

Cinematic Journeys: An Uncommon Guide to Classic Movie Theaters: Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa

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Cinematic Journeys: An Uncommon Guide to Classic Movie Theaters: Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, by Mike and Vicki Walker. Kansas City: How High the Moon Publishing, 2007. xi, 158 pp. Illustrations, maps, index. \$14.95 paper.

Reviewer Jennifer Fleeger is a Ph.D. candidate in film studies at the University of Iowa. Her research focuses on sound and music in American cinema.

Cinematic Journeys does not claim to be a comprehensive survey of classic midwestern movie theaters, yet it does serve as an introduction to the region's cinematic heritage by providing a photo, list of historical facts, and descriptive paragraph for 63 operational cinemas in four states. The inclusion of several theaters under the heading "classic," however, remains something of a mystery; although many of the houses were constructed well before the 1940s, the list extends to cinemas built in this century. The book's pages are divided equally among the theaters, but the inconsistency in the level of detail devoted to each belies an uneven research method. Uneasiness about the authors' approach is exacerbated by the insertion of anecdotes about film going on pages with little historical text. Such "movie memories" are usually unrelated to the cinema under discussion and often either originate with the authors themselves or come from anonymous sources.

These criticisms aside, the size and organization of *Cinematic Journeys* make it a handy accompaniment to weekend trips around the Midwest. The theaters are arranged by state and further broken down by region, allowing the traveler to tack a visit to the cinema onto a trip designed for another purpose. Moreover, to supplement the descriptions of many of the houses, the authors offer recommendations for nearby food and attractions. The text includes 12 theaters located in north central and eastern Iowa.

Diaspora in the Countryside: Two Mennonite Communities and Mid-Twentieth-Century Rural Disjuncture, by Royden Loewen. Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Series. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2006. xv, 331 pp. Maps, photos, notes, bibliography, index. \$75.00 cloth, \$25.00 paperback.

Reviewer Steven D. Reschly is chair and associate professor of history at Truman State University. He is the author of *The Amish on the Iowa Prairie, 1840 to 1910* (2000).

Roy Loewen has produced a string of books and articles rooted in his comprehensive research on the Kleine Gemeinde (KG) Mennonites in Kansas and Manitoba. In *Family, Church and Market: A Mennonite Com-*