

Brew View kicking off two-year anniversary party tonight

By Julie Jensen, correspondent @qconline.com

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The Quad-Cities Brew & View in Rock Island's District will celebrate its second birthday with special events beginning tonight.

The establishment opened on Oct. 11, 2002, at 1611 2nd Ave., and owner Devin Hansen said, ``I am really pleased at the amount of support in the community for independent cinema and alternative movie fare. A number of regular customers come to each film, week in and week out. Repeat business is flattering, but I also enjoy seeing new people come in."

The audiences have been diverse, including senior citizens, baby boomers and college students.

``Our biggest hurdle is that some people have misconceptions about us," Mr. Hansen said. ``They think we are a big party bar, but once they come here, they see how mellow the crowd is.

``We've made it for two years, and I think we have a good future ahead of us. Currently we are expanding to other markets outside the Quad-Cities and looking for local people to get involved. We want more screens in other cities."

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In the beginning, Mr. Hansen worked 70 hours a week to keep things going, but for the past year and a half, Garth Jacobson, Heather Kanzaki and Tyler Masters have been on board, and he said, ``Now I can focus on some other things."

Things like spending time with his wife, Lisa, who takes care of the books, and their daughter Ainja, a year-and-a-half.

One of the big successes at the venue has been ``This Old Cub," the story of Ron Santo, which had a two-month run and sold out show after show.

He has been puzzled that other movies were great, ``but almost nobody showed up for them. You never know what will draw people in."

A case in point was his favorite, ``The Station Agent," which is about a dwarf who inherits a train station. Another was ``Before Sunset," a romance about a couple's one-night, non-sexual relationship.

``We have a lot of charity events," he said. ``Daycares come in to see films. We also offer music -- bands that play with silent films and animation films."

Underground bands from Oregon, Texas, New York and Florida have been featured. ``We catch them on their way to bigger cities," Mr. Hansen said.

The Like Young, Skeleton Key, and the local Driver of the Year are among the bands that have attracted music fans to Brew & View.

How does he select films? ``I read critics' reviews on the Web. If a film has gotten horrible reviews, I won't pick it up. People expect to see good movies here, so I try for Oscar-caliber films like Best Picture nominees."

The birthday party tonight will feature a wine tasting for a \$10 ticket, but the films are free. ``Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid." which is PG, will be shown at 6 p.m. and the R-rated ``American Psycho" is on at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, the featured film will be the 1922 silent vampire picture, ``Nosferatu," with background music by local band Intensity! The screening will be at 10 p.m., and tickets are \$5.

You can munch and sip while you watch movies from comfortable seating at Brew & View, but it's a smoke-free venue.

``This is a great place to bring a date or an out-of-town guest," Mr. Hansen said.

``It's a unique experience."

For more information, call them at (309) 788-8439 or see **qcbrewandview.com**.