
ARTS & NOT

UC Theatre to Replace Screen with Stage in Berkeley

By Sam Whiting on March 18, 2015 10:55 AM



U.C. THEATRE

The interior of the UC Theatre. Photo courtesy UC Theatre

Dark since the turn of the century, the **UC Theatre** at the bottom of campus will come alive like never before when it reopens as a live performance venue.

Ground was broken Mar. 18 to rebuild the gutted house. A non-profit called the Berkeley Music Group has formed to remake it, with seating for 900 and as many as 1400. It should be ready by the end of 2015 and an anchor of the new downtown **Berkeley Entertainment District** that will include the **Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive**.

Opened nearly a century ago, the UC had become a movie theater by the 1970s, that limped along between annual screenings of “The Graduate.” Dustin Hoffman would drive

his Alfa on the top level of the Bay Bridge to reach Berkeley and someone in the audience would yell “you’re going the wrong way.”

Then he’d jump out of the Alfa at Durant and College and run into the Theta Delta Chi fraternity house and someone, usually the same guy, would yell “that’s our house.”





The U.C. Theatre at the March 18 groundbreaking.
Photo by Rina Neiman

This action was not enough to sustain the UC and it went dark altogether in 2001.