

The Timeless Tale of Qixi



On the seventh day of the seventh lunar month, which this year is August 29 on the Western calendar, the Chinese celebrate Qixi —also known as the Double Seventh Festival. It’s a holiday born of the myth of two lovers: Zhinü the weaver maid (a fairy runaway from heaven) and Niulang the cowherd.

Niulang was a kindhearted cowherd who, after losing his parents, lived with his cruel brother and sister-in-law. His sister-in-law demanded that Niulang bring nine cows to pasture and return home with 10. Forlorn, Niulang set off on his impossible task and met an old man who assured him that he could find a sick ox beyond the mountain. After searching for weeks, Niulang finally found the ox, which he restored to health. Imagine Niulang’s surprise when he discovered that the ox was actually a supernatural being from heaven. The ox was so thankful that it introduced Niulang to a beautiful fairy. The fairy’s name was Zhinü.



Zhinü was the seventh daughter of a goddess. Bored with heaven, she descended to Earth, where she married Niulang. The two were very happy, but when Zhinü’s mother discovered that her daughter had married a mortal, she became enraged and returned Zhinü to heaven. With the help of his ox, Niulang chased after his wife. When

the goddess found out, however, she created a huge river between the lovers, separating them forever. Niulang and Zhinü’s heartbreak so moved the hearts of all the magpies of the world that the birds created a bridge over the river. On the seventh day of the seventh month, the mother goddess allows Niulang and Zhinü to meet. For this reason, Qixi is considered China’s Valentine’s Day.

August Birthdays

In astrology, those born between August 1 and August 22 take on the lion star sign of Leo. Leos are dignified, strong, and powerful, making good leaders and honorable friends. They’re also ambitious—reaching for the stars, working hard, and accomplishing their goals. Those born between August 23 and August 31 are Virgos, known for being industrious and efficient. They pay close attention to details and get the job done right on the first try. Here are a few celebrities born in August:

- P. D. James (writer) – August 3, 1920
- Mata Hari (spy) – August 7, 1876
- Alfred Hitchcock (director) – August 13, 1899
- Julia Child (chef) – August 15, 1912
- Connie Chung (journalist) – August 20, 1946
- Cal Ripken Jr. (ballplayer) – August 24, 1960
- Mother Teresa (nun) – August 26, 1910
- Ingrid Bergman (actress) – August 29, 1915
- Buddy Hackett (comedian) – August 31, 1924

Heartthrob of the Silent Screen



He was born Rodolfo Alfonso Raffaello Pierre Filibert Guglielmi di Valentina d’Antonguolla, but his devoted fans knew him as Rudolph Valentino. Valentino was one

of Hollywood’s earliest stars of the silent era. He was tall, dark, and handsome—a perfect on-screen hunk. After dancing a tango in *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, he became a national sensation. His sudden death on August 23, 1926, threw his legions of fans into hysteria. Some even attempted suicide. A reported 100,000 mourners lined up outside the church where services were held. By train, Valentino’s body made its last trip to Hollywood for a final silent goodbye.

Beach Creek Post Acute

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Facility Events

Friday Jams & Donuts
August 8th & 22nd

Luau Party
August 14th

Resident Group Outing
August 21st

Resident 1:1 Outing
August 27th

Resident Council
Meeting
August 28th

Birthday Bash
August 29th

Journey Back to Oz

August marks a celebration for fans of *The Wizard of Oz*—the 86th anniversary of the beloved film’s release on August 25, 1939. In addition, the 125th birthday of the classic book, first published in May 1900, was celebrated earlier this year. Whether you first met Dorothy and Toto on the page or the silver screen, their journey down the Yellow Brick Road continues to charm audiences of all ages.

L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was a sensation from the start, quickly becoming a staple in American children’s literature. Over the decades, the story has inspired sequels, stage plays, and, most famously, the 1939 MGM film starring Judy Garland as Dorothy. The film dazzled audiences with its Technicolor magic, memorable songs, and a cast of unforgettable characters: Scarecrow, Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, and, of course, Toto (who was played by a female Cairn terrier named Terry).

The book and the movie differ in small ways—Dorothy’s slippers are silver in the book but ruby red in the film, for example—but both deliver the same heartwarming message about friendship, courage, and finding your way home. The story’s appeal has lasted in part because it offers both adventure and comfort. As author Ray Bradbury once said, “Oz is what we would hope and like to be,” a place where villains aren’t so villainous and hope always wins out.

The Wizard himself is a memorable figure, too. When his secret is revealed, he admits, “I’m really a very good man, but I am a very bad wizard,” reminding us all that sometimes, good intentions matter more than magical powers.

So this August, why not revisit Oz? Dust off the book, queue up the movie, or share the story with a grandchild or other young friend. After all, as Dorothy reminds us, “There’s no place like home”—and for many, Oz will always feel a little like home, too.

