

# outdoor movie night

with Cynthia Rowley & Ilene Rosenzweig

This summer re-create the fun of an old-fashioned drive-in with a backyard movie party for 15 friends, designed by Cynthia Rowley and Ilene Rosenzweig (who write the *Swell* lifestyle books and design Target's Swell line). Just rent a projector, create cozy seating, and serve classic concession-stand snacks with sodas and spiked ice-cream floats. Once the film gets rolling let the screen do all the work—while you take the credit. —Erika Lenkert

## MENU

### DRINK

NC-17 root beer float

### MOVIE FOOD

classic candies,  
flavored popcorn,  
hot dogs with  
zesty cheese sauce,  
nacho pizzas

### DESSERT

ice-cream bars, berry  
skewers, fresh cherries



Arrange a snack bar with movie-theme candies and treats.

## setting the scene

**the décor** To create an outdoor theater in your yard, start with a retro color scheme of powder blue and orange with silver accents. Set up a six- to eight-foot-tall portable tripod screen and a video projector connected to your DVD player or VCR (for tips, see Backyard Setup, opposite). Design picnic-style seating on the lawn with blue blankets or beach towels, terry pillows and aluminum beach chairs. Include extra blankets in case it gets chilly.

**the invitation** Send out the details on graphic projector invites (below, \$11 for set of 10 cards and envelopes; at Rock Scissor Paper, 818-361-1142).

**the snacks** Set up a concession-style snack stand. Drape a table with a light

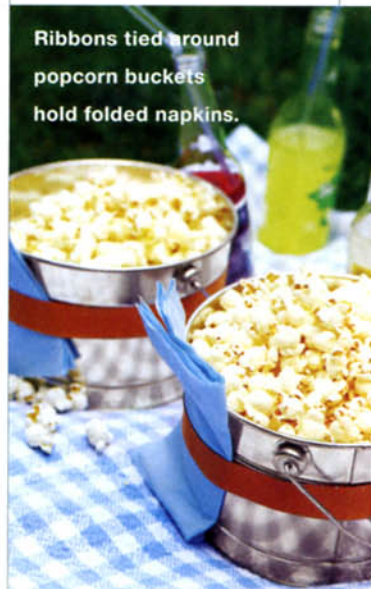
blue tablecloth and stack classic candies like Milk Duds, Sno Caps, Goobers, Raisinets, Sour Patch Kids and Twizzlers in a tray at one end. Serve popcorn in metal paint buckets (at hardware stores) or in white paper lunch bags along with toppings in labeled stainless-steel shakers (\$5 each; abestkitchen.com, 330-535-2811). Look for pre-made powdered popcorn flavorings such as white cheddar, sour cream and onion or barbecue (at grocery stores or order from Kernel Season's, \$4 for about 4 oz., depending on flavor; 773-292-4567). Or make your own mix-ins: try Raisinets and M&Ms; salt and melted butter mixed with brown sugar and candied or spiced nuts; fresh minced parsley and lemon salt; or freshly grated Parmesan cheese and freshly ground pepper. Offer individual nacho pizzas and hot dogs, kept warm on a hibachi or tabletop gas grill, along with squirt bottles of ketchup and mustard, and a spicy hot cheese sauce served in a fondue pot. Later, offer a tray of ice-cream bars served with cherries and mini skewers of fresh berries.



### countdown

- three weeks** Send invitations. Order rental projector and screen.
- two weeks** Buy candy and, if necessary, fondue pot.
- one week** Buy or borrow beach chairs, blankets and pillows.
- two days** Rent movies. Buy groceries, sodas and bar ingredients.

Ribbons tied around popcorn buckets hold folded napkins.



- three hours** Arrange backyard seating, projector and screen. Test projector.
- two hours** Set up concession stand and bar.
- one hour** Prep pizzas.
- 30 minutes** Cook hot dogs; keep warm on a hibachi or in the oven. Make cheese sauce; transfer to fondue pot.
- as guests arrive** Make and serve root beer floats. Bake and serve pizzas.
- during the evening** Pass around desserts on trays.

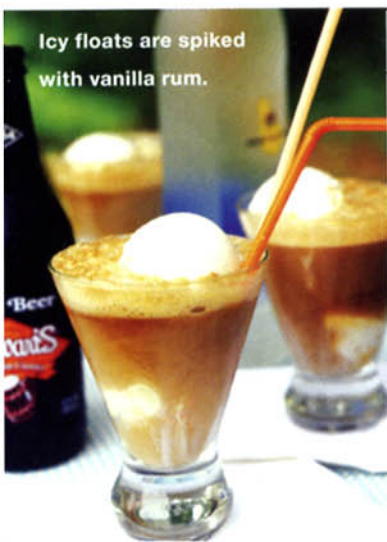
## BEVERAGE SERVICE: WHAT TO POUR

### NC-17 Root Beer Float (Serves 16)

In a pitcher, combine 4 cups chilled vanilla-flavored rum and 3 liters root beer; pour into serving glasses. Top each with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and add a straw.

Also set out a tub of champagne splits (such as Pommery's Pop; four 187 ml bottles for \$43) and classic sodas (Stewart's root beer, Fanta orange, Coca-Cola, Boylan black cherry), served with Crazy Straws, and bottles of beer.

For more information about tabletop and décor items see Credits in the back of the magazine.



Icy floats are spiked with vanilla rum.