. "Today thousands of people visit this website," Hal says. "We were stunned to find out it's used as a teaching tool by over 100 universities and has international appeal."

Considered by many to be among the most influential people creating meaningful change in Santa Barbara, Hal is now Executive Director of Public Affairs for Southern California Edison, and also serves as the President of the California Center for Civic Renewal.

On the Granada's Re-Opening Night, as Santa Barbarans gets their first look at the beautifully restored theatre, perhaps the biggest smile will be on the face of the man who has worked for so long to make the jewel of State Street shine again.



Hal Conklin and his co-writer, Dr. Denny Wayman (left)

Photo by: Nathan Welton / South Coast Beacon

ARTS ED at THE GRANADA



We are delighted to announce the appointment of Stephanie Angelini as our Director of Education. Stephanie has personally written and directed over fifty productions, many specifically for young people, and has taught classes spanning Shakespeare to Commedia dell'Arte, to children of all ages. In Ventura County she developed *FACE TO FACE*, a touring theatre project with teens writing and performing pieces about issues such as self-esteem, peer pressure and divorce. She also worked with *REGENERATE*, mentoring young media-makers to create PSA's addressing important social issues. Stephanie is passionate about giving young people a voice. She serves as Chair for the California Alliance for Arts Education, and is a spokesperson and ambassador for arts education statewide.



The Program

P.O.V. LIVE!

Theatre by Teens for Teens

In September of 2006 Arts Ed at The Granada will begin its first project, P.O.V. Live! This project empowers teens with the understanding that theatre can be a positive outlet for self-expression. P.O.V. Live! encourages student actors to express their points of view through original material that speaks to other teens. Students will start from scratch, choosing subject matter and then writing scenes, monologues, music or poetry. After ten weeks of writing and rehearsals, students will have created their own powerful, personal and unflinching play or musical.

This program is offered free of charge to a demographically diverse population of high school students, creating rich and dynamic cultural opportunities. The search for talent will include a look at both current drama students and students who have not yet found theatre or conventional artistic expression as an outlet. The teen ensemble will work together to hone their acting, writing and thinking skills in a safe and challenging environment. The Granada's goal is to allow teens to share and debate their ideas about the issues they choose.

P.O.V. Live! will tour the region's schools and other community venues. Performances will be followed by "talk back" sessions (facilitated discussions between audiences and performers). Participants will have a safe and lively forum to discuss and share their feelings about creative and social issues, stimulating thought and encouraging conversations about topics



that concern teens. This "peer-to-peer" approach works because while teens may often disregard well-intentioned adult messages, ultimately, youth responds to youth. Variations of this program in urban areas around the country have had a powerful influence on both the performers and the audience members, changing young lives for the better.

P.O.V. LIVE! will begin the writing and rehearsal process in the fall of 2006, with one to two rehearsals per week. Performances will take place in spring of 2007. Interested students in grades 9 - 12 who can make a serious commitment to this project should request an interview or audition.



Arts Ed at The Granada

Our mission is to provide the highest quality of experiential learning opportunities in the performing arts, with the goal of encouraging and refining creativity by stimulating young minds and opening young hearts. Our standards-based programs complement public school curriculum.

P.O.V. LIVE! Talented high school students create a theatre work of social significance that speaks directly to their peers.

GRANADA LIVE: Area school children attend performances by resident performing arts companies, enhanced with study guides and classroom activities.

THE GRANADA CONSERVATORY: Working professionals will conduct classes in the performing arts on site in The Jurkowitz Center at The Granada.

MEET THE ARTISTS: Touring companies and artists will interact with young people, especially those who do not have regular access to these kinds of experiences.



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The Restoration in Pictures



Corinthian pediments surround the balcony



Floor to ceiling scaffolding is erected to facilitate the detailing of finishes



Walls will be reshaped to maximize The Granada's wonderful natural acoustics

The magnificent art deco chandelier (below) will be restored to its original splendor



Photos courtesy of Karen Smith

The Granada

SUDOKU

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SANTA BARBARA CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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