A MOVIE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

"Come on in, Movie. The pictures ain't much good, but it sure is the best Perfumed theater in the city."

Perfume was introduced into the ventilation systems of some early New York movie theatres

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Websites

Entering cinema or theatre into a search engine will locate a variety of sites. Many will relate to films, film stars, plays or actors. Others will have details of cinemas or theatres in a particular location. None of those so far discovered by the author has details of building services. Possibly the largest site is at cinematreasures.org which lists over 14,000 cinemas worldwide. It lists basic information, where known, such as cinema name and location, date built/opened, name of architect, number of seats, and whether still open, closed or demolished. A word of caution, the number of seats may be current, often after conversion: the original capacity was often much higher in such cases.

At the time of writing (June 2006) the site lists 701 UK cinemas and 12435 in the USA. The latter are grouped by state, the largest being California (1487), Illinois (1061) and New York State (1418). Coincidentally, those American cinemas in the author’s survey are mainly in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York.

Cinema architects may also be searched for. UK architects and number of cinemas designed include E A Stone (8), Sam Beverley (12), Frank T Verity (13), W E Trent (14) and George Coles (40). Those in the USA include C Howard Crane (61), S Charles Lee (68), Rapp & Rapp (86), John Eberson (92) and Thomas W Lamb (152). However, these numbers are a guide only, as for example, S Charles Lee designed over 300 cinemas between 1920 and 1950, mostly in California. (Often with several cinemas under construction at a time, Lee would pilot himself from site to site in his single-engine Beechcraft, which is said to have greatly impressed his clients.)
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Dramatis Personae
Cost in order of appearance

Victorian Song & Dance Man
Wilson Phipson

Washerman
Wally Fleisher

Vitilysed American
Fred Wittenmeier

The Chief
Willis Carrier

Upside-Down Man
Logan Lewis

Downtown-Uptown Duo
Barney Balaban & Sam Katz

The Showman
Sid Grauman

Chicago Koolers
The Kroescheil Brothers

Transatlantic Twins
Carrier & Carrier

The English Team
J Jeffreys & Company

Set Designers
Rapp Bros & S Charles Lee

Principal Writers
John Billings, Margaret Ingels & Gail Cooper

Lighting Company
Siemens Brothers

Production Director
Frank Ferris

Mr Interlocutor
Brian Roberts

Frank Ferris and Brian Roberts appear by kind permission of the Heritage Group.
The End