

White Lake Area Historical Society  
Presents  
An Evening at  
The Playhouse at White Lake  
Thursday, October 10, 2019  
at 7:00 PM



The Grand Opening of the Nufer-Adams Playhouse took place on Tuesday, September 26, 1916. It was named for James J. Nufer, President of the White Lake Dramatic Club and Frank R. Adams, Playwright. It opened as a silent movie and live stage production theatre. Talking movies did not become available until 1927.

By the 1930s, movies were only shown on the weekends, rather than every day. In June 1935, a full week schedule was announced for the summer months. The White Lake Dramatic Club held two evening productions in August 1935. In 1939, Sunday Matinees began.

In November 1940, the Playhouse received minor damage after a fire broke out under the stage near the dressing rooms. Damage was estimated at \$2,000. Remains of the damage were discovered during the most recent renovation in 2018.

In 1952 live stage plays made a return to the theatre in addition to the movies. Dance recitals were also held.

In June 1960, Miss Nancy Anne Fleming was crowned as Miss White Lake. She would go on to become Miss America.



By 1973 the theatre was targeted for a possible sale or to even be torn down. It was then that Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp showed an interest in it. In March 1973, the theatre became a White Lake Community Fine Arts Center operated by Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. After being remodeled, it was reopened in December 1973 under the name "Howmet Playhouse".



In 2006, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp donated the theatre to the city of Whitehall. In 2017, a \$3.7 million expansion and renovation project began on the historic theatre – the most extensive remodel in the history of the Playhouse.

June 26, 2019 – The Grand Reopening of The Playhouse at White Lake



















