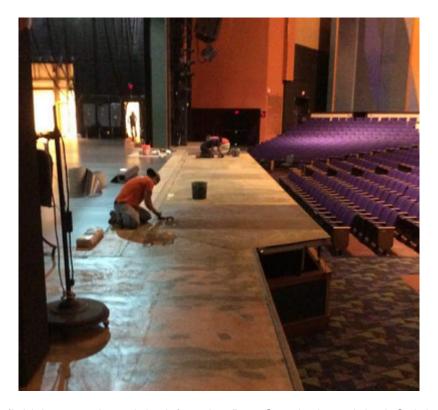


Wallingford company installs new floors at Oakdale in time for 'Wicked'



New commercial flooring was recently installed on the main stage of the <u>Oakdale Theatre</u> in preparation for the debut of "Wicked" in late November.



Built on an alfalfa field in 1954 by original founder Ben Segal, the original Oakdale was part of the "theatre-in-the-round" craze that saw many circular stages open in various parts of the Northeast. A family owned business for decades, it began primarily as a summer stock venue, hosting many of the musicals of the day: 'Kiss Me Kate', 'South Pacific', 'Oklahoma' to mention a few, with many of Broadways brightest stars like John Raitt, Danny Kaye, James Garner and Ethel Merman. In the 60s, Oakdale evolved into a summer concert venue where the likes of Harry Belafonte, Paul Anka, Steve & Eydie, Tom Jones, and more played to the open air crowds every summer, sometimes for 2 weeks at a time! The landscape changed in the late 60s and Oakdale rocked and rolled with Cream, The Who, The Doors and even Led Zeppelin, all playing live on the spinning stage.

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The flooring was installed in September by Colonial Flooring America, on Route 5 in Wallingford, across from the Staples. "We were very pleased to hear they chose us for the project as a local business in Wallingford," said Peter Escobar, company president. The previous flooring installed approximately five years ago had deteriorated from frequent use, according to Oakdale Theatre's general manager, Michael Andrews.

Colonial Flooring America installed new linoleum flooring across the roughly 7,800-square-foot stage, the same flooring material previously on the stage, Escobar said. Andrews said the theater was "glad to give the business to a local business instead of some corporation."





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