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## Wilshire Theatre BH Receives Prestigious Commendation

By Kelly Hartog

Today, the Wilshire Theatre Beverly Hills will receive a prestigious commendation from The League of Historic American Theatres (LHAT) and the City of Beverly Hills at a ceremony at the theatre, as part of the League's 30th annual convention.

The award is being presented to honor the historic and celebrated theatre for its dedication to the arts for over 75 years.

Among the attendees will be Beverly Hills Mayor Steve Webb, Connie Keiter, daughter of the theatre's architect S. Charles Lee, Rabbi David Baron of the Wilshire Theatre Beverly Hills, and Esther Adir, executive director of the theatre.

As the only major functioning theatrical venue in Beverly Hills, Mayor Webb will also present a proclamation honoring the theatre for its contributions to the community.

Rabbi Baron told *The Courier*, "The award we are receiving from the League of Historic American Theatres and the commendation from our City of Beverly Hills strengthens our determination to expand the vision of the Wilshire Theatre as a center for performing arts, culture and music. We will partner with friends in the artistic and philanthropic communities to help us realize that vision."

The 1,910 seat art-deco theatre held its official opening on September 19, 1930 with the premiere of Charlie Chaplin's film *City Lights*. Since then, it has



**WILSHIRE AWARD** – The theatre (above) is being honored for its dedication to the arts for the past 75 years

hosted premieres for films such as *Exodus* and *Trapeze*, and has been home to traveling Broadway shows including the recent sold out performances of Billy Crystal's *700 Sundays*.

The theatre's location is a favorite for many television and film shoots including the recently completed HBO *Def Comedy Jam* featuring comedian Dave Chap-

pelle. Numerous charities have held their benefit concerts including CAAF's Night of Comedy IV featuring Ray Romano of *Everybody Loves Raymond* and comedian Garry Shandling.

The Wilshire Theatre Beverly Hills is in full operation mode, and maintains a commitment to the revitalization of the arts in the community.