

Theatres Of Hawai I (Images Of America)

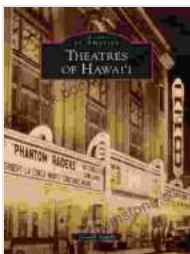
Rediscovering the Golden Age of Entertainment in the Aloha State

[Image of Theatres of Hawai'i book cover with alt text: "Theatres of Hawai'i book cover featuring historic theater marquees"]

Hawai'i has a rich and vibrant theatrical history, dating back to the early days of the kingdom. From grand opera houses to intimate playhouses, theaters have played a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of the Aloha State. In "Theatres of Hawai'i: Images of America," author Ralph S. Ono chronicles this rich legacy through a captivating collection of over 200 vintage photographs.

Theatrical Pioneering in the Pacific

The history of Hawaiian theater begins with the arrival of missionaries in the early 19th century. They introduced Western-style entertainment, including plays and concerts, to the islands. In 1847, the first theater was established in Honolulu, a modest wooden structure that hosted a variety of performances.



Theatres of Hawai'i (Images of America) by Lowell Angell

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 46044 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 131 pages



Over the next several decades, theaters proliferated throughout the islands. They became centers of entertainment for both residents and visitors, hosting everything from vaudeville shows to Shakespearean productions. One notable figure in this early era was John Dominis, a talented actor and producer who established several successful theaters in Honolulu.

The Golden Age of Hawaiian Theater

The turn of the 20th century marked the golden age of Hawaiian theater. New theaters were built, including the opulent Royal Hawaiian Opera House in Honolulu and the Liberty Theater in Hilo. These venues showcased world-renowned performers, such as Sarah Bernhardt, Enrico Caruso, and Harry Houdini.

Local theater companies also flourished during this time. The Honolulu Theater Company, founded in 1910, was known for its high-quality productions and talented actors. Another notable troupe was the Hawaiian Opera Theater, which performed operas in both Hawaiian and English.

A Decline and Rebirth

With the advent of motion pictures, the popularity of live theater began to decline. Many theaters closed their doors, and those that remained struggled to compete with the new entertainment medium. By the 1950s, Hawaiian theater had reached a low point.

However, in the 1960s, a revival of interest in live performance began. New theaters were established, and existing ones were renovated. The Honolulu

Theater for Youth, founded in 1965, became a leading force in the development of children's theater in Hawai'i.

A Legacy of Entertainment

Today, Hawaiian theater continues to thrive. There are dozens of theaters throughout the islands, hosting a wide variety of productions. From Broadway musicals to local plays, there is something for every taste.

The legacy of Hawaiian theater is a testament to the state's rich cultural heritage. Theaters have provided a space for creativity, entertainment, and social connection for generations of islanders. "Theatres of Hawai'i: Images of America" captures this vibrant history through a captivating collection of vintage photographs that bring the golden age of entertainment back to life.

Book Overview

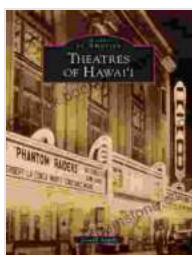
Published by Arcadia Publishing, "Theatres of Hawai'i: Images of America" is a coffee-table book that features over 200 vintage photographs from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin Archives. The book is divided into four chapters:

- **Early Theaters (1847-1900):** This chapter explores the early days of Hawaiian theater, from the establishment of the first theater in Honolulu to the rise of vaudeville and burlesque shows.
- **The Golden Age of Hawaiian Theater (1900-1930):** This chapter showcases the grand theaters and world-renowned performers that made Hawai'i a major destination for entertainment during the early 20th century.
- **Decline and Rebirth (1930-1960):** This chapter examines the challenges that Hawaiian theater faced with the advent of motion

pictures and the subsequent revival of live performance in the 1960s.

- **Legacy of Entertainment (1960-Present):** This chapter highlights the thriving theater scene in Hawai'i today, from established theaters to new and innovative venues.

"Theatres of Hawai'i: Images of America" is a must-have for anyone interested in the history of entertainment in the Aloha State. Ralph S. Ono has compiled a captivating collection of vintage photographs that bring the golden age of Hawaiian theater back to life. This book is a valuable addition to any coffee table or library, and it is sure to captivate readers of all ages.

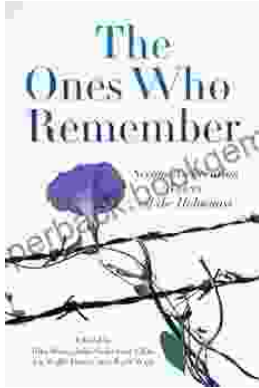


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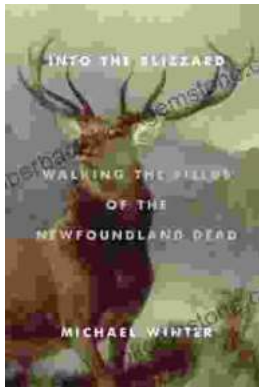
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