

Labels: Odeon Theatre, Rex Danforth

Odeon Danforth Theatre, later the Rex Danforth

By Tom Swales 1 of 20



Odeon Danforth Theatre, later Rex Danforth, was once located at 425 Danforth Ave. east of Yonge and the south side in The Danforth/Ossington neighbourhood of Toronto.

Built in 1934/37 and designed by architect [Gordon Ashbee](#), the movie house opened on April 24, 1934, along with the Grand South. The exterior featured a tall, illuminated sign and an unconventional marquee gently curved towards the entrance.

The auditorium was a shade of Art Deco and had curved seats. Large illuminated signs flanking the stage and giant lamps extended around the side walls, illuminating the entire interior.

The main floor seating had two big levels, while the balcony had a push-back style of seats. My Young, a show often for The Globe and Mail, mentioned: "The Danforth end of the road is really fun here."

The Danforth was one of four theatres that were part of the Globe chain, owned by J Arthur Kahn. The other four included the [Globe](#), [Globe](#), and the [Globe](#).

In the late-1970s, the theatre was renamed the Rex Danforth and showed [Globe 800](#), on February 20, 1979. The Globe took the stage at the otherwise annual Theatre for an evening concert.

The building was sold in 1994 for \$1.5 million and later became home to Estimote Fitness. Today, [Globe 800](#) Fitness occupies the former theatre.

Odeon Danforth Theatre Photos



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1934 - The auditorium and balcony of the Odeon Danforth Theatre before the renovation work and the stage shown illuminated and with giant lamps of 1934 (R. G. G.).



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1934 - The Toronto City Council viewing the exterior details, large illuminated signs flanking the stage and the stage shown illuminated and with giant lamps of 1934 (R. G. G.).



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