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TOURISM BUSINESSES GET A TASTE OF HOLLYWOOD AT FREE NETWORKING EVENT

TOURISM businesses are getting the chance to taste movie magic – a day after this year's Oscars.

They're being invited to Scotland's first-purpose built cinema for a night packed with big name stars (on the screen at least) and much more.

Forth Valley Tourism Partnership is hosting the free event at the historic Bo'ness Hippodrome cinema on Monday, February 28.

The Hippodrome team will give an insight into some of the big-name releases coming to the venue in the coming months and talk about its £2 million restoration and colourful history.

They'll also outline:

- * plans for Scotland's first silent film festival at the venue;
- * showcase how movies are putting Forth Valley's attractions on the map; and
- * give businesses a great chance to network and swap literature.

There will also be an update from Vicki Miller, the head of local marketing at VisitScotland.

The night has been organised in conjunction with Falkirk Council, which runs the venue.

The Hippodrome was opened in 1912 and re-launched in 2009 after an extensive re-fit. The pre-art deco cinema has boosted visitors to the Bo'ness area and been described as one of the top five local cinemas in Scotland.

It shows everything from the latest Hollywood blockbusters to indie and arthouse hits and even home-grown movies made in the local area.

Free tickets for tourism businesses for the February 28 event are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The event will run from 5.30 p.m. to around 7.30 p.m.

There will be drinks and a light buffet at the start of the event.

Any tourism businesses interested in attending should email: audrey.morgan@visitscotland.com or call 0131 472 2100.

Councillor Adrian Mahoney, the convener of leisure, tourism and community at Falkirk Council, said: "With the Oscars and BAFTA film ceremonies approaching, a networking event in a cinema seemed to be the very ticket for the Tourism Partnership.

“Events like this give local tourism businesses the chance to see inside a leading location within Forth Valley, and hear about plans for the future.

“Attendees also get the chance to network and make useful contacts.

“We hope the session on February 28 – in the fabulous surroundings of the Hippodrome – will be a big hit with tourism businesses. If you’re interested in attending, register your interest as soon as possible as places are limited.”

The Hippodrome event is the latest in a series of sessions organised by the Tourism Partnership - which brings together Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Councils, alongside VisitScotland, Scottish Enterprise and other public and private sectors partners.

Last November, the body organised a similar event in the Great Hall at Stirling Castle, showcasing Historic Scotland plans to re-launch the Palace section of the Castle, after a £12 million revamp.

To find out more about the Bo’ness Hippodrome, visit www.falkirk.gov.uk/hippodrome

To find out about the Hippodrome Festival of Silent Cinema, visit www.falkirk.gov.uk/silentcinemafest