

Hollywood Palladium

I grew up in Los Angeles. I haunted the likes of Grauman's Chinese Theatre, McArthur Park, and the Hollywood Palladium frequently. I don't think I ever went *in* the Palladium, but I saw it any number of times.

It opened September 23, 1940 with a concert by Frank Sinatra and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Over the years, it has hosted the Emmy Awards, Grammy Awards, Grateful Dead, the Rolling Stones, James Brown, Led Zeppelin, Madonna, Barbra Streisand and many others.

The Hollywood Palladium was built by film producer Maurice M. Cohen, on the site of the original Paramount Pictures, between Argyle and El Centro avenues. The Streamline Moderne style dance hall was designed by Gordon Kaufmann, architect of the Greystone Mansion, the Los Angeles Times building and the Santa Anita Racetrack in Arcadia.

During WWII, the Palladium hosted radio broadcasts featured Betty Grable greeting servicemen's song requests. Big Band acts began losing popularity in the 1950's, causing the Palladium to hold charity balls, political events, auto shows, and rock concerts. In the 1960s, Lawrence Welk broadcast his long running TV show from the facility.

Since 1985 the theater has been owned by Palladium Investors Ltd., a privately held group. In 2007 the owners decided to lease the operation of the venue to Live Nation, a Los Angeles-based company, that in turn plans to do significant renovations to the theater and reopen it in September 2008.

Beginning in the 1980s and 90s rap and heavy metal concerts started to be booked at the venue. Several disturbances resulted, eventually leading to the Palladium closing for eight weeks, starting in February 1993. Recently the Palladium has been the location for large celebrity parties, such as Lindsay Lohan and Paris Hilton.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollywood_Palladium]

