

SPRACHMAN, Abraham (1894 – 1971)

Many of Ontario's more interesting movie theatres built during the 1930's were the work of the Toronto based architect, Abraham Sprachman.

He was born in Galicia, Poland on July 12, 1894 and emigrated to Canada at the turn of the century. When Abraham was still a young boy, his parents made the difficult decision to uproot their family and start a new life in the new world. Sprachman attended the Toronto Technical High School from 1915 to 1917 and by 1920 had received his architectural training. That year he set up practice with Harold Kaplan and began a long a

successful partnership. The Fashion Building, 130 Spadina Avenue (1927), a medieval office building in Toronto's garment district, and the York Piper Building in Toronto are some of the firm's early commercial buildings.

In the 1930's, Sprachman and Kaplan began to be known for their theatre designs. The Eglinton Theatre, Eglinton Avenue West (1935), with its stylish marquee survives today as a perfect example of art deco movie houses of the time. Other theatres by Kaplan and Sprachman are the Capital Theatre, Sarnia (1936) and the Elgin Theatre, (1938) and the Somerset Theatres (1938), Ottawa.

Important work:

(with Harold S. Kaplan)

The Fashion Building, Spadina Ave., Toronto	1926-27
Oakwood Mansions Apartments, Toronto	1927
Balmy Beach Mansions, Queen St. E., Toronto	1927
York Mercantile Building, York St., Toronto	1929-30
Glengrove Apartments, Toronto	1930-31
Eglinton Theatre, Toronto	1935-36
Capitol Theatre, Sarnia	1936
Somerset Theatre, Ottawa	1938
Vogue Theatre, Vancouver, B.C.	1940-41