

the REEL SCOOP

SYLVANIA HAD THEATERS? YUP!

The first movie theater in Sylvania, The Sylvan Theater north of Chandler's on Main Street, opened on October 29, 1938, with much fanfare. The local newspaper reported that owner and developer, Paul Pontius, had spared no expense for the beautiful theater that had a seating capacity of 428. The first movie shown there was "Four Daughters" from Warner Brothers. The following year, Ernest Walter purchased the theater and ran it until 1958 with Richard Campbell as manager until he was appointed postmaster in 1955.

The property has a rich history dating back to 1854 when the original stone building operated as various blacksmith shops until 1938 when the theater was built on the site. After the theater closed, the property was totally renovated and reopened by Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur Hale as Hale Drugs with apartments upstairs. In 1970, the building was converted again to an office building and still operates as one today. Take a walk past Chandler's and imagine the lit marquee of this old theater just north of the alleyway!

While the Sylvan Theater was still running, the Star-Lite Drive-In opened in May 1955, on the 20 acres that is now occupied by ProMedica on Monroe Street. It was developed by Ray Searles who also owned the Parkside Drive-In (Sundance Kid), the Telegraph, and the Princess Theater in downtown Toledo. Anyone remember them? The first showing on the single cinemascope screen was "Untamed" with Tyrone Power, Rita Hayward, Richard Egan, and Rita Moreno.

COMING SOON

MARCH/APRIL 2023

Private events

MAY 17, 2023

Nature Documentary & Special Guest Speaker
Outdoor Sylvania (formerly TOPS) at Nederhouser, details to come

SUMMER, 2023

Outdoor Movie Event - Outdoor Sylvania details to come

Sylvania STEM - Outdoor Movie Event details to come

Check out our website at starlitetheatergroup.org or follow us on social media for other news and upcoming events.



The Sylvan Theater opened on Main Street in October, 1938, and operated continuously until 1958.

After his death in 1960, Ray Searles' sons took ownership of the theaters and other family businesses. In the late 60s, the increased value of the Star-Lite property and urban area development were deciding factors for Ed Searles' decision to close the drive-in and redevelop the site. The last

movies shown there were "2001, A Space Odyssey" and "First Men in the Moon." Demolished on October 1, 1969, it was the last drive-in to be built in the Toledo area and the first one to close.

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ANN ARBOR
MICHIGAN & STATE THEATERS
Ann Arbor Film Festival
3/21-3/25
Online options available

MICHIGAN THEATER highlights
All Quiet on the Western Front, 4/14
Banff Center Mountain Film Festival
World Tour, 4/16
Not Just for Kids: Gus Goes Green, 4/23

STATE THEATER highlights
A Quiet Girl, opens 3/10
A Good Person, opens 3/24

ADRIAN
THE CROSSWELL THEATER
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus:
The Musical, 3/17-19
ABBA Tribute, 4/21-22

DETROIT
CINEMA DETROIT
The Quiet Girl, opens 3/10

SYLVANIA HAD THEATERS? (Continued)



Star-Lite Drive-In was located on the site of the current ProMedica Health & Wellness Center, and operated from 1955 to 1969.

Renamed Starlite Plaza Shopping Center, the new site would eventually host Anderson’s Garden & Auto Repair and Churchill’s Supermarket as well as various other businesses in an outdoor mall-like setting.

Churchill’s closed in 2001, and the new ProMedica Health & Wellness Center opened on the site in 2016.

Starlite Theater Group’s name was chosen to honor Sylvania’s movie theater history. Part of our mission is to have a multi-use theater facility in our community — not only for mainstream movies as in the past, but for film not otherwise shown locally, live performance, music, lectures, art exhibits, arts education, and other public and private events. We hope 2023 will bring us closer to achieving that goal! — *Linda Szyskowski*

youngSTARS universe

OUR OSCAR GOES TO...MARCEL THE SHELL!



“A gorgeous, life-affirming film.”
— *Chris Wasser,*
Sunday Independent (Ireland)

Rated PG. May be too slow moving for very young children. Available on most streaming services. And check your local theater listings.

Even though “Marcel the Shell with Shoes On” didn’t win the Oscar this year, it has received plenty of other awards, and it gets our “Oscar.” A24 film’s first venture into kids’ movies is a hybrid live-action, stop-motion animation, cinema verité style film about an adorable one-inch-tall shell named Marcel who ekes out a colorful existence with his grandmother, Connie. Once part of a large community of shells, they now live alone — the sole survivors of a mysterious tragedy. When a documentary film director discovers them in his Airbnb rental, he makes a film of them and posts it online. The film brings Marcel millions of followers, new dangers, and the hope of finding his long-lost family.

Originally a series of short films released in 2010-2014, A24 Films gave creator/star, Jenny Slate (Zootopia, Despicable Me 3), a chance to make Marcel into a feature film. An outline of the story was written, but most of the dialogue was improvised, recorded, and assembled. This process was repeated and refined until the film’s completion — over 7 years’ time.

Marcel delivers a funny and extraordinarily profound story that, though populated by weird little one-eyed seashells in sneakers, is as human as anything you’re likely to encounter. It stars Jenny Slate and Isabella Rossellini. — *Jennifer Kellow-Fiorini*

Don’t forget that the Toledo Lucas County Library has movies to borrow free with your library card.

HOST A PRIVATE MOVIE PARTY WITH US

If you can’t afford your own “movie room” or don’t want to invest in a projector and all its trappings, Starlite is your answer.

You can book a private movie event with us at your home for a birthday party, special day like Valentine’s, an anniversary, graduation, or just a get-together with family and friends. A suitable area with electrical service will do.

There’s no charge for us to check out your space — indoors or out — so call us at 419.283.4291 for more information and pricing, and enjoy a theater experience at home — a movie on our large 120” screen and Harbinger speaker sound enjoyed with family and friends!

PUBLIC EVENTS

Want to host a movie event for your organization? Call us at 419.283.4291.

DONATIONS help support our arts initiative and our long-term goal to bring a multi-purpose theater and event space to the Sylvania community. It’s TAX DEDUCTIBLE!



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