

Brooks Center theater to reopen Monday

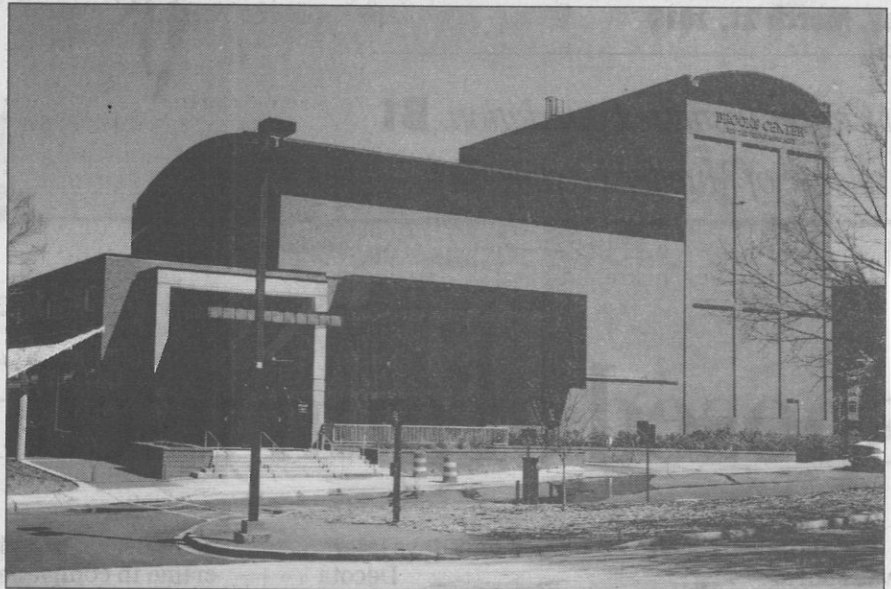
BY GREG OLIVER
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — The Brooks Theatre at the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts will officially reopen on Monday, Clemson University officials announced Wednesday.

The reopening comes three weeks after the discovery of several bats in the building led to a cautionary closing of the theater. Officials said the maintenance team worked to humanely remove bats from the building and seal any entry points. This was the second consecutive year the facility had to be shut down temporarily due to bats inside the center.

University officials said last week the bats seen at the Brooks Theatre were the same type of free-tailed bats seen last year and that such medium-sized bats can squeeze through openings as small as three-eighths of an inch. Facilities staff members worked with a private pest control company and wildlife experts to safely remove the bats without harming them — including walking the catwalks and using a lift to locate and individually remove bats perched near the theater's large ceiling.

University officials said last week the maintenance staff installed an excluder — a device allowing bats to



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Clemson University officials announced Wednesday that the Brooks Theatre inside the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts will reopen Monday after being closed for three weeks following the discovery of bats.

leave a building but not return — at a small gap in an outside wall. That location is where 20 bats were seen entering the building, and officials expressed hope that would get rid of the problem with bats once and for all.

The university said in a news release Wednesday that the last three bats were removed from the theater on March 13. During its closure,

several performances were moved to Daniel High School, as well as area churches, while a scheduled appearance by the Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company was canceled.

The first scheduled performance since the reopening of the theater is set for Monday night.

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