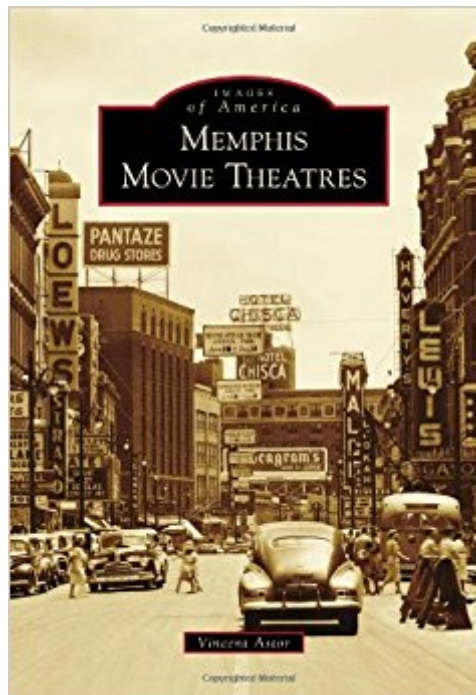


The book was found

Memphis Movie Theatres (Images Of America)



Synopsis

Memphis has always been a theatrical town--a crossroads in the center of America for entertainment as well as commerce. Movies are among the many things that travel through Memphis, both for distribution and exhibition. Thousands of people who have lived there or just passed through, especially during and after the Second World War, found their way to the movie theatres. From the vaudeville palaces on Main Street to the nickelodeons on Beale Street these theatres helped shape the culture of the city. Kemmons Wilson operated movie theatres before he built the first Holiday Inn. Several movie theatres played roles in the life of Elvis Presley. W. C. Handy attended the opening of a theatre named for him. Local censorship practices influenced decisions in Hollywood and the first multiplex in the region was built in Memphis. History and nostalgia are combined into a book for all ages and all Memphians, present and former.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Theatre Historical Society has announced its Outstanding Book of the Year nominees for books published in 2013. Images of America--Memphis Movie Theatres has been nominated.

Vincent Astor is a native Memphian and local historian with a special fondness for movie theatres. He has fond memories of movie-going when theatres had only one screen and of

working at the Malco/Orpheum theatre. He has assembled photos from the Memphis Public Library, Memphis Heritage, Malco Theatres and several family collections into a chronicle with memories for Memphians of all ages to enjoy.

Bought as gift for my Dad.he's gonna love it

It was perfect! My boyfriend is in film production and not from Memphis so he thought it was super neat!

As a lifelong Memphian and history buff, I was very pleased to see this included in Arcadia Publishing Company's Images of America Series. While Memphis history has been well represented among the titles, I always thought a history of Memphis theaters since the turn of the last century would be a wonderful addition to books about our local history. Fortunately, fellow Memphian Vincent Astor believed this as well, and spent the last two years combing through local archives for information and photos to supplant his already tremendous knowledge of local movie theater history and memorabilia. He has a knowledge and memorabilia which he shares with interested audiences from time to time. Memphis was a city that was once defined by movie palace names like Lyceum, Warner, Lowe's State, Majestic and many, many more which fell to the wrecking ball in decades past. It is a city which boasts the remnants of Film Row storefronts south of downtown business district, where film companies once did distribution business from the '20s to the '60s, and into which brick and granite facades the chiseled names of "First National Pictures" and "Metro Goldwyn Mayer" can still be clearly seen. Not to mention an old color mosaic medallion that once marked the office of Paramount Pictures. Even though many of the grand movie palaces that dotted downtown and were sprinkled in neighborhoods throughout the city were razed to the ground over the last half century, others have been repurposed, beginning with the Orpheum Theatre, a beautiful 1928 movie palace that replaced a previous theater of the same name that was destroyed by fire in 1923. After two multi-million-dollar renovations, the Orpheum, now serves as a full-time venue for presentation of Broadway touring productions, concert productions, opera and ballet productions, and also serves the community with an educational component for hundreds of thousands of Mid-South students. The Majestic has been repurposed into the Majestic Grill, a mid-range fine dining establishment which retains its movie theater exterior. These two theaters are well covered in this volume, along with those that are no longer part of the city's landscape. "Images of America: Memphis Movie Theatres" needs to

be on your Christmas book list. Lavishly illustrated and painstakingly researched, this book is both a window on the past and a social history of those days long gone.

I received this book for Christmas and could not put it down! The old photographs are superb and the historical narratives give an excellent background and education. The research in Astor's book is well presented and is a must read for anyone interested in Memphis history.

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