



M. Price '23



The Harper Theater

The Harper Theater is an old and special building that opened back in 1915. It was designed by an architect named Horatio Wilson who is known for creating “Prairie Style “ houses and buildings in Chicago. The theatre has a long history in Hyde Park and is even on a special list called The National Register of Historic Places. When it first opened, it was called the Hyde Park Theater and people went there to watch vaudeville shows. Vaudeville shows were like big talent shows with singing, dancing, and funny acts. In it’s early days, the theater even had a pipe organ. A person called an organist would sit at the keyboard, and when they played the organ, they could make it sound like cheerful music for funny moments or really dramatic music for exciting parts of the show. In 1935, the theater was made into a movie theater, so people could watch movies, often called “picture shows”. It has stayed a movie theater ever since. Over the years, the theater has had different names, like the Hyde Park Theater until the 1980s, then it was called the Meridian in the 1990s, and now it is called the Harper Theater.