

SAN ANTONIO FILM FESTIVAL



Courtesy of Geno Garza

The story of the Sons of Hercules, featuring Frank Pugliese, left, and Dale Hollon, is told in “The Sons of Hercules: Three Decades of Spittin’ Fire.”

# SONS OF HERCULES STILL GOING STRONG

Documentary about fiery S.A. garage rock band to light up the screen

By Deborah Martin  
STAFF WRITER

Geno Garza had never made a documentary, but he thought long-lived San Antonio garage band the Sons of Hercules merited one.

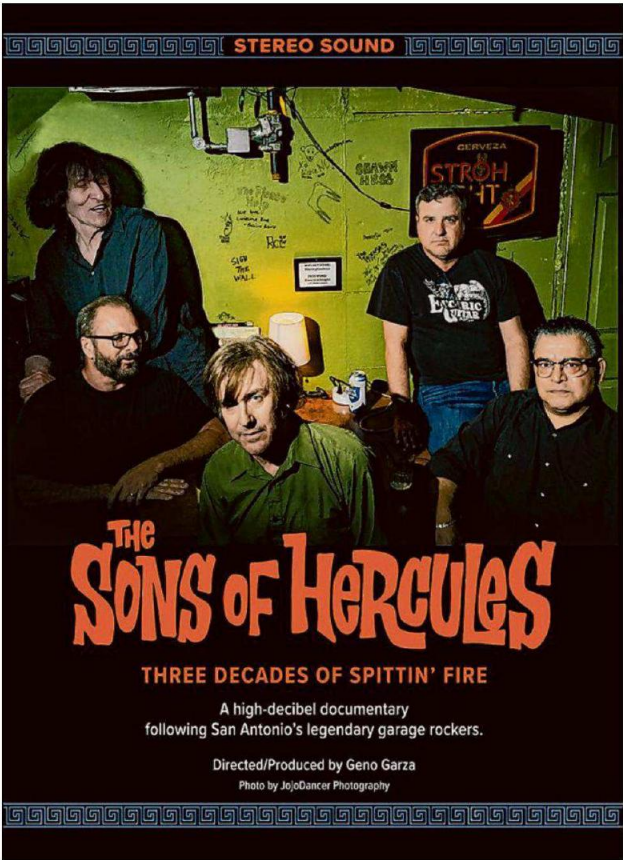
So after kicking around the idea for about five years, he got to work telling their story.

The finished product — “The Sons of Hercules: Three Decades of Spittin’ Fire” — premieres Saturday as part of the San Antonio Film Festival. It will share a bill with “My Life, Your Entertainment: Tommy Price.” Director Trevor Najera’s documentary explores the life of the rock drummer, who played with Joan Jett, Billy Idol, Scandal and other ’80s music stars.

The festival, which runs through Sunday, also will include an exhibit of images by Nancy Gray, who photographed the infamous 1978 Sex Pistols appearance at Randy’s Rodeo. Sons of Hercules vocalist Frank Pugliese sang with the Vamps when they opened for that show.

Adam Rocha, founder and executive director of the festival, is looking forward to the entire evening.

“I’m excited because my roots go back to punk rock, and who doesn’t love the Sex Pistols?,” Rocha said. “And



San Antonio Film Festival

“I thought we looked pretty OK. We didn’t look too foolish,” guitarist Dale Hollon says of the documentary.

it’s San Antonio’s favorite, the Sons of Hercules. I can’t wait.”

The film touches on the Sex Pistols concert, but Garza was careful not to overemphasize it.

“I wanted this to be more of a Sons of Hercules documentary as opposed to a Frank documentary,” he said. “It was more of, this is a band that’s been around for almost 35 years that I really wanted to talk about.

“Plus, they’re still playing. If you want to see them, you can still go see them play. They’re not a band that’s not around any more.”

That said, the Sons of Hercules don’t play super often, he said. When they do, fans turn out in droves.

“They usually play on some random weekday, a Tuesday or a Thursday, and they’re always really packed,” Garza said. “To see a local band that really packs a club on an off night is amazing to me.”

Garza first heard the band play in Austin, and he was hooked immediately.

“I was there to see a bunch of other bands, and I was really surprised and shocked at how great they were,” he said. “I asked around about who they were and where they were from, and they said, ‘Oh, they’re from right here.

**Band continues on E8**

## Theater to work its Magik on the road during renovation

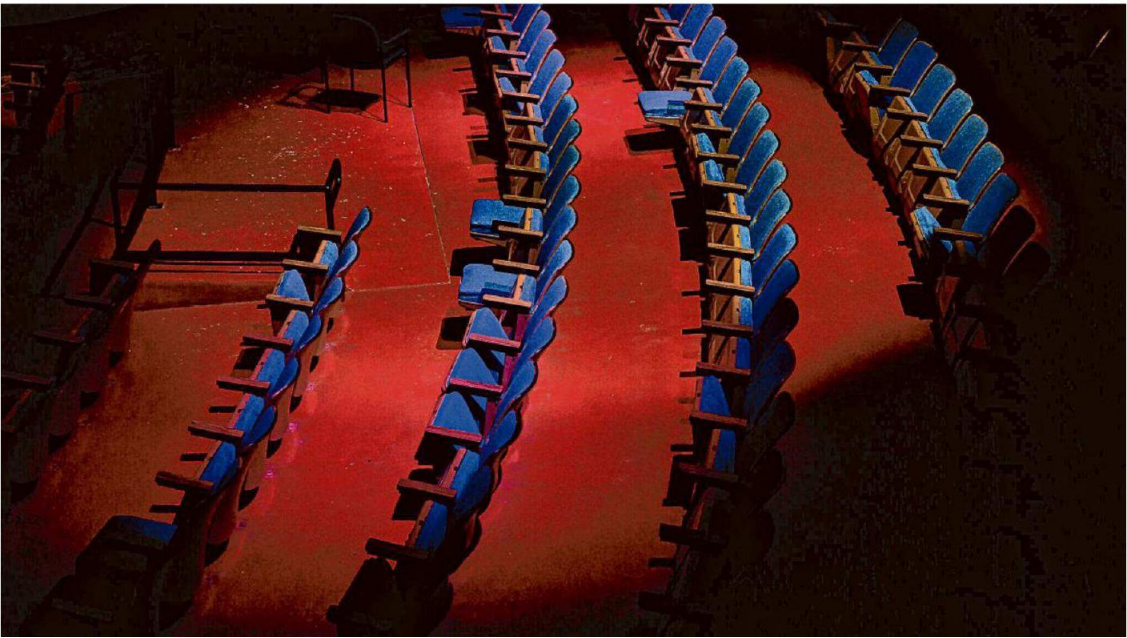
By Deborah Martin  
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Magik Theatre will be temporarily closing its doors in January and taking its shows on the road for a few months.

That’s because its performance space is getting a make-over.

Beethoven Hall, which the children’s theater has called home since 1997, is getting two new HVAC systems, as well as new seating. Electrical and safety systems will be enhanced, and the seating area for people who use wheelchairs and their companions is being expanded. In addition, the stairs leading into the auditorium on the north side of the building are being leveled, creating an accessible entrance to the auditorium through the lobby.

“Hopefully, by the end of



Sam Owens/San Antonio Express-News

The upgrades at Magik Theatre will include new seating, more seating for people who use wheelchairs and their companions, and an accessible auditorium entrance in the lobby.

April, you’re going to be able to come back for a summer production enjoying all of the improvements that are really in alignment with our values in creating an accessible space for our community,” said Managing Director Mel Zarb-Cousin.

The \$2.2 million price tag for the project will be covered by money earmarked for the theater in the city’s 2022 bond program, as well as funding from the Joan and Herb Kelleher Charitable Foundation and the Charity Ball Association.

Magik will stage two shows in the theater this fall before the temporary closure: Allison Gregory’s adaptation of “Little Red Riding Hood,” which will run Sept. 27-Oct. 12 before going on tour; and the holiday favorite “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” which will run Nov. 22-Dec. 14.

**Magik continues on E8**



MAGIK

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In addition, “Tomas and the Library Lady” will be on tour Sept. 8-Oct. 12.

Magik’s summer show, the stage adaptation of the children’s book “Dragons Love Tacos,” runs through Aug. 2. It will tour February through May while Beethoven Hall is closed.

“We’re not looking at this closure as a challenge,” Zarb-Cousin said. “We’re looking at it as an opportunity to take Magik on the road in a bigger way.”

As the company preps for the temporary closure, it also is in fundraising mode. Ongoing construction around the theater, including current work on the sidewalk and the street right outside its front door, has taken a toll on ticket sales, creating a budget shortfall.

To cover that and any additional losses brought on by the closure, the com-

“Our mission is mobile.”

*Managing Director Mel Zarb-Cousin, on the theater’s road plans*

pany launched the Believe in Magik fundraising campaign in June. It is one-third of the way to its \$300,000 goal.

A Hollywood-themed gala takes place Sept. 20. Tickets cost \$150; VIP tickets, which include reserved seating and valet parking, cost \$325 for one or \$600 for two. Tickets and info can be found at [magiktheatre.org](http://magiktheatre.org).

“We won’t have our home for a second, but Magik is not our space,” said Zarb-Cousin. “Our space is our mission and our mission is mobile. So we’re going to take it on the road. I think it’s an excellent way to remind folks that we’ve been around for 31 years and we are very much a part of the fabric of this community.”



Magik Theatre’s summer production, “Dragons Love Tacos,” will go on tour in February while the company’s home at Beethoven Hall is temporarily closed for renovations.

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