

Coyote Twin Theater To Host Screening Of ‘Join Or Die’

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The Coyote Twin Theater will host a special free screening of the thought-provoking documentary “Join or Die” on Tuesday, October 22, at 6:30 PM. The film offers a compelling look at the importance of clubs, associations, and civic groups in strengthening democracy and enriching our lives.



“Join or Die” is a film about why you should join a club—and why the fate of America depends on it. It explores the critical role of community engagement through the eyes of Dr. Robert Putnam, the author of the groundbreaking book *Bowling Alone* and how his research into American community decline may hold the answers to our democracy’s present crisis.

In one striking moment from the film, Dr. Putnam doesn’t hold back on the stakes: “Your chances of dying over the next year are cut in half by joining a group,” he says.

Flanked by influential fans and scholars — from Pete Buttigieg and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy to Eddie Glaude, Jr. and Priya Parker — as well as inspiring groups building community in neighborhoods across the country, Putnam explores three urgent civic questions: What makes democracy work? Why is American democracy in crisis? And, most importantly, what can we do about it?

Following the screening, attendees are invited to check out a joining fair in the Coyote Gallery attached to the theater, where local organizations will share information about their missions and how community members can get involved.

“It’s a chance for people to meet representatives from local clubs and get info about new ways they can get involved in the community,” said Shannon Cole, executive director of the Vermillion Cultural Association, which owns and operates the Coyote Twin and Gallery.

“First and foremost, I want people to attend and enjoy the movie,” said United Way Executive Director Kelsey Collier-Wise, whose organization is sponsoring the event. “I think it will get folks excited to share the good news of community engagement.”

Rotary Club of Vermillion and young professional network VermillionNEXT are additional sponsors of the screening.

For more information, visit the Join or Die event Facebook. To table at the joining fair, contact Kelsey Collier-Wise at director@unitedwayofvermillion.org.