











The Keith-Albee Theatre is downtown Huntington, West Virginia opened to the public on May 7, 1928. Brothers A. B. and S. J. Hyman built the Keith and added it to their list of theaters along with the Irene, Ophraum and Huntington.

The new theater was constructed under the supervision of coalfield tycoons R. F. Keith and Edward Albee, becoming a part of their Keith-Albee circuit, the greatest vaudeville tour on the East Coast of the United States. The talented architect, Scottish-born Thomas W. Lamb designed the Keith-Albee. Lamb designed approximately 152 theaters around the world. Unfortunately, only forty-three of these grand theaters are still open, and seventy-one have been demolished. Keith and Albee oversaw the construction of two other Lamb-designed theaters at the same time as Huntington's Keith-Albee. The Stanley Theater in Utica, New York has been completely renovated and hosts a wide variety of performances. Keith's Theater in Flushing, New York sits barren and gutted, awaiting demolition. Seating approximately 3,000 patrons, it exemplified the opulence and grandeur of the 1920s with a Mexican Baroque design style. Intricate plaster work, chandeliers, and balconies create an atmosphere of splendor. Seats along with custom made boxes, smoking rooms, and a ladies room can be found in the rear areas adjoining the main lobby. The theater contains various elements such as the illusion that you are outside the stage under the second sky. The ceilings are painted to resemble the night sky and small lights were placed in the ceiling to resemble stars. The design also implements intricate gold plasterwork, chandeliers, and smoking rooms and fireplaces in the bathrooms.



