Originally Brewed to Celebrate the Holidays

Named after the Holiday Star, Stella Artois was first brewed as a gift to the people of Leuven, Belgium. A golden lager in contrast to the popular dark ales of the time, its brilliant amber color has illuminated holiday celebrations for generations thereafter.
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- Annual two-day human rights conference
- Undergraduate major, minor and certificate in international human rights
- A variety of events that are free and open to the public

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Sunday, November 17 • 3 P.M. • Tivoli Theatre
TICKET PRICES
Individual tickets are $12 each or $10 for Cinema St. Louis members and students with current and valid ID, except for the following special events:

• We Always Lie to Strangers
  NOV. 14 AT THE TIVOLI
  $15 (NO DISCOUNTS OR PASSES)

• Olivia Block, Sandra Gibson & Luis Recoder
  NOV. 15 AT THE CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM
  $20 (FOR REGULAR ADMISSION), $10 (FOR STUDENTS/STRUGGLING ARTISTS/CAM MEMBERS);
  ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH BROWN PAPER TICKETS (SEE BELOW)

• JFK with Oliver Stone
  NOV. 22 AT THE TIVOLI
  $25 (NO DISCOUNTS OR PASSES)

ADVANCE TICKET SALES
CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM ST. LOUIS
Advance tickets for the “Olivia Block, Sandra Gibson & Luis Recoder” program on Nov. 15 at this venue are for sale online through Brown Paper Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com. In the “Search Events” box, enter either Olivia Block or Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. There is a service charge of $1.34 or $1.69 per ticket. Print your receipt and present it at the venue to obtain tickets.

KDHX
Advance tickets for programs at this venue are for sale online through Brown Paper Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com. In the “Search Events” box, enter either the name of the film or SLIFF. There is a service charge of approximately $1.50 per ticket. Print your receipt and present it at the box office to obtain tickets.

PLAZA FRONTENAC
Advance tickets for programs at this venue are for sale at the Plaza Frontenac box office. Box-office hours are 1-10 p.m. daily. No phone sales. For tickets online, visit tickets.landmarktheatres.com. There is a $1-per-ticket service charge. Pick up your tickets from 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 or the confirmation number.

TIVOLI
Advance tickets for programs at this venue are for sale at the Tivoli box office. Box-office hours are 4-10 p.m. Monday-Friday and noon-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday. No phone sales. For tickets online, visit tickets.landmarktheatres.com. There is a $1-per-ticket service charge. Pick up your tickets at the box-office window. Bring the credit card that you used to purchase the tickets or the confirmation number.

WEBSTER U./MOORE
Advance tickets for programs at this venue are for sale online through Brown Paper Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com. In the “Search Events” box, enter either the name of the film or SLIFF. There is a service charge of approximately $1.50 per ticket. Print your receipt and present it at the venue.

WILDEY THEATRE
Advance tickets for programs at this venue are for sale at the Wildey business office and the City of Edwardsville Parks & Recreation Department (118 Hillsboro Ave.). Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Tickets are also available online at www.wildeytheatre.com or by phone at 618-692-7538.

DAY-OF-SHOW TICKET SALES
KDHX, Plaza Frontenac, Tivoli, and Webster U. box offices will open a half-hour before the first show. The Wildey box office will open an hour before the first show. The free events offered at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, KDHX, University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Washington U./Brown require no ticket; the free events offered at Plaza Frontenac and Tivoli require a complimentary ticket that can be obtained at the box office in advance or on the day of show.

FESTIVAL PUNCH-PASSES
• Festival Punch-Passes are available at two levels: 6-ticket pass for $65 or 10-ticket pass for $100.
• Festival Punch-Passes are not valid for these three special events: “We Always Lie to Strangers” on Nov. 14; “Olivia Block, Sandra Gibson & Luis Recoder” on Nov. 15; and “JFK” with Oliver Stone on Nov. 22.
• 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 the pass for each ticket purchased.
• Festival Punch-Pass-holders can be used to purchase multiple tickets for the same show and to obtain tickets for screenings at all venues.
• Festival Punch-Passes are available at the Tivoli and Plaza Frontenac box offices in advance and at KDHX, Tivoli, Plaza Frontenac, and Webster U./Moore on day of show.

FESTIVAL ALL-ACCESS PASS
Festival All-Access Passes (good for two admissions to every SLIFF program) are available for $350. Pass-holders are required to obtain a ticket for each film attended, either in advance or day of show. All-access passes are available by phone only through Cinema St. Louis: 314-289-4153.
MAIN VENUES

PLAZA FRONTENAC CINEMA
LINDBERGH BOULEVARD AND CLAYTON ROAD
Abundant free parking (including indoors) is available in the Plaza Frontenac lots. See map for location of theater in the mall.

TIVOLI THEATRE
6350 DELMAR BLVD.
Paid parking is available in the lot next to the Tivoli and in the garage across the street. Free parking is available three blocks west of the theater in lots just north of Delmar Boulevard off both Kingsland and Leland avenues.

WASHINGTON U./BROWN
BROWN HALL AUDITORIUM,
FORSYTH BOULEVARD AND CHAPLIN DRIVE
(TWO BLOCKS WEST OF SKINKER BOULEVARD)
Because of construction around Brown Hall, attendees should turn onto Hoyt Drive and park in the lot between Brookings Drive and Forsyth Boulevard (see map); no permits are required on weekends. A walkway leads from the parking lot up to Brown Hall.

WEBSTER U./MOORE
WEBSTER HALL’S WINIFRED MOORE AUDITORIUM,
470 EAST LOCKWOOD AVE.
Parking is available both in front of and behind Webster Hall (see map); no permits are required in the evening and on weekends.

SPECIAL-EVENT VENUES

CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM ST. LOUIS
3750 WASHINGTON BLVD.
Metered parking is available on the streets surrounding CAMSL, and paid parking lots are available east of the building on Washington Boulevard.

KDHX
3524 WASHINGTON BLVD.
Metered parking (free on Sunday) is available on the streets surrounding KDHX, and a paid parking lot is available one block south of the building on Olive Street.

UM-ST. LOUIS/GALLERY 210
1 UNIVERSITY DR.
See map for the location of Gallery 210 and available parking on lower level of MSC Parking Garage or MetroLink lot.

WEBSTER UNIVERSITY/EMERSON
EMERSON LIBRARY’S CONFERENCE ROOM, 101 EDGAR RD.
See map for parking lot by Emerson Library; no permits are required on weekends.

WILDEY THEATRE
252 N. MAIN ST., EDWARDSVILLE, ILL.
Metered parking (free on Sunday) is available on the streets surrounding the Wildey, and a free lot is available next to the building.
SPECIAL EVENTS

SLIFF Opening Night: “We Always Lie to Strangers”
With Cinema St. Louis Award winner AJ Schnack
THURSDAY, NOV. 14, 6 P.M. RECEPTION, 7:30 P.M.
SCREENING, TIVOLI
Special-event ticket price of $15
The 2013 SLIFF kicks off with the local premiere of “We Always Lie to Strangers,” an extraordinary new documentary about Branson, Mo., one of the biggest tourist destinations in America. The screening features a Q&A with co-directors AJ Schnack and David Wilson (co-conspirator on Columbia, Mo.’s True/False Documentary Festival), cinematographer/producer Nathan Truesdell, and subjects Bill and Gail Lennon. Gail Lennon, with guests Bill Lennon and bassist Pope Firman, performs both before and after the film, and complimentary Stella Artois and Skinnygirl Wine are served during the pre-film reception.
Schnack, an Edwardsville, Ill., native, receives SLIFF’s Charles Guggenheim Cinema St. Louis Award.
Sponsored by the Missouri Division of Tourism

Olivia Block, Sandra Gibson & Luis Recoder
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 8 P.M. (DOORS OPEN AT 7 P.M.),
CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM
Special-event ticket price of $20 (for regular admission),
$10 (for students/struggling artists/CAM members)
Brooklyn-based expanded-cinema artists Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder create slowly shifting abstract light sculptures made with film projectors and simple mechanical means, with noted composer, electronic musician, and sound artist Olivia Block providing a live soundtrack. Advance tickets are available through Brown Paper Tickets (see page 16).
Co-presented with the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis and New Music Circle

Human Rights Spotlight
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOV. 15-17, WASHINGTON U./BROWN
Free
Co-sponsored by the Institute for Human Rights & Humanitarian Studies at Webster University, Monsanto Human Rights, and Sigma Iota Rho Honor Society for International and Area Studies at Washington University

Twenty Years Later – Films from the Former Yugoslavia:
Ghosts of the Past, Visions of the Future
FRIDAY, NOV. 15-THURSDAY, NOV. 21,
UM-ST. LOUIS/GALLERY 210
Free
With the University of Missouri-St. Louis, SLIFF co-presents “Twenty Years Later – Films from the Former Yugoslavia: Ghosts of the Past, Visions of the Future,” which examines cinema’s role in the newly independent countries of the former Yugoslavia. The free program – curated by Dr. Rita Csapo-Sweet – presents a selection of films from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia, and examines the state of filmmaking in the region more than 20 years after the start of the Siege of Sarajevo. For complete information, see page 22.
Sponsored by the University of Missouri Research Board and the UM-St. Louis Office of International Studies and Programs

“A Wonderful Night in Split”
With Contemporary Cinema Award winner Arsen Anton Ostojic
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 7 P.M., UM-ST. LOUIS/GALLERY 210
Free
As part of the “Twenty Years Later – Films from the Former Yugoslavia” event at UM-St. Louis, SLIFF alum Arsen Anton Ostojic is honored with our Contemporary Cinema Award at a free screening of his first film, “A Wonderful Night in Split,” which played the fest in 2005. Ostojic’s latest film, “Halima’s Path,” screens on Nov. 19 and 21 at Plaza Frontenac.
Sponsored by the University of Missouri Research Board and the UM-St. Louis Office of International Studies and Programs

WE ALWAYS LIE TO STRANGERS

www.cinemastlouis.org
Documentary Shorts
**SPECIAL EVENTS 19**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 16-WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, MULTIPLE LOCATIONS**

*Free*


**Fashion Reels**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 16-SATURDAY, NOV. 23, PLAZA FRONTENAC**

*Regular ticket price of $12 per film; free for “Doc Shorts: Fashion”*

In partnership with Craft Alliance’s Fashion Lab, SLIFF features a quintet of programs focused on fashion, including three documentary features – “Material Success” (Nov. 16), “The Tents” (Nov. 18), and “Versailles ‘73” (Nov. 23) – and a free sampling of documentary shorts (Nov. 18). As a special treat, the Nov. 17 screening of Alfred Hitchcock’s “To Catch a Thief” – starring two exemplars of elegance, Grace Kelly and Cary Grant – includes an intro and Q&A with actress Susan Claassen, who appears in character as Edith Head, the film’s legendary costume designer.

*Co-presented with Craft Alliance’s Fashion Lab*"}

"Bayou Maharajah"

*With a performance by New Orleans piano player Tom McDermott*

**SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 6:30 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE**

*Regular $12 ticket price*

“Bayou Maharajah” explores the life, times, and music of piano legend James Booker, whom Dr. John described as “the best black, gay, one-eyed junkie piano genius New Orleans has ever produced.” Director Lily Keber participates in a post-film Q&A, and the film is accompanied by an hour-long Booker-inspired performance by highly regarded New Orleans pianist Tom McDermott.

"First Comes Loves"

*With Women in Film Award winner Nina Davenport*

**SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 3:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC**

*Regular ticket price of $12*

SLIFF presents “First Comes Love,” the latest from first-person documentarian Nina Davenport. The film chronicles the director/subject’s alternately funny and poignant journey to single motherhood. Davenport receives SLIFF’s Women in Film Award.

*Co-presented with the Citizen Jane Film Festival in Columbia, Mo.*

Human Rights Spotlight Reception

**SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 8:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./HOLMES LOUNGE**

*Free*

After the conclusion of “Seeds of Hope” at the Human Rights Spotlight, the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting hosts a reception at Holmes Lounge on the Washington U. campus. All those who attended Spotlight films or are interested in human-rights issues are invited to continue the discussion over complimentary food and beverages. For planning
purposes, we request that attendees send an RSVP through Eventbrite: https://reception-hrspotlight.eventbrite.com.

**Sponsored by the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting**

**Georgia Frontiere Cinema for Students Program**
**MONDAY-FRIDAY, NOV. 18-22, MULTIPLE LOCATIONS**
Free

**Sponsored by the CGLC Foundation and the St. Louis Rams**

**Busing sponsored by the Middle Fund**

**Senior Specials**
**TUESDAY, NOV. 19, NOON, AND FRIDAY, NOV. 22, NOON, PLAZA FRONTENAC**
Free
As a thank-you to our senior attendees, SLIFF offers a pair of free noon screenings at Plaza Frontenac that explore issues of aging. In “Shyamal Uncle Turns off The Lights” (Nov. 19), an 80-year-old retiree finds his sense of propriety upset when he notices that his neighborhood streetlights stay on all day. “The Genius of Marian” (Nov. 22) provides a uniquely intimate look at a much-feared illness, Alzheimer’s disease, and paints a loving portrait of family. Both films are accompanied by shorts.

**“Blackmail”**
With live musical accompaniment by the Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra’s Matt Pace and Brien Seyle
**TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 7 P.M., TIVOLI**
Regular ticket price of $12
The British Film Institute is currently touring beautiful restorations of Alfred Hitchcock’s nine surviving silent movies, and SLIFF is proud to feature the silent version of “Blackmail” with live accompaniment by the Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra’s Matt Pace and Brien Seyle.

**“JFK”**
With Lifetime Achievement Award winner Oliver Stone
**FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 7 P.M., TIVOLI**
Special-event ticket price of $25
On the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination, SLIFF presents a special evening with Oscar®-winning director Oliver Stone, including a screening of his director’s cut of “JFK” and a conversation between the filmmaker and St. Louis Post-Dispatch film critic Joe Williams. Stone receives SLIFF’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

**New Filmmakers Forum**
**FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOV. 22-24, TIVOLI AND KDHX**
Regular ticket price of $12 per film; free for NFF Coffee
The New Filmmakers Forum (NFF), a juried competition of works by first-time feature filmmakers, is an annual highlight of SLIFF. The featured films this year are “9 Full Moons,” “Farah Goes Bang,” “How We Got Away with It,” “Sleeping with the Fishes,” and “This Is Where We Live.” The filmmakers accompany the screenings at the Tivoli from Nov. 22-23, and a free NFF Coffee is held on Nov. 24 at KDHX. The NFF Emerging Filmmaker Award – nicknamed the Bobbie in honor of the late Bobbie Lautenschlager, NFF’s longtime curator – is presented at SLIFF’s Closing-Night Party at the Contemporary Art Museum.

**Sponsored by the Alex Townsend Memorial Foundation in honor of Alex Townsend**

**“Gold Star Children”**
**FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 7:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN**
Free
As a tribute to those serving in the U.S. military and their families, SLIFF offers a free screening of the documentary “Gold Star Children,” which takes an affecting look at American children who have lost a parent to war. Filmmaker Mitty Griffis Mirrer, herself a Gold Star Child, participates in a post-film Q&A.

**Children’s Film Showcase**
**SATURDAY-SUNDAY, NOV. 23-24, WASHINGTON U./BROWN**
Free
Cinema St. Louis annually presents the Children’s Film Showcase, which features an array of family features and shorts. Every program in the event is free and open to the public, and children and adults are equally entertained. This year’s selections are “The Blue Tiger,” “The Day of the Crows,” “Ernest & 9 FULL MOONS
Celestine,” “SLIFF/Kids Shorts,” “Tad, the Lost Explorer,” and “Tio Papi.”

**Co-sponsored by Chipotle and Washington U.’s Center for the Humanities**

**Master Class in Independent Filmmaking**

*With Jon Jost and Blake Eckard*

**SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 1-4 P.M., WEBSTER U./EMERSON LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

Free

An iconic figure in American-independent cinema, Jon Jost began making films in early 1960s and remains just as active today (his latest, “Coming to Terms,” screens Nov. 24 at the Tivoli). Jost has served as a mentor and inspiration to Missouri micro-budget filmmaker Blake Eckard, and he both shot and stars in Eckard’s “Ghosts of Empire Prairie,” which also plays Nov. 24 at the Tivoli. Jost and Eckard jointly give a free master class in independent filmmaking; contact Webster U. at films@webster.edu for reservations.

*Co-presented with the Webster U. Film Series*

**“Forty-Seven Views of Leslie Laskey”**

*SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 4:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN*  

Free

SLIFF offers a free screening of a documentary on 91-year-old artist and poet Leslie J. Laskey, a legendary teacher at Washington U. "Forty-Seven Views" intimately chronicles Laskey over an 11-year period. Filmmaker David Wild and Laskey participate in a post-screening Q&A.

**“Impact: After the Crash”**

*SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 6:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN*  

Free

“Impact” explores a horrific 1988 bus crash that killed 27 people and injured nearly three dozen others, making it the worst drunk-driving-related accident in U.S. history. The tragedy became nationally known and gave prominence to the then-fledgling Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The documentary’s writer/producer, St. Louisan Daniel Blake Smith, participates in a post-film Q&A.

**“Greed”**

With live musical accompaniment by the Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra

*SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 8 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE*  

Regular ticket price of $12

SLIFF reprises Erich von Stroheim’s classic silent film “Greed” (1924), which played to a standing-room-only audience at this year’s Greater St. Louis Humanities Festival. The Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra again provides live musical accompaniment, performing an original score written by the band’s members.

**NFF Coffee**

*With the Filmmakers*

**SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 10:30 A.M., KDHX**

Free

As part of the New Filmmakers Forum, SLIFF holds a conversation with the five participating directors hosted by Andrea Sporcic, the Missouri Film Office specialist at the Missouri Division of Tourism. Complimentary coffee and pastries are provided.

*Sponsored by the Alex Townsend Memorial Foundation in honor of Alex Townsend*

**Coffee and pastries courtesy of Urban Canvas: Events & Spaces and Goshen Coffee**

**“Coming to Terms”**

*With Lifetime Achievement Award winner Jon Jost*

**SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 3:45 P.M., TIVOLI**

Regular $12 ticket price

SLIFF presents a new work by legendary American-independent filmmaker Jon Jost, “Coming to Terms,” a meditation on death and its psychological impact on a fractured and divided family. Jost participates in a post-film Q&A and receives SLIFF’s Lifetime Achievement Award. With Blake Eckard, Jost also offers a free master class on independent filmmaking on Nov. 23.

**“Reconversion”**

*SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 4:30 P.M., CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM*  

Free

A free screening of “Reconversion” – a documentary on award-winning Portuguese architect Eduardo Souto de Moura by Thom Andersen ("Los Angeles Plays Itself") – leads into SLIFF’s Closing Night Party and Awards Presentation.

*Co-presented by the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis*

**Closing-Night Party and Awards Presentation**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 8 P.M., CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM**  

Free

The festival concludes with a party at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis. Complimentary Stella Artois and Skinnygirl Wine are served, DJ Rob Levy provides music, and SLIFF announces the audience-choice and juried-competition awards.

*Sponsored by the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Skinnygirl Wine, and Stella Artois*
Twenty Years Later – Films from the Former Yugoslavia: Ghosts of the Past, Visions of the Future

Sponsored by the University of Missouri Research Board and the UM-St. Louis Office of International Studies and Programs

Curated by Dr. Rita Csapo-Sweet

With the University of Missouri-St. Louis, SLIFF co-presents “Twenty Years Later – Films from the Former Yugoslavia: Ghosts of the Past, Visions of the Future” of films from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia, and examines the state of filmmaking in the region more than 20 years after the start of the Siege of Sarajevo. SLIFF films "Death of a Man in the Balkans," "Halima’s Path," and "The Parade" – see descriptions in the Narrative Features section – screen as part of “Twenty Years Later.”

SLIFF also honors "Halima’s Path" director Arsen Anton Ostojic with a Contemporary Cinema Award. The award is presented at a free screening of his first feature, "A Wonderful Night in Split" (2004), on Nov. 15. For more information on Ostojic, see page 29.

The following films and panel discussion are held at UM-St. Louis’ Gallery 210. All “Twenty Years Later” events on campus are free and open to the public.

**A Wonderful Night in Split**

*ARSEN ANTON OSTOJIC, CROATIA, 2004, 100 MIN., CROATIAN*  
**FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 7 P.M.**

In a ghetto in the medieval city of Split, while crowds gather in the old square to listen to a rock concert on New Year’s Eve, several stories unfold: Three American sailors look for a prostitute; a drug pusher double-crosses his dealer; a widow, her grieving child, and an addict are pulled into a scheme to ship heroin to Munich; and a young couple plots a rendezvous. Lives are unraveled on this “wonderful night,” amid fireworks and the countdown to midnight. With director Ostojic, who receives SLIFF’s Contemporary Cinema Award.

**Balkan Student Film Festival**

*SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 10 A.M.-5 P.M.*

These remarkable short films were made by students from the countries of the former Yugoslavia. The mini-festival is divided into four sections by country, with Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, and Croatia running approximately two hours each and Slovenia running approximately a half-hour. The collection has its American premiere at SLIFF and is sponsored by the University of Missouri. Bosnian filmmaker Hari Secic (whose “Variations” is part of the student festival) and curator Rita Csapo-Sweet introduce each country’s segment.

**Goodbye, How Are You?**

*BORIS MITIC, SERBIA, 2009, 61 MIN., SERBIAN*  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 3 P.M.**

“Goodbye, How Are You?” director Boris Mitic – who also wrote, shot, edited, and produced the film – uses his camera to dissect the corpse of Yugoslavia in this primer on Balkan intellectual thought, resistance, and history. The wittiest, blackest satirical aphorisms of the modern era are saluted in an entertaining Serbian travelogue that details how citizens use language to critique – and resist – the madness of politics. Mitic introduces the film.

**Panel Discussion**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 4 P.M.**

Participating filmmakers discuss the state of cinema in the region and the influence of art on politics and national identity. The panel will be preceded by the short “Only the Chimney Stays” (6 min.) by Zlatko Cosic, a former resident of Bosnia & Herzegovina who now lives in St. Louis.

**Cinema Komunisto**

*MILA TURAJLIC, SERBIA, 2011, 101 MIN., SERBIAN*  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 7 P.M.**

“Cinema Komunisto” examines the crumbling remains of Tito’s film industry, exploring the rise and fall of the cinematic illusion called Yugoslavia. Using rare footage from dozens of forgotten Yugoslav films and a never-seen-before archive from film sets and Tito’s private screenings, the documentary re-creates the narrative of a country – the stories told on screen and the ones hidden behind it. “Goodbye, How Are You?” director Boris Mitic introduces the film.

**The Abandoned**

*(Ostavljeni)*  
*BORIS MITIC, SERBIA & HERZEGOVINA, 2010, 85 MIN., BOSNIAN*  
**THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 2:45 P.M.**

In “The Abandoned” – which explores the horrific problem of children born out of rape and often abandoned – a 13-year-old boy lives in an orphanage waiting for his mother to come for him. The film screens with the short “The Way We Played” (Samir Mehanovic, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 2006, 13 min., Bosnian), in which violence among children playing games escalates in an environment of increasing nationalism. Producer Almir Sahinovic introduces the program.
SLIFF continues its tradition of offering a large selection of free events to maximize its outreach into the community and to make the festival affordable to all. This year, we offer 39 free events, which are detailed below. In addition, for the 10th year, we present the Georgia Frontiere Cinema for Students Program, which provides free screenings (often with filmmakers in attendance) to St. Louis-area elementary, middle, and high schools. Films are offered both at our venues and for in-school presentation. Busing reimbursement is also available. For more information, visit www.cinemastlouis.org.

Human Rights Spotlight
FRIDAY-SUNDAY, NOV. 15-17, WASHINGTON U./BROWN
Life, Liberty & Resilience FRIDAY, 7 P.M.
Jim Crow to Barack Obama FRIDAY, 8 P.M.
Out of the Box SATURDAY, NOON
Flying Paper SATURDAY, 2 P.M.
Doc Shorts: Human Rights SATURDAY, 4 P.M.
Tales from the Organ Trade SATURDAY, 6 P.M.
The Undocumented SATURDAY, 8 P.M.
Gideon’s Army SUNDAY, NOON
Honor Diaries SUNDAY, 2:30 P.M.
The Abominable Crime SUNDAY, 4:30 P.M.
Seeds of Hope SUNDAY, 6:30 P.M.

Twenty Years Later – Films from the Former Yugoslavia: Ghosts of the Past, Visions of the Future
FRIDAY-THURSDAY, NOV. 15-21, UM-ST. LOUIS
A Wonderful Night in Split FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 7 P.M.
Balkan Student Film Festival SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 10 A.M.-5 P.M.
Goodbye, How Are You? WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 3 P.M.
Panel Discussion WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 4 P.M.
Cinema Komunisto WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 7 P.M.
The Abandoned (Ostavljeni) THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 2:45 P.M.

Expanded Film & Sound Workshop:
Olivia Block, Sandra Gibson, and Luis Recoder SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 1 P.M., CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

Master Class in Sound Mixing:
Ron Judkins SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 1 P.M., WEBSTER U.

Guilty ’Til Proven Innocent
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 3 P.M., TIVOLI

Human Rights Spotlight Reception
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 8:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./HOLMES LOUNGE

Georgia Frontiere Cinema for Students Program
MONDAY-FRIDAY, NOV. 18-22, MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Doc Shorts: Fashion
MONDAY, NOV. 18, NOON, PLAZA FRONTENAC

Doc Shorts: Artists’ Lives
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 5 P.M., TIVOLI

Shyamal Uncle Turns off the Lights
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, NOON, PLAZA FRONTENAC

Doc Shorts: Families Divided
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 5 P.M., TIVOLI

Doc Shorts: Obsessions
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 5 P.M., TIVOLI

The Genius of Marian
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, NOON, PLAZA FRONTENAC

Gold Star Children
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 7:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN

Children’s Film Showcase
SATURDAY-SUNDAY, NOV. 23-24, WASHINGTON U./BROWN
Ernest & Celestine SATURDAY, NOON
The Blue Tiger SATURDAY, 2 P.M.
Tad, the Lost Explorer SUNDA, NOON
SLIFF/Kids Family Shorts SUNDAY, 2 P.M.
The Day of the Crows SUNDAY, 4 P.M.
Tio Papi SUNDAY, 6 P.M.

Master Class in Independent Filmmaking:
Jon Jost and Blake Eckard SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 1 P.M., WEBSTER U./EMERSON LIBRARY

Forty-Seven Views of Leslie Laskey
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 4:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN

Impact: After the Crash
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 6:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN

NFF Coffee
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 10:30 A.M., KDHX

Reconversion
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 6 P.M., CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

Closing-Night Awards Party
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 8 P.M., CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM
American Indie Spotlight
9 Full Moons, All Roads Lead, Cold Comes the Night, Coming to Terms, Computer Chess, Destination Planet Negro, Farah Goes Bang, Finding Neighbors, Ghosts of Empire Prairie, Go South for Animal Index, Greencard Warriors, The House That Jack Built, How We Got Away with It, Lake Windfall, No God, No Master, Putzel, The Retrieval, She Loves Me Not, Sleeping with the Fishes, Sound of Nothing, Southern Baptist Sissies, This Is Where We Live, Tio Papi

Animation Spotlight
The 7th Voyage of Sinbad, Approved for Adoption, The Day of the Crows, Ernest & Celestine, Shorts 1: Animation 1, Shorts 2: Stop-Motion Animation, Shorts 5: Animation 2, The Suicide Shop, Tad, the Lost Explorer

Archival Presentations
The 7th Voyage of Sinbad, Blackmail, Greed, JFK, To Catch a Thief

Art and Music Spotlight
Sponsored by Nancy & Ken Kranzberg
9 Full Moons, Aayna Ka Bayna, Approved for Adoption, Bayou Maharaja (with accompanying concert by New Orleans piano player Tom McDermott), Blackmail (with live accompaniment by Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra’s Matt Pace and Brian Seyle), The Broken Circle Breakdown, Chasing Ice, Doc Shorts: Artists’ Lives, Folk, Forty-Seven Views of Leslie Laskey, The Genius of Marian, Go South for Animal Index, The Great Hip Hop Hoax, Greed (with live accompaniment by Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra), Harlem Street Singer, Olivia Block, Sandra Gibson, and Luis Recoder, One Chance, The Pleasures of Being Out of Step, Reconversion, The Road to Fame, Something in the Water, The Suicide Shop, Tim’s Vermeer, We Always Lie to Strangers (with accompanying concert by Gail Lennon with guests Bill Lennon and Pope Firman), We Cause Scenes

Asian Focus
Aayna Ka Bayna, Beijing Flickers, Blood Brother, Ilo Ilo, Key of Life, The Road to Fame, Shyamal Uncle Turns off the Lights, A Touch of Sin, Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?

Children’s Film Showcase
Sponsored by Chipotle and Washington U.‘s Center for the Humanities
A selection of our family films offered free from Nov. 23-24 at Washington U.
The Blue Tiger, The Day of the Crows, Ernest & Celestine, SLIFF/ Kids Family Shorts, Tad, the Lost Explorer, Tio Papi

Eastern European Focus
Death of a Man in the Balkans, The Blue Tiger, Halima’s Path, The Parade, The Photograph, Student

Environmental Focus
Sponsored by Chipotle
Antarctica, Chasing Ice, Emptying the Skies, Uranium Drive-In
Fashion Reels
Co-presented by Craft Alliance’s Fashion Lab
Doc Shorts: Fashion, Material Success, The Tents, To Catch a Thief, Versailles ’73

French/French-Language Focus
Co-sponsored by the Centre Francophone, Cultural Service at the Consulate General of France in Chicago, Jane M. and Bruce P. Robert Charitable Foundation, and TV5MONDE

Georgia Frontiere Cinema for Students Program
Sponsored by the CGLC Foundation and the St. Louis Rams Busing sponsored by the Middle Fund
Free daytime screenings from Nov. 18-22 for children and teens from participating St. Louis-area schools. For more information, visit www.cinemastlouis.org.
The Abominable Crime, Alice Walker, Approved for Adoption, Bible Quiz, Caulcus, Children of the Night, Ernest & Celestine, I Learn America, JFK: A President Betrayed, Jim Crow to Barack Obama, Michael Sporn: By the Book, The Retrieval, The Road to Fame, Seeds of Hope, Standing Up, Tio Papi, Tom Sawyer and His Friends

Global Lens 2013
An annual series that presents the best of developing world cinema on screens throughout the United States, Global Lens is a project of the Global Film Initiative, which promotes cross-cultural understanding through the medium of cinema.
About 111 Girls, Beijing Flickers, Cairo 678, The Fantastic World of Juan Orol, Life Kills Me, Modest Reception, The Parade, Shyamal Uncle Turns off the Lights, Southwest, Student

Human Rights Spotlight
Co-sponsored by the Institute for Human Rights & Humanitarian Studies at Webster University, Monsanto Human Rights, and Sigma Iota Rho Honor Society for International and Area Studies at Washington University
A selection of documentaries focused on human-rights issues in the U.S. and the world. The programs, which feature accompanying directors/subjects and post-film discussions, are free and screen Nov. 15-17 at Washington U. See “Films by Subject” on page 27 for additional works addressing human-rights issues.

Interfaith Competition
Sponsored by Union Avenue Christian Church
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.
Documentaries: Blood Brother, CowJews and Indians, Honor Diaries, Tales from the Organ Trade, The Trials of Muhammad Ali
Features: The Broken Circle Breakdown, Cairo 678, Halima’s Path, The Jewish Cardinal, Three Worlds

International Spotlight
Sponsored by the Trio Foundation of St. Louis
See “Films by Country” on page 28 for more information.

Sharon & J. Kim Tucci Italian Focus
Sponsored by the Pasta House Co.
Emptying the Skies, Garibaldi’s Lovers, The Great Beauty, No God, No Master, Omamamia

Mary & Leon Strauss Documentary Spotlight
Sponsored by Mary Strauss
The Pleasures of Being Out of Step, Ray Harryhausen, Reconversion, Red, White & Blueprints, The Road to Fame, Running from Crazy, Seeds of Hope, Something in the Water, Tales from the Organ Trade, Teenage, The Tents, Tim’s Vermeer, The Trials of Muhammad Ali, The Undocumented, Unhung Hero, Uranium Drive-In, Versailles ’73, We Always Lie to Strangers, We Cause Scenes

Middle Eastern Focus
About 111 Girls, Cairo 678, Flying Paper, Honor Diaries, Modest Reception, The Past

New Filmmakers Forum
Sponsored by the Alex Townsend Memorial Foundation in honor of Alex Townsend
A juried competition of works by first-time feature filmmakers.
9 Full Moons, Farah Goes Bang, How We Got Away with It, Sleeping with the Fishes, This Is Where We Live

Oscar® Submissions
A selection of films chosen as their country’s official submission for the 2014 Academy Awards.

QFest LGBT Spotlight
Presented by QFest, Cinema St. Louis’ annual LGBT film festival

Shorts Competition
A juried competition that awards prizes in seven categories. SLIFF’s narrative shorts programming is officially sanctioned by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

ShowMe Cinema
Sponsored by the Missouri Division of Tourism, Missouri Film Office, and St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission
Films with strong Missouri connections, most of which were shot in the St. Louis area or the state.
All Roads Lead, Battle, Forty-Seven Views of Leslie Laskey, Free to Love, Ghosts of Empire Prairie, Go South for Animal Index, Impact, Jim Crow to Barack Obama, Lake Windfall, Out of the Box, Red, White & Blueprints, She Loves Me Not, Something in the Water, Sound of Nothing, St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase Sampler, We Always Lie to Strangers

SLIFF/Kids Family Films
Presented by SLIFF/Kids, Cinema St. Louis’ annual family-film festival
Sponsored by Chipotle
The 7th Voyage of Sinbad, The Blue Tiger, The Day of the Crows, Ernest & Celestine, SLIFF/Kids Family Shorts, Tad, the Lost Explorer, Tio Papi

Spain/Spanish-Language Focus
7 Boxes, The Fantastic World of Juan Orol, Free to Love, Fuck for Forest, Life Kills Me, Tad, the Lost Explorer, The Undocumented

Studio Spotlight
August: Osage County, The Invisible Woman, Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom, Nebraska, One Chance, The Past, Philomena, Tim’s Vermeer

Twenty Years Later – Films from the Former Yugoslavia: Ghosts of the Past, Visions of the Future
Sponsored by the University of Missouri Research Board and UM-St. Louis Office of International Studies and Programs
The Abandoned, Balkan Student Film Festival, Goodbye, How Are You?, Panel Discussion: State of Cinema in the Balkans, A Wonderful Night in Split

Women in Film Spotlight
Films that are made by women or that address women’s issues.
About 111 Girls, Alice Walker, August: Osage County, Bayou Maharajah, Bible Quiz, Big Joy, Cairo 678, Children of the Night, Common People, Farah Goes Bang, First Comes Love, Folk, A Fragile Trust, Furever, Gideon’s Army, Gold Star Children, Good People Go to Hell, Saved People Go to Heaven, The Great Hip Hop Hoax, Green Card Warriors, Honor Diaries, I Learn America, Jim Crow to Barack Obama, Material Success, Out of Print, Running from Crazy, Seeds of Hope, Shorts 3: Women Directors Spotlight, Sleeping with the Fishes, Something in the Water, Tales from the Organ Trade, Three Worlds, Uranium Drive-In, Versailles ’73, Watchtower

ANTARCTICA
THE GREAT BEAUTY

Youth
BEIJING FlickERS
FLYING PAPER
I LEARN AMERICA
MEDORA
OH BOY
THE PHOTOGRAPH
THE RETRIEVAL
SOUTHERN BAPTIST
SISSIES
STUDENT
SUMMER CRISIS
TEENAGE

Films by Genre

Adventure
THE 7TH VOYAGE OF
SINBADS
MICHAEL KOHLHAAS
TAD, THE LOST
EXPLORER

Biopic
ALICE WALKER
APPROVED FOR
ADOPTION
BATTLE
BAYOU MAHARAJA
BIG JOY
THE FANTASTIC
WORLD OF JUAN
OROL
FORTY-SEVEN VIEWS
OF LESLIE LASKEY
A FRAGILE TRUST
THE GENIUS OF
MARIAN
THE GREAT HIP HOP
HOAX
HARLEM STREET
SINGER
THE INVISIBLE
WOMAN
THE JEWISH
CARDINAL
JKF
JKF: A PRESIDENT
BETRAYED
KISS THE WATER
THE LAST SENTENCE
THE LIFE AND
CRIMES OF DORIS
PAYNE
LORD MONTAGU
MANDELA: LONG
WALK TO FREEDOM

Comedy
COMPUTER CHESS
DEATH OF A MAN IN
THE BALKANS
THE DEFLOWERING
OF EVA VAN END
DESTINATION PLANET
NEGRO
THE FANTASTIC
WORLD OF JUAN
OROL
FARAH GOES BANG
GARIBALDI’S LOVERS
KEY OF LIFE
LIFE KILLS ME
OH BOY
OMAMAMIA
ONE CHANCE
THE PARADE
PUTZEL
SHORTS 4
SHORTS 7
SLEEPING WITH THE
FISHES
SUICIDE SHOP
WILL YOU STILL LOVE
ME TOMORROW?

Drama
7 BOXES
9 FULL MOONS
AYA KA BAYNA
ALL ROADS LEAD
AUGUST; OSAGE
COUNTY
BEIJING FlickERS
BLACKMAIL
THE BROKEN CIRCLE
BREAKDOWN
CAIRO 678
THE CLOWN
COLD COMES THE
NIGHT
COMING TO TERMS
GHOSTS OF EMPIRE
PRAIRIE
THE GREAT BEAUTY
GREED
GREENCARD
WARRIORS
HALIMA’S PATH
THE HOUSE THAT
JACK BUILT
HOW WE GOT AWAY
WITH IT
ILO ILO
THE INVISIBLE
WOMAN
THE JEWISH CARDINAL
JKF
LAKE WINDFALL
THE LAST SENTENCE
MANDELA: LONG
WALK TO FREEDOM
MICHAEL KOHLHAAS
NEBRASKA
NO GOD, NO MASTER
THE PAST
THE PHOTOGRAPH
THE RETRIEVAL
SHE LOVES ME NOT
SHYAMAL UNCLE
TURNS OFF THE
LIGHTS
SUICIDE SHOP
TWO WORLDS
WILL YOU STILL LOVE
ME TOMORROW?

Family
ABOUT 111 GIRLS
COMMON PEOPLE
FINDING NEIGHBORS
LE WEEK-END
MODEST RECEPTION
PHILOMENA
SOUTHERN BAPTIST
SISIES
TIO PAPI
Family Film
THE 7TH VOYAGE OF
SINBADS
THE BLUE TIGER
THE DAY OF THE
CROWS
ERNEST & CELESTINE
SLUFF/KIDS FAMILY
SHORTS

Film by Country

Belgium
APPROVED FOR
ADOPTION
THE BROKEN CIRCLE
BREAKDOWN

Brazil
THE CLOWN
SOUTH WEST

Cambodia
THE MISSING
PICTURE

Canada
HONOR DIARIES
MATERIAL SUCCESS
SUMMER CRISIS
TALES FROM THE
ORGAN TRADE

Chile
LIFE KILLS ME

China
BEIJING FlickERS
THE ROAD TO FAME

Colombia
A TOUCH OF SIN

Croatia
FUCK FOR FOREST

Czech Republic
THE BLUE TIGER

Democratic
Republic of Congo
SEEDS OF HOPE

Egypt
CAIRO 678

France
THE INVISIBLE
WOMAN

Germany
COWIジェWS AND
INDIANS

India
AYA KA BAYNA
BLOOD BROTHER
SHYAMAL UNCLE
TURNS OFF THE
LIGHTS

Iran
MODERATE RECEPTION
THE PAST

Iraq
OMAMAMIA

Israel
TELEVISION

Italy
EMPTURING THE
SKIES
GARIBALDI’S LOVERS
THE GREAT BEAUTY
OMAMAMIA

Japan
THE ABOMINABLE
CRIME

Kazakhstan
KEY OF LIFE

Mexico
THE FANTASTIC
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JON JOST: One of the pre-eminent figures in American-independent filmmaking, Jon Jost was born in Chicago in 1943 of a military family, growing up in Georgia, Kansas, Japan, Italy, Germany, and Virginia. Expelled from college in 1962, he began making 16mm films in January 1963. After 10 years of making short works, Jost made his first feature-length film (“Speaking Directly”) in 1974. The self-taught Jost has made 34 feature-length works and more than 30 short works, all of which he conceived, wrote, photographed, directed, and edited; in most cases, he also produced. Among his best-known films are “Last Chants for a Slow Dance” (1977), “All the Vermeers in New York” (1990), and “Homecoming” (2004). His work has shown widely in museums, film archives, and festivals. New York’s Museum of Modern Art presented a complete retrospective of Jost’s work in January 1991, and the show subsequently traveled to such institutions as the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Harvard Film Archive, the UCLA Film Archive, and the Viennale festival. Jost has received numerous grants, including a Guggenheim Fellowship and several National Endowment for the Arts production grants. The Independent Feature Project/West presented the filmmaker with its John Cassavetes Lifetime Achievement Award in March 1991. Jost spent four years teaching in the Graduate Department of Communications and Arts at Yonsei University. He retired as Distinguished Professor in July 2011 and resumed full-time film-making, photography, and painting. He presently lives in his 1991 Subaru Legacy wagon and through the kindness of good friends. SLIFF screens both his first film, “Portrait,” and his latest, “Coming to Terms.” Directors who have previously been honored with a SLIFF Lifetime Achievement Award include Roger Corman, John Sayles, and Rob Nilsson.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD


CONTEMPORARY CINEMA AWARD

One’s Son” (2008), won six Gold Arenas (including Best Film and Best Director) at the Pula Film Festival in Croatia; the film was the official Croatian candidate for the Academy Awards® and was cited by the European Film Academy as one of the best European films in 2009. Ostojic’s new film, “Halima’s Path,” received the Audience Award at the Pula Film Festival with the highest vote in the recent history of the festival; it has won 22 awards and screened at more than 20 film festivals. Ostojic also teaches film production at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb. In addition to directing his own work, he has served as an assistant director, production manager, or line producer on about 20 feature films in Europe and in the U.S. SLIFF screens both his first feature, “A Wonderful Night in Split,” and his latest, “Halima’s Path.” Previous winners of the Contemporary Cinema Award, which honors filmmakers in mid-career doing challenging, innovative work, include Terry Zwigoff, Alex Gibney, Jason Reitman, and Jay and Mark Duplass.

**WOMEN IN FILM AWARD**

**NINA DAVENPORT:** Nina Davenport has been making feature-length documentary films since graduating from Harvard College in 1990, where her mentors were Robb Moss, Ross McElwee, and Robert Gardiner. She grew up in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., and lives in Brooklyn. Davenport’s films have all been to varying degrees autobiographical. Her first film, “Hello Photo” (1994), is a poetic and cinematic essay about her travels in India. It premiered at the Rotterdam International Film Festival and received many festival awards, including Best Documentary at Melbourne. Her second film, “Always a Bridesmaid” (2000), is a humorous and poignant account of her love life. It aired on HBO/Cinemax and on Channel Four’s “True Stories.” Davenport’s third feature documentary, “Parallel Lines” (2003), is a lyrical road movie about her journey from California back home to New York in the aftermath of 9/11. It premiered at IDFA and aired on the BBC series “Storyville.” Her film “Operation Filmmaker” (2007) explored the relationship between filmmaker and subject, as it followed an Iraqi film student who traveled from war-torn Iraq to a Hollywood movie set. That film premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and aired on the PBS series “Independent Lens.” SLIFF screens her newest film, “First Comes Love.” Previous Women in Film Award winners include Yvonne Welbon, Barbara Hammer, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Marsha Hunt, Ry Russo-Young, Pamela Yates, and Ricki Stern and Annie Sundberg.

**CHARLES GUGGENHEIM CINEMA ST. LOUIS AWARD**

**AJ SCHNACK:** A native of Edwardsville, Ill., AJ Schnack is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism. His feature-documentary credits include “Gigantic (A Tale of Two Johns)” (2002), which premiered at the SXSW Film Festival and was released theatrically in North America by Cowboy Pictures; “Kurt Cobain About a Son” (2006), which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival and was released theatrically in North America, France, Japan, Brazil, and Australia; and “Convention” (2009), which premiered as the Centerpiece Film at the AFI Silverdocs Film Festival and was acquired and released by IFC Films/Sundance Selects. Schnack has two films screening at this year’s SLIFF: “We Always Lie to Strangers,” co-directed with David Wilson, which premiered at the SXSW Film Festival; and “Caucus,” which screened at Hot Docs and AFI Docs. Schnack was nominated for a 2007 Independent Spirit Award for “Kurt Cobain About a Son” and was the first recipient of AFI Silverdocs’ Cinematic Vision Award. He was an editor on Michael Rapaport’s “Beats, Rhymes and Life: The Travels of A Tribe Called Quest,” which premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, was acquired by Sony Pictures Classics, and won the Producers Guild Award for Best Documentary. He is the founder and co-chair of the Cinema Eye Honors for Nonfiction Filmmaking, which held its sixth edition at the Museum of the Moving Image in New York City in January 2013. From 2005-2011, he wrote a popular nonfiction-film blog, All these wonderful things. Previous winners of the Charles Guggenheim Cinema St. Louis Award – which honors St. Louisans making significant contributions to the art of film – include Bob Gale, George Hickenlooper, Ken Kwapis, Cedric the Entertainer, James Gunn, Jenna Fischer, the Charles Guggenheim family, Jeremy Lasky, Michael Beugg, and Beau Willimon.
female movie critics, reporters, and feature writers working in print, broadcast, and online media.

AWFJ’s purpose is to support work by and about women – both in front of and behind the cameras – through intra-group promotional activities, outreach programs, and presentation of the annual EDA Awards in recognition of outstanding accomplishments by and about women in the movies. AWFJ has now expanded the EDA Awards program to include presentation of woman-oriented awards at outstanding film festivals.

The EDAs are named in honor of AWFJ founder Jennifer Merin’s mother, Eda Reiss Merin, a stage, film, and television actress whose career spanned more than 60 years.

At SLIFF, EDA Awards will be presented in two feature categories, documentaries and narratives. SLIFF chose five films in each category, and AWFJ juries evaluated the films in competition and choose a winner. The selected films:

**Documentaries:**
- Alice Walker, Bible Quiz, Furever, Gideon’s Army, Uranium Drive-In

**Narratives:**
- Farah Goes Bang, Greencard Warriors, Sleeping with the Fishes, Three Worlds, Watchtower

The documentary jury is Michelle McCue (chair), Cate Marquis, Maitland McDonagh, Sheila Roberts, and Julide Tanriverdi. The documentary jury is Jennifer Merin (chair), Laura Emerick, Cynthia Fuchs, Jette Kernion, and Susan Wloszczyna.

**INTERFAITH DOCUMENTARY AND FEATURE AWARDS**

A jury gives Interfaith Awards to both a documentary and a feature, choosing from among 10 competition films (five in each category), which were selected for their artistic merit; contribution to the understanding of the human condition; and recognition of ethical, social, and spiritual values.

**Documentaries:**
- Blood Brother, CowJews and Indians, Honor Diaries, Tales from the Organ Trade, The Trials of Muhammad Ali

**Narratives:**
- The Broken Circle Breakdown, Cairo 678, Halima’s Path, The Jewish Cardinal, Three Worlds

The 2013 Interfaith Sidebar selection committee was David Gast (chair), retired board chairman of the Carl F. Gast Co.; Delcia Corlew, Cinema St. Louis board member; Janet Herrmann, former Cinema St. Louis board member; Paul Marsh, retired architect; Pier Marton, artist/filmmaker and former university professor; Alma Merabet, intellectual-property manager for media-related issues; Pat Scallet, filmmaker and editor; Tom Stockdale, retired minister; Adrienne Wartts, film-appreciation instructor; and Betty White, retired professor of English. The documentary jury is Kanak Gautam, associate professor of health-care management at St. Louis University; Janet Herrmann; and Pat Scallet.

The feature jury is Sandra Olmsted, adjunct professor of film at Southwestern Illinois College and film critic for TheCinematicSkinny.com, Independent News, and FloValley News; Joya Uraizee, associate professor of English at St. Louis University; and Betty White.

**MIDRASH ST. LOUIS FILM AWARD**

Midrash St. Louis (www.midrashstl.com) engages myriad aspects of American culture – hot topics, deep subjects, music, arts, and film – and seeks to give and receive commentary on the subjects and issues that matter to people in St. Louis and that form and shape our views and lives.

The Midrash St. Louis Film Award celebrates St. Louis-related films of honesty and artistry that portray the need or the hope for reconciliation or redemption, believing these to be among the most powerful and worthy themes to explore in film. Eligible
work includes feature and short films largely shot in St. Louis or directed by persons with strong local ties. The award comes with a cash prize of $500. The award jury is Michael Leary, research ethicist at Washington University, adjunct professor at Fontbonne University, and co-editor of Filmwell.org; Michele Oesch, film aficionado and non-profit fundraiser; Adivya Siram, SLIFF volunteer and pop-culture gadfly; and Bob Oesch, attorney at law and leader of Midrash St. Louis.

NFF EMERGING DIRECTOR AWARD: THE BOBBIE

The New Filmmakers Forum (NFF) annually presents the Emerging Director Award, nicknamed the Bobbie. Five works by first-time feature filmmakers compete for the prize, which includes a $500 cash award. The Bobbie is named in honor of Bobbie Lautenschlager, who co-curated NFF until her death in 2012.

NFF Films:
9 FULL MOONS (Tomer Almagor), FARAH GOES BANG (Meera Menon), HOW WE GOT AWAY WITH IT (Jon Lindstrom), SLEEPING WITH THE FISHES (Nicole Gomez Fisher), THIS IS WHERE WE LIVE (Josh Barrett & Marc Menchaca)

This year’s NFF jury is Sam Adams (chair), a regular contributor to the Los Angeles Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Onion A.V. Club, and a contributing editor at Philadelphia City Paper, where he served as film editor from 1999-2007; 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; Diane Carson, professor emeritus of film at St. Louis Community College at Meramec and adjunct professor of film studies at Webster University; Carson Minow, St. Louis filmmaker and managing director of First Punch film-production company; and Andrew Wyatt, film critic for St. Louis Magazine’s Look/Listen arts-and-entertainment blog.

SHORTS AWARDS

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

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

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 Denise Bitidis, independent film producer; Michael Haffner, film reviewer, journalist, and contributor to the Web sites Very Aware, We Are Movie Geeks, and Destroy the Brain; Melissa Howland, LA editor for We Are Movie Geeks; Stefene Russell, culture editor of St. Louis Magazine and member of the Poetry Scores arts collaborative; James Harrison, director of the Webster University Film Series; and Matt Tierney, director of content distribution for Fullscreen, a YouTube multi-channel network.

The documentary-shorts jury is Chad Freidrichs, director of “The Pruitt-Igoe Myth” and former professor of filmmaking at Stephens College in Columbia, Mo.; Ben Scholle, documentarian and assistant professor of communication at Lindenwood University; and Bill Streeter, director of “Brick by Chance and Fortune” and creative director of Hydraulic Pictures film-production company.

ST. LOUIS FILM CRITICS’ JOE POLLACK AWARDS

In conjunction with the St. Louis Film Critics organization, SLIFF holds juried competitions for documentary and narrative features. The awards are named in honor of the late St. Louis Post-Dispatch critic Joe Pollack. The winners will be picked by two juries composed of five St. Louis film critics. SLIFF chose eight films to compete in each category:

Narratives:
The Broken Circle Breakdown, Common People, Finding Neighbors, Halima’s Path, Ilo Ilo, Key of Life, Oh Boy, The Photograph

Documentaries:
The Bible Quiz, Blood Brother, First Comes Love, Furever, The Genius of Marian, Good People Go to Hell, Saved People Go to Heaven, Medora, The Pleasures of Being Out of Step

The narrative jury is Sandra Olmsted (head), TheCinematicSkinny.com, The Independent News, and FloValley News; Mathew DeKinder, Suburban Journals of St. Louis and Mat’s Entertainment.com; Mark Reardon, KMOV (1120 AM) and KMOV (Channel 4); Pete Timmermann, PLAYBACK:atl; and Lynn Venhaus, Belleville News-Democrat.

The documentary jury is Cate Marquis (head), St. Louis Jewish Light; Martha K. Baker, KDHX 88.1 radio; Maxamillion Foizey, “Max on Movies” on FM News Talk 97.1; Rob Levy, Ink19.com and needcoffee.com; Ronnie Roy, The RRoy Report (www.rrreport.wordpress.com); and Jim Tudor, Twitch and ZekeFilm.net.

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JUAN CARLOS MANEGLIA, PARAGUAY, 2012, 100 MIN., SPANISH
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 9 P.M., TIVOLI
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 9 P.M., TIVOLI

It’s Friday night in Asunción, Paraguay, and the temperature is sweltering. Victor, a 17-year-old wheelbarrow delivery boy, lusts after one of the fancy new cellular phones for sale in the marketplace. When he’s offered a chance to deliver seven boxes with unknown contents in exchange for a quick $100, he sees a simple means of getting the phone he desires. But what sounds like an easy job soon gets complicated: Something in the boxes is highly coveted, and both Victor and his pursuers quickly find themselves caught up in a crime about which they’re utterly ignorant. Variety calls the film “a wild and cunningly plotted chase movie,” and Indiewire describes “7 Boxes” as “a rollicking good time at the movies that offers breathtaking action and suspense, humor and appealing characters all in one visually flashy package.”

The 7th Voyage of Sinbad
NATHAN JURAN, U.S., 1958, 88 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 7 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE

As part of a double bill that pays tribute to the late Ray Harryhausen – which includes a documentary on the special-effects master – SLIFF is delighted to screen one of his essential works, “The 7th Voyage of Sinbad.” Although Harryhausen was never credited with the direction of the features whose effects he supervised, he was intimately involved in all aspects of the films, and his mythic creatures and stop-motion animation are the movies’ true raison d’être. “7th Voyage” follows legendary Sinbad the Sailor (Kerwin Mathews) and his betrothed, Princess Parisa (Kathryn Grant), as they tussle with evil magician Sokurah both in Baghdad and on the island of Colossa. The film includes several iconic Harryhausen creations: the Cyclops, the dancing snake woman, and the famous sword fight between Sinbad and the skeleton. TV Guide calls the film “one of the greatest achievements in fantasy filmmaking since ‘King Kong’” and “an assault of the visually fantastic.” With an introduction and Q&A by Tom Stockman, creative editor of We Are Movie Geeks.

Shown on a double bill with Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan (see Documentary Features)

9 Full Moons
TOMER ALMAGOR, U.S., 2013, 103 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 9:15 P.M., TIVOLI

A powerful, brooding love story, “9 Full Moons” examines the seemingly implausible relationship between Frankie (New Filmmakers Forum alum Amy Seimetz, star of “Upstream Color,” HBO’s “Family Tree,” and AMC’s “The Killing”) and Lev (Bret Roberts), two radically different personalities who somehow were always meant for each other. Set against the singer/songwriter music scene of East Los Angeles and Hollywood, the film chronicles the couple’s struggle with their personal demons as they try to hold on to one another against insurmountable odds. The film also features Donal Logue (“Terriers,” “Copper,” “Sons of Anarchy”), and legendary character actor Harry Dean Stanton makes a cameo. With writer/director Almagor.
Aayna Ka Bayna
SAMIT KAKKAD, INDIA, 2012, 94 MIN., MARATHI
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 5 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 9 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

A crowd-pleasing delight, “Aayna Ka Bayna” is an energetic, hugely entertaining musical, an Indian-style “Step Up.” Nine youngsters in a home for delinquents are introduced to dance therapy by a kindly assistant, and they find that performing offers a potential escape from their bleak circumstances. But when the boys attempt to participate in a dance reality show, the home’s tyrannical warden opposes them. Hungry for recognition and respect, the dancers rebel and attempt to fulfill their dreams by escaping. Undeniably gifted but absolutely raw in their dancing, the boys’ special gift is their skill at survival, but will that combination of innate talent and street smarts be enough to lead to their eventual triumph? Given the legal and societal forces arrayed against them, can they become masters of their own destinies?

Sponsored by Carol & Ward Klein

About 111 Girls
(Darbare 111 Dokhtar)
NAHID GHOBADI & BIJAN ZAMANPIRA, IRAQ, 2012, 79 MIN., FARSI & KURDISH
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 4:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In this satirical road movie – the debut feature from the sister of Bahman Ghobadi (“A Time for Drunken Horses”) and her husband – a government official travels across Iranian Kurdistan with his driver and a young guide on a mission to stop 111 young Kurdish women from committing suicide in protest against conditions that have left them spinster. Carrying a message from Iran’s president, they race against the clock and travel into territory simmering with resentment at official neglect and the hardship it has sown among a proud people. Against a dramatically colorful physical and human landscape, wistful longing mingles with absurdist humor as the three travelers meander helplessly in a land riddled with contradictions. The Hollywood Reporter calls the film “at once beautiful – Hamid Ghavami’s gorgeous, overwhelming cinematography underscores Kurdish isolation perfectly – and oddly humorous.”

Sponsored by Pam Schneider

All Roads Lead
PETER BOLTE, U.S., 2013, 90 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 6:30 P.M., TIVOLI

St. Louis-area native Peter Bolte – a graduate of Webster U. – returns to his home turf for “All Roads Lead,” which was shot here and in Pinckneyville, Ill., and features local cast and crew. After discovering lost footage of a raging car fire that took the lives of two young girls, a group of filmmakers decides to investigate the stories of those involved. Their journey leads them from the concrete jungle of New York City to the rural countryside of the Midwest. In the small Illinois town of Colston, they interview and befriend residents touched by the tragic event. Hard workers struggling through trying times, the townsfolk appear to draw strength from the caring support of their community. However, as the filmmakers dig deeper, a darker side of Colston begins to emerge, and it becomes evident that the girls’ death may be more than an accident. As an ominous cloud of deceit begins to hover over the interviewing process, the filmmakers must decide how to expose the truth and protect themselves.

With writer/director Bolte and actor David Yow.

Sponsored by Pam Schneider

August: Osage County
JOHN WELLS, U.S., 2013, 130 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 6 P.M., TIVOLI

“August: Osage County” – directed by John Wells (“The Company Men”) and featuring a vast, star-studded cast that includes Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts, Ewan McGregor, Chris Cooper, Abigail Breslin, Benedict Cumberbatch, Juliette Lewis, Margo Martindale, Dermot Mulroney, Julianne Nicholson, and Sam Shepard – tells the dark, hilarious, and deeply touching story of the strong-willed women of the Weston family. The sisters’ lives have diverged, but a family crisis brings them back to the Midwest house they grew up in and to the dysfunctional woman who raised them. After premiering at Chicago’s legendary Steppenwolf Theatre, Tracy Letts’ Pulitzer Prize-winning play made its Broadway debut in 2007 and won five Tony Awards, including Best Play. The Hollywood Reporter calls the film “a fat juicy steak of a drama marinated in corrosive comedy,” and Variety raves that the “acid-tongued Broadway triumph reaches the screen with its scalding intensity fully intact.”

Sponsored by Sue & Michael Wallace
Beijing Flickers  
(You-zhong)  
ZHANG YUAN, CHINA, 2012, 96 MIN., MANDARIN  
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 4:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTEC

In this new work from acclaimed Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yuan (“Beijing Bastards,” “Sons”) – named one of the 100 Young Leaders of the Next Century by Time Magazine in 1994 – San Bao is a young man left behind by Beijing’s fabulous new wealth, having just lost his job, his apartment, and the woman he loves (who’s left him for a richer man). Even Happiness, his dog, has run away from him. Lovelorn, self-destructive, and desperately aimless, San Bao nevertheless has moments of euphoria as he roams the sleek, shifting city with other soulful, cash-poor dreamers and misfits. Such heavenly losers form the vital spirit of Beijing in this gorgeously gritty, angst-ridden portrait of youthful disaffection and perseverance. “Beijing Flickers” is “fueled by romanticism as well as by social critique,” writes the New York Times. “San Bao and his friends experience moments of rapture, and their lives have a kind of familiar down-and-out urban glamour. (You can imagine them in Brooklyn, say, or London.)”

Blackmail  
ALFRED HITCHCOCK, U.K., 1929, 85 MIN.  
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 7 P.M., TIVOLI

The British Film Institute is currently touring beautiful restorations of Alfred Hitchcock’s nine surviving silent movies, and SLIFF is proud to feature the silent version of “Blackmail” with live accompaniment by the Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra’s Matt Pace and Brien Seyle. Although “The Lodger” planted the seeds, “Blackmail” is the first full flowering of the Hitchcock suspense film and introduces several of the director’s signature themes: the suppression of women by a patriarchal society and the corrupt hypocrisy of the law. In the film, Alice Walker (Czech actress Anny Ondra), an early Hitchcock blonde, kills a date rapist and faces extortion, forcing her controlling boyfriend, a Scotland Yard detective, into a moral and ethical quandary. The film demonstrates Hitchcock’s absolute mastery of silent-film conventions, and though the more familiar sound version of “Blackmail” is also compelling – it was made immediately after the silent was completed and released as Britain’s inaugural talkie – the silent is more assured in its use of the camera and far less deliberate in its acting style. With live accompaniment by the Rats & Motion Picture Orchestra’s Matt Pace and Brien Seyle.

The Blue Tiger  
(Modrý tygr)  
PETR OUKROPEC, CZECH REPUBLIC, 2012, 90 MIN., CZECH  
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 4 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE  
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 2 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

An utterly winning family film – with gorgeous live-action imagery and playful animated sequences – “The Blue Tiger” takes a magical-realist approach to an all-too-real problem in urban development. In a city ruled by a diabolical mayor, the only thing that can save the old botanical garden from being demolished for the construction of an entertainment center is a mysterious blue tiger, an oddly hued big cat that begins to roam the town as the forces of destruction gather. Youngsters Johanka and Matyas, whose parents reside in and tend to the garden, band together to both preserve the green space and protect the blue tiger from the evil clutches of the mayor and his henchmen.

Sponsored by Carol & Ward Klein

The Broken Circle Breakdown  
FELIX VAN GROENINGEN, BELGIUM/NETHERLANDS, 2012, 111 MIN.  
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 6:45 P.M., TIVOLI

An intense melodrama full of passion and music, “The Broken Circle Breakdown” relates the moving love story between tattoo-shop owner Elise and banjoist Didier. Although the pair falls in love at first sight, they have wildly contrasting personalities: Didier is both a dedicated atheist and a naïve romantic; Elise has a cross tattooed on her neck but her feet planted firmly on the ground. Initially, the couple has no trouble bridging the divide between their contrasting worldviews, and their happiness appears complete after Maybelle is born. That bliss proves short-lived, however, when their little girl becomes seriously ill. Predictably, Didier and Elise respond in very different ways, but Maybelle leaves them no choice: Her parents will have to fight for her together. The Hollywood Reporter writes: “The rousing bluegrass tunes heard and performed throughout ‘The Broken Circle Breakdown’ travel from soaring peaks of joy in the foot-stomping numbers to desolate valleys of sorrow in the heart-wrenching ballads. Belgian director Felix van Groeningen’s drama about a passionate relationship devastated by grief spans a comparable breadth.”

www.cinemastlouis.org
**Coming to Terms**

**JON JOST, U.S., 2012, 89 MIN.**

**SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 3:45 P.M., TIVOLI**

Indie legend Jon Jost’s latest feature, “Coming to Terms,” is couched as a fictional story, but at root the film is a meditation on death and its psychological impact on a fractured and divided family. Another giant of American-independent film – director James Benning – appears as the family’s father, and the cast includes Jost regulars Roxanne Rogers, Kate Sannella, Stephen Taylor, and Ryan Harper Gray. In a director’s statement, Jost writes: “In making this film, I sought to address a topic appropriate for someone my age – death, and its social impact. I wished to discard conventional narrative tissue, as well as the usual cinematic language normally used, and to go as directly as possible to the emotional core of the matter. While not evident on the surface, the film is intended as a portrait of a larger family – that of America.” Critic Chris Fujiwara, the artistic director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival, especially lauds Jost’s facility with digital video in “Coming to Terms”: “It’s a remarkable film, with images and transitions of great beauty and intensity. I value in it most the fact that it is a digital film, not a ‘film’ that happened to be shot and edited digitally.”

**With writer/director Jost, who receives SLIFF’s Lifetime Achievement Award, and actor Taylor.**

Shown with **Portrait** (Jon Jost, Italy, 1963, 14 min.): Jost’s first film, “Portrait” is a silent “expressionistic” portrait of a 12-year-old girl and her environment, shot in early 1963 in Cassina Amato, Italy, near Milano.
Common People

STEWART ALEXANDER & KERRY SKINNER, U.K., 2012, 90 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 3:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 3:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Weaving together a half-dozen stories and more than 30 characters, “Common People” tells a dramatic, humorous, and sometimes magical tale. When a parrot escapes the confines of her cage, she finds herself flying with parakeets in the south London skies and soaring into the lives of the “common people.” Seen from the parrot’s point of view, a London park becomes a microcosmic melting pot where people share their passions, anxieties, and aspirations: Romance blossoms between an unlikely couple, a homeless man’s surprising past is revealed, and a group of young boys performs the greatest good deed of their lives. A heartfelt and ultimately uplifting celebration of everyday humanity, the film introduces an array of ordinary folks facing individual challenges and brings them together through an extraordinary encounter with an exotic feathered friend. With writer/co-director Alexander and co-director Skinner.

Shown with King of the Feeder Thieves (Sonja Ecton, 2013, U.S., 5 min.): Feathered and furry animals battle for seeds at an outdoor bird feeder.

Sponsored by Janet & Rob Levy

Computer Chess

ANDREW BUJALSKI, U.S., 2013, 92 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 6:30 P.M., TIVOLI

The latest project from acclaimed indie director and SLIFF alum Andrew Bujalski (“Mutual Appreciation,” “Funny Ha Ha,” “Beeswax”), the existential comedy “Computer Chess” takes place over the course of a weekend tournament for chess software programmers in the seemingly long-ago year of 1980 – a time when the contest between technology and the human spirit seemed a little more up for grabs. The film’s eccentric geniuses work diligently to teach computers to defeat man at his own game – chess – thus laying the groundwork for artificial intelligence, and the proceeding’s earnest seriousness makes for wonderful deadpan comedy. To capture the spirit of the film’s more innocent age, Bujalski shoots using a crude video camera of the period – like its nerdy heroes, the low-def, dull-gray black-and-white images of “Computer Chess” have a grungy homeliness that proves oddly appealing. The New Yorker’s Richard Brody hails the film as “an extraordinarily inventive and richly textured period piece,” and the New York Times’ A.O. Scott declares it “peculiar and sneakily brilliant.”

The Day of the Crows

(Le jour des corneilles)

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE DESSAINT, FRANCE, 2013, 96 MIN., FRENCH
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 6 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 4 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

Jean Reno and the late Claude Chabrol lend their voices to the lusciously hand-animated “The Day of the Crows,” an adaptation of a novel by Jean-François Beauchemin. Raised by his father, the tyrannical giant Pumpkin, young Courge lives in the forest and is forbidden from wandering beyond its limits. Ignorant about the ways of men, the boy grows up feral, with the placid ghosts who haunt the forest his only company. But when his father is badly injured in a fall, Courge is forced to seek help, and he discovers the village that Pumpkin fled years before. Seeking aid from the local doctor, the wild child is given a crash course in civilization (and infatuation) by the doctor’s young daughter, Manon. “Good character animation, strong voice thesping and a fully engrossing storyline elevate ‘Day of the Crows’ well above the usual run of animated kid-friendly fare,” says Variety. “Charming without undue whimsy, expressive without inordinate schmaltz, and dealing with the true stuff of fairy tale, this hand-drawn pic could captivate children and adults alike.”

Death of a Man in the Balkans

(Smrt coveka na Balkanu)

MIROSLAV MOMCILOVIC, SERBIA, 2012, 80 MIN., SERBIAN
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 4:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 9:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In the darkly comic “Death of a Man in the Balkans,” a distressed man switches his Webcam on, adjusts the lens to capture most of his small flat, and then pulls out a gun and shoots himself. Although the film spares us the moment of his death, the camera relentlessly documents the real-time events that follow his suicide, recording the appalling behavior of an endless parade of neighbors and callers. With the shrouded body slumped at the edge of the camera’s view, people blithely smoke, take phone calls, pilfer booze, watch football, eat lunch, and play chess – and those are scarcely the worst indignities. Expressing astonishment at others’ clumsiness and disrespect, the visitors confidently assert that their own misbehavior is what the dead man would have wanted, even though no one seems to know the deceased’s name. Indiewire calls the film a “rare black comedy that actually elicits out-loud laughter” and lauds its “sharp writing, wonderful characterization, and perfectly deadpan, droll comic timing.”
The Fantastic World of Juan Orol
(El Fantástico Mundo De Juan Orol)
SEBASTIÁN DEL AMO, MEXICO, 2012, 90 MIN., SPANISH
FRIDAY, NOV. 18, 4:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 6 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Move over, Ed Wood! Mexico’s half-forgotten B-movie master, the “involuntary surrealist” Juan Orol, receives a pitch-perfect tribute in this irresistible love letter to a self-made man of showbiz, whose career spanned nearly 60 films. In a glorious black-and-white flashback mingling movie-influenced memories of his Galician childhood, forced exile to Cuba, and arrival in Mexico, intrepid Juanito pursues failed careers as baseball player, boxer, bullfighter, and gangster before landing in the movies – where failure kind of works for him. As Orol, Roberto Sosa exudes droll underdog charm, anchoring a fast-moving comedy where every frame is an infectious homage to a golden age of cinema and the art of fantasy.

Ernest & Celestine
STÉPHANE AUBIER, FRANCE, 2012, 80 MIN., IN ENGLISH
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, NOON, WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

Deep below snowy cobblestone streets, tucked away in networks of winding subterranean tunnels, lives a civilization of hard-working mice, terrified of the bears that live aboveground. Unlike her fellow mice, Celestine is an artist and a dreamer, and when she nearly ends up as breakfast for ursine troubadour Ernest, the pair forms an unlikely bond. But it isn’t long before their friendship is put on trial by their respective bear-fearing and mice-eating communities. Like a gorgeous watercolor painting brought to life, the film draws on influences as varied as Buster Keaton, Bugs Bunny, and the outlaw romanticism of Bonnie and Clyde. Based on the classic Belgian book series by Gabrielle Vincent, “Ernest & Celestine” is the winner of France’s Cesar Award for Best Animated Feature and numerous festival prizes. Screen Daily enthuses: “A delightful melding of visual style and narrative pirouettes, ‘Ernest & Celestine’ is a just-about-perfect hand-drawn animated feature.”

Sponsored by Centre Francophone at Webster University’s Centre Francophone.

Destination Planet Negro
KEVIN WILLMOTT, U.S., 2013, 98 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 8:30 P.M., TIVOLI

A razor-sharp satire from SLIFF alum Kevin Willmott – the director of the similarly cutting “CSA: The Confederate States of America” – “Destination Planet Negro” deftly mimics low-budget 1950s sci-fi to make some comically pointed observations about present-day American reality. In 1939, a group of African-American intellectuals – including such luminaries as W.E.B. DuBois – come up with an ingenious if unlikely response to Jim Crow America: leave the planet and populate Mars. Using peanut-and-sweet-potato-based technology created by George Washington Carver, a three-person crew (plus one rambunctious robot) rockets into space in Earth’s first working spaceship. After an unfortunate encounter with a time warp, however, these early astronauts find themselves not on Mars but in a place that bears a startling resemblance to the contemporary U.S. Their spacey adventure – which takes the trio, both literally and figuratively, from black-and-white into full color – threatens to undermine the time line of history but unearth some hard truths about American culture. With writer/director Willmott.
Farah Goes Bang
MEERA MENON, U.S., 2013, 90 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 7 P.M., TIVOLI

The eponymous twenty-something heroine of “Farah Goes Bang,” a pleasingly women-centric road-trip comedy, is intent on losing her virginity as she stumps for 2004 presidential candidate John Kerry. Farah and a pair of friends follow the campaign trail across historic Route 66 on their way to Ohio, the central battleground state of 2004. Their earnest, naive campaigning encounters strong resistance in the Southwest, with Texas proving especially hostile. The girls ultimately arrive at the Ohio Kerry/Edwards headquarters, but Farah’s frustrations cause a meltdown, reaching a climax – though not the kind she’s looking for – when she faces off with some pushy Bush supporters. The election’s results are well known, but will Farah achieve her far more personal goal as she makes this American odyssey? “Farah Goes Bang” director Meera Menon won the inaugural Nora Ephron Prize for female filmmakers at this year’s Tribeca Film Festival. With co-writer/director Menon.

Finding Neighbors
RON JUDKINS, U.S., 2013, 96 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 7 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

This adult comedic drama is the story of a formerly acclaimed graphic novelist who goes looking for a true connection outside of his marriage – and just over his fence. Six months late on a book delivery, Sam (Michael O’Keefe) has succumbed to a full-on midlife and creative crisis. Sherrie (Julie Mond), the provocative girl-next-door, offers him an easy and willing distraction. But it is Sam’s budding friendship with another neighbor (Blake Bashoff), a gay man, that ultimately helps him reconnect with his creativity. Sam, however, reveals nothing of this to his wife (Catherine Dent), and as he begins to change, she becomes increasingly suspicious about what’s going on in the neighborhood. Understandably hurt that Sam has become emotionally intimate with someone other than herself, she’s doubly confused by the discovery that Sam’s “someone else” is a man. As Sam begins to recapture his creative fire, he finds he may be losing the one thing he has never doubted: his marriage. Although it’s been more than a decade since his well-regarded feature debut – the 1999 Sundance competition film “The Hi-Line” – writer/director Ron Judkins has remained quite busy in his parallel career as a sound mixer, winning a pair of Oscars® for “Jurassic Park” and “Saving Private Ryan.” With writer/director Judkins.

Sponsored by David Houlle, Sight & Sound Production Services

Garibaldi’s Lovers
SILVIO SOLDINI, ITALY, 2012, 108 MIN., ITALIAN
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 6:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 4:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Set in Turin, the charming “Garibaldi’s Lovers” provides a magical vision of metropolitan Italy but also casts a critical eye on modern life in the city. Widowed plumber Leo is struggling to deal with the growing pains of his two adolescent children when his life intersects with penniless artist Diana and her eccentric landlord. Through a hilarious series of coincidences, they give each other new hope for the future – both their own and that of the city in which they live. Director Silvio Soldini, best known for the multi-award-winning “Bread and Tulips,” says of the film: “I wanted to do a musical, (but) it came off a choral comedy: an unusual, funny, colorful, a bit wacky film. My two last movies were very realistic, and I want to start looking at life through the filter of the light now. It is an attempt to get out of the mud through something beautiful, poetic, imaginative.”

Sponsored by Sharon & J. Kim Tucci

Ghost of Empire Prairie
BLAKE ECKARD, U.S., 2013, 83 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 1:15 P.M., TIVOLI

“Ghosts of Empire Prairie” is the latest from Missouri micro-budget filmmaker Blake Eckard, whose similarly tough-minded working-class dramas “Sinner Come Home” and “Bubba Moon Face” both played previous SLIFFs. Lonnie Enright (Eckard regular Ryan Harper Gray), a former rodeo rider and probable murderer, returns to the town of Empire Prairie to find his brother, Ted (Frank Mosley), at the end of his rope. Ted makes it clear that he can’t keep looking after their difficult father (Jon Jost), who’s crumbling from a steady diet of booze and the prospect of oncoming blindness. After Lonnie revives an old love affair with Dawn, the town barmaid, long-suppressed memories of his upbringing propel him into violence. American indie legend Jost, who’s long served as an inspiration and mentor to Eckard, does double duty as actor and cinematographer. Jost’s own new film about a troubled family, “Coming to Terms,” also plays the fest, and he’ll receive a Lifetime Achievement Award. With writer/director Eckard, actor/cinematographer Jost, and actor Mosley.
Go South for Animal Index: A Fable of Los Alamos
CHRIS KING, U.S., 2013, 89 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 6:30 P.M., KDHX
Based on a poem by Stefene Russell—an editor for St. Louis Magazine and a veteran indie-film actress—the St. Louis-made “Go South for Animal Index” follows four related storylines: the development of the nuclear bomb on a secret military base; the nuclear-waste-related illness of a tribal girl living nearby; the travels of the widow and daughter of a nuclear scientist who dies on the base; and the drafting into military service of a vendor of stuffed animals. The quartet of stories intersects dramatically in the context of the first successful test of the atomic bomb. Setting Russell’s poem to an exceptional rock-music score and eschewing spoken dialogue, “Go South for Animal Index” freely mixes zombies, experimental elements, and silent-film tropes in a bold genre mash-up. The large ensemble cast includes many well-known St. Louisans: poet Russell; former fire chief Sherman George; international burlesque stars Lola van Ella and Kyla Webb; African-dance impresario Mama Lisa Gage; architectural historian and preservationist Michael R. Allen; and the late George Malich in his final screen performance. With director King, poet/actor Russell, and cast members.

The Great Beauty
(La grande bellezza)
PAOLO SORRENTINO, ITALY, 2013, 142 MIN., ITALIAN
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 4 P.M., PLAZA FRONTEMAC
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 6 P.M., PLAZA FRONTEMAC
A spiritual successor to Rossellini’s “Rome, Open City” and Fellini’s “La Dolce Vita,” Paolo Sorrentino’s “The Great Beauty” offers a contemporary take on the Eternal City. Journalist Jep Gambardella (the dazzling Toni Servillo of “Il divo” and “Gomorrah”) has been a permanent fixture in Rome’s literary and social circles since the legendary success of his one and only novel. Armed with a roguish charm, he has seduced his way through the city’s lavish nightlife for decades, but when his 65th birthday coincides with a shock from the past, Jep finds himself unexpectedly taking stock of his life. Turning his cutting wit on himself and his contemporaries, Jep looks past the extravagant nightclubs, parties, and cafés to find Rome in all its glory: a timeless landscape of absurd, exquisite beauty. The New York Times describes the film as “an outlandishly entertaining hallucination,” and London’s Telegraph calls it “a shimmering coup de cinema to make your heart burst, your mind swim and your soul roar.”

Greed
ERICH VON STROHEIM, U.S., 1924, 140 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 8 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE
SLIFF reprises Erich von Stroheim’s classic silent film “Greed” (1924), which played to a standing-room-only audience at this year’s Greater St. Louis Humanities Festival. The Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra again provides live musical accompaniment and performs an original score written by the band’s members. Based on Frank Norris’ novel “McTeague,” “Greed” documents the manifold troubles that ensue after the wife (ZaSu Pitts) of McTeague (Gibson Gowland) wins a lottery prize of $5,000. Striving for maximum realism, von Stroheim produced a nearly eight-hour version of the film, but MGM eventually edited “Greed” down to the extant 140-minute version. The director’s epic cut is considered lost, but even in its truncated state, “Greed” is widely regarded as one of cinema’s towering achievements. Declaring the film “essential viewing,” the Chicago Reader’s Jonathan Rosenbaum writes: “Greed’ remains one of the most modern of silent films, anticipating ‘Citizen Kane’ in its deep-focus compositions and Jean Renoir in the emotional complexity of its tragic humanism.” With live accompaniment and an original score by the Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra.

Greencard Warriors
MIRIAM KRUISHOOP, U.S., 2013, 102 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 6 P.M., TIVOLI
Set against the backdrop of Bush’s War on Terror and Barack Obama’s rise to the presidency, “Greencard Warriors” follows 14-year-old Angel (assured newcomer Angel Amaral), an undocumented Latino, as he struggles to find his place in an increasingly violent world. Dangling the promise of naturalization papers, the military seems to offer Angel’s family a chance for a brighter future if they send his older brother into the U.S. Army. But with his protective eldest brother gone, Angel is left to the designs of a local street gang – whose members object to his developing romance with an African-American teen (Paige Hurd) – and the family must deal with the grim consequences of the choices they have made in pursuit of the American Dream. The film’s excellent cast includes Manny Perez (“La Soga,” “Bella”), Vivica A. Fox (“Curb Your Enthusiasm,” “Kill Bill”), and Adrian Bellani (“Moneyball”).
Halima’s Path
(Halimin Put)
ARSEN ANTON OSTOJIC, CROATIA, 2012, 93 MIN., BOSNIAN & CROATIAN
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 2:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 7 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

After the end of the war in Bosnia, Halima, a good-natured peasant woman from a remote Muslim village in Western Bosnia, relentlessly searches for the remains of her husband and her teenage son, who were taken by Serbian paramilitary forces and executed. The UN Committee for Missing Persons manages to find her husband in one of the mass graves, but the son’s remains go unidentified because Halima denies the committee a blood sample for DNA testing. Her seemingly odd refusal becomes understandable when it’s revealed that the biological mother of Halima’s son is actually her niece, who had an affair with a Serbian Christian from a nearby village. The search for her estranged niece, who wants to sever any links to her previous life, leads to the discovery of a horrifying truth, but Halima’s difficult path finally ends with redemption and understanding. Director Ostojic’s debut, “A Wonderful Night in Split,” played SLIFF in 2005. UM-St. Louis hosts a free screening of “A Wonderful Night in Split” on Nov. 15 (see page 22), and Ostojic receives SLIFF’s Contemporary Cinema Award.

The House That Jack Built
HENRY BARRIAL, U.S., 2013, 85 MIN.
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 8:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 9:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In an attempt to go straight, Puerto Rican drug dealer Jack (E.J. Bonilla) buys a Bronx building into which he moves his extended family. Jack hopes to re-create his gauzy vision of good times gone by, but when his relatives fail to meet his nostalgic expectations, he tries to force them to conform. Instead, Jack learns a sad lesson about the strength and limitations of family bonds. “The House That Jack Built” is the last script written by Joseph Vasquez, whose “Hangin’ with the Homeboys” (1991) was a rare Latino-themed hit in the early days of the American-indie movement. Vasquez’s talent and potential were sadly cut short when he died in 1995, but co-producer Michael Lieber persisted for nearly two decades in his effort to make a film from Vasquez’s screenplay. The dream was finally realized after recruiting Henry Barrial, whose “Pig” played SLIFF in 2011. The Hollywood Reporter writes: “Using Bronx locations and a strong cast of Caribbean-Latino actors, director Henry Barrial constructs a convincing portrait of a neighborhood and its Nuyorican culture, staying true to the scale and sensibility that filmmaker Joseph B. Vasquez envisioned for the movie.” With director Barrial.

How We Got Away with It
JON LINDSTROM, U.S., 2013, 86 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 4:30 P.M., TIVOLI

Inspired by the crime dramas of the 1960s and ’70s, “How We Got Away with It” is a taut, suspenseful noir. Returning home from jail just before the arrival of a group of his friends for their annual reunion weekend, Henry (McCaleb Burnett) discovers a shocking tragedy, and his rash and unpredictable response sets in motion a chain of explosive events. The secrets uncovered lead to revenge and murder, and what’s intended as a celebratory gathering instead becomes a life-changing event, sweeping up the innocent and threatening to destroy everyone involved. Co-written by director Jon Lindstrom – a longtime actor on soap operas – and co-stars Burnett and Jeff Barry, the film features a fresh, first-rate ensemble that includes indie-film vets such as Cassandra Freeman (“Blue Caprice,” “Inside Man”) and a clutch of NYC up-and-comers. With co-writer/director Lindstrom.

Ilo Ilo
(Ba Ma Bu Zai Jia)
ANTHONY CHEN, SINGAPORE, 2013, 99 MIN., MANDARIN, TAGALOG & ENGLISH
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 4:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 6:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Set in Singapore during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, “Ilo Ilo” chronicles the day-to-day drama of the Lim family – troublesome grade-schooler Jiale and his overstressed parents. Comfortably middle class and with another baby on the way, the Lims hire Teresa, a Filipino immigrant, as a live-in maid and nanny. An outsider in both the family and Singapore itself, Teresa initially struggles to manage Jiale’s antics and to find her footing in her new community. The boy and his nanny eventually form a unique bond, but just as Teresa becomes an integral part of the family, an uncertain economy challenges the new normal yet again. Screen Daily says “Ilo Ilo” packs an “emotional wallop” and calls the film “a small gem about how families learn to persevere during the toughest times.”
Key of Life
(Kagi-dorobô no mesoddo)
KENJI UCHIDA, JAPAN, 2012, 128 MIN., JAPANESE
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 9 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 6 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

A case of stolen identity and a singularly determined bride-to-be intersect in this comedic escapade from Japanese filmmaker Kenji Uchida. Struggling actor Sakurai is out of work and out of luck – he can’t even succeed at taking his own life. When a mysterious man slips and falls at the bathhouse, Sakurai sees a way out of his sorry existence and impulsively swaps locker keys and identities with the man, who turns out to be a hit man named Kondo. His memory lost in the fall, Kondo begins piecing “his” life as Sakurai back together with the help of Kanae, a young woman he meets in the hospital who is determined to find a husband. Meanwhile, Sakurai, posing as Kondo, incurs the wrath of ornery gangsters. As the truth about Kondo and Sakurai comes to light, they must scramble to resolve the chaos of this topsy-turvy chain of events. Praising the film’s “brilliant storytelling” and “sterling performances,” the movie site Twitch concludes: “A romantic comedy of errors with a bit of a body count and a few smashed cars, ‘Key of Life’ is an absolute delight that could not possibly come more highly recommended.”

Sponsored by Delcia & Bill Corlew

The Jewish Cardinal
ILAN DURAN COHEN, FRANCE, 2012, 90 MIN., FRENCH
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 9:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 2 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

This riveting film tells the astonishing true story of Jean-Marie Lustiger (Laurent Lucas), a son of Polish-Jewish immigrants who maintains his cultural identity as a Jew even after converting to Catholicism at a young age and later joining the priesthood. Lustiger quickly rises within the ranks of the Church, and in 1981 Pope John Paul II appoints him the Archbishop of Paris, a position that offers the cardinal a prominent new platform to celebrate his dual identity as a Catholic Jew. But reconciling his Catholic faith and Jewish heritage is not always easy – he earns as many friends as enemies in both groups – and when serving as mediator in the attempt by Carmelite nuns to build a convent in Auschwitz, Lustiger finds that he may at last be forced to choose his side.

Sponsored by Interfaith Selection Committee

JFK
OLIVER STONE, U.S., 1991, 189 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 7 P.M., TIVOLI, $25

On the 50th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy’s assassination, SLIFF presents Oliver Stone’s provocative examination of the event and holds a conversation with the award-winning writer/director about both the film and his career. The epic “JFK” – shown in its director’s cut version – focuses on New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison (Kevin Costner), who investigates the assassination in Dallas, Texas, on Nov. 22, 1963. Suspicious of the official story presented by the FBI, Garrison doggedly pursues a trail that leads to terrifyingly dark corners and disturbingly high places. The sprawling all-star cast includes Gary Oldman (as Lee Harvey Oswald), Tommy Lee Jones, Sissy Spacek, Jack Lemmon, Ed Asner, Kevin Bacon, and John Candy. The late Roger Ebert calls the film “hypnotically watchable” and “a masterpiece of film assembly.” The Academy clearly agreed: Nominated for eight Oscars®, including Best Picture, “JFK” won for Best Editing and Best Cinematography. With director Stone, who receives SLIFF’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Sponsored by Judee & Richard Sauget, Zingraff Motion Pictures

The Invisible Woman
RALPH FIENNES, U.K., 2013, 111 MIN.
SUNDAY, NO. 24, 6:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In a framing sequence, Nelly (Felicity Jones), a happily married mother and schoolteacher, is haunted by her past. Her memories, provoked by remorse and guilt, concern her affair with Charles Dickens (Ralph Fiennes), with whom she discovered an exciting but fragile complicity. When they first meet, Dickens falls for Nelly, who comes from a theatrical family that includes her actress mother (Kristin Scott Thomas). The theater is a vital arena for Dickens, who’s a brilliant amateur actor and a man more emotionally coherent on the page or the stage than in life. Nelly soon becomes the focus of Dickens’ passion and serves as his muse, but the relationship extracts a dear price, requiring secrecy from both lovers and a life of “invisibility” for Nelly. Adapted by Abi Morgan (“Shame,” “The Iron Lady”) from Claire Tomalin’s “Charles Dickens: A Life,” “The Invisible Woman” is Fiennes’ second directorial effort. Calling the film “a career high point for Ralph Fiennes as both an actor and director,” the Hollywood Reporter asserts that “period biographical dramas don’t come much better than ‘The Invisible Woman.’”

Sponsored by Delcia & Bill Corlew
Lake Windfall
ROGER VASS JR., U.S., 2013, 104 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 12:30 P.M., TIVOLI

In this provocative portrait of the interactions among deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing people, estranged brothers Matt and Drew – one deaf, the other hearing but fluent in American Sign Language – get together for a camping trip with a trio of friends who have a range of hearing and signing ability. Tense from the outset, their weekend of male bonding turns even more nightmarish after an apocalyptic event. Despite its fantastical elements, the Missouri-shot “Lake Windfall” takes an authentic look at different hearing-loss experiences, and the film persuasively demonstrates how critical effective communication is to our collective survival. With director Vass and writer/producer Tony Nitko.

Shown with A Man without Words (Zack Godshall, U.S., 2012, 14 min., English & American Sign Language): Born deaf to hearing parents, 27-year-old Ildefonso (a pseudonym) was never exposed to signing. This short documentary tells the remarkable story of his belated journey to language.

The Last Sentence
(Jan över död man)
JAN TROELL, SWEDEN, 2012, 126 MIN., SWEDISH
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 6:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 1:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

The latest from famed Swedish director Jan Troell – best known in the U.S. for the Oscar®-nominated dramas “The Emigrants” (1971) and “The New Land” (1972) – “The Last Sentence” is a remarkable World War II drama based on the life of Torgny Segerstedt, a leading Swedish journalist. The film chronicles Segerstedt’s extraordinary one-man battle against both Nazism and his country’s policy of appeasement to Hitler. Among those who dared oppose the Fuhrer, no one is as loud and as uncompromising as Segerstedt, but in the eyes of many of his counymen, his pen is far more dangerous to Sweden than the Nazi sword. Embroiled in political turmoil because of his stand, Segerstedt finds his personal life equally fraught because of a scandalous public affair with the wife of a close friend. Beautifully filmed in black-and-white, “The Last Sentence” is a gripping and poetic tale of man who risked his life for his beliefs and refused to be silenced. Troell won the Best Director prize for “The Last Sentence” at the 2012 World Film Festival Montreal.

Le Week-End
ROGER MICHELL, U.K./FRANCE, 2013, 93 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 6:15 P.M., TIVOLI

A funny, poignant, and beautifully observed romantic drama, “Le Week-End” explores the nature of love and commitment. Oscar® winner Jim Broadbent (“Iris”) and Lindsay Duncan (“Mansfield Park”) play a long-married, middle-class British couple who attempt to reinvigorate their marriage by visiting Paris for the first time since their honeymoon. While there, the couple runs into an old friend (Jeff Goldblum), who acts as a catalyst that allows them to recapture their youthful fearlessness and idealism. A delicious “portrait of a marriage,” showing all the imperfections of a life of partnership, “Le Week-End” is the fourth collaboration between acclaimed British filmmaker Roger Michell (“Notting Hill,” “Hyde Park on the Hudson”) and Oscar®-nominated screenwriter and novelist Hanif Kureishi (“My Beautiful Laundrette,” “Venus”). Slant Magazine writes: “Both keenly calculated and flowing with offbeat, naturalistic detail, Kureishi’s jewel of a script reflects his sensibilities as a playwright, and like ‘Before Midnight,’ ‘Le Week-End’ often unfolds like filmic theater, with potential contrivances of language being transcended by its honesty and the ace actors tasked to relay it.”

Sponsored PNC Wealth Management & Maurice Quiroga

Life Kills Me
(La Vida Me Mata)
SEBASTIÁN SILVA, CHILE, 2007, 92 MIN., SPANISH
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 1:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Director Sebastián Silva is now known for Sundance award-winner “The Maid” and the recent Michael Cera film “Crystal Fairy,” but before establishing his lofty international reputation, he debuted with “Life Kills Me,” which the Global Lens series springs from the vault for a welcome reassessment. Life and death come wrapped in a mutual embrace, both absurd and poignant, in this smart comedy about an unlikely friendship between a grieving cinematographer and a morbidly obsessed drifter. At work on a seriously schlocky, low-budget horror film, Gaspar is still reeling from the untimely death of his beloved older brother when he meets Alvaro at yet another premature funeral. A mildly sociopathic young man with an unyielding curiosity for the dark side, Alvaro soon coaxes Gaspar out of his shell in unexpected ways. The savvy film site Twitch calls “Life Kills Me” the “film equivalent of a Smiths song: the chirpy, stylish exterior masking a melancholic core and a longing for something better.”
Nebraska
ALEXANDER PAYNE, U.S., 2013, 110 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 7 P.M., TIVOLI

In the road comedy “Nebraska” – the new film from director Alexander Payne (“The Descendants,” “Sideways”) – a father and son travel through the Midwest on the trail of a dubious fortune. The stubborn, taciturn patriarch of the Grant family, Woody (Bruce Dern in a role that won Best Actor at the Cannes Film Festival), is well past his prime and possibly his usefulness, but he believes he’s got one last shot at mattering: a notice that he’s the lucky winner of a $1 million sweepstakes prize. To claim his fortune, Woody insists he must quickly get to the sweepstakes company’s office in Lincoln, Neb. – a 750-mile journey that he seems unlikely to finish given that he can barely shuffle down the road a few blocks, at least not without stopping for a drink. Worried for his father’s state of mind, it falls to Woody’s reluctant, baffled son (Will Forte of “SNL”) to accompany him on a trip that seems hilariously futile on the surface. The film’s black-and-white Cinemascope images mirror the dusky beauty of small-town U.S.A. and the film’s high contrasts of humor and heartbreak. Variety calls “Nebraska” a “wistful ode to small-town Midwestern life and the quixotic dreams of stubborn old men” and praises the “career-crowning performance by Bruce Dern.”

Sponsored by Jon Mendelson Realtors

Michael Kohlhaas
ARNAUD DES PALLIÈRES, FRANCE, 2013, 122 MIN., FRENCH & GERMAN
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 6:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 9:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Based on the novella by Heinrich von Kleist – and loosely inspired by a true story – the visually stunning “Michael Kohlhaas” is a sweeping adventure epic. In the 16th century, nestled within the lush Cévennes Mountains, horse dealer Michael Kohlhaas (Mads Mikkelsen) leads a happy family life. But when a lord treats him unjustly, this pious, humble, and upstanding man raises an army and puts the country to fire and sword in a quest for justice. Star Mikkelsen (“A Royal Affair”) gives a powerfully arresting performance, and the film features such European acting luminaries as Bruno Ganz (“Downfall,” “Wings of Desire”) and Denis Levant (“Holy Motors”). Britain’s the Guardian calls the film a “handsomely made and admirably high-minded revenge movie that paints its world in glowing, vivid colors,” and Screen Daily writes: “The sober, intense ‘Michael Kohlhaas’ is closer in feel to the 1970s historical films of Werner Herzog, or to Roman Polanski’s ‘Macbeth’ – with a dash of Sergio Leone in the equestrian action.”

Modest Reception
(Paziraie Sadeh)
MANI HAGHGHI, IRAN, 2012, 100 MIN., Farsi
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 2:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Leila and Kaveh are a mysterious pair from Tehran, traveling the mountainous countryside in their Lexus coupe to give away big bags of money. But the give-away proves surprisingly difficult, requiring the cagy couple to invent increasingly brazen stratagems to place cash in the hands of the wary, proud, or simply indifferent locals. Will they push things too far? Are they losing sight of their mission? And what exactly is their mission? Led by riveting performances from Taraneh Alidoosti and writer/director Mani Haghighi, this bold comedy/drama unfurls with unexpected force and explores subtle themes of power, privilege, and corruption. Describing “Modest Reception” as both “perversely fascinating” and “eminently watchable,” Variety says this “original, disturbing picture feels more universal than particularly Iranian.”

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom
JUSTIN CHADWICK, U.K., 2013, 152 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 6 P.M., TIVOLI

Based on Nelson Mandela’s autobiography, “Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom” – directed by Justin Chadwick (“The Other Boleyn Girl”) – chronicles the inspirational leader’s early life, coming of age, education, and 27 years in prison before he became South Africa’s president and rebuilt the country’s once-segregated society. Mandela is portrayed by Idris Elba – a riveting television performer in HBO’s “The Wire” and BBC’s “Luther” and now a major film star (“Prometheus,” “Pacific Rim”) – with Naomie Harris (“Skyfall”) playing his equally dynamic wife, Winnie Mandela. Hailing “Mandela” as a “sumptuously produced epic-scale bio-drama stamped from the classic mold,” the Hollywood Reporter singles out the film’s lead for particular praise: “It takes a commanding actor to fill the shoes of the man most instrumental in ending institutionalized oppression in South Africa, and the charismatic Idris Elba proves equal to the task.”

Sponsored by Pat Scallet in memory of Bobbie Lautenschlager
No God, No Master
TERRY GREEN, U.S., 2011, 94 MIN., ENGLISH & ITALIAN
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 9:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 7:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In the summer of 1919, a series of intricate package bombs are mailed to a cross-section of prominent politicians, judges, and financiers. Among the addressees are John D. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan, and Oliver Wendell Holmes, all targets of an anarchist plot to overthrow the U.S. government. Seasoned Bureau of Investigation agent and bomb expert William J. Flynn (David Strathairn of “Good Night, and Good Luck”) is given the assignment of hunting down the plotters and bringing them to justice. Based on actual events – and featuring such real-life characters as U.S. Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer (Ray Wise of “Twin Peaks”), Sacco and Vanzetti (James Maddico and Allesandro Mario), Emma Goldman (Marian Mayberry), Carlo Tresca (Edoardo Ballerini), and J. Edgar Hoover (Sean McNall) – “No God, No Master” is set in the seemingly distant past, but the events it chronicles have striking parallels to current events. With writer/director Green on Nov. 20.

Sponsored by Carol & Ward Klein

Oh Boy
JAN OLE GERSTER, GERMANY, 2012, 83 MIN., GERMAN
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 6:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 8:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

This vibrant slacker dramedy – a love letter to Berlin and the Generation Y experience – swept the 2013 German film awards. “Oh Boy” paints a day in the life of Niko, a twenty-something college dropout going nowhere fast. Living for the moment as he drifts through the streets of Berlin, Niko curiously observes everyone around him and remains oblivious to his growing status as an outsider. Then on one fateful day, through a series of absurdly amusing encounters, everything changes: His girlfriend rebuffs him, his father cuts off his allowance, and a strange psychiatrist dubiously confirms his “emotional imbalance.” Meanwhile, a former classmate who was the victim of his grade-school taunts seems intent on concluding some unfinished business. Unable to ignore the consequences of his passivity any longer, Niko finally decides that he has to engage with life. Declaring the film a “wry, unforced comedy,” the Hollywood Reporter notes: “With its put-upon protagonist, black-and-white cityscape and snappy soundtrack of New Orleans-style jazz, the comedy ‘Oh Boy’ inescapably brings to mind vintage Woody Allen. But the feature debut of German writer-director Jan-Ole Gerster is, finally, its own droll beast.”

Omamamia
TOMY WIGAND, GERMANY/ITALY, 2012, 105 MIN., GERMAN, ITALIAN & ENGLISH
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 4 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 6:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In the delightful comedy “Omamamia,” the fate of Oma Marguerita is sealed: After the passing of her beloved husband, Oma (an affectionate German term for grandma) is expected to ride off into the sunset – or, more precisely, the Sunshine Retirement Home. But before being banished, Marguerita (Marianne Sägebrecht of “Baghdad Café” and “The War of the Roses”) wants to go to Rome and obtain the Pope's absolution for her sins, and she takes off on her own to secure His Holiness' blessing. Her first stop in the Eternal City is granddaughter Martina's place, but instead of finding her supposedly chaste grandchild working as an au pair for a strict Catholic family – the story her family has been told – Oma discovers her living with hard-rock musician Silvio and working nights as a bartender. Marguerita's surprises don't end there, however, and her meeting with a charming con man (legendary Italian actor Giancarlo Giannini) leads to an unlikely romance. When Marguerita's high-strung daughter Marie arrives in Rome to restore order, she's thus horrified to find her mother in love with a con artist and her innocent daughter all grown up.

One Chance
DAVID FRANKEL, U.K., 2013, 103 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 3 P.M., TIVOLI

Most people only dream about becoming a famous superstar, but, against all odds, an unassuming clerk from Wales actually manages the outlandish feat. Directed by David Frankel (“The Devil Wears Prada”), “One Chance” relates the remarkable and inspirational true story of Paul Potts, a shy, bullied shop assistant by day and an amateur opera singer by night. Paul becomes an instant YouTube phenomenon after Simon Cowell chooses him for “Britain’s Got Talent,” and after wowing audiences worldwide with his phenomenal voice, he goes on to win both the show and the hearts of millions. Fresh from celebrating his Tony Award-winning Broadway run in “One Man, Two Guvnors,” James Corden (“The History Boys”) stars as Potts, and the acclaimed ensemble cast includes Julie Walters (“Mamma Mia!” “Calendar Girls,” “Billy Elliot”), Colm Meaney (“The Commitments,” AMC’s “Hell on Wheels”), and Jemima Rooper (“Kinky Boots”). “Paul Potts embodies all that is good about TV talent shows,” writes Britain’s the Independent. “Still, you don’t need to be a Paul Potts fan to be consumed and amused by this charming tale.”

Sponsored by Marcia Harris, Dielmann Sotheby’s International Realty
The Photograph

(Zdjecie)

MACIEJ ADAMEK, POLAND, 2013, 80 MIN., POLISH

FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 2 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 8:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

"The Photograph" tells a poignant story about first love, infidelity, and mortality. On his birthday, sweet but shy teenage Adam accidentally discovers an old photograph of his pregnant mother. Posing with her is a stranger who is definitely not the man he knows as his father. While on a summer visit with his ailing grandmother, Adam is supposed to be attending a photography camp, but he secretly seeks out the photographer who took the tantalizing picture with the hope of discovering the identity of the mystery man whom Adam now believes may be his real father. In the small, seaside village where his grandmother lives, Adam also encounters an array of colorful townsfolk, including grave digger Kazimir and new friend Przemek. But he's most fascinated with the beautiful young Eve, and an infatuated Adam develops a serious crush. Eventually, Adam's sleuthing leads to surprising discoveries about his family, his would-be girlfriend, and himself.

Philomena

STEPHEN FREARS, U.K., 2013, 98 MIN.

SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 3:15 P.M., TIVOLI

Based on a 2009 book by BBC correspondent Martin Sixsmith, "Philomena" focuses on the real-life efforts of Philomena Lee (Dame Judi Dench) to find the son she long ago abandoned. Because the boy was conceived out of wedlock – earning the condemnation of her Irish-Catholic community – Lee was compelled by the Church to give him up for adoption in the United States and forced to sign a contract that forbade any future inquiry into her son’s whereabouts. After starting a family years later in England, Lee has for the most part moved on with her life, but after meeting snobbish BBC reporter Sixsmith (Steve Coogan, who also co-wrote the screenplay), she decides to investigate the fate of her child. Directed by Stephen Frears (“The Queen,” “The Grifters”), "Philomena" won both the Best Screenplay prize and the Queer Lion award (for best portrayal of a gay character) at the 2013 Venice Film Festival. “Getting full comic effect from its class-comedy abrasions, ‘Philomena’ rises to poignancy and profundity,” says Time Magazine. And the U.K.’s Telegraph declares: “It is a heartbreaking story – how could it not be? But Frears’ film breaks your heart and then repairs it.”

Sponsored by Mike Isaacson & Joe Ortmeyer

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The Parade

(Parada)

SRDJAN DRAGOJEVIC, SERBIA, 2011, 115 MIN., SERBIAN

SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 9:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In “The Parade,” a rollickingly shrewd and humane comedic take on a vital human-rights issue, a group of gay activists in Belgrade strikes a tense alliance with Serbian crime boss Limun. When his fiancée demands an extravagant wedding that only struggling gay theater director Mirko and his friends can provide, macho Limun reluctantly agrees to provide security for the group’s Pride parade. But the task proves a tall order: Previous attempts to march met with mass violence from right-wing skinheads, and Limun’s gang balks at the assignment. Limun instead recruits a band of former Balkan war combatants, and they stand up to the aggressors in bold “Seven Samurai” fashion. Calling the film “laugh-out-loud funny, brilliantly acted and, towards the very end, also deeply moving,” the Hollywood Reporter says that “director Dragojevic handles this deft comedy with a sure hand and complete avoidance of political correctness.”

The Past

(Le passé)

ASGHAR FARHADI, FRANCE/IRAN, 2013, 130 MIN., FRENCH & FARSI

FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 8:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Following a four-year separation, Ahmad (Ali Mosaffa) returns to Paris from Tehran. Marie (Bérénice Bejo), his estranged French wife, has requested the visit so they can finalize their divorce and she can marry her new boyfriend, Samir (Tahar Rahim). During his tense stay, Ahmad discovers the conflict between Marie and her teenage daughter, Lucie (Pauline Burlet), but his efforts to improve the relationship soon unveil a secret from their past. The follow-up to director Asghar Farhadi’s “The Separation,” which was widely hailed as one the best films of 2011, “The Past” premiered at Cannes, where Bejo (best known in the U.S. for her lovely turn in “The Artist”) was cited as Best Actress and the film received the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury. Britain’s the Guardian writes: “It is an intricate and often brilliant drama, with restrained and intelligent performances.... The continuing force and intelligence of Farhadi’s filmmaking is compelling.”

Sponsored by Jane M. & Bruce P. Robert Charitable Foundation
Putzel
JASON CHAET, U.S., 2013, 88 MIN.
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 4:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 6:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

For some, life is an adventure filled with opportunities to excel and worlds to explore. But for Walter Himmelstein, a young man known as Putzel, life literally doesn’t go beyond his family’s fish store and his community on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. In this heartwarming romantic comedy, Walter’s dreams of taking over his uncle’s smoked-fish emporium are disrupted by the arrival of Sally, who becomes romantically involved with his about-to-retire and very-married uncle. As Walter tries to thwart their romance to ensure his future, he finds his circumscribed life thrown off kilter, and after years of being undermined by his family and friends, he finally begins to realize his full potential. With Sally’s help, Walter confronts his fears and proves he is more than “the little fool” that his nickname implies. The Huffington Post compares the film’s warmth to “an endless waft of freshly baked bagels” and calls it “a witty story of real-life disappointments, self-limitations, and courage.”

The Retrieval
CHRIS ESKA, U.S., 2012, 91 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 7 P.M., TIVOLI

Set during the U.S. Civil War, “The Retrieval” follows a fatherless 13-year-old boy (Ashton Sanders) who is forced by a bounty-hunter gang on a dangerous mission to retrieve a wanted man, an ex-slave (Tishuan Scott), and bring him back South. During their journey, the initially distant pair develops unexpected emotional bonds. As his feelings grow, the boy is consumed by conflicting emotions and a gut-wrenching ultimate decision. Offering a unique perspective on the Civil War and the black experience during slavery, “The Retrieval” also tells a deeply personal story about a boy’s search for an anchor in a turbulent and dangerous world. Variety describes the film as “equal parts suspenseful road movie, persuasively detailed period drama, and emotionally resonant coming-of-age story.” With writer/director Eska.

She Loves Me Not
BRIAN JUN & JACK SANDERSON, U.S., 2013, 91 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 4 P.M., WILDEY

A collaborative work from Brian Jun – a Metro East native and Webster U. grad who has made a trio of previous SLIFF appearances (“Steel City,” “The Thacker Case,” “Joint Body”) – “She Loves Me Not” is co-directed with William Sanderson. In the film’s three linked vignettes, reclusive novelist Brady Olinson (Cary Elwes of “The Princess Bride”) struggles to find romance and meaning in his life despite comically disastrous circumstances. Though once a successful author, Brady is now essentially a has-been: An alcoholic, a liar, and a womanizer, he repeatedly proves his own worst enemy. In the midst of remodeling his riverfront mansion and burdened with alimony, Brady is more than a bit cash poor, and he’s desperate for another bestseller. In an attempt to extract a new book, Brady’s publisher hires a publicist (Caitlin Keats) to “clean him up,” but he’s anything but amenable to her help and is further distracted by an affair with his pretty assistant (Briana Evigan). The film – which was shot in Alton, Ill. – also stars Lisa Edelstein (“House M.D.”), Joey Lauren Adams (“Chasing Amy”), and legendary actress Karen Black in one of her final film roles. Film Threat praises “She Loves Me Not” as “an engaging film about a seemingly unlovable man, wrapped in quick-witted patter one second and creeping suspense in the next.” With co-writers/directors Jun and Sanderson.

Shyamal Uncle Turns off the Lights
SUMAN GHOSH, INDIA, 2012, 65 MIN., BENGALI
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, NOON, PLAZA FRONTENAC, FREE

When he notices that his neighborhood streetlights stay on all day, 80-year-old retiree Shyamal Uncle finds his sense of propriety upset by this wasteful expenditure of electricity, and he goes on a mission to get the lights turned off after sunrise. Finding someone to take him seriously proves a battle against an indifferent bureaucracy and a complacent status quo, but his quixotic pursuit proves a welcome distraction from Shyamal Uncle’s otherwise dull routine. Suman Ghosh’s vérité-style film is alive with the sights, sounds, and personalities of Shyamal Uncle’s neighborhood, and his unlikely protagonist’s quest provides a vry, revealing, and highly original tour of modern India.

Shown with Grandpa and Me and a Helicopter to Heaven (Johan Palmgren, Sweden, 2013, 15 min., Swedish): A young boy and his dying grandfather share friendship and embark on one last adventure together.
Southwest
(Sudoeste)
EDUARDO NUNES, BRAZIL, 2011, 128 MIN., PORTUGUESE
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 2:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In this gorgeously dreamlike and mysterious tale, a young woman named Clarice gives birth on her deathbed to a baby girl also christened Clarice by the bruxa (or witch) attending the nearly simultaneous moments of death and birth. Spirited away to a remote lakeside village, baby Clarice lives her whole life in the span of 24 hours, and yet (as the film’s vast, black-and-white panoramas suggest) even so compressed a lifetime remains impossible to fully grasp. The New York Times writes of Eduardo Nunes’s assured debut: “An intensely poetic meditation on the life cycle with a magical-realist sensibility, it has the feel of a somber fairy tale whose narrative follows a circular path to end where it began. Like a Bela Tarr film, it leads you to consider the breadth of eternity, the limits of human consciousness and the possibility of reincarnation.”

Southern Baptist Sissies
DEL SHORES, U.S., 2013, 135 MIN.
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 7:30 P.M., TIVOLI

A filmed record of the award-winning 2000 play by writer/director Del Shores (director of SLIFF favorite “Sordid Lives”), “Southern Baptist Sissies” follows the journey of four gay boys growing up in the Southern Baptist Church in Texas. The film – hilarious in one moment, heartbreaking in the next – highlights the boys’ formative experiences and the moments of conflict between the church’s teachings and their awakening sexuality. Mark (Emerson Collins), the narrative’s focus, desperately wants to create a perfect world of love and acceptance, but he struggles to cope with his pain and to control the rage he feels toward the church, the pastor, and the parents who taught the boys that they should be ashamed of who they are. The film’s cast includes William Belli (“RuPaul’s Drag Race,” “Nip/Tuck”) and such “Sordid Lives” alums as Leslie Jordan, Dale Dickey, and Newell Alexander. Reviewing the play in 2000, Variety says “Southern Baptist Sissies” “probes relentlessly into the monumental fear and guilt suffered by four squeaky clean church-loving WASP boys as each discovers his natural urges are an abomination to his reactionary church and tradition-bound family.”

With writer/director Shores and actor/producer Collins.

Sponsored by Bill Donius & Jay Perez

Sound of Nothing
CHRIS GREGA, U.S., 2013, 89 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 9:15 P.M., TIVOLI

One of St. Louis’ most prolific homegrown talents, Chris Grega is a frequent SLIFF participant, and his films encompass an impressive range of genres, including a crime thriller (“Amphetamine”), a World War II drama (“Rhineland”), and a mockumentary (“Game of the Year”). His fourth feature, “Sound of Nothing,” is a gripping post-apocalyptic suspenser, and like his previous films, it was shot in and around the metro area and features local cast and crew. Six years after a world-changing event, George and his daughter have hunkered down at a secluded old farm in an attempt to hide from roving creatures, militant survivors, and their own troubled past. But a stranger’s unexpected appearance brings them out of hiding and forces the pair to confront the terrifying dangers that they have spent years avoiding.

With writer/director Grega and cast members.

Sleeping with the Fishes
NICOLE GOMEZ FISHER, U.S., 2013, 101 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 7 P.M., TIVOLI

It’s safe to say that Alexis Rodriguez Fish (Gina Rodriguez) has seen better days. The recent death of her cheating husband has left her both broke and broken-hearted. Trying to climb out of debt, Alexis has been reduced to such humiliating dead-end jobs as dressing up as a meatball-hero sandwich and working as a phone-sex operator. An unexpected call from Kayla (Ana Ortiz of “Devious Maids”), her quirky, comic-book-obsessed older sister, beckons Alexis back to her Brooklyn home for a distant aunt’s funeral. But her Latino-Jewish family proves anything but a comfort, with Alexis’ mother (Priscilla Lopez) immediately haranguing her daughter about the poor choices she’s made since her husband’s death. With family tension quickly growing, Kayla attempts to help by getting Alexis to return to her former career as a party planner, and she’s soon coordinating a superhero-themed bat mitzvah. A cross-cultural mash-up and sweet slice-of-life comedy, “Sleeping with the Fishes” features a terrific cast of established and rising Latino talent.

With writer/director Fisher.

NARRATIVE FEATURES 22ND ANNUAL WHITAKER ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL www.cinemastlouis.org
Student
DAREZHAN OMIRBAYEV, KAZAKHSTAN, 2012, 90 MIN., KAZAKH & RUSSIAN
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 2:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

A solitary philosophy student steers his directionless life toward the commission of a violent crime, spurred on by postmodern musings and a post-Soviet order characterized by growing inequality, institutional corruption, and a ruthless ethic of “eat or be eaten.” Inspired by Dostoevsky’s “Crime and Punishment,” director Darezhan Omirbayev roots his nameless student in the losing segment of Kazakhstan’s new capitalist era, whose population watches the rich rise above common legal proscriptions and old-fashioned communal values. “Student” premiered at Cannes in 2012 – Omirbayev’s third feature, “Killer,” won the Un Certain Regard prize there in 1998 – and the director’s work is a favorite of major fests worldwide. Sight and Sound writes: “It’s more than a decade since the Kazakhstani director’s ‘The Road’ met with a warm reception from the Cannes critics, but the new film shows he hasn’t lost his capacity to combine simplicity of method with subtlety of resonance.”

The Suicide Shop
(Le magasin des suicides)
PATRICE LECONTE, FRANCE, 2012, 79 MIN., FRENCH
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 7:15 P.M., TIVOLI
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 3:30 P.M., TIVOLI

A wickedly funny animated musical, “The Suicide Shop” is adapted by celebrated French director Patrice Leconte (“Girl on the Bridge,” “Ridicule,” “Mr. Hire”) from Jean Teule’s black-comic novel. In a city where life has grown so sad that people have no taste for living, the town’s most successful business specializes in poisons, ropes, and all the accoutrements of the perfect suicide. For generations, this grim family business has prospered in all its bleak misery, but its run of success is threatened when it encounters true joie de vivre in the shape of the owners’ younger son, Alan. What will become of the Suicide Shop in the face of Alan’s relentless good cheer, optimism, and determination to make the customers smile? The Hollywood Reporter writes: “There’s a whiff of a Tim Burton shroud here, but the humorous creepiness of Edward Gorey and the Addams family are better references to the black comedy feature animation ‘The Suicide Shop,’ a tongue-in-cheek Parisian-set romp in which the warm humanism of eclectic director Patrice Leconte shines through.”

Sponsored by Drs. Diane Carson & Willis Loy

Summer Crisis
(La maison du pêcheur)
ALAIN CHARTRAND, CANADA, 2013, 97 MIN., FRENCH
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 9:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 1:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

“Summer Crisis” explores the origins of the Chénier Cell of the Quebec Liberation Front (FLQ), whose kidnapping and murder of government official Pierre Laporte precipitated the October Crisis of 1970, when Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau deployed troops to quell a potential Québécois insurrection. Although bookended by those epochal events, “Summer Crisis” primarily unfolds in the summer of 1969 on the Gaspesie peninsula. When fisherman’s son Bernard arrives in the town of Percé looking for work, he meets Paul, Jacques, and Francis, a trio of Quebec-independence activists who are opening a restaurant, the Fisherman’s House, which will also offer lodgings and attempt to politicize young Quebecers. Artists, hippies, rockers, and hitchhikers from all over the province soon flock to Percé, and as the motley crowd grows, the local authorities become increasingly disturbed. Tension mounts, tempers flare, and Bernard embraces the radicalism that will lead to the October Crisis. Calling “Summer Crisis” a “capably crafted flashback,” Variety says the film “juggles humor, activist zeal, semi-comic villainy and other elements to enjoyable effect.”

Tad, the Lost Explorer
(Las aventuras de Tadeo Jones)
ENRIQUE GATO, SPAIN, 2012, 92 MIN., IN ENGLISH
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, NOON, WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

In this Indiana Jones-inspired animated actioner, Tad is a globe-trotting adventurer – but only in his dreams. In reality, Tad is a Chicago construction worker whose “finds” are faux-vintage Coke bottles. One fateful day, however, Tad is mistaken for a real archeologist and finds himself on a flight to Peru, where professor Lavrof and beautiful daughter Sara expect him to crack the code that will lead to the Lost City of Paititi. Tad is immediately smitten with Sara, but any hope for romance is dashed when it’s revealed that she’s engaged to his longtime idol, celebrity archeologist Max Mordon. Tad is understandably intimidated by Max – who eventually proves something less than a real-life hero – but when the professor and Sara are threatened by the shady Odysseus Corporation and its emissaries, Tad must man up and prove his mettle. Leading an amusingly ragtag team – including his faithful dog, a talkative local guide, and a mute parrot – Tad sets off to find Paititi and its treasures.
This Is Where We Live
JOSH BARRETT & MARC MENCHACA, U.S., 2013, 92 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 2 P.M., TIVOLI

Set in the Texas Hill Country, “This Is Where We Live” is a moving portrait of the Sutton family: matriarch Diane (C.K. McFarland), who ignores her own health issues to serve as caregiver to others; husband Bob (Ron Hayden), who is in the early stages of Alzheimer’s; son August (a remarkable Tobias Segal), who has cerebral palsy and requires constant attention; and daughter Lainey (Frankie Shaw), who seems mired in bitterness and anger. When the overburdened Diane hires jack-of-all-trades Noah (writer/co-director Marc Menchaca) to build a wheelchair ramp for the family home, she notices a connection between her son and the handyman, and asks Noah whether he’d like to earn some extra cash by helping out with August. The friendship that Noah and August eventually forge ripples throughout the family, touching and transforming the lives of all involved. Reviewing “This Is Where We Live” during its SXSW premiere, the Austin Chronicle lauded the quietly affecting naturalism of the film and its cast: “The emotions they nurture are real, the places this film goes resonate, and the Hill Country backdrop glows. The film offers no easy answers to the demons slithering within, and that’s a good thing. This may be a SXSW sleeper. Don’t miss it.” With co-director/actor Menchaca.

Three Worlds
(Trois Mondes)
CATHERINE CORSINI, FRANCE, 2012, 101 MIN., FRENCH & MOLDOVAN
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 4:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 3:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

A young man from a modest background, Al is 10 days away from marrying the daughter of his boss and becoming the head of the auto dealership where he works. That good fortune is imperiled, however, when a drunken Al hits a man with his car after his bachelor party. What Al doesn’t realize is that the accident was witnessed from a balcony by Juliette, who not only called 911 but also contacted the victim’s wife, Véra, a Moldavian illegal immigrant. Juliette is keeping Véra company at her husband’s bedside when she recognizes the guilt-ridden Al, who visits the hospital the next day to inquire anonymously about his victim. Inexplicably, Juliette fails to denounce Al, and they instead end up meeting and talking on the phone with growing frequency. Describing “Three Worlds” as an “unsparing exploration of guilt and atonement,” the New York Times concludes: “Each thread of the plot is followed to its dangling, ragged conclusion in a movie that may be painful to watch but that maintains a chilly integrity.”

Sponsored by Alliance Française de St. Louis

Tio Papi
FRO ROJAS, U.S., 2013, 90 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 6 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

Hard-working but fun-loving Ray Ray Dominguez (Joey Dedio) lives a bachelor’s life and dreams of leaving the New York City barrio for a more carefree existence in Miami. But one day everything changes, and he becomes a reluctant Tio Papi, or Uncle Daddy, to his sister’s six children, whose ages range from 6 to 16. Now, in charge of raising this energetic (and expensive) clan, Ray Ray must confront tough decisions and determine what life really is all about. Combining heart-warming drama with lighthearted comedy, “Tio Papi” is an upbeat story of life’s unexpected surprises and what ultimately matters the most – the love of family. The “Tio Papi” cast includes Kelly McGillis (“Top Gun”) and Frankie Faison (“The Wire”). The Chicago Sun-Times writes: “The story centers on an extended Puerto Rican family that includes the prerequisite group of kindly, sometimes wacky friends. ‘Tio Papi’ captures this gritty and quaint section of New York in a delightful way. It’s bursting with color and cultural icons that encompass a joy for life that permeates the entire film.”

To Catch a Thief
ALFRED HITCHCOCK, U.S., 1955, 106 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 1 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

As part of the five-program Fashion Reels, SLIFF offers Alfred Hitchcock’s “To Catch a Thief,” one of the Master of Suspense’s most nimble-footed, lighthearted entertainments, with costumes by Hollywood’s grande dame of design, Edith Head, and performances by cinema’s apogees of elegance, Cary Grant and Grace Kelly. American expatriate John Robie (Grant), a retired cat burglar, lives in high style on the Riviera, but a wave of jewel heists forces him to catch the copy-cat thief to avoid blame. High on the list of prime victims is the bejeweled Jessie Stevens (Jessie Royce Landis), in Europe to help daughter Francie (the never-more-gorgeous Kelly) find a suitable husband. Knowing that the Stevens gems are ripe for the pilfering, Robie charms his way into the women’s lives with the intent of trapping the cat. With actress Susan Claassen, who introduces and holds a Q&A in character as costume designer Edith Head.

Sponsored by Mary Strauss
A Touch of Sin
(Tian zhu ding)
JIA ZHANGKE, CHINA, 2013, 125 MIN., MANDARIN
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 8:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Called a “brilliant exploration of violence and corruption in contemporary China” by the Atlantic, “A Touch of Sin” was inspired by four shocking (and true) events that forced the world’s fastest-growing economy into a period of self-examination. Written and directed by master filmmaker Jia Zhangke (“The World,” “Still Life”), this daring, poetic, and grand-scale film focuses on four characters, each living in different provinces, who are driven to violent ends: an angry miner, enlarged by widespread corruption in his village, decides to take justice into his own hands; a rootless migrant discovers the infinite possibilities of owning a firearm; a young receptionist is pushed beyond her limits by an abusive client; and a young factory worker goes from one discouraging job to the next and faces increasingly degrading circumstances. The New York Times writes: “A blistering fictionalized tale straight out of China, ‘A Touch of Sin’ is at once monumental and human scale. A story of lives rocked by violence, it has the urgency of a screaming headline but one inscribed with visual lyricism, emotional weight and a belief in individual rights.”

Watchtower
(Gözetleme Kulesi)
PELIN ESMER, TURKEY, 2012, 100 MIN., TURKISH
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 9:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 2:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Haunted by a tragic incident, Nihat isolates himself by becoming a fire warden in a remote observation tower in the wilderness. In a similar attempt to escape her own traumatic past, Seher takes a job as a bus hostess and lives in a makeshift room at a rural bus station. Eventually, the pair’s solitary paths intersect, and although the relationship begins in muted antagonism, it soon turns into tender domesticity. Nihat and Seher settle together at the mountainside watchtower, but the weight of the past can’t be avoided and begins to press relentlessly down on the couple. Screen Daily lauds “Watchtower” as a “lovely gem of a small film that, without rush, earns its dramatic stripes once the leisurely set-up evolves into a rewarding burst of unleashed psychological and emotional energy.”

Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?
(Ming tian ji de ai shang wo)
ARVIN CHEN, TAIWAN, 2013, 104 MIN., MANDARIN
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 6:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 3:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In this madcap and lighthearted comedic romp, introverted optometrist Weichung begins to question his marriage on learning of his wife’s desire to have another baby. At sister Mandy’s engagement party, Weichung bumps into Stephen, an old friend from his distant gay past. Stephen, a wedding photographer, is also married (albeit to a lesbian), but he leads an alternative life as a single gay man, and he teases Weichung about his newly straitlaced existence. The encounter stirs dormant emotions in Weichung and propels him on a quest for true romance and fulfilled desire. Doubts about marital choices apparently run in the family, and Mandy soon reconsiders her own commitment to her milquetoast fiancé. Variety hails “Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?” as “poignant and heartening.”

Sponsored by Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Washington University

You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet
(Vous n’avez encore rien vu)
ALAIN RESNAIS, FRANCE, 2012, 115 MIN., FRENCH
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 7:30 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE

Based on two works by the playwright Jean Anouilh, the latest film from famed French director Alain Resnais (“Hiroshima, Mon Amour,” “Last Year at Marienbad”) opens with a who’s-who of French acting royalty (including Mathieu Amalric, Michel Piccoli, and frequent Resnais muse Sabine Azema) being summoned to the reading of a late playwright’s last will and testament. There, the playwright (Denis Podalydès) appears on a TV screen from beyond the grave and asks his erstwhile collaborators to evaluate a recording of an experimental-theater company performing his “Eurydice,” a play those gathered all appeared in over the years. But as the video unspools, instead of watching passively, these seasoned thespians begin acting out the text alongside their youthful avatars. “You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet” is an alternately wry and wistful valentine to actors and the art of performance. The New York Times praises the film as “an elegant, moving and mischievous meditation on the passage of time and the tenacity of art.”

With an introduction and Q&A by Lionel Cuillé of Webster University’s Centre Francophone.

Sponsored by Centre Francophone at Webster University
SCHEDULE

ABBREVIATION KEY
(D) = Documentary Feature
(N) = Narrative Feature
(S) = Shorts Program
(SE) = Special Event

VENUE SIZES
KDHX = 100 seats
PLAZA FRONTENAC 5 & 6 = 170 seats
TIVOLI 1 = 440 seats
TIVOLI 3 = 140 seats
WASHINGTON U./BROWN = 325 seats
WEBSTER U./MOORE = 250 seats
WILDEY = 300 seats

Saturday, Nov. 16

CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM
1 P.M. Expanded Workshop (SE)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 5
1 P.M. Antarctica (D)
3:30 P.M. Common People (N)
6:30 P.M. Garibaldi’s Lovers (N)
9 P.M. Key of Life (N)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6
1:15 P.M. Material Success (D)
4 P.M. The Great Beauty (N)
7 P.M. Finding Neighbors (N)
9:30 P.M. Cairo 678 (N)

TIVOLI 1
1 P.M. St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase Sampler (S)
3:30 P.M. We Cause Scenes (D)
6:30 P.M. Computer Chess (N)
8:30 P.M. Destination Planet Negro (N)

TIVOLI 3
12:30 P.M. Lake Windfall (N)
3:30 P.M. The Suicide Shop (N)
6 P.M. Greencard Warriors (N)
8:30 P.M. Shorts 2: Stop-Motion Animation (S)

UM-ST. LOUIS/GALLERY 210
10 A.M.-5 P.M. Balkan Student Film Festival (SE)

WASHINGTON U./BROWN
NOON Out of the Box (D)
2 P.M. Flying Paper (D)
4 P.M. Doc Shorts: Human Rights (S)
6 P.M. Tales from the Organ Trade (D)
8 P.M. The Undocumented (D)

WEBSTER U./MOORE
4 P.M. Out of Print (D)
6:30 P.M. Bayou Maharajah (D)

Sunday, Nov. 17

KDHX
1 P.M. Big Joy (D)
3 P.M. Folk (D)
5 P.M. The Pleasures of Being Out of Step (D)
7:30 P.M. The Great Hip Hop Hoax (D)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 5
1 P.M. To Catch a Thief (N)
3:45 P.M. The Life and Crimes of Doris Payne (D)
6 P.M. Key of Life (N)
8:45 P.M. Oh Boy (N)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6
1:30 P.M. The Road to Fame (D)
3:30 P.M. First Comes Love (D)
6:30 P.M. CowJews and Indians (D)
9:15 P.M. The Parade (N)

TIVOLI 1
1 P.M. Bible Quiz (D)
3:15 P.M. Philomena (N)
6 P.M. August: Osage County (N)
9 P.M. 7 Boxes (N)

TIVOLI 3
1:15 P.M. Emptying the Skies (D)
3 P.M. Guilty ’Til Proven Innocent (D)
6:30 P.M. Uranium Drive-In (D)
8:30 P.M. Shorts 3: Women Directors Spotlight (S)

WASHINGTON U./BROWN
NOON Gideon’s Army (D)
2:30 P.M. Honor Diaries (D)
4:30 P.M. The Abominable Crime (D)
6:30 P.M. Seeds of Hope (D)

WASHINGTON U./HOLMES LOUNGE
8:30 P.M. Human Rights Spotlight Reception (SE)

WEBSTER U./MOORE
4 P.M. The Blue Tiger (N)
6 P.M. The Day of the Crows (N)
8 P.M. Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth (D)

WILDEY
4:30 P.M. Caucus (D)
7 P.M. We Always Lie to Strangers (D)

Monday, Nov. 18

PLAZA FRONTENAC 5
NOON Doc Shorts: Fashion (S)
2 P.M. The Deflowering of Eva van End (N)
4:30 P.M. Beijing Flickers (N)
6:45 P.M. Teenage (D)
8:45 P.M. Unhung Hero (D)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6
1:45 P.M. The Tents (D)
4:15 P.M. The Fantastic World of Juan Orol (N)
5:45 P.M. Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow? (N)
8:30 P.M. The House That Jack Built (N)

TIVOLI 1
5 P.M. Shorts 4: International Comedy (S)
7:30 P.M. Southern Baptist Sissies (N)

TIVOLI 3
5 P.M. Doc Shorts: Artists’ Lives (S)
7 P.M. The Trials of Muhammad Ali (D)
9 P.M. Shorts 5: Animation 2 (S)

Tuesday, Nov. 19

PLAZA FRONTENAC 5
NOON Shyamal Uncle Turns off the Lights (N)
2:15 P.M. Halima’s Path (N)
4:30 P.M. Putzel (N)
6:45 P.M. Children of the Night (D)
9:30 P.M. No God, No Master (N)
PLAZA FRONTENAC

6:30 P.M. The Last Sentence (N)
9:15 P.M. The House That Jack Built (N)

TIVOLI 1

7 P.M. Blackmail (N)
9 P.M. 7 Boxes (N)

TIVOLI 3

5 P.M. Doc Shorts: Families Divided (S)
7:15 P.M. Good People Go to Hell, Saved People Go to Heaven (D)
9:30 P.M. Shorts 6: Relationships (S)

WEBSTER U./MOORE

7:30 P.M. Fuck for Forest (D)

Wednesday, Nov. 20

PLAZA FRONTENAC 5

2:15 P.M. Modest Reception (N)
4:30 P.M. Ilo Ilo (N)
7:15 P.M. No God, No Master (N)
9:30 P.M. Watchtower (N)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6

1:30 P.M. The Last Sentence (N)
4 P.M. Chasing Ice (D)
6:30 P.M. Michael Kohlhaas (N)
9 P.M. The Clown (N)

TIVOLI 1

6:45 P.M. The Broken Circle Breakdown (N)
9:15 P.M. Shorts 7: Comedy (S)

TIVOLI 3

5 P.M. Doc Shorts: Obsessions (S)
7 P.M. The Retrieval (N)
9:30 P.M. The Kill Team (D)

UM-ST. LOUIS/GALLERY 210

3 P.M. Goodbye, How Are You? (SE)
4 P.M. Panel Discussion: State of Cinema in the Balkans (SE)
7 P.M. Cinema Komunisto (SE)

WEBSTER U./MOORE

7:30 P.M. You Ain’t Seen Nothin’ Yet (N)

Thursday, Nov. 21

PLAZA FRONTENAC 5

2:30 P.M. Watchtower (N)
4:30 P.M. Garibaldi’s Lovers (N)
7 P.M. Halima’s Path (N)
9:15 P.M. The Jewish Cardinal (N)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6

2:15 P.M. Southwest (N)
5 P.M. Aaya Ka Bayna (N)
7:15 P.M. Tim’s Vermeer (D)
9:15 P.M. Michael Kohlhaas (N)

TIVOLI 1

7 P.M. JFK: A President Betrayed (D)
9:15 P.M. Sound of Nothing (N)

TIVOLI 3

7:15 P.M. Free to Love (D)
9:30 P.M. Shorts 8: And Baby Makes Three (S)

UM-ST. LOUIS/GALLERY 210

2:45 P.M. The Abandoned (SE)

WEBSTER U./MOORE

7:30 P.M. I Learn America (D)

Friday, Nov. 22

PLAZA FRONTENAC 5

NOON The Genius of Marian (D)
2 P.M. The Jewish Cardinal (N)
4 P.M. Omamamia (N)
6:30 P.M. Putzel (N)
8:30 P.M. A Touch of Sin (N)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6

2:15 P.M. Student (N)
4:15 P.M. Death of a Man in the Balkans (N)
6 P.M. The Fantastic World of Juan Orol (N)
8:15 P.M. The Past (N)

TIVOLI 1

7 P.M. JFK with Oliver Stone (N)

TIVOLI 3

7 P.M. Farah Goes Bang (N)
9:15 P.M. 9 Full Moons (N)

WASHINGTON U./BROWN

7:30 P.M. Gold Star Children (D)

WEBSTER U./MOORE

7:30 P.M. Furever (D)

Saturday, Nov. 23

PLAZA FRONTENAC 5

2 P.M. Approved for Adoption (D)
4 P.M. Versailles ’73 (D)
6:30 P.M. Ilo Ilo (N)
8:45 P.M. The Clown (N)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6

1:30 P.M. A Fragile Trust (D)
4:15 P.M. Three Worlds (N)
6:45 P.M. Omamamia (N)
9:15 P.M. Death of a Man in the Balkans (N)

TIVOLI 1

1:15 P.M. Blood Brother (D)
3:30 P.M. Red, White & Blueprints (D)
6 P.M. Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (N)
9:15 P.M. Shorts 9: Experimental & Absurd (S)

TIVOLI 3

NOON Battle: Change from Within (D)
2 P.M. This Is Where We Live (N)
4:30 P.M. How We Got Away with It (N)

Sunday, Nov. 24

CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

6 P.M. Recconversation (D)
8 P.M. Closing-Night Party (SE)

KDHX

10:30 A.M. NFF Coffee (SE)
1 P.M. Harlem Street Singer (D)
3:30 P.M. The Pleasures of Being Out of Step (D)
6:30 P.M. Go South for Animal Index (N)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 5

1 P.M. Running from Crazy (D)
3:15 P.M. Lord Montagu/Dinner in White (D)
6:30 P.M. The Invisible Woman (N)
8:45 P.M. The Photograph (N)

PLAZA FRONTENAC 6

1:15 P.M. Kiss the Water (D)
3:30 P.M. Three Worlds (N)
6 P.M. The Great Beauty (N)
9 P.M. Aaya Ka Bayna (N)

TIVOLI 1

1 P.M. Shorts 10: Stars in Shorts (S)
3 P.M. One Chance (N)
6:15 P.M. Le Week-End (N)
8:30 P.M. Shorts 11: Crime Dramas & Thrillers (S)

TIVOLI 3

1:15 P.M. Ghosts of Empire Prairie (N)
3:45 P.M. Coming to Terms (N)
6:30 P.M. All Roads Lead (N)
9 P.M. Shorts 12: International Drama (S)

WASHINGTON U./BROWN

NOON Tad, the Lost Explorer (N)
2 P.M. SLIFF/Kids Family Shorts (S)
4 P.M. The Day of the Crows (N)
6 P.M. Tio Papi (N)

WEBSTER U./MOORE

4 P.M. The Missing Picture (D)
6 P.M. Medora (N)

WILDEY

4 P.M. She Loves Me Not (N)
6:30 P.M. Something in the Water (D)
The Abominable Crime
MICAH FINK, U.S./JAMAICA, 2013, 66 MIN., ENGLISH & JAMAICAN PATOIS
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 4:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

When you’re born into a homophobic society, what are you willing to sacrifice to survive? “The Abominable Crime” is a story about a mother’s love for her child and an activist’s troubled love for his country. It gives voice to Jamaicans like Simone Edwards, who survives an anti-gay shooting, and Maurice Tomlinson, a leading activist who is forced to flee the country after being outed. These personal accounts take the audience on an emotional journey traversing four years and five countries. The subjects’ stories expose the roots of homophobia in Jamaican society, reveal the deep psychological and social impacts of discrimination on the lives of gays and lesbians, and offer intimate first-person perspectives on the risks and challenges of seeking asylum abroad. With director Fink and subject Maurice Tomlinson.

Co-presented with Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting

Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth
PRATIHBA PARMER, U.S., 2013, 84 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 8 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE

“Alice Walker” tells the compelling story of an extraordinary woman’s journey from her birth in a paper-thin shack in the cotton fields of Georgia to her recognition as a key writer of the 20th century. Walker made history as the first black woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for her groundbreaking novel “The Color Purple,” a universal story of triumph against all odds not that different from Walker’s own, who was the eighth child of sharecroppers. Walker’s early life unfolded in the midst of violent racism and poverty during some of the most turbulent years of social and political changes in the U.S. The film offers a penetrating look at the life and art of an artist, a self-confessed renegade, and a human-rights activist. In addition to Walker, interview subjects range from Whoopi Goldberg and Steven Spielberg to Angela Davis and “Push” author Sapphire.

Antarctica: A Year on Ice
ANTHONY POWELL, NEW ZEALAND/ANTARCTICA, 2013, 91 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 1 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

“Antarctica: A Year on Ice” reveals the extreme difficulties and eerie beauty encountered by those who live and work year-round at the bottom of the Earth. The film adopts the point of view not of scientists but of the people who spend the most time living on the ice: the everyday workers who keep the stations running in the harshest place on the planet. Filmed over 15 years by Discovery Channel’s “Frozen Planet” photographer Anthony Powell, the film features a unique insider’s point of view, with unparalleled access and stunning, never-before-seen footage of the deep Antarctic winters. With director Powell.

Sponsored by Carol & Ward Klein
Approved for Adoption

LAURENT BOILEAU & JUNG HENIN, BELGIUM/FRANCE/SWITZERLAND, 2012, 75 MIN., FRENCH
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 2 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

This remarkable animated autobiography traces the unconventional upbringing of filmmaker Jung Henin, one of thousands of Korean children adopted into Europe after the end of the Korean War. A series of gorgeously animated, sepia-toned vignettes – some humorous and some poetic – track Jung from the day of his adoption into his teenage years, when his emerging sense of identity begins to create fissures at home and ignites the latent biases of his adoptive parents. Throughout, Jung finds release in drawing. The filmmaker tells his story using animation (adapted from his graphic memoir) intercut with snippets of Super 8 family footage, archival film, and new material documenting his first trip to Korea. “It’s impossible not to be charmed,” says Variety. “This voyage of discovery will provide throat lumps galore.”

Shown with Me & You (Tim Rauch & Mike Rauch, 2013, U.S., 3 min.): In this StoryCorps film, a mother and son discuss her decision to adopt him.

Battle: Change from Within
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION, U.S., 2013, 65 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, NOON, TIVOLI

“Battle: Change from Within” provides an inspiring portrait of the late educator Eliot Battle, who played a pivotal role in desegregating the schools, housing, and community of Columbia, Mo. As Battle facilitated changes with quiet resolve, he faced resistance from both the black and white communities. His calm demeanor and dedicated work within existing institutions and systems allowed him to bridge the gap between the two races and change Columbia for the better. Battle, who had been an assistant principal at Columbia’s all-black Douglass High School, became a guidance counselor and the first black faculty member at Hickman High School in 1960, serving as an advocate, mentor, and mediator during the crucial early years of Hickman’s transformation into an integrated school. With filmmakers Michael Hicks, Juanamaria Cordones-Cook, Julie Middleton, and Barbara Williamson.

Bayou Maharaja: The Tragic Genius of James Booker
LILY KEBER, U.S., 2013, 90 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 6:30 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE

“Bayou Maharaja” explores the life, times, and music of piano legend James Booker, whom Dr. John described as “the best black, gay, one-eyed junkie piano genius New Orleans has ever produced.” Booker was an unparalleled musician whose eccentricities and showmanship belied a life of struggle and isolation. Triply marginalized by his race, sexuality, and physical disability, he still managed to excel as a musician in New Orleans and Europe in the turbulent 1960s and ‘70s, fusing secular, sacred, pop, and classical traditions in breathtaking new ways. A brilliant stylist of soaring imagination, Booker personified the agony of genius in a time of paradigmatic change. The Hollywood Reporter writes: “A must-see for aficionados of New Orleans jazz, it’s also accessible to viewers who don’t know a Professor Longhair from a Dr. John.” With director Keber and a Booker-inspired concert by New Orleans pianist Tom McDermott.

Sponsored by Nancy & Ken Kranzberg

Bible Quiz
NICOLE TEENY, U.S., 2013, 76 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 1 P.M., TIVOLI

Seventeen-year-old Mikayla is both pining for love and competing in the conservative, evangelical sport of Bible Quiz. She has more than 2,000 Bible verses memorized but can’t figure out what makes team captain JP’s heart tick. They are both on the Bible Quiz team of the Life Center Church of Tacoma, Wash., and this year they hope to win the National Bible Quiz Championship. To win, however, their team must compete against thousands of other teenagers from across the United States. While Mikayla is focused on golden boy JP, he only has eyes for Bible Quiz. Last year, he placed third in the nation; now, in his final year before Bible College, JP wants the championship more than ever. Mikayla hopes that if she can lead their team to victory, she will find the belonging that she lacks in her own dysfunctional family. In the process, she also hopes to win the ultimate prize: JP’s love. “Bible Quiz” won the Grand Jury Award for Best Documentary at this year’s Slamdance Film Festival.

With director Teeny.
Big Joy: The Adventures of James Broughton

JEFF ORLOWSKI, U.S., 2012, 75 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 4 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In the spring of 2005, acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog went to the Arctic on a tricky assignment for National Geographic: to capture images that tell the story of the Earth’s changing climate. Although once a skeptic about climate change, that initial trip north opened Balog’s eyes. Within months of his journey to Iceland, the photographer conceived the boldest expedition of his life: the Extreme Ice Survey, a project designed to provide undeniable evidence of our changing planet. With a band of young adventurers in tow, Balog began deploying revolutionary time-lapse cameras across the brutal Arctic to capture a multi-year record of the world’s changing glaciers. The Los Angeles Times writes: “The before and after imagery of Balog’s project speaks for itself, with the power and strange beauty of the evolving landscape strong evidence that something is indeed happening, now and fast.”


Sponsored by Carol & Ward Klein

Blood Brother

STEVE HOOVER, U.S./INDIA, 2013, 92 MIN., ENGLISH & TAMIL
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 1:15 P.M., TIVOLI

In “Blood Brother” — winner of both the Grand Jury Prize and the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival — filmmaker Steve Hoover explores the life of his best friend, Rocky Braat. Because of a whimsical choice he made five years ago, Braat found a new family and sense of meaning after moving to Tamil Nadu, India, where he cares for a group of HIV-positive orphans. Even though Braat claims he never really liked kids previously, these children have become his life. Now, however, Braat’s visa is up for review, and the odds are that he’ll be sent away from those he loves most. His only chance is to become an Indian citizen and let go, forever, of any hold his friends and family in America still have on him. Variety enthusiastically declares: “Documentaries don’t come any bigger-hearted than ‘Blood Brother.’”

Caucus

AJ SCHNACK, U.S., 2013, 104 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 6:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 4:30 P.M., WILDEY

In intimate, often funny, and sometimes emotional detail, “Caucus” tells the story of the 2011-12 campaign in Iowa as eight Republicans fight to become their party’s standard-bearer and take on Barack Obama. To win, each has to first navigate state fairs, town-hall meetings in pizza halls, and agitated questions from the increasingly contentious GOP base. A never-before-seen look at an unforgettable political season, “Caucus” documents the remarkable and unorthodox GOP field, with special focus on former Sen. Rick Santorum and Rep. Michele Bachmann. Both would fight to stay relevant in a contest where nearly every candidate would lead the race at some point: the governor of Texas, the former U.S. House speaker, a former pizza-chain CEO, and the presumed national frontrunner about whom no one seems particularly enthusiastic. With cinematographer/producer Nathan Truesdell (Nov. 15) and director Schnack (Nov. 15 and 17), recipient of SLIFF’s Charles Guggenheim Cinema St. Louis Award.

Chasing Ice

JEFF ORLOWSKI, U.S., 2012, 75 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 4 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In the spring of 2005, acclaimed environmental photographer James Balog went to the Arctic on a tricky assignment for National Geographic: to capture images that tell the story of the Earth’s changing climate. Although once a skeptic about climate change, that initial trip north opened Balog’s eyes. Within months of his journey to Iceland, the photographer conceived the boldest expedition of his life: the Extreme Ice Survey, a project designed to provide undeniable evidence of our changing planet. With a band of young adventurers in tow, Balog began deploying revolutionary time-lapse cameras across the brutal Arctic to capture a multi-year record of the world’s changing glaciers. The Los Angeles Times writes: “The before and after imagery of Balog’s project speaks for itself, with the power and strange beauty of the evolving landscape strong evidence that something is indeed happening, now and fast.”


Sponsored by Carol & Ward Klein
Children of the Night
ANGELA CHRISTIAN, U.S., 2013, 109 MIN.
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 6:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

The final space shuttle mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope was one of the most important chapters in the history of astronomy. “Children of the Night” is an intimate chronicle of this event refracted through the endeavors of a disparate community of astronomers, educators, and animators who bring magnificent astronomical images to the world. Travel alongside these visionaries – from Athens, Greece, to the launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis to the fingertips of blind children feeling Braille celestial landscapes – as they chart and illuminate the human heritage that is our night sky. With director Christian.

CowJews and Indians
MARC HALBERSTADT, U.S./GERMANY, 2013, 90 MIN., ENGLISH, GERMAN & LAKOTA
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 6:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Marc Halberstadt, an American Jewish man whose family lost its ancestral house in Nazi Germany, decides he should give back the $2,000 in reparations that his family received for their seized home and try to get more substantial compensation – either home possession or back rent. However, after realizing that his mother’s American home is on Native American land, Marc decides that he in turn owes Native Americans similar compensation. Deciding to cut out the middle man, Marc takes his Native American partners to Germany to collect. Subtitled “How Hitler Scared My Family, and I Woke Up in an Iroquois Longhouse with a Picture of Jesus, Reminding Me, for the Wrong Reason, That I Owe the Mohawks Rent,” the documentary takes a subversively comic approach to deadly serious issues of genocide. With director/subject Halberstadt.

Emptying the Skies
DOUGLAS KASS, U.S./FRANCE/ITALY, 2013, 75 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 1:15 P.M., TIVOLI

If you want to impress your dining companions in Cyprus, it’s not caviar that you order but ambelopoulia: a tiny songbird. But as this gripping documentary reveals, the cost to bring such delicacies to the table is enormous: Tens of millions of protected migratory songbirds are illegally and inhumanely killed every year to satisfy the demand for this culinary novelty. Bestselling novelist (and native St. Louisan) Jonathan Franzen takes a break from the world of fiction to chronicle some all-too-horrifying facts. In “Emptying the Skies,” longtime bird lover Franzen accompanies young staffers of the Committee against Bird Slaughter on their expeditions. With police enforcement in Southern Europe practically non-existent, they risk their lives in confrontations with hostile poachers to rescue trapped birds.

First Comes Love
NINA DAVENPORT, U.S. 2013, 105 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 3:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

A poignant homage to family, love, and the power of cinema, the first-person documentary “First Comes Love” chronicles director/subject Nina Davenport’s journey to motherhood and beyond. Single and entering her 40s, Davenport decides to stop worrying about finding “Mr. Right” and simply have a baby on her own. After asking her gay friend Eric to serve as sperm donor, Davenport enlists best friend Amy as her birth partner and engages a host of other friends as support system; with Davenport’s new boyfriend John, they all form an ad hoc family. Davenport embraces motherhood while wrestling with the recent death of her mother, who had been her emotional rock, and working through a much thornier relationship with her disapproving father. The Village Voice describes “First Comes Love” as “wise, warm, funny, open, and more interested in life as it’s actually lived than any other to debut this summer.” With director Davenport, recipient of SLIFF’s Women in Film Award.

Co-presented with Citizen Jane Film Festival in Columbia, Mo.
“Flying Paper” tells the uplifting story of children in Gaza on a quest to shatter the Guinness World Record for the most kites ever flown simultaneously. The record-breaking event, which is part of a U.N.-sponsored festival, helps drive the film’s narrative, but it’s the everyday stories of the young kite-makers that are the film’s warm and beating heart. The film humanizes the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict by exploring the fascinating kite culture of the children, whose play serves as a form of creative resistance in Gaza. “Flying Paper” is co-produced with young Palestinians trained by the filmmakers through a youth media program called Voices Beyond Walls. With co-director Hill.

Three singer-songwriters, at dramatically different stages in their careers, navigate the thriving subculture of American folk music in this consistently engaging documentary. “Folk” follows twenty-something Raina Rose, thirty-something Hilary Claire Adamson, and sixty-something Dirk Hamilton as they confront relationship and financial challenges while struggling to be heard in a quirky, colorful world of small-town house concerts, jammed 24/7 folk conferences, and tiny bars and festivals on the blue highways of America. The days when Guthrie and Dylan wrote the songs that changed America may be behind us, but Raina, Hilary, and Dirk offer stirring evidence that today’s folk musicians still amplify the themes that resonate through our lives and across our cultural landscape. With director Terry.

“Forty Seven Views” tells the story of Leslie J. Laskey, artist, poet, and legendary teacher at Washington U. Through a series of “views” that illustrate different facets of the artist, the film communicates his undimmed enthusiasm for life and work. “Forty-Seven Views” intimately chronicles Laskey over an 11-year period, capturing him in his everyday life of painting, cooking, walking his dog, entertaining friends, cutting and printing wood blocks, and teaching both formally and informally. Despite being 91 years old, Leslie’s ability to create and inspire becomes ever more apparent with each chapter. With director Wild and subject Laskey.

“A Fragile Trust” tells the shocking story of Jayson Blair, perhaps the most infamous serial plagiarist of our time, and how the uncovering of his deceptions rocked the New York Times. In 2003, Blair was caught plagiarizing the work of other reporters and supplementing his writing with fabricated details in dozens of different stories published in the Times. The ensuing media frenzy left a major blemish on the history of the Old Grey Lady, which just a year earlier had won a record seven Pulitzer Prizes for its coverage of 9/11. The fact that Blair is African-American received particular emphasis, and accounts of the “Blair Affair” reveled in the sordid details of drug abuse, racism, mental illness, white guilt, and power struggles inside the hallowed halls of the New York Times. With director Grant.

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Shown with Reporting on the Times: The NY Times & the Holocaust (Emily Harrold, U.S., 2013, 18 min.): An examination of why the New York Times ran only 26 pieces about the Holocaust out of the thousands of stories it published on World War II.
Free to Love
Jorge Oliver, Puerto Rico/U.S., 2013, 90 min., Spanish
Thursday, Nov. 21, 7:15 p.m., Tivoli

In 2008, a group of Puerto Rican LGBT activists organized a grassroots initiative against CR 99, a constitutional amendment that defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman. In chronicling an important chapter in the history of the LGBT movement, "Free to Love" also serves as an enlightening case study of what happens when the religious right breaches the separation of church and state and when the retention of a legislative seat proves more important than the representation of constituents. The campaign's public-relations strategy was built on the premise that a violation of the human rights of one group can set a precedent for further discrimination against the rest of society. Using that approach, the activists gained support outside the LGBT movement and forcefully demonstrated the power of a unified community. With director Oliver.

Fuck for Forest
Michal Marczak, Poland/Germany/Norway/Peru/Colombia, 2013, 86 min., English, German, Spanish & Norwegian
Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m., Webster U./Moore

Berlin's Fuck for Forest is one of the world's most bizarre charities, an organization based on the idea that sex can save the world. The NGO's members raise money for their environmental cause by engaging in sex with one another and an array of willing recruits, and selling the resulting home-made pornographic films on the Internet. When troubled soul Danny accidentally discovers this exuberant, neo-hippie world, where sexual liberation merges with global altruism, he enthusiastically joins the colorful operation. Traveling from the streets of Berlin to the depths of the Amazon, the eccentric group goes on a planet-saving mission to buy a piece of forest and save the indigenous people who live there from the sick, sick West.

Shown with Do Not Hit the Drag Queen (Johan Karrento, Finland, 2013, 28 min., Finnish & Swedish): Six drag queens from Helsinki embark on an adventure across the Finnish countryside.

Furever
Amy Finkel, U.S., 2013, 80 min.
Friday, Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m., Webster U./Moore

"Furever" sympathetically explores the grief that people experience over the loss of a pet. Because dogs and cats are increasingly regarded as part of the family unit in the U.S., the veterinary profession and death-care industry have adapted to both acknowledge and exploit that evolution in pets' status. The film interviews grieving pet owners, veterinarians, psychologists, sociologists, religious scholars, and neuroscientists about the human-animal bond and the often devastating effects of a pet's death. More provocatively, "Furever" talks to the surprising variety of artists and entrepreneurs who re-purpose a pet's cremains in unique ways and professionals who preserve a pet's body through methods such as taxidermy, cloning, mummification, and freeze-drying. Film Threat calls "Furever" an "always-thoughtful, sometimes-absurd, and completely amazing documentary."

Shown with My Darling Dog Has Cancer (Marinka de Jongh, Netherlands, 2013, 25 min.): A glimpse into the daily life of a Dutch animal hospital that specializes in treating animals with cancer.

The Genius of Marian
Banker White, U.S., 2013, 86 min.
Friday, Nov. 22, Noon, Plaza Frontenac, Free

"The Genius of Marian" provides a uniquely intimate look at a much-feared illness and paints a loving portrait of family. Just after her 60th birthday, Pam White was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and life began to change irrevocably for all involved. Before her diagnosis, Pam had told her family she wanted to write a book to pay tribute to her late mother, the renowned artist Marian Williams Steele. Because Pam is losing her ability to write, eldest son Banker – the filmmaker –records their conversations, allowing his mother to share memories of her childhood. Marian, who also suffered from Alzheimer's disease, was a central figure in Pam's life, and her spirit is felt strongly through her paintings and a rich tapestry of family photographs, Super 8 home movies, and evocative time-lapse photography. As she slowly comes to terms with her disease, Pam finds solace in the sense of humor and joy that Marian retained throughout her own battle with dementia.

Shown with Marking the Distance (Tim Rauch & Mike Rauch, U.S., 2013, 3 min.): In this StoryCorps film, a woman talks about navigating through life after losing her short-term memory.
Gideon's Army
DAWN PORTER, U.S., 2013, 93 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, NOON, WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

Nearly 50 years ago, the landmark Supreme Court ruling Gideon vs. Wainwright established the right to counsel, but “justice for all” is still not a reality for many indigent defendants. “Gideon’s Army” tells the stories of an inspiring trio of young public defenders – Brandy Alexander, Travis Williams, and June Hardwick – who are part of a small group of idealistic lawyers in the Deep South challenging the assumptions that drive a criminal-justice system strained to the breaking point. Backed by mentor Jonathan “Rap” Rapping, a charismatic leader who heads the Southern Public Defender Training Center (now known as Gideon’s Promise), they struggle against long hours, low pay, and staggering caseloads – challenges so daunting that even the most committed often give up in their first year. Describing “Gideon’s Army” as “a bare film with no narrator and a minimal soundtrack,” the New York Times concludes: “That’s all it needs to grab you by the throat.” With subject Brandy Alexander.

Gold Star Children
MITY GRIFFIS MIRRER, U.S., 2013, 59 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 22, 7:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

“Gold Star Children” takes an affecting look at American children who’ve lost a parent to war. The film follows the parallel journey of two generations: The children of soldiers killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars heal alongside the now-adult orphans of the Vietnam War. The film focuses on an inspiringly thoughtful young girl whose father was killed in Iraq and a child of the Vietnam War who grew up suffering her parental loss in silence. A story of hope, the film explores the redemptive power of sharing and the resilience of our nation’s Gold Star Children, who continue to carry the greatest burden of our country’s wars. With director Mirrer.

Shown with Karisma (Britne Goldstein, U.S., 2012, 14 min.): With her father called away to war, 6-year-old Amelia Grace, who suffers from chronic illness, finds ways to cope through the use of equine therapy.
Sponsored by Edward & Sean Rhode

Good People Go to Hell, Saved People Go to Heaven
HOLLY HARDMAN, U.S., 2013, 87 MIN.
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 7:15 P.M., TIVOLI

Set against a backdrop of hurricane devastation and apocalyptic fear, “Good People Go to Hell, Saved People Go to Heaven” penetrates the complex world of evangelical Christianity along America’s Gulf Coast. A megachurch pastor in New Orleans calls Hurricane Katrina a cleansing. A fundamentalist cross-carrier preaches about sin as he walks along the Mississippi River. A mother of eight who lost her home to Hurricane Rita claims that God sends disasters to punish Americans for their unrepentant ways. They are all waiting for the Rapture, when true believers like them will be saved, and everybody else on Earth will be left behind to suffer. Unnervingly authentic, “Good People Go to Hell” explores the deep, and often desperate, reasons evangelical believers have for embracing their religion. The result is a film of stunning candor and vital insight into the paradoxical world of evangelical compassion, fear, love, and intolerance. With director Hardman.

The Great Hip Hop Hoax
JEANIE FINLAY, U.K., 2013, 88 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 7:30 P.M., KDHX

When the promising Scottish rap act Silibil n’ Brains was laughed off the stage by hysterical A&R people who dubbed them “the rapping Proclaimers,” Billy Boyd and Gavin Bain re-invented themselves as West Coast homeboys. Sony subsequently signed them to a recording deal, and over a period of two years Billy and Gavin lived the dream. No one knew or even suspected that they were in fact just a couple of college boys from Dundee with fake American accents they had learned from MTV. But lying 24/7 took its toll, and Billy and Gavin’s bromance and music career were eventually left in tatters. “It’s possible to regard Jeanie Finlay’s documentary as a breezy account of an audacious con-trick perpetrated on the British music industry by two young Scottish rappers,” writes the Telegraph newspaper. “That would be fine in itself, yet it’s also something deeper – a smart morality tale about the illusory nature of celebrity, and the pressures it exerts once attained.”

Shown with The Come Up (Rotting Peaches Pictures, U.S., 2013, 7 min.). St. Louis hip-hop artist Tef Poe details the difficult circumstances of his life.
I Learn America

GITTE PENG & JEAN-MICHEL DISSARD, U.S., 92 MIN., ENGLISH, SPANISH, POLISH, BURMESE, PUNJABI & URDU
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 7:30 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE

In America, nearly one in four children is an immigrant or was born to immigrant parents. Classrooms confront a rapidly growing influx of students who speak little English and are unfamiliar with American culture. At NYC’s International High School at Lafayette, more than 300 students from 50 countries come together in a unique educational experience. “I Learn America” is the story of Sing (Myanmar), a refugee who left his family behind; Brandon (Guatemala), who crossed the border to America to reunite with his mother after 10 years apart; Sandra (Poland), a tomboy and class leader who’s in love with Jennifer (Dominican Republic), a sassy classmate; and Itrat (Pakistan), who came to America to join a father she barely knew after the passing of her mother. With co-director Dissard and a pre-film discussion (at 6 p.m.) in which Webster U. students and faculty reflect on the question of “What is America?”

Shown with Keep Moving (Jackie Zhou & Ravi Lloyd, U.S., 2012, 9 min.): After emigrating from Iraq, the Khalifa family adjusts to their lives as refugees in Orange County.

Sponsored by Webster University’s Multicultural Studies Committee
Impact: After the Crash
JASON EPPERSON, U.S., 2013, 82 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 6:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

"Impact: After the Crash" explores the horrific Carrolton, Ky., bus crash of May 14, 1988, which killed 27 people (mostly children) and injured nearly three dozen others, making it the worst drunk-driving-related accident in U.S. history. The Kentucky tragedy became nationally known, not only because of the devastation it caused but also because the crash gave prominence to the then-fledgling Mothers Against Drunk Driving. The film includes a powerful re-creation of the accident and explores how those who lost family and friends have both suffered and recovered from their pain and losses. Harold Dennis, a bus-crash survivor who became a U.K. football star, is the emotional center of the documentary, which also features numerous other personal stories of loss and heroic rejuvenation.

With writer/producer Daniel Blake Smith.

Shown with Juggle & Cut (Caleb Slain, U.S. 2013, 14 min.): After a horrific car accident, a young man rebuilds his life by finding new ways to express his creativity.

JFK: A President Betrayed
CORY TAYLOR, U.S., 2013, 90 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 7 P.M., TIVOLI

"JFK: A President Betrayed," narrated by Academy Award® winner Morgan Freeman, uncovers surprising new evidence that reveals how John F. Kennedy – chastened by the Bay of Pigs fiasco, the Berlin Crisis, and the Cuban Missile Crisis – boldly reversed official United States government policy to embark on secret back-channel peace efforts with Nikita Khrushchev, Fidel Castro, and other sworn American enemies. Facing intense opposition from his top military, CIA, and State Department advisers, Kennedy set out to de-escalate nuclear tensions, improve relations with Cuba, and withdraw U.S. personnel from Vietnam by 1965. The film raises new questions about JFK's still-unsolved assassination and the second term that never was. The film screens the day before the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination. With director Taylor and sound recordist Max Gittelson.

Jim Crow to Barack Obama
DENISE WARD-BROWN, U.S., 2013, 98 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 7 P.M. (7 P.M. FOR "LIFE," 8 P.M. FOR "JIM CROW"),
WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

"Jim Crow to Barack Obama" holds intergenerational conversations between two groups of African-Americans: elders 75 or older who grew up in the Jim Crow era and those 30 or younger who were born after the societal changes made possible by the civil-rights movement. The youth – who also worked behind the camera in the making of the film – reflect and respond to the seniors' stories of segregation and struggle. With director Ward-Brown.

Shown with Life, Liberty & Resilience (Steffan Tubbs, U.S., 2013, 44 min.): This inspiring documentary profiles Joe LaNier, an African-American World War II veteran and grandson of a slave. Retracing Joe’s life – including his years in the segregated South, his U.S. Navy service, his difficulties in finding work as a pharmacist because of racial prejudice, and his interracial marriage – “Life, Liberty & Resilience” celebrates its subject’s ability to soar over life’s hurdles. With director Tubbs. 

Sponsored by Paul A. Randolph

The Kill Team
DAN KRAUSS, U.S., 2013, 79 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI

Equal parts infuriating and illuminating, “The Kill Team” examines the devastating moral choices that soldiers confront. Specialist Adam Winfield was a 21-year-old infantryman in Afghanistan when he attempted with the help of his father to alert the military to heinous war crimes his platoon was committing. But Winfield’s pleas went unheeded. Left on his own and faced with threats to his life, Specialist Winfield was himself drawn into the moral abyss. With extraordinary access to the key individuals involved in the case – including Winfield, his passionately supportive parents, and his startlingly candid compatriots – “The Kill Team” is an intimate look at the personal stories so often lost inside the larger coverage of the longest war in U.S. history. Describing the film as “a true-life horror story,” Variety writes: “Many will regard this chilling war-is-hell expose as must-see viewing.”
Kiss the Water
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 1:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In a small cottage on the northern coast of Scotland, Megan Boyd twirled tiny bits of feather, fur, silver, and gold into fishing flies that were miniature works of art, at once magical and absolutely lethal. Wherever men and women cast their lines for Atlantic salmon, her name was whispered in mythic reverence, and stories about her surfaced and swirled like fairy tales. Boyd herself never cast a line—she hated the idea of killing fish—but word of her masterful handiwork spread. First the local lads and landed gentry, then lords from London, and finally a prince appeared at her humble doorstep. “Kiss the Water” spins vivid interviews, precise demonstrations in the art of fly-tying, sublime cinematic imagery, and expressive, hand-painted animation around a deeply moving human tale. Screen Daily enthuses: “An elegant and fascinating delight, ‘Kiss the Water’ is made with insight, intelligence and a painterly delight in perhaps one of the most unusual of documentary subjects.”

With director Steel.
Sponsored by Jeffrey T. Fort

Let the Fire Burn
JASON OSDER, U.S., 2013, 88 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 4 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE

On May 13, 1985, a decade-long conflict between the Philadelphia police and MOVE, a radical African-American back-to-nature group, came to an explosive head. After an extensive gunfight, the police commissioner authorized a bomb to be dropped on the MOVE compound, a row house in lower-middle-class West Philadelphia, which ignited a fire that killed all the residents except one little boy and destroyed an entire community. First-time filmmaker Jason Osder boldly constructs this sobering and powerful documentary from existing materials rather than rely on narration or new interviews. Indiewire writes: “There have been many documentaries comprised entirely out of archival footage, but few as powerfully and masterfully structured as this one.... Osder creates a visually textured and fascinating piece of storytelling that steers clear of editorialization and manipulation by allowing the content to speak for itself.”

The Life and Crimes of Doris Payne
KIRK MARCOLINA & MATTHEW POND, U.S., 2013, 74 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 3:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

An unapologetic version of a unique American Dream, “The Life and Crimes of Doris Payne” is an entertaining, emotionally engaging, and highly suspenseful film about one of the world’s most notorious international jewel thieves—a story so compelling that Hollywood is developing it as a vehicle for Halle Berry. Combining vérité scenes, re-creations, archival materials, and revealing interviews, the documentary provides a rich portrait of a most unusual woman’s extraordinary life: Born a poor black girl in the segregated South, Doris Payne eventually found herself pillaging diamonds in Monte Carlo while juggling the demands of single motherhood. Now, at age 80, Doris encounters yet another turn in a long and fascinating journey: Facing questionable evidence at her latest trial, she rejects a three-month plea deal and risks five years in prison.

Lord Montagu
LUKE KOREM, U.S./U.K., 2013, 80 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 3:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

As the youngest member of Parliament and sole heir to his family’s estate, Lord Edward Montagu led a privileged life, but in 1954, at age 25, he was arrested for consensual homosexual offenses, found guilty, and sentenced to a year in prison. The verdict became the catalyst to overturn a centuries-old law, and Montagu is now recognized for his part in decriminalizing homosexuality. Montagu, however, was determined not to let scandal define him. On his release, he opened Beaulieu, his 7,000-acre estate, to the public as a tourist attraction and created Britain’s first motor museum. By 1959, nearly a half-million visitors were touring Beaulieu each year. Montagu’s showmanship and success inspired a new breed of aristocrats to open their doors, helping keep the country’s most historic monuments from ruin.

Shown with Dinner in White (Diner en Blanc) (Jennifer Ash Rudick, 2013, France/U.S., 45 min.): On a June evening in Paris, 13,000 people, dressed elaborately in white, will converge at a secret location for the annual Diner en Blanc, a mesmerizing intersection of food and fashion, and a stirring display of the power of human connection and collaboration. With director Rudick.
Material Success
JESSE MANN, CANADA, 2012, 83 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 1:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

“Material Success” follows the misadventures of eccentric Toronto fashion designer Bruno Ierullo, who embraces fashion design after a personal tragedy inspires him to risk his life savings on a career change. Taking the viewer behind the scenes, the film reveals the processes and colorful people involved in preparing Bruno’s unusually large 300-plus-garment collection for the runway within a mere month’s time. “Material Success” features fly-on-the-wall observations and confessions from Bruno and his tireless band of colleagues and reveals his kaleidoscopic art to be a reflection of his iconoclasm. The film offers a portrait of a man struggling to define himself in terms of his art and a celebration of the guiding influences in his life. With director Mann.

Medora
DAVY ROTHBART & ANDREW COHN, U.S., 2013, 100 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 6 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE

Years ago, Medora, Ind., was a booming rural community with prosperous farms and industries and a thriving middle class. The factories have since closed, crippling Medora’s economy and its pride, and the population has slowly dwindled to around 500 people. Drug use is common, the school faces consolidation, and as one resident put it, “This town’s on the ropes.” “Medora” – co-directed by Found Magazine editor, essayist, and “This American Life” contributor Davy Rothbart – follows the down-but-not-out Medora Hornets varsity basketball team over the course of the 2010-11 season, capturing the players’ stories both on and off the court. The Hornets are riding a 44-game losing streak when the film begins, and the team’s struggle to compete bears eerie parallels with the town’s fight for survival. An in-depth, deeply personal look at small-town life, “Medora” is a real-life, modern-day “Hoosiers,” an inspiring tale of a community refusing to give up hope despite the brutal odds stacked against them. With co-director Rothbart.

The Missing Picture
RITHY PANH, 2013, FRANCE/CAMBODIA, 92 MIN., FRENCH & ENGLISH
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 4 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE

Director Rithy Panh was an 11-year-old when the Khmer Rouge took over Cambodia in 1977. Forced from Phnom Penh, his family later died in a refugee camp, and Panh, the sole survivor, fled to Thailand in 1979. After moving to Paris, Panh became interested in film, and his work has focused tightly on life under the Khmer Rouge and the terrible legacy of Pol Pot’s regime. “The Missing Picture” represents Panh’s quest to find a photograph taken during that 1975-79 reign of terror, but because the Khmer Rouge attempted to scrub clean all visual evidence of the atrocities, the search proves difficult. Absent a significant filmed record, in an effort to document the truth, Panh uses handmade clay figurines and detailed dioramas to capture the horrific events of those years. Winner of the Un Certain Regard prize at this year’s Cannes Film Festival, “The Missing Picture” has played the fall’s most prestigious fests, including New York, Toronto, and Telluride. Citing Panh’s documentary as one of the “essential titles” at this year’s New York Film Festival, the Times’ Manohla Dargis writes: “With extraordinary grace, he tells his story and that of his ravaged country, using archival visual material, a heartbreakingly intimate narration (spoken by another man in mellifluous English) and small clay figures that, as they are whittled away, become stand-ins for the men, women and children subjected to incomprehensible horror.”

Out of Print
VIVIENNE ROUMANI, U.S., 2013, 55 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 4 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE

“Out of Print” explores the wide-ranging effects of the digital revolution on the written word: Writers, publishers, and readers are all in flux; booksellers are closing; students are confronting new challenges; librarians and teachers are seeking new roles. Storytellers like Ray Bradbury and Jeffrey Toobin, complemented by evocative visuals, weave a compelling tale of change. Novelist and Authors Guild president Scott Turow, Amazon.com CEO Jeff Bezos, and Harvard University Library director and Digital Public Library of America enthusiast Robert Darnton place us in the middle of a debate about values and access. Personal stories of parents and students highlight how this revolution is changing every aspect of the printed word – and changing us in the process. With director Roumani (by Skype) and a panel of St. Louis experts.

Shown with End of Line (Caitlin Zera, 2013, U.S., 8 min.): Two men in Maplewood reflect on their careers in a dying industry: typewriter repair.

Sponsored by Gateway Media Literacy Partners & Missouri Professional Communicators
Out of the Box: How a Culture Changed
RIFT FOURNIER, U.S., 2013, 50 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, NOON, WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

In the spring of 2000, the federal judges of the Eastern District of Missouri selected Doug Burris as the new chief probation officer and charged him with reversing a potentially dangerous trend: At the time, the district exceeded by 30 percent the national federal average for parole revocations. Burris began with three goals: diversify the office (it employed only two African-American officers despite the fact that 75 percent of the clients were black); start a jobs program (70 percent of failed parolees were unemployed); and offer cognitive-skills therapy to help ex-offenders learn how to make better choices. After overcoming some initial resistance by senior staff, Burris has helped transform the district into the model for a successful supervised-release program. “Out of the Box” – which features narration by Stacy Keach – tells the personal stories behind these innovations, including the unprecedented hiring of an ex-con, Clark Porter, to serve as a program support specialist in the office. “Out of the Box” is the final project of longtime Hollywood screenwriter and Lindenwood U. faculty member Rift Fournier, who completed the film just before his death in October. With Lindenwood U. professor of communication Ben Scholle, editor Nenad Simic, and subjects Burris and Porter.

The Pleasures of Being Out of Step
DAVID L. LEWIS, U.S., 2013, 85 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 5 P.M., KDHX
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 3:30 P.M., KDHX

“The Pleasures of Being Out of Step” profiles legendary jazz critic and civil libertarian Nat Hentoff, whose career tracks the greatest cultural and political movements of the last 65 years, including the creation of “alternative” journalism at the Village Voice. Brought to life through powerful narration by actor Andre Braugher, the film celebrates the idea of free expression as the defining characteristic of the individual. With a mix of interviews, archival footage, and music, “Pleasures” employs a complex non-linear structure to engage the audience in a life of independent ideas. At the core of the film are three extraordinarily intimate interviews with Hentoff, shot by award-winning cinematographer Tom Hurwitz. The film also includes interviews with Floyd Abrams, Amiri Baraka, Stanley Crouch, Dan Morgenstern, Karen Durbin, Margot Hentoff, and John Gennari, and features original music by Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Bob Dylan, and Charles Mingus. With director Lewis (Nov. 24) and Hentoff’s daughter (and Circus Harmony founder) Jessica Hentoff (Nov. 17 and 24).

Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan
GILLES PENSO, FRANCE, 2011, 93 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 8:45 P.M., WEBSTER U./MOORE

SLIFF pays homage to the great stop-motion animator and special-effects master Ray Harryhausen, who died in May, with a double bill of a celebratory documentary and an essential film featuring his work. Famed for the monsters and mythical creatures he created for such films as “Jason and the Argonauts” and “Clash of the Titans,” Harryhausen inspired a who’s who of contemporary filmmakers. In this definitive documentary, which features abundant interviews with Harryhausen, a glittering array of directors and special-effects wizards pay tribute. Among those featured are James Cameron, Steven Spielberg, Peter Jackson, Nick Park, Phil Tippett, Terry Gilliam, Dennis Muren, John Landis, Joe Dante, Guillermo Del Toro, and John Lasseter. The film gives viewers privileged access to original models, artwork, and miniatures and includes previously unseen footage of tests and experiments. With an introduction and Q&A by Tom Stockman, creative editor of We Are Movie Geeks.

Shown on a double bill with The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (see Narrative Features).

Reconversion
(Reconversao)
THOM ANDERSEN, U.S./PORTUGAL, 2012, 65 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 6 P.M., CAMSL, FREE

In “Reconversion,” Thom Andersen, the celebrated director of “Los Angeles Plays Itself,” continues his investigation of architectural landscapes, their filmic representation, and their relation to history by focusing on 17 buildings and projects by the often-controversial Portuguese architect Eduardo Souto de Moura, winner of the 2011 Pritzker Prize. Using the concepts and techniques of such filmmaking pioneers as Dziga Vertov and Eadweard Muybridge, Andersen masterfully illustrates the elements that make Souto de Moura an original: the incorporation of the passing of time into his architectural designs and the positioning of his works both within a history of class struggle and societal changes and in a continuum with ruins and with nature. Sponsored by Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis.
Red, White & Blueprints: A Rust Belt Documentary
JACK STOREY, U.S., 2013, 77 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 3:30 P.M., TIVOLI

“Red, White & Blueprints” highlights several of the most innovative initiatives, individuals, and emerging ideas in the Rust Belt and makes the case for why it still matters as a region. Moving from St. Louis to Detroit, Cleveland, Buffalo, and beyond, the film is designed to inform and inspire a new generation of leaders to take the vital actions necessary to revitalize a great region. Among the subjects featured are Jeff and Randy Vines, the creators of the local apparel company STL-Style; Courtney Sloger, marketing and communications director of FOCUS St. Louis; and Patrick Brown, special assistant to Mayor Francis Slay. **With director Storey and local subjects.**  
**Sponsored by STL-Style**

The Road to Fame
HAO WU, CHINA, 2013, 80 MIN., MANDARIN
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 1:30 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

“The Road to Fame” chronicles China’s first official collaboration with Broadway: the staging of the American musical “Fame” by the graduating class at the country’s top drama academy. During the eight-month process, five students of diverse personalities and family backgrounds compete for roles, struggle with pressure from family and authorities, and prepare to graduate into China’s reality of income inequality and rampant corruption. Often confused by the conflicting cultural values shaping China today, they must confront their anxieties about an uncertain future and, in the process of staging “Fame,” negotiate their own definitions of and paths to success.  
**Sponsored by Nancy & Ken Kranzberg**

Running from Crazy
BARBARA KOPPLE, U.S., 2013, 101 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 1 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Directed by two-time Academy Award® winner Barbara Kopple, “Running from Crazy” examines the fraught personal journey of model and actress Mariel Hemingway, the granddaughter of writer Ernest Hemingway. Mariel strives for a deeper understanding of the suicide and mental illness that have afflicted so many of her family members, including her sisters, supermodel Margaux and artist Joan (aka Muffet). Intimate vérité footage and raw, emotional interviews with Mariel are interwoven with stunning, rarely seen archival footage of the three Hemingway sisters and their parents. As Mariel comes to terms with the tragedies that have shaped the course of her life, she finds a way to avoid a similar fate by embracing a conscientious and active lifestyle. The Hollywood Reporter says that “actress Mariel Hemingway provides what feels like an unflinchingly honest account of her famous clan’s propensity for calamitous tragedy.”

Seeds of Hope
FIONA LLOYD-DAVIES, U.K./DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 2013, 75 MIN., ENGLISH, FRENCH & NIGER-CONGO LANGUAGES
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 6:30 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

In a region known as the most dangerous place in the world for women, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, one woman shines a beacon of hope to dispel the despair of survivors of rape. Masika Katsuva, herself the victim of multiple rapes, has rescued some 6,000 women and children, and the center she has built provides medical, practical, and psychological help. She also works with them to cultivate crops of maize and beans. This is not just a field to grow food for them to eat; it’s also where they come together to share their experiences, to heal and rebuild their lives, and to plant their seeds of hope. Masika and the women with whom she works are not victims: They are survivors who are reshaping their lives and building a new future. The film also speaks with the perpetrators, among them soldiers from the Congolese army, who give extraordinarily open testimony as to why they rape and their attitudes toward their horrific acts. **With director Lloyd-Davies and Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting executive director Jon Sawyer.**  
**Co-presented with Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting**
Something in the Water
KATHY BRATKOWSKI, U.S., 2013, 80 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 6:30 P.M., WILDEY

“Something in the Water” looks back at the unique set of circumstances that electrified the classic-rock music scene in St. Louis in the late ’60s and early ’70s. The documentary chronicles the advent of free-form radio at stations such as KSHE, the storied concerts at the Mississippi River Festival (MRF) and Superjam, and the area musicians who used St. Louis stages to reach a national audience. Featuring rare interviews, archived MRF concert footage, and photos from the musicians themselves, “Something in the Water” is a funny, honest, and unique account of “ground zero for rock and roll,” as told by those who played a major role in the emergence of classic rock in St. Louis. Interviewees include Rich Dalton, Mark Klose, David Grafman, Mark Boatman and Roger Boyd of Head East, Pat and Danny Liston of Mama’s Pride, Steve Scorfini of Pavlov’s Dog, Supe Granda of the Ozark Mountain Daredevils, Lyle Ward, Ron Elz, Bob Heil, Steve Schankman, and Joe Edwards. With director Bratkowski and producer Rob Garcia.

Tales from the Organ Trade
RIC ESTHER BIENSTOCK, CANADA/ISRAEL/KOSOVO/MOLDOVA/PHILIPPINES/TURKEY/U.S., 82 MIN., ENGLISH, RUSSIAN, HEBREW, TAGALOG & TURKISH
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 6 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

“Tales from the Organ Trade” – narrated by director David Cronenberg – takes viewers on a gritty and unflinching descent into the shadowy world of black-market organ trafficking: the street-level brokers, the rogue surgeons, the poor men and women who are willing to sacrifice a slice of their own bodies for a quick payday, and the desperate patients who face the agonizing choice of obeying the law or saving their lives. Thousands of organs are bought and sold every year on a black market that flourishes in dozens of countries where the rule of law is a hostage to the dollar sign. “Tales from the Organ Trade” – which moves from Manila to Istanbul, from Colorado to Kosovo, from Toronto to Tel Aviv – tells the story of the sellers of illegal organs and their often-conflicted First World buyers, exploring the legal, moral, and ethical issues involved in this complex life-and-death drama. With director Bienstock.

Teenage
MATT WOLF, U.S., 2013, 80 MIN., ENGLISH & GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 6:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

Before the “teenager” was invented, there was no second stage of life: You were either a child or you went to work as an adult. But by the turn of the 20th century, child labor was ending, “adolescence” was emerging, and a struggle erupted between adults and youth. Would the young be controlled and regimented, or could they be free? Inspired by author Jon Savage’s book, “Teenage” gives voice to young people from the first half of the 20th century in America, England, and Germany – from party-crazed Flappers and hip Swing Kids to zealous Nazi Youth and frenzied Sub-Debs. By the end of World War II, they were all “teenagers”: a new idea of youth. Four young voices (Jena Malone, Ben Whishaw, Julia Hummer, and Jessie Usher) bring to life rare archival material and filmed portraits of emblematic teenagers from history: Brenda Dean Paul, a self-destructive Bright Young Thing; Melita Maschmann, an idealistic Hitler Youth; Tommie Scheel, a rebellious German Swing Kid; and Warren Wall, a black Boy Scout.

The Tents
JAMES BELZER, U.S., 2012, 89 MIN.
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 1:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

In the fashion world, the words “The Tents” are synonymous with the giant white tents erected every spring and fall during New York Fashion Week. It is here where hundreds of designers showcase their latest collections to fashion editors, buyers, and celebrities and where legendary designers have made their first big break. “The Tents” documents the birth of New York Fashion Week, its expansion, and finally its move out of Bryant Park, the event’s home since 1993, to Lincoln Center. Told with exclusive footage and intimate interviews with such top fashion players as Betsey Johnson, Carolina Herrera, Donna Karan, Glenda Bailey, Hal Rubenstein, Tommy Hilfiger, and Zac Posen, the film also features tart, humorous commentary by Carson Kressley, Patrick McMullan, Michael Musto, and Robert Verdi. A tantalizing must-see, “The Tents” offers a unique chance to peek behind the scenes at the fashion industry’s biggest event. With a post-film discussion by Debra Bass, St. Louis Post-Dispatch fashion editor, and Elizabeth Tucker, ALIVE Magazine publisher and St. Louis Fashion Week founder.
**Tim’s Vermeer**  
**TELLER, U.S., 2013, 80 MIN.**  
**THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 7:15 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC**

The illusionists and debunkers Penn and Teller examine another sort of trick with Tim Jenison, a Texas-based inventor, who attempts to solve one of the greatest mysteries in all art: How did 17th-century Dutch Master Johannes Vermeer (“Girl with a Pearl Earring”) manage to paint so photo-realistically 150 years before the invention of photography? The epic research project that Jenison embarks on to test his theory is as extraordinary as what he discovers. Spanning a decade, Jenison’s adventure takes him to Delft, Holland, where Vermeer painted his masterpieces; on a pilgrimage to the north coast of Yorkshire to meet artist David Hockney; and eventually to Buckingham Palace, to see the queen’s Vermeer. Variety declares: “So entertaining that audiences hardly even realize how incendiary it is, ‘Tim’s Vermeer’ stirs up a flurry of scandal in the hallowed realm of art history.”

**The Trials of Muhammad Ali**  
**BILL SIEGEL, U.S., 2013, 86 MIN.**  
**MONDAY, NOV. 18, 7 P.M., TIVOLI**

“'The Trials of Muhammad Ali” explores Ali’s lifelong journey of spiritual transformation. From his Louisville roots through his years in exile to his receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, “Trials” traces Ali’s path from poet to pariah to global ambassador for peace. At each stage, the challenges Ali faces go far beyond the boxing ring and ultimately encompass issues of power, race, faith, and identity. "The Trials of Muhammad Ali” is not a boxing film but instead focuses on Ali’s toughest bouts: his decision to join a controversial religious group, his battle to overturn a five-year prison sentence for refusing U.S. military service, and his struggle with Parkinson’s disease. While other Ali films focus on his heroic exploits in the ring, they tragically under-examine some of the most noteworthy, provocative, and resonant aspects of Ali’s life, such as his relationship with the Nation of Islam and his Muslim faith. The LA Times calls the film “a complex and involving documentary” and “an intriguing portrait of a man who never wavered no matter what the world threw at him.” Shown with **What Kind of Man** (Kamau Bilal, U.S., 2013, 12 min.): A lifelong football player gets the life knocked into him.

**The Undocumented**  
**MARCO WILLIAMS, U.S./MEXICO, 88 MIN., ENGLISH & SPANISH**  
**SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 8 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE**

“'The Undocumented” tells the story of Marcos Hernandez, who now lives and works in Chicago after a life-threatening border crossing through the Sonora Desert in southern Arizona. Each month, he sends money to his mother in Mexico City to buy medicine for his brother, who needs a kidney transplant. But Marcos also has another reason for coming to Chicago: He is searching for his father, who disappeared in the Sonora Desert while entering the U.S. Chronicling Arizona’s deadliest summer months, the film weaves Marcos’ search with the efforts of the humanitarians and Border Patrol agents who are fighting to prevent migrant deaths, the medical investigators and Mexican Consulate workers who are trying to identify dead border crossers, and the Mexican families who are struggling to accept the loss of a loved one. Using a cinéma vérité approach, the film explores the ongoing personal impact of immigration laws and economic policies on the people most directly affected by them. With **director Williams**.

**Unhung Hero**  
**BRIAN SPITZ, U.S., 2013, 87 MIN.**  
**MONDAY, NOV. 18, 8:45 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC**

When Patrick Moote’s girlfriend rejects his marriage proposal at a UCLA basketball game on the Jumbotron, it unfortunately goes viral and hits TV networks worldwide. Days after the heartbreaking debacle, she privately reveals why she can’t be with him forever: Patrick’s small penis size. “Unhung Hero” follows the real-life journey of Patrick as he boldly sets out to expose this extremely personal chapter of his life by confronting ex-girlfriends, doctors, anthropologists, and even adult film stars. From witch doctors in Papua, New Guinea, to sex museums in Korea, Patrick has a lot of turf to cover on his globe-trotting adventure to finally answer an age-old question: Does size matter? Shown with **The Brooklyn Guys in All the Dames** (Frankie Chubb & Charlie Winfrey, U.S., 2013, 5 min.): Frankie Casino offers advice on the ladies to the luckless Chuckie Bambinos.
Uranium Drive-In
SUZAN BERAZA, U.S., 2013, 70 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 6:30 P.M., TIVOLI

An economically devastated rural mining community in southwestern Colorado finds itself hopeful for the first time in decades. What’s the potential salvation? A return to the “glory” days of the past: uranium mining and milling. In documenting the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle – uranium extraction and processing – “Uranium Drive-In” contrasts the desire for jobs and financial security with the environmental and human-rights issues surrounding the uranium industry. The film explores the U.S.’s relentless appetite for energy and showcases the struggle of rural residents as they cope with boom/bust economies and the changing landscape of small-town America. With director Beraza.

Shown with X-Ray Man (Kerri Yost, U.S., 2013, 9 min.): A look at a survivor of the U.S. government’s effort to create “super troops” by exposing humans and animals to high levels of radiation. With director Yost.

Sponsored by Lana & Ted Pepper

Versailles ’73: American Runway Revolution
DEBORAH RILEY DRAPER, U.S., 2012, 91 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 4 P.M., PLAZA FRONTENAC

On a chilly night in November 1973, the French haute couture establishment was pitted against innovative American ready-to-wear designers in a runway rumble for industry dominance. On the stage where Louis XVI married Marie Antoinette and in front of a who’s who audience of royalty, jet-set millionaires, and fashion icons (including Princess Grace of Monaco, Andy Warhol, and Josephine Baker), the American designers claimed victory. The extraordinary evening left an unforgettable imprint on the industry and changed the course of fashion history. The fierce competition between the lions of haute couture – Yves Saint Laurent, Christian Dior, Hubert de Givenchy, Pierre Cardin, and Emanuel Ungaro – and a group of American designers eager to become household names – Anne Klein, Stephen Burrows, Bill Blass, Oscar de la Renta, and Halston – turned it into a bold statement on ready-to-wear’s rising importance, with the U.S. contingent’s primarily African-American models providing the exclamation point. With director Draper and producer Michael A. Draper.

We Always Lie to Strangers
THURSDAY, NOV. 14, 7:30 P.M. (DOORS OPEN AT 6 P.M.), TIVOLI, $15 (FOR RECEPTION, FILM, AND CONCERT)
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 7 P.M., WILDEY

“We Always Lie to Strangers” is a story of family, community, music, and tradition set against the backdrop of Branson, Mo., one of the biggest tourist destinations in America. A remote Ozark Mountain town of just 10,500, Branson hosts more than 7.5 million tourists a year and generates nearly $3 billion in annual tourism revenue. At the heart of Branson’s appeal are the more than 100 staged music shows that have earned the town the moniker of “the live music capital of the world.” These shows are well known for their “family” style of entertainment. Crowds from around the country, and particularly from the American Midwest, flock to Branson for this return to old-fashioned values. With co-directors Schnack and Wilson, cinematographer/producer Nathan Truesdell, and subjects Bill and Gail Lennon on Nov. 14, and Schnack on Nov. 17; Schnack receives SLIFF’s Charles Guggenheim Cinema St. Louis Award, and Gail Lennon, with guests Bill Lennon and Pope Firman, performs both before and after the film on Nov. 14.

Sponsored by Missouri Division of Tourism

We Cause Scenes: The Rise of Improv Everywhere
MATT ADAMS, U.S., 2013, 86 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 3:30 P.M., TIVOLI

Since its humble beginnings in New York City in 2001, Improv Everywhere has grown from a small gang of restless jokers into an internationally recognized prank collective and a viral video-making machine. From the No Pants Subway Ride to Frozen Grand Central to the MP3 Experiment and beyond, their publicly staged scenes of chaos and joy are beloved by the hundreds who witness them, the thousands who participate in them, and the millions who watch and share the videos online. “We Cause Scenes” is the inside story of this groundbreaking group and its founder, Charlie Todd, who has turned the world into a stage, inventing an art form for the Internet age. The Hollywood Reporter calls the film “a welcome piece of cultural history that incidentally chronicles a pivotal moment in the rise of YouTube.” With director Adams.
SHORTS BEFORE FEATURES

Bob the Baker (with Harlem Street Singer), The Brooklyn Guys in All the Dames (with Unhung Hero), The Come Up (with The Great Hip Hop Hoax), Dinner in White (with Lord Montagu), Do Not Hit the Drag Queen (with Fuck for Forest), End of Line (with Out of Print), A Hole in the Sky (with Honor Diaries), Grandpa and Me and a Helicopter to Heaven (with Shyamal Uncle Turns off the Lights), Issues Magazine (with Forty-Seven Views of Leslie Laskey), Juggle & Cut (with Impact), Karisma (with Gold Star Children), Keep Moving (with I Learn America), King of the Feeder Thieves (with Common People), Life, Liberty & Resilience (with Jim Crow to Barack Obama), A Man Without Words (with Lake Windfall), Marking the Distance (with The Genius of Marion), Me & You (with Approved for Adoption), My Darling Dog Has Cancer (with Furever), Portrait (with Coming to Terms), Reporting on the Times (with A Fragile Trust), The Sea [is still] Around Us (with Chasing Ice), What Kind of Man (with The Trials of Muhammad Ali), X-Ray Man (with Uranium Drive In)

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS: ARTISTS’ LIVES

98 MIN.
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 5 P.M., TIVOLI, FREE

Profiles of artists and their working environments.

BRENDAN O’CONNELL IS BLOCKING THE BREAD AISLE (Julien Lasseur, U.S., 2013, 5 min.): O’Connell was regularly kicked out of Walmarts until the paintings he made there started gaining notoriety; CIRCUS TECHNIQUES: A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS (Tanya Lukyanova, U.S. 2013, 20 min.): A profile of teacher, performer, juggler, and Circus Flora regular Hovey Burgess; A LIFE WITH ASPERGER’S (Jaime Ekkens, U.S., 2013, 4 min.): A peek into the life of an animator who has Asperger’s; MADE YOU LOOK (Sigal Yona, Israel, 2012, 14 min., Hebrew): Two street artists turn utilitarian structures and objects into art; STAN HERD: DOWN TO EARTH (Bradley Beenders, U.S., 2012, 27 min.): Herd uses fields as canvases to create larger-than-life images best viewed from above; TUMBLING FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP OF TRUTH: THE ART OF ANSEL SPRING (Virginia Lee Hunter, U.S., 2013, 28 min.): An intimate look of a celebrated photographer who now creates found-object sculptures.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS: FAMILIES DIVIDED

90 MIN.
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 5 P.M., TIVOLI, FREE

A trio of films about families kept apart by varied circumstances, whether fallout from domestic abuse, a closed border, or interpersonal conflict.

THE CHILDREN NEXT DOOR (Doug Block, U.S., 2013, 37 min.): A family attempts to rebuild their lives and overcome years of domestic violence, including one especially horrific incident; LETTERS FROM PYONGYANG (Jason Lee, Canada/South Korea/North Korea, 2013, 27 min., English & Korean): Director Jason Lee travels with his father in search of family members torn apart decades ago by a divided Korea; SCATTERED (Lindsay Lindenbaum, U.S. 2012, 26 min.): The filmmaker uses home-movie footage of her late father to contrast the family’s disturbing reality and the perfect life he tried to create on camera.
DOCUMENTARY SHORTS: FASHION

55 MIN.
MONDAY, NOV. 18, NOON, PLAZA FRONTENAC, FREE

A program of documentaries with unusual angles on the fashion industry.

FATE OF A SALESMAN (Tessa Moran & Ben Crosbie, U.S., 2012, 27 min.): After 60 years in business, Men’s Fashion Center and the dedicated salesman who call it home face the challenge of staying afloat in a tough economy and a gentrifying neighborhood;

THE MILLINERS (Virginia Lee Hunter, U.S., 2013, 14 min.): A portrait of sisters who create handmade fancy hats at their shop on Delmar Boulevard in St. Louis;

UNRAVEL (Meghna Gupta, U.K./India, 2012, 14 min., Hindi): Discarded clothes from Western countries end up in Northern India, where they are transformed back into thread by women like Reshma, who dreams of traveling the same vast distances as the clothes she handles.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS: HUMAN RIGHTS

96 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 4 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE

This quartet of documentary shorts explores an array of human-rights issues around the globe.

CHILDREN OF THE PEACOCK (Travis Andrade, U.S./Myanmar, 2013, 32 min., Burmese): Freedom fighters who survived the government’s brutal crackdowns inspire a new generation to bring democracy to Myanmar;

DISPLACED BUT NOT DEFEATED (Maria Ceballos Paz, U.S./Colombia, 2013, 29 min., Spanish): After being displaced from her home in the countryside, the 16-year-old filmmaker and her family struggle to rebuild their lives;

GUAIJROS (Kati Greaney, U.S./Cuba, 2013, 20 min., Spanish): Two Haitian agronomists travel around Cuba to learn about sustainable agriculture with the intent of applying the techniques in their own island country;

NOT ANYMORE: A STORY OF REVOLUTION (Matthew VanDyke, U.S./Syria, 15 min.): The story of the Syrian revolution as told through the experiences of two young Syrians, a male rebel fighter and a female journalist.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS: OBSESSIONS

81 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 5 P.M., TIVOLI, FREE

Profiles of four people who are absolutely committed to getting the one thing in life that will make them happy.

THE RECORD BREAKER (Brian McGinn, U.S./Denmark, 2013, 25 min.): Ashrista Furman’s only goal in life is to continue setting and exceeding goals, and he holds the most Guinness World Records by an individual;

SEE THE DIRT (Chelsea Hernandez & Erik Mauck, U.S., 2013, 15 min.): Though his peers may call him weird, a teen finds joy in collecting and displaying hundreds of vacuum cleaners;

WARRIOR (Patrick Meury, Switzerland/Peru, 2013, 13 min., German): A man travels to Peru in pursuit of a cure for his drug addiction through traditional shamanistic methods;

WHAT I HATE ABOUT MYSELF (Ben Mullinkosson & Bobby Moser, U.S./China, 2013, 28 min., Mandarin): Desiring a more Western look, an 18-year-old Chinese girl competes for free cosmetic surgery on TV.

OLIVIA BLOCK, SANDRA GIBSON & LUIS RECODER

FRIDAY, NOV. 15, 8 P.M. (DOORS OPEN AT 7 P.M.), CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM, $20 (REGULAR ADMISSION), $10 (STUDENTS/STRUGGLING ARTISTS/CAM MEMBERS)

Brooklyn-based expanded-cinema artists Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder create slowly shifting abstract light sculptures made with film projectors and simple mechanical means. The images they conjure will be accompanied with a live soundtrack provided by noted composer, electronic musician, and sound artist Olivia Block of Chicago. Gibson and Recoder have collaborated on projector performances and installations since 2000, and their first project with composer Block was released as a limited edition DVD in 2008. Their work has shown at such venues as the Tate Modern in London, REDCAT in Los Angeles, and the Sundance Film Festival. New Music Circle also holds a free workshop and talk with the trio at 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Contemporary, where the artists will demonstrate their approaches to film and sound.

Co-presented with Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis & New Music Circle
SHORTS PROGRAMS  22ND ANNUAL WHITAKER ST. LOUIS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

76 SHORTS PROGRAMS

SHORTS 1: ANIMATION 1
122 MIN.
FRIDAY, NOV.15, 9:15 P.M., TIVOLI
An ample sampling of animated shorts from around the world.


SHORTS 2: STOP-MOTION ANIMATION
117 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV.16, 8:30 P.M., TIVOLI
A program focused on stop-motion animation.

SHORTS 3: WOMEN DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT
120 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 17, 8:30 P.M., TIVOLI
Work from six exceptional women directors.
Sponsored by Mickey & Bill Knutson

SHORTS 4: INTERNATIONAL COMEDY
93 MIN.
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 5 P.M., TIVOLI
Films from across the globe that feature laughter as the unifying language.
GREAT (Andreas Henn, Germany, 2013, 23 min., German & Serbian); THE LAST BORDER (Daniel Butterworth, Germany, 2012, 21 min., German); NIGHT GIANT (Aaron Beckum, Canada, 2013, 8 min.); PUZZLED (Oliver Kember, U.K., 2013, 8 min.); THE RADAR (Nicky Marbot, France, 2012, 18 min., French); SATURDAY GIRLS (Emilie Cherpitel, France, 2012, 15 min., French).
Sponsored by Carol & Ward Klein

SHORTS 5: ANIMATION 2
119 MIN.
MONDAY, NOV. 18, 9 P.M., TIVOLI
This sampler features animation with a more abstract approach.
THE ANIMATION OF MAN (Amanda Nedermeijer, Netherlands, 2013, 3 min.);
BEATRICE CORON’S DAILY BATTLES (James Stewart, Canada, 2013, 7 min.);
BREATHING IN (Jason Harrington, U.S., 2012, 5 min.); CYCLOID (Tomoki Kurogi, Japan, 2013, 3 min.);
KELLERKIND (Julia Ocker, Germany, 2012, 9 min.);
THE MAGNIFICENT LION BOY (Ana Caro, U.K., 2013, 11 min.);
MALARIA (Edson Oda, U.S., 2013, 6 min.);
THE NIGHT OF THE BEAR (Sam & Fred Guillaume, Switzerland, 2012, 22 min., French);
THE OTHER HAND (Didi Wang, Canada, 2013, 2 min.);
OUVERTURE (Bracey Smith, U.S., 2013, 5 min.);
PASSER PASSER (Louis Morton, U.S., 2013, 4 min.);
THE ROSE OF TURAI D A (Ryan Grobins, Australia, 2013, 6 min.);
SWAN CAKE (Amos Sussigan, U.S., 2013, 6 min.);
UNICORN BLOOD (Alberto Vazquez, Spain, 2013, 9 min., Spanish);
VIRTUOSO VIRTUAL (Thomas Stellmach & Maja Oschmann, Germany, 2013, 7 min.);
X (Max Hattler, U.K., 2012, 6 min.);
YELLOW STICKY NOTES | CANADIAN ANIJAM (Jeff Chiba Stearns, Canada, 2013, 8 min.).

SHORTS 6: RELATIONSHIPS
111 MIN.
TUESDAY, NOV. 19, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI
A look at romance from a decidedly female perspective.
THE 3 DAY RULE (Anne Carmack, U.S., 2013, 10 min.);
BEIGE (Triana Lorite, Spain, 2012, 6 min., Spanish);
BEST OF BOTH WORLDS (Michael Dunker, U.S., 2012, 13 min.);
CARLO AND CLARA (EVERYTHING STARTS ELSEWHERE) (Giulio Mastromauro, Italy, 2013, 10 min., Italian);
MAN IN SUIT (Anna van der Heide, Netherlands, 2012, 10 min., Dutch);
ONLY ONE (Anita Lee, Australia, 2013, 13 min.);
PALIMPSEST (Michael Tyburski, U.S., 2012, 17 min.);
PROMETHEUS (Laia R. San Juan, Josep M. Gifreu & Ignacio F. Rodó, Spain, 2012, 6 min.);
SCENT OF A WOMAN (Lauren Savoy, U.S., 2013, 11 min.);
TEXAS (Matt Johnson, U.S., 2013, 15 min.).
SHORTS 7: COMEDY
113 MIN.
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 9:15 P.M., TIVOLI
If you're ready to laugh, you're in the right place.

AT THE BAR (Jason Headley, U.S., 2013, 10 min.);
CHOCOLATE COINS (Jay Kanizer, U.S., 2013, 5 min.);
FOOL’S DAY (Cody Blue Snider, U.S., 2013, 19 min.);
FOUR BROTHERS. OR THREE. WAIT... THREE. (Philip Buiser, U.S., 2013, 4 min.);
GRANDMA’S NOT A TOASTER (Andrew Napier, U.S., 2013, 10 min.);
HOLD UP (Fabio Friedli, Switzerland, 2013, 7 min.);
I FEAR THE SHEARS (Greg McDonald, U.S., 2012, 3 min.);
KATE WESTERSON ATTEMPTS TO FEEL BETTER (Adam Reider, Canada, 2013, 5 min.);
LOST & FOUND (Sam Washington, U.K., 2011, 5 min.);
MEET ANNA (Robert L. Goodman, U.S., 2013, 2 min.);
MENSTRATIA (Heidi Schlitt & Tamara Frank, U.S., 2013, 2 min.);
OUR NAME IS MICHAEL MORGAN (Maurice Caldera, U.K., 2012, 13 min.);
TAPE OVER ME (David Adlam & Bill McGuire, Australia, 2012, 8 min.);
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, BRADLEY COOPER (Anne-Christine Caro, France, 2012, 12 min., French);
THUMB (Sarah Gurfield, U.S., 2012, 6 min.);
THE TRAIN (Pardis Parker, Canada, 2012, 2 min.).

SHORTS 8: AND BABY MAKES THREE
109 MIN.
THURSDAY, NOV. 21, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI
Though a program of many genres, all of these shorts feature a bun in the oven.

216 MONTHS (Valentin & Frédéric Potier, France, 2012, 25 min., French);
A BELGIAN CAPER (Myriam Donasis, France, 2012, 25 min., French);
DADDY ABC (Hamad Alawar, United Arab Emirates/U.K., 2013, 6 min.);
THE RIVER (Sam Handel, U.S., 2013, 12 min.);
SELL BY DATE (Emma Savage, U.K., 2012, 14 min.);
SHE’S HAVING A BABY! (Chris & Robert Smellin, Australia, 2012, 14 min.);

SHORTS 9: EXPERIMENTAL & ABSURD
103 MIN.
SATURDAY, NOV. 23, 9:15 P.M., TIVOLI
An eclectic mix of experimental and absurd shorts that will leave you dazed and amused.

ABYSSUS ABYSSUM INVOCAT (Wes Simpkins, U.S., 2012, 9 min.);
BIRD OF FLAMES (Chel White, U.S., 2012, 5 min.);
THE BOY WITH A CAMERA FOR A FACE (Spencer Brown, U.K., 2013, 14 min.);
HOW TO ABANDON SHIP (Robin McKay, U.S., 2013, 11 min.);
HUNGER (Guclu Aydogdu, Turkey, 2013, 2 min.);
LIFE (Lasse Lorenzen, Denmark, 2012, 2 min.);
MANNARES (Sean Gaji, Australia, 2013, 20 min.);
MEN OF THE EARTH (Andrew Kavanagh, Australia, 2012, 10 min.);
PENETRATING TRAUMA (Igor Stevanovic, Netherlands, 2013, 4 min.);
TEMPO ADAGIO (Alcione Guerrero, Venezuela, 2013, 11 min.);
VOICE OVER (Martin Rosete, Spain, 2012, 10 min., French).

SHORTS 10: STARS IN SHORTS
111 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 1 P.M., TIVOLI
The stars shine bright in short films with big names, including Brian Cox, Ron Livingston, and Michael Richards.

BEAT (Aneil Karia, U.K., 2013, 12 min.), with Ben Wishaw;
FREE.LUNCH (Ricky Horne Jr., U.S., 2013, 14 min.), with Alison Haislip;
I MISSED MY MOTHER’S FUNERAL (Ben Quinn, U.K., 2012, 10 min.), with Brian Cox;
THE MUSE (Sophie Barthes, France, 2012, 5 min.), with Michael Stuhlbarg;
THE SIDEKICK (Michael J. Weithorn, U.S., 2013, 27 min.), with Rob Benedict, Ron Livingston, and Lizzy Caplan;
THREE HOURS BETWEEN PLANES (Antony Easton, U.K., 2013, 17 min.), with James LeGros and Lisa Edelstein;
WALK THE LIGHT (Anthony Sabet, U.S., 2012, 14 min.), with Michael Richards;
WINI + GEORGE (Benjamin Monie, U.S., 2013, 12 min.), with Katherine Ross.
SHORTS 11: CRIME DRAMAS & THRILLERS
109 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 8:30 P.M., TIVOLI
A mix of suspense thrillers and tense crime dramas.

45 DEGREES (George Grigorakis, Greece, 2012, 14 min., Greek); LONELY HEARTS (Leon Chambers, U.K., 2013, 11 min.); MATRIARCHE (Guillaume Pienter, France, 2012, 9 min., French); THE RWANDA BLEND (Sam Zvibleman, U.S., 2013, 16 min.);

SHORTS 12: INTERNATIONAL DRAMA
114 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 9 P.M., TIVOLI
Eight looks at life from around the world.

DEserted (Yoav Hornung, Israel, 2013, 24 min., Hebrew); EKKI MUKK (Nicholas Abrahams, U.K., 2012, 10 min.), with Aidan Gillen of “Game of Thrones” and “The Wire”;
JUNKYARD (Hisko Hulsing, Belgium/Netherlands, 2012, 18 min.);
LITTLE BLOCK OF CEMENT WITH DISHEVELED HAIR CONTAINING THE SEA (Jorge López Navarrete, Spain, 2013, 16 min.);
MATAT (Rotem Zisman Cohen, Israel, 2013, 14 min., Hebrew);
A MODERN MAN (Ben Rycroft, South Africa, 2012, 15 min., Xhosa);
PICEs (Xacio Baño, Spain, 2012, 7 min., Gallego);
SUZANNE (Meance Wilfried, France, 2013, 10 min., French).

SLIFF/KIDS FAMILY SHORTS
93 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 2 P.M., WASHINGTON U./BROWN, FREE
A family-friendly program of animated and live-action shorts.

AHCO ON THE ROAD (Soyeon Kim, U.S., 2013, 8 min.); ANIMAL COOKIES (Matthew Temple, U.S., 2013, 2 min.);
BLUE (Katelyn Bianchini, Asia Lancaster & Rena Cheng, U.S., 2013, 8 min.);
LOST AND FOUND (Philip Hunt, U.K., 2008, 24 min.);
ROOM ON THE BROOM (Max Lang & Jan Lachauer, U.K., 2012, 26 min.);
SHOELACe (Luis Soto, Mexico, 2013, 10 min.);
Spongebob SquarePants: The Great Jelly Rescue (Brent Young, U.S., 2013, 7 min.);
TRAFFIC CONE (Victor Ridaura, U.S., 2012, 8 min.).

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ST. LOUIS FILMMAKERS SHOWCASE SAMPLER
107 MIN.
SUNDAY, NOV. 24, 9:30 P.M., TIVOLI
A sampler of the best films from Cinema St. Louis’ annual St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase.

ALIENATED (Will Morris, U.S., 2013, 9 min.);
BETWEEN CLENCHED TEETH (Peter Engelsmann, U.S., 2013, 5 min.);
BOB THE BAKER (Once Films, U.S., 2013, 4 min.);
FISHBONE (Hannah Radcliff, U.S., 2013, 13 min.);
GOOD NIGHT TRINA (Lynelle White, U.S., 2013, 18 min.);
LITTLE MAN OF STEEL (Larry Ziegelman, U.S., 2013, 10 min.);
NEWSCASTER/DRAgon/MAGGOTS (Chris Sagovac, U.S., 2012, 3 min.);
THE PAINTER (Nate Townsend, U.S., 2013, 10 min.);
SUNDAY SUNDAES (Shayna Cohen, U.S., 2013, 10 min.);
THE YARD (Gary Lobstein, U.S., 2013, 12 min.).
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— Cliff Froehlich, Executive Director, Cinema St. Louis

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