



## LOST LANDMARKS: WTVJ THEATER STUDIO

From the back room of an old movie theater at 316 N. Miami Ave., Florida's first television station made its debut broadcast on March 21, 1949. For more than a half-century, it would remain the home of WTVJ.

The Capitol Theater was built in downtown Miami in 1926. Twenty-three years later, the Wometco theater chain, headed by Mitchell Wolfson, put the station on the air. As the number of people owning televisions slowly grew, so, too, did WTVJ's programming.

Much of it originated live from the three-story building, which was remodeled in 1952 to include a large studio, with room to host an audience of 200. It was home to some of the biggest names in the industry, including many who are institutions in South Florida history.

Four years ago the building, which in its final years looked more like a concrete bunker, was demolished to make way for a new federal courthouse, while the station's broadcast operations moved to Miramar.

— MICHAEL HIBBLEN  
mhibblen@MiamiHerald.com

### ROADTRIP: WHERE'S JANE?

Travel Editor Jane Wooldridge is driving cross-country — solo. Vote on where she should go at [www.MiamiHerald.com/travel](http://www.MiamiHerald.com/travel); click on **Travels with Jane**. Add your tips by clicking on *Comments* on her latest posting.

