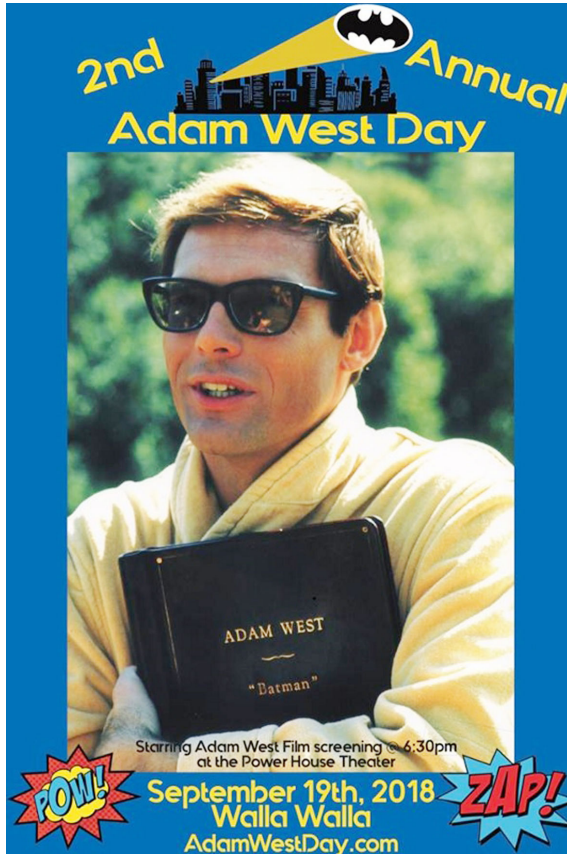


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Adam West Day honors Walla Walla's native son

Forrest Holt Sep 13, 2018



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Walla Walla is gearing up for its second annual Adam West Day, with hopes of continuing the tradition for many years to come.

The son of a farmer, West, most known for his role as Batman in the 1966 television series, was raised in Walla Walla from a very young age to about 15 and attended Walla Walla High School and Whitman College. The daylong celebration of West, born William West, is on his 70th birthday.

Jonathan Grant did much of the organizing for the inaugural event, with plans to make it even bigger





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Grant, the Marcus Whitman Hotel front office manager, said he was struck by West's grace and kindheartedness when he and his family would stay at The Marcus Whitman.

"After his passing, I knew we had to do something," he said, "because something hadn't really been done for him officially in the city."

Those looking to get an early start can check out Kirkman House Museum's Adam West exhibit, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., featuring photos and memorabilia. Grant said he's especially excited to see the museum library's transformation into Wayne Manor and its secret entrance to the Batcave.

The opening ceremony at 11 a.m. will be at Land Title Plaza, 31 E. Main St., where West's family will cut a ribbon to signify the celebration's official kickoff.

Designs for an Adam West statue will be unveiled at 1 p.m. at The Marcus Whitman Hotel.

Designed by Ruben Procopio of Disney animation fame, the sculpture will depict West at the height of his celebrity in the mid-1960s, drawing inspiration from his appearance on the Hollywood Palace variety show.

Grant said the designs will be brought before the city's newly formed arts commission to decide where it will end up and when it may be placed.

The unveiling will be followed by a showing of "Batman: The Movie" at 3 p.m.

The owners of one of West's childhood homes, at 1141 Alvarado Terrace, will host a lawn party open to everyone from 3-5 p.m.

There will be live music and activities for kids at Land Title Plaza starting at 4 p.m., including an opportunity to get a picture rope-climbing a wall in the same style as the television series' signature camera trick.

Gesa Power House Theatre will screen the documentary "Starring Adam West" at 6:30 p.m.



Adam West Day will close with a lighting of the Bat-Signal projected onto the side of the Marcus Whitman Hotel at 9 p.m.

Select downtown businesses, marked by Adam West stickers and posters in their front windows, will participate in the “Adam West Experience” all day by offering special promotions.

Fans can also get free pictures with replicas of the Batmobile and its airborne counterpart, the Batcopter.

With events at different parts of town throughout the day, Grant said people can choose their own adventure when it comes to observing all the tributes to Walla Walla’s Hollywood connection.

Grant said he hopes people take away from the celebration that Walla Walla is proud of West’s roots here.

He said he has planned the events with the support of West’s family, who last year were presented with a key to the city and plan to return.

“We’re very excited to open our arms to them as they come back to their home away from home,” he said.

“Also to celebrate our hometown hero.”

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If you go

Events from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday

All Day: The Adam West Experience, various downtown locations; pictures with the Batcopter, The Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conference Center parking lot, 6 W. Rose St.

10 a.m.: Adam West Exhibits (until 6 p.m.), Kirkman House Museum.

11 a.m.: Opening ceremony, Land Title Plaza, 31 E. Main St.; Meet Batman and take pictures with the Batmobile.

1 p.m.: Conversation with actor Johnny Green and Adam West statue design unveiling, The Marcus Whitman Hotel.

3 p.m.: "Batman: The Movie" showing, The Marcus Whitman Hotel; Adam West house lawn party with food and refreshments (until 5 p.m.), 1141 Alvarado Terrace.

4 p.m.: Live music, activities for kids, meet and greet with superheroes, wall rope climb Batman-style, Land Title Plaza.

6:30 p.m.: "Starring Adam West" showing, Gesa Power House Theatre, 111 N. Sixth Ave.

9 p.m.: Projecting the Bat-Signal on the side of The Marcus Whitman Hotel.

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