

# Filmfest DC

*April 21–May 2, 2004*



## Festival Introduction

*Welcome to Filmfest DC, Washington's celebration of the best in world cinema!*

Photo: Chad Evans Wyatt



*Tony Gittens, Festival Director, and Shirin Ghareeb, Assistant Director*

Prepare to be entertained, provoked, and touched by extraordinary new films from around the globe. These magical 12 days will showcase a wide range of fascinating new work and transform our city into a filmgoer's paradise.

Our mission is to ensure that more people have access to more films and we have spent the past year seeking out talented filmmakers from down the street and around the world to celebrate this unlimited medium that has become a vital part of our culture.

The filmmakers included represent an enormous breadth of interests, backgrounds, and passions. Our doors are always open to new ways of doing things and in some cases our selections push the boundaries of film. However, the festival's intent is always the enjoyment and entertainment of our audiences.

*Argentine Cinema Now!* is a primary focus of this year's festival and we open with *Valentin*, a charming new work by festival favorite Alejandro Agresti. The abundance of excellent new films being produced in a country facing extreme economic challenges can only be admired. *Super Size Me*, Morgan Spurlock's much-talked-about documentary chronicling his month-long experience eating nothing but items on the McDonald's menu, will be our Closing Night Presentation.

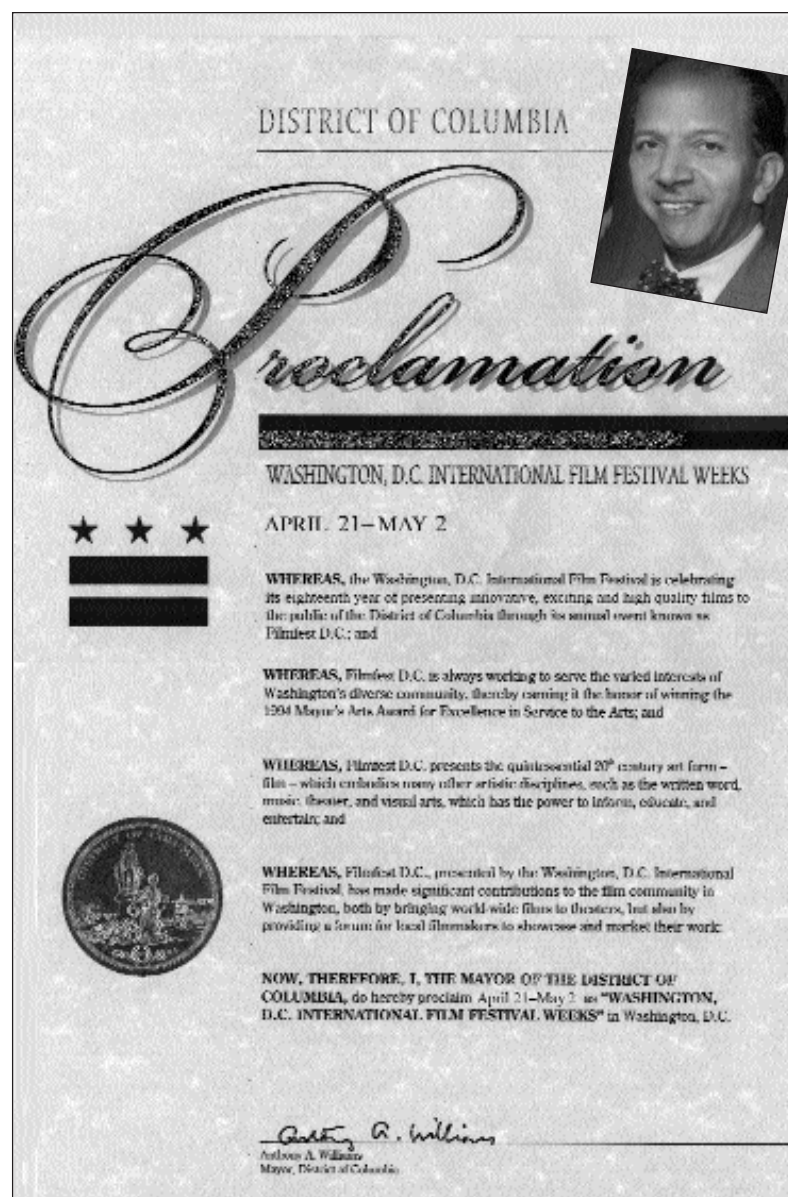
*Politics and Film*, a sidebar we thought appropriate for Washington, offers a rarely seen Oliver Stone documentary on Fidel Castro, a new interpretation of Jackie Kennedy, and a penetrating look inside the news-making Arab news agency Al-Jazeera. *Global Rhythms*, our delightful music on film series, will provide first-class entertainment to all music fans. A diverse collection of films from around the world represents the core of the program. As always, it will include the new and exciting, the provocative and eclectic. Throughout the festival, audiences will come together to enjoy cinema in all its diversity, intelligence and creative ingenuity.

We are privileged to work with an extraordinary assortment of people to produce this event each year. I would like to thank the many dedicated people who have shared their time and talents with Filmfest DC. The Government of the District of Columbia is our major sponsor. We greatly appreciate the generous contributions of all our sponsors, patrons, numerous volunteers, local businesses, and diplomatic community. Their support has been the key to the festival's success and is evidence that the festival makes an important contribution the vitality of our city.

Filmfest DC has grown into one of the premier screening events in the Washington Area. The festival is an adventure, and we invite you to join us. You can expect to be amazed, provoked, and occasionally surprised.

Tony Gittens  
Festival Director  
and  
Executive Director,  
DC Commission on  
the Arts and Humanities

*The Washington film community lost three good friends in recent months. **Ted Goldberg** was President of Capitol Entertainment, **Davey Marlin-Jones** was former entertainment critic for WUSA-TV, and **Joel Siegel** served as film reviewer for the Washington City Paper. We dedicate this year's Washington, DC International Film Festival to their contributions and creative spirit.*



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## Opening Night

Wednesday, April 21

### Valentin



Alejandro Agresti

The Netherlands/Argentina, 2002, 86 minutes, color

Preternaturally wise for his age, eight-year-old Valentin (Rodrigo Noya) lives with his opinionated grandmother (Carmen Maura, *Matador*, FFDC 1988) in Buenos Aires. The boy is so focused on NASA and the space program that he builds space suits from scratch and practices holding his breath for the anticipated rigors of zero gravity. His hot-tempered, largely absentee father Vicente (played by director Alejandro Agresti) drove his mother into the arms of a cab driver two years ago, and his grandmother mourns the loss of her husband constantly. So it is up to the youngster to pay it forward, focusing his curiosity about love, his mother, and the world in general into helping the troubled adults around him cope with life and each other. Filmfest DC has been proud to premiere four of director Alejandro Agresti's features to local audiences, including *Love Is a Fat Woman* (1988), *Secret Wedding* (1990), *Wind With the Gone* (1999), and *A Night With Sabrina Love* (2001). Clearly autobiographical, *Valentin* continues in the vein of his pragmatically affectionate style, benefiting enormously from young Noya's performance and the plaintive wisdom of his nearly constant narration. "Some people have it all and don't enjoy it," he says with firm conviction, and he's right. The simple and beguiling message of *Valentin* is that those who preserve a sense of wonder may not end up having it all, but they're very likely to enjoy it more.—Eddie Cockrell

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** First Floor Features (The Netherlands)/RWA (Argentina) **Producer:** Laurens Geels. **Screenplay:** Alejandro Agresti. **Cinematography:** Jose Luis Cajaraville. **Editor:** Alejandro Brodersohn. **Music:** Paul M. van Brugge. **Principal Cast:** Carmen Maura, Rodrigo Noya, Julieta Cardinali, Jean Pierre Noher, Mex Urtizberea, Fabian Vena, Carlos Roffe, Lorenzo Quinteros, Alejandro Agresti.

Wednesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m., G.W.'s Lisner Auditorium, followed by gala reception, \$40.00.

★ *In person:* Director Alejandro Agresti

■ Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Argentina



Opening Night Sponsor

**GREY GOOSE**

World's Best Tasting Vodka

Director Alejandro Agresti



## Closing Night

Sunday, May 2

### Super Size Me

Morgan Spurlock

USA, 2004, 98 minutes, color

What would happen if you ate nothing but fast food for an entire month? In *Super Size Me*, a scathingly tongue-in-cheek documentary of epic "portions," filmmaker Morgan Spurlock does just that and embarks on the most perilous journey of his life. The rules: For 30 days he can't eat or drink anything that isn't on the McDonald's menu; he must eat three meals a day; he must consume everything on the menu at least once; and he must super size his meals if asked. Spurlock treks across the country interviewing a host of experts on fast food and an equal number of regular folk while chowing down at the Golden Arches™. This enthralling film reveals that McDonald's spends 1.4 billion dollars a year on advertising. What they don't do is return calls from pestering filmmakers. Spurlock's grueling drive-through diet spirals him into a harrowing physical and emotional metamorphosis that will make you think twice about picking up another Big Mac™. A fascinating and truly alarming film peppered with irreverent music and hilarious graphics, *Super Size Me* chomps into the legal, financial, and physical costs of America's hunger for fast food.—David Courier, 2004 Sundance Film Festival

**Production Company:** The Con. **Producer:** Morgan Spurlock. **Cinematography:** Scott Ambrozio. **Editors:** Stela Gueorguieva, Julie "Bob" Lombardi. **Music:** Steve Horowitz, Michael Parrish.

Sunday, May 2, 4:00 p.m., Lincoln Theater, followed by a party with live band and dancing, Kili's Kafe and Lounge, \$15.00.

★ *In person:* Director Morgan Spurlock



Closing Night  
Sponsor



# Festival Guide

Welcome to the 18th Annual Washington, DC International Film Festival, Washington's own celebration of exciting, new, and innovative cinema from around the world. Filmfest DC 2004

presents over 80 films from more than 35 countries. We hope to provide you with fresh perspectives on our ever-changing world, and we think you will find our film selections entertaining and challenging. Here are a few hints and highlights:

## Schedule

Beginning on page 6, film descriptions are arranged alphabetically by film title, with show times and locations. The master schedule, on pages 12–13, lists each day's films and their show times. Films are shown in their original language with English subtitles.

## Global Rhythms

The collaboration of music and film often serves to illuminate both art forms' distinct beauty. This combination of visual and audio production can create a highly stimulating experience for the filmgoer. Filmfest DC focuses on this dynamic combination by highlighting a number of international films that feature major international musical artists and themes:

- *Bluegrass Journey*
- *Calypso Dreams*
- *Dance Cuba: Dreams of Flight*
- *The Death of Klinghoffer*
- *My Children Are Different*
- *Nina Simone: Love Sorceress*
- *El Puño de Hierro*
- *Queen of the Gypsies: A Portrait of Carmen Amaya*
- *The Saddest Music in the World*



*What Jackie Knew, p.19*

## Politics in Film

Cinema can serve as a potent avenue for criticism and analysis of political institutions and ideologies. Our Politics in Film series, which we introduced last year and will become an annual festival sidebar, focuses on films dealing with politics and the role they play in our daily lives. These films address issues of international political relevance and highlight the dynamic relationship between cinema and politics. This year our series includes:

- *The Century of Self*
- *Commandante*, shown with *Looking for Fidel*
- *Common Ground*
- *Dance Cuba: Dreams of Flight*
- *The Death of Klinghoffer*
- *Hurricanes*
- *Al-Jazeera Exclusive*
- *Paper Clips*
- *Route 181: Fragments of a Journey to Palestine-Israel*
- *September*
- *Silent Waters*
- *Soldiers of the Rock*
- *What Jackie Knew*

## Circle Audience Award and Award for Best Short

Founded by Ted and Jim Pedas, Washington's Circle Theatres set the standard for innovative quality film programming. Filmfest DC will present an award to the feature film voted the most popular by our audience. Ballots will be available after each screening. The winners for both the Circle Audience Award and the Award for Best Short will be announced on Closing Night.

## Free Programs

**Free!** Our free screenings and panels are some of the best deals in the festival. Don't miss the special presentations at the National Gallery of Art, Filmfest DC for Kids, and events in our Reel Talk series (see details on page 21).



*Gate to Heaven, p.9*

## Argentine Cinema Now!



*The Magic Gloves, p.11*

Argentine Cinema is currently enjoying high praise in film festivals and award ceremonies throughout the world, but the path it followed to reach this stage has not been easy. In recent years, economic turmoil has taken its toll. Undaunted, even with scant state financial support for their productions, Argentine filmmakers have successfully taken on huge themes—immigration, multiculturalism, and economic challenges—by focusing on singular human stories and triumphs. The results have been quite extraordinary. The films

selected for our series exemplify the vibrant, diverse films being produced in Argentina today. Subject matter ranges from good-humored portrayals to personal journeys to political thrillers. However, it is the context of its dynamic country of origin that makes this re-emerging cinema distinctive and optimistic.

We hope you enjoy these fascinating selections:

- *Ana and the Others*
- *The Bottom of the Sea*
- *Cleopatra*
- *Common Ground*
- *Intimate Stories*
- *Kamchatka*
- *The Magic Gloves*
- *Valentin*



## Primary Venues

Festival screenings will take place at the following convenient venues:

★ **Avalon Theatre**

5612 Connecticut Ave., NW.

★ **Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas**

4000 Wisconsin Ave., NW.

Take Metro Red Line to Tenleytown.

Parking available in building for \$2.00 with a validated parking ticket.

★ **Landmark's E Street Cinema**

555 11th St., NW.

Take Metro Blue, Green, Orange, Red, or Yellow Lines to Metro Center and/or Gallery Place/Chinatown stops. Three hours of free validated parking available in adjacent garage after 6:00 p.m. and on weekends.

★ **Loews Cineplex Outer Circle**

4849 Wisconsin Ave., NW.

Take Metro Red Line to Tenleytown.



*The Twilight Samurai, p. 18*



*Distant, p. 8*

## Other Venues

★ **AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center**

8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD.

Take Metro Red Line to Silver Spring.

★ **American University's Greenberg Theatre**

4200 Wisconsin Ave., NW.

Take Metro Red Line to Tenleytown. Paid parking is available in the building along Van Ness St. and at 4000 Wisconsin Ave.

★ **George Washington University's**

**Lisner Auditorium**

730 21st St., NW.

Take Metro Orange or Blue Lines to Foggy Bottom/GWU.

★ **Kili's Kafé & Lounge**

2009 8th St., NW.

Take Metro Green Line to U Street/Cardozo.

★ **Lincoln Theatre**

1215 U St., NW.

Take Metro Green Line to U Street/Cardozo.

★ **National Gallery of Art**

East Building Auditorium,  
4th St. & Constitution Ave., NW.

Take Metro Green or Yellow Lines to Archives/Navy Memorial.

★ **National Geographic Society**

The Gilbert H. Grosvenor Auditorium,  
1600 M St., NW.

Take Metro Red Line to Farragut North, or Metro Blue or Orange Lines to Farragut West. Free underground parking at 16th & M Sts. beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**Take Metrobus  
or Metrorail  
to Filmfest DC**



## Tickets

General Admission is \$9.00. Special Admissions are noted.

Tickets are available through Tickets.com by calling (703) 218-6500. They can be picked up at any Olsson's Books and Records stores and select Coconuts and FYE stores in the Washington, DC area, and Bradford Banks in the Baltimore area.

Tickets are also available through the Tickets.com Web Site at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com). Call Tickets.com at (703) 218-6500 from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. (Monday – Sunday) for tickets. No advance tickets at theatres. No Tickets.com sales the day of the show.

Tickets may also be purchased at the theatre one hour before the first show of the day. Cash or check sales only at the theatre.

Free events are on a first come, first serve basis, with no reservations accepted or tickets required.

**Director's Pass:** Ten-ticket package valued at \$90.00 will be discounted to \$80.00. Available through Tickets.com BY PHONE ONLY (not applicable for Opening and Closing Nights or Special Events).



**Abjad***Abolfazl Jalili*Iran/France,  
2003,  
110 minutes,  
colorSet in Isfahan  
on the eve of  
the Islamic  
revolution of

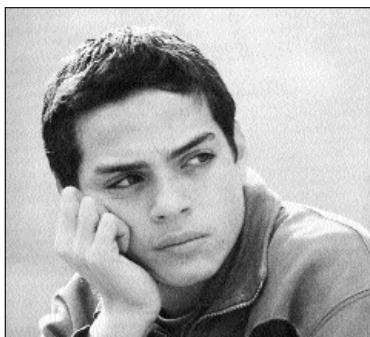
1979, this latest film from Abolfazl Jalili includes many autobiographical elements that reflect the climate of fear and repression that persists in Iran today. Teenage Emkan is desperate to develop his talents in painting, calligraphy, photography, and wrestling, and harbors a passion for censored books and films. But his traditional background and the community's emphasis on religious conformity make his education and his interests almost impossible to pursue. Life becomes even more complicated when Emkan falls in a love with a young Jewish girl, the daughter of a cinema owner for whom he designs advertising posters.—Rose Issa, *The Times BFI*, 47th London Film Festival 2003

IN FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Novem Productions (Iran)/Arte (France)/TV Channel 2 (France)/Fonds Sud (The Netherlands)/Hubert Bals Fund (The Netherlands). **Producer:** Abolfazl Jalili. **Screenplay:** Abolfazl Jalili. **Cinematography:** Mehdi Majde Vaziri. **Editor:** Abolfazl Jalili. **Music:** Mohammad Reza Shajarian, Homayoun Shajarian. **Principal Cast:** Mehdi Morady, Mina Molania, Abdolreza Akbary, Fariba Khademy, Gholamreza Tabatabaei.

Sunday, April 25, 5:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Monday, April 26, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

**Alexandra's Project***Rolf de Heer*

Australia, 2003, 103 minutes, color

Superficially proficient but profoundly unhappy with her boorish yet apparently average husband Steve and a straitjacketed existence with two kids in a tidy Adelaide suburb, housewife Alexandra wreaks revenge after work on his birthday via a bizarre videotape made in cahoots with security-obsessed neighbor Bill. The latest work in a career distinguished by challenging subject matter, *Alexandra's Project* is the fourth film directed by Dutch-born, Australia-based Rolf de Heer to be featured in Filmfest DC, following *The Quiet Room* (1997), *Dance Me to My Song* (1999), and *The Tracker* (2003). *Alexandra's Project* is a widescreen feminist revenge fantasy—*Funny Games* meets *The Ring*—calculated to disturb and provoke.—Eddie Cockrell

**Production Company:** Vertigo. **Producers:** Julie Ryan, Dominic Procacci, Rolf de Heer. **Screenplay:** Rolf de Heer. **Cinematography:** Ian Jones. **Editor:** Tania Nehme. **Music:** Graham Tardif. **Principal Cast:** Gary Sweet, Helen Buday, Bogdan Koca, Samantha Knigge, Jack Christie.

Tuesday, April 27, 8:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Wednesday, April 28, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

**Ana and the Others***Ana y los otros**Celina Murga*Argentina, 2003,  
80 minutes, color

*Ana and the Others* features a luminous lead performance. After a few years in big, bad Buenos Aires, twenty-something Ana decamps to her native Parana, where she encounters a school chum named Diego, who apparently still carries a torch for her. From Diego Ana learns that her old boyfriend works on a newspaper in another remote town. So she sets off to come to grips with that previous chapter in her life. The oft-told tale of gulfs between those who leave and those who stay is tempered by the reality, only hinted at, that Ana has returned in part because opportunities in Buenos Aires were fewer and further between.—Eddie Cockrell

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Universidad del Cine/Government of Entre Rios/city of Parana/Hubert Bals Fund. **Producers:** Celina Murga, Carolina Konstantinovskiy. **Screenplay:** Celina Murga. **Cinematography:** Marcelo Lavintman, Jose Maria Gomez. **Editor:** Martin Mainoli. **Principal Cast:** Camila Toker, Ignacio Uslenghi, Juan Cruz Diaz la Barba, Natacha Massera.

Thursday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., The Greenberg Theatre  
Friday, April 30, 9:00 p.m., The Greenberg Theatre

■ Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Argentina.

**Ässhäk, Tales From the Sahara***Ässhäk, geschichte aus der Sahara**Ulrike Koch*Switzerland/Germany/The Netherlands, 2004,  
114 minutes, color

In the language of the Sahara Desert's hardy Tuareg nomads, the word "ässhäk" translates as a profound respect for proper behavior and accepted rules of good conduct. As a tribesman searches central Niger for a missing camel, he encounters an official storyteller who admits to embellishing the truth, fellow tribesmen and tribeswomen who speak of the central role ässhäk plays in their society, and a "marabout," or holy man, who treats a pregnant woman struggling to give birth. The stunning photography of Pio Corradi captures the seductive yet brutal extremes of existence in the desert climate, celebrating through probing close-ups and mysterious dream sequences a culture of strength, individuality, and boundless imagination.—Eddie Cockrell

IN TAMASHEQ WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Catpics Coproductions (Switzerland)/Pegasos Film (Germany)/Art Cam (The Netherlands). **Producers:** Alfi Sinniger, Karl Baumgartner, Ernst Szebedits, Gerard Huisman. **Screenplay:** Ulrike Koch. **Cinematography:** Pio Corradi. **Editor:** Magdolina Rokob. **Music:** Harry de Wit.

Sunday, April 25, 6:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema  
Monday, April 26, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema**Autumn Spring***Babi leto**Vladimir Michalek*

Czech Republic, 2002, 97 minutes, color

"An old person should be happy and rich," grumbles Prague pensioner Fanda (Vlastimil Brodsky), who is neither. To compensate for this, Fanda and his chum Eda (Stanislav Zindulka) pose as ticket inspectors on the subway. Fanda also pretends to be an opera singer, mountaineer, and philanthropist. The shenanigans prove too much for his long-suffering wife Emilie (Stella Zazvorkova), who initiates divorce proceedings. This deftly low-key comedy features some 125 years of cumulative screen experience from Brodsky, Zazvorkova, and Zindulka, who once again create richly appealing, mischievous characters.

—Eddie Cockrell

IN CZECH  
WITH ENGLISH  
SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Czech TV/BK Film/Bucfilm. **Producers:** Jiri Bartoska, Jaroslav Kucera. **Screenplay:** Jiri Hubac. **Cinematography:** Martin Strba. **Editor:** Jiri Brozek. **Music:** Michal Lorenc. **Principal Cast:** Vlastimil Brodsky, Stella Zazvorkova, Stanislav Zindulka, Ondrej Vetchy, Zita Kabatova, Jiri Labus.

Sunday, April 25, 8:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle  
Monday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle**Bluegrass Journey***Ruth Oxenberg, Rob Schumer*

USA, 2003, 86 minutes, color

From the vintage to the so-called "newgrass" artists, the traditional stylings of the Dry Branch Fire Squad and Rhonda Vincent to the photogenic histrionics of ubiquitous mandolin player Chris Thile and the astonishing fingerwork of dobro player Jerry Douglas (who's been called "the Jimi Hendrix of acoustic music"), *Bluegrass Journey* is a toe-tapping trip that will please newcomer and veteran alike. Dual directors turn their cameras to a heapin' helping of the music's brightest stars. As articulate mandolin/bouzouki player Tim O'Brien traces bluegrass history and influences, the connection between artist and audience becomes ever more apparent.—Eddie Cockrell

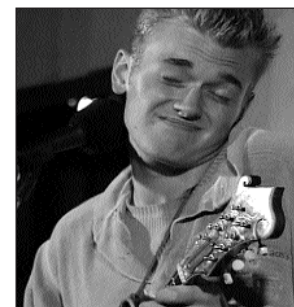
**Production Company:** Bluegrass Productions. **Producers:** Ruth Oxenberg, Rob Schumer. **Cinematography:** Dow Haynor, David Hinshaw, Rodney King, Harvey Marshall, Rob Schumer, Steve Senn, Rob Van Praag, Ken Willinger. **Editor:** Nancy Kennedy. **Music, Principal Cast:** The Del McCoury Band, Tim O'Brien, Jerry Douglas, Peter Rowan, Tony Rice, Nickel Creek, Rhonda Vincent.

Friday, April 23, 9:30 p.m., AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

Saturday, April 24, 9:30 p.m., AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

■ Live Bluegrass concert after both screenings.

■ Presented in cooperation with WAMU 88.5 FM.





## The Bottom of the Sea

*El fondo del mar*

**Damian Szifron**

Argentina, 2003,  
96 minutes, color



Jealousy leads an obsessive young architecture student into deep waters in this well-made psychological thriller from Argentine newcomer Damian Szifron. Dropping by his neurotic girlfriend's apartment unannounced, Ezequiel is shocked to see a man's hand reaching out from under the bed to grab a stray shoe. Instead of making a scene, however, he leaves quietly and stakes out the building. The film's headlong pace and pumped-up tension seize the viewer as Ezequiel's worst fears come true. Nominated for a whopping 10 Argentinian Film Critics Association awards, *The Bottom of the Sea* won five Clarin awards

in Buenos Aires as well as prizes at festivals in Mar Del Plata and San Sebastian. —Deborah Young, *Variety*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Aeroplano. **Producer:** Sebastian Aloï. **Screenplay:** Damian Szifron.

**Cinematography:** Lucio Bonelli. **Editor:** Nicolas Goldbart. **Music:** Guillermo Guesareschi. **Principal Cast:** Daniel Hendler, Dolores Fonzi, Gustavo Garzon.

Monday, April 26, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Saturday, May 1, 7:00 p.m., The Greenberg Theatre

■ Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Argentina.

## Breaking Up Separacoes

**Domingos de Oliveira**

Brazil, 2002,  
116 minutes, color



Fiftyish-theater director Cabral suggests a few free days a week in their 12-year marriage to his 35-year-old fifth wife—then goes nuts as he watches her make a beeline for Diogo even as his theater friends shed relationships like ill-fitting clothes. Even before things go south, Cabral wonders why love eludes him. The engaging odyssey of this life-embracing motormouth offers few concrete answers but lots of comedic life lessons. Daringly structured around Elizabeth Kubler-Ross' five stages of grief (denial, negotiation, anger, acceptance, and grace), here applied to love, the crowd-pleasing *Breaking Up* has received awards from the Gramado and Mar Del Plata film festivals, winning Best Film and Best Actor kudos at the latter. —Eddie Cockrell

IN PORTUGUESE, ENGLISH, AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Caradecao Films. **Producers:** Clelia Bessa, Luiz Leitao. **Screenplay:** Domingos de Oliveira, Priscila Rozembaum, from the play by de Oliveira. **Cinematography:** Paulo Violela. **Editors:** Natara Ney, Jose Rubens. **Principal Cast:** Domingos de Oliveira, Priscila Rozembaum, Fabio Junqueira.

Wednesday, April 28, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle  
Thursday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

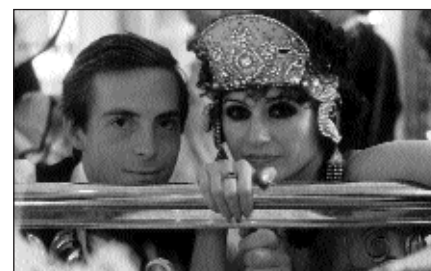
## Bright Young Things

**Stephen Fry**

United Kingdom, 2003, 105 minutes, color

In early 1930s London, aspiring writer Adam (Stephen Campbell Moore) is determined to re-finish the Great Novel—his first manuscript was confiscated as obscene—and marry "it" girl Nina (Emily Mortimer). Fame and fortune, however, lie just out of reach. Actor Stephen Fry's propulsive directorial debut breathes lascivious life into Evelyn Waugh's sardonic novel "Vile Bodies." A dazzling constellation of Britain's best character talent whirls around the less famous but no less energetic principals: Dan Aykroyd parodies Canadian newspaper czar Lord Beaverbrook; Jim Broadbent is a hoot as a soused military man; Julia McKenzie plays an eccentric hotel owner; Simon Callow mangles the language as the King of Anatolia; and Peter O'Toole owns his one scene as Nina's daft father. —Eddie Cockrell

**Production Companies:** Revolution Films/Doubting Hell. **Producers:** Gina Carter, Miranda Davis. **Screenplay:** Stephen Fry, from the novel "Vile Bodies" by Evelyn Waugh. **Cinematography:** Henry Braham. **Editor:** Alex Mackie. **Music:** Anne Dudley. **Principal Cast:** Emily Mortimer, Stephen Campbell Moore, James McAvoy, Michael Sheen, David Tennant, Fenella Woolgar, Dan Aykroyd, Jim Broadbent, Simon Callow, Jim Carter, Stockard Channing, Richard E. Grant, Julia McKenzie, Peter O'Toole.



Thursday, April 22, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Monday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

## Calypso Dreams



**Geoffrey Dunn, Michael Horne**

USA, 2003,  
78 minutes, color

A veritable who's who of Calypso music and its prominent purveyors, *Calypso Dreams* charts the rise of what somebody calls "the poor man's



newspaper," a challengingly rhythmic form of storytelling, social commentary, and braggadocio that permeates Trinidad and Tobago with occasional forays into a larger international fan base (Harry Belafonte, anyone?). Film clips mix with concert and spontaneous performance footage that chart the development of the music and its central influence on contemporary styles—particularly rap. Shot over a three-year period by documentary veteran Geoffrey Dunn and music producer Michael Horne, *Calypso Dreams* won the Best Caribbean Documentary prize at the Jamaican Film Festival in Montego Bay and is a fantasy come true for fans of the music. —Eddie Cockrell

**Production Company:** In for a Penny, In for a Pound Productions, in association with Impact Productions. **Producers:** Geoffrey Dunn, Michael Horne, Mark Schwartz, Eric Thiermann. **Screenplay:** Geoffrey Dunn. **Cinematography:** Eric Thiermann. **Editors:** Chris Crosby, Cam Archer, Ian Goodwin, Andrew Bateman, Michael Horne. **Music:** Various. **Principal Cast:** Mighty Sparrow, Lord Blakey, Calypso Rose, Lord Superior, Mighty Duke, Black Stalin.

Sat., April 24, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisc. Ave. Cinemas  
Sun., April 25, 6:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisc. Ave. Cinemas

## Politics The Century of the Self

**Adam Curtis**

United Kingdom, 2003,  
243 minutes, color and black & white

This ambitious, four-part, four-hour documentary explores how those in power have used Sigmund Freud's theories to try to control the "dangerous crowd" in an age of mass democracy. In part one, Freud's nephew refines his uncle's idea about unconscious desires. Part two illustrates how the strict post-World War II extension of these themes, advocated by the shrink's daughter, resulted in Cold War-era conformity. Part three charts the rise of Wilhelm Reich's ideas of free expression in the 1960s and 1970s, and part four ties this all in to the rise of Tony Blair in the United Kingdom and Bill Clinton in America. Adam Curtis' heady, imaginative approach to these society-defining issues will prompt raging debate long after the lights come up. —Eddie Cockrell



**Production Company:** RDF. **Producer:** Adam Curtis. **Screenplay:** Adam Curtis. **Cinematography:** David Barker, William Sowerby. **Editor:** Adam Curtis.

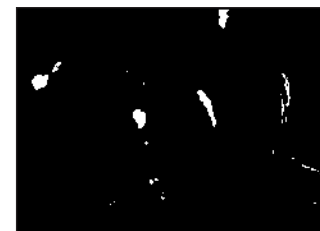
Sunday, April 25, 1:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

## Cleopatra

**Eduardo Mignogna**

Argentina/Spain, 2003, 103 minutes, color

Veteran actress Norma Aleandro reteams with director Eduardo Mignogna (Autumn Sun, FFDC 1997) for *Cleopatra*, a sparkling comedy about a retired schoolteacher and frustrated actress who escapes her morose husband Roberto (Hector Alterio, playing Aleandro's mate for the third time after the 1985 drama *The Official Story* and the 2002 Oscar®-nominated *The Son of the Bride*) and teams up with a much younger soap star for an impromptu road trip from Buenos Aires to the Andes that opens new horizons for both women. Mignogna gives his star free reign to create a character of such impish energy that she literally hops like a bird with the giddiness of impetuous freedom, and surrounds her with the spritely songs of Francisco Ortega. —Eddie Cockrell



IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Telefe (Argentina)/Patagonik Film (Argentina)/Aloumia (Spain). **Producers:** Carlos L. Mentasti, Pablo Bossi. **Screenplay:** Eduardo Mignogna, Silvina Chague. **Cinematography:** Marcelo Camorino. **Editor:** Juan Carlos Macias. **Music:** Francisco Ortega. **Principal Cast:** Norma Aleandro, Natalia Oreiro, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Hector Alterio, Alberto de Mendoza.

Tuesday, April 27, 9:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

■ Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Argentina.

**Comandante***Oliver Stone*USA/Spain, 2003,  
93 minutes, color

Fidel Castro never believed in the theory of the lone gunman in the assassination of JFK, and remembers the Soviet Union as an "erratic" ally. He's always liked Charlie Chaplin, and denies the existence of repression of any kind in his regime. This is an utterly fascinating documentary in which Oliver Stone spends 30 hours of quality time with the "maximum leader" who has ruled Cuba for 44 years and witnessed 10 U.S. administrations. *Comandante* is intellectually engaging, historically vital filmmaking. —Eddie Cockrell

**Production Companies:** Media Produccion/Pentagrama Films/Morena Films. **Producers:** Fernando Sulichin, Oliver Stone. **Cinematography:** Rodrigo Prieto, Carlos Marcovich. **Editors:** Alex Marquez, Elisa Bonora. **Music:** Alberto Iglesias.

**Politics**

shown with **Looking for Fidel**  
*Oliver Stone*

USA, 2004, 54 minutes, color

As a follow-up to *Comandante*, Oliver Stone returned in May 2003 to interview Castro again. *Looking for Fidel* includes conversations about Cuban politics, human rights, Castro's succession, the state of his health, democracy, and Cuba's future.—HBO

IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** HBO. **Producer:** Fernando Sulichin, Alvaro Longoria. **Cinematography:** Rodrigo Prieto, Carlos Marcovich. **Editors:** Alex Marquez, Langdon Page. **Music:** Mastretta.

Sunday, April 25, 5:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Saturday, May 1, 6:00 p.m., AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

**Common Ground***Lugares comunes**Adolfo Aristarain*Spain/Argentina, 2003,  
112 minutes, color

"Ever since I can remember, there's been a crisis," says outspoken yet weary lit professor Fernando Robles (Federico Luppi). Forced into retirement and confronted with dwindling resources, he and his loving wife Liliana (Mercedes Sampietro) relocate to a farm in rural Cordoba, which he names "1789" after the concepts of liberty, fraternity, and equality embraced by the French revolution but, he believes, missing in Argentine society. In his sixth film with the great Luppi, Argentine director Adolfo Aristarain has clearly poured his heart into a story that is at once scathingly critical of his homeland but fiercely proud and optimistic of what a determined individual can do to find his own hard-fought place in a very uncertain world.—Eddie Cockrell

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Tornasol Films (Spain)/Adolfo Aristarain (Argentina). **Producers:** Gerardo Herrero, Adolfo Aristarain, Javier Lopez Blanco. **Screenplay:** Adolfo Aristarain, Katy Saavedra, from the novel "Rebirth" by Lorenzo F. Aristarain. **Cinematography:** Porfirio Enriquez. **Editor:** Fernando Pardo. **Music:** Augustin Lara, Maria Teresa Vera. **Principal Cast:** Federico Luppi, Mercedes Sampietro, Arturo Puig, Carlos Santamaria, Yael Barnatan.

Sunday, April 25, 8:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas  
Monday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

■ Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Argentina.

**Dance Cuba: Dreams of Flight***Cynthia Newport, Barbara Kopple, Boris Ivan Crespo*

USA, 2004, 105 minutes, color

In 2000, Septime Webre, the Cuban-American artistic director of the maverick Washington Ballet, received an invitation for his company to participate in Havana's dance festival—the first time in four decades a major American troupe had been asked to perform there. The film documents the history of ballet in Cuba and the preparations for the momentous Havana festival. Along the way, the filmmakers speak in depth with Webre; Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta; Ballet Nacional de Cuba artistic director Alicia Alonso; numerous dancers; and choreographer Trey McIntyre. With its strong Washington connections, extraordinary, dream-like approach to its subject, and stories of bravery, endurance, and triumph, *Dance Cuba: Dreams of Flight* is intoxicating and inspiring.—Eddie Cockrell

Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta; Ballet Nacional de Cuba artistic director Alicia Alonso; numerous dancers; and choreographer Trey McIntyre. With its strong Washington connections, extraordinary,

dream-like approach to its subject, and stories of bravery, endurance, and triumph, *Dance Cuba: Dreams of Flight* is intoxicating and inspiring.—Eddie Cockrell

IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** illume productions. **Producer:** Cynthia Newport. **Cinematography:** Tom Hurwitz, Don Lenzner, Roberto Chile. **Editors:** Deborah Dickson, Richard Hankin. **Music:** Chucho Valdez.

Friday, April 23, 6:30 p.m., AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

**The Death of Klinghoffer***Penny Woolcock*United Kingdom, 2003, 120 minutes,  
color and black & white

In 1985, four Palestinians hijacked an Italian cruise ship, the *Achille Lauro*. Before surrendering, they shot wheelchair-bound American tourist Leon Klinghoffer, traveling with wife Marilyn to celebrate their wedding anniversary, and threw him overboard. In 1991, John Adams' opera, with a libretto by Alice Goodman, provoked controversy by presenting balanced views of the Israeli and Arab sides of the incident, and a history of the ongoing conflict. Director Penny Woolcock's decision to film the opera in the style of a political thriller on authentic Middle Eastern locations renders this one-of-a-kind film a remarkable and daring synthesis of heart-pounding docudrama filmmaking and risk-taking contemporary opera.—Eddie Cockrell

**Production Company:** Blast! Films. **Producer:** Madonna Baptiste. **Screenplay:** Penny Woolcock, from the opera by John Adams and Alice Goodman. **Cinematography:** Graham Smith. **Editor:** Brand Thumim. **Music:** John Adams. **Libretto:** Alice Goodman. **Principal Cast:** Sanford Sylvan, Christopher Maltman, Yvonne Howard, Tom Randle, Kamel Boutros.

Tuesday, April 27, 8:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle  
Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

**Politics****Distant***Uzak**Nuri Bilge Ceylan*Turkey, 2003,  
109 minutes, color

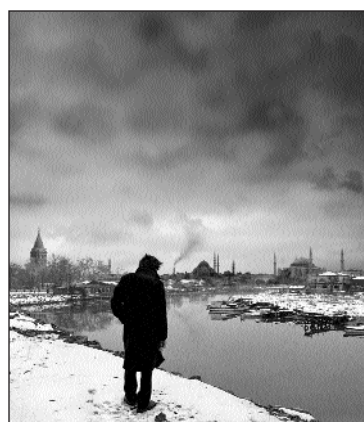
A peripatetic film festival traveler since winning the Best Actor and Grand Prize of the Jury Awards at the 2003 Cannes Film Festival, this film was also Turkey's official foreign film Oscar® submission for 2003. Mahmut is a photographer living in Istanbul. One day an unemployed cousin from the hinterlands comes to stay with him while looking for a job in the metropolis. It doesn't take long for the two to grate on each other's nerves. *Distant* is a small masterpiece, the kind of ultra-subtle film that amply rewards viewers. Capped with a wordless, devastating shot, this is what art cinema is supposed to be all about.—Peter Brunette, indieWIRE.com

IN TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** NBC Films. **Producer:** Nuri Bilge Ceylan. **Screenplay:** Nuri Bilge Ceylan. **Cinematography:** Nuri Bilge Ceylan. **Editors:** Ayhan Engusel, Nuri Bilge Ceylan. **Principal Cast:** Muzaffer Ozdemir, Mehmet Emin Toprak, Zuhale Gencer Erkaya, Nazan Kirişim.

Sunday, April 25, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema  
Monday, April 26, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

★ Presented in cooperation with the Silk Road Film Festival.

**Festival Express***Bob Smeaton*

Canada, 2003, 90 minutes, color

In July 1970, a string of railway cars chugged from Toronto to Winnipeg to Calgary. At each city, the train would disgorge its precious cargo: Janis Joplin, The Grateful Dead, The Band, Buddy Guy, and various other acts. After a blistering outdoor show, they'd get back on the train and party until the next stop. Cinematographer Peter Bizou captured not only the performances themselves but confrontations with concertgoers over ticket prices and glorious, late-night jams highlighted by Band bassist Rick Danko leading a sloppy version of "Ain't No Cane on the Brazos." The footage sat dormant for 30 years. Under the supervision of ace music producer Eddie Kramer and Beatles Anthology helmer Bob Smeaton, a new classic is born.—Eddie Cockrell

**Production Company:** Apollo Films. **Producers:** Gavin Poolman, John Trapman. **Cinematography:** Peter Bizou. **Editor:** Eamonn Power. **Music:** Various. **Principal Cast:** The Band, Delaney & Bonnie & Friends, The Flying Burrito Brothers, The Grateful Dead, The Buddy Guy Blues Band, Great Speckled Bird, Janis Joplin, Mashmakhan, Sha Na Na, Eric Andersen.

Friday, April 30, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle  
Saturday, May 1, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle





## FireDancer

Jawed Wassel



USA/Afghanistan, 2003, 79 minutes, color and black & white

The rocky road to love is complicated by the immigrant experience in the ambitious American-Afghan co-production

*FireDancer*, which brings handsome New York-based painter Haris (Baktash Zaher-Khadem) and fashion designer Laila (Mariam Weiss) together, despite—or perhaps because of—his turbulent past and her tradition-obsessed family. “I am an Afghan. I am an American,” Haris ultimately asserts, although the path to self-awareness is far from a straight line. First-time filmmaker Jawed Wassel has orchestrated a large cast with impressive aplomb. His script ponders the various advantages and pitfalls of relocation with a melodramatic yet unflinching flair typified by David Ayazi’s small but lauded turn as a glib yet resourceful survivor. —Eddie Cockrell

IN ENGLISH, DARI, AND FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Petunia Productions. **Producers:** Khaled Wassel, John G. Roche, Kate Wood. **Screenplay:** Jawed Wassel. **Cinematography:** Bud Gardner. **Editors:** Bill Gerstenmaier, Lizzie Donahue, Jeff Marcello. **Music:** Wayne Sharp, Bruce Hathaway. **Principal Cast:** Baktash Zaher-Khadem, Mariam Weiss, Samira Cameron, Yunis Azizi, Omar Arzo, Attia Jewayni, Abdullah Jewayni, David Ayazi, Mariam Rusta, Omed, Freshta Sadeed, Naghi Mohammed Sanie, Ali Popal.

Friday, April 23, 9:15 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Saturday, April 24, 4:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

## Gate to Heaven

Veit Helmer

Germany, 2003, 90 minutes, color

*Gate to Heaven* spotlights the subculture of detained refugees and opportunistic employees who live and work in Frankfurt’s teeming international airport. When canny Russian immigrant and would-be pilot Alexei falls for Nisha, who cleans planes but dreams of becoming a flight attendant, the pair hatch a plan to bring Nisha’s son to Germany and fulfill their ambitions. Breezy and beguiling, *Gate to Heaven* is the much-anticipated new film from Berlin-based Veit Helmer. With its audacious mixture of elements from romantic comedies, chase movies, and even Bollywood production numbers (featuring a chorus line of airport employees who guide planes into their appropriate berths), the film ripples with ambitious creativity. —Eddie Cockrell



**Production Company:** Veit Helmer Film Production. **Producer:** Veit Helmer. **Screenplay:** Gordan Mihic, Veit Helmer. **Cinematography:** Joachim Jung. **Editors:** Silke Botsch, Hanjeorg Weissbrich. **Music:** Salim & Suleiman, Oesterberg & Soderberg. **Principal Cast:** Masumi Makhija, Valeri Nikolayev, Miki Manojlovic, Udo Kier, Sotigui Kouyate.

Thursday, April 22, 6:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Sunday, April 25, 6:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

■ Presented in cooperation with the Goethe Institut Washington

## God Is Brazilian

Deus e Brasileiro

Carlos Diegues

Brazil, 2003, 110 minutes, color

In the poor north-eastern region of Brazil, fisherman and con artist Edivaltercio Barbosa “Taoca” da Anunciacao is visited by the casually dressed God, who needs a vacation and is looking for a temporary substitute. The pair wander around the country in search of a reluctant saint, discussing philosophy and social responsibility. Playing like an earthy Portuguese spin on *Oh, God!*, this is the latest film from Cinema Novo mainstay Carlos Diegues, director of the pivotal Brazilian breakout hit *Bye Bye Brasil* and the FFDC 2000 hit *Orfeu*. Here, he displays exuberant humor and trenchant social commentary, clearly the work of a filmmaker who loves his homeland. —Eddie Cockrell

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Rio Vermelho Films. **Producer:** Renata Almeida Magalhaes. **Screenplay:** Carlos Diegues, Joao Ubaldo Ribeiro, from Ribeiro’s short story “The Saint Who Didn’t Believe in God.” **Cinematography:** Affonso Beato. **Editor:** Sergio Mekler. **Music:** Chico Neves, Hermano Vianna, Sergio Mekler. **Principal Cast:** Antonio Fagundes, Wagner Moura, Paloma Duarte, Bruce Gomlevsky, Stepan Nercessian.

Monday, April 26, 8:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Tuesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

★ In Person: Director Carlos Diegues.

■ Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Brazil and United Airlines.



## Green Tea

Lu cha

Zhang Yuan

China, 2003, 86 minutes, color

Somewhere in China, a blind date in a deserted tearoom: Bookish grad student Wu Fang is looking for a husband and reads tea leaves to vet possible candidates, while rakish Chen Mingliang, who has been dumped by his fiancé, claims to

know all he needs to score. As the two begin a contentious but mutually productive relationship, Chen becomes convinced that vivacious hotel bar pianist Langlang is, in fact, Wu Fang—even though the two couldn’t be more different. Two of China’s biggest stars square off in a provocative, mysterious, and seductive new film from director Zhang Yuan that utilizes the pair’s natural and extraordinarily appealing screen chemistry to explore modern Chinese relationships and the pitfalls of first impressions. —Eddie Cockrell

IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Beijing Asian Union. **Producer:** Yan Gang. **Screenplay:** Jin Renshun, Zhang Yuan, from the short story “Adliya by the River” (“Shubiande Adliya”) by Jin Renshun. **Cinematography:** Christopher Doyle. **Editor:** Wu Yixiang. **Music:** Su Cong. **Principal Cast:** Jiang Wen, Zhao Wei, Fang Lijun, Wang Haizhen, Yang Dong.

Friday, April 30, 6:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle  
Saturday, May 1, 7:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

## Hurricanes

Entre cyclones

Enrique Colina

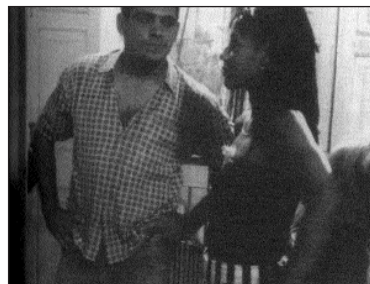
Cuba/Spain/France, 2003, 122 minutes, color

Newly employed by the phone company, Tomas loses his apartment in a hurricane. He is forced to move in with Monica, his hairdresser girlfriend, who is desperate to get a telephone at any cost. When Tomas meets Adriana, an older, foreign-born woman with a luxury apartment and three telephone lines, he starts plotting to obtain a line for Monica. But that won’t be so easy. A hugely popular hit in Cuba last year, *Hurricanes* is a charmingly loopy look at the constant frustrations Cubans must contend with daily, an irreverent, comedic view of life in a socialist state. It sparkles with hilarious, unexpected details played out on Havana’s back streets. —Manxman-1,

The Internet Movie Database

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** ICAIC (Cuba)/Agelido Komunikazioa (Spain)/Les Films du Village (France). **Screenplay:** Enrique Colina, Eliseo Altunaga, Antonio Jose Ponte. **Cinematography:** Adriano Moreno. **Editor:** Gladys Cambre. **Music:** Jose Luis Cortes. **Principal Cast:** Mijail Mulkay, Indira Valdes, Mario Balmaseda, Klara Badiola, Renny Arizarena.



Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., Landmark’s E Street Cinema  
Thursday, April 29, 8:45 p.m., Landmark’s E Street Cinema  
Saturday, May 1, 9:00 p.m., The Greenberg Theatre



## Inheritance

Arven

Per Fly

Denmark, 2003, 107 minutes, color

*Inheritance* is a handsome, accomplished film

underscored by intuitive writing and powerful performances. The suicide of his industrialist father brings Christoffer back to Copenhagen to mourn with his wealthy family. His mother has definite ideas on the importance of continuity and the responsibilities of inheritance, especially concerning the family-owned steelworks. Christoffer, the unwilling heir apparent, is keen to return home to Stockholm with his wife rather than shoulder the family-owned business. As issues of loyalty and duty play out, Christoffer begins to experience the realities and responsibilities of his considerable legacy. —Sarah Lutton, *The Times BFI*, 47th London Film Festival 2003

IN DANISH, SWEDISH, AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Zentropa Entertainments 6. **Producer:** Ib Tardini. **Screenplay:** Per Fly, Kim Leona, Mogens Rukov, Dorte Hogh. **Cinematography:** Harald Gunnar Paalgard. **Editor:** Morten Glese. **Music:** Halfdan E. **Principal Cast:** Ulrich Thomsen, Lisa Werlinder, Ghita Norby, Lars Brygmann, Karina Skands.

Wednesday, April 28, 9:00 p.m., Landmark’s E Street Cinema  
Thursday, April 29, 8:30 p.m., Landmark’s E Street Cinema





## Intimate Stories

### Historias minimas



**Carlos Sorin**

Argentina/  
Spain, 2002,  
92 minutes, color

Don Justo, an old man with failing eyesight, embarks on a 200-mile trek to retrieve his lost dog. Roberto, a

traveling salesman prone to jealousy, must get a cake redecorated as part of his plan to win the affection of a young widow. Shy Maria, lured by the chance to appear on a TV game show, totes her baby to the city of San Julian. As their paths crisscross, these modern-day pilgrims encounter a world of surprising generosity. Small negotiations and insignificant objects—a turtle, a stolen 50-peso note—resonate in unexpected ways as the travelers' simple expeditions become journeys of hope and redemption.—Tom Powers, 46th San Francisco International Film Festival 2003

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Guacamole Films (Argentina)/Wanda Vision (Spain). **Executive Producer:** Martin Bardi. **Screenplay:** Pablo Solari. **Cinematography:** Hugo Colace. **Editor:** Mohamed Rajid. **Music:** Nicolas Sorin. **Principal Cast:** Javier Lombardo, Antonio Benedictis, Javiera Bravo, Carlos Montero, Anibal Maldonado.

Thursday, April 22, 8:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Monday, April 26, 6:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre

■ Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Argentina.

## Investigation Into the Invisible World

*Enquete sur le monde invisible*

**Jean Michel Roux**

France, 2003, 85 minutes, color

*Investigation Into the Invisible World* is a thematically imaginative and technically astonishing documentary about the various elves, trolls, ghosts, and water monsters that apparently outnumber the people on the world's largest volcanic island of Iceland. From the road office official who regularly employs a medium while plowing to the shrimp fisherman who explains that invisible beings draw their vital energy from human belief in their existence, a succession of workers, politicians, artists, druids, and children describe their close encounters with the invisible world. Since none of these beings could apparently be persuaded to appear on-camera, director Jean Michel Roux creates a stylish visual palette and a complex aural soundscape: nature documentary as otherworldly thriller.—Eddie Cockrell

IN FRENCH AND ICELANDIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Noe. **Producers:** Frederique Dumas-Zajdela, Marc Baschetti, Matthieu Bompont. **Screenplay:** Jean Michel Roux. **Cinematography:** Jean-Louis Vialard. **Editor:** Joseph Licide. **Music:** Biosphere, Hector Zazou, The Residents, Henryk Gorecki.

Friday, April 30, 8:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas  
Saturday, May 1, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas



## Al-Jazeera Exclusive

**Politics**

**Ben Anthony**

United Kingdom,  
2003, 60 minutes,  
color

In the days preceding the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, BBC2 director Ben Anthony and his crew were given full access to the Qatar-based satellite network's newsroom.

Suffering both their own moral uncertainties and the condescending treatment of U.S. troops in a makeshift Dohar press center, correspondents also weather the theft of their material by other Arab-language stations and even a standoff with Iraqi officials over the slant of their coverage. First broadcast on BBC2 in the summer of 2002 as part of the ongoing "Correspondent" series, Al-Jazeera Exclusive crackles with the adrenaline of committed journalists doing their jobs and casts a spotlight on the actions of a news service whose inner workings remained a mystery in the west.—Eddie Cockrell

IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** BBC News. **Producer:** Ben Anthony. **Screenplay:** Ben Anthony. **Cinematography:** Dean Johnson. **Editor:** Hugh Williams.

Friday, April 23, 7:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Saturday, April 24, 9:15 p.m., Avalon Theatre



## Kamchatka

**Marcelo Pineyro**



Argentina/  
Spain, 2003, 104  
minutes, color

Argentina's foreign language Oscar® submission last year; Kamchatka won the coveted audience award at

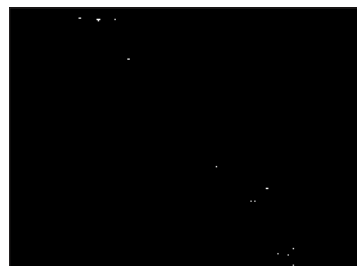
the 2003 Vancouver festival. A lawyer, his wife, and their two children are obliged to leave Buenos Aires following the 1976 military coup. They move to a small country town, where they assume new names (the oldest son becomes "Harry," after his hero Harry Houdini) and settle in, prepared to wait for order to return to their country. But catastrophe continually unfolds as opponents of the new regime vanish without a trace. Writer-director Marcelo Pineyro skillfully weaves statements about love and resistance as universal as it is particular throughout this riveting film.—Shane Daniels, 57th Edinburgh International Film Festival 2003

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Oscar Kramer (Argentina)/Patagonik Film Group (Argentina)/Alquimia Cinema (Spain). **Producers:** Oscar Kramer, Pablo Bossi, Francisco Ramos. **Screenplay:** Marcelo Pineyro. **Cinematography:** Alfredo Mayo. **Editor:** Juan Carlos Macias. **Music:** Bingen Mendizabal. **Principal Cast:** Ricardo Darin, Cecilia Roth, Hector Alterio, Fernanda Mistral, Tomas Fonzi, Milton de la Canal, Matias del Pozo.

Wednesday, April 28, 9:15 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Saturday, May 1, 9:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre

■ Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Argentina.



## The Kite

*Le cerf-volant*

**Randa Chahal Sabbag**

France/Lebanon, 2003,  
78 minutes, color

A humorous love story laced with graceful symbolism, *The Kite* announces the welcome return of helmer Randa Chahal Sabbag, whose drama about Lebanon's civil war, *Civilisees*, was one of the most talked-about films at FFDC 2000. Two Arab villages in the Golan Heights, bifurcated by the Israeli-Lebanese border, conspire to match rebellious 15-year-old Lamia from the Lebanese side with a malleable cousin from the Israeli side. But Lamia is attracted to Druze border guard Youssef and vice-versa, which causes her megaphone-wielding relatives no end of grief. Aided by burnished widescreen images and a mischievous score, *The Kite* won three major awards at the 2003 Venice festival and was the official Lebanese submission for the 2003 foreign film Oscar®.—Eddie Cockrell

IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Ognon Pictures (France)/Ulyse Productions (Lebanon). **Producer:** Humbert Balsan. **Screenplay:** Randa Chahal Sabbag. **Cinematography:** Alain Levent. **Editor:** Marie Pierre Renaud. **Music:** Ziad Rahbani. **Principal Cast:** Flavia Behara, Maher Bsaibes, Randa Asmar, Renee Dick, Julia Kassar.

Friday, April 23, 9:15 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas  
Saturday, April 24, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Center for the Global South, American University.



## Koktebel

**Boris Khlebnikov, Alexei Popogrebsky**

Russia, 2003, 144 minutes, color

Escaping a troubled past, a father and son bond on their way from Moscow to the titular Crimean resort town on foot—a 1,000 mile-plus journey during which they learn more than they ever anticipated about each other and the world. An audience favorite on the festival circuit, *Koktebel* won its young filmmakers the best direction award at the 2003 Moscow festival and shared the Philip Morris Film prize at the 2003 Karlovy Vary festival. In less talented hands, the simple plot could have turned into just another road movie. Instead, the helmers' taut script, skillful casting, and loving eye for natural beauty create a film that, in its best moments, recalls vintage Terrence Malick films.—Eddie Cockrell; Leslie Felperin, Variety

IN RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** PBOUL. **Producer:** Roman Borisovich. **Screenplay:** Boris Khlebnikov, Alexei Popogrebsky. **Cinematography:** Shandor Berkeshi. **Editor:** Ivan Lebedev. **Music:** Lutgardo Luga Lebad. **Principal Cast:** Igor Chernyevich, Gleb Puskepalis, Agrippina Stekhlova, Alexander Ilyin, Vladimir Kucherenko.

Thursday, April 29, 8:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Friday, April 30, 7:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre





## Kops Kopps

Josef  
Fares

Sweden,  
2003,  
91 min-  
utes, color

This vigor-  
ous

Swedish comedy is rumored to be on the track for an American remake starring Adam Sandler but stands on its own as a rollicking workplace farce. The village of Hogbotrask hasn't had a single crime in 10 years, and the police are atrophied slackers who don't even know how to start a computer. Benny constantly fantasizes about Die Hard cop action; Lasse and Agneta are a middle-aged, squabbling couple; and Dick the K-9 is a Pomeranian frightened by his own squeaky toys. When a government agent arrives to close down the precinct, the bumbling cops' last hope to justify their existence is a badly improvised hoax crime wave that careens out of control.

—Charles Cassady, 28th Cleveland International Film Festival 2004

IN SWEDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Memfis Film. **Producer:** Anna Anthony. **Screenplay:** Josef Fares, Mikael Hafstrom Vasa. **Cinematography:** Aril Wretblad. **Editors:** Michal Leszczylowski, Anders Jonsson. **Music:** Daniel Lemma, Bengt Nilsson. **Principal Cast:** Fares Fares, Torkel Petersson, Goran Ragnerstam, Sissela Kyle, Eva Rose.

Thursday, April 29, 6:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas  
Friday, April 30, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas



## The Magic Gloves

Los guantes magicos

Martin  
Rejtman

Argentina/  
Germany/  
France, 2003,  
90 minutes,  
color



In the wake of Argentina's economic collapse, hired car driver Alejandro moves in with his pal Sergio, who calls himself "Piranha" and can't stop talking about the awful hard rock CD he's produced, and his travel agent wife Susana. Soon Alejandro is involved with a flight attendant and the arrival of Sergio's porn star brother from Canada prompts the men to invest in the title accessories, Chinese gloves rumored to make the wearer rich. With nods to Aki Kaurismaki and Jim Jarmusch, the darkly comic but fundamentally affectionate *The Magic Gloves* competed for the Golden Leopard at the 2003 Locarno festival and affirms the shrewd comic instincts of Rejtman, director of the acclaimed 1999 slice-of-life comedy *Silvia Prieto*.—Eddie Cockrell

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Rizoma Films (Argentina)/Pandora Film (Germany)/Artcam International (France). **Producers:** Hernan Musaluppi, Martin Rejtman. **Screenplay:** Martin Rejtman. **Cinematography:** Jose Luis Garcia. **Editor:** Rosario Suarez. **Music:** Diego Vainer. **Principal Cast:** Gabriel "Vincentico" Fernandez Capello, Valeria Bertuccelli, Fabian Arenillas, Susana Pampin, Cecilia Biagini.

Thursday, April 29, 9:00 p.m., The Greenberg Theatre  
Friday, April 30, 6:30 p.m., The Greenberg Theatre

■ Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Argentina.



## My Children Are Different

Mes enfants ne sont pas  
comme les autres

Denis Dercourt

France, 2003, 82 minutes, color

Jean Debart, the cellist in a Strasbourg orchestra, had two musically gifted children with his late wife, a soloist whose father, the conductor Erhardt, was never comfortable with the union. Debart's eldest, teenaged cellist Adele, struggles with feelings of love and rebellion as she approaches a crucial audition while her 11-year-old brother, Alex, devotes himself to the piano. Erhardt's son, Gerald, invites the scorn of his father for doing commercial work while he awaits the birth of his own first child. *My Children Are Different* features characters very much alive with the possibilities of their avocation as musical prodigies and fearless in their pursuit to balance

the joys of expression with the demands of life.—Eddie Cockrell



IN FRENCH  
WITH ENGLISH  
SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Les Films a Un Dollar/Roissy Films/Panache Productions/Cipango SN. **Producer:** Tom Dercourt. **Screenplay:** Denis Dercourt. **Cinematography:** Jerome Peyrebrune. **Editor:** Marie-Joséphine Yoyotte. **Music:** Various. **Principal Cast:** Richard Berry, Mathieu Amalric, Maurice Garrel, Elodie Peudepiece, Frederic Roullier.

Thursday, April 29, 6:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Friday, April 30, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

## Napoleon Dynamite

Jared Hess

USA, 2004, 86 minutes, color

When his llama-owning grandmother busts her coccyx in a dune buggy mishap, high school-aged übergeek Napoleon Dynamite finds himself home alone in Preston, Idaho with his dorky, internet-surfing brother Kip and Uncle Rico, an inept schemer. Sighing sarcastically all the while, Napoleon gets involved with the political ambitions of his new friend Pedro as well as a cloddish mating dance with the alluring Deb. Director Jared Hess grew up in Preston, and expanded his 2003 short *Peluca* into this unique comedy. As a bonus, the shrewd use of period tunes (remember *When in Rome*'s "The Promise"?) ranks right up there with the soundtracks for *Boogie Nights* and *Donnie Darko*.—Eddie Cockrell

**Production Companies:** Access Films/Napoleon Pictures Limited. **Producers:** Jeremy Coon, Sean C. Covell, Chris Wyatt. **Screenplay:** Jared and Jerusha Hess. **Cinematography:** Munn Powell. **Editor:** Jeremy Coon. **Music:** John Swihart. **Principal Cast:** Jon Heder, Jon Gries, Aaron Ruell, Efrén Ramirez, Tina Majorino, Diedrich Bader.

Tuesday, April 27, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema  
Thursday, April 29, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



## Nina Simone: Love Sorceress

Rene

Letzgus

France, 1998,  
65 minutes,  
color

By the time this 1976 Paris concert was filmed, "High Priestess of Soul" Nina Simone had already left the United States for good, disgusted with American show business in general and racism in particular. And though eccentric, her galvanizing performance in front of an enthralled crowd is the typical mixture of blues, jazz, soul, pop, and folk that renders hers one of the most distinctive and important voices in the entertainment world. Alternately confrontational and seductive, she croons at the piano and veers into mid-song monologues. "This isn't so much a concert as a work of performance art," wrote *Chicago Reader* film critic Jonathan Rosenbaum. "One of the best I've seen." Now Washington can see it too.—Eddie Cockrell

**Production Company:** Star Production. **Producer:** René Letzgus. **Other Credits Not Available.**

Thursday, April 29, 9:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Saturday, May 1, 9:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre



## Paper Clips

Joe Fab, Elliot Berlin

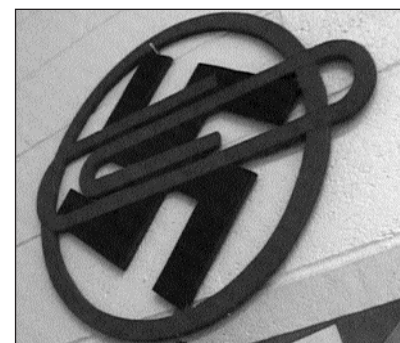
USA, 2004, 82 minutes, color

*Paper Clips* is the inspiring, moving story of a teaching tool that became a way to connect with history. In 1998, three educators at Whitwell, Tennessee's middle school wondered how to teach tolerance, using the Holocaust as an example, in an area with exactly six students of color and one Hispanic among the overwhelmingly Anglo/Christian population. Their idea—to have the students collect one paper clip for each of the six million-plus victims of Adolph Hitler's final solution—snowballed into an international phenomena of mammoth proportions: Thousands of letters from America and around the world have yielded nearly 50 million paper clips.

"When you touch the paper clips," says principal Linda Hooper, "you can feel the souls."—Eddie Cockrell

**Production Company:** Johnson Group. **Producer:** Joe Fab, Robert M. Johnson, Ari Daniel Pinchot. **Screenplay:** Joe Fab. **Cinematography:** Michael Marton. **Editor:** Julia Dixon Eddy. **Music:** Charlie Barnett. **Principal Cast:** Linda Hooper, David Smith, Sandra Roberts, Peter Schroeder, Dagmar Schindel-Hildebrand.

Tuesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas



Politics

# Festival Schedule

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

7:00 p.m. **Opening Night Gala**  
**Valentin**  
with *Alejandro Agresti*  
G.W. Lisner's Auditorium

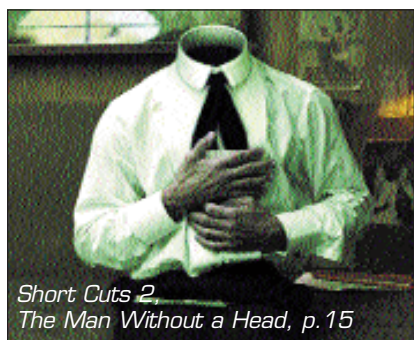
## THURSDAY, APRIL 22

6:30 p.m. **Bright Young Things**  
Avalon Theatre

6:45 p.m. **Gate to Heaven**  
Avalon Theatre

8:45 p.m. **Intimate Stories**  
Avalon Theatre

9:00 p.m. **Some Secrets**  
Avalon Theatre



*Short Cuts 2,  
The Man Without a Head, p. 15*

## FRIDAY, APRIL 23

10:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids Program #2\***  
National Gallery of Art

6:30 p.m. **Seaward Journey**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

6:30 p.m. **Twilight Samurai**  
Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

6:30 p.m. **Dance Cuba: Dreams of Flight**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

6:45 p.m. **Some Secrets**  
Avalon Theatre

7:00 p.m. **Al-Jazeera Exclusive**  
Avalon Theatre

7:00 p.m. **Raja**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

9:00 p.m. **The Soul's Haven**  
Cineplex Odeon Outer Circle

9:00 p.m. **Uniform**  
Avalon Theatre

9:15 p.m. **FireDancer**  
Avalon Theatre

9:15 p.m. **The Kite**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

9:30 p.m. **September**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

9:30 p.m. **Bluegrass Journey**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

## SATURDAY, APRIL 24

10:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids Program #2\***  
National Gallery of Art

3:30 p.m. **El Puno de Hierro\***  
with *Tepeyac\**  
National Gallery of Art

4:00 p.m. **Fire Dancer**  
Avalon Theatre

4:00 p.m. **Short Cuts 1**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

6:30 p.m. **The Kite**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

6:30 p.m. **Since Otar Left**  
Avalon Theatre

7:00 p.m. **September**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

7:00 p.m. **The Soul's Haven**  
Cineplex Odeon Outer Circle

7:00 p.m. **This So-Called Disaster**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

7:00 p.m. **Uniform**  
Avalon Theatre

7:30 p.m. **The Story of the Weeping Camel**  
National Geographic Society

9:00 p.m. **Calypto Dreams**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

9:00 p.m. **Zatoichi**  
Avalon Theatre

9:15 p.m. **Al-Jazeera Exclusive**  
Avalon Theatre

9:15 p.m. **Seaward Journey**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

9:30 p.m. **Bluegrass Journey**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

9:30 p.m. **Raja**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

## SUNDAY, APRIL 25

11:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids Program #1\***  
National Gallery of Art

1:00 p.m. **The Century of the Self**  
Avalon Theatre

3:00 p.m. **Zatoichi: New Tales of Zatoichi**  
Avalon Theatre

5:00 p.m. **Commandante**  
with *Looking for Fidel*  
Avalon Theatre

5:30 p.m. **Abjad**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

5:30 p.m. **The Waiting Room**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:00 p.m. **Ässhäk, Tales from the Sahara**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:00 p.m. **Calypto Dreams**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

6:00 p.m. **Gate to Heaven**  
Avalon Theatre

6:00 p.m. **Two Summers**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

8:00 p.m. **Autumn Spring**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

8:00 p.m. **Common Ground**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

8:00 p.m. **Since Otar Left**  
Avalon Theatre

8:00 p.m. **Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall... and Spring**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:15 p.m. **Zatoichi**  
Avalon Theatre

8:30 p.m. **Distant**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:30 p.m. **Remember Me**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

## MONDAY, APRIL 26

6:30 p.m. **Autumn Spring**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

6:30 p.m. **Bright Young Things**  
Avalon Theatre

6:30 p.m. **Common Ground**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

6:30 p.m. **The Waiting Room**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:45 p.m. **Intimate Stories**  
Avalon Theatre



*The Seagull's Laughter, p. 15*

6:45 p.m. **Stormy Weather**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:45 p.m. **To Kill a King**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

8:30 p.m. **What Jackie Knew**  
Avalon Theatre

8:30 p.m. **Two Summers**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

8:45 p.m. **Ässhäk, Tales from the Sahara**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:45 p.m. **God is Brazilian**  
Avalon Theatre

9:00 p.m. **Abjad**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

9:00 p.m. **Bottom of the Sea**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

9:00 p.m. **Distant**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

## TUESDAY, APRIL 27

10:00 a.m. **Cinema for Seniors\***  
**The Tuskegee Airmen**  
Avalon Theatre

6:30 p.m. **God is Brazilian**  
Avalon Theatre

6:30 p.m. **Paper Clips**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

6:30 p.m. **The Story of the Weeping Camel**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:30 p.m. **The Storytellers**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

6:30 p.m. **To Kill a King**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

6:45 p.m. **What Jackie Knew**  
Avalon Theatre

6:45 p.m. **The Yes Men**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:45 p.m. **Alexandra's Project**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

8:45 p.m. **The Death of Klinghoffer**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

8:45 p.m. **Soldiers of the Rock**  
Avalon Theatre

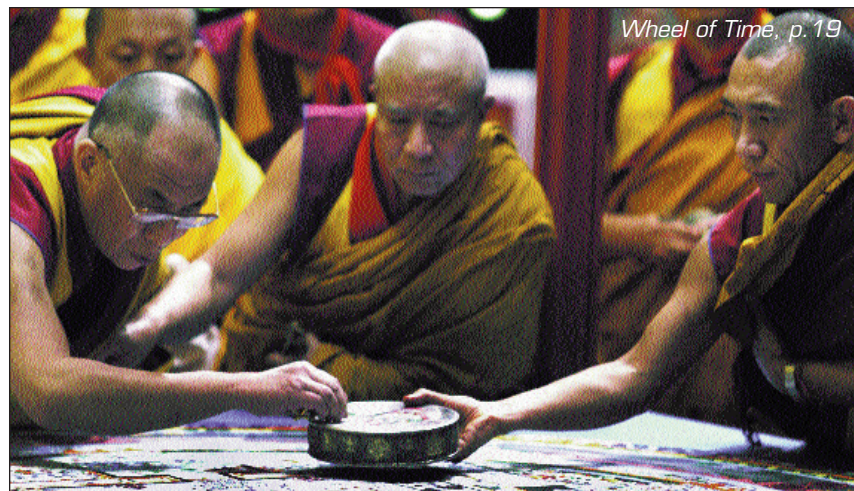
8:45 p.m. **Napoleon Dynamite**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

9:00 p.m. **Remember Me**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

9:00 p.m. **The Seagull's Laughter**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

9:30 p.m. **Cleopatra**  
Avalon Theatre





## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

- 12:00 p.m. **Arts Club Panel and Luncheon**  
Arts Club of Washington
- 6:30 p.m. **Cleopatra**  
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 p.m. **The Death of Klinghoffer**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle
- 6:30 p.m. **Hurricane**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **To Kill a King**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 6:45 p.m. **The Seagull's Laughter**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:45 p.m. **Soldiers of the Rock**  
Avalon Theatre
- 6:45 p.m. **Wheel of Time**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 8:45 p.m. **Vodka Lemon**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 9:00 p.m. **Alexandra's Project**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 9:00 p.m. **Breaking Up**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle
- 9:00 p.m. **Inheritance**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **Silent Waters**  
Avalon Theatre

- 9:00 p.m. **The Yes Men**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema

- 9:15 p.m. **Kamchatka**  
Avalon Theatre

## THURSDAY, APRIL 29

- 10:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids Program #1\***  
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 p.m. **Ana and the Others**  
The Greenberg Theatre
- 6:30 p.m. **Breaking Up**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle
- 6:30 p.m. **Silent Waters**  
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 p.m. **Stormy Weather**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Wheel of Time**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 6:45 p.m. **Kops**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 6:45 p.m. **My Children are Different**  
Avalon Theatre
- 6:45 p.m. **Napoleon Dynamite**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **Inheritance**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **The Saddest Music in the World**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 8:45 p.m. **Hurricane**  
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **Koktebel**  
Avalon Theatre
- 8:45 p.m. **Vodka Lemon**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 9:00 p.m. **The Magic Gloves**  
The Greenberg Theatre
- 9:00 p.m. **Nina Simone: Love Sorceress**  
Avalon Theatre

- 9:00 p.m. **The Storytellers**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

## FRIDAY, APRIL 30

- 10:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids Program #1\***  
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 p.m. **Kops**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 6:30 p.m. **The Magic Gloves**  
The Greenberg Theatre
- 6:30 p.m. **My Children are Different**  
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 p.m. **Seducing Doctor Lewis**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center
- 6:45 p.m. **Green Tea**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle
- 6:45 p.m. **Squint Your Eyes**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 7:00 p.m. **Koktebel**  
Avalon Theatre
- 8:30 p.m. **The Saddest Music in the World**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 8:30 p.m. **What the Eye Doesn't See**  
Avalon Theatre
- 8:45 p.m. **Investigation into the Invisible World**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 9:00 p.m. **Ana and the Others**  
The Greenberg Theatre
- 9:00 p.m. **Festival Express**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle
- 9:15 p.m. **Queen of the Gypsies: A Portrait of Carmen Amaya**  
Avalon Theatre
- 9:15 p.m. **This So-Called Disaster**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center
- 4:30 p.m. **Zatoichi: The Fugitive**  
Avalon Theatre
- 6:00 p.m. **Commandante**  
with **Looking for Fidel**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center
- 6:30 p.m. **Investigation into the Invisible World**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 6:30 p.m. **Queen of the Gypsies: A Portrait of Carmen Amaya**  
Avalon Theatre
- 6:45 p.m. **Seducing Doctor Lewis**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 6:45 p.m. **What the Eye Doesn't See**  
Avalon Theatre
- 7:00 p.m. **Bottom of the Sea**  
The Greenberg Theatre
- 7:00 p.m. **Green Tea**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle
- 9:00 p.m. **Festival Express**  
Loews Cineplex Outer Circle
- 9:00 p.m. **Hurricane**  
The Greenberg Theatre
- 9:00 p.m. **Squint Your Eyes**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 9:00 p.m. **Nina Simone: Love Sorceress**  
Avalon Theatre
- 9:30 p.m. **Seaward Journey**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center
- 9:30 p.m. **Twilight Samurai**  
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
- 9:45 p.m. **Kamchatka**  
Avalon Theatre

## SATURDAY, MAY 1

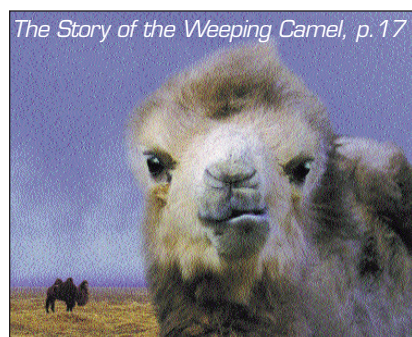
- 2:00 p.m. **Filmmaker's Forum\***  
Borders Bookstore
- 2:00 p.m. **Route 181: Fragments of a Journey to Palestine-Israel**  
Avalon Theatre
- 4:00 p.m. **Short Cuts 2**  
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

## SUNDAY, MAY 2

- 11:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids Program #1\***  
National Gallery of Art
- 4:00 p.m. **Closing Night Event**  
**Super Size Me**  
Lincoln Theater

*\* Events marked with an asterisk are free.*

*All programs are subject to change. See Filmfest DC's daily schedule in The Washington Post Movie Guide.*



For additional information, call  
**(202)628-FILM** or visit  
**www.filmfestdc.org**



**Silent Classics****El Puño de Hierro***Gabriel García Moreno*

Mexico, 1927, 90 minutes, silent film

Shown with

**Tepeyac***Carlos E. González*

Mexico, 1918, 55 minutes, silent film

In *El Puño de Hierro*, a mysterious doctor corrupts a young man experimenting with narcotics.

Intriguing subplots abound. The eclectic

score includes Beethoven's *Sonata 11, Op. 22*, Isaac Albéniz's *Iberia*, and Ricardo Castro's *Appassionato* and *Danza de Salon*.

In *Tepeyac*, a young woman praying for the return of her lover finds an account of the Virgin of Guadalupe's first appearance to Indian peasants. The musical score of Franz Schubert's *Sonata in A major* provides an unusual counterpoint to the plot.

Both films feature new musical scores arranged by Washington's own Gillian Anderson and performed live by New York pianist Martha Locker.

Saturday, April 24, 3:30 p.m., National Gallery of Art, FREE

*Free!***Queen of the Gypsies: A Portrait of Carmen Amaya***Jocelyn Ajami*

USA, 2002, 80 minutes, color and black &amp; white

Carmen Amaya (1913–1926) transformed the art of Flamenco dancing. From her humble beginnings in a Barcelona Gypsy slum through burgeoning popularity in the “song-cafes” of the city to ground-breaking work and universal acknowledgment as a world-renowned superstar, *Queen of the Gypsies* tells her story via photographs and interviews with surviving family members, friends, and colleagues. But it's the rare assemblage of film clips that will astonish the newcomer and delight the fan: Her prowess and speed give the impression that the film itself is somehow speeded up, that it isn't possible for someone to dance that fast and with such precision. Rousing and inspiring, *Queen of the Gypsies* is a major archival contribution to the history of Flamenco dancing.—Eddie Cockrell

IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Gypsy Heart. Producer: Jocelyn Ajami. Screenplay: Jocelyn Ajami. Cinematography: Jocelyn Ajami. Editor: Joshua Antell.

Friday, April 30, 9:15 p.m., Avalon Theatre

Saturday, May 1, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

**Raja***Jacques Doillon*

France/Morocco, 2003, 115 minutes, color

In contemporary Marrakesh,

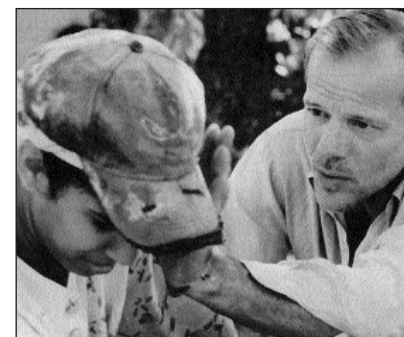
Frenchman Fred becomes obsessed with 19-year-old Raja, one of a group of women he hires to tend the garden in his lavish compound. What begins as a flirtatious game soon turns serious, as Fred offers Raja a full-time job and showers her with gifts and money. Although the girl seems inexperienced and they barely speak each other's language, she's tougher than Fred imagines, and soon gains the upper hand in their age-old battle of the sexes. Veteran Paris-born auteur Jacques Doillon has built a distinguished career on explorations of gender and Oedipal issues. Under the crisp, sun-drenched gaze of Helene Louvart's widescreen camera, Raja's growing sexual tension is choreographed with shrewd calculation and almost malevolent patience.—Eddie Cockrell

IN FRENCH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Les Films de Losange (France)/Agora Films (Morocco). Producers: Margaret Menegoz, Souad Lamraki, Benedicte Bellocq. Screenplay: Jacques Doillon. Cinematography: Helene Louvart. Editor: Gladys Joujou. Music: Philippe Sarda. Principal Cast: Pascal Greggory, Najat Benssallem, Itham Abdelwahed, Hassan Khissal, Oum El Aid Alt Youss.

Friday, April 23, 7:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Saturday, April 24, 9:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

**Remember Me***Ricordati di mi**Gabriele Muccino*

Italy/France/United Kingdom, 2003, 124 minutes, color

Following the phenomenally successful *The Last Kiss*, Italian director Gabriele Muccino's most recent film offers a blistering assessment of the frustrations of two generations of an Italian middle-class family. Dad, a frustrated novelist, takes up with an old flame (Monica Bellucci, who played Persephone in the last two *Matrix* films). Mom, a teacher returns to her ambition of acting with unforeseen results. Their 18-year-old daughter dreams of becoming a TV star, while their 19-year-old son has no idea what to do with his life. *Remember Me* affirms Muccino's position at the forefront of a group of young filmmakers pushing national commercial cinema into new territory.—David Rooney, *Variety*

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Fandango (Italy)/Buena Vista Film Production (France)/Vice Versa Film (United Kingdom). Producer: Domenico Procacci. Screenplay: Gabriele Muccino, Haidrun Schlee, from a story by Gabriele Muccino. Cinematography: Marcello Montarsi. Editor: Claudio Di Mauro. Music: Paolo Buonvino. Principal Cast: Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Laura Morante, Nicoletta Romanoff, Silvio Muccino, Monica Bellucci.

Sunday, April 25, 8:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Tuesday, April 27, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

**Route 181: Fragments of a Journey to Palestine-Israel***Michel Khleifi, Eyal Sivan*

France/Belgium/United Kingdom/Germany, 2003, 270 minutes, color

In the summer of 2002, Palestinian filmmaker Michel Khleifi and Israeli filmmaker Eyal Sivan spent two months traveling a self-navigated highway they dubbed “route 181”—a reference to the number of the November 1947 United Nations resolution partitioning Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. From building sites to billboards, from shop to kibbutz, from the Ashdod in the south through Jerusalem then on north to the barbed-wire festooned Lebanese frontier, the filmmakers asked and received real opinions from real people about the possibility of peace. What they've assembled is indeed powerful and illuminating, a vibrant look past the politicians and violence to the people committed to making their homes in this ruggedly beautiful, profoundly unsettled land.—Eddie Cockrell

IN ARABIC AND HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Momentol (France)/Sourat Films (Belgium)/Sindbad Films (United Kingdom)/WDR (Germany). Producers: Michel Khleifi, Eyal Sivan. Screenplay: Eyal Sivan, Michel Khleifi. Cinematography: Philippe Bellaiche. Editors: Eyal Sivan, Michel Khleifi.

Saturday, May 1, 2:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

**The Saddest Music in the World***Guy Maddin*

Canada, 2003, 100 minutes, color and black &amp; white

Iconoclastic Canadian director Guy Maddin, whose distinctive oeuvre includes *Tales from the Gimli Hospital* (FFDC 1989), *Careful* (FFDC 1993), and *Dracula: Pages from a Virgin's Diary* (FFDC 2003), returns with perhaps his most wildly imaginative and accessible movie to date. To combat the “cavalcade of misery” that is Manitoba during the Great Depression, a legless local brewery baroness (Isabella Rossellini) establishes a competition to find the title tune, pledging \$25,000 with the promise “if you're sad and like beer, I'm your lady.” Among the competitors are a down-on-his luck Broadway producer (Mark McKinney) and a Serbian rep (Ross McMillan), estranged brothers who clash over the prize. A provocative pastiche of silent film aesthetics highlights this subversively funny melodrama.

—Eddie Cockrell

Production Companies: Rhombus Media/Bufalo Gal Pictures. Producers: Niv Fichman, Jody Shapiro. Screenplay: George Toles, Guy Maddin, from an original screenplay by Kazuo Ishiguro. Cinematography: Luc Montpeller. Editor: David Wharmsby. Music: Christopher Dedrick. Principal Cast: Mark McKinney, Isabella Rossellini, Maria de Medeiros, David Fox, Ross McMillan.

Thursday, April 29, 8:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Friday, April 30, 8:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas





## The Seagull's Laughter Mavahlatur

Agust Gudmundsson

Iceland/Germany/  
United Kingdom,  
2001, 102 minutes,  
color

"It's so damned cold here," says free spirit Freyja of the Icelandic fishing village to which she's returned some time after World War II, and following the mysterious death of her husband in America. But she still manages to heat things up, both among the eccentric family members with whom she lives and the well-to-do engineer whose heart she's snared. Leave it to 11-year-old cousin Agga to stir things up; deeply suspicious of her stories, the child constantly pesters the local constable to take some kind of action. But by the time he does, it may be too late. A bluesy, big-band musical motif provides a broad hint to the emotional temperature of this mischievous family frolic.—Eddie Cockrell

IN ICELANDIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Isfilm (Iceland)/Hope & Glory Film (Germany)/Archer Street Productions (United Kingdom). **Producer:** Kristin Atladottir. **Screenplay:** Agust Gudmundsson. **Cinematography:** Peter Joachim Krause. **Editor:** Henrik D. Moll. **Music:** Various. **Principal Cast:** Margret Vilhjálmsdóttir, Uglá Egilsdóttir, Heino Ferch, Hilmar Snær Guðnason, Kristbjörg Kjeld.

Tuesday, April 27, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema  
Wednesday, April 28, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



## Seaward Journey El viaje hacia el mar

Guillermo Casanova

Uruguay/  
Argentina, 2003,  
77 minutes, color

Four eccentric provincial townspeople, a smooth stranger, and a blustery driver make their way in a rickety red truck from the Lavalleja region of Uruguay to the Atlantic Ocean resorts east of Montevideo. Along the way, the travelers bicker and bond as they look forward to seeing the ocean for the first time in their lives. Debuting director Guillermo Casanova displays a keen sense of comic timing and a fine rapport with his appealing cast. The adventures of this contentious but big-hearted band are played out against spectacular locations. *Seaward Journey* was Uruguay's official submission in the 2003 foreign film Oscar® race.—Eddie Cockrell

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Lavoragine Films (Uruguay)/Jorge Rocca (Argentina). **Producer:** Natacha Lopez. **Screenplay:** Guillermo Casanova, Julio Cesar Castro, from the short story by J.J. Morosoli. **Cinematography:** Barbara Alvarez. **Editor:** Santiago Svirsky. **Music:** Jaime Roos. **Principal Cast:** Hugo Arana, Julio Calcagno, Julio Cesar Castro, Diego Delgrossi, Hector Guido.

Friday, April 23, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle  
Saturday, April 24, 9:15 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle  
Saturday, May 1, 9:30 p.m., AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

■ Co-presented with the Center for the Global South, American University.



## Seducing Doctor Lewis La grande seduction

Jean-Francois Pouliot

Canada, 2003, 108 minutes, color

St. Marie-La-Mauderne is a tiny fishing village in the middle of nowhere. For eight years the locals have stood in line for weekly welfare checks, remembering the good old days when the catch was good, the fishermen were proud, and life was a lot more magical. A small company wants to build a factory on the island—but only if a full-time doctor lives in St. Marie. The situation seems hopeless until a young doctor in Montreal has an unfortunate incident with a traffic cop and finds himself on a boat to the faraway village. Now the locals must convince him to stay. This effortless comedy is a sparkling delight from start to finish.—Elizabeth Richardson, 2004 Sundance Film Festival

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Max Films. **Producers:** Roger Frappier, Luc Vandal. **Screenplay:** Ken Scott. **Cinematography:** Allen Smith. **Editor:** Dominique Fortin. **Music:** Jean-Marie Benoit. **Principal Cast:** Raymond Bouchard, David Boutin, Benoit Briere, Bruno Blanchet, Pierre Collin.

Friday, April 30, 6:30 p.m., AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center  
Saturday, May 1, 6:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

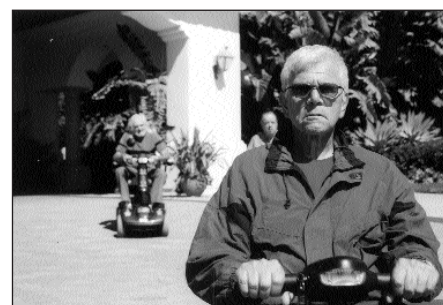


## Shorts Programs

### Short Cuts 1

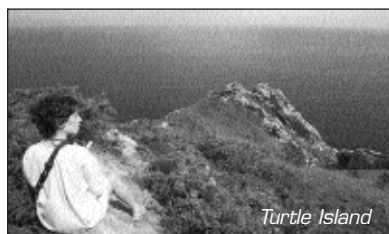
(98 minutes total):

**U Street Blue**, Raafi Rivero (USA 2003) 21 min., color, 16mm/Digi-Beta. In the shadow of the U Street Duke Ellington mural, a local filmmaker's urban fairy tale walks the line between gritty reality and flights of fancy. **Heroes**, Jimmy McAleavey (UK/Ireland 2003) 9 min., color, 35mm. In hard-boiled Belfast, a boy



Restive Planet, "The Bad Guys"

looks for heroes where none appear to exist. **The Open Window**, Philippe Barcinski (Brazil 2003) 10 min., color, 35mm. "Did I remember to close the window?" asks a sleepless man as he lies awake. The journey of a simple thought travelling through a stormy mind. **Deep Silence**, Gustavo Loza (Mexico 2003) 16 min., color, 35mm. Two children have mysteriously disappeared from Havana. One of them returns and insists on remaining silent. **Cracker Bag**, Glendyn Ivin (Australia 2003) 14 min., color, 35mm. Edie lights the fuse of her first firecracker and experiences a pivotal moment, one of the seemingly small experiences of childhood that changes us forever. **Turtle Island**, Maru Solares (Spain/Basque 2002) 15 min., color, 35mm. A creature from outer space comes to earth, landing on an island resembling a petrified tortoise. Ainhoa, a 9-year-old asthmatic, challenges herself to remain overnight alone, pretending she's an extraterrestrial discovering the island. **Restive Planet**, John Cregan (USA 2004) 13 min., color, 35mm. Bobby helps his uncle settle into an upscale retirement community, which starts to look a lot like high school.



Turtle Island

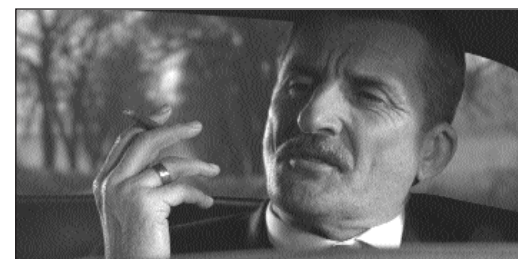
Saturday, April 24, 4:00 p.m., AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center

### Short Cuts 2 (95 minutes total):



Clutch

clation within a remote and voiceless family. **When the Wind Weaves Flowers**, Bania Medjbar (France 2003) 24 min., color, 35mm. Lolli wants to settle down but Mouss clings to his freedom...and, of course, things really get interesting when a child enters the picture. **Clutch**, Jackie Schulz (Australia 2003) 9 min., color, 35mm. Sometimes maintenance means more than fixing cars. **Fricassee**, Martin Krejci (Czech Republic 2003) 14 min., color, 35mm. "Only an idiot can spice rabbit fricassee with something as vulgar as basil." This is a film about food, vanity, and what happens when a real gourmet has to have the last word at all cost. **The Man Without a Head**, Juan Solanas (France 2003) 15 min., color, 35mm. The man without a head has a date with the girl of his dreams. For this extra special occasion, perhaps he should purchase a head?



Fricassee

Saturday, May 1, 4:00 p.m., AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center



**September***Max**Faerberboeck*Germany, 2003,  
115 minutes, color

Tragedy can lead to confusion, but confusion can be defused by strength and resolve. Following the events of September 11, 2001, an unconnected group of German citizens are united in their growing sense of apprehension. A housewife and her husband find their plans for divorce transformed; a pregnant woman grows suspicious of her Pakistani mate; a tortured journalist is provoked; an already-angry cop rails at the instability around him, and so on. Through days of uncertainty and fear, each relationship reaches for equilibrium and understanding. Interlaced with visual and aural reminders of the attack and its aftermath, *September* underscores how profoundly the world changed on one day in 2001 and how unpredictable individual responses to tragedy can be.—Eddie Cockrell

IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** nf2/Distant Dreams/Telepool/ZDF. **Producers:** Max Faerberboeck, Martin Hagemann. **Screenplay:** Max Faerberboeck, Sarah Khan, Matthias Pacht, Moritz Rinke, Maria Scheibelhofer, John von Duffel. **Cinematography:** Carl F. Koschnick. **Editor:** Ewa J. Lind. **Music:** Dario Marianelli. **Principal Cast:** Solveig Amarsdottir, Justus von Dohnanyi, Rene Irah, Anja Kling, Nina Proll, Moritz Rinke.

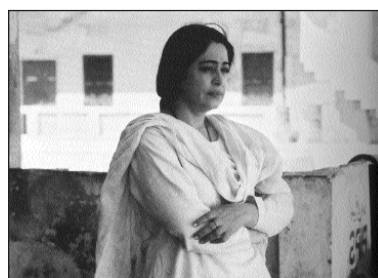
Friday, April 23, 9:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinema

Saturday, April 24, 7:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

**Politics****Silent Waters***Khamosh pani**Sabiha Sumar*

Pakistan/France/Germany, 2003, 100 minutes, color

Widowed Ayesha lives in the halcyon Pakistani Punjabi village of Charkhi near the Indian border. She lives for her 18-year-old son Saleem, who has yet to find his way in the world. He is deeply in love with the proud and beautiful Zubeidaa who is planning to be a career woman. All seems blissful in the village until the news of General Zia coming to power, and the arrival of two strangers from Lahore preaching revolutionary Islamic values. The young village men, including Saleem, quickly get swept up in the religious fervor. Meanwhile, Ayesha has a mysterious visitor who forces her to unveil a shocking secret with catastrophic consequences.

—Cary Rajinder Sawhney, *The Times BFI*, 47th London Film Festival 2003

**Screenplay:** Paromita Vohra, from a story by Sabiha Sumar. **Cinematography:** Ralph Netzer. **Editor:** Bettina Boehler. **Music:** Madan Gopal Singh. **Principal Cast:** Kirron Kher, Aamir Malik, Arshad Mahmud, Salman Shahid, Shilpa Shukla.

Wednesday, April 28, 9:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

Thursday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

**Politics****Since Otar Left***Depuis ou'Otar est parti**Julie Bertuccelli*France/Belgium,  
2003, 103 minutes, color

Since good Georgian son Otar left to live and work in Paris, things haven't been the same for his 90-year-old mother Eka, fiftyish sister Marina, and her daughter Ada, who share a cramped flat in Tbilisi and live for Otar's letters, telephone calls, and the modest sums of money he sends. When Marina and Ada learn of Otar's sudden death, they keep the news from Eka, who insists on traveling to Paris to see her son again. This precisely written and exquisitely performed work marks an auspicious debut for Julie Bertuccelli, a documentary filmmaker and former assistant director for *losseliani*, *Kieslowski*, *Tavernier*, and others. *Since Otar Left* has garnered acclaim at three film festivals and racked up several awards.—Eddie Cockrell

IN GEORGIAN, RUSSIAN, AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Les Films du Poisson (France)/Entre Chien et Loup (Belgium). **Producer:** Yael Fogiel. **Screenplay:** Julie Bertuccelli, Bernard Renucci, Roger Bohbot. **Cinematography:** Christophe Pollock. **Editor:** Emmanuelle Castro. **Music:** Various. **Principal Cast:** Esther Gorintin, Nino Khomassouridze, Dinara Droukarova, Temour Kalendadze, Roussoudan Bolkvadze.

Saturday, April 24, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

Sunday, April 25, 8:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

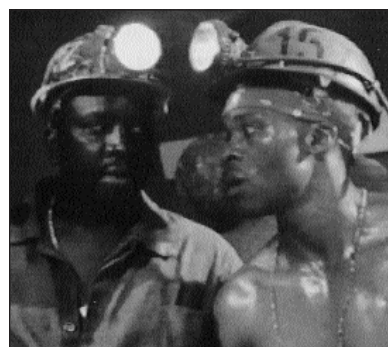
**Soldiers of the Rock***Norman Maake*

South Africa, 2003, 98 minutes, color

A South African gold mining crew struggles with cultural pride, violent feuds, and constant danger in this bracing, socially-conscious action film made by students at the South African School of Motion Picture Medium and Live Performance. To experience the world in which his father died, Vuyo uses his break from business studies (paid for by dad's meager savings) to join a jaded, well-muscled Johannesburg crew of deep-level gold miners working lengthy shifts far underground. Intense fraternization alternates with efforts of ex-con laborer Suto to organize purchase of their own mine; his violent fate

prompts a shift in power among the men that leads to a harrowing subterranean showdown with a crazed dissenter.—Eddie Cockrell

**Production Company:** South African School of Motion Picture Medium

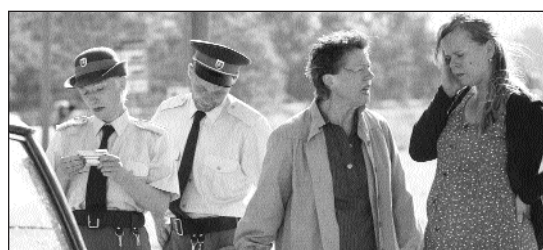


and Live Performance. **Producer:** Darren Gordon. **Screenplay:** Bata Passchier, Norman Maake. **Cinematography:** Natalie Haarhof. **Editor:** Bata Passchier. **Music:** Benjamin Willen. **Principal Cast:** Vuyo Dabula, Lebo Mathosa, Glen Gabela, Sibusiso Mhlangu, Michael Dlamini.

Tuesday, April 27, 8:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre

Wednesday, April 28, 6:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre

■ Co-presented with the Center for the Global South, American University.

**Politics****Some Secrets***Vylet**Alice Nellis*

Czech Republic, 2002, 100 minutes, color

In the Czech Republic, a grandmother decides her dead son wanted his ashes spread over his birthplace in neighboring Slovakia. So she forces her widowed daughter-in-law, granddaughters Zuzana and Ilona, and their husbands and children to pile into two cars and set off for the countryside. Along the way, some secrets are revealed: Ilona discovers a new-found bond with her sister's husband, Zuzana confesses an affair to her mother, and so on. For added veracity, writer-director Alice Nellis cast two real-life sisters as the sisters, and their mother to play—you guessed it—their mother. Don't miss the charming gag during the closing credits of this low-keyed, intimate family comedy.—Eddie Cockrell

IN SLOVAK AND CZECH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Filmia/Czech TV/Ars Media/Studio Virtual. **Producer:** Pavel Solc. **Screenplay:** Alice Nellis. **Cinematography:** Ramunas Greicius. **Editors:** Josef Valusiak, Adam Dvorak. **Music:** Tomas Polak. **Principal Cast:** Iva Janzurova, Theodora Remundova, Igor Bares, Sabina Remundova, Nadia Kotrova.

Thursday, April 22, 9:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

Friday, April 23, 6:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre

**The Soul's Haven***Il posto dell'anima**Riccardo Milani*

Italy, 2003, 105 minutes, color

In the Abruzzo mountain region of southern Italy, the residents of a pretty town depend on the American-owned CarAir tire factory for their livelihood. When the plant's faceless management abruptly announces they're laying off the 500 workers and shutting down, the employees band together to reverse the decision. There's union organizer Salvatore, who wants to adopt *Sitting Bull* as the movement's icon; the emotional Mario, seized with panic over the prospect of being poor again; and sad-sack Antonio, whose girlfriend escaped the village long ago but returns from Milan to offer moral support. Alternately tough and tender, *The Soul's Haven* fleshes out labor movie precepts with rich characters and fervent performances.—Eddie Cockrell

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Albachiana/RAI Cinema. **Producer:** Lionello Cerri. **Screenplay:** Domenico Stamone, Riccardo Milani. **Cinematography:** Arnaldo Catinari. **Editor:** Marco Spoletini. **Music:** Leandro Piccioni. **Principal Cast:** Silvio Orlando, Michele Placido, Claudio Santamaria, Paola Cortellesi, Imma Piro.

Friday, April 23, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

Saturday, April 24, 7:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle





## Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter...and Spring

*Bom Yeorum Gaeul Gyeoul Geurigo...Bom*

**Kim Ki-duk**

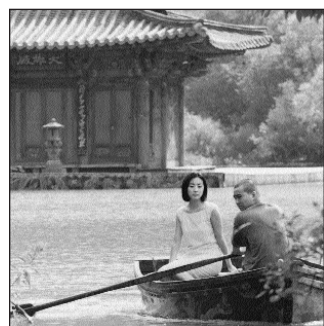
South Korea/Germany, 2003, 102 minutes, color

When a young monk is found gleefully tying stones to a fish, a frog, and a snake, his master binds a rock to the child's back and instructs him to set each animal free. The master warns that if any creature has died, the boy will carry that stone in his heart forever. Thus commences a journey that follows the monk's transition from love and temptation as a teenager to a misstep as a young man, through his subsequent search for peace of heart, and ultimately to maturity. Anchored by the compelling relationship between master and pupil, the

film finds its pace in their daily regimen, and in the gentle rhythms of nature. —John Nein, 2004 Sundance Film Festival

IN KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** LJ Films (South Korea)/Pandora Film Production (Germany). **Producer:** Lee Seung-jae. **Screenplay:** Kim Ki-duk. **Cinematography:** Baek Dong-



hyeon. **Editor:** Kim Ki-duk. **Music:** Bark Jee-woong. **Principal Cast:** Oh Yeong-su, Kim Ki-duk, Kim Yeong-min, Seo Jae-gyeong, Ha Yeo-jin.

Sunday, April 25, 8:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

## Squint Your Eyes

*Zmrzuczy*

**Andrzej Jakimowski**

Poland, 2003, 88 minutes, color

Mala, a plucky 10-year-old girl, runs away from home because her career-obsessed parents don't have enough time for her. She is looked after by Jasiek, a former teacher who lives on an abandoned farm. When Mala's parents cannot persuade their daughter to



return home, Jasiek decides to help her in his own gentle way. First-time director Andrzej Jakimowski plays with the viewers' expectations and creates a world balanced somewhere between reality and fantasy, between real life and a fairytale. His poetic comedy poses several serious questions about the val-

ues that parents surreptitiously communicate to their children.

—33rd Rotterdam International Film Festival 2004

IN POLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** ZAIR. **Producers:** Arkadiusz Artemjew, Tomasz Gassowski, Andrzej Jakimowski. **Screenplay:** Andrzej Jakimowski. **Cinematography:** Adam Bajerski, Pawel Smietanka. **Editor:** Cezary Grzesiuk. **Music:** Tomasz Gassowski. **Principal Cast:** Zbigniew Zamachowski, Ola Proszynska, Rafal Guzniczak, Andrzej Chyrya, Malgorzata Foremniak.

Friday, April 30, 6:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Saturday, May 1, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

## Stormy Weather

*Solveig Anspach*

France/Iceland/Belgium, 2003, 91 minutes, color

In the psychiatric ward of a big city hospital in Belgium, idealistic doctor Cora feels an emotional tug to



a mute homeless woman named Noa. Cora is so affected by the news that her patient has been returned to her southern Icelandic island home of Vestmannaeyjar that she shows up there unannounced to follow up. There she discovers Noa's life, which includes a stubborn husband and a helpful doctor. Director Solveig Anspach, who first came to international attention with her award-winning 1999 Paris-set drama *Battle Cries*, again displays an extraordinarily sure hand with her performers. For her intense performance as Noa, Didda Jonsdottir won the 2003 Edda prize (Iceland's version of the Oscar®) for best actress. —Eddie Cockrell

IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Ex Nihilo. **Producers:** Baltasar Kormakur, Luc Dardenne, Jean-Pierre Dardenne. **Screenplay:** Solveig Anspach, Cecile Vargaftig, Pierre Erwan Guillaume, Roger Bohbot. **Cinematography:** Benoit Dervaux. **Editor:** Anne Riegel. **Music:** Alexandre Desplat. **Principal Cast:** Elodie Bouchez, Didda Jonsdottir, Baltasar Kormakur, Ingvar E. Sigurdsson, Christophe Sermet.

Monday, April 26, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema  
Thursday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

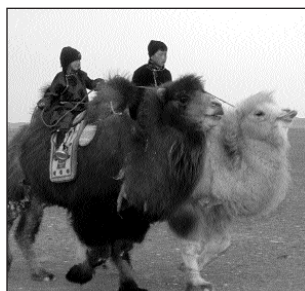
## The Story of the Weeping Camel

*Die geschichte vom weinen-den kamel*

**Byambasuren Davaa, Luigi Falorni**

Germany, 2003, 90 minutes, color

In South Mongolia's vast Gobi desert, four generations of a camel herding family live in three tents while tending to their regal yet watery-eyed herd of Bactrian beasts of burden. When one camel rejects her white baby following a difficult birth, the family struggles to keep the calf alive before sending two sons on a trek across the desert to find a violinist trained to perform a ceremony that may or may not save the animal. A movie-making gamble that paid big emotional dividends, the film was shot by two students at Munich's film school who set out to make an hour-long documentary but expanded it to a feature when they captured the rare birth of a white camel. —Eddie Cockrell



IN MONGOLIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Munich Film School HFF. **Producers:** Tobias N. Siebert. **Screenplay:** Byambasuren Davaa, Luigi Falorni. **Cinematography:** Luigi Falorni. **Editor:** Anja Pohl. **Music:** Marcel Leniz. **Principal Cast:** Janchiv Janchiv Ayurzana, Chimed Chimed Ohin, Amгаа Amgaabazar Gonson, Zevel Zeveljamz Nyam, Ingen Teme Botok.

Saturday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., National Geographic Society  
Tuesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

## The Storytellers

*Narradores de java*

**Eliane Caffé**

Brazil, 2003, 102 minutes, color

When the eccentric denizens of a Brazilian backwater learn their town is soon to be flooded by a huge hydro-electric plant and dam project, they coax outspoken writer Antonio Bia out of exile to pen the glorious "true" story of their village—even though nobody can agree on a single historical detail and each account varies wildly. A breezy fable about the inconsistency of memory and the inevitability of change, *The Storytellers* is also a story about rural fortitude and the ways in which people must learn to live together regardless of their fate. Eliane Caffé's second film is marked by spirited performances from the energetic cast, rugged locations in rural Brazil, and a jazzy, sinewy score. —Eddie Cockrell



IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Bananeira Filmes/Gullane/Laterit. **Producer:** Vania Catani. **Screenplay:** Eliane Caffé, Alberto Abreu. **Cinematography:** Hugo Kovensky. **Editor:** Daniel Rezende. **Music:** DJ Dolores. **Principal Cast:** Jose Dumont, Gero Camilo, Rui Rezende, Nelson Xavier, Luci Pereira.

Tuesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle  
Thursday, April 29, 9:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle

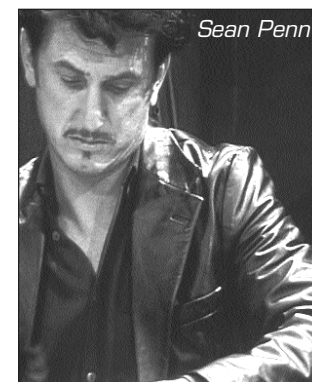
## This So-Called Disaster

**Michael Almereyda**

United States, 2003, 87 minutes, color

*This So-Called Disaster*, a portrait of Sam Shepard and the rehearsals for his play "The Late Henry Moss" (which Shepard also directed) in San Francisco, is anything but. Unfolding in a cramped adobe shack in New Mexico, the play tells the story of two long-estranged brothers (Nick Nolte, Sean Penn) reunited by the death of their father (James Gammon). Inspired by his own estranged father's death, Shepard worked on the autobiographical piece intermittently for 16 years. Michael Almereyda's film strives to understand what brought Shepard and his cast to a point where they were prepared to give to "Henry Moss" the intense emotional commitment it demands. Candid interviews with Nolte, Penn, et. al., offer absorbing, voyeuristic glances. —Scott Foundas, *Variety*

**Production Company:** IFC Productions. **Producers:** Callum Greene, Anthony Katagas. **Cinematography:** Amber Lasciak, Andy Black, Adam Keker, Michael McDonough. **Editor:** Kate Williams. **Principal Cast:** T. Bone Burnett, James Gammon, Woody Harrelson, Cheech Marin, Anne Miller, Nick Nolte, Sean Penn, Sam Shepard, Sheila Tousey.



Saturday, April 24, 7:00 p.m., AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center  
Friday, April 30, 9:15 p.m., AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center



## To Kill a King

Mike  
Barker

United Kingdom/  
Germany, 2003,  
102 minutes,  
color  
England's

controversial mid-17th century period of civil war and the resulting short-lived republic sets the stage for *To Kill a King*. The gradual falling out between General Sir Thomas Fairfax (co-producer Dougray Scott, *Mission: Impossible II*) and his deputy Oliver Cromwell (Tim Roth, *Reservoir Dogs*) plays out against the latter's obvious attraction to the trappings and wife (Olivia Williams, *The Heart of Me*, *FFDC 2003*) of the former. The soul of the film, however, is Rupert Everett's focused, unman-nered turn as the conniving yet ultimately doomed king. This thoughtful, widescreen epic harks back to a very different style of moviemaking even as it thrills with the fresh, urgent issues of egalitarianism and compromise in the name of freedom.—Eddie Cockrell

**Production Company:** Natural Nylon Entertainment (United Kingdom)/Screenland Movieworld (Germany). **Producer:** Kevin Loader. **Screenplay:** Jenny Mayhew. **Cinematography:** Eigil Bryld. **Editor:** Guy Bensley. **Music:** Richard G. Mitchell. **Principal Cast:** Tim Roth, Dougray Scott, Rupert Everett, Olivia Williams, James Bolam, Corin Redgrave.

Monday, April 26, 6:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Tuesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Wednesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

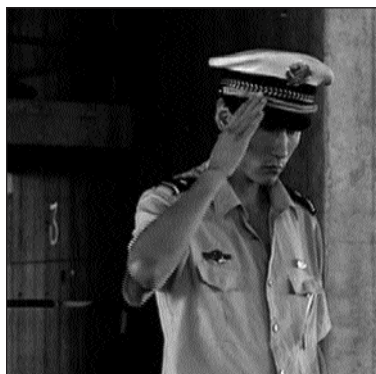
## Uniform

Zhifu

Diao  
Yi'nan

Hong Kong,  
2003,  
92 minutes,  
color

Taciturn Wang Xiaojian has been let go from the local enamel factory in China's



Shaanxi province and now helps his parents run their small laundry. Discovering that the cop he's tried to deliver a uniform to has left his apartment after an accident, Wang impulsively tries it on and is thus emboldened to pick up music store clerk Zheng Shasha and fine random drivers to collect money for his ill dad's hospital bills. But all good things must come to an end. *Uniform* won the prestigious *Dragons & Tigers Award* for Young Cinema at the 2003 Vancouver festival, where the jury praised it as "a first feature of remarkable maturity and accomplishment." A fitting tribute for a fine debut.—Eddie Cockrell

IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Hu Tong Communication. **Producers:** Li Kit-ming, Iku Ishikawa. **Screenplay:** Diao Yi'nan. **Cinematography:** Dong Jinsong. **Editor:** Chow Keung. **Music:** Wan Zi. **Principal Cast:** Liang Hongli, Zeng Shuoqiong.

Friday, April 23, 9:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

Saturday, April 24, 7:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

## The Twilight Samurai

Tasogare Seibel

Yoji Yamada

Japan, 2003, 129 minutes,  
color

A low-ranking samurai with the Unasaka clan in northeastern China's Shonai province, recent widower Seibei Iguchi toils in obscurity on menial clan tasks while caring for a senile mother and two young daughters. Seibei resists his uncle's suggestion that he remarry, although he does have to disarm the angry ex-husband of the woman chosen for him. As internecine conflict roils the clan, Seibei is ordered to kill the renegade Yogo, and so sets out to complete the task. Winner of the best picture and director awards at Japan's version of the Academy Awards®, and one of the final five films nominated for the 2003 best foreign film Oscar®, *The Twilight Samurai* was a major commercial success in Japan.—Eddie Cockrell

IN JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Nippon TV Network/Sumitomo Corporation/Hakuhodo. **Producers:** Shigehiro Nakagawa, Hiroshi Fukasawa, Ichiro Yamamoto. **Screenplay:** Yoji Yamada, Yoshitaka Asama, from the novels "Twilight Seibel," "Sukehachi the Beggar," and "Record of a Bamboo Sword" by Shuhei Fujisawa. **Cinematography:** Mutsuo Naganuma. **Editor:** Iwao Ishii. **Music:** Isao Tomita. **Principal Cast:** Hiroyuki Sanada, Rie Miyazawa, Nenji Kobayashi, Ren Osugi, Mitsuru Fukikoshi.

Friday, April 23, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Saturday, May 1, 9:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas



## Vodka Lemon

Hiner  
Saleem

France/  
Switzerland/  
Armenia/  
Italy, 2003,  
90 minutes,  
color

Love blooms between widower Hamo and Nina, a widow who works at the title bar in a snowbound Armenian village that's crippled by a faltering economy. Marbled with sympathetic eccentrics who make do against cruel and unusual odds, *Vodka Lemon* won the San Marco Prize at the 2003 Venice festival and has proven itself a left field festival favorite from Toronto to Bangkok. Kurdish director Hiner Saleem's fourth feature film is a little gem that takes a potentially grim subject and mines it for maximum humor and insight. Filled with quietly amusing sight gags that testify to the enduringly optimistic spirits of its beleaguered characters, the film is quite a charmer. It's visually rich and utterly disarming.—David Stratton, *Variety*

IN ARMENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Dulcine Films (France)/Arte France Cinema-Cinefacto (France)/Amka Films (Switzerland)/Paradise Films (Armenia)/Sintra Films (Italy). **Producer:** Fabrice Guez. **Screenplay:** Hiner Saleem. **Cinematography:** Christophe Pollock. **Editor:** Dora Mantzourou. **Music:** Michel Korb. **Principal Cast:** Romik Avinian, Lala Sarkissian, Ivan Franek, Rouzanne Mesropian, Zahal Karielachvili.

Wednesday, April 28, 8:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Thursday, April 29, 8:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas



## Two Summers

Houve uma vez dois veroes

Jorge Furtado

Brazil, 2002, 74 minutes, color

There are four kinds of girls, amiable teenager Chico learns from his pal. "The first turns you into an idiot, the other two I can't remember." Possessed of exactly that brand of irreverent humor, this self-assured and finely played Brazilian teen comedy follows Chico's voyage of discovery after he loses his virginity to the lovely yet mysterious Roza, who promptly disappears. Later that fall she calls the moping lad out of the blue, claiming to be pregnant. Chico soon learns that things aren't what they seem, and overcomes a particularly rocky road to true love via a new-found resourcefulness and a dollop of luck.—Eddie Cockrell

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Casa de Cinema de Porto Alegre. **Screenplay:** Jorge Furtado. **Cinematography:** Alex Sernambi. **Editor:** Giba Assis Brasil. **Music:** Leo Henkin. **Principal Cast:** Andre Arache, Ana Maria Manieri, Pedro Furtado, Julia Barth, Victoria Mazzini.

Sunday, April 25, 6:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle  
Monday, April 26, 8:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Outer Circle



## The Waiting Room

Bekleme Odasi

Zeki  
Demirkubuz

Turkey, 2003,  
94 minutes, color

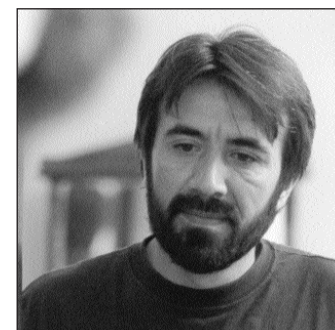
The final film in Zeki Demirkubuz's "Tales About Darkness" trilogy, *The Waiting Room* concerns a film director preparing a new version of Dostoyevsky's "Crime and Punishment" whose life is consumed by his work and his lover. The first two installments, *Fate* and *The Confession*, made Cannes festival history in 2002 as the first time two films by the same director were shown in the prestigious Un Certain Regard section. "Although his narratives are outwardly concerned with social issues," a programmer wrote of Demirkubuz's oeuvre, "the films are fundamentally focused on his characters' existential motivations." *Filmfest DC* audiences will be among the first in the United States to see a new work by one of the rising young stars of international cinema.—Eddie Cockrell

IN TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Credits unavailable.

Sunday, April 25, 5:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema  
Monday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

★ Presented in cooperation with the Silk Road Film Festival





## What Jackie Knew

*Ce que savait Jackie*

**Politics**



*Patrick  
Jeudy*

France, 2003,  
55 minutes,  
color and black  
& white

Jacqueline  
Kennedy's  
clear-eyed  
knowledge of  
her husband's  
burgeoning  
political power

and entrenched personal peccadilloes is at the heart of this thoughtful and fascinating assemblage of newsreel clips, home movies, photographs, and official White House footage. Director Patrick Jeudy peels away the perfect veneer of the Camelot mystique by playing images of the vigorous JFK against the impetus for Jackie's decision to marry him despite his womanizing ways and her subsequent relationship with shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, which was orchestrated with the utmost discretion. There's not a shred of sensationalism in *What Jackie Knew*, which presents a First Lady who enriched the country's cultural climate even as she balanced her responsibilities as a wife against her needs as a woman.—Eddie Cockrell

**Production Company:** Point du Jour. **Executive Producer:** Luc-Martin Gousset. **Narrator:** Hester Wilcox. **Cinematography:** Various. **Editor:** Francoise Tubaut.

Monday, April 26, 8:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Tuesday, April 27, 6:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre

## What the Eye Doesn't See

*Ojo que  
no ven*

*Francisco J.  
Lombardi*

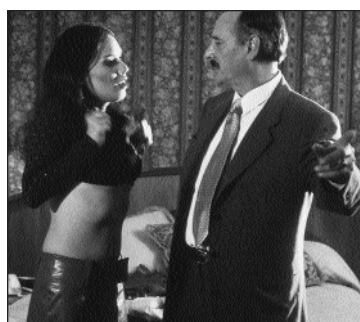
Peru, 2003,  
149 minutes,  
color

The political climate during the final days of Alberto Fujimori's presidency in Peru provides the context for Francisco J. Lombardi's most recent feature film. (Previous works include *The City and the Dogs*, FFDC 1987; *Under the Skin*, FFDC 1996; and *Captain Pantoja and the Special Service*, FFDC 2001.) *What the Eye Doesn't See* explores the corruption plaguing many Latin American governments. Six vignettes portray Peru's social reality as its citizens attempt to cope during a critical juncture in their history. Effortlessly interwoven, they comprise a detailed tapestry depicting the fates of citizens who—whether influentially rich or hardscrabble poor—are unable to decide their own destiny.—Diana Sanchez, 28th Toronto International Film Festival 2003

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Inca Cine S.A.C. **Producer:** Gustavo Sanchez. **Screenplay:** Giovanna Pollarolo. **Cinematography:** Teo Delgado. **Editor:** Danielle Fillos. **Music:** Nanni Garcia. **Principal Cast:** Gianfranco Brero, Gustavo Bueno, Patricia Pereyra, Paul Vega, Melania Urbina.

Friday, April 30, 8:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Saturday, May 1, 6:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre



## Wheel of Time

*Rad der zeit*

*Werner Herzog*

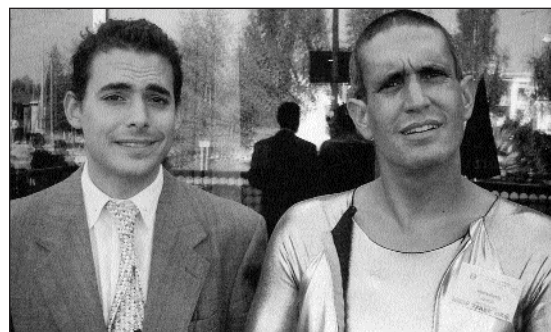
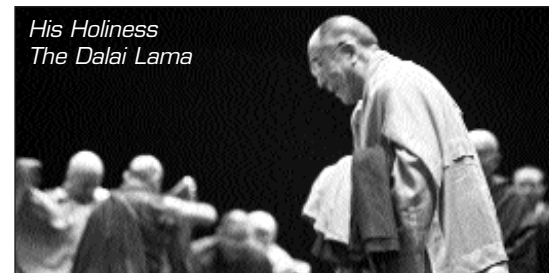
Germany, 2003, 80 minutes, color

In January 2002, Werner Herzog traveled to Bodh Gaya, India, to experience the Kalachakra, or wheel of time, the largest Buddhist gathering in the world. His film includes an interview with His Holiness The XIV Dalai Lama. It explores the dedication of the faithful in India, Tibet, and Graz, Austria, and examines the creation and meaning of the large sand mandala central to the 10 days of teaching, prayers, and initiations. Initially skeptical of westerners adopting Buddhism, Herzog subsequently told a British interviewer "Only through understanding other religions will we eventually create lasting peace on this planet."—Eddie Cockrell

IN ENGLISH AND GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Company:** Werner Herzog Film. **Producer:** Lucki Stipetic. **Cinematography:** Peter Zeitlinger. **Editor:** Joe Bini. **Music:** Various.

Wednesday, April 28, 6:45 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas  
Thursday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas



## The Yes Men

*Chris Smith, Dan Ollman, Sarah Price*

USA, 2003, 80 minutes, color

Those who protest the methods and policies of the World Trade Organization do so in different ways. But you'd have to get up pretty early in the morning to conceive pranks more elaborate than the ones pulled by Andy Bichlbaum and Mike Bonnano. They created a Web site parodying the WTO, and to their amazement found that groups around the world were taking it seriously and inviting them to speak at various conferences and schools. So they did. The scruffy approach taken by American Movie director Chris Smith and his former producers Dan Ollman and Sarah Price fits their subject perfectly, reinforcing the idea that activism with an attitude should be tempered by healthy doses of imagination and wit.—Eddie Cockrell

**Production Company:** Yes Men Films. **Producer:** Chris Smith, Dan Ollman, Sarah Price. **Cinematography:** Chris Smith, Dan Ollman, Sarah Price. **Editor:** Dan Ollman.

Tuesday, April 27, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema  
Wednesday, April 28, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

## Zatoichi

*Takeshi  
Kitano*

Japan, 2003,  
115 minutes,  
color

The character Zatoichi was created in 1962 by Shintaro Katsu, who portrayed him in 26 Japanese movies and a five-year TV series. Blind, Zatoichi roams late-feudal Japan as a yakuza, working as a masseur and indulging his fondness for gambling, drinking, and other vices. Thanks to heightened senses of hearing and smell, he's also one of Japan's most skilled swordsmen. He does a little social engineering on the side: righting the odd wrong, deflating pompous tyrants when necessary, and showing women that not all men are irredeemable jerks. "Beat" Takeshi parodied Zatoichi in his anarchic comedy *Getting Any?* Now he takes on the character for real. —Tony Rayns, The Times BFI 47th London Film Festival 2003

IN JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

**Production Companies:** Bandai Visual/Tokyo FM/Dentsu/TV Asahi/Saito Entertainment/Office Kitano. **Producers:** Masayuki Mori, Tsunehisa Saito. **Screenplay:** Takeshi Kitano, from the short story by Kan Shimozawa. **Cinematography:** Katsumi Yanagijima. **Editors:** Takeshi Kitano, Yoshinori Ota. **Music:** Keichi Suzuki. **Principal Cast:** "Beat" Takeshi, Tadanobu Asano, Michiyo Ogusu, Yui Natsukawa, Guadalupe Taka.

Saturday, April 24, 9:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
Sunday, April 25, 8:15 p.m., Avalon Theatre



## Zatoichi Classics

### New Tales of Zatoichi

*Shin Zatoichi  
monogatari*

*Tokuzo Tanaka*

Japan, 1963,  
91 minutes, color

### The Fugitive

*Zatoichi kyojo tabi*

*Tokuzo Tanaka*

Japan, 1963, 86 minutes,  
color

Pulpist and populist, the Zatoichi films are a powerful metaphor for post World War II Japan. In *New Tales of Zatoichi* the warrior finds himself in a quandary with his mentor, who has turned mercenary, and his mentor's sister, who wants to marry him. There's a Dirty Harry quality to *The Fugitive*, in which Zatoichi lashes back at those who would collect a bounty on his head. The fights here are dazzling—some of the best Samurai swordfighting scenes ever filmed.—Wade Major, Box Office

IN JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Zatoichi: *New Tales of Zatoichi:* **Production Company:** Daiei Company Ltd. **Producer:** Masaichi Nagata. **Screenplay (New Tales):** Minoru Inuzuka, Kikuo Umehayashi, from a story by Kan Shimozawa. **Screenplay (Fugitive):** Seiji Hoshikawa, from a story by Kan Shimozawa. **Cinematography:** Chichi Makura. **Music:** Akira Ifukube. **Principal Cast (New Tales):** Shintaro Katsu, Mikiko Tsubouchi, Seizaburo Kawazu, Fujio Suga. **Principal Cast (Fugitive):** Shintaro Katsu, Miwa Takada, Masayo Banri, Junichiro Naita, Katsuhiko Kobayashi.

*New Tales of Zatoichi:* Sunday, April 25, 3:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre  
*The Fugitive:* Saturday, May 1, 4:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre



# Filmfest DC for Kids *Free!*

## Program One: Short Films

Recommended for ages 8 and up

Sunday, April 25, 11:30 a.m., National Gallery of Art, FREE  
Thursday, April 29, 10:30 a.m., Avalon Theatre, FREE  
Friday, April 30, 10:30 a.m., Avalon Theatre, FREE  
Sunday, May 2, 11:30 a.m., National Gallery of Art, FREE

### Frank, Dinner is Ready!

Franti ku, k ve e il!

Directed by  
Jiri Plass

Czech Republic,  
2001, 16 minutes,  
animation

A boy named Frank befriends an elderly lamplighter. Together, they walk all over town to find the answer to some ordinary but intriguing questions: Why are there lights at night and where does the light come from?



### Nuligak's Light

Directed by Richard Lavoie

Canada, 2001, 24 minutes, color

Young Nuligak lives on the ice in the Canadian Arctic as his ancestors did. When his grandfather injures his leg while collecting mussels, Nuligak must get him on a

sled and drive the dog team to town for help. After his grandfather is in the hospital, Nuligak's uncle tries to convince him to stay in town and go to school. Will Nuligak abandon his traditional life?



### Warriors at Play

Directed by Dean Davis

Canada, 2002, 5 minutes, color

On an ocean-side cliff, a young boy awakens from a dream as the moon rises. Distant rhythms and chants draw him down a darkened path toward a circle of silhouettes.

Through the brush, he spies souls engaged in acrobatic dance and martial art. He falls under a spell as he glimpses his destiny.



### Lucia

Directed by Felix Gönnert

Germany, 2004, 8 minutes, animation

(Lucia will be included in Avalon screenings only)

Dreams and reality dissolve into each other when Lucia discovers some X-ray pictures during an overnight stay in a hospital.

### Little Daddy

Lille Far

Directed by Michael Horsten

Germany, 2003, 14 minutes, color

(Little Daddy will be included in Avalon screenings only)

Life can be pretty boring holding Daddy's hand. He's always meeting someone on the street that he simply has to spend hours talking to. But whenever you feel like stopping for a moment, he's suddenly in a great hurry to move on. In such cases, it takes unusual measures to get his attention.

### Giant

Velikan

Directed by  
Alexander Kott

Russia, 2003,  
15 minutes, color

(Giant will be included in Avalon screenings only)



A touching and poetic story about friendship between a little girl and a mime who comes to a small town to bring sunshine and warmth to the hearts of its inhabitants.

## Program Two: The Wizard of Oz

Directed by Victor Fleming

USA, 1939, 102 minutes

Recommended for ages 7 and up

Friday, April 23, 10:30 a.m., National Gallery of Art, FREE  
Saturday, April 24, 10:30 a.m., National Gallery of Art, FREE

Join us for a screening of a rare dye-transfer print directly from the MGM archives. The National Gallery's children's film program and 7th grade Media Production students from Eastern Middle School have teamed up to research some of the similarities and differences between the classic 1939 MGM production and L. Frank Baum's book. Students will discuss their findings before each screening.

★ Presented in cooperation with the D.C. Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative

# Cinema for Seniors *Free!*

## The Tuskegee Airmen

Robert Markowitz

USA, 1994, 100 minutes, color

Based on a true story, *The Tuskegee Airmen* chronicles the exploits of an U.S. Air Corps unit of black flyers during World War II. The trainees face dual enemies as they fight racism at home and abroad, and deal with racist government officers and officials while they are forced to compete at a higher level than their white counterparts. The film stars Laurence Fishburne as a Chicago law-school graduate and Cuba Gooding Jr. as a hip city kid playing hopeful recruits to the corps' "Fighting 99th" squadron. Malcolm-Jamal Warner and Allen Payne join their fight over Europe and North Africa as members of the 332nd unit. *The Tuskegee Airmen* won three Emmys® and an Image award.

Production Company: HBO Pictures. Principal Cast: Laurence Fishburne, Allen Payne, Malcolm-Jamal Warner, Courtney Vance, Andre Braugher, Christopher McDonald, John Lithgow, Cuba Gooding Jr.

Tuesday, April 27, 10:00 a.m., Avalon Theatre, FREE

★ In Person: Sam Rhodes and other Tuskegee Airmen, members of the 332nd Fighter Group, who flew more than 200 combat missions during World War II.

■ Presented in part by





# Reel Talk



The following programs offered in Filmfest DC's Reel Talk will provide an opportunity for dialogue that will enhance the filmgoer's experience. The tone is interactive; the atmosphere is informal.

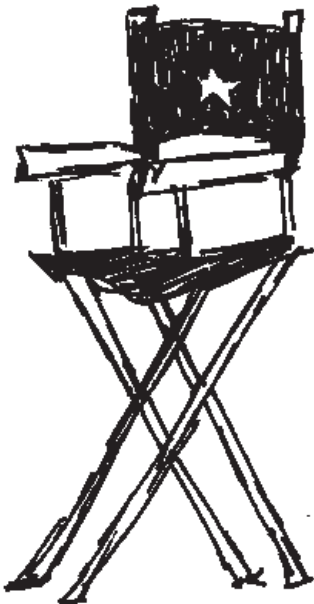
## Luncheon at the Arts Club: Washington, DC Makes the Movies

*Forrest Gump, The People vs. Larry Flynt, The Exorcist, The X-Files....What is the common denominator? Washington, DC. Join moderator Eddie Cockrell, independent film critic who covers international film festivals around the world for Variety, and a panel of professionals who make DC based films happen:*

*Crystal Palmer, Director, Mayor's Office of Motion Picture and Television Development*

*Travis Gray, Brainbox Productions, producer of Five Lines, a feature-length independent film directed by Nick Panagopoulos, set in and around the color-coded Metrorail system.*

*Austin Hay, Washington, DC-based actor, whose credits include Being There, Pelican Brief, All the President's Men....and more.*



Wednesday, April 28, 12:00 p.m., Arts Club of Washington, 2017 Eye Street, NW

\$15 for lunch and discussion. Reservations required by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27. To reserve, call 202-331-7282 ext. 16 or e-mail [artsclub.membership@verizon.net](mailto:artsclub.membership@verizon.net)

Take Metro Orange Line to Farragut West or Foggy Bottom/GWU or Red Line to Farragut North.

## Filmmakers Forum



*Pat Dowell, film critic and journalist, is the familiar voice reporting on film for NPR's Morning Edition. She will moderate a panel of directors whose films are screening at Filmfest DC this year. The discussion, which gives you the opportunity to interact with the filmmakers, will provide an understanding of the director's process: the art and technology, the heartache and headaches, the joy and rewards of filmmaking.*

*Saturday, May 1, 2:00 p.m.,  
Borders, 14th & F Street, NW  
Complimentary Coffee and Tea.*

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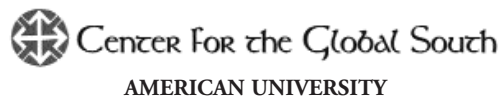
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