

MOVIES, MEMORIES, AND MIDNIGHT SHOWINGS

Why Drive-In Theaters Were the Heart of My Childhood

I grew up in Joplin, Missouri, where summer nights meant one thing: the drive-in. I can still picture it. Those dusty gravel lots, big glowing screens, and the metal speakers you'd hang on your window to listen to the action. Back then, it wasn't just about the movie but was instead a social event. If you didn't know, June 6th is Drive-In Movie Day, so if you could permit me, I'd like to go down memory lane with you. Back to those gravel lots where friends would walk from car to car, the concession stand buzzed, and the atmosphere felt like a small-town fair that showed "Dirty Harry" instead of funnel cakes.

Speaking of "Dirty Harry," here's a memory that's firmly etched into my brain. My sister's high school boyfriend (later her husband) once took me to see it when I was about 8 years old. I'm sure it wasn't the most age-appropriate choice, but that night felt like a rite of passage. Clint Eastwood's scowl, the .44 Magnum, the whispered "Do you feel lucky?" — I was hooked.

Around Halloween, the drive-in became a playground of horror flicks. Triple features of Vincent Price movies ran late into the night, and it was magic — low-budget, B-movie magic — but magic nonetheless.

When we moved to Ohio, the drive-ins thinned out, but my love for movies didn't go anywhere. In fact, the first movie I ever saw in a theater was "Doctor Zhivago." I was just a little kid, and it stuck with me for reasons I can't fully explain. That sprawling, emotional epic had a gravity to it. It was the kind of movie that makes a lifelong impression — even if you don't understand half of it at the time.

Then came the golden age of my movie fandom: teenage freedom. I remember getting my license just so I could head out to the local drive-in

and theater (and maybe catch an R-rated movie without getting caught). Then, when I was 18, "Star Wars" hit theaters in 1977. Midnight showing, popcorn in hand, I was transported. I saw it five times that summer and didn't blink once. Of course, this meant you could find me at every "Star Wars" opening night since 1977. Now, years later, I've passed that torch to my sons. We've watched the whole saga together, from start to finish, multiple times, Blu-ray discs and all.

And I still love the theater. Here in Columbus, we have this incredible 1920s theater with a summer series showing old classics like "Casablanca." They even run silent films with a live organist on one of those massive, old-school pipe organs. Watching the original "Phantom of the Opera" with live music rumbling through your bones? That's something special.

From 10-cent summer matinees during childhood to watching "The Shawshank Redemption" (still one of my all-time favorites), films have always been a place to escape, reflect, and connect. Whether it was laughing at Jerry Lewis flicks as a kid or being blown away by the sweeping drama of "Patton," these stories leave lasting impressions.

So, no, I haven't been to a drive-in in years. But the spirit of those nights, that flickering light on the screen, the thrill of the story — that's stayed with me. Movies don't just entertain us; they become part of us. They give us memories, inside jokes, and lines we quote until the end of time. And honestly? That's why I'll never stop watching.

— Jim Monast



SAY YES TO THE CELEBRATION, NOT THE OVERSPENDING

CELEBRATE YOUR LOVED ONES WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK

When wedding season rolls around and birthday invites start stacking up, it's easy to feel like your wallet is under attack. Between flights, gifts, and party attire, the cost of celebrating your loved ones can add up **fast**. But with planning and savvy spending, you can still show up for the big moments without blowing your budget.

PLAN AHEAD LIKE A PRO.

Before you say "yes" to every invitation, take a moment to map out your year. Write down weddings, birthdays, baby showers, and graduations you hope to attend. Once you see them all in one place, estimating your total spending is easier. Set a realistic budget for each event, and don't forget to factor in travel, gifts, and attire. Always do your research and verify prices for flights, hotel rooms, and registry gifts.

CUT COSTS WITHOUT CUTTING FUN.

Once you have a budget, look for ways to trim expenses without missing out on the fun. Instead

of buying a new outfit for every event, consider re-wearing something you already own or borrowing from a friend. If travel is involved, check if you can split an Airbnb or crash on a friend's couch.

BE HONEST ABOUT YOUR BUDGET.

Money can be a tricky subject, but being upfront about your financial situation can help you avoid

unnecessary stress. If an event is out of your budget, have an honest conversation with the host. Most people will be understanding and actually appreciate your transparency. Be sure to express gratitude and excitement for their big day, even if you can't be there in person.

STAY CONNECTED IN CREATIVE WAYS.

Just because you can't attend doesn't mean you can't celebrate! Send a thoughtful gift within your budget, offer to help with planning, or schedule a video call to toast their milestone. Your presence matters more than your presents, and true friends will appreciate any effort you make to share in their joy.

Ultimately, celebrating your friends and family shouldn't come with financial stress. The best memories don't come from the most expensive gifts or the fanciest flights. They're built on laughter, love, and the moments you share, no matter what that looks like.



Workers' Comp at the Work Party

WHAT COUNTS AND WHAT DOESN'T WHEN INJURED AT A COMPANY OUTING

Most of us think of workers' compensation as applying to accidents on the job site — slipping in the warehouse or injuring your back while lifting equipment. But what happens when you're hurt at a company picnic, holiday party, or charity fundraiser? Can that injury still count as work-related?

NOT EVERY WORK EVENT IS 'WORK.'

Company outings like races, bowling nights, and casual barbecues are often optional, off-the-clock events meant to help coworkers bond and unwind. In Ohio, workers' compensation generally covers injuries in the *course and scope* of employment. So, if your weekend volleyball sprain happened at a voluntary team-building event, your claim might not qualify. **But there are some key exceptions.**

WHEN YOUR INJURY MIGHT BE COVERED.

You don't have to be hurt at your usual work location to qualify for benefits, but you do have

to prove that the event was closely connected to your job. Here are a few situations where your injury might be covered:

- **You had to attend:** If your boss says attendance is required, then the event is considered work. Injuries sustained there may be covered under workers' compensation laws.
- **You were being paid:** Even if the event is labeled as "optional," if you're still on the clock or receiving pay during the outing, an injury could be considered job-related.
- **There was a business purpose:** If the picnic included formal presentations, company updates, or awards ceremonies, it shows that your employer expected a work-related benefit from your attendance. That makes a difference in determining eligibility for benefits.
- **You were injured on company property:** Any outing on company property could

make the employer liable for your workers' compensation claim.

- **Clients are present at the event:** If the social event includes clients or customers, it can be considered a work-related event due to the pressure to take part.

NOT SURE IF YOU'RE COVERED? WE CAN HELP.

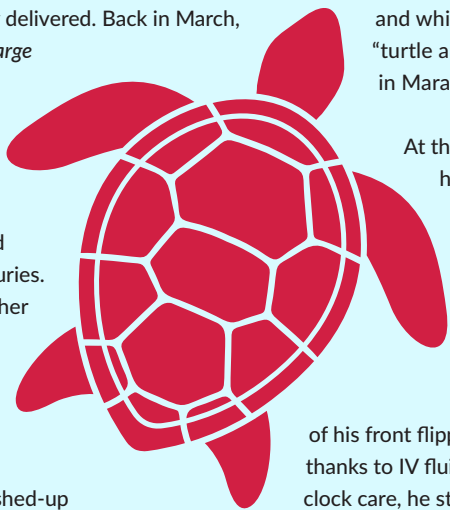
Injuries at company events can create a lot of confusion when it comes to workers' compensation. Whether your injury happened on company grounds, during paid time, or under work-related circumstances, it's worth getting a legal opinion.

Contact our team at Monast Law Office, and we'll review your situation, explain your options, and fight to ensure you receive the benefits you're entitled to. Your recovery starts with a conversation — **reach out today.**

JUST KEEP SWIMMING!

HOW THIS 322-POUND SEA TURTLE MADE IT BACK HOME

Everyone loves a good rescue story, and Lenny the sea turtle definitely delivered. Back in March, Lenny, a large and in charge 322-pound loggerhead turtle, was spotted near Alligator Reef in the Florida Keys. He was having a hard time swimming and had some pretty serious injuries. Underwater photographer Mike Papish noticed something was wrong right away. "I saw he had a badly damaged flipper, and his face was a little mashed-up from a shark attack," Papish told NBC News.



began. Lenny was taken to shore by boat and whisked off in what rescuers call a "turtle ambulance" to the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Florida.

At the one-of-a-kind nonprofit hospital, the team got to work fast. "There are not a lot of predators, right, that could get a mouth around a turtle that size," said Bette Zirkelbach, the hospital manager. "So we are assuming it was a very large shark." Lenny had lost part of his front flipper and had deep scarring, but thanks to IV fluids, antibiotics, and round-the-clock care, he started to bounce back.

That Lenny made it to adulthood in the first place is incredible. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,

only 1 in 1,000 sea turtle hatchlings survive. "These turtles are up against a lot when they're hatchlings," Zirkelbach explained. "So when you realize that and what Lenny would have had to endure to make it out to sea and survive, you know, he beat the statistics." The Turtle Hospital wasn't just working hard to save Lenny but to make sure his species had a better shot at survival for generations to come.

After a few weeks of healing, it was finally time to go home. On March 25, Lenny was released back into the ocean at the very reef where he was found. Mike Papish was there to see him off and capture the moment.

"He looked back as I was getting his last shot, and then he just kind of waved," Papish said.

Lenny's journey reminds us of the difference a little help (*and a lot of heart*) can make.

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ANSWER



EATS WITH ELLIE

NO-BAKE ICEBOX CAKE

This simple, nostalgic dessert with whipped cream and cookie layers is perfect for warm weather and can even be made early for an easy weeknight treat.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups heavy cream
- 1/3 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 (9-oz) package chocolate wafer cookies
- 1/2 cup chocolate shavings or cocoa powder (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Line an 8x4-inch loaf pan with plastic wrap, allowing it to hang over the sides.
2. In a mixing bowl, whip cream, sugar, and vanilla until stiff peaks form.
3. Spread a small amount of mixture in the loaf pan and layer cookies in a single layer on top.
4. Continue layering whipped cream and cookies, finishing with cream on top.
5. Cover with plastic and refrigerate for at least 8 hours, preferably overnight, until cookies soften.
6. To serve, uncover and invert on a plate. Dust with chocolate shavings or cocoa powder, if desired.

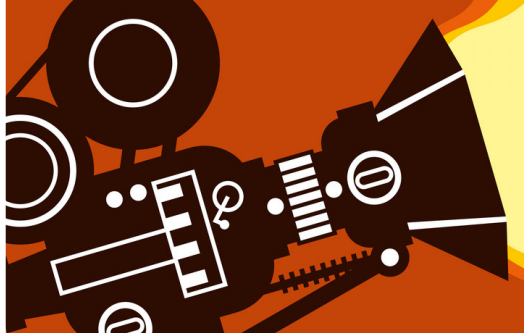
Inspired by AllRecipes.com

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WHY DID OLD HOLLYWOOD SOUND SO FANCY?

KATHARINE HEPBURN, CARY GRANT, AND THE ART OF SPEAKING LIKE AN ARISTOCRAT

There's a certain charm to old Hollywood movies — glamorous stars, sweeping orchestral scores, and, of course, that oddly posh, vaguely British way of speaking. You know the one. The voice makes Katharine Hepburn sound like she's perpetually midway through an important luncheon and Cary Grant appear to deliver a one-liner while also sipping afternoon tea. This isn't just a coincidence; it's the **Transatlantic accent**, and for a while, it was the gold standard of sophisticated speech.

Unlike normal regional dialects, the Transatlantic accent wasn't something people naturally developed by growing up in a particular area. It was an *acquired* accent drilled into the minds of upper-crust New Englanders at elite boarding schools and embraced by stage actors who wanted to sound refined. Essentially, it was the linguistic equivalent of wearing a tuxedo at all times.

Hollywood, never one to pass up a trend, adopted this cultivated accent in the early days of talkies. Why? Because it made actors sound polished, articulate, and, quite frankly, fancy. The crisp, clipped tones worked wonders

for those speedy, back-and-forth screwball comedy exchanges. Just watch "His Girl Friday" and try not to be dazzled by the machine-gun dialogue between Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell!

And then, just as suddenly as it arrived, the Transatlantic accent packed its bags and vanished. By the 1950s, Hollywood started shifting away from aristocratic dramas and high-society stories, opting instead for gritty realism and everyday characters. The era of Marlon Brando and James Dean meant mumbling was in, and sounding like you vacationed on the French Riviera every summer was ... well, out.

Of course, we can still enjoy the legacy of the Transatlantic accent in classic films. Want to master it yourself? Pick up "Speak With Distinction" by Edith Skinner, the holy grail of old-school elocution training. Soon enough, you'll drop your R's, crisp your T's, and stretch your vowels until "dance" becomes "*dahnce*." After all, old Hollywood may be gone, but its impeccable enunciation will never go out of style.