

GOING TO THE FLICKS - 1935/36 STYLE

There is a saying - proficiency at billiards is the sign of a miss-spent 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 houses, of which there were nearly as many in Glasgow as public houses and dance halls, but so far as I know noone 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	
	Jack's The Boy	"	
	Treasure Island	La Scala	
	Give Her A Ring		
	Hips Hips Hooray	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		
	Cynara	Hillhead Salon	
	Evergreen	La Scala	
	Soul of a Nation		
	The Battle (Russian)	Cosmo	
April -	Sequoia (Nature Film)	Cosmo	
	Strictly Confidential		
	Nell Gwynne	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	
	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)	Kings Cinema	
	Old Fashioned Way	The Gem (Gt. Western Rd.)	
	What's His Name	La Scala	

September -	Baboona Life Begins At Forty It's A Gift	Salon The Gem
October -	Les Miserables Reckless Kid Millions Girl In Pawn Lady Of The Boulevards Bulldog Jack Prix De Carottes (French) British Agent	The Savoy, Renfield St. Regal  The Gem  Picture House, Sauchiehall St Cranstons
November -	Crusade The Brothers Karamazov (German)	Paramount Cosmo
December -	Becky Sharp Gay Divorce 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 Traumende Munde	Regal Cosmo
March -	The Ghost Goes West A Midsummer Night's Dream	Regal
April -	Bonnie Scotland House of Rothschild Alice Adams Renions (French) I Dream Too Much	Cranstons  Kings Cinema Paramount
May -	Escapade Escape Me Never Captain Blood	Kings Cinema The Gem The Picture House
June -	Moscow Nights The Last Days Of Pompeii	Cranstons Kings Cinema
July -	Follow The Fleet Drake	The Gem
September -	Crime and Punishment The Petrified Forest Brides Are Like That Rhodes Of Africa A Night At The Opera Mr. Deeds Comes To Town Wife And Secretary	The Gem New Savoy Playhouse La Scala  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	
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 Methu&elah(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  
 Crichton (J.M. Barri&e) - Tovarich (Cedrick Hardwicke)  
 Quinneys - Cradle Song - The Moon's Our Home -  
 Hippolytus (Euripides). - Rope.