

THE *Current*

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This summer, take a free bus ride from campus to the courthouse for open-air screenings of space creature-themed flicks

[Debra Herrick](#)

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Whether you're a film buff or just looking to escape, a good movie night can be a tonic. On Friday nights, community members can soak up motion pictures at UCSB Arts & Lectures (A&L) free summer film series. This year's theme, "Out of This World," guides a selection of seven space creature-inspired films, each screened under the stars at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse Sunken Garden.

The series kicks off with "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," Steven Spielberg's classic sci-fi tale, on Friday July 7 at 8:30 p.m. and follows with a film every Friday night (except during Fiesta) through Aug. 25, when the program concludes with a screening of "Nope," Jordan Peele's neo-Western science fiction film.

Other films to be screened are “Alien” (July 14); “Mars Attacks!” (July 21); “The Fifth Element” (July 28); “Star Trek” (Aug. 11); and “Guardians of the Galaxy” (Aug. 18). Before each movie starts, A&L will host DJs, give away prizes and other activities.

“Santa Barbara summers are always special, but this one will be out of this world,” said A&L Miller McCune Executive Director Celesta M. Billeci. “Summer Cinema under the stars returns to the County Courthouse Sunken Garden with an intergalactic lineup that’s got something for everyone. From spine-tingling alien encounters to family-friendly otherworldly antics, this free summer tradition continues to take off.”

UC Santa Barbara students with valid ID can take a free round-trip bus ride from campus to the courthouse in downtown Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara Airbuses will depart from University Plaza loop adjacent to Campbell and Cheadle halls at 7 p.m. and 7:45 p.m., and pick up from the Figueroa Street side of the courthouse at 10:45 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

[The new season](#) marks the 64th year of UCSB Arts & Lectures, bringing unique, world-class performances, films and lectures to Central Coast and campus audiences. With a mission to “educate, entertain and inspire,” it is the largest performing arts and public lectures presenter between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Media Contact

Debra Herrick

Associate Editorial Director

(805) 893-5446

debraherrick@ucsb.edu

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