

ib TUSCHINSKI: THE PERFECT ANTIDOTE TO IBC AMSTERDAM

While in town for IBC, Mark Trompeteler stepped back in time at the Tuschinski Theatre



Only a short tram ride from outside the busy halls of the IBC show, you can take a trip to the Tuschinski Theatre, 26-34 Reguliersbreestraat, a stop or so on the tram past Rembrandtplein. The Tuschinski Theatre is a step back in time for cinema lovers and those interested in film and showbusiness. Built in 1921 at a cost of 4 million guilders by a Polish tailor who felt the workers of Amsterdam deserved somewhere special to relax and enjoy entertainment on their free days, it remains a working six screen cinema still to this day, operated by the Pathé group.

BUILT IN THE "JUGENDSTIL" STYLE

This amazing cinema building contains elements of Jugendstil — a building style that slightly predates Art Deco and the "Amsterdamsche School". It is a fabulously preserved 1920s cinema, that escaped damage during WWII and retains many of its original amazing features, murals, and decorations. Beautiful auditoria feature balconies that were designed to balance, thus removing the need for supporting pillars, ensuring no seats have an obstructed view of the screen. The cinema still retains its 1923 working Wurlitzer 160

organ, originally used to accompany silent films, with a Wurlitzer-Strunk theatre organ added in 1940. During the war years the cinema was called the Tivoli, a name presumably more acceptable to the German occupiers than the name of a Polish tailor.

Between 1998 and 2002, the cinema underwent a major renovation. It was also expanded, with a new, more modern wing that connects to the original building via a corridor. The new wing added three extra auditoria to the Tuschinski. The main auditorium today, which includes a stage behind the screen, seats 735 as opposed to 1,600 in its original, narrower seat, heyday. There are a further 696 seats across the other five screens. As well as being a premiere national screen in Holland, it hosts many premieres of Dutch films and has been the venue for many live shows. **CT**

MORE INFO

➡ The Tuschinski Theatre is open daily with two 45 minute tours between 09:30 and 11:00, costing €10. To make a booking, email rondleidingen@pathe.nl or visit www.pathe.nl/bioscoop/tuschinski



▲ A sympathetic restoration of the Tuschinski Theatre between 1998 and 2002 honours the architectural style of the building perfectly