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THE BLOB TO DEVOUR PHOENIXVILLE'S COLONIAL THEATRE JULY 8-10

For a 23rd Year, 2022 Blobfest® returns to Bridge Street LIVE and IN-PERSON

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The movie monster that put Phoenixville's Colonial Theatre on the map will be celebrated once again at the return of Blobfest®. The signature annual festival returns to the venue July 8-10. It commemorates all things retro sci-fi/horror and the Colonial Theatre's place in cinema history as a filming location for the 1958 classic sci-fi film, *The Blob*, which stars a young Steve McQueen.

Now in its 23rd consecutive year, the festival was originally devised by volunteers and community members to draw visitors to the Borough during the summer months and generate support for the nonprofit venue.

Director Irvin "Shorty" Yeaworth shot *The Blob* in Phoenixville, Downingtown, and local surrounds while operating the Good News Productions studio in the nearby village of Yellow Springs. The film was sold to Paramount Pictures and its first full-length, color feature. *The Blob* was reportedly inspired by a 1950 Philadelphia police report that involved an object falling from space to the corner of Vare and 26th Streets. Investigating officers encountered a jelly-like mass that, they claimed, moved on its own.

The film centers on a small, rural town beset by a similar, amoeba-like creature intent on consuming everything in its path. When adults fail to heed the warnings of local teens, the 'blob' overtakes the town theater in a climactic scene shot inside and outside the Colonial Theatre. The 'Run Out' scene, which Yeaworth shot using local residents as extras, is re-enacted each year at Blobfest on the second Friday in July. Patrons flood the streets of Phoenixville after enjoying a live, original stage show featuring live music and the Shorty's Short Film contest. The re-enactment kicks off a weekend of vintage Sci-Fi movies that includes a free street festival with vendors, live music, classic cars, and contests.

The last live and in-person festival in 2019 drew thousands of visitors from across the country - affectionately known as 'Blobbies'. During the pandemic, staff and volunteers delivered virtual, 'at-home' editions. This July, people will travel from over 23 states to Phoenixville, Pennsylvania to experience Blobfest. The 2022 festival theme, 'The Uninvited', was inspired by contemporary circumstances and informed the other '50s era films that will be screened: *The War of the Worlds*, *When Worlds Collide*, *Planets Destroy Earth*, and *The Man from Planet X*. Calhoun Jewelers of Royersford is Presenting Sponsor.

"Blobfest® helps define the Colonial Theatre and contributes to our identity and sense of place here in the Borough," says Jennifer Carlson, Executive Director. "It's a bright spot in our year that's made other year-round programs possible, like our very successful Horror and Cult film series'. Having just joined the staff and moved to the area this spring, this will be my first festival! I'm looking forward to the experience and to welcoming so many fans to town."

Local businesses like Root Down Brewing and Rebel Hill Brewing will offer Blob-themed craft brews, and other inspired items will be available at retailers and eateries in Phoenixville's walkable downtown. Bridge Street Chocolates will bring back their 'Blob Chocolates' for a limited time. Lulu Boutique & Gifterie hosts a costumed, retro dance party called the 'Blob Ball' in the lobby of the Colonial Theatre on Friday. The Runegades mount an annual 5k race benefiting the venue on Sunday. Finally, all weekend long, limited edition artwork and merchandise designed by the Colonial Theatre and artists from Monsterologist and Nashville's Hatch Show Print will be available for purchase.

This weekend (July 1-3) fans can also catch the 1988 remake of *The Blob* and the 1954 Sci-Fi classic, *Them!* Tickets for these movies and Blobfest™ 2022: The Uninvited are available online now at thecolonialtheatre.com and thecolonialtheatre.com/blobfest.

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*Association for the Colonial Theatre (ACT) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. (EIN # 23-2846336). The venue features three distinctive theaters housed in two conjoined historic buildings in the walkable heart of downtown Phoenixville. Known for its starring role in the 1958 sci-fi horror film, *The Blob*, the Colonial offers new independent and classic films from all genres as well as live concerts, comedy, and theater organ performances. The theater serves beer, wine, and traditional movie theater concessions and is currently open Wednesday through Sunday. For more information on upcoming films and live concerts, follow the Colonial Theatre on social media and visit thecolonialtheatre.com.*

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FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

Friday July 8th at 7:00 PM: Re-enact the famous Run Out Scene in the movie *The Blob*, which was filmed inside the Colonial Theatre's historic auditorium and on Phoenixville's Bridge Street! Before the Run Out, you'll experience a live Stage Show hosted by Aurora Gorealis of Baltimore's Shocktail Hour featuring live music by Beach Creeper. Sci-fi/horror short films will be judged in the 2022 Shorty's Short Film Contest and a 2022 Mx. Blobfest Universe will be crowned. After you've screamed your lungs out and escaped the Blob, dance the night away until midnight at the Blob Ball. Hosted by Phoenixville's Lulu Boutique & Gifterie, the Blob Ball is a costumed, retro dance party featuring Dibbs and the Detonators. Get tickets at: <https://the-blob-ball.ticketleap.com/the-blob-ball-2022/> Konell Insurance and Bistro on Bridge are the 2022 Run Out Sponsors.

Saturday, July 9: Experience a unique Street Fair featuring live music, loads of vendors, a kid's activity table and more in the heart of Phoenixville's walkable downtown. Experience Blobfest-themed meals and specials like a once-a-year craft brew from Root Down Brewing Company at surrounding retailers and eateries. Participate in the Costume, Tattoo, and Tinfoil Hat Contests and watch the Fire Extinguisher parade. Then, enjoy one of several Sci-Fi Double Features in the 'Healthfully Air Conditioned' Colonial Theatre featuring *The Blob* and *War of the Worlds* (1953) or *When Worlds Collide Planets Destroy Earth*. Details: <https://thecolonialtheatre.com/blobfest/blobfest-july-8th-2022/> Capano Residential is the 2022 Street Fair Sponsor.

Sunday, July 10: The fun continues with a special Sunday Edible Cinema Double Feature of *The Blob* and *The Man From Planet X* with retro boxed lunches scratch made by Malvern's Dixie Picnic. Participate in The Blob 5k and 10k hosted by Runegades on Sunday morning, or take a self-guided Driving Tour of Film Locations from *The Blob* and other movies shot in Chester County, PA. Details: <https://thecolonialtheatre.com/blobfest/blobfest-sunday-july-10/>