

## MOVIE THEATRES IN WARTIME

ONLINE CONVENTION  
19-20 NOVEMBER 2020

### *FRENCH FILMS IN NEW YORK* *June 1942 – May 1943*

**Suzanne Langlois**  
**York University, Toronto**

## 55<sup>th</sup> Street Playhouse

154 W. 55<sup>th</sup> Street, New York

253 seats





**The Thalia, Upper West Side**

250 W. 95<sup>th</sup> Street & Broadway

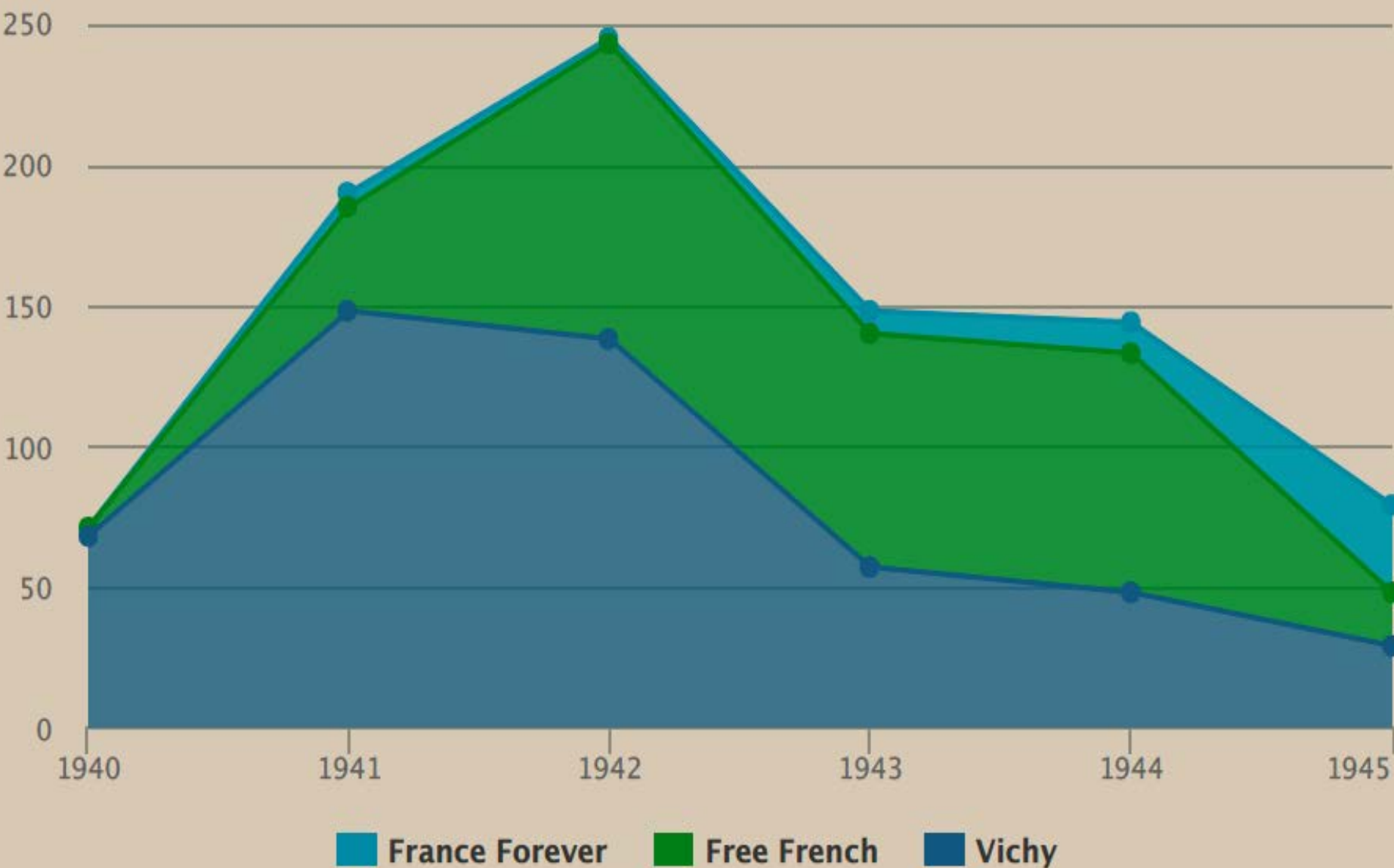
295 seats

## UPDATE

- Political positioning of the New York (+US) movie environment
- Availability (and repetition) of French films in the US during the war
- Pairing (Allies) and favoured genres
- US Films about France (some with French actors in exile)
- Plea to beware of categories (films and venues)



## Occurrences in specialised American film media 1940-1945





**Fifth (or 5<sup>th</sup>) Ave Playhouse (273 seats)**

1940 tax photo of 66 5th Avenue  
courtesy of NYC Dept. of Records

V... V... V... V... V... V...

Martin J. Lewis and  
Erwin A. Lesser  
present

# FRANCE FOREVER FILM FESTIVAL



Today & Tomorrow  
LA MATERNELLE  
and  
"END OF THE DAY"

The 56 Greatest French Motion Pictures  
presented from February 19th to April 15th

<b>FEB.</b>	19-20 La Maternelle	and End of the Day
	21-22 Life Dances On	" Amphitryon 37
	23-24 The Human Beast	" Personal Column
	25-26 Champs Elysees	" La Charrette Fantome
	27-28 The Baker's Wife	" Under the Roofs of Paris
<b>MARCH</b>	1-2 Marseillaise	" Alibi
	3-4 Rasputin	" Dr. Knock
	5-6 Port of Shadows	" The Mayor's Dilemma
	7-8 The Man Who Seeks the Truth	" Orage (Tempest)
	9-10 Nine Bachelors	" The Pasha's Wives
	11-12 Daybreak	" Maria Chapdelaine
	13-14 Carnival in Flanders	" Grande Illusion
	15-16 Escape From Yesterday	" The Kiss of Fire
	17-18 Le Bonheur	" Abused Confidence
	19-20 Harvest	" Hotel du Nord
	21-22 Life and Loves of Beethoven	" Schubert's Serenade
	23-24 Dark Eyes	" The Kreutzer Sonata
	25-26 Crime and Punish- ment	" Generals Without Buttons
	27-28 Ballerina	" The Heart of Paris
	29-30 Louise	" Three Waiters
	31-	
<b>APRIL</b>	-1 Pearls of the Crown	" With a Smile
	2-3 Lac Aux Dames	" Blood of a Poet
	4-5 The Golem	" They Were Five
	6-7 Boys' School	" Cross-Roads
	8-9 Claudine	" Helene
	10-11 Pepe Le Moko	" Last Desire
	12-13 The Loves of Toni	" Youth in Revolt (Alti- tude 3200)
	'4-15 The Courier of Lyons	" Sarajevo

THIS PROGRAM

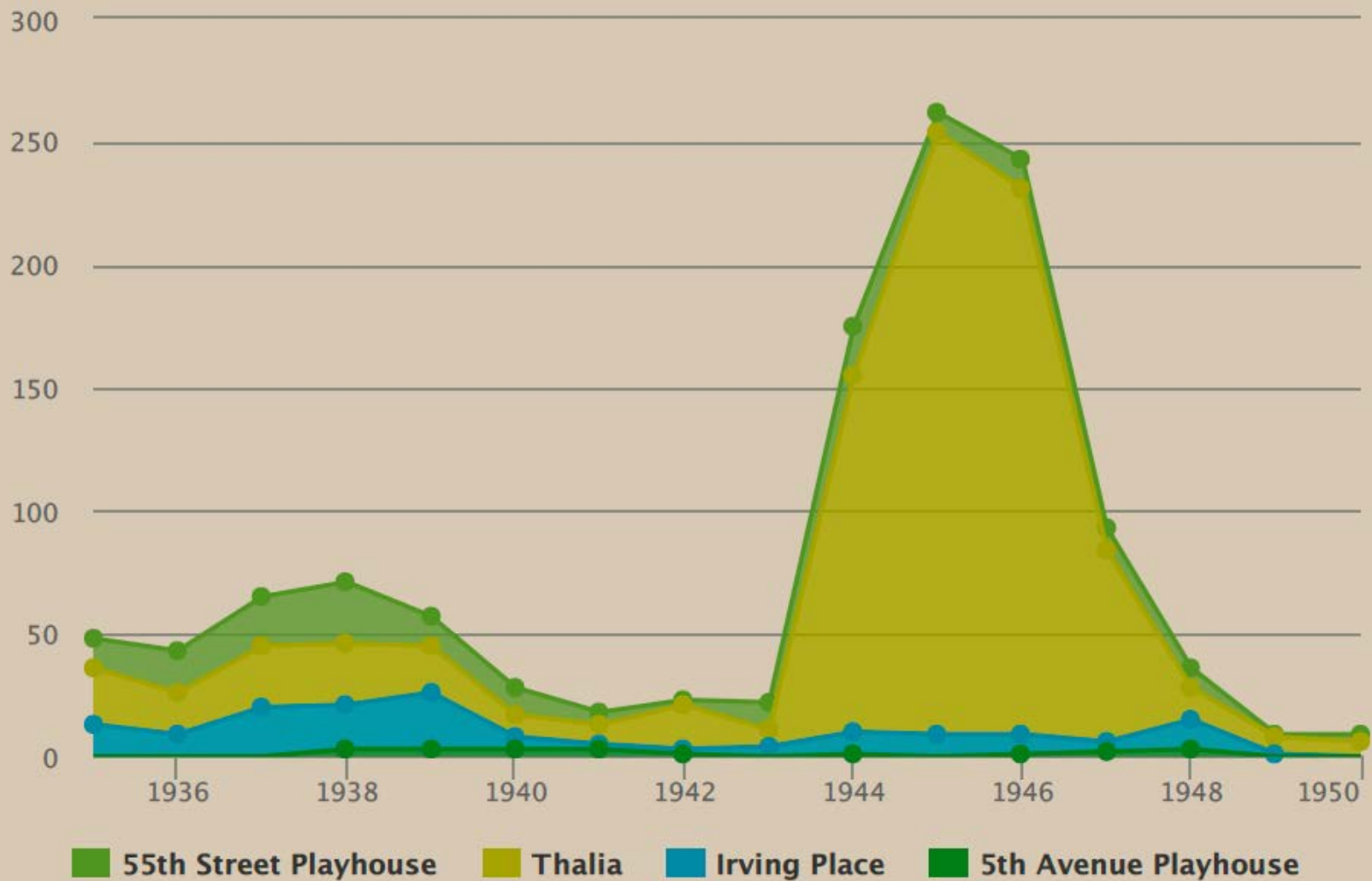
## 5<sup>th</sup> AVE. PLAYHOUSE

66 FIFTH AVE. at 12th ST.  
AL. 4-7661

V... V... V... V... V... V...



STATISTICAL DATA  
[HTTPS://PROJECTARCLIGHT.ORG](https://projectarclight.org)  
4 THEATRES / 1935-1950



**IRVING PLACE**  
14TH ST. & UNION SQUARE  
900 SEATS

1943  
Growing presence of  
unequal Allies  
(France Forever and  
USSR)

**9 WEEKS**  
*to shake the  
Movie World!*

**SOVIET RUSSIA  
FRANCE FOREVER  
FILM FESTIVAL**  
MAY 6 *to* JULY 5

**48 OF THE GREATEST FILMS  
EVER MADE IN THE U.S.S.R.  
AND LA BELLE FRANCE**

**TODAY "LENIN in OCTOBER"**  
**TOMORROW "MARSEILLAISE"**

8-10 "ALEXANDER NEVSKY" & "GRAND ILLUSION"  
11-12 "GUERRILLA BRIGADE" & "LIFE AND LOVES  
OF BEETHOVEN"  
13-14 "LONELY WHITE SAIL" & "PIPE LE MOKE"  
15-17 "THREE SOVIET WOMEN" & "CARNIVAL IN  
FLANDERS"  
18-19 "BALTIC DEFTY" & "MAYOR'S DILEMMA"  
20-26 (One Full Week) — "DIARY OF A NAZI" &  
"LAST WILL OF DR. MARUSE"  
27-28 "GYPSIES" & "COLEA"  
29-31 "SMOK" & "RASPUTIN"

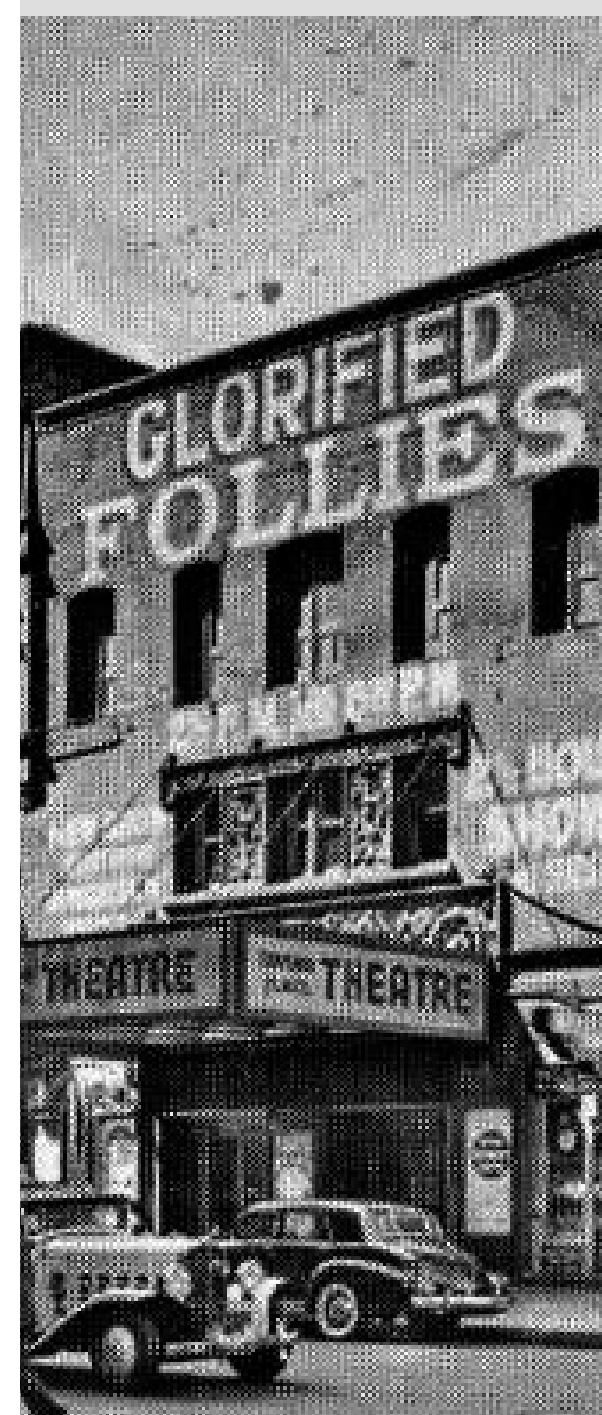
**JUNE—**  
1- 2 "THE NEW TEACHER" & "HUMAN BEAST"  
3- 4 "VOLGA, VOLGA" & "MAN WHO SEKS THE  
TRUTH"  
5- 7 "GREAT BEGINNING" & "LA MATERNELLE"  
8- 9 "MOSCOW STRIKES BACK" & "CRIME AND  
PUNISHMENT"  
10-11 "PEASANTS" & "HARVEST"  
12-14 "GENERAL SUYKOV" & "FORT OF SHAD-  
OWS"  
15-16 "FORTRESS ON VOLGA" & "MME. SOVARY"  
17-18 "CHAPAYEV" & "GENERALS WITHOUT  
BUTTONS"  
19-21 "WE ARE FROM KRONSTADT" & "THE MAD  
EMPEROR OF RUSSIA"  
22-23 "BATTLE OF SIBERIA" & "CROSSROADS"  
24-25 "CHILDHOOD OF GORKI" & "COURIER DE  
LYONS"  
26-28 "MOTHER" & "KREUTZER SONATA"  
29-30 "UNIVERSITY OF LIFE" & "FEARS OF THE  
CROWN"

**JULY—**  
1- 2 "PROFESSOR MAHLOCK" & "LIFE DANCES ON"  
3- 5 "RUSSIAN MUSICAL STORY" & "BALLERINA"  
plus A GREAT MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

**ON EVERY PROGRAM: LATEST WAR NEWS  
FROM ALL FRONTS, MARCH OF TIME,  
RUSSIAN MUSICAL & DANCE REELS,  
SELECTED CARTOONS**

**CARRY THIS PROGRAM LIST AT ALL TIMES**

**IRVING Place**  
14TH ST. & UNION SQ. 20¢ TO 2 P.M.  
GRAMERCY 5-9879 • 20¢ WKDYS.





# « THE WAR CYCLE IS IN HIGH GEAR »

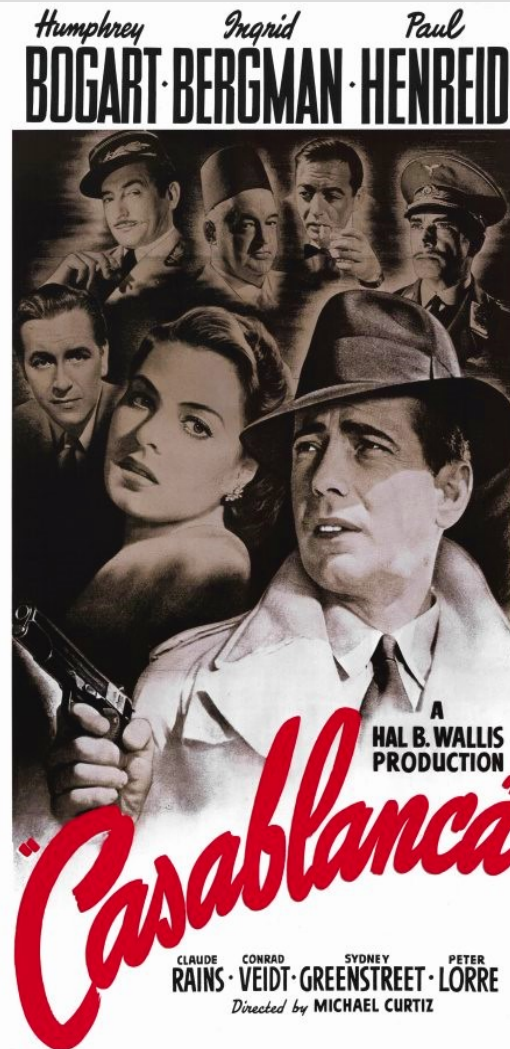
THE FILM DAILY, 8 JANUARY 1942

## ‘Casablanca’ and ‘Avenger’ Open

Tribute to the people of two nations occupied by the Nazis, France and Norway, marked the premiere ceremonies of two openings this week; Paramount’s “The Avengers” at the Rivoli theatre Tuesday night, and Warner Bros.’ “Casablanca” Thursday night at the Hollywood, New York.

A formal salute of allegiance to Crown Princess Martha of Norway by a detachment of pilots from Little Norway Training School in Canada, highlighted the debut of “The Avengers.” Officials of the diplomatic corps of all Scandinavian countries attended the showing, in addition to leaders of New York society, the stage and screen.

“Casablanca,” which has its locale in French Morocco, opened Thanksgiving night under the sponsorship of France Forever and the Free French War Relief. Prior to the performance at the Hollywood, a Fighting French delegation of Foreign Legionnaires, veterans of North African warfare, aviators recently returned from the battle fronts and leaders of the De Gaulle movement paraded from the Free French headquarters on Fifth Avenue to the theatre. Recruiting, souvenir and other booths were set up by the delegation in the rotunda of the Hollywood.





THE MOST WIDELY PRAISED FILM OF OUR GENERATION!  
"BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR"  
*Says the entire American Press about*



## QUESTION ABOUT CATEGORIES

Our focus is on feature films shown in commercial venues (movie theatres)

*Example of La Maternelle (Jean Benoit-Lévy and Marie Epstein, 1933)*

- Discussed in different publications
- Categorized using different terms
- Opened in New York in 1935; various venues until late 1940s
- Shown several times in New York during the war and the year June 1942 – May 1943

How do you deal with similar questions (blurring lines) in your dataset?