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GOING TO THE FLICKS – 1935/36 STYLE

There is a saying - proficiency at billiards is the sign of a misspent youth. Well I played that game quite a lot in those years but never achieved proficiency, so that lets me out on that score. I had another addiction, however, at that time, namely frequenting picture and dance halls, but so far as I know no-one has come up with an epigrammatic phrase to categorise that activity, and I am not going to try. It occurred to me recently, however, to extract from my diaries for the two years the titles of the films which I saw and where I saw them, if recorded. The sad fact is that all of these fine cinemas, which were, after all, the first of their kind ever to have been built, have long since been pulled down and replaced by modern versions which make little or no attempt to reproduce the glamorous interior, and exterior, architecture and décor of their predecessors. Latest to go is the Salon, Hillhead (1992), unless the outcry provoked by its imminent demise proves successful.

So here is the tally for 1935 –

January –	Are You A Mason?	The Playhouse
		[probably referring to Green's Playhouse]
	Jack's The Boy	"
	Treasure Island	La Scala

	Give Her a Ring	
	Hips Hips Hooray [<i>Hips, Hips, Hooray!</i>]	Kings Cinema
	Merry Wives of Reno	Green's Playhouse
February –	Dirty Work	
	The Count of Monte Cristo	
	We Live Again (Tolstoy's Resurrection)	Cosmo
	Sing And Like It	Kings
March	Queen Catherine [possibly: <i>The Rise of Catherine the Great</i>]	
	Cynara	Hillhead Salon
	Evergreen	La Scala
	[The] Soul of a Nation	
	The Battle (Russian) [possibly: Battleship Potemkin]	Cosmo
April –	Sequoia (Nature Film)	Cosmo
	Strictly Confidential	
	Nell Gwynne [sic]	La Scala
	Are We Civilised?	"
May –	365 Nights in Hollywood	Kings
	Love Time	
	The Old Curiosity Shop	Regal
June –	A Cup of Kindness	Cranstons

	Night Life of the Gods	"
July –	Ten Minute Alibi	La Scala
	Unfinished Symphony	The Playhouse [probably Green's Playhouse]
	West of the Pecos	
	The Mighty Barnum	Paramount
August –	Bride of Frankenstein	
	David Copperfield	Regal
	West Point of the Air	La Scala
	Scarlet Pimpernel	Paramount
	Young Love (Polish) [possibly referring to <i>Young Love/Řeka</i>]	Kings Cinema
	[The] Old Fashioned Way	The Gem (Gt. Western Rd.)
	What's His Name [possibly referring to <i>What's in a Name?</i>]	La Scala
September –	Baboona	
	Life Begins at Forty	Salon [Hillhead]
	It's a Gift	The Gem
October –	Les Miserables	The Savoy, Renfield St. [possibly referring to Savoy Cinema, Hope Street]
	Reckless	Regal
	Kid Millions	
	[The] Girl in Pawn	The Gem
	Lady of The Boulevards	
	Bulldog Jack	Picturehouse, Sauchiehall St.
	Prix de Carottes (French) [possibly	

	referring to <i>Poil de Carotte</i>] British Agent	Cranstons
November –	Crusade The Brothers Karamazov (German)	Paramount Cosmo
December –	Becky Sharp Gay Divorce [referring to <i>The Gay Divorcee</i>] Scrooge	Cranstons The Gem Paramount
And for 1936 –		
January –	Cardinal Richelieu The Informer Naughty Marietta One Night Of Love	Kings Cinema Paramount Kings Cinema Regal
February –	She Married Her Boss Der träumende Mund [English title: <i>Dreaming Lips</i>]	Regal Cosmo
March –	The Ghost Goes West A Midsummer Night's Dream	Regal
April –	Bonnie Scotland House of Rothschild Alice Adams Renions (French) [unidentified] I Dream Too Much	Cranstons Kings Cinema Paramount
May –	Escapade Escape Me Never	Kings Cinema The Gem

	Captain Blood	The Picture House
June –	Moscow Nights	Cranstons
	The Last Days Of Pompeii	Kings Cinema
July –	Follow the Fleet	
	Drake [of England]	The Gem
September –	Crime and Punishment	The Gem
	The Petrified Forest	New Savoy [referring to Savoy Cinema]
	Brides Are Like That	Playhouse
	Rhodes of Africa	La Scala
	A Night at the Opera	
	Mr. Deeds Comes to Town	
	Wife and Secretary [referring to <i>Wife vs. Secretary</i>]	Cranstons
October –	Fury	
	Suicide Club	La Scala
	Mary of Scotland	Regal
November –	Piccadilly Jim	La Scala
	One Rainy Afternoon	"
	Hell Unlimited and Colour Cocktail	Art School films
	Mother (Russian)	Cosmo
	Louis Pasteur [referring to <i>The Story of Louis Pasteur</i>]	
	Suzy	Regent

Considering that the average admission charge in those days was about 15p (one shilling and sixpence) it cost me £6.60 to see all 88 of these films. Lest it should be thought that film-going was my only form of entertainment I will add as a footnote a list of the Theatrical performances which I attended during the same period.

1935 – Back to Methuselah (George Bernard Shaw) - Libel (Leon M Lion) - Aren't We All - Taming of the Shrew (Shakespeare) - The Crooked Billet - The Letter (Somerset Maugham) - The Naughty Wife - Whistling In the Dark - The Twelve Pound Look (J.M. Barrie) - There's Always Juliet (John Van Druten) - Passing Brompton Road (Brandon Thomas) -

1936 – The Little Minister (J.M. Barrie) - The Admirable Chrichton (J.M. Barrie) - Tovarich (Cedrick Hardwicke) Quinneys – Cradle Song
- The Moon's Our Home - Hippolytus (Euripides). - Rope.