

# Raue Center For The Arts

26 N. Williams Street  
Box Office: 815.356.9212



The legacy of Raue Center For The Arts began in the 1920s. Originally called El Tovar, it was a site for silent films and “talkies”. It quickly became a place where people came to lose themselves in a glamorous new pastime making it a staple of the community. For years the theater continued as a movie house, and many Crystal Lake residents can remember it when it was still the silver screen, seeing movies for the first time right in the center of downtown. The importance of the theater became apparent when it began to fall into disrepair, and citizens united in a passionate effort to save the community space. The history of Raue Center shapes and informs its present day status as a center for both culture and entertainment. “The arts are what anchor a community, holds up a mirror and provides a sense of identity”, says Richard Kuranda, director of Raue Center. The center currently houses its own dance and theater programs and provides educational outreach programs; Mission: Imagination brings the arts to (2,500) kids in Crystal Lake and surrounding areas. The center also offers theater, film, and sculpture classes for all ages and experience levels. Raue Center thrives on each audience to keep the spirit of the theater alive, and the programs offered are so diverse that they appeal to the community’s wide range of perspectives. One month of programming varies from children’s programs, comedy showcases, or an appearance from world renowned musicians and artists.

As a not-for-profit organization the theater has received many accolades but Kuranda is most proud of having the Raue cited as a key component of an award that the City of Crystal Lake received. The

Presidential Award from the Arts Alliance of Illinois and the Illinois Municipal League was bestowed on Crystal Lake for its support of the Arts and for their function as an economic engine; Raue generates nearly \$3.9 million a year and creating revenue for the downtown community. This success is largely due to the theater's commitment to bringing the best quality and most appealing programs to Crystal Lake and surrounding areas, offering not simply a show but a theater experience. In addition to larger name musicians and artists, the theater fully supports local artists and even makes an effort to buy local. "If the arts survive, it's because of the individual and local approach," says Kuranda.

The Theater is celebrating its 81<sup>st</sup> year and Raue Center for the Arts is celebrating its eleventh season with an exciting line-up of both national acts and meaningful local programs. On August 18<sup>th</sup> don't miss the new season's unveiling where you can get a sneak peek at all this season has to offer AND receive 50% off the ticket of your choice! The discount will only be available for one night only, so take this opportunity to check out something new or see your favorite act. August 21<sup>st</sup> brings Blues Traveler to the Raue Stage and the theater is proud to present Hispanic Heritage month. From September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>, come celebrate the community's diverse heritage with a unique culinary event, readings of Hispanic folklore, comedy, Tito Puentes Jr.'s 5-piece band, and a premier of "The Passionate Frida", a ballet channeling the intensity of Frida Kahlo's life and work directed by Judith Svalander.

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**[www.rauecenter.org](http://www.rauecenter.org)**