

Wisconsin is on the national forefront of organic farming, sustainable harvests, and the slow foods movement while redeveloping artisanal cheeses and wheat. Newer immigrants have left their marks as well, demonstrating the ever evolving cornucopia of flavor in the region.

In *Flavors of Wisconsin*, readers explore how the people of Wisconsin plowed their fields, worked their gardens, and built their cities. We see immigrants and migrants, town folk and country folk, the middle class and the working class. *Flavors of Wisconsin* is far more than a cookbook or even a history book — it is a picture of America's heartland. Every state should have a similar contribution to our collective understanding of America through the foods we grow, eat, and share.

*Encore! The Renaissance of Wisconsin Opera Houses*, by Brian Leahy Doyle, with photographs by Mark Fay. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 2009. xvii, 254 pp. Illustrations (many in color), appendixes, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

Reviewer Richard Poole is professor and chair of the Theatre/Speech Communication Department at Briar Cliff University. His work on small-town and rural midwestern theater includes *The Opera Houses of Iowa* (coauthor, 1993) and an article in this journal (1989/1990) on Sioux City theater in the Gilded Age.

Beautifully illustrated and impeccably researched, *Encore!* catalogs in text and images the history of Wisconsin opera houses constructed during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In addition, and perhaps most important, the book reveals an aspect of American culture sadly neglected in both theater history and American studies. It also tells the story of modern day restoration, when communities and individuals banded together to raise funds to restore an essential part of their almost forgotten heritage.

Doyle catalogs a wide range of opera house and theaters, "from the small to large, simple to ostentatious" (xiv). Readers will find a wealth of information about each structure: cultural context; civic backing; architectural design; performers and productions; and restoration initiatives and successes. Informative breakouts that enrich and embellish the text accompany the illustrations and the narrative.

Only a handful of books explore the wealth of information available on state theater history. Such information reveals an astounding number of theatrical activities and venues. *Encore!* joins this select group. Comprehensive research on all types and locations of state theaters, from the largest cities to the smallest hamlets, is essential for a complete picture of theater and culture in the United States. The information is here, waiting to be rediscovered.