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CINEMA ST. LOUIS presents SLIFF/Kids, the First Annual St. Louis International Children’s Film Festival, held from July 26-Aug. 4, 2013. SLIFF/Kids is underwritten by PNC Arts Alive.

The films screened at SLIFF/Kids include international and American-independent narrative features (both animated and live action) and shorts programs. Although the programs are pitched to children and young teens ages 6-16, older teens and adults will find the films equally appealing. When appropriate, the recommended minimum age for attendees is provided with the program description.

SLIFF/Kids features 16 film programs on the fest’s two weekends (July 26-28 and Aug. 2-4). With the participation of both Lindenwood and Webster universities, Filmmaking Camps on live action and animation are held at the St. Louis Public Library’s Creative Experience on the fest’s weekdays (July 29-Aug. 2). And on Aug. 3, a full-day Teen Workshop on animation drawing is held at the Saint Louis Art Museum.

**Venues**

Lindenwood University’s Young Hall Auditorium: Watson and Houston streets (one block west of South Kingshighway and Watson Street), St. Charles. Parking is available next to Young Hall; no permits are required.

Missouri History Museum’s Lee Auditorium: Forest Park, 5700 Lindell Blvd. (at DeBaliviere Avenue).

Ronnies 20 Cine: 5320 S. Lindbergh Blvd. Attendees should go to the box office when they arrive at the theater to obtain complimentary tickets.

Saint Louis Art Museum: Forest Park, 1 Fine Arts Dr.

St. Louis Public Library’s Central Library Auditorium (screenings) and Creative Experience (camps): 1301 Olive St. downtown.

Washington University’s Brown Hall Auditorium: Forsyth Boulevard and Chaplin Drive (two blocks west of Skinker Boulevard). Parking is available in the lots between Skinker Boulevard and Chapman Drive; no permits are required.

Webster University’s Winifred Moore Auditorium: Webster Hall, 470 E. Lockwood Ave. Parking is available both in front of and behind Webster Hall; no permits are required.

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**Tickets**

The SLIFF/Kids film programs are free to all attendees, both children and adults. No tickets are required for any show, but seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, so early arrival is suggested, particularly for groups of three or more. For the screening of “Disney’s Planes” at Ronnies, attendees should go to the box office when they arrive at the theater to obtain complimentary tickets.

The Filmmaking Camps in live action and animation are free, but participation is limited and advance sign-up is required; call 314-289-4153 to inquire whether any space remains available.

The Teen Workshop in animation drawing costs $75 ($50 for Saint Louis Art Museum members), but all art supplies will be provided. To apply, visit the Saint Louis Art Museum at www.slam.org and click on the “Education” tab; in the Education section, click on the “Adults” box and then click on “Learn more about upcoming Classes, Seminars, and Workshops.”

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**Schedule**

**July 26**

7 p.m. Webster U.: **Send in the Clowns: A Celebration of Slapstick and Silent Comedians**

**July 27**

Noon, Central Library: **Alfie, the Little Werewolf**
1 p.m., Lindenwood U.: **Wolf Children**
2:30 p.m., Central Library: **Tom Sawyer and His Friends**
7 p.m., History Museum: **Tio Papi**, with screenwriter/star Joey Dedio

**July 28**

1 p.m., Wildey: **The Painting**
1:30 p.m., Central Library: **Moon Man**
3:30 p.m., Central Library: **Lotte and the Moonstone Secret**
7 p.m., History Museum: **Believe**

**July 29-Aug. 2**

10 a.m.-1 p.m., Central Library: **Film Camp in Live Action**
1:30-4:30 p.m., Central Library: **Film Camp in Animation**

**Aug. 2**

7 p.m., Washington U.: **Michael Sporn: Personal Best**, with animator Sporn

**Aug. 3**

10 a.m., Ronnies: **Disney’s Planes in 3D**
10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saint Louis Art Museum: **Teen Workshop: Animation Drawing with Michael Sporn**
Noon, Central Library: **Return to Oz**, with Film Camps shorts
1 p.m., Lindenwood U: **The Painting**
2:30 p.m., Central Library: **A Letter to Momo**
7 p.m., Washington U.: **Wolf Children**

**Aug. 4**

1 p.m., Wildey: **Wolf Children**
1:30 p.m., Central Library: **Michael Sporn: By the Book**, with animator Sporn
3:30 p.m., Central Library: **Kauwboy**
7 p.m., Washington U.: **Standing Up**, with production executive Jere Hausfater
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JOEY DEDIO

Joey Dedio is a veteran of film, stage and television. As a youngster, Dedio appeared in After School Specials and on the NBC soap opera “Another World”; portrayed the title role in the NBC Series “The Karate Kid”; and served as the voice of Wheeler on the animated series “Captain Planet and the Planeteers.” As an adult, Dedio has worked as a regular in the serial “Sunset Beach”; guest-starred on such dramas as “Law and Order” and “Chicago Hope”; originated the role of Angel in the critically acclaimed off-Broadway play “Skin”; and appeared in more than 15 films, including the Sundance competition drama “Strays.” Taking on additional roles, the multitalented Dedio wrote, produced, and starred in “Downtown: A Street Tale” and produced the award-winning documentary “The Providence Effect.” Dedio plays the title role in “Tio Papi,” which he co-wrote and produced. He’ll introduce the film and participate in a Q&A on July 27.

MICHAEL SPORN

Michael Sporn has been a vital creative force in animation for 40 years. Declaring Sporn “a poet of animation,” cartoon historian John Canemaker writes: “His artistry and craftsmanship are first-rate, and he invests each of his handmade projects with keen intelligence, integrity, and heart.” Before opening his independent studio in 1980, the Oscar®-nominated and Emmy-winning producer/director worked closely with legendary animation artists Faith and John Hubley, Richard Williams, and R.O. Blechman on commercials, shorts, and feature-length films. Sporn has produced a remarkably diverse range of animation, including feature-film titles, television specials, and even visuals for the Broadway stage. A sensitive interpreter of children’s stories for the screen, Sporn has carefully adapted to animation the unique styles of such storybook illustrators as William Steig, Russell Hoban, Bernard Waber, and Mordicai Gerstein. Working with music by composers such as Caleb Sampson, William Finn, and Charles Strouse and the distinctive voices of James Earl Jones, Susan Sarandon, and other actors, Sporn has produced adaptations of such classic tales as “The Red Shoes” and “The Hunting of the Snark.” Sporn presents programs of his work on the evening of Aug. 2 and afternoon of Aug. 4 and offers an animation workshop on Aug. 3.
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**Teen Workshop: Animation Drawing with Michael Sporn**

A **Teen Workshop on Animation** drawing will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Saint Louis Art Museum (SLAM).

Teens can sharpen their animation drawing skills in this all-day, hands-on workshop led by Oscar®-nominated and Emmy-winning producer/director Michael Sporn. Participants will learn basic elements of cartoon animation, from pre-production to voiceover work. Sporn will also share a selection of his own films and lead students through various animation drawing exercises. Completed drawings will be combined into a short animated feature. Each student will be mailed a copy of the completed animated film.

Class size is limited to 15; participants must be between 14 and 18 years old. Cost is $75 ($50 for SLAM members), and all art supplies are provided; lunch is not included but can be purchased at the Museum Café. To apply, visit the Saint Louis Art Museum Web site at www.slam.org and click on the “Education” tab; in the Education section, click on the “Adults” box and then click on “Learn more about upcoming Classes, Seminars, and Workshops.”

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**Filmmaking Camps**

**Cinema St. Louis and the St. Louis Public Library** are presenting Filmmaking Camps in live action and animation from Monday-Friday, July 29-Aug. 2, at the Central Library’s new Creative Experience space.

The first camp, co-presented with Lindenwood U., is held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. each day and will give students the opportunity to collaborate on a live-action short. The second camp, co-presented with Webster U., is held from 1:30-4:30 p.m. each day and will focus on the creation of an animated short. The shorts that the students make will screen as part of SLIFF/Kids on its final weekend.

The camps are aimed at middle- and high-school students ages 12-18; students will be assigned to five-member teams and grouped according to age. Each team will produce its own short. Spots for 20 students are available in each camp. There is no cost, but students must provide their own transportation and commit to attending the camp on all five days. To inquire whether space is still available, call Brian Spath at Cinema St. Louis: 314-289-4153.
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Based on the popular series by Dutch children's book writer Paul van Loon, "Alfie, the Little Werewolf" chronicles the adventures of the young hero, who has no idea what is happening when, on the night of his seventh birthday, he changes into a small, white, furry animal. By the light of the full moon, the little wolf runs through the park and the neighbors' gardens, chasing chickens and ducks. The next morning, Alfie wakes up as himself, an ordinary little boy. He now realizes why he has always felt so different from his foster parents and his foster brother: He's a werewolf. But sensitive little Alfie doesn't want to be different. He just wants to be normal, like everybody else. He's afraid his father and mother won't want to have anything to do with him once they find out he is a werewolf. So Alfie wants to keep it a secret at any cost, but that's not as easy as it seems. After all, there's a full moon every month.

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"Kauwboy," the Netherlands' official entry for the Oscars® and winner of the Best First Feature Award at the 2012 Berlin Film Festival, "Kauwboy" is a tender portrait of a boy struggling to come to terms with a family that's not what it once was. With his country-singer mother absent, Jojo lives alone with his security-guard father, a man of few words, who is quick to anger and has seemingly no affection for his 10-year-old son. Left to his own devices, Jojo discovers an abandoned baby crow in the woods near their house and finds solace in caring for this small creature, who is even more alone and vulnerable than he is. Bringing the crow home, Jojo strives to hide the bird from his dad to avoid the inevitable outburst that would attend its discovery. But what really drives the drama is the questionable whereabouts of Jojo's mother, who seems never to return from tour. "Kauwboy" is a beautifully cinematic, bittersweet film that explores issues of loss and sorrow, while painting a joyfully upbeat picture of acceptance and love.

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"Believe" is a funny and touching fictional tale about the legendary Manchester United soccer-team manager Sir Matt Busby (Brian Cox), who helps a wayward boy fulfill his dream. An act of petty crime by 11-year-old Georgie (Jack Smith) becomes a collision of fate as Sir Matt tracks him down, only to discover that the boy is an extraordinarily gifted footballer and captain of a team of unruly talents. Having lived with soccer all his life and survived the tragic 1958 Munich plane disaster, in which eight of his young players were killed, Sir Matt is still committed to continue his work of "training lads for life." So begins a thrilling adventure as Sir Matt comes out of retirement to transform a young group of scallywags into a dream team. Before that can happen, however, several obstacles must be overcome, especially Georgie's skeptical mom (Natascha McElhone).
A Letter to Momo
Hiroyuki Okiura, Japan, 2012, 120 min., in Japanese with English subtitles
Recommended for ages 9 and older
2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, Central Library

“A Letter to Momo” is a wonderfully expressive and beautifully hand-drawn tale that combines bursts of whimsy and kinetic humor with deep felt emotion and drama. The last time Momo saw her father they had a fight – and now all she has left to remember him by is an incomplete letter that he had started to write her, a piece of paper with the words “Dear Momo” but nothing more. Moving with her mother from bustling Tokyo to the remote Japanese island of Shio, Momo soon discovers three goblins living in her attic, a trio of mischievous spirit creatures who have been assigned to watch over her and that only she can see. The goblins are also perpetually famished, and they begin to wreak havoc on the formerly tranquil island, ransacking pantries and ravaging orchards. But these funny monsters also have a serious side, and they may hold the key to helping Momo understand what her father had been trying to tell her.

Lotte and the Moonstone Secret
Janno Poldma & Heiki Ernits, Estonia/Latvia, 2011, 72 min., in English
Recommended for all ages
3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 28, Central Library

Lotte the girl-dog is featured in this utterly charming cartoon featuring the wacky townspeople of Gadgetville, who specialize in creating kooky contraptions and having cheery adventures. While reminiscing about a past adventure, Lotte’s Uncle Klaus tells the story of how he and his friends came to find three magical stones in a hidden temple. Lotte wants to unlock the secret of their power, so she convinces her uncle to go on a trip to find his old buddies and piece together the mystery. However, what Lotte and Uncle Klaus don’t know is that they are being followed by two Moon Rabbits – whose only hope of getting back home is locked up in those very same stones! A gentle and quirky journey filled with a cast of silly characters, “Lotte and the Moonstone Secret” is richly rendered, warm-hearted, good-natured fun for audiences of all ages.

Michael Sporn: By the Book
Approx. 110 min. (86 min. of film), in English
Recommended for all ages
1:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4, Central Library

Animator Michael Sporn chooses a half-dozen of his adaptations of classic children’s books:
Monty (1992, 8 min.), an adaptation of the James Stevenson book.
Morris’s Disappearing Bag (1982, 8 min.), an adaptation of the Rosemary Wells book.
The Red Shoes (1990, 26 min.), an adaptation of the H.C. Andersen tale.
Michael Sporn introduces the program and participates in a post-screening Q&A.

Lotte and the Moonstone Secret
Janno Poldma & Heiki Ernits, Estonia/Latvia, 2011, 72 min., in English
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Recommended for all ages
3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 28, Central Library

Michael Sporn: Personal Best
Approx. 120 min. (91 min. of film), in English
Recommended for all ages
7 p.m., Friday, Aug. 2, Washington U.

 Animator Michael Sporn selects a collection of personal favorites from his large and impressive filmography:
The Hunting of the Snark (1989, 19 min.), an adaptation of the Lewis Carroll poem.
The Marzipan Pig (1990, 26 min.), an adaptation of the Russell Hoban book.
Mona, Mon Amour
(2001, 8 min.), an original animated story.
Michael Sporn introduces the program and participates in a post-screening Q&A.
“Moon Man” is adapted from the beloved bestseller by Tomi Ungerer, one of the world’s most acclaimed writers of children’s books. If only Moon Man knew how much children loved him, but he’s not even remotely aware — sitting on the moon, he’s bored stiff in his lonely silver sphere. One night, Moon Man seizes his chance to escape: Grabbing a speeding comet by the tail, he hitches a ride to Earth. This “attack from outer space” sets the alarm bells ringing in the presidential headquarters. The President, who has only recently conquered the last speck of Earth and defeated all his enemies, is furious: His dominion is being challenged by aliens from another planet! The President and his soldiers set off to capture this mysterious intruder, but the only traces they find are silvery footprints near the edge of a crater. While his pursuers hunt for him, the Moon Man sets off on a long journey – a trip on which he marvels at the many wonders the Earth has to offer and finally realizes just how much children love and need him.

The Painting (Le Tableau)
Jean-Francois Laguionie, France/Japan, 2012, 78 min., in English
Recommended for ages 8 and older
1 p.m. Sunday, July 28, Wildey
1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, Lindenwood U.

In this wryly inventive parable, a kingdom within a painting is divided into three castes: the impeccably colored Alldunns, the incomplete Halfies, and the barely outlined (and outcast) Sketchies. Chastised for her forbidden love of the dashing Ramo, Claire runs away into the cursed forest. Ramo and his friends journey after her, crossing over the boundaries of the forest only to arrive at the very edge of the painting – where they tumble through the canvas and into the Painter’s studio. The abandoned workspace is strewn with paintings, each containing its own vividly animated world and characters. In a feast for both the eyes and the imagination, Ramo and his fellow adventurers explore picture after picture, in a quest to both find Claire and discover just what the Painter has in mind for his creations.

Dorothy makes another trip to the Emerald City in “Return to Oz,” Disney’s under-seen 1985 “Wizard of Oz” quasi-sequel. Based on L. Frank Baum’s “Oz” books, the film takes Dorothy (played by Fairuza Balk) back to the land of her dreams, where she makes both delightful new friends (like Tik Tok, Jack Pumpkinhead, and the Gump) and dangerous new enemies (the creepy Wheelers, the head-hunting Princess Mombi, and the evil Nome King). New surprises await Dorothy and her pals – including a new take on the classic trio of the Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, and Scarecrow – around every turn in the Yellow Brick Road. A darker, scarier work than the much-loved MGM musical, “Return to Oz” is more faithful to the spirit of Baum’s books and has gained a deserved reputation as a classic in its own right.

Send in the Clowns: A Celebration of Slapstick and Silent Comedians
Approx. 120 min. (66 min. of film)
Recommended for all ages
7 p.m. Friday, July 26, Webster U.

SLIFF/Kids kicks off with a laugh-filled evening of slapstick fun both on screen and on stage. The program features live music and clown performances and a trio of classic silent-film shorts by some of cinema’s funniest comedians: Charlie Chaplin becomes involved with a found pooch and stolen loot in “A Dog’s Life” (Charles Chaplin, 1918, 33 min.). Buster Keaton attempts to build a prefab house in “One Week” (Edward F. Cline & Buster Keaton, 1920, 24 min.). Laurel and Hardy sell Christmas trees door to door in “Big Business” (James W. Horne & Leo McCarey, 1929, 19 min.). The Rats and People Motion Picture Orchestra’s Matt Pace accompanies the Keaton and Laurel and Hardy films on piano, and live clowning is provided before, between, and after the films by Sammich the Tramp and the Knock-a-bouts and Circus Kaput’s Oh My Gosh Josh.
**Standing Up**
P.J. Caruso, U.S., 2013, min., in English  
Recommended for ages 10 and older  
7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4, Washington U.

Based on “Goat Island,” the classic young adult novel by Brock Cole, “Standing Up” is an adventure about resilience and friendship. Twelve-year-old Grace and Howie, shy and awkward, become the victims of a cruel prank at summer camp. Stranded by their fellow campers on a wooded island without their clothes, the two are expected to be found, tearful and scared, the next morning. But from the moment they meet each other, Grace and Howie decide not to become the “goats” of Camp Tall Pines, and they surprise everyone with their actions. With nerve and ingenuity, the two youngsters team up and go on the run for three days of freedom, friendship, and growing up.

**Tom Sawyer and His Friends (Tom und Hacke)**
Norbert Lechner, Germany, 2012, 90 min., in German with English subtitles  
Recommended for ages 9 and older  
2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 27, Central Library

Mark Twain’s “Tom Sawyer” is seamlessly transposed to post-World War II Bavaria in “Tom Sawyer and His Friends.” After the death of his parents during the war, Tom moves in with his Aunt Polly, but times remain hard even after the fighting ends. When Tom accidentally damages the sewing machine with which his aunt earns her difficult living, the rambunctious boy must find a means of replacing it. With his homeless friend Hacke (the Huckleberry Finn equivalent), Tom searches for a purported hidden treasure, but they run afoul of black marker Ami-Joe when the boys witness a murder in the graveyard. Recent arrival Biggi (the Becky character) becomes entangled in the action, and the trio must scramble to save both themselves and Tom’s family’s livelihood. Despite the changes in time and place, “Tom Sawyer and His Friends” remarkably captures the essential elements of Twain’s classic story.

**Wolf Children**
Mamoru Hosoda, 2012, Japan, 117 min., in Japanese with English subtitles  
Recommended for ages 9 and older  
1 p.m. Saturday, July 27, Lindenwood U.  
7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, Washington U.  
1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4, Wildey

“Wolf Children” is the brilliant third feature from Mamoru Hosoda, whose “Summer Wars” and “The Girl Who Leapt Through Time” have established him as one of the world’s top creative forces in animation. The film begins with a romance between student Hana and a mysterious outcast who sits in on her college lecture. It turns out that Hana’s beau is actually part wolf, but love conquers all differences. However, when the couple has children, Ame and Yuki, they follow in their father’s pawprints, with the rambunctious bundles of joy transforming into wolves when excited. Circumstances eventually force Hana to raise her changeling children on her own, and it proves no easy task. To maintain the family secret, Hana escapes to the country, turning a dilapidated farmhouse into a loving home, where each child is free to pursue its wolfish and human sides. “Wolf Children” is a stunningly animated and heartfelt fable about growing up, growing apart, and the choices faced along the way.

**Tio Papi**
Fro Rojas, U.S., 2013, 90 min., in English  
Recommended for ages 10 and older  
7 p.m. Saturday, July 27, Missouri History Museum

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 make important decisions on what life really is all about. Combining heart-warming drama with light-hearted 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”). Screenwriter/star Joey Dedio introduces the program and participates in a post-screening Q&A.
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