

THE CINEMA  
HALLS PROJECT  
~~REPEAT~~ SHOWS

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آرہا ہے COMING









This series visually traces the lives of Bombay's disappearing single-screen cinema halls. Once symbols of modernity, the relationship that many of these halls share with the city has changed significantly as colonial Bombay metamorphoses into 'post-industrial' Mumbai. For long these cinemas were the core of the industrial success of Bombay cinema (and, for that matter, all kinds of cinemas) through their dense practice of 'repeat show' viewings that ensured the 'super hit' status of a film. Today, they constitute a waiting room for the game of real estate; as the game swings in one direction or another, their fate will be decided. Meanwhile 'repeat shows' dwindle in the face of a new order of development and entertainment strategies.





On the one hand, this collection of images is a repository of the architectural form and interior details of these buildings that range from the classic to the idiosyncratic. These single-screen cinema halls seem to exist today in defiance of the generic aesthetic and cultural experience of the city's new multiplexes. However, to view these halls merely nostalgically – and to relegate them to history – would be to deny them a place in the present, our lived present that is in constant play with both time past and pending. As these cinemas, which are simultaneously spaces of dwelling, labour and spectatorship, are explored, they reveal themselves to be sites of deep affective investment, traces of which are evident in every nook and corner.



From	To	Name	length	Censor number	Date	Producer	Distributor
22.6.58	Sun. Morn.	The Prodigal	99.7	13886.	30.8.55	M. G. M.	M. G. M.
26.6.58	Thurs. Morn.	The King's Thief	72.76	13973-1.2	31.1.57	M. G. M.	M. G. M.
27.6.58	3-7.58	Doctor (Asp.)	100.	21909	4.11.57	advison films.	
"	"	Film dater	80	18369.	11.1.57	United Film maker	
"	"	Chotumal Motunel	80	20980	15.7.57	J. M. P. Ltd.	
"	"	Sohani Raat-	75	23703.	19.2.58	"	
"	"	Shekhand Ladke	75	23082	16.1.58	A. F. A.	
"	"	Fresh Fragrance-	262	24355	29.5.58	United Film makers	
"	"	Steel for Progress.	1689.	24473	18.6.58	Films Division.	
"	"	Police	13787	24423	9.6.58	Pradep Kumar.	Chitra Bharti.
"	"	Love is an Infection	30	23707	22.3.58	United Film makers.	U. J. Pictures
29.6.58	Sun. Morn.	Running wild	7204.			Universal Picture	U. J. Pictures
3.7.58	Thurs. Morn.	Red Sundown.	7079	15814	27.3.56	Universal Pictures	
4.7.58	10-7.68	Sohani Raat-	75	23703	19.2.58	J. M. P. Ltd.	
"	"	Shekhand Ladke	75	23082	16.1.58	A. F. A.	
"	"	Chotumal Motunel	80	20980	15.7.57	J. M. P. Ltd.	
"	"	Cool + Clean	60	20630	12.6.57	United Film maker.	
"	"	Sparkling Remedy	100	24207	12.5.58	J. Walter Thomson	

