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Tuacahn 2025 season

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Tuacahn Center for the ArtsAddress1100 Tuacahn DriveIvins, UtahUnited StatesCoordinates37°11′29″N 113°39′33″W﻿ / ﻿37.1913°N 113.6592°W﻿ / 37.1913; -113.6592OwnerTuacahn Center for the ArtsTypeOutdoor AmphitheatreCapacity1,920ProductionDisney's Beauty and the BeastSchool of RockThe Count of Monte CristoConstructionOpenedApril 1995ArchitectMesa Consulting Group Inc.Websitewww.tuacahn.org
The Tuacahn Center for the Arts is an arts organization located at the mouth of the Padre Canyon, adjacent to Snow Canyon State Park, in Ivins, Utah. The 42,000-square-foot (3,900 m2) facility was completed in 1995 and includes a 1,920-seat outdoor amphitheater, a 328 seat indoor theater, a black box theater, a dance studio, a costume shop, a scene shop, and the campus of Tuacahn High School for the Arts. The Tuacahn Center for the Arts contributes to the arts by producing two or three performances on its amphitheater stage and offers a spring and fall concert series for the region. They also produce the annual "Christmas in the Canyon" featuring a live-action recreation of the nativity called the "Festival of Lights." Tuacahn was founded in 1995 by playwright Douglas C. Stewart. Partnering with philanthropist and businessman, Hyrum W. Smith, he planned to create a space to tell the stories of Utah's ancient inhabitants and pioneer settlers. The two, using a plot of 80 acres (320,000 m2) previously owned by Orval Hafen, set to build this dream. Seven Nielsen designed the amphitheater complex which included a 45,000-gallon water holding pond, a river spillway, and a drainage system for the flash-flood sequence in the inaugural run of the musical production of Utah!. During the construction of the center, two Mojave desert tortoises (an endangered species) were found dead along the road which led from the main highway to the construction site. This halted construction while an investigation by the Fish and Wildlife Service commenced. On August 18, 1994, an agreement was reached between the Heritage Arts Foundation and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in which the foundation paid a fine of \$20,000 and agreed to special measures to ensure tortoises would be protected during construction and after the center opened.[1] This included special "tortoise-proof fences" and passages underneath the road where wildlife could pass under. Tuacahn opened in April 1995 with a dedication by Gordon B. Hinckley and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.[2] The venue initially presented the musical Utah! (book by Robert Paxton, lyrics by Doug Stewart, music by Kurt Bestor and Sam Cardon, and production design by Seven Nielsen) a dramatic retelling of the founding of southern Utah through the eyes of Jacob Hamblin, an early pioneer called by Brigham Young to settle the city of Santa Clara and to make peace with the Native Americans in the region. The production used the natural canyon setting to great effect, dramatically lighting the red rock cliffs and incorporating special elements like pyrotechnics, live animals, and special effects including a flash flood that came across the stage toward the audience. Amidst the spectacle, the production's book included subjects sensitive to the Mormon population, including depictions of polygamy, the Mountain Meadows Massacre, and Jesus Christ's appearance to Native Americans, as recorded in the Book of Mormon. Audience discomfort with these issues and lukewarm reviews prompted the rewriting of the show every season. Minor changes were made between the premiere in 1995 and the 1996 production. A major rewrite was undertaken for the 1997 production by Reed McColm, but major characters remained and Jacob Hamblin was still central to the story. In 1998, the book and lyrics were completely rewritten by Tim Slover and Marvin Payne, creating a fictional storyline that emphasized the peacemaking efforts between pioneers and native peoples. The production was remounted one final time for an abbreviated fall season in 2002, with Stallion Cornell providing yet another new book based on the 1996 version of the show.[3] "Utah!" has not been produced since the 2002 season. In 1999, with diminishing interest in "Utah!" and lackluster ticket sales from the 1998 season, the Tuacahn's board of directors changed the theater's programming to a season of more popular, family-friendly Broadway musicals presented in rotating repertory. The first season of this new format consisted of a double bill of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, both of which were wildly successful[clarification needed] with visitors from all United States and 25 other nations. In 2002, productions of Annie Get Your Gun and Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat broke all previous box office records. This occurred again in 2003 when The Wizard of Oz broke all box office records at Tuacahn. In 2005, under the direction of the new artistic director Scott Anderson, Tuacahn commemorated their tenth season by presenting Beauty and the Beast and a third production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. These two shows once again beat all previous ticket sales.[clarification needed] The successful production of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" began a relationship between Tuacahn and Disney Theatricals that has lasted over a decade. In 2006, MTI selected Tuacahn as one of eight regional theaters in the United States to present the first post-Broadway semi-professional productions of Les Misérables. In June 2009, Tuacahn was awarded rights to present the post-Broadway regional premiere of Disney's Tarzan. Due to this success, Disney awarded them the rights for the post-Broadway regional premiere of The Little Mermaid. The 2014 season, which included The Little Mermaid, The Wizard of Oz, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat, was its most successful season to date hosting over 260,000 patrons. Tuacahn announced its 2015 season would include "Disney's Beauty And The Beast", "Disney's When You Wish", and "Sister Act". "Disney's When You Wish" was a world premier. Tuacahn's school facility was originally conceived as a private school where students would receive private lessons and participate in group classes. The school was not initially successful, due in part to the remoteness of the location of the school. In 1999, Tuacahn decided to re-open the school as a Utah Charter High School. Tuacahn High School, Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts, a high school that combines a college preparatory curriculum and an arts focus in music, dance, theater, or visual art. Over the years it has been awarded with many accolades including first place at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Over 30% of graduates from Tuacahn High continue to complete 4 year college degrees. Tuacahn has two venues most frequently used for theatrical productions. The Tuacahn Amphitheater is a 2500-seat open-air amphitheater. It consists of three sections of seating (Left, Right, Center) with 32 rows A (front) - FF (rear). All seats have backs and arms, but are not cushioned. Entrance to the amphitheater is from the rear, requiring all patrons to descend the stairs toward their seats. Patrons with limited mobility are encouraged to sit near the top (rear) of the amphitheater. There is extra leg room on row O which is sometimes used during the productions when actors walk through the audience. Wheelchair accessible seating is available on the back row (FF) only. The stage has a concrete subfloor with a concrete pass-under tunnel to get from stage left to stage right out of view of the audience. The rear of the stage is open to expose the desert scape and red rock cliffs behind the stage which contains lighting, sound, pyrotechnical, and water effects installations. The area behind the stage is a mixture of natural stone and naturally colored concrete. This concrete riverbed was installed during initial construction to facilitate a massive 55,000 gallon flood of water that comes from the back of the canyon and across the stage toward the audience. Though conceptualized and custom-built for the "Utah!" production, this special effect and other water effects have been featured in numerous productions at Tuacahn. The Hafen Theatre is a 328-seat indoor proscenium arch theatrical facility. It is part of the Tuacahn High School for the Performng Arts facility, though semi-professionally staged productions have been featured in this theater in the past. The black box theater and dance studio are used primarily as working spaces for school classes, rehearsals, and special events. They are not commonly used for theatrical presentations. 1995 Utah! 1996 Utah! Quilters 1940's Radio Hour 1997 Utah! 1998 Utah! How The West Was Won 1999 Seven Brides for Seven Brothers Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat 2000 The Music Man Fiddler on the Roof 2001 Oklahoma! The Sound of Music 2002 Utah! Annie Get Your Gun Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Once on This Island (Tuacahn High School) 2003 The Wizard of Oz The King and I The Unsinkable Molly Brown Bye Bye Birdie (Tuacahn High School) 2004 Guys and Dolls West Side Story Singin' in the Rain Crazy for You (Tuacahn High School) 2005 Beauty and the Beast Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat Les Misérables: School Version (Tuacahn High School) 2006 Peter Pan South Pacific Cats 2007 Cinderella My Fair Lady 42nd Street 2008 Les Misérables The Sound of Music Big River 2009 Annie Footloose Aida 2010 Tarzan Cats Crazy for You 2011 The Little Mermaid Grease 2012 Aladdin Hairspray Titanic (Tuacahn High School) 2013 Mary Poppins Starlight Express Thoroughly Modern Millie West Side Story (Tuacahn High School) 2014 The Little Mermaid The Wizard of Oz Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat South Pacific (Tuacahn High School) 2015 Beauty and the Beast Disney's When You Wish (musical) Sister Act Footloose (Tuacahn High School) 2016 Grease (Tuacahn High School) Peter Pan Disney's Tarzan The Hunchback of Notre Dame 2017 Little Shop of Horrors (Tuacahn High School) Shrek The Musical Mamma Mia! Newsies 2018 Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella Matilda the Musical The Prince of Egypt 2019 The Sound of Music The Little Mermaid Disney's When You Wish (musical) 2021 Annie Beauty and the Beast School of Rock The Count of Monte Cristo 2022 Mary Poppins Wonderland Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat 2023 Disney's Tarzan Ronald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory The Hunchback of Notre Dame 2024 Disney's Frozen Anastasia Jersey Boys 2025 Disney's The Little Mermaid The Wizard of Oz Newsies 1995 The Fantasticks Greater Tuna The Taffetas 1996 Quilters Tuna The 1940's Radio Hour 2000 See How They Run 2001 Nonsense The Littlest Angel (Tuacahn High School) 2002 The Diviners (Tuacahn High School) Anything Goes (Tuacahn High School) 2003 I Never Saw Another Butterfly (Tuacahn High School) Schoolhouse Rock! (Tuacahn High School) 2004 The Teahouse of the August Moon (Tuacahn High School) 2006 Grease: School Version (Tuacahn High School) 2007 Little Shop of Horrors 2008 Disney's High School Musical 2009 Disney's High School Musical 2 2012 How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying (Tuacahn High School) The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee 2013 The Crucible (Tuacahn High School) Mulan 2014 The Threepenny Opera (Tuacahn High School) The Tempest (Tuacahn High School) 2016 These Shining Lives (Tuacahn High School) 2017 Smokey Joe's Cafe (Tuacahn High School) Fairytale Christmas 2018 Million Dollar Quartet Shakespeare In Love (Tuacahn High School) Fairytale Christmas 2019 A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder Elf Theatre portal List of contemporary amphitheaters ^ "FOUNDATION, AGENCY OK PACT ON TORTOISES". *Deseret News*. 19 Aug 1994. Archived from the original on March 4, 2016. ^ "President Hinckley dedicates Tuacahn". LDS Church News. 15 April 1995. Archived from the original on 4 March 2016. ^ "Utah!". Stallion Cornell's Moist Blog. Retrieved 17 October 2015. Wikimedia Commons has media related to Tuacahn. Official website Retrieved from " | Contest: Win Two Tickets & More To THE GREAT GATSBY On Broadway 2 BEAUTY AND THE BEAST North American Tour Find Full Cast 3 Review: WAITRESS at Pioneer Theatre Company is a Sweet Treat to Savor 4 Review: The Ruth is HITTING Its Stride with JERSEY BOYS Existing user? Just click login.After announcing a spectacular 30th anniversary lineup of Broadway-level musicals in its iconic Outdoor Amphitheatre, Tuacahn is adding two professional productions in the Indoor Hafen Theatre to the mix, a move that extends the 2025 season to include Elf the Musical as this year's Christmas show, and a spring production of the wildly popular Million Dollar Quartet in early 2026. "We've been looking to expand our season to include a spring show for some time, and we can't think of a better way to kick things off than Million Dollar Quartet," said Stephanie Finck, marketing director for Tuacahn. This high-energy production first hit the Indoor Hafen stage back in 2018 and was quickly heralded as an absolute must-see. Featuring the unparalleled musical workings of some of the biggest names in rock and roll history — Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins — it's a legendary jam session you have to see to believe. "There's just nothing like it," said Scott Anderson, artistic director for Tuacahn. "All of the actors play their instruments live on stage... it's like being at a rock concert, but even better because you get all the emotion of the storyline, along with hits like 'Blue Suede Shoes,' 'Great Balls of Fire,' 'Walk the Line' and more." A few months before those rock legends take the stage, the Indoor Hafen Theatre will welcome back everyone's favorite over-sized elf, Buddy, in the popular film-turned-stage musical, Elf the Musical. Lauded as being hilarious and heartwarming, this stage adaptation tells the story of Buddy, a young orphan who was raised by elves in the North Pole before setting out in search of his birth father in New York City. In the process of finding his family, he helps everyone rediscover the true meaning of Christmas along the way. "Christmas is such a magical time of year here in our beautiful canyon," said Kevin Smith, Tuacahn CEO. "Having an indoor musical like Elf fits so perfectly with our other festive offerings." Get your tickets to these two fantastic productions now! Season packages are now available that include Elf the Musical and Million Dollar Quartet, as well as The Wizard of Oz, Newsies and Disney's The Little Mermaid. Those who purchased season packages for the three outdoor musicals will also have the option to add the two Indoor Hafen shows to their package at a special discount through Feb. 1. Go online or call 435-652-3300 for more details. Click Here to Buy TicketsCommentsTo post a comment, you must register and login. Skip to content Existing user? Just click login.Celebrating 30 years, Tuacahn is bringing back some of its most Popular Productions in 2025, highlighting three fan favorites and presenting them in a whole new way, including Disney's The Little Mermaid, Wizard of Oz and Disney's Newsies!"After 30 years, people have gotten to the point that they love the shows we do no matter what we do, so we wanted to honor our patrons by giving them a few of their favorites this year," said Scott Anderson, artistic director for Tuacahn. "Each of these shows have some really wonderful things that make them excellent choices for next year." Take Disney's The Little Mermaid, for example, a visually stunning piece set against an 80-foot water curtain backdrop, sold out every performance in the past, which definitely places it in the top tier of Tuacahn favorites in Anderson's mind. "Every time we do it there is a new generation of little kids who can't wait to see it for the first time, and so many of every age who can't wait to see it again," he said. Coming on the heels of the release of the film version of Wicked this fall, there has never been a better time to come see Dorothy's origin story in the classic favorite Wizard of Oz. "This is the kind of show that appeals to everyone from 3-year-olds to 100-year-olds," said Stephanie Finck, marketing director for Tuacahn. "It is one of our most popular options whenever we ask for patron feedback, and we have the capacity to add so many new technical details to this production, it's really going to be fantastic." Narrowing down fan favorites is, of course, a difficult job. But a 30-year anniversary seemed the perfect opportunity to "Seize the Day" and bring Disney's Newsies back to the stage. "People love Newsies," Anderson said. "It's such a high energy, great dance show that is based on actual historical events in the United States, so it really has a lot of depth along with the entertainment." Current 2024 season package holders will have the first opportunity to renew their season packages at a great rate for 2025. Then, new season packages featuring the 30th anniversary lineup will go on sale during the Black Friday event starting Nov. 1. "These are the best times to get the best rates on all three shows," Finck said. "It's definitely worth getting in on these deals early so you don't miss any of the magic next year!" To purchase tickets go online to www.tuacahn.org or call the box office at 435-652-3300. 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