

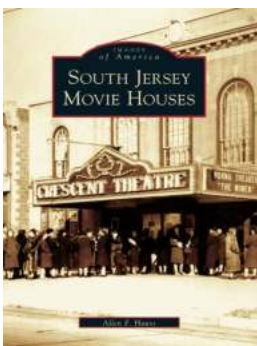
South Jersey Movie Houses: A Glimpse into the Entertainment History

South Jersey boasts a rich history of movie houses that have played a significant role in the entertainment scene of the region. These historical landmarks hold cherished memories for generations of moviegoers and provide critical insight into the evolution of cinema and its impact on the local community. Join us on a journey through time as we explore the fascinating world of South Jersey Movie Houses in this exclusive Images of America feature.

The Birth of Movie Houses

The advent of cinema in the late 19th century revolutionized the entertainment industry. South Jersey, like many other parts of the country, quickly embraced this new form of amusement and witnessed the rise of numerous movie houses to cater to the growing demand.

Initially, movie screenings were held in venues such as theaters, vaudeville houses, and even barns. However, as the popularity of films increased, purpose-built movie houses began to emerge. These buildings featured state-of-the-art equipment, comfortable seating, and immersive environments designed to transport the audience into a world of enchantment.



South Jersey Movie Houses (Images of America)

by Allen F. Hauss (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5



A Window to the Past

The South Jersey movie houses of yesteryears hold extraordinary charm and nostalgia for both movie enthusiasts and history buffs. These architectural marvels served as a gathering place for communities, fostering a sense of togetherness and shared experience.

From the majestic grandeur of the ornate theaters of the early 20th century to the modest yet cozy cinemas of the mid-century era, each movie house has a unique story to tell. The celluloid visions once projected onto their silver screens unfolded countless tales, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those who witnessed them.

Preserving the Legacy

Over the years, many South Jersey movie houses faced struggling times as the movie industry underwent significant changes. The rise of multiplex theaters, technological advancements, and the advent of online streaming in recent years have all posed challenges to the survival of these cherished landmarks. However, thanks to the efforts of dedicated preservation organizations and passionate individuals, some of these movie houses have been restored to their former glory.

Today, visitors can step back in time and experience the magic of the silver screen in these meticulously preserved cinemas. The carefully curated film selections, nostalgic interiors, and impeccable attention to detail transport patrons to a bygone era.

Exploring South Jersey Movie Houses

We would now like to highlight some of South Jersey's most iconic movie houses that have left an indelible mark on the region's cultural landscape:

1. **The Royal Theater**

Located in Vineland, The Royal Theater originally opened its grand doors in 1921. With an opulent interior adorned with intricate plasterwork and crystal chandeliers, it quickly became a symbol of luxury and elegance. Today, The Royal Theater remains an active venue for film screenings, live performances, and community events.

2. **The Strand Theater**

Standing proudly on the outskirts of Hammonton, The Strand Theater has been delighting audiences since 1925. This Art Deco gem boasts a vibrant marquee and a lavishly decorated interior that harkens back to the golden age of cinema. The Strand Theater continues to captivate audiences with its eclectic mix of classic and contemporary films.

3. **The Broadway Theatre**

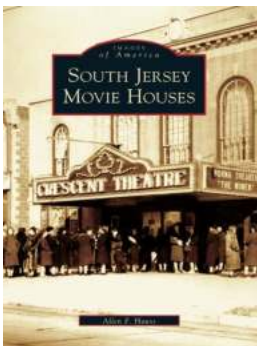
In the heart of Pitman stands The Broadway Theatre, a cultural landmark since its inception in 1926. With its iconic marquee and distinct Mediterranean-style architecture, this theater has witnessed the evolution of cinema spanning several decades. Today, The Broadway Theatre hosts a wide range of performances, including theatrical productions, concerts, and of course, film screenings.

Preserving the Magic

South Jersey's movie houses are not just buildings or venues; they are treasured pieces of history that deserve to be cherished and preserved. Through the tireless efforts of dedicated individuals and organizations, these establishments continue to offer a glimpse into the entertainment history of the region.

Whether you are a film enthusiast, a history lover, or simply seeking a unique experience, be sure to explore the South Jersey movie houses and immerse yourself in the allure of the past. Discover their stories, witness the magic of cinema, and become part of a legacy that lives on through the silver screens.

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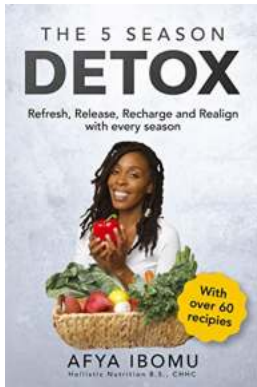
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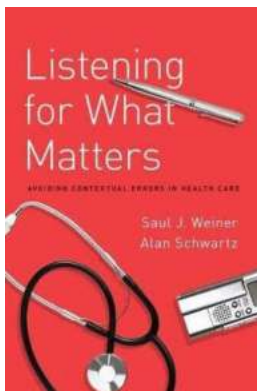
Since the early 1900s, when the first moving images flickered on the screens of storefront nickelodeons, going to the movies has been an integral part of life across America. By the 1950s, there were over 230 theaters in southern New Jersey, ranging from lavish palaces like the 2,000-seat Stanley in Camden to modest venues like the 350-seat Little in Haddonfield. Today, sadly, less than a dozen remain standing, and most of those are now used for other commercial purposes. Only the Broadway in Pitman continues to operate as the last of the original motion-picture palaces. South Jersey Movie Houses is a pictorial tour of

the theaters that once raised their curtains to audiences across the southern part of the state. It offers a nostalgic look at their neon marquees and silver screens, bringing back memories of Saturday matinees, 3-D glasses, and movie date nights.



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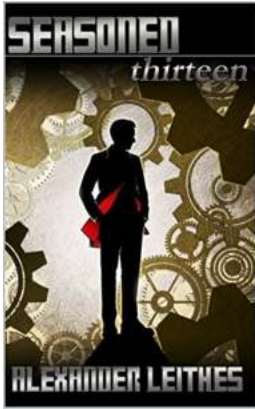
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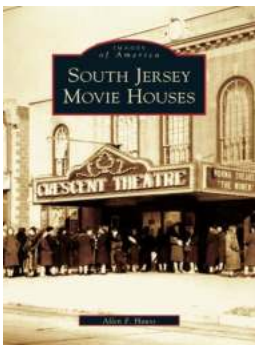
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