

Cheap Summer Cinema: Cool Off at These Bargain Family Films Around Puget Sound - ParentMap

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Cheap Summer Cinema: Cool Off at These Bargain Family Films Around Puget Sound

Dollar matinees, \$3 first-run films, movie story times

By Gemma Alexander



"When I was a kid, a ticket to the movies only cost..." the familiar rant begins. The reason movie prices are used to benchmark how much times have changed is because a trip to the movies continues to be a treat, a rare constant in the fast-changing world of entertainment. Despite the rise of video games and YouTube, the dark, air-conditioned cave of the movie theater has never gone out of style. This summer, with a little bit of planning, your family can share the big screen tradition for some very retro prices.

Columbia City's Kidsummer Film Fest: \$3 Wednesday matinees

Located in one of the most vibrant communities in Seattle, Columbia City's vintage, independent theater will run its second summer season of kids' film on **Wednesdays at 10:30** beginning with *Babe* on July 8 and continuing through August. All seats are \$3. The snack bar will offer kid-sized concessions and noncarbonated drinks, and the lights will be dimmed instead of dark. Sign up for their weekly newsletter online to receive a free small popcorn.

Movie schedule: July 8, *Babe*; July 15, *Chicken Run*; July 22, *Cat in Paris*; July 29, *The Muppet Movie*; (1979); August 5, *Wallace and Gromit: Curse of the Were-Rabbit*; August 12, *Jumanji*; August 19, *Shrek 2*; August 26, *Kung Fu Panda II*.

Details: 4816 Rainier Avenue South, Seattle. 206-721-3156

Regal Summer Movie Express, \$1 matinees

Regal Entertainment Group runs a weekday family matinee series all summer long. Each tickets costs \$1 for movies beginning at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning June 23. The same movies will play at all participating Regal Cinemas. There are participating locations in Seattle, Lynnwood, Redmond and Renton in the Puget Sound area. Check their website for exact dates and locations; several theaters in the region do not participate in Summer Movie Express, but do hold Regal Value Days where tickets to regularly scheduled movies are discounted (usually around \$6).

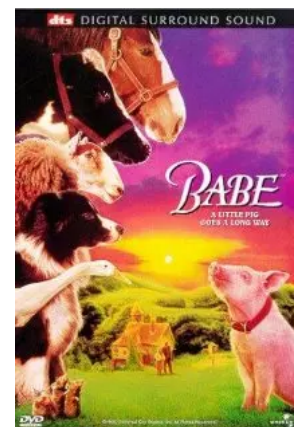
Movie schedule: Week 1 (June 23, 24), *Nut Job*, *Annie*; Week 2, *Earth to Echo*; *The Boxtrolls*; Week 3, *Paddington*, *Turbo*; Week 4, *Rio 2*, *How to Train Your Dragon 2*; Week 5, *Mr. Peabody and Sherman*, *The Book of Life*; Week 6, *Night at the Museum: Secrets of the Tomb*, *Penguins of Madagascar*; Week 7, *Madagascar 3*, *Dolphin Tale 2*; Week 8, *Muppets Most Wanted*, *Alexander and the Very Bad Day*; Week 9, *The Lego Movie*, *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge out of Water*

Cinemark Summer Movie Clubhouse: \$1 movies

The Cinemark Summer Movie Clubhouse consists of a different G or PG-rated movie each week for 10 weeks. Tickets cost \$1 each at the door, or you can buy the whole bundle in advance for \$5. Participating theaters includes Bellevue's Lincoln Square (Wednesdays, already started), at Century Federal Way (Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning June 23) and at Century Olympia (Tuesdays and Wednesdays). Showtime is 10 a.m.

Movie schedule: Movies vary by theater. See [Lincoln Square's schedule](#); [Federal Way's schedule](#); and [Century Olympia's schedule](#). Movies include *Mr. Peabody and Sherman*, *Penguins of Madagascar*, *Night at the Museum: Secrets of the Tomb*, *How to Train Your Dragon 2*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days*, *The Nut Job*, *Rio 2*, *Turbo*, *The Croods* (Federal Way only)

Scarecrow Video: Free Children's Hour



Babe starts off Columbia City's series

This year, Scarecrow Video, the largest privately held collection of video and physical media in the world, is expanding into educational programming, including piloting this [free, in-store children's story hour](#) on **Thursdays at 11 a.m. until September 3**. The theme is "High, Low & In-between."

Activities include a reading, a short video screening and a craft. For example, for the first week "High: Space," staff read several picture books from a themed reading list provided by partners at University Branch Library; and watched two short videos, "Stars, Stars, Stars" from Scholastic and Pixar's "La Luna" short. For the activity, children designed their own solar system with construction paper. All ages are welcome, but the **target audience is preschool**. Scarecrow is looking for feedback on how to make this and other programming more valuable for families who want to benefit from the enormous amount of children's content in their archive.

Details: Scarecrow Video is located at 5030 Roosevelt Way Seattle. Both Scarecrow and the University Branch Library have small parking lots; parents can also find two-hour parking on the sidestreets (Ninth Street offers back-door access to the library and avoids the construction on Roosevelt).

Schedule of themes: June 25,: Sky; July 2: Flying Things; July 9: Underwater; June 16: Underground; July 23: Plants; July 30: You & me; August 6: Animals; August 13: Buildings; August 20: Trees; August 27: Insects; Sept. 3: Birds

Tip for older kids: If your kids are too old for Children's Hour, Scarecrow also partners with Reel Grrls for a regular screening of girl-positive movies appropriate for young teens third Friday of each month at 5 p.m. June's movie was *Song of the Sea*.)

Tacoma's Blue Mouse Theatre: \$3 and \$4 seats

100-year-old independent movie theater, the Blue Mouse, has relatively low prices every day of the week, with adult tickets regularly priced at \$5. But the deal gets even sweeter with **Monday Movie Madness**, when all tickets are only \$3 all day and **Topsy Turvy Tuesdays when all tickets are \$4 all day**. Blue Mouse plays a mix of family, art-house, independent and mainstream movies, so be sure to check out the listings online before you go.

Details: 2611 N. Proctor St., Tacoma. 253-752-9500

AMC Cares: \$4.99 matinees

Not specifically for families, the AMC Cares program brings back hit movies from the past year, donating the proceeds to charity. Movies are shown at noon seven days a week through the summer. Tickets are \$4.99. Check their website for participating locations near you.



Blue Mouse Theatre, Tacoma

Movie schedule: June 12–18, *Paddington*; June 19–25, *Hunger Games: Mockingjay*; June 26–July 2, *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge out of Water*

Central Cinema, Seattle: 99-cent seats

Central Cinema plays an eccentric assortment of movies, only a few of which are for kids, and they only show matinees on Saturday. But all screenings are all-ages, and kids will love the full dinner service at their seats. Keep an eye on their calendar for **99-cent movies (usually the last showing on Wednesdays)** when you can easily afford dinner and a movie for your little night owl. This summer, *Spice World*, *Airplane!* and *Zoolander* are the most family-friendly of the 99-cent movies. Check their website for dates.

Details: 1411 21st Ave., Seattle. 206-328-3230

Gateway 8, Federal Way: \$2 matinees

With \$2 matinees and \$1 hot dogs, the Gateway 8 Starplex Cinema in Federal Way is always a cheap way to do a first-run movie and lunch (3D movies are \$4).

Details: 2501 S. Gateway Center, Federal Way; 253-946-9224 (movieline)

Crest Cinema, Shoreline: \$4 tickets, all the time

A little down at heel (though in better shape than it used to be), Shoreline's beloved second-run theater is a last chance to catch the movies you meant to see before they leave the big screen. Matinees are only scheduled on weekends, but whenever you go, all tickets are \$4 (3D is \$5.50).

Details: 16505 5th Ave. N.E. at 165th, Shoreline. 206-363-6339

The Edmonds Theater: \$6 matinees

It's a little pricier than others on this list, but only a little. The independent Edmonds Theater in a restored vintage building plays first-run movies on its single screen for less than you'll pay at

the cineplex. **Matinees are \$6.** For evening showings, general admission is \$8; students pay \$7 and children 12 and under pay \$6.

Details: 415 Main St., 98020 Edmonds; 425-778-4554 (showtimes); 425-672-9366 (office)

Regal East Valley Stadium 13, Renton, \$3.45 first-run movies

This outpost of the Regal Cinema empire plays many of the same first-run movies you'll see at other Regal Cinemas, except every movie here costs \$3.45.

Details: 3751 E. Valley Rd., Renton. 1-844-462-7342 ext. 423

Libraries, outdoor films and more cheap movie thrills

You can always check out videos from the library, but sometimes you can also watch them there.

- Several branches of the **Seattle Public Library** run movie series: look for Beacon Hill's "Food, Family, Fun," Greenwood's "First Sunday Family Movies," and Southwest's "Wild Science," among others.

- **King County Library** users have options at several branches as well. In Pierce County, Tillicum/American Lake Gardens Community Center has family movie matinees at 1 p.m. on June 20 and July 25. Check the **library calendar** for these and more.

- There are many **outdoor cinema programs** around the Puget Sound during the summer. If your family is up for a late night, most of the outdoor movies are free and none of them is expensive

When you missed the matinee but you're out of ideas for summer activities, don't forget **Neflix, Hulu, and Popcornflix** for streaming movies at home. Looking for a particular movie? Try **Yidio** for searching across platforms.

June 24, 2015

