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A Collection Of Bizarre Solved & Unsolved
Mysteries Associated With the University Of
Arizona - UArizona - UofA
Located In Tucson, Arizona U.S.A.
From 1885 To The Present Day
Not a website of the University of Arizona
Secrets of Centennial Hall Theatre



Centennial Hall is reportedly home to numerous ghosts & spirits. One ghost from the past often encountered is a young Spanish man from the Colonial Period of Tucson's very colorful latter 1700s history that is usually dressed entirely or mostly in black.

Also often reported appearing at times is a female ghostly spirit from a later era that prefers the classic long billowing floor length dresses of the late 1890s.

Sounds from a vintage era piano can often be heard very late at night as well as frequent seemingly muffled conversations taking place in many of the large buildings various unused and empty rooms that have been locked and unused for many since the current theatre was constructed over the original theatre site.



"Yes, there are reports of more than two ghostly entities inhabiting Centennial Hall Theatre (the original structure was called the Main Campus Auditorium) at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona," noted Jonathan Holden with U A Presents at the University of Arizona.

"There has been a building here where Centennial Hall is now located for well over eighty or more years, they just built the new theatre over the top of university's original main auditorium, and it seems the encounters of spirits and ghosts go back even farther than that to the time of the Spanish Colonial Period in Tucson," continued Holden.

"Many years ago there was a young theatre student working far up in the wooden catwalks of the original auditorium stage who had reached out to place a curtain weight to balance a set hanging from up there," added Holden.

"The theatre arts student was reported to have lost his footing falling over 50 feet down on to the hard wooden planked stage floor to his death during a performance of the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe play 'Faust' during a

particularly busy scene change as the protagonist Faust met with the Devil at a cross road and the two made a wager together there,” Jonathan concluded.



Faust & Mephisto Make A Wager

Historical records also reveal on the current site of the Centennial Hall Theatre two dashing head strong wealthy young men visiting from [Spain](#) in the latter 1700s had settled a disagreement over a young girls affections, after one challenged the other to a duel while they were in Tucson.

As was the custom of that time, the other man was allowed to choose the weapons to be used, and much to the surprise of the other he chose [lances](#) on horseback much like a [medieval joust](#) except that no one but themselves knew that their challenge was clearly agreed to be to the death.



Spanish Jousting In The Latter 1700s

Sadly, the very young and emotional girl of both young men's intentions suddenly ran out to stop them as they were in full stride on their horses.

She was trampled to death under the hooves of both the young men's horses.

Some of the town people's dogs began barking wildly at the sounds of her screams of horrific excruciating pain causing one of the young duelers to be thrown from his horse and slam him down into the hard packed desert floor.

Tragically, the young man landed on the ground on the side of his head snapping his neck killing him almost instantly right there.

Citizens of the sparsely populated Presidio San Augustine del Tucson were so upset at the turn of events of the young girl's death attention for a time completely ignored the one surviving young man not knowing the complete story of the events.

The surviving young Spanish noble quickly left Tucson in complete dishonor and was not long after while riding on horseback down the main wagon road South towards the Sonoran border

was captured, tortured, then killed by a band of Apaches on his journey heading back southward with a booked passage to board a Spanish Galleon sailing ship returning to Spain at the then very busy Port of Veracruz. ”



One of the ghostly entities reported often haunting Centennial Hall on various occasions is a woman completely dressed in her 1890s Victorian era dark floor length dress who pushes theatre customers on stairways, sometimes

in corridors, and in open areas as if she is trying hard to quickly pass them to get somewhere.

She is always seen wearing a late [1800s](#) blouse and dress with a very high buttoned collar that was the style of the era; a [Cameo Pendant](#) that was also the style of that time period; along with her hair pinned up as was the fashion for women during most of the [1800s](#).



It is often reported that her ghostly spirit is always seen exclusively at many classical performances performed in the Centennial Hall Theatre. Holden noted to researchers that actors have also often reported hearing noises directly overhead above them and at times around them while they were on the Centennial Theatre Stage.

"A Spanish male spirit entity dressed entirely in dark or black clothing of another era, in his 20s has often been reported lurking and moving around backstage. The ghost is frequently been seen up above walking in the catwalks overhead. He has been heard to be making horse like whining noises."

Holden then added, *"There is a very old adage that says in every good theatre that has live performances it almost always has sightings and experiences with spirits and ghosts."*

That seems to be true when a few months ago at the theatre, an employee at the university had the most recent of the many various reported ghostly spirits encounters there inside the

building both during the daytime as well as at night time.

Herb Stratford, a student employee of the theater shared that the employee, who was a movie projectionist, had noticed some balled up pieces of used masking tape that suddenly started to move on top of one of the work counters right near him.



"All of a sudden those masking tape pieces started to crinkle, with the eerie sound like somebody was grabbing it." He (the employee) then said out loud,

"If you're going to play with it, then play with it."

The employee then saw the small ball of tape roll across the table and then roll back again the opposite way," said Stratford.

"That's not all; something was manipulating equipment" in the more than eighty year old theatre.

Stratford said, *"We would all come in the next day and the lens of the projector would be all the way screwed out; something that requires a special tool to do that, there is just no other possible way it could come out. Yet there were no marks on the lens whatsoever"* he said.



University of Arizona investigators also examined the lens but were unable to find any marks on the lens anywhere, nor could even a single fingerprint be found or a partial fingerprint on the projector's lens.

After being unofficially but thoroughly examined in a crime lab in Phoenix, Arizona by a

technician, the lens mysteriously did not reveal one shred whatsoever of any human DNA.

In 2020 during the COVID Pandemic night janitors reported numerous cases of strange sounds, experiences of air flowing past them as if someone had just walked by them, and dim lighted areas like small patches of fog observed briefly floating for a time around where they were walking and working in.

Of the graveyard shift janitorial maintenance crew staff working inside at night the turnover rate has been well over 50% for more than 25 years.



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