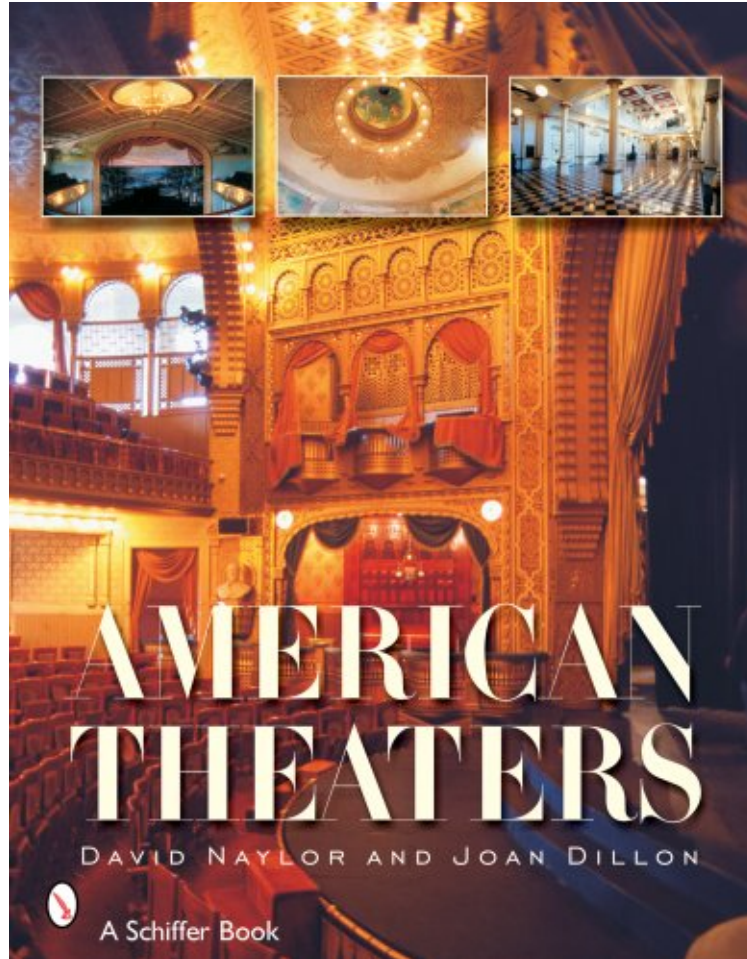


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American Theaters

Joan Dillon

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and stage history. The book profiles some forty of the finest theatres in operation around the country, covering a range of structures and styles and blending original photos by David Naylor - many published here for the first time - to contrast histories of different venues, from playhouses and opera houses to concert halls. The state-by-state listing of over 200 surviving 19th century theatres assures any serious buff will easily locate venues.

American stage theaters are as diverse as the performances staged in them. Marvels of survival and revival, these robust structures are the special places where live performers and audience are suspended in a timeless aura of mystery, myth, and magic. Celebrate the history of theaters from the nineteenth century to present, with beautifully illustrated profiles of 40 of the finest still in operation around the United States. Leading us backstage and onstage, from lobby to loge, this book embraces the full spectrum of theater types and styles. David Naylor's breathtaking original photographs include stunning examples of early Eastern town hall opera houses, Midwest venues, and boomtown opera houses. They capture in splendid detail unique designs and character of revival halls and Chautauquas, simple community halls and library theaters, and ambitious Victorian playhouses, grand opera houses, and concert halls. Supplemented with state-by-state and chronological listings of over 200 more surviving nineteenth-century theaters, this book will surprise even the most dedicated theater buff with discoveries as well as old favorites.

From the Publisher This beautifully-photographed book offers the complete history of American theaters, highlighting the 40 best theaters in America, from small-town halls, to elaborate performance houses. 190 black and white photographs; and two, 8-page, full-color inserts with 47 original color photographs enhance this one-of-a-kind history of American theater. A beautiful gift book, this loving tribute to the theatres of the 19th century will be valued for its story and its brilliant photographs.