



FILMFEST DC

The 20th Annual Washington, DC International Film Festival

April 19–30, 2006

202 628 film
filmfestdc.org

FESTIVAL INTRODUCTION

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

There is nothing like a great movie and the 20th Anniversary edition of Filmfest DC promises to deliver an exceptional entertainment experience. Prepare to be amused, provoked, and inspired by extraordinary new films from some of the world's most talented and innovative filmmakers. From Rio to Reel, our selection of new films from Brazil, takes us to the country that gave us *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands*, *Bossa Nova*, and *Pelé*. Our Hip-Hop 4 Reel



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

Photo: Chad Evans Wyatt

series explores this American urban phenomena and its influence on popular culture throughout the world.

As the festival has flourished, we are more aware than ever of the important role it plays in our city's cultural life. We greatly value the opportunity to create this platform from which talented filmmakers can tell their stories with passion, humor, and integrity. Filmfest DC is an adventure and we invite you to join us.

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

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Theatre Locations

Festival screenings will take place at the following convenient venues:

★ **AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue**
4000 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Take Metro Red Line to the Tenleytown Metro stop. Parking is available in the building for \$2.00 with a validated parking ticket.

★ **Avalon Theatre**
5612 Connecticut Ave., NW

★ **The Harold and Sylvia Greenberg Theatre**
4200 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Take Metro Red Line to the Tenleytown Metro stop. Paid parking is available in the building along Van Ness Sreet and at 4000 Wisconsin Avenue.

★ **Landmark's E Street Cinema**
555 11th St., NW
Take Metro Blue, Green, Orange, Red, or Yellow Lines to Metro Center and/or Gallery Place/Chinatown stops. Three hours of reduced rate parking is available in the adjacent garage (with validation), Monday through Friday after 6 pm and anytime on weekends.

★ **Regal Cinemas**
701 7th St., NW
Take Metro Blue, Green, Orange, Red, or Yellow line to the Metro Center or Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro stops. Three hours of free parking with validation are available at Gallery Place Parking on 6th Street between G and H Streets.

Other Locations

★ **Busboys and Poets**
14th and V Streets, NW
Take Metro Green line to the U Street/Cardozo Metro stop.

★ **Embassy of Canada**
501 Pennsylvania Ave., NW

★ **Embassy of France**
4101 Reservoir Road, NW

★ **GW's Lisner Auditorium**
730 21st St., NW.
Take Metro Orange or Blue Lines to Foggy Bottom/GWU Metro stop.

★ **National Gallery of Art**
East Building Auditorium,
4th St. & Constitution Ave., NW.
Take Metro Green or Yellow Lines to Archives/Navy Memorial Metro stop.

Ticket Information



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

Tickets are available through Tickets.com and by calling (800) 955-5566, or at all Olsson's Books and Records and CD Game Exchange stores.

Tickets are also available through the Filmfest DC Web site (www.filmfestdc.org) or the Tickets.com Web site at www.tickets.com. Call Tickets.com at (800) 955-5566 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday for tickets. No advance tickets are available at theatres. No Tickets.com sales the day of the show.

Tickets may also be purchased at the theatre one hour before

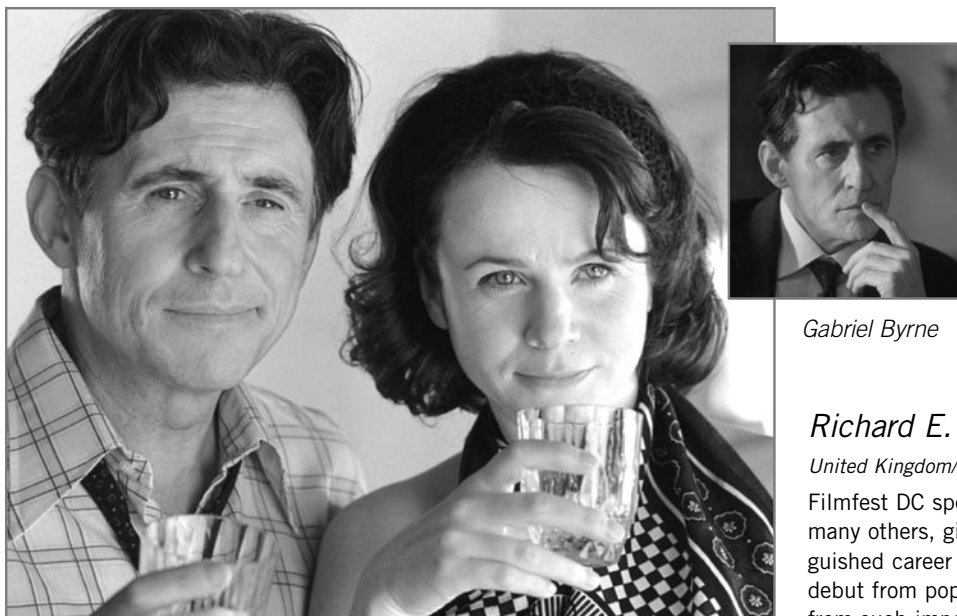
the first show of the day. Cash or check sales only at the theatres.

Free events are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations are not accepted and tickets are not 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).

Take Metrobus or Metrorail to Filmfest DC





Gabriel Byrne

OPENING NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

WAH-WAH

Richard E. Grant

United Kingdom/France, 2005, 99 minutes, color

Filmfest DC special guest Gabriel Byrne, star of *Miller's Crossing*, *The Usual Suspects*, and many others, gives perhaps the strongest and most well-rounded performance of his distinguished career in *Wah-Wah*, a mischievous, superbly acted, and utterly confident directorial debut from popular actor Richard E. Grant. The semi-autobiographical work takes its name from such impenetrable British slang as "toodle-pip" and "hubbly-jubbly," and Grant's obvious affection for Swaziland and its people shines through in every widescreen frame. Among

the superlative ensemble cast are Julie Walters and British character stalwarts Celia Imrie, Julian Wadham, and Fenella Woolgar. The film is set in Swaziland in the mid-1960s, when 11-year-old Ralphie Compton (Zachary Fox) witnesses the indiscretion of his mother, Lauren (Miranda Richardson) with the best friend of his father, Harry (Gabriel Byrne). Harry's public wrath and subsequent drinking prompts Lauren's departure and Ralphie's banishment to boarding school, events played out in front of the entire expatriate community. Two years later, Ralph (Nicholas Hoult) returns to find his father remarried to a brassy American air hostess, Ruby (Emily Watson). A movie to cherish on an evening to celebrate, *Wah-Wah* grandly and officially kicks off the third decade of Filmfest DC.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Wednesday, April 19, GW's Lisner Auditorium, followed by gala reception, \$40.00

★ **In Person: Star Gabriel Byrne who will be Introduced by Sydney Pollack**

Opening Night Sponsor



CLOSING NIGHT

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

HOUSEWARMING

Brigitte Rouan

France/United Kingdom, 2005, 95 minutes, color

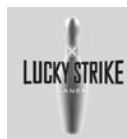
A thoroughly unexpected and lightning-fast comedy from director Brigitte Rouan, *Housewarming* is perhaps the perfectly pitched coda to a 20th anniversary Filmfest DC. A hard-charging and beautiful Parisian immigration lawyer who literally dances around the prosecution, Chantal (Carole Bouquet) puts her bankroll alongside her beliefs by hiring a United Nations in miniature of illegal aliens to connect an upstairs flat to the apartment she shares with dope-smoking son Martin (Ferdinand Chesnais) and pre-pubescent daughter Pulcheria (Giulia Dussollier). Whether she's trying to visualize the "well of light" promised by the hyperkinetic Colombian architect, fend off the comically elaborate advances of a bearish Russian suitor, or deal with the eccentricities of the various laborers who gleefully destroy her walls and expensive tiling, Chantal is the model of tolerance. Warm and benevolent even in the midst of its comedic flights-of-fancy, *Housewarming* (the original French translates loosely as "Remodeling: You know when it starts but not when it'll be over") pauses to ponder the tensions and frustrations of the disenfranchised in Paris, while offering Chantal the chance to do an impromptu Hip-Hop breakdance for a hard-hearted magistrate. Energetic proof of cinema's ability to simultaneously educate and entertain, *Housewarming* is a sunny screwball sendoff. See you next year at Filmfest DC.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN FRENCH, RUSSIAN, SPANISH, ITALIAN, AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 30, 4:00 pm, Regal Cinemas, followed by a party at Lucky Strike, \$15.00

Closing Night Sponsor



FILMFEST DC HIGHLIGHTS 2006

From Rio to Reel: The New Brazilian Cinema



Brazilian film is hot again and is currently undergoing a second renaissance. Filmfest DC presents a series of new features and documentaries reflecting this new trend. Our series includes *Romeo and Juliet Get Married*, the new film from Bruno Barreto (who gave us *Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands*), as well as wonderfully entertaining documentaries on Bossa Nova and soccer legend Pelé. The energy and momentum we find in today's Brazilian cinema has not been seen since the 1960s' Cinema Novo movement. Due to funding shortage, cinema in Brazil all but completely disappeared by the mid-1980s. Fortunately, circumstances have improved and the innovative, crowd-pleasing films audiences have come to expect from the world's fifth-largest country have returned to the screen.

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Films in the From Rio to Reel Series

- *Brasileirinho*
- *Favela Rising*
- *Lost and Found*
- *Maria Bethânia: Music is Perfume*
- *Maria's Place*
- *My Uncle Killed A Guy*
- *Pelé Forever*
- *Romeo and Juliet Get Married*
- *This is Bossa Nova: The History and the Stories*
- *Underground Game*

Drinks & Flicks at The Arts Club of Washington

Join Filmfest DC's guest international directors for a roundtable discussion of their work featured in this year's festival. The informal panel follows a cash bar and complimentary hors d'oeuvres at the historic Arts Club of Washington.

Tuesday, April 25 from 5:15 to 7:00 pm.
The Arts Club of Washington, 2017 Eye Street NW

Hip-Hop 4 Reel



The voices, beats, and rhymes of Hip-Hop have traveled from America's cities to communities around the globe. This year's Filmfest DC presents a series of films exploring the growth and influence of this popular art form. Once considered a unique expression of America's urban streets, Hip-Hop music, dance, art, fashion, and social awareness have been absorbed by a diverse audience of young people around the world. The Hip-Hop culture continues to serve as a medium for voices that may otherwise go unheard. Fortunately, Hip-Hop refuses to go mainstream and still flourishes amongst the creative minds that gave it life. Films in the series are drawn from Cuba, Senegal, Palestine, Morocco, Kenya, and the USA. Filmmakers will be on hand to discuss their work

Films in the Hip-Hop 4 Reel Series

- *Beyond Beats and Rhymes: A Hip-Hop Head Weighs in on Manhood in Hip-Hop Culture (USA)*
- *Bellek (Belgium)*
- *East of Havana (Produced by Charlize Theron, USA)*
- *Hali Halisi (Tanzania)*
- *Hip-Hop Colony (Kenya)*
- *Hip-Hop from the Street to the Screen*
- *Jails, Hospitals & Hip Hop (USA)*
- *La Fabri-K (Cuba)*
- *Letter to the President (USA)*
- *Scene Not Heard (USA)*

Films in the Hip-Hop Planet Shorts Program

- *Bling: Consequences and Repercussions (USA)*
- *Estilo Hip-Hop (Latin America)*
- *Inventos: Hip Hop Cubanos (Cuba)*
- *Sling Shot Hip-Hop (Palestine)*
- *United Nations of Hip Hop (Senegal)*

Hip-Hop: From the Street to the Screen

Saturday, April 22, 4:30 to 6:30 pm, Busboys and Poets, 14th and V Streets, NW

Directors of films in the Hip-Hop 4 Reel series discuss the making of their work, their influences and how they view the future and impact of Hip-Hop culture.

- *Moderator:* Mona Ibrahim, Director of Community Building and Preservation, Hip-Hop Association
- Thomas Gibson, Director, *Letter to the President*
- Maori Karmael Holmes, Director, *Scene Not Heard*
- Byron Hurt, Director, *Beyond Beats and Rhymes*
- Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi, Director, *Inventos: Hip Hop Cubanos*

The Business of Hip-Hop

Saturday, April 29, 2:30 to 4:30 PM, Busboys and Poets, 14th and V Streets, NW

This is a panel of those who create and maintain the infrastructure in which Hip-Hop thrives. These folks do not rhyme in front of the mic. Instead, they book the shows, find new talent, spin the beats on the airwaves and generally take care of business. Come hear what they have to say about what goes on between the beats and rhymes.

- Gabriel Benn (*Boondocks/Guerilla Arts*)
- Brandon Flowers (*BET*)
- Lamar Lee-Kane (*Maven-Branded Entertainment*)
- Ben Willis (*Rawkus/Sony*)
- Jenny Jones (*WKYS*)

■ Co-presented with:



Capital Focus Award

The Capital Focus Award is a juried competition of selected films deserving of increased recognition. Films in the competition were selected by 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 or her achievements.

Films selected for this year's award competition include:

East of Havana (USA)

The Fisherman and His Wife (Germany)

The Grönholm Method (Spain/Argentina/Italy)

October 17, 1961 (France)

Romeo and Juliet Get Married (Brazil)

Swindled (Spain/France)

Three Times (Taiwan)

U-Carmen eKhayelitsha (South Africa)

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.

Legend

Look for the following icons throughout the catalog:



Cinema for Seniors



Filmfest DC for Kids



Free!



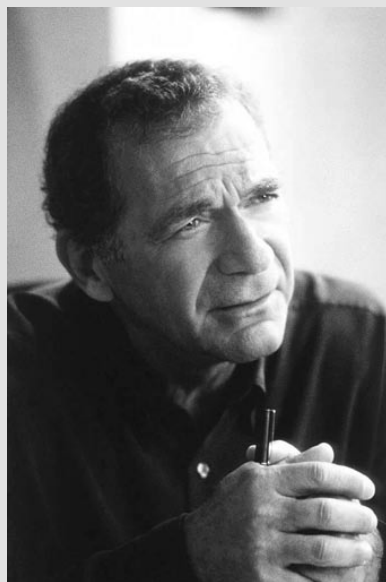
From Rio to Reel, The Cinema of Brazil



Global Rhythms



Hip-Hop 4 Reel



AN EVENING WITH SYDNEY POLLACK

"I want to explore questions to which I don't know the answer," Sydney Pollack once told an interviewer, and in a directing career that began in 1961 with an episode of the television program "The Defenders" and has grown to include some 21 features since 1965—not to mention close to 50 films as producer or executive producer—that's exactly what he's done.

Remarkably, he's developed a cordial relationship from a distance with Hollywood that allows

him to tackle high-profile projects while at the same time remain far enough away to pursue his own interests. "It's a little tougher than working with a studio from an economic point of view," Pollack explains, "but it's often more interesting. I can be slightly riskier." Or, as he told another interviewer, "I've produced my own films for 20 years now. It means I have to talk to fewer people."

For all his caution at being consumed by the studio system, Pollack the director perhaps most resembles those now-legendary craftsmen who made economic, profitable entertainments in a variety of genres. He's helmed westerns (*Jeremiah Johnson*), thrillers (*Three Days of the Condor*, *The Firm*, *The Interpreter*), war films (*Castle Keep*), romantic melodramas (*This Property is Condemned*, *The Way We Were*, *Out of Africa*, *Havana*, *Random Hearts*), and even a comedy (*Tootsie*). His latest credit? A feature-length documentary on architect Frank Gehry, shot on digital video and 16mm film.

In all, Pollack's directed 12 actors to Oscar®-winning performances, including Jane Fonda, Barbra Streisand, Paul Newman, Dustin Hoffman, and Meryl Streep. He's even had a measure of success in front of the camera, with memorable supporting roles in *Tootsie*, *The Player*, *Husbands and Wives*, *Eyes Wide Shut*, and—yes, you weren't hallucinating—"Will & Grace."

So what does this incredible body of work tell us about Sydney Pollack? That he values the integrity of his work in equal measure to its ability to provide an audience with entertainment. That smart movies can be successful movies. And that working hard at one's craft can yield dazzling results that will last.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Thursday, April 20, 6:30 pm, National Gallery of Art, FREE, program will include film clips

■ Co-presented with the National Gallery of Art



3 Needles

Thom Fitzgerald

Canada, 2005, 125 minutes, color

Along the windswept South African coast, young novitiate Sister Clara (Chloë Sevigny) does mission work under the tutelage of veteran nuns Sister Hilde (Olympia Dukakis) and Sister Mary (Sandra Oh). Meanwhile, in China's rural mainland, pregnant Jin Ping (Lucy Liu) runs a blood collection business. And in Montreal, lowlife porn actor Denny (Shawn Ashmore) dodges blood tests by surreptitiously swapping samples with



his father. Balancing natural beauty with the difficulty of HIV infection and human greed, the triptych of good intentions in *3 Needles* begins to unravel: Sister Clara deals with a very human devil to obtain supplies, Jin Ping's corrupted business results in human loss for a farmer, and Denny's long-suffering mother (Stockard Channing) does what she must to salvage her family. Among the most unabashedly ambitious films you will see this year, *3 Needles* burns with a fire of noble intentions that transfer into mesmerizing, thought-provoking, life-affirming drama.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, XHOSA, AFRIKAANS, AND MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, April 27, 6:30 pm, Embassy of Canada, ADVANCE SALES ONLY

Followed by a reception

Friday, April 28, 7:00 pm, Avalon Theatre

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Canada

★ *In Person: Star Olympia Dukakis and Director Thom Fitzgerald*

FILMFEST DC FOR KIDS — FREE!

Akeelah and the Bee



Doug Atchison

USA, 2006, 112 minutes, color



Doug Atchison's *Akeelah and the Bee* is an inspirational drama about defying adversity with courage, determination, and love. An eleven-year-old in south Los Angeles, Akeelah Anderson feels different from most girls in her neighborhood; she can spell "prestidigitation" without blinking an eye. Realizing her gift for words, Dr. Larabee (Laurence Fishburne) encourages the young protégé to pursue dreams that are ordinarily unattainable in her neighborhood's crime-ridden streets. Despite discouragement from her mother Tanya (Angela Bassett), Akeelah enters and wins spelling contests with the help and support of Larabee, her principal, Mr. Welch (Curtis Armstrong), and her proud neighbors. Excelling in the spelling bee circuit, Akeelah earns a spot in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, where she once again feels out of place, this time compared to her well-off competitors.—*Cleveland International Film Festival*

Sponsored by **citibank**

Friday, April 21, 10:00 am, Avalon Theatre, FREE, by reservation only
Friday, April 21, 1:00 pm, Avalon Theatre, FREE, by reservation only

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Antarmahal: Views of the Inner Chamber

Rituparno Ghosh

India, 2005, 118 minutes, color

From acclaimed filmmaker Rituparno Ghosh, whose *Chokher Bali* and opening night attraction *Raincoat* were among the highlights of FFDC 2005, comes a sumptuous new widescreen drama about sexual



gamesmanship in 19th century Bengal. In 1878, a year after Queen Victoria has become Empress of India, moody village landowner Bhubaneswar Chowdhury neglects first wife Mahamaya but hopes for an heir with young second spouse Jasomati. Hoping to curry favor with the newly-arrived Brits by having a statue sculpted in the Queen's likeness, he summons handsome young sculptor Brijbhushan (Abhishek Bachchan)—only to find his arrival creating even more tensions.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ENGLISH AND BENGALI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 6:00 pm, Avalon Theatre

Saturday, April 29, 7:00 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

Bal Can Can

Darko Mitrevski

Italy/United Kingdom/Macedonia, 2005, 89 minutes, color

This turbocharged sociopolitical farce is sort of a cross between Emir Kusturica's *Underground* and National Lampoon's *Vacation*. It's spring 2001 in civil war-torn Macedonia, and hapless Trendafil Karanfilov is skipping town to avoid conscription, with his family and mother-in-law Zumbula in tow. In Bulgaria, the old woman dies of the heat. To avoid red tape, Trendafil stashes her in a rolled-up carpet for the trip home—and promptly loses her. Enter faux Italian



blood brother Santino, with whom Trendafil begins a harrowingly funny chase to Serbia and Montenegro in search of, well, a corpse wrapped in a rug. "The film is shot flawlessly, paradoxically, cleverly, and without any strain [from a] spectacular screenplay," raved one critic. "It is possible that we are witnessing the appearance of yet another Balkan wunderkind."

—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN MACEDONIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Monday, April 24, 6:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

Tuesday, April 25, 8:45 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

★ *In Person: Director Darko Mitrevski*

Bellek



Bart Van Dijk

Belgium, 2003, 54 minutes, color

With a name derived from the word vendors use to clear the crowded path in front of them, *Bellek* is a Belgian-made documentary about the vibrant Hip-Hop scene in the Moroccan city of Sale. Principally known as the location for the filming of *Black Hawk Down*, it also turns out to be an urban hotbed of American influences from extensive breakdancing to an impromptu acoustic guitar version of James Brown's "Sex Machine." Determined to elbow aside the more traditional Gnawa, Chaabi, and Andalous forms of Moroccan music, the DJs and performers who hosted director Bart Van Dijk's cook's tour of the alleys and clubs that fuel the scene admit that the country's innocence of the musical form is "what makes Morocco charming" but are committed to the more idealistic facets of the lifestyle.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN ARABIC AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wednesday, April 26, 8:45 pm, Regal Cinemas

Thursday, April 27, 8:45 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Hip-Hop Association

★ *In Person: Director Bart Van Dijk*

Beyond Beats and Rhymes



A Hip Hop Head Weighs in on Manhood in a Hip Hop Culture



Byron Hurt

USA, 2006, 62 minutes, color

Byron Hurt was watching Hip-Hop music videos one day when he realized the music he loved glorified misogyny, violence, and male domination. "I need," he says in the narration to *Beyond Beats and Rhymes*, "to make a film that breaks all of this down." That it does, as Hurt records valuable interview time with many of the players in the commercial Hip-Hop industry. Jadakiss justifies his work by saying, "I'm just trying to feed my daughters," while Russell Simmons claims to be selective about the issues he promotes. On the plus side, Chuck D is one of a handful of artists who urge a more accurate and benevolent reflection of black manhood in the genre. From the studio to the streets, Hurt asks all the right questions and receives some distressing yet illuminating answers.—*Eddie Cockrell*

■ Shown with **Scene Not Heard**

Saturday, April 22, 7:00 pm, Regal Cinemas
Sunday, April 23, 8:45 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Hip-Hop Association

★ In Person: Director **Byron Hurt**

Bombon: El Perro

Carlos Sorin

Argentina, 2004, 97 minutes, color

A lauded new film from director Carlos Sorin (*Minimal Stories*), *Bombon: El Perro* is a seductive crowd-pleaser that resonates with audiences by virtue of the non-professional cast's honest dignity and the deadpan demeanor of Sorin's approach. A quiet, 52-year-old mechanic laid off from a filling station, Juan gets by selling knives he patiently crafts himself. When a good deed results in the gift of a striking and sizeable Dogo Argentino show dog named Bombon, Juan falls in with a burly and excitable canine show vet. A period of training produces a show win, although dreams of big money are dashed when Bombon's stud services prove less than effective. After he's supported briefly by singer Susana, Juan finds himself alone once again but is relieved to learn that both he and Bombon have something left in the tank.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, April 27, 8:30 pm, The Greenberg Theatre
Saturday, April 29, 9:30 pm, The Greenberg Theatre

Brasileirinho



Mika Kaurismaki

Finland/Brazil/Switzerland, 2005, 90 minutes, color



Forged in and around Rio de Janeiro from the blending of European polkas and waltzes with Afro-Brazilian music some

130 years ago, Cholo is credited with being the first musical expression of Brazil's melting pot and the first genuinely Brazilian urban music form. Samba and Bossa Nova sprung from Cholo in the 1920s, and the form went moribund in the 1970s and 1980s. Contemporary players have rediscovered Cholo and speak to its unique balance of improvisation and demanding structure. *Brasileirinho* is a visually striking 35mm valentine to his adopted country by Finnish expatriate Mika Kaurismaki. A leisurely exploration of the music and the dedicated musicians who keep it alive today, this is an immersion in what composer Villa-Lobos calls "the essence and soul of Brazilian music."—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 9:00 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Saturday, April 22, 7:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Brazil

Changing Times

Les temps qui changent

Andre Techine

France, 2004, 96 minutes, color

The seventh pairing of French screen greats Catherine Deneuve and Gerard Depardieu is also the acclaimed new film from Andre Techine, whose *Wild Reeds* thrilled FFDC audiences in 1995. Antoine Lavau (Depardieu) arrives in Tangiers to oversee the building of a media communications center. Paralleling his professional mission is a crucial personal one: For nearly 32 years he's never stopped thinking about Cecile (Deneuve), with whom he shared a symbiosis of love and desire that's eluded him since, and he plans to track her down in Tangiers where she now lives. Cecile, who hosts the French portion of a nightly French-Arabic radio show, is married to Natan (Gilbert Melki), a Moroccan doctor at least a decade her junior. When Antoine meets Natan under tragicomic circumstances, Cecile is abruptly confronted with this lovesick puppy from her past.—*Lisa Nesselson, Variety*



IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 28, 8:45 pm,
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Saturday, April 29, 6:30 pm,
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

C.R.A.Z.Y.

Jean-Marc Vallee

Canada, 2005, 125 minutes, color



By the time Montréal-born Zachary Beaulieu (Marc-André Grondin) is old enough to begin recognizing the world around him, he realizes he's different.

The fourth of five boys sired by Patsy

Cline-loving blue-collar dad Gervais (Michel Côté), the young Zac (played by Émile Vallée) struggles with the weight of being born on Christmas Day 1960, a pervasive Catholic upbringing, and the curse of individualism in a milieu that discouraged it. Thankfully for Zac, his teenage years coincide with the maturation of rock and roll. As difficult as things get, Zac's got "Louie Louie," Roy Buchanan, "The Dark Side of the Moon," David Bowie, and the Rolling Stones to see him through his quest for sexual identity. *C.R.A.Z.Y.* is a rare work of art, a film drenched in its time and place that nevertheless speaks with clarity and joy to anyone who's ever felt like a fish out of water.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tuesday, April 25, 8:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Thursday, April 27, 9:00 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Canada

Crossing the Bridge

The Sweet Sound of Istanbul



Fatih Akin

Germany/Turkey, 2005,
90 minutes, color

This new documentary from the director of last year's remarkable *Head On* is a fascinating journey through the music scene in modern Istanbul. Alexander Hacke (bass player with Einstürzende Neubauten) sets up his mobile recording studio to capture everything from classical Arabesque to indie rock and rap and teases out impressions of the city and its people. Among the featured artists are the hugely popular Sezen Aksu and Orhan Gencebay, Kurdish singer Anyar, and newer generations of musicians such as fusion DJ Orient Express, digital maestro Mercan Dede, and bands including Duman and Replikas. The camera roves through Istanbul's streets, dipping in and out of buildings and alleyways, peering round corners, and building up a beautifully filmed and paced portrait of the city's cultural life.—*Sandra Hebron, Times London Film Festival*



IN TURKISH, GERMAN, AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

WORLD PREMIERE

Dance Party: The Teenarama Story



Herb Grimes

USA, 2006, 45 minutes, color and black & white

Do you remember Waxie Maxie's? Miles Long Sandwich Shops? "What's happening at WOOK? Everything in the Book?" If so, then you remember "Teenarama," the forerunner to "Soul Train" that allowed Washington's black teenagers the opportunity to dance together on UHF channel 14 from 1963 to 1970. Although the show's entire archive of kinescopes was destroyed when new ownership swept in, Howard University Television producer Beverly Lindsay-Johnson has lovingly pieced together the history of this groundbreaking TV show from vintage clips, archive material, and interviews with those behind, and in front of, the camera. Born of the late 1950s rise of civil rights and television, "Teenarama" grew from the regional success of such programs as Philadelphia's "American Bandstand," Baltimore's "The Buddy Dean Show," and Washington's "The Milt Grant Show," drew such top-tier talent as James Brown, Martha Reeves, and Marvin Gaye, and made stars of the teenagers who danced on it.—*Eddie Cockrell*



Friday, April 28, 9:00 pm, Regal Cinemas

★ *In Person: Motown Legend Martha Reeves and Producer Beverly Lindsay-Johnson*

■ Co-presented with the

HUMANITIES COUNCIL
OF WASHINGTON, DC

CAPITAL FOCUS AWARD

East of Havana



Jauretsi Saizarbitoria, Emilia Menocal

USA, 2006, 86 minutes, color

The kind of out-of-left-field sensation at the recent South By Southwest Film Festival that affirms the value of such events in the first place, *East of Havana* was produced by Oscar®-winning actress Charlize Theron (*Monster*), whose last appearance at FFDC was in John Duigan's sweeping romantic drama *Head in the Clouds*. *East of Havana* is an unflinching close-up view of the lives and friendships of three young rappers compelled to address their generation's future from the confines of a Cuban ghetto. Soandry, Magyori, and Mikki possess the undeniable talent and charisma of pop icons, but within Cuba's fearless and rebellious underground movement they are also the de facto leaders, creating music whose cross-pollination early American rap and Latin influences brings self-expression to its sharpest, riskiest, and most triumphant point.—*2006 South By Southwest Film Festival*



Friday, April 28, 6:30 pm,
Regal Cinemas

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 pm,
Regal Cinemas

★ *In Person: Directors Jauretsi Saizarbitoria, Emilia Menocal*

Factotum

Bent Hamer

Norway/USA/Germany, 2005, 94 minutes, color

Matt Dillon is Henry Chinaski who takes and loses a series of menial jobs as he fills legal pads with stories. Jan (Lili Taylor) segues to prostitute Laura (Marisa Tomei) and then to eccentric French millionaire Pierre (Didier Flammand)



and his two women, Jerry (Adrienne Shelly) and Grace (Karen Young). It was a very good idea to entrust the work of Charles Bukowski to the Norwegian-born director Bent Hamer, whose *Eggs* and *Kitchen Stories* have been hits in previous editions of Filmfest DC. Episodic and note-perfect, the entire film was shot in and around a summery Minneapolis-St. Paul. *Factotum* has the same spacey deadpan feel of early Jim Jarmusch but is in a league all its own.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Tuesday, April 25, 6:45 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

Favela Rising



Jeff Zimbalist, Matt Mochary

Brazil/USA, 2005, 82 minutes, color

Part social document, part rousing concert film, and part harrowing personal journey, *Favela Rising* is a kinetic, joyous affirmation of music's ability to transcend poverty and strife. In Vigario Geral, the "Brazilian Bosnia," a brutal police raid claimed the life of Anderson Sa's brother. Working with nothing more than determination, Sa and other dedicated young people harnessed the hypnotic



power of a percussive style of Hip Hop to focus the energies of youth who might otherwise sink into drug dealing and violence. "Through music we changed our reality," says Sa. Between 1987 and 2001, nearly 4,000 minors were murdered in Rio de Janeiro, most of them in the slums, or favelas, of the city. Lauded by critics everywhere, *Favela Rising* explores the grim conditions of the favelas and the exuberant rise of the music.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 9:30 pm, Regal Cinemas
Sunday, April 23, 8:15 pm, Regal Cinemas

- Co-presented with the Hip-Hop Association
- Co-presented with the Embassy of Brazil

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Fire at my Heart

Fuoco su di me

Lamberto Lambertini

Italy, 2005, 104 minutes, color

International star Omar Sharif and rising Bollywood star Sonali Kulkarni are featured in this sumptuous costumed set in 1815 during the final days of Joachim Murat's brief rule as King of Naples. Returning there from the battlefields of France, wounded officer Eugenio (Massimiliano Varrese) feels an existential restlessness that war cannot assuage. His grandfather Nicola (Omar Sharif) is also troubled by recent events, which will lead to the execution of Murat (Zoltan Ratoti) and the end of the Bonapartist monarch's patriotic dream for a united Italy. As he recovers, Eugenio woos peasant

beauty Graziella (Sonali Kulkarni) by reciting poetry to her. Sharif brings his trademarked gravitas to the role of Nicola.—*Jay Weissberg, Variety*



IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 8:30 pm, Avalon Theatre
Wednesday, April 26, 6:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

CAPITAL FOCUS AWARD

The Fisherman and His Wife

Der fischer und seine frau

Dorris Doerrie

Germany, 2005, 102 minutes, color



There's nothing coy about Dorris Doerrie's exuberant *The Fisherman and His Wife*, which wraps a Japanese fish story around the eponymous Brothers Grimm fairytale. While backpacking around Japan, 27-year-old German fashion designer Ida meets countrymen

Otto and Leo. Known as the "Flying Fish Doctors" for their lucrative business selling Japanese koi fish to rich collectors, Otto and Leo take the hitchhiker under their wing. In time, Otto and Ida become smitten with each other; she soon becomes pregnant and they marry in a colorful Japanese ceremony. Otto watches as Ida successfully designs koi-inspired hand-knitted scarves which she sells to the wife of the fish doctors' chief patron. Meanwhile, Leo has married Yoko and opened his own fish clinic. Then things get complicated.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 pm, Regal Cinemas
Thursday, April 27, 6:30 pm, Regal Cinemas

- Co-presented with the Goethe-Institut

Free Zone

Amos Gitai

France/Israel/Spain/Belgium, 2005, 90 minutes, color

Three women traveling together experience dilemmas threaded with personal histories of loss and anguish in this gripping tale about displacement and personal identity. Rebecca (Natalie Portman) breaks off her engagement in Jerusalem. Emotional and heartbroken, she flees from her ex-fiancé to get her life together and gets into a cab driven by Hanna (Hanna Laszlo), who is on her way to Jordan's Free Zone to pick up some money owed to her. Once there, a woman named Leila breaks the news that the money has vanished. "The physical journey is the freshest aspect of *Free Zone*," writes *Variety's* Derek Elley. "This is the first Israeli production shot in cooperation with the Jordanian Royal Film Commission, taking the average viewer into rarely seen areas. It is Amos Gitai's most satisfying film since the war drama *Kippur*."—*Chicago International Film Festival*



IN ENGLISH, HEBREW, AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wednesday, April 26, 6:15 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Thursday, April 27, 6:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

An Advertising Supplement to *The Washington Post*

CAPITAL FOCUS AWARD

The Grönholm Method

El Metoldo

Marcelo Pineyro

Spain/Argentina/Italy, 2005, 115 minutes, color

"This Grönholm Method is starting to worry me," someone says early in this darkly funny film, and there's certainly cause for alarm. On the 35th floor of a downtown office tower in Madrid, the Dekia Corporation has gathered seven finalists for what they've been told is a high-level position. The seven are subjected to the titular process, a "personnel selection" program involving a decidedly strange battery of tests. They're told upfront there's a mole from Dekia hiding in their midst, and, like a modern version of Rod Serling's classic TV morality play "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street" crossed with "Survivor," the group begins to choose up sides and press their individual advantages.



The Grönholm Method is a sly, widescreen condemnation of the dehumanizing effects of corporate methodology on human interaction.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 28, 9:00 pm, The Greenberg Theatre
Saturday, April 29, 7:00 pm, The Greenberg Theatre

Hali Halisi



Martin Meulenberg

The Netherlands, Tanzania, 1999, 30 minutes, color

Hali Halisi portrays rap as an alternative medium in Tanzania. Rappers and experts give their views on the emerging Hip-Hop scene in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar (Tanzania), and their thoughts on the importance of rap as a medium for communication. In many African countries Hip-Hop is becoming more and more important to the urban youth. The music and the lifestyle it symbolizes are appealing to them,



and in the '90s rap has become a soundtrack to their lives. Through rap lyrics young people in Africa express their views on their own situation, living conditions, ideals, and problems.—*africanhiphop.com*

IN SWAHILI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, April 27, 6:15 pm, Regal Cinemas
Saturday, April 29, 7:00 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Shown with **La Fabri-K**

■ Co-presented with the Hip-Hop Association

Hard Candy

David Slade

USA, 2005, 103 minutes, color



One of the most shocking films to emerge from the 2005 Sundance Film Festival was *Hard Candy*, the cat-and-mouse tale of a teen-age girl who

turns the tables on a man she thinks is an Internet pedophile. *Empire* magazine included the film in its "jaw on the floor" roundup of festival films, noting that "like the ear-slicing scene in *Reservoir Dogs*, this dark two-hander left even the most hardened viewers shell-shocked." It played at Sundance as part of the Park City at Midnight section and is directed by David Slade, from a screenplay by Brian Nelson. Trevor Groth, writing on the Sundance Web site, declared that "the film boasts truly breakout performances by its two leads (Ellen Page, Patrick Wilson) which are career-making revelations." He concludes, "*Hard Candy* is a chilling film, completely and intricately crafted, and has a riveting final denouement. It is a rare achievement."—*Jack Foley, indielondon.com*

Friday, April 21, 9:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Saturday, April 22, 9:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

Heart Lift

Lifting de corazón



Eliseo Subiela

Argentina, 2006, 90 minutes, color

The much anticipated new feature from *Dark Side of the Heart* writer-director and FilmfestDC fave Eliseo Subiela continues his career-long fascination with the multifaceted dilemmas and yawning pitfalls of love. Antonio is a plastic surgeon who thinks of himself as a warrior, fighting the fight against the deterioration of the human body. Middle-aged yet content, Antonio has never gone under the knife himself, keeping old age at bay through a combination of exercise, facial creams, and a youthful, energetic spirit. But during a business trip to Buenos Aires, Antonio stumbles upon the fountain of youth in the beautiful (and much younger) Delia, who awakens something unexpected in him. When he reluctantly returns home to Seville, his wife immediately senses something's up and makes an appointment with a marriage counselor. But is it too late?—*Rene Rodriguez, The Miami Herald*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 8:45 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue



Hip-Hop Planet



Bling: Consequences and Repercussions

Kareem Edouard

USA, 2005, 11 minutes, color

★ In Person: Director Kareem Edouard

Estilo Hip Hop: America Latina

Virgilio Bravo

USA, 2001, 9 minutes, color

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Inventos: Hip Hop Cubano

Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi

USA, 2003, 49 minutes, color and black & white

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

★ In Person: Director Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi

Slingshot HipHop: The Palestinian Lyrical Front

Jacqueline Salloum

USA, 2005, 5 minutes, color

United Nations of Hip-Hop

Christina Choe

USA, 2004, 9 minutes, color

In French and English with English subtitles



An Internet blogger observed recently that if Hip-Hop and rap were to vanish from the American cultural scene, the worldwide network of its disciples and practitioners would rise to fill in the gap. This gathering of new and recent films bears that out; *Estilo Hip Hop* explores the movements in São Paulo, Chile, and Argentina, while *Inventos* inventories different facets of the Cuban Hip-Hop experience. *Slingshot HipHop* reveals the music is alive and well in Gaza, Tel Aviv, and among Muslims, even as *United Nations of Hip-Hop* explains how rappers in Senegal, West Africa have molded the music to their oral history tradition and *Bling* connects the dots between the jewelry prominently featured in mainstream videos and the so-called blood diamonds from war-torn Sierra Leone. The same message emerges in all of these raw, vital works: At its idealistic core, Hip-Hop is about information and empowerment.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Friday, April 21, 6:45 pm, Regal Cinemas
Saturday, April 22, 9:00 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Hip-Hop Association

An Advertising Supplement to *The Washington Post*

Hip Hop Colony



Michael Wanguhu

USA, 2005, 97 minutes, color and black & white

Following a thumbnail history of Kenya, director Michael Wanguhu jumps right into the country's thriving Hip-Hop scene, interviewing and/or documenting such notable performers as Bamboo (whose acoustic music is a distinctive treat), rapper Harry K (Kimani), K-Shaka, Mau Mau Camp, Mercy Myra, Gidi Gidi Maji Maji, and many others. Wanguhu also traces the melding of traditional Kenyan styles and western rap into a new entity, dubbed Genge Music, and



illustrates how Hip-Hop and rap have stimulated a rebirth in the speaking of indigenous tribal dialects. The message is clear: When focusing on social struggles instead of materialistic trappings, Hip-Hop can be a powerful force for good. This film is a fine introduction to Kenyan Hip-Hop and the music's power to unite and focus a community.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ENGLISH, KISWAHILI, KIKUYU, AND VARIOUS DIALECTS WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 6:15 pm, Regal Cinemas
Monday, April 24, 9:15 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Hip-Hop Association

In Bed

En la cama

Matias Bize

Chile/Germany, 2005, 85 minutes, color

In Bed won the Golden Spike grand prize at the 50th anniversary edition of Spain's Valladolid festival. Having just met at a Santiago bar, Daniela and Bruno are first seen as a blur of bedclothes and flesh, panting through frantic sex in a garishly decorated motel room. Afterwards, they can't even remember each other's names, and like a carnal inversion of Samuel Beckett, keep meaning to leave but never actually do. Gradually, a relationship develops as they share secrets, work their way through a box of condoms, and stake out the parameters of love and trust. Matias Bize has injected a completely original concept with nervous energy and intense performances. The edgy cinematography prowls the motel room while jittery jump cuts reflect this couple's apprehension at baring their souls (although they have no trouble baring everything else).—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 28, 9:45 pm, Avalon Theatre
Saturday, April 29, 9:45 pm, Avalon Theatre

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Chile

★ *In Person: Director Matias Bize*

Iraq in Fragments



James Longley

USA, 2006, 92 minutes, color

Iraq in Fragments was culled from some 300 hours of footage shot over a two-year period commencing immediately after the fall of Saddam Hussein. Originally conceived as an ongoing series, the focus was scaled back when conditions became too dangerous. What survives are leisurely, intimate portraits of the struggles faced by average, diverse people in a time of great uncertainty. Eleven-year-old Mohammed is a fatherless Sunni whose struggles with school and the changes around him bring the wrath of the brusque auto mechanic for whom he works. In Najaf, followers of self-styled Shiite leader Moqtada Sadr hammer out political positions and enforce ultra-conservative Islamic law. On a farm south of Arbil, two brick-making families grapple with closely-linked issues of politics and faith. Winner of director, cinematography, and editing awards at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival. Also, winner of the International Federation of Film Critics Awards at the 2006 Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival, as well as the winner of the Documentary Film Competition at the Cleveland International Film Festival. *Iraq in Fragments* is progressive cinema vérité at its most urgent and immediate.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ARABIC AND KURDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 8:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Sunday, April 23, 8:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

★ *In Person: Director James Longley*



Isn't This a Time!

A Tribute Concert for Harold Leventhal



Jim Brown

USA, 2004, 89 minutes, color

"There's no age to the spirit," 85-year-old folk icon Pete Seeger says toward the end of this rousing concert documentary. Indeed, young bands can only hope to have the energy Seeger's durable folk group The Weavers exhibits today. Director Jim Brown's belated follow-up to his 1982 film *The Weavers: Wasn't That a Time?*, this new film alternates between a 2003 Carnegie Hall reunion concert lauding the folk movement's long-time promoter (who died in 2005) and backstage looks at the performers today. Partly a where-are-they-now? update and a primer for the uninitiated, the film features fiery performances from movement stalwarts Arlo Guthrie (who points out he's been playing with Seeger twice as long as his dad Woody knew him), Leon Bibb, Theodore Bikel, and Peter, Paul & Mary. The film's message transcends political affiliations to affirm the art of aging gracefully and staying involved. "Participating," says Seeger, "is a wonderful thing."—*Eddie Cockrell*



Tuesday, April 25, 6:45 pm, Regal Cinemas
Wednesday, April 26, 6:45 pm, Regal Cinemas

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 19

7:00 pm **Opening Night Gala Wah-Wah**
With Gabriel Byrne & Introduced by Sydney Pollack
 GW's Lisner Auditorium

Thursday, April 20

6:30 pm **An Evening with Sydney Pollack***
 National Gallery of Art

7:00 pm **Letter to the President**
 Regal Cinemas
followed by a party at Busboys and Poets

7:00 pm **Tapas**
 Regal Cinemas

Friday, April 21

10:00 am **Filmfest DC for Kids Akeelah and the Bee***
 Avalon Theatre

1:00 pm **Filmfest DC for Kids Akeelah and the Bee***
 Avalon Theatre

6:30 pm **Look Both Ways**
 Landmark's E Street Cinemas

6:30 pm **A World Without Thieves**
 Regal Cinemas

6:45 pm **Hip-Hop Planet**
 Regal Cinemas

6:45 pm **Netto**
 Landmark's E Street Cinemas

6:45 pm **Zozo**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

7:00 pm **La Moustache**
 Avalon Theatre

7:00 pm **My Uncle Killed a Guy**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:45 pm **Three Times**
 Landmark's E Street Cinemas

9:00 pm **Brasileirinho**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

9:00 pm **October 17, 1961**
 Landmark's E Street Cinemas

9:00 pm **Swindled**
 Avalon Theatre

9:00 pm **Tapas**
 Regal Cinemas

9:30 pm **Favela Rising**
 Regal Cinemas

9:30 pm **Hard Candy**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

Saturday, April 22

10:30 am **Filmfest DC for Kids My Brother Is a Dog***
 National Gallery of Art

4:30 pm **Hip-Hop Panel***
From the Street to the Screen
 Busboys and Poets

6:00 pm **Water**
 Avalon Theatre

6:30 pm **Short Cuts**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:30 pm **U-Carmen eKhayelitsha**
 Regal Cinemas

6:45 pm **Look Both Ways**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:45 pm **Zozo**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

7:00 pm **Beyond Beats and Rhymes**
Shown with Scene Not Heard
 Regal Cinemas

7:30 pm **Brasileirinho**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:45 pm **Iraq in Fragments**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

9:00 pm **Crossing the Bridge: The Sound of Istanbul**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

9:00 pm **Hip-Hop Planet**
 Regal Cinemas

9:00 pm **Piaf: Her Songs...Her Stories**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

9:15 pm **La Moustache**
 Avalon Theatre

9:30 pm **Hard Candy**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

9:45 pm **Letter to the President**
 Regal Cinemas

Sunday, April 23

11:30 am **Filmfest DC for Kids My Brother Is a Dog***
 National Gallery of Art

4:00 pm **Piaf: Her Songs...Her Stories**
 Embassy of France

5:30 pm **This Is Bossa Nova: The History and Stories**
 Regal Cinemas

6:00 pm **Antarmahal**
 Avalon Theatre

6:00 pm **Romeo and Juliet Get Married**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

6:00 pm **Three Times**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:15 pm **Hip Hop Colony**
 Regal Cinemas

6:30 pm **John & Jane Toll-Free**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:30 pm **Opa!**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:15 pm **Favela Rising**
 Regal Cinemas

8:30 pm **Fire at my Heart**
 Avalon Theatre

8:30 pm **My Uncle Killed a Guy**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:30 pm **Netto**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:45 pm **Beyond Beats and Rhymes**
Shown with Scene Not Heard
 Regal Cinemas

8:45 pm **Heart Lift**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:45 pm **Iraq in Fragments**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

Monday, April 24

6:00 pm **Romeo and Juliet Get Married**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

6:30 pm **Bal Can Can**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

6:30 pm **The Piano Tuner of Earthquakes**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:30 pm **U-Carmen eKhayelitsha**
 Regal Cinemas

6:45 pm **The Long Haul of A.I. Bezzerides**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema



U-Carmen eKhayelitsha, p.20

6:45 pm **Underground Game**
 Regal Cinemas

8:30 pm **Lost and Found**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:45 pm **Maria's Place**
 Regal Cinemas

8:45 pm **October 17, 1961**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:45 pm **To Die in San Hilario**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:45 pm **Wrong Side Up**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

9:15 pm **Hip Hop Colony**
 Regal Cinemas

Tuesday, April 25

10:00am **Cinema for Seniors Only the Strong Survive***
 Avalon Theatre

5:15 pm **Drinks & Flicks***
 The Arts Club of Washington

6:15 pm **To Die in San Hilario**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:30 pm **Heart Lift**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

6:30 pm **The Piano Tuner of Earthquakes**
 Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:30 pm **Underground Game**
 Regal Cinemas

6:45 pm **Factotum**
 AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

6:45 pm **Isn't This a Time!**
 Regal Cinemas

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Metal: A Headbanger's Journey, p.16

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

8:30 pm **Opal!**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:30 pm **Passion**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:45 pm **Bal Can Can**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:45 pm **C.R.A.Z.Y.**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:45 pm **Jails, Hospitals & Hip Hop**
Regal Cinemas

9:00 pm **Maria's Place**
Regal Cinemas

Wednesday, April 26

6:15 pm **Free Zone**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

6:30 pm **Factotum**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

6:30 pm **The Fisherman and his Wife**
Regal Cinemas

6:30 pm **Maria Bethânia: Music Is Perfume**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:45 pm **Fire at my Heart**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:45 pm **Isn't This a Time!**
Regal Cinemas

8:15 pm **Live and Become**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue



8:30 pm **Lost and Found**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:30 pm **Pelé Forever**
Regal Cinemas

8:45 pm **Bellek**
Regal Cinemas

8:45 pm **John & Jane Toll-Free**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:45 pm **Metal: A Headbanger's Journey**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

Thursday, April 27

6:15 pm **Iron Island**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

6:15 pm **La Fabri-K**
Shown with Hali Halisi
Regal Cinemas

6:15 pm **Metal: A Headbanger's Journey**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

6:30 pm **3 Needles**
Embassy of Canada

6:30 pm **The Fisherman and His Wife**
Regal Cinemas

6:30 pm **Free Zone**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

6:30 pm **Live-In Maid**
The Greenberg Theatre

6:30 pm **Maria Bethânia: Music Is Perfume**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:15 pm **Live and Become**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:30 pm **Bombón**
The Greenberg Theatre

8:30 pm **Wrong Side Up**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

8:45 pm **Bellek**
Regal Cinemas

8:45 pm **Passion**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

8:45 pm **Pelé Forever**
Regal Cinemas

9:00 pm **C.R.A.Z.Y.**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

Friday, April 28

6:30 pm **East of Havana**
Regal Cinemas

6:30 pm **Rice Rhapsody**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

7:00 pm **3 Needles**
Avalon Theatre

7:00 pm **Iron Island**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

7:00 pm **Live-In Maid**
The Greenberg Theatre

7:00 pm **Music Is My Life, Politics My Mistress: Oscar Brown**
Regal Cinemas

8:45 pm **Changing Times**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

9:00 pm **Dance Party: The Teenarama Story**
Regal Cinemas

9:00 pm **The Grönholm Method**
The Greenberg Theatre

9:00 pm **The Second Wedding Night**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

9:45 pm **In Bed**
Avalon Theatre

9:45 pm **Jails, Hospitals & Hip Hop**
Regal Cinemas

9:30 pm **The Second Wedding Night**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

9:45 pm **In Bed**
Avalon Theatre

Sunday, April 30

4:00 pm **Closing Night Event Housewarming**
Regal Cinemas
Followed by a party at Lucky Strike

4:30 pm **Return of the Poet***
National Gallery of Art



Saturday, April 29

2:30 pm **The Business of Hip Hop Panel***
Busboys and Poets

6:30 pm **Changing Times**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

6:30 pm **A World Without Thieves**
Regal Cinemas

7:00 pm **Antarmahal**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

7:00 pm **The Grönholm Method**
The Greenberg Theatre

7:00 pm **La Fabri-k**
Shown with Hali Halisi
Regal Cinemas

7:15 pm **Swindled**
Avalon Theatre

9:00 pm **East of Havana**
Regal Cinemas

9:00 pm **Rice Rhapsody**
AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

9:15 pm **Music Is My Life, Politics My Mistress: Oscar Brown**
Regal Cinemas

9:30 pm **Bombón**
The Greenberg Theatre

* Events marked with an asterisk are free.
All programs are subject to change.

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www.filmfestdc.org

Iron Island

Jazire ahani

Mohammad Rasoulof

Iran, 2005, 85 minutes, color

Mohammad Rasoulof's examination of life onboard a decrepit tanker in the Persian Gulf is a mythic expression of people in a constant state of flux. With the aid of Captain Nemat (Ali Nasirian), the ship's population carves out an existence away from the prying and disdainful hands of the outside world. The ship begins to sink but certainly not with the hopes of its people, who persevere despite

their loss. *Iron Island* is an even-handed vision of people in a perpetual state of migration. It acknowledges the struggle of minorities left to their own devices and their self-devouring instinct in times of crisis. The film is both an elegy to the oppressed and a call for majority compassion.—*Ed Gonzalez, slatemagazine.com*



IN FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, April 27, 6:15 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Friday, April 28, 7:00 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

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

Jails, Hospitals & Hip Hop



Mark Benjamin, Danny Hoch

USA, 2001, 91 minutes, color

If you know Danny Hoch at all, it's probably from the press he received 10 years ago for passing up the role of Ramon the pool guy on a "Seinfeld" episode and a small part in *From Dusk Till Dawn*. Instead, the Obie-winning performance artist honed this one-man show in which he assumes a number of different personas: Montana teenager and rapper wannabe Flip Dog, rage-choked upstate New York prison guard Sam, brain-damaged Victor, good-hearted paraplegic Gabriel, Hip-Hop entrepreneur Emcee Enuff, and others. Seamlessly edited from staged sequences, an onstage performance, an appearance at Washington Square Park, and a stand-up gig in the day room of a wing at Rikers Island, this exploration of social identity from the Queens native one writer called "an urban Hip-Hop soothsayer" is a major cinematic find.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tuesday, April 25, 8:45 pm, Regal Cinemas
Friday, April 28, 9:45 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Hip-Hop Association

John & Jane Toll-Free

Ashim Ahluwalia

India, 2005, 82 minutes, color

Ashim Ahluwalia's documentary *John & Jane Toll-Free* meditates on the split identities of Mumbai call center workers, the outsourced masses touted as beneficiaries of globalization by the likes of Thomas Friedman. "At the end of the day," Friedman declares in his book *The World Is Flat*, "these new jobs actually allow them to be more Indian"—apparently because they can eat rice and curry after a long night hawking phone service plans to cranky Americans. *John & Jane Toll-Free* undermines this blinkered boosterism, evoking the glassy near-future nowhere-ness of *Demonlover* and Jem Cohen's recently released *Chain*. Ahluwalia eavesdrops on accent elimination classes and cultural-training seminars that teach "American values" such



as "individualism" and "achievement in success." The results suggest that the brave new globalization indeed promotes a kind of two-dimensional

man programmed to buy into and blindly serve the capitalist dream.—*Dennis Lim, The Village Voice*

Sunday, April 23, 6:30 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Wednesday, April 26, 8:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

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

La Fabri-K

The Cuban Hip-Hop Factory



Lisandro Perez-Re

Cuba, 2005, 62 minutes, color

Subtitled *The Cuban Hip-Hop Factory*, this involving and inspirational documentary follows the collaboration of two Hip-Hop groups from the dynamic Cuban rap scene and their subsequent tour of the United States. The dirt-poor Cuban coastal town of Alamar is



known as the birthplace of Cuban Hip-Hop—primarily because of the Miami radio broadcasts that have reached and influenced the young people there. When Yrak and Edgar from Doble-Filo join forces with the

husband-and-wife team known as Obsesion, La Fabri-K is born. "What we do is manufacture," says one. "The factory is where honest laborers in the community can be found." But can the integrity of their grassroots, socially charged music withstand the culture shock of American consumerism?—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

■ Shown with Hali Halisi

Thursday, April 27, 6:15 pm, Regal Cinemas
Saturday, April 29, 7:00 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Hip-Hop Association

La Moustache

Emmanuel Carrere

France, 2005, 86 minutes, color



Successful architect Marc impulsively decides to surprise his wife Agnès by shaving off his moustache, a facial feature that he has sported throughout much of his adult life. When he realizes nobody's

noticed, he begins to suspect his wife of a ruse, a wounded perception that Agnès tries to quell by insisting that he had never had a moustache. Marc attempts to catch Agnès in a lie by finding some proof of his moustache's former existence. Soon, Marc's obsession begins to place a strain on their relationship. At the core of Emmanuel Carrère's surreal descent into madness, disconnection, and fugue is a thoughtful, lucid, and penetrating exposition into the inevitable transformation of all human relationships from visceral passion to emotional partnerships, when a relationship inevitably begins to evolve and lovers no longer see things through the same blissful prism of lovestruck intoxication.—*Acquarello, Strictly Film School*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 7:00 pm, Avalon Theatre
Saturday, April 22, 9:15 pm, Avalon Theatre

An Advertising Supplement to *The Washington Post*

Letter to the President



Thomas Gibson

USA, 2004, 91 minutes, color

Thomas Gibson's *Letter to the President* marshals an impressive array of voices and personalities to trace the way national politics affected the development of rap and the way rap has influenced the political discourse. From Jesse Jackson's rejection of the original, socially aware Hip-Hop generation in 1984, through the rise of more commercial music under Bill Clinton and the current tsunami of divisiveness and ironic photo ops provided by George W. Bush, such heavyweights as KRS-One, Dilated Peoples, Chuck D, Luther "Luke" Campbell, Ice T, and 50 Cent reflect on the nuances of the history and social fabric, urge fans to vote, and suggest new strategies.

Narrated with outspoken candor by Snoop Dogg, *Letter to the President* is a terse, startling, glossy summation of where Hip-Hop has been, where it is, and where it might be going.—*Eddie Cockrell*



Thursday, April 20, 7:00 pm, Regal Cinemas
Saturday, April 22, 9:45 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Hip-Hop Association

■ April 20 screening followed by a party at Busboys and Poets.

★ In Person: Director Thomas Gibson

Live and Become

Va, vis et deviens

Radu Mihaileanu

France/Israel, 2005, 148 minutes, color



Live and Become depicts the migration of the Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 1984. Thousands of Africans from many famine-ravaged nations have found themselves in refugee camps in Sudan. Faced with certain death,

a Christian Ethiopian mother steers her young son, Soloman, to the lineup, quietly insisting he declare himself to be Jewish. Once in Israel and officially an orphan, the newly renamed Schlomo is adopted by a French Sephardic family in Tel Aviv and throws himself into absorbing Hebrew, French, and the Jewish faith. He is a Christian pretending to be Jewish, an orphan with two mothers, and an African in a Western culture. —Jane Schoettle, *Toronto International Film Festival*

IN AMHARIC, HEBREW, AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wednesday, April 26, 8:15 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Thursday, April 27, 8:15 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

★ *In Person: Star Sirak Sabahat*

Live-in Maid

Jorge Gaggero

Spain/Argentina, 2004, 85 minutes, color

Continuing her smashing run of socially relevant comedies and dramas, the great Norma Aleandro (*A Night with Sabrina Love, Son of the Bride, Cleopatra*, Oscar winner for *The Official Story*) stars in this close-to-the-vest satiric drama as Beba, a haughty, divorced Buenos Aires bourgeoisie who drinks too much and has taken to selling off her jewelry and peddling cosmetics door-to-door to pay the bills. Although her maid, Dora (Norma Argentina), has been with her for 30 years, Beba hasn't paid her in seven months. When Dora decides enough is enough, Beba's stuffy attempts to save face and hang onto her life's last constant provide a droll



framework for the panic of Argentina's middle class during the recent economic upheaval there.

—Eddie Cockrell

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, April 27, 6:30 pm, The Greenberg Theatre
Friday, April 28, 7:00 pm, The Greenberg Theatre

The Long Haul of A.I. Bezzerides

Fay Efosini Lellios

USA, 2006, 51 minutes, color and black & white

"I was never part of the picture people," says 98-year-old Albert Isaac "Buzz" Bezzerides. "I just wrote." The prolific and committed champion of the working class Joe on page and screen, Bezzerides combined the inspiration of William Faulkner with a natural talent for clean, realistic prose into a writing career that included his breakthrough novel "The Long Haul" and the subsequent Hollywood films *They Drive by Night*, *Thieves' Highway* (from his book "Thieves' Market,"), *On*

Dangerous Ground, and *Kiss Me Deadly*. "Whoever wrote this story sure knew his folks," Bezzerides remembers a moviegoer saying about his second screenplay, *Juke Girl*, and this is the legacy of this feisty Armenian/Greek immigrant. *The Long Haul of A.I. Bezzerides*

reminds us that this gifted novelist and screenwriter, in addition to holding a place in the pantheon of film noir greats, at his core is one of the great exponents of what novelist George Pelecanos calls "proletariat literature." —Eddie Cockrell

Monday, April 24, 6:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

★ *In Person: Novelist George Pelecanos*



Look Both Ways

Sarah Watt

Australia, 2005, 100 minutes, color

Look Both Ways is a breathtakingly assured treatise on the urgent importance of braving an unstable world each and every day. A woman who imagines all sorts of animated disasters in the course of her day, Meryl (Justine Clarke) happens across a tragedy in Adelaide on the way home from her father's funeral: A man has been hit and killed by a slow-moving train. This event has a ripple effect on those who were there at the scene of the accident, including photographer Nick (William McInnes), who's just been diagnosed with testicular cancer, journalist Andy (Anthony Hayes), whose sometimes girlfriend has just announced her pregnancy, newspaper editor and apprehensive family man Phil (Andrew S. Gilbert), and a number of others. A bravura ensemble drama, *Look Both Ways* is the triumphant live-action feature debut of animator Sarah Watt. —Eddie Cockrell



■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Australia

Friday, April 21, 6:30 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 22, 6:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Lost and Found

Achados e perdidos

Jose Joffily

Brazil, 2005, 102 minutes, color

A former high-ranking Rio cop retired after three decades on the force, Vieira (Antonio Fagundes) argues with his hooker girlfriend Magali (Zeze Pollesa) and the next morning she's found murdered. Initially a suspect, he's cut adrift to wallow in his own misery—until Magali's younger co-worker Flor (Juliana Knust) begins to show an interest. As Vieira works through his grief, flashbacks to his good times with Magali also reveal his sordid past with former partner and current politico Monteiro (Genezio de Barros). What's with the briefcase full of American dollars, what's with nervous whore Vanessa (Malu Galli), and how exactly did Magali die? This taut, ambitious, largely hand-held thriller from veteran director Jose Joffily is a solid hard-boiled genre entry, with political intrigue added to the mix. —Eddie Cockrell



IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Monday, April 24, 8:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Wednesday, April 26, 8:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Brazil

Maria Bethânia: Music Is Perfume

Georges Gachot

France/Switzerland, 2005, 82 minutes, color

Fans of Brazilian music in general and tropicalia in particular won't want to miss this intimate, involving portrait of a passionate superstar. "Music is perfume," says 1970s tropicalia superstar Maria Bethânia. "Nothing instantly affects you or changes you." Like the lingering impact of a seductive scent, Georges Gachot's documentary hovers around the Brazilian superstar as she rehearses and records. Through this sanctioned eavesdropping, viewers come to know the meticulous detail that goes into her delivery of songs. Viewers will also learn a good bit about her birthplace,



Bahia, where she visits her lovable mother and her equally famous brother, Caetano Veloso. A high point: after a concert, Maria is joined backstage by Nana Caymmi and Miucha for a samba siren's call. —Eddie Cockrell

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Thursday, April 27, 6:30 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Brazil

★ *In Person: Director Georges Gachot*

Maria's Place

Bendito fruto



Sergio Goldenberg

Brazil, 2005, 90 minutes, color



Strange things happen when a widow on vacation is accidentally hit in the head by a flying man-hole cover. The accident leads to a fortuitous meeting between two old friends who

haven't seen each other in years. The victim of the flying cover, out on her own for the first time since the death of her husband, is looking for a new, more exciting life. Her former classmate owns a beauty shop and shares his home and affections with his much younger maid. As she recovers from her injury, the widow is wined and dined by her old friend, who feels an odd attraction to someone who can relate to his mid-life crisis concerns. A game of seduction ensues, with hidden passions and desires coming to the fore.—*Sandy Wolf, Cinequest Film Festival*

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Monday, April 24, 8:45 pm, Regal Cinemas

Tuesday, April 25, 9:00 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Brazil

Metal: A Headbanger's Journey



Sam Dunn, Scott McFayden, Jessica Joywise

Canada, 2005, 98 minutes, color and black and white

Sam Dunn confronts the musical obsession of his teenage years in this whirlwind tour of the complex international world of heavy metal music. Traveling from London to New York to Los Angeles—with side trips to the four-day bacchanalia Wacken Open Air in northern Germany and the Norwegian black metal movement—Dunn talks to dozens of the leading lights of the scene. Commenting on the roots, religious elements, and fans of the music are Black Sabbath's Tony Iommi, Rush's Geddy Lee, Iron Maiden's Bruce Dickinson, Twisted Sister's Dee Snider, Mötley Crüe's Vince Neil, Motörhead's Lemmy Kilmister, Cannibal Corpse's George "Corpsegrinder" Fisher, Rob Zombie, and Alice Cooper. "You either feel it or you don't," Dunn concludes; for those who do, this film is a clip-filled affirmation.—*Eddie Cockrell*



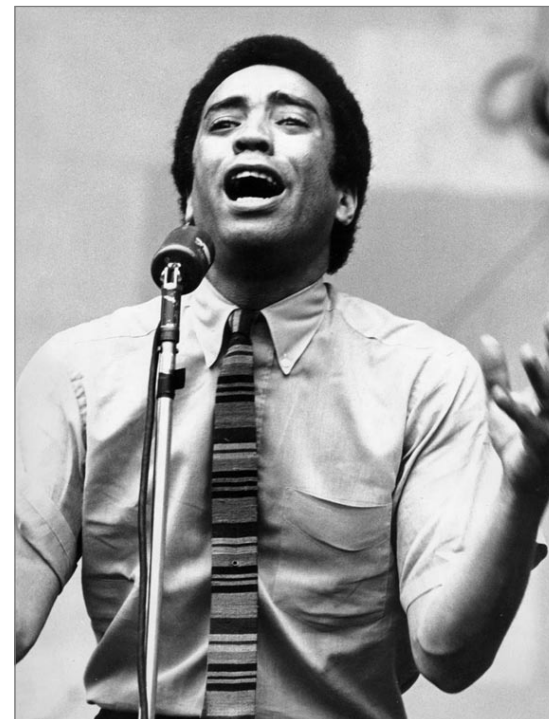
Wednesday, April 26, 8:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Thursday, April 27, 6:15 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Canada

★ In Person: Directors Sam Dunn and Scott McFayden

Music Is My Life, Politics My Mistress (Oscar Brown Jr.)



Donnie L. Betts

USA, 2005, 110 minutes, color

Considered by many to be the father of rap music, Oscar Brown Jr.'s rich and full life is given a lovingly detailed documentary treatment. After dabbling in communism, politics, and journalism, Brown began writing lyrics in earnest while holding down a day job selling insurance. He's written and recorded numerous albums for Columbia, RCA, Atlantic, and others, while his acclaimed stage shows include "Kicks & Co.," "Big Time Buck White," and "Opportunity Please Knock." Among those singing his praises are Studs Terkel, Abbey Lincoln, Amiri Baraka, Nichelle Nichols, and Al Freeman Jr. And, as numerous mesmerizing performance clips indicate, this lyricist, poet, activist, playwright, actor, vocalist, and all around raconteur is still going strong. "My aim," he says, "is to deliver messages that swing and entertainment which is meaningful." By this criteria, the life and work of Oscar Brown Jr. are on target.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Friday, April 28, 7:00 pm, Regal Cinemas

Saturday, April 29, 9:15 pm, Regal Cinemas

★ In Person: Director Donnie Betts



FILMFEST DC FOR KIDS — FREE!

My Brother Is a Dog



Peter Timm

Germany, 2004, 93 minutes, color

There's nothing that ten-year old Marietta wants more for her birthday than a little dog. But what does she get instead? A silly old rock. This rock is special, however; it fulfills its owner's greatest wish. And sure enough, one morning Marietta wakes up to find a little dog waiting to play with her. But when she notices that her four-year-old brother Tobias is missing, she realizes that he has been transformed into the dog. With their parents away and grandma too obsessed with cleaning to notice that anything's wrong, Marietta begins to feel lonely and does her best to turn "Toby" the dog back into "Tobias" the boy. But Tobias apparently likes being a dog, especially after a film crew discovers the talented mutt and offers him a role in a production.—*Bavaria Film*



IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sponsored by **citibank**

Saturday, April 22, 10:30 am, National Gallery of Art, FREE

Sunday, April 23, 11:30 am, National Gallery of Art, FREE

My Uncle Killed A Guy



Meu tio matou um cara

Jorge Furtado

Brazil, 2005, 85 minutes, color

Fifteen-year-old Duca (Darlan Cunha), the only black kid in his school, is a keen observer of human nature. When his uncle Eder (Lazaro Ramos) admits to Duca's parents that he's shot the husband of his lover, the boy's natural curiosity kicks in. Duca methodically gets to the bottom of the mystery, aided and abetted by would-be girlfriend Isa (Sophia Reis) and chum Kid (Renan Gioelli). Forty-seven-year-old writer-director Jorge Furtado (*Two Summers*, FFDC 2004) makes disarmingly simple films about the ways in which young people navigate the mysterious and often hazardous world around them. *My Uncle Killed a Guy* raises probing questions under the guise of comedy. Caetano Veloso's peppy score includes a lovely cover version of Talking Heads' "Nothing But Flowers."—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 7:00 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

Sunday, April 23, 8:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Brazil

★ In Person: Star Darlan Cunha

Netto

Robert Thalheim

Germany, 2005, 86 minutes, color

Marcel was a small-time electronics repairman in the former Communist era and now splits his time between the rundown shop and a Vietnamese café, where he holds court ranting against globalization and dreams of becoming a security expert. When his 15-year-old computer-savvy son arrives from the west as a protest against his remarried and newly-pregnant mother, the stage is set for a father-son showdown that illustrates not only the still-wide gulf between east and west, but the good old-fashioned generation gap that transcends politics. Graced with an unshake-



able fondness for its eccentric characters, the film is scored to the music of 1970s icon Peter Tscherinig, Germany's answer to Johnny Cash. *Netto* is

the kind of focused, immensely satisfying character study that used to be the backbone of European art-house fare.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 6:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Sunday, April 23, 8:30 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

■ Co-presented with the Goethe-Institut

CAPITAL FOCUS AWARD

October 17, 1961

Nuit noire, 17 octobre, 1961

Alain Tasma

France, 2005, 108 minutes, color

Those who know their contemporary French history or those who were prompted to research the topic after it was used in Michael Haneke's *Cache (Hidden)* are already familiar with the events of October 17, 1961. After seven years of war, negotiations between Algerian nationalist forces and the De Gaulle government were at a stalemate. In the late summer and early fall of that year, forces from the National Liberation Front assassinated Paris police in retaliation for the "dirty war."

Tensions boiled over during a supposedly peaceful demonstration, and under shoot-to-kill orders between 50 and 200 marchers were killed. To this day, the massacre has not been officially investigated. Director Alain Tasma's terrifying recreation of these events brings to mind the visceral power of similar films, *Battle of Algiers* and *Bloody Sunday* chief among them.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN FRENCH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 9:00 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Monday, April 24, 8:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema



CINEMA FOR SENIORS — FREE!

Only the Strong Survive



Chris Hegedus, D.A. Pennebaker

USA, 2002, 95 minutes, color



Only the Strong Survive is a tribute to rhythm and blues performers who have stood the test of time and their inspirational stage performances. The film features knockout performances from such R&B legends as Wilson

Pickett, Isaac Hayes, Jerry Butler, the Chi-Lights, Carla Thomas, Mary Wilson, Ann Peebles, and many more, as well as interviews in which the artists discuss the ups and downs of their lives in music. *Only the Strong Survive* also features performance footage of Memphis R&B pioneer Rufus Thomas, who died at the age of 84 less than two months before the film was completed.

—*Pennebaker Hegedus Films*

Sponsored by **citibank**

Tuesday, April 25, 10:00 am, Avalon Theatre, FREE

Opa!

Udayan Prasad

United Kingdom/Greece, 2005, 97 minutes, color

The newest film from Udayan Prasad (*My Son the Fanatic*, FFDC 1999) is a charming, light-hearted delight. Matthew Modine plays Eric, an American archaeologist obsessed with proving his dead father's theories about the beautiful, fabled Greek island of Patmos. He arrives there one day on a packed ferry, convinced he has discovered the location of an archeological goldmine. All business at first, Eric quickly comes to learn that life is lived more easily on Patmos. The first eccentric character he meets is his father's old friend, Tierney, a bumbling excavator and ouzo addict. His life is further complicated when he falls in love with the vivacious owner of the local taverna.



Unfortunately, he cannot tell her that the buried chalice lies immediately beneath her restaurant.—*Noah Cowan, Toronto International Film Festival*

Sunday, April 23, 6:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Tuesday, April 25, 8:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

Passion

Baba el makam

Mohammad Malas

France/Tunisia/Syria, 2005, 102 minutes, color

Thirty-year-old Imane lives with her husband, Adnan, and three children in a modest house across from the historic city of Aleppo. Adnan is a simple, hard-working man, but his job in the civil service doesn't pay enough to support his family so he moonlights as a taxi driver. With less time to spend with his family, Imane takes to listening to the songs of Um Kalthoum and develops a great passion for the legendary Egyptian singer. She tries singing herself, first timidly, then with more assurance and pleasure. Her greatest joy is to comb the bazaar for cassettes of Um Kalthoum. Her husband is thrilled by the transformation of his wife and encourages her new passion. Her uncle, however, is suspicious of this new passion. Could she be seeing another man? They decide to follow her.—*IMDB*



IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tuesday, April 25, 8:30 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Thursday, April 27, 8:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Pelé Forever



Pele eterno

Aníbal Massaini Neto

Brazil, 2005, 110 minutes, color

In a small Brazilian village in 1950, a young boy listened to the World Cup soccer final on a transistor radio with his father. When Uruguay pulled off a 2-1 victory over the Brazilian team, the man broke down sobbing, prompting the 10-year-old to console his father with the promise that he would one day help Brazil win the World Cup. Thus began the legend of Pelé. In an amazing career, spanning two decades and nearly 1,400 games, Pelé dribbled, lobbed, stutter-kicked, faked, cannonballed, and headered his way into the hearts of soccer fans. His grace, skill, work ethic, and uncontrollable enthusiasm for the game allowed him to deliver on that promise to his father. The film combines first-person narration with stunning highlight footage. The syncopated beat of Brazilian samba music perfectly sets off the amazing acrobatics."—*P.E. Thomas, AFI Fest*



IN ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wednesday, April 26, 8:30 pm, Regal Cinemas

Thursday, April 27, 8:45 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Brazil

★ *In Person: Director Aníbal Massaini Neto*

Piaf: Her Stories...Her Songs



George Elder

USA, 2003, 95 minutes, color and black & white

French singer Edith Piaf (1915–1963) rose through sheer talent and determination from humble beginnings to become one of the most famous and highest-paid performers in the world. Her spirit lives in Raquel Bitton, one of the greatest interpreters of the music from the Edith Piaf repertoire. "It was never about the tragedies," she explains in her charming voiceover. "To me, it was always about the music and the stories in the songs. They grabbed me by the heart and never let me go." During the course of Bitton's stage show, in which she performs 20 of Piaf's classic songs and tells stories about the singer's extraordinary life, this heartfelt tribute weaves vintage film clips and photographs plus the memories of friends and collaborators in Paris and elsewhere into the story of a legend.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Sunday, April 23, 4:00 pm, Embassy of France

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of France

★ *In Person: Filmmaker, Writer, Star Raquel Bitton and Producer Gerald Prolman*



The Piano Tuner of Earthquakes

Timothy Quay, Stephen Quay

United Kingdom/Germany/France, 2005, 99 minutes, color and black & white

Welcome back to the startlingly singular and seductively beautiful world of the brothers Quay and their first feature in a decade. Intense and beautiful opera singer Malvina van Stille is murdered onstage in mid-performance by diabolical inventor Dr. Emmanuel Droz, who spirits the corpse off to his seaside mountaintop retreat. Droz is planning a "diabolical opera" starring the muse as a kind of mechanized nightingale. What he can't foresee is Malvina's instant attraction to titular technician Felisberto. From the delicate machinery that provides animated interludes to the demented groundskeepers, the desaturated colors and lush soundtrack produce a world that could only exist in the minds that created the magnificent *Street of Crocodiles*.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN ENGLISH AND PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Monday, April 24, 6:30 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

Return of the Poet



Harutyun Khachatryan

Armenia, 2006, 88 minutes, color

The American premiere of this feature-length documentary on Armenia's 19th century folk poet Ashugh Jivani eloquently traces the creative process to the accompaniment of a richly evocative and haunting soundtrack. Jivani is given a new life in the film—first through a sculptor who step by step creates his image and later as a statue roaming around the countryside, exposed to all elements on the back of a truck. It's as if we see Armenia through the poet's eyes and work. The pride of the nation acquires shape in the attitude of the sculpture.—*Rotterdam International Film Festival*



IN ARMENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Shown with

Roads of Kiarostami

Abbas Kiarostami

Iran, 2005, 20 minutes, black & white

This is a short experimental work that Abbas Kiarostami made almost en passant. Yet another thoughtful piece from the Iranian master, the film combines poetry, photography, classical music, and cinema with the leitmotif of the road.—*Rotterdam International Film Festival*

IN FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 30, 4:30 pm, National Gallery of Art, FREE

An Advertising Supplement to *The Washington Post*

Rice Rhapsody

Hainan jifan

Kenneth Bi

Hong Kong/Singapore/Australia, 2004, 105 minutes, color

Rice Rhapsody is a warm and witty comedy and a flavorful Southeastern Asian dish. Single mom Fan Jen, whose Hainan Chicken Rice restaurant is the most famous in Singapore's Chinatown, has worked hard to raise three sons. Two of her sons, a successful businessman and a hairdresser, are proudly gay. Worried that her teenager is spending too much time with a cycling chum, she conspires to take in beautiful French exchange student Sabine—who turns out to be a vegetarian and an animal rights activist. Meanwhile, she manages the attentions of smitten rival restaurateur Tan Kim-chui (celebrity chef Martin "Yan Can Cook" Yan). In spite of it all, Fan Jen remains positive and upbeat.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN MANDARIN, ENGLISH, SINGLISH, AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 28, 6:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

CAPITAL FOCUS AWARD

Romeo and Juliet Get Married

O casamento de Romeu e Julieta

Bruno Barreto

Brazil, 2005, 92 minutes, color

This sparkling, Shakespeare-inspired comedy is the bouncy tale of a star-crossed couple whose allegiances to competing soccer teams can't stand in the way of their love. Successful lawyer and sports addict Alfredo (Luis Gustavo) is such a huge fan of São Paulo's real-life Palmeiras football club he's the chairman of the organization and has even named his daughter Juliet: "Juli" for Julinho, and "et" for Echevarietta, two of the team's most famous players. One day, as her beloved Palmeiras plays their arch-rival Corinthians, Juliet is smitten with ophthalmologist Romeo, who just happens



to run the Corinthians' lusty band of boosters. As he did in his canny 2000 sex comedy *Bossa Nova*, director Bruno Barreto kicks things off at breakneck speed and rarely pauses for breath; if Preston Sturges had made movies in Portuguese, they'd look and sound a lot like the dazzling *Romeo and Juliet Get Married*.—Eddie Cockrell

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Brazil

★ In Person: Director Bruno Barreto



Sunday, April 23, 6:00 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Monday, April 24, 6:00 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue



Scene Not Heard

Maori Karmael Holmes

USA, 2005, 44 minutes, color and black & white

Scene Not Heard is a kaleidoscopic overview of a movement at once vibrant and nationally overlooked. "Philly is soul; Philly has always been," explains one of the mostly female performers, promoters, and DJs interviewed by director Maori Karmael Holmes. "Hip-Hop is incorporated in that soul." The film coalesces around The Black Lily, a performance space within the city's hot Five Spot club that hosted a female-centric open mic jam from 1999 to 2005. "Do we have to be in a bikini in the background?" wonders poet Ursula Rucker. "Is that all we're good for?" On the strength of this eye-opening, performance-filled tribute to a scene that must be heard, the answer is obvious.—Eddie Cockrell



■ Shown with **Beyond Beats and Rhymes**

Saturday, April 22, 7:00 pm, Regal Cinemas
Sunday, April 23, 8:45 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Hip-Hop Association

★ In Person: Director Maori Karmael Holmes for April 22 screening only

The Second Wedding Night

La seconda notte di nozze

Pupi Avati

Italy, 2005, 103 minutes, color

This gentle, comedic melodrama set in post-war Italy focuses on Giordano, an Apulian "Forrest Gump," who gets a chance to relive his adolescent infatuation with his sister-in-law, Lilliana, when she returns to the family estate in the south as a war widow. Prodded by the poverty of the immediate post-war period and her sly son Nino, she attempts to see if there is any love left in her for Giordano. Most of the laughs come from the hilarious antics of Nino and the two sour aunts who live with Giordano. The combination of the pitch-perfect performance of Antonio Albanese as Giordano and the intelligent script (written by the director) gives the film much of its emotional leverage.—Boyd van Hoeij, *europeanfilms.net*



IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 28, 9:00 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Saturday, April 29, 9:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

■ Co-presented with the Italian Cultural Institute

SHORT CUTS

Be Quiet

Sameh Zoabi
France/Palestine, 2005, 19 min., color

A strong-willed boy and his complacent father journey home to Nazareth to attend a family funeral.

Hiro

Matthew Swanson
Canada, 2005, 19 min., color

A shy Japanese insect collector finds himself thrust into a wild chase to recover a stolen beetle.



Saturday, April 22, 6:30 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

50 Cents

Mathijs Geijskes
Holland, 2005, 5 min., color

As she walks past a homeless man, a young woman asks herself: If I give him some change, what will he do with it?

Meander

Joke Liberge
Belgium, 2005, 14 min., color

A group of teenagers enjoy a summer's day by the riverside.

Nothing Special

Helena Brooks
New Zealand, 2005, 11 min., color

In this black comedy, a young man tries desperately to be normal and "nothing special" despite his mother's image of him as something more.

Moonglow

Peter Ghesquiere
Belgium, 2004, 15 min., color

A mother shields her son from learning the truth about his father's death by telling him that his father has taken a trip to the moon.



Kitchen

Alice Winocour
France, 2005, 14 min., color

A young woman attempts to make a special lobster dinner for her disinterested husband, with comically disastrous results.

CAPITAL FOCUS AWARD

Swindled

*Incautos**Miguel Bardem**Spain/France, 2004, 110 minutes, color*

Swindled is a crackerjack thriller from start to finish, a showpiece for strutting actors and a merry string of double-crosses and fake-outs. Mamet goes to Madrid in this stylish Spanish spin on *The Sting*. "I've always conned people," says smooth thief Ernesto (Ernesto Alterio) with pragmatic pride. "That's my job." Forged by an early talent for lying in Catholic school, Ernesto falls into three-card monte scams with talented loose cannon Gypsy (Alejandro Casaseca) but is taken under the wing of elderly gentleman swindler Fingers (Manuel Alexandre) when Gypsy is jailed. Fingers, in turn, takes Ernesto to master con artist Federico (the great Federico Luppi). Together with femme fatale Pilar (Victoria Abril) and newly-sprung Gypsy, the unstable mob plans the con to end all cons. "I was going to be an actor," shrugs one unapologetic felon, "but this pays better."—Eddie Cockrell



IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 9:00 pm, Avalon Theatre
Saturday, April 29, 7:15 pm, Avalon Theatre

Tapas

*Jose Corbacho, Juan Cruz**Spain, 2005, 84 minutes, color*

Five interlocking stories of love, desperation, dependence, and tolerance are expertly juggled in a delightful bittersweet comedy. Welcome to L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, the other side of tourist-saturated Barcelona, where summer is in full swing, tempers are fraying, and everybody's looking to get away. Shopkeeper Raquel (Elvira Mínguez) has suffered a very public separation and is searching for love on the Internet. Meanwhile, bar-owner Lolo (Ángel de Andrés) is slowly driving his wife-cum-short-order-cook to walk out on him and the bar. César (Rubén Ochandiano) and Opo (Dario Paso) are planning to escape the drudgery of supermarket shelf-stacking for a bit of adventurous backpacking and Mariano (Alberto de Mendoza) is battling illness while his wife (María Galiana) finds imaginative ways of making ends meet.—*Maria Delgado, Times London Film Festival*



IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, April 20, 7:00 pm, Regal Cinemas
Friday, April 21, 9:00 pm, Regal Cinemas

This Is Bossa Nova:
The History and Stories*Coisa mais linda: história e casos da bossa nova**Paolo Thiago**Brazil, 2005, 129 minutes, color*

This Is Bossa Nova: The History and Stories focuses on the Brazilian musical form born in the early 1950s that would attain international recognition in 1962 with a memorable concert at New York's Carnegie Hall. Two of the great living composers from this movement, Roberto Menescal (composer of the classical "O Barquinho") and Carlos Lyra (of the timeless "Lobo Bobo, Coisa Mais Linda" and "Voce e Eu") share their anecdotes and musings about this unforgettable era. The music composed in that period would revolutionize Brazilian popular music composition in melody, harmony, and arrangements. More than forty years later, Bossa Nova has earned acclaim throughout the world. The film's participants include Carlos Lyra, Roberto Menescal, Iko Castro Neves, Lenny Andrade, and many more.—*Palm Springs International Film Festival*



IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 5:30 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Brazil

CAPITAL FOCUS AWARD

Three Times

*Zuihaode shiguang**Hou Hsiao-hsien**Taiwan, 2005, 130 minutes, color*

Full of magical moments that capture fleeting pleasures and transient emotions, *Three Times* is Hou Hsiao-hsien's most seductive film. Each of its three "chapters" stars Shu Qi and Chang Chen and—is set in a different year. In 1911, Shu Qi is a tea-house courtesan worrying about her prospects of marriage. Chang Chen is her regular customer, an activist who visits Taiwan between fundraising trips to Japan and dangerous forays into China. In 1966, Chang Chen is a young man in the military service who chases Shu Qi from one pool hall to the next. And in 2005, she's a bisexual rock chick (actually a singer who keeps having epileptic episodes) and he's a photographer; both are involved with other people when they begin their dangerous liaison. The "fashions" of love change through the years, Hou suggests, but the underlying emotion stays the same.—*2005 Vancouver International Film Festival*



IN MANDARIN AND TAIWANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 8:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Sunday, April 23, 6:00 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

To Die in San Hilario

*Morir en San Hilario**Laura Mana**Spain, 2005, 103 minutes, color*

To Die in San Hilario is an oddball piece of whimsy in which Laura Mana returns to the magical realist terrain of her widely praised debut, *Compassionate Sex* [FFDC 2001]. San Hilario's toad-like mayor, Mariano, is seeking to revive the town's reputation as a place where people go to die happy. Following a failed bank heist, a crook named German (Lluís Homar) escapes with the booty and jumps from a train at the god-forsaken pueblo, where he is surprised to receive a warm welcome from the townspeople, who are waiting for someone else named German. From then on, it's standard mistaken-identity fare as German edges toward redemption, involving Esther, a widow, a doubting priest (Juan Echanove), and wannabe artist Teodoro. *To Die in San Hilario* was nominated for Best Catalan Film of 2005 by the Butaca Awards.—*Jonathan Holland, Variety*



IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Monday, April 24, 8:45 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema
Tuesday, April 25, 6:15 pm, Landmark's E Street Cinema

CAPITAL FOCUS AWARD

U-Carmen
eKhayelitsha*Mark Dornford-May**South Africa, 2005, 126 minutes, color*

U-Carmen eKhayelitsha is a rousing musical that transports Bizet's famous opera "Carmen" into the dust and lust of Cape Town's Khayelitsha township. In this adaptation, Carmen works in a cigarette factory. Her Don José is Jongikhaya, a policeman set to marry another woman. Director Mark Dornford-May first mounted this African "Carmen" on stage, and the film version shows a depth that goes beyond the mere "what if?" It integrates local rhythms, movement, and color, and draws on South Africa's already strong vocal tradition. The result is a remarkable synthesis; when Pauline Malefane sings the "Habanera" early on in the film, she makes the familiar utterly new. In fact, the entire Dimpho Di Kopane lyric theatre company brings such passion and invention to its performance that *U-Carmen eKhayelitsha* demands to be appreciated on its own terms.—*Cameron Bailey, Toronto International Film Festival*

IN XHOSA WITH ENGLISH

Saturday, April 22, 6:30 pm, Regal Cinemas
Monday, April 24, 6:30 pm, Regal Cinemas

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

Underground Game

Jogo subterraneo



Roberto Gervitz

Brazil, 2005, 105 minutes, color

Eccentric São Paulo nightclub pianist Martin amuses himself with a game: Using his extensive knowledge of the city's subway grid, he chooses lines and stops at random. He then follows women traveling the same itinerary on the blind chance one of them will be the love of his life. He meets beguiling tattoo artist Tania and blind writer Laura, but it's not until he spots neurotic model Ana that the underground game really begins; she's even crazier than Martin is. Part *Dark Side of the Heart*, part *Sliding Doors*, this seductive noir is stylishly adapted from the short story "Manuscript Found in a Pocket" by Argentine author Julio Cortazar. Keep your eyes peeled next time you're on the Metro; this sleekly modernist tale is sure to have a local ripple effect.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Monday, April 24, 6:45 pm, Regal Cinemas
Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 pm, Regal Cinemas

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Brazil

★ *In Person:* Director Roberto Gervitz

Water

Deepa Mehta

Canada, 2005,
117 minutes, color

Water is a profoundly moving drama about an eight-year-old Hindu widow, Chuyia, sent to live in an Indian ashram with other widows who, in strict adherence with Hindu texts, are condemned to the same outcast fate regardless of their age. It's 1938 India, and the progressive ideas of Mahatma Gandhi are working their way across the country. But behind the walls of the ashram, young Chuyia forges allegiances with foul-tempered Madhumati, beautiful Kalyani, and her eventual savior, deceptively quiet Shakuntala. The final film in Deepa Mehta's thematically linked "Elemental Trilogy" (1996's *Fire*, 1998's *Earth*), this deeply satisfying film shows no sign of being the second pass at production following a 2000 shutdown in the wake of on-set riots sparked by Hindu fundamentalists. The strife, which prompted recasting and reshooting under a fake production title, has toughened the director's focus and resulted in the best film of her career to date.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 6:00 pm, Avalon Theatre

■ Co-presented with the Embassy of Canada

★ *In Person:* Director Deepa Mehta

A World Without Thieves

Tianxia wu zei

Feng Xiaogang

China/Hong Kong, 2005, 112 minutes, color

The nimble thriller *A World without Thieves* is the new film from director Feng Xiaogang (*Cell Phone*, FFDC 2005). Wang Li and Wang Bo are a married couple of con artists who score a BMW from an interpreting scam and promptly drive to the Labrang Monastery to lift cell phones from unsuspecting worshippers. When Wang Li becomes fed up with life on the hustle, the couple split, only to reunite on a train boarded by a naïve villager with a sizeable cash nest egg. The trip is disrupted by Uncle Li and his gang of master grifters, the most ambitious of who takes an immediate and carnal shine to Wang Bo. The stage is set for a complex series of character-driven crosses and double crosses, culminating in the inevitable showdown between Uncle Li and Wang Bo.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 6:30 pm, Regal Cinemas
Saturday, April 29, 6:30 pm, Regal Cinemas

Wrong Side Up

Pribehy obycejneho silenstvi

Petr Zelenka and his friends

Czech Republic,
2005, 107 minutes,
color

A morose freight worker at Prague's international airport, Peter still pines for lost love Jana after six months, even as his stodgy father David, formerly a voiceover artist for socialist era propaganda films, finds escape from Peter's flighty mother via a close friendship with a free-spirited sculptor. As these eccentric comedies play themselves out, Peter's being paid on the side to watch new neighbors Alice and Jerry have sex. "Hey, it's a job like any other," he tells Jana. One-of-a-kind Czech filmmaker Petr Zelenka is back with another fable of gently skewed humanism. Adapted from his immensely popular 2001 stage play "Tales of Common Insanity," *Wrong Side Up* preserves the intimate feel of the director's wry approach to life and relationships; thus his ongoing credit: A film by Petr Zelenka and his friends.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN CZECH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Monday, April 24, 8:45 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Thursday, April 27, 8:30 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue

Zozo

Josef Fares

Sweden/Denmark, 2005, 102 minutes, color

During the 1987 height of the Lebanese civil war, 10-year-old dreamer Zozo waits with his family in Beirut for the tickets and passports that will take them to join his grandparents in Sweden. When tragedy strikes, the boy must rely on his own pluck to make the passage, only to find that Sweden isn't the paradise he'd been led to believe it was. Writer/director Josef Fares, himself a first-generation Lebanese immigrant to Sweden, is well-known to Filmfest DC audiences for his comedies *Jalla! Jalla!* and *Kopps*. In this film, magnificent widescreen photography graphically evokes the horrors of war in



Lebanon and the deceptive peace of Scandinavia, while skillful editing accommodates a wide range of human emotions.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ARABIC AND SWEDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 6:45 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue
Saturday, April 22, 6:45 pm, AMC Loews Wisconsin Avenue



Photos: Chad Evans Wyatt

Left to Right: Kandace Laas, Darin Kinzer, Jacqueline Lenchek, Tuan Tran, Linda Posell, Bertha Hall, Constance Blackwell, Jonathan Lifland, Martina Gauss, Jared Traver, Robyn Thoeleke, Bill McLeod, Bahram Zandi

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Wrong Side Up
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F: 420 220 806 353
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**Bling: Consequences &
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Inventos: Hip Hop Cubanos
Clenched Fist Productions
www.clenchedfistproductions.com

Kitchen
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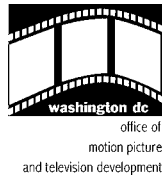
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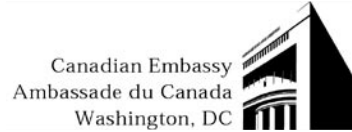
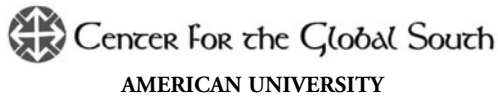
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Christina Choe
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