

Montreal's Porn Theater, A Must See

by Macinella Yule



Montreal is one of Canada's biggest cities. It was bigger than Toronto at one point and it used to be the center of government when Canada was first founded. It is the biggest city in the province of Quebec; however, Quebec City is the capital.

Some of Montreal's highlights for the average tourist are:

1. Poultine (a delicious meal made of french fries, cheese curds, and gravy)
2. Mont Royal Mountain (more like a big hill)
3. The Street Art in the Plateau
4. Bagels
5. Old Port
6. Olympic Stadium

These are all family friendly activities and perhaps young people or couples might not think about looking in other places for some fun besides bars and nightclubs, which Montreal has a fair assortment.

However, what makes Montreal stand out from some other cities in Canada or maybe all over the world is it's porn theater.

Situated on Saint Laurent, Cinema l'Amour has been around since 1914. It has changed names a few times since, but it started out as a play theater. In the 20's and 30's, it was converted to a movie theater. It is the oldest cinema theater in Montreal and it became an adult movie theater in 1969. How fitting you can say.

It makes it no secret that this movie theater strictly showcases porn movies as movie posters grace the outside. The doors and windows are one way mirrors so people in the lobby can look out, but people on the street cannot look in. It is open from 11 am to 11 pm.

There was, pre-COVID, a special deal Mondays and Tuesdays that couples get in for free. For adults 18 to 65 (the price, at the time of writing, is \$12 CAD and those over 65 have a discount.

Many have made the remark of how clean the place is or who is the actual clientele of the theater, is it really open for everyone or is it mainly males that go? Others comment on is it worth paying when porn is free online. These are all valid questions, but remember, according to statistics, women watch just as much porn as men and according to their website they welcome all genders and sexual preferences. And for the last question, remember, you aren't paying for the porn itself, but the experience of being in a porn theater. How often does that happen?!

As a personal anecdote, I have been curious to go inside and see what it was about. By the time I got together with my boyfriend, we decided to make it a winter activity because there isn't much to do outside in the city due to all the snow, but before we could get to it in the late winter/early spring of 2020, COVID hit.

At the time of writing, I still have not been inside. I look forward to sharing my experiences when things open up and COVID is a distant memory.

Montreal is also known for its festivals. The street that this theater is located on hosts a street market type festival every summer and every time, the theater has a booth selling tickets and souvenirs such as shirts and hats. You can buy them online as well.

According to their website, if used to be an old play theater with balcony seating. The balcony seating has turned into a private area for couples to, well, enjoy the theatrical experience with booths and couches.

If you are a couple looking to experience Montreal, I suggest the following steps:

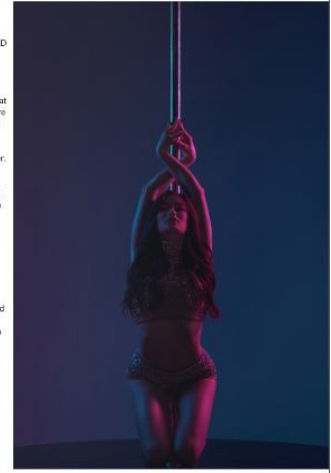
1. Stop off for Bagels in Mile End and then make your way to the Plateau.
2. Walk around and see the street art and then take the walk up Mont Royal.
3. After seeing the great views, walk down and head to Cinema l'Amour.
4. Partake in some fun and when you are hungry, drop by one of the numerous juice shops.
5. Maybe take a nap and head out to Old Port to see the sunset and explore the nightlife in some of the fancier nightclubs.
6. The next day, enjoy the sun in the park around the Olympic stadium and see some other tourist spots.

This theater is entertaining for me because it is in one of the most family friendly and richer neighborhoods of Montreal and, from what I can tell, no one cares. It is part of the city's history and I feel it's more to be removed or go bankrupt that the people of Montreal would be very upset.

You won't find it in the standard blogs and articles on things to do in Montreal, but it should be due to its long history alone not to mention the adult aspect.

Through my travels I have not seen a porn theater or at least, they were very secretive to the point that I didn't realize it was a porn theater. But Cinema l'Amour makes no apologies for being what it is and it standouts brightly with its bright yellow logo and mirror doors.

It's still on my bucket list and it should also be on yours!



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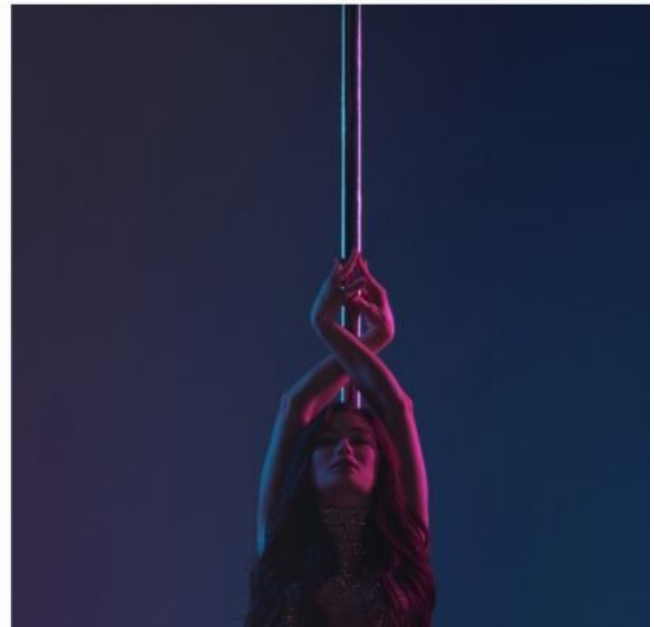
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(2 small paragraphs are cut due to the screenshot)-see full magazine!