

Reading Response # 1

Outline

Introductory Essay

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- Factors that led to the development of Times Square
 - Mass transit
 - Real estate
 - Tourism
- 1885 Oscar Hammerstein built Olympia theatre
- 1882 Casino Theatre
- 1833 Metropolitan Opera House
- 1893 American Theatre
 - This location was now becoming a safer designation for general amusement
- Theatre was a lucrative space for amusement, especially before film, television and radio
- Expansion of railroads increased the ability for combination companies to tour
- New York was the site for rehearsals space, costumes, and makeup companies. This was all of what the combination companies used before and during their tours.
- Theatres benefited from paying their workers low wages. This was before unions were formed.
- Actors were not paid during the weeks of rehearsals. They were paid very little when the shows did open.
- 1886- Theatrical Syndicate was formed.
 - Controlled many theaters
 - Forced many managers to use syndicate theatres only
- Shubert Brothers challenged the Syndicate
- 1907, Shubert's and Syndicate call a truce.
- 1915 "Birth of a Nation" film brought competition to theatre shows on Broadway
- 1915 Vaudeville thrived with the sale of the Victoria Theatre. Now the Palace Theatre which was further down Broadway was the home of Vaudeville.
- The Victoria was demolished and replaced with the Rialto Theatre which was strictly used for film
- 1920s – Theatres were now being built with less leg room, more seats and less square footage because the real estate was becoming more expensive and scarce.
- During WWII adult entertainment moved into Times Square which brought along with it prostitution and drugs
- 1980s- developed focused on the west side and new hotels were built
- 42nd Street Project contributed to the restoration of 7 legitimate theatres.