

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **FRIENDS OF SANTA CRUZ STATE PARKS KICKS OFF SUMMER OF SPECIAL EVENTS WITH “MOVIE AT THE MISSION” ON SATURDAY, MAY 20**

*The family-friendly free outdoor showing will feature Disney’s ‘The Brave Little Toaster’*

**MAY 10, 2017—SANTA CRUZ, CA**—Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends) today announced it will screen a free, family-friendly movie at Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park in downtown Santa Cruz the evening of Saturday, May 20.

Movie at the Mission will feature Disney’s “The Brave Little Toaster,” and kicks off a summer of special events at the Santa Cruz Mission that will include PopUp Picnics on Thursdays and the fifth annual Mole & Mariachi Festival on Sept. 9.

“The Brave Little Toaster” is the story of a group of outdated appliances whose home is about to be sold to new owners. Led by the loyal toaster, they embark on a journey in search for their original owner. The appliances battle the wildness of swamps, city streets and junkyards, and, in the process, learn that they are worth more than their rusty parts.

Doors open for Movie at the Mission at 7 p.m. The show will start at 8:30 p.m. Families are invited to come early with a picnic to enjoy before the show. Please bring low chairs or blankets to sit on. There will be a cash-only snack bar offering popcorn, cookies, hot apple cider, lemonade and a toast bar, complete with toppings. Proceeds benefit the Santa Cruz Mission.

The movie is suitable for all ages. Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park is at 144 School St. in Santa Cruz.

### **About Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park**

Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, “Your State Park Downtown,” is home to the oldest building in Santa Cruz County. Built between 1822 and 1824 by local Ohlonean and Yokuts Indians, the park’s signature adobe is the only remaining structure from Mission Santa Cruz, founded in 1791. One of just four adobe buildings left in Santa Cruz County — and sometimes confused with the nearby replica mission chapel — it is the only building of its kind preserved as a museum in the State of California. The adobe served as housing for Neophyte families who lived and worked at the Mission, which operated until 1834 when it was secularized. After decades of private ownership, the adobe was sold to the State of California, extensively restored and finally opened in 1991 to the public as the Santa Cruz Mission SHP. The park celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2016.

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks saved Santa Cruz Mission SHP from closure in 2012. Friends funds interpretation services and a portion of park operations, and also runs the Mission ParkStore. In addition, Friends has implemented key improvements at the park, including a remodel of the patio, the opening of new interpretive exhibits, renovated outdoor cooking facilities and new hours of operation to serve local school children. Friends also established several special events at the park, including the annual Mole & Mariachi Festival each September, movie nights, live music and food events. The park is supported by the Mission Committee, members of which include representatives of Friends, State Parks and dedicated community volunteers. For more information about Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park, visit [www.thatsmypark.org/projects/santa-cruz-mission](http://www.thatsmypark.org/projects/santa-cruz-mission).

### **About Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks**

Established in 1976, Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is an entrepreneurial nonprofit sustaining the legacy of our state parks and beaches. Through an innovative partnership with California State Parks, and by leveraging local community support, Friends provides funding for educational programs, visitor services and capital projects. Friends is passionately dedicated to the preservation of our spectacular natural environment and rich cultural history. Friends also operates six ParkStores, offering nature- and history-themed merchandise for sale to benefit local parks and beaches. ParkStore locations include Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Santa Cruz Mission, Seacliff, Wilder Ranch and Online. Learn more at [ThatsMyPark.org](http://ThatsMyPark.org) or via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Pinterest.

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