



(The Tower Theatre plays host to the Salt Lake Film Society's Open Screen Night, Wednesday, Nov. 9, at 9 p.m. (Photo by Sean P. Means | The Salt Lake Tribune))

Sidewalk damage forces Tower Theatre to close for weekend

Art-house cinema » Engineer will examine “concrete failure” outside 93-year-old theater.

The Tower Theatre closed suddenly on Friday and will remain closed through the weekend, because of damage to the sidewalk at the Salt Lake City moviehouse.

The Tower, at 876 E. 900 South, closed after "a small concrete failure" developed in front of the theater, [according to a post](#) on the website of the [Salt Lake Film Society](#), the nonprofit that runs the Tower and the Broadway Centre Cinemas.

On Friday night, a line of yellow caution tape had been erected in a square around the damaged sidewalk, and a piece of plywood was covering a small hole.

Theater management, "in an abundance of caution," the web post said, closed the Tower until an engineer can check the damage and ensure it won't spread to the building. That likely won't happen before Tuesday, because of the Columbus Day holiday.

All screenings were canceled, and the Tower's video-rental business is closed. Late-night weekend screenings Friday and Saturday, of the 1985 vampire movie "Fright Night," have been moved to the Broadway, at 111 E. 300 South, Salt Lake City.

Opened in 1921, the Tower is the oldest movie theater still in operation in the Salt Lake Valley. It got its name from its original castle-like facade, which was replaced with its current look in the 1950s.

The theater became an independent art-house theater in 1991, when it was taken over by Greg Tanner, who ran the Blue Mouse and Cinema In Your Face. When the theater hit hard times, businessman Paul Liacopoulos bought the Tower in 2000, and formed the nonprofit [Salt Lake Film Society](#) to maintain its art-house programming.

The Tower is one of the Salt Lake City venues for the Sundance Film Festival, and it's home to raucous screenings of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" around Halloween.

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