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Reopening: Skokie Theatre ready for new run

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[Gorilla Tango Theatre coming to Skokie Theatre](#)

Nearly two months after the Skokie Theatre went dark in downtown Skokie, a new theater company in collaboration with the village announced its reopening Friday.

That's welcome news to village leaders who have been working hard to revitalize downtown Skokie and draw new businesses to the area. The Skokie Theatre is the only major entertainment venue in the downtown.

Gorilla Tango Theatre will expand from its location at 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Chicago and make the Skokie venue its second home.

Gorilla Tango Theatre bills itself online as "a live theatrical venue where audiences consistently go each week to see a wide variety of performances by a diverse group of talented producers, directors, actors, writers, etc. etc. If it's live and will fit on our stage, you could see it at GTT!"

Gorilla Tango Theatre could not be reached for comment Thursday but officials there were expected on Friday to discuss the expansion into Skokie.

One of Skokie's oldest buildings and the first in the village to have air conditioning, the Skokie Theatre was purchased in 2004 by a non-profit organization that changed its name to the Skokie Theatre Music Foundation.

The Foundation received some financial help from the village and poured \$1.5 million into the deteriorating facility, which had been used to show second-run movies for many years. The theater first opened in 1912 and was a studio lot where some of the earliest silent movies were made.

By the time the renovation was complete, the theater had been transformed into an intimate state-of-the-art entertainment venue seating 140 patrons. The entertainment at the renovated theater was always eclectic with a wide range of programming, but the theater was hit hard by the economy, went into receivership and closed its doors at the end of 2011.

Unlike the first owner, the new theater company is said to be a for-profit business and did not receive financial help from the village.