

Lights, Camera, Local!

Discover Washington's Independent Movie Theaters

Summer is the perfect time to grab some popcorn and enjoy a movie, but why not skip the megaplex and visit one of Washington's amazing independent theaters? These local gems are rich with history, character, and community spirit. Many have been entertaining audiences for generations while showcasing everything from blockbuster hits to independent films, documentaries, and cult classics.

A must-visit destination is the historic North Bend Theatre. Built in 1941, this beautifully preserved theater features a vintage neon marquee, classic movie-house charm, and a single-screen auditorium that transports visitors back to the golden age of cinema. Today, guests can enjoy current films, special events, and refreshments from the Cameo Bar while exploring the scenic Snoqualmie Valley.

Washington is also home to several other beloved independent theaters, including:

- **Grand Illusion Cinema** - Seattle's oldest art-house theater
- **The Beacon Cinema** - A cozy neighborhood favorite in Columbia City
- **Central Cinema** - Dinner, drinks, and cult-classic movie nights
- **The Firehouse Theater** - A charming theater in Kingston's historic firehouse
- **The Clyde Theatre** - A Whidbey Island landmark since 1937
- **Pickford Film Center** - Bellingham's nonprofit cinema destination
- **The Grand Cinema and Blue Mouse Theatre** - Tacoma favorites known for independent films and historic charm

Independent theaters offer more than movies; they create community, preserve local history, and deliver a movie-going experience you simply can't find anywhere else. This summer, consider making one of these theaters part of your next day trip or date night adventure. After all, some of the best stories aren't just on the screen, they're found in the theaters themselves.



Grand Illusion Cinema



The Clyde Theatre



Blue Mouse Theatre



The Grand Cinema



Pickford Film Center



The Firehouse Theater



Shake Up Summer with a Refreshing Lavender Lemonade

Since the Sequim Lavender Festival is just around the corner, we thought we'd share an easy and refreshing recipe for you to try this summer.

Ingredients:

For the syrup:

- 1 cup of water
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tsp dried lavender buds

For the lemonade:

- 1 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (about 4-6 lemons)
- 4 cups cold water
- Ice cubes

Instructions:

1. In a small saucepan, combine 1 cup water, 1 cup granulated sugar, and 2 tsp dried lavender buds.
2. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring until sugar dissolves. **Tip:** Stir constantly to prevent burning.
3. Remove from heat and let steep for 30 minutes. Strain the syrup to remove lavender buds.
4. In a large pitcher, combine 1 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice and 4 cups cold water.
5. Add the lavender syrup to the pitcher and stir well. **Tip:** Adjust sweetness by adding more syrup or water.
6. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour before serving. **Tip:** For a stronger lavender flavor, let it chill longer.
7. Serve over ice cubes.

Pleasingly floral with a tangy lemon kick, this lemonade pairs wonderfully with mint sprigs or a lemon slice for garnish. For those who want to make a cocktail from this, just 1-2 ounces of good quality vodka per serving.

Fireworks, Films & Floats: July Has It All



Sequim Lavender Festival, Jul 17-19th

Festivals for Art, Lavender & Food Jul 10-26th

Catch the West Seattle Festival (Jul 10-12), the 30th annual Sequim Lavender Festival (Jul 17-19), or Bite of Seattle (Jul 24-26).



Independence Day Jul 4th

Watch the fireworks on Jul 3rd at Rainier Vista Park, Ballinger Park, and WA State Fairgrounds.

Movies in Seattle Parks Jul 8-Aug 28th

Bring blankets, chairs, and snacks, and catch a movie as Center City Cinema turns city parks around Seattle into open-air theaters.

Seafair Torchlight Run & Parade Jul 25th

Over 100 parade units are lighting up Seattle's waterfront along Alaskan Way. Join the free 5K Run at 6 PM before the parade begins at 7:30 PM.



History, Views & No Crowds: Washington's Triangle of Fire

Looking for a fun way to celebrate Independence Day this summer? Explore Washington's historic Triangle of Fire, a trio of coastal forts built to protect Puget Sound in the late 1800s.

Fort Worden, Fort Casey, and Fort Flagler were strategically positioned to defend the entrance to Puget Sound with massive artillery guns. Together, they formed a protective triangle designed to stop enemy ships from reaching Seattle and other important ports. Interestingly, the forts never fired a shot in battle, as advances in naval technology quickly made them obsolete.

Today, these historic sites offer visitors a unique mix of military history, outdoor recreation, and breathtaking views.



Fort Worden - Port Townsend

Explore historic gun batteries, the Coast Artillery Museum, and the Commanding Officer's Quarters Museum. Stay overnight in restored military housing or enjoy summer art exhibits, live music, and ranger-led programs.

Fort Casey - Whidbey Island

Wander through maze-like bunkers, visit the iconic Admiralty Head Lighthouse, fly a kite on the parade grounds, or watch for whales along the shoreline.

Fort Flagler - Marrowstone Island

Take a guided tour of historic military structures, visit the museum, hike wooded trails, or enjoy fishing, crabbing, and beachcombing.

Whether you're planning a day trip or a weekend getaway, Washington's Triangle of Fire is a fascinating way to experience local history while celebrating our nation's independence.