

The Weekly

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Local fans, cinema plan big “Star Wars” premiere party

BY EMILY BURNHAM
OF THE WEEKLY STAFF

For anyone who even casually loves the Star Wars franchise — be they folks who saw the first movie in the theater back in 1977, or who grew up playing lightsabers in the backyard in the 1980s, or were of age the prequels came out — Dec. 18 is a really big day. It’s the day that “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” officially comes out in theaters.

Bangor artist and Studio 36 photographer Jodi Renshaw, along with Bangor Mall Cinemas and a cast of local characters as colorful as the denizens of

the Mos Eisley Cantina, has planned a party in order to celebrate this once-in-a-generation pop culture event. Starting the night of Thursday, Dec. 17, when there’s early premiere screenings of the movie, and running through Sunday, Dec. 20, Bangor Mall Cinemas will host a “Galactic Gathering” themed to Star Wars, featuring area book, clothing and toy stores, gaming clubs, conventions and local artists.

“I’ve been a huge fan [of Star Wars] my whole life, and now it even shows up in my art,” said Renshaw, who is known in Maine for her creative, funny photo-

graphs of action figures and other toys staged in dramatic scenes. “I feel like I’ve been waiting my whole life for this, because we’ve been waiting to see what happens to these characters — Luke and Leia and Han, not the prequel characters — for more than 30 years.”

Scott Warren, general manager of Bangor Mall Cinemas, has hosted lots of premiere parties, including big ones for the Harry Potter and Twilight films, but says “The Force Awakens” is special among them all.

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PHOTO COURTESY JODI RENSHAW/STUDIO 36

Seen here at the 2015 Bangor Comic & Toy Con, held in April, Maine-based Star Wars Darth Vader and stormtrooper cosplayers - people who dress up in costumes based on pop cultural characters - display photographs by Jodi Renshaw of Studio 36, who is helping to organize a four-day long Star Wars convention at Bangor Mall Cinemas, over the premiere weekend for “Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” Dec. 17-20.

Reported by Emily Burnham

THE WEEKLY QUESTION

Reported at Darling’s in Brewer

“What’s a dish your family always makes for the holidays?”



“We do the Feast of the Seven Fishes, but we can’t decide, so it’s often the Feast of the 13 Fishes.”
JUDIE NOONAN, BAR HARBOR



“Lobster stew on Christmas Eve.”
HOPE GABRIC, HAMPDEN



“Cherry cheesecake.”
KIM WHITE, CARMEL



“Homemade spinach and cheese ravioli.”
KRISTEN WALLACE, BANGOR



“Banana bread.”
LORILEI PORTER, DIXMONT



“My mom’s cinnamon rolls.”
CHRIS SMITH, HAMPDEN

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