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FILM FESTIVAL 2009
NOVEMBER 12th - 22nd
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StLouis MAGAZINE
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Filmmaker Awards Tom Huck
Joe Berlinger Tribute Reel Kathy Corley and Brian Woodman (Joe Berlinger)

FESTIVAL TRAILER
Produced by Coolfire Media (www.coolfiremedia.com)
Executive Producer David Johnson
Producer Pete Halliday
Production Tim Latham
Animation/Compositing Kevin Johnson (Sci-fi), Patrick Vaughan (War), Mike Kuhn (Romance), John Dames (Western), Jason Stamp (Exploration), Mike Rohlfing/Tim Latham (Horror)
Sound Design/Mix Brent Johnson

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Join American Airlines in celebrating the release of *Up In The Air*, in theatres this December, and use your AAdvantage® miles to bid on travel, unique experiences, movie-related items, and more. Plus, enter for a chance to win an elite travel package to Los Angeles.

Go to AA.com/upintheair today to start bidding and to enter.
Quick Quiz before the film starts

Who is associated with the quote? Jason Reitman or George Clooney?

- I’m not the guy you kill. I’m the guy you buy.  Jason / George
- You think we need one more?  Jason / George
- Hey there, big puffy version of Junebug.  Jason / George
- You’re either in or your out. Right now.  Jason / George
- Tore up from the floor up?  Jason / George
- Why is it all the beautiful ones are homicidal maniacs?  Jason / George
- Michael Jordan plays ball. Charles Manson kills people. I talk. Everyone has a talent.  Jason / George
- My job requires a certain...moral flexibility.  Jason / George
- You shook Sinatra’s hand. You should know better.  Jason / George
- You know that guy who can pick up any girl? I’m him. On Crack!  Jason / George

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Five Centuries of Japanese Screens is made possible by the collaboration of the Saint Louis Art Museum and The Art Institute of Chicago. Support for Public Programs has been provided by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. Exhibition support has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.
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Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark and the Hilton St. Louis Airport are featured in the upcoming movie “Up in The Air”. George Clooney stars as Ryan Bingham, a career transition counselor and motivational speaker whose job has kept him airborne and travelling the globe for years. Ryan’s hotel of choice at every destination is always Hilton because in his world, Hilton is what he calls home.

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GENERAL INFO/TICKETS

Main Venues

TIVOLI THEATRE, 6350 Delmar Blvd.
PLAZA FRONTEC CINEMA, Plaza Frontenac, Lindbergh Boulevard and Clayton Road
SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM (SLAM), 1 Fine Arts Dr., Forest Park
HI-POINTE THEATRE, 1005 McCausland Ave.
WEBSTER UNIVERSITY, Winifred Moore Auditorium, 470 East Lockwood Ave.
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, Brown Hall Auditorium, Forsyth Boulevard and Chaplin Drive (two blocks west of Skinker Boulevard)

Special-Event Venues

“UP IN THE AIR” COCKTAIL PARTY at 4-6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14: Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark, 1 S. Broadway
THE AMAZING OSCAR MICHEAUX CONCERT at 10 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14: Pageant’s Halo Bar, 6161 Delmar Blvd.
FARUK SABANOVIC PROGRAM at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17: UM-St. Louis, Lucas Hall, Room 200, 1 University Blvd.
EDWARD SEROTTA PROGRAM at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18: Fontbonne University, Library, Lewis Room, 6800 Wydown Blvd.
STEVE SCORFINA/DANNY LISTON CONCERT at 9:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20: Blueberry Hill’s Duck Room, 6504 Delmar Blvd.
“CINEMATIC TITANIC LIVE” at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21: Family Arena, 2002 Arena Parkway, St. Charles
CLOSING-NIGHT PARTY on 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22: Moonrise Hotel, 6177 Delmar Blvd.

Festival Web Site  WWW.CINEMASTLOUIS.ORG

Advance-Ticket Sales

TIVOLI: Advance tickets for programs at this venue are for sale at the Tivoli box office beginning Oct. 15. Box-office hours are 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday and 2-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. No phone sales. For tickets online, visit tickets.landmarktheatres.com.
PLAZA FRONTEC: Advance tickets for programs at this venue are for sale at the Plaza Frontenac box office beginning Oct. 15. Box-office hours are 2-9 p.m. daily. No phone sales. For tickets online, visit tickets.landmarktheatres.com.
SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM: Advance tickets for programs at this venue are for sale at the Art Museum box office beginning Oct. 30. Box-office hours are 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and Saturday-Sunday, with extended hours from 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Friday. No online sales. For tickets by phone, call 314-655-5299.
HI-POINTE, WEBSTER UNIVERSITY AND BLUEBERRY HILL’S DUCK ROOM: Advance tickets for programs at these venues are for sale at the Tivoli box office beginning Oct. 15. Box-office hours are 5-10 p.m. Monday-Friday and 2-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. No phone or online sales.

Online Ticket Sales

For shows at the Tivoli and Plaza Frontenac only, tickets may be purchased in advance at tickets.landmarktheatres.com. There is a $1 per-ticket service charge. At the Tivoli, pick up your tickets at the box-office window. At Plaza Frontenac, either see the box-office attendant or use an automated kiosk at the box-office counter. Bring the credit card that you used to purchase the tickets and the confirmation number. Online sales are limited to full-price tickets only ($6 or $10); Cinema St. Louis member and student discounts can only be obtained in person because ID is required.

Day-of-Show Ticket Sales

Tivoli, Plaza Frontenac, Hi-Pointe and Webster U. box offices will open a half-hour before the first show; SLAM box office will open an hour before the first show. All programs at Washington U. are free and require no ticket.

Ticket Prices

• Individual tickets (except for “Up in the Air” and other special events) are $10 each or $8 for Cinema St. Louis members and students with current and valid ID. • Tickets for the “Up in the Air” cocktail party on Nov. 14 are $50; no discounts are valid for this special event. • Tickets for the “Up in the Air” screening on Nov. 14 are $25; no discounts are valid for this special event. • Tickets for “Cinematic Titanic Live” are $30-$40 and available exclusively through MetroTix; no discounts or passes are valid for this special event.

Other discounts: Saint Louis Art Museum programs are $8 for members of SLAM.

Six Before Six: Weekday screenings before 6 p.m. at Tivoli and Plaza Frontenac on Nov. 13 and from Nov. 16-20 are specially priced at $6. No other discounts are valid for these tickets.

Free Events

The following events are free and open to the public. No ticket is required.

• “For the Love of Movies”/Film Criticism Seminar on Nov. 14 at Tivoli 3 • NFF Coffee With the Filmmakers on Nov. 15 at Tivoli 3 • “Ride With the Devil: Director’s Cut” on Nov. 15 at Brown Hall • Faruk Sabanovic Program on Nov. 17 at UM-St. Louis • CinemaSpoke Reading: Broken Sinclair on Nov. 17 at Webster • Edward Serotta Program on Nov. 18 at Fontbonne • “Princess of Egypt” on Nov. 21 at Brown Hall • “Tahaan” on Nov. 21 at Brown Hall • “Egon & Donci” on Nov. 21 at Brown Hall • “West of Pluto” on Nov. 21 at Brown Hall • “The Hollywood Cartoon” on Nov. 21 at Brown Hall • “Chops” on Nov. 22 at Webster • Closing-Night Party and Award Presentation on Nov. 22 at the Moonrise Hotel

Festival Punch-Passes

Festival Punch-Passes are available for 10 tickets ($90), 20 tickets ($175) and 30 tickets ($250). Festival Punch-Passes are available at the Tivoli and Plaza Frontenac box offices in advance and at all venues on day of show. Festival Punch-Pass-holders are required to obtain a ticket for each film attended, either in advance or day of show; a hole will be punched in pass for each ticket purchased. Festival Punch-Passes can be used to purchase multiple tickets for the same show. Festival Punch-Passes can be used to obtain tickets for all screenings (except “Up in the Air” and other special events with a ticket price greater than $10) and at all venues.

Festival All-Access Pass

Festival All-Access Passes (good for two admissions to every SLIFF program except “Up in the Air,” “Cinematic Titanic Live” and the Steve Scorfin/Danny Liston Concert) are available for $350. Festival All-Access Passes are available by phone only through Cinema St. Louis: 314-289-4153. Festival All-Access-Pass-holders are required to obtain a ticket for each film attended, either in advance or day of show.
Within Our Gates
Friday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m., SLAM
Regular ticket price of $10
The silent “Within Our Gates” is African-American writer-director Oscar Micheaux’s response to D.W. Griffith’s “Birth of a Nation.” The screening will feature live musical accompaniment by Cairo, Ill.’s Stace England and the Salt Kings, who will perform an original score. Micheaux biographer Patrick McGilligan will introduce the program and participate in a post-film discussion.
CO-PRESENTED BY WASHINGTON U.’S CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ETHICS AND HUMAN VALUES

For the Love of Movies: The Story of American Film Criticism
With a panel on film criticism
Saturday, Nov. 14, 11 a.m., Tivoli 3, Free
This documentary by director Gerald Peary, a longtime critic for the Boston Phoenix, offers revealing insight into how film critics think about and see movies. The documentary is followed by a panel on film criticism with Harper Barnes, Kent Jones, Patrick McGilligan, Peary and Joe Williams. Free coffee and pastries are provided by Kaldi’s Coffeehouse.
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Double Bill: The Gigantic World of Epics/Once Upon a Time in the West
Saturday, Nov. 14, 1 p.m., Webster
Regular ticket price of $10
SLIFF offers a sneak preview of an upcoming Turner Classic Movies documentary on epic filmmaking, which surveys grandly scaled cinema from D.W. Griffith to the present. As illustrative example, the program then screens a recently restored 35mm print of Sergio Leone’s epic masterpiece, “Once Upon a Time in the West.”

Up in the Air Cocktail Party
Saturday, Nov. 14, 4-6 p.m., Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark
Special-event ticket price of $50; limited number of tickets available only by phone through the SLIFF office at 314-289-4153
Before the local premiere of the St. Louis-shot “Up in the Air,” SLIFF hosts a cocktail party at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark, which was featured in the film and housed the out-of-town crew. The party includes complimentary appetizers, Stella Artois, and wine from Ste. Genevieve’s Chaumette Winery and Vineyards.
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Up in the Air
With Jason Reitman, recipient of SLIFF’s Contemporary Cinema Award, and Michael Beugg, recipient of SLIFF’s Cinema St. Louis Award
Saturday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., Tivoli 1
Special-event ticket price of $25 (Sold Out)
Jason Reitman, the Oscar®-nominated director of “Juno” and “Thank You for Smoking,” continues his ascent with the St. Louis-shot dramatic comedy “Up in the Air,” which stars George Clooney. Both writer-director Reitman and executive producer Michael Beugg, a native St. Louisan, will be honored at the screening. Following the screening, St. Louis Post-Dispatch critic Joe Williams will conduct a Q&A with Reitman.
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The Amazing Oscar Micheaux Concert
Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 p.m., Pageant’s Halo Bar
Suggested donation of $5
Cairo, Ill.’s Stace England and the Salt Kings recently released “The Amazing Oscar Micheaux,” a CD of songs inspired by the pioneering African-American filmmaker’s life and work. England and the band perform the CD live, with a multimedia show featuring photographs and excerpts from Micheaux’s films.

www.cinemastlouis.org
NFF Coffee With the Filmmakers
Sunday, Nov. 15, 11 a.m., Tivoli 3
Free
The New Filmmakers Forum concludes with a conversation among the participating directors. Free coffee and pastries are provided by Kaldi’s Coffeehouse. The event ends with the presentation of the Emerging Director Award by the NFF jury.
SPONSORED BY KALDI’S COFFEEHOUSE

Crude
With Joe Berlinger, recipient of SLIFF’s Maysles Brothers Lifetime Achievement Award in Documentary
Sunday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m., Tivoli 1
Regular ticket price of $10
SLIFF honors renowned filmmaker Berlinger for his extraordinary work in documentary film and presents his new film, “Crude,” an epic cinema vérité documentary that chronicles one of the planet’s largest and most controversial environmental lawsuits. After the screening, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival director Mike Steinberg conducts an interview with Berlinger.
SPONSORED BY JOHN & DIANE KALISHMAN

Ride With the Devil: Director’s Cut
With a panel on book-to-film translation
Sunday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m., Washington University’s Brown Hall
Free
Based on Missourian Daniel Woodrell’s novel, the Civil War-set “Ride With the Devil” was shot entirely in Missouri and Kansas. Oscar®-winning director Ang Lee has now revisited the film, restoring vital material. Following the film, novelist Woodrell will discuss his work and the process of book-to-film translation with fellow author Mark Tiedemann.
CO-PRESENTED BY THE MISSOURI CENTER FOR THE BOOK AND WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY’S FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES PROGRAM

Bosnian Cinema Program
Nov. 17-18
SLIFF spotlights Bosnian film in this collaborative program, which includes a free program with filmmaker Faruk Sabanovic on Nov. 17 at UM-St. Louis; screenings of “Grabavica” (Nov. 17) and “Snow” (Nov. 17-18) at the Tivoli; and a free screening of a pair of Sarajevo documentaries by Edward Serrota on Nov. 18 at Fontbonne. The sidebar was curated by Dr. Rita M. Csapó-Sweet, associate professor of media studies and a fellow at the Center for International Studies, University of Missouri-St. Louis.
SPONSORED BY ARTS LINK FOUNDATION; BIH TRAVEL; FONTBONNE UNIVERSITY; HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND LEARNING CENTER; MISSOURI IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE ADVOCATES; PARAQUAD; AND UM-ST. LOUIS’ CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF THEATER, DANCE AND MEDIA STUDIES, OFFICE OF DISABILITY ACCESS SERVICES, AND OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY & DIVERSITY

Faruk Sabanovic Program
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 3:30 p.m., UM-St. Louis’ Lucas Hall, Room 200
Free
Award-winning director Faruk Sabanovic will show clips from and discuss his films. He will share his experiences living in Sarajevo during the siege, his humanitarian efforts on behalf of the disabled community as a result of his war injury, and his remarkable body of work in feature films, music videos and animation.

CinemaSpoke Reading: Broken Sinclair
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m., Webster
Free
SLIFF presents a reading of Beth Ashby’s “Broken Sinclair,” the 2009 winner of CinemaSpoke, Cinema St. Louis’ annual screenplay competition. The screenplay chronicles the seriocomic travails of Broken Sinclair, who finds himself at something of a disadvantage when it comes to being normal – he was born empty. While his parents attempt to sell him to a collector of oddities, an unwanted middle-school crush gives him a reason to fight for his life and discover secrets to being human.

Edward Serotta Program
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m., Fontbonne University Library’s Lewis Room
Free
“Nightline” producer-director Edward Serotta will show his documentaries “The Search for the Sarajevo Hagaddah” and “Surviving in Sarajevo.” Serotta is author of “Survival in Sarajevo: How a Jewish Community Came to the Aid of Its City” and director of the Centropa Center in Vienna, which is dedicated to exploring and documenting Jewish life in Eastern and Central Europe.

Old Dog, New Trick/The Pride of St. Louis
Friday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., Tivoli 1
Regular ticket price of $10
A pair of new rock documentaries tracks key players who ascended from the vibrant St. Louis scene of the 1970s to the national stage. “Old Dog, New Trick” features Steve Scorfina, a founding member of Pavlov’s Dog and REO Speedwagon, and “The Pride of St. Louis” focuses on Mama’s Pride, led by brothers Pat and Danny Liston. A concert by Scorfina and Danny Liston follows at Blueberry Hill’s Duck Room. The concert requires separate admission; a discounted twofer ticket that includes screening and concert is available at the Tivoli box office.
SPONSORED BY STAR CLIPPER

Crude
With Joe Berlinger, recipient of SLIFF’s Maysles Brothers Lifetime Achievement Award in Documentary
Sunday, Nov. 15, 6:30 p.m., Tivoli 1
Regular ticket price of $10
SLIFF honors renowned filmmaker Berlinger for his extraordinary work in documentary film and presents his new film, “Crude,” an epic cinema vérité documentary that chronicles one of the planet’s largest and most controversial environmental lawsuits. After the screening, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival director Mike Steinberg conducts an interview with Berlinger.
SPONSORED BY JOHN & DIANE KALISHMAN
Saving Grace B. Jones
With Connie Stevens
Friday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m., Saint Louis Art Museum
Regular ticket price of $10
Legendary actress and singer Connie Stevens (still beloved as Cricket from “Hawaiian Eye”) makes her belated but assured debut as a writer-director with the Missouri-shot drama “Saving Grace B. Jones.” The film’s deep cast includes Oscar® winner Tatum O’Neal, Scott Wilson (“In Cold Blood”), Michael Biehn (“The Terminator”), Penelope Ann Miller and three-time Oscar® nominee Piper Laurie. Ms. Stevens and a half-dozen cast members will attend the screening.

Mystery Science Theater 3000/Cinematic Titanic Panel
Friday, Nov. 20, 9:30 p.m., Tivoli 1
Regular ticket price of $10
Joel Hodgson, creator and host of “Mystery Science Theater 3000,” and the original cast of the cult-classic TV show – Trace Beaulieu (“Crow”), J. Elvis Weinstein (“Tom Servo”), Mary Jo Pehl (“Pearl Forrester”) and Frank Conniff (“TV’s Frank”) – discuss the development of “MST3K,” the art of “movie riffing” and their new movie-riffing project, “Cinematic Titanic Live.” Moderated by Dave (“Gruber”) Allen, the program will include video clips, an audience Q&A and a signing by the cast immediately following.

Steve Scorfina/Danny Liston Concert
Friday, Nov. 20, doors at 8 p.m. with show at 9:30 p.m., Blueberry Hill’s Duck Room
$10 for concert alone, $18 for concert and screening of “Old Dog, New Trick” and “The Pride of St. Louis”; tickets available only through Tivoli box office; SLIFF passes not valid for concert
After the screening of the St. Louis rock docs “Old Dog, New Trick” and “The Pride of St. Louis,” two of the films’ subjects, Pavlov’s Dog’s Steve Scorfina and Mama’s Pride’s Danny Liston, perform in an acoustic setting at the Duck Room.

Cinematic Titanic Live
Saturday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m., Family Arena, St. Charles
Ticket price of $30-$40; tickets available through MetroTix (www.metrotix.com, 314-534-1111, 800-293-5949)
Joel Hodgson and crew – Trace Beaulieu, J. Elvis Weinstein, Mary Jo Pehl, and Frank Conniff – present “Cinematic Titanic Live,” the theatrical version of movie riffing, the comedic art form they created more than 20 years ago with “Mystery Science Theater 3000.”

Presented by the Family Arena

Children’s Film Symposium
Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Washington University’s Brown Hall Free
Washington U.’s Center for the Humanities and Cinema St. Louis annually present this symposium, which explores issues related to children’s films through screenings, lectures and discussions. The free public program includes screenings of four films: the animated features “Princess of the Sun” and “Egon & Donci,” the Indian feature “Tahaan” and the French-Canadian teen drama “West of Pluto.” The day concludes with animation historian Michael Barrier’s program on the Hollywood cartoon.

Co-presented by Washington University’s Center for the Humanities

Triple Bill: The Brothers Warner/Robin Hood (silent)/The Adventures of Robin Hood
Saturday, Nov. 21, 6 p.m., Webster
Regular ticket price of $10
This special triple bill kicks off with “The Brothers Warner,” an intimate portrait of the four film pioneers who founded Warner Bros. The documentary is paired with a Warner Bros. classic: “The Adventures of Robin Hood,” the vibrant restoration of the 1938 epic. As an added bonus, the program also includes the first American version of “Robin Hood,” a recently restored 1912 silent short with live musical accompaniment.

The Hollywood Cartoon
Saturday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m., Washington University’s Brown Hall Free

Co-presented by Washington University’s Center for the Humanities

Closing-Night Party
Sunday, Nov. 22, 8 p.m., Moonrise Hotel Free (with complimentary Stella Artois)
The festival concludes with a party at SLIFF’s Host Hotel, the Moonrise. DJ Rob Levy provides music, and SLIFF announces the audience-choice and juried-competition awards.

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SLIFF groups its films into thematically organized programming streams called sidebars:

**AFI PROJECT: 20/20**
AFI PROJECT: 20/20 is an American Film Institute (AFI) international initiative designed to enhance cultural exchange, understanding and collaboration through filmmakers and their films from the U.S. and abroad. It is an unprecedented cultural diplomacy effort that is supported by the U.S.’s cultural agencies – National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Through workshops, seminars and appearances at film festivals, cultural centers, museums and educational venues, AFI PROJECT: 20/20 filmmakers will promote mutual understanding while nurturing filmmaking excellence. 2009 AFI PROJECT: 20/20 introduces a multicultural roster of films signifying a universal perspective that challenges us to examine, reflect and celebrate diversity.

- Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo, First of All, Felicia, Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench, Icons Among Us, > London River, Room and a Half

**Anheuser-Busch InBev African/African-American Sidebar**
SPONSORED BY ANHEUSER-BUSCH INBEV
Films from Africa and movies that relate to the black experience in the U.S. and the world.

Animation Sidebar
A survey of contemporary and classic animation.

Egon & Donci, The Hollywood Cartoon (with Michael Barrier), Mia and the Migoo, Princess of the Sun, Shorts Program 2, Shorts Program 7

Archival Presentations
A sampling of classic cinematic works.

The Adventures of Robin Hood, Once Upon a Time in the West, Ride With the Devil: Director’s Cut, Robin Hood (restored silent short), Within Our Gates

Argentinian Sidebar
Works from the cinematic hotspot of Argentina.

The Headless Woman, Liverpool, Possible Lives, XXY

Art and Music Sidebar
SPONSORED BY KEN AND NANCY KRANZBERG
Movies exploring the world of art or featuring music.


Asian Sidebar
Works from the continent of Asia.

24 City, Adela, Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo,> The Drummer, Operation Babylift, The Photograph, Tahaan, Those Three

Bosnian Sidebar
CO-CURATED BY RITA CSAPO-SWEET
An overview of contemporary Bosnian cinema.

Edward Serotta Program, Faruk Sabanovic Program, Grbavica, Snow, Storm

British Isles Sidebar
A sterling selection of films from Ireland and England.

The Eclipse, An Education, Helen, The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus, London River, The Young Victoria

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Cinema for Students
SPONSORED BY THE ST. LOUIS RAMS
Free daytime screenings for children and teens from participating St. Louis-area schools. For more info, visit www.cinemastlouis.org.

Against the Tide, The Choir, Convention, In 500 Words or Less, Mia and the Migoo, The Only Good Indian, The Prep School Negro, Pressure Cooker, Sam Steele and the Junior Detective Agency, Tahaan, Tapped, Teo’s Journey, Tom Sawyer, The Wonder of It All

Eastern European Sidebar
A selection of feature films from Eastern Europe.

First of All, Felicia, Grbavica, Hooked, I Am From Titov Veles, The Power of the Powerless, René, Snow, Song From the Southern Seas

Environmental Sidebar
Films that explore issues concerning nature, conservation and the environment.

Crude, Mia and the Migoo, Tapped

Ethnic-Profiles Sidebar
SPONSORED BY THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ETHICS AND HUMAN VALUES AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Films that speak to ethnic-profiling issues in the U.S.

9500 Liberty, Amreeka, The Only Good Indian, Within Our Gates

Family Sidebar
Programs for children of all ages.

Egon & Donci, Family Shorts Program, The Hollywood Cartoon, Mia and the Migoo, Princess of the Sun,> Sam Steele and the Junior Detective Agency, Tahaan, Teo’s Journey
**Film Noir/Crime Thriller Sidebar**
A diverse array of American and international thrillers and *noirs*.


**French Sidebar**
SPONSORED BY CULTURAL SERVICES OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY, CHICAGO
A selection of films from France.

35 Shots of Rum, The Beaches of Agnes, Dernier Maquis, Mia and the Migoo, One Day You’ll Understand, Princess of the Sun

**German Sidebar**
SPONSORED BY ST. LOUIS-STUTTGART SISTER CITIES
A selection of films from Germany.

Cloud 9, Jerichow, North Face, Storm, > Yella

**Global Lens 2008**
An annual series that presents the best of developing world cinema on screens throughout the United States, with a particular focus on films in languages other than English. Global Lens is a project of the Global Film Initiative, which promotes cross-cultural understanding through the medium of cinema.

I Am From Titov Veles, Margarette’s Feast, Mutum, My Time Will Come, The Photograph, Possible Lives, Sleepwalking Land, Song From the Southern Seas, Those Three, What a Wonderful World

**Horror Sidebar**
A trio of horror films screened on Friday the 13th.

Albino Farm, Blackspot, Edgar Allan Poe’s Ligeia

**Interfaith Sidebar**
A juried competition spotlighting 10 films – five fiction features and five documentaries – distinguished by their artistic merit, contribution to the understanding of the human condition, and recognition of ethical, social and spiritual values.

The Interfaith committee also recommends: Against the Tide, Soldiers of Peace
Narrative Features: The Drummer, For My Father, Laila’s Birthday, North Face, XXY. The Interfaith committee also recommends: One Day You’ll Understand, Snow, Storm, Terribly Happy

**International Film Sidebar**
Narrative and documentary films from across the globe. Audience voting determines the winner of Best International Feature Film.

Argentina: The Headless Woman, Liverpool, Possible Lives, XXY
Australia: Soldiers of Peace
Bosnia & Herzegovina: Grbavica, Snow
Brazil: Margarette’s Feast, Mutum
Canada: 2:22, West of Pluto
China: 24 City, The Drummer, From Somewhere to Nowhere
Czech Republic: The Power of the Powerless, René
Denmark: Terribly Happy
Ecuador: My Time Will Come
France: 35 Shots of Rum, The Beaches of Agnes, Dernier Maquis, One Day You’ll Understand, Princess of the Sun
Germany: Cloud 9, Jerichow, North Face, Storm, Yella
Hungary: Egon & Donci
India: Tahaan: A Boy With a Grenade
Indonesia: The Photograph
Iran: Those Three
Ireland: The Eclipse
Israel: Cohen on the Bridge (Documentary Shorts: Individuals), For My Father
Jamaica: RiseUp
Japan: Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo
Kazakhstan: Song From the Southern Seas
Macedonia: I Am From Titov Veles
Mexico: Lake Tahoe, Teo’s Journey
Morocco: What a Wonderful World
Mozambique: Sleepwalking Land
Netherlands: Dunya & Desie
New Zealand: Blackspot
Palestine: Laila’s Birthday
Philippines: Adela
Romania: First of All, Felicia, Hooked
Rwanda: Munyurangabo
Senegal: Youssou N’Dour: I Bring What I Love
South Africa: The Choir, Rough Aunties

www.cinematlouis.org
Sweden: Ciao Bella
Switzerland: Marcello Marcello
Taiwan: Formosa Betrayed
Turkey: Three Monkeys
United Kingdom: An Education, Helen, The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus, London River, The Young Victoria
Uruguay: Gigante
Vietnam: Operation Babylift

Jewish Sidebar
A selection of films about the Jewish experience.
Against the Tide, Cohen on the Bridge (Documentary Shorts: Individuals), For My Father, One Day You’ll Understand

Leon and Mary Strauss Documentary Sidebar
SPONSORED BY MARY STRAUSS
CO-CURATED BY BRIAN WOODMAN
The best in contemporary nonfiction filmmaking. Audience voting determines the winner of the Leon Award for Best Documentary.

Metromix American Independent Sidebar
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The best of current American indies.

New Filmmakers Forum
CO-CURATED BY BOBBIE LAUTENSCHLAGER
Juried competition of works by first-time feature filmmakers.
How I Got Lost, Made in China, Spooner, St. Nick, Under Still Waters

QFest LGBTQ Sidebar
Films dealing with LGBTQ issues.
Edie & Thea, Pop Star on Ice, Prodigal Sons, XXY

Shorts Sidebar
A juried competition – awarding prizes in seven categories – featuring more than 130 works, including shorts before features and dedicated shorts programs. SLIFF’s shorts programming is officially sanctioned by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Documentary Shorts: Communities, Documentary Shorts: Individuals, Documentary Shorts: Sports, Family Shorts, The Hollywood Cartoon, St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase Programs 1 and 2, Shorts Before Features, Shorts Programs 1-7

Show-Me Cinema Sidebar
Films with strong Missouri connections, most of which were shot primarily in St. Louis or the state.
Albino Farm, Almost a Legend (in Documentary Shorts: Individuals), Branson, Cat City, Convention, Edgar Allan Poe’s Ligeia, Game of the Year, How I Got Lost, Just Shy of Being, Old Dog, New Trick (with The Pride of St. Louis), Ride With the Devil: Director’s Cut, The Rink, Saving Grace B. Jones, Up in the Air, Under Still Waters

Spanish-Language Sidebar
Films from Spanish-speaking countries.
Gigante, The Headless Woman, Lake Tahoe, Liverpool, My Time Will Come, Possible Lives, Teo’s Journey, XXY

True/False Sidebar
Documentaries chosen in conjunction with the True/False Film Festival in Columbia, Mo.
Burma VJ, Convention, Crude, Forbidden Lie$, Forgetting Dad, October Country, Pressure Cooker, Prodigal Sons, RiseUp, Rough Aunties, The Way We Get By, We Live in Public

Women in Film Sidebar
Films that were made by women or that address women’s issues.

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MAJOR FILMMAKER AWARDS

Contemporary Cinema Award
Jason Reitman: SLIFF recognizes the rapid ascension of writer-director Jason Reitman with its Contemporary Cinema Award, which pays tribute to filmmakers in mid-career who are doing innovative, independent-minded work. The son of famed filmmaker Ivan Reitman (“Ghostbusters,” “Dave”) — a young Jason cameos in several of his father’s films from the late ‘80s and early ‘90s — Reitman more formally entered the family business in 1998 with the comic short “Operation,” with two of his later shorts — “In God We Trust” (2000) and “Consent” (2004) — taking top prizes at the prestigious Aspen Shortsfest. Reitman’s Hollywood career lifted off officially with his feature debut as writer-director — the satiric black comedy “Thank You for Smoking” (2005), which was nominated for a Golden Globe — and rocketed high, debuting at the Telluride and Toronto film fests, with critics confidently touting the film’s Academy Award prospects. SLIFF is delighted to premiere “Up in the Air,” which was nominated for a Golden Globe — and then rocketed into the stratosphere with the Oscar®-nominated “Juno” (2007). Reitman’s follow-up, the largely St. Louis-shot “Up in the Air,” is already flying high, debuting on BET. SLIFF screens Berlinger’s extraordinary new solo work, “Crude,” starring Williams. Previous Contemporary Cinema Award winners include Terry Zwigoff and Alex Gibney.

Maysles Brothers Lifetime Achievement Award in Documentary

Charles Guggenheim Cinema St. Louis Award
Michael Beugg: SLIFF presents its annual Cinema St. Louis Award, which honors St. Louisans making significant contributions to the art of film, to producer Michael Beugg. Beugg was born in University City, left with his family at age 4, but then returned to the St. Louis area a decade later, just in time to attend St. Louis University High. Before entering the movie business, Beugg first earned a degree from Yale (as a biophysics major), studied acting with Ted Liss in Chicago for two years, graduated from Stanford with an M.B.A. in public policy, and worked in the White House’s Office of Management and Budget. Beugg headed for Hollywood in 1993 and joined boyhood friend George Hickenlooper to produce the short “Some Folks Call It a Sling Blade” (the basis for the “Sling Blade” feature). Beugg went on to produce a trio of Hickenlooper features – “The Low Life,” “Dogtown” and the St. Louis-shot “The Big Brass Ring” – but has also established sterling credentials as a producer and line producer for other filmmakers. Among his 30 additional feature credits are such stellar films as Jason Reitman’s Golden Globe-nominated “Thank You for Smoking,” the Oscar®-nominated “Little Miss Sunshine” and “He’s Just Not That Into You” (directed by St. Louis-area native Ken Kwapis). SLIFF will present the Cinema St. Louis Award to Beugg at the screening of his latest project as executive producer, “Up in the Air,” his second film with director Reitman. Previous Charles Guggenheim Cinema St. Louis Award winners include Bob Gale, George Hickenlooper, Ken Kwapis, James Gunn, Cedric the Entertainer and Pixar’s Jeremy Lasky.

Women in Film Award
Ry Russo-Young: SLIFF spotlights filmmaker-on-the-rise Ry Russo-Young with its Women in Film Award. This is Russo-Young’s second visit to SLIFF: In 2007, with “Orphans,” she was one of five first-time feature directors competing in the fest’s annual New Filmmakers Forum (NFF). Before making her feature debut, Russo-Young directed a pair of shorts: the award-winning “Marion” (2005), a triptych in which a trio of actresses plays Marion in three scenes from Hitchcock’s “Psycho,” and “Nude Descending Stairs” (2007), an experiment in form, perception and motion inspired by Edwuard Muybridge. “Nude” featured Greta Gerwig, with whom Russo-Young co-starred in Joe Swanberg’s “Hannah Takes the Stairs.” Associated with the “mumblecore” school of filmmaking, Russo-Young was responsible for wardrobe on Swanberg’s latest, “Alexander the Last,” and several key actors and filmmakers from the movement appear in her new film, “You Won’t Miss Me.” SLIFF played a small behind-the-scenes role in “You Won’t Miss Me” by introducing Russo-Young to fellow NFF participant Gil Kofman (“The Memory Thief”), who co-edited and appears in the film. SLIFF presents Russo-Young with the Women in Film Award at the screening of “You...
The award jury is Erika Anderson, attorney at law and leader of Midrash St. Louis; Michael Leary, co-founder of Filmwell.org and adjunct professor of religious studies at Fontbonne University and Missouri Baptist University; James McAnally, director of the Luminary Center for the Arts; Bob Oesch, attorney at law, leader of Midrash St. Louis and host of film and cultural events; and Aditya Siram, SLIFF aficionado and pop-culture gadfly.

**NFF EMERGING DIRECTOR AWARD**

The New Filmmakers Forum (NFF) annually presents the Emerging Director Award. Five works by first-time feature filmmakers compete for the prize, which includes a $500 cash award.

The co-curator of NFF is Bobbie Lautenschlager. This year’s NFF jury is Kent Jones (chair), author of “Physical Evidence: Selected Film Criticism,” film critic for Film Comment and Cinema Scope, and executive director of the World Cinema Foundation; Bill Appleton, assistant director for public programs and education at the Saint Louis Art Museum; Harper Barnes, author of “Never Been a Time: The 1917 Race Riot That Sparked the Civil Rights Movement” and freelance film critic for the St. Louis Beacon; Scott Phillips, author of “The Ice Harvest” and “Cottonwood”; and Calvin Wilson, film and jazz critic for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

**SHORTS AWARDS**

Two juries choose the winners of seven awards from among the short subjects in competition:

- **Best of Fest**
- **Best Animated Short**
- **Best Live Action Short**
- **Best Short Short (less than 5 minutes)**
- **Best Local Short**
- **Best International Short**
- **Best Documentary Short**

The SLIFF shorts competition is officially sanctioned by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, making the winners in the Best of Fest, Best Animated and Best Live Action categories eligible to submit for Oscar consideration.

The narrative-shorts jury is Scilla Andreen, CEO and co-founder of IndieFlix; Adam Hackbarth, co-writer and producer of the upcoming “Full-Time Ninjas” and founder of STLFIILMWIRE.com; Brent Hoff, editor of the “Wholphin” DVD journal and former writer for “The Daily Show”; Tina Santamauro, acquisitions manager for AtomFilms; and RD Zurick, filmmaker and retired film teacher. The documentary-shorts jury is Diane Carson, retired professor of film at St. Louis Community College at Meramec; Kathy Corley, professor of film and video at Webster University; and James Harrison, coordinator of the Webster University Film Series.

**ST. LOUIS FILM CRITICS UNDER-THE-RADAR AWARD**

A jury from the St. Louis Film Critics selects the annual Under-the-Radar Award winner, honoring an acclaimed international film that deserves more audience attention. SLIFF chose the five films for jury evaluation on the basis of critical recognition and major festival awards. The films selected were “35 Shots of Rum,” “The Headless Woman,” “Jerichow,” “Munyurangabo” and “Snow.”
The Whitaker Foundation enriches lives through the arts. By investing in creative experiences of St. Louisans, we help toward the discovery of ourselves, each other and our community. By supporting excellence in the arts, we promote art forms and institutions that challenge, entertain and contribute to our overall quality of life.
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A special thank you to all of Cinema St. Louis’ dedicated venue captains and volunteers.
2:22
PHILLIP GUZMAN, CANADA, 2008, 104 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 1

The plan was simple, the job was not. When a tight crew of four thieves decides to take down a boutique hotel in the dead of winter, things go horribly wrong. Unsuspecting hotel guests and difficult choices collide, sending the scheme careening off track. Loyalty, love, friendship and honor are brought to a boil in this graphic crime thriller starring Mick Rossi (who co-wrote the screenplay), Robert Miano, Val Kilmer and Gabriel Byrne. Rooted in reality, “2:22” draws its style from the classic French film “Rififi” and the storytelling of “Dog Day Afternoon.” Describing “2:22” as “highly charged,” the Hollywood Reporter says that “filmmaker Phillip Guzman’s noir styling detonates.” The film won the Best Feature Film award at the Malibu International Film Festival. Guzman’s follow-up thriller, “Desdemona: A Love Story,” also screens at SLIFF.

24 City
(Er shi si cheng ji)
JIA ZHANGKE, CHINA, 2008, 112 MIN., MANDARIN & SHANGHAIENSE
MONDAY, NOV. 16, 7 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 9:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 6

A masterful new film from Jia Zhangke, director of “Still Life,” “24 City” chronicles the dramatic and thunderous fall of a state-owned munitions factory and its conversion into a luxury high-rise apartment complex. Artfully composed, rich in offbeat details and punctuated with pop songs, “24 City” weaves together the stories of three generations of factory workers (some real, some performed by actors) into a fascinating history of post-revolutionary China and the massive changes transforming the country. The Village Voice’s J. Hoberman writes: “Jia Zhangke is one of the world’s preeminent filmmakers, an essentially contemplative director whose considerable talent is further amplified by the significance of his material – namely, everyday life in the most dynamic economy on earth.”

Sponsored by East Asian Studies at Washington University

35 Shots of Rum
(35 rhums)
CLAIRE DENIS, FRANCE/ALGERIA, 2008, 100 MIN., FRENCH & GERMAN
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 7 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 9:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

Unequivocally regarded as one of the greatest artists of post-New Wave French cinema, Claire Denis (“Beau travail”) crafts a beautiful homage to Yasujiro Ozu’s “Late Spring” in “35 Shots of Rum.” A devoted father (Alex Descas) finds difficulty reconciling his love for his daughter (Mati Diop) with her growing need for independence. Enlisting many of her reliable staples, including famed cinematographer Agnès Godard, British chamber pop group Tindersticks to conduct the score and stock actors Decas and Grégoire Colin, Denis carves a mystifying and intimate portrait of the bonds of human relations. Reverse Shot dedicated their 25th issue to a symposium of the director’s two-decade career, remarking: “To be entranced with the cinema of Claire Denis is to be entranced with cinema itself.”

Sponsored in part by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Chicago

Adela
ADOLFO ALIX JR., PHILIPPINES, 2008, 88 MIN., TAGALOG
MONDAY, NOV. 16, 5 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 1 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

Adela, a former radio personality, celebrates her 80th birthday alone in the slums of Manila. She gave up her showbiz career long ago to devote herself to her late husband and to raise children now too busy with their own lives to share this special day with her. Alone and without much support, she longs for the family and stability of years gone by. Mundane, everyday events take on a heightened meaning in this poignant and bittersweet tale, as Adela quietly measures her life against those of others around her. Title character Adela is played by Anita Linda, veteran of countless Filipino features since the early 1940s. Variety’s Dennis Harvey writes of “Adela”: “Artfully observed, it’s content to let (Anita) Linda be the sole, compelling focal point.”
The Adventures of Robin Hood
MICHAEL CURTIZ & WILLIAM KEIGHLEY, U.S., 1938, 102 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 8 P.M., WEBSTER

Robin Hood leaps off the big screen in this vibrant restoration of the 1938 Warner Bros. epic, shot in startling Technicolor by legendary Hollywood director Michael Curtiz (who replaced William Keighley). Sir Robin of Locksley (Errol Flynn), defender of downtrodden Saxons, runs afoul of Norman authority and is forced to turn outlaw. With his band of Merry Men, he robs from the rich, gives to the poor and still has time to woo the lovely Maid Marian (Olivia de Havilland), foil the cruel Sir Guy of Gisbourne (Basil Rathbone) and keep the nefarious Prince John (Claude Rains) off the throne. The Village Voice’s Elliot Stein declares: “Robin Hood’ is movie pageantry at its best, done in the grand manner of silent spectacles, brimming over with the sort of primitive energy that drew people to the movies in the first place.”

Shown with the first American version of “Robin Hood” (Eclair Studio, 1912, 30 min.), a recently restored silent with live musical accompaniment, and “The Brothers Warner” (see Documentaries).

Albino Farm
JOE ANDERSON & SEAN MCEWEN, U.S., 2009, 86 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 9:45 P.M., TIVOLI 1

SLIFF continues a Friday-the-13th horror marathon with the Missouri-shot “Albino Farm.” For a group school assignment, four college students are sent to explore the Ozark Mountains, where they stumble on a backwoods Missouri town with a century-old history of religious fanaticism. A local lures them into investigating the legend of the Albino Farm, a hospital for freaks rumored to have been near the area. By disturbing the past, the students must endure a horrific night in which they must fight for survival. As with all such stories, there is a modicum of truth to this tale, and the Albino Farm legend haunts the outskirts of Springfield, Mo., to this day. In this version, the facility inadvertently created a sadistic society of inbred misfits who prey on stray travelers. “Albino Farm” features former WWE wrestler Chris Jericho and St. Louis native Kevin Spritas. With co-director McEwen.

Amreeka
CHERIEN DABIS, U.S., 2009, 97 MIN., ENGLISH & ARABIC
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 1 P.M., HI-POINTE

Selected as the opening-night feature at the Museum of Modern Art and Film Society of Lincoln Center’s New Directors/New Films series earlier this year, “Amreeka” takes a look at the American dream through the eyes of a Palestinian single mother and her son as they emigrate from the West Bank to suburban Illinois. After moving in with her sister’s family, Muna reluctantly takes a job at a local White Castle when her years as a bank manager in Bethlehem can’t land her the same job in the U.S. Her son faces his own challenges in post-9/11 America, coping with malignant taunts from the other students at his new high school. Co-starring Hiam Abbass (“The Visitor,” “Lemon Tree”) as Muna’s sister and Alia Shawkat (“Arrested Development”) as her niece, this touching dramedy won the FIPRESCI Critics Prize at the Directors’ Fortnight in Cannes.

Co-presented by Washington U.’s Center for the Study of Ethics and Human Values

Beeswax
ANDREW BUJALSKI, U.S., 2009, 100 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 7 P.M., WEBSTER

A marvelous new film from Andrew Bujalski (“Funny Ha Ha,” “Mutual Appreciation”), one of the brightest stars in indie film, “Beeswax” revolves around the personal and professional entanglements of twin sisters Jeannie and Lauren, played by extraordinary newcomers Tilly and Maggie Harris from Austin, Texas. Jeannie co-owns a vintage clothing store with Amanda, a semi-estranged friend she fears is trying to end their partnership. Lauren leads a looser, less tethered existence and is contemplating getting out of the country altogether. When Jeannie receives an e-mail from Amanda threatening a lawsuit, she calls her law-student ex-boyfriend for help. Eager for distraction from his own problems, he eagerly begins helping the sisters with theirs. Imbued with an innate charm, “Beeswax” is a story about family, friends and lovers and those awkward moments that bring them all together. With writer-director Bujalski.

www.cinemastlouis.org
Ciao Bella  
(Mustafa/Massimo)  
MANI MASERRAT-AGAH, SWEDEN, 2007, 86 MIN., SWEDISH, FARSI & ITALIAN  
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 7:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 6  
TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 4 P.M., FRONTENAC 6

In this succulently photographed, sweet-natured romance, a Swedish teenager of Iranian descent, unsatisfied with his “nice guy” status in the eyes of the opposite sex, poses as a visiting Italian soccer player to increase his chances of landing a girlfriend. He catches the eye of Linnea, a pretty young woman who has just discovered she’s pregnant. “Ciao Bella” plays with several romantic-comedy motifs but plumbs depths seldom explored by its U.S. counterparts. The Washington City Papers says that “‘Ciao Bella’ manages to be more charming, sweet, and funny than your average American teen flick,” and Variety calls the film “a pitch-perfect story about young love, sex, ethnicity and fear of being an outsider.” A hit in its native Sweden, “Ciao Bella” made its international premiere at the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival.

Blackspot  
BEN HAWKER, NEW ZEALAND, 2008, 84 MIN.  
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, MIDNIGHT, TIVOLI 3

The late-night conclusion to our Friday-the-13th terror-a-thon, the psychological thriller “Blackspot” – directed by a member of Peter Jackson’s Weta Workshop – begins innocently enough with a pair of young men traveling the dark roads of New Zealand. The relaxed, contemplative mood of the travelers’ journey is violently cut short by a near-head-on collision, and they hastily decide to take a short cut. When their car breaks down, stranding them on a desolate rural road, the men find themselves trapped in increasingly hostile surroundings with no means of escape. While they wait out the night in their lifeless vehicle, a disturbing memory resurfaces, forcing the friends to confront a chilling truth. As unsettling dread and paranoia grip the pair, the confines of the car only exacerbate the rising tension between them.

Bollywood Beats  
MEHUL SHAH, U.S., 2009, 117 MIN.  
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 3:30 P.M., TIVOLI 1

Raj, a lovable Indian guy, is down on his luck after another unsuccessful dance audition, his tragic breakup with his girlfriend and his parents’ threatening to kick him out of their home. But things begin to change when he meets Jyoti, who suggests that he start a dance class for Indian women. Although leery of the idea, Raj accepts the proposal, and his class eventually grows to include Laxmi, a housewife new to the U.S.; Puja, an enthused high-school student whose grandmother is forcing her to take the class; and Vincent, a gay teen who wants to dance despite his father’s objections. Through dance, the group manages to find friendship, love, understanding and acceptance where they never thought to look. “Bollywood Beats” features St. Louis native and Bollywood star Pooja Kumar. With director Shah and actress Mansi Patel.

Cat City  
BRENT HUFF, U.S., 2008, 95 MIN.  
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3  
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 7:15 P.M., TIVOLI 3

Murder, adultery, money laundering and double crosses populate Missouri native Brent Huff’s suspenseful thriller “Cat City.” Victoria Compton (Rebecca Pidgeon of “The Spanish Prisoner”) is a wealthy and successful family lawyer married to Nick (Julian Sands), a handsome real-estate speculator. After Victoria’s suspicion that her husband is having an affair is confirmed by Harry (Brian Dennehy), a grizzled cop turned private detective, she decides to start digging deeper into her husband’s shady business affairs. Further complications arise when a furtive and mysterious young business partner comes to stay in the couple’s luxurious Cathedral City home and Nick’s mistress (Shawn Huff) has more on her mind than cheating. This stylish crime drama premiered at the 2009 Palm Springs International Film Festival. With co-writer-director Huff and producer Patrick Stack.
Desdemona: A Love Story
PHILLIP GUZMAN, U.S., 2009, 89 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 5:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

In search of a better life, Gil Garcia’s father takes him to America, forcing the boy to leave behind the girl he loves in Mexico. Orphaned shortly after arriving, Gil is taken in by his father’s only friend, who raises him along with his own son, Rod. Fifteen years later, Gil (Jorge A. Jimenez) and Rod (Denton Blane Everett) are street hustlers faced with serious financial issues. When Rod proposes a kidnapping for ransom, Gil suggests the wife of a wealthy man who would never risk her life. The woman, however, is Desdemona (Cindy Vela), Gil’s childhood love from Mexico. The misguided brothers proceed with their ill-fated plan, with love, betrayal and racism colliding to produce unpredictable results. The closing-night film at the Boston Film Festival, “Desdemona” was named the fest’s Best Feature and Jimenez cited as Best Actor. Director Guzman is also represented by another crime thriller at SLIFF, “2:22.”

Sponsored in part by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Chicago

Cinematic Titanic Live
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 7:30 P.M., FAMILY ARENA, ST. CHARLES

Joel Hodgson and crew – Trace Beaulieu, J. Elvis Weinstein, Mary Jo Pehl, and Frank Conniff – present “Cinematic Titanic Live,” the theatrical version of movie riffing, the comedic art form they created more than 20 years ago in the form of “Mystery Science Theater 3000.” The five cast members take the stage and riff on a feature film, taking aim at some of the cheesiest movies ever made and providing a hilarious evening of entertainment. Film Threat calls “Cinematic Titanic Live” “howlingly hysterical,” and the Washington Post’s Tom Shales calls Hodgson and co. “consistently and unfailingly funny.” Tickets are $30-$40 and available through Metrotix (www.metrotix.com, 314-534-1111, 800-293-5949).

Cinematic Titanic Live is presented by the Family Arena.

Cloud 9
ANDREAS DRESEN, GERMANY, 2006, 93 MIN., GERMAN
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 9:30 P.M., FRONTEC 6
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 3 P.M., FRONTEC 6

Set in East Berlin, “Cloud 9” is the lyrical and moving story of Inge (Ursula Werner), a 67-year-old married woman who rediscovers her sexuality when she unexpectedly falls in love with 76-year old Karl (Horst Westphal). Home-based seamstress Inge has seemingly been happily married for 30 years to Werner (Horst Rehlberg), with whom she has an intimate and tender relationship. But when she decides to deliver a pair of altered pants to Karl, she is suddenly shaken out of her comfort zone into the realm of physical and emotional passion. Andreas Dresen’s nuanced and humorous direction won him the German Film Award for Best Direction, and his actors are no less effective, with Werner taking the Best Actress prize at Germany’s equivalent of the Academy Awards. Time Out New York praises “Cloud 9” for “capturing a golden-ager sensuality that almost never gets screen time – at least not with this sort of unsentimental candor.”

Sponsored by St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities

Dernier Maquis
RABAH AMEUR-ZAÎMECHE, FRANCE, 2008, 93 MIN., FRENCH & ARABIC
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 4:15 P.M., FRONTEC 6
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 6:15 P.M., FRONTEC 6

In this visually arresting, surprisingly humorous take on the French-Algerian immigrant experience, talk of living wages and religious observances upsets the delicate accord between a rundown truck yard’s boss (played by the director) and his workers. The shabby trucking and shipping yard is plopped down in the seedy outskirts of Paris, and virtually all of its employees are Arab or African Muslims. An alumnus of such prestige fests as Cannes, Toronto and Thessaloniki, “Dernier Maquis” was cited by Film Comment as one of the under-the-radar works most deserving attention last year. The magazine praises the film for addressing “critical questions such as the work of immigrants in France, the violence of class relations, and the role of religion.”

Sponsored in part by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Chicago

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WHITAKER ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

FEATURES

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The Eclipse

CONOR MCPHERSON, IRELAND, 2009, 88 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 9:15 P.M., TIVOLI 1

Written and directed by acclaimed playwright Conor McPherson (“The Weir,” “The Seafarer”), “The Eclipse” intertwines a subtle character study with an eerie ghost story. Still grieving his wife’s death, Michael (Ciarán Hinds) feels haunted by the ghost of his not-yet-deceased father-in-law. Assisting at the local literary convention, he meets a visiting horror author, Lena (Iben Hjejle of “High Fidelity”), hoping she can help him deal with the frightening visions. Michael must also cope with the presence of yet another visitor, an egocentric novelist (Aidan Quinn) with whom Lena is having an affair. “The Eclipse” premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, where Hinds (“Munich”) won the Best Actor prize.

Dunya & Desie

DANA NECHUSHTAN, NETHERLANDS, 2008, 98 MIN., DUTCH & ARABIC
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 4:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 5 P.M., FRONTENAC 6

Based on a popular Dutch television series, “Dunya & Desie” is a heart-warming road movie about best friends – one Moroccan, the other Dutch – who are plunging headlong into adulthood. On her 18th birthday, Dunya learns of her arranged marriage, and she’s forced to travel with her family to Morocco to meet him. At the same time, Desie’s unplanned pregnancy stirs an interest in finding her biological father, so she also embarks on a journey to Morocco, where he now lives. The two friends quickly discover that Morocco isn’t Amsterdam, however, and find themselves in a series of humorously difficult situations. Comparing the film’s cross-cultural appeal to “Bend It Like Beckham,” Variety says that “Dunya & Desie” positively sings with upbeat energy and humor, nailing its target teen-girl audience with a well-crafted story of friendship and understanding.

The Drummer

(Khan gu)
KENNETH BI, HONG KONG, 2007, 118 MIN., MANDARIN & CANTONESE
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 9:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
MONDAY, NOV. 16, 4:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 6

Sid, the rebellious son of a controlling and savage triad boss in Hong Kong, has to flee to Taiwan when he enrages his father’s adversary, a powerful tycoon and underground business leader. Hiding out in the mountains, Sid encounters a group of Zen drummers whose mesmerizing art, rigorous physical training and austere way of life pique his interest, and he requests to join the group. Although Sid despises his father, he is turning out to be a younger version of him – wild and defiant – but immersion in the world of the Zen drummers eventually converts him into a firm and focused man. Sid’s independence from the triad life and his father is profoundly challenged, however, when a twist of fate forces him to choose between loyalty to his family and his newfound faith in himself. Dubbed by Variety as “an entertaining blend of genre elements and spiritual content,” “The Drummer” made its U.S. premiere at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

Drool

NANCY KISSAM, U.S., 2009, 85 MIN.
MONDAY, NOV. 16, 9 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 9:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

Anora, an unhappy housewife and mother, accidentally kills her husband after he catches her in bed with a woman, forcing the lovers to go on the lam with Anora’s two teenage children. Wildly unpredictable, sinisterly funny and surprisingly poignant, “Drool” marks the directorial debut of Nancy Kissam, whose screenplay for the film was awarded the top competition prize at the 2007 Slamdance Film Festival. Laura Harring (“Mulholland Drive”) turns in a wonderful performance as Anora, earning her a special acting award at this year’s Los Angeles Outfest. “Drool” was also named the Best Fiction Feature at the Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Jill Marie Jones (“Girlfriends”) and Oded Fehr (“Sleeper Cell”) also star.

Sponsored by East Asian Studies at Washington University

www.cinemastlouis.org
Edgar Allan Poe’s Ligeia
MICHAEL STAININGER, U.S., 2009, 90 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 7 P.M., TIVOLI 1
Writer and scholar Jonathan Merrick (Wes Bentley) falls under the spell of the irresistible, bewitchingly beautiful Ligeia in this loose adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe’s classic tale. As the beneficiary of an ancient family curse passed from mother to daughter through the ages, Ligeia steals other people’s souls in order to live. Tricking Jonathan into supporting her work, Ligeia forces a breakup with his fiancée, Rowena, and pulls him further into her dark, mysterious world. In an old manor by the Black Sea, Ligeia’s everlasting presence slowly drives Jonathan to madness. This stylish thriller was shot by local cinematographer Chris Benson in St. Louis and the Ukraine. Michael Madsen and Eric Roberts co-star. **With director Staininger and cinematographer Benson.**

An Education
LONE SCHERFIG, U.K., 2009, 95 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 12, 7 P.M., TIVOLI 1
Acclaimed at the Sundance, Berlin, Telluride and Toronto film festivals and already generating significant Oscar® buzz, “An Education” offers a witty, engaging coming-of-age tale in 1961 London, still in postwar disarray and years away from becoming a swinging ’60s cultural hotbed. In a star-making performance, Carey Mulligan plays Jenny, a chic, resourceful 16-year-old girl who falls for a charming older man named David (Peter Sarsgaard), who helps realize her dreams of live concerts, Parisian vacations and exciting urban nightlife. Adapted from journalist Lynn Barber’s memoir by director Lone Scherfig (“Italian for Beginners”) and screenwriter Nick Hornby (author of “About a Boy”), ”An Education” co-stars Alfred Molina, Dominic Cooper, Olivia Williams and Emma Thompson. Writing about the film after its Sundance premiere, Salon’s Andrew O’Hehir declared that “there’s no movie in this festival that’s quite as ravishing, as witty, as well-acted or as satisfying overall as ‘An Education.’” **Sponsored by Marcia Harris**

Egon & Donci
ÁDÁM MAGYAR, HUNGARY, 2007, 75 MIN.
FREE PROGRAM
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 3 P.M., BROWN HALL
The eponymous heroes of “Egon & Donci” live on an idyllic, little planet in a neighboring solar system. The eccentric Egon is an amateur “rocket scientist” assisted in his endeavors by Donci, a clumsy and decidedly overfed catlike creature. Their simple existence becomes suddenly complicated when Voyager 3 flies into their lives with a message from Earth and Egon decides to establish contact with our distant civilization. The film’s lovable characters never knowingly harm another living being: Although they often get battered and bruised, it is only as a result of their own hapless antics. Egon and Donci never speak onscreen, so all communication between them is achieved by a series of childish mimes and simple sounds, making the film accessible to all ages. **Co-presented by Washington U.’s Center for the Humanities**

Everybody’s Fine
KIRK JONES, U.S., 2009, 100 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 7 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
Based on the film “Stanno tutti bene” by Giuseppe Tornatore (“Cinema Paradiso”), “Everybody’s Fine” stars Robert De Niro as Frank, a widower trying to reconnect with his three adult children (Drew Barrymore, Kate Beckinsale and Sam Rockwell). When all three cancel their plans to visit for the holidays, Frank decides to pay them each a visit, discovering that the lives of his children aren’t as perfect as they’d lead him to believe. Written and directed by Kirk Jones (“Waking Ned Devine”), “Everybody’s Fine” looks at the tender bonds between a father and his children as they deal with the loss of their wife and mother and realize they don’t know each other as well as they had hoped. **With director Jones.**
Features

Game of the Year
CHRIS GREGA, U.S., 2009, 90 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

In this sharp-witted mockumentary from St. Louis director Chris Grega ("Rhineland," "Amphetamine"), a group of St. Louis gamers attempts to get on the British reality-TV show "Game of the Year." The small group of friends at the center of the film have been battling mystical creatures side-by-side for years, with the aid of copious amounts of beer, patient girlfriends and wives, and the requisite 20-sided gaming cube, but the pressure of an upcoming national competition and their own individual neuroses threaten to break up their game. With writer-director Grega.


For My Father
(Sof Shavua B’Tel Aviv)
DROR ZAHAVI, ISRAEL, 2008, 100 MIN., HEBREW
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 2:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 4 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

Terek, a Palestinian forced on a suicide mission in Tel Aviv to redeem his father’s honor, is given a second chance when the fuse on his explosive vest fails to detonate. Compelled to spend the weekend in Tel Aviv awaiting its repair, Terek must live among the people he was planning to kill, including the beautiful Keren, who has cut off contact with her Orthodox family and upbringing. Terek and Keren open up to one another, and an unlikely love blooms. However, with the deadly load of explosives still strapped to him, he must make a crucial decision about whether or not to abandon the mission imposed on him. The recipient of numerous audience awards at film festivals around the world, "For My Father" was also nominated for seven Israeli Film Academy Awards. Writing in the Huffington Post, Eric Alterman describes the movie as "transcendent," calling it "the most powerful and moving film I can ever remember seeing."

Formosa Betrayed
ADAM KANE, U.S., 2009, 101 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 5:30 P.M., HI-POINTE

In this international thriller inspired by true events, FBI Agent Jake Kelly (James Van Der Beek of "Dawson Creek") investigates the brutal murder of a Taiwanese-American professor on U.S. soil. With the help of partner Tom Braxton (John Heard) and a sharp Chicago police detective (Leslie Hope), Kelly discovers that the murderers have fled to Taiwan. Initially guided by an American diplomat (Wendy Crewson) and a Taiwanese official (Tzi Ma), Kelly soon realizes that something more treacherous is happening beneath the surface. With the help of Ming (co-screenwriter Will Tiao), a Taiwanese activist, Kelly discovers the unsettling truth about the island once called Formosa, leading to dangerous and painful consequences. The San Diego film fest recently named ”Formosa Betrayed” as the winner of its Best Feature and Best Actor (Van Der Beek) awards. With co-star-producer-writer Tiao.

Sponsored by East Asian Studies at Washington University, through a grant from the Ministry of Education, Republic of China (Taiwan)

First of All, Felicia
(Felicia inainte de toate)
MELISSA DE RAAF & RAZVAN RADULESCU, ROMANIA, 2009, 108 MIN., ROMANIAN & DUTCH
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 5 & 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

"First of All, Felicia," which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, marks the directorial debut of prominent Romanian screenwriter Razvan Radulescu, author of the much-lauded "The Death of Mr. Lazarescu." On Felicia’s last day of a two-week annual holiday at her parents in Bucharest, she gets a late start, packs too slowly and eats an over-elaborate breakfast prepared by her mother. In the airport, having missed her flight, Felicia struggles with an unspoken wish to stay one more day at home. Her father has expressed a fear that he will not live another year to see his daughter again, and conversations with her mother slowly reveal the price Felicia has paid during the 19 years of separation from her family. Variety says that “First of All, Felicia” “effectively captures the fraught relationship between adult children and their aging parents in a rapidly changing world.”

Co-presented by AFI PROJECT: 20/20
**Gigante**

**ADRIAN BINIEZ, URUGUAY, 2009, 84 MIN., SPANISH**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 3:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 1**  
**TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 3 P.M., FRONTENAC 1**

In this gentle comedy, Jara is a shy and lonely 35-year-old security guard at a supermarket on the outskirts of Montevideo. He works the night shift, monitoring the surveillance cameras of the entire building. One night, Jara discovers Julia, a 25-year-old cleaning woman, through one of the cameras. Immediately attracted to her, Jara watches Julia night after night on his video screens while she works. Soon he starts following her after work: to the cinema, the beach and even a date with another man. Jara's life becomes a series of routines and rituals built around Julia, but eventually he finds himself at a crossroads and must decide whether to give up his obsession or confront it. “Gigante” was named Best First Feature and awarded the Silver Bear at the 2009 Berlin International Film Festival.

_Sponsored by Hispanic St. Louis_

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**Grbavica**

**JASMILA ZBANIC, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, 2006, 107 MIN., BOSNIAN**

**TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3**

In her stunning debut feature, writer-director Jasmila Zbanic explores the painful long-term effects of war on a Bosnian woman and her daughter. Esma is a single mother who lives with her 12-year-old daughter, Sara, in the Grbavica district of Sarajevo, a neighborhood once used as an internment camp during the Yugoslav wars. Unable to get by on government aid, Esma works two jobs to make ends meet. Gradually, Sara comes to realize that her mother has never fully informed her about the war years, and the truth threatens to tear them apart. “Grbavica” won the Golden Bear Award when it played at the 2006 Berlin International Film Festival and was the official entry from Bosnia & Herzegovina for the 2006 Best Foreign Language Film Academy Award. The LA Times’ Kenneth Turan calls “Grbavica” “a disquieting, all too plausible film, simultaneously heartbreaking and hopeful, about the human need for connection and the difficulties that get in the way.”

Shown with the short “10 Minutes” (Ahmed Imamovic, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 2002, 10 min.), a European Film Academy Award winner that contrasts the 10 minutes it takes to develop a roll of film in Rome with the violence of war-torn Bosnia.

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**Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench**

**DAMIEN CHAZELLE, U.S., 2009, 82 MIN.**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 7:15 P.M., TIVOLI 3**

“Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench” tells the story of a young Boston jazz musician who drifts from affair to affair, his trumpet the only constant in his life. He makes a promising connection with an aimless introvert named Madeline, but their relationship is cut short when Guy leaves her for a more outgoing love interest. The two separated lovers slowly wend their way back together through a series of romances punctuated by song. A full-fledged musical that recasts the MGM tradition in a gritty, near-documentary style, “Guy and Madeline” stars Jason Palmer, recently named by Down Beat Magazine one of the Top 25 Trumpeters for the Future, and features all-original music composed by Justin Hurwitz. When it premiered at Tribeca, Variety raved: “A magical amalgam of Jean-Luc Godard, Miles Davis, Morris Engel and ‘The Umbrellas of Cherbourg,’ helmer Damien Chazelle’s ‘Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench’ catches you off-guard and keeps you there.”

_With writer-director Chazelle._

_Sponsored by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg_

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**The Headless Woman**

_(La mujer sin cabeza)_

**LUCRECIA MARTEL, ARGENTINA, 2008, 87 MIN., SPANISH**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 1 P.M., HI-POINTE**

In the dazzling third feature from Lucrecia Martel (“The Holy Girl,” “La ciénega”), a startling car accident on a vacant road disrupts the life of Verónica (María Onetto), a wealthy dentist from the northwestern part of Argentina. She flees the scene, uncertain as to what (or whom) she may have hit, but is haunted by the possibility that she might have killed someone. Comparing the film to Michelangelo Antonioni’s classic “L’avventura,” the New York Times’ Stephen Holden called “The Headless Woman” a “brilliant, maddeningly enigmatic puzzle of a movie.” Co-produced by Augustin and Pedro Almodóvar and co-starring Inés Efron (“XXY”), “The Headless Woman” topped IndieWire’s poll of the best undistributed films of 2008.

_Sponsored by Red Latina_

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**www.cinemastlouis.org**
**I Am From Titov Veles**  
(Jas Sum Od Titov Veles)  
TEONA STRUGAR MITEVSKA, MACEDONIA, 2007, 102 MIN., MACEDONIAN  
MONDAY, NOV. 16, 2:30 P.M., FRONTEAC 1

Set in the quaint but scarred town of Veles, “I Am From Titov Veles” chronicles the difficult lives of three sisters who long to escape the suffocating environment of their dying community. Burdened by memories of their late father, each chooses a different path: Sapho struggles to secure a visa to Greece, Slavica desperately searches for a rich husband, and Afrodita harbors hopes for love and children. In this contemporary story of urban decay, director Teona Strugar Mitevska blends stark realism with memorable performances to create a vivid landscape of life and longing in post-Communist Macedonia. The film is an alum of such major fests as Toronto, Pusan and Berlin.

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**Helen**  
JOE LAWLOR & CHRISTINE MALLOY, U.K., 2008, 79 MIN.  
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 3:15 P.M., FRONTEAC 6  
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 5:15 P.M., FRONTEAC 6

An 18-year-old girl called Joy has gone missing. Another girl called Helen is a few weeks away from leaving her foster-care home. Joy had everything – a loving family, a boyfriend, a bright future – whereas Helen has lived in institutions all her life and has never been close to anyone. When Helen is asked to “play” the missing girl in a police reconstruction that will retrace Joy’s last known movements, she begins to immerse herself into the role, visiting the people and places that Joy knew, quietly and carefully insinuating her way into the lost girl’s life. Is Helen trying to find out what happened to Joy or is she searching for her own identity? This beautiful and provocative film is both an existentialist exploration of identity and a contemplation on the art of acting. Noting the film’s “echoes of Antonioni and Bresson,” the Observer’s Philip French calls “Helen” “one of the most remarkable British debuts of recent years.”

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**Hooked**  
(Pescuit sportiv)  
ADRIAN SITARU, ROMANIA, 2007, 84 MIN., ROMANIAN  
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 7:15 P.M., TIVOLI 3  
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 5 P.M., TIVOLI 3

Using an innovative style of multiple-perspective point-of-view cinematography, “Hooked” is another example of the exciting wave of films coming out of Romania. Calling to mind Roman Polanski’s slow-burning thriller “Knife in the Water,” “Hooked” tells the story of a married woman and her secret lover who accidentally hit a prostitute on their way to what was supposed to be an idyllic picnic alongside a riverbank. When the woman wakes in a daze, the couple reluctantly invites her along, but her presence appears to trigger the underlying tensions and insecurities of the troubled lovers. “Hooked” played at both the Toronto International Film Festival and the Venice Film Festival.

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**How I Got Lost**  
JOE LEONARD, U.S., 2009, 87 MIN.  
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 2:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3  
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 6 P.M., WEBSTER


*Sponsored by St. Louis Magazine*
The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus
TERRY GILLIAM, U.K., 2009, 122 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 5:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

With his signature blend of offbeat humor and wild imagination, Terry Gilliam returns to the spirit of “Brazil” and “The Adventures of Baron Munchausen” with his latest creation, “The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus.” The mythical fantasy follows the traveling theater group of the titular Parnassus (Christopher Plummer) as a long-ago secret pact with the Devil (Tom Waits) begins to manifest. A triumphant return to form for Gilliam, the film also showcases the final performance of Heath Ledger, who died tragically during production. Seamlessly incorporating Johnny Depp, Colin Farrell and Jude Law as separate transformations of Ledger’s character, Gilliam completed his grand opus, which the Los Angeles Times’ Kenneth Turan called “the director’s best, most entertaining film in years.”

Sponsored by Cynthia Prost

Jerichow
CHRISTIAN PETZOLD, GERMANY, 2008, 88 MIN., GERMAN & TURKISH
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 9:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 2:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 6

A handsome soldier (Benno Fürmann), dishonorably discharged from Afghanistan, returns to rural Germany and, through an expected turn of events, lands a job working for a wealthy Turkish immigrant (Hilmi Sözer) with a beautiful blonde wife (Nina Hoss). The latest film from Christian Petzold, one of the prominent figures in contemporary German cinema, “Jerichow” smartly retools “The Postman Always Rings Twice,” infusing it with a rich social relevance for today’s economic struggles. The New York Times’ A.O. Scott writes, “There is nonetheless something haunting about this film, a sense of desperation and defeat that seems less like a generic convention than like a genuine insight, an intuition into what can happen at the crossroads of lust, loneliness and materialism.” “Yella,” which Petzold directed prior to “Jerichow,” will also play at this year’s SLIFF.

Sponsored by St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities

Jolene
DAN IRELAND, U.S., 2008, 120 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 3 P.M., HI-POINTE

Based on E.L. Doctorow’s short story about a gifted young woman’s 10-year odyssey across America in pursuit of love and independence, “Jolene” follows the fluctuating fortunes of a heroine whose fiery beauty proves both blessing and curse. Brilliant newcomer Jessica Chastain brings a quiet depth to the role of Jolene, who must navigate through an extraordinarily tumultuous period of her life. SLIFF veteran Dan Ireland (“The Whole Wide World,” “Passionada”) populates the film with an impressive cast that includes Dermot Mulroney, Chazz Palminteri, Rupert Friend, Michael Vartan and Denise Richards. Chastain – whom GreenCine Daily says “does a great job of igniting Jolene’s mix of street-wise survivalist instinct and romantic soul” – won the Audience Award for Best Actress at the 2008 Seattle International Film Festival. She also appears in SLIFF’s “Stolen Lives” and will appear in Terence Malick’s upcoming “The Tree of Life.” With director Ireland and producer Riva Yares.

Just Shy of Being
DEREK ELZ, U.S., 2009, 110 MIN., HEBREW, ENGLISH & ARABIC
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 9:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

An intriguing blend of fiction and nonfiction, “Just Shy of Being” tells the story of young lovers Arielle and Rafi, Jew and Muslim, struggling to bridge the cultural divide that separates them. Their story provides a fascinating window on the devastating effects that religious and ideological conflicts can have on the lives of ordinary individuals. The film juxtaposes its fictional story with revealing documentary interviews that chronicle the experiences of real-life Jewish-Muslim couples in Israel and across the world. “Just Shy of Being” explores the personal, social and political dimensions of interfaith relationships. Elz’s previous feature, “Mosquito Kingdom,” screened in the 2008 SLIFF. With director Elz and producer-star Chad Bockholdt.
London River
TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 1
Guerneyse farming woman Elisabeth (Brenda Blethyn of “Secrets & Lies”) heads into the throng of north London after regular calls to her daughter go unanswered. As news of the London subway bombings of July 2005 moves from background noise to disturbing prominence, the unfamiliarity of the city becomes ever more unsettling. On a similar search for his missing son, African farm worker Ousmane from rural France is equally at sea. When the two eventually meet, they discover that their children were roommates and perhaps something more. “London River” won the Silver Bear at the 2009 Berlin International Film Festival. The Hollywood Reporter says: “French director Rachid Bouchareb (‘Days of Glory’) brings great sensitivity to the fictionalized tale, which goes a step beyond the obvious in its description of England’s multiracial society scarred by deep-seated prejudice but capable of change. Without glossing over the tale’s hard edges, the film ends on a positive note of ethnic tolerance.”

Co-presented by AFI PROJECT: 20/20

Laila’s Birthday
RASHID MASHARAWI, PALESTINE, 2008, 71 MIN., ARABIC
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 3 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 5 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
The best film yet from acclaimed Palestinian writer-director Rashid Masharawi (“Waiting,” “Curfew”), “Laila’s Birthday” is a wry, comedic vignette, offering a portrait of ordinary people living in impossible circumstances in contemporary Ramallah. Abu Laila, a judge forced to work as a taxi driver when the government runs out of funds to pay his salary, struggles to get through his workday so he can hurry home for his daughter’s seventh birthday. The Village Voice’s Ella Taylor writes: “Part Tati, part Chaplin, part absurdist satire in the manner of Palestinian director Elia Suleiman (‘Chronicle of a Disappearance’), ‘Laila’s Birthday’ is beautifully shot and overlaid with a spare, lyrical score that lends rueful emphasis to Masharawi’s exasperated fidelity to a chronically malfunctioning city.”

Sponsored by Union Avenue Christian Church

Lake Tahoe
(¿Te acuerdas de Lake Tahoe?)
FERNANDO EIMBCKE, MEXICO, 2008, 81 MIN., SPANISH
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 1:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
MONDAY, NOV. 16, 2:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
Teenage Juan crashes his family’s car into a telegraph pole on the outskirts of town and then scoursthe streets searching for someone to help him fix it. His quest brings him into contact with a succession of eccentrics: a paranoid mechanic whose only companion is Sica, his almost-human boxer dog; a young mother who is convinced that her real place in life is as a lead singer in a punk band; and a teenage mechanic obsessed with martial arts and kung-fu philosophy. The trio takes Juan on an absurd, bewildering and ultimately revelatory daylong journey. Calling “Lake Tahoe” a “gorgeous, deceptively tranquil movie,” the New York Times concludes: “So different from the usual fare that it might have arrived from another galaxy, ‘Lake Tahoe’ is a painstaking collage of small incidents and expansive images.”

Sponsored by El Mundo Latino

Liverpool
LISANDRO ALONSO, ARGENTINA, 2008, 84 MIN., SPANISH
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 9:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 2:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
The haunting fourth feature from Lisandro Alonso, whose work is frequently likened to the films of Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Béla Tarr and Pedro Costa, “Liverpool” opens on a sea-traveling freighter on the coast of Argentina. On docking in Ushuaia, the world’s southernmost city, reclusive, middle-aged sailor Farrel disembarks to seek out his childhood home, uncertain whether his mother is still living or not. The Auteurs Notebook’s Daniel Kasman describes “Liverpool” as “one of the great films of our times,” and Slant magazine says, “Formalist yet visceral, monosyllabic yet eloquent, ‘Liverpool’ ponders the lure and absurdity of nests in a world of unending, faraway ports.”

Sponsored by Hispanic St. Louis
Me and Orson Welles
RICHARD LINKLATER, U.K., 2008, 114 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 6:30 P.M., TIVOLI 1

It’s 1937, four years before “Citizen Kane,” and Orson Welles (Christian McKay) is preparing his soon-to-be-legendary stage reworking of “Julius Caesar” (in fascist apparel) at the Mercury Theatre. A 17-year-old upstart named Richard Samuels (Zac Efron of “High School Musical”) coaxes Welles, who seems more preoccupied with skirt-chasing than the production itself, into casting him in a small part, fulfilling his wide-eyed Broadway fantasies. Richard Linklater (“Before Sunset,” “Slacker”) adopts a whimsical tone for this bit of historical fiction, which serves as a delightful companion piece to Tim Robbins’ “Cradle Will Rock.” The stellar cast includes Ben Chaplin, Claire Danes, Eddie Marsan and Kelly Reilly. The LA Times declares the film “a surprisingly rousing and loving tribute not only to the peculiar genius of Welles, but to show-people of all stripes.”

Margarette’s Feast
(A Festa de Margarette)
RENATO FALCÃO, BRAZIL, 2002, 80 MIN., PORTUGUESE
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 5 P.M., TIVOLI 1

In 1950s Italy, on the small, fictional island of Amatrello, the locals celebrate a curious tradition: When a girl turns 18, the young men of the island compete against each other to find the most elaborate, outrageous gift to win a rendezvous with the sought-after maiden. The gift, however, must impress not the girl but her father, who ultimately decides on his daughter’s sweetheart. When Elena, the mayor’s radiant daughter, returns to the island shortly before her 18th birthday, young Marcello sets out to woo both mayor and daughter, in the process throwing the entire island into turmoil. In this picture-perfect Mediterranean idyll, Swiss director Denis Rabaglia crafts a delightful confection that is equal parts slapstick comedy and romantic quest. Seattle weekly the Stranger declares “Marcello Marcello” “bright, charming and sunny, taking full advantage of colorful seaside Italy.”

Made in China
JUDI KRANT, U.S., 2008, 87 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 5 P.M., TIVOLI 3

A confident young man with a unique style and a solid entrepreneurial spirit has made it his mission to bring the small pleasures in life to a global market. As an aspiring inventor inspired by history’s most infamous jokers, he’s determined to jump through all the hoops to realize his dreams. When he’s not taken seriously by the locals stateside, he takes it on himself to travel to Shanghai and broker a manufacturing deal on his own. Lost in Shanghai, Johnson discovers that it takes more than a bright idea to succeed: It takes guts, determination and a fistful of sneezing powder. Filmmaker Krant and the film took home the Emerging Woman, Special Jury and the SXSW Competition awards from the 2009 South by Southwest Film Festival. With writer-director Krant.
Mutum
SANDRA KOGUT, BRAZIL, 2007, 86 MIN., PORTUGESE
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 3 P.M., FRONTEC 1

Thiago is a sensitive and imaginative boy living on a small, hardscrabble farm in a remote region of Brazil. Although his life is filled with curiosity and youthful discovery, it’s also marked by his parent’s unhappy marriage and his father’s abuse. Director Sandra Kogut, in her poetic adaptation of the well-known Brazilian short story “Campo Geral,” focuses on minute details of rural life to tell a bittersweet story of one boy’s coming-of-age amid events both great and small. “Mutum” is a multiple award winner at fests worldwide, from Berlin to Rio to Rotterdam.

Munyurangabo
LEE ISAAC CHUNG, RWANDA, 2007, 97 MIN., KINYARWANDA
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 5 P.M., FRONTEC 1
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 7 P.M., FRONTEC 1

Friends Munyurangabo, a Tutsi, and Sangwa, a Hutu, leave Kigali on a journey tied to their pasts: Munyurangabo wants justice for his parents, who were killed in Rwanda’s horrifying genocide, and Sangwa wants to visit the home he deserted years ago. But their friendship is tested when Sangwa’s wary parents disapprove of Munyurangabo, warning that “Hutus and Tutsis are supposed to be enemies.” Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at LA’s AFI Film Festival, “Munyurangabo” has played the world’s finest fests, including Cannes, Toronto and Berlin. Roger Ebert, in a glowing review, says that “Munyurangabo” “is in every frame a beautiful and powerful film – a masterpiece.” Variety is even more effusive: “Like a bolt out of the blue, Korean American filmmaker Lee Isaac Chung achieves an astonishing and thoroughly masterful debut.”

Mia and the Migoo
(Mia et le Migou)
JACQUES-RÉMY GIRERD, FRANCE, 2008, 82 MIN., FRENCH
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, NOON., FRONTEC 6
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 7:30 P.M., FRONTEC 6

In this gorgeously animated eco-adventure, plucky, wild-haired young heroine Mia battles profit-hungry capitalists, with the future of life on Earth in the balance. Acting on a premonition, Mia sets out on a cross-continent journey through cities, mountains and jungles to find her father, a laborer who has been trapped in a landslide at a disaster-plagued construction site on a remote tropical lake. In the middle of the lake stands the ancient, gnarled Tree of Life, watched over the Migoo, stone-like forest spirits who have been sabotaging the construction to protect the sacred site. Together with Mia, the Migoo join in a fight to find Mia’s father and save the tree from destruction. “Mia and the Migoo” made its U.S. debut at the well-regarded New York International Children’s Film Festival.

Sponsored in part by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Chicago

The Missing Person
NOAH BUSCHL, U.S., 2009, 95 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 4:45 P.M., FRONTEC 1
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 9:30 P.M., FRONTEC 1

Taking a fresh, tongue-in-cheek spin on the film noir genre, “The Missing Person,” which debuted at Sundance, follows private detective John Rosow as he trails a man and a young boy from Chicago to Los Angeles. Unwaveringly old-fashioned and partial to booze, Rosow discovers that, as is usually the case, his assignment is a lot trickier than it sounded on paper. Starring Academy Award® nominees Michael Shannon (“Revolutionary Road”) and Amy Ryan (“Gone Baby Gone”), “The Missing Person” features cinematography by St. Louis’ own Ryan Samul, who previously shot Brian Jun’s “Steel City” and music videos for Animal Collective and Cat Power. Cinematical singles out the film’s star for particular praise: “As Rosow, Shannon is weirdly perfect – lurching, stumbling and wheezing his way down the mean streets, with flashes of insight behind his watery drunk eyes, somehow both harmless and threatening in his stiff retro brown suit.”
Once Upon a Time in the West

SERGIO LEONE, U.S., 1968, 175 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 2 P.M., WEBSTER

This gloriously restored Western – screened from a new 35mm print – ranks as legendary director Sergio Leone’s undisputed masterpiece. When Mrs. McBain (Claudia Cardinale) moves from New Orleans to frontier Utah, she finds husband and family slaughtered. Prime suspect Cheyenne (Jason Robards) befriends her and, with the mysterious Harmonica (Charles Bronson), pursues the real killer (a wonderfully malevolent Henry Fonda). The film features gorgeous widescreen cinematography by Tonino Delli Colli, a haunting score by Ennio Morricone, and a screenplay co-written by Bernardo Bertolucci and Dario Argento. The Chicago Reader’s Dave Kehr notes that Leone “expands his baroque, cartoonish style into genuine grandeur, weaving dozens of thematic variations and narrative arabesques around a classical western foundation myth…. Moments of intense realism flow into passages of operatic extravagance; lowbrow burlesque exists side by side with the expression of the most refined shades of feeling.”

Shown with “The Gigantic World of Epics” (see Documentaries).

North Face

PHILIPP STOLTZ, AUSTRIA/GERMANY, 2008, 126 MIN., GERMAN, SWISS GERMAN, FRENCH & ITALIAN
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 6:45 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 7 P.M., FRONTENAC 6

Set in 1936, as Nazi propaganda urges Germany’s alpinists to conquer the unclimbed north face of the Eiger in the Swiss Alps, this suspenseful adventure film re-creates the attempt by real-life German climbers Toni and Andi to make a daring ascent of the so-called Murder Wall in competition with a pair of Austrians. The climb is further complicated by an old flame of Toni’s, a journalist who has come with her boss, a loyal Nazi, to report on the ascent. A gripping film with a vivid sense of its historic moment, “North Face” also serves as both homage to and critique of the great German mountain films of the ’20s and ’30s. The Independent raves: “A mountaineering adventure more tense, more edge-of-the-seat suspenseful, than ‘Touching the Void’? Almost incredibly, this German drama, based on a true story, is that film.”

Sponsored by St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities

My Time Will Come

(Cuando Me Toque A Mi)
VÍCTOR ARREGUI, ECUADOR, 2008, 90 MIN., SPANISH
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 3 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

A predawn murder sets in motion a series of interlocking tragedies that eventually find their way to the city morgue’s brooding Dr. Arturo Fernandez. Physically and emotionally isolated from the world around him, Arturo develops an oddly intimate relationship with the personal lives of the dead, gradually forcing him to confront his connection to the living. Adapted from the novel “De Que Nada Se Sabe,” director Victor Arregui’s serpentine tale – structurally reminiscent of the Oscar®-winning “Crash” – is a dark but sympathetic portrait of one man’s solitude set against a richly textured rendering of Quito, Ecuador’s capital city.

One Day You’ll Understand

(Plus tard tu comprendras)
AMOS GITAI, FRANCE, 2008, 90 MIN., FRENCH
TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 6:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 2:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 6

Based on Jérôme Clément’s autobiographical novel of the same name, “One Day You’ll Understand” takes place in France in 1987 following the conviction of infamous Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie. The trial, which captivated the entire country, inspires Catholic businessman Victor Bastien (Hippolyte Girardot) to investigate the concentration-camp deaths of his Jewish grandparents, a subject rarely mentioned by his mother (the incomparable Jeanne Moreau). Through Bastien’s quest, Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai (“Free Zone,” “Kadosh”) contemplates the weight a family’s devastating history holds on its posterity. Salon’s Andrew O’Hehir writes: “In Moreau, Girardot, Dominique Blanc and Emmanuelle Devos, it has four of the finest actors in recent French history, and the intimate, indirect portrait they create of a loving family constrained by silence is magnificent.”

Sponsored in part by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Chicago

www.cinemastlouis.org
THURSDAY NOV. 12

TIVOLI THEATRE 1
7 p.m. An Education

PLAZA FRONTENAC 1
3 p.m. Laila’s Birthday
5 p.m. Shorts Program 1
7:15 p.m. Song From the Southern Seas
9:15 p.m. Terribly Happy

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
7 p.m. Beeswax
9:30 p.m. Showcase Shorts 1

SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM
7 p.m. Within Our Gates

SUNDAY, NOV. 15

TIVOLI THEATRE 1
1:30 p.m. 9500 Liberty
4 p.m. Prodigal Sons
6:30 p.m. Crude
9:15 p.m. The Eclipse

TIVOLI THEATRE 3
11 a.m. NFF Coffee With the Filmmakers
1 p.m. Edie & Thea
2:45 p.m. In 500 Words or Less
5 p.m. Pressure Cooker
7:15 p.m. Cat City
9:30 p.m. Game of the Year

PLAZA FRONTENAC 1
1:15 p.m. Family Shorts
3:15 p.m. Gigante
5 p.m. Laila’s Birthday
7 p.m. Stolen Lives
9:15 p.m. Just Shy of Being

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6
1 p.m. XXY
3 p.m. Cloud 9
5:15 p.m. Helen
7:15 p.m. Ciao Bella
9:15 p.m. The Drummer

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
6 p.m. How I Got Lost
8:30 p.m. Showcase Shorts 2

HI-POINTE THEATRE
1 p.m. Amreeka

THURSDAY NOV. 13

TIVOLI THEATRE 1
7 p.m. Edgar Allan Poe’s Ligeia
9:45 p.m. Albino Farm

TIVOLI THEATRE 3
7:15 p.m. St. Nick
9:30 p.m. Under Still Waters
Midnight Blackspot

PLAZA FRONTENAC 1
3 p.m. Laila’s Birthday
5 p.m. Shorts Program 1
7:15 p.m. Song From the Southern Seas
9:15 p.m. Terribly Happy

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
7 p.m. Beeswax
9:30 p.m. Showcase Shorts 1

SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM
7 p.m. Within Our Gates

TIVOLI THEATRE 1
1 p.m. Branson
3:30 p.m. Saint Misbehavin’: The Wavy Gravy Movie
7 p.m. Up in the Air

TIVOLI THEATRE 3
11 a.m. For the Love of Movies
12:30 p.m. Film Criticism Panel
2:30 p.m. How I Got Lost
5 p.m. Made in China
7:15 p.m. Spooner
9:30 p.m. Cat City

PLAZA FRONTENAC 1
1 p.m. Sleepwalking Land
3 p.m. My Time Will Come
5 p.m. Shorts Program 2
7:15 p.m. Stolen Lives
9:30 p.m. Terribly Happy

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6
1:15 p.m. Lake Tahoe

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
1 p.m. The Gigantic World of Epics
2 p.m. Once Upon a Time in the West
5:30 p.m. Forbidden Lies
8 p.m. The Power of the Powerless

HI-POINTE THEATRE
Noon The Rink
2 p.m. A Peaceable Kingdom
5 p.m. Documentary Shorts: Individuals
7:30 p.m. Precious

PLAZA FRONTENAC 1
3 p.m. Laila’s Birthday
5 p.m. North Face
9:30 p.m. Cloud 9

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
7 p.m. Beeswax
9:30 p.m. Showcase Shorts 1

SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM
7 p.m. Within Our Gates

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

TIVOLI THEATRE 1
1 p.m. Branson
3:30 p.m. Saint Misbehavin’: The Wavy Gravy Movie
7 p.m. Up in the Air

TIVOLI THEATRE 3
11 a.m. For the Love of Movies
12:30 p.m. Film Criticism Panel
2:30 p.m. How I Got Lost
5 p.m. Made in China
7:15 p.m. Spooner
9:30 p.m. Cat City

PLAZA FRONTENAC 1
1 p.m. Sleepwalking Land
3 p.m. My Time Will Come
5 p.m. Shorts Program 2
7:15 p.m. Stolen Lives
9:30 p.m. Terribly Happy

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6
1:15 p.m. Lake Tahoe

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
7 p.m. Beeswax
9:30 p.m. Showcase Shorts 1

PLAZA FRONTENAC 1
3 p.m. Against the Tide
5:30 p.m. Formosa Betrayed
8 p.m. Youth in Revolt

BROWN HALL
6:30 p.m. Ride With the Devil: Director’s Cut

MONDAY, NOV. 16

TIVOLI THEATRE 1
7 p.m. Touching Home
9:30 p.m. Waiting for Hockney

TIVOLI THEATRE 3
7:15 p.m. William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe
9:30 p.m. Forgetting Dad

PLAZA FRONTENAC 1
2:30 p.m. I Am From Titov Veles
5 p.m. Adela
7 p.m. Those Three
9 p.m. Drool

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6
1:15 p.m. XXY
3 p.m. Cloud 9
5:15 p.m. Helen
7:15 p.m. Ciao Bella
9:15 p.m. The Drummer

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
6 p.m. How I Got Lost
8:30 p.m. Showcase Shorts 2

HI-POINTE THEATRE
1 p.m. Amreeka

TUESDAY, NOV. 17

TIVOLI THEATRE 1
5 p.m. Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo
7:15 p.m. Icons Among Us
9:30 p.m. London River

TIVOLI THEATRE 3
6:30 p.m. Snow
9:30 p.m. Grbavica

PLAZA FRONTENAC 1
3 p.m. Gigante
5 p.m. Possible Lives
7 p.m. Shorts Program 3
9:15 p.m. Drool

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6
Noon Teo’s Journey
2 p.m. Teo’s Journey
4 p.m. Ciao Bella
6:30 p.m. One Day You’ll Understand
9 p.m. What a Wonderful World

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY
7 p.m. CinemaSpoke Reading: Broken Sinclair

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS
3:30 p.m. Faruk Sabanovic Program
### Wednesday, Nov. 18

**Tivoli Theatre 1**
- 5 p.m. The Wonder of It All
- 7 p.m. Pop Star on Ice
- 9 p.m. Snow

**Tivoli Theatre 3**
- 5 p.m. First of All, Felicia
- 7:15 p.m. Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench
- 9:30 p.m. First of All, Felicia

**Plaza Frontenac 1**
- 3 p.m. Mutum
- 5 p.m. Munyurangabo
- 7 p.m. Tapped
- 9:15 p.m. Shorts Program 4

**Plaza Frontenac 6**
- Noon Mia and the Migoo
- 2 p.m. What a Wonderful World
- 4:15 p.m. Dernier Maquis
- 7 p.m. Everybody’s Fine
- 9:30 p.m. Jerichow

**Webster University**
- 7:30 p.m. Mine

**Fontbonne University**
- 6 p.m. Edward Serotta Program

### Thursday, Nov. 19

**Tivoli Theatre 1**
- 5 p.m. Margarette’s Feast
- 7 p.m. We Live in Public
- 9 p.m. Say My Name

**Tivoli Theatre 3**
- 5 p.m. Documentary Shorts: Sports
- 7:15 p.m. Hooked
- 9:30 p.m. October Country

**Plaza Frontenac 1**
- 2:30 p.m. For My Father
- 4:45 p.m. The Missing Person
- 7 p.m. Munyurangabo
- 9:15 p.m. Shorts Program 5

**Plaza Frontenac 6**
- Noon Tahaan
- 2:15 p.m. One Day You’ll Understand
- 4:15 p.m. Storm
- 7:15 p.m. Marcello Marcello
- 9:30 p.m. 24 City

**Webster University**
- 7:30 p.m. Soldiers of Peace

### Friday, Nov. 20

**Tivoli Theatre 1**
- 7 p.m. Old Dog, New Trick with Pride of St. Louis
- 9:30 p.m. Mystery Science Theater 3000/ Cinematic Titanic Panel

**Tivoli Theatre 3**
- 5 p.m. Hooked
- 7 p.m. The Only Good Indian
- 9:45 p.m. Shorts Program 6

**Plaza Frontenac 1**
- 2:30 p.m. Tapped
- 4:30 p.m. The Photograph
- 7 p.m. 35 Shots of Rum
- 9:30 p.m. The Missing Person

**Plaza Frontenac 6**
- 2:15 p.m. Jerichow
- 4:15 p.m. The Way We Get By
- 7:15 p.m. Marcello Marcello
- 9:15 p.m. Three Monkeys

**Webster University**
- 7 p.m. Youssou N’Dour: I Bring What I Love
- 9 p.m. RiseUp

**Saint Louis Art Museum**
- 7 p.m. Saving Grace B. Jones

**Blueberry Hill’s Duck Room**
- 9:30 p.m.: Steve Scorfina/Danny Liston Concert

### Saturday, Nov. 21

**Tivoli Theatre 1**
- 2 p.m. See What I’m Saying
- 5 p.m. Operation Babylift
- 7:15 p.m. Convention
- 9:30 p.m. 2:22

**Tivoli Theatre 3**
- 1:30 p.m. Playground
- 3:30 p.m. From Somewhere to Nowhere
- 5:30 p.m. Desdemona
- 7:30 p.m. You Won’t Miss Me
- 9:30 p.m. René

**Plaza Frontenac 1**
- 1 p.m. Adela
- 3 p.m. Those Three
- 5 p.m. Documentary Shorts: Communities
- 7:15 p.m. Shorts Program 7
- 9:30 p.m. 35 Shots of Rum

**Plaza Frontenac 6**
- 12:30 p.m. The Way We Get By
- 2:30 p.m. Three Monkeys

### Sunday, Nov. 22

**Tivoli Theatre 1**
- 1 p.m. Sam Steele and the Junior Detective Agency
- 3:30 p.m. Bollywood Beats
- 6:30 p.m. Me and Orson Welles
- 9 p.m. Shorts Program 6

**Tivoli Theatre 3**
- 1 p.m. The Choir
- 3 p.m. Rough Aunties
- 5:30 p.m. The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus
- 7:30 p.m. Shorts Program 7
- 9:30 p.m. Shorts Program 2

**Plaza Frontenac 1**
- 2 p.m. Song From the Southern Seas
- 4 p.m. For My Father
- 6 p.m. Burma VJ
- 8 p.m. Shorts Program 1

**Plaza Frontenac 6**
- 2:15 p.m. Liverpool
- 4:15 p.m. The Beaches of Agnes
- 6:15 p.m. Dernier Maquis
- 8:15 p.m. The Beaches of Agnes

**Hi-Pointe Theatre**
- 1 p.m. The Headless Woman
- 3 p.m. Jolene
- 6 p.m. The Young Victoria

**Webster University**
- 6 p.m. Chops

**Moonrise Hotel**
- 8 p.m. Closing-Night Party
Precious: Based on the Novel “Push” by Sapphire

LEE DANIELS, U.S., 2009, 109 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 7:30 P.M., HI-POINTE

Winner of both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award at Sundance, Lee Daniels’ adaptation of the poet Sapphire’s novel takes an unflinching look at the life of Clareece “Precious” Jones (Gabourey Sidibe, in a fearless performance), an illiterate, obese teenage girl living in 1987 Harlem. After becoming pregnant with her second child at the hands of her father, Clareece enrolls in an alternative school to place her life back on track. Championed by Oprah Winfrey and Tyler Perry, “Precious” also features standout performances from Mo’Nique and Mariah Carey. In a post-fest roundup, the LA Weekly’s Scott Foundas declared that “there isn’t much I’ve seen at Sundance this year that I wouldn’t trade for the sight of a hard-won smile finally making its way across Precious Jones’ stoic, beautiful, wounded face.”

Followed by a discussion on the issues raised by the film with Deanna Rhodes, CASA case advocacy supervisor, and Tina Amrein, CASA volunteer since 2004.

Sponsored by Stella Artois

The Only Good Indian

KEVIN WILLMOTT, U.S., 2009, 113 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 7 P.M., TIVOLI 3

In this provocative revisionist Western, director Kevin Willmott (“C.S.A.: The Confederate States of America”) provides a Native American response to John Ford’s “The Searchers.” Set in Kansas during the early 1900s, “The Only Good Indian” tells the story of a teenage Native American boy who is taken from his family and forced to attend a distant Indian “training” school whose mission is to assimilate him into white society. When the teen escapes, Cherokee bounty hunter Sam Franklin (Wes Studi), who’s renounced his native heritage and has adopted the white man’s way of life, is hired to find and return him to the institution. Along the way, a tragic incident spurs famous Indian fighter Sheriff Henry McCoy to pursue both Franklin and the boy. “The Only Good Indian” premiered at Sundance. With director Willmott.

Co-presented by Washington U’s Center for the Study of Ethics and Human Values

The Photograph

NAN ACHNAS, INDONESIA, 2007, 98 MIN., INDONESIAN
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 4:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

Sita is a spirited young woman working to support her family as a singer and prostitute in a local brothel. Always short of funds and bullied by her pimp, she convinces elderly portrait photographer Mr. Johan to rent her a room. In failing health and haunted by a tragedy whose exact nature is only slowly revealed, Mr. Johan is equally desperate: He’s on the hunt for an apprentice to carry on his work before he dies. The bond that develops between the unlikely pair is the basis for a poignant work about the profound effect one life can have on another. Describing “The Photograph” as a “tender and contemplative drama,” the Hollywood Reporter says that “Achnas directs at a gentle pace, allowing cinematographer Yadi Sugandi to frame compelling images and capture two strong lead performances.”

Possible Lives

(Las Vidas Posibles)
SANDRA GUGLIOTTA, ARGENTINA, 2007, 80 MIN., SPANISH
TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 5 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

When her geologist husband (Germán Palacios) vanishes on a business trip, Carla (Ana Celentano) travels to the desolate Patagonian region of South America in search of him. Arriving at the hotel where he was supposed to stay, she encounters a man bearing a striking resemblance to her husband, but he proves a resident of the area. Despite the evidence to the contrary, Carla remains convinced that the look-alike is her amnesiac spouse, and she grows ever more obsessed with uncovering the elusive truth about her husband’s disappearance. “Possible Lives” made its world premiere at the Locarno International Film Festival.
Princess of the Sun
(La reine soleil)
PHILIPPE LECLERC, FRANCE/BELGIUM/HUNGARY, 2007, 90 MIN., FRENCH
FREE PROGRAM
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 10 A.M., BROWN HALL

Set in ancient Egypt during the 18th dynasty, the gorgeously animated “Princess of the Sun” tells the story of beautiful 14-year-old Akhesa. An impetuous young girl, she rebels against her father, refusing to live within the royal palace’s walls and demanding to know why her mother, Queen Nefertiti, has been exiled. With the help of Prince Tut, Akhesa runs away in search of her mother, and the two teenagers travel down the Nile, cheating death among the burning desert dunes. Variety says “Princess of the Sun” “does a splendid job of bringing the structures and sandy vistas of ancient Egypt to life.... Film, whose original 2-D animation was hand-drawn (in Hungary) and then scanned, rather than being totally computer-generated, is aimed at kids, yet never talks down to them or indulges in antics that don’t move the saga forward.”

Co-presented by Washington U.’s Center for the Humanities
Sponsored in part by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Chicago

Ride With the Devil: Director’s Cut
FREE PROGRAM
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 6:30 P.M., BROWN HALL

Between “The Ice Storm” and “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon,” Oscar®-winning director Ang Lee made the ambitious “Ride With the Devil.” Based on Missourian Daniel Woodrell’s novel, the Civil War film was shot entirely in Missouri and Kansas and boasted an ensemble cast of Tobey Maguire, Jewel, Tom Wilkinson, Skeet Ulrich, Jeffrey Wright, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Jim Caviezel and Mark Ruffalo. Lee has now revisited the film, restoring vital material. “Most of all, the new movie has breadth and pacing, more plot and action,” says Lee. “All the information is laid out. There’s a big action war sequence that is longer and more detailed. It feels more epic.” With novelist Woodrell and a discussion of book-to-film translation.

Co-presented by the Missouri Center for the Book and Washington University’s Film and Media Studies Program

Room and a Half
(Pol’tory komnaty ili sentimental’noe put’ehestvie na rodinu)
ANDREY KHRZHANOVSKY, RUSSIA, 2009, 130 MIN., RUSSIAN
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

Celebrated Russian poet and Nobel Prize winner Joseph Brodsky, who lived the latter half of his life in U.S. exile, was once asked whether he ever intended to return to see his fatherland. His reply – that if he did so, it would be anonymously – inspired this selection of the 2009 New York Film Festival, an ironic fairytale in which the poet travels by ship to the country of his youth. Crossing both geographical and temporal barriers, the film transports Brodsky back to the ’50s and ’60s and the country’s cultural capital, St. Petersburg. A fantastic voyage to the country’s past, “Room and a Half,” says Slant magazine, “brims forth with joyous bits of invention (such as a sequence where pianos, horns, and harps float above snowy St. Petersburg), mixes in handcrafted animated bits where cats and birds stand in for the people in Brodsky’s life, and peppers the poet’s lyrics across its soundtrack.”

Co-presented by AFI PROJECT: 20/20

Sam Steele and the Junior Detective Agency
TOM WHITUS, U.S., 2009, 90 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 1 P.M., TIVOLI 1

In this charming family film, Sam Steele Jr. wants to emulate his father, a renowned detective with the metro police. So with the aid of a new neighbor girl and her dog, Sam turns his clubhouse into the headquarters for the Junior Detective Agency. Meanwhile, Det. Sam Steele Sr. is having trouble catching the Cat (Luke Perry), a burglar who breaks into antique stores, museums and wealthy homes and leaves a taunting calling card. Tired of solving kiddie crimes, Sam Jr. decides to take on the Cat without the knowledge of his dad or mom (St. Louis actress Jilanne Klaus), and the plucky junior sleuths stumble across the scene of a crime in progress. “Sam Steele,” directed by SLIFF alum Tom Whitus (“Matchmaker Mary”), also boasts a delightful turn by veteran character actor M. Emmet Walsh (“Blood Simple”). With director Whitus and co-star Klaus.

Sponsored by Rich & Judee Sauget and the Gateway Grizzlies
**Song From the Southern Seas**  
**MARAT SARULU, KAZAKHSTAN/ RUSSIA/FRANCE/GERMANY, 2008, 80 MIN., RUSSIAN**  
**FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 7:15 P.M., FRONTEC 1**  
**SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 2 P.M., FRONTEC 1**

In a beautiful but semi-desolate region of the Great Steppe, two couples – one Russian, the other Kazakh – have lived side-by-side for 15 years in relative harmony. But when the fair-skinned Russians give birth to a boy of decidedly darker skin, suspicion and acrimony arise and can only be dispelled by an ironic twist of family and fate. Alternating moods, from darkly somber to tender and wistful, writer-director Marat Sarulu’s film draws on Kazakhstan’s epic history to create a gritty, deeply compassionate tale of humor and cultural insight. “Song From the Southern Seas” is buoyed throughout by a soundtrack of folk-inspired melodies and makes bold use of hand-drawn shadow-puppet interludes that comment obliquely on the narrative. Ranking the film with such extraordinary Kazakh works as “Tulpan” and “Mongol,” Screen International calls it “an excellent example of accessible, cinema-specific, multilayered narrative.”

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**Saving Grace B. Jones**  
**CONNIE STEVENS, U.S., 2009, 120 MIN.**  
**FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 7 P.M., SLAM**

Legendary actress and singer Connie Stevens (still beloved as Cricket from “Hawaiian Eye”) makes her belated but assured debut as a writer-director with the Missouri-shot drama “Saving Grace B. Jones.” After 17 years in a mental institution, troubled Grace (Oscar® winner Tatum O’Neal) arrives at the home of brother Landy (Michael Bieln of “The Terminator”) at the same time as 10-year-old Carrie (Rylee Fansler), who’s sent from NYC to rural Missouri after the murder of her mother. The traumatized victims are welcomed by Landy, wife Bea (Penelope Ann Miller) and daughter Lucy (Evie Louise Thompson), but when a flood swamps the area, the once-placid surface of this small-town family is similarly roiled. The film’s deep cast includes Scott Wilson (“In Cold Blood”) and three-time Oscar® nominee Piper Laurie. **With director Stevens and stars Wilson, Fansler, Thompson, Gregory James and Tricia Leigh Fisher. Sponsored by David Houlle, Sight and Sound Productions**

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**Sleepwalking Land**  
**(Terra Sonâmbula)**  
**TERESA PRATA, MOZAMBIQUE, 2007, 97 MIN., PORTUGUESE**  
**SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 1 P.M., FRONTEC 1**

In the midst of Mozambique’s devastating civil war, an orphaned refugee wanders the countryside in search of his mother. His only companion is an elderly storyteller, and the only guide to finding his mother is a dead man’s diary. Together, the storyteller and diary lead him on a magical, macabre journey across war-torn landscapes to find the family he lost. Based on Mia Coutou’s acclaimed Portuguese novel of the same name, Brazilian director Teresa Prata’s transporting drama underscores the power of imagination in surviving, and ultimately overcoming, the catastrophe of war. Variety writes: “The unquantifiable toll of Mozambique’s long civil war suffuses ‘Sleepwalking Land,’ an emotionally affecting tale-within-a-tale (that) ... works as a parable for a society struggling to cope with its evisceration.”

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**Snow**  
**(Snijeg)**  
**AIDA BEGIC, BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA, 2009, 100 MIN., BOSNIAN & ENGLISH**  
**TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 6:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 9 P.M., TIVOLI 1**

“Snow,” the first feature from director Aida Begic, painstakingly documents the daily hardships of a war-scarred Bosnian village populated entirely by widows and orphans. In isolated Slavno, the surviving Muslim women manage to scratch out an existence, shunning the modern world. Young Alma wants to break the village’s self-imposed silence, and as the season’s first major snowstorm threatens to deepen the isolation, she forces the town’s women to confront both past and future. “Snow” won the Critics Week Grand Prize at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival. **With co-writer-art director Faruk Sabanovic.**
St. Nick
DAVID LOWERY, U.S., 2008, 86 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 7:15 P.M., TIVOLI 3

In his gorgeously rendered first feature, writer-director David Lowery evokes the pastoral grandeur of Terrence Malick and David Gordon Green as a young brother and sister, played beautifully by real-life siblings Tucker and Savanna Sears, fend for themselves in the dangerous, unknown Texan landscape. Using sparse dialogue, Lowery composes “St. Nick” with a visual lyricism that lends it a dreamlike quality. Aaron Hillis of GreenCine Daily remarked: “Without a doubt, the best film at SXSW 2009 was writer-director David Lowery’s lovely, lived-in, slow-burning debut feature ‘St. Nick.’” With director Lowery.

Stolen Lives
ANDERS ANDERSON, U.S., 2009, 90 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 7:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 7 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

A tense thriller, “Stolen Lives” explores every parent’s worst nightmare: the loss of a child. It has been eight years since the disappearance of his son, but Detective Tom Adkins (St. Louisan Jon Hamm of “Mad Men”) remains consumed by the event. When an early-morning phone call leads him to the mangled remains of a child who was buried alive 50 years ago, the evidence seems to shed new light on the mystery of his own son’s vanishing. Cutting back and forth from present day to the 1950s, the film skillfully weaves together two suspenseful narratives, with the striking similarities in the cases intensifying Adkins’ obsession. Josh Lucas and James Van Der Beek co-star. With director Anderson.

Storm
HANS CHRISTIAN-SCHMID, GERMANY, 2009, 110 MIN., GERMAN, ENGLISH, BOSNIAN & SERBIAN
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 4:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 5 P.M., FRONTENAC 6

A prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, Hannah Maynard (Kerry Fox of “Bright Star” and “Intimacy”) is leading a case against a former Yugoslavian National Army commander accused of the deportation and killing of dozens of Bosnian-Muslim civilians. When a key witness commits suicide, it looks as though the case will unravel, but Hannah refuses to give in. Hoping to uncover new findings, she travels to the witness’ burial in Sarajevo and meets his sister. Although the sister (Anamaria Marinca of “Four Months, Three Weeks and Two Days”) reluctantly agrees to testify, she and Hannah must face grave risks in taking the case to trial. The film also stars Stephen Dillane (who portrayed Jefferson in the “John Adams” miniseries) and Tarik Filipovic (“Go West”). Directed by SLIFF alum Hans Christian-Schmid (“Requiem”), “Storm” won a trio of awards at the 2009 Berlin fest, including the Amnesty International Film Prize. Sponsored by St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities
**Those Three**
*(An Seh)*  
**NAGHI NEMATI, IRAN, 2007, 80 MIN., FARSI & TURKISH**  
**MONDAY, NOV. 16, 7 P.M., FRONTE NAC 1**  
**SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 3 P.M., FRONTE NAC 1**

Just one day from completing their military training, three conscripts desert their camp and escape into the frozen wilderness of Northern Iran. Travel through this mountainous, snowbound region is dangerous, but “those three” opt for the independence it promises and must now forge their way through an uncertain landscape, with only friendship to see them through. In this mesmerizing debut feature, director Naghi Nemati attends to the minutiae of human relationships and offers a quiet meditation on the value of responsibility, connection and sacrifice. Screen International calls “Those Three” an “assured, poetic debut,” and says that “this austerely shot existential odyssey about three soldiers lost in a snowy wasteland seems tailor-made to illustrate Fellini’s claim that ‘cinema uses the language of dreams.’”

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**Terribly Happy**
*(Frygtelig lykkelig)*  
**HENRIK RUBEN GENZ, DENMARK, 2008, 90 MIN., DANISH**  
**FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 9:15 P.M., FRONTE NAC 1**  
**SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 9:30 P.M., FRONTE NAC 1**

A southern Danish village hides as many secrets as the nearby bog in “Terribly Happy,” a blackly comic thriller about the universal nature of compromise and corruption. When tightly wound cop Robert is transferred to a small border town where outsiders either adapt or disappear, he finds a place where the clannish locals scorn by-the-book law enforcement, relying instead on their own unique brand of frontier justice. When another outsider, the alluring Ingelise, tries to enlist Robert’s help in escaping from her abusive husband, the stage seems to be set for a predictable love triangle. However, the smart, tightly constructed script cleverly defies expectations as it knowingly toys with genre conventions. Director Henrik Ruben Genz sustains a unique tone that smoothly incorporates Western, noir, horror and psychological-thriller elements without feeling like pastiche. This dark comedy won six Danish Bodil awards earlier in 2009.

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**Teo’s Journey**
*(El viaje de Teo)*  
**WALTER DOEHNER, MEXICO, 2008, 90 MIN., SPANISH**  
**TUESDAY, NOV. 17, NOON, FRONTE NAC 6**  
**TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 2 P.M., FRONTE NAC 6**

In this inspiring story, 9-year-old Teo travels toward an uncertain destiny as he illegally crosses the Mexican-American border with his estranged father. Helped along by a negligent *pollero* – a smuggler of illegal immigrants – father and son are attacked and robbed on the journey, forcing the boy to flee alone into the desert. Teo is saved by 12-year-old *pollero* Chuy, who guides him to the border. As Teo waits at the checkpoint in Nogales for his father’s certain deportation, a friendship deepens with his young rescuer. “Teo’s Journey” won the Ecumenical Award at the Montreal World Film Festival, which also honored young Erick Cañete as Best Actor for his touching performance as Teo.

Sponsored by El Mundo Latino
Touching Home
MONDAY, NOV. 16, 7 P.M., TIVOLI 1

This moving autobiographical film is the debut feature of identical-twin brothers Logan and Noah Miller, who not only wrote, directed and produced “Touching Home” but also star in its leading roles. The quietly powerful drama also showcases the extraordinary acting talents of Oscar® nominees Ed Harris, Brad Dourif and Robert Forster. When the brothers find their dream of playing major-league baseball dashed, they return home to rethink their lives. Attempting to reconcile with their alcoholic father (Harris), whose chronic shameful behavior stirs both anger and despair, the twins must wrestle with their own fear of failure while working alongside their ne’er-do-well buddies in the town quarry. With writer-director-stars Logan and Noah Miller.

Three Monkeys
(Üç maymun)
NURI BILGE CEFILAN, TURKEY, 2008, 109 MIN., TURKISH
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 9:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 2:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 6

With breathtaking cinematography and understated performances, “Three Monkeys” marks the latest triumph from Turkey’s preeminent filmmaker, Nuri Bilge Ceylan (“Climates,” “Distant”). Winner of the Best Director award at Cannes, the film is a noir-ish tale of greed and betrayal surrounding a politician, his wife, son and chauffeur during an election campaign. Peter Brunette of the Hollywood Reporter describes “Three Monkeys” as “a film whose every shot seems lifted right off the wall of an art gallery and just as powerfully, if quietly, satisfying.”

Under Still Waters
CAROLYN MILLER, U.S., 2008, 95 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

Charlie (Lake Bell) and husband Andrew (Jason Clarke) head to her family’s remote hunting lodge to escape the pressures of daily life. Both are troubled: She’s turned to alcohol to cope with her infertility, and he’s unable to find a job without the help of Charlie’s rich and powerful father. On their trip, Andrew runs a stranger (Clifton Collins Jr.) off the side of the road, and the couple invites the scratched and startled man to the cabin until help can be arranged. At the lodge, dark secrets come to light, putting the marriage – and their lives – in danger. A dramatic thriller with a strong cast that includes Ken Howard, “Under Still Waters” was shot on location in St. Louis and Owensville, Mo. With director Miller.

Up in the Air
JASON REITMAN, U.S., 2009, 108 MIN.
SOLD OUT
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 7 P.M., TIVOLI 1

The Oscar®-nominated director of “Juno” and “Thank You for Smoking” continues his ascent with the dramatic comedy “Up in the Air,” starring Oscar® winner George Clooney as a corporate downsizing expert whose cherished life on the road is threatened just as he is on the cusp of reaching 10 million frequent-flyer miles and has met the seeming woman of his dreams (Vera Farmiga). The uniformly excellent cast includes Jason Bateman, Anna Kendrick, Danny McBride, Melanie Lynskey and J.K. Simmons. Shot largely in St. Louis, “Up in the Air” was the buzz film of the Telluride and Toronto film fests, with critics loudly trumpeting its Academy Award® potential. IndieWire calls the film “a witty, charming and moving exploration of a world we all recognize,” and Variety asserts that “Clooney has scarcely ever been more magnetic onscreen.” With writer-director Reitman and executive producer Michael Beugg, a native St. Louisan and recipient of SLIFF’s Charles Guggenheim Cinema St. Louis Award.

Followed by Q&A between St. Louis Post-Dispatch critic Joe Williams and Reitman, recipient of SLIFF’s Contemporary Cinema Award.

Sponsored by American Airlines
www.cinemastlouis.org
West of Pluto
(À l'ouest de Pluton)
HENRY BERNADET & MYRIAM VERREAULT, CANADA, 2008, 90 MIN., FRENCH
FREE PROGRAM
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 5 P.M., BROWN HALL

Set over the course of 24 hours in a suburb of Québec, “West of Pluto” presents a kaleidoscopic snapshot of the perils of youth through the eyes of a dozen high-school students. Reminiscent of Gus Van Sant’s “Elephant” in its pseudo-documentary approach – the directors workedshopped and improvised the film with real kids – “West of Pluto” focuses on the complicated issues all teenagers face, from progressing maturity and the pains of fitting in to hopeless crushes and family disputes. First-time directors Henry Bernadet and Myriam Verreault paint a compelling portrait of adolescence as they grapple with not just the usual characteristics of growing up but their own cultural heritage and its future. Moving Picture Magazine describes “West of Pluto” as “a Québécois version of Dazed and Confused.”

Co-presented by Washington U.’s Center for the Humanities

What a Wonderful World
FAOUZI BENSÄID, MOROCCO, 2006, 94 MIN., ARABIC & FRENCH
TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 9 P.M., FRONTE NAC 6
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 2 P.M., FRONTE NAC 6

In this Tarantino-esque comic thriller, Souad is a prostitute whose best friend is Kenza, a tough traffic cop. Kamel (played by director Faouzi Bensaïdi) is a stony contract killer who receives his hit orders via the Internet; he is also Souad’s favorite customer. When Kenza falls in love with Kamel, the two begin a bizarre courtship doomed by their disparate lines of work and a persistent cyber-snooping hacker who stumbles on the site where Kamel receives his murderous contracts. Moroccan actor-director Bensaïdi’s promiscuously stylish film is a new vision of an old culture, unveiling an uncommon Casablanca caught in a world wide web of associations and consequences. Variety says this “tale of a hit man falling for a traffic cop’s voice covers the genre map while never taking itself too seriously, allowing for subtle comments on love, disillusion and today’s Morocco to slip in almost without noticing.”

Within Our Gates
OSCAR MICHEAUX, U.S., 1920, 79 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 7 P.M., SLAM

“Within Our Gates,” writer-director Oscar Micheaux’s impassioned response to D.W. Griffith’s “Birth of a Nation,” shines a revealing light on the racism of U.S. society, provocatively including scenes of lynching and attempted rape. Micheaux was a pioneering African-American filmmaker and novelist whose career stretched from the silent era through the 1940s. “Within Our Gates,” the oldest surviving “race” film, was thought lost until a single print was discovered in Spain in 1990 and restored by the Library of Congress in 1992. This screening will feature an original score by Cairo, Ill.’s Stace England, who recently released “The Amazing Oscar Micheaux,” a CD of songs inspired by the filmmaker’s life and work. Respected film biographer Patrick McGilligan, author of 2007’s “Oscar Micheaux: The Great and Only – The Life of America’s First Black Filmmaker,” will introduce the program and participate in a post-film discussion.

With McGilligan and live musical accompaniment by Stace England and the Salt Kings.

Co-presented by Washington U.’s Center for the Study of Ethics and Human Values

XXY
LUCÍA PUENZO, ARGENTINA, 2008, 86 MIN., SPANISH
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 9:30 P.M., FRONTE NAC 6
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 1 P.M., FRONTE NAC 6

Winner of the Critics Week Grand Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, “XXY” deftly examines the ways in which an intersex teenager’s physical and sexual developments affect the dynamics of family. After raising their child as a girl for 15 years, a marine biologist and his wife invite a gifted surgeon and his family to visit them on their secluded island in order to allow Alex (Inès Efron) the freedom to explore her options in terms of gender identification. However, the mutual attraction between Alex and the surgeon’s teenage son intensifies the already difficult concerns of the two families. “XXY” was awarded Best Picture, Actress and Adapted Screenplay by the Argentinean Film Critics Association and won the top prizes at both the Athens and Bangkok film festivals.
Yella
CHRISTIAN PETZOLD, GERMANY, 2007, 89 MIN., GERMAN
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 2:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 6
MONDAY, NOV. 16, 9:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 6

In what the Village Voice’s Scott Foundas calls a “tightly controlled, metaphysical horror movie,” a young woman (Nina Hoss, winner of Best Actress prizes at both the Berlin International Film Festival and the German Film Awards) eludes her controlling ex-husband and flees to Hanover to start a new life. Though bizarre circumstances, she lands a job as an assistant to Philipp (Devid Striesow), an investment representative of questionable business ethics, but discovers her past isn’t as easy to escape from as she had hoped. Hailing writer-director Christian Petzold as “one of the leading lights of New German cinema,” Time Out London writes: “Though his films tend to adopt the structure of a conventional thriller, they often probe deeper, raising questions of national identity and the knock-on effect of twentieth century German history.” Petzold’s latest film, “Jerichow,” also screens at SLIFF. 

Sponsored by St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister Cities

You Won’t Miss Me
RY RUSSO-YOUNG, U.S., 2008, 80 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 7:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

Ry Russo-Young returns to SLIFF – her debut, “Orphans,” screened as part of the fest’s New Filmmakers Forum (NFF) in 2007 – with an engrossing second feature. Using a fragmented narrative and shifting film stocks, “You Won’t Miss Me” follows Shelly (Stella Schnabel, daughter of Julian), a twentiesomething actress chasing her dreams in New York City, through embarrassing auditions, one-night stands and bitter tirades. Russo-Young and Schnabel, who co-wrote the screenplay together, craft a fascinating and provocative portrait of a troubled young woman. “You Won’t Miss Me” features cameos by the rock group the Virgins and fellow filmmakers Aaron Katz, Greta Gerwig, Joe Swanberg, Michael Tully and Mary Bronstein (last year’s NFF award winner for “Yeast”). Gil Kofman, yet another NFF alum, co-edited the film and cameos. With co-writer-director Russo-Young, recipient of SLIFF’s Women in Film Award.

The Young Victoria
JEAN-MARC VALLÉE, U.K., 2009, 100 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 6 P.M., HI-POINTE

Following in the footsteps of Judi Dench, Romy Schneider and Anita Björk, Emily Blunt fills the shoes of Queen Victoria in Jean-Marc Vallée’s lavish costume drama about the chaotic early years of Victoria’s reign over England. Beginning just before Victoria ascended the throne at the age of 18, “The Young Victoria” chronicles the difficulties of obtaining such power at a tender age, especially when her inexperience invites treacherous manipulations from those around her. Selected as the closing-night feature at the Toronto International Film Festival, “The Young Victoria” showcases A-list talent throughout its production, with Martin Scorsese as co-producer, Julian Fellowes (“Gosford Park”) as screenwriter, Sandy Powell (“Velvet Goldmine”) as costume designer, and Jim Broadbent, Miranda Richardson, Paul Bettany, Rupert Friend and Thomas Kretschmann rounding out its cast.

Sponsored by Delcia & Bill Corlew

Youth in Revolt
MIGUEL ARTETA, 2009, U.S., 90 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 8 P.M., HI-POINTE

He’s not mentally ill. He’s just a teenager. In the tradition of “Superbad,” and starring that film’s Michael Cera (of the Oscar®-winning “Juno”), “Youth in Revolt” is a teen sex comedy that puts an entirely fresh spin on adolescent obsession and rebellion. Based on the acclaimed novel by C.D. Payne, “Youth in Revolt” tells the riotous story of Nick, a sex-obsessed teen who falls hopelessly in love with beautiful Sheeni (Portia Doubleday), but family, geography and jealous ex-lovers conspire to keep the two apart. Inspired by his free-spirited love, Nick abandons his dull life and develops a rebellious alter ego, Francois, who will stop at nothing to be with Sheeni, leading to uproarious consequences. The film’s terrific cast also features Zach Gallifanakis, Justin Long, Steve Buscemi, Ray Liotta and Fred Willard. “The collision of adolescent hormones and parental folly,” says the Hollywood Reporter, “gets a bracing absurdist slant in ‘Youth in Revolt.’”
9500 Liberty
ERIC BYLER & ANNABEL PARK, U.S., 2009, 81 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 1:30 P.M., TIVOLI 1

Prince William County, Va., became ground zero in America’s explosive battle over immigration policy when elected officials adopted a law requiring police officers to question anyone they had “probable cause” to suspect is an undocumented immigrant. Alarmed by a climate of fear and racial division, residents formed a resistance using YouTube videos and virtual town halls, setting up a real-life showdown in the seat of county government. “9500 Liberty” shows the devastating social and economic impact of the “Immigration Resolution” and records the ferocious fight to adopt and then reverse the policy. Writer John Grisham says of the film: “‘9500 Liberty’ makes it clear that when we, as a nation of immigrants, debate the immigration issue, we are defining our very identity as Americans.” With co-directors Byler and Park.

Co-presented by Washington U’s Center for the Study of Ethics and Human Values

Against the Tide
RICHARD TRANK, U.S., 2008, 98 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 3 P.M., HI-POINTE

Narrated by Dustin Hoffman, this compelling film – directed by Oscar® winner Trank (1997’s “The Long Way Home”) and produced under the auspices of the Simon Weisenthal Center – documents what happened in the United States during the Holocaust, highlighting how a young activist, Peter Bergson, challenged Washington and the establishment Jewish organizations to demand the rescue of Europe’s Jews. Through a never-before-seen 1977 interview, Bergson gives a firsthand account of what occurred. Particularly illuminating is the film’s focus on the amount of knowledge that the United States had regarding Nazi atrocities, the lack of action by the Roosevelt administration because of political factors, and the inaction of many in the American Jewish community for fear of anti-Semitism or the labeling of World War II as a “Jewish” war. With director Trank.

The Beaches of Agnès
( Les plages d’Agnès)
AGNÈS VARDA, FRANCE, 2009, 110 MIN., FRENCH
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 4:15 P.M., FRONTE NAC 6, SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 8:15 P.M., FRONTE NAC 6

An antic but ineffably moving memory film, “The Beaches of Agnès” playfully recalls the life and work of 81-year-old New Wave director Varda (“Cleo from 7 to 5,” “Vagabond”). Varda recounts her experiences in time-shifting, stream-of-consciousness fashion, but the film remains emotionally anchored by the memories of her late husband, filmmaker Jacques Demy (“The Umbrellas of Cherbourg”). Richard Brody writes in The New Yorker: “Varda, seemingly freed from fear and shame by age and honors, goes far beyond a tale of life lived in art and makes a work of art in its own right, one of her best – a poignant, rapturously emotional tribute to life itself.” And don’t worry if you’re unfamiliar with the director’s work. As Roger Ebert assures, “If you have never seen a single film by Agnès Varda, perhaps it is best to start with ‘The Beaches of Agnès.’ … The film is a poem, a song, a celebration.”

Sponsored in part by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Chicago
Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo

JESSICA ORECK, JAPAN, 2009, 91 MIN., JAPANESE & ENGLISH
TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 5 P.M., TIVOLI 1

Sold live in vending machines and department stores, insects inspire an enthusiasm in Japan seen nowhere else in this world, and “Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo” entertainingly explores the country’s love affair with bugs. But director Oreck, an entomologist, also has a more ambitious goal: “My aim is to challenge the way Westerners view nature, beauty and the hectic monotony of our day-to-day routine. It is my intention to inspire a new sense of wonder.” When the film debuted at SXSW, the Austin Chronicle enthused that Oreck “has made a splendid, enthralling and fascinating documentary…. ‘Beetle Queen’ is a striking micromasterpiece.” The Austin Statesman was equally effusive in its praise: “Oreck illuminates both earthbound and airborne cosmos with glittering imagery and sumptuous sensory detail.” “Beetle Queen” won a Special Jury Award for Artistic Vision at 2009’s Cinevagas film fest.

Co-presented by AFI PROJECT: 20/20

Branson

BRENT MEESKE, U.S., 2009, 90 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 1 P.M., TIVOLI 1

Focusing on a trio of strivers in the Vegas of outstate Missouri, “Branson” provides sympathetic insight into two down-at-heels shows, “Blast!” and “No. 1 Hits of the ’60s,” but it looks deepest when following the fluctuating fortunes of Jackson Cash, an astonishingly good Man in Black impersonator whose own troubles with addiction parallel those of his idol. After the film’s LA Film Festival premiere, Variety raved: “Though the chintzy stage shows and eccentric performers it documents often seem ripped straight out of a Christopher Guest mockumentary, Brent Meeske’s wonderful chronicle of Branson, Mo., performers is something else entirely – a very funny, very sincere testament to the immense dedication, faith and personal sacrifice that goes into creating forms of art most cultural arbiters would dismiss with a smirk. … ‘Branson’ is a pitch-perfect, tremendously affecting documentary.” With director Meeske and subject Jackson Cash.

Followed by a musical performance by Cash.

Sponsored by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg

The Brothers Warner

CASS WARNER, U.S., 2008, 90 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 6 P.M., WEBSTER

An intimate portrait of the four film pioneers who founded and ran Warner Bros. for more than 50 years, “The Brothers Warner” is a highly personal documentary written and directed by Harry Warner’s granddaughter. The film trains an especially revealing spotlight on socially conscious Harry, who emerges from the shadow of his flamboyant, ruthless younger sibling Jack. The film traces the Warners’ rise from humble beginnings – their first theater featured a sheet hung on a wall and chairs borrowed from a neighboring funeral parlor – through the studio’s early struggles to their eventual triumphs with such landmark works as “The Jazz Singer,” “Public Enemy” and “Casablanca.” The brothers’ epic story includes never-before-seen photos and footage, and features the recollections of family members and industry colleagues.

Shown with “The Adventures of Robin Hood” and silent short “Robin Hood” (see Features).

Burma VJ

ANDERS ØSTERGAARD, DENMARK, 2008, 84 MIN., BU RMESE & ENGLISH
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 6 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

“Burma VJ” offers a revealing look at the courageous video journalists, or VJs, who work undercover to expose the oppressive military regime of Myanmar (aka Burma). Reporting from the streets of Rangoon, the VJs smuggle their footage out of the country and broadcast the images back into Burma via satellite. Deftly compiling the surreptitiously shot video and providing first-person narration by VJ Joshua, the documentary offers dramatic documentation of the events of September 2007, when Buddhist monks started marching against the ruling generals. The New York Times calls “Burma VJ” “a rich, thought-provoking film not only because of the story it tells, which is by turns inspiring and devastatingly sad, but also because of the perspective it offers on the role that new communications technologies can play in political change.”

Shown with the documentary short “Bhutan: The Last Dragon Kingdom” (David Emery & Aine Carey, U.S., 2009, 7 min.), a visually poetic journey through Bhutan, a Buddhist country experiencing dramatic societal changes.
**Crude**

JOE BERLINGER, U.S., 2009, 104 MIN., SPANISH & ENGLISH.

SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 6:30 P.M., TIVOLI 1

Three years in the making, this epic *cinema vérité* documentary from acclaimed filmmaker Joe Berlinger ("Brother’s Keeper," "Paradise Lost," "Metallica: Some Kind of Monster") chronicles one of the planet’s largest and most controversial environmental lawsuits. "Crude" – which premiered at Sundance and has since won nearly a dozen festival awards – follows a landmark case that originates in the Amazon jungle of Ecuador, pitting 30,000 indigenous and colonial rainforest dwellers against the U.S. oil giant Chevron. The New York Times writes: "Rarely have such conflicts been examined with the depth and power of Joe Berlinger’s documentary ‘Crude.’ These real characters and events play out on the screen like a sprawling legal thriller." Rolling Stone calls the film "a powerhouse of a documentary! This one means to shake you. And in Berlinger’s hands, it does." With director Berlinger.

Followed by a Q&A between Big Sky Documentary Film Festival director Mike Steinberg and Berlinger, recipient of SLIFF’s Lifetime Achievement Award in Documentary.

Sponsored by Diane & John Kalishman

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**The Choir**

MICHAEL DAVIE, AUSTRALIA, 2008, 80 MIN.

SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 1 P.M., TIVOLI 3

Shot over four years in Leeuwkop, South Africa’s largest prison, “The Choir” records the inspiring efforts of bank robber Coleman to transform his life – and those of his fellow inmates – through song. The documentary focuses on the travails of a 19-year-old newcomer, Jabulani, who initially resists choirmaster Coleman’s guidance but eventually perseveres to become a key member of the musical group. Although the choristers hope for a victory at the National Prison Choir Competition, the film is concerned with more than just that undeniably suspenseful contest. Filled with joyous song but unafraid to confront bleak reality, “The Choir” provides probing insight into the challenges facing South Africa by frankly recounting the warts-and-all stories of its subjects.

Sponsored by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg

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**Chops**

BRUCE BRODER, U.S., 2007, 88 MIN.

FREE PROGRAM

SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 6 P.M., WEBSTER

"Chops," which debuted at the 2007 Tribeca film fest, tells the story of a group of kids with extraordinary musical ability who learn to make the most of their gifts – and lives – in an acclaimed public-school jazz program in Jacksonville, Fla. The film provides a front-row seat on the young musicians’ transformation into a top-flight ensemble and culminates in a journey to New York City, where the school competes against the best high-school jazz bands in the nation at the prestigious Essentially Ellington Festival. Filmmaker magazine writes: “Comparisons could be made to ‘Spellbound’ or ‘Wordplay’ as director Bruce Broder follows the gifted students of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts as they practice for the competition. But what’s different is it not only shows their talents but how feeding off one another’s abilities makes them create unbelievable music.”

Followed by a discussion with Jazz St. Louis’ Phil Dunlap.

Co-presented by Jazz St. Louis

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**Convention**

AJ SCHNACK, U.S., 2009, 95 MIN.

SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 7:15 P.M., TIVOLI 1

Offering a privileged inside view, “Convention” vividly captures the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colo. Helmed by St. Louis-area native AJ Schnack ("Kurt Cobain About a Son") and team-shot by an all-star roster of documentarians – including the directors of "We Are Together," "Lion in the House" and "They Killed Sister Dorothy" – the film reveals fascinating material missed by the mainstream media by showing the convention through the eyes of Denver’s organizers, reporters, police officers and protesters. Variety enthuses: "By placing Denver’s administrative process of organizing and running the 2008 Democratic confab ahead of the event’s political content, AJ Schnack’s ‘Convention’ becomes a bipartisan, upbeat celebration of democracy’s delicate membrane and can-do spirit.” The Washington Post calls the documentary “a riveting piece of work, especially for anyone with an interest in national politics, protest culture and the state of local newspapers.” With director Schnack.

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www.cinemastlouis.org
**Forgetting Dad**

**RICK MINNICH & MATT SWEETWOOD, GERMANY/U.S., 2008, 83 MIN.**

**MONDAY, NOV. 16, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3**

One week after a seemingly harmless car accident, Richard Minnich, a California data-processing executive and father of five, woke up with total amnesia, no longer able to recognize his wife and children or perform simple daily tasks. Doctors were baffled, as there was no evidence of brain damage. Sixteen years later, filmmaker Rick Minnich ("Homemade Hillbilly Jam"), the oldest son from Richard’s first marriage, returned to California with a camera in search of answers to why his father’s memory still hadn’t returned. In detective-story fashion, Rick and co-director Matt Sweetwood reconstruct the years before and following the accident, uncovering startling facts that shed a very different light on his father’s memory loss. An alum of the world’s most prestigious documentary festivals, including Full Frame, Hot Docs and True/False, “Forgetting Dad” won LA’s Outfest Audience Award as Best Documentary. Shown with the documentary short “**Pride 2009**” (Joseph Olesh, U.S., 2009, 7 min.), which chronicles this year’s Pride parade in San Francisco.

**Forbidden Lie$**

**ANNA BROINOWSKI, AUSTRALIA, 2007, 104 MIN., ENGLISH & ARABIC**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 5:30 P.M., WEBSTER**

Norma Khouri won fame and fortune with her putatively nonfiction "Forbidden Love," about a shocking honor killing in Jordan. The book was a runaway bestseller, and Khouri was the toast of the literary world until July 2004, when Sydney Morning Herald journalist Malcolm Knox exposed her book as a work of fiction. Visiting the literary salons of London, the mosque-lined vistas of Jordan, the beachside suburbs of Queensland and the seamy Chicago backstreets of Norma’s dubious past, “Forbidden Lie$” pits Norma’s tale against the stories of those who believe she duped them: the publishers, the FBI, her next-door neighbor, her husband and, most provocatively, the filmmaker. The LA Times calls “Forbidden Lie$” a “dizzying, drop-dead fascinating documentary,” and the Village Voice concludes: “This entertaining, provocative film raises pointed issues about con artists and their sometimes-culpable ‘victims,’ and also speaks to the elusive pursuit of documentary truth.”

**For the Love of Movies:**

**The Story of American Film Criticism**

**GERALD PEARY, U.S., 2009, 70 MIN.**

**FREE PROGRAM**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 11 A.M., TIVOLI 3,**

At a time when American critics are being fired and their influence has diminished, “For the Love of Movies” offers an unapologetic defense of a profession under siege. Director Peary, a longtime critic for the Boston Phoenix, interviews writers for newspapers, magazines, blogs and Web sites, offering revealing insight into how critics think about and see movies. The documentary also provides an efficient history of American film criticism, including the pioneering Vachel Lindsay, James Agee and Otis Ferguson, the Sarris-Kael debates, Ebert and Siskel on TV, and amateur reviews on the Internet. **With director Peary.**

Followed by a panel on film criticism with Harper Barnes (St. Louis Beacon), Kent Jones (author of “Physical Evidence: Selected Film Criticism”), Patrick McGilligan (author of biographies on Alfred Hitchcock, Robert Altman and Clint Eastwood), Peary, and Joe Williams (St. Louis Post-Dispatch).

**Forgetting Dad**

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From Somewhere to Nowhere: On the Road in China with Photographer Andreas Seibert
VILLI HERMANN, SWITZERLAND, 2009, 86 MIN., SWISS GERMAN, MANDARIN, CANTONESE & ENGLISH
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 3:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

In “From Somewhere to Nowhere,” filmmaker Hermann and photographer Seibert record the struggles of China’s rural migrant workers, who are treated like immigrants in their own country. The stories of these men and women are told through both interviews and striking photographs, which document the factories, housing hovels, construction sites and rural fields where the migrants toil, from the bustling urban southern areas to the desolate hills of the northern mining country. Filmed in the provinces of Anhui, Chongqing, Guangdong, Hebei, Hunan, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Liaoning, Shanxi and Sichuan, the documentary provides a revelatory look at China’s rapidly changing landscape, showing everyday people and parts of the country that normally go unnoticed in the U.S. “From Somewhere to Nowhere” has played such well-regarded European fests as Locarno and Amsterdam’s Doku.Arts, and makes its U.S. debut at SLIFF.

The Gigantic World of Epics
U.S., LAURENT BOUZEREAU, U.S., 2009, 58 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 1 P.M., WEBSTER

SLIFF offers a sneak preview of the second installment of “A Night at the Movies,” a series of one-hour specials providing a Film Studies 101 course on cinematic genres. “The Gigantic World of Epics,” scheduled to make its on-air debut in December, surveys epic cinema from D.W. Griffith to the present, placing particular emphasis on the lavishly ambitious work of Cecil B. DeMille (“The Ten Commandments,” “Samson and Delilah”), producer Samuel Bronston (“King of Kings,” “El Cid”) and David Lean (“Lawrence of Arabia,” “Dr. Zhivago”). The film also explores such genre stand-bearers as “Ben-Hur,” “Gone with the Wind” and “Spartacus,” deftly mixing eye-popping clips from the films and interviews with contemporary filmmakers, critics and film historians. As an illustrative example of epic filmmaking, SLIFF will screen a recently restored 35mm print of Sergio Leone’s masterpiece, ”Once Upon a Time in the West,” on the same program.

Shown with “Once Upon a Time in the West” (see Features).
Watch “Ben-Hur” on TCM in December.

Icons Among Us: Jazz in the Present Tense
LARS LARSON, MICHAEL RIVOIRA & PETER J. VOGT, U.S., 2009, 93 MIN.
TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 7:15 P.M., TIVOLI 1

Combining interviews with 75 artists and live recordings culled from 25 hours of concerts, “Icons Among Us” is a dynamic survey of today’s greatest jazz musicians. The film draws material from a Documentary Channel four-part series of the same name and features such luminaries as Herbie Hancock, Terence Blanchard, Bill Frisell, Ravi Coltrane, Medeski Martin & Wood, Russell Gunn and the Bad Plus. “Icons Among Us” captures the spontaneity of performers who have an intimate knowledge of their instruments and a full knowledge of jazz history, but unlike Ken Burns’ “Jazz,” which looked primarily toward the past, this documentary – as its subtitle implies – speaks in the present tense, offering a timely, vibrant trip though the clubs and festivals of the current jazz scene and the lives of contemporary musicians. With co-director Michael Rivoria.

Co-presented by AFI PROJECT: 20/20
Sponsored by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg

In 500 Words or Less
MOLLY FOWLER & AMANDA ZINOMAN, U.S., 2009, 95 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 2:45 P.M., TIVOLI 3

Going to college is a rite of passage for many American high-school students, but the process can be overwhelming: college fairs, tours, SATs, applications. And then there’s the personal essay. “In 500 Words or Less” profiles four very different young people as they negotiate the daunting college-application obstacle course: Molly, who balances her parents’ expectations with her own goals; Leo, who works to fulfill his mother’s American dream while maintaining ties to his Dominican heritage; Lindsay, who searches for her next home while the one she’s known for 17 years is turned upside down by illness and loss; and Michael, who steps out his sister’s Ivy League shadow to discover his own priorities. Although focused on four families, “In 500 Words or Less” provides a fascinating window on the nearly 1.5 million others who go through this exhilarating, exhausting and life-altering experience each year.
Mine
GERALYN PEZANOSKI, U.S., 2009, 80 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 7:30 P.M., WEBSTER

“Mine” tells the story of ordinary citizens, many of them poor and of color, tirelessly searching for their beloved pets after Katrina and fighting frustrating custody battles that continue more than three years later. A story of the essential bond between humans and animals, “Mine” also serves as both a compelling mediation on race and class in contemporary America and a testament to the power of compassion and volunteerism. A gripping and poignant picture of Katrina victims who loved, lost and sometimes found their pets, “Mine” won the Audience Award as Best Documentary at SXSW. Variety calls the film “a quintessentially American story of good intentions stifled by rampant bureaucracy,” and Entertainment Weekly’s PopWatch blog declares it “the best movie I saw during the week-long SXSW Film Festival.”
With director Pezanoski.

Followed by a panel on the issues raised by the film with director Pezanoski, subjects Mary Britsch and Debbie Musgrave, and Best Friends Animal Society attorney Ledy VanKavage.
Sponsored by Petfinder

October Country
MICHAEL PALMIERI & DONAL MOSHER, U.S., 2009, 80 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

“October Country” is a gorgeously rendered portrait of an American family struggling for stability while haunted by the ghosts of war, teen pregnancy, foster care and child abuse. This intimate documentary–co-directed by a member of the family it so probingly examines–reveals the forces that unsettle the working poor and the violence that lurks beneath the surface of American life. Shot over a year from one Halloween to the next, the film poetically uses visual metaphors and cuts among multiple storylines to paint a richly detailed portrait of the Mosher family, who are startlingly unique but also sadly representative of the struggles of America’s working class. “October Country” won the US Sterling Feature Award as Best American Documentary at the prestigious Silverdocs festival.

Old Dog, New Trick
MIKE STEINBERG & THOMAS CRONE, U.S., 2009, 49 MIN.
The Pride of St. Louis
MIKE STEINBERG & THOMAS CRONE, U.S., 2009, 31 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 7 P.M., TIVOLI 1

A pair of new rock documentaries – produced under the auspices of CALOP – tracks key players who ascended from the vibrant St. Louis scene of the 1970s to the national stage. “Old Dog, New Trick” follows Steve Scorfinia, a founding member of Pavlov’s Dog and REO Speedwagon, as he balances a life in antiques-dealing with a re-launched career as a blues-rock bandleader, guitarist and vocalist. “The Pride of St. Louis” updates fans on the R&B-infused Mama’s Pride, led by brothers Pat and Danny Liston. The group has now reunited to popular acclaim, allowing Mama’s Pride an unlikely second act. Both films discuss the key role of the radio station KSHE-95 in breaking album-oriented rock acts during the heyday of freeform FM radio. With co-directors Steinberg and Crone and subjects Scorfinia and Danny Liston.

Followed by a concert by Scorfinia and Liston at Blueberry Hill’s Duck Room (see Special Events).
Sponsored by Star Clipper, CALOP and HEC-TV

Operation Babylift: The Lost Children of Vietnam
TAMMY NGUYEN LEE, U.S., 2009, 73 MIN., VIETNAMESE & ENGLISH
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 5 P.M., TIVOLI 1

As America withdrew its forces from Vietnam, Operation Babylift transported more than 2,500 Vietnamese orphans from the war-torn country to the U.S. Although regarded by some as an unprecedented humanitarian effort, the operation was also plagued by lawsuits and political turmoil, and the adoptees grew up facing a unique set of challenges in America, including prejudice intensified by a controversial war. “Operation Babylift” both offers a candid look at the airlift through the eyes of the volunteers, parents and organizations involved and recovers the “lost” stories of the now-adult children brought to the States. In touching, insightful interviews, the former orphans offer complex perspectives on their experiences, discussing their attempts to fit in growing up in the United States, their sense of loss over their unknown previous lives, and their attempts to forge families of their own. With director Lee, executive producer George Lee, associate producer Jared Rehberg (adoptive), and subjects Jim Zimmerly (adoptive and St. Louis local), Dan Bischoff (adoptive and St. Louis local) and Susan McDonald (caretaker-volunteer and St. Louis local).
A Peaceable Kingdom: The Journey Home
JENNY STEIN, U.S., 2009, 78 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 2 P.M., HI-POINTE

A new documentary from the award-winning filmmakers of “The Witness” – which the LA Times says “may be the most important and persuasive film about animals ever made” – “A Peaceable Kingdom” explores the awakening conscience of seven people (including Howard Lyman, author of “Mad Cowboy”) who grew up in traditional farming culture and have now come to question the basic premises of their inherited way of life. The film provides insight into the farmers’ connections with the animals under their care and traces the complex web of social, psychological and economic forces that have led them to their present dilemma. With strikingly honest interviews and rare footage demonstrating the emotional lives of animals, “A Peaceable Kingdom” challenges stereotypical notions of farmers, farm life and farm animals themselves. With director Stein, producers James LaVeck and Kevin Smith, and subject Harold Brown.

Followed by a panel on the issues raised by the film.

Playground
LIBBY SPEARS, U.S., 2008, 86 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 1:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

The sexual exploitation of children is a problem Americans associate exclusively with developing countries, but “Playground” makes clear that it’s a huge industry within the United States. The film traces the epidemic’s roots, including the way children are educated about sex, and couches its cultural observations in a mystery story: the search for an American girl lost to the underbelly of childhood sexual exploitation. “Playground,” which debuted at Tribeca, is executive produced by George Clooney and Steven Soderbergh, and features animation by Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara. Describing the film as “thoughtful, sensitive and broader in its indictments than most treatments of the subject,” Variety summarizes: “Tackling a topic you can’t film, victims you don’t want to identify and a subject from which most auds naturally recoil in horror, helmer Libby Spears works certain wonders with ‘Playground,’ a state-of-the-union address on the sexual exploitation of American children.”

Pop Star on Ice
DAVID BARBA & JAMES PELLERITO, U.S., 2009, 85 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 7 P.M., TIVOLI 1

“Pop Star on Ice” offers an unprecedented behind-the-scenes portrait of always outspoken, frequently outrageous Olympian Johnny Weir, a three-time U.S. Figure Skating National Champion. The inspiration for Jon Heder’s character in “Blades of Glory,” Weir seeks to balance his larger-than-life persona with the constraints of competitive figure skating. The film explores Weir’s complicated relationship with his longtime coach, Priscilla Hill, and his struggles to reach the top of his sport, traveling from small-town Delaware – his training home – to competitions, shopping sprees, fashion shows and personal appearances around the world. Looking through the prism of its most controversial athlete, “Pop Star on Ice” reveals surprising new facets of the graceful, athletic, cutthroat and melodramatic sport of figure skating.

The Power of the Powerless
CORY TAYLOR, U.S., 2009, 78 MIN., CZECH & ENGLISH
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 8 P.M., WEBSTER

Narrated by Academy Award® winner Jeremy Irons, “The Power of the Powerless” explores Czechoslovakia’s complex history of struggle against controlling totalitarian regimes – from the iron-fisted Stalinist government, through the vibrant and politically active Prague Spring of the 1960s, and into the hard-line backlash of the 1970s. At the heart of the film is the student-led Velvet Revolution of the late 1980s, in which Czech youth, seeing the new era of Gorbachev’s Perestroika and Glasnost, took to the streets to protest their repressive regime and, within weeks, had grown to crowds of a half-million in the streets. The film includes interviews with many dissidents and Velvet Revolution participants, including playwright and post-revolution Czech President Vaclav Havel. Directed by Primetime Emmy winner Cory Taylor, “The Power of the Powerless” won the Golden Palm Award at the Mexico International Film Festival.
Pressure Cooker
JENNIFER GRAUSMAN & MARK BECKER, U.S., 2008, 99 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 5 P.M., TIVOLI 3

Three seniors at Philadelphia's troubled Frankford High School find an unlikely champion in Wilma Stephenson. A legend in the school system, Stephenson uses a hilariously blunt boot-camp method of teaching culinary arts, and her approach is validated by years of success. Stephenson's fierce direction has helped countless students move from working-class Philadelphia's tough row houses to the nation's top culinary schools, and in “Pressure Cooker,” she prepares new acolytes Tyree, Erica and Fatoumata for the Culinary Institute of America's scholarship competition. The LA Times says the film “manages to be moving, inspirational and tremendously real without ever turning manipulative or preachy,” and the Village Voice praises Stephenson for serving "as a reminder of what the right teacher can mean to a kid looking for a way out.”

Prodigal Sons
KIMBERLY REED, 2008, 86 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 4 P.M., TIVOLI 1

An endlessly astonishing personal documentary, “Prodigal Sons” explores the complicated relationship between filmmaker Kimberly Reed and her troubled brother Marc. Adopted as an infant, Marc was held back in preschool, failed to graduate high school and suffered a traumatic head injury at 21. By contrast, the film’s director served as her high school’s class president and valedictorian. But not everything about her life was quite so simple: The transgendered Kim was once Marc’s younger brother Paul. And that’s scarcely the only surprise that “Prodigal Sons” offers, as Marc and Kim return home to their small Montana hometown to confront their mutual past. Winner of the FIPRESCI critics award at Thessaloniki, “Prodigal Sons” was the sensation of last year’s Telluride festival. The Oxford American says Reed “is warm and smart and utterly beguiling as she leads us through her family’s sad and strange history, which gathers a Shakespearean momentum, and which could make even the stoniest among us weep.”

René
HELENA TRESTIKOVA, CZECH REPUBLIC, 2008, 83 MIN., CZECH
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

Filmmaker Helena Trestikova's epic documentary follows career small-time criminal René Plasil over 20 years, as he moves from teenage delinquent to massively tattooed recidivist. Although clearly intelligent – he publishes several books while in prison – René seems frustratingly incapable of following the straight-and-narrow when the crooked path proves so much quicker and easier. Trestikova's own fraught relationship with René provides a fascinating subplot: At one point, he robs her apartment and later confesses an odd but undeniable form of love. An alum of multiple fests, including Karlovy Vary, Hotdocs and Silverdocs, “René” won the European Film Academy’s equivalent of the Oscar®, the Prix Arte, as Best Documentary.

The Rink
RON “G WHIZ” BUTTS, U.S., 2009, 60 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, NOON, HI-POINTE

“The Rink,” directed by legendary local DJ “G Whiz,” takes an engaging look at the urban roller-skating tradition in the African-American communities of St. Louis and East St. Louis. Fondly recalling the glory days of skating at such venues as the Crystal, the Palace and Skate King, the film mixes interviews with rare archival footage and photographs. The St. Louis American says “The Rink” “leaves no wheels unturned. Comprehensive and calculated, the film recreates the connection and illustrates the true passion that skaters have for their sport of choice.” With director Butts.

Shown with the documentary shorts “Being Born Is Marvelous” (Denise Ward-Brown, U.S., 2009, 6 min.) and “I Always Wanted To Be a Teacher” (Denise Ward-Brown, U.S., 2009, 4 min.), which offer portraits of the filmmaker’s 91-year-old mother, Rosina, in which she reflects on working and growing up in St. Louis as a black woman and her lifelong desire to be a teacher.
RiseUp
LUCIANO BLOTTA, U.S., 2009, 88 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 9 P.M., WEBSTER

"RiseUp" takes viewers on a journey into the heart of Jamaica, the birthplace of reggae. In a society where talent abounds and opportunity is scarce, three distinct and courageous artists attempt to rise up from underground obscurity. With music and appearances by legends Lee “Scratch” Perry, Sly Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare and a slew of new and soon-to-be stars, "RiseUp" follows reggae artists in the dangerous streets, back alleys and crowded dancehalls of Kingston and the countryside. Although the film surveys the underground scene, it focuses on three emerging musicians: Turbulence, whose "Notorious" video launches him to prominence; Ice, a faux-ghetto rich kid with real musical chops; and Kemoy, a beautiful country girl with an equally gorgeous voice. The Miami New Times enthuses: “By focusing on a few wannabes and winners struggling to compete in one of the most vibrant and energetic music scenes ever, 'RiseUp' gives a voice to individuals behind the up-beats.”

Sponsored by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg

Rough Aunties
KIM LONGINOTTO, U.K./SOUTH AFRICA, 2008, 103 MIN., ENGLISH & ZULU
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 3 P.M., TIVOLI 3

“Rough Aunties” – which won the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize for Documentary at Sundance – provides a group portrait of a remarkable group of feisty, resolute women unwavering in their stand to protect and care for the abused, neglected and forgotten children of Durban, South Africa. This latest documentary by internationally acclaimed director Longinotto (“Sisters in Law,” “Divorce Iranian Style”) follows the outspoken, multiracial cadre of Thuli, Mildred, Sdudla, Eureka and Jackie as they wage a daily battle against systemic apathy, corruption and greed to help the most vulnerable and disenfranchised of their communities. Despite the harsh realities of violence, poverty and racism in the women’s work at the Bobbi Bear child-welfare organization and in the heartaches of their personal lives, the film is filled with grace, wisdom, friendship and a deeply stirring conviction.

Saint Misbehavin’: The Wavy Gravy Movie
MICHELLE ESRICK, U.S., 2008, 86 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 3:30 P.M., TIVOLI 1

Weaving together intimate vérité footage, reflections from an array of cultural and countercultural peers and never-before-seen archival footage, “Saint Misbehavin’” tells the outlandish but true story of cultural phenomenon Wavy Gravy, a man whose commitment to making the world a better place has never wavered. Wavy first surfaced in the public consciousness when he was still known as Hugh Romney, a poet and proto-performance artist who roomed with Dylan and opened Greenwich Village’s coffeehouses to folk singers. Wavy subsequently boarded the Magic Bus with Kesey, founded the Hog Farm commune and memorably emceed Woodstock, and he’s remained just as active since his hippie heyday, helping restore the eyesight of impoverished people worldwide through the Seva Foundation. With director Esrick and composer Emory Joseph, a St. Louis native.

Preceded by a musical performance by Joseph.

Sponsored by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg

Say My Name
NIRIT PELED, NETHERLANDS, 2009, 75 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 9 P.M., TIVOLI 1

In a hip-hop world dominated by men and noted for misogyny, the unstoppable female lyricists of “Say My Name” speak candidly about class, race and gender in pursuing their passions as female emcees. The documentary takes viewers on a wide-ranging tour of urban culture, from hip-hop’s birthplace in the Bronx to Philly, Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta, LA and London. Featuring interviews and musical performances from such diverse artists as Remy Ma, Rah Digga, Jean Grae, Erykah Badu and Estelle, the film includes both pioneers (MC Lyte, Roxanne Shante and Monie Love) and newcomers (Chocolate Thai, Invincible and Miz Korona). Although it delves into the personal stories of women balancing professional dreams with stark realities, music remains center stage. As the Austin Chronicle attests: “Say My Name’ avoids the survivor-syndrome trap, instead focusing on drop-dead skills, nonstop style, and at times a ferocity far more terrifying than mere gangsta rap thuggery. It's a lyric both heartbreaking and exhilarating.”

Sponsored by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg
See What I’m Saying
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 2 P.M., TIVOLI 1

“See What I’m Saying” takes a revealing look at deaf entertainers, allowing audiences a peek inside the vibrant world of deaf culture. The film follows the journeys of four extraordinary deaf entertainers over the course of a single year: Robert DeMayo, an actor who is homeless despite having taught at such prestigious schools as Julliard; C.J. Jones, a comic famous in the deaf community but still striving to break into the mainstream; Bob Hiltermann, the drummer for the all-deaf rock band Beethoven’s Nightmare; and T.L. Forsberg, a singer blessed with a beautiful voice even though she is severely hard of hearing. USA Today writes: “Scarl has captured the humor, heartbreak and pathos of a world we once viewed only from the outside, if at all. This is a community that has been waiting to be heard, and ‘See What I’m Saying’ allows the viewer to do just that. And you won’t soon forget what they’ve said.” With director Scarl.

Severe Clear
KRISTIAN FRAGA, U.S., 2009, 93 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 3 P.M., WEBSTER

Shot by Marine First Lt. Mike Scotti on his Mini-DV camera and told through his own journal entries, “Severe Clear” is a gripping nonfiction companion to “The Hurt Locker,” providing an immersive first-person account of life on Operation Iraqi Freedom’s frontlines. By breaking down the barrier between audience and soldier, the film viscerally communicates the fear, moral complexity and sheer adrenaline rush of the battlefield. The story begins with Scotti on a 40-day voyage across the Arabian Sea, continues in Kuwait as the Marines await the beginning of the Iraq invasion, and reaches a terrifying climax as they push into Baghdad and are faced with escalating resistance and the grim, horrific realities of war. With director Fraga.

Shown with the documentary short “Keep the Home Fires Burning” (Ryan O’Toole, U.S., 2008, 8 min.), which explores duty and loss through the home movies of a military family.

Soldiers of Peace
TIMOTHY WISE, AUSTRALIA, 2009, 85 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 7:30 P.M., WEBSTER

War is often treated as a necessary evil, but the inspirational “Soldiers of Peace” posits that violence is not necessarily the natural state for human beings. Suggesting that people are capable of elevating themselves above conflict, the film devotes revealing attention to ingenious solutions to many international and ethnic tensions. “Soldiers of Peace” examines such efforts as a Muslim mosque and a Christian church in Nigeria that give joint teachings to emphasize the religions’ similarities; a former IRA soldier who befriends the daughter of one of his bombing victims in England; a Kenyan soccer game that has brought together two sides of an old ethnic conflict; and a Columbian troupe of dancers formerly involved in the military and gangs who perform to raise awareness of their new peaceful path. Narrated by Michael Douglas, the film features interviews with such luminaries as Sir Bob Geldof, Sir Richard Branson, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Gareth Evans, Paul Rogers and James Galbraith.

Tapped
STEPHANIE SOECHTIG, U.S., 2009, 79 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 7 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 2:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

“Tapped” provides an unflinching examination of the big business of bottled water. From the producers of “Who Killed the Electric Car?” and “I.O.U.S.A.,” this timely documentary looks into the unregulated and unseen world of an industry that aims to privatize and sell back the one resource that ought never to become a commodity: our water. From the factories that produce the plastic to the ocean in which so many of the discarded bottles end up, “Tapped” doggedly trails the path of bottled water. A powerful portrait of the lives and communities affected by the industry, this revelatory film explores the intersection of big business and the public’s right to water. The LA Times writes that the bottled-water business’ “troubling tentacles are persuasively exposed by director Stephanie Soechtig in her compact, clear-headed documentary.”

Shown with the narrative short “Life’s a Beach” (Susan Beraza, U.S., 2007, 6 min.), a wryly satiric commentary on America’s wasteful and environmentally destructive behavior.
Waiting for Hockney
JULIE CHECKOWAY, U.S., 2008, 78 MIN.
MONDAY, NOV. 16, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 1

Alternately comic and poignant, “Waiting for Hockney” explores the precarious line between dreams and delusions. An art-school graduate from a working-class background, Billy Pappas aims to reinvent realism and spends eight years on a single drawing, obsessively working to show a microscopic level of detail. Aided/enabled by an eccentric cast of characters – including a clergyman and an architect calling himself “Dr. Lifestyle” – Billy finally completes the portrait only to begin another Sisyphean task: a quest for validation from renowned contemporary artist David Hockney.

Shown with the documentary shorts “The Poetry of Exactitude (La Poisie de l’Exactitude)” (Alan Govenar, U.S./France, 2008, 8 min., French), a portrait of Lucien Mouchet, who makes detailed, small-scale reproductions of carousels and fairground scenes, and “Photograph of Jesus” (Laurie Hill, 2009, U.K., 7 min.), a stop-motion animated look at outlandish requests received by a photo archive.

Sponsored by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg

The Way We Get By
ARON GAUDET, U.S., 2009, 84 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 4:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 12:30 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

A moving and compassionate story about aging, loneliness and mortality, “The Way We Get By” tells the story of three senior citizens who gather daily at Bangor, Maine’s airport to thank American soldiers departing for and returning from Iraq. When the troop greeters – including the filmmaker’s mother, Joan – aren’t at the airport, they wrestle with their own problems: failing health, depression, mounting debt. Winner of the Audience Award at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival and a Special Jury Award at SXSW, “The Way We Get By” is filled with a rare honesty and intimacy that makes for a rewarding, if largely heartbreaking, film experience,” according to the LA Times. “These everyday heroes, who never pass judgment on our nation’s current war efforts, compellingly bare their souls here, facing their mortality as profoundly as do any of the soldiers they meet on a daily basis. Bring your handkerchiefs.”

We Live in Public
ONDI TIMONER, 2008, U.S., 90 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 7 P.M., TIVOLI 1

A riveting portrait of artist, futurist and visionary Josh Harris, Sundance’s Grand Jury Prize winner for Best Documentary explores the profound effects that the Web is having on our society. Director Timoner (“DIG!”) documented Harris’ tumultuous life for more than a decade to create a cautionary tale of what to expect as the virtual world takes control of our lives. Often called the “Warhol of the Web,” Harris founded Pseudo.com, the first Internet television network, and curated the groundbreaking project Quiet, in which more than 100 people lived together on camera for 30 days in an underground bunker in NYC. Harris subsequently lived six months with his girlfriend under 24-hour electronic surveillance – an experience that led to his mental collapse. Calling the film “astounding,” Variety says that “We Live in Public” “burrows into the thin and darkly funny spaces between artistry and vanity, isolation and community, collaboration and exploitation, sanity and madness.”

William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe
EMILY & SARAH KUNTSLER, U.S., 2009, 85 MIN.
MONDAY, NOV. 16, 7:15 P.M., TIVOLI 3

Filmmakers Emily and Sarah Kunstler explore the life of their father in this admiring but surprisingly multifaceted portrait of the late radical lawyer. In the 1960s and ’70s, William Kunstler fought for civil rights with Martin Luther King Jr., represented the Chicago 8, and played a major negotiating role when the inmates took over Attica prison and the American Indian Movement took a stand at Wounded Knee. But Kunstler also represented some of the most reviled members of society, including rapists and assassins, complicating his legacy. The film provides fascinating insight into a man that even his own daughters did not always understand. The Hollywood Reporter describes the documentary, which debuted at Sundance, “as expertly put together and never less than compelling. It’s a labor of love that helps restore the reputation of a significant player on the American stage in the last half of the 20th century,” With co-director Emily Kunstler.
The Wonder of It All
JEFFREY ROTH, U.S., 2007, 83 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 5 P.M., TIVOLI 1

“The Wonder of It All” focuses on the rarely told human side of the men behind the Apollo missions through thoughtful and candid accounts from seven of the astronauts. Buzz Aldrin, Alan Bean, Edgar Mitchell, John Young, Charles Duke, Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt reflect on the training, the tragedies, the camaraderie and the effect their space travel has had on their families and the world. “These elder statesmen's recollections of their brief moments on the moon, as well as of what preceded and followed, make for vivid and emotional storytelling,” says the LA Times. “The talking-head testimonies are matched by wonderful NASA archival photos and footage from the various Apollo excursions.”

Shown with the documentary short “Reaching Tranquility” (Karl Ferron, U.S., 2009, 10 min.), a look back at Apollo 11 on its 40th anniversary using dramatic time-lapse footage of the moon.
Sponsored by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg

Youssou N’Dour: I Bring What I Love
ELIZABETH CHAI VASARHELYI, SENEGAL, 2008, 100 MIN., FRENCH, WOLOF, ENGLISH & ARABIC
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 7 P.M., WEBSTER

Far more than a concert film, “I Bring What I Love” immerses the audience in the world of Africa’s most famous musician, Youssou N’Dour, concentrating on a tumultuous period in which he creates his most personal and controversial work. Intending to celebrate Islam through the album “Egypt,” N’Dour is instead labeled as blasphemous for merging the sacred and secular. Although “I Bring What I Love” provides intimate glimpses of N’Dour’s family life in Dakar, Senegal, it also features abundant music, as he travels the world with his elaborate “Egypt” concert tour. The San Francisco Chronicle writes: “In 2007, when Time magazine named Youssou N’Dour one of the world’s 100 most influential people, it had Peter Gabriel profile the African singer, with Gabriel using such descriptions as ‘voice of liquid gold,’ ‘source of inspiration’ and ‘major African leader.’ All these qualities are on display in this mesmerizing documentary.”

Sponsored by Ken & Nancy Kranzberg
Shorts Before Features

10 Minutes (with Grabavica); Being Born Is Marvelous (with The Rink); Bhutan: The Last Dragon Kingdom (with Burma VJ); I Always Wanted to Be a Teacher (with The Rink); Keep the Home Fires Burning (with Severe Clear); Life’s a Beach (with Tapped); Photograph of Jesus (with Waiting for Hockney); The Poetry of Exactitude (with Waiting for Hockney); Pride 2009 (with Edie and Thea); Reaching Tranquility (with The Wonder of It All); Robin Hood (with The Adventures of Robin Hood and The Brothers Warner)

Documentary Shorts: Communities
88 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 5 P.M., FRONTENAC 1


Documentary Shorts: Individuals
72 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 5 P.M., HI-POINTE


Followed by a panel on Gaslight Square and Fran and Jay Landesman with moderator Thomas Crone (author of “Gaslight Square: An Oral History”), Al Becker (tenant in the Landesmans’ building), Scott Miller (artistic director of New Line Theatre, which performed the Landesmans’ “The Nervous Set” in 2003) and Jeanne Trevor (singer at the Crystal Palace and other Gaslight Square venues).

Documentary Shorts: Sports
94 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 5 P.M., TIVO LI 3

Family Shorts
85 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 1:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 1


The Hollywood Cartoon
100 MIN.
FREE PROGRAM
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 7:30 P.M., BROWN HALL

Animation and comics historian Michael Barrier, author of “Hollywood Cartoons: American Animation in Its Golden Age” and “The Animated Man: The Life of Walt Disney,” presents an annotated history of the Hollywood cartoon, screening and commenting on a half-dozen classic animated shorts:

Beep Beep (CHUCK JONES, WARNER, 1952, 7 MIN.); Book Revue (ROBERT CLAMPETT, WARNER, 1946, 7 MIN.); Fresh Airedale (CHUCK JONES, WARNER, 1945, 7 MIN.); Little Rural Riding Hood (TEX AVERY, MGM, 1949, 6 MIN.); Who Killed Cock Robin? (DISNEY, 1935, 8 MIN.); Woodland Cafe (DISNEY, 1937, 7 MIN.).

Co-presented by Washington University’s Center for the Humanities

St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase Shorts 1
112 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV 13, 9:30 P.M., WEBSTER

The program features local shorts and works selected from the 2009 St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase:

After Thoughts (ANTHONY SANCHEZ, 13 MIN.); And Seven Hours Later (LYNELLE WHITE, 7 MIN.); The Blind Date of Coffin Joe (RAYMOND CASTILLE, 10 MIN.); Circles (RICHARD TAYLOR, 8 MIN.); Con Brio (BEN HILL TRIOLA, 2 MIN.); Electrical Storm (RYAN DORIS, 4 MIN.); Ella Se Cayo De Cada Montana (JACOB TAYLOR, 5 MIN.); Ninjas Protest Pirate Festival (JEREMY CORRAY, 4 MIN.); Oranges (WHITNEY GELNETT & EMILY HATCHER, 5 MIN.); Playing Dead (MIKE ROHLFING & CAREY KEANE, 4 MIN.); Ragman (DALE WARD, 18 MIN.); The Rotten Corpse (MEATLOAF PRODUCTIONS, 5 MIN.); Spaces (ZLATKO COSIC, 8 MIN.); Super Ben’s Super Day (MIKE ROHLFING, 8 MIN.); Tarantula Consciousness (NATE CALLAGHAN, 5 MIN.); They Came From Above the Sea (STEPHEN JONES, 6 MIN.).

Sponsored by St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission
St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase Shorts 2
101 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 15, 8:30 P.M., WEBSTER

The program features local shorts and works selected from the 2009 St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase:

- **Gabriel and Romy** (SAM ZVIBLEMAN, 23 MIN.);
- **It's Not Me, It's You** (DOC CROTZER, 11 MIN.);
- **The Last Legend** (BRANT HADFIELD, 11 MIN.);
- **Phantom Font** (TIM REISCHAUER, 8 MIN.);
- **Slice of Pie** (TIM REISCHAUER, 35 MIN.);
- **When the Body Speaks** (JAMES FREIVOGEL, 13 MIN.).

*Sponsored by St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission*

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Shorts Program 1: Kids These Days
102 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 13, 5 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 8 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

- **Doppelganger** (KATHARINE O’BRIEN, U.S., 2008, 9 MIN.);
- **Funky Prairie Boy** (MIKE SCHULTZ, CANADA, 2008, 18 MIN.);
- **Good Advice** (ANDREAS TIBBLIN, SWEDEN, 2008, 15 MIN.);
- **The Ground Beneath** (RENE HERNANDEZ, AUSTRALIA, 2008, 20 MIN.);
- **Happy 95 Birthday Grandpa** (GARY HUGGINS, U.S., 2008, 6 MIN.);
- **Love, Sadie** (NAITI GÁMEZ, U.S., 2008, 12 MIN.);
- **Short Term 12** (DESTIN CRETTON, U.S., 2008, 22 MIN.).

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Shorts Program 2: Animated Shorts 1
94 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 5 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

- **Articles of War** (DANIEL KANEMOTO, U.S., 2008, 12 MIN.);
- **The Bunjies** (THOMAS MYER-HERMAN, GERMANY, 2007, 3 MIN.);
- **Checkoo** (ERIK ROSENLUND, SWEDEN, 2008, 12 MIN.);
- **Chicory ‘n’ Coffee** (DUSAN KASTELIC, SLOVENIA, 2008, 8 MIN.);
- **Days on the Shore** (ALFRED NGUYEN, DENMARK, 2008, 8 MIN.);
- **Fard** (DAVID ALAPONT LUIS BRICENO, FRANCE, 2009, 13 MIN.);
- **Manifestations: An Animated Tale of Love** (GILES TIMMS, U.S., 2008, 4 MIN.);
- **Myriad Harbour** (JOHANNE STE-MARIE, CANADA, 2008, 4 MIN.);
- **No Place Like Home** (ROSTO, FRANCE, 2009, 6 MIN.);
- **Only Love** (LEV POLYAKOV, U.S., 2008, 15 MIN.);
- **The Pianographer** (EDUARDO BRENES, COSTA RICA, 2008, 3 MIN.);
- **Santa: The Fascist Years** (BILL PLYMPTON, U.S., 2008, 3 MIN.);
- **You’re Outa Here** (GEORGE GRIFFIN, U.S., 2009, 3 MIN.).

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Shorts Program 3: Comedic Shorts
98 MIN.
TUESDAY, NOV. 17, 7 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

- **Dinner With Raphael** (JOEY BOUKADAKIS, U.S., 2008, 10 MIN.);
- **Expiration** (MARK NICKELSBURG, U.S., 2009, 4 MIN.);
- **James K. Polk Was @#?!ing Awesome** (ADAM BERTOCCI, U.S., 2009, 6 MIN.);
- **The Laundry** (ALEX BEH, U.S., 2009, 14 MIN.);
- **Life’s a Beach** (SUZAN BERAZA, U.S., 2007, 6 MIN.);
- **Man’s Best Friend** (LUKE EVE, AUSTRALIA, 2009, 7 MIN.);
- **Mortimer** (NOLAN SARNER, CANADA, 2008, 5 MIN.);
- **Official Selection** (VINCE MASCIALE, U.S., 2009, 11 MIN.);
- **The One Last Time** (SCOTT WIENTROB, U.K., 2009, 8 MIN.);
- **Porcelain and Diamonds** (RYAN SILBERT, U.S., 2009, 6 MIN.);
- **Section 44** (DANIEL WILSON, U.K., 2008, 5 MIN.);
- **Spleenectomy** (KIRSTEN SMITH, U.S., 2008, 12 MIN.);
Shorts Program 4: Relationship Shorts
106 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 9:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 1

Flat Love (ANDRES SANZ, SPAIN, 2009, 15 MIN.); The Greims (PETER BOLTE, U.S., 2009, 14 MIN.);

Shorts Program 5: Dramatic Shorts
112 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 19, 9:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 1


Shorts Program 6: Absurd Shorts
101 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 9:45 P.M., TIVOLI 3
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 9 P.M., TIVOLI 1

The Attack of the Robots From Nebula-5 (CHEMA GARCÍA IBARRA, SPAIN, 2008, 6 MIN.); Cattle Call (MIKE MARYNIUK & MATTHEW RANKIN, CANADA, 2008, 4 MIN.); The Facts in the Case of Mr. Valdemar (CARLOS VERA, ECUADOR, 2008, 25 MIN.); Feeder (JOSEPH ERNST, U.K., 2009, 4 MIN.); Karaoke Show (KARL TEBBE, GERMANY, 2007, 5 MIN.); Naiade (NADIA MICAULT, FRANCE, 2008, 12 MIN.); Out of the Blue (MICHAEL LAVELLE, IRELAND, 2008, 9 MIN.); The Taxidermist (BERT & BERTIE, U.K., 2009, 22 MIN.); Welgunzer (BRADFORD SCHMIDT, U.S., 2009, 14 MIN.).

Shorts Program 7: Animated Shorts 2
94 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 7:15 P.M., FRONTENAC 1
SUNDAY, NOV. 22, 7:30 P.M., TIVOLI 3

The Astronomer’s Dream (MALCOLM SUTHERLAND, CANADA, 2009, 12 MIN.); Bill’s Visitors (SIMON DESHON, U.K., 2008, 8 MIN.); The Control Master (RUN WRAKE, U.K., 2008, 7 MIN.); FOT: The Next Big Thing (ALEX DRON, NEW ZEALAND, 2009, 9 MIN.); Horn Dog (BILL PLYMPTON, U.S., 2009, 4 MIN.); Kanizsa Hill (EVELYN LEE, U.S., 2008, 8 MIN.); Logorama (FRANÇOIS ALAUX, HERVÉ DE CRÉCY, LUDOVIC HOUPLAIN (H5), FRANCE, 2009, 16 MIN.); Oedipus (CAPUCINE, FRANCE, 2009, 7 MIN.); She Who Measures (VELJKO POPOVIC, CROATIA, 2008, 7 MIN.); Sweet Dreams (KIRSTEN LEPORÉ, U.S., 2007, 10 MIN.); Yulia (ANTOINE ARDITTI, FRANCE, 2009, 6 MIN.).
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