

Patrick Crowley

Rails for Legacy Apps

**(How to use Rails
with existing apps)**



- **New ideas**
- **No users**
- **Zero code investment**
- **Best case scenario**

But, in the real world...



- **Legacy content**
- **Existing userbase**
- **Front end (HTML + CSS)**
- **Database Schema**

**Q: How can I use Rails
with a legacy app?**

- **Don't! (Leave site as is)**
- **Reboot site with Rails**
- **Or, maybe...**

**Use Rails as a control
panel to run your site**

Case study: Cinema Treasures



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Also known as Mann's Chinese Theatre

Grauman's Chinese Theatre

Hollywood, CA

6925 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90028 United States ([map](#))

323.464.8186

Status: [Open](#)

Screens: [Multiplex \(7 Screen\)](#)

Style: [Art Deco](#), [Oriental](#)

Function: [Movies](#)

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Architect: [Raymond M. Kennedy](#)

Firm: [Meyer & Holler](#)

Grauman's Chinese Theatre is arguably the most famous movie theater in the world. Built in 1927, the Chinese has been the site of thousands of movie premieres and the destination of millions of tourists. Scores of celebrities have left their footprints, hand prints and hoof prints on the walkways near and on the theater's courtyard.

In 1973, Mann Theatres bought the Chinese and in 1999, two theaters were added next to the Chinese turning the Chinese into a triplex. The Chinese remained a three screen theater until 2000 when the two added theaters were razed to make way for the construction of the Kodak Theater -- the new site of the Oscars. The theater underwent a recent renovation to return its exterior to its 5 past and Mann Theatres also added an adjoining 6 screen multiplex theater.

Still opulent in red tonality and Asiatic influences, Grauman's Chinese remains the ultimate movie palace experience.

Related Websites

[Mann Theatres](#) (Official)

Contributed by Cinema Treasures

YOUR COMMENTS

Grauman's Chinese Theater opened May 18, 1927. The architects were Meyer & Holler. Theater decorator was Raymond Kennedy.



Recent exterior view of Grauman's Chinese Theatre (following its 2002 renovation)

Photo courtesy of William Gabel

Front-end

Blogs

Smarty

Theater DB

pMachine

PHP/MySQL

**How did we edit
theaters?**

phpMyAdmin
(sadly)

- **Intended for developers**
- **Easy to harm database**
- **Doesn't scale**

Why not roll your own?

- **Not highest priority**
- **Busy with other things**
- **I never want to write PHP again.**

Let's do it in Rails!

Basic concept

Current site

Database

Current site

Rails

Database

Demo

Issues I ran into

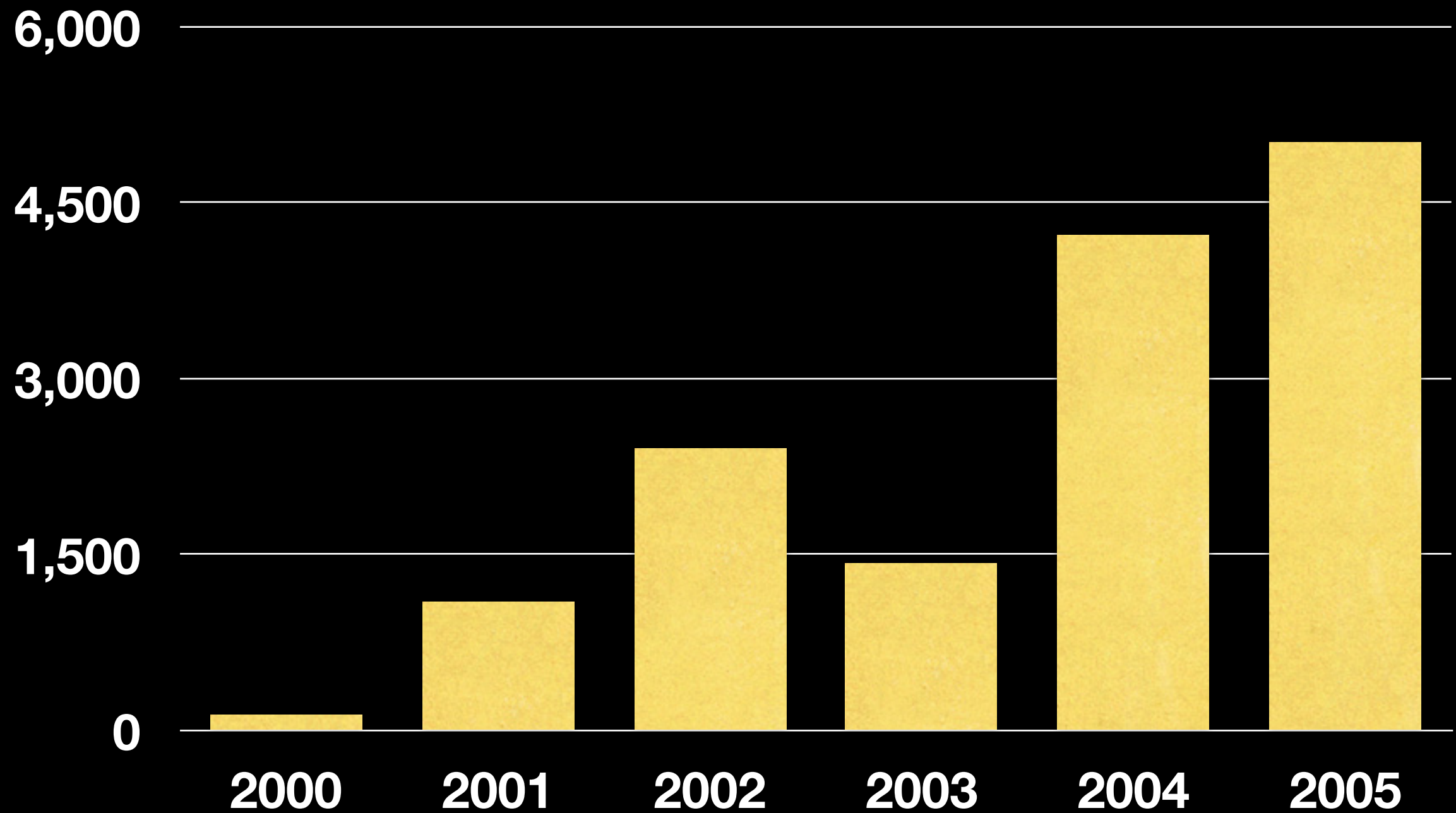
- **Non-plural table names**
- **Had to remove primary id's on join tables**
- **Needed a way to delete cached templates on db update**

How long did this take?

**1 week /
2 - 3 hours per day**

The End

New Theaters



New Comments

