

73 | Outdoor Sidewalk Cinema

Looking for a fun Friday night activity to do outside with the family? Come see the stars under the stars each summer at West Seattle's outdoor Sidewalk Cinema "Movies on the Wall."

*See the stars
under the stars
each summer.*

Located in the historic brick courtyard on the corner of California and Genesee, Sidewalk Cinema projects films onto the north side of the Post Office wall in the parking lot of the original site for Seattle Lighting Company built in 1910—a part of West Seattle history for nearly a century.

A true community event, movie goers begin to gather around 7:45 p.m. to set up prime viewing spots. And part of the fun is learning new ways to be creative with your cinema comforts. You see everything from sleeping bags and lawn chairs to gourmet picnic dinners. So bring whatever makes you comfy for the show (no glass please).

Once you are situated, just sit back and enjoy the pre-show entertainment (such as live music, raffles, magic tricks, silent shorts and cartoons). The films begin just after dusk.

Movies are always family-friendly and a few past flicks have included titles like "Babe," "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory," "Star Wars" and "Wizard of Oz."

The movie choices are a reflection of both the organizer's personal tastes as well as a compilation of what other outdoor cinemas choose throughout the county.

"The community loves to be involved," explains Amy Derenthal, Capital Campaign Manager for the Senior Center of West Seattle.

So how did Sidewalk Cinema come to be?

It all began when Dr. Jim Pierce and his wife Julie moved their practice into the old mortuary building on the classic Westside corner. They took one look at the Post Office wall on the south end of their parking lot and decided they had to do something with this great space. Native West Seattleites, the couple felt it was important to be a part of the

community and wanted to hold events that represent their commitment to this idea.

The brainchild of Julie Pierce, West Seattle's Sidewalk Cinema began shortly thereafter, sponsored by the practice of doctors Jim Pierce and Heidi Horwitz as well as many area businesses. Movies are offered for free to the public and the sales of concessions and "pass the hat" donations go to local charities like West Seattle Senior Center, Westside Baby and the West Seattle Helpline. It's a win-win-win situation for everyone involved.

Not unlike the enthusiasm for the nostalgic drive-in movies of the 50s and 60s, outdoor cinema is a growing trend in communities throughout the country. And with audiences of up to 175 people in the north junction, West Seattle's Sidewalk Cinema is no exception.

So stroll on down, snuggle up and get ready for a films that are as classic as the brick courtyard itself—and don't forget to BYOC (bring your own chair)!

What:
Outdoor Sidewalk Cinema

Where:
4400 California Ave. SW
www.sidewalkcinema.com
or www.wsjunction.com

When:
Fri. & Sat. nights @ 9pm
June-Aug. (rescheduled if drizzly), check websites for schedule

Price:
Free (donations suggested)

