

# The Boston Globe

## Everyone's gone to the drive-in movies: Here's where to find them in New England

These days, when a Target run qualifies as an outing, we've never needed the drive-in more.

By **Diane Bair and Pamela Wright** Globe Correspondent,  
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Back in the day, our local (small town) drive-in was shrouded in mystery. Figuring out what was showing was a “Wheel of Fortune”-esque experience, since rowdy teens always filched letters from the marquee. We had to decipher those that remained: “Bee ice”? Hmm. Could that be . . . “Beetlejuice”? We took a flier on “ack to he Fu” — a good move, since that turned out to be “Back to the Future,” a true classic.

These days, when a Target run qualifies as an outing, we've never needed the drive-in more. “Thank you for our first night out since March!” someone wrote on the Facebook page of the Prides Corner Drive In in Westbrook, Maine. That says it all.

Of the 300 or so drive-in theaters remaining in the country, more than a dozen are located in our neck of the woods. Many are open now, or about to open, with social-distancing protocols in place: Operating at lower capacity (spacing cars farther apart), online ticketing, requiring masks when you're out of your car, restricting the number of people at the snack bar, "no congregating" policies, and so on. Playgrounds, picnic areas, and mini-golf courses — all part of the scene at many drive-in theaters — are closed. But the basic experience — watching a movie in your car in the dark — retains its "Grease"-era appeal, but with better picture quality and improved sound systems. Expect to see films that have been out for a while — think "Knives Out" and "Trolls World Tour" — because of the lack of new releases in the age of coronavirus. Tip: For the most current information, visit the drive-in's Facebook page. Here's a sneak preview. Bring on the dancing hot dogs!

## **RHODE ISLAND**

### **Rustic Tri-View Drive-In**

No need to stuff anyone into the trunk; they charge by the carload. Rhode Island's only drive-in theater plays double features on its three screens, the usual suspects such as "Onward" and "The Call of the Wild" and more adult-oriented (but still PG-13) films like "The Wretched" and "Knives Out." Check out the snack bar for faves like clam cakes and Richie's Slush (both are coming attractions in the food category). Tickets are sold online only to reduce contact. \$27 per car. 1195 Eddie Dowling Highway, Route 146 S., North Smithfield, R.I.; 401-769-7601; [www.yourneighborhoodtheatre.com](http://www.yourneighborhoodtheatre.com).

