www.lamorindaweekly.com

## Digital Movies at The **New Rheem Theatre**

It all sounds good

By Cathy Dausman



Digital sound equipment at the Rheem.

Photos Cathy Dausman

saw at Moraga's Rheem Theatre was, in his own words, "awesome" but certainly not for its digital "Thunderball," the technology. James Bond thriller was released in 1965, when the Rheem Theatre screened a single movie in one auditorium.

Movie technology of the 1960s consisted of showing 35 mm prints using a sound system of one speaker positioned above the screen. The audio was most likely optically encoded as a single channel on the reel itself, Dausman said. Dausman is a SR.D). Chavez explained the audio lifelong audiophile and decades-long member of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, which provides hundreds of technical standards for theaters, projectors and sound systems (full disclosure: he is the physical space available on 35 also this writer's husband).

Returning to the Rheem when it but it was compressed." became the New Rheem Theatre, Dausman found it "a nice surprise to stalled a digital projector and server see a fully updated, 'darn good' quality sound-and-picture format available in Moraga."

ogy, and "Dolby will only license back, right back and subwoofer. technology if it is appropriately Chavez's company also upgraded the tested," Dausman said. By his estimate, nearly 75 percent of U.S. the-inda theaters state of the art at the moaters are currently showing movies in ment. the digital format.

placed film projection," he said. "Au- anced and detailed," Chavez exdiences now view a nearly perfectly projected presentation every time – no Dausman saw at Rheem, "2 Guns." clicks, no pops, no [film] scratches, The buddy movie/action flick covno [picture] 'weaving' in the gate," said Dausman. "A multi-channel surround system is built to envelop the gunfire, explosions and oncoming audience, handling the sound range trains. from subtle voices to big bangs."

stalled the most recent Rheem upgrade. BACP owner and president Sam Chavez said, "Rheem originally opened with a monaural optical sound corn was good, too!"

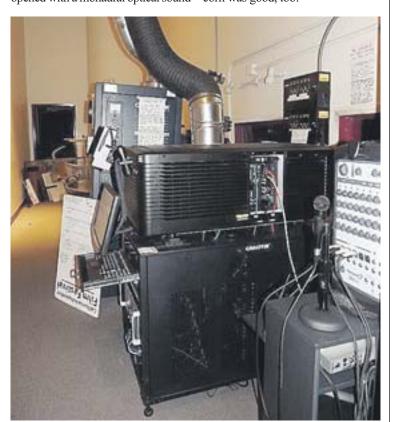
he first movie Eric Dausman system and was quickly upgraded to 35 mm magnetic sound." The Rheem's original projection and sound equipment was removed during one of its many turnovers in ownership, he added.

> At one point the theater was a live venue. Approximately 40 years after the Rheem first opened (late 1950s) it was converted into a fourplex, said Casey Foster, who managed the theater in the mid-1990s. More recently, the Rheem screen used a film-based sound commonly known as Dolby Digital 5.1 (or data for that system was stored between the sprocket holes – "in blocks very similar to the barcodes you see today that can be read by Smart Phones." Because it had to fit into mm film, "the sound was excellent

In May, Chavez and BACP inand upgraded the sound to uncompressed Dolby Digital 7.1. Speakers are positioned at left, center, and right, The theater uses Dolby technol- as well as left wall, right wall, left Orinda Theatre, making both Lamor-

"The use of uncompressed audio "Digital projection has all but redata makes the sound much more nuplained. It worked for the movie ered the full range of sound setups from whispered conversations to loud

Rheem Theatre's digital projec-Bay Area Cinema Products in- tion and multi-channel sound makes the movie experience "just as good as the area's major metroplexes," Dausman concluded, adding, "and the pop-





- Home Care Assistance is the only senior care company with a **Home Care** University to train and develop caregiver employees. We also offer culinary training with an emphasis on nutrition to improve our caregivers' skills and our clients' meals.
- Home Care Assistance boasts a 97% satisfaction rate and has been endorsed by Harvard geriatrician, Dr. Dennis McCullough and University of Washington Geriatrics Clinical Director, Dr. David Carr, among others.
- Home Care Assistance has produced an award-winning senior wellness book series, including *Happy to 102* and *Mind Over Gray Matter*, and a renowned healthy longevity webinar series in partnership with the American Society on Aging.



Meet Jill. Jill Cabeceiras is one of the client care managers for the East Bay. She has been working with older adults for more than ten years and is an expert on managing care within the home. Let Jill help your and your family!

Call Jill to schedule your free assessment today!



925-820-8390

480 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Danville, CA 94526 HomeCareAssistance.com



## Worm Composting Bin **Building Workshop**

Saturday, September 7th, 10-12pm Civic Park Community Center, WalnutCreek

Come build your worm bin, learn about vermicomposting and start immediately! It's easy - anyone can do it! All supplies covered, including worms!

Worms Donated by The Worm Farm www.thewormfarm.net and www.facebook.com/TheWormFarm Only \$15 per household to attend.

## REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Limit of 20 households so register today! Kids are encouraged to attend with parents.

One bin per household.

Last day to register: September 4<sup>th</sup>

Sponsored by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority. Call **925-906-1801** for questions or to register.

## **CCCSWA RESIDENTS ONLY:**

WALNUT CREEK, ORINDA, LAFAYETTE, MORAGA, DANVILLE, ALAMO, BLACKHAWK, DIABLO.