

GLASGOW G52

4/5/92

TEL

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 Picturehouse<sup>4</sup>

now the Savoy centre in Sauchiehall St,  
 and then the ~~Regal~~ <sup>arena</sup> ~~also~~ in the same  
 street, the latter is now Cannon Cinema.  
 I worked there until 1941, when  
 I was in the first women's cell uh,  
 and ended up in war-work.

An angle over-looked in  
 the cinema going of those days, was  
 the unhealthy atmosphere of the cinemas.  
 Ever-one 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

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

your faithfully  
Sheila McWhinnie (nm)