
Disclaimer: This document was written in 1992 and concerns memories of 1930s life; as such there may be opinions expressed or words used that do not meet today's norms and expectations.

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- * Details: from Sheila McWhinnie to Annette Kuhn
- * Notes: This transcription has rendered the original text as written, including some spelling and grammatical errors. Early contact from Sheila McWhinnie in response to radio and magazine calls for cinemagoing memories. Mrs McWhinnie also took part in two interviews concerning her cinemagoing memories of Glasgow in the 1930s.

MCWHINNIE
[redacted]
GLASGOW G52 [redacted]
4/5/92
TEL [redacted]

Dear Madam,

Having heard a radio broadcast, and also read a paragraph in the Glaswegian, on your research into memories of the old cinema days, I think I may be a little helpful in this direction.

First of all I lived in the Gorbals as a child, the housing, and poverty there, made the cinema an avenue of escape (for a few hours,) from every day existence.

At the age of seventeen I started work in a local cinema in Maryhill, first as usherette and then as cashier, I then left to work in city cinemas: "The Picture House"

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now the Savoy Centre in Sauchiehall St, and then the Regal cinema also in the same street, the latter is now Cannon Cinemas. I worked there until 1941, when I was in the first women's call up, and ended up in war work.

An angle over-looked in the cinema going of those days, was the unhealthy atmosphere of the cinemas. Everyone smoked, and there was always a thick blanket of smoke throughout the cinema, and as Glasgow was a city of cinema-goers, maybe the passive smoking that we now know about contributed to it being known as one of the most unhealthy cities in Britain.

I myself contracted Emphysema from about age thirty, and never smoked in my life. I am now aged seventy-two so if any of this I have written about

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is helpful to you and I can be of any further assistance, I have put my telephone number at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Sheila McWhinnie (Mrs)