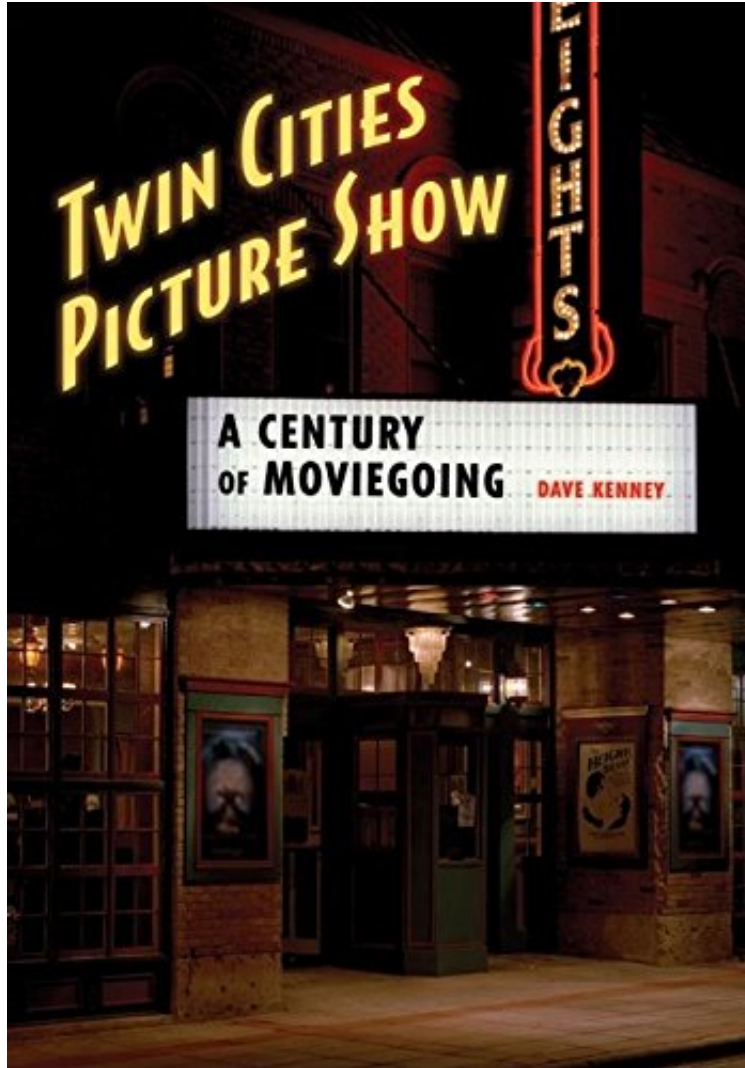


(Library ebook) Twin Cities Picture Show: A Century of Moviegoing

Twin Cities Picture Show: A Century of Moviegoing

Dave Kenney

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Dave Kenney : Twin Cities Picture Show: A Century of Moviegoing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Twin Cities Picture Show: A Century of Moviegoing:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Big Dose of NostalgiaBy Gerald R. TaftEver since I worked as an usher at the Minneapolis RKO Orpheum Theatre when in high school (1957-60) I have had a fondness for the old movie palaces. The grandest movie house in Minneapolis, Radio City, was torn down in the late 1950's and so many others, all over America, have met a similar fate. Thankfully many of the gems have been preserved, the Orpheum in Minneapolis included. This book gives a good look at the development of the movie business in Minneapolis, from the small beginning, huge growth and subsequent decline. Very interesting. Good selection of photo documentation. I

enjoyed it immensely and was pleased to pass it on to a dear friend who was a fellow usher back in the day. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Eye-opening and informative; a fascinating look at Twin Cities cinematic history. By Lindsay Picked this up on a whim at a local book store; after reading this gem I certainly don't regret the purchase! Author Dave Kenney has pieced together what amounts to a relatively-unknown story of the moving picture show in Minnesota's metro area. Using a collection of periodical clippings and other material that had, until recently, been stowed away in the back rooms of the Minnesota Historical Society, the author constructs a surprisingly detailed time line of the cities' theatre history from the advent of commercial film itself in the 1890s, right on up to the turn of the 21st century. From the downtown palaces of the 1920s, to the stadium seating of today's megaplexes, Kenney not only chronicles the rise and fall of several cinematic eras, but also gives a glimpse into the lives of the people who brought them to life. One especially appreciated aspect of the book are the dozens of "Feature Presentation" insets that provide a full profile of notable theatres around the metro, such as the Uptown, the Riverview, the two Shuberts, or even such oddities like the short-lived Jerry Lewis Cinema. The social effects of the movie business, and other associated Hollywood glamor, on Twin Citians is touched on throughout each decade. Kenney paints a genuinely interesting historical picture with lively prose and a more casual narrative method. The book generally has a good flow to it as a result. The only shortfall, in my opinion, is that some sections are slightly disjointed. It's very apparent that the author used salvaged media clippings as his primary source when one historical anecdote will stop quite suddenly, and another completely unrelated story will follow; Kenney simply didn't have enough information to fill the gaps. One example is a reprinted 1923 letter from the St. Paul Society for Prevention of Cruelty detailing the objection to the use of animals as a promotional tactic. No intro, no follow-up, just the reprinted letter, out of the blue - followed immediately after by a detailed story of racism issues in certain St. Paul theatres. Random inserts like this, though they seldom occur, are a bit jarring, to say the least! "Picture Show" has helped me to see my hometown's theatrical variety in a new light. I have an irresistible impulse to seek out the theatres he highlighted and buy a ticket to their current offerings - more as an excuse to examine their amenities and absorb their history. I highly recommend this title to all movie buffs - especially if you're a native Twin Citian!

From the stories of our classic theaters to tales of industry and intrigue featuring the savvy and tough entrepreneurs of movie entertainment, this first-ever history of cinema in the Twin Cities reveals the influence of Hollywood on the lives and imaginations of Minnesotans and that of Minnesotans on the film industry today. Filled with photos of the dazzling marquees and great theaters of yesterday and today, historian Dave Kenney's highly readable account offers rich histories of some of the grandest theaters ever constructed. Featured are movie palaces like the Minnesota in downtown Minneapolis, with its well-synchronized phalanx of ushers and cavernous yet elegant interior, and the Cooper in St. Louis Park, with its films projected larger-than-life in 70 mm Cinerama. Yet behind many of these cinemas' electrifying facades are the impresarios and business leaders who took the risks and made the fortunes, like nationally known theater mogul and Hollywood producer Ted Mann, who transformed Minnesota moviegoing in the fifties and sixties, and porn king Ferris Alexander, whose unconventional business activities resulted in the preservation of many now treasured historical monuments. Then there are the people of the Twin Cities, who have seen and tested some of the biggest movies of all time.

About the Author Dave Kenney is a Twin Cities native and a freelance writer specializing in Minnesota history. His books include *Twin Cities Album: A Visual History* and *Minnesota Goes to War: The Home Front during World War II* (both MNHS Press)