

## HOLLYWOOD REMAKE

Theater renovations  
set stage for new way  
of going to the movies

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The city has approved major modifications to the Nova 8 Cinema to make it similar to the Hollywood Blvd Cinema in Woodridge. The new theater will be called Hollywood Palms.

## Unique moviegoing experience on the way

**Owner very excited by  
prospects for revamped  
Naperville theater**

**by Hank Beckman**  
Special to the Sun Times

Movie lovers have a choice. They can eat good food and drink adult beverages of their choice while they enjoy relatively new movies on cable in the comfort of their own home.

Or they can experience film the way it was meant to be, in all its big screen splendor, complete with an audience, the latest sound system and stale popcorn and overpriced candy.

Soon Naperville movie-goers will be able to have both the fine fare and big screen excitement.

Hollywood Palms, a Cinema, Bar & Eatery is a theme-based movie house similar to Hollywood Blvd Cinema in Woodridge is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2009, bringing restaurant quality food and great cocktails, beer & wine to the cinematic experience.

Saying the project is now on the way, Hollywood Blvd Cinema owner Ted Bulthaupt said that with the recent approval of the Naperville City Council the only hold up is signing

the deal for the Naperville property which houses the Nova 8 Cinemas in the Westview Shopping Center at 352 South Route 59.

Hollywood Boulevard is unique in that it serves alcoholic beverages and food with first-run movies. While there are other "brew-and-view" cinemas in the Chicago area, none of them show first-run movies or provide the full range of fare, and the spectacular facilities that Hollywood offers.

Movie fans at Hollywood Boulevard can nosh on Bubba Gump Cheese Shrimp or Lord of the Onion Rings. For the main course, they can have the Whoopi Goldburger or the Jake & Elwood Beef & Cheddar. Wednesday is college night with half-priced admission for students, Thursdays are \$5 Rat Pack Martini's.

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The various auditoriums—there are nine in Woodridge with several lobbies—are tributes to “Casablanca”, “The Maltese Falcon” and Marilyn Monroe.

“We believe we are the best movie-going experience there is,” Bulthaup said, promising the same experience awaits his Naperville patrons. “We don’t just show movies, we are a bigger experience and consider ourselves in the hospitality business”.

He wouldn’t let on as to the secret of his success, saying he suffered a “long learning curve” and wouldn’t want to give any future imitators any help.

But he did say a key was the rapport he has with customers. “Ask our customers, you won’t find anybody that ‘likes’ our theater. They invariably say they love it.”

The fans that came out in the heavy snow Tuesday seemed to agree.

“I drive here all the way from Joliet,” said Tony “the Tiger” who brought his friend Amy to their first date to see “The Day the Earth Stood Still”. Jessica Bearden and Sam Lang work at Argonne National Laboratory and came to see the latest James Bong flick.

“I like the dinner and a movie concept”, Bearden said, while Lang liked it because of the location. In keeping with its Hollywood theme, Hollywood Boulevard hosts film stars on a regular basis, the most recent being Leslie Nielsen for “Airplane” screenings. This coming weekend Carolyn Grimes, who played ZuZu in “It’s a Wonderful a Life” will make her annual return appearance. Bulthaup promised more of the same for Hollywood Palms.

Bulthaup got his start with this concept in

## Celeb hot spot

**A roster of movie stars who have visited Hollywood Blvd Cinemas in Woodridge in the last year includes:**

Chicagoland’s own Jennifer Hudson for “Dreamgirls”

Amanda Bynes & Channing Tatum for “She’s the Man”

Film Legend Tony Curtis, hosts annual screenings of his film “Some Like It Hot”.

Paul Riser & Peter Falk debuted their Riser written and produced film “That Thing About My Folks”.

Film Legend Jane Russell, most famous for her role in “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes”.

Michael Madsen & David Carradine for “Kill Bill”.

Karen Allen for “Animal House” & “Raiders of the Lost Ark”.

Tia Carrara for “Wayne’s World”

Roger Ebert Film Critic for the Chicago Sun Times

Leslie Nielsen for “Airplane”

Oliver & James Phelps, te Weasley Twins from Harry Potter

Linda Blair for “The Exorcist”

Peter Fonda for “Easy Rider”

Burt Reynolds for “Smokey & the Bandit” & “Deliverance”

Karolyn Grimes who played ZuZu for her annual appearance with “It’s a Wonderful Life”

.....and 7 of the remaining Munchkins for their annual appearances with screenings of “The Wizard of Oz”

a 130 year old warehouse he renovated in downtown Indianapolis almost 20 years ago. Noting that his business in Woodridge is up 22 percent this year, he looks forward to the same success in Naperville.

The City Council recently gave him the go-ahead to install roof-top searchlights to let people know the new cinema is open. “They were a necessity,” Bulthaup said. “Without them we are invisible from Rt 59”.

If Bulthaup is happy about coming to Naperville, the city is just as pleased to have his cinema. “It will be a great addition to the shopping center”, City Planner Katie Forystek said. We hope it will be as successful as the cinema in Woodridge . . . . It will be unique to the city”.





Eager crowds await the arrival of Paris Hilton for the World Premiere of "Pledge This"

When Ted Bulthaupt was the senior class president at Downers Grove South High School in 1975, he managed to get Styx — which had the No. 1 song "Lady" in the country at the time — to perform there.

When he returned home for his 25th high school reunion, he took another big chance — he decided to buy a movie theater. But he wanted to do something a little different: he wanted to combine the dinner and a movie into one experience.

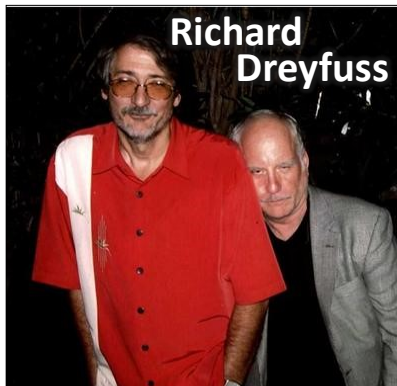
That's how Hollywood Blvd. Cinema in Woodridge, and later Hollywood Palms Cinema in Naperville, was born.

The formula is simple: serve gourmet food and specialty drinks in intimate theaters that employ comfortable executive chairs and tables. Show a first-run movie, a campy cult flick or something from the classic cinema vault.

Every few months bring in an actor fans wouldn't normally ever get the chance

## Hollywood Palms & Boulevard Cinema bring in celebs, and big crowds

by Annie Alleman  
for Sun-Times Media







**William Shatner**



**Mark Metcalfe**

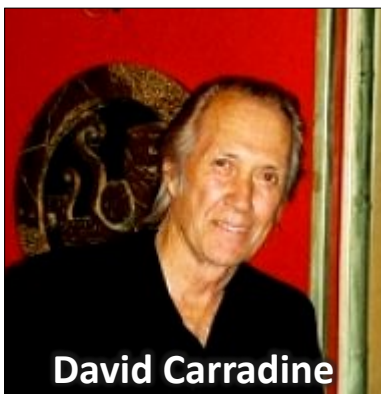
**Karen Allen**

**Martha Smith**

**Stephen Furst**

**Otis Day**

**Judy Belushi**



**David Carradine**



**Michael Madsen**



**George Chakiris**

**Rita Moreno**

**Russ Tamblyn**



**Cindy Williams**

**Mayor Pradel**

**Henry Winkler**

**Penny Marshall**

to meet to sign autographs and pose for pictures.

It's no secret that people can stream newer releases from the comfort of their own homes, yet his theaters are thriving because of these extra touches.

The Styx concert was his first taste of event promoting, and he was hooked. After several years in the music promotion business, he turned his attention to the big screen — literally. In 1991, he turned a 130 year-old warehouse in Indianapolis into a three-screen theater called Hollywood Bar & Filmworks, the first multiplex in the nation to do dinner and a movie with first-run pictures. He was even one of the first to use a touch screen for ordering food.

At his high school reunion he was ready to return to his Illinois roots. Bulthaup saw the vacant building on 75th Street in Woodridge. He saw through the spiders, dust and other creepy crawlies, and



**Johnny Knoxville**



saw its potential as a new theater in his Hollywood line.

In March 2003, he opened Hollywood Blvd. with only four screens. In between 2005 and 2010, he made five major expansions to the theater. In between expansions four and five, he opened Hollywood Palms in Naperville in 2009.

The theaters are all exotically and exquisitely decorated, with the original location of Hollywood Blvd. even housing a museum of movie memorabilia.

It was tripping over a Munchkin 15 years ago that gave him the idea to start booking celebrities. "I had no idea that there were any still alive, and now there's only one left," he said. "He was doing a signing at a restaurant in downtown Chicago. I kept circling back to that (idea)."

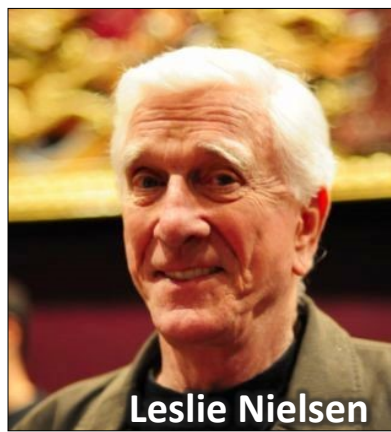
The Munchkins were the first celebrity signings he booked into Hollywood Blvd. Since then, he's had Tippi Hedren (from Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds"), actors from "Star Wars," Zachary Gordon from the "Wimpy Kid" movies, James and Oliver Phelps (Weasley brothers from the







**David  
Arquette**



**Leslie Nielsen**

“Harry Potter” movies), Robert “Freddy Krueger” Englund, Dan Aykroyd, Jennifer Hudson, Mickey Rooney, William Shatner, Tony Curtis, Lauren Bacall, Ernest Borgnine, Richard Dreyfuss, Debbie Reynolds, Michelle Pfeiffer, Peter Falk, Leslie Nielsen and Paris Hilton.

The biggest lines he can remember were for Tom Felton, who played Draco Malfoy in the “Harry Potter” movies, Ashley Greene from “Twilight” and Robert Englund.

“The lines have been six or eight hours long for some of those people,” he said. “They’ve always been very nice.”

Other events have helped Hollywood carve out its niche. About 10 years ago, they added midnight screenings of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” at Hollywood Blvd.

“I purchased a search light and mirror ball and a fog machine and confetti cannon and some other accoutrements to make sure it was an exciting show,” he said. “Along with the cast that’s been there from the beginning.”

Then there’s the Hollywood Classic Film Series, which goes along with actors’



**Josh  
Mostel**

**Barry  
Dennen**

**Ted  
Neeley**

**Yvonne  
Elliman**



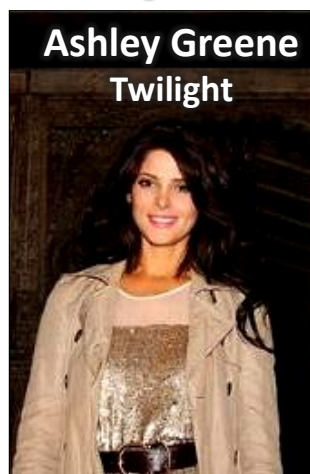
**James & Oliver Phelps**  
“The Weasley Twins”



**Tom Felton**  
“Draco Malfoy”  
Harry Potter



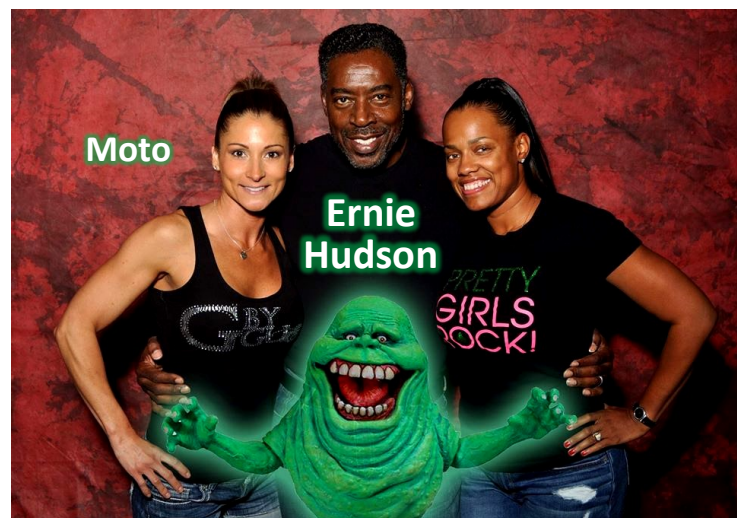
**Kellan Lutz**  
Twilight



**Ashley Greene**  
Twilight



**John Heder**  
Napoleon Dynamite



**Moto**

**Ernie  
Hudson**

**PRETTY  
GIRLS  
ROCK!**



appearances. Next up in that line will be actress Bo Derek and the movie “10” in the upcoming months.

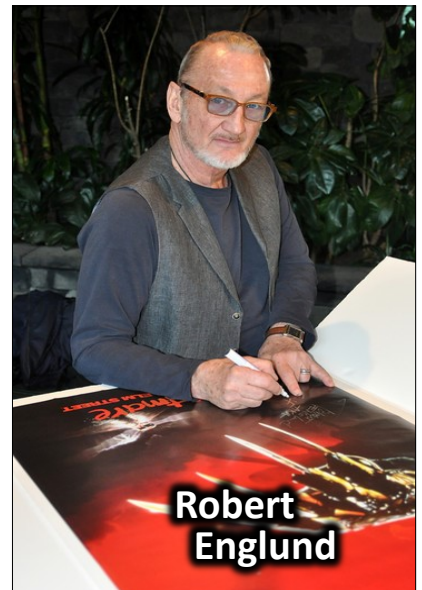
“We will be starting off a classic series once or twice a week in the not too distant future that is not associated with any particular actor,” he said.

He’s also going to roll out a membership program with a perks card this year. In addition to Bo Derek, other celebs slated to visit Hollywood this year include Rosario Dawson for “Sin City 2” in August, Sean Astin and Paul Reubens from “Pee Wee’s Big Adventure.”

“I think Paul with his ‘Big Adventure’ would be just amazing,” he said. “I’m really excited about Paul. He comes in costume when he does appearances and I just think it would be hilarious and very well-attended.”



Virginia Madsen



Robert England



Channing Tatum

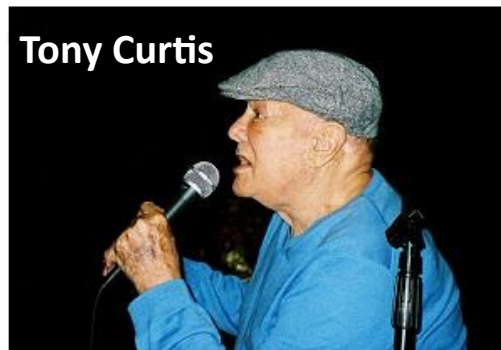


Terry Garr



Linda Blair

The Exorcist



Tony Curtis



Karolyn “ZuZu” Grimes

It's a Wonderful Life



Corey Feldman



Paris Hilton



Malcom McDowell



Peter Fonda