



The Stage is Set: A Legacy of Stories





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Our History Lives Here

Welcome to our Tradition

**We are grateful to once again
continue the tradition of the
Mountain View newsletter.**

For many years, these newsletters were printed, mailed, and shared as a way to stay connected with our neighbors, families, and the wider community. They offered a place to share stories from the grounds, important updates, local history, and the people who help make Mountain View such a distinctive part of Altadena.

As we bring the newsletter into a new chapter, we hope to preserve that same spirit of connection while sharing more of the history, events, partnerships, and stories that continue to unfold here.

In this issue, we celebrate the arts on our grounds; from the community theatre filling summer evenings with music to the performers, filmmakers, and local history woven into Mountain View's story.

Thank you for joining us as we pick up this tradition once more.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



photo via Instagram

Sarah Azcarate

Director & Founder of
Altadena Music Theatre

Sarah Azcarate is the founder and artistic director of Altadena Music Theatre, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating accessible, community centered musical theatre throughout the Los Angeles area.

A local based artist, director, producer, and songwriter, Sarah developed a love of music and theatre at an early age. By 16, she was already recording professionally in Nashville, beginning a creative career that would eventually bring together performance, education, and community engagement.

After moving to Altadena during the height of the pandemic in 2020, Sarah founded Altadena Music Theatre with a vision of creating meaningful opportunities for artists and families to connect through live performance. Since then, AMT has grown to offer youth theatre programs, inclusive arts education, and full-scale community productions featuring both local talent and working Los Angeles professionals.

As Artistic Director, Sarah oversees the company's creative vision, directs and produces productions, mentors young performers, and works to foster an environment where artists of all backgrounds feel welcome.

Through Altadena Music Theatre, Sarah continues to champion local talent while helping ensure that live theatre remains an accessible, joyful, and enduring part of the community's cultural life.

Summer Season at the Mausoleum



photo via Altadena Music Theatre

When the Eaton Fire displaced Altadena Music Theatre from its longtime home at the Charles Farnsworth Amphitheater, the company faced a difficult question: where could the community gather for live theatre while Altadena continued to recover? For the 2026 summer season, one answer was found here at Mountain View.

A temporary outdoor theatre was created on the grounds of Mountain View Mausoleum, complete with custom-built staging and seating, allowing Altadena Music Theatre to continue bringing professional, community-rooted productions to local audiences beneath the stars.

The season opened in August with *Grease*. Set at Rydell High in the 1950s, the beloved musical follows Danny and Sandy as an unexpected summer romance collides with friendships, reputations, and the pressures of teenage life. Filled with familiar songs, dancing, and plenty of nostalgia, *Grease* brought a burst of retro energy to Mountain View's outdoor stage.



photo via Broadway World

Next, the company turns toward something a little stranger, and considerably more carnivorous, with *Little Shop of Horrors*, running September 3rd – 13th. The darkly comic musical follows Seymour, a shy flower-shop employee whose discovery of an unusual plant suddenly brings him fame, romance, and increasingly troublesome demands. Blending Motown-inspired music, science-fiction camp, and a wonderfully wicked sense of humor, *Little Shop* brings an entirely different kind of evening beneath the stars.

For Mountain View, hosting the season has also offered an opportunity to see the grounds serve the surrounding community in a different way. A place so closely connected with memory and history can also be a place where new memories are made. Throughout the summer, families, performers, theatre lovers, and neighbors have gathered here to laugh, sing, reconnect, and spend an evening together outdoors.

That sense of connection feels especially meaningful as Altadena continues to recover from the effects of the Eaton Fire. For a local arts organization suddenly without its familiar venue, having a place to continue performing means more than simply keeping a season on

the calendar. It allows artists to keep working, audiences to keep gathering, and a community tradition to remain rooted in the place it calls home.

Altadena Music Theatre was founded in 2020 with a mission centered on accessible musical theatre, arts education, and community connection. Its 2026 season at Mountain View continues that mission during an unusual chapter in the company's story.

We are delighted to see that the show goes on.

Tickets are now available at
altadenamusictheatre.com
Little Shop of Horrors runs
September 3rd-13th starting at 8pm

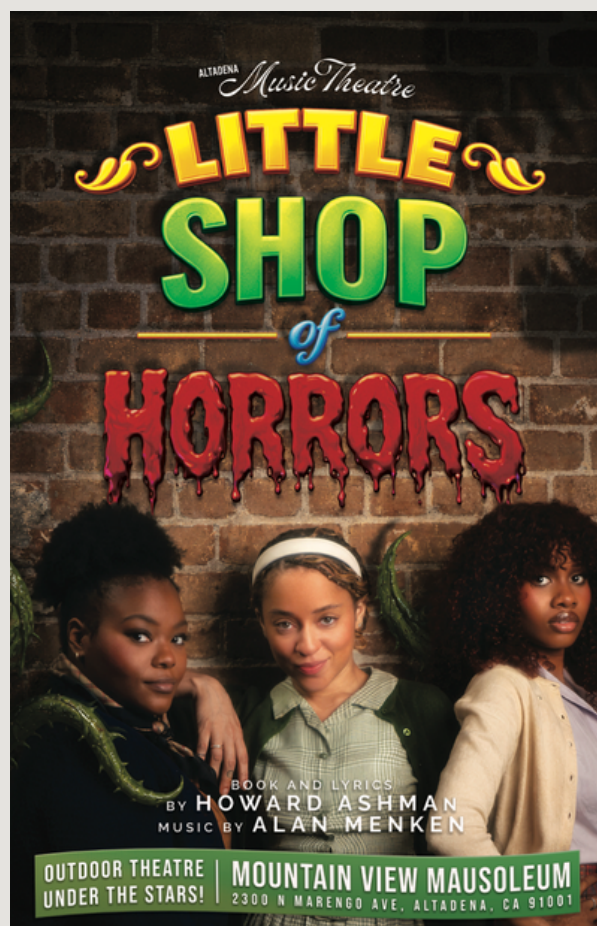


photo via Altadena Music Theatre



Where Remembrance Meets the Arts

A History of Live Performance at Mountain View

This summer, visitors to Mountain View may notice something unexpected among the familiar trees and historic grounds: an outdoor stage, rows of seats, and the sound of musical theatre drifting into the evening air.

After the Eaton Fire displaced Altadena Music Theatre from the Charles Farnsworth Amphitheater, Mountain View became the company's temporary home for its 2026 summer season. *Grease* opened the season in August, with *Little Shop of Horrors* following in September.

For some visitors, seeing a full theatrical production on cemetery grounds may seem unusual. For Mountain View, however, live performance is part of a much longer story.

The Mausoleum Becomes A Stage

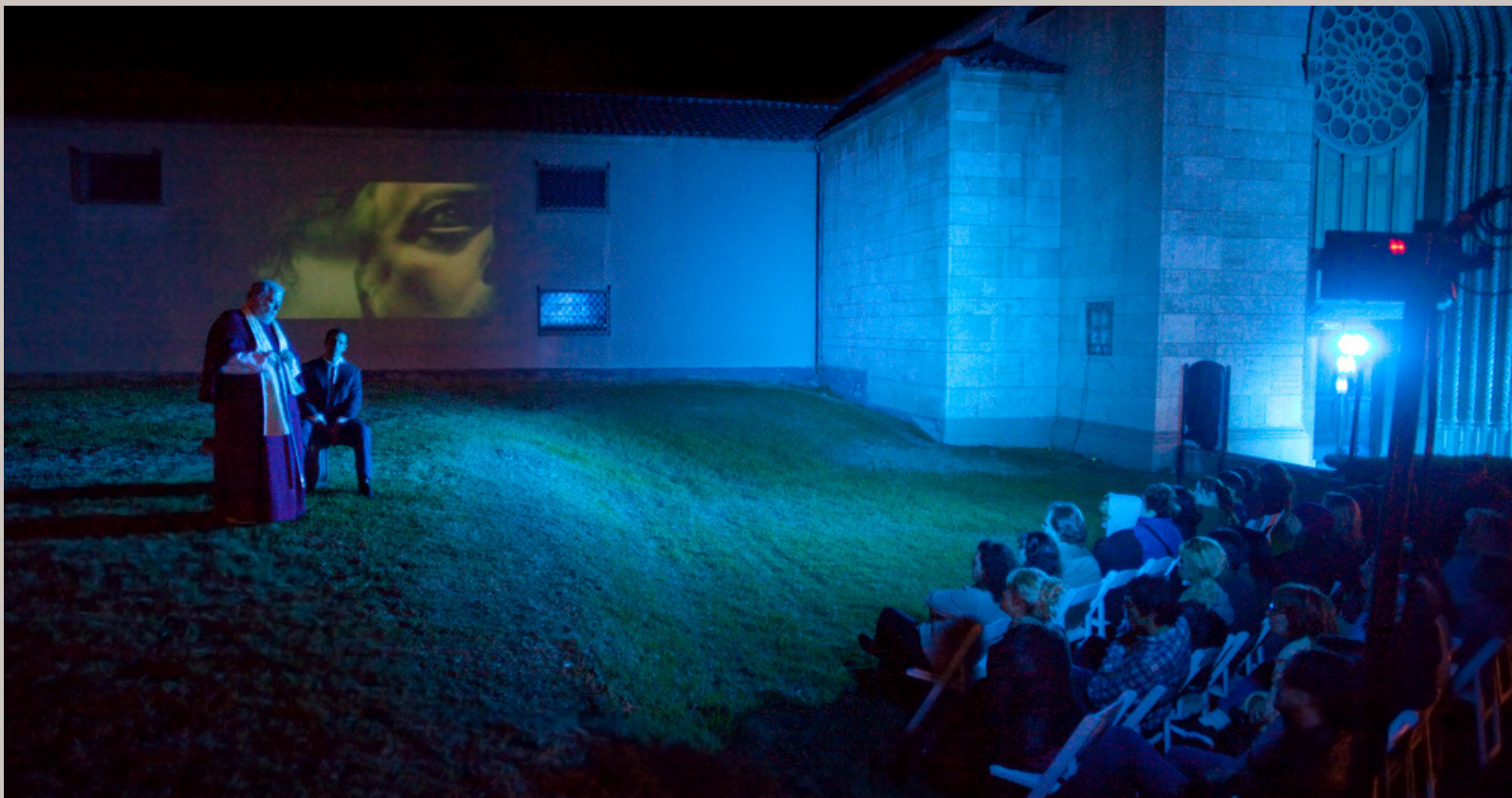
One of the most significant chapters began in 2010, when Unbound Productions brought Wicked Lit to Mountain View Mausoleum and Cemetery.

Rather than placing audiences in traditional theatre seats, Wicked Lit transformed the property itself into the stage. Small groups were guided through hallways, crypts, and outdoor spaces as actors performed adaptations of classic works of horror and supernatural literature.

Over nine consecutive seasons from 2010 through 2018, audiences encountered stories inspired by writers including Edgar Allan Poe, Charles Dickens, H.P. Lovecraft, Washington Irving, M.R. James, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Productions such as *The Cask of Amontillado*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, and *The Chimes: A Goblin Story* took advantage of an environment that could never be recreated on a conventional stage. The architecture became part of the storytelling.

Visitors moved through dark corridors beneath vaulted ceilings. Performers appeared only a few feet away. The stained glass, crypts, shadows, acoustics, and surrounding cemetery transformed familiar literary stories into something audiences could physically enter. By the time Wicked Lit concluded its Mountain View run in 2018, the Mausoleum had become closely associated with a distinctive form of site-specific immersive theatre.





traveled through the Mausoleum's halls and crypts.

The following year, *Witch!* transformed all three floors of the building into an interactive story inspired by the 1612 Pendle Witch Trials. Audiences were divided onto different paths, encountered characters in corridors and alcoves, and sometimes found themselves pulled into intimate one-on-one scenes. As the story developed, spectators increasingly became participants even facing the possibility of accusation themselves

Immersive Theatre Returns

The tradition continued into the 2020s through the work of Downtown Repertory Theater Company.

In 2021, *It's Alive! An Immersive Frankenstein Experience* brought audiences into the world surrounding Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein*. Rather than functioning as a haunted attraction, the production explored themes of creation, grief, and loss as guests

Downtown Repertory returned again in 2024 with *Masq! A Haunting*, this time the Mausoleum was home to an immersive masquerade tale that led guests through the Mausoleum as residents of *La Serenissima* during *Carnevale*.

Across these productions, Mountain View was never merely a backdrop. Its architecture influenced how stories were written, staged, heard, and experienced.





Music Beneath the Frescoes

The Mausoleum has also offered a striking setting for live music.

In 2024, chamber ensemble Salastina recorded *You Feel Like Home* (Suite from *The Sacred Veil*) at Mountain View Mausoleum in collaboration with acclaimed composer Eric Whitacre. Whitacre arranged the first five movements of his choral work *The Sacred Veil* specifically for Salastina's piano quintet.

Released digitally that October, the suite offers a lyrical, wordless meditation on love, loss, and solace. The project also highlights the mausoleum's unusual acoustics: while reverberation can challenge spoken theatre, sustained instrumental music can bloom beautifully throughout the vast interior.

Later that year, *Hollywood Graveyard*, the project created by filmmaker and historian Arthur Dark to preserve the memory of entertainers through visits to their final resting places, presented another chamber concert.

The September program explored themes of death and mortality through music ranging from Bach and Schubert to contemporary works. In a venue where remembrance is part of everyday life, the concert became another example of performance and memorial culture meeting in the same space.



photo via Instagram



photo via Instagram

Living History

Not every performance at Mountain View has been contemplative.

At Lamplight Fete, hosted by Steeping Hour; the grounds came alive with swing music, social dancing, food, and community celebration under the direction of legendary dancer, choreographer, musician, and bandleader Chester Whitmore and his Magnificent 7.

Whitmore represents a particularly important kind of cultural preservation. A protégé of Fayard Nicholas of the famed Nicholas Brothers, Whitmore has spent decades performing, choreographing, teaching, and carrying forward the traditions of Black American vernacular dance. His career has connected historic jazz and swing traditions with Hollywood, live performance, and generations of new dancers.

At Lamplight Fete, that history was not placed behind glass. It was played by a live band, demonstrated through dance, taught to guests, and shared directly with a new generation. Some attendees traveled significant distances for the opportunity to see Whitmore perform and learn in person.

Preservation, after all, does not always mean keeping something untouched. Sometimes it means keeping the music playing and inviting someone new onto the dance floor.



photo via Melodia Mariposa

A Home When the Community Needs One

That role has extended beyond the main Mausoleum on Marengo Avenue.

In November 2025, Melodia Mariposa presented the Zelter Quartet performing Schubert's Death and the Maiden at the Pasadena Mausoleum on Raymond Avenue. The sold-out concert took place after the group's traditional performance setting was no longer available following the Eaton Fire.

Mountain View offered the Pasadena Mausoleum as an alternative home. It would not be the last time the grounds helped a local arts organization continue after displacement.

Less than a year later, Altadena Music Theatre arrived at Mountain View under remarkably similar circumstances.

The Next Act

This brings us back to the outdoor stage standing on the grounds today. In 2026, audiences gathered beneath the stars for Grease, and will return September 3rd - 13th for Little Shop of Horrors. What may initially appear to be an unusual setting for musical theatre is, in fact, the newest chapter in a story that has been unfolding here for years.

Mountain View has welcomed literary theatre into its corridors, immersive stories across three floors, chamber music beneath historic stained glass, jazz and dancing on its grounds, and artists seeking a place to continue creating when circumstances threatened to silence them.

The performances have changed. The stages have changed. But the idea remains

remarkably consistent. Mountain View is a place devoted to memory, and sometimes the best way to honor history is to give the living room to create something new.



photo via Broadway World

Calendar

Enjoy these Community Events!

August 6th - 16th

Mountain View Mausoleum
Various Times

Grease

Produced by the Altadena Music Theatre
Tickets available at : altadenamusictheatre.com

August 28th

Cemetery Grounds
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Cemetery Wildlife Walk

Sponsored by the Pasadena Humane Society
Reserve your tickets on their Eventbrite page

September 3rd -13th

Mountain View Mausoleum
Various Times

Little Shop of Horrors

Produced by the Altadena Music Theatre
Tickets available at : altadenamusictheatre.com

September 25th

Cemetery Grounds
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Cemetery Wildlife Walk

Sponsored by the Pasadena Humane Society
Reserve your tickets on their Eventbrite page

HISTORY LIVES HERE



photo via IMDb

Malcom St. Clair

1897 - 1952

Malcolm St. Clair was a filmmaker whose career stretched from the silent era into Hollywood's golden age. Today, he rests here at Mountain View Mausoleum.

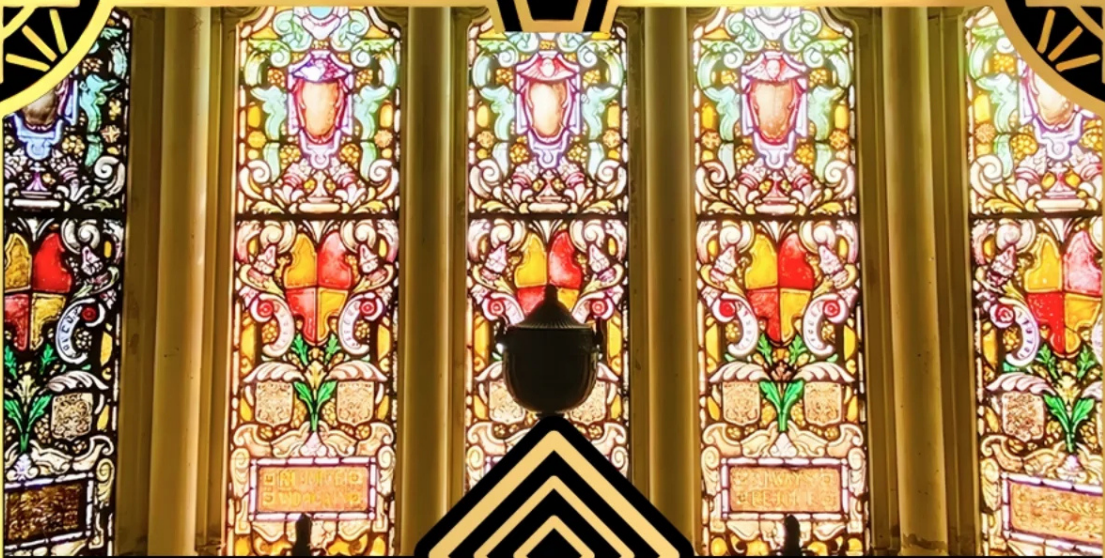
Malcolm St. Clair was a filmmaker whose career stretched from the silent era into Hollywood's golden age. Today, he rests here at Mountain View Mausoleum.

Born in Los Angeles in 1897, St. Clair began his creative career as a cartoonist before entering the film industry at Keystone Studios in 1915. After serving during World War I, he returned to Hollywood and established himself as a director with a particular gift for comedy, working during an era when the language of motion pictures was still being invented.

Among his most memorable collaborations was *The Goat* (1921), starring silent-film legend Buster Keaton. St. Clair went on to direct major performers including Clara Bow, Pola Negri, Joan Crawford, and William Powell, as well as an early 1928 adaptation of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. His career continued after the arrival of sound, including work on *Hollywood Cavalcade* (1939), *Sun Valley Serenade* (1941), and several later films featuring comedy duo Laurel and Hardy.

Before directing, St. Clair also appeared onscreen himself, including work with the famous Keystone Kops.

St. Clair died in Pasadena on June 1, 1952, at the age of 55. He is interred in the Columbarium of Consolation at Mountain View Mausoleum; a lasting connection between these historic grounds and the pioneering days of Hollywood filmmaking.



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Mountain View Cemetery

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The Mountain View Mausoleum is one of Altadena's most historic and beautiful landmarks, renowned for its stunning stained glass and timeless architecture. Over nearly a century, these treasured windows have faced natural wear and tear; and more recently, the Eaton Fire caused additional damage, putting the integrity of the glass and frames at serious risk.



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