

**PRESS RELEASE**

San Diego Theatres  
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## HISTORIC BALBOA THEATRE TO LAUNCH CINEMA @ THE BALBOA

### NEWLY INSTALLED STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT PROVIDES HIGHEST PROJECTION AND SOUND QUALITY AVAILABLE

#### Music-Themed Preview Week Begins in September!

Downtown San Diego (August 31, 2015) – President and CEO of San Diego Theatres, Elizabeth Doran, announced the launch of a new programming series, *Cinema @ The Balboa*, which will begin previews September 20-27.

The installation of a state-of-the-art cinema system in the historic Balboa Theatre, including 4k digital projector, full stage screen, and high definition sound, will feature amazing resolution, sound and picture quality for a compelling and entertaining film experience. The film series, curated by Doran, includes selections chosen to highlight the Balboa's legacy of music and film, as well as communicate the bold and inclusive vision of San Diego Theatres. During its initial years, the Balboa Theatre was one of the city's first largest downtown theatres screening "motion pictures" and welcomed the advent of "talkies."

Four to six films are planned to be featured each month starting in October, joining the already rich mix of performing arts programming at the Balboa Theatre. Doran is also exploring community and major studio partnerships moving forward, as well as alternative content such as live-capture arts and public speakers. October films will be announced shortly.

"San Diego Theatres, operating the Civic and Balboa Theatres downtown, is working at the nexus of artistic expression and community development," says Doran. "Our vision combines universal storytelling with interactive, inclusive and fun, high quality experiences. This builds opportunities for artists and audiences to explore aspects of our humanity together such as compassion, tolerance and creativity."

The theme of the September preview week, sponsored by Rage Monthly Magazine, is a celebration of the music heritage of the Balboa, where hundreds of acclaimed music artists have performed over the years. In addition, a focus of the *Cinema @ The Balboa* series will be on reflecting and engaging the many communities that make up downtown San Diego and its surrounding region.

The *Cinema @ The Balboa* series will preview in September with the following films:

Sun Sept 20, 1pm           ***Frozen: The Sing-Along!*** (2013) Disney's ground-breaking Academy Award winning animated smash hit will be shown with song lyrics right up on the big screen. Dress as a favorite character and prepare to "Let it Go" with friends and family! Directed by Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee. With Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Jonathan Groff, and Josh Gad.

Mon Sept 21, 7pm           ***Tupac Resurrection*** (2003) The first authorized documentary about the life and times of rapper Tupac Amaru Shakur. This Academy Award-nominated blockbuster success documentary is driven by the music and art he created, and the revolutionary ideas he voiced. It captures the dramatic life experiences of a sensitive and versatile young man whose life was tragically cut short, but whose legacy of music and poetry continues to inspire others around the world. Special Q&A post-show guests to be announced.

Tues Sept 22, 7pm           ***Stop Making Sense*** (1984) Digitally re-mixed and re-mastered for the ultimate 4k cinematic experience. Director Jonathan Demme's remarkable concert film captures the enormous energy and joyous highs of the Talking Heads in live performance. Band members David Byrne, Tina Weymouth, Chris Frantz and Jerry Harrison are joined by Bernie Worrell, Alex Weir, Steve Scales, Lynn Mabry and Edna Holt in this groundbreaking concert film that's packed with the Talking Heads most memorable songs. Shot over three concert performances in LA in December 1983, Demme's creative genius and the band's explosive energy is what makes this film an exhilarating and exciting event. Wall-to-wall music and beautiful cinematography make this "one of the greatest rock movies ever made" (Rolling Stone).

Wed Sept 23, 7pm           ***Kurt Cobain: Montage of Heck*** (2015) Written and directed by Brett Morgen. This documentary explores the indelible record of a life lived on the fine edge between madness and genius, painting a searing and unforgettable portrait of the iconic musician as it mirrors his quicksilver mind. Using Cobain's own words and images, this intimate look at an elusive and conflicted artist marks the first documentary to be made with the cooperation of his family.

Thurs Sept 24, 7pm      ***Grease: The Sing and Dance Along with special friends!***  
(1978) Ever enjoy a musical movie so much you feel the need to burst into song and dance? Wish you could be with the stars – live and in person? Come live the dream in this amazing night co-presented by San Diego Theatres and the Lythgoe Family. We will show *Grease* with all the lyrics right up on the screen, with a pre-show dance event with Dancers from **So You Think You Can Dance** and a post-show Q&A with special guests **from the original movie**. Fancy dress is strongly encouraged and full audience participation essential. Might just be the most fun night of all time.

Fri Sept 25, 7pm      ***Lawrence of Arabia*** (1962) David Lean's epic winner of seven Academy Awards this film stands as a timeless and essential motion picture masterpiece, with a sweeping score we celebrate with this showing. Maurice-Alexis Jarre, who won the Oscar for Best Score, was one of the most sought after composers in Hollywood history. Starring Peter O'Toole, Omar Sharif, and Alec Guinness, the film tells the story of T.E. Lawrence, audacious WWI British army officer who united rival Arab desert tribes and led them to war against the mighty Turkish Empire. Newly remastered at 4K resolution, the massive scope, action, and music of this film can now be enjoyed like never before.

Sun Sept 27, 1pm      ***Mary Poppins: The Sing-Along!*** (1964) Get ready to laugh and sing with wonderful tunes from one of the most popular musicals of all time – *Mary Poppins!* This remastered film with lyrics right up on the screen introduces all to the "Supercalifragilistic" hits sung by everyone's favorite nanny, *Mary Poppins*. Starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke.

To emphasize its core values of collaboration and community enrichment, San Diego Theatres will partner with other arts nonprofits, neighborhood development organizations, and government and businesses. These partnerships will enhance the cinema experience, allowing for post or pre-show conversations with artists and community leaders, art exhibits, and/or other interactive experiences. Current partners for this series include Rage Monthly, The San Diego Gay Men's Chorus, Lythgoe Family Productions, The Hard Rock Café, and The New Americans Museum.

Pricing will vary based on event and seat location and range from \$6 to \$25, with discounts available for seniors, military, and students. Parking is easy and available in numerous nearby facilities including the NBC building and Horton Plaza. Gaslamp Quarter restaurants offer a wide variety of opportunities to make a full evening at the Balboa Theatre. See [www.sandiegotheatres.org](http://www.sandiegotheatres.org) for more information. Tickets can be

purchased online or in-person. For media inquiries, please contact Toni Robin, Media Relations, [tr@trprsandiego.com](mailto:tr@trprsandiego.com) or 858-483-3918.

**SDT Ticket Chargeline & Information**  
**570-1100** (619/760/858 area codes)  
Monday – Friday, 10a-6p (closed holidays)

## **About San Diego Theatres**

San Diego Theatres is a not-for-profit arts organization that successfully operates the Civic and Balboa Theatres in downtown San Diego, serving over 450,000 patrons annually through arts and entertainment presentations. Its mission is to enrich all the people of its region through exceptional performing arts and education experiences, to foster collaboration in the arts community, and to be a catalyst for economic development in downtown San Diego. Through San Diego Theatres and its arts and community partners, the people of this region are enriched, empowered, and entertained. Spirit, charisma, and vitality of all are nurtured and strengthened.

## **Cinema Heritage of the Balboa Theatre**

The Balboa Theatre was named one of the fifteen of the “World’s Most Spectacular Theatres” by CNN Travel. Built in 1924, the theatre was an elegant vaudeville and movie palace in the heart of downtown San Diego. After a 1934 remodeling, the theatre was reopened as El Teatro Balboa, featuring contemporary films from Mexico City and presenting Latin stars to San Diego’s increasingly diverse audience. During WWII, the theatre’s office space was reconfigured by the U.S. Navy into bachelor quarters for sailors. After the war, these spaces became single-occupancy housing.

The Balboa operated as a movie house until the City of San Diego purchased it in 1986. Ten years later, the theatre was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Subsequently, the theatre was closed for over twenty years. In 2008, the City’s Redevelopment Agency funded a \$26.5M restoration. The Balboa reopened as a community performing arts center managed by San Diego Theatres. Now, with funding made possible by the County of San Diego Neighborhood Reinvestment Program and the City of San Diego’s City Council Funding of Community Projects, Programs, and Services (CPPS), the Balboa will reclaim its great cinema heritage with brand new, state-of-the-art digital cinema and sound equipment, and a cinema series with a focus on inclusiveness in the audience and artistic excellence on the screen.