

# BAR BULLETIN

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## Move over Popcorn — You Have Competition

As the days get longer and the sun visits Seattle skies with more frequency, our social calendars begin to fill. But for those evenings where a movie sounds more fun, consider seeing this summer's upcoming blockbusters at some of Seattle's (and Bellevue's) in-seat theater-dining venues — an option that will surely make for a fun night.

If date night is in order, **Central Cinema** has you covered. Located at 1411 21st Ave. in Seattle's Central District neighborhood, Central Cinema shows a variety of movies such as cult favorites "Rocky Horror Picture Show" and "Airplane," and such classics as "The Sound of Music." Its calendar of movies changes frequently, so check <https://www.centralcinema.com/calendar> to see what fits your fancy.

Central Cinema also has amazing "singalongs" and "Hecklevision," when as they describe it, "Your wise-as@ texts hit the screen all night." What we loved most about Central Cinema was the fun energy in the crowd. This is a great place to go when you just want to have fun and let your stress disappear. Depending on your movie tastes, this place will bring back some very fond memories — at least it did for us.

We were thrilled to see one of our all-time favorite movies on the big-screen at Central Cinema — "Beetlejuice" — (Beetlejuice, Beetlejuice — uh oh!). The theater is a mash up between a typical cinema and restaurant. There are booths on the main floor and tables on the second level. Before and during the movie,

a friendly server takes orders for food and drinks.

Central Cinema has a full menu, so you can eat dinner or just have a few snacks and drinks. We opted for the snacks and drinks options. What's a movie without popcorn? We tried two of the (organic — bonus!) popcorn options: one topped with brewer's yeast and the other with curry powder. It was so tasty, we ordered seconds.

We also ordered the hot, soft pretzel, because honestly that is one thing we just cannot resist. It has many other food options, including a pecan kale salad, pecorino grilled cheese, "Cinema Burger" and a variety of fun pizzas. There also is a good selection of beer, wine, cider, cocktails and non-alcoholic beverages. Next time you are wracking your brain for something fun to do with your friends or a date, give Central Cinema a try.

Not wanting to forget our colleagues on the other side of the water, our desire to see "Avengers: Endgame" took us to Bellevue's **Lincoln Square Cinemark Reserve Dine-In** — <https://www.cinemark.com/washington/cinemark-reserve-dine-in>. After buying our tickets and having our IDs checked (alcohol is served), we were provided our waterproof menus (wise) and found our way to our reclining seats and perused the fare.

The menu has a wide selection of food, just like a small-joint restaurant with reasonable pricing, ranging from appetizers, sandwiches, salads, pizza and desserts, to a variety of alcoholic

and non-alcoholic drinks. We ordered blistered shishito peppers, plain chicken wings and a pepperoni, salami and bacon flatbread pizza. For drinks, we ordered a Blue Moon beer and a Moscow mule.

After making our decisions, placing our menu in a handy side pocket, and reclining our seats, the staff quickly and quietly came to our seats to take our orders. After a short wait, we dug in. The chicken wings were crispy and flavorful, which we really enjoyed. The pizza and the Shishito peppers were also nicely done. On top of the tasty food and reasonably priced drinks, we also had a great time enjoying the Avengers in our comfortable reclining chairs.

The bill came at the end of the movie and it was comparable to eating at a typical American restaurant. We agreed the entire experience was delightful, and the staff was quiet and efficient when taking orders and delivering food during the movie. However, if you dislike any interruption during a film, you may not enjoy this dine-in movie experience. Leaving the movie with happy stomachs, we all agreed we would come back to try the desserts next time.

Our third cinema-dining experience took us to **Big Picture** (2505 First Ave., Seattle, 206-256-0566) after work one Friday. This is a venue we have heard about for years, nestled underneath Seattle's epic El Gaucho restaurant. The theater itself is quite cozy (limited seating), but with comfy, new seats. The venue has many event and meeting rooms clustered around the central bar that greets you as

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you arrive. The full bar is the main feature, where you may get a drink to start and order one to be delivered to your reserved seats during the movie.

The food menu is quite limited — mostly small pizzas and a few popcorn varieties. We tried a super Manhattan (with peach liquor) and a Hawaiian-themed, non-alcoholic beverage. For food, we took in one portion (more than large enough) of the truffle-oil popcorn — very tasty, but take extra napkins —

and the four-cheese pizza.

The small, four-slice pizza was enough for us after the popcorn, but a hungry person would want their own. The pizza was quite good if you like a fluffy, medium crust with lots of cheese. The service was very friendly and felt like family, with the founders and owners serving us at the bar. This was a fun place to see a first-run movie, but expect a theater with a bar with some food rather than a restaurant. ■

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*Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt is a multiservice, northwest regional law firm with offices in Seattle, Vancouver, Portland, Bend, Salem, Eugene, Mountain View and Anchorage. For comments on this article or to share your favorite places to eat or drink with the Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt attorneys, contact commercial real estate attorney Shawn Toor at 206-407-1504 or email at [stoor@schwabe.com](mailto:stoor@schwabe.com); see also [www.schwabe.com/dining\\_out.aspx](http://www.schwabe.com/dining_out.aspx).*