## **EVENTS**

# NBC buys 'Harry Potter' rights

#### 'Fantastic Beasts' franchise included

BY GERRY SMITH **BLOOMBERG** 

Comcast's NBCUniversal has acquired the rights to J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" and "Fantastic Beasts" franchises from Warner Bros. in a move that could bolster ratings at its cable networks and attendance at its theme parks.

The seven-year deal, which begins in July 2018, will make all eight "Harry Potter" films and the forthcoming "Fantastic Beasts" movies available on NBC's portfolio of cable networks, which include USA and Syfy, according to a company statement Monday. It also lets NBC's theme parks host fan events, movie screenings and promotional activities tied to both franchises.

Walt Disney Co.'s Freeform, formerly called ABC Family, currently has the rights to the Potter films. NBC will gain the rights to show the movies in an exclusive window. The "Fantastic Beasts" films will debut first on HBO and then be exclusive to NBC's cable networks.

The deal between NBCUniversal and Time Warner



SUZANNE PLUNKETT | REUTERS FILE British author J.K. Rowling, creator of the Harry Potter series, poses during the launch of new online website Pottermore in London in 2011.

Inc.'s Warner Bros. is val- make more than \$200 milcould increase based on the success of the "Fantastic Beasts" films, according to a person familiar with the matter, who asked not to be identified discussing private deal terms. The movie "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," the first in a trilogy of Potter spinoffs, will debut in No-

ued at about \$200 million but lion at the box office, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

Acquiring the Harry Potter films could lift viewership at USA and Syfy, which has been down this season. NBC's Universal Studios Hollywood recently launched a new attraction "The Wizarding called World of Harry Potter." It vember and is projected to features a giant castle, nal.

magic wand shops and a ride that simulates flying on a broomstick, as well as sell-"Harry Potter" merchandise. The new attraction has lifted attendance and per-capital spending at the park, Comcast Chief Financial Officer Mike Cavanagh said during a recent earnings call.

The deal was first reported by the Wall Street Jour-

## Hulu ends free streaming service

**REUTERS** 

Hulu is moving to an allsubscription model, eliminating the ad-supported service that has let users watch thousands of TV episodes in the nine years since it first launched.

At the same time, Hulu has expanded its distribution deal with Yahoo, which is launching Yahoo View, a ad-supported TVstreaming site with the five most recent episodes of shows from ABC, NBC and Fox — eight days after original air date — as well as other network shows, dayafter clips and full seasons of anime and Korean drama series. The free Hulu service will be phased out over the next few weeks.

The moves come less than a week after Time Warner announced it is paying \$583 million to take a 10 percent stake in Hulu, joining existing owners Disney, 21st Century Fox and Comcast.

'For the past couple years, we've been focused on building a subscription service that provides the deepest, most personalized content experience possible to our viewers," Ben Smith, Hulu senior vice president and head of experience, said in a state-

ment. "As we have continued to enhance that offering with new originals, exclusive acquisitions and movies, the free service became very limited and no longer aligned with the Hulu experience or content strategy."

Hulu is focusing on subscriptions as it looks to ratchet up its competition with Netflix and Amazon Prime, its two key SVOD rivals. Hulu offers two subscription plans: \$7.99 per month with commercials, and \$11.99 per month without any ads.

In addition, Hulu is gearing up to launch a live TV service sometime in 2017, which will feature linear channels from its parent companies including local TV stations. The company hasn't revealed details on pricing and packaging of that service.

Meanwhile, Yahoo is the midst of being acquired by Verizon in a \$4.8 billion deal, which is expected to close by the end of 2016 or in the first quarter of 2017. The Hulu content promises to be a draw for Yahoo, especially with Hulu ending its own free service

Yahoo is Hulu's "preferred partner" for all of the episodes from the free ser-

### Things to Do

ADDISON — Steve Havnes of the Maine Granite Industry Museum of Mount Desert on Addison's granite industry, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, Addison Town Hall, 334 Water St. Public program at Pleasant River Historical Society. Addison's black, pink and gray granite was used in major buildings and monuments throughout the Northeast. There will be examples from stonecutting techniques. Refreshments.

BANGOR — "Cutting Edge Quilts: The Work of Sally K. Field, with Elizabeth Busch and Ellie Pancoe" on display, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. daily, through Sept. 30, Boyd Place Gallery, 21 Boyd St.

BANGOR — Downtown Bangor Partnership's 11th annual Cool Sounds ELLSWORTH — Author Summer Concert Series and Fresh Air Market presented by Emera Maine and Beal College, 5-8 p.m. Thursdays, through August, West Market Square and along Merchants Plaza. Free. The Rotating Taps, Aug. 11; RetroRockerz, Aug. 18; Jon King, Aug.

BAR HARBOR — Eighth annual Summer Organ Series, 12:15-1 p.m. Fridays, through August, St. Saviour's Episcopal Parish, 41 Mt. Desert St. Douglas Beck, Aug. 12; Ray Cornils, Aug. 19; Julia Morris-Myers, Aug. 26. Admission by donation. Reception to meet the artists. 288-4215 or stsaviours.me.

BAR HARBOR — Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce and Reel Pizza hosting Seaside Cinema, screening of familyfriendly movies, 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays, through Aug. 17, Agamont Park. Free popcorn provided by Camden National Bank. 801-2566 or barharborinfo.com/Events/ Summer-Family-Film-Series.aspx.

BELFAST — The New Yorker's Mary Norris, author of "Between You & Me: Confessions of a Comma Queen," talk and book signing, 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, Left Bank Books, 109 Church St. Free. Reservations encouraged, 338-9009 or leftbank@myfairpoint.

BREWER — Bangor Singles Club dances, 8 p.m.-midnight Fridays, Brewer Eagles Club, 22 Atlantic Ave.: Honky Tonk, Aug. 12; Mainely Country, Aug. 19; New

Society, Aug. 26. Marilyn, 827-5751.

**BUCKSPORT** — Wednesday on Main's The Danny Harper Show, 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10, at the waterfront gazebo. Bring chair. No alcohol. Suggested \$10.

EASTPORT — Eastport Moonlight Movies, 8 p.m. Fridays, Sutherland Amphitheater, 80 Water St. "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," Aug. 12; "The Peanuts Movie," Aug. 19; "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," Aug. 26. 214-0040 or lolly@ sweetiesdowneast.com.

ELLSWORTH — Tea Time Tours, 3 p.m. Wednesdays, Aug. 10, 24 and 31, Woodlawn Museum. Staff-led tour followed by tea and cookies. \$12 Woodlawn members. \$15 others. Space limited. Reservations, woodlawnmuseum.org.

Carl Little talking about his book "Art of Acadia," 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 10, Courthouse Gallery, 6 Court St. Book available for purchase and signing. 667-6611 or info@courthousegallery.com.

GARLAND — Turkey supper, 5-7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12. Garland Grange Hall, Oliver Hill Road. Turkey, vegetables, homemade bread and desserts. \$7, \$3 ages 5 to 12, free to under age 5. Takeout meals available. 924-

MADAWASKA — Poutine Palooza, 5:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, during Acadian Festival's Party du Main Street. Poutine bake-off, 5:30 p.m., Chez Helen's Restaurant; Poutine Eating Contest, 7:30 p.m., Big Rick's Restaurant.

MILBRIDGE — Chewonki Foundation's Traveling Natural History program "The Owls of Maine: Habitats and Adaptations of Maine's Native Owls," 2 p.m. Friday. Aug. 12, Milbridge Public Library. Live owls. Open to all. 546-3066 or milbridgelibrary@milbridge.lib. me.us.

OLD ORCHARD BEACH Mystery for Hire mystery dinner theater, "Lights! Camera! Mystery!" 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9, 16 and 23, Old Orchard Beach Pier. \$40. Reservations, 934-3595.

PORTLAND - Paul Ledman, author of "Walking Through History: Portland, Maine, on Foot,' talking about his book, 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11, Maine Historical Society, 489 Congress St. Books available in society's museum store. Light refreshments. mainehistory.org.

PORTLAND — "Branching Out" photography exhibit, through Saturday, Aug. 27, UMVA Gallery at CTN5, 516 Congress St. Gallery hours noon-5 p.m. Mondays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 2-5 p.m. Fridays; or by appointment.

PORTLAND — Guided tour of Portland's oldest burial ground, 11 a.m.noon Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays, through Oct. 16. Tours led by trained volunteers. Tickets, \$10, \$5 students and seniors, free to under age 12. Tickets available at the gate, 224 Congress St., at time of tour, or in advance, spiritsalive.org or eventbrite.

ROCKLAND — Farnsworth Art Museum workshop poets reading their work in fifth annual Poetry in the Round, 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, museum auditorium, 16 Museum St. Poets include Lois Anne, Carol Bachofner, SvIvia de Leon, Lenora Goldman-Jackman, Ellen Goldsmith, Eileen Hugo, Judy Kaber, Claire Millikin, Catherine Neuhardt-Minor, Mark Raymond. Katie Wilson and others. Orono poet Kathleen Ellis will host. Free and open to all. 596-6457.

SEARSPORT — Workshop on how to research family history with Betsy Paradis, reference and special collections librarian at Belfast Free Library, 2-5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9, Penobscot Marine Museum. \$8, \$5 museum members. Tickets, 548-0334.

SEARSPORT — Book discussion, "Windswept" by Mary Ellen Chase, 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11, Carver Memorial Library. Copies of book available first-come, first-served at the library. 548-2303.

SOUTHWEST HARBOR John Palfrey will discuss his book "Biblio-Tech: Why Libraries Matter More Than Ever in the Age of Google," 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9, Southwest Harbor Public Library. Books for sale and signing. 244-7065.

STONINGTON — Chamber at the Church series, 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Burnt Cove Church Church Community Center: Aug. 9, Cordis playing original combination of custommade and traditional ethnic instruments; Aug. 23, Duo Yumeno with kotoshamisen player and singer Yoko Reikano Kimura and cellist Hikaru Tamaki. Tickets, \$22 in

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advance, \$25 at the door. operahousearts.org or 367-2788.

SURRY — Jeff Ellenberger on the viola presenting

evening of Bach, 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11, Arts at the Barn. Admission by suggested donation of \$15. Refreshments available. 667-1308 or surry

artsatthebrn.com.

For a complete listing of calendar items or to submit your event, visit www. bangordailynews.com.



### A full schedule of events available at www.acadianfestival.com Friday, August 12 Merchant music by La Famille

9:30pm-Fireworks

Family Fun Day Festival Parade Show & Shine Classic • 3pm-7pm Roxxu

in the park 6pm
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Sunday, August 14

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