

MOVIE THEATERS OF SAN FRANCISCO THAT I HAVE KNOWN (AND A FEW BEYOND)

Ahhh, there's nothing like a good old classic neighborhood movie theater in San Francisco that plays old movies, foreign cinema, and unusual, non-mainstream flicks. I enjoyed several over my years there, especially in my twenties, finding inspiration as a young culture vulture artist. The cinematic arts offered nourishment to my curious senses, and just the alluring scent of popcorn, the vintage neon marquees, and being taken on a cinematic ride, sounding carnivalesque but to other times and places. A favorite 20th century pastime. I am hardly one of the big moviegoers (like a few I know who frequent the cinema) but it's simply a part of urban culture in the western world I live in. This is my personal account of movie theaters I experienced, and the films added up over the decades.

THE YORK THEATER

Starting with the York Theater, because I lived so close in the 80s, when it was actively a quality repertory cinema house (it changed drastically a few years later and shut down for a while in the 90s). An old 1920's movie palace, with tasteful touches of art deco throughout, not too much, but splendidous, especially the large *fluer de lys* on its cieling! The 1920s gave us that style, with some more ostentatious than others. This was a nice old style theater.

Roommates Jim, Joe and I would have the monthly movie calendar on the fridge, and would scope out must-see's and go! Among the few most memorable ones were *Creature from the Black Lagoon* in old school 3D, with 3D glasses supplied! (might have gone with Jim and Brian to that one?) The effects that were most effective were the underwater scenes — the bubbles rising felt real, and during attack scenes, the lunging spikes seemed to punch you in the forehead! I think most of us flinched back

during those parts!

Andrei Rublev by **Tarkovsky**. An epic historical Russian film from the 60s. The first full length showing in the city. I went with Joe, and the first half was so long and remarkable that we started to leave, not knowing it's intermission! And returned back to our seats to soak in part two. I was blown away!

Seconds, 1964, Rock Hudsons best role. This film freaked me out! for its effective paranoia, and the way the film was mutated at the beginning and end was like consciousness melting away. Whew! I think Brian went too and we were floored.

Other films include **Fellini**, **Bergman**, **Hitchcock**, **Marx Brothers**, **Lynch** — the classic unique artistic /foreign films I absorbed during college, often solo weekend matinees. **Satyricon** was a trip on a big theater screen! with Jim and Joe one autumn evening. I recall nearly passing out during the blood letting suicide scene, it was conveyed too vividly for me.

Some were movies Bri turned me on to, but as videos on his TV, deserving big theater screen viewings. Far superior! The York was great, and it brought the artsy crowds deeper into the Mission district when it was rougher.

THE CASTRO THEATER

The king/queen of movie palaces, the gem of San Francisco, a couple miles from my old Mission flat. The most active of classic theaters, centrally located, with great variety of movies rotating through. Often there would be monthly themes a three week run of **Alfred Hitchcock** films in a row, or **Fellini**, **Kubrick** et al, and recently made films included in film festival runs. A grand structure, plateresque on the outside, palatial on the inside, symbolist era deco paintings adorn the details among gilded gold and burgundy environmental flourish. And — **The Mighty Wurlitzer** — a massive theater organ would rise up out of the floor in front of the stage with an experienced organist performing old standards, sometimes adding in a musical theme

of whatever was showing. It was interesting to see how he handled all of those keys, switching modes, using feet pedals and buttons. This happened most evenings and weekend matinees right before showtime, playing live for around 20 minutes, and always ending with the old movie classic *San Francisco*, with its familiar chorus, "*San Francisco, open your golden gate...*" The feelgood number of city pride for those of us that lived there. A perfect song for the Wurlitzer, and a crowd who would enthusiastically clap along, then applaud as the master organist would take a bow. The huge red/burgundy curtain would part and the previews began, a decent time for popcorn, munching it mostly before the movie starts — because I dislike the crunching sound, from others and it's really loud in my head, distracting during quiet parts.

The curtain would close and open again to herald the feature film. *Ahh, show time!*

I think The Castro was easily the theater I went to the most over the decades. The movie selections were wider ranging than some of the newer cinemas, mixing recent selections in with the classic old favorites. I also attended more there with others, like movie buff brother Brian, and good friends and good dates. I have many cinematic memories of The Castro Theater, and to pinpoint my first film there. *Duck Soup?* *Bride of Frankenstein?* *Vertigo?* (that one several times — a local treasure) Regardless of what were the firsts, I absolutely loved that theater. I am going to list the ones I remember most. Here goes :

Fellini's 8 1/2. Meeting Brian, Joe and Jane at the Thai restaurant across the street. 1990? An impressive Italian classic 1963 movie! I caught more Fellini there over the years, *La Dolce Vita* feels like a late night San Francisco party!

North by Northwest. Cleaned up version! 1992. Fantastic on a big screen!

Bladerunner, the directors cut. (I like the Sam Spade style version more). 1991.

With Cacophony Society friends, but the theater was so full that we had to sit

separately. A favorite movie from 1982, seen there a few times.

Children of Paradise. French classic filmed during WW2. Magnifique! I went with P, who was my date... it's her favorite film!

2001: A Space Odyssey. On what would be **Hal 9000**'s birthdate, February 1992. I went alone, sitting front row center, a spot I adopted as my preference from then on. I caught the same film there a few times more, it's been a major top favorite since experiencing it in a Cinerama sized theater when I was 11. Mind blown wide open!

Storefront Hitchcock, 1998. **Robyn Hitchcock** filmed by **Jonathan Demme**. A one night only showing, the theater full, and I sat with my Cacophony /Artist friends; Carrie G, Seb, Kevin, John Law, Alisa and I, and others I forget who exactly. There was a Q&A afterwards with Robyn himself! An excellent time!

Bride of Frankenstein. Ha! Around Halloween, the biggest holiday in the 'hood.

Vertigo 1996. Restored and running for a week. San Francisco's favorite movie.

Duck Soup, *Animal Crackers*, *A Night At The Opera*, and most Marx Brothers films whenever I had the opportunity!

The Phantom Carriage, silent Swedish **Viktor Sjöström** film from the 1920s, with live soundtrack performed by **Jonathan Richman!** (unsuspectingly, and superbly!)

Frank Zappa documentary, with Q&A with Gail Zappa. 2002?

Yellow Submarine! Restored version, 1999. A great gang of friends went, we took over the front row and were totally dazzled by the clean colors and sound. Peter, Joe, Kirk, Kim, Alisa and I had a blast!

Sprocket Ensemble perform live soundtrack to old films. **Buster Keaton** silent movies and **Felix the Cat** cartoons. Friend Nik Phelps' band. Really great work!

Marx brothers, **Bergman**, **Fellini**, **Kubrick**, **Lynch** [*Eraserhead* more than once],

Tarkovsky, more restoration in 2013 of *Vertigo*, and a 2013 Brian recommendation,

Cloud Atlas. My final time at the Castro was 2017 for the San Francisco premiere of

Long Strange Trip, the comprehensive **Grateful Dead** documentary in 6 parts! Nearly

5 hours, and too short in my estimation, as a steeped-in-the-music deadhead, this was near and dear to absorb in the theater. I met Joe there, I was hobbling with a walker by then. We sat in the back where handicapped seats are, and next to Cacophony friend John G. And he was with John Barlow who's in the film, and up on stage later with others for Q&A.

So it's easy to see why The Castro is the top fav San Francisco theater, if my all-time favorite theater anywhere. Great memories, unique programming, and fanciful setup. Wonderful! It's a San Francisco institution. Long may it run, with the same integrity!

THE RED VIC, IN THE UPPER HAIGHT

Easily the most quaint, folky, un-classic theater of the 1990s. Very not a palace. It was there from the 90s until a few years before it permanently closed. (sometime in the 2000's) Very independent! Mismatched sofas, not the biggest screen, nutritional yeast popcorn sold in wooden bowls we return, like a café with a self-bussing bin. Less disposables — smart! Fun and campy to serious movies. The one movie I most associated with the place was a Cacophony Society event favorite *The 5000 Fingers of Doctor T*. The *Dr Suess* written movie from the 1950s. A whirlwind of crazy creativity, and one of a kind. I think the repeated event was semi-annual for a few years in the 90s, hosted by Violet Crumble — a very involved Cacophonist. Fun flick, and a memorable musical. I might have gone twice total? Great fun!

Other movies I remember enjoying there. *Planet of the Apes* (original 1968 version).

The Saragossa Manuscript (brilliant, layered Polish film, 1963)

-*LSD propaganda films*. Peter Doty aka Dwayne Newtron, from Cacophony must have encouraged this outing! Always a fan of 60s hippie movies.

Live music performances before a screening about local music. (forgot the name)

The Grateful Dead Movie. In the heart of the Haight - Ashbury 'hood, how fitting!

The Doors movie, Peter made it in the film as an extra with a brief close-up cameo!

And several more. A folky small indie repertory theater. Not a palatial vintage place, but fun with entertaining selections!

ROXIE CINEMA, 16TH NEAR VALENCIA

Still there, and not really a movie palace, just old not ornate. They do show some interesting newer films. I can remember a few standouts.

A Sidewalk Astronomer. The documentary about **John Dobson**, 2005. My mentor/teacher of telescope making. A must-see featuring a local legend, that showed at the Roxie for a couple of days.

Christmas on Mars, by **the Flaming Lips**. 2008 Halloween showing of a truly weird film. I went with date Joanne, who didn't like the movie much. Understandably because its not weirdness for everyone.

Wonderwall, a 60s movie that had been hard to track down. Of interest because **George Harrison** did the soundtrack in 1967, I've had the album since 1981. Very groovy, swinging London film, colorfully psychedelic and a fairly disturbing plot. There were more films caught there, just not remembering right now.

Other theaters around town, of notable mention

I wrote about my most memorable theaters, and there are more worth listing.

THE ALHAMBRA. POLK STREET.

A palace for sure! This was ornamented with Islamic details of intricate geometries, and richly crafted, from the 1920s again — when exotic architecture mattered. I only remember going there with Brian to catch *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* In 1988. A memorable film in a memorable theater! I suspect it only showed new blockbusters, hence my not returning. It closed awhile ago and became a gym, with the fancy theater details existing amongst the lifting weights. (hopefully becomes a theater again someday, but not holding breath on that.)

CLAY THEATER, FILLMORE STREET.

I went there a few times for foreign films, with my date in the early 90s, P Segal. I think we saw *Water for Chocolate*, and *Babettes Feast* to name a few that she adored, as a gourmet foodie who loves foreign cinema. A nice old school theater with some deco touches. Real neighborhoodly, and I think it's still surviving!

BRIDGE THEATER

On Geary Boulevard, not far from Japantown. I went a few times and the one I remember most was *Year of the Horse*. The **Neil Young and Crazy Horse** filmed in Super 8 film, 1997. Fun, raging performances in fitting grainy film. A plain but good structure with a touch of deco. No longer running.

CORONET

Old neighborhood theater well known for the local debut of *Star Wars* in 1977. Before my time but I did see the reruns in 1997, the first three films looked great cleaned up! I went with date Alisa. The funniest thing happened in the third 1983 film. The projector broke down just as Princess Leia was sharing a piece of cake with a curious Ewok in the redwoods. The theater emptied out and we either were refunded, or given a ticket to return. Either way, Alisa and I decided that was the more suitable ending to the trilogy. "*And they lived happily ever after, munching cake in the redwoods. The end.*"

We did return for the forgettable 1997 sequel. The Coronet closed down a few years back, making the news as the *Star Wars* theater.

VOGUE THEATER

Presidio @ Sacramento. A nice art deco style theater, that plays interesting newer films.(still operating) I went there a number of times over the years. The memorable ones were *Bittersweet Motel*, the **Phish** movie, 1998? Enjoyed with Alisa and Kirk?

Festival Express, 1970 train trip through Canada with **Janis Joplin**, **The Band**, and the **Grateful Dead** and more. A must-see for a deadhead like me! I went to a matinee with Peter the Hippie. Good fun! 2000.

I saw one of my last city movies attended was there, *Boyhood* by **Richard Linklater**. 2014. I went solo, and savored the experience.

4 STAR THEATER, CLEMENT STREET

A small, old, simple neighborhood theater. I mean small, hole in the wall sized. Still, we lived nearby in strolling distance. Went to see *A Hard Days Night* around 2000 with Peter, Sarah K, and Alisa. Peter was a blast, getting everyone in the small audience singing along with the songs. Fab! Lots of fun in an unimpressive theater. We went to see *Waking Life* for a second viewing in 2001, this time with Kim, Hitesh, and Aria. But the soundtrack was too flawed to follow! We got refunded. I never returned.

PRESIDIO THEATER

In the Marina District, I went to a few movies there. *Lawrence of Arabia* with P in 1992, and *JFK* with Brian, the Oliver Stone conspiracy drama, whenever it was new. 1994? A nice old quality neighborhood theater.

THE ALEXANDRIA THEATER

An older Richmond district theater. I can imagine that was possibly decorated once, and stripped down later when modern architecture was in style by the 1950s. Good busy neighborhood for it on the corner on Geary & 17th. Living nearby with Alisa, we enjoyed a few new movies there, *Austin Powers*, *Star Trek*, to name a few from 1996-97. Last movie I went to there was *Fellowship of the Ring*. But the scale of production called for a better viewing in the super setup of the bigger screen and THX sound system in Marin County. Now that was quality!

The Alexandria closed eventually. It was never playing old movies, and that was what I mostly went for with these older theaters, so I rarely went here.

Newer theaters, with less old palace character, and updated for homogenous consumption. In other words, these theaters could be anywhere in the USA, in both suburbia and urban.

CIVIC CENTER OPERA PLAZA

Too small and too new. I went once in the early 90s to catch *Pathfinder*. A Norwegian film in the Lapland language. Viking Era suspense. Good film, theater too small

EMBARCADERO THEATER

Nothing memorable about the cineplex theater itself, but enjoyed going there to see *Grateful Dawg*, the documentary about **Grisman/Garcia**, I enjoyed with Brian who was visiting from Seattle, and Alisa, 2001. Soon after we went back to be blown away by *Waking Life*, the animated **Linklater** film. Fascinating, thought filled and enigmatic, it became a fast favorite for repeated viewings.

VAN NESS CINEMAS

Now this cineplex is noteworthy for possibly the first movie theater I went to in San Francisco, 1984. With Brian for *Ghostbusters*, and I think we got some fast food first at the then nearby **Doggie Diner!** Amazed by the big chef dachshund sculpture for its symbol! [little did we know how in around 9 years later, those dogheads would be so present in our lives.]

I returned a few times over the years, but forget what I saw. Blockbusters probably.

KABUKI CINEPLEX, JAPANTOWN

Generic but good updated quality theater setup, playing good newer films. I most remember enjoying *Dazed and Confused* when it came out 1993? The problem with these new theaters, I can't really tell them apart. It might have been the Van Ness

theater I just wrote about. Regardless, I did go there a few times. *The English Patient* was there for sure, from the novel Alisa appreciated. 1996.

DALY CITY CINEPLEX

Big, modern, just south of San Francisco proper, was a good place to see **Grateful Dead Night at the Movies**, an ongoing annual one showing only in select theaters around the country. A tradition since 2010? I went a few years in a row, the last was 2014 for the *Bremen 1972*, with Joe and Rango Fantastic! I also enjoyed 2011 with date Cheryl to see *Thor*, and sometime around then the restored *Grateful Dead movie!*

Other Bay Area theaters

I think that covers San Francisco, but the character extends across the waters, with great small repertory theaters and a few noteworthy larger ones I've experienced over the decades as well. I'll begin with the east bay.

GRAND LAKE THEATER, OAKLAND

A large old established theater I had a couple of viewings within. The first was 1989s *Batman*. The other movie was much more memorable. *The Chilling*, a C-grade sci-fi horror flick, playing one night only, starring **Troy Donahue, Linda Blair, Dan Haggerty**, and my brother **Brian!** He was an extra, seen a few times on the big screen, as himself in brief cameos, and as a zombie in mutant makeup! Such fun! And an awful movie, making it more fun. The showing seemed to be for the production crew, friends and family. I had the pleasure of visiting the set with Brian in 1988, in an abandoned factory in South Oakland, industrial zone. I briefly met Dan Haggerty and Linda Blair, but I wasn't starstruck in the least, because I had never seen anything with their acting ever before. Only their names were familiar.

I think the showing in the Grand Lake theater might have been 1990? A fun if campy evening, mostly fun to cheer Bri on! Went with Jill and Brian! [years later Joni's

husband David found a VHS of this rarity, and got for Brian — also digitizing it. I have this transfer on my Mac!]

PLEASANT HILL, DOME SHAPED THEATER.

1984, near Brians apartment where I was staying, and I must have gone there a few times back in '84 for blockbusters, like *Indiana Jones and The Temple of Doom*, out that summer. I got to referring to the place as The Temple of Dome theater for the marquee when it displayed TEMPLE OF DOOM prominently seen from the freeway with its dome shape made the name stick in my mind.

Not sure where, but we went to another Pleasant Hill theater nearer to Brians to catch the **Prince** movie *Purple Rain* that summer. In 1988 went to see *Imagine*, about **John Lennon** in another homogenized theater in Walnut Creek. Good doc in a forgettable theater. Likewise for *Terminator* a few years later.

Back to the dome, I really dug the restoration of *Lawrence of Arabia* there in 1989, going with Bri on a hot weather day, too hot for working under, so we chilled to a fitting hot desert movie. I never saw on the big screen, so I was totally blown away! Pure tremendous cinema made for the big screen like *2001*. Epic.

Berkeley

A few theaters clustered on and around Shattuck near BART. I went to several over the years, especially when not shown elsewhere. I remember a few European films, like *Pelle the Conqueror*, 1988? *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, twice in '88! and *Star Trek* in 2009 with date Joanne! Later on in 2016, caught the ALS doc *Gleason*, and it was definitely disturbing. And a *Zappa* film with Lee that 4th of July. A good day for Frank Zappa documentary viewing!

ALAMEDA THEATER

Between 2010-2017 I would go there with Lee and Seb, and sometimes other artists

from the drawing group held at their house in West Oakland. Aiming mostly for the latest **Marvel** blockbuster, which are a blast! From the first *Thor* film to the third and other **Marvel**'s between, we had a blast! It's a classy old movie palace too, and nicely restored. Splendorous!

We also caught the new run of *Planet of the Apes* flicks, with Lee. Excellent, local updating of the story. I was encouraged by friend Louis Brill who as a real sci-fi movie fan and critic, told me "*Dean, on a number from 1-10, I give it 50.*" Sold!

PIEDMONT THEATER

A quality old deco style neighborhood theater on Piedmont Avenue, near where I lived for awhile and my favorite part of Oakland. It showed good films! Good quality dramas, film festival quality. I only went a few times, and the one film that struck a noteworthy chord was easily *Love and Mercy*, the **Brian Wilson** biopic, which I found brilliantly realized. 2015.

THE ORINDA THEATER

A quality small town small art deco movie palace, beautifully restored in an affluent area. I worked on home remodeling in the Orinda - Lafayette region, so I caught a few movies with Brian there in the early 90s, but I don't remember what we saw? Something classic? Alfred Hitchcock?

Marin County. I ended up living there for a number of years, so became more acquainted with its features.

MILL VALLEY THEATER

A small town with money theater that would host film festivals. I only remember seeing the **Michael Moore** film about 9/11, slamming GW Bush which is okay with me. I went with visiting brother Craig on July 4th, 2004? Good patriotic matinee. I saw a few other films there too, just can't remember now. I might later on.

CORTE MADERA THEATER

New, hi-tech cinema, big screen and THX sound. A good place for good big visually stunning blockbusters. Alisa and I enjoyed the *Lord of the Rings*, and *Harry Potter* movies there from 2001-2007 when living in San Anselmo. Huge screen, and we favored the front row center!

RAFAEL THEATER

San Rafael, on 4th Street. A super nice alternative movie theater from the 1920s with elegant and fabulous art deco features inside. It had a beautiful restoration in the 90s. I've enjoyed some nice films there over the years. Mostly **Beatles** related, and the last one I saw there was yet another restored version of *Yellow Submarine!* In 2018, when I lived a block away. I went with Joe, Jane, Clover and Leo for a fun, brilliant matinee. The first time I remember going there was 1999, not for a film but uniquely for a performance and slide show by **Walkin' Jim Stoltz**. I attended at the encouragement of friends Will and Madeleine Tuttle. A true backcountry wildlife hiker, who tells stories, and writes and performs songs about it with a wholesome bravado, while accompanied by his wildlife photography. An inspiring guy! He makes you want to be there, miles from any civilization. And the value of preservation of those far off spaces of pure pristine nature becomes more clear with his presentation.

Other movies were varied newer films mostly from independent filmmakers, I favored documentaries and concerts over dramas. Memorable were **Beatles** films, *Good Ol' Frida* in 2013. *The Beatles at Hollywood Bowl* doc by Ron Howard was a must-see in 2017. Going to an evening showing with good hometown friend Matt visiting, and our good local friend Melanie! There were more films caught there occasionally.

FAIRFAX THEATER

Probably the last of Bay Area movie theaters I have to report. A small town theater,

nothing fancy, and too mainstream for my tastes, mostly catering to local families and big with teenagers. I didn't go there much, and one of the first times there was for **The Two Towers** when it was brand new, Alisa and I couldn't wait to see after loving the first film so much. We lived only a few blocks away, so it was time to give the local theater a chance. However, the teens filled the place and were collectively in mob mentality, and noisy! I couldn't shush them effectively so about a third in, we gave up demanding refund. Argument was true that any of the movie seen was ruined by the interruptions. We got our \$\$ back, and went to Corte Madera for a vastly superior cinematic time!

The last time I went was for **Doctor Strange**, the **Marvel** movie I had been really looking forward to, as a favorite Marvel comic book character growing up. 2016? I was using a walker to hobble around safely with. So I sat in the back. The movie was a trip! A fav! And leaving, I see local friends Joey and Jim Talley! How appropriate for this psychedelic psychic movie! Jim shared growing up with the **Steve Ditko** comic books of Strange Tales. [I saved mine!] A great evening movie in my favorite small town, just not a fav movie theater but great location.

One last San Francisco theater, THE NO NOTHING

Just when wrapping up my list of movie theaters of the bay area I have known, I can't leave out **The No Nothing!** Tiny and unconventional as anything, and very very independent. East of South of Market, run by independent filmmakers, it's a viewing place for the unusual, experimental fringes of filmmaking creativity. I went there twice. The first time was most impressionable. A Cacophony Society event listed in Rough Draft as **Something at the No Nothing**, in July 1990. I found the original photocopied post which tells a bit more :

SOMETHING AT THE NO NOTHING

Out yonder in the endangered industrial landscape of China Basin exists an oasis complete with painted pool and arcades. Inside is a free theater where for years film shows and performances have flickered in the night unknown and unseen by the public at large. This is one of those shows. The evening's offering will include films by Steve Mobia, Al Hernandez, Dave Michalak, David Baltzer and others plus live music by the Haight Ashbury Free Band. All is free though we do suggest you bring a potluck dinner. Music and munching begin at 7:30 pm; films to begin at 8:00 pm.

When: Friday, July 27th, 7:30 pm.

Where: The No Nothing Cinema, 30 Berry Street near
2nd Street at the south end of the Embarcadero.

Info: 415/587-2628

I thought this was my first time seeing **The Haight Ashbury Free Band**, but I'd experienced them a month previously as **The Mutant Band** at the second **Atomic Café!** At the No Nothing theater, they were playing out jazz in the outside atrium before the movies started, with the potluck tables were. A rugged industrial zone space made into a nice artistic little theater and gathering spot. The Free Band were improvising on one of their originals with a riff that sticks. I later found out that was titled *Isn't*, after I became the drummer in 1991!

The films shown were fantastic! Intimate, artistic, highly original short films. Cacophony Society member **Steve Mobia** was the charismatic presenter, and his films were memorable, dreamlike fantastic vignettes. I loved it! The few hours was very interesting, with a packed little homegrown theater, I believe run by filmmaker David Michalak? A fun, underground cultural place !

The second time there might have been 1991, for an evening of Czech animations. Very far out stuff! I think Cacophony friends Nancy and Nik hosted that? It was unique, handmade and great!

The location of the No Nothing was taken over by big developers, and the site is somewhere around the new huge outdoor stadium for sports and occasional big concerts. (I went once for Paul McCartney 2010) but I'd rather have the No Nothing

live on. This was another time and another San Francisco.

CONCLUSION

Now most of the average neighborhood movie theaters have closed permanently, it must have started with the home video invasion, with **Netflix**, then streaming services taking over. (even local video rental stops suffered, like **Le Video** in the Outer Sunset after Netflix) with great home theater systems readily available, hi-def screens, Blu-ray resolution, nowadays there is less reason to go to theaters. The cost has risen as well, taking more money to stay in business. Some theaters keep going, like **The Castro**, with plenty of dedicated lovers of that palace. Others floundered from my list except for a few, but how long? Going to the movies is a grand thing to do, but maybe that's something that is going to be in and out of style intermittently with varying technologies for group viewings, like immersive omni and 3D theaters ? I can't say, but I enjoyed seeing movies in theaters during a pretty good era before cell phones /smart phones spoiled gathering places, and in San Francisco it was a wonderful place to catch movies in old theaters designed architecturally to transport you in an exotic place of escapism. I found that city itself has that transporting quality and I loved it.

- DEAN GUSTAFSON, JUNE 2024

I might add a section about my youthful years in Minneapolis, and its movie theaters.

Also I want to write about concert venues and museums, and that will take time.

A great resource for San Francisco theaters, old, long gone and still active:

<https://sanfranciscotheatres.blogspot.com/2017/06/san-francisco-theatres-by-address.html>