

HELPING OTHER THEATRES

Friends of the Pasadena Playhouse

Presented by Patrick Oliva

Several years ago, the Pasadena Playhouse was in financial trouble and we had to shut our doors for a six-month period. Since we had a large volunteer group and knowing that the theatre would be back, we had to figure out a way to keep our volunteers active.

We looked around and found that a theatre that was close to the playhouse didn't have a volunteer group and perhaps they would need help in some form. When approached they said that had a large mailing to go out and they would love to have some "free" help.

What a success. The theatre (Boston Court) provided water and cookies and we provided the man power to take care of the mailing. A true friendship had been born. This was a win-win situation for both theatres. We were able to keep our members busy and they were able to get their mailings done in a timely manner.

When the Playhouse reopened, we were anxious to keep this bridge between the two theatres open and we continue to help them whenever they need it. Our volunteers love the interaction with the other theatre and in turn, they provide those that volunteer with a comp ticket for their show.

I think that offering the services of a larger theatre to a smaller theatre shows that we are not in competition with each other and this helps to build a bond between the theatres in a community. The cost to have the help is very minimal as is the time that is spent at the other theatre. The good will that is achieved is immeasurable.