



September 24, 2025
Arena Theater Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order @ 6:03pm

2. Roll Call

Present: Lisa Joakimides, Michael Beatie, Mark Vanderwouds, Paul Andersen, Tracy Dupont, Steve McLaughlin, Fer Dumpert.

Via Zoom: Blake More & Steve McLaughlin

Staff: Dagmar Moseley

3. Privilege of the Floor/Correspondence None

4. Approval of the Agenda Lisa requested an addition to the agenda for a board vote on cinema. Tracy moved approval, Mark seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the May 26, 2025 Meeting Tracy moved approval, Mark seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6. President's Report Lisa encouraged all Board members to contribute their individual “superpowers” to support the organization’s activities. She noted that the annual fundraiser, Film Festival, and Film Club are all in need of additional assistance. Lisa also requested donations of candy for distribution in front of the Theater on Halloween. Following discussion, the Board scheduled the next meeting for December 3, 2025.

7. Secretary Report Nothing to report

8. Treasurer's Report Mark presented the financial report, noting a loss of \$2,748 for August—approximately \$1,000 more than the same month last year. Year-to-date, the Theater shows a deficit of \$4,715, which is \$101 less than the previous year. The Finance Committee is monitoring the impact of the recent reduction in cinema showings.

9. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Membership/Fund Development** Steve noted the annual fundraiser is October 7 at Oz Farm. He thanks Lisa for all her hard work on it. He noted membership is holding steady and that events like the fundraiser promote the Theater to those who may not already be members. Lisa and the Board discussed details and logistics for the fundraiser.

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Lisa asked the board to consider whether general membership dues should be adjusted, as basic rates (\$60 individual / \$120 couple) have remained unchanged for many years. The board will revisit the topic at a future meeting, with the Membership Committee tasked to review potential impacts and present recommendations.

b. Programming

Cinema Dagmar noted that the Cinema Committee reviewed recent movie performance and noted that Friday showings continue to outperform Sundays, with all 11 Friday showings since implementation drawing higher attendance. A comparison report will be prepared for a future meeting.

The committee discussed adjustments to the fall schedule and agreed to recommend shuttering the Wednesday movie in October and November. Cult Classic Movie Nights will pause until next summer, while Western Movie Night will continue with ongoing local sponsorships.

The committee also briefly discussed potential “Hometown Holiday” movie plans (undecided) and noted that film club matters will be covered separately by Steve. Screen advertising remains steady. Upcoming films include Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale (two-week run beginning Friday), followed by East of Wall and Eleanor.

Film Festival Lisa and Steve updated the financial status of the festival, noting it has raised approximately \$17,000, which surpasses last year’s.

Live Tracy noted that the final Blues on the Coast show for the season is a James Cotton Tribute show on September 27. Zach Nugent performs October 25 followed by Mama Grows Funk on Halloween evening.

Telecasts It was reported that Dr. Strangelove will finally be shown on October 11 after two postponements. The event has secured sponsorships from two supporters—one in Fort Bragg and one in Albion—who are also helping with poster distribution in the coastal area.

The NT Live series continues to receive community support, though overall event activity has slowed. No new Exhibition on Screen presentations are currently scheduled, though future possibilities are being explored.

The opera season will begin on October 18 with La Sonnambula, featuring a total of eight operas this season—three in 2025 and the remainder next year. One opera originally scheduled during the film festival will be shown by recording on November 15, with another on November 22.

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Publicity A report was given on the current fundraising schedule and related challenges. It was noted that from May through October, multiple overlapping fundraising efforts occur—spring mailer donations, film festival sponsorships, pizza party fundraiser, opera subscriptions, and film club memberships—creating donor fatigue and publicity difficulties.

Given lower participation numbers for several efforts, it was suggested to move the pizza party fundraiser to the spring to better balance solicitation periods and reduce overlap. The board discussed the timing and frequency of fundraising events. Members agreed that multiple fundraisers clustered between August and November create donor fatigue and strain staff capacity. Several participants supported moving the pizza party fundraiser to spring to better distribute fundraising efforts throughout the year.

It was noted that past spring fundraisers, such as the one at Mar Vista, were successful despite limited capacity. Concerns from prior years about fiscal-year timing were acknowledged, but members agreed that diversifying the calendar would help avoid overlap with major fall activities like the film festival, opera subscriptions, and the fall donor letter.

Seasonal and logistical factors—such as wet weather at Oz Farm and donor availability during the holidays or tax season—were also discussed. The board will continue evaluating timing options, with a possible shift of the next pizza party fundraiser to spring 2027.

Film Club Steve reported on Film Club membership and season preparation. The goal remains 70 members to ensure the program is financially viable. Early signups have been encouraging, and outreach continues through posters, direct contact with past members, and promotion at upcoming events such as *Manhattan Shorts*. Members were encouraged to help recruit new participants.

Dagmar confirmed that the first screening is scheduled for October 13, and publicity has begun under the assumption that the season will proceed. The Film Club has been profitable in recent years, with increasing participation from both members and guests.

The board also noted that the fee for special screenings has been reduced from \$150 to \$100, as previously approved by the Finance Committee, to encourage more programming.

c. Personnel Nothing to report

d. Facilities The Facilities Director reported on several maintenance updates. A vacuum cleaner was provided for the green room, and staff feedback on its adequacy is pending. Repairs were completed on the green room toilet, including replacement of the shutoff valve, angle stop, float

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valve, and supply line. During the process, it was necessary to turn off the theater's main water supply, located under the stairs. While accessing the shutoff, significant floor deterioration was discovered in the utility closet due to moisture damage. Temporary repairs were made, including replacement of part of the subfloor and shelving. The remaining section of the floor may also need replacement, and full restoration will be added to the facilities maintenance list.

10. Old Business

Board Retreat – nothing to report.

11. New Business

None

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next meeting is October 29, 2025 at 6:00pm.

Board Report
Financial Report Fiscal Year
Aug 25

Aug 24

CATEGORY	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET	NET
EVENTS	\$11,962	-\$13,021	-\$1,059	\$948
OPERATIONS	\$4,318	-\$6,027	-\$1,709	-\$2,741
TOTAL	\$16,280	-\$19,048	-\$2,768	-\$1,793

Included in Events: 2025

Cinema = -\$1,425
Nite/Cult = \$447
Film Club = 0
Opera = 0
Produced = -\$80
Exhibits on Film = 0
NT Live = 0
Rentals = 0
Film Festival = 0
Total = - \$1,058

Included in Events: 2024

Cinema = -\$1,167
Nite/Cult = \$324
Film Club = -69
Opera = 0
Produced = \$1940
Exhibits on Film = -\$81
NT Live = 0
Rentals = 0
Film Festival = 0
Total = \$948

Board Report

Financial Report Fiscal Year

YTD thru Aug 25

YTD thru

Aug 24

CATEGORY	INCOME	EXPENSES	NET	NET
EVENTS	\$62,268	-\$60,996	\$1,272	\$2,238
OPERATIONS	\$20,737	-\$26,724	-\$5,987	-\$7,099
TOTAL	\$83,005	-\$87,720	- \$4,715	-\$4,816

Included in Events: 2025

Cinema = -\$5,802

Nite/Cult = \$716

Film Club = - \$21

Opera = \$2,738

Produced = \$2,762

Exhibits on Film =0

NT Live = -\$187

Rentals = \$1,128

Film Festival =-62

Totals = 1,272

Included in Events: 2024

Cinema = -\$4.507

Nite/Cult = \$360

Film Club= -\$311

Opera = \$389

Produced = \$5,872

Exhibits on Film = \$0

NT Live = -\$246

Rentals = \$668

Film Festival = \$-50

Totals = 2,182