

# Silent disco draws younger generation to historic Stamford theater

By Barry Lytton | May 4, 2018

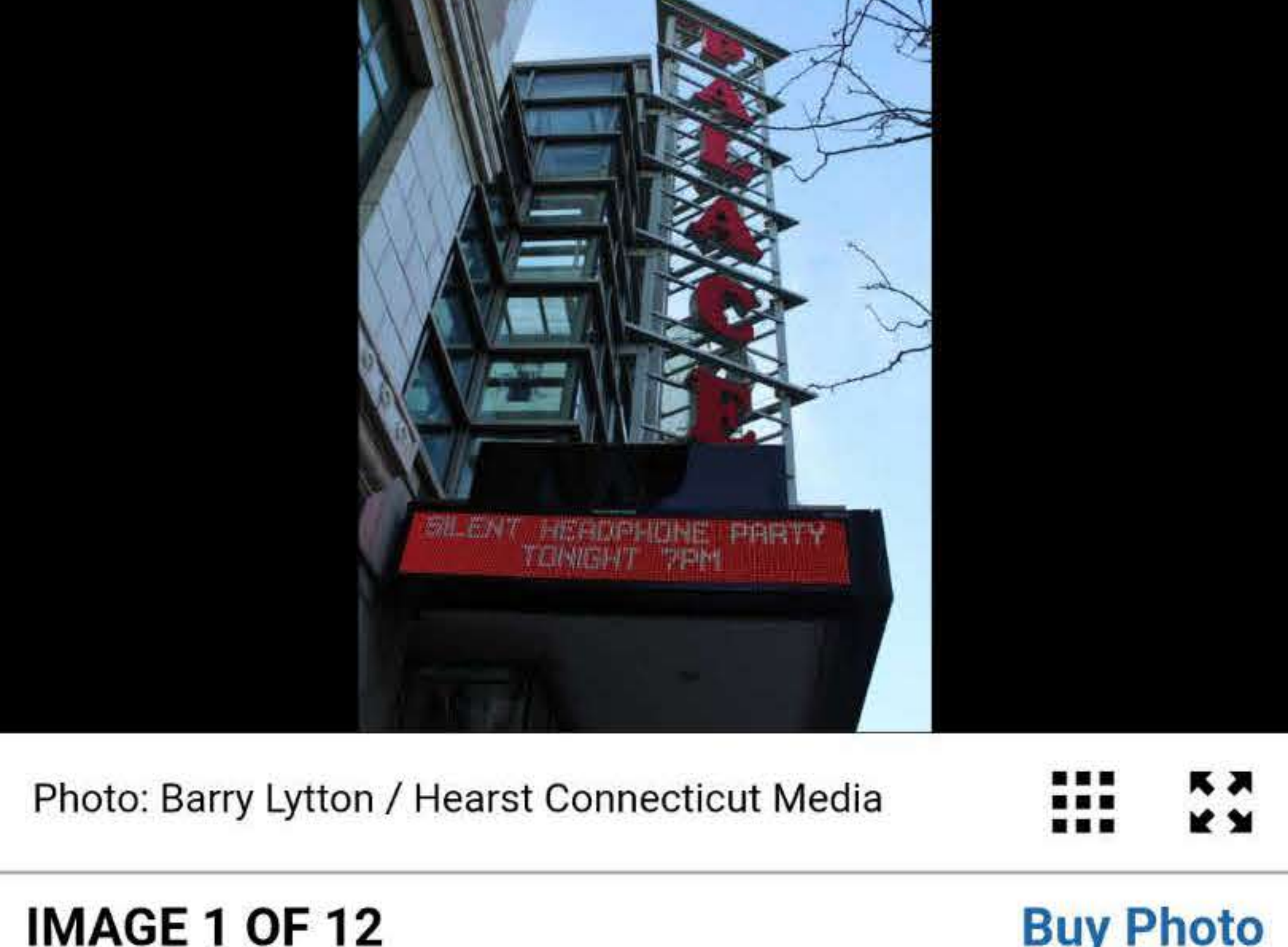


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The Palace Theater last Thursday, April 26, 2018, hosted the city's first "silent disco" event to raise money for its arts education programs. Organizers plan to hold another party on the stage in June.

STAMFORD — From the moment you walk in, through the Palace Theatre side door and down the backstage winding hallways with walls adorned with printer-paper signs pointing you to the stage like a speakeasy, things don't add up.

The marquee says "party," and it has all the trappings of one — booze, the smell of perfumes and colognes, flashing lights and preened participants — but it's all too quiet. It's a "silent" party, and you're on the stage of a 91-year-old theater, not in a seat, and there's no show.

Sure, people are dancing, the lights are going and the communal nature of party atmosphere is there, but it's the kind of gathering that could only be held in this tech-filled time, on carefree days of headphones and the cloud, iPhones and smart watches, where you're always connected to others, but in constantly changing ways.

The city's first "Silent Party," thrown by the Palace last week, sought to get the younger set interested in a historic theater by new means. It did just that, packing 150 attendees on the stage.

## More Information

### How to silent party

Attendees receive pair of wireless headphones

Choose between the DJs at the event with the flip of a switch

Headsets are equipped with color LED lights that indicate which DJ is playing

"It was kind of weird when we got here," said silent party rookie Mike Jurado, who sipped a mixed drink as music blared from the headphones around his neck. "But once you put the headphones on, you're in a whole different world."

That world, which raised money for the theater's arts-education programs, was such a hit that it's coming back this summer, said Lisa Colangelo, who organized the event for the Palace.

"We're just trying to get a new audience in here to show this amazing theater," Colangelo said. "This is a priceless experience — you can't just get on the stage."

The party itself was an experience in dissonance with your sight conveying party, while you hear library quiet. Only muffled voices, the skid of sneakers on the stage and the occasional clangs of food service could be heard.

For example, without headphones, one of the DJ's pump-up mantra "yo, yo, yo" sounded like a whisper heard feet away.

"When I walked in, I was like, "Where's the music?" quiet-party first timer Vega Galarza said. "You almost forget the concept."

The first silent disco party popped up more than 10 years ago, but technological advancements and cultural changes in the way people listen to music has made them more popular, said William Petz, founder and CEO of Quiet Events.

The next "silent party" at the Palace is set for Friday, June 22. Tickets could become available as soon as next week. For more information, visit

[www.palacestamford.org](http://www.palacestamford.org).

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