

Blackout during San Jose Rep's Ginger Rogers show costs city \$12,000

By Tracy Seipel
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When a power outage last year blacked out a musical on the life and times of Ginger Rogers, officials at the San Jose Rep weren't calling out, "The show must go on."

They were calling their lawyers.

Now, six months later, the Rep is settling a legal claim it filed against its landlord, the city of San Jose, for \$11,900 for money lost when the theater was forced to cancel a holiday matinee of "Backwards in High Heels."

On Tuesday at its closed session, the City Council is expected to finalize the last payment of about \$2,000 to the theater company.

The Rep's managing director, Nick Nichols, said the problem stemmed from electrical work being done at the sports bar next door. The power outage forced him to turn away about 500 patrons Dec. 5, schedule a makeup performance Dec. 19 and give refunds as requested.

In the end, everything worked out -- just like in the movies.

"The city bent over backwards to work with us," said Nichols, just like Ginger Rogers used to do in high heels, step for step with Fred Astaire. "It's a credit to them."

Contact Tracy Seipel at 408-275-0140.