

CALUMET THEATRE'S DINNER & MOVIE SERIES

The Calumet Theatre Board of Directors extends heartfelt gratitude for many years of service to Joe Kirkish – Mr. Club Indigo – as they acknowledge his departure from Club Indigo and the Theatre's retirement of the popular Dinner & Movie Series.

Back in 1993 the Pasty Queens, a trio of talented Calumet women, began using the Calumet Theatre ballroom and sometimes the Theatre for monthly Friday night entertainment combined with drinks and dining. Entertainment featured anything from local singers, musicians, and films. Patty Pawlicki, Executive Director at that time, created the title Club Indigo for this series of entertainment. The entertainment series transitioned to a series of film and food combinations under the direction of Joe Kirkish when he became a Theatre board member in 1994.

Since then Club Indigo has provided 1000s of patrons with a plethora of good films to enjoy from all over the world. One of the best TGIF options available featured not only a fine film but also gourmet meals from chefs around the Copper Country. Additionally, Joe educated the audience about the creation of the film, its producers, directors, actors, visual effects, and encouraged the audience to look outside the box often beyond the typical Hollywood films to enjoy independent films, foreign films, silent films, sci-fi flicks – you name it – we got a taste of it all!

Over the years, Joe cultivated a list of chefs for the Friday night buffets and found sponsors to help pay for the films. He handled all the “PR” by writing articles, giving radio interviews, helping to develop posters, and finding capable helpers from the Mu Beta Psi fraternity to deliver posters. The fraternity even assisted the chefs at the buffets.

There aren't many people that would take on a project like this in their retirement years! But after all, Joe had been a MTU professor who taught film courses so selecting feature films for Club Indigo was second nature to him. The time he spent was immeasurable; the joy the series provided to the audiences was immense. Thank you, Joe!

It's a hard act to follow, but the Calumet Theatre Company will continue a Dinner & Movie Series. The new Series schedule will be every other month (July – September – November 2017 this year. It will feature prestigious movies, a themed dinner with “extras.”

The first event of the Calumet Theatre Dinner & Movie Series kicked-off on July 14th with Citizen Kane with 100 people in attendance. There was a special price of \$18 for dinner and the movie which included a prime rib buffet with all the trimmings including appetizers and desserts from Victoria's Kitchen of Houghton which delighted everyone! The “extra” for July – dress “to the nines” (wear those fancy clothes) set the stage for dinner eaten by the well-to-do just as Kane did making his climb up society's ladder. The best dressed, voted on by the dinner attendees, were: Ladies: Linda in a lovely red-hatters outfit and Men: Chet who wore a sharp-looking handmade suit from the country he resided in during his Peace Corps days. Each earned a ticket for a future Calumet Theatre performance!

A Theatre Company Board committee will be handling the details of the new Dinner & Movie Series. Audience feed-back was welcomed during and after the July 14th event. Reservation dates are being discussed with the participating chefs. Additional chefs should be available in 2018 after the installation of the elevator to the Ballroom. The committee will be considering movies mentioned by patrons and the summer movie schedule to accommodate our snow-bird friends.

The next Calumet Theatre Dinner & Movie Series will take place in September. Date and details coming soon! Please feel free to contact Executive Director Laura Miller at laura@calumettheatre.com with suggestions and/or concerns about the new Dinner & Movie Series.