

AMERICA'S HOMETOWN MOVIE THEATERS: PLEASE REMAIN STANDING

BENITA VANWINKLE

Foreword by Henry B. Aldridge, Emeritus Professor, Eastern Michigan University

An enchanting visual journey for anyone who loves movie theaters, film history, and architecture!



Available April 23, 2026

National Theatre Day

ISBN 978-1735600147

Retail \$75.00

- Hardcover
- 608 pages
- 525 photographs, mostly in color
- 9.25 x 8.50 inches

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This remarkable book features 525 photographs of outdoor and single-screen movie theaters built before 1965 when the multiplex began to dominate the landscape. For more than forty years, photographer Benita VanWinkle has traveled across the country in search of hometown movie theaters and drive-ins to photograph for her ongoing documentary project *Please Remain Standing*—a visual appeal to preserve America's remaining community theaters and drive-ins. VanWinkle has captured every architectural type: from the simple Washington Theater in Shelby, North Carolina, built from a Quonset hut, to the grand Ohio Theater in Columbus, Ohio, with its dazzling chandelier. Her photographs depict magnificent Art Deco detailing, Mayan ornamentation, elaborate marquees, and whimsical road signs that still entice moviegoers to the once ubiquitous drive-in.

Selected from thousands of images VanWinkle has made to date for the project, those reproduced in this hefty volume represent theaters from each of the fifty states and the District of Columbia. Extensive captions tell a brief history of the theaters represented, conjuring up a time when Americans embraced the shared experience of going out to the movies—a few hours in which strangers are united through mutual tears and laughter. VanWinkle's photographs celebrate these structures and their continuing importance in building a sense of community.

Photographer Benita VanWinkle is Associate Professor of Art at High Point University in High Point, North Carolina. She worked as a photojournalist for several years before obtaining her MFA in Cinema and Photography at Southern Illinois University. That early training continues to impact not only the academic courses she develops for students but also the independent documentary projects she pursues outside of teaching. Among her ongoing photography portfolios are *Old Glory*, the American flag encountered during her travels, and *The View from Here*, her observations of everyday life. Her most ambitious project yet is *Please Remain Standing*. Since 1982, she has documented more than 1,100 movie theaters. VanWinkle actively exhibits her work and lectures on documentary photography. Her website, busybstudio.com, also showcases her love of bookbinding and mixed media work.



ALLIANCE THEATRE, ALLIANCE, NEBRASKA, 2023
Opened 1937, 869 seating capacity



STATE THEATER, LEWELLEN, NEBRASKA, 2022
Opened 1932, seating capacity unknown