



NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Historical Society
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka KS 66615-1099
785-272-8681

REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Contacts:

Bobbie Athon • 785-272-8681, ext. 262 • bathon@kshs.org
Teresa Jenkins • 785-272-8681, ext. 263 • tjenkins@kshs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2008

SUNDOWN FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF WITH *THE WIZARD OF OZ*

Weather is the theme of this year's free movie selections

TOPEKA, KS—The Kansas Historical Society announced that its 2008 Sundown Film Festival will begin July 18 with a free showing of *The Wizard of Oz*. The free movie festival runs four Fridays in a row and will include movies with a weather theme, many with a Kansas connection. Admission to the Kansas Museum of History is free from 5 to 9 p.m. on festival nights and the Museum Store will offer promotional discounts for moviegoers. The weather theme was chosen to coincide with the current exhibit, *Forces of Nature*, depicting weather extremes in Kansas. The exhibit will run through January 4, 2009.

The festival will include drawings for prizes and concession sales. All movies begin at sundown and are shown outside, so attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. In case of rain, the movie will be shown indoors. This year's lineup includes:

Friday, July 18 – *The Wizard of Oz* (rated G) – In this classic 1939 film, a storm transports farm girl Dorothy Gale from Kansas to the mysterious and wonderful Land of Oz. Will the Wizard help her get home again? Prior to the movie, Oz characters will be on hand for photos, and the Museum Store will offer discounts on Oz merchandise.

Weather connection: tornado (one of the most famous tornadoes ever!)

Kansas connection: Dorothy is from Kansas

Friday, July 25 – *Airport* (rated PG) –Burt Lancaster and Dean Martin star in this 1970 film. A ferocious blizzard threatens the safety of airplane passengers in this granddaddy of disaster flicks. *Airport* features a star-studded cast and exciting action, plus a great sense of humor.

Weather connection: blizzard

Kansas connection: the featured aircraft is a Boeing 747, made in Wichita

Friday, August 1 – *Paper Moon* (rated PG) This 1973 film stars Ryan O'Neal and daughter Tatum O'Neal. A traveling salesman is saddled with an orphaned girl, who accompanies him on travels through Depression-era Kansas. She suspects he's both a scam artist and her father.

Weather connection: set during dustbowl days

Kansas connection: many of the scenes were filmed in Kansas

Friday, August 8 – *Twister* (rated PG-13) This 1996 thriller stars Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt, part a team of storm-chasing scientists trying to understand tornadoes by getting as close to them as possible.

Weather connection: tornadoes

Kansas connection: action is set in Oklahoma, but the story could easily have taken place in Kansas, especially considering our recent weather events

The Kansas Historical Society does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operation of its programs. The Historical Society requests prior notification to accommodate individuals with special needs or disabilities.