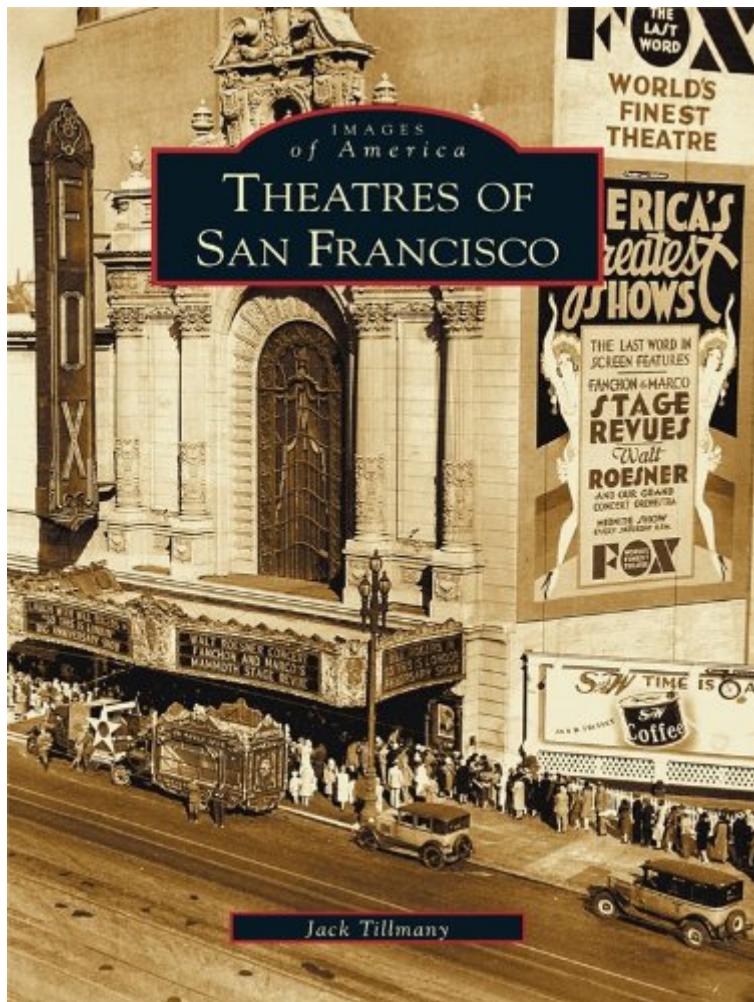


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Theatres Of San Francisco



Synopsis

You read the sad stories in the papers: another ornate, 1920s, single-screen theatre closes, to be demolished and replaced by a strip mall. That's progress, and in this 20-screen multiplex world, it's happening more and more. Only a handful of the 100 or so neighborhood theatres that once graced these streets are left in San Francisco, but they live on in the photographs featured in this book. The heyday of such venues as the Clay, Noe, Metro, New Mission, Alexandria, Coronet, Fox, Uptown, Coliseum, Surf, El Rey, and Royal was a time when San Franciscans thronged to the movies and vaudeville shows, dressed to the hilt, to see and be seen in majestic art deco palaces. Unfortunately, this era has passed into history despite the dedicated efforts of many neighborhood preservation groups.

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Customer Reviews

obviously, no one could possibly enjoy 'Theatres of San Francisco' as rapturously as i did. during the 5 years i lived in that foggy, swampy city by the bay i went to nearly all these theatres. in fact, going to them was pretty much the only worthwhile pursuit i enjoyed during that accursed time.

there's even a shot of the Cannery Theatre here, where i first worked when i arrived in 1971, or the Gateway in the Embarcadero where i saw nitrate 35 MM prints of all the Hollywood classics for the first time. it was a dung-grey and very lonely time for me, but the theatres were sublime. there are many here that had come and gone before i arrived, and even a few that would arrive thereafter, but in any event they are all included here. if you found yourself a captive of San Francisco in those days, you will find this volume nostalgic and informative. if not... well, count yourself amongst the fortunate.

Of days gone by!! The multiplex theatres of today no longer such possess the "architectural charm" to enjoy the movies in the theatre setting!A salute to progress, variety and \$\$!!dayamo

I have to say that Mr. Tillmany's book on San Francisco theatres finishes in a dead heat with the one about Oakland's theatres. It was very hard to put down, once I started, so I didn't...put it down, that is. Cover to cover in one night, the same with the Oakland book, I kept thinking, "just one more page, and then I'll turn out the light and go to sleep." I rarely lie to myself like that, but I didn't regret going through the book in one sitting. It's a valuable reference that will find a prominent place in my library and gather a lot less dust than most of my other books.--Preston Allison

Tillmany is the master of theatres. This is thoroughly researched and contains a depth of details. His photo captions are excellent, clearly dated, and with informative remarks about the various people and places also in the scene.

A great look at lost SF theater history.

Interesting and informative. Filled with information, some tragic (Fox theater). A look into an era that is past. Got me interested into more research.

I didn't see the York Theater in it, but just about every other movie house in the city seems to be here. Lots of information, too, on the ups and downs of these theaters; name-changes, remodelings, changes in ownership, changes in the surrounding neighborhood, and in many cases, dates when the theaters were closed or demolished. A great resource.

Good enough, but photo's are poorly reproduced on inferior paper, book is small, cheaply printed

and author neglected to provide an index...

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