

The Historic State Theatre opened its doors on February 5, 1921. It was considered the most luxurious, elaborate and technologically advanced theatre in the U.S. when it opened. The opening night program included a screening of the silent film "Mama's Affair" starring Constance Talmadge.

In 1925, a Wurlitzer organ was installed in the theatre. Organist Eddie Dunstedter not only played evening concerts, but also offered noon lunch hour performances for fifty-cents. The curtain draped openings on either side of the stage were where the organ pipes were located.

From its construction in 1921 to 1976, the State Theatre was a presentation house. In 1978, The Jesus People purchased the State for use as a place of worship. They held services in the theatre until 1985. Members of the church found the ornate masks and many nudes in the theatre offensive. Luckily, they did not destroy these treasures, but simply draped the articles they found adverse to their religious beliefs.

In 1989, the Minneapolis Community Development Agency purchased the LaSalle Plaza block.

The restoration of the State Theatre was made possible with support from the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Community Development Agency.

The renovation took 3 years at a cost of \$8.8-million.

The Historic State Theatre reopened in November of 1991 with the Minnesota Opera's production of *Carousel*.