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For Immediate Release

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**WARNER THEATRE HOLDS FAMILY FUN MOVIE DAY & TRAVEL EXPO ON
MARCH 1st!**

Spielberg's E.T., WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, and
THE MUPPET MOVIE are on tap for fundraising event

TORRINGTON, Conn. 68 Main St. – Building on the success of previous classic movie festivals, the Warner Theatre will host a Family Fun Movie Day & Travel Expo on Saturday March 1 at 8pm. The expo is a fundraising event for the historic theatre, and features screenings of Steven Spielberg's **E.T. The Extraterrestrial**, the original **Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory** starring Gene Wilder and **The Muppet Movie** with classic animated shorts running before all feature presentations.

In addition to the family movies, the Warner Theatre is also hosting a travel expo during the screenings of the movies where representatives from leading travel companies will be on hand to offer advice and discounts to patrons wanting more information on planning their family vacation.

"This time of year in New England, people inevitably are thinking about their vacation plans. So we thought with such a family-oriented event going on already, why not include information for families to plan their trips while they are at the Warner for the day," said James Patrick, Executive Director at the Warner Theatre.

The theatre plans on having representatives from various cruise lines including Carnival, Royal Caribbean, Norwegian and Princess on hand as well as representatives from RayLynn Travel, GoGo Tours and CIE Tours. Attendees could get a chance to win travel-related door prizes provided by the companies.

Built in 1931 by Warner Brothers Studios and designed by famed architect Thomas Lamb, the Warner Theatre stopped showing movies in the late 70s. In the mid 80s, the theatre reopened as Litchfield County's largest performing arts center and in 2002 the theatre underwent a multimillion dollar restoration. In 2006, the theatre purchased new digital film equipment and hosted the Connecticut premiere of the major motion picture *Flyboys*.

"We had sold all of the tickets to the event and actually had a waiting list of almost a hundred people who wanted to see a movie again at the Warner," said Patrick of the August 2006 premiere. He continued, "We then followed that up with the Holiday Film Festival, which attracted thousands of movie lovers and with that kind of demand and the positive response we received we started looking at other film events that would give patrons an opportunity to see movies in the style in which they were made to be shown," said Patrick.

Tickets to a screening are \$5.00 for the general public and \$3.50 for Warner Members, Subscribers, seniors and children under 12 years of age. Special group pricing is available and all seating is reserved. Refreshments, including specialty-themed drinks, candy and fresh made \$1.00 bags of popcorn will be available. Patrons wishing to attend the Travel expo only may do so by purchasing a \$1.50 Expo Only ticket.

"It's all about the experience. We're not interested in just taking your ticket and turning on the projector—anyone can do that. We want our patrons to feel like going to the movies at the Warner is an event, much like it was when it first opened in the 30s. Movies were a big deal. Now that we've brought movies back, we want to honor our heritage and be a place where people can relive that experience. That's why we offer reserved seating, full bar service, ushers and affordable concessions," Patrick explained. All proceeds from the event go to benefit the historic theatre. For information, please call or visit the Warner Theatre Box Office at (860) 489-7180 or purchase tickets online at warnertheatre.org.

Promotional support provided by **99 Restaurant** with additional support from the **Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism**. **Taylor Rental** is the proud concession sponsor for the event.

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Performance Schedule

Pre-show Animated shorts include:

Duck! Rabbit. Duck!

Elmer Fudd goes hunting in January, unsure of what game is legal for the season, and Daffy Duck and Bugs Bunny, to avoid being shot at, mislead him into thinking it's dirty skunk, pigeon, mongoose, and baseball season!

Easter Yeggs

Bugs Bunny fills in for the Easter bunny and encounters a mean child, who makes Bugs think twice about the temporary position. After much persuasion by the Easter bunny, Bugs agrees to continue. His second visit is to the home of Elmer Fudd, where Elmer is disguised as a baby to lure Bugs closer for an easier catch.

The Muppet Movie - 11am

Feature:

The Muppet Movie

Voices of Jim Henson and Frank Oz

Directed by James Frawley

Rated G; 94 min; 1979

Jim Henson's internationally famous Muppets make their feature film debut in the charming, musical fable that follows Kermit the Frog and Fozzie Bear who set out for Hollywood to seek stardom. Along the way, they are joined by Miss Piggy, Gonzo, Rowlf the dog and the rest of the Muppets who help them on their journey to find fame and fortune in Hollywood.

Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory - 2pm

Feature:

Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

Gene Wilder, Jack Albertson

Warner Brothers; Directed by Mel Stuart

Rated G; 100 min; 1971

Take a tour of the most fabulous, magical candy factory in the world. The mysterious Willy Wonka offers a lifetime supply of chocolate and more-to one of the young children who tours his tasty factory and passes his test.

E.T. - 7:30pm

Feature:

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial

Dee Wallace, Henry Thomas, Drew Barrymore

Universal Pictures; Directed by Steven Spielberg

Rated PG; 115 min; 1982

A being from outer space is accidentally stranded on Earth. In his search for refuge, E.T. wanders into the backyard where he is discovered by ten-year-old Elliot. Elliot assumes responsibility for E.T.'s safety while searching, in a race against time, for a way to reunite E.T. with his own kind in this heartwarming story of friendship and discovery.

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About the Warner Theatre

Built by Warner Brothers Studios and opened in 1931 as a movie palace, the Warner Theatre was described then as "Connecticut's Most Beautiful Theatre." Damaged extensively in a flood, the Warner was slated for demolition in the early 1980s until the non-profit Northwest Connecticut Association for the Arts (NCAA) was founded and purchased the theatre. The Warner reopened as a performing arts center in 1983, and restoration of the lobbies and auditorium was completed in November 2002. Today, the Warner is in operation year-round with more than 160 performances and some 94,000 patrons passing through its doors each season. NCAA's mission is to preserve the Warner Theatre as an historic landmark, enhance its reputation as a center of artistic excellence and a focal point of community involvement, and satisfy the diverse cultural needs of the region. To learn more about the Warner Theatre, visit our website: www.warnertheatre.org.