

BONUS
1 MORE PIECE
OF ADVICE

MAKE BETTER MOVIE THEATERS (LIKE THESE)

Catching the latest new release doesn't have to mean slumming it in run-down, overpriced cineplexes where your feet stick to the floor. Here are eight options that redefine the moviegoing experience. BY KAREN VALBY



Cinébistro in Miami



The Theatres at Canal Place in New Orleans

THE ACADEMY THEATER

Portland, Ore.

Ticket price \$4

What that gets you The second-run theater, renovated and restored to its original glory in 2006, sells sushi, fresh salads, Flying Pie pizza by the slice, and Nathan's hot dogs, plus organic juices and 10 local microbrews on tap at the concession stand. Better yet, the theater offers babysitting services—only \$7.50 a movie, Thursdays through Sundays—for customers with children between the ages of 18 months and 8 years old.

Nice touch They occasionally run vintage trailers.

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE

Austin

(Plus nine other locations across Texas and one in Virginia)

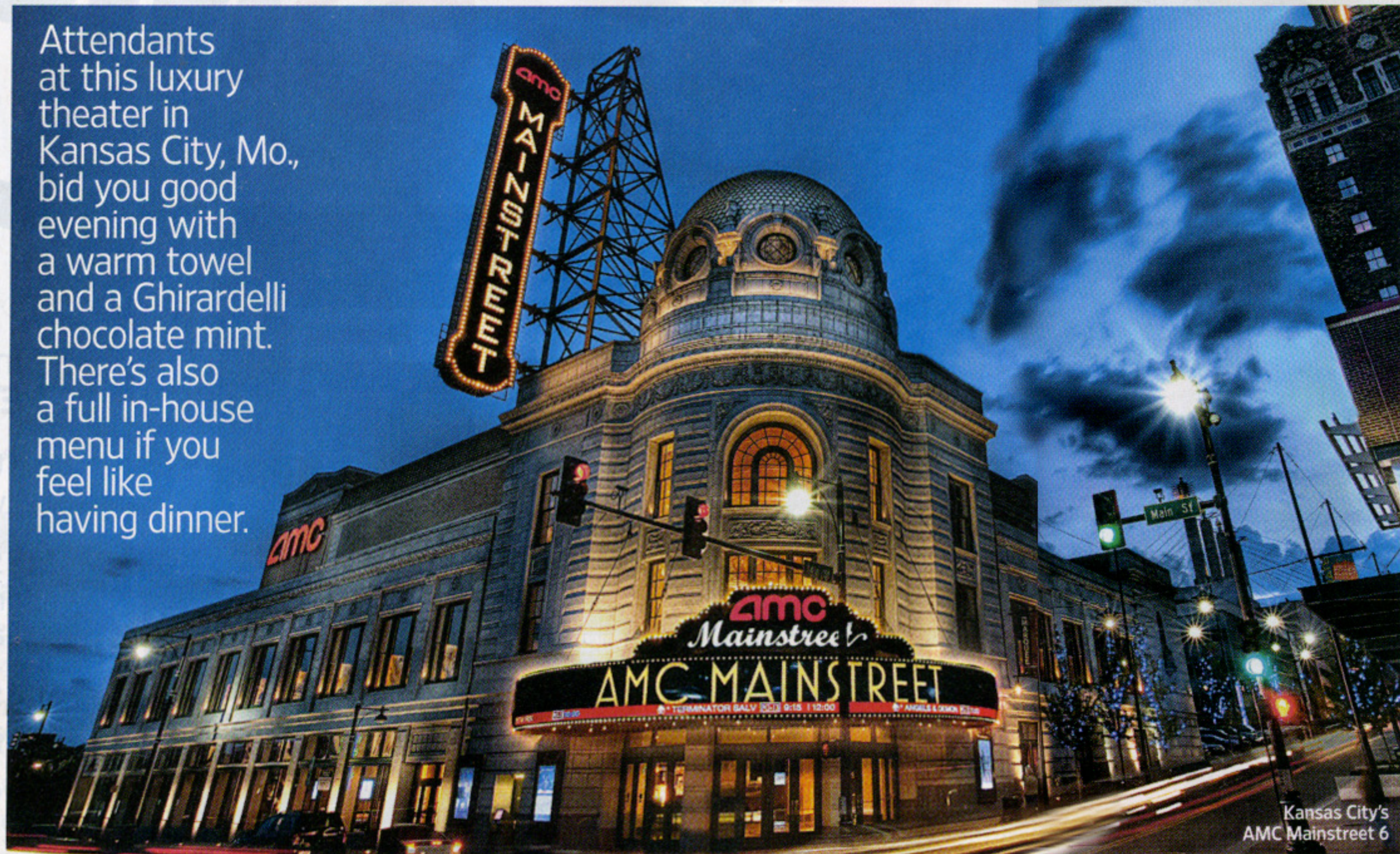
Ticket price \$8.50

What that gets you

Full-service awesomeness from the pioneer of movie-going fun. Besides having good eats and booze brought to you throughout the film, you have access to first-run movies and a treasure trove of signature events: sing-alongs, quote-alongs, Master Pancake Theatre (a glorious pairing of turkey movies with a live comedy show), Terror Tuesdays, and Weird Wednesdays, where \$1 earns you a truly depraved and deplorable exploitation movie. Annoyed by a blabby neighbor? Hold up your menu card and a server or manager will promptly address the problem.

Nice touch Every Tuesday is

Attendants at this luxury theater in Kansas City, Mo., bid you good evening with a warm towel and a Ghirardelli chocolate mint. There's also a full in-house menu if you feel like having dinner.



Kansas City's AMC Mainstreet 6

Baby Day, when parents can shamelessly tote along their infants to the first showing and no one glares if a kid squawks.

AMC MAINSTREET 6 CINEMA SUITES

Kansas City, Mo.

(Plus two other locations in New Jersey, one in Texas, and one in Kansas)

Ticket price \$30, which includes a \$20 coupon for food and drink

What that gets you A civilized haven for the 21+ crowd. Relax in reclining leather seats—equipped with subwoofers underneath so your chair vibrates along with the action on screen—and

let your server bring you dinner from the full in-house menu. Sip wine, themed cocktails, or Kansas City's own Boulevard beer on tap.

Nice touch

Attendants bid you good evening with a warm towel and a Ghirardelli chocolate mint. Every bathroom stall has its own private sink.

BIG PICTURE

Seattle

Ticket price \$11

What that gets you A little

gem nestled speakeasy-style below a neighborhood steak house, the 21+ first-run theater has one screening room that seats 88 people. They serve their famous white-cheddar-cheese popcorn in a champagne bucket. Wash it down with a Bogart—muddled fresh sage with lime, Cointreau, and Tanqueray gin (\$8.75). You can preorder your cocktails and request when you'd like them delivered to you during the movie.



On offer at CinéBistro: seared tuna and chocolate cake (below)



chairs that boast six feet of legroom, and enjoy an order of churrasco steak (\$18.50) and a pitcher of white-wine sangria (\$17). Purists will appreciate that no food or drink is served once the lights go down.

Nice touch Free valet parking

CINEFAMILY

Los Angeles

Ticket price \$10

What that gets you Expertly curated art-house films in a single screening room with 158 chairs and eight leather couches. An average Friday-night double feature? *Citizen Ruth* (introduced by director Alexander Payne) followed by *Flirting With Disaster* (David O. Russell in person!). Cineasts can drool over special events galore, like when Stephin Merritt from the *Magnetic Fields* popped by

Nice touch An order of Junior Mints is served in a chilled glass.

CINÉBISTRO

Miami

(Plus two other locations in Florida, two in Virginia, and one in Colorado)

Ticket price \$15.50

What that gets you Reserved seating in a boutique theater for the 21+ set, though they do allow parents to bring their children to family films that play until 6 p.m. Stretch out on dual reclining leather



last summer to perform a live score to the 1916 silent film *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

Nice touch Crumbs cupcakes at the concession stand

RERUN GASTROPUB THEATER

Brooklyn

Ticket price \$5

What that gets you Tucked in the back of the popular restaurant reBar is a new art-house theater that fits 60 on refurbished minivan seats. The eclectic programming is plucked from the festival circuit: 75 percent of the films are self-distributed or looking for distributors. One-off screenings of classics like *Sweet Smell of Success* or *ridiculata* like the erotic lesbian vampire romp *Daughters of Darkness* are free. Full bar, heavenly menu. **Nice touch** A small \$5 popcorn can come drizzled with your choice of bacon or duck fat. (Bacon fat, people!)

