

for a panel inside the convention this year, instead Jackman decided to show up outside Petco Park at a nearby parking lot Thursday morning to promote his next movie, "Real Steel," opening October 7 — along with the soon to be released video game of the same name. On the night prior, Jackman began announcing his impromptu San Diego visit via Twitter [@RealHughJackman](https://twitter.com/RealHughJackman) (<http://twitter.com/#!/search/%40RealHughJackman>). The day of his visit, Jackman walked through the crowds, signed posters, passed out free movie/game swag, and demonstrated how to play the new video game.

Thursday night outside Petco Park was no less entertaining. Along one of Petco Parks giant outside walls, acrobats from Cirque du Soleil presented a fight scene from the Las Vegas production "[Kà](http://m.cirquedusoleil.com/en/promo/comic-con.aspx)" (<http://m.cirquedusoleil.com/en/promo/comic-con.aspx>). Then later on that evening, around 10pm, The Gaslamp/Reading Cinemas presented a private screening of the comedy/action-adventure "[Attack the Block](http://attacktheblock.com/)" (<http://attacktheblock.com/>)" followed by a Q & A segment with director Joe Cornish and producer Edgar Wright (Shaun of the Dead, Hot Fuzz).

On Saturday night, the downtown Civic Theatre turned into a major new destination for Comic-Con festivities. Some months ago, director Jon Favreau decided to premiere his latest film "[Cowboys & Aliens](http://www.cowboysandaliensmovie.com/)" (<http://www.cowboysandaliensmovie.com/>) — a Sci-fi western set in the 1800s, during Comic-Con weekend. Inviting fans to this world premiere was Favreau's way of saying thanks to all the Comic-Con fans who have supported his films over the years — those films such as "Iron Man 1 and 2."

Anyone who saw the enormous "Cowboys & Aliens" banner on the side of the Hilton Bayfront Hotel during Comic-Con had a chance to win tickets to the 8pm premiere on Saturday. Upon entering the text number provided at the bottom of the movie banner, Texters received the message: "Be on the look out for 'Cowboys & Aliens' gold bricks — get one and you could win tickets to the World Premiere at the San Diego Civic Theatre, Saturday, July 23!"

Hundreds of spectators showed up. Attendees of the "Cowboys & Aliens" premiere were not only treated to a free film, but a first-hand look at the films cast and crew during their [red carpet entrance](http://www.eonline.com/uberblog/b247430_were_livestreaming_cowboys_aliens.html) (http://www.eonline.com/uberblog/b247430_were_livestreaming_cowboys_aliens.html). Featured celebrities included actors Daniel Craig, Harrison Ford, Olivia Wilde, and Sam Rockwell; director Jon Favreau; producers Steven Spielberg and Ron Howard; and others. Following the premiere — an outdoor party with complimentary food and drink were provided for everyone.

The Comic-Con parties continued for days. Among the most popular were those held at [The Hard Rock Hotel](http://www.hardrockhotelsd.com/) (<http://www.hardrockhotelsd.com/>), the [Omni Hotel](http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/SanDiego.aspx?cid=sd_psg_b-property) (http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/SanDiego.aspx?cid=sd_psg_b-property), and the Hotel Solamar.

On Thursday at the Hard Rock, Summit Entertainment and Fandango hosted such actors as Alexander Skarsgard and Ryan Kwanten of "True Blood," along with cast members from the "Twilight" films. The FilmDistrict party, also at the Hard Rock, included such guests as Guillermo del Toro and Guy Pearce.

Thursday's Showtime party at the Omni Hotel featured guests Michael C. Hall (Dexter) and William H. Macy (Shameless). Also that evening, the Maxim Magazine party received such guests as Danny Devito (It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia), Elijah Wood (Wilfred) and Jason Gann in his "[Wilfred](http://www.fxnetworks.com/shows/originals/wilfred/)" (<http://www.fxnetworks.com/shows/originals/wilfred/>) dog-suit, and Chris Parnell and Aisha Tyler ([Archer](http://www.fxnetworks.com/shows/originals/archer/) (<http://www.fxnetworks.com/shows/originals/archer/>)).