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# Arts & Entertainment

## *The Movie Is Ready to Start, 'Save Your Seat'*

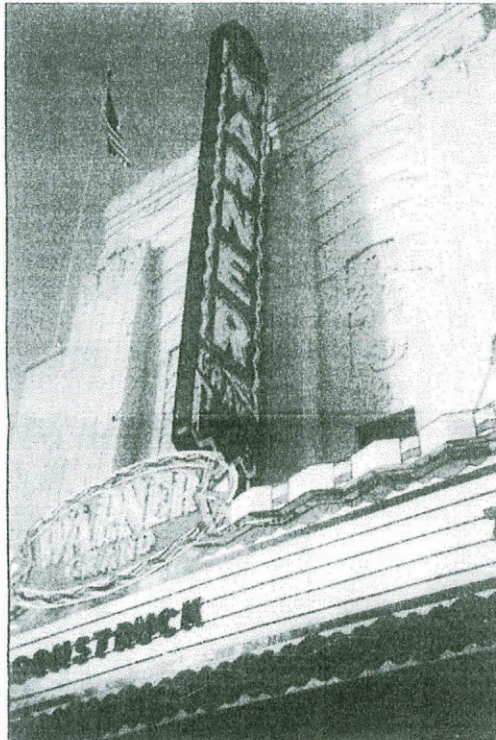
The Grand Vision Foundation kicks off the "Save Your Seat" campaign on Friday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m. with a reception under the marquee of the Warner Grand Theatre in historic downtown San Pedro. The celebration is open to the public for \$15 per advance ticket purchase and \$20 at the door. The reception includes hors d'oeuvres donated by local restaurants, champagne, no-host bar and musical entertainment.

The "Save Your Seat" campaign goal is to raise \$650,000 to restore the Warner Grand Theatre's 1,500 seats by reupholstering them in fabric replicating the original material used in 1931, and widening some of the seats to increase comfort. Money raised also will be used to make other upgrades to the art deco building including major repairs to stage rigging that will help attract more live performance programming, such as the San Pedro City Ballet's annual production of "The Nutcracker."

"The event will be a celebration, recognizing a generous gift that will be announced that night, which will help make our goals a reality," says Liz Schindler-Johnson, executive director of Grand Vision. "A goal of the evening is for the first 100 seats to be adopted. Those who participate will be known as "Save Your Seat Visionaries" and will receive a gift and acknowledgment."

"We are so pleased about the donation, which if the community can match it, will allow the ballet company to again perform at the Warner Grand," says Cynthia Bradley, founder and director of the SPCB. "We have been wanting to return for a long time."

The GVF is a nonprofit, member-supported, volun-



*The Warner Grand Theatre in historic downtown San Pedro is kicking off a fund-raiser to help refurbish the last remaining theaters built by Warner Brothers in the 1930s.*

teer-run organization whose mission is to preserve and promote the Warner Grand and its history as one of the treasures of the region. Since its inception in 1996, it has sponsored numerous revitalization projects and special events at the theater, including

film screenings, programs for youth and live performances. Annual membership fees start at \$35.

A facility of the city of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, the Warner Grand is an icon of the Old

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Town district of San Pedro. One of only three Warner Brothers theaters built in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, it opened with a gala Hollywood-style premiere, when Jack Warner called it "the castle of your dreams." The superb art deco structure was designed by B. Marcus Priteca, architect for the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood, with original murals by A.J. Heinsbergen. The Warner Grand is the last of the three Warner Brothers theaters left intact and one of the few still operating around the nation.

Following the reception, the Friday Night Film Club, in conjunction with the GVF and club sponsor Jerico Development, presents "The Majestic," starring Jim Carrey at 8 p.m.

In "The Majestic" (2001), Peter Appleton (Jim Carrey) is a young, ambitious Hollywood screenwriter during the 1950s, who is suspected to be a Communist. After a freak car accident, he suffers amnesia and ends up in a small California town. He takes up residence in a run down movie theater where he experiences the true magic of the movies. This parable about a man who finds new courage, love and the power of conviction in the heart of a small town's life also is a tribute to old movie palaces like the Warner Grand and chosen to complement the "Save Your Seat" campaign getting underway.

Tickets for the film are \$6.

*For more information about the campaign or to make a contribution, call 833-4813 or log on to [www.grandvision.org](http://www.grandvision.org).*