

Theatre Application

FOREST ROBERTS THEATRE, MARQUETTE, MI



REQUIREMENTS: Safety | Fire Vent Closure | Automatic release | Easy system testing capability | Electric Power Source | Indoor use | Unauthorized operation lockout

Northern Michigan University's Forest Roberts Theatre renovations provided students and faculty with newer and safer equipment. The project first started with an equipment inspection by InterAmerica Stage, Inc. "Our first priority was safety," says Mark Black, Founder of InterAmerica Stage, Inc. "Our job is to find the most effective, elegant and above all, SAFE solution for our clients." When it came time to address safety issues InterAmerica Stage recommended installing Them's Fire Vent Closures (FVC) model winches for the smoke vents. "Them's Fire Vent Closures feature a greater ability to control the fire vents in a much safer manner," says Mr. Black. The new FVC winches are mounted at stage level, and allow easy testing and resetting without breaking the Electro Thermal Link that can be wired to automatically release the vent doors in the event of a fire or smoke alarm. The FVC winches also contain a hinged access panel that locks and closes to prevent unauthorized operation. Besides the FVC winches, two portable construction winches were used to hoist all the new equipment to the various gallery elevations and grid iron above the stage. H&H Specialties large diameter operating pulleys were used to restore the curtain tracks along with new carriers

and polyester track operating line. With new rigging now in place, the Forest Roberts Theatre had a better all around "rigging" system that included well-marked components for accurate communication, consistent use of domestic graded hardware, better counter weight arbors and a new loading bridge.

