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News Release

Free Friday Family Film Series to resume May 3 at Wilson Park

'Coco' planned as Tacolalah kickoff event; full spring schedule announced

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (April 26, 2019) — The 2019 Outdoor Family Movie Series will begin May 3 in Arkansas City with a re-airing of a Pixar favorite under the Wilson Park rotunda, 701 N. Summit St.

The 2017 hit "Coco" will be shown starting at 8 p.m. May 3. The movie is planned as a sort of informal kickoff to the 2019 Tacolalah festival, which will be from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. May 4 at the park.

This PG-rated film is sponsored by Rogers Family Dentistry. It is an hour and 45 minutes long.

This will be the first repeat showing of a film in the series at Wilson Park, after "Coco" played to an audience of more than 150 on May 5, 2018. ("Despicable Me 3" also was shown twice last year, but only once in Wilson Park — the other showing was part of the annual outreach movie in Newkirk, Oklahoma.)

"'Coco' proved extremely popular last year, and seeing as the film is a wonderful celebration of music and colorful visuals, it seemed like the perfect way to start off the Tacolalah weekend festivities," said Andrew Lawson, public information officer for the City of Arkansas City.

At least nine total movies are planned this year, including several recent animated hits and a fourth edition of the popular "pool movie" at Paris Park Pool. (More pool event details will be announced later.)

In June, the movie series will return to Newkirk for a third straight year. The current schedule of 2019 Free Friday Family Films is as follows (*more to be announced later*):

- "Coco" — 8 p.m. Friday, May 3 at Wilson Park;
- "Incredibles 2" — 8 p.m. Friday, May 17 at Wilson Park;
- "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" — 8 p.m. Friday, May 31 at Wilson Park;
- "Ralph Breaks the Internet" — 8 p.m. Friday, June 14 at Kay County Courthouse in Newkirk;
- "The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part" — 8 p.m. Friday, June 28 at Wilson Park;
- "Aquaman" — 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 12 at Paris Park Pool (free admission starts at 7 p.m.)

For immediate release

more

Three more movies will be shown in the fall, in conjunction with other planned events.

In case of inclement weather on any movie night, the movie will be postponed to the next Friday.

"We are so appreciative of the generous sponsors who make these wonderful events possible," said City Manager Nick Hernandez. "If you are interested in being a sponsor in 2019, please call me or Andrew Lawson at 441-4415 to discuss pricing. Sponsorship rates have not changed from 2018 rates."

About the Outdoor Family Movie Series

The 2015 Outdoor Family Movie Series was a huge success in the debut season for the new V.J. Wilkins Memorial Stage at the rotunda, with particularly large crowds viewing "Big Hero 6" and "Frozen."

The projection equipment, sound system and stage all were made possible by a generous grant received three years ago from the V.J. Wilkins Foundation, in order to promote arts throughout the city.

A special fall showing of "Inside Out" drew more than 300 people to the rotunda in November 2015, despite colder temperatures. Plans were launched then for more autumn showings in 2016 and 2017.

Various weather impacted attendance often in the spring and summer of 2016, but the season's highlight undoubtedly was in June 2016, when more than 700 people packed Paris Park Pool for a special doubleheader, consisting of "Finding Nemo" and "Jaws," during a free swim-in night at the pool.

The sequel event, featuring "Finding Dory," drew more than 500 visitors to the pool on July 21, 2017.

The 2018 season kicked off May 5 with the first-ever Saturday night movie, "Coco," which drew more than 150 people back to the rotunda following the inaugural Salsa Fest event on Cinco de Mayo.

Nearly 75 attended the June 12, 2018, showing of "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," the first-ever Tuesday movie, shown in conjunction with the Arkansas City Farm and Art Market's monthly festival.

During the last four years, the City of Arkansas City has shown a wide variety of movies, including:

- '80s classics — "Back to the Future," "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "Ghostbusters," "The Great Outdoors," "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" and "¡Three Amigos!"
- Classic Disney films — "The Fox and the Hound," "The Jungle Book," "The Little Mermaid," "Mary Poppins," "The Muppet Christmas Carol" and "Pete's Dragon"
- Disney animated features — "Big Hero 6," "Frozen," "Moana" and "Zootopia"
- Disney live-action remakes — "Beauty and the Beast," "Cinderella" and "Maleficent"

- Disney-Pixar animated collaborations — “Coco,” “Finding Dory,” “Finding Nemo,” “The Good Dinosaur” and “Inside Out”
- Marvel Cinematic Universe films — “Black Panther,” “Doctor Strange,” “Guardians of the Galaxy,” “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2” and “Thor: Ragnarok”
- Other animated films — “Despicable Me 3” (twice), “The Lego Batman Movie,” “The Lego Movie,” “The Lorax,” “Minions,” “The Secret Life of Pets” and “Sing”
- Star Wars movies — “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story,” “Star Wars: A New Hope” and “Star Wars: The Force Awakens”
- Summer and holiday blockbusters — “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,” “The Greatest Showman,” “Jaws,” “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle,” “Jurassic Park,” “Jurassic World,” “Monster Trucks,” “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows” and “Wonder”

The Outdoor Family Movie Series is only possible with the assistance of many generous donors:

- Civic and service clubs such as the Arkansas City High School KAY Club, the Kiwanis Club, and the Optimists and Soroptimists of Arkansas City;
- Local businesses such as Ark City Daily Bytes, Ark Valley Credit Union, Community National Bank & Trust, Elite Advertising, Grass Clippings, Mitch Reichle—Farm Bureau Financial Services, Munson Insurance, A Perfect Day (located in Newkirk, Oklahoma), Plumber Bob’s, RCB Bank, Reedy Ford, Rogers Family Dentistry, The Stock Exchange Bank, Union State Bank, United Agency, and WB Meats;
- Governmental entities such as the Arkansas City Public Library, the City of Arkansas City and Visit Ark City;
- Nonprofit organizations such as the Arkalalah Executive Committee, the Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce, the Fraternal Order of Police, Newkirk (Oklahoma) Main Street, Newman’s Quest and the Young Professionals of Cowley County.

For more information on becoming a sponsor for a movie in 2019, call Andrew Lawson at (620) 441-4415 or email alawson@arkansascityks.gov.

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