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# SHARED DREAMS

KIEZ-KINOS IN BERLIN

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## ABSTRACT

In an era where digital media is ever-present in our daily lives, movie theaters offer a unique space for uninterrupted storytelling, allowing us to form deep connections with the narratives we watch. Considering the stimulant-rich urban life, watching successive images in dark, cave-like movie theaters is uniquely akin to dreaming, significantly affecting us emotionally and mentally. To investigate this dream-like collective movie theater experience within a stimulant-rich urban life, the study turns to the concept of "kiez-kino" (neighborhood cinema) in Berlin. The thesis aims to study the potential of kiez-kinos in enriching the movie theater experience pertaining to their social, spatial and curatorial aspects. The research begins by looking into established literature about spectatorship, cinematic exhibition and its space over the years and then a theoretical framework suggesting that the movie theater experience is akin to collective dreaming. To analyze this dream-like state, the thesis introduces three relationships -viewer-viewer, viewer-space, and viewer-film-by which the kiez-kinos can be examined. Further, three movie theaters are studied: an independent kiez-kino institution, a kiez-kino affiliated with a chain, a regular movie theater associated with a large organization, especially to analyze by comparison how the ordinary movie theater differs from the other two kiez-kinos. These institutions are analyzed by distributing questionnaires to viewers after screenings, conducting interviews with founders, managers, or staff, and utilizing oral historical research. This research concludes by demonstrating how the ilm-watching experience is enriched through this specific typology of "kiez-kino," further contributing to the discourse around the contemporary cinematic experiences and its possible futures.