

My five 'firsts' in Five Points

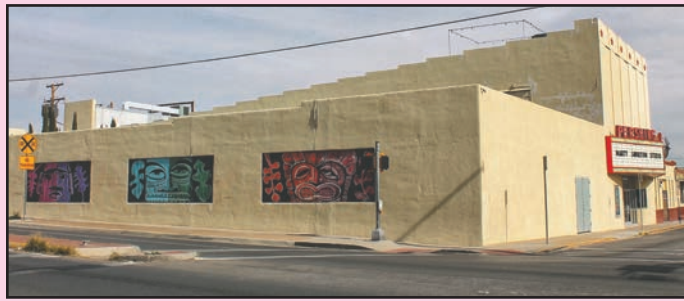
I grew up in Kern Place in the 1970s and 1980s, but Five Points was a frequent destination of ours for both entertainment and shopping. At least five of my own "first time" memories happened in Five Points.

Five Points was the first place I ever saw a movie. Before I ever remember going to a mall multiplex, the place to see a film, was the Pershing, with its dark carpets, cozy rectangular lights and overwhelming smell of buttered popcorn. The movie I saw was Disney's "Song of the South," and I remember the "Buena Vista Film Distribution Co." logo flickering on the red curtains before they opened up to start the movie. We would always go when it was light, and get out when it was dark. We'd pass this old rock church, with blue glowing neon cross, and I would doze off until we got home.

It was the first place I had spumoni ice cream. My friends had picked me up to see the original "Pete's Dragon" at the Pershing, and they took us to the Italian Kitchen beforehand, just two doors down. I remember saying, "We need to get the spumoni ... it is all different colors!" When you're a kid, multi-colored food is the coolest thing out, so this was something incredible. Thanks to the convenience of the Italian Kitchen West, I've never taken my own kids to the original location. I need to see if they still offer spumoni.

It was the place I ever purchased a "real" costume. In the early 1970s, most store-bought costumes were still plastic facemasks and glorified pajamas in a box. My mom, a fantastic seamstress, made most of my costumes as a kid, but one day I wanted a special satin cape for some weird idea I concocted. My grandmother knew the area pretty well, (my late grandfather had once operated El Paso's first drive-in restaurant, the Old Town Pump, near Five Points), so she took me to People's Emporium. I remember costumes and wigs hanging all over the place, and the musty smell of stage make up.

I went by there often, when I had to purchase that nasty oily stage makeup we used in high school theater. Today, People's Emporium is the home of a business called "Metro Signs," which has one of coolest doors in the area, covered with urban art.



The Pershing Theater is now home to the Marty Snortum Studio.

It was the first place I picked up a Sears & Roebuck catalog. I was probably about six, and we went to pick up an order at the Sears in December. I remember my dad handing me a catalog thicker than the phone book. On the drive home, I flipped through the pages and pages of horrifying '70s fashions until I reached the toy section. There were slot cars and Barbie townhouses, G.I. Joes and every game in the world ... and there was livestock! I remember asking my dad if I can "get a goat in the mail" or perhaps "just a chicken." I settled for the slot cars and a Barbie that Christmas, not the goat.

As a teenager just learning to drive at El Paso High, I would meet my friend who went to Austin and we all went to our first R-rated movie sans the adults. By then, the Pershing had become a dollar theatre, and we watched Steven King's "Creepshow 2." It was so terrible; everyone called it "crap show" on the way home.

While working on this story, I visited Five Points with my own family to see what it has to offer today, including Italian sodas at Joe, Vinny & Bronson's, and seeing a Sun Metro bus painted up like a streetcar at the transfer station. They got to see some musicians practicing outside Memory Hall, and loved the tiki art on the side of the Marty Snortum Studio (the old Pershing). My kids get used to being dragged around for photo ops, but they always find something new to discover when they do.

I hope this first Five Points experience will hold plenty of fond memories for them as well.

— Lisa Kay Tate

paseo
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**Gathering
Sundays
@ 10 a.m.**

**Historic
Magoffin Hall**

801 Magoffin Ave.
(at Virginia)

paseochurch.net
247-2736

JOKOY
BREAK THE MOLD
TOUR
FEBRUARY 9
7:30 PM • PLAZA THEATRE

PAUL ANKA
LIVE IN EL PASO
FEBRUARY 12 • 7PM
ABRAHAM CHAVEZ THEATRE

AARON
WATSON
FEBRUARY 23 • 8PM
ABRAHAM CHAVEZ THEATRE

SUN CITY CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL 2018
21 AND OVER ONLY
EL PASO'S BIGGEST CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL
JUST GOT TWICE AS GOOD! NOW 2 DAYS!
iHeartMEDIA
DOWNTOWN CONVENTION CENTER PLAZA
APRIL 21 1 P.M. - 8 P.M. (early access at Noon for V.I.P.)
APRIL 22 Noon - 6 P.M. (early access at 11 A.M. for V.I.P.)
V.I.P. TICKETS AVAILABLE \$80 FOR 1-DAY
BEER GARDENS • GAME ZONE
FOOD VENDORS & RETAIL BOOTHS
LIQUOR LOUNGE • LIVE BANDS & DJs
BUY G.A. TICKETS NOW!
\$25 FOR 1-DAY • \$40 FOR 2-DAYS
SUNCITYCRAFTBEERFEST.COM

LEL PASO LIVE.COM
HOME OF EL PASO'S PREMIER LIVE ENTERTAINMENT VENUES:
PLAZA THEATRE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE • ABRAHAM CHAVEZ THEATRE
EL PASO CONVENTION CENTER • COHEN STADIUM
MCKELLIGON CANYON AMPHITHEATRE & PAVILION
Ticketmaster outlets, ticketmaster.com, Charge-By-Phone 800-745-3000 or at the Plaza Theatre Box Office.
For more event information, go to WWW.ELPASOLIVE.COM

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:
/elpasolive
ticketmaster