

Filmfest DC

THE 19TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON DC INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

(202) 628-FILM • filmfestdc.org

APRIL 13 - 24, 2005

Festival Introduction

We are thrilled to welcome you to Filmfest DC, Washington's celebration of the best in world cinema!

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

This year, Filmfest DC will present From Beijing to Bollywood, a special series of films from India and China, two countries with which the United States is developing continually deeper relations. Representing the best of artistic vision, diversity, and social concerns, these series serve to provide a unique window into intriguing worlds. Hopefully, areas of culture previously unknown will be illuminated in new ways.

This is also a year of remarkable firsts. We are initiating the Filmfest DC Capital Focus Award for selected films in a juried competition. Combined with our Audience Award, the Capital Focus Award competition will spotlight films deserving of increased recognition. For the first time the festival has invited Guest Programmers—Chi-hui Yang for the Chinese cinema series and Manjula Kumar for the Indian cinema—to assist with our film selection. They have brought added integrity and vitality to our programming. You will also notice tightened venue locations and an expanded Filmfest DC for KIDS schedule to allow more DC Public School students to attend these free programs.

We are privileged to work with an extraordinary assortment of people to produce this event each year. The support we receive from our steadfast partners, board members, sponsors, and numerous volunteers is evidence of our city's energy and generosity.



Photo: Chad Evans Wyatt

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

We extend our endless gratitude to all who have contributed to the festival's success.

If you are new to Filmfest DC, we invite you to jump in. To those of you who have enjoyed this 12-day adventure before, welcome back. We are delighted to bring these exhilarating works from these extraordinary countries to our screens, and invite you to join us—to be amazed, provoked and surprised.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Tony Gittens".

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Proclamation

WASHINGTON, D.C. INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL WEEKS

APRIL 13-24



WHEREAS, the Washington, D.C. International Film Festival is celebrating its nineteenth year of presenting innovative, exciting and high quality films to the public of the District of Columbia through its annual event known as Filmfest D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Filmfest D.C. is always working to serve the varied interests of Washington's diverse community, thereby earning it the honor of winning the 1994 Mayor's Arts Award for Excellence in Service to the Arts; and

WHEREAS, Filmfest D.C. presents the quintessential 20th century art form – film – which embodies many other artistic disciplines, such as the written word, music, theater, and visual arts, which has the power to inform, educate, and entertain; and



WHEREAS, Filmfest D.C., presented by the Washington, D.C. International Film Festival, has made significant contributions to the film community in Washington, both by bringing world-wide films to theaters, but also by providing a forum for local filmmakers to showcase and market their work;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, do hereby proclaim April 13 – 24 as “WASHINGTON, D.C. INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL WEEKS” in Washington, D.C.

Anthony A. Williams

Anthony A. Williams
Mayor, District of Columbia

Table of Contents

Opening Night4

Closing Night5

Festival Guide6-9

Ticket Information8

Venues9

Feature Film Descriptions.....10-21, 26-37

Film Schedule22-25

Filmfest DC for Kids38-39

Cinema for Seniors39

Reel Talk Panels40

Filmfest DC Staff and Special Thanks.....41-42

Print Sources43-45

Sponsors45-47

Film Index48



Raincoat



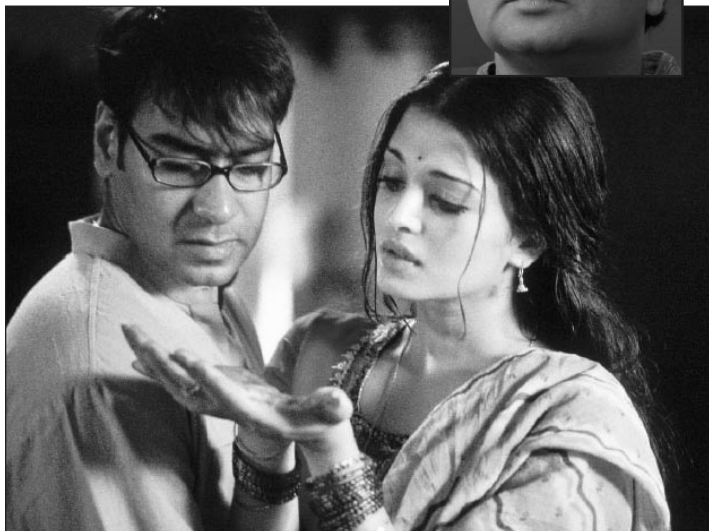
Director
Rituparno
Ghosh



Rituparno Ghosh

The Netherlands/Argentina, 2002, 86 minutes, color

Two former lovers have been estranged for 17 years. Manoj (Ajay Devgan) and Niru (Aishwarya Rai), meet at the latter's house in a rundown south Calcutta neighborhood at the height of monsoon season. He's come from his hometown in neighboring Bihar state on business, while she's alone in the house while her husband is out of town. Victims of fate and circumstance, they project false appearances through a game of words, and attempt to hide the love that is still smoldering. They lie to each other throughout the encounter, putting on fancy facades



punctuated with bright, bittersweet flashbacks to their amorous past. While the sumptuous, lengthy, and colorful Bollywood musicals have been getting all the press lately, India also has a rich tradition of intimate and emotionally complex chamber dramas, of which *Raincoat* is a prime example. Making his first Hindi film on the heels of *Chokher Bali: A Passion Play* (see page 8), Bengali director Rituparno Ghosh has written complex yet appealing roles for Bollywood stars Devgan and Rai. Enhanced by a haunting, evocative score, this cinematic meditation on the nature of sacrifice, love, pride, and pretense will make for a memorable opening night and is the perfect entrée to Filmfest DC's spotlight on contemporary Indian cinema.

—Manjula Kumar and Eddie Cockrell

IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Shree Venkatesh Films. **Producers:** Shrikant Mohta, Mahendra Soni. **Screenplay:** Rituparno Ghosh.

Cinematography: Abhik Mukherjee. **Editor:** Arghyakarmel Mitra. **Music:** Debajyoti Mishra. **Principal Cast:** Ajay Devgan, Aishwarya Rai, Annu Kapoor, Monli Ganguly, Pradip Adhikari.

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m., Lincoln Theatre, followed by gala reception, \$40.00.

★ *In person: Director Rituparno Ghosh*

- *Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of India*
- *Hosted by Wendy Rieger, NBC4Troupe*
- *Performance by Gujarati Folk Dance*



Opening Night Sponsors

nutella



AIR-INDIA

Ladies in Lavender

Charles Dance

United Kingdom, 2004, 103 minutes, color

The year is 1936. On a windswept Cornwall beach, practical Janet Widdington (Maggie Smith) and her more carefree younger sister Ursula (Judi Dench) find a young man (*Good-Bye, Lenin's* Daniel Bruehl) who has been washed ashore after a violent storm. Suffering only from a broken ankle, the boy is tended to by outspoken housekeeper Dorcas (Miriam Margolyes) and examined by town doctor Mead (David Warner), who wants to know what the sisters plan to do with the boy. He's Andrea Marowski, a Polish Jew who was swept over the side of his ship during a passage to America undertaken to escape the gathering storm of European war. While Janet and Ursula host his recuperation, they discover that Andrea is a talented violinist. But just by his presence, the young man causes ripples that lead to changes in everyone's lives. Actor Charles Dance (*White Mischief, Swimming Pool*) first read William J. Locke's short story in a book he found being used as a prop on a Budapest film set. With some judicious changes and an update from the 1890s to the mid-1930s, the story becomes a distinguished directorial debut that cherishes and showcases its magnificent cast.

—Eddie Cockrell

IN ENGLISH, GERMAN, AND POLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Take Partnerships, Scala Productions. **Producers:** Nicolas Brown, Elizabeth Karlén, Nik Powell. **Screenplay:** Charles Dance, from the short story by William J. Locke. **Cinematography:** Peter Biziou. **Editor:** Michael Parker. **Music:** Nigel Hess. **Principal Cast:** Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Natascha McElhone, Miriam Margolyes, David Warner, Daniel Bruehl.

Sunday, April 24, 4:00 p.m., Regal Cinemas,
followed by a party with live band and dancing, \$15.00.



Festival Guide

From Beijing...to Bollywood

Welcome to the 19th Annual Washington, DC International Film Festival, Washington's own celebration of exciting, new, and innovative cinema from around the world. Filmfest DC 2005 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 10, film descriptions are arranged alphabetically by film title, with show times and locations. The master schedule, on pages 22–25, lists each day's films and their show times. Films are shown in their original language with English subtitles.

Circle Audience Award

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 Capital Focus Award will be announced on Closing Night.



Free Programs

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 *Cinema for Seniors* (see details on page 39).



China's New Wave



China's vibrant film scene is one of the world's most exciting, daring, and prolific, currently producing works of masterful artistry and compelling storytelling. China is undergoing social upheavals comparable to those that rippled through France four decades ago. The subsequent political, social, and economic changes are inspiring and necessitate artistic innovation. The result: a movement that is redefining world cinema. The films

selected for this special focus offer a diverse look at the cinema of a nation in transition. They include underground and government-approved works as well as independent and commercial films. From technology's invasion of everyday life (*Cell Phone*), to the lingering effects of the country's recent history (*Peacock*, *Shanghai Story*, *Letter From An Unknown Woman*), to the ironic and sometimes devastating consequences of those left out of China's economic miracle (*The World*, *Pirated Copy*, *Kekexili: Mountain Patrol*), this collection of films is a chronology in progress of a cinema already sitting atop the world stage and still growing in influence. —Chi-hui Yang

Capital Focus Awards

*Sponsored this year by
Financial Dynamics
Business Communications*

The Capital Focus Award is a juried competition of selected films deserving of increased recognition. Films in the competition were selected by the festival's programming staff and the winner will be determined by a jury of accomplished film professionals. A cash award will be given to the winning film's director in recognition of his achievements. Films selected for this year's award competition include:

Captive (Argentina)

Dalecarlians (Sweden/Denmark)

The Hero (Angola)

I Love Cinema (Egypt)

Last of the First (USA)

Peacock (China)

Songs of Mahulbani (India)

The Syrian Bride (Israel)



Chokher Bali, p. 14

The Awards Jury is composed of:

Joe Barber, Entertainment Editor,
WTOP Radio

Matt Cowal, Marketing Manager,
Landmark Theatres

Peggy Parsons, Head, Department of
Film, National Gallery of Art

Ted Pedas, President, Circle Films, Inc.

Cathy Wyler, Programming Director,
High Falls Film Festival

Susan Barocas, Competition Coordinator

Panorama of Indian Cinema



Mughal-e-Azam, p. 27

As India continues to produce the largest number of films every year, the thematic variety, staggering diversity, linguistic richness, and cascade of complex emotions ornamented with exquisite music and dance accounts for the ever-increasing popularity of Indian cinema. In the past 50 years, numerous terms have been used to describe this variety: commercial films, new wave films, art house films, parallel cinema. However, Indian films defy finite definitions. The films selected for this

special focus present a wide range of cinematic styles and a variety of themes. They range from the 1960's newly restored musical extravaganza *Mughal-e-Azam* to a contemporary work that blends tradition and modernity (*Morning Raga*). We also present *Chokher Bali*, a historical film, and *Songs of Mahulbani*, which concerns tribal people struggling for their rights. There are powerful films such as *Dev*, which deals with socio-political issues, films like *The Journey*, which experiments with new concepts, and films that spotlight controversial gender issues. We have selected works of celebrated contemporary filmmakers like Mani Ratnam, Rituparno Ghosh, and Govind Nihalani and included the pioneering work of young, yet-to-be-discovered talent like Ligy Pullapally and Ashvin Kumar. Indian films continue to gain audiences all over the world as they explore the gamut of human emotions and experiences.—*Manjula Kumar*

Festival Guide *(continued)*

Tickets



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

Tickets are available through Tickets.com by calling (703) 218-6500 and at all Olsson's Books and Records stores and Bradford Banks in the Maryland area.

Tickets are also available through the Tickets.com web site at www.tickets.com. Call Tickets.com at (703) 218-6500 from 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM (Monday- Sunday) for tickets. No advance tickets at theatres. No Tickets.com sales the day of the show.

Same day tickets may also be purchased at the theatre one hour before the first show of the day. Cash or Check sales only at the theatres.

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).



Kontroll, p. 20

Theatres

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, and Yellow lines to the Metro Center and/or Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro stops. Parking in adjacent garage is available at the reduced rate of \$4.00 with validated ticket, Monday through Friday after 6:00 pm and weekends.

★ Regal Cinemas

701 7th St., NW.

Take Metro Green, Yellow, and Red lines to the Metro Center and/or Gallery Place/Chinatown metro stops. Three hours free parking with validation at adjacent garage on 6th Street between G and H.



Other Locations

★ 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 Line to Archives/Navy Memorial.

**Take Metrobus
or Metrorail
to Filmfest DC**





5x2

François Ozon

France, 2004.
90 minutes, color

Intellectually trenchant and emotionally honest, *5x2* is a feast of outstanding acting with powerful lead performances from Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi and

Stephane Freiss. This film, from the same director who did *Swimming Pool*, gives us five glimpses of two people—married couple Marion and Gilles, first seen sitting down for divorce proceedings. We see the couple's story backwards, from its

unhappy ending, through an uneasy dinner party, childbirth, and Marion's and Gilles' wedding, to the moment the couple meet. Neither playful nor perplexing, the *Memento*-like reverse structure works to subtly devastating effect. We watch the couple's dissatisfactions and tensions unfold, and then discover their sources in rifts or seemingly innocent moments that seed the eventual separation —*Jonathan Romney, 2004 Times London Film Festival*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Fidelite, France 2 Cinema, FOZ. **Producers:** Olivier Delbosc, Marc Missonier. **Screenplay:** Francois Ozon, Emmanuelle Bernheim. **Cinematography:** Yoric Le Saux. **Editor:** Monica Coleman. **Music:** Philippe Rombi. **Principal Cast:** Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi, Stephane Freiss, Geraldine Pailhas, Francoise Fabian, Michael Lonsdale.

Friday, April 15, 9:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Sunday, April 17, 9:00 p.m., Regal Cinemas

Absolut

Romed Wyder

Switzerland, 2004.
94 minutes, color

In this mysterious political thriller, two activists plot to change the world. Alex, a young and idealistic man, and his computer-wiz friend Fred want to prevent a summit of world leaders from taking place. The two young men are working on a sophisticated computer virus that would be able to destroy financial transaction systems. With this, they intend to blackmail the local authorities in Geneva, banks, and the organizers of the summit. Just when things seem to be going according to

American Premiere!



plan, Alex gets into a car accident. When he wakes up from a two-day coma, he is suffering from amnesia. While slowly recalling some events, Alex finds out that Fred has disappeared. —*Ludmila Svikova, 2005 Rotterdam International Film Festival*

IN GERMAN AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Blow-up Film Production SA, Télévision Suisse Romande, Almaz Film Productions SA, Laika Films. **Producer:** Romed Wyder. **Screenplay:** Romed Wyder, Yves Mugny, Maria Watzlawick. **Cinematography:** Denis Jutzeler. **Editor:** Orsola Valenti. **Music:** Bernard Trontin. **Principal Cast:** Vincent Bonillo, Irene Godel, François Nadin, Delphine Lanza, Ulysse Prevost, Veronique Mermoud.

Friday, April 15, 9:00 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Saturday, April 23, 7:00 p.m., Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

■ *Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Switzerland.*



Asphalt

Joe May

Germany, 1929.
94 minutes, black & white

One of the last German studio silents, *Asphalt's* tender

love story is set against a frenzied, traffic-jammed Berlin on the brink of modernity. Betty Amann, in a signature role, is a stylish thief who steals a precious gem from a jeweler. The cop who catches her eventually, and tragically, succumbs to her wiles. May, one of the principal directors of the silent era in Germany, fled to Hollywood soon after this film but never succeeded in Tinseltown as he had at home—*Margaret Parsons*

Free!



Organist Dennis James has played a leading role in the remarkable international revival of live musical scores for silent films. A featured performer on the international film festival circuit, Mr. James makes regular appearances at the San Francisco, Toronto, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia Cinema Festivals, as well as cinematheques throughout Europe and Asia.

SILENT WITH ENGLISH TITLES
SCREENING ACCOMPANIED BY DENNIS JAMES
ON THEATER ORGAN

Production Company: Universum-Film AG. **Producer:** Erich Pommer. **Cinematography:** Günther Rittau. **Principal Cast:** Gustav Fröhlich, Betty Amann, Albert Steinrück, Else Heller, Hans Adalbert Schlettow, Hans Albers, Rosa Valetti, Arthur Duarte, Paul Hörbiger, Trude Lieske, Karl Platen, Hermann Vallentin, Kurt Vespermann, Rudolf Meinhardt-Jünger.

Sunday, April 17, 4:30 p.m., National Gallery of Art, FREE

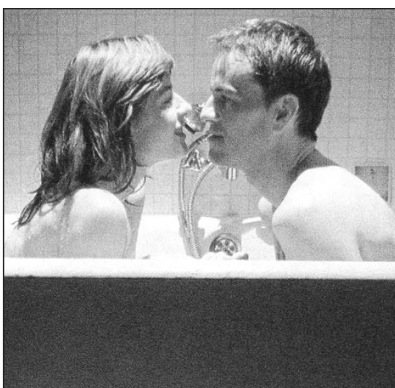
★ *In Person: Musician Dennis James*

Autumn Automne

Ra'up McGee

France/USA, 2004,
110 minutes, color

In a blue-gray Paris straight from a vintage Jean-Pierre Melville crime picture, listless hit man Jean-Pierre reconnects with childhood sweetheart Michelle, who's now an amateur photographer dabbling in the sales of illicit explosives. Contrasted with a creepy childhood flashback



explaining their bond is Jean-Pierre's deteriorating relationships with his increasingly annoyed knife-wielding boss, mobster-restaurateur Noel, and pal Andre. On the trail of a missing valise, Jean-Pierre's allegiances to his profession and his love are put to the test. Quintessentially French in mood, performance, and plot, *Autumn* is the feature film debut of Ra'up McGee
—Eddie Cockrell

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Next Week Filmworks.
Producer/Screenplay/Editor: Ra'up McGee. **Cinematography:** Erin

Harvey. **Music:** Cyril Morin. **Principal Cast:** Laurent Lucas, Irene Jacob, Benjamin Rolland, Dinara Droukarouva Michel Aumont.

Saturday, April 16, 9:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Sunday, April 17, 9:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

American Premiere!

The Baghdad Blogger: Salam Pax

Salam Pax

Iraq, 2005, 90 minutes,
color, video

Featuring two new segments prepared just for Filmfest DC, this updated collection of nine reports from Iraq's most famous man-on-the-street promises

to be the hot ticket in this year's line-up. Salam Pax introduces us to something we have never seen before, namely, the new Iraq, where despite ongoing violence an occupation, Iraqi citizens are expressing themselves in ways impossible under Saddam Hussein. In this series of video-diary entries, the blogger who describes himself as an architect—but not a good one—invites us to keep watching as the new Iraq is born.—2004

Vancouver International Film Festival

IN FARSI AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Guardian Films. **Producer/Screenplay/Cinematography/Editor:** Salam Pax. **Wish:** Salam Pax.

Friday, April 15, 9:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 16, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

★ *In Person: Director Salam Pax*

Beautiful Boxer

Ekachai

Uekrongtham

Thailand, 2003,
114 minutes, color



Based on the real life of Thailand's Nong Toon, *Beautiful Boxer* tells the story of a young boy from a poor family who enters a monastery, and then endures harsh training in Thai kickboxing camps to progress through a series of knockout matches and become the champion of his chosen sport. What sets *Beautiful Boxer* apart from *Rocky* is that Nong Toon has a greater ambition. As an observer puts it, "He fights like a man so he can

become a woman." Nong Toon has since undergone the sex change that he fought for. With this handsome production, Ekachai Uekrongtham has made an inspiring and universal story of the struggle for dignity and recognition.—2004 *Palm Springs International Film Festival*

IN THAI, ENGLISH, AND JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: GMM Grammy. **Producer:** Ekachai Uekrongtham. **Screenplay:** Ekachai Uekrongtham, Desmond Sim Kim Jin. **Cinematography:** Choochart Nantitanyatada. **Editor:** Dusanee Puihongpho. **Music:** Amornbong Methakunbuth. **Principal Cast:** Asanee Suwan, Sorapong Chatree, Orn-anong Panyawong, Kyoko Inoue, Sitiporn Niyom.

Saturday, April 16, 7:00 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Monday, April 18, 9:00 p.m., Regal Cinemas

■ *Saturday night ticket holders can get into The Nation for half price with ticket stub.*
1015 Half Street, S.E., Washington DC



Beautiful City

Shahr-e ziba

Asghar Farhadi

*Iran, 2004, 101 minutes,
color, video*

Winner of the grand prize at the 2004 Warsaw festival, *Beautiful City* is an engaging and complex psychological drama that focuses on the Iranian judicial system and blood revenge. The film opens in a juvenile prison, where a young boy who killed a girl when he was 16 awaits the death penalty. His sentence cannot be carried out until he turns 18, and upon his 18th birthday, his best friend, Ala, is determined to do everything possible



to stop the execution. For that, Ala needs to convince the dead girl's family to drop all charges. Ala finds his friend's sister and persuades her to help him approach the family. In the meantime, Ala and the sister start to have feelings for one another. —*Ludmila Cvikova, 2005 Rotterdam International Film Festival*

IN FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Neshane Ltd. **Producer:** Iraj Taghipoor. **Screenplay:** Asghar Farhadi. **Cinematography:** Ali Lohmani. **Editor:** Shahrzad Pooya. **Music:** Hamidreza Sadri. **Principal Cast:** Taraneh Alidoosti, Babak Ansari, Faramarz Gharibian, Ahoo Kheradmand.

Sunday, April 17, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Wednesday, April 20, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Boxers and Ballerinas

*Mike Cahill,
Brit Marling*

*USA, 2004,
94 minutes, color, video*

Two young filmmakers profile two fighters and two dancers, one of each in Miami and one of each 90 miles away in Havana. Though athletes and artists are traditionally tops on the list of people authorized to travel outside of Cuba, their occasional defections place more controls on those who remain. A prodigiously gathered and precisely orchestrated symphony of sights and



sounds from both sides of the Florida Straits—much of it filmed on the sly, without official permission—*Boxers and Ballerinas* weaves controversial political theory, traumatic historical signposts, and urgent human drama (including a few strong Washington connections) into a stylish and provocative whole. —*Eddie Cockrell*

Production Company: Rolling Shin, in association with Prince Charitable Trusts, Radio & Television Commercial. **Producer:** Nicholas Shumaker. **Screenplay:** Mike Cahill, Brit Marling, from a story by Nicholas Shumaker. **Cinematography:** Mike Cahill, Brit Marling. **Editor:** Mike Cahill. **Music:** Craig Wedren. **Principal Cast:** Annia Ismarlin Recio-Oquendo, Yordanis Ugaz, Paula Roque, Sergio Garcia.

Monday, April 18, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Tuesday, April 19, 9:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

★ *In Person: Director Nick Shumaker*

The Boys and Girl From County Clare

John Irvin

*Ireland/United Kingdom/Germany, 2003,
90 minutes, color*

In 1960s Liverpool, directly across town from where The Beatles are drawing crowds, Irishman Jimmy McMahon is preparing his traditional Irish band to take on an ensemble led by his long-estranged sibling John Joe in the county of their birth. The brothers originally fell out over Maisie, who now plays piano in John Joe's group and keeps a tight leash on her daughter Anne, the fiddler. When Anne falls for Jimmy's star flute player, the stage is set for a duel of emotions and chops



that eventually results in a fractious harmony of sorts. The bouncing music, stunning locations, and sly performances make *The Boys and Girl From County Clare* a near-perfect date movie for all ages. —*Eddie Cockrell*



Production Company: Studio Hamburg Worldwide Pictures. **Producers:** Evzen Kolar, Wolfgang Eserwein, Ellen Dinerman Little. **Screenplay:** Nicholas Adams. **Cinematography:** Thomas Burstyn. **Editor:** Ian Crafford. **Music:** Fiachra Trench. **Principal Cast:** Colm Meaney, Bernard Hill, Andrea Corr, Philip Barantani, Charlotte Bradley.

**Friday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas**
**Saturday, April 23, 9:00 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas**

Brothers

Brødre

Susanne Bier

Denmark, 2004, 117 minutes, color

Always the good son, Michael picks up his black-sheep brother Jannik at the prison gates on the way home to wife Sarah on the very evening he's scheduled to be sent to Afghanistan as part of the Danish United Nations force. When Michael's helicopter is shot down and he's mistakenly listed as killed in action, Jannik and Sarah begin a slow and awkward re-evaluation of their relationship—even as Michael



must live off his wits before being forced by his captors to make a traumatic choice between life and death. When he returns home after a daring rescue, the brothers discover that many things have changed and Sarah is now in the middle of an ill-fated case of sibling rivalry. —Eddie Cockrell

IN DANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Zentropa Entertainments14. **Producer:**

Sisse Graum Jørgensen, Peter Aalbæk Jensen. **Screenplay:** Anders Thomas Jensen, from a story by Susanne Bier Jensen. **Cinematography:** Morten Søborg. **Editor:** Pernille Bech Christensen. **Music:** Johan Soderqvist. **Principal Cast:** Connie Nielsen, Ulrich Thomsen, Nikolaj Lie Kaas, Bent Mejding, Solbjorg Højfeldt.

Tuesday, April 19, 9:00 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Wednesday, April 20, 6:45 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Capital Focus Award



Captive Cautiva

Gaston Biraben

Argentina, 2003, 115 minutes, color

In 1994 Buenos

Aires, 15-year-old Cristina is plucked from her Catholic school classroom and told by a federal judge that she is one of 74 children "appropriated" by the government from their birth parents, who were subsequently among the 30,000 civilians disappeared under Argentina's military dictatorship. At first numb with shock, Cristina

becomes determined to uncover her true heritage. Along the way she discovers she was born at the very same hour members of the Fascist Junta were greeting the Argentine football team following their 1978 World Cup victory. A deeply felt drama as persuasive as any good thriller, *Captive* is based on real-life events. —Eddie Cockrell

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Cacerolazo Productions. **Producer:** Gaston Biraben. **Screenplay:** Gaston Biraben. **Cinematography:** Carlos Torlaschi, Abel Penalba. **Editor:** Tamis Chandler. **Music:** Jose Luis Castineira de Dios. **Principal Cast:** Barbara Lombardo, Mercedes Funes, Susana Campos, Hugo Arana, Osvaldo Santoro.

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

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Saturday, April 16, 9:45 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Cell Phone

Shouji

Feng Xiaogang

China/Hong Kong, 2004, 106 minutes, color

Affairs of the heart—what is said and not meant to be said—are complicated by the omnipresence of cell phones and the hapless individuals who use them in this sly, urban comedy. Yan Shouyi is a TV talk show host who can't seem to keep his hands to himself and whose philandering ways are continually bungled by cellular mishaps. As he stumbles through deceptions and dalliances and hosts his ironically titled show "Let the Truth Speak," his life's tangled skein (which includes a pregnant ex-wife, a live-in girlfriend, and a lover) threatens to unravel



and overturn his carefully constructed world. —Chi-hui Yang

IN MANDARIN
WITH ENGLISH
SUBTITLES

Production Companies: China Film Group Beijing Film Studio/Huayi Brothers & Taihe Film Investment Co. (China)/Columbia Pictures Film Production Asia (Hong Kong). **Producers:** Wang Zhongjun, Yang Buting. **Screenplay:** Liu Zhenyun. **Cinematography:** Zhao Fei. **Editor:** Zhou Ying. **Music:** Su

Cong. **Principal Cast:** Ge You, Xu Fan, Zhang Guoli, Fan Bingbing.

Thursday, April 21, 8:45 p.m. Landmark's E Street Cinema

Friday, April 22, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Chokher Bali: A Passion Play



Rituparno Ghosh

India, 2003, 145 minutes, color



Adapted from the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's novel, *Chokher Bali* is a period film set in Bengal 1902-1905 when the raging political turmoil over the proposed partition of Bengal was at its peak. A psychological study of complex relationships within a land-owning family, *Chokher Bali* tells the story of four young people trapped in a web of destiny and sexual manipulations. Their conflict mirrors that of Bengal's. As director Rituparno Ghosh puts it, "A household in disarray is set against a state in turmoil. The breaking up of a home is linked



with the destruction of a nation's pride. A widow's striving for freedom is equated with a country's struggle for independence."

—Manjula Kumar

IN BENGALI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Producers: Shrikant Mohta, Mahendra Soni. **Screenplay:** Rituparno Ghosh. **Cinematography:** Abhik Mukherjee. **Editor:** Arghya Kamal. **Music:** Debojyoti Mishra Mitra. **Principal Cast:** Aishwarya Rai, Prosenjit Chatterjee, Raima Sen, Toto Raychowdhury, Lily Chakraborty

Friday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

★ *In Person: Director Rituparno Ghosh*

Clean

Olivier Assayas

France/United Kingdom/Canada, 2004, 111 minutes, color



The extraordinary Maggie Cheung and Nick Nolte deliver subtle, moving career performances in *Clean*. They play a mother and grandfather embroiled in an emotional chess match for the heart and custody of the young boy who means so much to them. Cheung, whose performance won her a Best Actress Award at Cannes, is astonishing as Emily, who finds herself abandoned by friends and family after

her faded rock-star partner passes away in a dingy motel. Nolte's tender performance is endearing and his signature gravelly tones take on tremendous resonance as the voice of pragmatism and faith. The film plays out in locations ranging from industrial Ontario, Canada to Paris and London. Olivier Assayas also directed *Irma Vep* (FFDC 1997)—2004 Toronto International Film Festival

IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, AND CANTONESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Rectangle Productions/Haystack Productions/Rhombus Media/Arte France Cinema. **Producers:** Edouard Weil, Xavier Giannoli, Xavier Marchand, Niv Fichman. **Screenplay:** Olivier Assayas. **Cinematography:** Eric Gautier. **Editor:** Luc Barnier. **Music:** David Roback, Tricky, Brian Eno. **Principal Cast:** Maggie Cheung, Nick Nolte, Beatrice Dalle, Jeanne Balibar, Don McKellar.

Friday, April 22, 9:45 p.m., Regal Cinemas

Saturday, April 23, 6:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas



Cronicas

Sebastian Cordero

Mexico, 2004, 98 minutes, color

Cronicas articulates

a profound commentary on American foreign policy and the media's ravenous hunger for "the story." Star reporter Manolo (John Leguizamo) travels from Miami to Ecuador with his producer Marisa (Leonor Watling) and cameraman Ivan (Jose Maria Yazpik) to cover the story of the "Monster of Babahoyo," a serial murderer of children who has so far eluded capture. While researching the case, Manolo helps save a scruffy

bible salesman, Vinicio (Damian Alcazar, in an incredibly nuanced performance), from a lynching after the man runs over a child. When he visits Vinicio, who's been imprisoned for manslaughter, Manolo discovers he knows a great deal about the Monster's crimes and makes a devil's wager. —Diana Sanchez, 2004 Toronto International Film Festival

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Anheko/Cabazahueca/Tequila Gang. **Producers:** Bertha Navarro, Isabel Davalos, Guillermo Del Toro, Jorge Vergara, Alfonso Cuarón. **Screenplay:** Sebastian Cordero. **Principal Cast:** John Leguizamo, Leonor Watling, Damian Alcazar, Jose Maria Yazpik, Alfred Molina.

Tuesday, April 19, 6:45 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Thursday, April 21, 6:30 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Capital Focus Award



Dalecarlians

Masjavlar

Maria Blom

Sweden, 2004.
98 minutes, color

Dalarna is a county north of Stockholm known for sterling vistas and a brisk tourist trade. The locals, called Dalecarlians, are known as an obstinate, self-absorbed lot who think their region the very heart of Sweden. When Mia, a hard-charging career woman, forces herself to leave the city to celebrate her father's 70th birthday with family and friends at the local meeting hall, her presence

sets in motion a chain of events that changes the lives of every stubborn and eccentric townie in the room. The pitch-perfect cast strikes just the right balance of pathos and absurdity in a film that deftly manages to blend stage-sized theatics and shrewdly-observed character comedy into a mordant comic concoction.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SWEDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Memphis Film Rights IV. **Producer:** Lars Jonsson. **Screenplay:** Maria Blom. **Cinematography:** Peter Mokrosinski. **Editor:** Peter Ahlin, Michal Leszczylowski. **Music:** Anders Nygards. **Principal Cast:** Sofia Helin, Kajsa Ernst, Ann Petren, Lars G. Aronsson, Barbro Enberg.

Wednesday, April 20, 9:00 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Friday, April 22, 8:45 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Dev

Govind Nihalani

India, 2004.
140 minutes, color



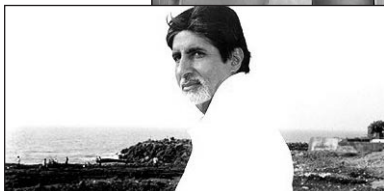
A story of love, friendship, loyalty, and betrayal is told against the background of the Hindu-Muslim divide leading to the riots in Godhra, Gujarat. The friendship between Joint Commissioner of Police Dev Pratap Singh (Amitabh Bachchan), a proud, idealistic, and seasoned officer and Special Commissioner Tejinder Khosla (Om Puri) is fraught with conflicts and contradictions that result in a dramatic collision. Dev's idealism is tested by battles with corrupt politicians and other officials that abuse power. Meanwhile Farhaan, a young, unemployed law school graduate, and the girl he loves become irreversibly linked with the Commissioner and question his integrity.—*Manjula Kumar*

IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Excel Entertainment. **Screenplay:** Meenakshi Sharma. **Cinematography:** Govind Nihalani. **Music:** Aadesh Shrivastava. **Principal Cast:** Amitabh Bachchan, Om Puri, Fardeen Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Anish Puri, Rati Aghihotri.

Sunday, April 17, 3:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

Sunday, April 17, 8:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre



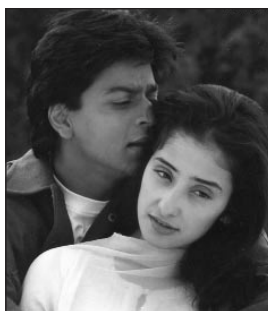
Dil Se...



Mani Ratnam

India, 1998, 155 minutes, color

Multi-layered, multi-themed *Dil Se* delves into the psychic condition of a revolutionary, unveils the futility of terrorism, and questions the validity of human sacrifice for political idealism while ultimately celebrating the triumph of love. Set in northeastern India, the film tells the story of an obsessive passion between Amar, a radio reporter, and a beautiful ethnic rebel named Meghna. Santosh Sivan's stunning cinematography spans the subcontinent from the Himalayan snowfields, to the high altitude deserts of Ladakh, to the palm-fringed beaches of Kerala. The deft lens work and hypnotic music

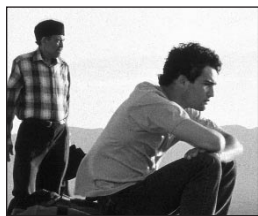


including the famous Bollywood bonanza—an energetic dance scene atop a moving train—helped *Dil Se* win rave reviews from international film critics.—*Manjula Kumar*

IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Producers: Mani Ratnam, Shekhar Kapur, Ram Gopal Varma. **Screenplay:** Mani Ratnam. **Cinematography:** Santosh Sivan. **Music:** A.R. Rahman. **Principal Cast:** Shahrukh Khan, Manisha Koirala, Preity Zinta, Raghuvir Yadav, Sabyasachi Chakrabarty.

Saturday, April 16, 1:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre
Saturday, April 23, 2:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre



Le Grand Voyage

Ismael Ferroukhi

France/Morocco,
2004, 108 minutes,
color

A French-born Moroccan son drives his iron-willed father across seven countries to Mecca in the graceful drama *Le Grand Voyage*. He's immersed in exams and nowhere near a good Muslim, so Reda is less than thrilled when he's assigned the task of hauling dad from France to Saudi Arabia, particularly since his father's so inflexible that he performs his prayers during a customs queue and throws Reda's chirping cell phone in a garbage

can. They finally join a caravan of the devout making their own pilgrimages—leaving the secular son as odd atheist out. Fundamental, thought-provoking, and wryly funny differences between the two men punctuate the plot as glimpses of the European countryside streak past their vehicle's windows.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN FRENCH, ARABIC, AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Ognon Pictures/Arte France Cinema (France)/Soread 2M/Casablanca Films/Les Films du Passage (Morocco). **Producer:** Humberto Balsan. **Screenplay:** Ismael Ferroukhi. **Cinematography:** Katell Dijan. **Editor:** Tina Baz. **Music:** Fowzi Guerdjou. **Principal Cast:** Nicolas Cazale, Mohamed Majd, Jacky Nercessian.

Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
Thursday, April 21, 6:45 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

The Green Hat

Lu maozi

Liu Fendou

China, 2003,
98 minutes, color

Audacious and entertaining, *The Green Hat* is Liu Fendou's directorial debut. According to Chinese lore, a green hat is the sign of a cuckold, and betrayal is the cosmic connective tissue intertwining two men in a tragicomic crisis of manhood and sex. A bank robber is mocked by his partners for an unthinkable two-year abstinence while he



faithfully (or foolishly) waits to reunite with his girlfriend overseas. Meanwhile, a weathered cop's frustrations over his impotence and inadequate "average size" begin to boil over when his duplicitous wife makes no secret of her lover. When the paths of these men cross and result in two hostage situations, something much deeper about sexual politics is revealed.—*Chi-hui Yang*

IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Almost Entertainment Pictures. **Producers:** Lu Yan, A-Cheng, Peggy Chiao, Hu Xiaojun. **Screenplay:** Liu Fendou. **Cinematography:** Chen Ying. **Editor:** Jia Cuijing. **Music:** Jin Wulin. **Principal Cast:** Xi Zi, Liao Fan, Li Mei, Hai Yitian.

Friday, April 22, 8:30 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
Saturday, April 23, 6:30 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas



Hawaii, Oslo

Erik Poppe

Norway, 2004.
120 minutes, color

Described as the best Norwegian feature in years, *Hawaii, Oslo* follows the lives of several diverse characters.

There is kleptomaniac Leon and his childhood sweetheart, Asa, who see each other again after 10 years. There is also Trygve, Leon's imprisoned brother, who wants to flee to Hawaii in his few hours of birthday leave.

We also meet Frode and Milla, a desperate couple who can only save their sick child with an expensive operation in America. Then we have Vidar, a male nurse who sees the future when he's asleep, and finally, Bobbie-Pop, a pop star who has been reduced to anonymity. The film's concept is directly reminiscent of benchmarks such as *Short Cuts* and *Magnolia*, but Erik Poppe manages to tell a very fresh and vital fairytale.—*Sandra den Hamer, 2005 Rotterdam International Film Festival*

IN NORWEGIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Paradox Productions. **Producer:** Finn Gjerdrum. **Screenplay:** Harald Rosenlow Eeg. **Cinematography:** Ulf Brantas. **Editor:** Einar Egeland. **Music:** Bugge Wesseltoft. **Principal Cast:** Trond Espen Seim, Aksel Hennie, Jan Gunnar Roise, Stig Henrik Hoff, Petronella Barker.

Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Thursday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas

Capital Focus Award



The Hero O Heroi

Zeze Gamboa

Portugal/Angola
/France, 2004,
99 minutes, color

Winner of an award at this year's Sundance Film Festival and the opening film of MOMA's New Directors series, *The Hero* is a narrative triumph for former documentarian Zeze Gamboa. After losing his leg in a mine explosion during the Angolan civil war, 20-year vet Vitorio is discharged from the local veterans' hospital with an artificial limb. When his prosthetic is stolen, he seeks solace

in the arms of a brittle hooker. Meanwhile 10-year-old Manu dreams of being reunited with his father, who has never returned from the war. As his teacher struggles to keep Manu from the clutches of a street urchin, she persuades her influential boyfriend to arrange a radio interview that just might bring Vitorio and Manu together.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: David & Golias (Portugal)/Gamboa & Gamboa (Angola)/Le Films de L'Apres Midi (France). **Producer:** Fernando Vendrell. **Screenplay:** Carla Baptista. **Cinematography:** Mario Masini. **Editor:** Anna Ruiz. **Music:** David Linx, Diederik Wissels. **Principal Cast:** Oumar Makena Diop, Milton Coelho (Santo), Patricia Bull, Neusa Borges, Maria Ceica.

Friday, April 15, 6:45 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Saturday, April 16, 9:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas

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

The Holy Girl La nina santa

Lucrecia Martel

Argentina/Spain/Italy,
2004, 103 minutes, color

An old hotel becomes the staging area for sexual chicanery and quasi-religious fervor in this extraordinary second film from Argentine writer-director Lucrecia Martel. During an increasingly ribald medical convention, timid Dr. Jano impulsively rubs up against Amalia, the barely pubescent daughter of hotel manager Helena. The indiscretion



sets in motion an oblique chain of events, during which Amalia, supported by her equally giggly best friend Josefina, decides it is up to her to save the doctor's soul. As she did so skillfully in *La Cienega* (FFDC 2002), Martel orchestrates the seemingly random movement of her characters within the hotel's hothouse atmosphere with shrewd calculation.

—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN HUNGARIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Lita Stantic (Argentina)/El Deseo (Spain)/Senso (Italy). **Producer:** Lita Stantic. **Screenplay:** Lucrecia Martel. **Cinematography:** Felix Monti. **Editor:** Santiago Ricci. **Music:** Andres Gersenzon. **Principal Cast:** Mercedes Moran, Carlo Belloso, Alejandro Urdapilleta, Maria Alche, Julietta Zylberberg.

Sunday, April 17, 6:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Monday, April 18, 6:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas

Capital Focus Award

I Love Cinema

Baheb el sima

Osama Farwzy

Egypt, 2004, 125 minutes, color

For movie-mad seven-year-old Naeem, life in mid-1960s Cairo is an adventure. His fanatical Coptic Christian dad insists he'll go to hell for his habit and condemns even the most mundane of pleasures. So what, s that leave a boy to do, between typical childhood pranks and preternaturally wise voiceover musings, save dream constantly about such local big-screen fare as *The Great Escape*, *The Singing Nun* and the



odd Bollywood extravaganza? Diagnosed with rheumatism, the crafty kid even bargains with the doctor: "Take me to the movies and I'll give you all the blood you want." Blithely funny and meticulously period-oriented. —*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: El Arabeya. **Producer:** Issad Youness. **Screenplay:** Hany Fawzy. **Cinematography:** Tarek El Telmessany. **Editor:** Khaled Marei. **Music:** Khaled Shoukri. **Principal Cast:** Laila Elwy, Mahmoud Hemeida, Mena Shalaby, Aida Abdel Aziz, Youssef Osman.

Monday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Tuesday, April 19, 9:15 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

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

Innocent Voices

Voces inocentes

Luis Mandoki

Mexico, 2004, 110 minutes, color

Set against the 1980s Salvadoran civil war that pitted the army against a peasant guerilla force, *Innocent Voices* follows the harrowing, yet determined, day-to-day existence of 11-year-old Chava, whose small village is one of the last caught on the front lines between the warring forces. Chava is an



unfilingly plucky boy who knows full well he's about to turn 12—the age of automatic conscription—and thus becomes increasingly clever in thinking about how to avoid this. In the tradition of *Forbidden Games*, *Hope and Glory*, and this year's Filmfest DC attraction *Machuca* (see page 14), *Innocent Voices* speaks to the toll of war on children, and their instinctual spirit to rise above the often senseless conflict. —*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Altavista Films, Lawrence Bender Productions, in association with Santa Domingo Films, Muvi Films. **Producers:** Lawrence Bender, Luis Mandoki, Alejandro Soberon Kuri. **Screenplay:** Oscar Torres. **Cinematography:** Juan Ruiz Anchia. **Editor:** Aleshka Ferrero. **Music:** Andre Abujamra. **Principal Cast:** Carlos Padilla, Leonor Varela, Gustavo Munoz, Jose Maria Yazpik, Ofelia Medina.

Friday, April 22, 6:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas

Saturday, April 23, 9:15 p.m., Regal Cinemas

The Journey

Sancharam

Ligy Pullappally

India, 2004, 107 minutes, color

In *The Journey*, director Ligy Pullappally handles a controversial subject with stark simplicity, sensitivity, and subtlety. We first meet Kiran and Delilah as two young women living in rural Kerala. Despite their differences—Kiran is a reserved intellectual while Delilah is outgoing and playful—the girls' childhood friendship deepens and continues into adulthood. The relationship changes as Kiran realizes she is physically attracted to



Delilah. To hide her desire, Kiran helps a male friend carry out a bizarre scheme to win Delilah's heart. In the process, Delilah discovers Kiran's feelings for her and their romance blossoms. The eventual discovery of the girls' secret relationship culminates in a tragic yet triumphant denouement. —*Manjula Kumar*

IN MALAYALAM WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Djeven and Asha Films. **Producer:** Janamma Ottapackal. **Screenplay:** Ligy Pullappally. **Cinematographer:** M.J. Radhakrishnan. **Music:** Isaac Thomas Kottukapally. **Principal Cast:** Suhasini V. Nair, Shruti Menon, Kpac Lalitha, Valsala Menon.

Monday, April 18, 9:00 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Tuesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

★ *In Person: Director Ligy Pullappally*

Kekexili: Mountain Patrol

Kekexili

Lu Chuan

China/Hong Kong,
2004. 95 minutes. color



Set in the rugged expanse of the Tibetan Plateau and shot with a breathtaking urgency, *Kekexili: Mountain Patrol* is a stunning, western-inspired tale of survival and morality. Based on true events surrounding the near-extinction of Tibetan antelope, the film chronicles a mountain patrol's harrowing



17-day trek in pursuit of poachers leaving a trail of the animals' skinned carcasses. The patrol, led by a hard-nosed Tibetan, endures fateful encounters in its dogged but dubious quest, from quicksand to machine-gun toting poachers. Most daunting and consequential, however, is the harsh natural environment that defines this isolated region of the world, and a mode of survival in which morality acquires a less than absolute standing and ultimately speaks much larger truths.—*Chi-hui Yang*

IN TIBETAN AND MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Huayi Brothers/Taihe Film Investment Co. (China)/Columbia Pictures Film Production Asia (Hong Kong). **Producer:** Wang Zhongle. **Screenplay:** Lu Chuan. **Cinematography:** Cao Yu. **Editor:** Teng Yun. **Music:** Lao Zai. **Principal Cast:** Duobujie, Zhang Lei, Qi Liang, Zhao Xueying

Monday, April 18, 9:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Tuesday, April 19, 9:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

The Keys to the House

La chiavi di casa

Gianni Amelio

Italy/Germany/France, 2004,
100 minutes. color



In looking after children, do parents also look after themselves? This question lies at the heart of *The Keys to the House*, a nuanced exploration of a man's transformation into a father. At a Munich railway station, Gianni prepares to meet his son for the first time. Fifteen-year-old Paolo is sleeping aboard a train bound for Berlin, where Gianni will accompany him for medical treatment. Paolo was

born with physical and psychological disabilities; his body is twisted and he walks with a cane, while his personality is uncommonly open and trusting. In the German hospital they meet Nicole, who has a severely disabled child and, with curiosity and empathy, begins probing the rift between father and son.—*Leslie Camhi, Village Voice*

December 21, 2004

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: RAI Cinema (Italy)/Achab Film (Italy)/Pola Pandora Film (Italy)/Arena Films (France). **Producer:** Enzo Porcelli. **Screenplay:** Gianni Amelio, Sandra Petraglia, Stefano Rulli. **Cinematography:** Luca Bigazzi. **Editor:** Simona Paggi. **Music:** Franco Piersanti. **Principal Cast:** Kim Rossi Stuart, Andrea Rossi, Charlotte Rampling.

Wednesday, April 20, 9:00 p.m. Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 23, 6:30 p.m. Landmark's E Street Cinema

Kings and Queen

Rois et reine

Arnaud Desplechin

France, 2004. 150 minutes. color

Kings and Queen tells the stories of Nora (Emmanuelle Devos) and Ismaël (Matthieu Amalric), two former lovers on very different paths. While Nora confronts the tragedy of her father's slow descent into illness and the ghosts of her own past, Ismaël is forced to confront his own issues while making a comic turn in a mental hospital run by Dr. Vasset (Catherine Deneuve). An emotional rollercoaster fueled by a fierce intelligence, *Kings and Queen* draws inspiration from mythology,

Shakespearean forms, and the grand novels of the past while presenting a thoroughly modern understanding of human relationships.

—*2005 Sarasota Film Festival*



IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Why Not, France 2 Cinema, Rhone-Alpes Cinema. **Producer:** Pascal Caucheteux. **Screenplay:** Arnaud Desplechin. **Cinematography:** Eric Gautier. **Editor:** Laurence Briaud. **Principal Cast:** Emmanuelle Devos, Matthieu Amalric, Catherine Deneuve, Magali Woch.

Friday, April 15, 9:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Monday, April 18, 9:00 p.m. Landmark's E Street Cinema

King's Game Kongekabale

Nikolaj Arcel

Denmark, 2004.
107 minutes, color

This slick, compelling political thriller has a universally pertinent question at its core: Who wields the real power in any democracy? Based on a novel by former parliamentary press officer Niels Krause-Kjoer, *King's Game* charts a devious power struggle through the eyes of political journalist Ulrik Torp. Weeks away from the general election, Danish Centre Party leader Aksel Brunn is riding high in



the opinion polls. When he is seriously injured in a car accident, a power play ensues in the party's top ranks. Torp is unwittingly drawn into the struggle between the liberal Lone Kjeldsen and her sinister rival Erik Dreier as they scheme to become the next prime minister. —*Sarah Lutton, 2004 Times London Film Festival*

IN DANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Nimbus Film, in association with TV2 Denmark, FilmGEAR, Zentropa Entertainment. **Producer:** Meta Louise Foldager. **Screenplay:** Nikolaj Arcel, Rasmus Heisterberg, from the novel by Niels Krause-Kjoer. **Cinematography:** Rasmus Videboek. **Editor:** Mikkel E.G. Nielsen. **Music:** Flemming Nordkrog. **Principal Cast:** Anders W. Berthelsen, Soren Pilmark, Nastja Arcel, Nicolas Bro, Lars Mikkelsen.

Thursday, April 14, 8:45 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
Sunday, April 17, 8:15 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Kontroll

Nimrod Antal

Hungary, 2003.
105 minutes, color

Superbly shot, slyly acted, and dazzlingly scored, *Control* is a hyperkinetic thrill ride. In the dingy Budapest subway system, someone is pushing innocent people in front of trains. For rumpled loner Bulcsu, this represents an insult to the motley crew of ticket inspectors under his supervision and a direct threat to his idiosyncratic way of life (he lives on the platforms and in the tunnels, curling up on the floor to sleep when



the trains are idle). While idly romancing the eccentric daughter of a legendary trainman and staving off the often-violent ridicule of colleagues and the public, Bulcsu begins a surrealistic journey of self that leads to sparks on the tracks and romance on the rails. —*Eddie Cockrell*

IN HUNGARIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Café Film/Bonfire. **Producer:** Tamas Hutlassa. **Screenplay:** Nimrod Antal. **Cinematography:** Gyula Pados. **Editor:** Istvan Kiraly. **Music:** NEO. **Principal Cast:** Sander Csanyi, Zoltan Mucsi, Sander Badar, Csaba Pindroch, Zsolt Nagy.

Thursday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 23, 11:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Capital Focus Award

Last of the First

Anja Baron

USA, 2004, 88 minutes, color and black & white, video

For a concentrated blast of traditional early American jazz as practiced by the masters, come along with Anja Baron and her film crew as they follow the spirited peregrinations of the Harlem Blues and Jazz Band. Together for three decades, this ensemble includes Fats Waller's seemingly indestructible guitarist Al Casey; Bill Doggett saxophonist Bubba Brooks; Louis Armstrong's pianist Edwin Swanston; Duke Ellington guitarist Lawrence Lucie; Jonah Jones bassist Ivan Rolle; Frank Sinatra's drummer of choice Johnny Blowers; and vocalist Laurel Watson, who worked with Count Basie and Duke Ellington. These dedicated players



are as comfortable doing local gigs as they are traveling to Mexico, Berlin, Stockholm, and Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall, this last date showcasing Blowers' still-

astonishing chops. —*Eddie Cockrell*

Production Company: keNija Productions. **Producer:** Anja Baron. **Cinematography:** Anja Baron, Kate Compel. **Music:** Philip Shane. **Principal Cast:** Albert Vollmer, Al Casey, Johnny Blowers, Larry Lucie, Bubba Brooks, Edwin Swanston, Laurel Watson, Lionel Hampton, Tom Maxwell, Billy Taylor, Nat Hentoff, Clark Terry, Dan Morgenstern.

Friday, April 15, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 16, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

★ *In Person: Director Anja Baron*

★ *Alex Martin Trio will perform before each screening*

Letter From an Unknown Woman

Yi feng mo sheng nu
ren de lai xin

Xu Jinglei

China, 2004, 90 minutes, color

A gorgeously photographed tale of unrequited passion, Xu Jinglei's adaptation of Stefan Zweig's short story (which Max Ophuls famously filmed in 1948) is a visual and romantic masterpiece for which Jinglei deservedly won Best Director at the San Sebastian Film Festival. Transported from



turn-of-the-century Vienna to wartime China and set against the epic backdrop of its revolution, the film unfolds over the course of 20 years and chronicles the life of a woman whose love for a man ultimately consumes her. Starring director Xu Jinglei as the love-lost Jiang and Jiang Wen (*Green Tea*) as the charismatic writer whom she is unable to forget, *Letter From an Unknown Woman* is a lyrical meditation on memory, love, and loss. —Chi-hui Yang

IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Asian Union Film & Media. **Producer:** Dong Ping.
Screenplay: Xu Jinglei. **Cinematography:** Mark Lee Ping Bin. **Editor:** Zhang Yifen.
Music: Osamu Kubota, Lin Hai. **Principal Cast:** Xu Jinglei, Lin Yuan, Jiang Wen, Sun Feihu, Su Xiaoming.

Friday, April 15, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Sunday, April 17, 6:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



Machuca

Andres Wood

Chile/Spain/United Kingdom/France, 2004, 121 minutes, color

Gonzalo, the 11-year-old boy at the center of Andrés Wood's *Machuca*, is warily edging toward adolescence, preoccupied with the petty brutality of the schoolyard and the unspoken miseries of his upper-middle class Santiago household. But because his coming of age takes place in Chile in 1973 (the military coup against Salvador Allende's government lurks on the horizon), Gonzalo's ordinary hardships, joys, and rites of



passage are charged with inordinate tension. *Machuca* has a tough, heavy clarity. Its point is not to settle scores or reopen old wounds, but rather to explore, after a long period of repression, the possibility of grief and to evoke the youthful condition. —A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Andres Wood Productions (Chile)/Tomasol Films (Spain)/Mamoun Hassan (United Kingdom)/Paraiso (France), in association with Chilefilms. **Producers:** Gerardo Herrero, Mamoun Hassan, Andres Wood.
Screenplay: Roberto Brodsky, Mamoun Hassan, Andres Wood. **Cinematography:** Miguel J. Littin. **Editor:** Fernando Pardo. **Music:** Miguel Angel Miranda, Jose Miguel Tobar. **Principal Cast:** Matias Quer, Ariel Mateluna, Manuela Martelli, Aline Kuppenheim, Federico Luppi.

Thursday, April 21, 9:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre
Friday, April 22, 9:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

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

Festival Schedule

Wednesday, April 13

7:00 p.m. **Opening Night Gala**
Raincoat
With Rituparno Ghosh
Lincoln Theater

Thursday, April 14

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

12:30 p.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids:**
Program 1*
National Gallery of Art

6:30 p.m. **Rolling Family**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas



7:00 p.m. **Mughal-e-Azam**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

8:45 p.m. **King's Game**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

Friday, April 15

10:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids:**
Program 1*
National Gallery of Art

12:30 p.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids:**
Program 2*
National Gallery of Art

6:30 p.m. **Morning Raga**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

6:30 p.m. **Letter From an**
Unknown Woman
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

6:30 p.m. **Selling Democracy:**
Films of the Marshall
Plan, 1948-53
Regal Cinemas

6:45 p.m. **Rolling Family**
Avalon Theatre

6:45 p.m. **Last of the First**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

6:45 p.m. **The Hero**
Regal Cinemas

7:00 p.m. **Chokher Bali: A Passion**
Play
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

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

9:00 p.m. **Absolut**
Regal Cinemas

9:15 p.m. **Kings and Queen**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

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

9:30 p.m. **The Baghdad Blogger:**
Salam Pax
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

9:30 p.m. **5x2**
Regal Cinemas

Saturday, April 16

1:00 p.m. **Dil Se...**
Avalon Theatre

4:30 p.m. **Mughal-e-Azam**
Avalon Theatre

6:30 p.m. **Morning Raga**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

6:30 p.m. **The Baghdad Blogger:**
Salam Pax
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

6:30 p.m. **Shanghai Story**
Regal Cinemas

6:45 p.m. **Somersault**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

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

7:00 p.m. **Beautiful Boxer**
Regal Cinemas

8:00 p.m. **Sandstorm**
Avalon Theatre

9:00 p.m. **Last of the First**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

9:15 p.m. **Autumn**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

9:15 p.m. **The Syrian Bride**
Regal Cinemas

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

9:30 p.m. **The Hero**
Regal Cinemas

9:45 p.m. **Captive**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

Sunday, April 17

11:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids:**
Program 3*
National Gallery of Art

12:00 p.m. **Sandstorm**
Avalon Theatre

3:30 p.m. **Dev**
Avalon Theatre

4:30 p.m. **Asphalt***
National Gallery of Art

5:00 p.m. **The World**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas



- 5:30 p.m. **Under Construction**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 6:00 p.m. **The Syrian Bride**
Regal Cinemas
- 6:15 p.m. **Letter From an Unknown Woman**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Beautiful City**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **The Holy Girl**
Regal Cinemas
- 8:00 p.m. **Dev**
Avalon Theatre
- 8:15 p.m. **King's Game**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 8:30 p.m. **Somersault**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 8:45 p.m. **Shanghai Story**
Regal Cinemas
- 9:00 p.m. **The Overture**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **5x2**
Regal Cinemas
- 9:15 p.m. **Autumn**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

Monday, April 18

- 10:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids: Program 3***
National Gallery of Art
- 6:30 p.m. **The Miracle of Bern**
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 p.m. **I Love Cinema**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 6:30 p.m. **Boxers and Ballerinas**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **The Holy Girl**
Regal Cinemas
- 6:45 p.m. **Winter Solstice**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 7:00 p.m. **Tango Salon: La Confiteria Ideal**
Regal Cinemas
- 7:30 p.m. **The World**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 8:45 p.m. **Pirated Copy**
Regal Cinemas
- 9:00 p.m. **Only Human**
Avalon Theatre
- 9:00 p.m. **The Journey**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

- 9:00 p.m. **Kings and Queen**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **Beautiful Boxer**
Regal Cinemas
- 9:15 p.m. **Kekexili: Mountain Patrol**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

Tuesday, April 19

- 10:00 a.m. **Let the Church Say Amen***
Avalon Theatre
- 10:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids: Program 4***
National Gallery of Art
- 6:30 p.m. **Only Human**
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 p.m. **The Journey**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 6:30 p.m. **Winter Solstice**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 6:45 p.m. **Cronicas**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 6:45 p.m. **Me and You and Everyone We Know**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema



7:00 p.m. **Tango Salon: La Confriteria Ideal**
Regal Cinemas

7:30 p.m. **Songs of Mahulbani**
shown with **Little Terrorist**
Regal Cinemas

8:30 p.m. **The Miracle of Bern**
Avalon Theatre

8:45 p.m. **The Other Side of the Street**
Regal Cinemas

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

9:15 p.m. **I Love Cinema**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

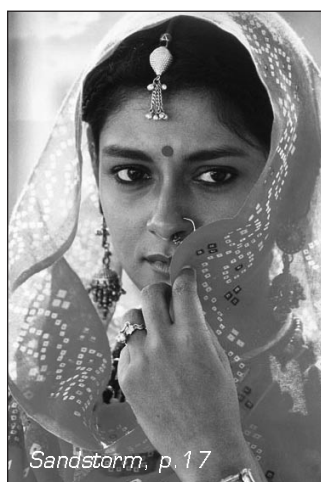
9:15 p.m. **Boxers and Ballerinas**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

9:30 p.m. **Kekexili: Mountain Patrol**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

Wednesday, April 20

12:00 p.m. **Arts Club Panel and Luncheon**
Arts Club of Washington

6:30 p.m. **Le Grand Voyage**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas



6:30 p.m. **Me and You and Everyone We Know**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

6:30 p.m. **Hawaii, Oslo**
Regal Cinemas

6:45 p.m. **Brothers**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

6:45 p.m. **Beautiful City**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

7:00 p.m. **Chokher Bali: A Passion Play**
Avalon Theatre

7:00 p.m. **Songs of Mahulbani**
shown with **Little Terrorist**
Regal Cinemas

8:45 p.m. **Peacock**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

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

9:00 p.m. **The Keys to the House**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

9:00 p.m. **Miles Electric: A Different Kind of Blue**
Regal Cinemas

9:15 p.m. **Pirated Copy**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

Thursday, April 21

6:30 p.m. **A Thousand Dreams Such as These**
Avalon Theatre

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

6:30 p.m. **Kontroll**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

6:30 p.m. **Hawaii, Oslo**
Regal Cinemas

6:45 p.m. **Le Grand Voyage**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin

Avenue Cinemas

6:45 p.m. **The Other Side of the Street**
Regal Cinemas

7:00 p.m. **Trilogy: The Weeping Meadow**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

8:45 p.m. **Cell Phone**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

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

9:00 p.m. **Miles Electric: A Different Kind of Blue**
Regal Cinemas

9:15 p.m. **Suite Habana**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

9:15 p.m. **Saint Ralph**
Regal Cinemas

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

Friday, April 22

6:30 p.m. **The Boys and Girl From County Clare**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

6:30 p.m. **Cell Phone**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

6:30 p.m. **Innocent Voices**
Regal Cinemas

6:45 p.m. **Suite Habana**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas

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

6:45 p.m. **Tell Them Who You Are**
Regal Cinemas

7:00 p.m. **Manual for Love Stories**
Avalon Theatre

8:30 p.m. **The Green Hat**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas



- 8:45 p.m. **Dalecarlians**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 9:00 p.m. **Short Cuts**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 9:15 p.m. **Untold Scandal**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 9:30 p.m. **Machuca**
Avalon Theatre
- 9:30 p.m. **Saint Ralph**
Regal Cinemas
- 9:45 p.m. **Clean**
Regal Cinemas

Saturday, April 23

- 10:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids:
Program 4***
National Gallery of Art
- 2:00 p.m. **Dil Se...**
Avalon Theatre
- 5:00 p.m. **Trilogy: The Weeping
Meadow**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 6:00 p.m. **A Thousand Dreams
Such As These**
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 p.m. **The Green Hat**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 6:30 p.m. **The Keys to the House**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema



- 6:30 p.m. **Clean**
Regal Cinemas
- 6:45 p.m. **Tell Them Who You Are**
Regal Cinemas
- 7:00 p.m. **Absolut**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 8:30 p.m. **Private**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **Untold Scandal**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **The Boys and Girl From
County Clare**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 9:15 p.m. **Suite Habana**
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin
Avenue Cinemas
- 9:15 p.m. **Innocent Voices**
Regal Cinemas
- 9:30 p.m. **Manual for Love Stories**
Avalon Theatre
- 9:30 p.m. **We Don't Die, We
Multiply**
Regal Cinemas

- 11:00 p.m. **Kontroll**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema
- 11:00 p.m. **Standalone**
shown with **Among
Thieves**
Landmark's E Street
Cinema

Sunday, April 24

- 11:30 a.m. **Filmfest DC for Kids:
Program 2***
National Gallery of Art
- 4:00 p.m. **The Tuner***
National Gallery of Art
- 4:00 p.m. **Closing Night Event
Ladies in Lavender**
Regal Cinemas



** Events marked with an
asterisk are free.*

*All programs are subject to
change.*



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

Manual for Love Stories

Come faze um
film de amor

Jose Roberto Torero

Brazil, 2002, 85 minutes, color

Drawn with broad comedic strokes, *Manual for Love*

Stories features an ever-present narrator who makes up the story as he goes along. The film starts with the camera panning across a busy Brazilian street, considering and rejecting a series of women until just the right heroine is found. After that, the woman chosen tries out various



names until a proper one for a romance is discovered. Along the way, two lovers are guided by and argue with the narrator. At one point, the male lover goes on strike when he doesn't like a turn the story has taken. This causes the narrator to arrange to have a cream pie thrown in his face.

—Steve Rhodes, *Internet Reviews*

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Superfilmes. **Producer:** Zita Carvalhosa.

Screenplay: Jose Roberto Torero, Luiz Moura. **Cinematography:** Katia Coelho. **Editor:** Vania Debs. **Music:** Mario Manga. **Principal Cast:** Denise Fraga, Cassio Gabus Mendes, Marisa Orth, Andre Abujamra, Paulo Jose.

Friday, April 22, 7:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre
Saturday, April 23, 9:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

★ *In Person: Director Jose Roberto Torero*

Me and You and Everyone We Know

Miranda July

USA, 2005, 90 minutes, color

Responding to the news that his wife is leaving him and their two children behind, forlorn shoe salesman Richard (John Hawkes) sets his hand on fire but can't quite figure out why. Meanwhile, struggling video artist Christine, played by multi-media maven Miranda July—here in her feature-length directorial debut—makes ends meet by driving a cab for the elderly. Finally, Richard's mixed-race kids, 14-year-old Peter (Miles Thompson) and seven-year-old Robbie (the cherubic Brandon Ratcliff), are confronted by provocative questions of teenaged sex and Internet

chatrooms, respectively. In their eccentric ways, each of these decent yet confused characters yearns for love—just like *Me and You and Everyone We Know*.

—Eddie Cockrell

Production Company: Gina Kwon. **Producer:** Gina Kwon. **Screenplay:** Miranda July. **Cinematography:** Chuy Chavez. **Editor:** Andrew Dickler.

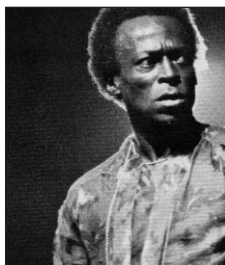
Music: Mike Andrews. **Principal Cast:** John Hawkes, Miranda July, Miles Thompson, Brandon Ratcliff, Carlie Westerman.

Tuesday, April 19, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

★ *In Person: Director Miranda Julie*



Miles Electric: A Different Kind of Blue



Murray Lerner

USA, 2004, 87 minutes, color and black & white, video

On August 29, 1970, trumpeter Miles Davis and his band took to Britain's Isle of Wight festival stage in front of 600,000 rock fans for a 38-minute improvisation. This astonishing show has been expanded with interviews and exhaustive

historical perspective by veteran music filmmaker Murray Lerner. Interviews with each band member pave the way for a more intimate appreciation of the set, and Lerner has edited images of the men across the years together to startling effect. Maybe keyboardist Keith Jarrett sums it up best, saying of the great Miles Davis, "He was trying to do something a trumpet wasn't supposed to be able to actually do."—Eddie Cockrell

Production Company: MLF, in association with Eagle Rock Entertainment. **Producer:** Murray Lerner. **Cinematography:** Henry Adebajo, Nicholas Doob, Bob Elfstrom, Kramer Morgenstau. **Editors:** Edward Goldberg, Einar Westerlund. **Music:** Miles Davis. **Principal Cast:** Miles Davis, Carlos Santana, Stanley Crouch, Joni Mitchell, Herbie Hancock.

Wednesday, April 20, 9:00 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Thursday, April 21, 9:00 p.m., Regal Cinemas

★ *Alex Martin Trio will perform before each screening*

The Miracle of Bern

Das wunder von Bern

Soenke Wortmann

Germany, 2003, 118 minutes, color



The *Miracle of Bern* sets the rousing German win at the 1954 World Cup in Switzerland—an event considered the beginning of the country's pivotal German Economic Miracle—against a generational family drama that energizes the history with a human dimension. When a soldier captured by the Soviets returns to his family in the working-class Ruhr region, he soon clashes with his soccer-mad 11-year-old son. Meanwhile, in Munich, a newly married young sports reporter must cover the big

event with his football-impaired wife in tow. Their stories climax at the World Cup final, which is filmed with breathtaking technique. Ironically, Bern's Wankdorf Stadium was demolished just after the production left. —Eddie Cockrell

IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Little Shark Entertainment/Senator Film Production, in association with SevenPictures, Das Werk. **Producers:** Tom Spiess, Soenke Wortmann, Hanno Huth. **Screenplay:** Soenke Wortmann, Rochus Hahn. **Cinematography:** Tom Faehrmann. **Editor:** Ueli Christen. **Music:** Marcel Barsotti. **Principal Cast:** Louis Klamroth, Peter Lohmeyer, Johanna Gastdorf, Mirko Lang, Birthe Wolter.

Monday, April 18, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

Tuesday, April 19, 8:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

■ Co-presented with the Goethe Institut Washington

Morning Raga

Mahesh Dattani

India, 2004, 110 minutes, color



Written and directed by playwright Mahesh Dattani, *Morning Raga* is about the meeting of diverse worlds. This Bollywood film is a sensitive study in uniting the modern and traditional, blending the past and the present, mingling Carnatic music with western music, and tempering fate and coincidence with individual choices. Residents from a small village in South India embark on bus journey filled with various aspirations, oblivious of a fatal accident that is

about to befall them. Several lives are inextricably linked through this tragedy. Twenty years later, three people come to terms with their loss through a synergistic force: music. —Manjula Kumar

IN ENGLISH AND HINDI, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Producer: K. Ragheendra Rao. **Screenplay:** Mahesh Dattani. **Cinematography:** Rajiv Menon. **Music:** Mani Sharma. **Principal Cast:** Shabana Azmi, Prakash Rao, Perizaad Zorabian, Lillette Dubey.

Friday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Saturday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

★ In Person: Director Mahesh Dattani

Mughal-e-Azam

American Premiere!

K. Asif

India, 1960, 178 minutes, color



Forty-four years after it was first released, *Mughal-e-Azam* is still considered one of Bollywood's biggest extravaganzas. It is based on the well-known legend of the love between Prince Salim, son of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, and a dancer named Anarkali. In keeping with the times, the romance is depicted with subtle glances and delicate expressions. Continually torn between love for his only son and his duty as an Emperor, Akbar's dilemma lends complexity to the story. The grandeur of the costumes, the splendor of the Mughal Court, and the song-and-dance numbers make the film a land-

mark in Indian cinema that continues to enchant audiences. —Manjula Kumar

IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Producer/Screenplay: K. Asif. **Cinematography:** R.D. Mathur. **Music:** Naushad. **Principal Cast:** Prithviraj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar, Madhubala, Durga Khote.

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Saturday, April 16, 4:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

Only Human

Seres queridos

Teresa de Peligri, Dominic Harari

Spain/United Kingdom/Argentina/Portugal, 2004, 89 minutes, color

When TV presenter Leni brings university lecturer Rafi around to meet her eccentric family, little does he know what he's in for: Leni's got a neurotic mom, Gloria; a belly dancer sister who has a bratty kid; an ultra-observant younger brother; and a grandfather who's so proud of his vet status he waves a rifle around in their apartment. Leni's neglected to tell them Rafi's Palestinian. "What part of Israel are you from?" Gloria asks him in blithe ignorance. Cast as Gloria, Norma Aleandro

(*Cleopatra*, FFDC 2003) defends her crown as one of international cinema's great light comedies. With its familiar yet nicely-spun message that love conquers all, *Only Human* is a sparkling political farce.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Cinematography: Danny Cohen. **Editor:** Fernando Pardo. **Music:** Charlie Mole. **Principal Cast:** Norma Aleandro, Guillermo Toledo, Maria Botto, Marian Aguilera, Fernando Ramallo.

Monday, April 18, 9:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre
Tuesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre

The Other Side of the Street

O outro lado da rua

Marcos Bernstein

Brazil/France, 2004, 97 minutes, color

Fernanda Montenegro plays Regina, a 65-year-old pensioner who works undercover as an informant for Copacabana's police force. Though her batting average is right up there, her handler is exasperated at her zeal: "Next you'll be beating down drug dealers with your purse," he tells her. One evening, Regina spies a prominent, aging judge apparently killing his wife with a lethal injection. When the police don't believe her story, Regina takes it on

herself to conduct an investigation that often borders on stalking, until the inevitable happens and the two become involved. Montenegro was nominated for an Oscar for her eye-opening work in *Central Station*.

—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Neanderthal MB Cinema (Brazil)/Passaro Films (France). **Producer:** Katia Machado, Marcos Bernstein. **Screenplay:** Marcos Bernstein, Melanie Dimantas. **Cinematography:** Toca Seabra. **Editor:** Marcelo Moraes. **Music:** Guilherme Bernstein Seixas. **Principal Cast:** Fernanda Montenegro, Raul Cortez, Laura Cardoso, Luis Percy, Caio Ramos.

Tuesday, April 19, 8:45 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Thursday, April 21, 6:45 p.m., Regal Cinemas

The Overture

Hoam rong



Itthi-sunthorn Wichailak

Thailand, 2004, 104 minutes, color

The Overture follows gifted musician Sorn from boyhood to old age and from music competitions at village festivals to a defiant act of protest against the suppression of Thai music during the years of the Pacific War. Evoking past eras with elegance and conviction, *The Overture* is the second directorial feature from former architect and actor Itthi-sunthorn Wichailak. The film boasts fine performances from many of Thailand's best actors, but the music's the thing. Sorn's instrument is the ranadek, a kind of bamboo xylophone. Experiencing



it played by Anuchit Saphanphong as young Sorn and Adul Dulyarat as elderly Sorn is thrilling and intensely emotive.—*Tony Rayns, 2004 Times London Film Festival*

IN THAI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Gimmick Film. **Producers:** Itthi-sunthorn Wichailak, Pisamai Laodara. **Screenplay:** Dolkamol Sattatip, Peerarak Saksiri, Itthi-sunthorn Wichailak. **Cinematography:** Natthawut Kittkhun. **Editor:** Itthi-sunthorn Wichailak. **Music:** Nick Chaiyapak. **Principal Cast:** Anuchit Saphanphong, Adul Dulyarat, Arratee Tanmahapran, Narongrit Tosa-nga, Phongphat Wachirabanjong.

Saturday, April 16, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Sunday, April 17, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Palindromes

Todd Solondz

USA, 2004, 100 minutes, color

Filmfest DC festival favorite Todd Solondz (*Welcome to the Dollhouse*, FFDC 1995), has been called by *Variety*'s David Rooney "the bleak bard of New Jersey." The bard's back with *Palindromes*, his most scabrous comedy to date. Following the funeral of Dawn Wiener (*Dollhouse*'s leading character, unseen), her cousin Aviva (who's played by eight different actors and actresses) expresses fears to mom Joyce (Ellen Barkin) and dad Steve (Richard Masur) that she'll end up the same way—a suicide. Impregnated by oafish wannabe-filmmaker and family friend Judah (Robert Agri), Aviva is

talked into an abortion by monstrously hypocritic Joyce, after which she hits the road on a bizarre voyage of discovery. —Eddie Cockrell

Production Company: Extra Large Pictures. **Producers:** Mike S. Ryan, Derrick Tseng. **Screenplay:** Todd Solondz. **Cinematography:** Tom Richmond. **Editors:** Mollie Goldstein, Kevin Messman. **Music:** Nathan Larson. **Principal Cast:** Ellen Barkin, Stephen Adly Guirgis, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Emami Sledge, Valerie Shusterov, Hannah Freiman, Rachel Corr, Will Denton, Sharon Wilkins, Shayna Levine, Richard Masur.



Friday, April 15, 9:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

★ *In Person: Director Todd Solondz*

Capital Focus Award

Peacock Kongque



Gu Changwei

China, 2005, 142 minutes, color

Veteran cinematographer Gu Changwei, whose work with Zhang Yimou and Chen Kaige helped to define China's Fifth Generation filmmakers, makes a revelatory directing debut with *Peacock*, a compassionate portrait of three siblings whose fortunes rise and fall along with China's bumpy transition from cultural revolution to free-market economy. Weihong is the family's older sister, whose quietly desperate attempts to find companionship

provide the film's emotional center. Weiguo is her overweight and mentally retarded brother, underestimated by all who pick on him. Weiqiang, the youngest sibling, is a wise, but troubled young man ostracized by the family. Told with meticulous detail, *Peacock* offers a singular vision of a China trying to shed its past and embrace an unknown future. —Chi-hui Yang

IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Asian Union Film & Media. **Producers:** Dong Ping, Gu Changwei. **Screenplay:** Li Guang. **Cinematography:** Yang Chu. **Editors:** Liu Sha, Yan Tao. **Music:** Dou Peng. **Principal Cast:** Zhang Jingchu, Feng Li, Lu Yulai, Huang Meiying, Zhao Yiwei.

Wednesday, April 20, 8:45 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Thursday, April 21, 9:00 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Pirated Copy



Man yan

He Jianjun

China, 2004, 89 minutes, color, video

A kaleidoscope of modern Beijing dwellers linked by illicit behavior and urban anomie, *Pirated Copy* is a daring, engrossing film. Set in cramped apartments and back alleys amidst an explosion of illegal DVDs, He Jianjun's remarkable third feature explores the dark side of a burgeoning film culture that reflects



not only a unique cinephilia, but also those left out of China's economic miracle. Wrapped up in this world is Shen Ming, a petty DVD dealer, and a collection of characters linked by his trade: a sex-starved college professor, a prostitute searching for In the Mood for Love, and a financially-strapped couple whose tragic re-enactment of *Pulp Fiction* provides the film's devastating emotional core —Chi-hui Yang

IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Fanhall Studio. **Producer:** Zhu Ri Kun. **Screenplay:** Cui zhen, He Jianjun. **Cinematography:** Yuan Deqiang. **Editor:** Gao Bojie. **Music:** Bao Luo. **Principal Cast:** Yu Bo, Wang Ya Mei, Hu Xiaoguang, NaRen GiMuGe, Zi Qi, Wan Chang.

Monday, April 18, 8:45 p.m., Regal Cinemas

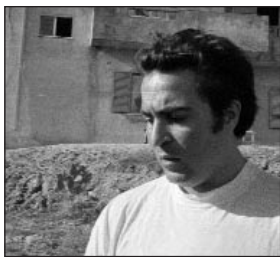
Wednesday, April 20, 9:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Private

Saverio Costanzo

Italy, 2004, 93 minutes, color

"You're real fighters. Don't be afraid. Allah is great." When you're a Palestinian family whose house in an occupied zone is invaded and commandeered by Israeli soldiers, this is what passes for neighborly advice. Such is the tone of Italian documentary filmmaker Saverio Costanzo's remarkable feature debut, *Private*. Although the time and exact location are never specified, the fears and dilemmas are universal. Stern patriarch Mohammed wants



to dig in his heels and wait it out, while his wife Samia pleads with him to move their five children to safety. When a small band of Israeli soldiers breaks into their house in the middle of the night, a high-stakes game of cat-and-mouse between the occupied and their occupiers begins.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ARABIC, HEBREW, AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: OffSide, Istituto Luce, Cydonia. **Producer:** Mario Gianani. **Screenplay:** Saverio Costanzo, Sayed Qashua, Camilla Costanzo, Alessio Cremonini. **Cinematography:** Luigi Martinucci. **Editor:** Francesca Calvelli. **Music:** Alter Ego. **Principal Cast:** Mohammad Bakri, Lior Miller, Areen Omari, Tomer Russo, Hend Ayoub.

Friday, April 22, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 23, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Rolling Family

La familia rodante

Pablo Trapero

Argentina, 2004,
103 minutes, color

In Pablo Trapero's lively new film (*El Bonaerense* was a highlight of FFDC 2003), plucky grandmother Emilia and her entire extended family take off on a road trip across Argentina to the home town she left decades earlier for a family wedding. Living together in a stifling motor home doesn't make for the smoothest ride as reminiscences, politics, and myriad other obstacles block the road. A very smart snapshot of two days in the



life of a large family, *Rolling Family* explodes with character and energy, dramatizing the universal fact that life gives you chances and it's up to you to make something of them.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Matanza Cine. **Producer/Screenplay:** Pablo Trapero. **Cinematography:** Guillermo Nieto. **Editor:** Nicolas Goldbart. **Music:** Hugo Diaz, Leon Gieco, Juaujo Soza. **Principal Cast:** Graciana Chironi, Liliana Capurro, Ruth Dobel, Bernardo Forteza.

Thursday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
Friday, April 15, 6:45 p.m., Avalon Theatre

Saint Ralph

Michael McGowan

Canada, 2004, 98 minutes, color

A young long-distance runner in Ontario sets his sights on the Boston Marathon in the snappy Canadian comedy *Saint Ralph*. It's the early 1950s, and 14-year-old wisenheimer Ralph Walker (Adam Butcher) breezes irreverently through his Hamilton Catholic school, much to the displeasure of the headmaster, Father Fitzpatrick (Gordon Pinsent). Assigned to the cross country team as a way of expending an "energy surplus" that manifests itself in an embarrassing pool accident, Ralph actually takes to the sport under the tutelage of more liberal Father Hibbert (Campbell Scott, in full-on



Embassy
of Canada



irony mode). When his mother (Shauna MacDonald) slips into a coma, Ralph decides winning the marathon 180 days hence will constitute the miracle needed to bring

her out of it.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Production Companies: Alliance Atlantis, Amaze Film. **Producers:** Teza Lawrence, Michael Souther, Seaton McLean, Andrea Mann. **Screenplay:** Michael McGowan. **Cinematography:** Rene Ohashi. **Editor:** Susan Maggi. **Music:** Andrew Lockington. **Principal Cast:** Adam Butcher, Campbell Scott, Gordon Pinsent, Jennifer Tilly, Shauna MacDonald.

Thursday, April 21, 9:15 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Friday, April 22, 9:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas

Sandstorm

Bawandar



Jagmohan Mundhra

India, 2000, 125 minutes, color

Sandstorm is based on the experiences of Bhanwari Devi, who gained recognition for filing charges against the abusive men in her village and was embraced as a symbol of courage by rural women throughout India. In this moving film, a young news reporter from overseas arrives in Rajasthan, India, to investigate women's issues. Exploring the case of a woman named Sanwari, the reporter learns that the victim was raped by uppercaste men from her



village because she protested against child marriage and advocated education for girls. Sanwari endures a turbulent journey to seek social and legal justice. When she eventually gets her day in court, the resulting trial is anything but fair.

—Manjula Kumar

IN HINDI, RAJASTHANI, AND ENGLISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Producer: Jagmohan Mundhra. **Screenplay:** Ashok Mishra, Sudha Arora. **Music:** Vishwa Mohan Bhatt. **Principal Cast:** Nandita Das, Raghuvir Yadav, Govind Namdeo, Deepti Naval, Lillette Dubey, Rahul Khanna, Laila Rouass.

Saturday, April 16, 8:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre
Sunday, April 17, 12:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

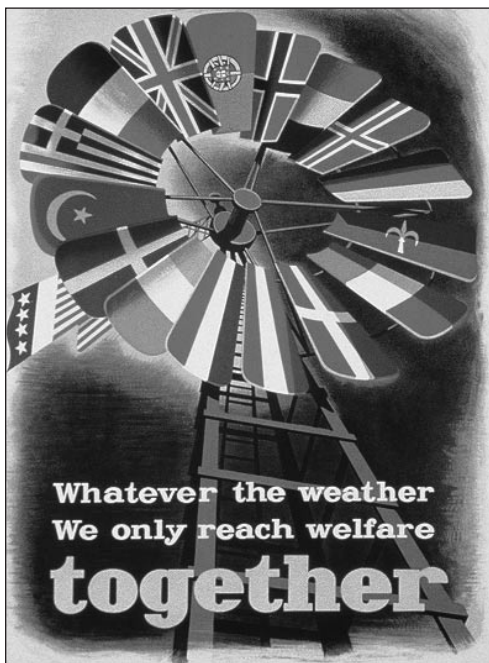
★ *In Person: Actress Nandita Das*

Selling Democracy: Films of the Marshall Plan 1948—1953

After World War II, more than \$13 billion in U.S. was provided to 17 European nations in an initiative called the European Recovery Program (ERP). Familiarly known as the Marshall Plan, some 250 films were produced in what author David Ellwood has called "the largest peacetime propaganda effort directed by [one] country to a group of others ever seen." The films have been assembled into four programs, one of which is featured in Filmfest DC. Special guests at the screening include Harlan Cleveland and Lincoln Gordon. Both held top jobs at the European Cooperation Administration, the agency that ran the Marshall Plan. **For information on other Marshall Plan programs, please visit www.marshallfilms.org.**

Help is on the Way

The Extraordinary Adventures of a Quart of Milk (14 min.), *The Home We Love* (15 min.), and *Rice and Bulls* (15 min.) address American productivity with a respect for traditional European craftsmanship. Irrigation challenges and land reclamation are explored in *Island of Faith* (20 min.) and *Town Without Water* (13 min.), while *Hansl and the 200,000 Chicks* (15 min.) brought the message of hope directly to the young. *ERP in Action No. 5* (14 min.) employs the jaunty music and pace of 1950s newsreels to tour aid projects in Portugal,



Great Britain, Belgium, and Greece. (Total running time: 106 minutes).

Friday, April 15, 6:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas

★ *In Person: Opening remarks by Harlan Cleveland, Chairman of the International Center for Peace and Development and former Assistant Director for Europe at the Marshall Plan Agency.*

Shanghai Story *American Premiere!*

Mei Lai Seung Hoi



Peng Xiaolian

China, 2004, 100 minutes, color

Winning three awards at China's prestigious Golden Rooster Awards, *Shanghai Story* is the moving tale of a family torn apart by China's Cultural Revolution and the ghosts that continue to haunt them today. A quiet and controversial chronicle of resilience and survival, Peng Xiaolian's third feature film tells the story of the Kang family, whose lives, like many others, were shattered during the violence and upheaval of the Revolution's decade-long time span. Years later, their mother's illness prompts the family's four adult children to return home. The

reunion, however, is anything but joyous; instead, it is a bitter-sweet unearthing of unresolved questions and old wounds from an unspeakable period of China's history.—Chi-hui Yang



IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Shanghai Tangson Film Media Co. **Producer:** Xu Feng.
Screenplay: Peng Xiaolian. **Cinematography:** Lin Liangzhong. **Editor:** Peng Xiaolian.
Principal Cast: Yangzheng Feng, Meihua Gu, Joey Wong, Youliang Zhao, Zhenyao Zheng.

Saturday, April 16, 6:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Sunday, April 17, 8:45 p.m., Regal Cinemas

★ *In Person: Director Peng Xiaolian*

Short Cuts



Total running time:
103 minutes

Bebe John Fiege, USA, 9 min., 16mm/Digital Betacam When a young girl's father becomes too interested in self-enlightenment, she wanders out to a lake to find her own type of enlightenment.

Viands Jose Antonio Bonet, Spain, 20 min., 35mm A new guest enters a restaurant in the mountains. The chef will be sure to make him enjoy his best dishes.

Milo 55160 David Ostry, Canada, 20 min., 35mm Milo is just your average paper-shuffling, nameless office worker—in the afterlife.

The Perpetual Twilight of Gregor Black Nigel Atkinson and Huw Davies, UK/Scotland, 11 min., 35mm A man, a woman, a pair of shoes...



Stop! Mathijs Geijskes, Holland, 5 min., 35mm A film within a film...within a film...within a film.

Among Thieves Oscar Daniels, USA, 23 min., 35mm A strange, symbiotic relationship develops between an armed robber and his hostage.

Little Terrorist Ashvin Kumar, India, 15 min., color Near the border between India and Pakistan, a Muslim boy chasing a cricket ball is mistaken for a terrorist by soldiers.

Friday, April 22, 9:00 p.m. Landmark's E Street Cinema



Somersault

Cate Shortland

Australia, 2004,
105 minutes, color

Featuring an astonishingly fearless leading performance by a young newcomer and nuanced support from an utterly convincing cast, *Somersault* is an experience that won't soon jump from memory. On the heels of being caught kissing her mother's boyfriend, blonde teenager Heidi hops a bus to the Australian ski resort of Jindabyne. Through a series of sexual liaisons, it becomes obvious that intimacy is one of the only tools with which the rather sweet but obviously haunted Heidi



can communicate. But there's a stubborn streak of independence fighting within her as well, and in short order she finds lodging, a job, and even a boyfriend of sorts in a young cattle farmer. Yet the road to self-awareness isn't without its hazards.
—Eddie Cockrell

Production Company: Red Carpet Productions, in association with Film Finance Corporation/New South Wales Film & Television Office/Showtime Australia. **Producer:** Anthony Anderson. **Screenplay:** Cate Shortland. **Cinematography:** Robert Humphreys. **Editor:** Scott Gray. **Music:** Decoder Ring. **Principal Cast:** Abbie Cornish, Sam Worthington, Lynette Curran, Erik Thomson, Hollie Andrew.

Saturday, April 16, 6:45 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
Sunday, April 17, 8:30 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

■ *Co-Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Australia.*

Capital Focus Award

Songs of Mahulbani

Mahulbanir Sereng

Sekhar Das

India, 2004, 137 minutes, color

Against the background of an unspoiled, mystical forest, writer/director Sekhar Das displays the schism between village and city life and between urban and tribal dwellers. Damayanti returns to the tribal village Mahulbani (forest of Mahua flowers) where she had worked twelve years earlier when the Santhals (tribals) were fighting for their rights. She recalls a young doctor who entered the world

American Premiere!



of the Santhals, got involved with a local married woman, and subsequently shattered the village's peace and innocence.—Manjula Kumar

IN BENGALI WITH ENGLISH
SUBTITLES

Producer: Sampa Bhattacharjee. **Screenplay:** Sekhar Das. **Cinematography:** Premendu Bikash Chaki. **Editor:** Sumit Ghosh. **Music:** Chirpidip Dasgupta. **Principal Cast:** Roopa Ganguly, Shilajit Mazumdar, Debesh Roy Chowdhury, Chandreyee Ghish, Sabyasachi Chakraborty.

Tuesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m., Regal Cinemas

■ *Shown with short film Little Terrorist (see pg. 17)*

★ *In Person: Director Sekhar Das and Star Roopa Ganguly*

Standalone

Sean Hagan

USA, 2005, 108 minutes,
color and black & white, video

Sean Hagan's labyrinthine homegrown thriller is a tense genre piece in which the usual suspects are anything but. There are three phases in the world of the Wrongman: word, rap, and fall. When struggling actor Mandla Nkosi (Andrew Owiti) is recruited into a shadowy parallel universe of profile-fitting decoys hired by drug dealers to take the heat off their criminal enterprises, swaggering vet Wrongman Miguel Rividavia (Hagan) shows him the hand-signals, protocol, and tricks necessary to navigate each step of the system. "All he had to

American Premiere!



do was watch," crows Miguel of the newbie, "and he did so much more." But woe to he who violates the code, and becomes, in the parlance of this dangerous game, a Standalone.
—Eddie Cockrell

Production Company: Three Day Dawn. **Producers:** Sean Hagan, Ahmad Diba. **Screenplay:** Sean Hagan. **Cinematography:** Wayne Arnold. **Editors:** Rob Deege, Jeff Cook, Don Lampson. **Music:** Keith Kehrer. **Principal Cast:** Andrew Owiti, Sean Hagan, Jose Bernik, Mark Cohen, Ross Dippl.

Saturday, April 23, 11:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

■ *Shown with short film Among Thieves (see pg. 17)*

★ *In Person: Director Sean Hagan*

Suite Habana

Fernando Perez

*Spain/Cuba, 2003,
80 minutes, color*

Suite Havana is a dazzlingly visual profile of the Cuban metropolis and a selection of its citizenry through the course of a single day. There's architect and builder Francisco, his 10-year-old son Francisquito—who has Down's Syndrome—and the boy's grand-parents. The stories ripple outward from there: railroad repairman and sax player Heriberto, hospital worker and aspiring actor Ivan, perfume factory employee Rachel, doctor and party clown



Juan Carlos. The elliptical narrative drops in on each of them seemingly at random, growing to encompass even more stories. Yet Fernando Perez exhibits a masterful control of the material, building from these brief vignettes a picture of purpose and peace amidst the crumbling industrial decay of the still colorful city.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Wanda Vision (Spain)/ICAIC (Cuba). **Producer:** Jose Maria Morales, Camilo Vives. **Cinematography:** Raul Perez Ureta. **Editor:** Julia Yip. **Music:** Edesio Alejandro, Ernesto Cisneros.

Thursday, April 21, 9:15 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
Friday, April 22, 6:45 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas
Saturday, April 23, 9:15 p.m.,
Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Capital Focus Award

The Syrian Bride

Ha'kalaHa'surith/
Arus Surie

Eran Riklis

Israel/France/Germany, 2004, 98 minutes, color

Once Mona crosses the border between Israel and Syria to marry Syrian TV star Tallel, she will never be allowed to go back to her family in Majdal Shams, a Druze village in the Golan Heights currently under Israeli control. And what a family it is: There is Mona's tough, political father, a playboy younger brother, an outcast elder brother, and an elder sister trapped in a culture and tradition she



wants to break out of. At the end of her wedding day, the bride, her family, and the government and military officials gathered on both sides of the border find themselves trapped in a no-man's land, facing an uncertain future.—*2004 Montreal World Film Festival*

IN ARABIC, HEBREW, RUSSIAN, AND FRENCH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Eran Riklis Productions (Israel)/MACT Productions (France)/Neue Impuls Film (Germany)/ARTE-WDR. **Producers:** Bettina Brokemper, Antoine de Clermont-Tonnerre, Eran Riklis, Michael Eckelt. **Screenplay:** Suha Arraf, Eran Riklis. **Cinematography:** Michael Wiesweg. **Editor:** Tova Ascher. **Music:** Cyril Morin. **Principal Cast:** Hiam Abbass, Makram J. Khoury, Clara Khoury, Ashraf Barhoum, Eyad Sheety.

Saturday, April 16, 9:15 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Sunday, April 17, 6:00 p.m. Regal Cinemas

★ *In Person: Director Eran Riklis*

Tango Salon: La Confiteria Ideal

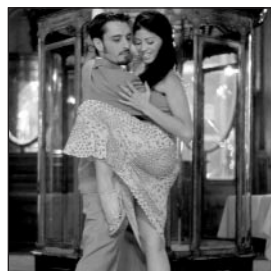
Jana Bokova

*Argentina/United Kingdom, 2003,
70 minutes, color, video*

The city of Buenos Aires is still reeling from an economic crisis when, paradoxically, one of the strongest tango revivals occurs. On the one hand, this film can be seen as a Buenos Aires-set *Buena Vista Social Club*, full of great music and dance throbbing in a historic tango hall. On the other, it is easy to see the tango as a defiant political act, a refusal to lay down and die in the face of the country's continued poverty. Weaving political undercurrents into a richly aesthetic backdrop,



Jana Bokova celebrates the lives of local dancers, tango teachers, foreigners, and tango stars—all of whom share their stories of love, family, and national pride.
—*2004 Vancouver International Film Festival*



Production Company: Notre Dame Films. **Cinematography:** Jorge Luis Migliora. **Editor:** Marcela Saenz. **Music:** various.

Monday, April 18, 7:00 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 p.m., Regal Cinemas

★ *Join us for an informal Tango dance before each screening*

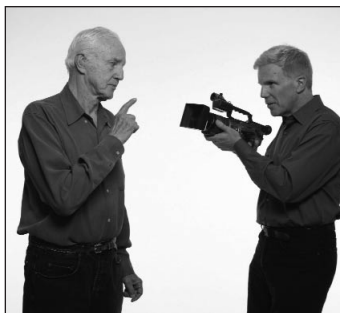
Tell Them Who You Are

Mark S. Wexler

USA, 2005, 93 minutes, color and black & white

Cinematographer Haskell Wexler's credits include *Who's Afraid of Virginia*

Wolf, *In the Heat of the Night*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Bound for Glory*, and *Coming Home*, to name a few. When his son, Mark S. Wexler, began making a film about his father's career, Haskell warily let him proceed. Contrary and confrontational, the elder Wexler is constantly



criticizing his son's working methods—a situation compounded when young Wexler accidentally unplugs the mike connection on his digital video camera and thus misses sound during his old man's star-studded 80th birthday party backyard barbeque. Yet the project does bring father and son closer together while affording appreciative audiences an intimate portrait of one of Hollywood's most talented cameramen. —Eddie Cockrell

Production Company: Wexler's World. **Producer:** Mark S. Wexler. **Cinematography:** Mark S. Wexler, Sarah Levy, Joan Churchill, John Ealer, Jon Else, Patrick Loungway, Keith Walker, Haskell Wexler. **Editor:** Robert DeMaio. **Music:** Blake Leigh. **With:** Michael Douglas, Jane Fonda, George Lucas, Paul Newman, Sidney Poitier.

Friday, April 22, 6:45 p.m., Regal Cinemas
Saturday, April 23, 6:45 p.m., Regal Cinemas

★ *In Person: Director Mark Wexler*

A Thousand Dreams Such as These

Hazaaron khwaishein aisi

Sudhir Mishra

India, 2004, 125 minutes, color

A Thousand Dreams Such as These weaves intricate themes of a generation ridden with ironies. Its three main characters are pulled between egalitarian dreams and the effects of destructive fraudulence. Set in 1975 against a background of the Naxalite movement, the film tells the story of Siddharth Tyabji, son of leftist liberal parents, Geeta Rao, the daughter of a brilliant but conservative scientist,



and Vikram Malhotra, a small-town boy who is totally contemptuous of his fathers political idealism. The lives of Siddharth, Geeta, and Vikram intertwine across a decade as each searches for his or own destiny amid a backdrop of love, ambition, politics, and passion. —Manjula Kumar



IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Producer: Pritish Nandy. **Screenplay:** Sudhir Mishra, Shiv Subramaniam, Ruchi Narain. **Cinematography:** Jacques Bouquin. **Editor:** Catherine D'Hoir. **Music:** Shantanu Moitra. **Principal Cast:** Kay Kay Menon, Chitrangda Singh, Roshan Ahuja.

Thursday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., Avalon Theatre
Saturday, April 23, 6:00 p.m., Avalon Theatre

★ *In Person: Director Sudhir Mishra*

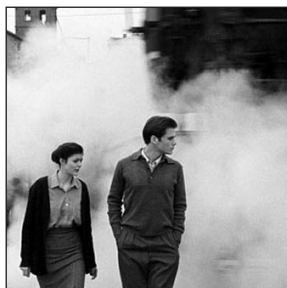
Trilogy: The Weeping Meadow

Trilogia: To livadhi pou dhakrisi

Theo Angelopoulos

Greece/France, 2004, 178 minutes, color

Theo Angelopoulos' first feature since *Eternity and a Day* is part one of a trilogy which begins in 1919, as Greek refugees fleeing the Bolshevik revolution return to their homeland. This is where the love story between Elena and Alexis begins. Forced to leave the village because their love goes against the wishes of Alexis' father, the itinerant couple



roam around Greece. Their efforts to preserve their love are thwarted by social, political, and historical events. —Sandra Hebron, 2004 *Times London Film Festival*

IN GREEK WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Theo Angelopoulos, Greek Film Center, Attica Arts Productions, Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (Greece)/BAC Films, Intermedias, Arte France (France). **Producers:** Theo Angelopoulos, Fivi Ekonomopoulos. **Screenplay:** Theo Angelopoulos.

Cinematography: Andreas Sinanos. **Editor:** Yorgos Triantafyllou. **Music:** Eleni Karaindrou. **Principal Cast:** Alexandra Aikini, Nikos Poursanidis, Yorgos Armenis, Vasilis Kolovos, Eva Kotamanidou.

Thursday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 23, 5:00 p.m. Landmark's E Street Cinema

■ *Co-Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Greece.*

The Tuner

Free!

Kira Muratova

Russia, 2004, 154 minutes, black & white

The Tuner is a lavish crime melodrama loosely based on the memoirs of a turn-of-the-century Russian detective. Andrey, an intelligent but penniless piano tuner and music student, is in love with the stunning and extravagant Lina. Andrey struggles valiantly to earn enough money to support her extravagant tastes, but his wages fall far short of satisfying Lina's frivolous desires. As the pressure to keep his muse in the manner to which she is accustomed begins to mount, Andrey turns to a life of crime, using his expert computer skills to exploit the good intentions of an aristocratic elderly woman. An elegant, sophisticated and irresistible



recital, this is breathtaking filmmaking from a true artist.—*Dimitri Epides, 2004 Toronto Film Festival*

IN RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Pymelian Production Film Co. **Producer:** Sergey Chilyants. **Screenplay:** Kira Muratova, Sergey Chebvyortkov, Eugenie Golubenko. **Cinematography:** Gennadi Karyuk. **Editor:** Valentina Oleynik. **Music:** Valentin Silvestrov. **Principal Cast:** Renata Litvinova, George Deliyev, Nina Ruslanova, Alla Demidova, Alexei Pavlovski.

Sunday, April 24, 4:00 p.m., National Gallery of Art, FREE

Under Construction

Insaat

Omer Vargö

Turkey, 2004,

112 minutes, color

Omer Vargi's wonderfully wry Turkish black comedy about two working stiffs whose lives take a radical—and unsavory—turn. Ali and Sudi work alone at a residential construction site. One fatal night, the boss shows up with a corpse and surreptitiously buries it. Frightened, Ali and Sudi wind up exhuming and moving the body. Word about the burial ground spreads and soon their makeshift



graveyard turns into a thriving business, as a string of accidental and not-so-accidental deaths are swept off the record. When a nosy neighbor questions the endless nocturnal comings and goings, Sudi comes up with an inane but surprisingly effective cover-up.—*Ronnie Scheib, Variety*

IN TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: Filma Cass. **Producers:** Mine and Omer Vargi. **Screenplay:** Omer Vargi, Sendar Tantekin. **Cinematography:** Ferenc Pap. **Editor:** Bercin Cinar. **Music:** Omer Ozgur. **Principal Cast:** Sevak Coruh, Emre Kinay, Sune Pekuysal, Yesim Buber, Binnur Kaya.

Saturday, April 16, 9:30 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Sunday, April 17, 5:30 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

★ *In Person: Director Omer Vargö*

Untold Scandal

E J-yong

South Korea, 2003,

124 minutes, color

Lady Cho, the respected wife of a nobleman in public, is careful to hide evidence of her extra-marital affairs. Her closest ally is Cho-won, who rebels against the duties imposed by his status. Masters of intrigue and deceit, they collaborate on dangerous games of revenge and seduction. Lady Cho challenges Cho-won to seduce a widow who is so widely admired for her devotion



to her late husband that she was awarded a Gate of Virtue by the government. Only when Lady Cho offers herself as the prize does Cho-won accept her bet. "A lusciously lensed, lubriciously limned costumer that effortlessly transposes the classic French novel 'Dangerous Liaisons' to 18th century Korea," writes *Variety's* Derek Elley. "*Untold Scandal* is a 10-course treat for the eyes and ears."—*2004 Montreal Festival of World Cinema*

IN KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Company: b.o.m. **Producer:** Oh Jaong-wan. **Screenplay:** E J-yong, Kim Dae-woo, Kim Hyeon-jeong, from the novel "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" by Choderlos de Laclos. **Cinematography:** Kim Byeong-il. **Editors:** Kim Yang-il, Han Seung-ryong. **Music:** Lee Byeong-woo. **Principal Cast:** Bae Yong-jun, Lee Mi-suk, Jeon Do-yeon, Jo Hyeon-jae, Lee So-yeon.

Friday, April 22, 9:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 23, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

We Don't Die, We Multiply

Topper Carew

USA, 2004, 92 minutes, color, video

Topper Carew, who founded Washington's New Thing Art & Architecture Center during the 1960's, returns home with *We Don't Die, We Multiply*. "If you call yourself a comedian," Bernie Mac says early in this revelatory documentary, "you need to know the essence...of what Robin Harris is." By the time Harris died peacefully from sleep apnea, he had



begun to expand his fame by playing distinctive supporting roles in *House Party* and Spike Lee's *Do the Right Thing* and landing an HBO special. He spent the 1980s developing a raucous, confrontational stage act that made Don Rickles look like a Wal-Mart greeter. In this incisive film, established and young comedians trace the inspiration for their professional drive to the comedy of Robin Harris.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Production Company: Urban Neo, Rainbow Imagineering. **Producer:** Topper Carew. **Cinematography:** Garrett Griffin, Chris Chan Lee. **Editor:** Chris Chan Lee. **Music:** Various. **With:** Robert Townsend, Cedric the Entertainer, Bernie Mac, Martin Lawrence, Lewis Dix, Darryl Sivad, Jay Anthony Brown, Topper Carew, Exetta Harris.

Saturday, April 23, 9:30 p.m., Regal Cinemas

★ *In Person: Director Topper Carew*

Winter Solstice

Josh Sternfeld

USA, 2004, 93 minutes, color

In a leafy New Jersey suburb, pensive widower Jim Winters (Anthony LaPaglia, who also served as executive producer) tends to his landscaping business while raising teenaged sons Gabe and Pete. The two boys are close, but change is at hand: Gabe seems restless despite the love of his girlfriend, and Pete is becoming alarmingly lax in his schoolwork. When Gabe abruptly announces he's moving to Florida even as a new neighbor Molly (Allison Janney) begins to draw Jim out of his



shell, the Winters' days seem short indeed. A deeply optimistic film, *Winter Solstice* circles around to reaffirm the hard-fought bonds of family even as it resonates with the quiet, profound truths of life.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Production Company: Sound Pictures. **Producers:** John M. Limotte, Doug Bernheim. **Screenplay:** Josh Sternfeld. **Cinematography:** Harlan Bosmajian. **Editor:** Plummy Tucker. **Music:** John Leventhal. **Principal Cast:** Anthony LaPaglia, Aaron Stanford, Mark Webber, Allison Janney, Michelle Monaghan.

Monday, April 18, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Tuesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

★ *In Person: Director Josh Sternfeld*

The World

Shijie

Jia Zhangke

China/Japan/France, 2004, 140 minutes, color

In his fourth film, Jia Zhangke continues his exploration of the profound economic and social schisms that are propelling China into its undefined future. Tao is a dancer at Beijing's World Park, a tourist destination featuring scaled replicas of the world's architectural wonders (including a Manhattan skyline that still boasts its Twin Towers). Attempting to salvage her deteriorating relationship with a park security



guard, Tao leads an ensemble of characters who give life and humanity to the inner workings of the Park's artifice, from its Russian dancers to the rural Chinese construction workers who are even more alien in its urban setting.—*Chi-hui Yang*

IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Production Companies: Office Kitano (Japan)/X Stream Pictures/Lumen Films (France). **Producers:** Chow Keung, Shozo Ichiyama, Hengameh Panahi. **Screenplay:** Jia Zhangke. **Cinematography:** Yu Lik-wai. **Editor:** Kong Jinglei. **Music:** Lim Giong. **Principal Cast:** Zhao Tao, Chen Taisheng, Jing Jue, Jiang Zhongwei.

Sunday, April 17, 5:00 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.,

Loews Cineplex Wisconsin Avenue Cinemas

Program One

[total running time: 86 minutes]

Thursday, April 14, 12:30 p.m., National Gallery of Art
Friday, April 15, 10:30 a.m., National Gallery of Art
Recommended for ages 8 and up

Bellybutton

Directed by Mike Nawrocki

USA, 2003, 4 minutes, animation

From the creators of the cartoon series "Veggie Tales," this funny spoof of music videos stars veggies who sing about a little guy who doesn't have a bellybutton.

Dodge-a-Go-Go!

Directed by Mitsuhiro Mihara

Japan, 2002, 82 minutes, color

Yukiko's dodgeball team is facing an embarrassing losing streak and her family is moving from Japan to Korea. In Seoul, she meets new friends who help her underdog dodgeball team as they gear up to face legendary rivals. Find out how the game plays out in this heartfelt and hilarious comedy. The high-energy sports scenes almost feel like a documentary film, as the camera puts you right into the action.

IN JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



An Angel for May

Program Two

[total running time: 71 minutes]

Thursday, April 14, 10:30 a.m., National Gallery of Art
Friday, April 15, 12:30 p.m., National Gallery of Art
Sunday, April 24, 11:30 a.m., National Gallery of Art
Recommended for ages 7 and up

Kirikou and the Sorceress

Directed by Michel Ocelot

France/Belgium, 1998, 71 minutes, animation

This beautiful West African folk tale tells the story of Kirikou, an ingenious newborn who decides to rid his village of a curse placed on it by the sorceress Karaba. The tiny boy discovers a way to reach the sorceress and wins the hearts of everyone in the process. The film is accompanied by an original soundtrack by the Senegalese musician Youssou N'Dour.

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Program Three

[total running time: 100 minutes]

Sunday, April 17, 11:30 a.m., National Gallery of Art
Monday, April 18, 10:30 a.m., National Gallery of Art
Recommended for ages 8 and up

An Angel for May

Directed by Harley Cokeliss

Great Britain, 2002, 100 minutes, color

An Angel for May is a story of caring and hope that the entire family can share. After accidentally tumbling through a magical time portal, a twelve-year-old English schoolboy named Tom is transported back to the time of World War II. He finds himself on a thriving farm run by a man who is looking after a war orphan named May. With a sheepdog as his time-travel guide, Tom makes many friends on the farm and becomes especially attached to May. When he returns to the present, Tom discovers the fate of his friends from the past and takes on the task of rewriting history.

continued on bottom of page 39

Cinema for Seniors *Free!*

Let the Church Say Amen

David Petersen

USA, 2004, 87 minutes, color and black & white

In the shadows of our nation's capital, impoverished black neighborhoods struggle to prevent hope from draining out of their residents' lives. David Petersen's powerful documentary, *Let the Church Say Amen* (not to be confused with St. Clair Bourne's 1974 film of the same name), shows how one church nourishes love and hope in members whose lives have been blown apart by hardship. Inside the storefront doors of the World Missions for Christ Church is a world filled with passion, sweat, devotion, and testifying. Soulful hymns transport churchgoers to a sense of safety within the faith while the ardent testimony by the minister, who overcame crack addiction, helps them realize that they can turn their lives around.

—Shari Friot, 2004 Sundance Film Festival



Producers: David Peters, Mridu Chandra. **Cinematography:** Brett Wiley.
Editor: David Petersen. **Music:** Various.

Tuesday, April 19, 10:00 a.m., Avalon Theatre, FREE

★ *In Person: Director David Peterson*



Filmfest DC for Kids *continued from page 38*

Program Four

(total running time: 101 minutes)

Tuesday, April 19, 10:30 a.m., National Gallery of Art

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

Recommended for ages 11 and up

Passing Hearts

Directed by Johan Brisinger

Sweden, 2003.

14 minutes, color

Daniel, a young boy who recently received a heart transplant, pays a visit to the family whose kindness has given him a second chance at life.



The Blindgänger

Directed by Bernd Sahling

Germany, 2004, 87 minutes, color

This award-winning film celebrates the importance of friendship, perseverance, and ambitious dreams. Marie and Inga are musicians at heart who would give anything to win a televised talent contest. Hoping to come up with the best teenage music video, the girls form a band at their boarding school. They weather tough auditions, exhausting rehearsals, and the difficulties of being blind in a seeing world.

IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Film Talk and Fine Food

with Sharon Waxman

"Rebels on the Backlot: Six Maverick Directors and How They Conquered the Hollywood Studio System," **Sharon Waxman's** new must-read, looks at the 1990s shock wave of dynamic new directing talent that took the Hollywood studio system by storm. Ms. Waxman is currently a *New York*

Times Hollywood correspondent and previously reported for *The Washington Post*. She spent a decade covering and interviewing Quentin Tarantino, Steven Soderbergh, David Fincher, Paul Thomas Anderson, David Russell, and Spike Jonze and tells a fascinating story by weaving together their lives and careers.



Palindromes, pg. 29



Somersault, pg. 33

Join Sharon and Eddie Cockrell, independent film critic, over lunch to find out how these directors took on "the System" and how the author pursued them to shape her narrative, which *The Washington Post* compares to "a freight train— powerful, loud, and immensely entertaining."

Wednesday, April 20, Noon at The Arts Club of Washington, 2017 Eye Street NW

\$15 for Buffet Lunch and Program. Reservations requested by Tuesday, April 19. To reserve, call 202-331-7282 or e-mail artsclub.membership@verizon.net

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

★ *In Person: Sharon Waxman, Author*



Thanks

Filmfest DC Board of Directors

Kandace Laass
Chair

Max N. Berry
Attorney-at-Law

Alberto Casciero
*Director, Learning
Resources Division,
University of the District
of Columbia*

Anthony Gittens
*Director, Washington,
DC International Film
Festival
Executive Director, DC
Commission on the Arts
and Humanities*

Stephen X. Graham
*President, Crosshill
Financial Group, Inc.*

Arnold P. Lutzker
*Lutzker, Lutzker &
Settlemeyer LLP*

John M. Mendonca
Partner, KPMG LLP

Jennifer Cover Payne
*Director, Cultural Alliance
of Greater Washington*

Ted Pedas
President, Circle Films, Inc.

Rick Rickertsen
Pine Creek Partners

Marilyn Weiner
President, Screenscope

Alan Rubin
Film Consultant

Robert Sacheli
*Creative Services
Manager, American
Occupational
Therapy Association*

Festival Staff

Tony Gittens
Festival Director

Shirin Ghareeb
*Assistant Festival
Director*

Jared Traver
Technical Director

Katie Dargis, Jane
Fox, Bill McLeod
Volunteer Coordinators

Alain Fournier,
Darin Kinzer
Hospitality Coordinators

Robyn Thoeke,
Andrew Davis
Theater Coordinators

Aisha Davis
*Opening Night Gala
Producer*

Richard Seidel
Opening Night Gala

Annette Coram,
Phil Harris
Closing Night

Jennifer Bradford
Audience Award

Tommie Adams, Jr.,
Constance Blackwell,
Martina Gauss,
Bertha Hall, Charles
Kovatch, Jonathan
Lifland, Bruce
Snyder, Zipper Viloski,
Bahram Zandi, Neil
Paz-Cruzat
Theater Managers

Shira Keyes,
Linda Posell
Cinema for Seniors

John Hall
Film Print Controller

Stan Collender,
Gretchen Allsop,
Patricia Pincus
*Financial Dynamics
Business Communications
Public Relations*

Connie Poole
*Conduit Productions, Inc.
Public Relations*

Chad Evans Wyatt
Photographer

Susan Barocas
*Capital Focus Award
Coordinator*

Nisha Balasubramanian
Coordinating Assistant

Nicholas Fraccaro,
Lee Doyle
Interns

Programmers

Tony Gittens
Senior Programmer

Shirin Ghareeb

Jared Traver
*Shorts & Local Film
Programs*

Manjula Kumar
Indian Cinema Focus

Chi-hui Yang
Chinese Cinema Focus

Programming Advisors

Eddie Cockrell

Peggy Parsons

Festival Catalog

Eddie Cockrell
Senior Editor

Jill Tunick
Editor

Media Plus Design, Inc.

Kathy Amano

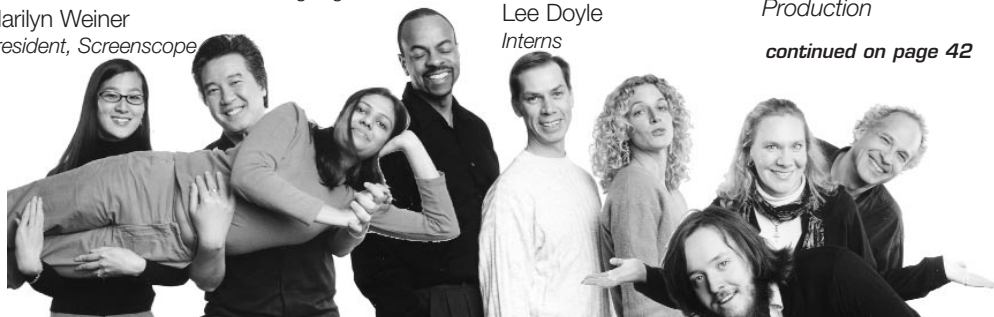
Andy Dolan

Ruth Logsdon

Jeffrey Everett

*Cover Illustration
Design and
Production*

continued on page 42



Jennifer
Bradford

Tuan
Tran

Nisha
Balasubramani

Tommie
Adams, Jr.

Alain
Fournier

Jill
Tunick

Nick
Fraccaro

Connie
Pools

Richard
Seidel

Thanks *continued from page 41*

Festival Website

Westlake Consulting Group
Website Design

Tuan Tran
Website Coordinator

Line Jumper and Security Camera Trailers

Dan Corrigan,
Producer
Mark Traver, Director
Monument Films

Betsy Royall Casting
Chesapeake Camera
The Washington Source
E3Post
MVI Post

Filmfest DC Trailer

John Black, Cory Williams
Red Cactus Films
Interface Video
Carlyn Davis Casting
Tuba Guveli

Matt Caulk, Ted Veyera, Mike Wilson, Brian Buckley, Aaron Superfin, Henry Holdren
Crew

Arch Campbell, Steve Lee, Brandy Burre, Caroline G. Pleasant, Colm Kane, Kristen Carter, Tony Gittens, Shirin Ghareeb
Cast

Special Thanks to

Gautam Bambawale
Cultural Counselor
Embassy of India

Anne Delaney
Counselor, Cultural Affairs
Embassy of Canada

Eric Amhof, Edith Herger
Embassy of Switzerland

Orit Naor
Director of Cultural Affairs
Embassy of Israel

Peter Wahlqvist
Cultural Counselor
Embassy of Sweden

Walid Abdelnasser
Deputy Chief of Mission
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Sylvia Blume
Goethe-Institut
Washington

Sandra Schulberg
Selling Democracy

Antoine Khalife
Unifrance

Linda Blackaby
San Francisco International Film Festival

William Guentzler
Cleveland International Film Festival

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

Sara Taylor
Allied Advertising

Bob Jones
Loews Cineplex Theatres

Ted Cooper, Elvis Waterman
Regal Entertainment Group

Matt Cowal
Landmark Theatres

Vicki Toye, Nathalie Ryan
National Gallery of Art

Ambassador Clovis Maksoud
Director, Center for the Global South, American University

Allison Manion
D.C. Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative

Aviva Kempner
Filmmaker

Erju Ackman
Silk Road Film Festival

Brennan Hurley
Evelyn Woolston
Arts Club of Washington

Deborah Young
Variety

Barry Glasser
Boro Park Productions

Not Pictured:

Aisha Davis
Alberto Casciero
Andrew Davis
Bob Sacheli
Charles Kovatch
Jane A. Fox
Kathy Amano
Katie Dargis
Phil Harris
Susan Buzelli
Eddie Cockrell
John Hall
Kandace Laass
Peggy Parsons



Linda Posell

Shira Keyes

Bertha Hall

Neil Paz-Cruzat

Bruce Synder

Jared Traver

Print Sources

Features

5x2

ThinkFilm
155 Avenue of the Americas
7th Floor
New York, NY 10013
Ph: 646 293 9405
www.thinkfilmcompany.com

Absolut

Blow-Up Film Production SA
Case Postale 5476
1211 Geneva, Switzerland
Ph: 41 22 3212451
Fax: 41 22 3212152
E: info@blow-up.ch

Asphalt

Transit Film GmbH
Munich Germany
Ph: 49 89 599 885 14
Transitfilm@compuserve.com

Autumn

Next Week Filmworks
219 Barbour St.
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
Ph: 310 306 3537

The Baghdad Bloggers:

Salam Pax
Guardian Films
75 Farringdon Road
London EC 1 M 3JY
United Kingdom
Ph: 44 207 886 9310

Beautiful Boxer

Regent Releasing
10990 Wilshire Blvd. #1800
Los Angeles, CA 90024
www.regentreleasing.com

Beautiful City

Sheherazad Media International
Pasdaran St., Shariati Ave.
Tehran, 16619 Iran
Ph: 98 21 2863260/61
E: katysha@dpimail.net

Boxers and Ballerinas

2000 Kew Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90046
E: info@boxersandballerinas.com
www.boxersandballerinas.com

The Boys and Girl From County Clare

IDP Distributions
1133 Broadway
Suite 926
New York, NY 10010
Ph: 212 367 9435
Fax: 212 367 0853

Brothers

IFC Films
Rainbow Media
Holdings, LLC
200 Jericho Quadrangle
Jericho, NY 11753
Ph: 646 273 7213
E: info@ifctv.com
www.ifctv.com

Captive

Gaston Biraben
3476 Cabrillo Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90066
E: chanbira@earthlink.net

Cell Phone

Leah Xu
Beijing, China
Ph: 8610 64570013
Fax: 8610 64570230
E: leah@htfmovie.com

Chokher Bali:

A Passion Play
Shree Venkatesh Films
Suite 508, 6 Waterloo St.
Kolkata, India 700069
E: info@venkateshfilms.com

Clean

Palm Pictures
76 Ninth Ave.
Suite 1110
New York, NY 10011
Ph: 212 320 3653
Fax: 212 320 3709

Cronicas

Palm Pictures
76 Ninth Ave.
Suite 1110
New York, NY 10011
Ph: 212 320 3653
Fax: 212 320 3709

Dalecarlians

Swedish Film Institute
Box 27126
S-10252 Stockholm
Sweden
Ph: 46 8 665 1100
Fax: 46 8 6663760
E: info@sfi.se
www.sfi.se

Dev

Udbhav Dreamzone Pvt.
Rajkamal Studios
Dr. S S Rao Road
Parel, Mumbai 400 053
Ph: 91 22 2647 5320
Fax: 91 22 2415 6447
govindnihalani@rediffmail.com
www.devthefilm.com

Dil Se...

Madras Talkies
8 Crescent Ave.
Kesava Perumal Puram
Chennai, India 600 028
Ph: 91 44 24615810
E: mtalkies@vsnl.com

Le Grand Voyage

Film Movement
375 West Broadway
2nd Floor
New York, NY 10012
Ph: 212 941 7744
www.filmmovement.com

The Green Hat

Arc Light Films
No.19, Lane 2
Wan Li Street, 4th Floor
Taipei 116 Taiwan
Ph: 886 2 2230 7639
E: email@arclightfilms.com.tw

Hawaii, Oslo

Norwegian Film Institute
Dronningens Gt. 16
0152 Oslo, Norway
Ph: 47 22 47 45 76
Fax: 47 22 47 45 97
www.nfi.no/english

The Hero

California Newsreel
500 Third St.
Suite 505
San Francisco, CA 94107
Ph: 415 284 7800
Fax: 415 284 7801
E: contact@newsreel.org

The Holy Girl

Fine Line Features
777 7th Ave.
New York, NY 10106
Ph: 212 649 4803

I Love Cinema

Egyptian Film Center
City of Arts, Pyramids Ave.
Cairo, Egypt
Ph: 20 2 585 0346
Fax: 20 2 585 4701
E: egyptianfilmcenter@hotmail.com

Innocent Voices

Altavista Films SA de CV
Insurgentes Sur 1898 Bvo. Piso
Col. Florida, Mexico, DF
CP 01030, Mexico
Ph: 52 55 322 4527
E: aguevara@altavista-films.com.mx

The Journey

Ligy Pullapally
8123 W. Oak Ave.
Niles, IL 60714
Ph: 847 390 6688
E: ligyJP@hotmail.com

Kekexili:

Mountain Patrol

Film Distributors International
10202 W. Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232
Ph: 310 244 2073
E: Sal_Ladestro@spe.sony.com

The Keys to the House

Allied Advertising
1101 17th St., NW
Ph: 202 223 2660
E: jdart@allieddc.com

Kings and Queen

Wellspring Films Ltd.
419 Park Ave. South
New York, NY 10016
Ph: 212 686 6777
www.wellspring.com

King's Game

Danish Film Institute
55 Gathersgade
DK-1123 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Ph: 33 74 34 00
Fax: 33 74 34 01
E: dfi@dfi.dk
www.dfi.dk

Kontroll

ThinkFilm
155 Avenue of the Americas
7th Floor
New York, NY 10013
Ph: 646 293 9405
www.thinkfilmcompany.com

Ladies in Lavender

IDP Distributions
1133 Broadway
Suite 926
New York, NY 10010
Ph: 212 367 9435
Fax: 212 367 0853

Last of the First

235 West End Ave., #17H
New York, NY 10023
Ph: 212 787 2086
E: kennyja@hotmail.com

Letter From an

Unknown Woman

Asian Union Films
Building B, Shu Guang Tower
No 5 Jingshun Road
Chaoyang District
Beijing, China 100028
Ph: 8610 8440 9911

Machuca

Menemsha Entertainment
1157 S Beverly Dr.
2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90035
Ph: 310 452 1775
Fax: 310 277 6602

continued on page 44



Donné
Malloy-Murray

Annette
Coram

Lee
Doyle

Constance
Blackwell

Robyn
Thoele

Bahram
Zandi

Chad
Wyatt

Stan
Collender

Print Sources *continued from page 43*

Manual for Love Stories

Cinematográfica Superfilmes Ltda.
Simão Alvares 784/02
Ph: 5511 30315522
E: super@superfilmes.com.br

Me and You and Everyone We Know

IFC Films
Rainbow Media Holdings, LLC
200 Jericho Quadrangle
Jericho, NY 11753
Ph: 646 273 7213
E: info@ifctv.com
www.ifctv.com

Miles Electric: A Different Kind of Blue

MLF Productions
630 Ninth Avenue
New York, NY 10036
Ph: 212 581 6772

The Miracle of Bern

Bavaria Films
Bavariafilmpalatz 7
D-82031 Geiselgasteig
Germany
Ph: 49 89 6499 2686
Fax: 49 89 6499 3720
E: filmtour@bavaria-film.de

Morning Rama

Bollywood Hollywood
Production Inc
P.O. Box 10096
New Brunswick, NJ 08906
E: ps@bollywoodhollywood.com

Mughal-e-Azam

Sterling Investment Corporation
Pvt Ltd.,
SP Centre, 41/44 Minoo Desai
Marg,
Colaba, Mumbai 400 005 India
E: info@mughaleazam.com

Only Human

Magnolia Pictures
49 West 27th St.
7th Floor
New York, NY 10001
Ph: 212 924 6701
Fax: 212 924 6742
www.magnpictures.com

The Other Side of the Street

Strand Releasing
6140 W. Washington Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90232
www.strandreleasing.com

The Overture

Kino International
333 W 39th St., 503
New York, NY 10018
Ph: 212 629 6880

Palindromes

Wellspring Films Ltd.
419 Park Ave. South
New York, NY 10016
Ph: 212 686 6777
www.wellspring.com

Peacock

Arc Light Films
No. 19, Lane 2
Wan Li Street, 4th Floor
Taipei 116 Taiwan
Ph: 886 2 2230 7639
E: email@arclightfilms.com.tw

Pirated Copy

Room 411, Ximen, Jia 31
Xindejie
Xicheng Qu
Beijing, China 100088
E: johnshan@vip.sina.com

Private

Scalpel
38, rue de la Chine
Paris, France 75020
Ph: 331 436 640 30
Fax: 331 436 686 00
E: fabien@scalpel-films.com

Raincoat

Baba Digital Media
9304-A Old Keen Mill Rd.
Burke, VA 22015
Ph: 703 866 2222
Ph: 800 800 3827
Fax: 703 569 7775
www.babadigital.com

Rolling Family

Lumina Films Ltd.
3rd Floor, 1A Adpar St.
London W2 1DE
United Kingdom
Ph: 44 20 7535 6714
Fax: 44 20 7563 7283

Saint Ralph

IDP Distributions
1133 Broadway
Suite 926
New York, NY 10010
Ph: 212 367 9435
Fax: 212 367 0853

Sandstorm

Jagmohan Mundhra
E: jmundhra@yahoo.com

Selling Democracy: Films of the Marshall Plan, 1948-53

Schulberg Productions
200 Park Ave., S.
New York, NY 10003
E: sschulberg@aol.com

Shanghai Story

Tomson Films
1 Longdong Ave.
Pudong, Shanghai
China 201203

Somersault

Magnolia Pictures
49 West 27th St.
7th Floor
New York, NY 10001
Ph: 212 924 6701
Fax: 212 924 6742
www.magnpictures.com

Songs of Mahulbani

45/4c Manujendra
Dutta Road
Kolkata, India
E: mahulbani@indiatimes.com

Standalone

Sean Hagan
Three day Dawn
340 Springdale Rd
Great Falls, VA 22066
E: shagan@threedaydawn.com

Suite Habana

Wanda Vision
28224 Pozuelo de Alarcón
Madrid Spain
Ph: 34 91 352 8371
E: wanda@wanda.es

The Syrian Bride

Koch Lorber Films
22 Harbor Park Drive
Port Washington, NY 11050
Ph: 516 484 1000
Fax: 516 484 4588
E: Suzanne.fedak@kochent.com

Tango Salon:

La Coniferia Ideal
Notre Dame Films Ltd.
61 Earls Court Square
London SW59DG
E: ncf@donetel.com

Tell Them Who You Are

ThinkFilm
155 Avenue of the Americas
7th Floor
New York, NY 10013
Ph: 646 293 9405
www.thinkfilmcompany.com

A Thousand Dreams Such as These

Pritish Nandy
Communications Ltd.
87/88 Mittal Chambers
Nariman Point
Mumbai 400 021 India
Ph: 91 22 2287 1558
E: ishita@prishnandyc.com

Trilogy: The Weeping Meadow

New Yorker Films
85 Fifth Ave.
11th Floor
New York, NY 10003
Ph: 212 645 4600
Fax: 212 645 3030
www.newyorkerfilms.com

The Tuner

Seagull Films
526 West 111 St.
Suite 2CC
New York, NY 10025
Ph: 212 531 2754
Fax: 212 531 2367

Under Construction

Maya Entertainment Inc.
630 9th Ave.
Suite 901
New York, NY 10036
E: mevlut@mayaaentertain-ment.com

Untold Scandal

Kino International
333 W 39th St., 503
New York, NY 10018
Ph: 212 629 6880

We Don't Die, We Multiply

69 Ocean View
So. Portland, ME 04106
Ph: 207 767 1852
E: corry@urbananco.com

Winter Solstice

Paramount Classics
555 Melrose Ave.
Chevalier 215
Hollywood, CA 90038
Ph: 323 956 2334
Fax: 323 862 1103

The World

Zeitgeist Films
247 Center St.
2nd floor
New York, NY 10013
Ph: 212 274 1989
Fax: 212 274 1644
E: web@zeitgeistfilms.com
www.zeitgeistfilms.com

Short Cuts

Among Thieves

Oscar Daniels
1720 N. Harvard Blvd. #24
Los Angeles, CA 90027
Ph: 323 719 0999

Bebe

John Fiege
1704 East 38th St.
Austin, TX 78722
Ph: 512 731 9420
E: johnfiege@grandecom.net

Little Terrorist

E4 Haux Khas Market
New Delhi 110016, India
Ph: 91 11 26969726
E: ashvin@alipur.com

Milo 55160

Flow distribution at the
Canadian Film Centre
2489 Bayview Ave.
Toronto, ON M2L 1A8
Canada
Ph: 416 445 1446 x323
Fax: 416 445 9481

Perpetual Twilight...

Scottish Screen
Attn Bryony McIntyre
249 West George St.
Glasgow G2 4QE UK
Ph: 44 141 302 1756
Fax: 44 141 302 1778
E: Bryony.mcintyre@scottish-screen.com

continued on bottom of page 45



Major Sponsors



Print Sources *continued from page 45*

Stop!

Mathijs Geijskes
Ridderschapstr. 27
3512 CN Utrecht the
Netherlands
Ph/fax: 31 30 2367102
E: w.m.geijskes@wanadoo.nl

Vlands

Master Cluster S.L.
Jose Antonio Bonet
c/o Francisco Suarez, 20
Madrid 28036 Spain
Ph: 34 646 240 740
Fax: 34 913 595 065
E: info@mastercluster.es

Cinema for Seniors

Let the Church Say Amen
Beaufort 9 Films
492 11th St.
2A Brooklyn, NY 11215
E: beaufort9films@earthlink.net

Filmfest DC For Kids

An Angel for May
Portman Film and
Television Limited
21-25 St. Anne's Court
London W1F 0BJ
United Kingdom
Ph: 44 20 7494 8024
Fax: 44 20 7494 8046
E: sales@portmanfilm.com

Blindgänger

(The Blindflyers)
Sola Media GMBH
Osum Str. 17
Stuttgart D-70599 Germany
Ph: 49 711 479 3666
Fax: 49 711 479 2658
E: solveiglangeland@aol.com

Dodge-A-Go-Go!

Pony Canyon, Inc.
2-5-10 Toranomon, Minato-Ku
Tokyo 105-8487 Japan
Ph: 81 3 5521 8007
Fax: 81 3 5521 8107
E: koidek@ponycanyon.co.jp

Kirikou and the Sorceress

ArtMattan Productions
535 Cathedral Parkway
Suite 14B
New York, NY 10025-2064
Ph: 212 864 1760
Fax: 212 316 6020
www.africanfilm.com

Passing Hearts

Swedish Film Institute
PO Box 27 126
SE-102 52 Stockholm Sweden
Ph: 46 8 665 1134
Fax: 46 8 666 3698
E: petter.mattsson@sfi.se

Clean



Official Sponsors



Official Television Station



Official Restaurant

WAMU
88.5FM

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY RADIO

Official Radio Station



Official Airline



Official Hotel

Sponsors



THE JERUSALEM FUND



FOR EDUCATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

صندوق القدس للتفاهة والتنمية الاجتماعية



Inter-American Development Bank
Cultural Center



VIDEO TRANSFER, INC.



Center for the Global South

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Stars

Max N. &
Heidi Berry

Bonnie &
Louis Cohen

Filiz
Serbes

Kovler Fund of The
Community Foundation for
the National Capital Region

Lutzker, Lutzker
& Settlemyer LLP

Jim & Wanda
Pedas

Ted & Lea
Pedas

Kandace
Laass

Joel Atlas Skirble
& Mison Maury

B.R. Cohen &
Associates

Stephen X. Graham
& Jeralyn Graham



Index of Films

5x2	10	Manual for Love Stories	26
Absolut	10	Me and You and Everyone We Know	26
Asphalt	10	Miles Electric: A Different Kind of Blue	26
Autumn	11	The Miracle of Bern	27
The Baghdad Blogger: Salam Pax	11	Morning Raga	27
Beautiful Boxer	11	Mughal-e-Azam	27
Beautiful City	12	Only Human	28
Boxers and Ballerinas	12	The Other Side of the Street	28
The Boys and Girl From County Clare	12	The Overture	28
Brothers	13	Palindromes	29
Captive	13	Peacock	29
Cell Phone	13	Pirated Copy	29
Chokher Bali: A Passion Play	14	Private	30
Clean	14	Raincoat	4
Cronicas	14	Rolling Family	30
Dalecarlians	15	Saint Ralph	30
Dev	15	Sandstorm	31
Dil Se... ..	16	Selling Democracy:	
Le Grand Voyage	16	Films of the Marshall Plan, 1948-53	31
The Green Hat	16	Shanghai Story	32
Hawaii, Oslo	17	Short Cuts	32
The Hero	17	Somersault	33
The Holy Girl	17	Songs of Mahulbani	33
I Love Cinema	18	Standalone	33
Innocent Voices	18	Suite Habana	34
The Journey	18	The Syrian Bride	34
Kekexili: Mountain Patrol	19	Tango Salon: La Confiteria Ideal	34
The Keys to the House	19	Tell Them Who You Are	35
Kings and Queen	19	A Thousand Dreams Such as These	35
King's Game	20	Trilogy: The Weeping Meadow	35
Kontroll	20	The Tuner	36
Ladies in Lavender	5	Under Construction	36
Last of the First	20	Untold Scandal	36
Let The Church Say Amen	39	We Don't Die, We Multiply	37
Letter from an Unknown Woman	21	Winter Solstice	37
Machuca	21	The World	37



P.O. Box 21396
Washington, DC 20009

For Information Call:

202.628.FILM

Or Visit Us Online

www.filmfestdc.org