

Movies Made In Magna

More than 20 films, TV series & videos filmed in and around Magna, Utah.

Feature Films:

Most are (or were) available on DVD, and a few can be viewed online.

2020? Good Joe Bell (scheduled for 2020 release)

Coming-of-age drama partly filmed at Cyprus High School, featuring Mark Wallberg. News story on the production is (was) online at:

<https://kutv.com/news/local/cyprus-high-school-students-get-chance-to-be-extras-in-film-starring-mark-wahlberg>

2015 Wild Horses (R)

Director/Actor Robert Duvall led a star-filled cast in this tale of a family dealing with revelations about their troubled past. Just a few minutes were shot in Magna.

2015 Hollow Point (original title: The Man on Carrion Road) (R)

Two feuding small town sheriffs must come together try to save their community after a violent drug deal. Magna and Tooele settings, though the plot says it is on the USA / Mexico border.

2012 Guns, Girls and Gambling (R)

Crime comedy with a few scenes at Saltair.

2009 Dadnapped (TV-G)

Fun family film shot mostly in Magna, especially on Main Street around the Empress Theater. A Daddy/Daughter vacation is interrupted when the father, a popular author, is kidnapped (Dadnapped) and needs her to rally his young fans to rescue him.

2009 S. Darko (R)

Dark Fantasy follow-up to the cult classic "Donnie Darko" has a memorable visual style, especially in some night time dream sequences on Magna's Main Street.

2007 American Pastime (PG?)

Historical fiction about internees in the WWII Japanese Internment Camp "Topaz" near Delta, Utah using baseball as a way to build bridges to the often untrusting locals. A few Magna street scenes.

2005 The Crow: Wicked Prayer (R)

Several long sequences at Saltair, and a few other shots around Magna. Quirky horror / fantasy loosely related to the earlier films in this series.

2005 Buffalo Dreams (TV-PG ?)

Family film for Disney TV with "culture clash" themes when a teen boy and his family move to a new small town. Includes Native American themes and action sequences, including a buffalo on Main Street. Never on DVD, but occasionally airs on the Disney Channel on TV.

2005 Born Killers (a.k.a. "Piggy Banks") (R)

A family of criminals sets up in a small town where they expect to find new victims - and maybe extended family. Many Magna area locations. Legal issues and other production problems are part of this film's backstory.

2003 Just A Dream (PG-13?)

Noted actor Danny Glover directed this gentle drama. A young boy observes the changes in his family & community when a big film production comes to shoot in his small town. Many great scenes shot in Magna.

1999 Bats (PG-13 and unrated or "R" versions)

Swarms of scientifically altered bats attack a small town, and only a few brave locals dare try to stop them. Long, exciting sequence of an all-night battle shot was on Magna's Main Street.

1997 Address Unknown (PG)

Just a few minutes shot in Magna in this family mystery film about a boy finding a message left by his late father.

1993 Josh and S.A.M. (PG-13)

Some footage done at Saltair and the surrounding area. Family comedy/drama about two boys who run away when they learn a secret about the real identity of one of them.

1993 Slaughter of the Innocents (R)

Odd cult-related crimes bring an FBI special agent to Utah, but his work is complicated by his own son's interest and meddling in the case. Just a few scenes in Magna.

1986 Ordinary Heroes (PG-13?)

Romantic drama of a young couple whose new relationship is tested when he returns from war with physical challenges that threaten their dreams. The stars shot several scenes on Magna's Main Street.

1962 Carnival of Souls (PG-13?)

Probably the first film from the Magna area to be widely noticed and respected. Fantasy / psychological horror plot follows a woman after her narrow escape from a car accident. She starts noticing oddness all around her, and is drawn to a mysterious old amusement park – hauntingly filmed at Saltair.

Short Films:

Celibate at the Orgy (2014)

Comedy series of short episodes using some Magna talent and locations. The film makers are also preparing to shoot additional projects in Magna. Film maker Sila Agavale is also working with local history expert Robert Goble on more projects.

Student Films:

Cyprus High School media production students made a series of original full-length feature films around 2015 to 2018.

Game Changer (2015?) <https://vimeo.com/146362986>

Hit & Miss (2016?) <https://vimeo.com/166396867>

Off Key (2017?) <https://vimeo.com/219438843>

Hijacking History (2018?) <https://vimeo.com/271786327>

TV Series:

Andi Mack (2016 – 2018)

A Disney Channel series for teens. Filmed partly in Magna (and other Utah locations) from 2017 to 2019, totaling 3 seasons and 57 episodes. Notable for expanding the subject matter that used to be expected from Disney. At its peak this was the most popular cable tv show among American teens.

Granite Flats (2013 – 2015)

Family adventure & mystery series with Magna as one of the main locations for filming. All episodes and many related videos are (or at least were) available for free online viewing. A BYU-TV production.

Everwood (2002 – 2006)

Family drama with at least parts of some episodes filmed in and near Magna. Included many young actors who went on to have strong careers.

Touched by an Angel (1994 – 2003)

Several episodes were filmed in Magna over the years. Especially interesting is the series finale, a 2 hour story arc titled “I Will Walk With You” which featured many Magna locations.

The Stand (1994)

TV mini-series & movie from a Stephen King novel had many scenes shot in and near Salt Lake and Tooele counties, including some scenes in Magna. The novel called for a cross-country journey, but the film makers were able to find Utah settings to simulate a wide variety of states and types of landscapes.

Documentary Films:

Pleasant Green: The Town That Had Forgotten its Name (2019)

Researched and presented by local history expert Robert Goble, this is an ongoing series of short films documenting the early years of the area now known as Magna. Made in collaboration with film maker Sila Agavale.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyWiB74GLI8&t=61s>

Creating Ripples (2017)

Tribute documentary about the life and career of Cyprus High's long time choir director Kerry Moore, directed by one of his former students. Shown locally in 2017. See more about Creating Ripples at:

https://www.facebook.com/creatingripplesdoc/?ref=br_rs

Magna: An American Story (2015 - 2016?)

Nostalgic documentary made as a class project by students at the University of Utah, who won a national contest award for their work. Lots of “talking head” interviews, but also some vintage footage. Aired on Utah public television, and limited copies of a DVD were available. At the time this list was updated, the entire film was online at:

<https://bea.secure-platform.com/a/gallery/rounds/41/details/6380>

Our Inland Sea (2010)

Fun-loving documentary with plenty of images, history and folklore about the Great Salt Lake. Includes sections on the resorts near Magna, past and present.

Desert Empire (1948 – or some sources say 1938 ...)

Newsreel style travel film with rare scenes on local mining & ore processing, plus vintage footage at Saltair and the nearby beaches.

Electric Rails of Utah (2005)

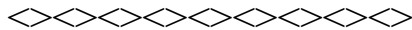
Modern historical documentary including old and new footage about the Garfield & Western Railroad which once connected Magna to SLC and to other west-side mining districts.

Various mining and historical films:

There have been several films made examining Great Salt Lake attractions, local and regional mining and/or salt harvesting history, or focusing on companies tied to that part of Magna's identity. Distribution and availability of these is unpredictable. Check YouTube, Vimeo, Archive.org, Prelinger Archives, e-Bay, etc.

What Else?

There are now more ways than ever to make films. Online video sharing outlets such as YouTube, Vimeo, Vine and more, along with image & sound editing software make it possible for almost anyone to make and share a film. Time will tell who will create the next project to add to this list.



This is a 2019 update of a list about "Movies Made in Magna" originally prepared by Douglas Wood for a seminar on the subject presented in 2014 by the Magna Arts Council presented at the Magna Library. We welcome additions or corrections to this list, which may be updated periodically at: www.artinmagna.com

version 1.4 September 2019