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# 'Ding' documentary covers cartoonist's diverse life

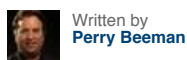
The Iowa premiere of the film will be Tuesday.

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Written by **Perry Beeman**

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News

The Iowa premiere of a new documentary about famed cartoonist Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling hits the screen at the Temple for Performing Arts in downtown Des Moines on Tuesday.

Darling was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist for The Des Moines Register, but also became one the nation's top conservation leaders. He helped establish the nation's wildlife refuges, and the one in Sanibel, Fla., bears his name.

Darling led what is now the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and also directed what became the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Viewers of the documentary project will get a look at the full breadth of Darling's life. A sideshow will be figuring out how executive

producer Samuel Koltinsky managed to wedge Darling's highly productive, diverse and colorful life into 75 minutes.

Admission to the premiere is free. The Temple is at 1011 Locust St.

The project became a mission of sorts for Koltinsky, whose Marvo Entertainment Group is based in Princeton, Ky.

"I felt it important to tell Darling's story and knowing that working with his grandson would enhance the project's research and content, it was time to make this happen," Koltinsky said. "I also wanted to interview people who knew Darling in order to provide insight into this modern-day Renaissance person and understand him totally."

The 7 p.m. showing will tell Darling's story through the eyes of his grandson and others.

As Koltinsky worked on the project over the past couple of years, he became enamored with the environmental power of Darling's message, and with the man's drive.

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Many younger viewers won't know of Darling, who died in 1962. But the documentary is important for them, too, Koltinsky said.

"America needs a great American story again," Koltinsky said in an interview.

"This is that story. It will remind us of the fiber by which we achieve as a culture, the standard by which we can operate, as well as to give us the inspiration to be the best we can be. I hope that our audiences will leave being more humble and better stewards of our world."

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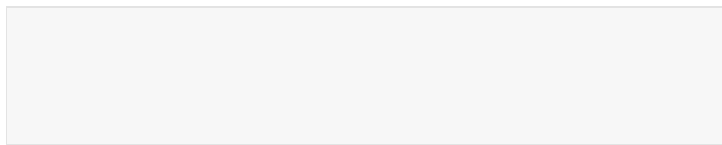
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