

Film Clips

Pixar moves bar higher with 'Coco'

By Derek Zemrak

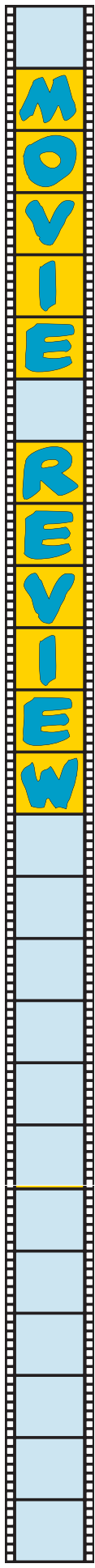


Image provided

Since 1995, Pixar has been raising the bar of the animated film industry. We have been waiting patiently for their next release and now it is time for "Coco." Once again Pixar has set the animation bar a few notches higher. "Coco" is set in Mexico during the Mexican holiday "Day of the Dead." This is a multiday holiday that focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember those members who have died, and to help support them on their spiritual journey. "Coco" is a real tear jerker and will pull at your heartstrings as often as Miguel, the lead character, plays the strings on his guitar. There will not be a dry eye when the credits roll. "Coco" does more than just yank at your heartstrings. It's a wonderful adventure, a beautiful story and a stunning piece of art that the entire family will enjoy. In fact, you will be catching yourself singing the songs from the movie afterward.

"Coco" follows 12-year-old Miguel (voiced by newcomer Anthony Gonzalez), the youngest member of a close family that has banned music for generations. Still, Miguel dreams of becoming a musician. After making a questionable decision, he finds himself trapped in the Land of the Dead as a living boy. He gets help from his

deceased relatives, a stray dog and some new friends to get himself back to the Land of the Living.

"Coco" has an all-Latino cast including Benjamin Bratt, Gael Garcia Bernal and Edward James Olmos. Mexican culture takes center stage from the music, to the food, costumes to the vibrant colors present in the Land of the Dead. Coco is the perfect holiday movie, which celebrates the large extended family structure and appreciation of ancestral history for which Latino culture is known.

I would recommend parents of kids under 10 years see the movie before taking your little ones. Some of the Land of the Dead visuals may be too frightening for youngsters. "Coco" is appropriate for older kids, which will expose them to the Latin culture. Also, be prepared to be asked questions about death and dying.

As Miguel states in the movie, "We may have our differences but nothing is more important than family."

"Coco" is rated PG with a total running time of 1 hour and 55 minutes.

Enjoy the start of the holiday season and take the family to see "Coco." You will not be disappointed. Pixar does it again!

Service Clubs Announcements



Meets Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Check us out at www.lamorindasunrise.com or email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

December 1
Precious Listana, co-founder of the Invention Corps of Berkeley.

December 8
Ever heard of the Dracula Ant? Brian Fisher, named it. He's the renowned entomologist of the California Academy of Science and our guest speaker.

THE BIG RAFFLE DRAWING.
Teardrop Trailer Raffle at The Lafayette Holiday Celebration. Lafayette Plaza Park Dec. 1, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Lafayette Rotary Club
Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting. Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.
November 30:
EBMUD water supply and/or conservation.
www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680
Please join us for our next meeting:
WHEN: Wednesday, Dec. 4th
Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: The Buttercup Grill
660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.
Contact us to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win \$1000 in Safeway gift cards. \$10 per ticket.
For more information, contact:
Regina Englehart @925-876-9076 or go to: soroptimist24-680.org

MARK BELLINGHAM PAINTING EST. 1985
Winter Painting Sale
10% Off Interior Painting
Book your interior painting. Work must be completed December 1st - February 28, 2018.
925-247-0092
MarkBellinghamPainting.com
Exterior & Interior Painting
Deck Refinishing Dry Rot Repair
Local Moraga Resident
California Contractor License 456414
Fully insured
See our reviews on Yelp, Nextdoor, Houzz

Lamorinda Weekly
is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA
26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.
Contact us:
Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Delivery issues: homedelivery@lamorindaweekly.com
Event listings: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Business press releases: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
School stories/events: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com
Copy Editor: Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Staff Writers:
Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com
Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com
Pippa Fisher; pippa@lamorindaweekly.com
Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
John T. Miller; john@lamorindaweekly.com
Sora O'Doherty; Sora@lamorindaweekly.com
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com
Thoughtful Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com
Contributing Writers: Conrad Bassett, Diane Claytor, Michele Duffy, Amanda Eck, B.B. Kaye, Michael Lupacchino, Mona Miller, Kara Navolio, Alexandra Reineke, Victor Ryerson, Moya Stone, Jon Kingdon, Derek Zemrak
Calendar Editor:
Jaya Griggs; calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
Photos: Tod Fierner, Gint Federas
Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.
Mailing address:
Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 925-263-9223
email: info@lamorindaweekly.com
website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued
Live Nativity from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. See the Christmas story come to life as the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church Courtyard is transformed into a Bethlehem manger with community members as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, and the wise men, and live animals filling the stable. MVPC is located at 910 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga. For more information go to www.mvpc.today.org or call (925) 376-4800.

Budd MacKenzie of Lafayette will speak at Commonwealth Club in San Francisco about his work with women, children and the needy in war-torn Afghanistan at 6 p.m. on Monday Dec. 4, Commonwealth Club, 110 Embarcadero, San Francisco. Tickets available online or at the door. www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2017-12-04/couch-war-hearts-and-minds.

The Saint Mary's College Guild will present its annual festive Christmas luncheon beginning at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at Saint Mary's College, Dryden Hall 1928 St. Mary's Road. The festive affair will have music, provided by the SMC award-winning choir, a bake sale, and raffle baskets galore, including the infamous Christmas Money Tree. Cost: \$45 per person. Make checks payable to: SMC Guild, Send to: Susan Hooks - 120 Ardith Drive - Orinda, CA 94563. For further information, call Pat Mc Enaney at (925) 376-3306.

Come and experience The Many Faces of Leukemia, Lymphoma

and Myeloma, an event focusing on the unique issues of blood cancer patients from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 6 in the Lafayette Library Community Room. Join Dr. Robert Robles and Dr. Susan Kao as they discuss exciting advances in research and emerging therapies in treating hematologic malignancies. Q&A session to follow presentation. Space is limited. Advanced registration required. Admission and light dinner complimentary. To RSVP, call (925) 677-5041 or visit www.bit.ly/manyfaceslls.

Lamorinda Night for Saint Mary's Men's Basketball game 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9 in McKee Pavilion against Seattle University. Lamorinda Night will celebrate the communities of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. Special ticket price of \$11 available at SMC-GAELS.com/tickets with promo code LAMO17.v.

The 2018 U.S. Synchronized Swimming National Team is hosting a holiday show at the SODA Aquatic Center at Campolindo high school from 3 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9. The Team comprises 11 athletes aged 15 to 21 years old including 2016 Olympian Anita Alvarez. The Team will present its newest routines as it prepares for the 2018 Junior World Championships in Budapest, Hungary and the 2018 FINA World Series in July.

The Bethlehem Experience: The Lafayette United Methodist Church presents an interactive performance that takes you back through time from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 15-17. One-hour-long tours

begin every 15 minutes. Tour Guides will lead groups of about 12 people through the marketplace of Bethlehem on the night of the Messiah's birth. The Bethlehem Experience is a feast for the senses: the smell of exotic spices, the festive sound of music, the sight of robed and sandaled merchants in their stalls, the taste of freshly baked unleavened bread, live animals in the stable and the soft feel of flaxen "swaddling clothes." Freewill donation: \$5/person or \$20/family. For information, call (925) 284-4765.

Daughters of the Goddess, a Bay Area women-only Goddess Temple, will be holding its yearly Winter Solstice Ritual beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20. East Bay address given upon RSVP. This is our annual Peace ritual to help bring peace, love and joy into the World. At this sacred time of year come and join womyn and girls as we dance and sing in celebration of the returning of the light. Newcomers discount is \$15. Email Leilani@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com or visit www.DaughtersoftheGoddess.com.

SENIORS
Senior Scam Workshop at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Learn about the scams that target seniors the most. Get tips on how to avoid these tactics, which red flags to be aware of, and what resources to use to lower your chances of becoming a victim. Presented by the Better Business Bureau.