



Army Archerd

JUST FOR VARIETY

GOOD MORNING:

ON THE HAPPIER side of religious news: Rabbi David Baron of the Temple of the Arts in Beverly Hills is in the process of acquiring the Wilshire Theater where the Temple has been holding services for 13 years. Baron, who has been spearheading the acquisition for the show-biz congregation, tells me he hopes to make the theater-now-temple “a center of arts and culture for the entire community.” Renovations are estimated at \$20 million to convert the 1,953-seat, former vodvil house-turned legit theater. The sale would include a lease-back provision for the Nederlanders for the next three years. The Temple of the Arts boasts a 2,000-member congregation. Baron says the aim is “to create a Los Angeles style 92nd Street Y with cultural and artistic performances, lectures, screenings.” The congregation currently holds Friday night services the first Friday of each month in addition to the High Holy Services — which are SRO — in the Wilshire. Further, Baron hopes to transform a section of the balcony into a small theater. “We hope to get the entire community involved in this new project,” Baron enthuses ..