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## 12th Annual Home Movie Day to Take Place This Fall

Baltimore, MD—The 12th Annual Home Movie Day will take place this fall, with the main event occurring on October 19th worldwide. Some venues will have their events earlier or later in October, November or December. Home Movie Day is a celebration of amateur films and filmmaking, providing many cities with a taste of local history and days gone by. Last year's events included 87 venues in 19 countries on 4 continents. Admission is free in most locations and participants can find out more about their local venue and event at [www.homemovieday.com](http://www.homemovieday.com).

“Home movies provide invaluable records of our families and our communities: they document vanished storefronts, questionable fashions, adorable pets, long-departed loved ones, and neighborhoods in transition. Many people still possess these old reels or tapes, passed down from generation to generation, but lack the projection equipment to view them properly and safely,” stated Skip Elsheimer, president of the Center for Home Movies. “That’s where Home Movie Day comes in: the public brings the films, and volunteers inspect them, project them, and offer tips on storage, preservation, and video transfer—and free of charge, in most cities. And best of all, you get to watch them with an enthusiastic audience, equally hungry for local history,” added Elsheimer.

Home Movie Day is a celebration of amateur films and filmmaking held annually at dozens of local venues worldwide, providing the opportunity for individuals and families to discover how best to care for their films and get a rare chance to view examples of home movies. Traditionally held on the third Saturday in October (October 18th in 2014), dates for individual events will take place in October and November. Home Movie Day has grown each year from its initial slate of two dozen locations across the U.S., Mexico, Canada, and Japan in 2003.

The Center for Home Movies is a nonprofit organization supported through grants and donations. CHM’s primary mission is to promote, preserve and educate the public about amateur films. To learn more about CHM, visit [www.centerforhomemovies.org](http://www.centerforhomemovies.org).

For information on the nearest Home Movie Day venue near you, visit [www.centerforhomemovies.org/locations2014](http://www.centerforhomemovies.org/locations2014)

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## **EVENT INFO**

Where: Around the world

List of local events: [www.homemovieday.com/locations.html](http://www.homemovieday.com/locations.html)

When: Saturday, October 18. Some venues will have their events earlier or later in October, November or December.

Admission: Free (in most locations)

Website: [www.homemovieday.com](http://www.homemovieday.com)

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## **HOME MOVIE DAY FAQ**

### **What film formats can I bring to Home Movie Day?**

Formats vary by venue, but in most cases, volunteers will inspect and project 16mm, 8mm, and Super 8 film. Some venues will also project DVDs and other video formats. If you have any other oddball formats (28mm, 9.5mm, etc.), HMD representatives can help you find a safe, cost-effective way to view these prints.

### **Do I need to bring a home movie?**

Nope. You're welcome to stop by and just watch other people's home movies. This isn't a film screening where you need to stay silent. The more the audience contributes, the more fun it is. Your commentary will be much appreciated!

### **I have a whole box of 'em! Can we watch 'em all?**

Nobody likes a home movie hog. Bring as many films as you'd like, but we'll be screening one reel from each participant until everyone has had a chance to see their home movies. After that, second helpings are totally fine--especially in Kodachrome. Some venues will ask for your films in advance so that they can inspect them before the event.

### **Do I have to get up and talk about my home movies?**

You're welcome to narrate your home movies and inform everyone that this scene was shot at Aunt Bertha's high school graduation and that this one was shot on your family trip to Florida in 1982. Or you can just sit in the auditorium and watch them in anonymous silence. Whatever floats your celluloid boat.

### **My home movies are very personal. Why would I want to watch them with a bunch of voyeurs?**

Home movies often commemorate scenes of enormous personal importance: weddings, graduations, birthdays, family reunions. Though home movies often begin as family records with deeply private meaning, the passage of years makes them compelling to people far beyond your immediate family. They serve as authentic records of our neighborhoods, traditions, and communities. You'll enjoy sharing them--really.

### **Will you take my home movies and never give them back? They're incredibly precious to me!**

Nope. We'll just inspect and project your home movies and return them to you in comparable condition. If there are broken perforations or cracked frames, we'll fix those and return the films in *better* condition! Keep in mind that decades-old films are fragile and there's an inherent (though slight) risk of damage during any projection. If we do not feel that the film can be safely projected, we will not screen it.

### **Will you take my home movies and never give them back? I don't want 'em anymore!**

Some venues are associated with film archives. In those cases, the archivists would be happy to discuss options for donating your old, unwanted home movies to their collections.

**This sounds amazing! How much will this expert consultation set me back?**

Home Movie Day is free, in most cities (some venues have inexpensive tickets), but donations are always welcome to defray costs.

**FURTHER READING**

"Other People's Live: The Politics of Home Movie Day" [[HMD Appreciation by Becca Hall and Kyle Westphal](#)]

**ABOUT HOME MOVIE DAY**

Home Movie Day was started in 2003 by a group of film archivists concerned about what would happen to all the home movies shot on film during the 20th century. They knew many people have boxes full of family memories that they've never seen for lack of a projector, or out of fear that the films were too fragile to be viewed. They also knew that many people were having their amateur films transferred to videotape or DVD, with the mistaken idea that their new digital copies would last forever and the "obsolete" films could be discarded. Original films (and the equipment required to view them) can long outlast any version on VHS tape, DVDs, or other digital media. Increasingly, home videos are becoming just as endangered, and sometimes even more so, than even older films, so more emphasis is being given to preserving analog videotapes shot at home.

Contrary to the stereotype of the faded, scratched, and shaky home movie image, the original films are often carefully shot in beautiful, vibrant color. Home Movie Day has grown into a worldwide celebration of these amateur films, during which people in cities and towns all over meet their local film archivists, find out about the archival advantages of film over video and digital media copies, and—most importantly—get to watch those old family films! Because they are local events, Home Movie Day screenings can focus on family and community histories in a meaningful way. They also present education and outreach opportunities for local archivists, who can share information about the proper storage and care of personal films, and how to plan for their future.

## HOME MOVIE DAY QUOTES

*"Home Movie Day is the perfect opportunity for people to connect with our past and to move the conversation about preserving our cultural heritage into the future."* **Ken Burns**

*"There's no such thing as a bad home movie. These mini-underground opuses are revealing, scary, joyous, always flawed, filled with accidental art and shout out from attics and closets all over the world to be seen again. Home Movie Day is an orgy of self-discovery, a chance for family memories to suddenly become show business. If you've got one, whip it out and show it now."* **John Waters**

*"As a child, I used to think home movies, compared to proper films, inept and boring. But I've been converted--many examples I've seen have been beautifully shot and historically invaluable. See for yourself at your local Home Movie Day event in October."* **Kevin Brownlow, Academy Award winning film historian**

*"Saving our film heritage should not be limited only to commercially produced films. Home movies do not just capture the important private moments of our family's lives, but they are historical and cultural documents as well. Consider Abraham Zapruder's 8mm film that recorded the assassination of President Kennedy or Nickolas Muray's famously vibrant color footage of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera shot with his 16mm camera. Imagine how different our view of history would be without these precious films. Home Movie Day is a celebration of these films and the people who shot them. I urge anyone with an interest in learning more about how to care for and preserve their own personal memories to join in the festivities being offered in their community..."* **Martin Scorsese**

*"Home Movie Day! What a fantastic idea -- culture isn't just the stuff that the studios make, it's what we make of it. Content isn't king, conversation is -- and what better conversation-starters than the significant moments of your neighbours' lives?"* **Cory Doctorow, blogger, author**

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