



## Press release

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### Bring your blankets, popcorn is free

**WHAT:** Riverside Saginaw Film Festival Children's Movies

**WHEN AND WHERE:** "Coraline" shows at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21, and "My Neighbor Totoro" at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22, both at Hoyt Library, 505 Janes in Saginaw.

**ADMISSION:** Free

Blankets are welcome and free popcorn is served at two of the movies playing this year's Riverside Saginaw Film Festival, running Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 20-23, at six downtown Saginaw venues.

"Our two films are a family event and we want families to make themselves at home," says Kimberly White, the head of Hoyt Library, 505 Janes. "Children and their adults are invited to bring a pillow, blanket or mat to lay on. We'll also provide chairs -- and free popcorn."

White is talking about the showing of two children's films on the library auditorium's 52-inch flat screen television.

"Coraline" plays at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 21, and "My Neighbor Totoro" at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22.

"We wanted to choose a film people were familiar with but which was based on a great book. 'Coraline' is based on the beloved (2002) book of the same name by Neil

Gaiman. We want kids to make the connection that great films can come from great books.

“In choosing ‘My Neighbor Totoro,’ we wanted to introduce today’s kids to an animated Japanese film,” continues White. “Most of us know it from our childhood or from when our children were young. Showing the film gives us a chance to reminisce as well as introduce it to a younger generation.”

This is the second year Hoyt Library has hosted a mini Children’s Movie Festival as a part of the larger Riverside Saginaw Film Festival, which is in its second year. White sees no conflict in urging children to watch rather than read on these two days.

“Libraries today are about a whole lot more than just reading,” she says. “Our mission at the Public Libraries of Saginaw is to educate, enrich and encourage reading and lifelong learning. Participating in the Riverside Saginaw Film Festival clearly fits our mission.”

“Coraline,” released in 2009, tells the story of a young girl (voiced by Dakota Fanning) who walks through a secret door in her new home and discovers an alternate version of her life -- one much better. But when her adventure turns dangerous, Coraline must count on her resourcefulness, determination and bravery to get back home.

The animated sci-fi fantasy runs 100 minutes and is rated PG. Carrie Rickey of the Philadelphia Inquirer asked in her review, “Is it premature to assign it classic status?”

“My Neighbor Totoro,” released in 1988, finds two young girls moving into a house in the country with their father in postwar Japan to be closer to their hospitalized mother. Soon they discover the nearby forest is inhabited by magical creatures called Totoros who lead them on magical adventures.

It runs 87 minutes and is rated G. Film critic Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times ranks it as one of his great movies picks and says it’s “a little sad, a little scary, a little surprising and a little informative, just like life itself.”

**About Riverside Saginaw Film Festival:** Founded in 2007, the festival is an annual all-volunteer event held at six downtown Saginaw locations: the Temple Theatre, Pit and Balcony Community Theatre, the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History, Hoyt Library, Court Theatre and Old Saginaw City Lawn Chair Film Festival. Taking place Aug. 20-23 of this year, the festival will showcase 26 independent and foreign films, documentaries and children’s movies as well as the entries in its second short film contest. Single admissions are \$5; festival passes \$25.