Playhouse Lands a Permanent Home in Library

Theater: After more than 27 years of moving from location to location, the Huntington Beach Playhouse has a place to call its own. It's expected to move in as soon as fall of 1992.

By JOHN PENNER

The troupe further plans to expand its scholarship program for theater students, said Bill Verhaegen, Playhouse business manager. Operating on an annual budget of about $35,000, the troupe now awards $1,500 in scholarships each year.

"Everyone connected with the Playhouse is ecstatic over this new home," Verhaegen said Wednesday. "We're anticipating a lot of fun the next year and half and so getting ready. We're all just dying to get in there."

The troupe's move to the new facility, in the works since last fall, came about through a financing package put together by library director Hayden. Under the plan, the city will purchase $5.26 million in bonds, all of which will be repaid through income the library expects to generate with its new amenities.

For example, the city will draw $1.10 from each playhouse ticket sold to help pay bond costs. City and private funds have also been earmarked to cover the balance of expansion costs.

In addition to the theater, the new two-level wing will include a new children's resource center, an expanded computer and media center, two new meeting rooms and an improved lobby and gift shop.

The library is on Golden West Street at Talbert Avenue. That section of Talbert will be closed to accommodate the greater parking space needed because of the expansion. Most recently, the Playhouse has been operating at the otherwise closed Ernest H. Gisler Middle School on Strathmoor Lane.

For Reference

Not to be taken from this room

Theo Johnston is the Times reporter.}

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