

BIG screen alternatives

For a cinema experience with a difference try one of these ideas

REGARDLESS of age or interest, most people enjoy going to the movies. When at a loss for what to do on a weekend, a movie is probably the easiest (and most affordable) way to spend an evening. For those of you who feel that the regular cinemas situated in malls aren't quite filling your movie needs, here are five alternative ways to munch some popcorn while spending some time with the big screen.

1. CINE PRESTIGE

Ster Kinekor has two exclusive, luxurious cinemas situated at Cradlestone Mall in the West Rand and The Zone in Rosebank. These specialist cinemas epitomise film-viewing heaven and pure luxury rolled into one, as audiences relax in oversized, comfortable chairs in an exclusive cinema environment, while watching the latest blockbusters on the big screen.

The cinemas are smaller than standard theatres, accommodating only 65 people at a time. If popcorn isn't substantial enough for you, there is a VIP lounge area where platters of food can be ordered and enjoyed inside the Cine Prestige cinema. Snack trays are fitted into the pure leather seats, which recline all the way back and are fitted with cushioning such that you simply sink into the seat. Cinemas are also fitted with a certain number of

HASMITA
NAIR

Jozilicious

Twitter:
@Hasmita



double "loveseats" – perfect to snuggle up on a date night.

Book at www.sterkinetor.com. Tickets are priced at R97.50 each.

2. VINTAGE MOVIE NIGHTS AT MORRELLS MANOR HOUSE

Morrells is a stunning event venue and guest house situated in Northcliff, which screens classics, like *Casablanca*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and *ET* on the last Thursday of every month, in an outdoor picnic setting. Guests can either book a picnic blanket on the lawn (complete with a blanket and pillows), or a table alongside the pool. Two large tables are set up with a wide variety of sweet and savoury snacks, and guests are able to build their own picnic baskets from a selection of hot dogs, mini hamburgers, salads and mini chicken and beef bites. The sweet treats on offer are even more tempting – choose from mini crême brûlée, Turkish delight, fruit skewers and mini chocolate éclairs, and much more.

To book, e-mail info@morrells.co.za



Air Cinema Club at Neighbourgoods Market in Braamfontein.

co.za or call 011 476 9495. Tickets are priced at R345 a person and include food but not drinks.

3. AIR CINEMA CLUB

Love visiting Neighbourgoods Market in Braamfontein? Now you have a reason to visit more often than just once a week on a Saturday morning. The rooftop of the market doubles as an open air cinema once a month, with some of the market favourites selling their fare, including schwarmas, hot dogs and burgers.

Evenings are themed according to the movie shown, with guests encouraged to dress up. When they screened the 1974 classic, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* a few months ago, the rooftop was transformed into a horror house.

To book, visit www.webtickets.co.za. Tickets are priced at R120 and include a bottomless box of popcorn and a beanbag. You can bring your own cooler box at a "corkage" charge of R50.

4. MENLYN DRIVE-IN

If you spent your teenage years in Joburg, you'll undoubtedly have

memories of visiting the old Velskoe Drive In, located in Randburg. Earlier this year, news broke that Velskoe was sold to a property developer who has the site earmarked for a residential development, leaving Jozi's Drive In landscape barren. Thankfully, there is another Drive In located on the rooftop of Menlyn Shopping Centre in Pretoria. They have two shows at 7.30pm and 9.30pm, and your ticket price gets you access to both movies. To book, visit www.menlynpark.co.za/drivein.htm. Picnic baskets can be ordered from the Drive In – R190 a couple gets you cheeseburgers, chips, cooldrinks, chocolates, popcorn and crisps. Tickets are R65 a car.

5. THE BIOSCOPE

An independent cinema located in the Maboneng Precinct in the Joburg CBD, the Bioscope aims to increase the diversity of content on South African cinema screens, and plays a fundamental role in grow-

ing new markets for films that are not mainstream.

Visitors can expect to find old art house classics, niche international films, or South African film at its best on offer.

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Ticket prices vary, but there'll be a Christmas Marathon happening on Saturday, December 21, with free admission. All three *Back to the Future* movies will be screened from 5pm, back-to-back. Next year, The Bioscope will launch an Outdoor Cinema, situated at the Artisan Lofts Poolside Café within Maboneng. The outdoor cinema series will run over four parts and will screen some of Africa's best contemporary films including *Viva Riva*, winner of the MTV Movie Award for Best African Film.

To book, visit www.thebioscope.co.za

For more ideas of things to do in Jozi, visit Hasmita's blog: www.joziligiousblog.co.za

Entertainer offers sweet deal for tech-savvy foodies

HASMITA NAIR

AS MUCH as I love eating out, I tend to cringe at the often exorbitant bill I'm faced with at the end of a meal.

Restaurants in Jozi are becoming more and more expensive, forcing us to cut back on the luxury of visiting them.

Thankfully, The Entertainer, a Dubai incentives brand, has come to the rescue, getting me out of the kitchen and into a comfortable leather chair, where I get the royal treatment, glass of wine in hand.

Entertainer specialises in buy-one-get-one-free offers for dining, attractions, leisure activities, spas, wellness and hotel accommodation in 23 destinations worldwide.

It launched its first Joburg edition last month, the Cape Town edition having been launched earlier in the year.

The tech savvy foodies out

there will love the fact that the package is available on a smartphone app, as well as in a book. Both cost the same – R495, with all 550 offers valid until the end of next year.

At a restaurant, when ordering two or more main courses between two people, the restaurant will deduct the cost of the least expensive main course.

Up to a maximum of four Entertainer incentives can be redeemed between a group of eight people.

When I first heard about the concept, I was sceptical.

The last thing I want is to be discriminated against at a restaurant because I'm not paying the full price. I also wasn't sure if the quality of restaurants offered was premium.

However, I decided to try the app and was pleasantly surprised by the selection of restaurants, which included some of my

favourites such as Thomas Maxwell Bistro, Piza e Vino, Green Peppercorn and The Local Grill. Entertainer users are not obliged to tell the restaurant they are using the discount offer, and are able to book a table over weekends, but not on public holidays.

Using the smartphone app was quick and easy, and staff at the restaurants seemed to know how to use it (another worry I had).

I haven't yet tried any of the leisure or spa offers, but there are some enticing buy-one-get-one-free offers, from a pedicure to tenpin bowling.

After seeing the travel offers available internationally (pay for one night and get one free), at hundreds of five-star hotels, I'm going to consider buying the Entertainer package for another city next time I'm travelling.

For more information, visit www.theentertainerme.com/jozie



Toni's Fully Furnished Pizza is just one of the restaurants where you can enjoy a buy-one-get-one-free deal.