



MARIN COUNTY MOVIE THEATRES

By Mike Rivest <http://movie-theatre.org/contact.htm>

CORTE MADERA

Cinema **OPEN**

41 Tamal Vista Blvd
1970

AKA: Pacific Cinema

The complex was renovated from floor to ceiling by Pacific in 1999 or 2000 and is said to be one of Steven Spielberg's favorite movie theaters.

Owners:

1970 Blumenfield Theatres
1990 Cinerama Theatres (owned by Pacific Theatres)
1995 Pacific Theatres
2001 Century Theatres



David Pine via www.cinematour.com

Corte Madera Cinema I & II

CLOSED

? 1980

General Cinemas owned this twin.

FAIRFAX

Fairfax **OPEN**

9 Broadway
1950-

Expanded to four screens by 1998 and a fifth screen installed in 2004

Owners:

1950 Blumenfield Theatres
1990 Cinerama Theatres (owned by Pacific Theatres)
1995 Blumenfield Theatres
2000 Cinema West



LARKSPAR

Festival Fourplex **CLOSED**

? 1990-? 1998

Mann owned this quad.

Lark **OPEN**

549 Magnolia Ave
1937-2000, 2004-398 seats.

Blumenfield Theatres owned this theatre until 2000



Scott Neff via www.cinematour.com

Larkspar Landing 4

OPEN

500 Larkspur Landing Cir

? 2000-

Century Theatres owns this 4-screen theatre.



David Pine

MILL VALLEY

Cine Arts at Sequoia 2

OPEN

AKA: Sequoia

25 Throckmorton Ave

2001-

690 seats.

From www.cinematreasures.org

The Sequoia was built and operated for almost 50 years by the Blumenfeld Theatres circuit of San Francisco, from its opening in Feb. 1929. The theatre was arguably the most beautiful one in operation in Marin County, north of San Francisco, during this period. In its early days, in addition to silent, and later, sound films, it featured vaudeville-style acts on its full stage and live musical entertainment between shows on a large Wurlitzer theatre organ.

Operation of the theatre was taken over by Pacific Theatres in 1976, one year after it was "twinned".

The lobby has actually undergone a few remodels over the years. First was the addition of its original snack bar, tucked under the stadium balcony - one of the first in Northern California - on the side of the lobby. When the theatre was first



twinned in 1975, a new snack bar was installed in the center of the lobby running its length, and effectively cutting it in half, with a box office at its "nose" by the front entry.

In 1999, Pacific Theatres remodeled the theatre once again, replacing the original auditorium seats with plush, high-back loge style ones, improved the notoriously bad between-auditorium soundproofing, and installed digital sound capabilities in both theatres and once again, completely changed the lobby layout. At this time some of the original architectural details in the lobby were uncovered and/or restored, and a new snack bar was installed along the left side of the lobby, opening it back up to better flow. The facade of the building was given a cosmetic facelift and the marquee was replaced with one fashioned after the theatre's original 1929 marquee.

In 2001, Pacific sold its Marin Division to Century Theatres, who now operate the Sequoia as a "CineArts" theatre, specializing in art, independent and foreign films. The building is still owned by the Blumenfeld family and The Sequoia remains host to the annual Mill Valley Film Festival, held the first two weeks each October.

The roof fell in late in 2004 forcing it to close for repairs. It reopened in 2005

Off Center **CLOSED**

777 Edgewood Ave

? 1990

Sequoia

AKA: Cine Arts at Sequoia

25 Throckmorton Ave

Feb 1929-2001

1027 seats.

See Cine Arts for more info.

MARIN COUNTY MOVIE THEATRES

By Mike Rivest <http://movie-theatre.org/contact.htm>

NOVATO

Cinema II **CLOSED**

1973-1989

Novato **CLOSED**

924 Grant

1948-1991

399 seats.

Blumenfield Theatres owned this theatre in 1990

Rowland Plaza 8 **OPEN**

44 Rowland Way

? 1995

Owners:

1995 Pacific Theatres

2001 Century Theatres



Sausalito **CLOSED**

? 1995

SAN ANSELMO

Tamalpais **CLOSED**

Sir Francis Drake

? 1945-? 1980

1145 seats.

Blumenfield Theatres owned this 1145-seat cinema.

SAN RAFAEL

101 Drive-In **CLOSED**

76 Smith

? 1969-? 1980

Blumenfield Theatres owned this drive-in

Century 5 **CLOSED**

? 2000

Pacific Theatres owned this theatre.

El Camino **CLOSED**

906 4th st

? 1930-? 1955

1377 seats.

Lyric **CLOSED**

4th st

1912-?

Marin Motor Movie

CLOSED

San Quentin Rd

? 1955-? 1980

Blumenfield Theatres owned this drive-in

Montecito **CLOSED**

? 1975-1989

Blumenfield Theatres owned this theatre

Northgate **CLOSED**

Northgate Mall

1973-1983

Blumenfield Theatres owned this drive-in

Northgate 15 **OPEN**

7000 Northgate Mall

? 1995-

Owners:

1995 Pacific Theatres

2001 Century Theatres



Orpheus **CLOSED**

1118 4th St

1920-1938

MARIN COUNTY MOVIE THEATRES

By Mike Rivest <http://movie-theatre.org/contact.htm>

Rafael **OPEN**

1118 4th St
1938-1989, 1999-
1019 seats.

1918 The Orpheus theater opens, priding itself on "showing movies of merit and musical selections."

1937 Fire in the theater. Orpheus closes for renovations.

1938 Theater re-opens. An Art Deco palace with grand staircase, new and improved projectors, Henry Martins murals and a new name: "The Rafael."

1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake! Theater closes.

1993 San Rafael Redevelopment Agency and Film Institute of Northern California (now the California

Film Institute) join forces to revive theater.

1995 San Rafael Planning commission votes unanimously to approve the Rafael Film Center Project.

1996 Film Institute announces capital campaign.

1997 Construction on Rafael begins under the direction of nationally renowned architect Mark Cavagnero.

1999 Rafael Film Center Opens to the public April 16.

2003 April, name changed to Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center.

George Lucas did a commercial for Panasonic in Japan in front of this theatre, the white t-bird in that commercial is from American Graffiti.

Owners:

1937 Blumenfield Theatres

1989 Cinerama Theatres (Pacific Theatres)

Regency 6 **OPEN**

280 Smith Ranch Rd
? 1990-

Owners:

1990 Cinerama Theatres (Pacific Theatres)

1995 Pacific Theatres

2001 Century Theatres



David Pine

War Department **CLOSED**

? 1940-? 1945

SAUSALTO

Gate **CLOSED**

668 Bridgeway
? 1940-? 1950
325 seats.

Marin **OPEN**

101 Caledonia St
? 1945-

604 seats.

This theatre was triplexed in the early 1990's

Owners:

1945 Blumenfield Theatres

1989 Cinerama Theatres (Pacific Theatres)

1995 Pacific Theatres

2001 Century Theatres



David Pine

Princess **CLOSED**

? 1930-? 1935

TIBURON

Playhouse **OPEN**

40 Main

1948-

Twinned in 1989, 3rd screen installed 1995

Owners:

1980 Blumenfield Theatres

1990 Cinema West



30 listings

June 13, 2005