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BENTONVILLE FILM FESTIVAL:
BRINGS STAR-STUDED
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MAY 2017
\$2.50 VALUE

BENTONVILLE FILM FESTIVAL

The Bentonville Film Festival, a one-of-a-kind event championing women and diverse voices in the media, is returning for the third time on May 2 for its biggest and best year yet.

Supporting women and diverse storytellers by featuring films directed, produced and written by women, as well as films featuring a female or a diverse lead character and a predominately female and diverse cast and crew, BFF is making waves in the entertainment industry, as well as right here in our own community.

Last year alone the festival attracted 63,000 attendees to Northwest Arkansas, making it the sixth-largest entertainment festival in the world. This year festival founders are expecting at least 100,000 people to be in attendance, with 95 percent of seats filled at all events. "I'm so excited to be heading into our third annual BFF," says Academy Award-winning actress and co-founder of BFF, Geena Davis. "The festival has become an important catalyst for change, and we look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of the past year and setting the stage for years to come."



Meet and greet with Geena Davis

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

FILMS

Featuring narratives, documentaries and shorts, there are over 60 films on this year's competition lineup, as well as a handful of showcase and highlight films, including *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2*, *Leap!*, *Everything, Everything* and *3 Generations*.

Film screenings will take place through May 7 at various locations across downtown Bentonville, including in three cinetransformers, state-of-the-art mobile cinemas that were introduced at the festival last year.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

This year's festival includes a number of must-attend discussions, including Geena Davis' panel, "Read it, See it, Play it, Be it," which will focus on how different forms of media have the power to inspire and change lives; "Kids: Shaping Tomorrow's

Influencers Today," featuring Mattel children's television programmers and product developers who have dedicated their life's work to making the conversation about diversity with children an easier topic; "Lights! Camera! Inclusion!," a discussion with Joey Travolta that will focus on self-empowerment tactics and resources; "Sustainability: Going Further," a discussion on maintaining health, safety and labor rights for workers; as well as a handful of other sessions focusing on diversity and inclusion.

CONCERTS

Music lovers are sure to appreciate the great lineup of musical talent BFF is bringing to town this year.

The lineup includes performances by Run River North, Song Suffragettes, Dean Dillon and potential performances by Blues Traveler and The Black Eyed Peas.

Musical performances will take place at the Walmart AMP in Rogers and the Meteor Guitar Gallery in Bentonville.



Panel discussions inspire change with a focus on diversity and inclusion



A League of Their Own reunion game at Arvest Ballpark

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN 25TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION BASEBALL GAME

“There’s no crying in baseball!”

Fans of the movie might find it hard to believe that it has already been 25 years since this well-known classic’s release date, but July does indeed mark the 25th anniversary of the film. To celebrate, Sony is releasing a 25th anniversary DVD and is bringing members of the original cast to Northwest Arkansas for a reunion game at Arvest Ballpark.

This game will feature some of the original Peaches, including Lori Petty, Renee Coleman, Anne Ramsay, Tracy Reiner, Megan Cavanagh, Patti Pelton and, of course, Geena Davis, as well as University of Arkansas players and gold medal Olympian Jennie Finch as pitcher, competing against BFF sponsors.

This reunion game will take place on May 7 at 11 a.m. and will be covered by *The Today Show* and *espnW*.

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

In addition to the competition films, concerts and reunion baseball game, BFF will host a number of other community events that are free and fun for the whole family to enjoy. These events include the INsideOUT Lounge, a mind-, body- and spirit-focused lounge where personal

care sponsors will provide tips and tricks to help you look and feel your best “from the INsideOUT;” the STEAM Lounge, an interactive space presented by Samsung where you can experience how artists, filmmakers, and engineers are collaborating to create new human experiences through virtual reality and gaming, as well as listen to TED Talks with tech industry leaders; Family Film Night, an outdoor screening event taking place after First Friday at the Lawrence Plaza; a KidsZone featuring games and face painting at the Bentonville Farmers Market; and so much more! ■



Concerts are an exciting part of the festival events

The festival will run May 2-7. Schedule and talent lineup is subject to change. Please refer to www.bentonvillefilmfestival.com for tickets and more information, or follow “Bentonville Film Festival” on Facebook for the most recent updates.

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