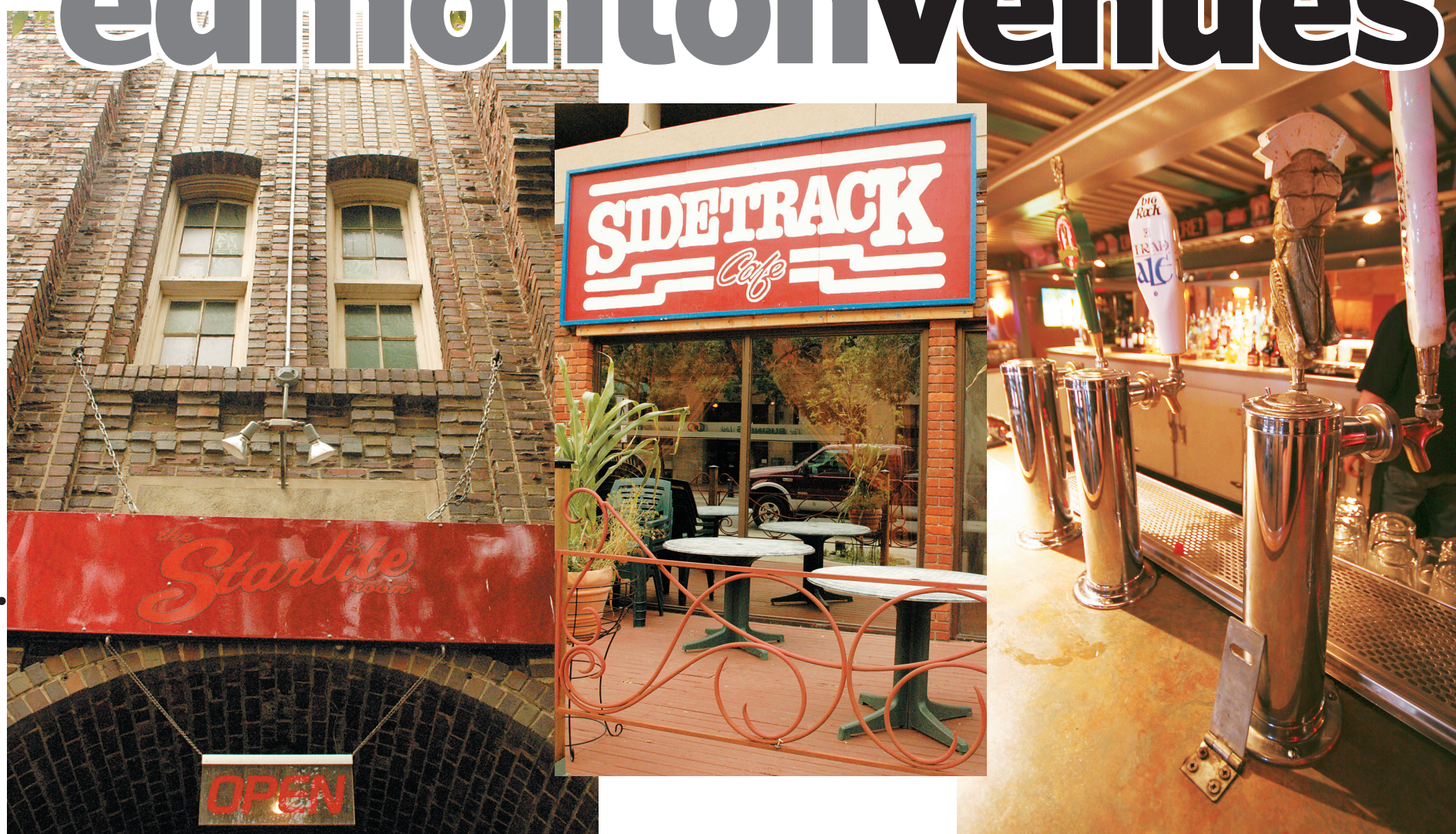


# edmonton venues



As a result, it offers a wide variety of productions, from Stewart Lemoine's comedic farces to monthly talk-show *Oh Susanna!* where the host dresses in drag.

**What to expect:** An alternative to going to the bar on Friday nights, Theatre Sports is a late-night improv session that's always good for a laugh. You may encounter some high school kids in the crowd, who may have indulged in a marijuana cigarette or two before the show, so don't be shy to get in on that action—if you condone such degenerate behaviour. Or, for a more subdued but still hilarious spectacle, check out the long-format improv show, Chimprov, every Saturday evening.

**Notable productions:** *Evelyn Strange*, *Theatre Sports*, *Chimprov*

## Walterdale Playhouse (10322 - 83 Avenue) 19

The Walterdale is right across the street from the Varscona, giving you even more choice than you can shake a stick at. It features comfortable seats and looks fairly new, considering it once used to be a fire hall. If you have any friends who are into drama, either at the U of A or in their spare time, chances are they'll be in a Walterdale production sometime within the year.

**What to expect:** Lots of very friendly people. The plays performed at the Walterdale are all community theatre, meaning everyone working there is a volunteer and is interested in having fun.

**Notable productions:** *The Rez Sisters*, *King Lear*

## Citadel Theatre (9828 - 101A Avenue)

The big, bad brother of Edmonton's independent theatre scene, the Citadel Theatre offers your standard big-stage, big-name affairs, from Shakespeare, Shaw and company, to its yearly musical and production of *A Christmas Carol*. The Citadel has two main stages, the thrust-style Maclab and the proscenium-style Shoctor, allowing for more versatility in their productions. The third, smaller space, the Rice, offers up less mainstream productions aimed at 30-somethings. You can also buy those delicious Häagen-Dazs chocolate-dipped ice-cream bars at intermission.

**What to expect:** Decent but rarely innovative productions of classic or well-known works, and the occasional gem that proves that big performances aren't all bad.

**Notable productions:** *Proof*, *Einstein's Gift*, *Wit*

## Edmonton Opera (9720 - 102 Avenue)

Housed in the Winspear Centre, Edmonton's only opera company puts on four shows each season. Largely, they stick to the oldies like Mozart, Verdi and all those other Italian or German dudes, but they also run more modern

or contemporary operas from time to time. Though expensive, the spectacle is often worth it—and what better way to show a girl you have class than take her to the opera before bringing her back to good old Four Henday, which just happens to be right next door. They also offer rush student tickets, and student subscriber rates that entitle you to free beer and pizza.

**What to expect:** Loud singing in foreign languages.

**Notable productions:** *Filumena*, *Turandot*, *The Magic Flute*

*Note: Many, if not all, theatres here in Edmonton offer student pricing, pay-what-you-can evenings or special discounts for certain days of the week. In addition, six local theatre companies—Northern Light Theatre, Shadow Theatre, Fringe Theatre Adventures, Catalyst Theatre, Walterdale Playhouse and Workshop West Theatre—have teamed up to create a Theatre 6-Pack, a pass that gives you access to six plays for only \$76. It's a great way to see theatre at various venues, as well as a chance to visit the city's arts scene them if you are unfamiliar with it or from out of town. Theatre 6-Packs are on sale now, and you can purchase them at Tix on the Square.*

## MOVIE THEATRES

### Garneau Theatre (8712 - 109 Street) 20

It has been said that the Garneau theatre is haunted. It has also been said that the Garneau has the world's best popcorn. Coincidence? Well, whether or not you believe that ghosts make that buttery goodness or not, you should know that the theatre has an awesome balcony, and that it's the home to the annual showing of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, as well as numerous foreign films. In addition, Pharaoh's Pizza is right next door, so if you don't like ghost-handled goodies, you can still afford to grab a delicious bite to eat, thanks to the student discount you get on tickets.

### Princess Theatre (10337 - 82 Avenue) 21

Of course, Whyte Ave is renowned for its numerous bars and such, but there's another form of entertainment hanging about on the old street that doesn't involve as much bass. That, my friends, is the Princess Theatre. The Princess features two different spaces—one up and one down—as well as great indie films, comfy seats and an old-school curtain that goes up before the show. A real theatre experience, indeed! The Princess is great because it provides student discounts, \$5 tickets on Mondays and screens *The World's Hottest Commercials* annually.

### Metro Cinema (9828 - 101 Ave)

In a way, the Metro Cinema is hidden. It's tucked away in the corner of the Citadel Theatre, but that doesn't mean it's not well used. The Metro features foreign and independent films, as well as older reels, from the classic to the obscure. They will also often run retrospectives of significant directors and genres—so keep an eye out if you're into spaghetti westerns, Kurosawa or the like.

### Empire City Centre Cinemas

If you're looking for your plain old Hollywood movie, and you don't want to wait for it to go onto DVD, City Centre Cinema is the best place to go. Easily accessible by city transit (unlike most of Edmonton's other movie theatres), it usually has all of the newest films playing—plus you can do some shopping before or after the show.

## ART VENUES

### Art Gallery of Alberta (2 Sir Winston Churchill Square)

Slated for a snazzy renovation sometime soon, the Art Gallery of Alberta (formerly the Edmonton Art Gallery) is a woefully ugly art gallery that occasionally houses interesting exhibits. The permanent displays are largely not worth it, so be sure to check into what's currently being displayed before you head down.

### Latitude 53 (10248 - 106 Street, Second Floor)

Latitude 53 Society of Artists is a not-for-profit artist-run centre, giving both artists and the public access to new and experimental art forms. If you're interested in visual arts, Latitude 53 also offers seminars and workshops to keep you up-to-date with all that's happening.

### FAB Gallery (3-98 Fine Arts Building, U of A Campus) 22

On the main floor of the Fine Arts Building, you'll find a gallery that displays the work of current BFA or MFA students, and is used to showcase the thesis work of Masters students. It's free, and a good way to pass half an hour if you miss your bus or are feeling particular uncultured one afternoon.

### Some Whyte Ave-area coffee shop

All around the University area are coffee shops and restaurants that display work by local artists. Often atrocious and overpriced, they serve well as awkward-first-date conversation pieces, allowing you to fill the silence and gauge your potential mate's taste at the same time.