



HLC Accreditation 2016-2017

Evidence Document

College of Fine Arts

Performing Arts

Wilner Auditorium

Additional information:



» [See full list of buildings](#)

Wilner Auditorium



WSU BUILDING TOUR



» [LOCATE THIS BUILDING](#)



SEARCH

BUILDING INFO

Year Built: 1938

Size: 44,226 square feet

What's Inside:

[School of Performing Arts](#)

[Theater](#)

[Weather Emergency Info](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THIS BUILDING

Apr 21: [Musical Theatre presents: Chicago](#)

Apr 24: [Musical Theatre presents: Chicago](#)

In the 1930s, student dining, recreation facilities and an auditorium for drama, music and convocations were all high on the list of space needs for the new Municipal University of Wichita. Federal funds provided under the Public Works Administration made possible construction of the Auditorium and Commons Building in 1938. It was later renamed Wilner Auditorium to honor George Wilner who joined Fairmount College as head of speech and theater in 1923. Mr. Wilner retired from WU in 1960.

Although other stages are now available, the 600-seat Wilner Auditorium still serves as the main stage for theater activities. Recreation and food service functions were moved from the building when the Campus Activities Center (now Rhatigan Student Center) opened in 1959.



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY



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Contact Us

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WICHITA STATE
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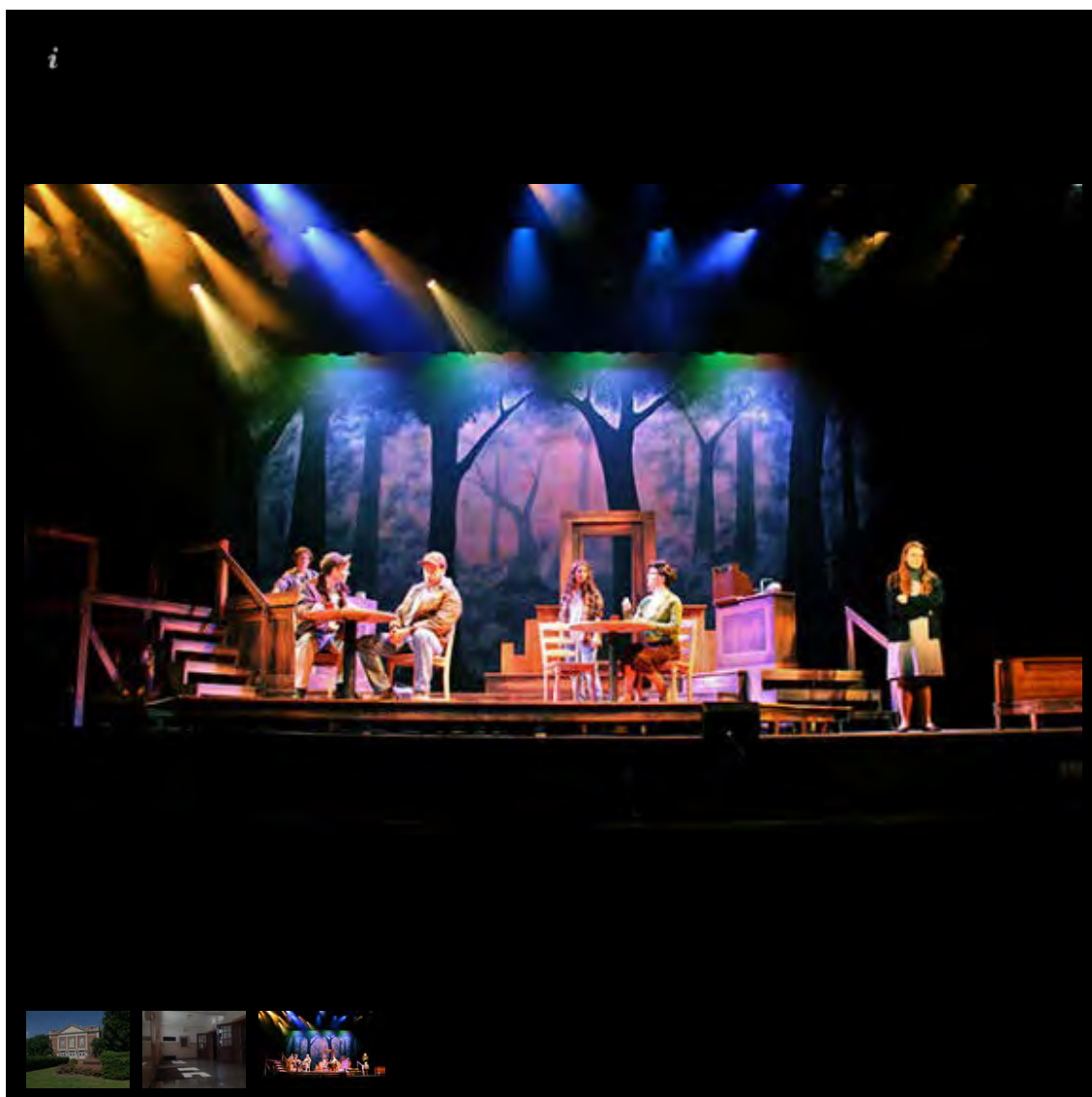
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Performance Facilities

Ticket sales are available
online 24 hours a day 7
days a week!

Buy Tickets Now

Wilner Auditorium



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Location:

Located in the [Wilner Auditorium](#) lobby (near the south east entrance). [Locate this building.](#)

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Parking:

There are a few spaces in front of the building, however, most of the parking is south of the building across 17th Street. Closest available parking is the lot west of the building. [Read more about parking.](#)

For the closest WSU Shuttle System drop off location [read about the WSU Shuttle System.](#)

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Tickets:

The Box Office for [Wilner Auditorium](#) opens 1-hour prior to the start of a ticketed event for will-call and ticket purchases. Arrive early to avoid lines!

Advance ticket purchases are advised. You may [purchase tickets online](#) or in-person during regular [Box Office hours](#) at the [Duerksen Fine Arts Center](#).

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Seating Capacity:

553 Total Seats Available (537 regular seating + 16 ADA seating)

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Tornado Shelter:

Building	Shelter	Persons needing help go to
Wilner Auditorium	Go to basement	Stairwell area

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About this Venue:

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Namesake:

<p><i>(No Photo Available)</i></p> <p>George D. Wilner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the early 1920s, Dr. George Wilner began his career in theater by coaching college students in classroom exercises for \$25 a month. After teaching at Ann Arbor in Michigan for four years, he and his wife packed their Model T with a few possessions and moved to Wichita. His desire to work in a smaller institution led him to Fairmount College where he founded a university theatre centered on instruction rather than entertainment. For 35 years, he led countless thespians to perform mostly Shakespearian theatre stage classics. In 1959, he retired but continued to attend almost all theatre performances with his wife, Vera. In 1964, the university recognized Dr. Wilner for his remarkable efforts and named the auditorium staging all major shows after him. The George D. Wilner Achievement Award, established in 1972, serves as an extension of that recognition. Dr. Wilner passed away November 1976.
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Seating Chart:

The seating charts below show fixed seating within the Fine Arts venues. Most events are General Admission (first-come-first-served). Please follow [this link](#) to our online ticketing system to see if your event is a General Admission or a Reserved Seating show.



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