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# 'Lost and Found' offers adventure, mystery and treasure

Writer's boyhood experiences provide inspiration for film

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Blaine County School District BSA

**Saturday, March 5**  
**10:00 a.m. - Noon**  
**Hailey Elementary**

**Monday, March 14,**  
**12:00-1:00 p.m.**  
**Bellevue Elementary**

## Lost & Found



Photo courtesy of the Sun Valley Film Festival  
Justin Kelly and Benjamin Stockham play brothers Andy and Mark Walton in "Lost and Found."

## EVENTS CALENDAR

March 2016						
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Posted: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 4:00 am

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Posted on Mar 2, 2016  
by [Elizabeth Youmans](#)

"Lost and Found" is a film written by Joseph Itaya about two brothers sent from their home in Seattle to

### Showing

"Lost and Found" will be shown at the Magic Lantern Cinemas in Ketchum on Thursday, March 3, at 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and are available in advance at [www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org](http://www.sunvalleyfilmfestival.org) or at the

door for cash only, if not sold out.



Joseph Itaya, Writer

### I tried to write the sort of movie I'd like to see if I were a 10- to 12-year-old."

movie, was "mysterious and a little spooky. I got to learn first-hand what it was like to leave all the city stuff and how different it was being in the woods."

Both Itaya and producer Scott Bridges noted that the lack of digital communication on Walton Island is intentional.

"It gets them out of their comfort zone and forces them to use their imagination and creativity," Bridges said. "Children have so much available to them now through the Internet, they don't have to imagine much. When they get to the island, one boy asks, 'Do we even have wi-fi?' 'Yeah, we call it a bookshelf,' his uncle replies. So the boys get on their bicycles and go around the island looking for things to do."

Itaya said he was a big fan of the Hardy Boys mysteries, which he read as a youngster on the school bus. He wrote the script for "Lost and Found" as his thesis in graduate school and tried for years to make it into a movie.

"These kinds of movies don't exist much anymore," he said. "The reason we wanted to make a kids movie is we think that movies mean the most to kids. When kids lock onto a movie—one with a value, a message and a theme—they'll watch it over and over again. With all the distractions in life and all the treasures people are searching for, in the end, it's always about love."

Email the writer: [eyoumans@mtexpress.com](mailto:eyoumans@mtexpress.com)

spend the summer with their uncle on a (fictional) island in the San Juans. The island once belonged to their wealthy grandfather, who vanished mysteriously. The boys' dismay at being banished to a remote location with no cell signal quickly turns to excitement as they seek to solve the mystery of their grandfather's disappearance and find his missing treasure. The movie ends with the brothers' realization that "the greatest treasure lies within," according to the production company.

The film will be shown Thursday, March 3, at 3:30 p.m. at the Magic Lantern Cinemas in Ketchum.

"I tried to write the sort of movie I'd like to see if I were a 10- to 12-year-old," said Itaya, who is also the director of the film. "When I was a kid, I loved movies that were mysterious and a little dangerous, and also had heart."

Itaya said the story is loosely based on his own childhood experiences. He grew up in a poor family and moved from Seattle to Whidbey Island when he was a boy. Like the two brothers in the movie, he also had a wealthy, estranged grandfather who had had a falling-out with his family.

"There was always this distant shadow of a family fortune," he added.

Itaya said that Whidbey Island, which was the inspiration for the fictional Walton Island in the

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