

Reel Pizza Cinerama

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Reel Pizza lost a true hero and Downeast Maine an icon this week with the passing of Dave Parsons, owner and operator of the Milbridge Theatre. Dave was instrumental in the formation of our business from the very beginning, setting us up with projection equipment, theater supplies and teaching us the secret ins and outs of the movie business that you might not have believed until this week with t...

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Nick Look I remember watching three amigos there when I was a little kid.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · December 15, 2014 at 8:26pm



Deb Neuman Dave was and will always be an important part of our family - having spent many

Write a comment...





Reel Pizza Cinerama

December 12, 2014 · 🌐

Reel Pizza lost a true hero and Downeast Maine an icon this week with the passing of Dave Parsons, owner and operator of the Milbridge Theatre. Dave was instrumental in the formation of our business from the very beginning, setting us up with projection equipment, theater supplies and teaching us the secret ins and outs of the movie business that you might not have believed until this week with the revelations from the Sony Pictures hacking scandal. In our early years, he would drive to Bar Harbor after his show let out, and work with Chris all night to fix a problem with the sound or projection, or to install a new piece of equipment, ferrying with him a truckload of spare parts, just in case. He got deals for us and a group of other small independent cinemas in Hancock, Washington and Piscataquis counties, on popcorn bags, theater pack candy, spare lamp bulbs, or splicing tape, among other things. He was always thinking, about how to solve this or fix that or get a deal to save even just a little money, so that we'd all stay afloat to show movies for another season.


At his own theatre, that he bought in 1978, he was a true showman, playing before shows the player piano that lived at the front of his auditorium and making sno-cones. He was meticulous, as we are too, about the sound and the image quality that he provided to his customers. He was also a veritable fount of information on film history, able to recall with perfect clarity who played in some old studio picture that he thought we should know about, and back in the day even taught classes. He had the same memory for obscure candy companies about which we would talk after we found some weird confection in our travels; he always knew the entire history of the company. We will miss those fascinating conversations. He even got a big-screen debut in the first full-length feature from Mark and Jay Duplass, *THE PUFFY CHAIR*, when they filmed in the Milbridge Theatre, among other locales in his town.

Dave was one of the most kind, and most giving persons we have ever known, a dear friend who we will miss greatly, and a saint without whom Reel Pizza would never have survived its first year. If you are grateful for Reel Pizza, join us in raising a toast, be it with apple juice or champagne, beer or bourbon (Dave would've had ginger ale) to a great man who left us too soon.




Anne Marie Sargent Loved when I was kid and he would play piano before the movie....great childhood memories

Like · Reply ·  1 · December 12, 2014 at 8:51pm




Sherri Dowling Cox Great tribute to Dave! I remember as a kid when he first bought the theater. He stood in front of the audience and was so sad....he apologized...we all thought oh darn he's decided to close....come to find out he was just raising the price by a quarter! Lol will remember him fondly~ Milbridge lost a one in a million.

Like · Reply ·  10 · December 12, 2014 at 9:06pm




Kara Thompson So sad! When we were kids we would go there on Friday nights and he would play the piano before the show.. And then yell at us to be quiet!! Haha, what a lot of great memories there!!

Like · Reply ·  2 · December 12, 2014 at 9:16pm




Dale Atwater RIP Dave. I'll miss your suicide sno cones, and your personal introductions of the movies before the reels turned.

Like · Reply ·  4 · December 12, 2014 at 9:17pm



Danielle Nelson Great memories as a kid going to the Milbridge Theater, Dave made a mean snow cone! Always loves seeing his joyous smile when he was at work. But it wasn't work to him, it was his life, he loved it.

Like · Reply ·  5 · December 12, 2014 at 9:20pm



John Dyer So many great memories of fun times at the Milbridge Movie Theater. I remember Dave needed No calculator to tabulate the exact amount owed on any combination of popcorn, candy and soda, to include sales tax as well. Dave Parsons, you contributed so much to Milbridge. You will not be forgotten!

Like · Reply ·  5 · December 12, 2014 at 9:43pm




John Dyer Joseph Dyer, Ellie Mondello, Jennifer Kearns, Jenny Nichols

Like · Reply · December 12, 2014 at 9:43pm



Gage Corbette Bryson Villere RIP DAVE. he was one of a kind, original. ✕
Damn.

Like · Reply · December 12, 2014 at 9:45pm




Lisa Barber Henderson So sorry for your loss. He sounds like a wonderful man.

Like · Reply · December 12, 2014 at 9:54pm




Jen Hedberg Very kind man ... RIP Mr Parsons

Like · Reply · December 12, 2014 at 10:24pm



Susan Murphy so sorry guys. sounds like the finest kind.

Like · Reply · December 12, 2014 at 10:31pm



Ellie Mondello Sad news. Anyone that grew up in the area appreciates having had a fun place to call our own on weekends. Lots of great memories.

Like · Reply ·  1 · December 12, 2014 at 10:36pm



Joseph Perreault Sad to hear. Such a kind person and I'm glad I have memories of going to the movies and seeing him behind the counter, smile on his face every weekend.

Like · Reply · December 12, 2014 at 10:48pm



Tim Brooks Great man 😊 Made our little community a better place. Thanks. R.I.P Dave

Like · Reply · December 12, 2014 at 11:31pm



Julie Joan Kirby I met Dave many times. Always interesting, always sincere. Very much like the both of you. My condolences.

Like · Reply · December 12, 2014 at 11:46pm



Marianne Ganas-Bryan Sorry for your loss

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 12:49am



Nadine Preston Born & Raised in Milbridge, I can tell you that losing Dave Parson's is like losing the town Mayor. He was a huge part of town, but stayed back in his quieter manor. Dave was also very active with the Milbridge Water District and was active in his to... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 👍 11 · December 13, 2014 at 7:15am · Edited



Kathy Stoddard Such a sad day for Milbridge! RIP Dave!

Like · Reply · 👍 1 · December 13, 2014 at 7:21am



Missy Tomalin Hier What a great and beautiful legacy

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 7:38am



Brenda Grant Smith Our town certainly has lost an Icon. As many kids that grew up in Milbridge Friday night at the movie theater was a must no matter the movie playing, best popcorn ever. Another memory of Dave was at the Sawyers as he was always stopping by and Trivia... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 👍 1 · December 13, 2014 at 8:08am · Edited



Nancy Cardoza What a great tribute to a evidently GREAT Giving Man. My he RIP.

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 8:27am



Kim Look How very sad. I have very good memories of Dave and the Milbridge Theater which had the best and most affordable concession stand around!

Like · Reply · 👍 2 · December 13, 2014 at 8:49am



Meredith Morin Lee Sad news! He will be missed!

Like · Reply · 👍 2 · December 13, 2014 at 9:00am



Sharon Church Oh the memories so many of us have of the theater and of Dave! From the first time I was allowed to go ALONE to the movies while staying with my grandparents in Milbridge then much later DRIVE from Jonesport to Milbridge, then taking my own children an... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 👍 2 · December 13, 2014 at 10:12am



Ray Mills Breaks my heart, sorry for your loss

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 12:10pm



Cindy P. Moore-Rossi My first jobi in 1978 was for this man. I can still hear him laughing at me when the original Jaws movie played in the theater. It scared me when the head fell out of the hull.





Cindy P. Moore-Rossi My first job in 1978 was for this man. I can still hear him laughing at me when the original Jaws movie played in the theater. It scared me when the head fell out of the hull.

He was so good to me!! He was a kind hearted man who loved young people and helping others. Going to miss seeing him! Rest in peace Dave. You were loved by many!!!!

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 12:18pm



Lindsey Alley Milbridge Theater was a huge part of my childhood. I have so many fond memories there. Dave was always so pleasant to everyone and always made the kids smile. So sorry for your loss. He will be greatly missed.

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 12:20pm · Edited



Aj Gray Lived in milbridge both tours while stationed at winter harbor... Enjoyed him introducing the movie or plying a quick tune on the organ...

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 2:02pm



Abigail Gollins So sorry for your loss. What wonderful memories. Thank you for sharing, Andrea!

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 2:21pm



Tiffany Corrigan I remember thinking he reminded me of Santa when I went to see Ernest saves Christmas and ordered a snowcones, they were always the best!

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 2:25pm



Dale Schevenieus Yes Dave. Was everything you have said he was .he was the backbone of Milbridge days from the very beginning.he and Sue were both innovative..we folded program's every year at his shop.the cod fish race was truly a Dave parson thing ..he put us on the m... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 2 · December 13, 2014 at 4:33pm



Dale Schevenieus town not gown

Like · Reply · 1 · December 13, 2014 at 4:34pm



Jeffrey Willey He made some amazing root beer. He couldn't believe my son hadn't tried pfizz candy and gave him a handful for free, such a nice guy

Like · Reply · December 13, 2014 at 9:18pm



Kelly Kilton So sad to hear this news!!!

Like · Reply · 1 · December 13, 2014 at 9:21pm



Devonna Gail Bragdon So sad to hear this he is gonna be missed by many

Like · Reply · 1 · December 13, 2014 at 9:46pm



Jasmine Wood That is to bad

Like · Reply · December 14, 2014 at 2:12am



Melissa Ray Nelson So many memories of Friday nights at the movies. Memories I share with my kids now.

Like · Reply · 2 · December 14, 2014 at 6:25am



Claudia Ross Ive had the honor of working along side this inspirational man for a short time...selling tickets ...making popcorn...sweeping up after everyone left the theater...i knew i was in the presence of greatness. I feel blessed to have had the chance to know him....til next time Dave

Like · Reply · 2 · December 14, 2014 at 8:26am





Colleen Marie Herlihy Rest In Peace Dave, you will always be remembered

Like · Reply · December 14, 2014 at 8:33am



Reel Pizza Cinerama THANK YOU ALL for your kind words, especially your stories; the people with whom Dave was closest don't "do" facebook, so I am glad to have these testaments to share with them. He certainly touched a lot of lives. -Lisa and Chris

Like · Reply · 3 · December 14, 2014 at 2:04pm · Edited



Tricia Brown I am so happy for this lovely tribute to Dave....he would LOVE to know that he is remembered in such a kind and respectful way. That his knowledge meant so much to so many would make him pleased to say the least!

Like · Reply · 2 · December 14, 2014 at 10:03pm



Jamie Denbow Dave always stocked beef jerky for me when he found out I had the beetus Good man. This is just one example

Like · Reply · 3 · December 14, 2014 at 10:41pm



Mark Schoppee he was always part of our lives as kids growing up in the surrounding area of milbridge as kids we all went to the movies on friday or saturday night or both just to hang out r.i.p dave

Like · Reply · 1 · December 15, 2014 at 8:20am



Jane Fogg what a beautiful tribute to a wonderful man....he will be missed by so many people !!!R.I.P. Dave

Like · Reply · 1 · December 15, 2014 at 4:23pm



Carrie Greaves He was the best. He will be missed by many.

Like · Reply · December 15, 2014 at 4:58pm



Jake Mathiason The best was his very own recipe a "suicide ice cooler" i will never forget the taste, so many memories for so many people, this man watched me and my friends grow up. Thanks to Dave his hard work and his true love for his passion we had an opportunit... [See More](#)

Like · Reply · 3 · December 15, 2014 at 7:19pm



Nick Look I remember watching three amigos there when I was a little kid.

Like · Reply · December 15, 2014 at 8:26pm



Deb Neuman Dave was and will always be an important part of our family - having spent many summer nights at the Milbridge Movie Theater - enjoying his wit, charm, popcorn, ice cream and the amazing atmosphere! He was even responsible for first dates that led to marriages! Thank you for all you did for so many - you will be missed.

Like · Reply · 1 · December 16, 2014 at 5:47am



Adam Stanwood Thanks for all the fond childhood memories dave!may you rest in peace

Like · Reply · December 16, 2014 at 1:11pm



Leigh Alley This breaks my heart. So many wonderful memories as a child and with my own children.

Like · Reply · December 16, 2014 at 10:39pm



Wayne Smith He was an inspiration for a million who watched his movies and his stories and humor will last a lifetime God bless Dave

Like · Reply · 1 · December 17, 2014 at 3:57pm