Slavic Church Emmanuel

9:00 AM Service

2025 SE 82nd Avenue. Portland, Oregon 97216

Website: http://www.emmlive.com

Religion: Christian - Pentecostal

"добро пожаловать"

It is quite the feeling to experience both ends of the familiarity spectrum. I have been here many times before, yet it is completely different and everyone is speaking another language.

13 years ago this place used to be The Eastgate Movie Theatre. It was just 5 blocks and a skip down an alley from my childhood home. We had our own little shortcut, through a hole in the fence.

This was the place I was introduced to cinema's greatest heroes: Batman, Luke Skywalker, Indiana Jones, & James Bond. I must have seen hundreds of movies in this building. Good and bad. Hell, my middle school even held my 8th grade graduation in this room. I really spent a good chunk of life between these walls.

It was extremely bizarre to be in here again, recognizing the space but nothing inside of it. Not even any of the words floating around above me. I couldn't help but daydream through the entire service.

"Do you know how many times I have cried in this room?"

I cried over there at the ending of Dragonheart. I cried over there during the Presidential speech in Independance Day. I cried over there when the American soldiers had to kill each other in The Rock.

Jesus that was just in 1996! What a little wimp I used to be!

***Friendliness* - 5/10** I was met with a lot of big gestures but I couldn't understand a single thing anyone said to me. I awkwardly nodded my way through potential questionings or greetings. All I could do was wave obliviously.

***Dress Code* - 10/10** This was the real deal. Everyone was suited and booted. The crowd on the dais was decked out in some pretty Amish looking garb. Extra points for being the first place to have a matching choir.

***Attractiveness* - 7/10** It is strange how beautiful and ugly Russian woman can get. When they are young they are tall and lean. Due to their proximity to Asia, their faces tend to be cut with sharp and symmetrical angles. They look so much more attractive than their lumpy-headed cousins in Western Europe.

But, when they go "over the hill" they really go over it!

Old Russian women are like shrinky dinks. I guess that is why they invented the Matryoshka dolls. It is like a hands-on science lesson for kids to learn what is going to happen to them when they get older.

Masjid Omar ibn Al-Khattab

12:59 PM Zuhr Prayer

1025 Exposition Boulevard. Los Angeles, California 90007

Website: http://www.omaribnalkhatab.org

Religion: Islam

"As-salamu alaykum!"

It seems to me that Allah doesn't like women.

He invents this world and all these little creatures to roam around on it. But, not just that, I mean, he really made time for each critter. What will this thing do? How will this thing eat? Where will this thing live? He took it all under consideration. Next thing you know he is making rattles for snakes, radar for whales, and even long necks for giraffes. He hooks all of them up.

Not women though. No, he really seems to make things quite challenging for women.

Like: he makes hair grow out of their head that they are forced to hide from everyone.

Allah gives cats two sets of eyelids. He basically gives male dogs two dicks, like, a dick within a dick. He even allows venus fly traps to do whatever the fuck it is they do. But, Allah couldn't make women with flaps or something to hide their hair? I don't know, a hood?

Couldn't you give a bitch a flap, Lord? Couldn't you give a bitch a flap?

Or just make them bald?

***Ornamentation* - 5/10** Honestly, you couldn't even tell this place was a church on the inside. Well, other than the fact they had a hundred sets of pews.

They still have the old chandelier in the lobby!

To be honest, I think I prefer this place with all the lights off and Jurassic Park playing on the far wall.

***Service* - ?/10** I have no idea what anyone said. Anytime someone would turn around and smile at me, I just imagined the pastors were all telling stories about me and how much of an asshole I am.

Notes: It would have been cool if they still had Pit Fighter in the lobby.

***Friendliness* - 5/10**

I don't know how to really rate this one. I was one of four people here - so it isn't exactly a decent sample size, you know? They definitely lost some points for having the only woman cast off - stanchioned into her own little mini section. One of the two guys was super sweet and friendly, so that helps a bit, but before I came in, he basically had a basketball-court-sized space to pray in, while the woman was playing invisible tetherball in the corner.

The other dude that talked to me was the security guard and let's just say we got off on the wrong foot...

Security Guard: "As-salamu alaykum!"

Me: "I like'm salam!."

Security Guard: "Sir, are you muslim?"

Me: "Yea."

Security Guard: "Are you positive?"

Me: "Oh yeah!"

Security Guard: "Well then, why are you still wearing your shoes."

Me: "Oh I forgot I had 'em on!"

***Dress Code* - 10/10**

The man and the woman praying couldn't have looked more muslim.

***Attractiveness* - ?/10**

Could there be a worse place to pick someone up than a mosque?

***Ornamentation* - 10/10**

Super decked out - tons of chandeliers, intricate woodwork, and an amazing blue and white wavy carpet. I mean the carpet looked nice but I didn't enjoy repeatedly putting my forehead on it.

***Service* - 0/10**

This wasn't a service but a midday prayer session. I guess Fridays are the days to go to. Live and learn, I guess.

www.bjdehut.com

IS THERE ANYONE UP THERE?

ЖОЛКАМС 3