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THE ARTS 2018

APRIL 6-14
 at the DR. PHILLIPS CENTER
 FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

*A festival celebrating the
 University of Central Florida's
 performing and visual arts*

For showtimes and ticketing information:
arts.ucf.edu
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from LETTER BOX
the editor

There's Nothing Like a Good Movie

As an only child, I grew up doing many things by myself: cutting my dolls' hair with no one to blame, listening to Neil Diamond and Journey on my eight-track tape player, playing Pong. However, I never felt comfortable going to the movies alone. People are supposed to go to the movies with friends and significant others. Wouldn't people look at me weird? I might be completely judged by fellow moviegoers, and I would definitely feel self-conscious. So, it took 40 years to take this leap ... at the Florida Film Festival. It was so empowering. I kinda felt like an incognito movie critic on a secret mission. I tried not to get there too early. Nothing screams "I'm alone" like sitting in an empty theater. My husband says I'm not very good at blending, but I gave it my best. During the movie, there were a few teary moments, but I kept the sobs to a minimum. All in all, it was a very successful step to realizing that no one really cares if you buy a ticket for one.



PHILAN M. EBENHACK

I still love going to movies with my family where we can laugh together and share our thoughts — good and bad — after the show. However, I do enjoy having my solo cinema trips for some important relaxation and alone time. And there's no sharing of the popcorn.

This year's 27th Florida Film Festival (page 16) will once again bring the world of film to our doorstep. As our writer Jay Boyar so accurately says, "The more things stay the same, the more they change." New films, programs and celebrities will grace the stage, but the structure and quality will remain. Whether you're venturing alone or with a group, when the lights dim and the movie starts, relax and immerse yourself in the story.

Cindy Bowman LaFronz
 Editor
Orlando Arts Magazine