

Review: 10232 Palace Cinema

By *lluigib*

Pictures by *LEGO® System A/S*



Set: 10232 Palace Cinema
Number of parts: 2196
Minifigs: 6

The seventh art makes its appearance in all its glory with the new Palace Cinema in the series "Creator Expert" (the new "theme" that appeared with the Horizon Express). It really is not the first movie theatre, as in the Town Plan set (10184) there was a 60's American style cinema, but this isn't the same set, nor is it the same style.

The Palace cinema is built in three stages, as most of this type of sets. In the first step I built the ground floor and the limo. In the second phase the first floor and in the third one the roof, the neon sign and the outdoor accessories.

The first four minifigures are assembled right at the beginning. They are the popcorn seller, the limo driver, the actress (child) and the press reporter. A good choice to start with. Then we have the limousine. I dare to say that is inspired in a Cadillac limousine from the 30s, especially the front grille arrangement and "American" style vehicle. I think the wheels are a bit small for the size and type of wheel arch. The effect is a little weird.

A new feature in this set is the appearance, for the first time, of a 32x32 red baseplate to simulate a red carpet. The tiled floor in the street is nothing new, except for one of the "star" parts of this set. It is a 2x2 tile with a star, like those on the walk of fame in Hollywood. In this case, instead of names of actors, there are 1x1 bricks printed inside to make it a generic piece.

It is a corner building. On one side there are advertisements of movies that are shown in the theatre. On the other side there are two ticket offices with a small gap to exchange money for tickets. The main entrance is on the corner.

Inside the building there is the ticket sales desk with two cash registers. On the other side there is a popcorn counter with the drinks machine, sweets and, how could it be otherwise, the popcorn machine. The ground floor is illuminated with three wall lamps. To access the projection room there is a staircase that begins with a spiral section and ends in a straight one.

I regret to say that once I had completed the construction of the ground floor, I was a little disappointed. There is hardly anything that catches my attention and we have not seen in previous sets. To highlight something that I liked, I will mention the entrance door: it is a wooden and glass double door, with the gold handle.

Something that has not especially pleased me is that the set has a generous stickers sheet. I understand that there are parts that are hardly printable because of the cost involved. I also think the posters of the movies are needed but I hope this is an exception and that the next modular buildings will come without them.

Talking about the advertisements of the movies, there are some interesting funny references. The first one is "The Brick Separator" turned into a Godzilla monster lookalike. The actors are the set designers with their surname "legolized". The second one will be, for sure, controversial. I do not know





if they have chosen it as a tribute or with a bit of bad idea. The "Mystery on the Monorail" will certainly generate all kinds of comments. The third one is "Forever Sorting", a romantic comedy about the adventures of a couple ordering their LEGO® pieces.

The first floor is the projection room. On this floor there are two spectators of the projection (what would a movie theatre be without spectators?). Outside, again, nothing stands out as an interesting novelty. The techniques used are very similar to earlier buildings. Inside there are other interesting details, like the rows of seats. They are the typical red velvet ones. There

are two rows with three seats, with a total length of 8 studs each one. In this case I really like the outcome of the seats with a very simple technique and with a small number of parts. On the wall is the projection screen, white and, again, with a sticker. The screen is flanked by a red velvet curtain. It is a colourful detail that breaks up the monotony of the wall. On the other side of the room is the projector, also vintage style. It is on a platform where there is also the chair for the projectionist. Finally, a stair leads to the roof trap door.

The roof is the part that gives glory to a building that, until now, I find it a little disappointing. That does not mean I do not



like it, but up to this point the set does not seem particularly interesting.

On the sides there are two red ceramic tile roofs. To give a real effect the designers used 1x1 round brick with two shades of red. This way, the roofs are not monotonous and it gives an interesting feeling of wear. In the middle (at the corner) there is a Chinese style roof. At its bottom there is a Chinese golden hat and on top an oriental style turret decorated with sabres. Once the roof is placed on the building, it gains many positive points.

But the construction has not yet been finished. The outside sign of the theatre is waiting. It is a sign consisting of two parts: the marquee and the name of the cinema.

The marquee covers the entrance and has lights that light the front door, as well as protecting spectators and guest stars from the rain. It also has the poster that advertises the film that is being shown, in this case, the premiere of "Three Clicks & a Snap" (stickers again) starring "Minnie Figure" (is it a reference to Disney?). The light blue, black and gold combination is nice.

The theatre sign is built entirely with parts, like the other modular buildings. The letters are white, with a light blue background and finished in gold.

To finish building the theatre, there are some fences, separating the public from the celebrities, and the spotlights, essential in any premiere.



Once all the parts are placed, the feeling I have is different... better. What I was missing at the end of the first floor is offset by the roof and the sign. The outside simplicity is broken by colourful elements and attractive shapes. Now it looks like a complete building, which satisfies you when you look at it.

The Palace Cinema is the seventh building of the collection (eighth if we consider the Market Street). It is logical that each time it is more difficult to create the "wow" effect for the fans because we are very well used to it. The Palace Cinema is a beautiful building, but, in my opinion, it is not the best in the series. Obviously the oriental style is a definite plus, since it breaks with the other building shapes. The inside is somehow poor, although I understand that a theatre does not provide a lot of opportunity for inside details. I guess that is why the limo is included in the set. A success. The use of stickers is the most negative aspect in my opinion.

Do not miss the opportunity and come to the premiere of "Three Clicks & a Snap" at Palace Cinema. It is a unique event and you mustn't miss it!

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