

Walhalla Performing Arts Center NEWS & NOTES

2024

2025

Where History & Entertainment Come Together

The Crown Jewel of Walhalla, SC



The Walhalla Performing Arts Center is a terrific venue to see talented musicians and performers. Housed in the Historic Walhalla Civic Auditorium, the Walhalla Performing Arts Center offers an intimate setting with a world-class stage that appeals to entertainers and audiences alike.

Longtime Board Member Andrea Murphree-Stroud says we were very fortunate to land a dynamic & dedicated director like Mark Thompson, with his experience in the industry. "We decided as a board, years ago when we looked at our mission and what we doing and where we wanted to go, that we needed a very dynamic leader to take this on, and we found that person in Mark Thompson."

"Mark has a knack for attracting a wide range of performers with his knowledge and ties in the business, and we are able to get some acts that a venue this size may not otherwise be able to get", says Stroud. He books the talent and has a wonderful group of people on his team working together to make sure the venue runs smoothly. volunteers serve as greeters & ushers during the performances. This enthusiastic group of volunteers works to ensure each patron has a fantastic experience at the WPAC.

The truth is, it's not easy for anybody to operate an entertainment venue without great support. The nostalgia factor and the fact that the community wants to be engaged and they are willing to support us to save these old treasures like the WPAC and breath new life and use into them is a tremendous asset for us and the community as a whole.



The Future Looks Bright for the Historic theatre in downtown Walhalla

It took a community of talented, dedicated people to restore the Facility

Built in 1902, the central portion of the present building served as the Walhalla Graded School. Additions were made over the years, including an eastern wing and the auditorium, both built between 1913 and 1914 and in the 1950's a classroom was added to the rear of the auditorium to provide more educational space.

The building operated as a school until 1980 and then served as the offices for for the school district from 1981 through 1992. The building sat boarded and abandoned until a group of concerned residents, known as the Walhalla Auditorium Restoration Committee, created a charter and obtained 501(c)3 non-profit organization status, secured a lease and began fundraising and the restoration.

The dynamic group led by former teachers Maxie Duke & Jean Phillips led the group through everything from bake sales to seeking grants. The restoration was complete in August of 2003 and the non-profit became the Walhalla Civic Auditorium. Rebranded the Walhalla Performing Arts Center 10 years ago, the mission the same to provide a world class facility for performances, conferences, and special events, enhancing the cultural and social life of upstate South Carolina.

The facility has 456 seats, 316 on the main floor and 140 in the balcony. The reception hall can seat 100 people. The facility is still a stand-alone non-profit organization and still currently governed by a volunteer board of directors, and supported by volunteers, sponsors, grants and donors. The facility is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as was designated that status in February of 1992.

We provide a great experience for the audience and artists alike. "It's got that great vibe and feel to it. The acoustics are great. We get a lot of comments from the artists that play here about how the acoustics are incredible in our room." says Thompson.



The Black Jacket Symphony, (The Symphony of Our Generation), who will often do 3 shows per year at the WPAC, pictured here as they perform at one of their many Sold Out Shows at the WPAC

Get Tickets at:

walhallapac.com

WPAC WEBSITE

Box Office Hours

M-F 9am - 3pm & 1 hour before shows

864-638-5277

The Latest Updates



Facebook, Instagram, YouTube

Escape Into "The Artistry of Entertainment" At The Walhalla PAC Where Every Show Is A Standing Ovation

Join Us In Our Mission

The WPAC being a non-profit organization, owns and operates the facility. "As one can imagine the building maintenance and restoration are huge costs in our budget," says Thompson. "A 100-year-old building needs some TLC to keep it up." You can volunteer as an usher at the WPAC. "One of the things that make the experience special is our great cast of volunteers", says Thompson. "We currently have over 100 volunteers who serve as our ambassadors of good will!"

Other ways to support the WPAC are to become a sponsor at any number of levels, make a donation or gift in kind, buy gift cards as gifts, play in or sponsor the annual spring golf tournament at the Oconee County Country Club.

For More information call **864-638-5277** or go to the website at: walhallapac.com

Board member and current President Emily Roberts, says, "We are never going to be the Sydney Opera House, but I think we are one of the best small town venues that you can find". "As one of the very few stand-alone non-profit PAC's left, we strive to do all of this for the benefit of the community as a whole", she says. "I think we are making quite an impact".

Roberts says she thinks the WPAC is an important part of the community and helps in getting people to town to support our other businesses and to enjoy their favorite music or adventure into new things, right here in our community.

WPAC Director Mark Thompson says that the pandemic was a major blow to small venues around the country and many have yet to recover, and have struggled getting people back. "We have been very fortunate to be able to have a lot of great people working on our behalf and doing the things that have kept us open and moving forward", he says.

"We have some awesome shows coming up, there's something on our calendar for everybody" says Thompson. We have a great core of regular patrons, who love to come out and enjoy all that the area has to offer and enjoy a great show, close to home and in a intimate setting. Not only that but different genre shows bring lots of new people to the WPAC as well. As the old saying goes: **THE SHOW MUST GO ON**, and it continues to do so at the historic Walhalla PAC.



The WSPA News Team on their Zip Trip Visit to Walhalla & The WPAC



The WPAC along with the City of Walhalla & Visit Oconee as well as all our great sponsors teamed up to put on a classic car show, SC NFL Alumni meet & greet as well as outdoor concert in August at Walhalla Memorial Field.



A Great Line Up Of Shows in '24-'25

From The Marshall Tucker Band to Arlo Guthrie and from James Gregory to The Oak Ridge Boys, the WPAC has had some great shows. The list goes on with greats like; Crystal Gayle, Tanya Tucker, Rodney Atkins, Travis Tritt, Wynonna Judd, B.J. Thomas, Bill Medley, The Platters, Exile, Marty Stuart, John Waite, Jim Messina, Ally Venable & more. Not to be forgotten are the comedy & family shows with; James Gregory, Henry Cho, Killer Beaz, Hawley Magic, Tyrus Live, Kat Timpf & Mutts Gone Nuts, have graced the WPAC stage. Coming to the WPAC in the next few months are shows like: Rhonda Vincent, Chapel Hart, The Black Jacket Symphony, Pam Tillis & Haley Reinhart as well as Tre Twitty & Tara Lynn.

The WPAC always has a great line up of national touring tribute bands as well; These are not your fathers "Garage/Bar Bands". Top touring acts like: 7-Bridges(Eagles), The Return(Beatles), Skynfolks(Skynyrd), Ticket to the Moon(ELO), & A1A(Buffett) & fan favorite, Rumours(FleetwoodMac). Some great alternative bands such as Samantha Fish, The Steel Woods, & Todd Snider. Some real fun shows like; Electric Avenue, Forever Patsy Cline & The Million Dollar Reunion & The Malpass Brothers. The Celtic Angels Christmas Show is always a hit with the whole family and ringing in the New Year with the Swingin' Medallions & Mothers Finest & The Steel Drivers.

Coming Soon.....WPAC Suites

The WPAC being a non-profit organization, owns and operates the facility. We have been working on creating a new experience for our patrons to rent a room and stay right here at the historic facility. 2 suites are currently being completed upstairs for guests to stay, complete with a full bath and small kitchen area. The upstairs will also feature a gathering area "The Founders Room" which will be available for rent to small groups. In addition, there will be 2 office spaces available to rent.

WPAC Board President Emily Roberts says this is a path toward sustainability of the facility by generating additional revenue to support the operations of the WPAC. It will also provide a service & experience to patrons who wish to stay "as close as you can" and not drive home after a show, and also enjoy all the other great things that Walhalla and Oconee County have to offer. "We have a passion to make the concert experience, all that it can be; fun, beautiful and whimsical at the same time".

You may also notice some additional improvements such as: new flooring in our lobby area & new windows in the Blue Ridge Bank Auditorium. Outside new railings, newly updated overhead & parking lot signs as well as, additional lighting at the entrance & lobby.

Naming rights are currently being sought for these spaces. For More information call **864-638-5277**