

It would be awfully hard to pick my absolute favorite outdoor venue in Dallas — the Dallas Arboretum, Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park and the Dallas Zoo would all be strong contenders — but the Nasher Sculpture Center would certainly be in the Top 5.

I always feel so relaxed and happy when I've been there; the garden, full of gorgeous artwork, affects me on a deep, almost spiritual level. I always have to fight the urge to just sprawl down among the statues and meditate. It's the first place I take out-of-town visitors, and they all say the same thing: "I can't believe you have something this special tucked away in downtown Dallas."

JOY'S JAUNTS



JOY TIPPING

It's especially wonderful at this time of year, and when the stars are out, you almost expect to see tiny fairies alighting on the trees. This month's 'Til Midnight at the Nasher event, on March 16, will be free in honor of spring break;

what a perfect chance to introduce your kids to the glories of both art and the outdoors.

In this case, you'll also get a strong dose of cinematic magic, with a screening of the Oscar-winning family movie *Hugo*, directed by Martin Scorsese, and co-produced by Dallas' Tim Headington. It's set in a 1930s Paris train station, where orphan boy Hugo has amazing adventures. Get there early: The 3-D version of the movie will be shown in the garden, and 3-D glasses are limited to the first 600 guests. The regular version of the movie will also be shown, inside in Nasher Hall.

There'll be a concert and dancing to kick things off, with Dallas party band Emerald City onstage at 7 p.m., followed by the screenings of *Hugo* at 9. You can pre-reserve picnic baskets



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The 'Til Midnight series at the Nasher Sculpture Center includes outdoor music and movies. The next event will be March 16.

Nasher gives wing to spring

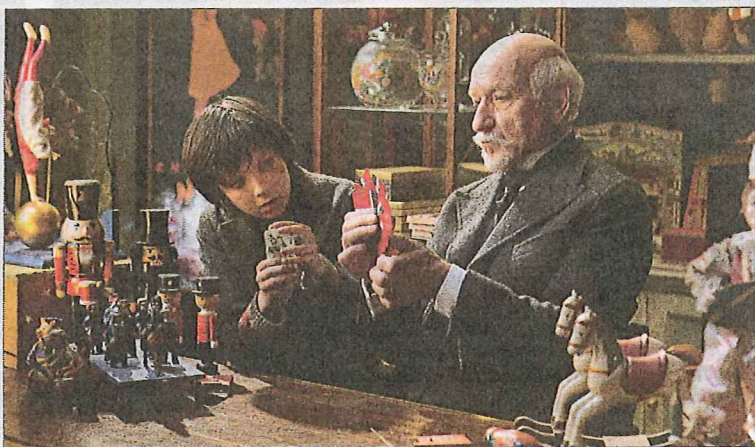
This month's 'Til Midnight event features 'Hugo,' Emerald City and free admission

or buy salads, sandwiches, snacks and beverages from Cafe Nasher by Wolfgang Puck.

The nearby Dallas Museum of Art and Crow Collection of Asian Art will also be open for free events, if you want to make your jaunt encompass even more of the Dallas Arts District. If you'd rather visit during the daytime, the Nasher will offer half-price admission March 10-18 as part of "Spring-In to the Arts District."

■ 'Til Midnight at the Nasher is March 16 from 6 p.m. to midnight at 2001 Flora St., Dallas. Free. To pre-reserve picnic baskets (\$40; feeds two to four people), call 214-242-5144. For general information, call 214-242-5100. nashersculpturecenter.org.

■ For information about spring-break events at the Dallas Museum of Art and Crow Collection of Asian Art, see DallasMuseumofArt.org and crowcollection.org.



Jaap Buitendijk/Paramount Pictures

The 3-D version of *Hugo* will be shown in the garden on March 16, and the regular version will be screened inside.