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NEWS LOCAL

Philip J. Currie Museum partners with National Geographic to screen films



By Kieran Markle, Grande Prairie Daily Herald-Tribune Staff
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An artist's rendering of the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum. (Supplied)

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum has partnered with National Geographic to show the organization's breathtaking documentaries.

President and CEO of the museum George Jacob said that during the course of the museum's construction, he struck a deal with National Geographic that would benefit both parties.

"I started the negotiations some time back and during the course of conversation it came out that we did have a compelling presence in Northern Alberta and our theatre was just the right size that (National Geographic was) looking (for), and we put forth a commitment to... hold 600 screenings a year.

"Given the educational nature of the institution and its commitment to Canada's paleo(lithic) heritage, I think National Geographic felt that this was a good partnership for them," said Jacob.

The films will be shown in the Aykroyd Family Theatre, which is currently being dressed in a custom mural that evokes the bone beds.

Jacob said screening the documentaries will bring a new level of educational fun to those visiting the museum.

“I think it exposes the museum attendees to the incredible library of films that National Geographic painstakingly created... All of their films have incredible depth of research and they’re visually vibrant and striking and pretty much unmatched in the world. So I think it’ll be a tremendous boost to not only the children in this community but also the tourists who come to the museum, they can actually enjoy a 45 to 60-minute documentary both in 2D and 3D,” he said.

The museum will be opening formally on Sept. 26, but will be holding an open house starting Sept. 3.

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