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MDPL Hosts Esther Williams Film Series

The Miami Design Preservation League (MDPL) will host an Esther Williams Film Series the second Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. beginning on July 12 at the Miami Beach Regional Library (227 22nd Street).

“These screen gems appeal to a whole new generation,” said Bill Farkas, MDPL executive director. “We’re thrilled to partner with Miami Beach Public Library in presenting these film classics.”

In the decade following World War II, Esther Williams starred in a series of MGM films often referred to as “Aqua Musicals” that featured elaborate dance sequences set in a swimming pool. A teenage swimming champion, Williams appeared in such films as *Bathing Beauty* (1944), *Easy to Wed* (1946), *On An Island With You* (1948), *Neptune’s Daughter* (1949), *Million-Dollar Mermaid* (1952) and *Dangerous When Wet* (1953) which made her an icon for post-war America.

The film series opens with *Bathing Beauty*, directed by George Sidney, and featuring Esther Williams in her first starring role. The film’s finale features a flames-and-fountains aqua ballet that leaves audiences clamoring for more.

The screenings are free of charge and held in the first-floor auditorium of the library. For more information on the film series, call the library at 305-535-4219.

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The Miami Design Preservation League is a non-profit preservation and arts organization founded in 1976. It is devoted to preserving, protecting and promoting the architectural, cultural, social, economic, and environmental integrity of the Miami Beach Architectural Historic District (Art Deco District) as well as other areas of the city and South Florida. The Miami Design Preservation League is the oldest Art Deco society in the world and has produced Art Deco Weekend for 32 years. Next year's Art Deco event is scheduled January 16-18, 2009.

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