

RITZ THEATRE HISTORY

The Ritz is the only former silent movie house left standing in the Shoals. The theatre was constructed in 1927 and opened July 8, 1928 with the silent movie,

“Gentlemen Prefer Blondes” including music on “...our high class Wurlitzer organ.” The neo-classical Ritz was remodeled in the popular Art Deco style around 1933 to accommodate “the talkies.” Competition from newer theatres forced the Ritz to close in 1952. It remained dormant for more than 30 years.

The Tennessee Valley Art Association purchased the Ritz in 1983 and restored it as a performing arts venue. The historic theatre re-opened in 1985 with the musical “Anything Goes,” performed by TVAA’s Center Stage Community Theatre players. In 1992 an extended lobby, kitchen, and set shop were added. Two buildings adjacent to the Ritz have been purchased through the years for future expansion. The final construction phase of the Ritz was completed in 2009 with the renovation of the Art Deco façade and the installation of a replica of the 1930s period marquee. The Association conducts four theatre arts programs at the Ritz: Center Stage, New Stage, Time Out for Theatre and SummerStock. Educational programs include theatre workshops, drama camps, curtain lectures, outreach programs in schools, to name a few. Other community groups and individuals utilize the Ritz for their own performing arts and corporate events.



The Tennessee Valley Art Association

Tennessee Valley Museum of Art
Corporate Office
511 N. Water Street, P. O. Box 474
Tuscumbia, AL 35674

Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sunday (during exhibitions) ~ 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
www.tvaa.net ~ web site
256.383.0533 ~ phone
256.383.0535 ~ fax
tvaa@comcast.net ~ email
- Staff -

Executive Director, Mary Settle Cooney
Assistant Director, James C. Berryman
Administrative Assistant, Keith McMurtrey
Curator of Education, Stephanie Qualls
Ritz Theatre Manager, Steve Price
Artistic Director, SummerStock at the Ritz &
Ritz School for the Performing Arts,
David Hope
Artistic Director, Time Out for Theatre
Darren Butler



Time Out for Theatre
Plays for the Child Audience



THE TENNESSEE VALLEY ART ASSOCIATION

Providing quality art opportunities for the people of the tri-state region

Incorporated 1964
Create! Educate! Celebrate!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Tennessee Valley Art Association is the largest multidisciplinary arts organization in NW Alabama. The Association's visual and performing arts programs are conducted at the Tennessee Valley Museum of Art in Tuscumbia, the historic Ritz Theatre in Sheffield, local schools and other public sites. The Association's corporate headquarters are located at the Museum.

Visual Arts

Rotating & Touring Exhibitions
Helen Keller Festival of the Arts

Collections

Martin Petroglyph
Chief George Colbert Bandolier Strap
The Wanda & Billy Isom Print Collection
Fine Art & Craft

Theatre Arts

Center Stage ♦ New Stage
Time Out for Theatre ♦ SummerStock at the Ritz

Educational

Theatre and Visual Arts Workshops & Classes
Ritz School for the Performing Arts
Docent-led Tours ♦ Artists in Schools
Curtain & Gallery Lectures
Tactile Art Works for the Visually Impaired
Traveling Educational Trunks
Speakers Bureau



**The Tennessee Valley Art Association
and Museum of Art**

The Tennessee Valley Art Association was incorporated in 1964 to provide a center for the arts in NW Alabama. The Tennessee Valley Art Center was constructed in 1972 on Tuscumbia's historic Commons, property provided by the city. In 1978, the Association joined the newly formed Helen Keller Festival Committee to expand TVAA's annual summer art show to a multi-disciplined celebration commemorating the birth of Miss Keller. That same year, the Association's board added a performing art series that included Sunday concerts in local churches and other public venues. The Tennessee Valley String School and Suzuki School of Music were created to provide music classes for adults and children. Other TVAA performing arts programs were Center Stage Community Theatre (1980) and The Shoals Community Orchestra (1982). For five years, music and theatre programs rehearsed and performed at the Art Center in a single gallery amid changing exhibitions. In 1985, the music components incorporated independently as The Shoals Symphony and moved to a new home. Center Stage remained a part of TVAA and relocated to the Ritz Theater. In 1998, an Art Center expansion doubled exhibition space providing a workshop, art storage, and a permanent display for the prehistoric Martin Petroglyph. A plaza honoring TVAA founder, Ethel Davis, was



constructed in 2008 and The Center was re-named The Tennessee Valley Museum of Art in 2009.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES

Benefits & Privileges	Ethel Davis Society \$2,500	Chairman's Circle \$1,000	Museum Circle \$500	Theatre Circle \$250	Scholar's Circle \$100	Family or Friend \$50	Sustaining or Couple \$30	Individual Member \$20	Student Member \$10
Center Stage/Summerstock Footlight Club tickets include dinner prior to one play	4	2							
Recognition in Ritz program at Center Stage/Summerstock productions	✓	✓							
VIP dinners and curator tours	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Discounted rental fees for use of the Museum and Ritz Theatre	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Annual guest passes to the Museum	12	10	8	6	4	2			
Free admission to Museum exhibitions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Complete, detach and mail to:
The Tennessee Valley Art Association
P. O. Box 474
Tuscumbia, AL 35674

Membership subscriptions may also be placed by phone or on the Association website.
256.383.0533 ~ www.tvaa.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (day): _____

Email address: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible membership contribution for a one year subscription in the amount of:

- \$2,500.00 Ethel Davis Society
- \$1,000.00 Chairman's Circle
- \$ 500.00 Museum Circle
- \$ 250.00 Theatre Circle
- \$ 100.00 Scholar's Circle
- \$ 50.00 Family/Friend
- \$ 30.00 Sustaining/Couple
- \$ 20.00 Individual
- \$ 10.00 Student

I am interested in volunteer opportunities

I am an artist
Medium _____

List my name in publications. Yes No

Payment method:

- Cash
- Check - payable to
The Tennessee Valley Art Association
- Credit Card

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Security Code _____



Martha Carpenter Portrait Painting Workshop

All Members Receive

- Invitations to member only events
- Discounts on workshops & classes
- Subscription to TVAA newsletter
- Opportunity for member artists to exhibit work in the annual member show
- Volunteer and docent opportunities



Professor Chiong-Yiao Chen instructs students in printmaking.