

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

Visa Screening Room 29 films

For ten days each year, the historic Elgin Theatre is the host venue for the VISA Screening Room, a showcase of Special Presentations, second Gala screenings, and major films from other programs.

SP KANCHIVARAM Priyadarshan

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-INDIA / Cast: Prakash Raj, Sreya Reddy] Vengadam is a born optimist and weaver of saris, but his lowly status means he can never afford the fashions he creates. At the birth of his daughter he pledges to wrap her in the finest silk on the day of her wedding, dismaying his community who believe that, if such a promise is not fulfilled, a curse will follow. Desperate to keep his word, he steals a thread of silk each day, weaving secretly each night. But when his access to the silk is jeopardized, Vengadam must find a way to keep from breaking his promise. [\$\$] ... TAMIL (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+ ****½ 9/10

GP LUCKY ONES Neil Burger

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Rachel McAdams, Tim Robbins, Michael Peña] Rachel McAdams, Tim Robbins and Michael Peña star as returning U.S. soldiers who find themselves on an epic road trip across America. Their unplanned journey is hilarious and heart-breaking as they discover home is not quite what they remembered and the unlikely companionship they've found in one another might be what matters most of all. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ ****½ 9/10

GP BURN AFTER READING Ethan Coen, Joel Coen

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: George Clooney, Frances McDormand, John Malkovich, Tilda Swinton, Richard Jenkins, Brad Pitt] Worlds collide when a computer disc containing material for a CIA analyst's memoirs accidentally falls into the hands of a fitness centre duo eager to exploit their find. Events spiral out of everyone's and anyone's control in a cascading series of darkly hilarious encounters. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ **** 8/10

GP DUCHESS Saul Dibb

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Keira Knightley, Ralph Fiennes, Dominic Cooper, Hayley Atwell, Charlotte Rampling] Long before the concept existed, the Duchess of Devonshire, Georgiana Spencer (Keira Knightley), was the original "It Girl" -- ravishing, glamorous and adored by an entire country. Determined to be a player in the wider affairs of the world, she helped usher in sweeping changes to England as a leader of the forward-thinking Whig Party. But even as her power and popularity grew, she was haunted by the fact that the only man in England she seemingly could not seduce was her very own husband, the Duke (Ralph Fiennes). Directed by Saul Dibb (Bullet Boy, The Line of Beauty), The Duchess is the story of an extraordinary woman who rose to fame by staying true to her passions in a world of protocol, gossip and social rules - and paid the price. Based on the award-winning biography Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire by Amanda Foreman. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ **** 8/10

SP FLASH OF GENIUS Marc Abraham

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Greg Kinnear, Lauren Graham, Dermot Mulroney, Alan Alda] Based on the true story of college professor and part-time inventor Robert Kearns' (Greg Kinnear) long battle with the American automobile industry, Flash of Genius tells the tale of one man whose fight to receive recognition for his ingenuity would come at a heavy price. But this determined engineer refused to be silenced, and he took on the corporate titans in a battle that nobody thought he could win. And while paying the toll for refusing to compromise his dignity, this everyday David tried the unthinkable: to bring Goliath to his knees. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ **** 8/10

GP GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD Kim Jee-woon
– Joheunnom Nabbeunom
Isanghannom

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-SOUTH KOREA / Cast: Jung Woosung, Lee Byung-hun, Song Kang-ho] Drawing inspiration from Sergio Leone's 1966 classic The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, Kim (The Foul King, TIFF 2000) returns to TIFF with the first-ever "kimchi western." This is also South Korea's biggest budget movie ever. In the 1930s, Northeast Asia lies in chaos. The Korean Peninsula has fallen to Japanese Imperialists. Many Koreans have retreated to the vast wilds of Manchuria, including a thief named Tae-gu (The Weird). A train robbery lands Tae-

gu with a mysterious map promising untold treasure, but cold-blooded hitman Chang-yi (The Bad) and bounty hunter Do-won (The Good) are also hot on the trail of the map. On the heels of them all is a larger, more powerful cast of characters, including Chinese, Russian and Korean bandits, the Japanese army and the Korean resistance. In true western style, it all builds towards the climactic final showdown - a breathtaking bullet ballet. [\$\$] ... KOREAN (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+ **** 7.7/10

SP EMPTY NEST Daniel Burman
– Nido Vacio

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-ARGENTINA, SPAIN, FRANCE, ITALY / Cast: Cecilia Roth, Oscar Martinez] Superbly imaginative and entertaining, Empty Nest offers a heartfelt look at the marital tensions between Martha (Cecilia Roth, All About My Mother) and Leonardo (Oscar Martinez) as they struggle to maintain a fresh and exciting marriage after their youngest child marries and leaves Buenos Aires. Daniel Burman's sixth feature is laugh-out-loud funny even while nostalgic moments bring tears to the eye. [\$\$] ... SPANISH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+ **** 7.3/10

SP BLINDNESS Fernando Meirelles

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-CANADA, BRAZIL, JAPAN / Cast: Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Alice Braga, Yusuke Iseya, Yoshino Kimura, Don McKellar, Maury Chaykin, Danny Glover, Gael Garcia Bernal] It begins in a flash, as one man is instantaneously struck blind while driving home from work, his whole world suddenly turned to an eerie, milky haze. One by one, each person he encounters will in due course suffer the same unsettling fate. As the contagion spreads, and panic and paranoia set in across the city, the newly blind victims of the "White Sickness" are rounded up and quarantined within a crumbling, abandoned mental asylum, where all semblance of ordinary life begins to break down. But inside the quarantined hospital, there is one secret eyewitness: one woman (four-time Academy Award™-nominee Julianne Moore) is pretending to be blind in order to stay beside her beloved husband (Mark Ruffalo). Armed with increasing courage and the will to survive, she will lead a makeshift family of seven people on a journey to break out of the hospital and into the devastated city where they may be the only hope left. Directed by Fernando Meirelles (City of God, TIFF 2002), from a screenplay by Don McKellar (based on the international bestseller by José Saramago). [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ ****½ 7/10

SP FAUBOURG 36 Christophe Barratier
– Paris 36

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE / Cast: Gérard Jugnot, Clovis Cornillac, Kad Merad, Nora Arnezeder] A dazzling musical from the director of Les Choristes (TIFF 2004), Faubourg 36 is set between December 1935 and July 1936 in a working-class neighbourhood on the northeastern edge of Paris. The springtime election of a left-wing government brings wild new hopes, yet also sees the rise of extremist ideas. Three unemployed stage workers decide to produce a "hit show" and occupy the music hall where they formally worked. The stage is set for a short-lived but wonderful adventure. [\$\$] ... FRENCH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+ ****½ 7/10

GP STONE OF DESTINY Charles Martin Smith

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-CANADA, UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Robert Carlyle, Billy Boyd, Brenda Fricker, Charlie Cox, Kate Mara] Based on a true story, Stone of Destiny re-creates the legendary tale of four Glasgow University students who plotted to retrieve the 300-pound Stone of Destiny, the ancient coronation stone of the Scots. Seized by England's Edward I in 1296, the stone was kept in Westminster Abbey and fitted into St. Edward's Chair, upon which English monarchs were crowned for centuries. The stone would not leave England until four friends, passionate, determined and fueled by a combination of patriotism and the fire of youth, made their way to London on Christmas Eve, 1950, to reclaim this symbol of their heritage. All of them rank amateurs, they aim to steal the stone from right under the noses of the English police. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ ****½ 6.2/10

SP HEAVEN ON EARTH Deepa Mehta

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-CANADA / Cast: Preity Zinta, Vansh Bhardwaj, Yanna McIntosh, Seema Biswas] Bollywood superstar Preity Zinta plays Chand, a vibrant young woman who travels from India to Canada where her new husband Rocky (Vansh Bhardwaj) and his very traditional family await. Everything is new to Chand, including the quiet and shy Rocky, whom she meets for the first time at the airport. Chand approaches her new life and new country with equanimity and

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

grace but, optimism soon gives way to alienation as she finds herself in the midst of a collective frustration. No one feels the pressure more than Rocky, burdened by familial obligations here and abroad – unable to express his frustrations, Rocky finds other ways to release his anger, with Chand bearing the brunt of his repressed rage. Trapped in a world she cannot comprehend and seemingly unable to please her husband, Chand turns to her co-worker Rosa (Yanna McIntosh), a tough and savvy Jamaican-Canadian woman, who gives her a magical root, promising that it will make Rocky fall deeply in love with her. Soon, surreal incidents occur and Chand's life begins to mirror an Indian fable involving a King Cobra. As the lines between fantasy and reality converge, Chand and Rocky come face to face with each other and themselves. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ *** 6/10

SP GHOST TOWN

David Koepf

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Ricky Gervais, Greg Kinnear, Téa Leoni, Billy Campbell, Kristen Wiig, Dana Ivey] Bertram Pincus (Ricky Gervais) is a man whose people skills leave much to be desired. When Pincus dies unexpectedly, but is miraculously revived after seven minutes, he wakes up to discover that he now has the annoying ability to see ghosts. Even worse, they all want something from him, particularly Frank Herlihy (Greg Kinnear), who pesters him into breaking up the impending marriage of his widow Gwen (Téa Leoni). [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ **½ 5/10

SP ADORATION

Atom Egoyan

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-CANADA / Cast: Devon Bostick, Scott Speedman, Arsinée Khanjian, Noam Jenkins, Rachel Blanchard] The twelfth feature film from celebrated Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan. High school student Simon (Devon Bostick) is caught up in family history, technology and a shocking and explosive lie that intertwines the lives of his uncle (Scott Speedman) and his French teacher (Arsinée Khanjian), while forcing him to reconcile conflicting memories of his deceased parents (Noam Jenkins and Rachel Blanchard). [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ **½ 4.7/10

SP APPALOOSA

Ed Harris

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Ed Harris, Viggo Mortensen, Renée Zellweger, Jeremy Irons] Ed Harris, Viggo Mortensen, Renée Zellweger and Jeremy Irons star in the Western Appaloosa, adapted from the Robert B. Parker novel. Set in the Old West territory of New Mexico, Appaloosa revolves around a pair of hired guns (Harris and Mortensen) who come to clean up a dangerous town run by a ruthless, powerful rancher (Irons) and his band of outlaws. While boldly bringing new order to the town, the two fearless lawmen meet a provocative outsider (Zellweger) whose unconventional ways threaten to destroy their decade-old bond. Appaloosa is co-written and directed by Ed Harris. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP BARRAGE CONTRE LE PACIFIQUE – Sea Wall

Rithy Panh

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE, CAMBODIA, BELGIUM / Cast: Isabelle Huppert] Adapted from the novel of the same name by Marguerite Duras, Un Barrage Contre le Pacifique is directed by Rithy Panh (S21, La Machine de mort Khmère Rouge, TIFF 2003), who has turned to a classic work French literature to make a film about his native country. The legendary Isabelle Huppert stars as the matriarch of a small land-owning family in 1930s French Indochina (now Cambodia) who try to survive by working on rice fields located dangerously close to the ocean. Driven to fight against both nature and corrupt bureaucrats, she devises an imaginative scheme to build a dam against the sea with the help of the villagers. [\$\$] ... FRENCH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+

SP BURNING PLAIN

Guillermo Arriaga

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Charlize Theron, Kim Basinger] Guillermo Arriaga's directorial debut, a romantic mystery about a one woman's emotional journey to uncover the secret of a past love. Theron plays Sylvia, a beautiful restaurant manager whose cool demeanor masks the sexually charged storm within. When a stranger confronts her with her mysterious past, Sylvia is launched into a journey through space and time that inextricably connects her to three disparate characters, all grappling with their own romantic destinies. Basinger stars as the housewife whose affair puts them all on a collision course with the explosive power of forbidden love. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP CHE: PART ONE – Guerrilla

Stephen Soderbergh

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA, SPAIN / Cast: Benicio Del Toro, Demián Bichir, Rodrigo Santoro, Lou Diamond Phillips, Julia Ormond] On November 26, 1956, Fidel Castro sails to Cuba with eighty rebels. One of those rebels is Ernesto "Che" Guevara, an Argentine doctor who shares a common goal with Fidel Castro – to overthrow the corrupt dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Che proves indispensable as a fighter, and quickly grasps the art of guerrilla warfare. As he throws himself into the struggle, Che is embraced by his comrades and the Cuban people. Che: Part One tracks Che's rise in the Cuban Revolution, from doctor to commander to revolutionary hero. [\$\$] ... SPANISH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+

SP CHE: PART TWO – Argentine

Steven Soderbergh

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA, SPAIN / Cast: Benicio Del Toro, Demián Bichir, Rodrigo Santoro] After the Cuban Revolution, Che is at the height of his fame and power. Then he disappears, re-emerging incognito in Bolivia, where he organizes a small group of Cuban comrades and Bolivian recruits to start the great Latin American Revolution. The story of the Bolivian campaign is a tale of tenacity, sacrifice and idealism, and of guerrilla warfare that ultimately fails, bringing Che to his death. Che: Part Two explores how Che remains a symbol of idealism and heroism that lives in the hearts of people around the world. (First movie to have a scene shot in anamorphic 16mm. Custom made lenses were provided by Panavision.) [\$\$] ... SPANISH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+

SP EASY VIRTUE

Stephan Elliott

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM, USA / Cast: Colin Firth, Jessica Biel, Kristin Scott Thomas, Ben Barnes, John Whittaker] An adaptation by Stephan Elliott (Priscilla, Queen of the Desert) of Noel Coward's wickedly witty play. A young Englishman (John Whittaker), falls madly in love with an older woman – Larita is sexy, glamorous and American. They marry impetuously. When they return to John's family home, his mother Veronica has an instant allergic reaction to her new daughter-in-law but Larita finds an unlikely ally in John's father. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP INJU, LA BÊTE DANS L'OMBRE – Inju, The Beast In The Shadow

Barbet Schroeder

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE / Cast: Benoît Magimel] Barbet Schroeder directs this thriller starring Benoît Magimel (La Pianiste) as Fayard, a successful crime novelist. Invited to Japan for the release of his latest book, he encounters Tamao, a geisha who confides to him that one of her former lovers is threatening to kill her. This former lover may well be Shundei Oe, a novelist known for his extremely violent and disturbing books, and whose work Alex has studied extensively. Agreeing to help Tamao, Alex finds himself pitted against a man bent on vengeance and before long, his business trip becomes a bloody quest in which fiction becomes indistinguishable from reality. [\$\$] ... FRENCH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+

GP LOSS OF A TEARDROP DIAMOND

Jodie Markell

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Evans, Ellen Burstyn, Mamie Gummer, Ann-Margret, Will Patton] In this rediscovered original screenplay by Tennessee Williams, young and rebellious socialite Fisher Willow (Bryce Dallas Howard), already tainted by family scandal, defies social convention and falls in love with farm hand Jimmy Dobyn (Chris Evans). The relationship is jeopardized when the loss of a priceless diamond sets off a series of accusations and betrayals that threaten to shatter their hopes for the future. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA

Spike Lee

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Derek Luke, Michael Ealy, Laz Alonso, Omar Benson Miller, Matteo Sciacardi, John Leguizamo, Joseph Gordon Levitt] Directed by Spike Lee from a screenplay written by James McBride, the author of the acclaimed novel of the same name, the film chronicles the story of four black American soldiers who are members of the US Army as part of the all-black 92nd "Buffalo Soldier" Division stationed in Tuscany, Italy, during World War II. They experience the tragedy and triumph of the war as they find themselves trapped behind enemy lines and separated from their unit after one of them risks his life to save an Italian boy. Miracle at St. Anna explores a deeply inspiring story that transcends national boundaries, race and class to touch the goodness within us all. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

GP NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Rod Lurie

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Kate Beckinsale, Vera Farmiga, Alan Alda, David Schwimmer, Noah Wyle, Angela Bassett] Inspired by today's politically charged climate, *Nothing But the Truth* stars Kate Beckinsale as a Washington DC reporter who writes an explosive story about a government scandal in which she reveals the name of a covert CIA agent (Vera Farmiga). When a special government prosecutor (Matt Dillon) demands she divulge her source, she refuses and finds herself behind bars, struggling to defend the principles upon which she has based. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

GP PASSCHENDAELE *Paul Gross*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-CANADA / Cast: Paul Gross, Caroline Dhavernas, Gil Bellows, Joe Dinicol, Chris Ippolito, Jason Therrien, Robert Nogier] The 33rd Toronto International Film Festival opens September 4 with the world premiere Gala Presentation of *Passchendaele*, written, directed and produced by celebrated Canadian filmmaker Paul Gross. Set during the height of the First World War, *Passchendaele* tells the story of Sgt. Michael Dunne (Gross), a soldier who is brutally wounded in France and returns home to Calgary emotionally and physically scarred. While in the military hospital in Calgary, he meets Sarah (Dhavernas), a mysterious and attractive nurse with whom he falls passionately in love. When Sarah's younger brother David (Dinicol) – despite suffering from severe asthma – signs up to fight in Europe, Michael is compelled to return to the battlefield to protect him. Alongside thousands of other courageous Canadians, David and Michael are sent to fight in the third battle of Ypres. Commonly known as "Passchendaele," it is a battle against impossible odds. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

GP RACHEL GETTING MARRIED *Jonathan Demme*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt, Debra Winger, Bill Irwin, Anna Deavere Smith] When Kym (Anne Hathaway) returns to the Buchman family home for the wedding of her sister Rachel (Rosemarie DeWitt), she brings a long history of personal crisis and family conflict along with her. The wedding party's abundant cast of friends and relations has gathered for an idyllic weekend of feasting, music and love, but Kym with her black-comic one-liners and knack for bombshell drama is a catalyst for long-simmering tensions in the family dynamic. Filled with the rich and eclectic characters that have always been a hallmark of Jonathan Demme's films, *Rachel Getting Married* paints a strikingly perceptive and sometimes hilarious family portrait. Director Demme, first-time writer Jenny Lumet and the stellar acting ensemble leaven the drama of these difficult but compelling people with wry affection and generosity of spirit. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP ROCKNROLLA *Guy Ritchie*

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Gerard Butler, Tom Wilkinson, Thandie Newton, Chris Bridges, Jeremy Piven, Idris Elba] When a Russian mobster orchestrates a crooked land deal, millions of dollars are up for grabs, and all of London's criminal underworld wants in on the action. Everyone from a dangerous crime lord to a sexy accountant, a corrupt politician and down-on-their-luck petty thieves conspire, collude and collide with one another in an effort to get rich quick. Written and directed by Guy Ritchie. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP WOMAN IN BERLIN – Anonyma, Eine Frau In Berlin *Max Färberböck*

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-GERMANY, POLAND / Cast: August Diehl, Juliane Köhler, Nina Hoss, Sebastian Urzendowsky] Adapted from the international bestseller based on a true story, *A Woman in Berlin* is directed by Golden Globe nominee Max Färberböck (Aimée & Jaguar). In April 1945, the Red Army invades Berlin; among the chaos, a group of women fall victim to rape in a half-destroyed house. One of them is a former journalist and photographer. In desperation, she decides to find an officer who can protect her. A relationship develops with a Russian officer; soon, what began as an act of self-preservation becomes a complicated and forbidden affair. [\$\$] ... GERMAN | RUSSIAN (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+

SP WRESTLER *Darren Aronofsky*

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Mickey Rourke, Evan Rachel Wood, Marisa Tomei, Judah Friedlander, Necro Butcher] Back in the late '80s, Randy "The Ram" Robinson (Mickey Rourke) was a headlining professional wrestler. Now, twenty years later, he ekes out a living performing for handfuls of die-hard wrestling fans in high-school gyms and community centres. Randy lives for the thrill of the show and the adoration of his fans; but when he suffers a heart attack after a match, he is forced into retirement. He begins to evaluate the state of his life

but the allure of the spotlight and the passion for his sport threatens to pull him back inside the ring. Directed by Darren Aronofsky (*The Fountain*, TIFF 2006), *The Wrestler* also stars Evan Rachel Wood, Marisa Tomei, Judah Friedlander and the Necro Butcher. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP ZACK AND MIRI MAKE A PORNO *Kevin Smith*

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks] A bawdy tale of love and friendship from Kevin Smith. Lifelong friends and roommates Zack (Rogen) and Miri (Banks) are facing hard times and a mountain of debt. When the electricity and plumbing get cut off, the two seize upon the idea of making a homegrown porno movie for some quick cash, enlisting the help of their friends. The two vow that having sex will not ruin their friendship; but as everyone starts "doing" everyone, what started out as a friendly business proposition turns into something much more. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

Gala Presentations *20 films*

Gala Presentations is the festival's high-profile showcase of premieres with major impact, including Canadian films, US studio productions, and non-English language cinema. Many of these films are World or North American premieres. They are presented at Roy Thomson Hall.

GP LUCKY ONES *Neil Burger*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Rachel McAdams, Tim Robbins, Michael Peña] Rachel McAdams, Tim Robbins and Michael Peña star as returning U.S. soldiers who find themselves on an epic road trip across America. Their unplanned journey is hilarious and heartbreaking as they discover home is not quite what they remembered and the unlikely companionship they've found in one another might be what matters most of all. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ ****½ 9/10

GP BURN AFTER READING *Ethan Coen, Joel Coen*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: George Clooney, Frances McDormand, John Malkovich, Tilda Swinton, Richard Jenkins, Brad Pitt] Worlds collide when a computer disc containing material for a CIA analyst's memoirs accidentally falls into the hands of a fitness centre duo eager to exploit their find. Events spiral out of everyone's and anyone's control in a cascading series of darkly hilarious encounters. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ **** 8/10

GP DUCHESS *Saul Dibb*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Keira Knightley, Ralph Fiennes, Dominic Cooper, Hayley Atwell, Charlotte Rampling] Long before the concept existed, the Duchess of Devonshire, Georgiana Spencer (Keira Knightley), was the original "It Girl" -- ravishing, glamorous and adored by an entire country. Determined to be a player in the wider affairs of the world, she helped usher in sweeping changes to England as a leader of the forward-thinking Whig Party. But even as her power and popularity grew, she was haunted by the fact that the only man in England she seemingly could not seduce was her very own husband, the Duke (Ralph Fiennes). Directed by Saul Dibb (*Bullet Boy*, *The Line of Beauty*), *The Duchess* is the story of an extraordinary woman who rose to fame by staying true to her passions in a world of protocol, gossip and social rules - and paid the price. Based on the award-winning biography *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire* by Amanda Foreman. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ **** 8/10

GP GOOD, THE BAD, THE WEIRD – Joheunnom Nabbeunnom Isanghannom *Kim Jee-woon*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-SOUTH KOREA / Cast: Jung Woosung, Lee Byung-hun, Song Kang-ho] Drawing inspiration from Sergio Leone's 1966 classic *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, *Kim* (The Foul King, TIFF 2000) returns to TIFF with the first-ever "kimchi western." This is also South Korea's biggest budget movie ever. In the 1930s, Northeast Asia lies in chaos. The Korean Peninsula has fallen to Japanese Imperialists. Many Koreans have retreated to the vast wilds of Manchuria, including a thief named Tae-gu (The Weird). A train robbery lands Tae-gu with a mysterious map promising untold treasure, but cold-blooded hitman Chang-yi (The Bad) and bounty hunter Do-won (The Good) are also hot on the trail of the map. On the heels of them all is a larger, more powerful cast of characters, including Chinese, Russian and Korean bandits, the Japanese army and the Korean resistance. In true western style, it all builds towards the climactic final showdown -

a breathtaking bullet ballet. [\$\$] ... KOREAN (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+ **** 7.7/10

GP STONE OF DESTINY *Charles Martin Smith*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-CANADA, UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Robert Carlyle, Billy Boyd, Brenda Fricker, Charlie Cox, Kate Mara] Based on a true story. Stone of Destiny re-creates the legendary tale of four Glasgow University students who plotted to retrieve the 300-pound Stone of Destiny, the ancient coronation stone of the Scots. Seized by England's Edward I in 1296, the stone was kept in Westminster Abbey and fitted into St. Edward's Chair, upon which English monarchs were crowned for centuries. The stone would not leave England until four friends, passionate, determined and fueled by a combination of patriotism and the fire of youth, made their way to London on Christmas Eve, 1950, to reclaim this symbol of their heritage. All of them rank amateurs, they aim to steal the stone from right under the noses of the English police. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ ****½ 6.2/10

GP SINGH IS KINNG – S.I.K. *Anees Bazmee*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-INDIA / Cast: Akshay Kumar, Ranvir Shorey, Om Puri, Javed Jaffrey, Sonu Sood, Katrina Kaif, Neha Dhupia, Kiron Kher] In our Special Mumbai Matinee, Akshay Kumar stars opposite Katrina Kaif and Om Puri in this romantic action-comedy from writer/director Anees Bazmee. Happy Singh (Kumar) is well-intentioned but accident-prone – bringing constant disaster upon his small village in Punjab. Fed up, the village decides to send him on a journey that will take him out of the country for an extended period of time – to retrieve another former villager, Lucky Singh (Sonu Sood), whose deeds and designation as “King” of the Australian underworld have been maligning the village's reputation. What starts out as a seemingly simple assignment becomes a heroic quest in which Happy will travel great distances, battle fierce enemies and finally meet his destiny. [\$\$] ... HINDI/URDU (subtitled) 18+ *** 5.8/10

GP DEAN SPANLEY – My Talks With Dean Spanley *Toa Fraser*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM, NEW ZEALAND / Cast: Peter O'Toole, Jeremy Northam, Sam Neill, Bryan Brown] Living in Edwardian England where upper lips are always stiff and men from the Colonies are not to be trusted, Fisk Senior (Peter O'Toole) has little time or affection for his son (Jeremy Northam). But when the pair visit an eccentric swami, they embark on a strange journey that eventually allows the old man to find his heart. Based on Lord Dunsany's novel *My Talks with Dean Spanley*. [\$\$] ... 18+

GP FIFTY DEAD MEN WALKING *Kari Skogland*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-CANADA, UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Jim Sturgess, Ben Kingsley, Rose McGowan, Kevin Zegers, Nathalie Press, Rose McGowan] In the late 1980s, with the Irish civil conflict at its most treacherous, 22-year-old Martin McGartland (Jim Sturgess) is recruited by the British police to infiltrate and spy on the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Working his way up through the ranks as a volunteer for the IRA while simultaneously feeding information to his British handler, McGartland lives his life under the constant threat of being exposed as an informant. This double life, a secret kept even from those closest to him, begins to unravel and the threat of exposure becomes a harrowing reality when McGartland is captured and tortured to within an inch of his life. Against the odds, he manages a daring escape. To this day, Martin McGartland is still on the run. Based on the shocking real life story. [\$\$] ... 18+

GP FILLE DE MONACO – Girl From Monaco *Anne Fontaine*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE / Cast: Fabrice Luchini, Louise Bourgoïn, Roschdy Zem, Stéphane Audran, Gilles Cohen, Alexandre Steiger] A brilliant and neurotic attorney (Fabrice Luchini) goes to Monaco to defend a famous criminal. But instead of focusing on the case, he falls for a beautiful she-devil (Louise Bourgoïn), who turns him into a complete wreck. Hopefully, his zealous bodyguard (Roschdy Zem) will step in and put everything back in order... or will he? *La Fille de Monaco* is directed by Anne Fontaine (*Nouvelle chance*, TIFF 2006 and *Entre ses mains*, TIFF 2005). [\$\$] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

GP LOSS OF A TEARDROP DIAMOND *Jodie Markell*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Bryce Dallas Howard, Chris Evans, Ellen

Burstyn, Mamie Gummer, Ann-Margret, Will Patton] In this rediscovered original screenplay by Tennessee Williams, young and rebellious socialite Fisher Willow (Bryce Dallas Howard), already tainted by family scandal, defies social convention and falls in love with farm hand Jimmy Dobyne (Chris Evans). The relationship is jeopardized when the loss of a priceless diamond sets off a series of accusations and betrayals that threaten to shatter their hopes for the future. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

GP NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH *Rod Lurie*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Kate Beckinsale, Vera Farmiga, Alan Alda, David Schwimmer, Noah Wyle, Angela Bassett] Inspired by today's politically charged climate, *Nothing But the Truth* stars Kate Beckinsale as a Washington DC reporter who writes an explosive story about a government scandal in which she reveals the name of a covert CIA agent (Vera Farmiga). When a special government prosecutor (Matt Dillon) demands she divulge her source, she refuses and finds herself behind bars, struggling to defend the principles upon which she has based. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

GP ONE WEEK *Michael McGowan*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-CANADA / Cast: Joshua Jackson, Liane Balaban, Emm Gryner, Campbell Scott, Gord Downie] Suddenly confronted with his mortality, Ben Tyler (Joshua Jackson) impulsively purchases a vintage motorcycle and embarks on a cross-Canada road trip in order to escape an impending marriage, an unfulfilling job and medical treatment that will compromise his way of life. Believing the trip to be unwise and reckless, his fiancée Samantha (Liane Balaban) refuses to accompany him, leaving him to contend with the immensity of the Canadian landscape and the enormity of his recent diagnosis on his own. In his travels, Ben encounters several individuals who help him to understand what he believes in and what he really wants out of life. While hiking in Banff, Ben becomes desperately lost and begins feeling the effects of the altitude or his illness, or both. Here in the mountains, in this moment of weakness, he has an intense encounter with a woman named Tracey (Emm Gryner), whose presence forces him to reevaluate his relationship with Samantha. Making a commitment to live a lifetime in each day, Ben opts to continue his westward journey. Finally, he arrives in Tofino, British Columbia, at mile zero of the Trans-Canada highway -- after a 4,000 kilometre journey, Ben has run out of west, unsure of which way to turn. [\$\$] ... 18+

GP OTHER MAN *Richard Eyre*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM, USA / Cast: Liam Neeson, Laura Linney, Antonio Banderas, Romola Garai] From the director of *Notes on a Scandal* comes this adaptation of a short story by Bernhard Schlink. *The Other Man* tells the story of Peter (Liam Neeson) who discovers that his wife Lisa (Laura Linney) has been receiving emails and mobile messages from Ralph (Antonio Banderas), a man he never knew existed. His obsession with this unknown rival escalates and, against the advice of his estranged daughter Abigail (Romola Garai), a hurt and vengeful Peter flies to Milan to seek out the mysterious Ralph and the truth about his relationship with Lisa. [\$\$] ... 18+

GP PASSCHENDAELE *Paul Gross*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-CANADA / Cast: Paul Gross, Caroline Dhavernas, Gil Bellows, Joe Dinicol, Chris Ippolito, Jason Therrien, Robert Nogie] The 33rd Toronto International Film Festival opens September 4 with the world premiere Gala Presentation of *Passchendaele*, written, directed and produced by celebrated Canadian filmmaker Paul Gross. Set during the height of the First World War, *Passchendaele* tells the story of Sgt. Michael Dunne (Gross), a soldier who is brutally wounded in France and returns home to Calgary emotionally and physically scarred. While in the military hospital in Calgary, he meets Sarah (Dhavernas), a mysterious and attractive nurse with whom he falls passionately in love. When Sarah's younger brother David (Dinicol) – despite suffering from severe asthma – signs up to fight in Europe, Michael is compelled to return to the battlefield to protect him. Alongside thousands of other courageous Canadians, David and Michael are sent to fight in the third battle of Ypres. Commonly known as “*Passchendaele*,” it is a battle against impossible odds. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

GP PRIDE AND GLORY *Gavin O'Connor*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Edward Norton, Colin Farrell, Jon Voight, Noah Emmerich, Jennifer Ehle] *Pride and Glory* follows a multi-generational New York City police family whose moral code is tested when one of two sons on the force investigates an incendiary case involving his older brother and

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

brother-in-law, ultimately forcing the family to choose between their loyalties to one another and their loyalties to the department. [\$\$] ... 18+

GP PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE *Jean-François Richet*
– Mesrine / Énnemi Public No. 1

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-CANADA, FRANCE / Cast: Cécile de France, Gérard Depardieu, Roy Dupuis] Vincent Cassel plays Jacques Mesrine, the legendary French gangster of the 1960s and 1970s who came to be known as French Public Enemy No. 1. Infamous for his sadism, bravado and daring prison escapes, Mesrine carried out numerous robberies, kidnappings and murders in a criminal career that spanned continents until he was shot dead by France's notorious anti-gang unit at the Porte de Clignancourt in 1979. Both a thriller and a biopic, Public Enemy No. 1 explores the man behind the icon. [\$\$] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

GP RACHEL GETTING MARRIED *Jonathan Demme*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt, Debra Winger, Bill Irwin, Anna Deavere Smith] When Kym (Anne Hathaway) returns to the Buchman family home for the wedding of her sister Rachel (Rosemarie DeWitt), she brings a long history of personal crisis and family conflict along with her. The wedding party's abundant cast of friends and relations has gathered for an idyllic weekend of feasting, music and love, but Kym with her black-comic one-liners and knack for bombshell drama is a catalyst for long-simmering tensions in the family dynamic. Filled with the rich and eclectic characters that have always been a hallmark of Jonathan Demme's films, Rachel Getting Married paints a strikingly perceptive and sometimes hilarious family portrait. Director Demme, first-time writer Jenny Lumet and the stellar acting ensemble leaven the drama of these difficult but compelling people with wry affection and generosity of spirit. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

GP SECRET LIFE OF BEES *Gina Prince-Bythewood*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Dakota Fanning, Hilarie Burton, Paul Bettany, Jennifer Hudson, Queen Latifah, Sophie Okonedo, Alicia Keys, Hilarie Burton, Nate Parker, Tristan Wilds] Based on the bestselling novel *The Secret Life of Bees* and set in South Carolina in 1964, the film is the moving tale of Lily Owens (Dakota Fanning), a 14-year-old girl who is haunted by the memory of her late mother (Hilarie Burton). To escape her lonely life and troubled relationship with her father (Paul Bettany), Lily flees with Rosaleen (Jennifer Hudson), her caregiver and only friend, to a South Carolina town that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by the intelligent and independent Boatwright sisters (Queen Latifah, Sophie Okonedo and Alicia Keys), Lily finds solace in their mesmerizing world of beekeeping, honey and the Black Madonna. [\$\$] ... 18+

GP WHO DO YOU LOVE *Jerry Zaks*

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Alessandro Nivola, Marika Dominczyk, Jon Abrahams, Lisa Goldstein, David Oyelowo] Alessandro Nivola stars as legendary record producer Leonard Chess in *Who Do You Love*. Founded by Leonard and his brother Phil, the label helped to introduce and popularize blues music during the 1950s and 1960s, including that of the extraordinary Muddy Waters. As the music around them transformed, so too did their family lives – *Who Do You Love* explores the professional success and personal sacrifices of the men behind what would come to be known as America's greatest blues label. [\$\$] ... 18+

GP YEAR AGO IN WINTER *Caroline Link*
– Im Winter Ein Jahr / Aftermath

[GALA PRESENTATIONS-USA, GERMAN / Cast: Karoline Herfurth, Josef Bierbichler, Corinna Harfouch, Hanns Zischler, Mišel Maticevic] From the director of *Nowhere in Africa* (TIFF 2002) comes the gripping story of a family in the aftermath of the unexpected death of its only son. Grieving mother Eliane (Corinna Harfouch) commissions a renowned artist, Max Hollander (Josef Bierbichler), to paint a portrait of the young man and his sister, Lilli (Karoline Herfurth). As part of his process, Max insists on meeting regularly with Lilli to glean an understanding of the relationship that existed between the siblings. What he happens upon instead are troubling family secrets that threaten his unfinished work. [\$\$] ... 18+

Special Presentations

52 films

A showcase for high-profile films featuring major stars and directors, Special Presentations presents daring and artistic films from around the world.

SP KANCHIVARAM *Priyadarshan*

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-INDIA / Cast: Prakash Raj, Sreya Reddy] Vengadam is a born optimist and weaver of saris, but his lowly status means he can never afford the fashions he creates. At the birth of his daughter he pledges to wrap her in the finest silk on the day of her wedding, dismaying his community who believe that, if such a promise is not fulfilled, a curse will follow. Desperate to keep his word, he steals a thread of silk each day, weaving secretly each night. But when his access to the silk is jeopardized, Vengadam must find a way to keep from breaking his promise. [\$\$] ... TAMIL (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+ ****½ 9/10

SP WALTZ WITH BASHIR *Ari Folman*
– Vals Im Bashir / Valse Avec Bachir

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-ISRAEL, FRANCE, GERMANY-ANIMATED / Cast: Ari Folman, Serge Lalou, Gerhard Meixner] One night in a bar, an old friend tells director Ari Folman about a recurring nightmare. The two men conclude that there's a connection to their Israeli Army mission in the Lebanon War in the early 1980s. An astonishing and powerful animated feature that journeys into the director's memory in search of some missing pieces. [S] ... HEBREW | GERMAN (subtitled) 18+ ****½ 8.4/10

SP ASHES OF TIME REDUX *Wong Kar-wai*
– Dung Che Sai Duk/Dong Xie Xi Du/1994

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-HONG KONG, CHINA / Cast: Leslie Cheung, Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Jacky Cheung] Wong Kar-wai works his magic in this long-planned "reworking" of his legendary, romantic and one and only martial arts film, previously unreleased in North America. Set in ancient China, Ouyang Feng (Leslie Cheung) is a fallen swordsman who is afraid of love after having his heart broken. But the bounty hunters that work for him, like "Blind Swordsman" (Tony Leung Chiu Wai) and Hung Chi (Jacky Cheung), discover the intangible secret of true love while Ouyang retains his attitude towards his fighters and the precious lessons that they have taught. [S] ... MANDARIN (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

SP DIVO *Paolo Sorrentino*
– Straordinaria Vita Di Giulio Andreotti

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-ITALY, FRANCE / Cast: Toni Servillo] Giulio Andreotti (Toni Servillo) has been the alpha and omega of Italian politics. Unreachable and enigmatic, he hides behind a calculated semblance of normality. Seven times prime minister, 25 times minister, he was the man who held the fate of Italy in his hands for over half a century until the disconcerting accusations of involvement with the Mafia. Winner of the Jury Prize at Cannes 2008, *Il Divo* is an insightful, intensely political film that delves into the hidden character of one of the most powerful figures in the history of Italian politics. [S] ... ITALIAN (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

SP FLASH OF GENIUS *Marc Abraham*

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Greg Kinnear, Lauren Graham, Dermot Mulroney, Alan Alda] Based on the true story of college professor and part-time inventor Robert Kearns' (Greg Kinnear) long battle with the American automobile industry, *Flash of Genius* tells the tale of one man whose fight to receive recognition for his ingenuity would come at a heavy price. But this determined engineer refused to be silenced, and he took on the corporate titans in a battle that nobody thought he could win. And while paying the toll for refusing to compromise his dignity, this everyday David tried the unthinkable: to bring Goliath to his knees. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ **** 8/10

SP STILL WALKING *HIROKAZU Kore-eda*
– Even If You Walk And Walk / Aritemo Aritemo

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-JAPAN] A son and daughter return to the family home where their parents have lived for decades, bringing their own young families along with them. They have gathered to commemorate the tragic death of the eldest son, who drowned in an accident fifteen years earlier. Although the roomy house is as comforting and unchanging as the mother's homemade feast, everyone in the family has changed subtly. From the director of *After Life* (TIFF 1998) and *Hana* (TIFF 2006) comes the story of a dysfunctional family – full of resentments and secrets – which unfolds over the course of a single summer's day. [S] ... JAPANESE (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

SP SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK

Charlie Kaufman

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Philip Seymour Hoffman, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Catherine Keener, Dianne Wiest, Samantha Morton, Michelle Williams, Emily Watson, Hope Davis] Worried about the transience of his life, theatre director Caden Cotard (Philip Seymour Hoffman) leaves his home behind and sets out to construct a massive artistic enterprise. Gathering an ensemble cast into a warehouse in New York City, he hopes to create a work of brutal honesty. He directs them in a celebration of the mundane, instructing each to live out their constructed lives in a growing mockup of the city outside. The years rapidly fold into each other, and Caden buries himself deeper into his masterpiece but the textured tangle of real and theatrical relationships blurs the line between the world of the play and that of Caden's own deteriorating reality. [S] ... 18+ **** 8/10

SP CONTE DE NOËL – Christmas Tale

Arnaud Desplechin

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE / Cast: Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Paul Roussillon, Mathieu Amalric, Anne Consigny, Melvil Poupaud, Emmanuelle Devos, Chiara Mastroianni] A dysfunctional family, torn apart by illness, death and loss, come together for Christmas in the North of France. Exploring the relationships among them, one by one they open up to acceptance, forgiveness and understanding. Winner of a Special Prize at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival, Desplechin's (*Rois et Reine*, TIFF 2004). [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ **** 7.6/10

SP Y A LONGTEMPS QUE JE T'AIME – I've Loved You So Long

Philippe Claudel

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE / Cast: Kristin Scott Thomas, Elsa Zylberstein, Laurent Grevill, Serge Hazanavicius, Frederic Pierrot] Coming off a hugely successful run in France, *I've Loved You So Long* is written and directed by acclaimed novelist/filmmaker Philippe Claudel. *I've Loved You So Long* is a film about the strength of women, and their capacity to shine forth, reconstruct themselves and be reborn. It is also a story about secrets, about confinement, and about the isolation we all share. For 15 years, Juliette (Kristin Scott Thomas) has had no ties with her family who had rejected her. Although life once violently separated them, her younger sister Léa (Elsa Zylberstein) takes Juliette into her home, which she shares with her husband Luc, her father-in-law, and their two daughters. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ **** 7.4/10

SP EMPTY NEST – Nido Vacio

Daniel Burman

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-ARGENTINA, SPAIN, FRANCE, ITALY / Cast: Cecilia Roth, Oscar Martinez] Superbly imaginative and entertaining, *Empty Nest* offers a heartfelt look at the marital tensions between Martha (Cecilia Roth, *All About My Mother*) and Leonardo (Oscar Martinez) as they struggle to maintain a fresh and exciting marriage after their youngest child marries and leaves Buenos Aires. Daniel Burman's sixth feature is laugh-out-loud funny even while nostalgic moments bring tears to the eye. [\$\$] ... SPANISH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+ **** 7.3/10

SP ENTRE LES MURS – Class

Laurent Cantet

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE / Cast: François Bégaudeau] NOTE: SCHEDULE CHANGE / *ENTRE LES MURS (THE CLASS)* BY LAURENT CANTET WILL HAVE IT'S NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE AS THE OPENING FILM FOR THE NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL, SEPT. 26, 2008. From celebrated filmmaker Laurent Cantet (*Vers le Sud*, TIFF 2005) comes the winner of the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival. Armed with the best intentions, François and his fellow teachers prepare for a new year at a high school in a tough neighbourhood. Cultures and attitudes often clash in the classroom - a

microcosm of contemporary France and the world at large. François's extravagant frankness often takes his students by surprise, and his ethics are put to the test when his students begin to challenge his methods. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ **** 7.1/10

SP HAPPY-GO-LUCKY

Mike Leigh

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Sally Hawkins, Eddie Marsan] Poppy (Sally Hawkins), is an irrepressibly free-spirited school teacher who brings an infectious laugh and an unsinkable sense of optimism to every situation she encounters as a single woman in London. When Poppy's commuter bike is stolen, she enthusiastically signs up for driving lessons with Scott (Eddie Marsan), who turns out to be her polar opposite - a fuming, uptight cynic. As the tension of their weekly lessons builds, Poppy's story takes alternately hilarious and serious turns, becoming a touching, truthful and deeply life-affirming exploration of one of the most mysterious of all human qualities: happiness. *Happy-Go-Lucky* is a new comedy from director Mike Leigh. [S] ... 18+ **** 7.1/10

SP BLINDNESS

Fernando Meirelles

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-CANADA, BRAZIL, JAPAN / Cast: Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, Alice Braga, Yusuke Iseya, Yoshino Kimura, Don McKellar, Maury Chaykin, Danny Glover, Gael Garcia Bernal] It begins in a flash, as one man is instantaneously struck blind while driving home from work, his whole world suddenly turned to an eerie, milky haze. One by one, each person he encounters will in due course suffer the same unsettling fate. As the contagion spreads, and panic and paranoia set in across the city, the newly blind victims of the "White Sickness" are rounded up and quarantined within a crumbling, abandoned mental asylum, where all semblance of ordinary life begins to break down. But inside the quarantined hospital, there is one secret eyewitness: one woman (four-time Academy Award™-nominee Julianne Moore) is pretending to be blind in order to stay beside her beloved husband (Mark Ruffalo). Armed with increasing courage and the will to survive, she will lead a makeshift family of seven people on a journey to break out of the hospital and into the devastated city where they may be the only hope left. Directed by Fernando Meirelles (*City of God*, TIFF 2002), from a screenplay by Don McKellar (based on the international bestseller by José Saramago). [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ ***½ 7/10

SP BROTHERS BLOOM

Rian Johnson

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Adrien Brody, Mark Ruffalo, Rachel Weisz, Rinko Kikuchi, Maximilian Schell, Robbie Coltrane] The brothers Bloom (Adrien Brody, Mark Ruffalo) are the best con men in the world, swindling millionaires with complex scenarios of lust and intrigue. Now they've decided to take on one last con – showing a beautiful and eccentric heiress (Rachel Weisz) the time of her life with a romantic adventure that carries them around the world. The *Brothers Bloom* also features Rinko Kikuchi, Maximilian Schell and Robbie Coltrane. [S] ... 18+ ***½ 7/10

SP FAUBOURG 36 – Paris 36

Christophe Barratier

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE / Cast: Gérard Jugnot, Clovis Cornillac, Kad Merad, Nora Arnezeder] A dazzling musical from the director of *Les Choristes* (TIFF 2004), *Faubourg 36* is set between December 1935 and July 1936 in a working-class neighbourhood on the northeastern edge of Paris. The springtime election of a left-wing government brings wild new hopes, yet also sees the rise of extremist ideas. Three unemployed stage workers decide to produce a "hit show" and occupy the music hall where they formally worked. The stage is set for a short-lived but wonderful adventure. [\$\$] ... FRENCH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+ ***½ 7/10

SP GOMORRA – Gomorrah

Matteo Garrone

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-ITALY] Power, money and blood - these are the "values" that the residents of the Province of Naples and Caserta have to face every day. They hardly ever have a choice, and are almost always forced to obey the rules of the "system," the Camorra. Only a lucky few can even think of leading a normal life. Five stories are woven together in this violent scenario, set in a cruel and apparently imaginary world, but one that is deeply rooted in reality. Winner of the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival. [S] ... ITALIAN (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.5/10

SP GOOD

Vicente Amorim

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY / Cast: Viggo Mortensen, Jason Isaacs, Jodie Whittaker, Mark Strong, Gemma Jones] John Halder (Viggo Mortensen) is a good, decent individual with family problems: a neurotic wife, two demanding children and a mother suffering from senile dementia. A literature professor in the 1930s, Halder explores his personal circumstances in a novel advocating compassionate euthanasia. When the book is unexpectedly enlisted by powerful political figures in support of government propaganda, Halder finds his career rising in an optimistic current of nationalism and prosperity. Seemingly inconsequential decisions lead to choices, which lead to more choices...with devastating effect. Directed by Vicente Amorim (The Middle of the World, TIFF 2003). [S] ... 18+ *** 6/10

SP HEAVEN ON EARTH

Deepa Mehta

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-CANADA / Cast: Preity Zinta, Vansh Bhardwaj, Yanna McIntosh, Seema Biswas] Bollywood superstar Preity Zinta plays Chand, a vibrant young woman who travels from India to Canada where her new husband Rocky (Vansh Bhardwaj) and his very traditional family await. Everything is new to Chand, including the quiet and shy Rocky, whom she meets for the first time at the airport. Chand approaches her new life and new country with equanimity and grace but, optimism soon gives way to alienation as she finds herself in the midst of a collective frustration. No one feels the pressure more than Rocky, burdened by familial obligations here and abroad -- unable to express his frustrations, Rocky finds other ways to release his anger, with Chand bearing the brunt of his repressed rage. Trapped in a world she cannot comprehend and seemingly unable to please her husband, Chand turns to her co-worker Rosa (Yanna McIntosh), a tough and savvy Jamaican-Canadian woman, who gives her a magical root, promising that it will make Rocky fall deeply in love with her. Soon, surreal incidents occur and Chand's life begins to mirror an Indian fable involving a King Cobra. As the lines between fantasy and reality converge, Chand and Rocky come face to face with each other and themselves. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ *** 6/10

SP RELIGULOUS

Larry Charles

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Bill Maher] Religulous follows political humorist and author Bill Maher (Real Time with Bill Maher, Politically Incorrect) as he travels around the globe interviewing people about God and religion. Known for his astute analytical skills, irreverent wit and commitment to never pulling a punch, Maher brings his characteristic honesty to an unusual spiritual journey. Directed by Larry Charles, Religulous will mark Charles's first feature project since the critically acclaimed, wildly successful Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (TIFF 2006). Teaser clips of Religulous were presented as a special Mavericks presentation at TIFF 2007 with Maher and Charles in attendance. [S] ... 18+ *** 6/10

SP PLUS TARD, TU COMPRENDRAS

Amos Gitai

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE, GERMANY / Cast: Jeanne Moreau, Hippolyte Girardot, Emmanuelle Devos, Dominique Blanc, Daniel Duval] A man endeavors to collect memories of his grandparents who died in a concentration camp during the Holocaust. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ *** 5.5/10

SP GHOST TOWN

David Koepf

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Ricky Gervais, Greg Kinnear, Téa Leoni, Billy Campbell, Kristen Wiig, Dana Ivey] Bertram Pincus (Ricky Gervais) is a man whose people skills leave much to be desired. When Pincus dies unexpectedly, but is miraculously revived after seven minutes, he wakes up to discover that he now has the annoying ability to see ghosts. Even worse, they all want something from him, particularly Frank Herlihy (Greg Kinnear), who pesters him into breaking up the impending marriage of his widow Gwen (Téa Leoni). [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ **½ 5/10

SP ADORATION

Atom Egoyan

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-CANADA / Cast: Devon Bostick, Scott Speedman, Arsinée Khanjian, Noam Jenkins, Rachel Blanchard] The twelfth feature film from celebrated Canadian filmmaker Atom Egoyan. High school student Simon (Devon Bostick) is caught up in family history, technology and a shocking and explosive lie that intertwines the lives of his uncle (Scott Speedman) and his French teacher (Arsinée Khanjian), while forcing him to reconcile conflicting memories of his deceased parents (Noam Jenkins and Rachel Blanchard). [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+ **½ 4.7/10

SP 35 RHUMS

Claire Denis

– 35 Shots Of Rum

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE] The celebrated French filmmaker Claire Denis returns with 35 Rhums, exploring the working underclass of French society. Lionel, a widower, has raised his daughter Josephine on his own. They lead a quiet, comfortable life together, devoted to one another. Their relationship, however, starts to change when Jo befriends a young man and Lionel entertains the attention of a middle-aged woman. Before long, father and daughter find themselves forced to reconcile the past. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SP AIDE-TOI LE CIEL T'AIDERA

François Dupeyron

– With A Little Help From Myself

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE / Cast: Félicité Wouassi] In his latest film, François Dupeyron (Monsieur Ibrahim et les fleurs du Coran, TIFF 2003) again turns his attention to an underprivileged sector of society, creating a memorable figure of remarkable spirit and tenacity. Sonia (Félicité Wouassi, La Haine), the long-suffering matriarch of the Mousse family, finds her life spiraling out of control on her daughter's wedding day – her eldest son is dabbling with drugs while her husband has gambled away the money for the wedding reception. She is determined, however, that nothing will disrupt this special day. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SP APPALOOSA

Ed Harris

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Ed Harris, Viggo Mortensen, Renée Zellweger, Jeremy Irons] Ed Harris, Viggo Mortensen, Renée Zellweger and Jeremy Irons star in the Western Appaloosa, adapted from the Robert B. Parker novel. Set in the Old West territory of New Mexico, Appaloosa revolves around a pair of hired guns (Harris and Mortensen) who come to clean up a dangerous town run by a ruthless, powerful rancher (Irons) and his band of outlaws. While boldly bringing new order to the town, the two fearless lawmen meet a provocative outsider (Zellweger) whose unconventional ways threaten to destroy their decade-old bond. Appaloosa is co-written and directed by Ed Harris. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP BARRAGE CONTRE LE PACIFIQUE

Rithy Panh

– Sea Wall

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE, CAMBODIA, BELGIUM / Cast: Isabelle Huppert] Adapted from the novel of the same name by Marguerite Duras, Un Barrage Contre le Pacifique is directed by Rithy Panh (S21, La Machine de mort Khmère Rouge, TIFF 2003), who has turned to a classic work French literature to make a film about his native country. The legendary Isabelle Huppert stars as the matriarch of a small land-owning family in 1930s French Indochina (now Cambodia) who try to survive by working on rice fields located dangerously close to the ocean. Driven to fight against both nature and corrupt bureaucrats, she devises an imaginative scheme to build a dam against the sea with the help of the villagers. [\$\$] ... FRENCH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+

SP BURNING PLAIN

Guillermo Arriaga

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Charlize Theron, Kim Basinger] Guillermo Arriaga's directorial debut, a romantic mystery about a one woman's emotional journey to uncover the secret of a past love. Theron plays Sylvia, a beautiful restaurant manager whose cool demeanor masks the sexually charged storm within. When a stranger confronts her with her mysterious past, Sylvia is launched into a journey through space and time that inextricably connects her to three disparate characters, all grappling with their own romantic destinies. Basinger stars as the housewife whose affair puts them all on a collision course with the explosive power of forbidden love. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP C'EST PAS MOI, JE LE JURE!

Philippe Falardeau

– It's Not Me, I Swear!

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-CANADA / Cast: Antoine L'Écuyer, Gabriel Maillé, Catherine Faucher, Suzanne Clément, Daniel Brière, Jules Philip] In the summer of '68, Léon Doré comes close to hanging himself accidentally. His mother Madeleine saves him at the last minute, just like last summer in the pool, just like two years ago in the freezer. At ten, Léon has lots of problems and an overly fertile imagination. There is Mom and Dad who are always fighting and those annoying neighbours who get to spend the summer at the beach. And then, there's Lea, the exasperating girl who's always right about everything. When Mom decides to leave everything behind to start a new life in Greece, Léon is prepared to do anything to

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

kill the pain -- destroy the neighbours' house, become a professional liar and even, why not, fall in love with Lea. Together, they will overcome the pain of growing up when you feel abandoned. Based on Bruno Hébert's critically acclaimed novel. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SP CHE: PART ONE
– Guerrilla

Stephen Soderbergh

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA, SPAIN / Cast: Benicio Del Toro, Demián Bichir, Rodrigo Santoro, Lou Diamond Phillips, Julia Ormond] On November 26, 1956, Fidel Castro sails to Cuba with eighty rebels. One of those rebels is Ernesto "Che" Guevara, an Argentine doctor who shares a common goal with Fidel Castro -- to overthrow the corrupt dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Che proves indispensable as a fighter, and quickly grasps the art of guerrilla warfare. As he throws himself into the struggle, Che is embraced by his comrades and the Cuban people. Che: Part One tracks Che's rise in the Cuban Revolution, from doctor to commander to revolutionary hero. [\$\$] ... SPANISH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+

SP CHE: PART TWO
– Argentine

Steven Soderbergh

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA, SPAIN / Cast: Benicio Del Toro, Demián Bichir, Rodrigo Santoro] After the Cuban Revolution, Che is at the height of his fame and power. Then he disappears, re-emerging incognito in Bolivia, where he organizes a small group of Cuban comrades and Bolivian recruits to start the great Latin American Revolution. The story of the Bolivian campaign is a tale of tenacity, sacrifice and idealism, and of guerrilla warfare that ultimately fails, bringing Che to his death. Che: Part Two explores how Che remains a symbol of idealism and heroism that lives in the hearts of people around the world. (First movie to have a scene shot in anamorphic 16mm. Custom made lenses were provided by Panavision.) [\$\$] ... SPANISH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+

SP DISGRACE

Steve Jacobs, Anna-Maria Monticelli

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AFRICA-ANIMATED / Cast: John Malkovich, Ralph Fiennes, Jessica Haines] Professor David Lurie's (John Malkovich) life falls apart after he has an impulsive affair with one of his students. Forced to resign from Cape Town University, he escapes to his daughter's farm in the Eastern Cape. Their relationship is tested when they both become victims of a vicious attack. In order not to lose the love of his daughter, David stands by her as she accepts her tragic circumstances. She continues her life on the farm and their individual disgrace finally settles to an uneasy grace. [S] ... 18+

SP EASY VIRTUE

Stephan Elliott

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM, USA / Cast: Colin Firth, Jessica Biel, Kristin Scott Thomas, Ben Barnes, John Whittaker] An adaptation by Stephan Elliott (Priscilla, Queen of the Desert) of Noel Coward's wickedly witty play. A young Englishman (John Whittaker), falls madly in love with an older woman -- Larita is sexy, glamorous and American. They marry impetuously. When they return to John's family home, his mother Veronica has an instant allergic reaction to her new daughter-in-law but Larita finds an unlikely ally in John's father. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP EVERY LITTLE STEP

James Stern, Adam Del Deo

– Journey Of A Phenomenon

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Marvin Hamlisch, Donna McKechnie, Michael Bennett, Ramon Flowers, Bob Avian] Every Little Step is a theatrical documentary on the making of Broadway's greatest hit and current revival of "A Chorus Line." The film culls behind-the-scenes footage of the auditions, rehearsals and performances of the 1975 original and the 2006 Broadway revival - revealing how life imitates art as performers from both productions undergo intense experiences similar to the roles in the show itself. Every Little Step, directed by James Stern and Adam Del Deo (So Goes the Nation, TIFF 2006 and The Year of the Yao, TIFF 2004) spotlights the similarities and the differences between the two shows separated by a generation, the enduring popularity of "A Chorus Line," and the creative minds behind one of the longest running musicals in Broadway history. [S] ... 18+

SP GENOVA

Michael Winterbottom

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Colin Firth, Catherine Keener, Hope Davis] Seeking a new life after the sudden death of his

wife, Joe (Colin Firth) moves his family to the Italian town of Genova, hoping for a fresh start for himself and his two daughters. His eldest daughter Kelly explores the sexy and dangerous underbelly of this mysterious city, leaving the younger Mary in a world of her own. A poignant tale of love and forgiveness. [S] ... 18+

SP HURT LOCKER

Kathryn Bigelow

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Ralph Fiennes, Guy Pearce, David Morse, Jeremy Renner, Christian Camargo, Charlize Theron, Colin Farrell, Willem Dafoe] Forced to play a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse in the chaos of the current Iraq war, an elite Army bomb squad unit must come together in a city where everyone is a potential enemy and every object could be a deadly bomb. From Kathryn Bigelow (The Weight of Water, TIFF 2000) comes an explosive adventure revealing the daily heroism of these willing daredevils. [S] ... 18+

SP INJU, LA BÊTE DANS L'OMBRE

Barbet Schroeder

– Inju, The Beast In The Shadow

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE / Cast: Benoît Magimel] Barbet Schroeder directs this thriller starring Benoît Magimel (La Pianiste) as Fayard, a successful crime novelist. Invited to Japan for the release of his latest book, he encounters Tamao, a geisha who confides to him that one of her former lovers is threatening to kill her. This former lover may well be Shundei Oe, a novelist known for his extremely violent and disturbing books, and whose work Alex has studied extensively. Agreeing to help Tamao, Alex finds himself pitted against a man bent on vengeance and before long, his business trip becomes a bloody quest in which fiction becomes indistinguishable from reality. [\$\$] ... FRENCH (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+

SP IS THERE ANYBODY THERE?

John Crowley

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Bill Milner, Michael Caine] From the director of Boy A, comes a wise and charming story of an unlikely friendship between a scruffy former magician and a little boy with a morbid streak. Ten year-old Edward (Bill Milner) has become increasingly obsessed with death and the afterlife since his parents turned their house into a retirement home. Edward's is a lonely and peculiar existence -- until he meets Clarence (Michael Caine) who introduces him to wonders in the here-and-now. [S] ... 18+

SP LAST STOP 174

Bruno Barreto

– Ultima Parada 174

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-BRAZIL] Director Bruno Barreto expands on the true event at the centre of José Padilha and Felipe Lacerda's hard-hitting documentary Bus 174 (TIFF 2003), telling the story of how a child grows up to become a hostage-taker. Young Sandro lives in the slums of Rio de Janeiro where corruption and violence are the norm. Orphaned, alienated and fearing for his life, Sandro falls into a life of crime from which he may find it impossible to escape. [S] ... PORTUGUESE (subtitled) 18+

SP MANAGEMENT

Stephen Belber

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Steve Zahn, Jennifer Aniston, Woody Harrelson] Management is a romantic comedy that chronicles a chance meeting between Mike Cranshaw (Steve Zahn) and Sue Claussen (Jennifer Aniston). When Sue checks into the roadside motel owned by Mike's parents in Arizona, what starts with a bottle of wine "compliments of management" soon evolves into a multi-layered, cross-country journey of two people looking for a sense of purpose. Mike, an aimless dreamer, bets it all on a trip to Sue's workplace in Maryland -- only to find that she has no place for him in her carefully ordered life. Buttoned down and obsessed with making a difference in the world, Sue goes back to her yogurt mogul ex-boyfriend Jango (Woody Harrelson), who promises her a chance to head his charity operations. But having found something worth fighting for, Mike pits his hopes against Sue's practicality, and the two embark on a twisted, bumpy, freeing journey to discover that their place in the world just might be together. [S] ... 18+

SP ME AND ORSON WELLES

Richard Linklater

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Zac Efron, Claire Danes, Ben Chaplin, Christian McKay] An entertaining ode to Orson Welles from the director of The School of Rock (TIFF 2003) and Before Sunrise. Seventeen-year-old Richard Samuels (Efron) spends his days dreaming of the bright lights of Broadway. He gets his big break when he happens upon Orson Welles (McKay) and his fledgling Mercury Theatre company. Richard impresses Welles with an impromptu audition and lands a bit part in the Mercury's forthcoming run of Julius

Caesar. With Welles's womanizing taking priority over rehearsals, chaos and calamity mark the production from the start. Before long, opening night has arrived and Richard will discover the terrible secrets of show business. [S] ... 18+

SP MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA Spike Lee

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Derek Luke, Michael Ealy, Laz Alonso, Omar Benson Miller, Matteo Scibordi, John Leguizamo, Joseph Gordon Levitt] Directed by Spike Lee from a screenplay written by James McBride, the author of the acclaimed novel of the same name, the film chronicles the story of four black American soldiers who are members of the US Army as part of the all-black 92nd "Buffalo Soldier" Division stationed in Tuscany, Italy, during World War II. They experience the tragedy and triumph of the war as they find themselves trapped behind enemy lines and separated from their unit after one of them risks his life to save an Italian boy. *Miracle at St. Anna* explores a deeply inspiring story that transcends national boundaries, race and class to touch the goodness within us all. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP NEW YORK, I LOVE YOU Fatih Akin, Yvan Attal, Randy Balsmeyer, Allen Huges, Shunji Iwai, Scarlett Johansson, Shekhar Kapur, Joshua Marston, Mira Nair, Natalie Portman, Brett Ratner, Jiang Wen, Andrey Zvyagintsev

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Orlando Bloom, Shia LaBeouf, Natalie Portman, Christina Ricci, Julie Christie, Robin Wright Penn, Hayden Christensen, Rachel Bilson, Andy Garcia, Ethan Hawke, Maggie Q, Chris Cooper, Olivia Thirlby, Kevin Bacon, James Caan, Bradley Cooper, Drea de Matteo, John Hurt, Cloris Leachman, Carla Gugina, Goran Visnjic, Ugor Yucel, Carlos Acosta, Eva Amurri, Anton Yelchin, Justin Bartha, Irfan Khan, Jacinda Barrett, Taylor Geare] Short films from twelve international filmmakers are woven together in an homage to *The Big Apple*. Revolving around the theme of encountering love within the different boroughs of New York City. [S] ... 18+

SP NICK & NORAH'S INFINITE PLAYLIST Peter Sollett

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Michael Cera, Kat Dennings, Cassidy Gard, Marcel Simoneau, Simon Dasher, Adam Newman] A comedy about two people thrust together for one hilarious, sleepless night of adventure in a world of mix tapes, late-night living and live, loud music. Nick (Michael Cera) frequents New York's indie rock scene nursing a broken heart and a vague ability to play the bass. Norah (Kat Dennings) is questioning pretty much all of her assumptions about the world. Though they have nothing in common except for their taste in music, their chance encounter leads to an all-night quest to find a legendary band's secret show and ends up becoming the first date in a romance that could change both their lives. [S] ... 18+

SP PERFECT DAY – Giorno Perfetto Ferzan Ozpetek

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-ITALY / Cast: Valerio Mastandrea, Valerio Binasco, Nicole Grimaudo, Federico Costantini] One year after their separation, the violence that defined Emma and Antonio's marriage returns with ferocious consequences. Meanwhile, Antonio's boss, MP Fioravanti, tries frantically to salvage his political career, unaware that he is destroying his personal life by pushing his young wife to desert him, having already alienated his only son. An adaptation of the novel by Melania Mazzucco, *A Perfect Day* juxtaposes competing stories of disintegration and personal ruin as a group of characters challenge the cards they have been dealt and try to regain control of their lives – even if it means performing an unspeakable act of betrayal against those they love the most. [S] ... ITALIAN (subtitled) 18+

SP PLASTIC CITY – Dangkou Yu Lik-wai

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-BRAZIL, CHINA / Cast: Joe Odagiri, Antonio Petrin, Taina Muller, Milhem Cortaz, Anthony Wong] In the São Paulo neighbourhood of *Liberdade* – home to one of world's largest populations of Japanese immigrants – Yuda, a feared Chinese outlaw, and his adopted son Kirin,

an impulsive young dreamer, together rule the pirated goods racket in the ultra-liberal Brazilian metropolis. But a conspiracy between politicians and the mafia begins to threaten Yuda's power. Tired of the bloodshed and feeling the weight of his years, Yuda returns to the jungle in a last attempt to put an end to his life as a criminal. [S] ... PORTUGUESE | JAPANESE (subtitled) 18+

SP ROCKNROLLA Guy Ritchie

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Gerard Butler, Tom Wilkinson, Thandie Newton, Chris Bridges, Jeremy Piven, Idris Elba] When a Russian mobster orchestrates a crooked land deal, millions of dollars are up for grabs, and all of London's criminal underworld wants in on the action. Everyone from a dangerous crime lord to a sexy accountant, a corrupt politician and down-on-their-luck petty thieves conspire, collude and collide with one another in an effort to get rich quick. Written and directed by Guy Ritchie. [\$\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP SÉRAPHINE – Séraphine Louis Martin Provost

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-FRANCE, BELGIUM / Cast: Ulrich Tukur, Yolande Moreau, Françoise Lebrun, Geneviève Mnich] Based on a true story, *Séraphine* delves into the relationship between naïve painter Séraphine Louis (1864–1942) and art collector Wilhelm Uhde. In a little town north of Paris, Séraphine works as a maid for Madame Duphot, who rents an apartment to German art critic and dealer Wilhelm Uhde, an enthusiastic advocate of modern and primitive artists. In her spare time, Séraphine paints, with anything she can find – wine, mud, a mixture of fruits and flowers. When Wilhelm comes across one of her paintings, he is instantly mesmerized and insists that Séraphine show him the rest of her work. So begins a nurturing relationship that will expose Séraphine's work to the world. But as Séraphine paints her most inspired canvas, the power of her work leads her into the realms of madness. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SP SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE Danny Boyle

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Irfan Khan, Anil Kapoor, Dev Patel, Mia Drake] From acclaimed director Danny Boyle (*Trainspotting*, *28 Days Later*) comes a story about a kid with nothing, who has everything to lose. Jamal Malik, an 18-year-old orphan from the slums of Mumbai, is just one question away from winning a staggering 20 million rupees on India's *Who Wants to be A Millionaire?* Arrested on suspicion of cheating, he tells the police the amazing tale of his life on the streets, and of the girl he loved and lost. But what is a kid with no interest in money doing on the show? And how does he know all the answers? [S] ... 18+

SP VALENTINO – Last Emperor Matt Tyrmauer

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Valentino Garavani, Giancarlo Giammetti] Filmmaker Matt Tyrmauer (Special Correspondent for *Vanity Fair* magazine) gains unprecedented access to the renowned fashion designer and his entourage, offering an intimate, engaging, and very funny fly-on-the-wall exploration of the singular world of one of Italy's richest and most famous men. Telling the story of the famous designer's extraordinary life, remarkable artistry and unique relationship with his business partner and companion of 50 years, Giancarlo Giammetti, *Valentino: The Last Emperor* documents the colourful and dramatic closing act of Valentino's celebrated career while exploring the larger themes affecting the fashion business today. [S] ... 18+

SP WOMAN IN BERLIN – Anonyma, Eine Frau In Berlin Max Färberböck

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-GERMANY, POLAND / Cast: August Diehl, Juliane Köhler, Nina Hoss, Sebastian Urzendowsky] Adapted from the international bestseller based on a true story, *A Woman in Berlin* is directed by Golden Globe nominee Max Färberböck (Aimée & Jaguar). In April 1945, the Red Army invades Berlin; among the chaos, a group of women fall victim to rape in a half-destroyed house. One of them is a former journalist and photographer. In desperation, she decides to find an officer who can protect her. A relationship develops with a Russian officer; soon, what began as an act of self-preservation becomes a complicated and forbidden affair. [\$\$\$] ... GERMAN | RUSSIAN (subtitled) Elgin-VISA 18+

SP WRESTLER Darren Aronofsky

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Mickey Rourke, Evan Rachel Wood,

[Marisa Tomei, Judah Friedlander, Necro Butcher] Back in the late '80s, Randy "The Ram" Robinson (Mickey Rourke) was a headlining professional wrestler. Now, twenty years later, he ekes out a living performing for handfuls of die-hard wrestling fans in high-school gyms and community centres. Randy lives for the thrill of the show and the adoration of his fans; but when he suffers a heart attack after a match, he is forced into retirement. He begins to evaluate the state of his life but the allure of the spotlight and the passion for his sport threatens to pull him back inside the ring. Directed by Darren Aronofsky (The Fountain, TIFF 2006), The Wrestler also stars Evan Rachel Wood, Marisa Tomei, Judah Friedlander and the Necro Butcher. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

SP YOUSSOU NDOUR
– I Bring What I Love

Chai Vasarhelyi

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Youssou Ndur] One of Africa's most prominent musical exports, Youssou Ndur's distinctive tenor voice became internationally known through a string of popular tracks, including collaborations with Peter Gabriel and the hit "7 Seconds" with Neneh Cherry. Having used his fame to draw attention to a range of political issues, Ndur was named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world in 2007. Several years in the making, Youssou Ndur: I Bring What I Love follows Ndur as he releases the deeply personal album Egypt as an expression of his Islamic faith, challenging Western stereotypes of the religion while stirring controversy in his home country of Senegal. [S] ... 18+

SP ZACK AND MIRI MAKE A PORNO

Kevin Smith

[SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS-USA / Cast: Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks] A bawdy tale of love and friendship from Kevin Smith. Lifelong friends and roommates Zack (Rogen) and Miri (Banks) are facing hard times and a mountain of debt. When the electricity and plumbing get cut off, the two seize upon the idea of making a homegrown porno movie for some quick cash, enlisting the help of their friends. The two vow that having sex will not ruin their friendship; but as everyone starts "doing" everyone, what started out as a friendly business proposition turns into something much more. [\$\$] ... Elgin-VISA 18+

Masters

10 films

The Masters programme exhibits new works by the world's most established and renowned filmmakers. You know them, you love them, and can't wait to see what they'll come up with next!

MA OF TIME AND THE CITY

Terence Davies

[MASTERS-UNITED KINGDOM] Acclaimed British director Terence Davies (Distant Voices, Still Lives; TIFF 1988) returns to his native Liverpool and to his filmmaking roots to capture a sense of the city today and its influences on him growing up in the late 40s and early 50s. [S] ... 18+ **** 7.7/10

MA TOKYO SONATA
– Tôkyô Sonata

Kiyoshi Kurosawa

[MASTERS-JAPAN, NETHERLANDS, HONG KONG / Cast: Inowaki Kai, Teruyuki Kagawa, Kyôko Koizumi, Yû Koyanagi] Un Certain Regard Jury Prize winner at Cannes 2008, Tokyo Sonata from filmmaker Kiyoshi Kurosawa (Bright Future, TIFF 2003) is a portrait of a struggling Japanese family: a father who abruptly loses his job and conceals it from his family; the eldest son who hardly ever returns home from college; the youngest son who furtively takes piano lessons without telling his parents; and the mother, who knows deep down that her role is to keep the family together, but cannot find the will to do so. Somehow a single, unforeseeable rift has developed within the family, spreading quickly and quietly, and threatening to break them apart. [S] ... JAPANESE (subtitled) 18+ **** 7.2/10

MA THREE MONKEYS
– Üç Maymun

Nuri Bilge Ceylan

[MASTERS-TURKEY, FRANCE, ITALY / Cast: Yavuz Bingöl, Hatice Aslan, Rifat Sungar] Winner of Best Director at this year's Cannes Film Festival, Nuri Bilge Ceylan (Climates, TIFF 2006) tells the story of a dislocated family battling the odds to stay together by covering up the truth. [S] ... TURKISH (subtitled) 18+ ****½ 6.5/10

MA FOUR NIGHTS WITH ANNA

Jerzy Skolimowski

– Cztery Noce Z Anna

[MASTERS-POLAND, FRANCE / Cast: Kinga Preis, Artur Steranko] From influential Polish filmmaker Jerzy Skolimowski comes the story of Leon, a hospital worker who once witnessed the brutal rape of Anna, now a young nurse working in the same hospital. Secretly forcing himself into her life, and her bedroom, Leon develops an intense fixation with Anna that begs the question, "how far will he go?" [S] ... POLISH (subtitled) 18+ ****½ 6.2/10

MA SILENCE DE LORNA
– Lorna's Silence

Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne

[MASTERS-BELGIUM, FRANCE, ITALY / Cast: Arta Dobroschi, Jérémie Renier, Fabrizio Rongione, Olivier Gourmet] Lorna, a young Albanian woman living in Belgium, becomes entangled in a sham marriage orchestrated by mobster Fabio, an arrangement that will end in murder if Lorna chooses to keep silent. Best Screenplay winner at Cannes 2008, Le Silence de Lorna is written, directed and produced by two-time Palme d'Or winners Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne (L'Enfant, TIFF 2005). [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ *** 5.9/10

MA ACHILLES AND THE TORTOISE
– Akiresu To Kami

Takeshi Kitano

[MASTERS-JAPAN / Cast: Takeshi Kitano, Kanako Higuchi] Written, directed and edited by Takeshi Kitano, Achilles and the Tortoise tells the story of Machisu (Kitano), an aging man determined to fulfill his life-long dream of becoming a painter. Faced with feelings of frustration and failure, Machisu persists in living out his passion with the help of his wife (Kanako Higuchi), who continues to support her husband amid the harsh realities of success; or, in Machisu's case, lack thereof. Featuring roughly 70 pieces of Kitano's own artwork, Achilles and the Tortoise is the final film in the acclaimed Japanese filmmaker's self-reflective trilogy. [S] ... JAPANESE (subtitled) 18+

MA ADAM RESURRECTED

Paul Schrader

[MASTERS-GERMANY, ISRAEL, USA / Cast: Jeff Goldblum, Willem Dafoe] Director Paul Schrader's newest film, Adam Resurrected, is based on the crowning achievement of one of Israel's literary masters, Yoram Kaniuk. Adam Stein (Jeff Goldblum) is a charismatic patient at a mental institution for Holocaust survivors in Israel. Before the war, Adam was a Jewish vaudeville performer in Germany, until he found himself in a concentration camp confronted by Commandant Klein (Willem Dafoe). He survives the camp by becoming the Commandant's "dog", entertaining him with his musical and comedic talents. While at the institution years later, Adam must confront his past head-on for the sake of someone else's salvation. [S] ... 18+

MA EVERLASTING MOMENT
– Maria Larssons Eviga Ögonblick

Jan Troell

[MASTERS-DENMARK, SWEDEN / Cast: Maria Heiskanen, Jesper Christensen, Mikael Persbrandt] From Academy Award™-nominated Swedish filmmaker Jan Troell (The Emigrants; As White as in Snow, TIFF 2001) comes a true story from early 20th-century Sweden. In a time of social change and poverty, the young working-class woman Maria wins a camera in a lottery. The camera enables Maria to see the world through new eyes, but it also becomes a threat to her somewhat alcoholic womanizing husband, as it brings the charming photographer Pedersen into her life. [S] ... SWEDISH (subtitled) 18+

MA NUIT DE CHIEN
– Tonight / This Night

Werner Schroeter

[MASTERS-FRANCE, GERMANY, PORTUGAL / Cast: Pascal Gregory, Elsa Zylberstein, Amira Casar, Eric Caravaca, Sami Frey, Bulle Ogier, Nathalie Delon] This powerful and provocative film follows Ossorio Vignale as he arrives in his hometown in search of Clara, the woman he loves. Much to his horror, Clara has gone missing and his once-beloved town has been taken over by a terrifying militia led by a rich mercenary. Once he starts hearing contrasting reports on the whereabouts of his beloved, Ossorio realizes that everyone is a potential threat. Together with Victoria, a friend's daughter, he struggles to escape peril and flee the town safely. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

MA PLAGES D'AGNÈS
– Beaches Of Agnes

Agnès Varda

[MASTERS-FRANCE / Cast: Agnès Varda] Legendary filmmaker Agnès Varda

looks back on her life and work, using beaches as a window to memory. In Belgium, California, the South of France and in Paris, Varda composed her own self-portrait via photographs, film clips and some surprising encounters. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

Contemporary World Cinema 58 films

Festival programmers scour the globe to find the best of current international filmmaking. Contemporary World Cinema is a lavish collection of films featuring premieres and prize-winning film selections from a variety of film festivals. From Vietnam to Iceland, Kazakhstan to Chile and beyond, Contemporary World Cinema is your ticket to a world-wide cinematic tour.

CWC WHITE NIGHT WEDDING Baltasar Kormakur
– Brúðguminn

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-ICELAND / Cast: Hilmir Snær Guðnason] Jon, a middle-aged professor, is about to embark on marriage number two. His bride-to-be? A former student half his age. Not everyone thinks that this "blessed union" is a good idea, among them the parents of his future wife. As the guests flock to the island where the marriage is to be held, the groom begins to get cold feet. [S] ... ICELANDIC (subtitled) 18+ ****½ 9/10

CWC CLOUD 9 Andreas Dresen
– Wolke 9 / Wolke Neun

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-GERMANY] From the director of Summer in Berlin (TIFF 2005) comes the story of Inge, a happily married woman in her 60s, who one day finds herself tumbling into the arms of another man. Rejuvenated by a passion she has not felt in years, Inge informs both her husband and her daughter of the affair, but does not know how to handle their appalled response to the shocking news. [S] ... GERMAN (subtitled) 18+ ****½ 8.5/10

CWC O'HORTEN Bent Hamer
– Nouvelle Vie De Monsieur Horten

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-NORWAY, GERMANY, FRANCE / Cast: Baard Ove] In the driver's cab of a train journeying through the Norwegian countryside, Odd Horten is on his penultimate journey from Oslo to Bergen. Tomorrow he'll make his last trip. But, for the first time in almost 40 years, he will arrive too late and miss his last departure. [S] ... NORWEGIAN (subtitled) 18+ ****½ 8.5/10

CWC ONCE UPON A TIME IN RIO Breno Silveira
– Era Uma Vez

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-BRAZIL / Cast: Cyria Coentro, Rodrigo Costa, Vitória Frate, Paulo César Grande] Falling in love on Rio's Ipanema beach, Dé - a hot dog vendor and slum dweller struggling to maintain his dignity - and Nina - the only child of a wealthy family - must stake their romance against deeply entrenched attitudes of prejudice and intolerance. [S] ... PORTUGUESE (subtitled) 18+ ****½ 8.5/10

CWC ÉTÉ SANS POINT NI COUP SÛR Francis Leclerc
– No-Hit No-Run Summer

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-CANADA / Cast: Roy Dupuis, Patrice Robitaille, Pier-Luc Funk, Jacynthe Lague, Guy-Daniel Tremblay] Summer '69. Men are walking on the Moon. In a farmer's field in upstate New York, Woodstock is about to happen. Montreal's got a new baseball club. A 12-year-old boy dreams of making the neighbourhood team. When he gets cut his father steps in, sets up a team, and together they spend a summer full of hope and disappointment, surprises and foul balls. A summer to remember – for both of them. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

CWC FLAME & CITRON Ole Christian Madsen
– Flammen & Citronen / Tage Des Zorns

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-DENMARK, GERMANY / Cast: Mads Mikkelsen, Thure Lindhard] From acclaimed Dogme 95 filmmaker Ole Christian Madsen (Kira's Reason - A Love Story, TIFF 2001) comes the true story of two resistance fighters - code-named Flame and Citron - in Nazi-occupied Copenhagen,

charged with the task of killing informers. But any sense of just cause is challenged when Flame is ordered to execute his girlfriend, Ketty. [S] ... DANISH/GERMAN (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

CWC MAMAN EST CHEZ LE COIFFEUR Léa Pool
– Mom Is At The Hairdresser

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-CANADA / Cast: Marianne Fortier, Céline Bonnier, Gabriel Arcand, Laurent Lucas] Infused with Léa Pool's celebrated personal vision, Maman est chez le coiffeur is a heart-warming and heart-wrenching family drama that chronicles a separation seen through the eyes of 12-year-old Élise (Marianne Fortier). After the sudden departure of her mother (Céline Bonnier), Élise is left to deal with her despondent dad and troubled younger brothers. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

CWC WENDY AND LUCY Kelly Reichardt

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-USA / Cast: Michelle Williams, Will Patton, John Robinson, Larry Fessenden, Will Oldham, Walter Dalton] Wendy (Michelle Williams) is driving with her dog Lucy to Alaska, in hopes of a summer of lucrative work at the fish cannery. When her car breaks down in Oregon, the thin fabric of her financial security comes apart, and she faces a series of increasingly dire challenges. [S] ... 18+ **** 7.4/10

CWC ACNE Federico Veiroj
– Acné

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-URUGUAY, ARGENTINA, SPAIN, MEXICO / Cast: Alejandro Tocar] At age 13, Rafael loses his virginity thanks to arrangements made by his older brother. His first kiss, however, proves harder to get. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 7/10

CWC ADELA Adolfo Alix Jr.

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-PHILIPPINES / Cast: Anita Linda, Jason Abalos, Joem Bascon, Kenneth Ocampo, Arnold Reyes, Angeli Bayani, Cyra dela Cerna] Adela is celebrating her 80th birthday. She tries to treat it like any other day, going out on her normal daily routines. But, desperately longing for her family, Adela cannot hide her loneliness. Director Adolfo Alix Jr. has crafted a deeply compassionate portrait of the plight of the elderly in the Philippines, anchored by a bravura lead performance by veteran actress Anita Linda. [S] ... FILIPINO (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 7/10

CWC ALL AROUND US Ryosuke Hashiguchi
– Gururi No Koto

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-JAPAN] At work, Kanao, a courtroom portrait artist, silently observes the highest-profile crimes and scandals of the 1990s. At home, amid the joys of marriage, he quietly observes his wife's first pregnancy. But when their child dies, Kanao must support his ailing spouse as she sinks into depression, guiding her toward recovery in the face of tragedy. [S] ... JAPANESE (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 7/10

CWC EMPREINTE DE L'ANGE Safy Nebbou
– Mark Of An Angel

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-FRANCE / Cast: Catherine Frot, Sandrine Bonnaire] While picking up her son at a birthday party, Elsa (Catherine Frot) finds her entire world turned upside down. Believing Lola, a little girl at the party, to be her daughter, Elsa's ends up in a head-to-head confrontation with the girl's mother (Sandrine Bonnaire). [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 7/10

CWC KHAMSA Karim Dridi

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-FRANCE / Cast: Marc Cortes, Raymond Adam, Tony Fourmann, Mehdi Laribi, Simon Abkarian, Magali Contreras] Thirteen-year-old Khamsa flees his foster family for the Marseilles gypsy camp where he was born. Embraced by his old friends, Khamsa's innocence begins to vanish when he and his friends become involved in a series of increasingly serious crimes. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 7/10

CWC REVANCHE Götz Spielmann
– Revenge

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-AUSTRIA / Cast: Johannes Krisch, Ursula Strauss] Alex is an errand boy; Tamara, a prostitute. Entwined in a

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

forbidden love affair, both are determined to escape the Viennese brothel where they work. But carrying out their plan proves fateful once police officer Robert walks into their lives. [S] ... GERMAN (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.8/10

CWC SUGAR

Ryan Fleck, Anna Boden

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-USA / Cast: Algenis Perez Soto, Rayniel Rufino, Andre Holland, Michael Gaston, Jaime Tirelli, Jose Rijo, Ann Whitney, Richard Bull, Ellary Porterfield, Alina Vargas, Kelvin Leonardo Garcia, Joendy Pena] Dominican baseball player Miguel Santos struggles to make it big in order to escape poverty and create a better life for his family. But after making it to the U.S. minor leagues, he must pit his calling against his loneliness as a displaced immigrant in small-town Iowa. [S] ... 18+ ***½ 6.8/10

CWC RESTLESS

Amos Kollek

– Hasar Menuha

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-ISRAEL, GERMANY, FRANCE, BELGIUM / Cast: Ran Danker, Moshe Ivgy] Recently discharged from the Israeli army, Tzach travels to New York to confront his father Moshe, a struggling artist who left his family behind some twenty years ago. [S] ... HEBREW (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.7/10

CWC LION'S DEN

Pablo Trapero

– Leonera

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-ARGENTINA, SOUTH KOREA, BRAZIL / Cast: Martina Gusman] Julia awakes in her apartment one morning, pregnant and in the company of the bloodied bodies of two men who had been her lovers. In an instant, her life becomes that of a single mother in prison. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.5/10

CWC DERNIER MAQUIS

Rabah Ameur-Zaïmeche

– Adhen

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-FRANCE, ALGERIA / Cast: Rabah Ameur-Zaïmeche] Dubbed "Mao" for his crafty management strategy of feigned benevolence, a truck yard owner (director Rabah Ameur-Zaïmeche) decides to build an on-site mosque for his mostly Muslim employees. When debate and division begins to spread among the workers, their varying personality quirks and competing philosophies begin to emerge. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ *** 6/10

CWC HEURE D'ÉTÉ

Olivier Assayas

– Summer Hours

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-FRANCE / Cast: Juliette Binoche, Charles Berling, Jérémie Rénier, Edith Scob] After siblings Adrienne (Juliette Binoche), Frédéric (Charles Berling) and Jérémie (Jérémie Rénier) return home to the countryside for their mother's (Edith Scob) 75th birthday, an unexpected event threatens family unity and forces them to face up to their past. From the award-winning director of Clean (TIFF 2004). [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ *** 6/10

CWC LINHA DE PASSE

Walter Salles, Daniela Thomas

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-BRAZIL / Cast: Sandra Corveloni, João Baldasserini, Vinicius de Oliveira, José Geraldo Rodrigues, Kaique Jesus Santos] In the heart of São Paulo, four fatherless brothers try to find a way out from their preordained paths. Reuniting directors Salles (The Motorcycle Diaries, TIFF 2004) and Thomas, Linha de Passe garnered Best Actress (Sandra Corveloni) at Cannes 2008. [S] ... PORTUGUESE (subtitled) 18+ *** 6/10

CWC GRECO

Iannis Smaragdis

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-GREECE, SPAIN, HUNGARY / Cast: Nick Ashdon] From acclaimed Greek director Iannis Smaragdis (Cavafy, TIFF 1996) comes the epic tale of an uncompromising artist and fighter for freedom, known to the world as El Greco. In the 16th-century, El Greco's search for liberty and love takes him across Europe. Never backing down from the establishments of his day, he is led on a quest to confront his greatest adversary: the Holy Inquisition. El Greco's story is one of unusual heroism, betrayal, love and the power of one man to battle barbarity and ignorance. [S] ... ENGLISH | SPANISH | GREEK (subtitled) 18+ *** 5.8/10

CWC FILM WITH ME IN IT

Ian Fitzgibbon

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-IRELAND / Cast: Dylan Moran, Neil Jordan, Keith Allen, Aisling O'Sullivan] Mark, a struggling actor, has just been through the ordeal of yet another fruitless audition. With his girlfriend about to walk out and his landlord ready to evict him, Mark has only his friend Pierce and their joint ambition of writing a career-breaking film to keep him going. [S] ... 18+ ***½ 5/10

CWC KNITTING

Yin Lichuan

– Niu Lang Zhi Nu

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-CHINA / Cast: Yi Zhang, Bingyan Yan, Yulai Lu, Li Genmei] Daping hates Haili, who strode out of nowhere into her apartment, her life, and her blossoming relationship with Chen Jin. Though Daping tries to be a kind and honest person, Haili bullies her mercilessly. Then Chen Jin disappears, leaving Daping pregnant and alone. Having experienced many hardships in her life, Haili might be just the person to help Daping during these troubled times. [S] ... MANDARIN (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 5/10

CWC REST OF THE NIGHT

Francesco Munzi

– Resto Della Notte

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-ITALY / Cast: Sandra Ceccarelli, Aurélien Recoing, Stefano Cassetti, Laura Vasiliu, Victor Cosma, Costantin Lupescu, Veronica Besa] After being accused of stealing from a wealthy Italian couple, a young Romanian maid is forced to return to her ex-boyfriend, recently released from jail and living in squalour with his younger brother. Joined by a cocaine addict who is making inroads on a life of petty crime, this desperate group of outcasts plots a brazen robbery of the Italian couple's villa. [S] ... ITALIAN (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 5/10

CWC \$5 A DAY

Nigel Cole

– Five Dollars A Day

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-USA / Cast: Christopher Walken, Alessandro Nivola, Amanda Peet, Sharon Stone] When Nat (Christopher Walken) - a free-spirited hustler who boasts he can live on \$5 a day - calls to say he's dying and needs a drive to New Mexico for a dubious cure, his son Flynn (Alessandro Nivola) reluctantly agrees. [S] ... 18+

CWC 33 SCENES FROM LIFE

Malgosia Szumowska

– 33 Sceny Z Zycia

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-GERMANY, POLAND / Cast: Julia Jentsch, Peter Gantzer, Małgorzata Hajewska, Maciej Stuhr, Andrzej Hudziak] Julia is a beloved daughter and wife, and a successful photographer. But the pieces of her happy life begin to fall apart all around her, beginning with the death of the family dog. When Julia's mother is diagnosed with cancer, her husband, a famous composer, is of no help, spending most of his time abroad, while her father seems to need help even more than she does. Sickness and death from a close perspective are much more absurd, nonsensical and ridiculous than Julia expected. [S] ... POLISH (subtitled) 18+

CWC BLIND SUNFLOWERS

José Luis Cuerda

– Girasoles Ciegos

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-SPAIN / Cast: Javier Cámara, Maribel Verdú] Set a year after the Spanish Civil War, Blind Sunflowers tells the story of a family forced to lie and keep up appearances as they become divided by internal struggles and external pressure. With a carefully crafted script based on Alberto Méndez's novel of the same name, José Luis Cuerda explores the darkness of the post-civil war era, the effects of repression and the terrible consequences of the abuse of power. The film stars Javier Cámara (Talk to Her) and Maribel Verdú (Pan's Labyrinth). [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+

CWC COUNTRY TEACHER

Bohdan Sláma

– Venkovský Učitel

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-CZECH REPUBLIC, GERMANY, FRANCE / Cast: Zuzana Bydžovská, Pavel Liška, Ladislav Šedivý] When a gifted young teacher takes a job at a grammar school in the country, he quickly forms a strong bond with Marie, a local farm owner. But their friendship is challenged by the arrival of the teacher's jealous ex-lover from the city, who, upon discovering that the teacher is harbouring a secret affection for Marie's 17-year-old son, plots to expose him. From the director of Something Like Happiness (TIFF 2005). [S] ... CZECH (subtitled) 18+

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

CWC COUNTRY WEDDING
– Sveitabrúðkaup

Valdís Óskarsdóttir

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-ICELAND / Cast: Ingvar E. Sigurdsson, Ólafur Darri Ólafsson, Nina Dogg Filippusdóttir, Gísli Orn Gardarsson, Björn Hlynur Haraldsson] A motley crew of wedding guests is loaded onto two buses bound for a remote church one hour outside of Reykjavík. But no one actually knows where the chapel is, and everyone is either too proud or too embarrassed to ask for directions. [S] ... ICELANDIC (subtitled) 18+

CWC FEAR ME NOT
– Den Du Frygter

Kristian Levring

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-DENMARK / Cast: Ulrich Thomsen, Paprika Steen, Lars Brygmann, Stine Stengade] Desperate to change his life, 42-year-old Michael signs up to take part in clinical trials for a new anti-depressant. But when the tests are abandoned due to the discovery of serious side effects, Michael decides to continue the experiment on his own. Intoxicated by a new sense of self control, Michael feels an urge to take control of other people's lives as well. Slowly, his minor psychological games grow more drastic and frequent, until Michael makes a discovery that forces him to view his actions in a terrifying new light. [S] ... DANISH (subtitled) 18+

CWC FIRAAQ

Nandita Das

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-INDIA / Cast: Naseeruddin Shah, Paresh Rawal, Tisca Chopra, Sanjay Suri.] The directorial debut of celebrated Indian actress Nandita Das, Firaq traces the emotional journey of those caught up in the religious clashes that took place in the Indian state of Gujarat in early 2002. Set one month after the violent events came to an end, Das's story unfolds over 24 hours, exploring the impact of violence on the human psyche, on relationships, and on one's ability to remain hopeful in the face of tragedy. [S] ... ENGLISH/HINDI/URDU (subtitled) 18+

CWC GHOST
– Domovoy

Karen Oganessian

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-RUSSIA / Cast: Konstantin Khabensky, Vladimir Mashkov, Chulpan Khamatova] Hatching a most unusual plan to overcome his writer's block, successful writer Anton hires "Ghost," an assassin whose exploits Anton hopes will reinvigorate his moribund imagination. But little does he know, Ghost is setting him up to take the fall for a murder. [S] ... RUSSIAN (subtitled) 18+

CWC GOODBYE SOLO

Ramin Bahrani

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-USA / Cast: Souleymane Sy Savane, Red West, Diana Franco Galindo, Lane 'Roc' Williams] Stoic 70-year-old William hires Solo, a charming 34-year-old taxi driver, to take him in two weeks time to a mountaintop from which he plans to jump. Solo decides to become William's friend. His aim? To change William's mind before his two weeks are up. [S] ... 18+

CWC HORN OF PLENTY
– Cuerno De La Abundancia

Juan Carlos Tabío

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-SPAIN, CUBA / Cast: Jorge Perugorria, Laura de la Uz, Mirtha Ibarra.] In the eighteenth century, a group of Castiñeiras nuns deposited treasure in a British bank. Buoyed by the promise of wealth, Castiñeiras descendents throughout Cuba band together to try to prove their eligibility as legitimate heirs. Horn of Plenty is a wonderfully crafted comedy that reflects on the socio-economic difficulties of contemporary Cuba with corrosive wit. The film stars Jorge Perugorria (Strawberry and Chocolate), Laura de la Uz and Mirtha Ibarra. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+

CWC IN THE SHADOW OF THE NAGA PHAWAT

Panangkasiri

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-THAILAND] After hiding a large sum of money on temple grounds, three robbers return to find that a monastery has been built on top of their stash. To retrieve their booty, they have no choice but to become ordained as monks. But can Buddha's teachings free them from their dark impulses, or will their violent nature force them into drastic measures? With tense action and charismatic leads, this film arrives at an answer that is as unexpected as it is thrilling. [S] ... THAI (subtitled) 18+

CWC JERICHOW

Christian Petzold

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-GERMANY / Cast: Benno Fürmann, Nina Hoss, André Hennicke, Hilmi Sözer, Claudia Geisler] Tension and intrigue unfold between three characters caught in a love triangle: Ali, a Turkish entrepreneur who is preoccupied with his business; his wife Laura, who shelters secrets from her past, and Thomas, a young man dishonourably discharged from the army. [S] ... GERMAN (subtitled) 18+

CWC KATIA'S SISTER
– Het Zusje Van Katia

Mijke de Jong

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-NETHERLANDS / Cast: Betty Qizmolli, Julia Seykens, Olga Louzgina] After emigrating from Russia to Amsterdam with her mother and older sister, a thirteen-year-old girl plunges into a harsh adult world. With no opportunity to develop her own sense of identity, she even resigns herself to the name everyone uses for her - Katia's sister. [S] ... DUTCH (subtitled) 18+

CWC LAILA'S BIRTHDAY
– Eid Milad Laila

Rashid Masharawi

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-PALESTINE, TUNISIA, NETHERLANDS / Cast: Mohammad Bakri, Areen Omari, Nour Zoubi, Abu Laila] A Ramala cab driver is intent on getting home in time to bring a gift and cake for his daughter's tenth birthday. But the challenges of day-to-day life in this conflicted region will become formidable obstacles to his mission. [S] ... ARABIC (subtitled) 18+

CWC LOST SONG

Rodrigue Jean

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-CANADA / Cast: Suzie Leblanc, Patrick Goyette] Elisabeth (Suzie Leblanc), Pierre (Patrick Goyette) and their newborn baby move to a summer cottage in a remote area north of Montreal. Isolation and the difficulty of coping with her new situation and surroundings send Elisabeth into a spiral of depression. Lost Song is beautifully and sensitively rendered by one of our most rigorous filmmakers. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

CWC MACHAN

Uberto Pasolini

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-UNITED KINGDOM, ITALY, GERMANY, SRI LANKA] Convinced that submitting a bogus application to the German Embassy is not the worst thing one can do, a group of young Sri Lankans set out to assemble the Sri Lanka National Handball Team from a mismatched collection of friends, colleagues, creditors, policemen – anyone willing to stretch the truth in exchange for a one way ticket to the West. Based on a true story, Machan is the first film from The Full Monty producer Uberto Pasolini. [S] ... SINHALA | ENGLISH (subtitled) 18+

CWC MIDDLE OF NOWHERE

John Stockwell

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-USA / Cast: Anton Yelchin, Eva Amurri, Susan Sarandon, Willa Holland] New friends Dorian (Anton Yelchin, Charlie Bartlett) and Grace (Eva Amurri) begin selling pot as a way of reconciling their very different financial situations and freeing themselves of their disagreeable parents. Also starring Susan Sarandon and Willa Holland (Genova). [S] ... 18+

CWC MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS

Carl Bessai

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-CANADA / Cast: Tantoo Cardinal, Gabrielle Rose, Babz Chula] Mothers&Daughters is a touching and often hilarious look at the strained relationships three women have with their daughters. Featuring three of Canada's finest actresses (Tantoo Cardinal, Gabrielle Rose and Babz Chula), Bessai's latest film stems from a collaborative and mostly improvised script. [S] ... 18+

CWC MY MOTHER, MY BRIDE AND I
– Die Zweite Frau

Hans Steinbichler

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-GERMANY, ROMANIA] Of course it's crazy: going to Bucharest to meet prospective wives chosen from a catalogue. But it's alright with Erwin, who knows little of life and even less of women. Up to now, the only woman in his life has been his mother. Erwin is a mama's boy, and mama isn't into sharing. This becomes distressingly clear to Irina, the shy young woman Erwin brings back from the city. While Mother sharpens her claws and Irina transforms from meek to manic, Erwin must decide - in just three weeks - if this truly is his idea of "happily ever after." [S] ... GERMAN (subtitled) 18+

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

CWC NARROWS

François A. Velle

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-USA / Cast: Kevin Zegers, Vincent D'Onofrio, Titus Welliver, Monica Keena, Eddie Cahill, Sophia Bush] Brooklyn-born Mike (Kevin Zegers) lives with his dad Vinny (Vincent D'Onofrio), a sanitation worker with low-level ties to local mob boss Tony (Titus Welliver). A talented photographer, Mike secretly applies to college, taking a job from Tony in order to pay his tuition. Torn between two worlds that threaten to collide, Mike learns the far-reaching consequences of his personal choices. [S] ... 18+

CWC NATIVE DANCER

Guka Omarova

– Baksy

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-KAZAKHSTAN, RUSSIA, FRANCE, GERMANY / Cast: Farkhad Amankulov, Neisipkul Omarbekova, Almat Ayanov, Nurlan Alimzhanov] When a petrol station is burned to the ground, the developers blame the land owner, Batir, and kidnap his son. Batir has no choice but to seek out the one person who can help him find his missing boy: Aiday, an old shaman whose house once stood on his land. [S] ... RUSSIAN/KAZAKH (subtitled) 18+

CWC PANDORA'S BOX

Yesim Ustaoglu

– Pandoranin Kutusu

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-TURKEY, FRANCE, BELGIUM, GERMANY / Cast: afdsd] When three fortysomething siblings in Istanbul receive a call that their aging mother has disappeared from her home along the Eastern Black Sea Coast of Turkey, they put aside their problems and set out to find her. As the siblings come together, the tension between them quickly becomes apparent, and they are forced to reflect upon their own shortcomings and ignorance of each other's lives. [S] ... TURKISH (subtitled) 18+

CWC PATRIK, AGE 1.5

Ella Lemhagen

– Patrik 1,5

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-SWEDEN / Cast: Gustaf Skarsgård, Torkel Petersson, Thomas Ljungman, Annika Hallin] Goran and Sven have been approved for adoption. Patrik, age 1.5, is on his way! But, because of a misplaced decimal point, they'll be forced to re-examine their dreams of the perfect family when a homophobic 15-year-old and his criminal past arrive at their door. [S] ... SWEDISH (subtitled) 18+

CWC PEDRO

Nicholas Oceano

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-USA] Diagnosed as HIV-positive at a young age, Pedro Zamora gained attention in 1994 as a cast member on "The Real World." Following the true-life story of Zamora and his family, Pedro aims to honour their heritage, fight for equality, and love for life. [S] ... 18+

CWC RADIO LOVE

Leonardo de Armas

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-SPAIN] At 36, Carolina leads a glamorous life as the creator and host of the successful fashion program Radio Love. The discovery of her first wrinkles and the appearance of a beautiful young woman ready to take her place at work drive Carolina into a profound existential crisis. Radio Love is a hilarious reflection on Western society's obsession with self-realization and the constant search for happiness. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+

CWC RETURN TO HANSALA

Chus Gutiérrez

– Retorno A Hansala

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-SPAIN] In 2001, an inflatable dinghy with Moroccan migrants shipwrecked off the Spanish town of Rota. Thirty-seven migrants drowned, 13 of whom were from Hansala. Inspired by this tragedy, Return to Hansala is a touching road movie that follows Martín, manager of a struggling funeral home, and Leila, the sister of one of the drowned boys, in their journey to bring the bodies back to Hansala. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+

CWC SKIN

Anthony Fabian

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-UNITED KINGDOM, SOUTH AFRICA / Cast: Sophie Okonedo, Sam Neill, Alice Krige, Tony Kgoroge, Ella Ramangwane] Based on true events, Skin tells the remarkable story of Sandra Laing (Sophie Okonedo), a black woman struggling with unique issues of discrimination and identity upon being born to white parents (Alice Krige and Sam Neill) in 1955 apartheid South Africa. [S] ... 18+

CWC TEZA**– Dew**

Haile Gerima

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-GERMANY, ETHIOPIA, FRANCE] Upon graduating from a university in Germany, Anberber returns to his native Ethiopia during the war of the 1990s. Hoping to put his newly acquired knowledge to good use and eager to strengthen and rebuild his homeland, which has become impoverished under the military junta, Anberber both inspires hope and faces disillusionment, feeling estranged from his own people. [S] ... GERMAN/AMHARIC (subtitled) 18+

CWC THREE WISE MEN**– Kolme Viisasta Miestä**

Mika Kaurismäki

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-FINLAND / Cast: Irina Björklund, Tommi Eronen, Peter Franzén, Pirkko Hämäläinen] Acclaimed Finnish director Mika Kaurismäki (LA Without a Map, TIFF 1998) offers a raw and often hilarious drama about a trio of anti-heroes – an expectant father, a ladies' man and a failed actor – who escape their family woes for a karaoke bar on Christmas Eve. [S] ... FINNISH (subtitled) 18+

CWC TORONTO STORIES

Sook-Yin Lee, Sudz Sutherland, David Weaver, Aaron Woodley

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-CANADA / Cast: Sook-Yin Lee, Tygh Runyan, K.C. Collins, Joris Jarsky, Carly Pope, Gil Bellows, Lisa Ray] A tribute to the city, Toronto Stories is a passionate collection of four stories witnessed by a nameless boy in the course of a single day. Each story was directed by one of the city's most intriguing filmmakers. [S] ... 18+

CWC TREELESS MOUNTAIN

So Yong Kim

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-SOUTH KOREA / Cast: Song Hee Kim, Hee Yeon Kim] Inspired by her own life, writer and director So Yong Kim follows up her directorial debut, In Between Days (TIFF 2006), with the story of Jin, a feisty six-year-old who lives with her mother and little sister in a cramped apartment in Pusan, South Korea. When their mother decides to leave in search of her estranged father, Jin and her sister are forced to spend the summer living with their alcoholic aunt in the rural countryside. [S] ... KOREAN (subtitled) 18+

CWC TWO-LEGGED HORSE**– Asbe Du-Pa**

Samira Makhmalbaf

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-IRAN / Cast: Ziya Mirza Mohamad, Haron Ahad, Gol Gotai Karimi, Khojeh Nader] In exchange for one dollar a day, Mirvais must carry a disabled boy on his back - like a horse - to and from school every day. But his rider is unhappy. His wish for Mirvais to turn into a real horse has not yet come true. [S] ... PERSIAN (subtitled) 18+

CWC UNDER THE TREE**– Di Bawah Pohon**

Garin Nugroho

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-INDONESIA] Indonesian filmmaker Garin Nugroho (Opera Jawa, TIFF 2006) tells a story of three women coming to terms with issues of paternity: Maharani, an adopted child, who seeks the true meaning of motherhood; Nian, who is in search of a new father figure; and expectant mother Dewi, who faces a tough choice regarding her unborn baby. Set entirely on the mystical island of Bali, the film is intercut with mesmerizing Balinese dances from five powerful choreographers. [S] ... INDONESIAN (subtitled) 18+

CWC WINDOW**– Ventana**

Carlos Sorin

[CONTEMPORARY WORLD CINEMA-SPAIN, ARGENTINA] Antonio, an ill 80-year-old man, wakes up at his house in the country on what will become the last day of his life. As the day goes by slowly, Antonio carefully contemplates each moment, each light variation while waiting for his son's visit. Stunningly shot and wonderfully acted, The Window is a profound meditation on solitude epitomized by Antonio's last day of life. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+

Visions

11 films

Visions focuses on the innovative. It spotlights work that challenges our notion of mainstream cinema and explores new territory. Featuring unusual approaches to storytelling, experimental filmmaking techniques, and new technologies, Visions is an exciting programme featuring the work of brazen newcomers and veteran filmmakers alike, pushing the boundaries of the cinematic form.

VIS JE VEUX VOIR

– I Want To See

Joana Hadjithomas, Khalil Joreige

[VISIONS-LEBANON / Cast: Catherine Deneuve, Rabih Mroué] Their first film since the 2005 critically acclaimed *A Perfect Day*, filmmakers Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige ask the question "what can cinema do?" and translate that into a version of reality in *Je veux voir* (I Want to See). Catherine Deneuve and Rabih Mroué star as themselves, traveling to Beirut and driving through the regions devastated by the 2006 war in Lebanon. This unpredictable adventure aims to reveal the beauty in an area ravaged by war.

Preceded by the short film *Expectations* [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

VIS SKY CRAWLERS

Mamoru Oshii

[VISIONS-JAPAN-ANIMATED] Celebrated animated film director Mamoru Oshii (*Ghost in the Shell*) delves into a world that is eradicated by war, where private contractors enlist fighter pilots known as *Kildren* to perform in an endless war that people watch on TV. *Kildren* do not age, living in a state of eternal adolescence until they die in action. Embracing the reality with which they are faced, the *Kildren* are conscious that each new day could very well be their last. [S] ... JAPANESE (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

VIS UNCERTAINTY

Scott McGehee, David Siegel

[VISIONS-USA / Cast: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Olivia Thirlby, Lynn Collins] Starring up and comers Joseph Gordon-Levitt (*Brick*, *The Lookout*), Olivia Thirlby (*The Wackness*, *Juno*) and Lynn Collins (*The Merchant of Venice*), this film offers two stories about the same young couple in love who find out that they are pregnant and are not sure what to do. The man flips a coin and there follows two versions of what happens next - but both stories end up with the same consequences. [S] ... 18+ ***½ 7/10

VIS LIVERPOOL

Lisandro Alonso

[VISIONS-ARGENTINA, FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, SPAIN, GERMANY / Cast: Juan Fernandez] During an Atlantic crossing, Farrel asks the captain of the freighter he is sailing for permission to go ashore at the next port. He wants to visit the place where he was born to find out if his mother is still alive. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.3/10

VIS SALAMANDRA

– Salamander

Pablo Agüero

[VISIONS-ARGENTINA, FRANCE, GERMANY / Cast: Dolores Fonzi] In the valley of El Bolson in Patagonia - a haven for renegades from all over the world - Alba and Inti try to build a normal life as mother and son. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.2/10

VIS 24 CITY

– Er Shi Si Cheng Ji

Jia Zhang-ke

[VISIONS-CHINA / Cast: Joan Chen, Zhao Tao, Lv Liping, Chen Jianbin] A state-owned factory in Chengdu is shut down, giving way to a luxury apartment complex called *24 CITY*. Reflecting on the life of work that binds them all, old workers, factory executives and yuppies assemble the history of China. Written and directed by filmmaker Jia Zhang-ke (*Still Life*, *TIFF 2006*; *Useless*, *TIFF 2007*). [S] ... MANDARIN (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.2/10

VIS BIRDSONG

– Cant Dels Ocells

Albert Serra

[VISIONS-SPAIN / Cast: Lluís Carbó, Lluís Serrat Batlle, Lluís Serrat Masanellas, Montse Triola, Mark Peranson, Victoria Aragónès] Stunningly shot using only natural light, *El Cant dels Ocells* is a contemplative reinterpretation of the Biblical journey of the Three Wise Men in search of the newborn Messiah. With a cast of

non-professionals performing an improvised script, Albert Serra's second feature builds on his ongoing interest to cinematically express real time through the exquisite exploration of earth and sky. [S] ... CATALAN/HEBREW (subtitled) 18+ *** 5.2/10

VIS EXPECTATIONS

Mahamat-Saleh Haroun

[VISIONS-SHORT-SOUTH KOREA, FRANCE / Cast: Youssouf Djaoro, Mata Gabin, Assane Kheiro, Khayar Oumar Defallah, Haoua Abakar] Mahamat-Saleh Haroun's follow-up to the 2006 award-winning *Daratt* (*Dry Season*) charts the journey of a man fleeing his debts by attempting an arduous desert crossing. Precedes feature presentation of *JE VEUX VOIR*. [S] ... 18+

VIS SÛT

– Milk

Semih Kaplanoglu

[VISIONS-TURKEY, FRANCE, GERMANY] Young Yusuf is upset when he learns that his mother Fatma is having a secret affair with the town's railroad stationmaster. He must decide whether to behave in accordance with the traditional male-dominated culture of the town, or to develop a newly open perspective that is more modern. [S] ... TURKISH (subtitled) 18+

VIS UNSPOKEN

Fien Troch

[VISIONS-BELGIUM] Five years ago, 14-year-old Lisa disappeared from the lives of her parents Lukas and Grace, with no clear reason, no goodbye. Her parents have managed to get their lives back to some semblance of normality, until Benjamin, a former friend of Lisa's, pays them a visit and a series of strange occurrences ensue. Gradually, Lisa's presence begins to seep back into her parents' lives, whether they like it or not. This film marks the second feature for director Fien Troch, whose previous film, *Someone Else's Happiness*, was at TIFF05. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

VIS VINYAN

Fabrice du Welz

[VISIONS-FRANCE, UNITED KINGDOM, BELGIUM / Cast: Rufus Sewell, Emmanuelle Béart, Julie Dreyfus, Petch Osathanugrah, Amporn Pankratok, Borhan Du Welz] Eastern spiritual themes of despair are paired with maternal concerns in du Welz's second film after his 2004 *Midnight Madness* debut, *Calvaire*. Starring Emmanuelle Béart and Rufus Sewell, *Vinyan* concerns a couple who are torn after the loss of their son Joshua. Glimpsing a boy who resembles Joshua in video footage from a village of orphaned children on the Thai-Burmese border, Jeanne (Béart) becomes consumed by the belief her son was kidnapped by traffickers in the chaos that followed the 2004 tsunami. [S] ... 18+

Vanguard

12 films

Vanguard spotlights bold filmmakers that run ahead of the pack. This programme is dedicated to irreverent, stylistically playful films that challenge the boundaries of social discourse. Aimed toward adventurous audiences who delight in movies that push the envelopes of technology, culture, and sexuality. These edgy films have a distinct, youthful feel, and push boundaries with their content.

VAN KISSES

Lance Daly

[VANGUARD-IRELAND, SWEDEN] On the fringes of Dublin, Kylie and Dylan live in a suburban housing estate devoid of life, colour and prospects of escape. Following a violent altercation with his father, Dylan decides to run away from home with Kylie. Together, they embark to the magical nighttime lights of inner-city Dublin to search for Dylan's brother, and the possibility of a new life. As the night wears on, however, the two kids must somehow survive the darker side of Dublin. [S] ... 18+ **** 8/10

VAN SERBIS

– Service

Brillante Mendoza

[VANGUARD-PHILIPPINES, FRANCE / Cast: Gina Pareño] The Pineda family operates a run-down movie house that shows sexy double features. While they endure each other's sins and vices, the matriarch, Nanay Flor, receives a long-awaited court decision on the bigamy case filed against her estranged husband. [S] ... FILIPINO | TAGALOG (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

VAN TEARS FOR SALE

– Carlston Za Ognjenku

Uro Stojanovic

[VANGUARD-CROATIA, SERBIA / Cast: Katarina Radivojevic, Sonja Kolacarik, Olivera Vuco, Stefan Kapicic] In the mountains of battle-scarred Serbia lies the village of Pokrp, whose men have been eradicated by generations of war. When sisters Little Boginja and Ognjenka inadvertently kill Pokrp's sole surviving male in a futile attempt to lose their virginity, they must find a living, virile man in order to avoid a death sentence. [S] ... CROATIAN (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 7/10

VAN OCEAN FLAME *Liu Fendou*
– **Yi Ban Hai Shui, Yi Ban Huo Yan**

[VANGUARD-HONG KONG, CHINA / Cast: Liao Fan, Monica Mok, Monica Wang, Hai Yi Tian, Lam Suet, Simon Yam, Leung Ka Yan, Him Law, Paw Hee Ching, Ha Da] Recently released from prison, shameless blackmailer Yao relives the story of how he came to meet and fall in love with Li Chuan, a waitress at a quaint beachfront coffee shop. Pulling her out of her simple existence, Yao quickly lures Li Chuan into his criminal world, forcing her to join his prostitution ring in order to keep him in her life. As romance gives way to jealousy and heartache, Yao's actions lead to fatal consequences – consequences he must desperately find peace with so many years later. [S] ... CANTONESE/MANDARIN (subtitled) 18+ *** 5.6/10

VAN AFTERWARDS *Gilles Bourdos*
– **Et Après**

[VANGUARD-FRANCE, CANADA, GERMANY / Cast: Romain Duris, John Malkovich, Evangeline Lilly, Reece Thompson] Years after a near-death experience shook his childhood, Nathan, now a successful corporate lawyer, has buried himself in his work to escape the reality of a painful divorce. Then a mysterious doctor enters his life, and suddenly Nathan must cope with the shocking news that soon he will die. [S] ... 18+

VAN DERRIÈRE MOI *Rafaël Ouellet*
– **Behind Me**

[VANGUARD-CANADA / Cast: Carina Caputo, Charlotte Legault, Éliane Gagnon, Patrice Dubois] Beautifully performed and exquisitely photographed, the atmospheric *Derrière moi* is a sinister study of escape and betrayal. Betty, a mysterious young girl, arrives in a small town in Quebec and strikes up a friendship with Lea, a lonely and naive 14-year-old. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

VAN DIOSES *Josué Méndez*

[VANGUARD-PERU] Members of a dysfunctional white upper-class family in Peru grapple with their own prejudices and interpersonal issues when the father brings home his new lower-class "mestizo" girlfriend. *Dioses* refreshingly explores the Peruvian elite's isolation from the social and economic reality facing the majority of the country. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+

VAN PA-RA-DA *Marco Pontecorvo*
– **Clown**

[VANGUARD-ITALY, FRANCE, ROMANIA] This true story of a street clown, Miloud Oukili, charts his arrival in Romania in 1992, three years after the end of Ceausescu's dictatorship, and his encounter with the children who live on the streets, the so-called "boskettari." Oukili teaches them circus and clown skills in order to give them hope for a better future and a dignified life. [S] ... ROMANIAN | FRENCH | ITALIAN (subtitled) 18+

VAN PONTYPOOL *Bruce McDonald*

[VANGUARD-CANADA / Cast: Stephen McHattie, Lisa Houle, Georgina Reilly] Bruce McDonald's first foray into the horror genre, *Pontypool* is an audacious adaptation of Tony Burgess's 1998 novel about a deadly virus that takes over the small Ontario town of Pontypool. Grant Mazzy (Stephen McHattie), a washed-up radio personality, and his producer (Lisa Houle), along with their young technician (Georgina Reilly), must somehow defend themselves while trying to relay the news to the outside world. [S] ... 18+

VAN SAUNA *Antti-Jussi Annila*
– **Filth**

[VANGUARD-FINLAND / Cast: Ville Virtanen, Tommi Eronen, Rain Tolk, Sonja Petäjärvi] In the year 1595, following the brutal war between Finland and Russia, brothers Knut and Erik are part of the commission marking the border between the two countries. In doing so, they commit a terrible sin and must survive the consequences. They can only find solace in a sauna where all sins are washed

away. The film marks director Antti-Jussi Annila's follow-up to the TIFF06 film, *Jade Warrior*. [S] ... FINNISH (subtitled) 18+

VAN UNIVERSAL LOVE *Thomas Woschitz*

[VANGUARD-AUSTRIA, LUXEMBOURG] Love stories from Brooklyn, Belgrade, Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro, Marseille and Luxembourg play against a backdrop of music by Austrian indie band Naked Lunch, whose haunting songs serve to elaborate upon the stirring narratives. [S] ... FRENCH | JAPANESE | PORTUGUESE | SERBIAN (subtitled) 18+

VAN VOY A EXPLORAR *Gerardo Naranjo*

[VANGUARD-MEXICO / Cast: Daniel Gimenez Cacho (II)] Charged with infectious youthful energy, *Voy a Explorar* focuses on the romantic escapades of Roman, the 15-year-old son of a respected yet corrupt Guanajuato politician, and Maru, an introverted middle-class teenager. Gerardo Naranjo's genuine and tender treatment of the teenager's emotions and insecurities serves as the perfect accompaniment to the chaos of Roman and Maru's love story. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+

Discovery *27 films*

Discovery offers a unique window on contemporary international cinema. A showcase for new and emerging filmmakers, Discovery is your introduction to gifted and innovative new directors who are sure to become a household name.

DI RAIN *Maria Govan*

[DISCOVERY-BAHAMAS / Cast: CCH Pounder, Nicki Micheaux, Irma P. Hall, Calvin Lockhart] In hopes of reconciling with the mother who abandoned her, Rain leaves her simple, sheltered life on rural Ragged Island for the big city of Nassau. But her dream of a loving reunion is quickly shattered when she meets Glory, a scarred, angry woman who bears no resemblance to the mother she had hoped for. Driven by a passion for running and the support of a caring track coach, Rain must find the inner strength to build a new life. [S] ... 18+ ***** 10/10

DI ZIFT *Javor Gardev*

[DISCOVERY-BULGARIA] The Moth is freed on parole after spending time in prison on wrongful conviction of murder. Jailed shortly before the Bulgarian communist coup of 1944, he now finds himself in a new and alien world – the totalitarian Sofia of the 60s. His first night of freedom draws the map of a diabolical city full of decaying neighbourhoods, gloomy streets and a bizarre parade of characters. [S] ... BULGARIAN (subtitled) 18+ ***** 10/10

DI HOOKED *Adrian Sitaru*
– **Pescuit Sportiv**

[DISCOVERY-ROMANIA, FRANCE / Cast: Adrian Titieni, Ioana Flora, Maria Dinulescu] A Sunday picnic seemed like the best way for Mihai and Sweetie to spend some quality time together and take their relationship to a new level. But a series of odd and unexpected events quickly turn this idyllic weekend getaway into the strangest day of their lives. [S] ... ROMANIAN (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

DI HUNGER *Steve McQueen*

[DISCOVERY-UNITED KINGDOM / Cast: Michael Fassbender] Winner of this year's *Caméra d'Or* at the Cannes Film Festival, *Hunger* follows Bobby Sands and the other political inmates of Northern Ireland's Maze Prison in 1981 as they seek to gain special category status for republican prisoners. [S] ... 18+ **** 7.9/10

DI TULPAN *Sergey Dvortsevov*
– **Tulip**

[DISCOVERY-GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, KAZAKSTAN, RUSSIA, POLAND / Cast: Askhat Kunchinerikov] Before he can realize his ambition of becoming a shepherd, Asa must first get married. Tulpan, his sole prospect for a future bride, rejects Asa due to his big ears. But Asa refuses to give up. Winner of this year's *Un Certain Regard* Prize at the Cannes Film Festival. [S] ... KAZAKH | RUSSIAN (subtitled) 18+ **** 7.4/10

DI MEDICINE FOR MELANCHOLY *Barry Jenkins*

[DISCOVERY-USA / Cast: Wyatt Cenac, Tracey Heggins] Two African-American twentysomethings wake up in bed together having no recollection of how they

arrived there. Wandering the streets of San Francisco, the pair meditate on issues of race, class, identity and gentrification, exploring sights of the city less seen in today's cinema. [S] ... 18+ **** 7.2/10

DI TONY MANERO *Pablo Larraín*

[DISCOVERY-CHILE, BRAZIL / Cast: Alfredo Castro, Amparo Noguera, Hector Morales, Paola Lattus, Elsa Poblete] Santiago de Chile, 1978. Dancer Raúl Peralta is obsessed with imitating Tony Manero, John Travolta's character in Saturday Night Fever. His quest for stardom seems within his grasp when a TV station announces a Manero impersonation contest. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+ **** 7.2/10

DI APRON STRINGS *Sima Urale*

[DISCOVERY-NEW ZEALAND] Food and love are intertwined in this tale of two mothers who must find the courage to confront the secrets and misunderstandings of the past, in order to set their sons free. Apron Strings is a parallel story of two families and two cultures set in suburban Otahuhu in South Auckland, New Zealand. [S] ... 18+ ***½ 7/10

DI LYMELIFE *Derick Martini*

[DISCOVERY-USA / Cast: Rory Culkin, Alec Baldwin, Jill Hennessy, Timothy Hutton, Kieran Culkin, Emma Roberts, Cynthia Nixon] From the filmmaking team behind Smiling Fish and Goat on Fire (TIFF 1999) comes an examination of first love, family dynamics and the American Dream in late 1970s Long Island, as seen through the innocent eyes of a 15-year-old. Scott Bartlett (Rory Culkin) is a gentle boy - a direct contrast to his blustery father, Mickey (Alec Baldwin). After an outbreak of Lyme disease hits their suburban community, the lives of the Bartletts and their neighbours begin to crumble in the wake of illness, confrontation and paranoia. Executive produced by Martin Scorsese. [S] ... 18+ ***½ 7/10

DI COLD LUNCH – Lønsj *Eva Sørhaug*

[DISCOVERY-NORWAY / Cast: Maria Bonnevie, Aksel Hennie, Ane Dahl Torp, Pia Tjelta, Bjørn Floberg] The paths of five people intersect in the Oslo district of Majorstua. After Christer disconnects a main fuse in his building in an attempt to save the rent money he mistakenly placed into the laundry, he sets off a chain reaction of consequential events that will change the lives of a caretaker and his daughter, and a new mother and her child. [S] ... NORWEGIAN (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.5/10

DI SNOW – Snijeg *Aida Begic*

[DISCOVERY-BOSNIA, HERZEGOVINA, GERMANY, FRANCE, IRAN / Cast: Zana Marjanovic, Jasna Beri, Sadzida Setic, Vesna Masic.] Eastern Bosnia, 1997. Headed by the young and stubborn Alma, the residents of the war-ravaged and isolated village of Slavno face a dilemma. Should they accept an offer from two visiting businessmen willing to pay them to pick up and leave their homes for good, or do they stay, following their hearts but risking life-threatening poverty? Winner of the 2008 Cannes Critics' Week Grand Prize. [S] ... CROATIAN (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.5/10

DI BETTER THINGS *Duane Hopkins*

[DISCOVERY-UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY / Cast: Liam McIlfratrick, Che Corr, Tara Ballard, Megan Palmer, Kurt Taylor, Rachel McIntyre, Patricia Loveland] Deeply inflected by the UK's visual arts scene, Duane Hopkins's feature debut focuses on three groups of characters: Gail, who must overcome agoraphobia and an addiction to romance novels; Rob, coming to terms with the loss of his girlfriend; and the Gladwins, who, following years of unspoken truths that have built a barrier between them, are going through a shift in their 60-year relationship. [S] ... 18+ ***½ 6.4/10

DI TALE 52 – Istoria 52 *Alexis Alexiou*

[DISCOVERY-GREECE / Cast: Giorgos Kakanakis, Serafita Grigoriadou, Daphne Labroyianni, Argyris Thanassoulas, Yiasemi Kilaidoni, Orpheas Zafropoulos] After Iasonas and Penelope meet at a dinner party, the flirtatiousness between them quickly blossoms into a relationship. But awaking one morning to find that Penelope has mysteriously disappeared, Iasonas is unable to reconstruct

what happened. The disappearance of his new girlfriend drives the rather shy Iasonas to despair, prompting confusing delusions on top of his already fragile mental state. [S] ... GREEK (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.4/10

DI THREE BLIND MICE *Matthew Newton*

[DISCOVERY-AUSTRALIA / Cast: Ewen Leslie, Toby Schmitz, Matthew Newton] Tension mounts between three young Australian naval officers as they hit the streets of Sydney before being shipped out to Iraq. Written and directed by Matthew Newton, who also stars. [S] ... 18+ ***½ 6.4/10

DI DAYTIME DRINKING – Not Sool *Young-seok Noh*

[DISCOVERY-SOUTH KOREA / Cast: Song Sam-dong, Yuk Sang-yeob, Kim Gang-heui, Tak Seong-jun, Lee Ran-heui, Shin Un-seob, Lee Seung-yeon, Yun Sul-ahn] In a drunken attempt to mend his broken heart, Hyuk-jin and his friends decide to take a trip to the small town of Jeongseon in the Gangwon province. But as the only one to actually make it on the bus, Hyuk-jin embarks on a strange journey that finds him in the middle of a snowy highway without his mobile phone, wallet or pants. [S] ... KOREAN (subtitled) 18+ *** 6/10

DI DELTA *Kornél Mundruczó*

[DISCOVERY-HUNGARY, GERMANY / Cast: Félix Lajkó, Lili Monori, Orsolya Tóth] Having been away since childhood, a young man returns to the wild, isolated landscape of the Danube Delta. Introduced to the sister he never knew he had, he and his newfound sibling build a house on stilts in the middle of the river, far away from everyone else. But when they invite the villagers over to share a meal together, it becomes apparent that the coarse locals do not accept their "unnatural" relationship. [S] ... HUNGARIAN (subtitled) 18+ *** 5.7/10

DI WINDS OF SEPTEMBER – Jiu Jiang Feng *Tom Shu-Yu Lin*

[DISCOVERY-TAIWAN / Cast: Rhydian Vaughan, Chang Cheh, Jennifer Chu, Wang Bo-chieh, Lin Chi-tai, Sheng Wei-nian, Chiu Yi-cheng, Chi Pei-hui, Lee Yue-cheng, Eric Tsang] Yen, Tang and their gang of baseball-loving friends are in their last year of high school when a scandal involving their beloved sport takes the nation by storm. With one fatal misstep, they will learn how fragile life can be, how delicate their friendship really is and how much courage they'll need to face the adult world. [S] ... MANDARIN (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 5/10

DI PARANOIDS – Paranoicos, Los *Gabriel Medina*

[DISCOVERY-ARGENTINA / Cast: Daniel Hendler, Walter Jakob, Miguel Dedovich, Fernando Hoffman, Jazmin Stuart, Martin Feldman, Fausto Collado] At once an unmotivated procrastinator, fearsome hypochondriac and unenthused children's party entertainer, Luciano is on the fast track to nowhere. When his successful friend arrives from Spain, Luciano is forced to face the realities of his own uninspired existence. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+ ** 4/10

DI \$9.99 *Talia Rosenthal*

[DISCOVERY-ISRAEL, AUSTRALIA-ANIMATED / Cast: Geoffrey Rush, Anthony LaPaglia] Unemployed and still living at home at 28 years old, Dave Peck discovers a booklet claiming to answer the meaning of life for the low price of only \$9.99. In his struggle to share his amazing find with the world, Dave's surreal path crosses with those of his unusual neighbours, including an old man and his disgruntled guardian angel, a magician in debt and a bewitching woman who likes her men extra smooth. A stop-motion animated film, \$9.99 features the voices of Geoffrey Rush and Anthony LaPaglia. [S] ... 18+

DI GIGANTIC *Matt Aselton*

[DISCOVERY-USA / Cast: Paul Dano, Zoëy Deschanel, John Goodman] Smart and well-educated, Brian (Paul Dano) feels adrift in his life and his job at an upscale mattress store. The one thing he knows is that he wants to adopt a Chinese baby, and is on a wait list to do so. When he meets Happy (Zoëy Deschanel), an odd and feisty rich girl sent to pick up a mattress for her father (John Goodman), he falls head over heels. But Happy has deep reservations about dating a guy who could become a dad at any time. As they negotiate their increasing intimacy, Brian awaits the call from the adoption agency. [S] ... 18+

DI JESUS AND THE GIANT *Akin Omotoso*

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

[DISCOVERY-SHORT-SOUTH AFRICA] The Johannesburg-set short film *Jesus and the Giant* (South Africa) by Akin Omotoso will screen before the previously announced Discovery title *MEDICINE FOR MELANCHOLY*. [S] ... 18+

DI KABULI KID *Barmak Akram*

[DISCOVERY-FRANCE, AFGHANISTAN / Cast: Hadji Gul, Valéry Schatz, Amélie Glenn, Mohammad Chafi Sahel] Kabul taxi driver Khaled picks up a woman and, after settling on a price, takes her to her destination. The woman gets out and a new passenger climbs in, only to find a baby in the backseat. Khaled leaps out after the woman, whose face had been obscured by her burqa, but she has vanished. He's left holding the baby - a six-month-old boy. Who was this woman and how will Khaled find her? [S] ... PERSIAN (subtitled) 18+

DI LOVELY, STILL *Nik Fackler*

[DISCOVERY-USA / Cast: Martin Landau, Ellen Burstyn, Elizabeth Banks, Adam Scott] With the approach of Christmas causing him to feel lonely in life and love, Robert Malone (Martin Landau) returns home from his job at a grocery store to find a stranger (Ellen Burstyn) in his house. What begins as an odd encounter quickly blossoms into a full-blown love affair, leaving the two struggling with the baggage attached to their late-in-life romance. Also starring Elizabeth Banks (Zack and Miri Make a Porno) and Adam Scott, *Lovely, Still* features original music by Conor Oberst and a score by members of Bright Eyes. [S] ... 18+

DI PARC *Arnaud des Pallières*

[DISCOVERY-FRANCE / Cast: Sergi López, Jean-Marc Barr] Georges Nail (Sergi López) lives in a new suburb. He's married, loves his wife, son and dog. Paul Hammer (Jean-Marc Barr) is goodlooking, rich and intelligent, but torn between his severe judgment of the world and his desire to be part of it. When their paths cross, Nail sees an opportunity for new friendship. But Hammer sees a new reason for living - to crucify the perfect image of the happy western man and his incarnation in the person of Georges Nail. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

DI STONING OF SORAYA M *Cyrus Nowrasteh*

[DISCOVERY-USA / Cast: Shohreh Aghdashloo] In a remote Iranian village, a woman stands falsely accused of adultery - a moral crime for which the punishment is death by stoning. Voiceless women, armed with only their innocence and dignity, are no match for the overwhelming primal forces that overrun their town. Based on the book by Freidoune Sahebjam. [S] ... 18+

DI VACATION *Hajime Kadoi*
– *Kyūka*

[DISCOVERY-JAPAN / Cast: Kaoru Kobayashi, Hidetoshi Nishijima, Nene Otsuka, Ren Osugi, Shuuji Kashiwabara] A middle-aged prison guard, Hirai follows an alienated work routine of strict rules and arduous duties, attending to death row's model inmate, Kaneda. When Kaneda's execution order is signed by the minister of justice, Hirai has the unexpected opportunity for a week of vacation. But there is a price to pay for this well-deserved break, as Hirai must assist Kaneda during his final moments. [S] ... JAPANESE (subtitled) 18+

DI WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU *Brian Goodman*
– *Real Men Cry*

[DISCOVERY-USA / Cast: Ethan Hawke, Mark Ruffalo, Donnie Wahlberg, Amanda Peet] Childhood friends Paulie (Ethan Hawke) and Brian (Mark Ruffalo) grew up looking out for each other in their Irish-Catholic neighbourhood in South Boston. Trapped in a cycle of gangs, gangsters and shady crime, they are constantly dodging local turf wars and the watchful eye of an encroaching police detective (Donnie Wahlberg). But with Brian's wife (Amanda Peet) growing increasingly distraught by her husband's lifestyle, will the tried and tested friendship between these two Southies crumble once and for all? [S] ... 18+

Sprockets Family Zone *4 films*

Families will enjoy this new programme dedicated to featuring films that represent the best in contemporary international children's cinema. From documentary, to drama, to animation, these films will provide an entertaining and cultural experience for children and adults alike.

SFZ KRABAT *Marco Kreuzpaintner*

[SPROCKETS FAMILY ZONE-GERMANY/Ages 12+ / Cast: Daniel Brühl, Christian Redl, David Kross] In the seventeenth century, a 14-year-old orphan named Krabat flees the horrors of the Thirty Years War by becoming an apprentice to the ominous master of a mysterious mill. One of 12 young men working for the miller, Krabat is not only taught the craft of milling but is also initiated into a sinister world of dark arts. When the life of his friend and protector becomes threatened, Krabat must struggle to free himself from an evil sorcerer's control in a gripping fight for freedom, friendship and love. Based on Otfried Preußler's bestselling book. [S] ... GERMAN (subtitled) Ages 12+ *** 6/10

SFZ MIA ET LE MIGOU *Jacques-Rémy Girerd*
– *Mia And The Migou*

[SPROCKETS FAMILY ZONE-FRANCE, ITALY/Ages 9+-ANIMATED] When her father becomes trapped in a tunnel on a construction site far from home, Mia decides to leave her village to look for him. Trekking through the vast and mysterious forest, Mia finds herself face-to-face with the Migou, a large, unusual species charged with protecting a powerful and important tree - a tree threatened by the same construction site that has endangered the life of her father. Featuring exquisite painterly animation, Mia et le Migou weaves a message of environmental responsibility into an imaginative world filled with fantastical creatures and one brave little girl. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) Ages 9+ * 2/10

SFZ SECRET OF MOONACRE *Gabor Csupo*

[SPROCKETS FAMILY ZONE-UNITED KINGDOM, HUNGARY, FRANCE/Ages 9+ / Cast: Ioan Gruffudd, Tim Curry, Natascha McElhone, Juliet Stevenson, Dakota Blue Richards] Thirteen-year-old orphan Maria Merryweather is sent away to live with her uncle, Sir Benjamin, in the mysterious Moonacre Manor. There Maria uncovers the dark truth about the ancient curse that has nourished a destructive feud for centuries. She must find a set of magical pearls before the next full moon to undo the curse and save Moonacre Valley from disaster. Aided by a stable of wonderful characters and fantastical beasts, Maria sets out to bring peace to this magical world. Based on the acclaimed book *The Little White Horse*. [S] ... Ages 9+

SFZ SUNSHINE BARRY & THE DISCO WORMS *Thomas Borch Nielsen*
– *Disco Ormene*

[SPROCKETS FAMILY ZONE-DENMARK, GERMANY/Ages 7+-ANIMATED] It's not easy being Barry. An earthworm gets no respect. He's at the bottom of the food chain, with a dead-end job at the compost plant. Barry's lot is a dull, dark existence. But one day an old disco record turns his life upside down. Barry suddenly sees the light: he will star in the world's greatest disco band, Sunshine Barry & the Disco Worms, and play that funky music to stardom. True, he's got no rhythm, no band and no arms, but, as Barry says, "we'll do it anyway!" [S] ... Ages 7+

Canada First!

10 films

Canada First! celebrates our emerging homegrown talent. Focusing on first and second time feature filmmakers, as well as more established filmmakers making their first appearance at the Festival, the programme profiles the best the country has to offer.

CF BORDERLINE *Lyne Charlebois*

[CANADA FIRST!-CANADA / Cast: Isabelle Blais, Jean-Hugues Anglade, Angèle Coudu, Sylvie Drapeau, Marie-Chantal Perron, Pierre-Luc Brillant, Laurence Carbonneau] A striking first feature, *Borderline* follows a young woman as she struggles to break free from her past. Kiki is a journalist and would-be novelist whose only close, stable relationships are with her dog and her ailing, cantankerous grandmother. An endlessly intriguing bundle of contradictions, she is constantly being confronted by the excesses of her wild past, yet remains strangely averse to anything that smells of stability. *Borderline* is driven by Charlebois's distinctive visual sense and actress Isabelle Blais's powerful performance. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ **** 7.8/10

CF REAL TIME *Randall Cole*

[CANADA FIRST!-CANADA / Cast: Randy Quaid, Jay Baruchel] *Real Time* is about a hit man (Randy Quaid) who gives a compulsive gambler (Jay Baruchel)

one hour to live. The movie takes place in real time and its ultimate subject is what we do with the time we have in this world. [S] ... 18+ **** 7.8/10

CF BEFORE TOMORROW *Marie-Hélène Cousineau, Madeline Ivalu*
– **Jour Avant Le Lendemain**

[CANADA FIRST!-CANADA / Cast: Madeline Ivalu, Paul-Dylan Ivalu, Mary Qulitalik, Peter Henry Arnatsiaq, Tumasie Sivuarapik] Based on the novel by acclaimed Danish author Jørn Riel, *Before Tomorrow* is a moving drama about a strong Inuit woman and her beloved grandson, who become trapped on a remote island as they face the ultimate challenge of survival. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

CF CONTROL ALT DELETE *Cameron Labine*

[CANADA FIRST!-CANADA / Cast: Tyler Labine, Sonja Bennett, Alisen Down, Laura Bertram] *Control Alt Delete* is an unusually quirky romantic comedy set in 1999. When computer geek Lewis Henderson (Tyler Labine) is dumped by his longtime girlfriend, he becomes more and more obsessed with internet porn. After a while, the images lose their power over his libido and he begins a strange sexual relationship with the machine itself. As Lewis starts dating the new receptionist Jane (Sonja Bennett), he realizes he may not be the only one harbouring a dirty little secret. [S] ... 18+

CF COOPER'S CAMERA *Warren Sonoda*

[CANADA FIRST!-CANADA / Cast: Jason Jones, Samantha Bee, Peter Keleghan, Mike Beaver] A wild and deranged comedy set in 1985 suburbia, *Cooper's Camera* follows the disintegration of a truly dysfunctional family Christmas after the arrival of an estranged uncle. As everyone gets drunker and drunker, old conflicts and secrets are unearthed to hilarious effect. The story is told through the eyes of the youngest son Teddy, via the family's newest Christmas present, a second-hand VHS camcorder. The film is written by Jason Jones and Mike Beaver. [S] ... 18+

CF DOWN TO THE DIRT *Justin Simms*

[CANADA FIRST!-CANADA / Cast: Joel Thomas Hynes] Hard-drinking and hard-fighting rowdyman Keith Kavanagh (Joel Thomas Hynes) is the turbulent hero of this visceral feature film adaptation of Hynes's internationally acclaimed novel. With true down-home flair, *Down to the Dirt* is a stark and edgy chronicle of violence, drugs, sex and black humour. [S] ... 18+

CF EDISON AND LEO *Neil Burns*

[CANADA FIRST!-CANADA-ANIMATED / Cast: Powers Boothe, Carly Pope, Gregory Smith] Canada's first stop-motion animated feature, *Edison and Leo* is a sumptuous fairytale-gone-wrong about quirky inventor George T. Edison (Powers Boothe) who endangers his family in a quest to create a viable electric light bulb. Written by Daegan Fryklind and frequent Guy Maddin collaborator George Toles. [S] ... 18+

CF NURSE. FIGHTER. BOY *Charles Officer*

[CANADA FIRST!-CANADA / Cast: Karen LeBlanc, Daniel J. Gordon, Clark Johnson] A lyrical and heartfelt urban love story, *Nurse. Fighter. Boy* follows ailing nurse Jude (Karen LeBlanc), her 12-year-old son Ciel (Daniel J. Gordon) and Silence (Clark Johnson), a solitary boxer past his prime. A late-night brawl finds the fighter in the nurse's care, causing the fates of these three characters to be forever entwined. [S] ... 18+

CF ONLY *Ingrid Veninger, Simon Reynolds*

[CANADA FIRST!-CANADA / Cast: Jacob Switzer, Elena Hudgins Lyle] Only centers on a 12-year-old boy (Jacob Switzer) who lives in a northern Ontario motel run by his parents. One day a 12-year-old girl (Elena Hudgins Lyle) arrives and changes his world. Over the course of their single day together, they embark on a journey filled with deep secrets, dark fears and first love. [S] ... 18+

CF WHEN LIFE WAS GOOD *Terry Miles*

[CANADA FIRST!-CANADA / Cast: Kristine Cofsky] Brooklyn (Kristine Cofsky) returns to Vancouver from New York to surprise her boyfriend for his birthday. But when she arrives at his apartment, instead of waiting for him to return home from work, she removes all traces of her arrival and leaves. Featuring a young and talented cast, *When Life Was Good* is a funny and incisive look at modern life through the eyes of twentysomething bohemians living in Vancouver.

[S] ... 18+

Short Cuts Canada 38 films

Short Cuts Canada programming features singular achievements in short films by Canadian filmmakers. From veteran directors with an established reputation in the industry to emerging artists presenting their first efforts, all works in this programme are under fifty minutes in length.

SCC 106 *Candice Day*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] For centenarian Wilma Harrington, birthdays lack a certain pizzazz. She plans on getting older or will die trying in this comedic short that shows that second place is just a first place loser. [S] ... 18+

SCC AMENDMENT *Kevin Papatie*
– **Amendment**

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] This personal documentary tackles the declining use of the Algonquin language and the lingering effects of residential schools through the lens of four generations of family. This short was developed and produced through the Wapikoni mobile project. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SCC BAGHDAD TWIST *Joe Balass*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] Director Balass combines archival images, home movies and family photographs as well as an interview with his mother to explore the once-thriving Jewish community in Iraq before he and his mother were forced to flee to Canada in 1970. This powerful collage forms a complex portrait of a time and place that no longer exists. [S] ... 18+

SCC BATTUE *Guy Édoin*
– **Beaten**

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] In this haunting finale to the *Les Affluents* trilogy, Sarah confronts her mother with her wishes to leave the farm during an autumn day of hunting. What began with *Le Pont*, and continued in the Jutra-winning short *Les Eaux Mortes*, comes to a resolute conclusion. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SCC BEDROOM *Jordan Canning*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] A long-married couple finds themselves at a crossroads in their mid-life crisis. Betrayals, boredom, disappointments and secret desires are revealed and each one must decide if they can forgive and forget. Written by Jody Richardson, this brilliantly acted piece is claustrophobically shot in the couple's bedroom. [S] ... 18+

SCC BELONGING *Elizabeth Lazebnik*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] In this slice-of-life documentary, two women share a house, a child and a life full of belongings that each has brought to their relationship. Alex, a Mexican artist, and Jennifer, a Jewish midwife, are both navigating the world of relationships, cultural difference and motherhood. [S] ... 18+

SCC CATSITTER *Tim Hamilton*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] Mild-mannered Bob (played by Bob Martin) asks his slothful basement tenant to care for his pet cat Whiffles during a weekend getaway. In this sharp comedy, a romantic retreat with an online beau leaves Bob trying to make the best of the worst while confronting weighty domestic issues. [S] ... 18+

SCC CATTLE CALL *Mike Maryniuk, Matthew Rankin*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA-ANIMATED] Auctioneers and animation collide in this fast-paced and explosive introduction to the Winnipeg stockyards. Reflecting an unabashed prairie perspective, this blend of hyperbole and documentary creates a highly entertaining film imbued with social commentary. [S] ... 18+

SCC EARRING *Nicholas Pye, Sheila Pye*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] A woman gives another an earring before they embark on an adventure through the forest. They journey together toward their fateful destinations in this rhythmic experimental narrative about leaving for a new place. [S] ... 18+

SCC FORTY MEN FOR THE YUKON *Tony Massil*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA / Cast: Frank Erl, Geordie Dobson] In this observational verité documentary, Frank Erl and Geordie Dobson reflect on the decades they've spent in the wilds of the Yukon, and what attracted them to the isolation and independence of the North. The wisdom these men impart is honest and hard earned. [S] ... 18+

SCC GILLES *Constant Mentzas*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] A lakeside cottage in the middle of a cold winter in Quebec is the setting for a dying elderly woman's goodbye to her mentally disabled son. He fights against her wish to send him to a foster home, not understanding that she might not be there the next day to care for him in this emotional family drama. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SCC GREEN DOOR *Semi Chellas*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA / Cast: Tracy Wright, Don McKellar] This comedic tale of rental living and unrequited love is driven by mistaken identities and a perfect ensemble cast. [S] ... 18+

SCC HERS AT LAST *Helen Lee*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] In this quiet drama, two women are connected only by the street in Seoul that they frequent. They live with their memories, heavy hearts and hopes of a new life. A little ten-year-old girl on a scooter circles them as they contemplate what is and what might have been. [S] ... 18+

SCC HOW ARE YOU? *Martha Burns, Susan Coyne*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA / Cast: Martha Burns] Martha Burns plays a recently-divorced middle-aged woman who, on a trip into town, runs into a series of neighbours and friends who each have something to say about why her marriage has failed. This engaging film is a comment on grief, assumption and the inability to listen to someone else's very real situation. [S] ... 18+

SCC HUNGU *Nicolas Brault*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA-ANIMATED] This beautiful mixed-media animated film shares the tale of a young son who must leave his mother's side as she lies dying in the heat of the African desert sun. His mother's soul will be resurrected in the hungu, an African musical instrument, to return strength and life to the child as he becomes a man. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SCC LOBOTOMOBILE *Sara St. Onge*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] Drawing from the real-life exploits of lobotomist Dr. Walter Freeman, this playful short musical is at heart a sharp social commentary featuring a memorable showtune you won't be able to get out of your head. [S] ... 18+

SCC MACHINE WITH WISHBONE *Randall Okita*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] Randall Okita's inventive and exquisitely choreographed short film integrates sculptor Arthur Ganson's whimsical machines into an imaginative dreamscape. The film is entirely composed of live-action images despite the illusion of animation. [S] ... 18+

SCC MIDI *Dan Popa*
– Noon

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] In this sensitive portrayal of a couple dealing with immigration, language and love, a man makes lures outside on his porch while his wife gets ready for his birthday celebration. The husband must find a way to communicate his true feelings to his partner in the face of impending changes that he faces tomorrow at noon. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SCC NEXT FLOOR *Denis Villeneuve*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] This Cannes International Critics Week award-winning short approaches surrealism at an aristocratic affair with minimal dialogue and maximum impact. Visually stunning and darkly humorous,

the film is a feast for the eyes and an assault on high society. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SCC NIGHT VISION *Philip Barker*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] In this ethereal experimental narrative, the construction of storytelling frames the characters' quest for sight in darkness. Unique but interrelated narratives entwine as the reluctant narrator spins an imaginative and surrealist tale while undergoing a psychological exam. [S] ... 18+

SCC PASSAGE *Karl Lemieux*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] Exquisitely filmed in black-and-white, this experimental narrative follows four friends on a road trip as they discover the complicated arena of unseen desire that arises when 'ecstasy' and sexuality mix. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) B&W 18+

SCC PASSAGES *Marie-Josée Saint-Pierre*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA-ANIMATED / Cast: Marie-Josée Saint-Pierre] Blurring the lines between documentary and drama, this poignant animated autobiographical film tells of the director's horrific birthing experience as she and her partner deal with a lackadaisical medical system that ultimately fails them. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SCC PAT'S FIRST KISS *Pat Mills*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] Shot on a Motorola cell phone for TIFF07's Talent Lab, this original coming out story is not all wine and roses. The film tells the true story of the filmmaker's first kiss with an undesirable stranger he meets overseas [S] ... 18+

SCC PIERCE, CRUSH, ESCAPE *Susan Turcot*
– Notes On The Boreal

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA-ANIMATED] This architecturally-textured experimental meditation examines the effects of deforestation on animals, humans and climate. Using digital animation and line drawings, Turcot continues her abstract exploration of the environment and the Boreal forest area. [S] ... 18+

SCC PRINCESS MARGARET BLVD *Kazik Radwanski*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA / Cast: Gina Sylvester] Defiantly confronting the progressive stages of Alzheimer's disease in her twilight years, Isabelle can no longer live a life with which she is familiar. In this compelling dramatic short, actress Gina Sylvester humanizes the frustration, isolation and aggravation associated with the disease. [S] ... 18+

SCC PUDGE *Annie Bradley*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] A smiley, slightly chubby 12-year-old, Violet is starting over with a new foster home, an unfriendly school and a coat that is way too small for her. In this heartwarming story of an unlikely friendship, she meets a kindred spirit in Edith, an eccentric wealthy woman who is willing to pay Violet for her cleaning services so that she can buy a new coat. [S] ... 18+

SCC ROSA ROSA *Félix Dufour-Laperrière*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA-ANIMATED] A beautifully assembled collage of photographic and hand-drawn imagery animates this narrated tale of a couple whose life together has been shaped by years of war. These new parents attempt to retain a daily routine through the rubble and turmoil that surrounds them. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SCC RUNNING *Ann Marie Fleming*
– Heart, Mind, Body, Spirit

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA-ANIMATED] Starring 'stickgirl', Ann Marie Fleming's avatar, this animated short uses signature hand-drawn sketches and fluid lines to create a rhythmic pacing that matches the title. The energy of the animation is complemented by a dynamic and layered orchestral score by Maxime Goulet. [S] ... 18+

SCC SMALL THING *Adam Garnet Jones*

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] An emotionally stunted young woman throws herself a birthday party in the hopes of recalling something that happened on her tenth birthday. Inviting old friends and family from her past, she relives a day that changed her life forever in this poignant story. [S] ... 18+

SCC SPOILED

Sherry White

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] In this revealing drama, young Pearl has high hopes that an online search will help find her a new mother. When Beulah arrives to spend Christmas with Pearl and her father, Pearl sees a side to her dad that might explain why they've been living alone. [S] ... 18+

SCC SUNDAY

Jamie M. Dagg

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] The final days of a relationship's collapse are seen from a suspicious boyfriend's perspective in this nuanced drama. His depression leads him to discover that he suffers from a burning sensation that would be tough to blame entirely on his cheating girlfriend. [S] ... 18+

SCC SYNTHESIZER – Synthétiseur

Sarah Fortin

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] Sophie takes a trip to the suburbs of Montreal to get away and hopefully find a boyfriend. This film is a humorous and quirky tale about what to do when you are depressed, have no money and desperately need to make a change. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SCC UNIFORM MATERIAL

Chris McCarroll

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] This intimately dramatic portrait follows a Romanian middle-aged man as he methodically prepares for his first day at a new job. The transformation of a man working his way into a class system takes place with sensitivity and subtlety. [S] ... 18+

SCC US CHICKENS

Mark Van de Ven

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] Five-year-old Claire refuses to let anything interrupt her playtime, even when she sees more than she is supposed to of her family's complex world. This lyrical film addresses changes on the family farm as the impending force of suburban developers threatens both the family's inner and outer worlds. [S] ... 18+

SCC VICTOR GAZON

Patrick Gazé

– Mon Nom Est Victor Gazon

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] Third-grade student Victor Gazon makes a video presentation, listing his likes and dislikes, in order to determine whether life is worth living. Using a light touch on a morbid subject, this bittersweet film looks at childhood innocence, family, money, friends and death. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

SCC WHAT I'VE LOST

Duraïd Munajim

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] In this heart-wrenching documentary, Iraqi exiles now living in Amman, Jordan, tell of what they have lost in the throes of wartime. Their difficult lives are captured for a moment as they describe their lost homes, neighbourhoods and families. [S] ... 18+

SCC WHITMORE PARK

Brian Stockton

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] Brian Stockton moves from broad sketches of Saskatchewan to a personal view of his suburban neighbourhood and formative years in his continuing visual autobiography, *The Epic Story of My Life – Part 4*. With humour and nostalgia, he ruminates on his cinematic beginnings in elementary school. [S] ... 18+

SCC WORKOUT

Sami Khan

[SHORT CUTS CANADA-SHORT-CANADA] In this family drama about a struggle between a father and son, Terry thinks he knows it all until good old Dad tries too hard to show him what "strength" is all about. Shame, misunderstanding and expectation mix with what is left unsaid. [S] ... 18+

Canadian Open Vault

1 film

Canadian Open Vault is a special presentation of a recently restored, iconic Canadian film. A key part of our commitment to the preservation and presentation of classic Canadian films.

COV 32 SHORT FILMS ABOUT GLENN GOULD / 1993

François Girard

[CANADIAN OPEN VAULT-CANADA / Cast: Colm Feore, Don McKellar, Gerry Quigley, David Hughes, Bruno Monsiegeon, Yehudi Menuhin, Peter Millard, Carlo Rota, Katya Ladan, Gale Garnett] François Girard's breakthrough film is a compelling and striking exploration of the idiosyncratic world of Gould's ideas and music, from his thoughts on technology and northern climates to his fondness for prescription drugs. Sumptuously photographed and designed as 32 separate visual and sound fragments, it uses drama, documentary, animation and performance art to provide insight into the life and work of the enigmatic Canadian genius. Special thanks to Rhombus Media and Library and Archives Canada. Colm Feore's performance as Gould is genuinely astounding and intimate, immersing viewers fully into the musician's universe. Written by Don McKellar and Girard with a rare combination of playfulness and conceptual rigour, *32 Short Films About Glenn Gould* remains one of the most successful Canadian films of all time and boasts an enormous cult following. [S] ... 18+ ***½ 6.7/10

Dialogues: Talking With Pictures *films*

Dialogues: Talking with Pictures is a popular and critically acclaimed series of films curated and introduced by well-known directors or film artists who are invited to select and discuss films that have inspired them, had a significant impact on their careers, or were pivotal in the progression of their own careers.

DTP BAYAN KO / 1984

Lino Brocka

– My Own Country / Kapit Sa Patalim

[DIALOGUES: TALKING WITH PICTURES-PHILIPPINES, FRANCE] In 1981, Joan Dupont did an exclusive interview for *Le Monde* with director Lino Brocka in Manila, the Philippines, thanks to assistance from his best friend, David Overbey. In memory of Overbey, Dupont presents *My Own Country (Bayan Ko)* (1984) an uncompromising look at contemporary Filipino society. The film was considered so controversial that the Philippine government attempted to ban the film upon its completion. It tells the story of young printer Turing, whose life is a series of rapidly diminishing options. With a sick pregnant wife and a strike at his factory, Turing is eventually lured into a life of crime. Never afraid to criticize the ruling power in the Philippines, Brocka helped bring international attention to the struggles of the poor and marginalized in his home country through his acclaimed body of work. [S] ... TAGALOG | ENGLISH | FILIPINO (subtitled) 18+ ****½ 9/10

DTP TERENCE DAVIES TRILOGY / 1984

Terrence Davies

– Children, Madonna And Child, Transfiguration

[DIALOGUES: TALKING WITH PICTURES-UNITED KINGDOM] The work of director Terrence Davies is admired for its honesty, consummate craftsmanship and ability to convey deep emotion through the moving image. In memory of former programmer David Overbey, Davies comes to Toronto for the first time in eight years to present *The Terrence Davies Trilogy* (1984). Originally three medium-length films (*Children, Madonna and Child, Death and Transfiguration*), all of which had the same protagonist, the feature-length trilogy follows Robert Tucker from childhood to death, illustrating a lifetime struggle between Robert's sexuality and his Catholic family background. Acclaimed for the unique cinematic language of his work from *The Terrence Davies Trilogy* to *Of Time and the City*, receiving its North American Premiere at TIFF08, Davies is recognizable as one of the world's most passionate and original filmmakers. [S] ... B&W 18+ ****½ 9/10

DTP POINTE COURTE / 1956

Agnès Varda

[DIALOGUES: TALKING WITH PICTURES-FRANCE] *La Pointe courte* (1956) introduced the world to Agnès Varda, one of the most unique directors of French cinema. She will be at TIFF08 to present her first film, as well as her most

recent work, *Les Plages d'Agnès*. Hailed as an early film in France's New Wave movement, Varda's impressive debut feature shows how her background as a photojournalist shaped her distinct voice. *La Pointe courte* alternates between two storylines, which Varda weaves together masterfully. In one, a young Parisian couple on vacation in a Mediterranean village discusses their rocky marriage, while in the other, the village residents struggle to maintain their livelihood in the face of authorities. Each storyline is presented differently, with the couple's conversations emphasized in a highly stylized manner, while the villager's story is shown in a documentary-like realist style. This formidable work introduced the international film world to an artist who still dazzles with every new work. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ ****½ 8.5/10

DTP SAM AND ME / 1991 *Deepa Mehta*
[DIALOGUES: TALKING WITH PICTURES-CANADA] Among the major talent that former programmer David Overbey is credited with discovering is Deepa Mehta, who presents a screening of her 1991 film, *Sam and Me*. In addition to her new film *Heaven on Earth*, receiving its World Premiere at TIFF08, Mehta will discuss the film that helped to launch her career in the early 1990s. Made with passion and warmth, *Sam and Me* shares the story of Sam Cohen, a cranky older Jewish man and Nikhil, the Indian man who is hired to take care of him. Probing beyond the clichés of cross-cultural encounters, Mehta and writer Ranjit Chowdhry (who also plays Nikhil) bring to the screen a warm and complex relationship that bridges the ethnic communities from which each man comes. [S] ... 18+

Mavericks Conversations 3 films

Mavericks gives you the inside scoop from leading industry personalities as they share revealing anecdotes, the secrets of their success, and previews of their next projects.

MAV IN CONVERSATION WITH KATHRYN BIGELOW *Kathryn Bigelow*
– **Hurt Locker**

[MAVERICKS CONVERSATIONS-USA-Discussion / Cast: Kathryn Bigelow] The films of Kathryn Bigelow attract enormous, cult-like followings and thoughtful critical response. Amy Taubin in *The Village Voice* referred to her first feature, *The Loveless*, as a "tour de force." Roger Ebert, in the context of *Point Break*, called her a "gifted filmmaker." In reviewing *Strange Days*, *The New York Times* dubbed her "furiously talented." One of the few female directors to make a number of films with big movie stars, she has done so on traditionally male turf – offering more than a few violent, action-based, full-throttle thrillers. Employing a consistent approach to character, visual style and narrative tone in her body of work, Bigelow operates from an auteurist position, and yet her films are generally marketed as genre flicks, without much reference to the director herself. Her most recent film, *The Hurt Locker* – a high-machismo war movie and psychosexual mind trip through male masochism – illustrates her multi-tiered filmmaking approach. This *Mavericks* presentation will see Bigelow in discussion of her latest work, her fruitful career and her experiences as a woman working within a particularly male-dominated industry. [S] ... 18+

MAV PEOPLE SPEAK *Tony Sacco*
– **Howard Zinn Documentary Project**

[MAVERICKS CONVERSATIONS-USA-Discussion / Cast: Matt Damon, Josh Brolin, Marisa Tomei, Viggo Mortensen, Eddie Vedder] A look at America's struggles with war, class, race and women's rights, based on Howard Zinn's "A People's History of the United States." This four-hour miniseries is based off of Howard Zinn's landmark 1980 tome *A People's History of the United States*. The new adaptation will draw from both *A People's History* and sequel tome *Voices of A People's History of the United States*, which Zinn wrote with Anthony Arnove. The miniseries will center on the actors and musicians as they read from the books or perform music related to their themes: the struggles of women, war, class and race. The longform will mix the performances with photos, interviews and archival footage. Historian, playwright and social activist Howard Zinn first published his landmark book, *A People's History of the United States*, in 1980. Since then, it has gone on to sell one and a half million copies around the world and inspire innumerable fresh approaches to reflecting on the past. Now comes a unique documentary collaboration between Zinn and others, enlisting an extraordinary lineup of actors, including Viggo Mortensen, Danny Glover, Marisa Tomei and Kerry Washington, who have contributed live stage performances of historical testimonies. The actors

portray labour leaders, civil rights demonstrators and other activists, drawn from *Voices of a People's History of the United States*, an anthology edited by Zinn and author Anthony Arnove. Zinn and Arnove are bringing this work to film with the support of Matt Damon and Chris Moore, who previously collaborated as producers on the television series "Project Greenlight." In this special *Mavericks* presentation, the audiences will be treated to a sneak preview of clips from the documentary *The People Speak*, along with a discussion on stage between Zinn, Damon, Moore and actor Josh Brolin about the filmmaking process and their motivations. [S] ... 18+

MAV PICASSO & BRAQUE GO TO THE MOVIES *Arne Glimcher*

[MAVERICKS CONVERSATIONS-SHORT-USA-Discussion / Cast: Julian Schnabel, Chuck Close, Martin Scorsese] With filmmaker/gallerist Arne Glimcher (*The Mambo Kings*), painter Chuck Close, and filmmaker Julian Schnabel (*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly/Scaphandre et le Papillon*). Some of the biggest names in the visual arts world gather to discuss the amazing impact of early cinema on Cubism, one of the most significant art movements of the 20th century. Influential filmmaker/gallerist Arne Glimcher, painter Chuck Close, and artist and Academy Award™-nominated filmmaker Julian Schnabel will take part in this special *Mavericks* presentation. The artists championed by Glimcher, through his PaceWildenstein Gallery in New York City, represent a rich and coherent history of 20th century art. In asking himself what impact cinema has had on various generations of artists, Glimcher turned to the advent of cubism and the groundbreaking paintings of Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque. Picasso, Braque and Early Film in Cubism, a major gallery show and book, soon emerged, contrasting film clips from early cinema with cubist paintings. Glimcher has now turned that show into an hour-long documentary, featuring some of today's leading artists, intellectuals and curators, including Close and Schnabel, as well as Martin Scorsese, who signed on as a producer and contributed to the film's narration. With *Picasso & Braque Go to the Movies*, Glimcher, Schnabel and Close will screen and discuss the film, and reflect upon the relationship between the advent of early cinema and some of the most important art works ever made. [S] ... 18+

MAV TIME TO STIR *Paul Cronin*

[MAVERICKS CONVERSATIONS-USA-Discussion / Cast: Mark Rudd, Bill Sales, Carolyn Eisenberg] This epic four-hour work looks at the tumultuous events of the Columbia University student strike in 1968 that ended in police violence and signaled a dramatic political shift between old left and new left. The film captures the intoxicating uprising and sobering aftermath, interviewing students, professors and police. Screening on the last day of the Festival, this special *Mavericks* presentation will include a discussion with three active participants of the strike: Mark Rudd of Students for a Democratic Society (who later was a member of the Weather Underground), Bill Sales of the Student Afro-American Society and Carolyn Eisenberg, who served on the strike committee. [S] ... 18+

Real To Reel 30 films

Real to Reel presents the very best in non-fiction cinema from around the globe that challenges, inspires, informs, entertains and moves audiences. In addition to traditional documentaries, Real to Reel also presents experimental and investigative films, docudrama, reality-based cinema and much more.

RTR SHAKESPEARE AND VICTOR HUGO'S INTIMACIES *Yulene Olaizola*

[REAL TO REEL-MEXICO-Documentary] Twenty years ago, Rosa met Jorge, a young tenant in her lodging house at the corner of Shakespeare and Victor Hugo streets in Mexico City. But after Jorge's sudden death, Rosa began to discover a darker side of the man who had become her closest friend. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

RTR BLIND LOVES *Juraj Lehotský*
– **Slepe Lásky**

[REAL TO REEL-SLOVAKIA-Documentary] Finding one's place in this world is not an easy thing for any person, but how much more difficult can it be for someone who is blind? [S] ... SLOVAK (subtitled) 18+ ****½ 7/10

RTR 7915 KM *Nikolaus Geyrhalter*
– **After The Race**

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

[REAL TO REEL-AUSTRIA-Documentary] Following the tracks of the famous Dakar rally, filmmaker Nikolaus Geyrhalter (*Our Daily Bread*) sets off on a journey from Europe to Africa, documenting European ideas of and prejudices toward Africans, and vice versa. [S] ... GERMAN (subtitled) 18+

RTR AMERICAN SWING *Matthew Kaufman*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary] Chronicling the rise and fall of the notorious public sex club Plato's Retreat and its quixotic owner, *American Swing* captures the hedonistic heyday of New York nightlife in the 1970s. As the city hurtled toward bankruptcy and social unrest, its citizens partied on. [S] ... 18+

RTR AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD *Dan Stone*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary / Cast: Paul Watson] Controversial Canadian eco-warrior Paul Watson leads two ships of his Sea Shepherd volunteers on a pirate-like voyage, full of breathless suspense, to stop Japanese whaling vessels in the Antarctica Sea. [S] ... 18+

RTR BIGGEST CHINESE RESTAURANT IN THE WORLD *Weijun Chen*

[REAL TO REEL-CHINA-Documentary] The director of last year's crowd-pleaser *Please Vote For Me* returns with a look at the West Lake Restaurant in Changsha, China – the world's largest restaurant. With a staff of nearly 1000 (including 300 chefs) and 5000 seats, West Lake is a combination theme park and eatery, offering a cross section of the country's changing society. [S] ... MANDARIN (subtitled) 18+

RTR BLOOD TRAIL *Richard Parry*

[REAL TO REEL-UNITED KINGDOM-Documentary / Cast: Robert King] War photographer Robert King let a camera crew follow him for over 15 years. From his first assignment in Bosnia to his breakthrough work in Chechnya, and on to his recent coverage in Iraq, *Blood Trail* is an extraordinary look at this difficult and dangerous profession. [S] ... 18+

RTR CITIZEN JULING – Khru (teacher), Polamuang Juling *Ing K, Kraisak Choonhavan, Manit Sriwanichpoom*

[REAL TO REEL-THAILAND-Documentary / Cast: Juling Panganmoon (Kamphongmoon)] A powerfully humanistic documentary that examines the issue of Islamic insurgency in Southern Thailand within the context of the country's unstable democracy, triggered after a Buddhist teacher, Juling, was kidnapped and found lying in a pool of blood. [S] ... THAI (subtitled) 18+

RTR DUNGEON MASTER *Keven McAlester*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary] This whimsical look at three adults deeply involved with *Dungeons & Dragons* explores how the game affects their lives and relationships, with finely crafted cinematography by Lee Daniel (known for his work with Richard Linklater) and a music score by Blonde Redhead. [S] ... 18+

RTR EXAMINED LIFE *Astra Taylor*

[REAL TO REEL-CANADA-Documentary] An intimate and engaging conversation with some of the greatest minds of our era, *Examined Life* conveys the wonderment and curiosity that drives philosophical thought, taking it out of the ivory towers of academia and into the hustle and bustle of the everyday. [S] ... 18+

RTR FOOD, INC *Robert Kenner*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary / Cast: Eric Schlosser, Michael Pollan] Drawing upon the reportage of Eric Schlosser (*Fast Food Nation*) and Michael Pollan (*The Omnivore's Dilemma*), this searing investigation explores the dramatic changes that big business has imposed on how and what we eat. [S] ... 18+

RTR FROM MOTHER TO DAUGHTER – Di Madre In Figlia *Andrea Zambelli*

[REAL TO REEL-ITALY-Documentary] After the Second World War, many young Italian women earned their living in the rice fields, spending hours every day working under the hot sun. Over 50 years later, having lost none of their spirit, they rekindle their friendships by forming a singing group. [S] ... ITALIAN (subtitled) 18+

RTR HARVARD BEATS YALE 29-29 *Kevin Rafferty*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary / Cast: Tommy Lee Jones] Kevin Rafferty, co-director of *Atomic Café*, examines the tumult of 1968 through the memories of football players (including Tommy Lee Jones) who took part in a legendary game that year between rival Ivy League schools whose student bodies included Al Gore (Harvard) and George Bush (Yale). [S] ... 18+

RTR HEART OF JENIN – Herz Von Jenin *Leon Geller, Marcus Vetter*

[REAL TO REEL-GERMANY-Documentary] In late 2005, 12-year-old Ahmed Khatib was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers inside the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank. Ahmed's father Ismael made an extraordinary decision, despite his grief, to donate his son's organs to several Israeli children who come from diverse family backgrounds of Orthodox Jewish, Druze and Bedouin. A collaboration between directors from Israel and Germany, *The Heart of Jenin* follows Ismael from the time of this son's death through to his journey into Israel, over a year later, to meet the children whose lives he helped save. [S] ... GERMAN (subtitled) 18+

RTR IT MIGHT GET LOUD *David Guggenheim*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary / Cast: Jimmy Page, The Edge, Jack White] The Academy Award™-winning director of *An Inconvenient Truth* celebrates the electric guitar by examining the creative process of three virtuosos – Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin, The Edge of U2 and Jack White of The White Stripes – including their individual development of songs not yet released. [S] ... 18+

RTR KILLING KASZTNER – Persecution And Assassination Of Dr Israel Kasztner *Gaylen Ross*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary / Cast: Israel Kasztner] Dr. Israel Kasztner helped rescue over 1,600 Hungarian Jews during the Second World War, yet he was later branded a traitor by rightwing extremists in Israel and assassinated. Uncovering new revelations about the case, this film explores Kasztner's legacy. [S] ... 18+

RTR MÉMOIRE DES ANGES – Memories Of Angels *Luc Bourdon*

[REAL TO REEL-CANADA-Documentary] A glorious reminder of Quebec and Canada's rich motion picture history, *La Mémoire des anges* reveals the vital role the National Film Board of Canada has played in the development of a national cinematic language. Consisting of more than two hundred excerpts from NFB films, the film knits its visual landscape from some of the greatest films ever made in Canada. [S] ... ENGLISH/FRENCH (subtitled) 18+

RTR MORE THAN A GAME *Kristopher Belman*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary / Cast: LeBron James] First-time filmmaker Kristopher Belman had the foresight to follow the journey of a remarkable high school basketball team in Akron, Ohio, that happened to include future NBA superstar LeBron James. [S] ... 18+

RTR PARIS, NOT FRANCE *Adria Petty*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary / Cast: Paris Hilton] Gaining intimate access to the glamorous and chaotic day-to-day life of one of the world's biggest icons, director Adria Petty explores the businesswoman and the human being behind the public persona that is Paris Hilton. Modelled after the 1960s "it"-girl film *Darling*, and featuring additional interviews with Hilton's family and friends, as well as media experts ranging from Donald Trump to tabloid columnist Richard Johnson, *Paris, Not France* attempts to explore the Paris phenomenon and how it defines this moment in culture. [S] ... 18+

RTR PEACE MISSION *Dorothee Wenner*

[REAL TO REEL-GERMANY, NIGERIA-Documentary / Cast: Peace Anyiam-Fiberesima] The Nigerian home-movie industry has risen to immense popularity throughout Africa. Founder of the African Academy, Peace Anyiam-Fiberesima presents a guided tour through "Nollywood," taking the audience to film locations, markets and celebrity hangouts in Lagos to meet key personalities from the Nigerian film industry. [S] ... GERMAN (subtitled) 18+

RTR REAL SHAOLIN *Alexander Sebastien Lee*

[REAL TO REEL-CHINA, USA-Documentary / Cast: Yuan Peng, Orion, Eric, Zhu] Rich with dazzling displays of Kung Fu, this film follows two Chinese and

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

two western students as they undergo a year of rigorous training in martial arts at the Shaolin temple in Central China. [S] ... ENGLISH/MANDARIN (subtitled) 18+

RTR SEA POINT DAYS *François Verster*

[REAL TO REEL-SOUTH AFRICA-Documentary] Lying on the coast of Cape Town, there is one public space where everyone seems to come together: the Sea Point Promenade and Municipal Pools. Set between city and ocean, this beautiful strip of “everyman’s land” offers a quirky mix of class, race, gender and religion – a place where South Africans of all backgrounds can experience happiness together. But is all as it appears? [S] ... 18+

RTR SOUL POWER *Jeffrey Levy-Hinte*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary / Cast: James Brown, B.B. King, Bill Withers, George Foreman, Muhammad Ali] With performances by James Brown, B.B. King, Bill Withers, The Spinners and more, Soul Power documents the vibrant and powerful concert that accompanied George Foreman and Muhammad Ali’s “Rumble in the Jungle” in Zaire in 1974. [S] ... 18+

RTR SOUNDS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT – Popumentary *Jamie Jay Johnson*

[REAL TO REEL-UNITED KINGDOM-Documentary] Delving behind the scenes of the world’s premiere youth music spectacle, the Junior Eurovision Song Contest, Sounds Like Teen Spirit: A Popumentary follows contestants from four very different parts of the continent, celebrating this next generation of Europeans, and the quirks, aspirations and foibles that make each child and each country different from its neighbour. A comic and moving celebration of the spirit of Eurovision and the power of music to unite people, even in the face of historical and political acrimony, competition and personal heartache. [S] ... 18+

RTR TÉMOIN INDÉSIRABLE – Unwanted Witness *Juan Jose Lozano*

[REAL TO REEL-SWITZERLAND, FRANCE-Documentary] Témoin indésirable depicts Colombia’s social and political situation through the work and life of investigative journalist Hollman Morris. Morris’s commitment to bring to light many of the untold stories of Colombia’s internal armed conflict has made him and his family the target of multiple death threats and intimidation. [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+

RTR UNDER RICH EARTH – Bajo Suelos Ricos *Malcolm Rogge*

[REAL TO REEL-CANADA-Documentary] In a remote mountain valley in Ecuador, coffee and sugarcane farmers are faced with the dismal prospect of being forced off their fertile land to make way for a mining project. Passionate and provocative, Under Rich Earth offers critical insights from struggling farmers whose communities are torn apart by global forces. [S] ... ENGLISH/SPANISH (subtitled) 18+

RTR UNMISTAKEN CHILD – Ha-Gilgul *Nati Baratz*

[REAL TO REEL-ISRAEL-Documentary / Cast: Lama Konchog] Declared the greatest Tibetan master of our time, Lama Konchog passed away in 2001, at the age of 84. In this visually stunning, emotionally gripping documentary, shot over the course of four years, Lama Konchog’s shy and devoted disciple, Tenzin Zopa, must search for his master’s reincarnation – an “unmistakable child” – and successfully remove him from his parents’ care. [S] ... HEBREW (subtitled) 18+

RTR UPSTREAM BATTLE *Ben Kempas*

[REAL TO REEL-GERMANY-Documentary / Cast: Merv George,] An intricate political battle plays out over water in Northern California, pitting Native American activist Merv George of the Hoopa tribe against an international power company that has Warren Buffett as a major shareholder. [S] ... 18+

RTR WITCH HUNT *Dana Nachman, Don Hardy*

[REAL TO REEL-USA-Documentary / Cast: Ed Jagels, Andrew Gindes, Sean Penn] Voters in Bakersfield, California, elected a tough-on-crime District Attorney into office for more than 25 years. During his tenure, dozens of innocent working class moms and dads were sent to prison on charges of sexual abuse. Executive producer Sean Penn presents and narrates this gripping indictment of the American

justice system told through the lens of one small town. [S] ... 18+

RTR YES MADAM, SIR *Megan Doneman*

[REAL TO REEL-AUSTRALIA, INDIA-Documentary / Cast: Karin Bedi, Helen Mirren] Narrated by Helen Mirren, Yes Madam, Sir portrays the life story of India’s first woman police officer. Adored by the masses and vilified by her critics, Karin Bedi has publicly fought high-level corruption and brutal opposition, at great personal and professional cost. [S] ... 18+

Wavelengths *26 films*

Wavelengths is devoted to avant-garde film, showcasing works by artists who use the medium as a means of personal expression to explore cinema’s unique temporal, tactile, and aural qualities. The avant-garde tradition has always been an important and trend-setting area of the history of cinema, often leading the thinking and practice around the aesthetics of the moving image. Their innovative explorations have inspired those who work in more commercial areas of filmmaking, advertising and design.

W WAVELENGTHS 1 – Sarabande / Winter / Genou D’artémide *Nathaniel Dorsky, Jean-Marie Straub*

[WAVELENGTHS-SHORT-USA, ITALY, FRANCE] This year’s Wavelengths begins with a programme of avant-garde masters. One of the most gifted 16mm filmmakers of our time, Nathaniel Dorsky has been delighting audiences for over 40 years with his precise and insightful camerawork. Following his acclaimed Song and Solitude, Dorsky returns to the Festival with Sarabande (USA) and Winter (USA), the first two films in a new triptych titled Three Songs. Following its screening at the Directors Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival, Jean-Marie Straub’s Le Genou d’Artémide (Italy/France) has its International Premiere in Toronto and marks the first work Straub completed after the loss of his codirecting partner Danièle Huillet. A sequel of sorts to 2006’s Quei Loro Incontri, this new work is an adaptation of Cesare Pavese’s The Wild Beast (La Belva), which is the sixth conversation in the collection Dialogues with Leuco (1947). Filled with dappling sun and crafted with Straub’s implacable rigour, Le Genou d’Artémide is a heart-wrenching tale of the insoluble gap between mortals and gods. [S] ... 18+

W WAVELENGTHS 2 – Lost And Found *Hannes Schüpbach, Charlotte Pryce, David Gatten, Astrid Ofner, Abraham Ravett, John Latham*

[WAVELENGTHS-SHORT-SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA, USA, UNITED KINGDOM] Hannes Schüpbach’s L’Atelier (Switzerland) is a 16mm homage to artistic creation; Charlotte Pryce’s The Parable of the Tulip Painter and the Fly (USA) sumptuously uses 16mm Kodachrome to imbue painting and film with intoxicating colour; the latest installment in David Gatten’s internationally celebrated The Secret History of the Dividing Line series, How to Conduct a Love Affair (USA) hints at love’s mystical and abiding powers; Astrid Ofner (Antigone in Straub and Huillet’s Antigone) matches Franz Kafka’s heart-rending letters to his beloved Milena Jesenská with fragile images of Vienna in Sag es mir Dienstag (Austria); Abraham Ravett’s TZIPORAH (USA) is a careful and quiet response to grief and loss. The programme concludes with a recently restored print of Encyclopaedia Britannica (UK) by late British conceptual art pioneer John Latham, whose work has been collected by several major museums. [S] ... 18+

W WAVELENGTHS 3 – Horizontal Boundaries *Pat O’Neill, Rebecca Baron, Doug Goodwin, Chris Gehman, Jim Jennings, Robert Todd, T. Marie, Eriko Sonoda*

[WAVELENGTHS-SHORT-USA, CANADA, JAPAN] Eminent multi-disciplinary artist Pat O’Neill, whose work has been exhibited at The Whitney Museum of American Art (New York) and Le Centre Pompidou (Paris), opens the programme with Horizontal Boundaries (USA); Rebecca Baron and Doug Goodwin’s Lossless #2 (USA) is part of a series exploring the effects of digital compression upon the film image; local filmmaker Chris Gehman’s Refraction Series (Canada) finds moments of beauty and mystery through the use of optics; Public Domain (USA) is Jim Jennings’s response to a controversial New York City

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

bill prohibiting filming in public places; Robert Todd's *Dig* (USA) reconfigures orange and white *Dig Safe* marks into a frenetic visual suite; T. Marie's *Optra Field III-VI* (USA) is a series of dichromatic time-based drawings reminiscent of Sol LeWitt and Agnes Martin. Eriko Sonoda's *Garden/ing* (Japan) confounds a view from a window with an enlarged photograph of that very vista. [S] ... 18+

W WAVELENGTHS 4
– Rr, Railroad

James Benning

[WAVELENGTHS-USA / Cast: Karen Carpenter, Woody Guthrie, Gregory Peck] An abbreviation for "railroad", RR (USA) is the latest (and possibly the last) 16mm work by the great American independent filmmaker James Benning, who was recently the subject of a monograph published by the Austrian Film Museum. A banner work at 2008's Berlinale, RR is a breathtaking film of 43 freight trains traversing the expansive American landscape. The film is shot in 43 static shots, duration is determined by the length and speed of the passing trains. In addition to Benning's synch-sound recording, sound excerpts and songs provide a clever counterpoint to the images, obliquely invoking past events including the Vietnam War. The collaged soundtrack includes Karen Carpenter singing for a Coca-Cola commercial, Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" and Gregory Peck reading from Revelations. [S] ... 18+

W WAVELENGTHS 5
– TripsOlaf Nicolai, Chris Chong
Chan Fui, Norbert
Pffaffenbichler, Ben Russell,
Rosalind Nashashibi, Lucy
Skaer, Erika Loic, Ben
Russell

[WAVELENGTHS-SHORT-GERMANY, MALAYSIA, CANADA, AUSTRIA, USA, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES] German art star Olaf Nicolai makes his film debut with *Rodakis* (Germany), a fictitious biography of Greek craftsman Alekos Rodakis; Chris Chong Chan Fui's *Block B* (Malaysia/Canada) examines the lives of an expatriate Indian community weaving itself through the contradicting soundscapes of contemporary Malaysia; Norbert Pffaffenbichler's rigorous *MOSAÏK MÉCANIQUE* (Austria) systematically lays out the 98 shots of Charlie Chaplin's 1914 short *A Film Johnnie* in parallel loops across a CinemaScope image; Ben Russell's *Black and White Trypps Number Three* (USA) focuses on a young, mesmerized audience during a performance by the noise band *Lightning Bolt*; Rosalind Nashashibi (who represented Scotland at the 2007 Venice Biennale) and Lucy Skaer's *Flash in the Metropolitan* (UK), is a sibylline nighttime excursion through The Met's antiquities galleries; Erika Loic's *Paricutin* (Toronto) chronicles the history of the titular Mexican volcano. Ben Russell, experimental filmmaker and Guggenheim award recipient, concludes the programme with *Trypps #5* (Dubai) (USA/United Arab Emirates), a slice of happiness packaged under the flickering neon light of global capitalism. [S] ... 18+

W WAVELENGTHS 6
– When It Was BlueVanessa O'Neill, Jennifer
Reeves

[WAVELENGTHS-SHORT-USA, ICELAND / Cast: Skúli Sverrisson] This year's edition of Wavelengths wraps up in pairs: two double 16mm overlapping projections united in their study of colour, subject and form. Vanessa O'Neill's silent *Suspension* (USA) is composed of a roll of black-and-white film and a toned roll, resulting in a diaphanous blue creation with seemingly endless hue gradations. Jennifer Reeves's *When It Was Blue* (USA/Iceland) was initially shown at the Museum of Modern Art in 2005. Several residencies and finishing grants enabled Reeves to re-edit the original material and to shoot, optically print and paint additional footage. The result is the completion of a formidable three-and-a-half-year collaboration with composer-musician Skúli Sverrisson, music director to Laurie Anderson. *When It Was Blue* substantially expands Reeves's impressive 16mm visual repertoire in a virtuosic display of luminescent overlapping imagery and it will be presented live, with Reeves projecting the film and Sverrisson performing the soundtrack. [S] ... 18+

Future Projections: Art 8 films

Future Projections is a far-reaching programme of installations, interactive film projects, and other film-related art work presented outside of the traditional cinema space.

FP BUTCHER'S SHOP

Philip Haas

[FUTURE PROJECTIONS: ART-SHORT-USA-Discussion] Filmmaker Philip Haas, a successful interlocutor between film and the visual arts known for both his groundbreaking documentaries and feature films (*Angels and Insects*, 1995), returns to the visual arts with an ambitious new project. Paired projections reveal the social and aesthetic context of Annibale Carracci's late 16th-century painting *The Butcher's Shop* now in the collection of the Kimbell Art Museum. One screen shows the perspective of the artist eyeing the butchers, and the other that of his subjects, who jocularly interact with the painter and the bustling world around him. Haas evokes the chiaroscuro of the period's aesthetics and the formal precision of the painter's work while giving us clues to the social context of Carracci's age. Curated by Noah Cowan and Francisco Alvarez, presented in partnership with Royal Ontario Museum's Institute of Contemporary Culture, The Spirit House, main floor, ROM 100 Queen's Park. September 4 through 13, from Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. [Free] ... 18+

FP CATHEDRAL

Marco Brambilla

[FUTURE PROJECTIONS: ART-SHORT-ITALY, CANADA-Discussion] Italian-born Canadian artist and filmmaker Marco Brambilla (*Demolition Man*, 1993) turns his attention to one of Toronto's landmarks in his newest single-channel video work. *Cathedral* was filmed in the Toronto Eaton Centre during the height of the Christmas season as crowds of consumers circulate in a bright, shiny world of glittering surfaces with all the paraphernalia of the season on display. Brambilla's looping kaleidoscopic landscape, influenced by early studies in time and motion, is at once dizzying and hypnotic. Curated by Mia Nielsen and Piers Handling, presented in partnership with the Drake Hotel. Drake Hotel, 1150 Queen Street West. September 4 through 13, open daily, 24 hours a day. [Free] ... 18+

FP DEATH OF TOM

Glenn Ligon

– Uncle Tom's Cabin, 1903

[FUTURE PROJECTIONS: ART-SHORT-USA-Discussion] International art star Glenn Ligon returns to Toronto in a follow up to his hugely successful *Power Plant* exhibition of 2005. In 1903 Edwin S. Porter directed a 14-minute silent film version of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* adapted from Harriet Beecher Stowe's popular 19th-century novel. In his three channel video installation, *The Death of Tom*, Glenn Ligon focuses on the last scene of the film, depicting the death of Tom, the slave whose tragic story drives the narrative. The installation focuses on the mechanics of the (re)making of the original production, the failure of the project's representation and a narrative that - like the larger historical narratives it refers to - remains unfinished business. Cinematography is contributed by renowned filmmaker Deco Dawson.

Curated by Wayne Baerwaldt, presented in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art MOCCA Project Room at 952 Queen Street West. September 6 through 28, from Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Opening reception on Thursday, September 11 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. [Free] ... 18+

FP I'M FEELING LUCKY

Samuel Chow

[FUTURE PROJECTIONS: ART-SHORT-CANADA-Discussion] Samuel Chow's installation *I'm Feeling Lucky* presents an interconnected web of moving-image narrative paths in a constant flow of internet-derived imagery. Alluding to Google's pervasive search button, Chow's "random path network" mirrors our daily surfing experiences. Multi-layered moving-images interweave and collide into a seamless vibrant visual mash-up as Chow remixes and constructs a network of possibilities composed of found online videos, images and sounds from his own surfing expeditions. Our experience as voyeurs leads us into a random environment where anything can happen. Chow's project highlights the nature of contemporary cinematic experience as heterogeneous, subjective and individually determined. Curated by Kathleen Mullen, presented by Craig Scott Gallery in association with Future Projections. Craig Scott Gallery, 95 Berkeley Street. September 3 through 27 from Wednesday to Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Opening September 3 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. [Free] ... 18+

FP TEENAGER HAMLET

Margaux Williamson

[FUTURE PROJECTIONS: ART-CANADA-Discussion] Painter Margaux Williamson uses Shakespeare's *Hamlet* to explore the conflicts, confusions and contradictions of her downtown Toronto peers in her first feature-length video project. An installation consisting of film stills, screen tests, paintings and a screening create what Williamson calls a "weird parallel universe to mainstream cinema" in the very neighbourhood where *Teenager Hamlet* 2006 was shot. Williamson's project and her simulation of the traditional commercial movie

Pick the best of the fest!

Films by Program

330 films, 345 reviews – Aug 21, 2008

experience pose compelling questions. Curated by Steve Gravestock, presented by Katharine Mulherin Contemporary Art Projects in association with Future Projections. Katharine Mulherin Contemporary Art Projects, 1082 Queen Street West. September 4 through 13, daily from noon to 5 p.m., nightly screenings in the Gallery at 7:30 p.m. from September 5 - 10. Opening September 5 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. (Space is limited; to reserve, mailto:intern@januaryfilms.ca or call 647-723-6477.) [Free] ... 18+

FP UTOPIA SUITE

Clive Holden

– Ken Dryden / You Are Being Remembered

[FUTURE PROJECTIONS: ART-SHORT-CANADA-Discussion] Multidisciplinary artist Clive Holden presents two new installments in his ongoing project that gives the audience a prominent role in defining "utopia". Ken Dryden presents a randomly generated matrix of visuals drawn from archival material to create an "avant garde biography" of an iconic hockey player and politician. We literally never view Ken Dryden the same way twice, and must come to a personal understanding of the identity we wish to create for this public figure. You Are Being Remembered juxtaposes personal Super 8 landscapes with high-definition satellite surveillance images on two simultaneous cinemascope screens creating a micromacro dichotomy and leading us to question when and where Utopia might exist.

Curated by Alex Rogalski, presented by CAMERA/Stephen Bulger Gallery in association with Future Projections. Camera, 1028 Queen Street West. September 5 through 13. September 5 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., September 6 and 7 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., September 8 through 13 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Opening on September 6 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. [Free] ... 18+

FP WHEN THE GODS CAME DOWN TO EARTH

Srinivas Krishna

[FUTURE PROJECTIONS: ART-SHORT-CANADA-Discussion] Hindu mass iconography - those eye-poppingly colourful representations of Shiva, Vishnu, Ganesh and their cohorts - are the subject of Canadian filmmaker Srinivas Krishna's first major public installation When the Gods Came Down to Earth. Krishna's gods come alive on large-scale projection screens dynamically interacting with the Michael Lee-Chin Crystal at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Utilizing actors and computer-generated animation, each god engages in their own characteristic activity, based on the iconic poses captured in the cards, stickers and posters that populate South Asian shops and homes around the world. Krishna's playful, almost campy images are at once a kind of Indian pop art and brazen rethinks of ancient sacred concepts. As in his provocative films (including Masala, 1991 he questions how artists might confront the sanctities of Hindu and South Asian cultural experience and the European "multicultural" response.

Curated by Noah Cowan and Francisco Alvarez, presented by the Royal Ontario Museum's Institute for Contemporary Culture in association with Future Projections, Royal Ontario Museum Bloor Street Plaza, 100 Queen's Park. September 4 through 13, presented nightly throughout the Festival. [Free] ... 18+

Yonge-Dundas Square 6 films

In addition to its signature programming and official selections, the Toronto International Film Festival is pleased to announce a series of free outdoor programming at Yonge-Dundas Square, the new street-level hub of Festival activity.

CELLULOID CLOSET / 1995

Rob Epstein, Jeffrey Friedman

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA/14A-Discussion / Cast: Harvey Fierstein, Whoopi Goldberg, Susie Bright, Lily Tomlin] This comprehensive, award-winning documentary examines the history of gays and lesbians in cinema, and the evolution of sex roles in film. Featuring interviews with Tom Hanks, Shirley MacLaine, Susan Sarandon, Whoopi Goldberg, Tony Curtis, and Gore Vidal among others, The Celluloid Closet is significant and essential viewing. Friday, September 12 at 8:30 p.m. [Free] ... 14A

COMPETITION: INVITATIONAL SLAM DUNK

Kristopher Belman

– LeBron James For "More Than A Game"

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA-Discussion / Cast: LeBron James] In support of Kristopher Belman's More Than a Game, a documentary about the journey of a remarkable high-school basketball team in Akron, Ohio, that included future NBA superstar LeBron James.

Saturday, September 6 at 1 p.m. [Free] ... 18+

CONCERT: GREAT LAKE SWIMMERS

Michael McGowan

– Folk/Rock For "One Week"

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-CANADA-Discussion / Cast: Great Lake Swimmers] Great Lake Swimmers will perform in support of Michael McGowan's latest film One Week.

Thursday, September 11 at 5:30 p.m. [Free] ... 18+

CONCERT: JOE ROSATO JR. – Country/Folk/Blues For "Witch Hunt"

Dana Nachman, Don Hardy

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA-Discussion / Cast: Joe Rosato Jr.] Dana Nachman and Don Hardy's documentary Witch Hunt chronicles the unraveling of a small town's justice system. Voters in Bakersfield, California, elected a tough-on-crime District Attorney into office for more than 25 years. During his tenure, dozens of innocent working class moms and dads were sent to prison on charges of sexual abuse.

Sunday, September 7 at 4 p.m. [Free] ... 18+

CONCERT: KEB' MO' – Blues/R&B For "Who Do You Love"

Jerry Zaks

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA-Discussion / Cast: Keb' Mo'] In support of Jerry Zaks's film Who Do You Love, a documentary about the legendary blues and R&B label Chess Records. This free outdoor concert will feature: Keb' Mo': Keb' Mo's music is a living link to the seminal Delta blues that traveled up the Mississippi River and across the expanse of America, informing all of its musical roots before evolving into a universally celebrated art form. [Free] ... 18+

CONCERT: TERENCE BLANCHARD – Jazz For "Miracle At St. Anna"

Spike Lee

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA-Discussion / Cast: Terence Blanchard] Internationally renowned jazz trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard created the score for Spike Lee's latest feature Miracle at St. Anna and will perform in support of the film. Terence's acclaimed album Flow was produced in 2005 by the artist and four-time Grammy winner Herbie Hancock and showcases Terence's prodigious instrumental and composing skills.

Monday, September 8 at 8:30 p.m. [Free] ... 18+

CONCERT: YOUSOU NDOUR – World Music For "Youssou Ndur: I Bring What I Love"

Chai Vasarhelyi

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA-Discussion / Cast: Youssou Ndur, Le Super Etoile] Straight from Dakar, Senegal, Youssou Ndur and the world famous Le Super Etoile will perform in a rare free public concert event in celebration of the film Youssou Ndur: I Bring What I Love, a music-infused journey that chronicles the power of one man's voice to inspire change. Director Chai Vasarhelyi tells the story of this Grammy award-winning artist who began humbly, with an African youth's desire to share his joy of music and his family's socially conscious storytelling tradition. Ndur has become a messenger for our times, recently being chosen as one of Time magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World.

Saturday September 6 at 8:30 p.m. [Free] ... 18+

DEMONSTRATION: MARTIAL ARTS – In Support Of "The Real Shaolin"

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-CHINA, USA-Discussion / Cast: Yuan Peng, Orion, Eric, Zhu] A martial arts demonstration will be featured in support of Alexander Sebastien Lee's The Real Shaolin. Rich with dazzling displays of kung fu, The Real Shaolin follows two Chinese and two western students as they undergo a year of rigorous training in martial arts at the Shaolin temple in Central China. Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. [Free] ... ENGLISH/MANDARIN (subtitled) 18+

EASY RIDERS, RAGING BULLS / 2003 *Kenneth Bowser*
– How The Sex, Drugs And Rock 'n' Roll Generation Saved Hollywood

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA/14A-Discussion / Cast: Dennis Hopper, Peter Fonda, Robert De Niro] Many consider the late 1960s and 1970s to be a time of great daring and invention in Hollywood cinema. A new generation of directors – Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, Robert Altman, and Roman Polanski, to name a few – reshaped the boundaries of American filmmaking. Narrated by William H. Macy, Kenneth Bowser's documentary uses clips from key films and interviews with essential figures to shed light on this incredibly fertile period of film history.
 Thursday, September 11 at 8:30 p.m. [Free] ... 14A

EDGE CODES.COM / 2004 *Alex Shuper*
– Art Of Motion Picture Editing

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-CANADA/PG-Discussion / Cast: Norman Jewison, Michael Ondaatje, Bruce McDonald, Cameron Bailey, Kay Armatage] This in-depth look at the history of film editing gathers the opinions of a wide range of academics, critics, directors and editors, including Michael Ondaatje, Norman Jewison, George Lucas and Thelma Schoonmaker (best known as the editor of Martin Scorsese's films). EdgeCodes.com The Art of Motion Picture Editing gives an overview of the development of this art form, spanning the earliest years of cinema through to present-day technological advances.
 Tuesday, September 9 at 8:30 p.m. [Free] ... PG

HEARTS OF DARKNESS / 1991 *Fax Bahr, George Hickenlooper*
– Filmmaker's Apocalypse

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA/14A-Discussion / Cast: Francis Ford Coppola, Marlon Brando, Martin Sheen] The award-winning Hearts of Darkness is an engrossing, uncompromising documentary of Francis Ford Coppola's chaotic catastrophe-plagued film Apocalypse Now. Mixing on-location footage shot by Eleanor Coppola, and featuring interviews with the original cast and crew, the film chronicles how production problems delayed the film and nearly destroyed Coppola's career.
 Wednesday, September 10 at 8:30 p.m. [Free] ... 14A

PARTY: CLOSING NIGHT WRAP-UP *Cameron Bailey*
– Incredible Lineup Of Musical Performers

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-CANADA-Discussion / Cast: TBA] Festival, this event will offer an incredible lineup of musical performers at Yonge-Dundas Square.
 Saturday, September 13 at 8pm [Free] ... 18+

PERFORMANCE: CAST OF 'A CHORUS LINE' *James Stern, Adam Del Deo*
– In Support Of "Every Little Step"

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA-Discussion / Cast: Marvin Hamlisch, Donna McKechnie, Ramon Flowers, Michael Bennett, Bob Avian] The cast members of 'A Chorus Line' will perform in support of Every Little Step. Every Little Step is a documentary that explores the journey of the Broadway musical 'A Chorus Line' as an international phenomenon that has reached audiences in over 22 countries of continuous performances from the 70s to 90s and a revival beginning 2006. The film contrasts the original musical with the current revival. It investigates the societies in which they've debuted, and why the themes are so timeless and universal. Finally, it goes behind the scenes with exclusive interviews and footage of the revival's audition process, revealing the dramatic struggles of the performers. Thus the story of life imitating art unfolds.
 Sunday, September 7 at 2 p.m. [Free] ... 18+

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT! / 1974 *Jack Haley Jr.*
– 50 Years Of Mgm

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA/G-Discussion / Cast: Frank Sinatra, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Bing Crosby] The exuberant and critically acclaimed That's Entertainment! spotlights MGM's legacy of musicals from the 1920s through the 1950s, showcasing performances from dozens of the studio's films, including Singin' in the Rain, The Wizard of Oz, Gigi, and The Band Wagon,

and features screen legends Frank Sinatra, Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Bing Crosby among others.
 Sunday, September 7 at 8:30 p.m. [Free] ... G

VISIONS OF LIGHT / 1992 *Todd McCarthy, Arnold Glassman, Stuart Samuels*
– Art Of Cinematography

[YONGE-DUNDAS SQUARE-USA/PG-Discussion / Cast: Sven Nykvist, Vittorio Storaro, Nestor Almendros, László Kovács] Renowned cinematographers such as Vittorio Storaro, Nestor Almendros and László Kovács are featured in this compelling documentary that chronicles the history, the art and the power of cinematography. Visions of Light: The Art of Cinematography showcases classics such as Birth of a Nation, Blade Runner, Citizen Kane and Do The Right Thing and includes sequences from more than 125 movies.
 Thursday, September 4 at 8:30 p.m. [Free] ... PG

Midnight Madness *10 films*

Midnight Madness features films as directors meant for you to see them. This popular, iconoclastic midnight programme highlights the weird and the wonderful including thrillers, chillers and rockumentaries from directors who prefer to work in genres not usually seen in a festival context.

MM JCVD *Mabrouk El Mechri*

[MIDNIGHT MADNESS-FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, BELGIUM / Cast: Jean-Claude Van Damme, François Damiens, Zinedine Soualem, Karim Belkhadra] Jean-Claude Van Damme stars as Jean-Claude Van Damme in the comeback story of one of the biggest action stars in movie history. When a trip to the post office lands the down-and-out Van Damme smack-dab in the middle of a dangerous heist, the "Muscles from Brussels" is exposed as an ordinary guy, complete with fears, contradictions and hopes. What can he do when the gun pointed to his temple isn't filled with blanks? JCVD finds himself at the turning point of his life as a presumed hero. [S] ... FRENCH, ENGLISH (subtitled) 18+ **** 8/10

MM MARTYRS *Pascal Laugier*

[MIDNIGHT MADNESS-FRANCE, CANADA / Cast: Morjana Alaoui, Mylène Jampanoï, Catherine Begin, Robert Toupin] One night in the early 1970s, Lucie, a little girl missing for over a year, is discovered wandering by the side of a country road, unable to say anything about what has happened to her. Hospitalized, Lucie slowly learns how to live again with the help of Anna, a victim of terrible abuse at the hands of her own family. In no time, they are inseparable. Fifteen years later, with the help of Anna, Lucie sets out to wreak vengeance on the family she believes to be responsible for her capture and torture. A visceral and deeply disturbing exploration of what it means to be pushed to the limits of human endurance, Martyrs redefines the nature of horror cinema. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18R **** 8/10

MM ACOLYTES *Jon Hewitt*

[MIDNIGHT MADNESS-AUSTRALIA / Cast: Joel Edgerton, Michael Dorman, Belinda McClory, Sebastian Gregory, Joshua Payne, Hanna Mangan-Lawrence, Holly Baldwin] When they discover the body of a murdered Canadian backpacker buried in the woods, three high school students trace the crime back to a suspected killer. Taking full advantage of their situation, they attempt to blackmail their suspect into killing again. Their target? A brutal bully - recently released from prison - who has victimized them all their lives. But as their scheme lures them into a violent and sadistic world, the vulnerable teens soon discover that rather than destroying their childhood nightmare, they have created one far deadlier. [S] ... 18+ **** 7.3/10

MM BURROWERS *J.T. Petty*

[MIDNIGHT MADNESS-USA/14A / Cast: William Mapother, Karl Geary, Doug Hutchison, Sean Patrick Thomas, Laura Leighton, Clancy Brown] A horrific take on John Ford's The Searchers, director JT Petty (S&MAN, TIFF's Midnight Madness 2006) tells the story of a band of men who, in 1879, set out upon the plains of Dakota to find and recover a family of settlers mysteriously taken from their farm. Expecting the offenders to be a fierce band of natives, the group prepares for a routine battle. But, upon discovering strange holes in the ground, they soon realize that the real enemy is stalking them from below. [S] ... 14A ****½ 7/10

MM NOT QUITE HOLLYWOOD *Mark Hartley*

– Wild, Untold Story Of Ozploitation

[MIDNIGHT MADNESS-USA, AUSTRALIA/14A / Cast: Jamie Lee Curtis, Dennis Hopper, Stacy Keach, Quentin Tarantino, Brian Trenchard-Smith] Free-wheelin' sex romps! Blood-soaked terror tales! Blazing action extravaganzas! The same cultural explosion that gave birth to Australian art classics also spawned a group of demon-children - maverick filmmakers who thumbed their noses at authority, made their own rules and, in the process, unleashed films such as Razorback, The Man from Hong Kong, Patrick and Mad Max. A rip-roaring documentary on Australian genre cinema of the 70s and 80s, Not Quite Hollywood features Jamie Lee Curtis, Dennis Hopper, Stacy Keach, Quentin Tarantino and other celebrities sharing their love and memories of an unjustly forgotten cinematic era. [S] ... 14A ***½ 7/10

fellow students' experiment to discover the killer's identity goes terribly awry, Barbara's victims start coming back to life. Add in some zombies and chainsaws for a bloody spin on the term "fashion victim." [S] ... SPANISH (subtitled) 18+

Copyright © 2008. Free to share under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike license.

Trademarks, service marks, and logos, are the property of their respective owners.

Information is provided under the fair-dealing provisions of the Copyright Act.

Intended for research, criticism, review, news reporting, or private study.

MM CHOCOLATE

Prachya Pinkaew

[MIDNIGHT MADNESS-THAILAND / Cast: Jija Yanin, Hiroshi Abe, Pongpat Wachirabanjong, Ammara Siripong] Starring martial arts dynamo Jija Yanin, Chocolate reunites the director and action choreographer of the breakout Midnight Madness hit, Ong-Bak Muay Thai Warrior (TIFF 2003). Exiled from a powerful Thai crime syndicate following a passionate but forbidden love affair with a Japanese gangster, cancer-stricken Zin struggles to raise her shy, autistic daughter Zen. When she learns of some outstanding debts owed to her mother that, if collected, would pay for much-needed medical treatment, Zen sets out to collect from dangerous and reluctant debtors, soon realizing that years obsessively playing video games and watching action movies have transformed her into a martial arts savant. [S] ... THAI (subtitled) 18+ ***½ 6.3/10

MM EDEN LOG

Franck Vestiel

[MIDNIGHT MADNESS-FRANCE / Cast: Clovis Cornillac, Vimala Pons] Inspired by Manga and video game imagery, Eden Log is a visually stunning sci-fi vision of a tomb-like underworld. A man regains consciousness at the bottom of a deep cave. He has no idea of how he got there, nor can he determine what happened to the dead man whose body he wakes up next to. Only one thing is certain - he must escape the menacing creatures that are pursuing him, and climb back to the surface through a cemetery-like world that has been abandoned by a mysterious organization called Eden Log. [S] ... FRENCH (subtitled) 18+ *** 5.4/10

MM DEADGIRL

Marcel Sarmiento, Gadi Harel

[MIDNIGHT MADNESS-USA / Cast: Shiloh Fernandez, Noah Segan, Michael Bowen, Candice Accola] In this kinky, funny and chilling exploration of friendship, morality and the horror of growing up, two teen boys discover the naked body of a long-forgotten girl in a sealed basement of an abandoned asylum. They quickly realize something far more mysterious is at play when the girl, who they presumed to be dead, begins to exhibit signs of life. When they decide to keep her, their twisted teen fantasy soon erupts into a desperate and dangerous battle of wills between friends. As word of their dark secret threatens to spread, the boys are forced to decide how far they are willing to go to get what they want, and at what cost. [S] ... 18R

MM DETROIT METAL CITY

Toshio Lee

[MIDNIGHT MADNESS-JAPAN / Cast: Kenichi Matsuyama, Rosa Kato, Yasuko Matsuyuki, Gene Simmons] Based on the hugely popular manga series, Detroit Metal City tells the tale of Souichi, a sensitive and wimpy music geek who came to Tokyo from the country with the dream of becoming a fancy pop musician. But bubblegum dreams are crushed to a bloody pulp when Souichi is forced to front the satanic death metal band Detroit Metal City (DMC), whose trademark is eccentric makeup and destructive performance. Winning recognition as one of Japan's top acts, DMC is challenged to a death metal duel by rock icon Jack IL Dark (KISS's Gene Simmons). Souichi must battle for the title of death metal king while keeping Ms. Aikawa, his long-time crush with an affinity for shiny happy pop, unaware of his double identity. [S] ... JAPANESE (subtitled) 18+

MM SEXYKILLER

Miguel Martí

– Morirás Por Ella

[MIDNIGHT MADNESS-SPAIN / Cast: Macarena Gomez, César Camino, Alejo Sauras, Angel de Andrés, Fernando Ramallo] A serial killer is loose at a medical school in Spain, and nobody suspects that the culprit is Barbara, a sexy, fashion-obsessed student whose hunger for blood can't be satiated by what she gets in anatomy class! She's Paris Hilton with the mind of Hannibal Lector. But when her