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Showing postings 1 - 36 of 36 in the thread: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre.

Posting:	Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 1
Poster:	William Brainard	
Date:	17 May 2006 8:13 PM	
<p>In my case, I believe it was "Mame" starring Lucille Ball or it could have been "American Graffiti" or "The Posiedon (sp?) Adventure". "Mame" came out in 1974 didn't it? If the Capitol had closed by then perhaps I saw it at the College Theatre. I recall seeing it in July or August '74 as Lucy had just ended her 23 year run on television.</p>		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 2
Poster:	David Colby	
Date:	17 May 2006 9:13 PM	
<p>We went there all the time as kids. The movies that stand out in my mind are all the planet of the apes movies, the sound of music, west side story, and more horror flicks then I can remember. There is NOTHING like a main st. movie theatre.</p>		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 3
Poster:	mailman	
Date:	18 May 2006 6:26 AM	
<p>Oh my gosh! Yes! The planet of the apes! I remember going to those there! I also remember going as a class to The Ten Commandments. That was the First movie I ever saw!</p>		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 4
Poster:	AL	
Date:	18 May 2006 7:59 AM	
<p>It was deep through and several selectman were the last to see it.</p>		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 5
Poster:	Larhan	
Date:	18 May 2006 8:00 AM	
<p>Towards the end of its' operations I remember that the movies shown were not what you would consider to be Family movies, more along the Art Movie type. I remember seeing "The Devil in Ms Jones" at the Capitol. If I am not mistaken, the theater closed shortly after.</p> <p>Wow, from The Ten Commandments to The Devil in Ms Jones.</p>		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 6
Poster:	David Colby	
Date:	18 May 2006 8:02 AM	
<p>Remember when the theatre used to get so packed they would open up the balcony?</p> <p>The movie theatre, the Y, and rec park, those were the things I'll never forget about Willimantic.</p> <p>Do they still set up a skating rink in the back corner of rec park?</p>		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 7
Poster:	Godfrey Postlethwaite	
Date:	18 May 2006 2:48 PM	
<p>I remember one of the last, if not the last movie shown there. It was a second run of Gene Wilder's Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, and I went because the closure annoucement had been made. It also could have been Redford and Streisand in the Way We Were. Also, I recall the Superman serials and cartoons at the matinees there in the 1950s. Now it's an occasional trip to the Eastbrook mall and the uncomfortable movie seats there!</p>		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 8
Poster:	mailman	
Date:	19 May 2006 5:38 AM	
<p>David, I don't believe the park is being flooded for skating anymore. I can remember skating there and ducking into the "hut" where the woodstove was burning for heat. Those were surely the good ole days!</p>		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 9
Poster:	MJS	

Date:	19 May 2006 10:02 AM	
Last 3 movies I saw at the Capitol, were The Godfather, Woodstock, and (no lie) Deep Throat! How's that for a mixed bag?		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 10
Poster:	Paul	
Date:	19 May 2006 11:32 AM	
I seem to recall seeing " Jaws " there in the mid-seventies. When did it close?		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 11
Poster:	Godfrey Postlethwaite	
Date:	19 May 2006 2:19 PM	
I was talking about this with some old buddies over coffee this morning, and someone said for definite that the last film shown there was "Paper Moon" I looked that up on imdb and that's 1973! Where did those 33 years go!		
Not long before that I often went to another cinema on Broad Street! Can anyone remember that one?!		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 12
Poster:	Ernie G	
Date:	19 May 2006 3:55 PM	
Godfrey It was the Strand otherwise known as the Scratch House		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 13
Poster:	John B	
Date:	19 May 2006 7:37 PM	
David ,		
I'm old enough to remember of what you speak . Never was much of a skater , but my friends and I would always walk down to Rec Park from Jackson St. in winter to skate at night . The place used to be mobbed . Fun times for sure ...I was a member of the old Y , and I recall they had a 2-3 lane bowling alley down in the basement someplace that my buddies and I used on occasion . Somebody had to play PIN BOY , though ...		
Spent a lot of time and money at the Capitol ( and Gem ) as a kid . Fond memories of the B horror and monster flicks I saw such as The Amazing Colossal Man , and The Incredible Shrinking Man ...Hehe...		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 14
Poster:	MJS	
Date:	20 May 2006 4:44 AM	
I remember those flicks at the old Gem, John. Anyone remember seeing Lets Scare Jessica To Death, at the Capitol? It was a weird sci-fi/horror, however, it was filmed in Connecticut, around Chester, and Gillettes Castle. BTW, I drove by Lunts/Andover Market on Route 6 yesterday...looks like another private owned business has bitten the dust..too bad...they had one of the best meat counters in this area.		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 15
Poster:	William Brainard	
Date:	20 May 2006 7:43 PM	
My brother and some friends saw the film "Parrish" being made up in the Windsor area in 1960. They were in a couple of crowd scenes that must have ended up on the cutting room floor.		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 16
Poster:	William Brainard	
Date:	20 May 2006 7:47 PM	
The 1959 film "It Happened to Jane" starring Doris Day and Jack Lemmon was filmed in Chester, Ct. Co-star Casey Adams, aka Max Showalter liked the area so much he bought an old colonial home there in 1984. He died in 2001; we attended the auction which sold the goods from his estate. Bought his luggage, a couple cameras, an army uniform and a shirt he wore in the 1953 Marilyn Monroe film, "Niagara".		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 17
Poster:	Nancy	
Date:	31 May 2006 10:51 AM	
Sometime around '74-'77, they ran a Bruce Lee film festival, and the theater closed shortly after that.		
Posting:	Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre	Posting 18
Poster:	Ada	
Date:	31 May 2006 3:50 PM	

I was no longer in Willimantic when the Capitol closed, but does anyone remember seeing a 3D movie there? I remember about three of them being made. I think that there was a remake of "Kiss me Kate" done in 3D.

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 19  
 Poster: John Tormey  
 Date: 31 May 2006 6:39 PM

Last movie I saw there was in The Fifties. When the drive-ins were established as the places to be, we stopped going to the Capitol and the Gem and the Strand. Hormones will do that to you.  
 jt

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 20  
 Poster: Fran Funk  
 Date: 6 June 2006 8:06 PM

The last movie I saw there was "The Sound of Music." I remember feeling that it was a safe and clean place to be.

I went with a friend, had great seats, and a very unobstructed view. The theater was also packed ...and we didn't have trouble finding a place to park.

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 21  
 Poster: William Brainard  
 Date: 6 June 2006 10:42 PM

I recall seeing Patricia Neal in the 1968 movie "The Subject Was Roses" with Martin Sheen and Jack Albertson.

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 22  
 Poster: chas barrett  
 Date: 6 August 2006 11:30 AM

Everyone:

The last movie to play at The Capitol Theatre was PAPER MOON with Ryan O'Neal (I see Mr O'Neal holding court at a coffee shop/bookstore almost every weekday morning in LA on my 2 mile run) and his daughter Tatum in 1974. If any of you remember...my pop Russell, ran the Capitol for Warner Studios until he retired in 1960 and it was bought by 2 Willi guys ( their names escape me now...one was named Paul I think).

In 1979, I came back to Willi from California for a visit and "Paul" and his partner invited me to see the grand moviehouse that I literally grew up in in the 1940s, 50s. It was shuttered and dark. A long time maintenance man, Lionel Chauvin (his son was Art Brousseau) came by to say hello too. They gave me some of the original 1920s furniture from The Capitol, such as an art deco painting and lamps that were once placed in the lounge area between the men's and ladies room, if any of you recall this room ( it had a huge fake fireplace in the middle, under the balcony). These pieces of furniture and the painting of "3 deer" are now in my LA office.

My pop had some really nice people working for him at The Capitol over the years... here goes to see if you knew any of them -- projectionist Otis Fairbanks ( he doubled as an undertaker on Block Island), Lionel Chauvin, candy stand gal Shirley Nadile, ticket taker Charlie Nadile, cashiers Helen Hallahan & Millie Potter. asst mgrs. Kent Nickerson & Ted Reichart, projectionist Jerry Lussier, stage mgr. Henry Morrisette, doorman Jim Kilmartin ( he lived above the IGs in an apartment Sam Todaro rented to him), George Haddad ( he later became manager of the Gem), Ernie Haddad, an emigrant from Poland after WWII named Marian Mienczynski (we called him "Pencil Louie"), Mary McQuade, etc.

As some of you may know...I am a longstanding opponent and critic of what Eastconn did to dismantle and level The Capitol in the name of "education". It could have been accomplished by keeping the theatre as well. I am all for the children getting an education in the arts...so do not misunderstand me. But to destroy a lovely and charming Main Street edifice and anchor was wrong. The goons that executed this Magnet School project left a dubious legacy and now the Magnet School back once more in the news in Willi with even more controversy. Well, what can I say. To take down The Capitol was shameful, extraneous and without merit.

Charles "Skipper" Barrett  
 Los Angeles

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 23  
 Poster: Francis Sellars  
 Date: 6 August 2006 3:37 PM

Charlie Barrett,  
 You forgot Roger Dion a ticket taker and little old me the balcony usher. The year was 1943 a year later I was in the navy on the pacific ocean.

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 24  
 Poster: chas barrett  
 Date: 6 August 2006 9:06 PM

Hi Whitey:

I apologize.....of course you were there too ! ..but before my time.

Nice to hear from you !

Skipper

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 25  
 Poster: chas barrett  
 Date: 6 August 2006 9:10 PM

Hi Whitey:

I apologize.....of course you were there too ! ..but before my time.

Nice to hear from you !

Skipper

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 26  
 Poster: r d  
 Date: 21 August 2006 2:35 PM

The only one I remember now is the Guns of Navarone with Gregory Peck, David Niven, and Anthony Quinn (i think). Also remember the night when "Spider Man" climbed up the front of the Nathan Hale hotel and everyone stood on the sidewalk in front of the Capitol--not sure of the year but has have been late 40's early 50's.

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 27  
 Poster: Dagmar Noll  
 Date: 22 August 2006 5:36 PM

Spider Man? What?!?

Dagmar

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 28  
 Poster: r d  
 Date: 23 August 2006 8:57 AM

Yes, Spider Man! At least that's what I would call him today. Some guy came to town, not dressed like Spider Man, but crawled up the front of the Nathan Hale Hotel to the roof. He did this with no apparatus to assist him. This was done at night and big crowd stood outside in front of the Capital and I believe the fire dept was there with a big spotlight, etc. I would guess the somewhere in the Chronical archives there is a story and maybe pictures. I hope someone out there can confirm my recollection or I will seek help soon!

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 29  
 Poster: chas barrett  
 Date: 23 August 2006 10:36 PM

RD:

I recall something about this...but it's blurry. It was back in 1950s if I recall right. Anyone remember Sonny Adams???,he was a jumper...right off the Capitol balcony one day when cops were chasing him...he was no spiderman though...he broke his foot when he landed in the aisle below.

Remember the Halloween spoke shows at the Capitol in the 1950s?...the stage shows with Frankenstein and Dracula??

Yes, you were a neighbor...Oak and Summit Sts. You must have been in the Clas of 57 at WHS, right?? I knew Jerry Lamorte and Bob Langworthy too..where are they today??

Chas

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 30  
 Poster: John Boudreau  
 Date: 23 August 2006 11:41 PM

Chas ,

Wasn't there a marble staircase in the building , or is my memory all wet ?

Q: How many people could be seated at the Capitol ? I'm guessing when I say around a 1000 . The place was huge .

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 31  
 Poster: r d  
 Date: 24 August 2006 8:23 AM

Chas-- I do remember the Halloween shoes. I remember watching some horror flick and someone dressed like Frankenstein walked down the center aisle to the screaming of all the young kids there. Also, do you have any recollection of any of the live entertainment that took place at the Captial? My father told me about all the entertainers that passed thru Willi and many of them stayed or stopped by at the Hooker for drinks and food.

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 32  
 Poster: chas barrett  
 Date: 24 August 2006 11:02 PM

RD:

Yes, m uyou got it right !....remember the guy on stage, a magician, with the two scantilly clad ladies sawing people in half. my pop used to have a picture of tthem all hanging in his office. but my mom accidentally disposed of many things from the theatre when we all moved west to LA in 1965 when my dad passed away.

I am pleased to ehar about the capitol starting to show movies again...

chas

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 33  
 Poster: Steve Starger  
 Date: 5 October 2006 3:21 PM

I think the last movie I saw at the Capitol (and I started going when I was about six!) might have been "The Magnificent Seven," in 1961, when I was at UConn.

Steve Starger

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 34  
 Poster: chas barrett  
 Date: 5 October 2006 11:36 PM

SS:

And I 'tink' i saw it wit you pappy.....yowl brennah was quite an act-tor

skippy

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 35  
 Poster: William Brainard  
 Date: 6 October 2006 10:22 PM

I saw "The Subject Was Roses" with Patricia Neal, Jack Albertson and Martin Sheen at the Capitol; it was 1968 or '69 and it was Miss Neal's first film after four devastating strokes while preganant in 1965. That's a wonderful movie. Also "Love Story" when it came out in 1970. Saw "Airport", a kewl flick, at the College Theatre. "Airport" still stands up today, almost 40 years later. And who can forget Jackie Susan's "Valley of The Dolls"; saw it first at the Capitol Theatre.

Posting: Re: Last movie you saw at the old Capitol Theatre Posting 36  
 Poster: chas barrett  
 Date: 6 October 2006 11:29 PM

WB:

I saw LASSIE at The C'tol in 1946 as well as THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES, which got Best Pix Oscar that year, followed by maybe another 5,000 movies there until 1966 when I left Wmtc.

The Windham Arts group sponsoring movies at the Magnet School there have such a treasure trove of films to select, with definitive themes ...maybe even just films made only in CT such as PARRISH, IT HAPPENED TO JANE, etc.

Chas