

In Defense of the Cineplex Odeon

A Published Letter to *Calendar Letters*, in the *Los Angeles Times*

July 18, 1987

Personal Note: I had won tickets to the Grand Opening of the Cineplex Odeon theaters, in Universal City, for having picked The Godfather as my favorite movie—it was listed amongst the top ten most popular movies in a contest conducted by the Los Angeles Times. That was quite an evening: Not only was the marquee of the huge multiplex studded with titles like Gone With The Wind, Casablanca, and It's A Wonderful Life; but also our audience, for The Godfather, was able to meet and chat in person with Abe Vigoda, a family favorite, and the parents of Francis Ford Coppola—he, a famous musician; she, an accomplished novelist.

I am afraid I must disagree with Kent Wilson, who wrote in criticizing the beautiful Odeon (Saturday Letters, July 11).

Although I must admit that the print of *The Godfather*, like that of *Dragnet*, which he saw [on another evening], did have some glitches, I found parking both neat and convenient, with escalators to ground level; the seats no more crowded than any other, less ambitious cinema complex; the screen and sound superior to that of the average theater [I believe this was one of the first venues for Lucasfilm's state-of-the-art THX audio system]; and the Art Deco architecture such as to make movie-going an experience again.