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Club-A-Rama Week 31:

GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE

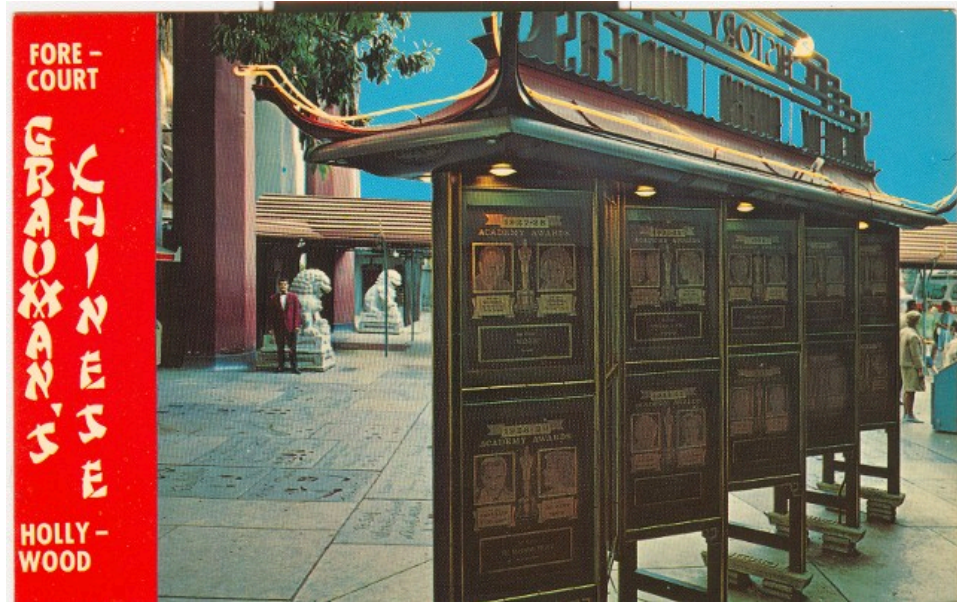
1962 Hollywood, CA



GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE, meant to resemble a Chinese pagoda, is a movie theater on Hollywood Blvd. in Hollywood, on the historic Hollywood Walk of Fame. It was built in 1927 by Sid Grauman. Probably the most well-known feature of the theater are the concrete blocks in the forecourt and surrounding walkways, which bear the footprints, handprints and signatures of popular movie personalities over the past 85 years. Sid Grauman explained his version of how he first got the idea: "pure accident. I walked right into it. While we were building the theatre, I accidentally happened to step in some soft concrete. And there it was. So, I went to Mary Pickford immediately. Mary put her foot into it."

The Academy Awards ceremonies were held at **GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE** 1944-46. (Now they are held next door at the Kodak Theatre.)

I added blue colorant to a red/pink vat of hot wax to arrive at the color for this week's **GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE**. At right you can see the progression of the color mixing through the internal injection plunger and pipe areas as it blended with the newly colored main area of the vat.



Above is one of my more favorite vintage photos - an early 1960s postcard I bought on ebay. Notice anything familiar looking at the extreme right edge of the postcard . . . ?



Jimmy with sisters Jennifer, Jancie and Joanne, having some fun at the Penny Arcade.



The Feb. 1978 issue of TEEN BEAT MAGAZINE included this photo of teen sensation JIMMY BAI0 making his own souvenir of MANN'S CHINESE THEATRE in 1978. (The theater was renamed after its new owner from 1973-2001, but changed back to its original GRAUMANS name after 2001.)



The PAGODA mold was vended at **GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE**, then at **MANN'S CHINESE THEATRE**, for several decades. The moldset itself dates to 1962, and the postcard up above proves that the original Mold-A-Rama, Inc. had it on location at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in the early 1960s. There is a vintage photo of the HOTEL (See Week 3) showing the machine still on location in 1972, and the vintage photo to the right with Eldin Irwin himself shows the machine continued on location into the 1980s (note the 50c price.)





The PAGODA mold was STILL on location at **MANN'S CHINESE THEATRE** in this vintage \$1 era photo from 1986. Check out the *rotating LED display* behind the plexi backglass - Sweet!





The **GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE** moldset is a pre-numbering system, early style design placing it squarely in 1962 along with the other group of moldsets made right after the success of Mold-A-Rama at the 1962 Seattle World's Fair. In fact, the cooling design is very similar to that of the **HOLLYWOOD BOWL** (See Week 27 of the Club-A-Rama), placing it around the time that the **HOLLYWOOD BOWL** moldset was made.

Disclaimers: The color and/or exact condition of the MOLD you get in the CLUB-A-RAMA may or may not be as shown. Not for children under 3.

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If YOU would like to own this very moldset (and perhaps even include a fully operating MOLDVILLE machine to go with it) so you can reissue your own souvenirs from 50 years ago, please email MoldvilleMachine@gmail.com TODAY - before someone else beats you to it!

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