

Glasgow G33

23 December 1992

Annette Kuhn  
 Department of Theatre, Film and Television Studies  
 University of Glasgow  
 Glasgow G12 8QQ

Dear Annette,

Forgive the familiarity but I do not know if you are Miss or Mrs.

My sister, Mrs. M. Young, has passed your leaflet to me and the following are my answers or memories:-

I live in Riddrie and the local cinemas were the Rex and in Dennistoun, our neighbour, the Marne and Parade. My first visit to the cinema that I can remember was to the New Savoy, where the Savoy Centre is now. I cannot remember the main feature as the first item was a gangster picture and I spent most of the time under the seat despite being accompanied by my mother and my Aunt. Looking back the main character could have been Paul Muni or Ricardo Montez and it was a chain gang theme.

According to my 1942 diary I went to the pictures 242 times that year. I went to the matinee in one picture house, ran home, made sandwiches and ran to another before 4.30. Why I did not make the sandwiches before leaving for the first cinema to save all the running I do not know.

The dear seats in the Odeon, Renfield Street, was my favourite cinema, when I could afford them. I saved up to see "Gone with the Wind" in the dear seats in the Playhouse.

I went to the cinema mostly with my girl friends and occasionally with my parents. Spencer Tracy, Cary Grant, Clark Gable, Robert Taylor, Ronald Colman, Madeline Carroll Greer Garson, Rosalind Russell and Katherine Hepburn were my all time favourites. The Andy Hardy and Shirley Temple films I never missed. Also all Tracy/Hepburn, Cary Grant, Astaire/Rogers spring to mind

I did collect stars' photographs, in fact, my sister and I each had a register of stars and woe betide if one of us cut out a photograph from a magazine when the register proved it belonged to the other.

My mother went to the Women's Guild in Greyfriars Church, Albion Street, every Thursday afternoon and after the Guild she went to the Argyle Street Woolworths and bought a movie magazine for us - Screen Stories is one I remember. It was an argument between my sister and I for the first read.

Other activities were reading, knitting and sewing. I remember knitting a cardigan which was a copy of one that Jane Wyman wore. I had no pattern, but must have got the number of stitches from a similar pattern as it turned out a success. I was never really interested in any sports.

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I think it was escapism - as I do not really like parties, do not like having to perform in front of a group. After a visit to the cinema I usually, in my mind, took the heroine's part. My feeling must be that I loved going to the cinema.

It is nice nowadays to be able to look at films on the video in the comfort of your own home.

Yours sincerely,

Mollie Stevenson

(Miss)

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The best seats in the Odeon, Renfield Street, was my favourite cinema, when I could afford them. I saved up to see "Gone with the Wind" in the best seats in the Playhouse.

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