

## **Pizarro: San Jose Rep celebrates its 30th anniversary in style**

[By Sal Pizarro](#)

06/13/2011

There were a few wistful glances to the past but a lot more optimistic looks to the future as the San Jose Repertory Theatre celebrated its 30th anniversary Saturday.

The Rep's Blue Box Bash, held at the Susan and Phil Hammer Theatre Center in downtown San Jose, attracted about 200 people to two parties, a tented dinner outside the theater catered by Parsley Sage Rosemary and Thyme and a wine reception in the lobby. The two groups came together inside the auditorium for a live performance of the Rep's greatest hits and a preview of its coming season.

Honorary Chairman Greg Jamison may have had the line of the night when he said, "I've learned that 'the arts' is a French word that means 'raise money all the time.' "

This evening didn't disappoint on that front. The gala, including a live auction and fund-a-need appeal for the Rep's education programs, raised more than \$100,000. Much of that was due to a \$50,000 matching pledge from Greg Avis, founding managing partner of Summit Partners and a former San Jose Rep board chairman.

Artistic Director Rick Lombardo said subscriptions and donations are both up, and the company expects to end the year with a significant operating surplus. Noting that more than 2 million people have attended Rep productions, Lombardo said, "They say it takes a village to raise a child. Well, it takes an entire city to raise a regional theater to the ripe old age of 30."

By the way, the Rep has some fun stuff coming this summer. The Reduced Shakespeare Company's "Complete World of Sports (abridged)" runs Tuesday through Sunday and Charles Ross' hilarious "One-Man Star Wars Trilogy" lands July 14-17.