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Movie Theaters United States New York Brooklyn Brownsville Loew's Pitkin Theatre

Loew's Pitkin Theatre

1501 Pitkin Avenue, Brownsville, Brooklyn, NY 11212

Closed 1 screen 2,827 seats

Overview Photos Comments

19 people favored this theater



Viewing: **Photo** | Street View

The Loew's Pitkin Theatre opened on November 23, 1929 with Elliot Nugent in "So This is College", plus on-stage "Cafe de Patee" (originally created for the Capitol Theatre in Manhattan). Initially operating as a premier movie/stage show venue that eventually went to movies only. Multi-tiered theatre with Greek statuary adorning the side walls and proscenium area. It had a Robert Morton 3 Manual, 14 Rank theatre organ too.

Unfortunately the neighborhood went down and the theatre's fortunes went south as well. Closed in the late-1960's.

It had a long stint as a church, but the congregation eventually moved out. The entry lobby



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Additional Info

Previously operated by:
Loew's Inc.

Architects:
Thomas W. Lamb

Functions:
Grade School, Retail

Styles:
Atmospheric, Greek Revival

Nearby Theaters





 Palace Theatre

was converted into retail space (later used as storage), but the theater auditorium itself stood behind a fake wall that was installed in the foyer. Over the 40 years of neglect and dereliction the building gradually became a wreck.

In the Summer of 2010, the building was being prepared to be converted into a school and retail use, which was completed in September 2012.

Contributed by philipgoldberg



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-  Saratoga Theatre
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News About This Theater

Jul 1, 2013 — Loew's Pitkin Redeveloped As Charter School

Jul 22, 2010 — Loew's Pitkin to become a charter school

Dec 11, 2007 — Loew's Pitkin stars in new book on Brownsville

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Brad Smith on February 20, 2011 at 10:19 pm

This photograph of the Loew's Pitkin Theatre was taken in 1930 by George Mann of the comedy dance team, Barto and Mann.



TLSLOEWS on March 28, 2011 at 12:02 am

Thanks again Brad.



TLSLOEWS on May 8, 2011 at 10:26 pm

Marcus Loew was born on this date in 1870.



ganfax on July 24, 2012 at 2:04 pm

I lived across the street from the Loew's Pitkin. 1947 until 1963. Fond memories of saturday movies. 5 cartoons, a serial and a "double" feature. I even got to see Jerry Lewis live on stage. the ceiling used to have stars and a moon that would slowly cross from one side to the other. Looking back, the theater was the most beautiful of theaters I have ever seen...to this day. It's a shame to hear how run-down it has become.



Metropolitite on September 6, 2012 at 11:09 pm

From NY.Curbed.com Thursday, September 6, 2012, by Jessica Dailey

When we visited the Loew's Pitkin Theater in 2010, the movie palace, closed for 40 years, was falling apart and pretty creepy-looking. But no more! POKO Partners sent along a press release announcing the completion of their \$43 million adaptive reuse of the structure, transforming the historic ruins into a mixed-used building featuring a charter school and retail space. Brownsville Ascend Charter School occupies 130,000-square-feet on seven of the building's eight floors, with a discount store anchoring the street-level retail space along Pitkin Avenue.

The renovation, lead by architecture firm Kitchen & Associates, restored the historic building's exterior neo-classical and Art Deco features while retrofitting the interior to accommodate the school. Along with classrooms for K-12 students, the school has a gymnasium, auditorium, science labs, and art rooms. The official ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held next Thursday, September 13.



BobbyS on September 26, 2012 at 5:35 am

How far was the Loew's Pitkin to Loew's Kings? I didn't realize Brooklyn was so large. 1929 was sure an important year for the Loew's chain wasn't it? If only they could see the depression around the corner, these pleasure palaces might never have been built.



CSWalczak on September 26, 2012 at 6:48 am

Bobby S: Enlarge each Google map accompanying each theater on the respective pages; if you use the Prospect Park Parade Ground as a point of reference, you will see that they were not all that close to each other; as you noted, Brooklyn is pretty big.

Actually, the big downtown palaces fared reasonably well in the Depression, due to the relatively inexpensive tickets and did well into the 1940's, though architectural tastes changed, and combination programs of live acts and movie programming became less frequent, eliminating the need for elaborate, fully-equipped stages. Yes, some chain owners like William Fox went bankrupt and some theaters did close and fewer were built.

But there were three major factors that really doomed both the existing and any planned palaces, and all of them occurred after the Great Depression: the 1948 Paramount Consent Decree that forced the major studios to divest themselves of their theater chains, the coming of television, and the exodus of so many people to the suburbs. There was, especially in the 1960's a relatively brief flowering of large, single screen theaters that might be regarded as sort of second generation palaces, but the arrival of multiplexes eventually doomed many of these or resulted in their being subdivided, in many cases atrociously.



Scott on July 2, 2013 at 3:16 pm

Nothing I've read about the conversion explains which areas of the theatre were restored and which were destroyed. Can someone elaborate on this? I'm guessing the auditorium was leveled, or gutted. Were some of the lobby and foyer spaces saved and restored? I see that the main facade was preserved.



Matt Lambros on July 2, 2013 at 3:47 pm

I didn't think anything was being restored. Pretty sure they gutted the building completely.



Bway on July 2, 2013 at 9:05 pm

The total was a shambles, I don't know how much was left to restore after the water damage. There were literally hundreds of holes in the roof. I have to say, while it's sad it can no longer be a theater anymore, they did an absolutely FANTASTIC job with the exterior conversion and restoration. The exterior shell is better than total demolition, so a piece of history is in fact preserved.

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