

THE 22ND ANNUAL WASHINGTON, DC
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

APRIL 24 – MAY 4, 2008



FILMFEST DC



WELCOME TO FILMFEST DC

THE WASHINGTON, DC INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

A world of films...a window into our world.

Whether experienced in movie theaters, on DVDs or television in our homes, on our iPods or computers, films are the major communications media of our time. Hollywood films dominate commercial cinema. However, scores of talented filmmakers around the globe produce thousands of quality films that speak with a different voice, provide a different point of view, and tell different stories. Presenting these films in the nation's capital is the purpose of Filmfest DC.



Photo: Chad Evans Wyatt

Tony Gittens, Festival Director and Shirin Ghareeb, Assistant Director

Film festivals are a journey of discovery, a visual and thought provoking adventure into how people see and interpret our world. Every Filmfest DC is different and every film is unique from every other film in the festival. Together, they comprise an amazing representation of human imagination, commitment and talent.

The festival has two special focuses this year — Politics & Film and New Latin American Cinema. Obviously, politics are especially prominent during this election season and we wanted to explore the role affairs of state play in people's every day lives. Latin American filmmakers are always a treasure trove of inventive storytelling. The diverse selection of new work we have gathered from the Spanish-speaking world (including Spain) are moving, humorous, and insightful.

None of this would be possible without the many dedicated people who have shared their time and talents with Filmfest DC. To all of our sponsors, staff, and volunteers, we owe an immense amount of gratitude.

Films evoke beauty, mystery, and fun. We produce this festival for you and invite you to join us for this celebration honoring the art form we so love. We trust you will find the festival entertaining and enlightening and look forward to seeing you at the movies.

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

Theatre Locations

AMC Mazza Gallerie

5300 Wisconsin Avenue, NW

Take Metro Red line to Friendship Heights.
 Street parking available.

Avalon Theatre

5612 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Take Metro Red line to Friendship Heights.
 Street parking available.

Landmark's E Street Cinema

555 11th Street, NW

Take Metro Red, Orange, or Blue line to Metro Center. Theatre entrance on E Street between 10th and 11th Streets. Three hours reduced-rate parking available in adjacent garage with validation, Monday through Friday after 6 PM and anytime on weekends.

Regal Cinemas Gallery Place

701 7th Street, NW

Take Metro Blue, Green, Orange, Red, or Yellow lines to Gallery Place/Chinatown. Three hours free parking with validation at Gallery Place Parking on 6th Street between G and H.

Other Locations

Busboys & Poets

2021 14th Street, NW

Take Metro Green line to U Street/Cardozo.

Historic Lincoln Theatre

1215 U Street, NW

Take Metro Green or Yellow Line to U Street/Cardozo.

French Embassy

4101 Reservoir Road NW

Street parking available.

National Gallery of Art

East Building Auditorium, 4th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW

Take Metro Green or Yellow Line to National Archives/Navy Memorial.



Tickets

General Admission is \$10.00.
 Special Admissions are noted.

Tickets are available through Tickets.com by  calling (800) 955-5566 between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM Monday – Sunday, and online at www.tickets.com. No Tickets.com sales the day of the show.

Tickets may also be purchased online at the Filmfest DC Web site www.filmfestdc.org and at all Olsson's Books and Records and CD Game Exchange stores.

Tickets are also available at each theatre one hour before the first show of the day. Cash or check sales only at the theatres. Free events are on a first come, first serve basis, with no reservations accepted or tickets required.

Passes

Director's Pass: Ten-ticket package valued at \$100.00 will be discounted to \$80.00.

Weekday Pass: Four-ticket package valued at \$40.00 will be discounted to \$30.00. Admission to screenings Monday through Thursday.

Both passes available through Tickets.com by phone and online only (not applicable for Opening and Closing Nights or Special Events).

For more information go to

filmfestdc.org



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.filmfestdc.org

202 234 film



Two Ladies

Dans la vie

Philippe Faucon

France, 2007, 73 minutes, color



“The world could learn a thing or two about getting along from the two ladies in this nicely observed film about an unlikely friendship,” said the *Hollywood Reporter*. Refreshingly low-key and naturalistic, *Two Ladies* is a benevolent, affecting drama about diversity and

tolerance. Set in France, the film introduces us to a young, modern Arab nurse, Selima (Sabrina Ben Abdallah), who cares for an elderly Jewish woman. Despite her reputation for being difficult, Esther (Ariane Jacquot) ends up getting along well with Selima. Although from different cultures and religions, they both share an Algerian background. Selima then brings her mother, Halima (Zohra Mouffok) into the mix to help care and cook for Esther. The two charming elderly women get along well, but tensions come to a head when Halima is ostracized in her neighborhood for financing a pilgrimage to Mecca with the money she’s earning. *Two Ladies* is full of marvelous moments and engaging surprises. If there’s an over-arching theme to this year’s selection, it may well be the understanding that comes from tolerance. With that in mind, there’s no better Opening Night presentation than the keenly observed *Two Ladies*. —Eddie Cockrell

IN FRENCH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thurs., April 24, 7:00 PM, Historic Lincoln Theatre,
followed by gala reception, \$40.00

★ *In Person: Director Philippe Faucon, Stars Ariane Jacquot and Zohra Mouffok, and Producer Yasmina Nini-Faucon*

Sponsored by
KPMG

Shall We Kiss?

Un baiser s'il vous plait

Emmanuel Mouret

France, 2007, 100 minutes, color

“Before a kiss has been given,” someone says near the clever conclusion of this delightfully droll comic romp, “nobody knows if it’ll be big or small.” And therein, as we all know, lies the challenge. One day, on a Nantes street corner, local Gabriel (Michael Cohen)



bumps into fabric designer Emilie (Julie Gayet), who’s new in town. One thing leads to another, and they have dinner. Nervously asking for a good night kiss, Gabriel is instead regaled with a story: it seems that one of her chums, lab worker Judith (Virginie Ledoyen), became unexpectedly involved with her best friend, schoolteacher Nicolas (mopey auteur Emmanuel Mouret). Wishing to spare Judith’s partner Claudio (Steffano Accorsi) from the pain of separation, they endeavor to set him up with Nicolas’ newly jilted significant other, Caline (Frederique Bel). Problem is, the more Judith and Nicolas attempt to quantify and quash their *l’amour fou*, making everyone happy in the process, the more variables of the heart spring up to bring them together. One of the runaway hits of FFDC 2007 was *Change of Address*, the charmingly eccentric story of crossed lovers from the filmmaker who, with his fourth feature, has only solidified his place in modern French cinema as a distinctive cross between Eric Rohmer and Woody Allen. For anyone who’s ever entered into an affair against their better judgment, and for anyone who’s found themselves enmeshed in emotional entanglements from which there seems to be no escape, *Shall We Kiss?* was made to make you feel better about that predicament. For the rest of us, it’s just a fitting *finale* to another great 2 weeks of film. See you next year.—Eddie Cockrell

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sun., May 4, 4:00 PM, Regal Cinemas,
followed by a party at Bar Louie, \$15.00

✦ Co-Presented with
the Embassy of France

New Latin American Cinema

The filmmakers of Latin America continue to be a rich source of exciting, inventive cinema. While film production in many Latin American countries is tiny and not considered a major industry, Brazil, Argentina, and Mexico have long histories of producing both populist box office hits and initiating groundbreaking movements like the Third Cinema and Cinema Novo. Often made on relatively minuscule budgets, in small markets and under difficult circumstances, these films demonstrate a wealth of talent and imagination.



This Filmfest selection is by no means a comprehensive survey. There are many Latin American countries not represented here. This is because our city is fortunate to have Washington's Latin American Film Festival, which presents an excellent wide-ranging program every year. Films in this series were selected because they represent themes related to national identity while addressing wider concerns.



Basic Sanitation, the Movie humorously tells of a small group's struggle to make a relevant movie, an experience shared by so many filmmakers from this region. *The Pope's Toilet* depicts one man's continuous frustration as he tries to take advantage of perceived new economic opportunities. The haves and have-nots in *La Zona* are separated by an actual wall and clash when one side accidentally interacts with another. Is it worth going home again, asks *Calle Santa Fe*? These films are both entertaining and insightful. They are rooted in the national cultures, people and realities of a geographical area, but speak a universal language.

Politics & Film



Film can play a key role in bridging the gap between cultures. It can make us aware of approaches to the human experience other than our own. No matter where we live, government plays in our daily lives — often to our benefit, often not. The subject is unavoidable. Not just during election season and not only in the nation's capital, but wherever people come together.



The works gathered in this series are diverse, yet each seems to ask the same question: What happens to the human spirit, the personal sense of self, in the face of power politics? Does this engagement make us more committed (*Children of Glory*), or corrupt (*Mon colonel*)? Is politics always confrontational (*War & Democracy*) or can it call forth the best in us (*Beyond the Call*)? Some of the filmmakers in this series are straightforward (*The Bread Winner*), while others tell a story where power dynamics lurk in the background (*Buddha Collapsed*).

Like all of the films in the Filmfest DC, the Politics & Film series gives a view from the inside, and not surprisingly, what we see there is humanity not too unlike our own.

Directors' Roundtable

Each year, a group of international filmmakers converge at Filmfest DC for screenings of their films and interaction with each other and our audiences. Join the festival's guest directors for an informal discussion of their working styles and the contrasting conditions under which their films are made.



Sat., April 26, 4:00 PM
Busboys & Poets, FREE



Visit any Latin Concepts Restaurant including Ceviche or the Chi Cha Lounge for a free appetizer or cocktail with your Latin Cinema ticket stub throughout the Festival, \$10 value.
www.latinconcepts.com

Patti Smith



Every year, Filmfest DC focuses on the collaboration of music and film by showcasing a number of features and documentaries highlighting major international musical artists.

Global Rhythms is made possible thanks to the support of 94.7 The Globe.



Don't miss the special presentation of Patti Smith: Dream of Life with special guest star Patti Smith.

April 25, 9:30 PM, Historic Lincoln Theatre (see page 33 for details)

94.7 THE GLOBE

www.947theglobe.com

Global Rhythms Sponsored by 94.7 The Globe

Listen to win tickets to the screenings!



Festival Fété!

French Embassy screening of *Tell No One* and a reception on April 30. See details on page 37.

LEGEND

Look for the following icons throughout the catalog.



Capital Focus Award



Global Rhythms



Cinema for Seniors



New Latin American Cinema



Filmfest DC for Kids



Politics & Film

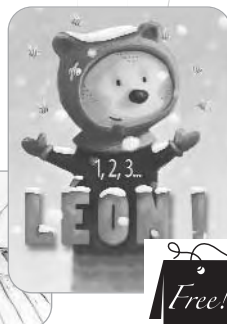


Free

Filmfest DC for KIDS

FREE screening of *1, 2, 3... Leon* from France for children 3 years old and up.

See details on page 31.



Capital Focus Award



The Capital Focus Award is a juried competition of selected films deserving of increased recognition. Films in competition were selected by the Festival's Programming Committee and the winner will be determined by a jury of accomplished film professionals.

Films selected for this year's competition are:

- * *The Girl by the Lake* (Italy)
- * *Late Bloomers* (Switzerland)
- * *Paloma Delight* (Algeria/France)
- * *The Pope's Toilet* (Uruguay/Brazil)
- * *Tuya's Marriage* (China)
- * *Unfinished Stories* (Iran)
- * *We Are Together* (UK)
- * *La Zona* (Spain/Mexico)

The Awards Jury is comprised of:

- * Susan Barocas, Competition Coordinator
- * Manjula Kumar, *Smithsonian Institution*
- * Arnie Lutzker, *Entertainment Attorney*
- * Andrew Mencher, Programming Director, *Avalon Theatre*
- * Peggy Parsons, Curator, Department of Film Programs, *National Gallery of Art*



Circle Audience Award

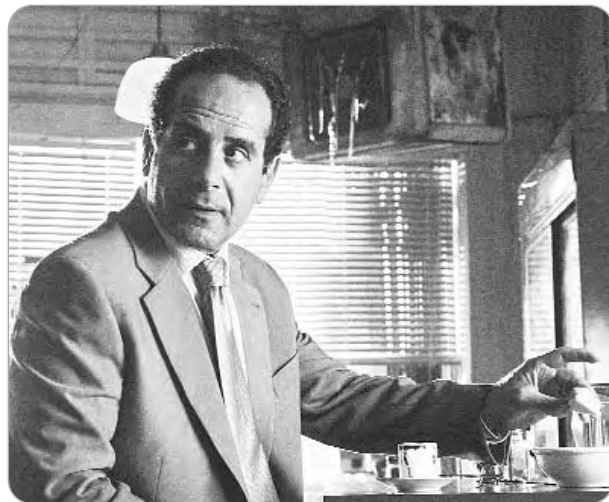
Founded by Ted and Jim Pedas, Washington's Circle Theatres set the standard for innovative quality film programming. Filmfest DC will present an award to the feature film voted the most popular by our audience. Ballots will be available after each screening.

The winners for both the *Circle Audience Award* and the *Capital Focus Award* will be announced on Closing Night.

AmericanEast

Hesham Issawi

USA, 2007, 111 minutes, color



When he's not trying to prevent his son from converting to Christianity or police his teenaged daughter's druggie friends, Egyptian restaurateur Moustafa juggles the demands of his run-down café with tangled family obligations. And although everyone's against the idea of him opening a classy joint with Jewish pal Sam, Muslim Moustafa has faith—until a gung-ho FBI agent detains him at the airport. Proving once again that comedy is the best medicine, *AmericanEast* is a tonic for racial intolerance and suspicion, an affirmation of Arab-

American pride and resolve in the land of the free. With a strong cast headlined by Tony Shalhoub, who won an Emmy for his television role as *Monk*, Anthony Azizi from *Lost* and *Commander In Chief* and co-scripter Sayed Badreya, *AmericanEast* maintains a palpable tension between social point-making and workaday soap opera. The result is a solid, homegrown Muslims-in-our-midst tale.—*Ronnie Scheib, Variety*

Sat., April 26, 7:00 PM, Regal Cinemas
Sun., April 27, 5:00 PM, Regal Cinemas

★ In Person: Director Hesham Issawi and Stars Anthony Azizi, Sayed Badreya, and Nasser Faris
✦ Co-Presented with the Issa Family Foundation and Majida Mourad

La Antena

Esteban Sapir

Argentina, 2007, 98 minutes, black and white

Fans of Guy Maddin, Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*, and the silent film aesthetic in general won't want to miss Argentine writer-director Esteban Sapir's thrilling homage to the form. *La Antena* takes place in "Year XX," where the population of the "City without a Voice" has become brainwashed by the broadcasts and products of Mr. TV (Alejandro Urdapilleta) to the point where no one, save the faceless mystery woman in Mr. TV's broadcasts, can speak. When she's kidnapped, it's up to The Inventor (Rafael Ferro) and a group of patriots to save the day. As visually imaginative as Lang's landmark, as feverish as any of Maddin's personal and impassioned sagas, *La Antena* also pays tribute to such film icons as Dziga Vertov, Dick Tracy, the brothers Melies and Quay, *The Bride of Frankenstein*, and a host of others. This is a film with an imagination at once wild and boundless.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tues., April 29, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Wed., April 30, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema



✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of Argentina

Avatars:

The First Person of New Media

This program will look at new developments in digital media art. Works will explore the concepts of the first person, identity, and communication in the digital age.

Sneak Peek

Shawn Rider, 2008, 5.5 minutes

A special sneak peek exclusive for FFDC attendees!

What It Means To Be From Idaho

Shawn Rider and Sarah Wichlacz, 2003, 4 minutes
Video elements use animated still photographs, text, and location-specific audio to create an abstract video poem.

10 Simple Steps to Your Own Virtual Sweatshop

Jeff Crouse and Stephanie Rothenberg, 2008, 8 minutes

This short explores the growing intersection between labor, emerging virtual economies, and real-life commodities through the creation of a designer jean sweatshop in the metaverse Second Life.

Involuntary Reception

Kristin Lucas, 2000, 17 minutes

A double-image, double-edged report from a young woman lost in the telecommunications ether.

Stranger Comes to Town

Jacqueline Goss, 2007, 29 minutes

They say there are only two stories in the world: man goes on a journey, and stranger comes to town.

Mon., April 28, 6:00 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

★ In Person: Curator Joanna Raczynska and Director Shawn Rider

Ballerina

Bertrand Normand

France, 2007, 77 minutes, color

A portrait of five different Russian ballerinas from the Mariinsky Theatre, formerly known as the Kirov Ballet, *Ballerina* captures the sublime glamour of the form in all its resplendent glory. Behind the ravishing performances lies the discipline and rigor involved in the training of some of Russia's pre-eminent dancers. The history of the ballet is the history of Russia; past superstars such as Vaslav Nijinsky, Anna Pavlova, and Mikhail Baryshnikov, established the reputation of Russian dancers as some of the best in the world. The ethereal creatures of silk and steel that glitter and glissade onstage seem worlds away from the sweat, pain, and hard work of the rehearsal studio—but one cannot exist without the other. Scenes from some of the most famous ballets are given breathtaking life as the women perform around the world.—*26th Vancouver International Film Festival, '07*

IN RUSSIAN, ENGLISH, AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., April 25, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre
Sat., April 26, 7:00 PM, Avalon Theatre

★ In Person: Director Bertrand Normand



Basic Sanitation, the Movie

Saneamento basico, o filme

Jorge Furtado

Brazil, 2008, 112 minutes, color

In order to stem "the smell of poop" in the river that runs through the Italian immigrant village of Crystal Line in Brazil's Rio Grande do Sul, Marina Marghera Figueiredo applies for government money to build a new sewer. Unfortunately, there are no funds allocated for sanitation, but there is a sizeable grant available to make a 10-minute fiction video. After much bickering with affable husband Joaquim and dad Otaviano, they decide to write and produce "The Sewer Monster" as a way to get the money to clean the river. After a series of critical and commercial successes, including FFDC favorites *Two Summers* and *The Man Who Copied*, director Jorge Furtado has made an affectionate, comic romp about endearingly star-struck locals who pay their extras in bananas and shoot in sequence because they don't know what editing is.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., April 25, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas
Sat., April 26, 7:00 PM, Regal Cinemas



✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of Brazil

Beyond the Call



Adrian Belic
USA, 2006, 81 minutes, color

A rousing documentary about three profane thrill-seekers on a sacred mission to cut through humanitarian red tape to deliver

food, medicine, and supplies to civilians in the world's trouble spots, *Beyond the Call* profiles former U.S. Army medic Ed Artis and the work of his organization, Knightsbridge International. "We're not in the God business," the plain-talking Artis proclaims. "We don't want to change their politics or religion. It must be high adventure and it must be humanitarian. And it's got to be in an area where few would ever go. If it doesn't hit that criteria, we're not interested." Or, later, as he more succinctly puts it, "Look around. You see any other sumbitch here?" *Genghis Blues* co-director Adrian Belic followed Artis and his two equally eccentric colleagues to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Thailand, and the Philippines. The images he captures are incredible and inspirational.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Sat., April 26, 4:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Sun., April 27, 3:00 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

★ In Person: Director Adrian Belic

Blood Brothers
Tiantang kou

Alexi Tan

Taiwan/China/Hong Kong, 2007, 95 minutes, color

Sergio Leone goes to Shanghai in this widescreen underworld saga set in 1930s China by way of a studio backlot and produced by John Woo. Three smalltown chums—romantic Feng (Daniel Wu), ambitious armbreaker Kang (Liu Ye), and Kang's kid brother Hu (Tony Yang)—head off to Shanghai for money and women; landing at the Gate of Paradise nightclub, they're soon working for the ruthless Boss Hong (Sun Honglei) and ogling his lover, beautiful club singer Lulu (Shu Qi). In short order, blood is boiling and bullets are flying as action set pieces vie with Deco musical numbers. With stunning craft services by production designer Alfred Lau (2046), veteran costumer Tim Yip (*A Better Tomorrow*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*), and cinematographer Michel Taburiaux, this is an extraordinary package. A good, old-fashioned, highgloss crime melodrama.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN MANDARIN AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., April 25, 9:30 PM, Regal Cinemas
Sat., April 26, 10:00 PM, Regal Cinemas



Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame

Buddha as sharm foru rikht

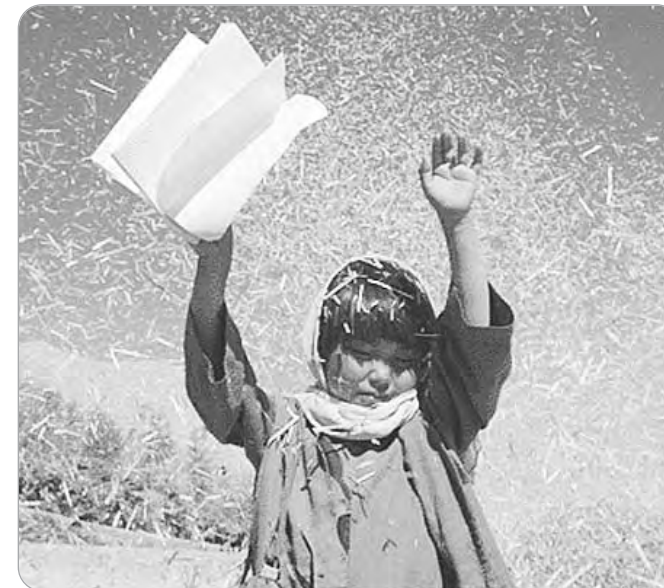
Hana Makhmalbaf

Iran, 2007, 81 minutes, color

Winner of the Crystal Bear for the best first feature and the Peace Film Award at the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival, *Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame* possesses an innocent simplicity that belies the shrewd eloquence of its anti-war message. In March of 2001, the Taliban blew up a massive pair of fifth-century Buddhas carved into the side of a mountain in central Afghanistan's Bamyan valley. Six-year-old Baktay lives with her family in the caves surrounding the gaping holes where the statues used to be. Determined to attend the girls' school across the river, the beautiful child must trade stolen eggs for pen and paper while enduring the cruel taunts of local boys.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Mon., April 28, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre
Sat., May 3, 7:00 PM, AMC Mazza Gallerie



The Bread Winner

Sonia Nassery Cole

USA, 2007, 23 minutes, color

In 2004, activist and filmmaker Sonia Nassery Cole, in Kabul to coordinate relief efforts on behalf of her Afghanistan World Foundation, found her taxi stuck in traffic. As she inched forward, a 9-year-old boy, Farouk, offered to sell her newspapers and calendars. Haunted by the purity of the smile she received in return, Cole spent the next 3 days trying to track the youth down and subsequently made this documentary about one boy's efforts to support a family whose patriarch was disabled by the Soviets during their 1979 invasion of Afghanistan.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN DARI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 5:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema, Immediately followed by a panel.

★ In Person: Director Sonia Nassery Cole and Marco Vincenzino, founder and director of the Global Strategy Project



Calle Santa Fe

Carmen Castillo

Chile/France/Belgium, 2007, 163 minutes, color and black and white

Calle Santa Fe was the Santiago street where filmmaker Carmen Castillo and her companion, MIR leader Miguel Enriquez, were hiding out when discovered by Pinochet's forces a year after the coup of September 11, 1973. Enriquez was killed, and the injured and pregnant Castillo was sent into exile. Before these tragedies occurred, the street was also the place of her greatest happiness: living with her children and the man she loved, fighting on the right side of history, and embracing domesticity. Although Castillo has since returned to Chile as a visitor, she has made her life in Paris as an activist. Her film is a frequently agonized attempt to come to terms with her loss, her country, and the ultimate meaning of her long exile. It is also an acute examination, sparing herself least of all, of the successes and failures of the left.—*26th Vancouver International Film Festival, 2007*

IN SPANISH AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., April 25, 9:00 PM, Avalon Theatre
Sun., April 27, 7:30 PM, Avalon Theatre





Chaos
Heya fawda
Youssef Chahine,
Khaled Youssef
France/Egypt, 2007,
126 minutes, color

A passionate condemnation of societal corruption and apathy daringly pitched and played as an overheated melodrama, *Chaos* is the subversive new film from the grand master of Egyptian art cinema, Youssef Chahine. Following a tumultuous riot in a lower-middle-class Cairo neighborhood between students and violent cops, district attorney Sherif throws cases out as fast as they come in. Meanwhile, brutal police chief Hatem screams "I am the government!" at the prisoners he throws into a secret underground cell. When a woman, schoolteacher Nour, comes between them, the battle for power turns almost operatic. The populist *Chaos* ringingly answers the question posed by *Variety's* Jay Weissberg: "Why make a movie about police brutality and corruption when the people who need to see it are filling the multiplexes?" Precisely.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

★ *In Person:* Asaad Kelada, television producer and director and protégé of Youssef Chahine

✦ Co-Presented with the Center for the Global South, American University

Fri., May 2, 8:30 PM, Avalon Theatre
Sat., May 3, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Children of Glory
Szabadsag szerelem



Krisztina Goda
Hungary/United Kingdom,
2006, 123 minutes, color



A sweeping historical epic set against the backdrop of the 1956 Hungarian revolution, Krisztina Goda's powerfully realized drama is remarkable for its immense sweep, uncanny attention to detail. Student protest leader Viki (Kata Dobo) and water polo star Karci (Ivan Fenyó) fall in love as the violence escalates. Both resolve to resist in their own way—she by staying home and fighting and he by journeying to the Melbourne Olympics, where the Hungarian team really did engage in a ferocious match with the Russians. The scope of the fighting in the streets of Budapest is truly impressive, while the relationship between Viki and Karci has the ring of truth; their blossoming love is completely believable amidst the carnage. Goda's film stands as a fitting, and wonderfully cinematic monument to the courage demonstrated by the Hungarian people.—*2008 Palm Springs Film Festival*

IN HUNGARIAN AND RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Mon., April 28, 8:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Wed., April 30, 8:30 PM, Regal Cinemas



The Contestant
El concursante



Rodrigo Cortes
Spain, 2007, 88 minutes, color

Winner of the Critics Award at the most recent Malaga festival, *The Contestant* is a high-octane satire of materialism and the global banking system, the white-hot directorial debut of young Rodrigo Cortes stars Leonardo Sbaraglia as economics lecturer Martin. Winning the largest TV quiz show prize ever, the hapless new moneybags discovers his profession can teach him nothing about navigating the treacherous waters of the nouveau riche. Martin turns to a deceitful lawyer and a Marxist economist for help; the latter has a monstrously funny sequence in which he explains how banks exist only to terrorize the average guy. Ironically, Cortes' background in advertising imbues the film with the same kind of glossy, rapid-fire aesthetic he's meant to be condemning, which adds to the fun.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thurs., May 1, 8:45 PM, Regal Cinemas
Fri., May 2, 9:00 PM, Regal Cinemas

The Edge of Heaven
Auf der anderen Seite



Fatih Akin
Germany/Turkey,
2007, 120 minutes,
color

Winner of the screenplay prizes at the 2007 Cannes festival and the European Film Awards, *The Edge of Heaven* thrums with the urgent business of full lives being led even as cultural divides are grappled with. Hamburg University professor Nejat, at first bemused to find his father involved with Yeter, a hard-as-nails Turkish prostitute, is horrified when tragedy strikes and Yeter is accidentally killed by his dad. Partly out of curiosity and partly to assuage his guilt, Nejat sets off to Istanbul to find Yeter's daughter, Ayten. Unbeknownst to him, she's a political activist befriended by Lotte, the liberated daughter of more conservative and middle-class Susanne. As these lives dovetail and criss-cross, *The Edge of Heaven* explores the conundrum of the contemporary immigrant. Clearly, the time is right for the ascension of German-born Turkish filmmaker Fatih Akin, who offers a benevolent look at multicultural challenges in today's world from a card-carrying insider.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN GERMAN, TURKISH, AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., May 2, 9:00 PM, AMC Mazza Gallerie

Egg
Yumurta
Semih Kaplanoglu



Turkey/Greece, 2007,
98 minutes, color

This film is a wonderful, sensitive, realistic, and poetic return to one's past. It is also the journey of a city man back to his roots and memories. Yusuf (Nejat Isler), a bookstore owner and poet living in Istanbul, receives a phone call informing him that his mother has died. He returns to his hometown, after several years of absence, to arrange the funeral. In his family home he meets Ayla (Saadet Isil Aksoy), the young woman who took care of his mother during the last years of her life. The poet notices the young woman's charm and is touched by it. Contact between the two is almost non-verbal, but there is a growing understanding between them. When Ayla tells Yusuf about his mother's last wish, he at first hesitates to fulfill it, but later agrees and the two set off on a mission.—*2008 Rotterdam Film Festival*

IN TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sun., April 27, 2:30 PM, Regal Cinemas
Tues., April 29, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

✦ Co-Presented with the AFOT/The American Friends of Turkey



Emma's Bliss
Emma's glueck

Sven Taddicken
Germany, 2006, 101 minutes, color

"I don't need anybody," feral farmgirl Emma (dazzling newcomer Jordis Triebel) tells local cop and would-be suitor Henner (Hinnerk Schone-mann), despite the fact she's insolvent and is about to lose the spread. Enter, via a spectacular auto wreck, distraught used-car salesman Max (Juergen Vogel), on the run with ill-gotten dealership cash and the pancreatic cancer that's going to kill him. From this unlikely pairing comes an unpretentious love story orchestrated by second-time director Sven Taddicken (*My Brother, the Vampire*) to portray the spectacular chemistry of the two leads with trademark widescreen imagination. Winner of the coveted Bavarian Film Award as well as the audience prize at the 2006 Hamptons International Film Festival, *Emma's Bliss* is possessed of a certain felicitousness that is memorable and infectious.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sun., April 27, 8:00 PM, Avalon Theatre
Tues., April 29, 8:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Elite Squad

Tropa de elite

Jose Padilha

Brazil, 2007, 118 minutes, color



Elite Squad is a controversial winner of the top prize at this year's Berlin Film Festival. In the slums of Rio de Janeiro, the drug-dealing lowlifes and the Brazilian police have a tangled, volatile relationship. The 100-man BOPE elite squad of law-enforcing commandos has its own death's-head logo on black uniforms, appropriate gear for a task force whose mission is to shoot first and ask questions later. Team leader Nascimento (Wagner Moura, light years removed from

the genial country bumpkin he plays in *Basic Sanitation, the Movie*) is about to retire but first must deal with a pair of idealistic rookies, a brutal drug dealer, and a rave party that brings the unstable factions together. *Elite Squad* is the memorable first dramatic feature for director Jose Padilha, whose *Bus 174* was an audience favorite at the 2003 FFDC. The film is also Brazil's top-grossing film of 2007, a visceral, polarizing thrill ride in which law has very little to do with order.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thurs., May 1, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Sat., May 3, 9:30 PM, Avalon Theatre



Empties

Vratne lahve

Jan Sverak

Czech Republic/United Kingdom/Denmark, 2007, 100 minutes, color

From the father-son writing-directing-acting team behind the Oscar®-winning Czech film *Kolya* comes a mellow new dramatic comedy about the challenge of relationships against the backdrop of unwanted societal change. Having left teaching on less than amicable terms, cantankerous

Prague horndog Josef Tkalous (screenwriter Zdenek Sverak) finds himself stuck at home with long-suffering linguist wife Eliska (Daniela Kolarova). He ends up in the beer bottle return department of a new big-box supermarket, where he can observe and insert himself in the lives of co-workers, friends, and strangers. Conceived as the conclusion of a trilogy that began with *Elementary School* (childhood) and continued with the phenomenally successful *Kolya* (middle age), the message of *Empties* is "be true to yourself at any cost"—even if you're a natural contrarian.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN CZECH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., May 2, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Sat., May 3, 7:00 PM, Avalon Theatre

✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of the Czech Republic

Fados

Carlos Saura

Spain/Portugal, 2007, 92 minutes, color

More than 15 years ago, legendary Spanish director Carlos Saura initiated a series of musical documentaries that has resulted in such popular and riveting titles as *Flamenco* and the Oscar®-nominated *Tango*. *Fados* continues in the tradition;

Saura has set himself the challenge of painting a faithful portrait of the Portuguese soul through its most emblematic musical genre. Using Lisbon as a backdrop, the film explores the intricate relationship between the music and the city and fado's evolution over the years from its African and Brazilian origins to the new wave of modern *fadistas*. The film features one of the finest world-music soundtracks to date, gathering the best of new Portuguese talent like Mariza and Camané, foreign legends like Caetano Veloso and Chico Buarque, up-and-coming stars Lila Downs and Lura, and a dozen others.—*26th Vancouver International Film Festival, 2007*

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., May 2, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

Sat., May 3, 7:00 PM, Regal Cinemas

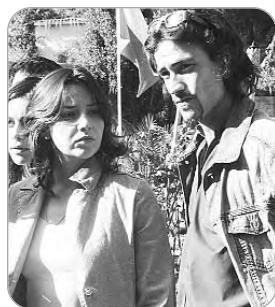
The Fall

Tarsem Singh

India/United Kingdom/USA, 2006, 118 minutes, color and black and white

This unclassifiable work from music video superstar Tarsem Singh is easily the most visually innovative in recent memory. He has created 2 hours of astonishing images with color palettes that literally dazzle the viewer with their complexity. Roy Walker, an injured stunt man, is convalescing in an austere hospital. A respite from his deep depression comes in the form of a little girl named Alexandria, who broke her arm while picking apples. They make a deal: he will tell her the most fantastic story imaginable and she will steal morphine from the hospital pharmacy for him, just in case he cannot take it any more. So begins an extraordinary tale featuring five heroes, each from a different corner of the globe. *The Fall* was filmed in 23 countries and features a cast of thousands. This is the power of cinema at its grandest and most expansive. Awe awaits.—*2007 Toronto International Film Festival*

Fri., May 2, 8:30 PM, Regal Cinemas



Fiestapatria

Luis R. Vera

Chile/Peru, 2007, 102 minutes, color



Ex-Army officer Antonio (Nelson Brodt) and his wife Isabel (Marcela Osorio) are throwing a party on Independence Day at their weekend house to celebrate the marriage of their daughter Macarena (Adela Secal) to young Alvaro (Tiago Correa). Arriving for the festivities, Alvaro's Uncle Ernesto (Patricio Contreras) drops a bombshell involving Isabel's past—and that's not the party's only revelation. Peripatetic 56-year-old Chilean-born writer-director Luis R. Vera (*Miss Amerigua, Bastards in Paradise*) has always been a proponent of novelistic storylines that twist and turn amongst an engaging group of characters. Add to that his abiding interest in the political ups and downs of his home country, and *Fiestapatria* emerges as one celebration full of surprises.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wed., April 30, 8:45 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Thurs., May 1, 8:45 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

The Girl by the Lake

La ragazza del lago

Andrea Molaioli

Italy, 2007, 95 minutes, color



In an idyllic village in the Italian Dolomites, a pretty young girl has been found dead. Veteran Inspector Giovanni Sanzio (Toni Servillo), an outsider, begins to work the case. The more he and local native son Siboldi (Fausto Maria Sciarappa) dig, the more locals they find with opportunity and motive. This absorbing thriller, which bears plot echoes of the woefully underrated *Gone Baby Gone*

and even *Away From Her*, is confidently adapted from Karin Fossum's Norwegian novel "Don't Look Back," the first in an extraordinarily successful series of police procedurals featuring Inspector Conrad Sejer. Anchored by Servillo's complex, nuanced performance, the crisp widescreen photography of Argentinian Ramiro Civita, and a resonantly ethereal score by Teho Teardo, this absorbing procedural won two awards at the 2007 Venice festival. Molaioli sets a troubled tone from the start, suggesting that this idyllic landscape holds disturbing possibilities.—*Jay Weissberg, Variety*

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 7:00 PM, AMC Mazza Gallerie
Wed., April 30, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Great American Entertainers



Michael Chertok

Various years, 75 minutes

Michael Chertok has presented archival film programs throughout the U.S. and in Europe and Canada. He returns to FFDC this year with a tribute to Hollywood and early television, featuring remarkable performers from the world of music and dance. Featured singers include Ella Fitzgerald, the young Sarah Vaughan, Jimmy Rushing (Mister Five by Five himself), Nat "King" Cole and his trio, Dinah Washington, Helen Humes, and the incomparable Billie Holiday. The program then segues into the immortals of jazz dance, featuring performances



by Tip, Tap & Toe (and the sensational slide technique of Raymond Winfield), Whitey's Lindy Hoppers, the comedy dance of Stump and Stumpy, the Nicholas Brothers, Peg Leg Bates, John Bubbles, and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. The show's climax is a review of performers who mix music and humor: Fats Waller, Louis Jordan, Martha Davis, Cab Calloway, and the one and only Louis Armstrong.

Tues., April 29, 10:00 AM, Avalon Theatre, FREE

Heavy Metal in Baghdad



Eddy Moretti, Suroosh Alvi

Canada/USA, 2007, 92 minutes, color

This documentary about one band's attempts to survive, much less gig, in war-torn Iraq answers the question "What's the heavy-metal music scene like in Baghdad?" Acrassicauda is a quartet named for the Latin word meaning "black scorpion." Although they managed but three shows prior to the 2003 invasion, they were smart enough to pen "The Youth of Iraq," an anthemic tribute to Saddam Hussein that kept the dictator's pressure largely off them and their music. The band's most affable and eloquent spokesman is bassist Firas al Lateef, whose firm rejection of sectarian violence—he's a Sunni, his wife's Shiite—is as political as the film gets. Otherwise, co-director and onscreen narrator Suroosh Alvi is more interested in the band's day-to-day survival as they regroup in Damascus, Syria, to cut their first sides. "What's the vibe now?" Alvi asks at one point, suggesting that this isn't your father's wartime documentary.—*Eddie Cockrell*



Fri., April 25, 9:00 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Sun., April 27, 8:00 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

The Home Song Stories

Tony Ayres

Australia, 2007, 103 minutes, color

This affecting drama of immigration and assimilation speaks to everyone who's ever searched for a better life. Writer-director Tony Ayres' perceptive autobiographical drama, which is dedicated to his mother, follows Tom's tumultuous childhood with sister May (Irene Chen) as the children follow their restless single mother Rose (Joan Chen) from 1964 Hong Kong to Melbourne to Sydney and back to Melbourne, where in 1971 they settle—if that's the word—with patient sailor Bill (Steven Vilder) and his suspicious mother Norma (Kerry Walker). By now a seasoned 10, Tom is all too aware of Rose's tempestuous behavior and the path down which it's taking her family. When illegal Chinese immigrant Joe (Qi Yuwu) enters the picture, the fragile balance is disrupted.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ENGLISH, CANTONESE, AND MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sun., April 27, 8:00 PM, Regal Cinemas
Mon., April 28, 8:30 PM, Regal Cinemas



✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of Australia

I Just Didn't Do It

Soredemo boku wa yattenai



Masayuki Suo
Japan, 2007, 143 minutes, color

It was a surprise that Masayuki Suo made nothing for 10 years after *Shall We Dance?*, his hit comedy-drama about the closeted world of Japanese ballroom dancing.

Even more surprising, he has broken his long silence with this impassioned drama about the structural weaknesses and blatant hypocrisy of Japan's legal system. Kaneko Teppei is traveling to his first job interview on a crowded Tokyo train when he's accused of groping a schoolgirl. The system urges him to confess and have done with it, but he protests his innocence and plunges into a months-long nightmare of imprisonment, court hearings, adjournments, reenactments, and interviews with lawyers and cops. This is a sober, gripping account of the way a system perpetuates itself—a system, that is, without juries, in which judges are promoted on the basis of the number of guilty verdicts they reach.—*26th Vancouver International Film Festival, 2007*

IN JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tues., April 29, 8:15 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Wed., April 30, 8:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

I'll Show You the Town

Harry A. Pollard

USA, 1925, 103 minutes, black and white

With live musical accompaniment:
Premiere of new organ score by **Dennis James**



English comedic actor Reginald Denny resettled in Hollywood when he was 28 and immediately became a beloved star of many now-forgotten American comedies. In *I'll Show You the Town*, a poor young professor (Denny) is interrupted from his work on a book and becomes caught in a web of scandal and disgrace. After extricating himself with some fast talking and high stepping, he eventually finds his true love. Declared one reviewer in 1925, "There are situations here that defy anyone to keep a straight face."—*Stanford Theatre Foundation Collection*

Sat., April 26, 4:00 PM, National Gallery of Art, FREE

★ In Person: Pianist Dennis James



In the Name of God

Khuda ke liye

Shoaib Mansoor

Pakistan, 2007, 171 minutes, color

In the Name of God is the controversial new film that has garnered international tension for tackling delicate issues of religious intolerance and cultural frictions. In contemporary Lahore, a rift develops between two musician brothers: Sarmad (Fahwad Khan) aligns with a fundamentalist sheikh, while Mansoor (Shaan) moves to Chicago. Meanwhile, their uncle in London tricks his westernized daughter, Mary (Pakistani model Iman Ali) into an arranged marriage to Sarmad. In the wake of 9/11, their lives are thrown into upheaval. The highest-grossing domestic film of all time, *In the Name of God* recently became the first Pakistani film in decades to open commercially in India.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN URDU AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sun., April 27, 12:30 PM, Avalon Theatre
Tues., April 29, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

★ In Person: Director Shoaib Mansoor and Star Shaan



Now four direct flights to Pakistan, effective May '08

Jade Warrior

Jadesoturi/Yu Zhanshi



Antti-Jussi Annila

Finland/The Netherlands/China/Estonia, 2006, 104 minutes, color

Jade Warrior is an often bizarre, bracing, and wildly successful mixture of a traditional Chinese martial-arts film and laconic Finnish auteur cinema that nails its central conceits so perfectly that it feels entirely natural for a contemporary Finn to be fighting an ancient demon in medieval China. A sad-sack part-time ironmonger has been abandoned by his girlfriend. When she tries to dump his collection of Asian knick-knacks at a local antique dealer, she sets off a chain of events that implicates them in a mythical history. The ironmonger turns out to be a majestic prince, destined to fight

the last of the great demons, an unnameable force that keeps human beings in bondage. Sensational swordplay and fantastical happenings converge simultaneously on a rural house outside Helsinki and in the misty mountains of remote China until the truth about a puzzling contemporary archaeological find is finally revealed.—*Noah Cowan, 2006 Toronto International Film Festival*

IN FINNISH AND MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wed., April 30, 8:00 PM, Avalon Theatre
Fri., May 2, 8:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

Jazz in the Diamond District

Lindsey Christian

USA, 2007, 79 minutes, color

Directed with flair by Duke Ellington School for the Arts graduate Lindsey Christian and shot entirely in the District of Columbia, *Jazz in the Diamond District* thrums with the insider sights and pulsating sounds of Washington, a.k.a. the Diamond District. Ambitious young singer Jasmine "Jazz" Morgan, who works at Ben's Chili Bowl, defies her doctor dad and spends one long summer immersed in the D.C. music scene. Triumphant at an impromptu audition in front of a packed audience, she becomes the lead singer of the hottest group in town, The District Legend Band. But, as Jazz learns from manager Gabe and shady MC Flight, ambition comes with a price. The propulsive go-go soundtrack features music from UnCalled 4 Experience, hip-hop stars Likeblood Entertainment, and R&B chanteuse Chris.—*Eddie Cockrell*



Sun., April 27, 4:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

* In Person: Director Lindsey Christian

**The Journey:
The Greek American Dream**



Maria Iliou
*Greece, 2007,
87 minutes, color and
black and white*

A happy hymn to all things Hellenic, producer-director Maria Iliou's *The Journey* is the lovingly told, meticulously researched story of how the 400,000 Greek immigrants who flooded through Ellis Island from the 1890s to the 1920s played a key role in making America great without losing sight of who they were and from whence they came. Fanning out from shoeshine parlors and street vending in New York to Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Chicago, Detroit and beyond, the first wave of Greeks who arrived in America had to overcome prejudice from the U.S. government, which initially classified them as Orientals, to the Ku Klux Klan, who saw them as not quite white. Marrying dazzling archival footage to the picaresque narration of a dozen or so Greek scholars, historians, politicians, and artists, *The Journey* is a celebration of Greece and a tribute to the success of Greek Americans.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Thurs., May 1, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

★ In Person: Director Maria Iliou

Katyn

**Andrzej
Wajda**

*Poland, 2007,
121 minutes, color*



One of the Final Five in this year's Foreign Film Academy Award® field, *Katyn* offers a path of catharsis through the trauma of history. Made by 81-year-old grand master of Polish filmmakers Andrzej Wajda, the film tells the long-suppressed story of the killing of 20,000-plus Polish military officers—including the director's father—by Russian troops at the end of World War II. *Katyn* opens with two groups of panicked citizens colliding on a bridge: one is fleeing the Nazis, the other, victims of Stalinism, are fleeing the Russians. Afterward, Wajda follows the fates of four families whose lives are pulled apart after the atrocity itself and the 1945 Soviet cover-up of it. Four of Wajda's works have been nominated for an Academy Award for best foreign language film. In 2000, he received an honorary Oscar® from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Wajda also won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1981 for *Man of Iron*.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN POLISH, RUSSIAN, AND GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., April 25, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

Sun., April 27, 7:00 PM, Regal Cinemas

✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of Poland



Kill Them All

Matar a todos

Esteban Schroeder

Uruguay/Chile/Argentina, 2007, 97 minutes, color

In this political thriller, Julia Gudari (Roxana Blanco), a prosecutor in Montevideo, is appointed to investigate the report of a Chilean citizen who sought help from the Uruguayan police before mysteriously disappearing. Her investigation sets in motion a strange chain of events that point to an international conspiracy connected to Pinochet's regime. As she probes deeper, Julia discovers that her father, General Gudari, and her brother, also a captain in the Uruguayan army, may know more than they are willing to disclose about the case. Working alongside exiled Chilean journalist Jimenez (Patricio Contreras), Julia starts to piece together the dangerous puzzle. Her search for truth leads her to confront her own unresolved past and tests the boundaries of her closest relationships. The film has the immediate pull and urgency of real-world political intrigue, personal and familial betrayals, and dirty deals.—*2008 Palm Springs Film Festival*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 4:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

Sat., May 3, 4:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

King of Ping Pong

*Ping pong
kingen*

Jens Jonsson

*Sweden, 2007,
120 minutes, color*



Winner of the Sundance World Cinema jury prizes for best dramatic feature and the gauzy pastels of Askild Vik Edvardsen's widescreen photography, *King of Ping Pong* is, to swipe an observation from *Variety* critic Dennis Harvey, a cross between *Napoleon Dynamite* and *My Life as a Dog*. As spring break commences in the deep freeze of his snowbound Swedish village, portly 16-year-old dweeb Rille is on the cusp of great change. An introspective disciplinarian who coaches ping pong at the local youth center to a gaggle of kids including his more extroverted and popular younger brother Erik, Rille also broods a lot about the home beauty parlor business being ineptly set up by his big-boned mother and whether his emotionally erratic oil rigger father is really his dad. Debuting director Jens Jonsson emerges with a hermetically sealed world view of hyperreal adolescent shenanigans.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SWEDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., May 2, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

Sat., May 3, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

Late Bloomers

Die herbstzeitlosen

Betina Oberli

*Switzerland, 2006,
90 minutes, color*



In the "determined underdog" tradition of *The Full Monty*, *Calendar Girls*, and *Chocolat* comes this rich Swiss confection about realizing your dreams. Nine months after her grocer husband's passed away, 80-year-old former seamstress Martha (Stephanie Glaser) decides to transform their modest shop in her picturesque Emmmental valley village into a saucy lingerie business called "Little Paris." The new enterprise shocks her circle of gal chums and obnoxiously pious minister son, all of whom, of course, have dirty laundry of their own. Switzerland's official entry for this year's foreign film Oscar® sweepstakes, this immensely assured, finely calibrated feature film is an across-the-board crowd-pleaser, a mellow yet wry reverie on small-town politics and family that wears its heart proudly on its, uh, garter.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN HIGH GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., May 2, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Sat., May 3, 9:00 PM, Regal Cinemas

✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of Switzerland



Lost Moon

Khoya khoya chand

Sudhir Mishra

India, 2007, 125 minutes, color

The Golden Age of Hindi cinema in India is the backdrop for the love story between actress Nikhat (Soha Ali Khan) and writer-director Zafar (Shiney Ahuja). As Nikhat goes from fledgling extra to starlet, Zafar liberates her from the stronghold of a powerful actor, but as she climbs the ladder of success to stardom, he starts to use her for himself as well. Not unlike the glamorous heyday of Hollywood, this magic world of 1950s Bollywood was filled with harsh realities on the road to stardom. It was an industry flooded with passion as actors put their lives on the line every time they made a film, and an exhilarating era populated by awe-inspiring legends—moguls and divas with their scandals, tragedies, and public triumphs—who wanted nothing less than immortality.—*2008 Palm Springs International Film Festival*

IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 3:00 PM, Avalon Theatre

Sat., May 3, 4:00 PM, Avalon Theatre

Made in Jamaica



Jérôme Laperrousaz
France/USA, 2006,
120 minutes, color

Jamaica is a nation of only 3 million people, yet its music can be heard in every corner of the world. Creatively, it is a superpower, and *Made in Jamaica* shows why. The film brings together a dream list of musicians, including Gregory Isaacs, who offers a majestic elegy to slain musician Bogle, Bounty Killer, who speculates on what drives young men from poor neighborhoods to gun violence, and Lady Saw, who explains how liberating it is to outperform men when it comes to raw, sexual lyrics. Sound systems pound out deep-bass “rid-dims” on street corners, in yards, and on Jamaica’s famous beaches, as Bunny Wailer, Beres Hammond, Third World, Toots, and Capleton chant lyrics of resistance and redemption. The crowd is always a part of the show, and this film delivers all the shocking outfits and eye-popping circumlocutions of the human body intrinsic to the dance hall.—*Cameron Bailey, 2006 Toronto International Film Festival*

Fri., April 25, 6:30 PM, Historic Lincoln Theatre
Sat., May 3, 9:00 PM, Regal Cinemas

★ *In Person:* Producer Charlotte Lawrence

Madrigal

Fernando Perez
Spain/Cuba, 2007,
112 minutes, color



Here’s the acclaimed new film from *Havana Suite* auteur Fernando Perez. Good-looking but insecure Javier is a wannabe writer and actor in a theater group in which girlfriends Eva and Angel also perform. One night, they are playing to a single audience member, overweight teen Luisita, who stands up mid-act and leaves. Javier tracks the God-fearing, morgue-working, romantic Luisita down to her apartment, where the two of them indulge in the first of several leisurely conversations. Javier reports back to Eva, who half-jokingly suggests that he should seduce and then poison Luisita so they can have her apartment. Instead, Javier finds himself curiously drawn to the ugly duckling Luisita. The last 20 minutes of the film portray an action-packed, erotic vision of a Havana in 2020 in which bodily pleasures are the only ones left.—*Jonathan Holland, Variety*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tues., April 29, 8:30 PM, Landmark’s E St. Cinema
Thurs., May 1, 6:30 PM, Landmark’s E St. Cinema

The Matador

Stephen Higgins, Nina Gilden Seavey

USA, 2008, 75 minutes, color



A crooked grin the highlight of his boyish good looks, 21-year-old David Fandila, “El Fandi,” has wanted to be a bullfighter since commandeering his mother’s dishtowels for faux corridas in the back garden of his childhood home in Granada, Spain. With a dancer’s grace, ice water in his veins, and a rock and roll approach to the centuries-old tradition, “El Fandi” is poised to become just the 13th matador in hundreds of years to notch up 100 bullfights in a 5-month season. To those who reject the ritual as what an admirer calls “beautiful savagery with an artistic grace,” Fandila points out “at Christmas, turkeys are carved, then eaten... It’s a free country.” The newest film from Washingtonian Nina Gilden Seavey, whose *The Ballad of Bering Strait* won the Audience Award at FFDC 2002, *The Matador* is the riveting, 3-year story of Fandila’s rise to the top.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Mon., April 28, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas
Wed., April 30, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

★ *In Person:* Producer and Co-Director Nina Gilden Seavey

Mister Foe

Hallam Foe

David Mackenzie

United Kingdom, 2007, 95 minutes, color



Packed with stylish detail, this adaptation of Peter Jinks’ novel is an unforgettable gem. Hallam (Jamie Bell) lives with his father and stepmother in a lavish but lonely country home. His projects include spying on the neighbors in flagrante and trying to implicate his stepmother in his mother’s mysterious death. Time to leave home, perhaps, but a new life in Edinburgh brings new confusion, in the comely form of Kate (Sophia Myles). Brilliantly directed by David Mackenzie, the maverick talent behind *Young Adam* and *Asylum*, *Mister Foe* is a fiercely original romance, as charming on the surface as it is dark at heart. It’s also a major breakthrough for both of its young stars, whose charisma and chemistry fairly leap off the screen.—*2007 Edinburgh Film Festival*

Thurs., May 1, 9:00 PM, Avalon Theatre

Sat., May 3, 9:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Mon colonel

Laurent Herbiet

France, 2007, 111 minutes,
color and black and white

Co-written by Costa Gavras, master of the political thriller (*Z*, *Missing*), and long-time collaborator Jean-Claude Grunberg, *Mon colonel* is amongst the very few French films to address military misdeeds during the Algerian War. When sensitive lieutenant Guy Rossi (Robinson Stévenin) finds himself under the command of no-nonsense colonel Raoul Duplan (Olivier Gourmet), the stage is set



for a monumental battle of wills that tests both men. Rossi—left-wing, a lawyer by training—is alternately intimidated and seduced by the nerve and sheer drive of his superior, who will stop at nothing to win this unwinnable war. Rossi becomes a useful and initially willing tool for Duplan, but, at a certain point, the colonel crosses the line, with wide-ranging repercussions. *The colonel* has all the trademarks of the smart, political filmmaking that Laurent Herbiet, like so many of us, has clearly appreciated in Gavras’ masterworks.—*Piers Handling, 2006 Toronto International Film Festival*

IN FRENCH AND ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., April 25, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Tues., April 29, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Thursday April 24

7:00 PM Opening Night Gala: **Two Ladies**
In Person: Director Philippe Faucon, Stars Ariane Jacquot and Zohra Mouffok, and Producer Yasmina Nini-Faucon
Historic Lincoln Theatre

Friday April 25

6:30 PM **Ballerina**
Avalon Theatre

6:30 PM **Basic Sanitation**
Regal Cinemas

6:30 PM **Katyn**
Regal Cinemas

6:30 PM **Made in Jamaica**
Historic Lincoln Theatre

6:30 PM **Mon colonel**
Avalon Theatre

6:30 PM **Oh-Oku: The Women of the Inner Palace**
Landmark's E St. Cinema



Ballerina, p. 11

6:30 PM **The Tracey Fragments**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

8:30 PM **We Are Together**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

9:00 PM **Calle Santa Fe**
Avalon Theatre

9:00 PM **Heavy Metal in Baghdad**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

9:00 PM **La Zona**
Regal Cinemas

9:15 PM **Takva: A Man's Fear of God**
Avalon Theatre

9:30 PM **Blood Brothers**
Regal Cinemas

9:30 PM **Patti Smith: Dream of Life**
Historic Lincoln Theatre

Saturday April 26

2:00 PM Filmfest DC for Kids
1, 2, 3...Leon! *
Avalon Theatre

3:00 PM **Lost Moon**
Avalon Theatre

4:00 PM **Directors' Roundtable** *
Busboys & Poets

4:00 PM **I'll Show You the Town** *
National Gallery of Art

4:00 PM **Short Cuts**
Regal Cinemas

4:30 PM **Beyond the Call**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

4:30 PM **Kill Them All**
Regal Cinemas

5:30 PM **The Bread Winner**
With Panel
Landmark's E St. Cinema

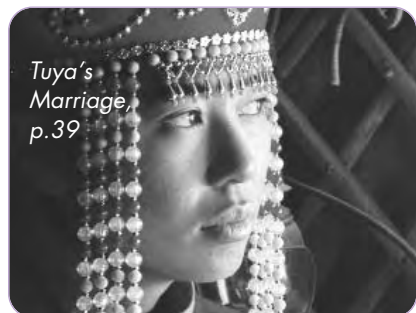
6:30 PM **Takva: A Man's Fear of God**
Avalon Theatre

7:00 PM **AmericanEast**
Regal Cinemas

7:00 PM **Ballerina**
Avalon Theatre

7:00 PM **Basic Sanitation**
Regal Cinemas

7:00 PM **The Girl by the Lake**
AMC Mazza Gallerie



Tuya's Marriage, p. 39

7:00 PM **The Show Must Go On**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

7:30 PM **The Tracey Fragments**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

9:00 PM **Mongol**
AMC Mazza Gallerie

9:15 PM **Silent Light**
Avalon Theatre

9:30 PM **The Night James Brown Saved Boston**
Regal Cinemas



Mongol, p. 30

9:30 PM **The Pope's Toilet**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

9:30 PM **Roming**
Avalon Theatre

9:30 PM **Tuya's Marriage**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

10:00 PM **Blood Brothers**
Regal Cinemas

Sunday April 27

12:30 PM **In the Name of God**
Avalon Theatre

1:00 PM Filmfest DC for Kids
1, 2, 3...Leon! *
Avalon Theatre

2:30 PM **Egg**
Regal Cinemas

3:00 PM **Beyond the Call**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

3:00 PM **The Night James Brown Saved Boston**
Regal Cinemas

3:30 PM **The War on Democracy**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

4:30 PM **Jazz in the Diamond District**
Regal Cinemas

4:30 PM **The Other Side of the Mirror: Bob Dylan Live at the Newport Folk Festival, 1963-65**
Avalon Theatre

5:00 PM **AmericanEast**
Regal Cinemas

5:00 PM **Silent Light**
Avalon Theatre

5:30 PM **Ploy**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

5:30 PM **The Pope's Toilet**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

7:00 PM **Katyn**
Regal Cinemas

7:30 PM **Calle Santa Fe**
Avalon Theatre

7:45 PM **The Show Must Go On**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

8:00 PM **Emma's Bliss**
Avalon Theatre

8:00 PM **Heavy Metal in Baghdad**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

8:00 PM **The Home Song Stories**
Regal Cinemas

Monday April 28

6:00 PM **Avatars: The First Person of New Media**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

6:00 PM **Roming**
Avalon Theatre

6:30 PM **Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame**
Avalon Theatre

6:30 PM **The Matador**
Regal Cinemas

6:30 PM **Tuya's Marriage**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

6:30 PM **Unfinished Sky**
Regal Cinemas

8:15 PM **Ploy**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

8:20 PM **A Secret**
Avalon Theatre

8:30 PM **Children of Glory**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

8:30 PM **The Home Song Stories**
Regal Cinemas

8:30 PM **Unfinished Stories**
Avalon Theatre

8:30 PM **La Zona**
Regal Cinemas



You, the Living, p. 41

Tuesday April 29

- 10:00 AM Cinema for Seniors
Great American Entertainers *
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 PM **La Antena**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 6:30 PM **Egg**
Regal Cinemas
- 6:30 PM **In the Name of God**
Regal Cinemas
- 6:30 PM **Mon colonel**
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 PM **Tricks**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 6:30 PM **We Are Together**
Avalon Theatre
- 8:15 PM **I Just Didn't Do It**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 8:15 PM **You, the Living**
Regal Cinemas
- 8:30 PM **Emma's Bliss**
Avalon Theatre
- 8:30 PM **Madrigal**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 8:30 PM **A Secret**
Avalon Theatre

Wednesday April 30

- 6:30 PM **La Antena**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 6:30 PM **The Girl by the Lake**
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 PM **The Matador**
Regal Cinemas
- 6:30 PM **Mongol**
Regal Cinemas

- 6:30 PM **PVC-1**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 6:30 PM **Tell No One Followed by a reception**
- 6:30 PM **Unfinished Stories**
Avalon Theatre
- 8:00 PM **Jade Warrior**
Avalon Theatre



- 8:30 PM **Children of Glory**
Regal Cinemas
- 8:30 PM **I Just Didn't Do It**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 8:30 PM **Paloma Delight**
Avalon Theatre
- 8:45 PM **Fiestapatria**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 8:45 PM **Unfinished Sky**
Regal Cinemas

Thursday May 1

- 6:30 PM **The Elite Squad**
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 PM **The Journey: The Greek American Dream**
Regal Cinemas

- 6:30 PM **Madrigal**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 6:30 PM **Oh-Oku: The Women of the Inner Palace**
Regal Cinemas
- 6:30 PM **The Orchestra of Piazza Vittorio**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

- 6:30 PM **Paloma Delight**
Avalon Theatre
- 8:45 PM **The Contestant**
Regal Cinemas
- 8:45 PM **Fiestapatria**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 8:45 PM **Yousou N'Dour: Return to Goree**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

- 9:00 PM **Mister Foe**
Avalon Theatre
- 9:00 PM **Tricks**
Avalon Theatre
- 9:00 PM **You, the Living**
Regal Cinemas

Friday May 2

- 6:30 PM **Empties**
Avalon Theatre

- 6:30 PM **Fados**
Regal Cinemas
- 6:30 PM **King of Ping Pong**
Regal Cinemas
- 6:30 PM **Late Bloomers**
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 PM **The Orchestra of Piazza Vittorio**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 6:30 PM **Tell No One**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 PM **Timecrimes**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 8:30 PM **Chaos**
Avalon Theatre
- 8:30 PM **The Fall**
Regal Cinemas
- 8:30 PM **Jade Warrior**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 8:30 PM **One Hundred Nails**
Avalon Theatre
- 9:00 PM **The Contestant**
Regal Cinemas
- 9:00 PM **The Edge of Heaven**
AMC Mazza Gallerie



- 9:00 PM **With Your Permission**
Landmark's E St. Cinema

Saturday May 3

- 4:00 PM **Lost Moon**
Avalon Theatre
- 4:00 PM **Short Cuts**
Regal Cinemas
- 4:30 PM **Kill Them All**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 4:30 PM **The Other Side of the Mirror: Bob Dylan Live at the Newport Folk Festival, 1963-65**
Avalon Theatre
- 5:00 PM **The War on Democracy**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 6:30 PM **Chaos**
Avalon Theatre
- 6:30 PM **King of Ping Pong**
Regal Cinemas
- 7:00 PM **Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 7:00 PM **Empties**
Avalon Theatre
- 7:00 PM **Fados**
Regal Cinemas
- 7:00 PM **PVC-1**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 7:00 PM **With Your Permission**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 9:00 PM **Late Bloomers**
Regal Cinemas



- 9:00 PM **Made in Jamaica**
Regal Cinemas
- 9:00 PM **One Hundred Nails**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 9:00 PM **Yousou N'Dour: Return to Goree**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 9:15 PM **Timecrimes**
Landmark's E St. Cinema
- 9:30 PM **The Elite Squad**
Avalon Theatre
- 9:30 PM **Mister Foe**
Avalon Theatre

Sunday May 4

- 4:00 PM Closing Night Event
Shall We Kiss?
Regal Cinemas

* Events marked with an asterisk are free.

All programs are subject to change.

Take Metrobus or Metrorail to Filmfest DC



INFO
www.filmfestdc.org
202 234 film

Mongol

Sergei Bodrov

Kazakhstan, 2007, 126 minutes, color



One of this year's Oscar® finalists for best foreign film, *Mongol* is Russian director Sergei Bodrov's muscular story of the boy who grew up to become Genghis Khan. Nine-year-old Temudgin sets off with his father, a khan, to search for a bride. Traveling across the region's

stark and beautiful tundra, Temudgin sees a girl whom he proclaims to be his wife, although his choice runs counter to his father's wishes.

Temudgin's life instantly changes when a group of Tartars poison his father. Even though he is next in line to rule, the rest of the tribe refuses to accept leadership from a young boy. An epic of courage and resourcefulness follows as the boy becomes a man, finds the girl whom he had chosen as his bride all those years ago, and gradually reasserts his claim to the leadership of his kingdom.—*Piers Handling, 2007 Toronto International Film Festival*

IN MONGOLIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 9:00 PM, AMC Mazza Gallerie

Wed., April 30, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas



The Night James Brown Saved Boston:

The Director's Cut

David Leaf

USA, 2008, 66 minutes, color and black and white

Here's the newest documentary from David Leaf, whose previous music-related films include *The U.S. vs. John Lennon* and *Beautiful Dreamer: Brian Wilson and the Story of SMiLE*. The day after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, America's inner cities were on fire and the city of Boston looked to James Brown to help stop it from exploding and imploding. *The Night James Brown Saved Boston* focuses on James Brown's extraordinary, history-making concert at the Boston Garden on April 5, 1968, putting the events of that day into the context of the times, telling the dramatic story of what happened that night, and spotlighting this crucial moment in the life and career of James Brown. Up to that moment, James Brown had been a great artist, a successful businessman, a civil rights activist, and an American patriot. On April 5, 1968, he became a hero.—*2008 South by Southwest Film Festival*



Sat., April 26, 9:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

Sun., April 27, 3:00 PM, Regal Cinemas

★ *In Person: Director David Leaf and Producer Eric Kulberg*

Oh-oku: The Women of the Inner Palace



Oh-oku

Toru Hayashi

Japan, 2006, 126 minutes, color

The time is 1713. Shogun Tokugawa Ienobu has recently died, leaving behind an infant ruler heir. The transition of monarchical power was fairly painless, but the shuffling of administrative and related powers within Edo's inner court proved less so. Nothing's more salaciously entertaining than political scandal, save political scandal amongst power-hungry women. In the history of Japan, no such scandal has matched the proportions of the Ejima-Ikushima Affair, a tale of dirty dealings, illicit relationships, and political maneuverings involving the Oh-oku, or shogun's harem. *Oh-oku: The Women of the Inner Palace* has everything one would expect from a big-budget period picture: Beautiful cinematography, stunningly ornate costumes, exquisitely detailed sets, and an historically accurate narrative concerning royal court cat-fights, complete with the political intrigue and double crosses one would expect to find in the most hostile of female environments.—*Chris Nelson, Dreamlogic.net*

IN JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., April 25, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

Thurs., May 1, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

One Hundred Nails

Centochiodi

Ermanno Olmi



Italy, 2007, 93 minutes, color

Echoes of *The Da Vinci Code* abound in what director Ermanno Olmi has vowed is his last movie testament,

which harkens back to some of his earliest work in its simplicity and divinity. A librarian at the University of Bologna makes a shocking discovery: 100 ancient volumes from the library's storied collection have been laid to waste, nailed to the floor and torn into pieces. All signs lead to an odd culprit: a young, well-established university professor who has apparently vanished into thin air. Actually, he has taken refuge in an old ruin on the banks of the Po River, where he interacts with the inhabitants of a nearby town and is greeted as a reincarnation of Christ.

When the professor volunteers to pay a fine levied on the community for presumed unauthorized constructions on the Po, the Carabinieri find him out.—*26th Vancouver International Film Festival, 2007*

IN ITALIAN, PO VALLEY DIALECT, AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., May 2, 8:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Sat., May 3, 9:00 PM, AMC Mazza Gallerie

1, 2, 3, Leon!

Free!



Catherine Buffat, Pierre-Luc Granjon, Jean-Luc Gréco, Pascal Le Nôtre, Christa Moesker, Tali



France, various years, 45 minutes, animation

For children 3 years and older

A charming collection of five short movies featuring endearing characters and stories that will charm adults and children alike! Full of imagination and

creativity and set in a magical atmosphere, these tales will delight and capture your attention with visual beauty and bold graphics. The stories are simple yet touch on deeper themes such as family, adoption, friendship, and love (with a princess, of course).

DUBBED IN ENGLISH

Sat., April 26, 2:00 PM, Avalon Theatre, FREE

Sun., April 27, 1:00 PM, Avalon Theatre, FREE

✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of France



The Orchestra of Piazza Vittorio

L'orchestra di piazza vittorio

Agostino Ferrente

Italy, 2006, 90 minutes, color



In 2001, producer/director Agostino Ferrente created the Apollo 11 Group to save Rome's historic Apollo Theater from being turned into a bingo parlor. Then he came up with the idea of forming a resident orchestra in the Apollo—with professional musicians and beginners—drawn from the residents of the Piazza Vittorio neighborhood and surrounding area populated by 60 ethnic groups. A real-life fairy tale, this charming cinematographic diary gains much strength from its story of world brotherhood and peace in the name of music.—*2008 Palm Springs Film Festival*

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thurs., May 1, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

Fri., May 2, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

★ *In Person: Director Agostino Ferrente*

✦ Co-Presented with the Italian Cultural Institute



The Other Side of the Mirror: Bob Dylan

Live at the Newport Folk Festival 1963–65



Murray Lerner

USA, 2007, 83 minutes, black and white

“This is a young man who grew out of a need,” goes a line of the famous introduction of Bob Dylan at his first Newport Folk Festival in 1963, and truer words have rarely been spoken. Across the three festivals at which he played, Dylan flowers as both an artist and a generational spokesman. The climax of this ascension, of course, was July 25, 1965, when Dylan strapped on an electric guitar and, with the Paul Butterfield Blues Band backing him up (note the late Michael Bloomfield ripping out those leads), changed the face of rock and roll. This first-ever Dylan at Newport compilation features all or part of nearly 20 songs. This is the defining document, both for Dylanologists and younger fans curious about the enduring cultural icon known as Bob Dylan.—*Eddie Cockrell*



Sun., April 27, 4:30 PM, Avalon Theatre
Sat., May 3, 4:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

★ In Person: Director Murray Lerner for April 27 screening

Paloma Delight

Delice paloma



Nadir Mokneche

Algeria/France, 2007, 134 minutes, color

Newly-sprung from prison after 3 years behind bars for an unspecified crime, wily con-woman Madame Aldjeria (Algerian treasure Biyouna—just Biyouna) is met by sisters Scheherazade (Nadia Kaci) and Mina (Fadila Ouabdeslam). The story then flashes back to the halcyon days when the shakedown artist ran her scams from a penthouse apartment overlooking Algiers. Hunky bird-watching son Riyad (Daniel Lundh) is immediately attracted to mom’s newest protégé, Paloma (Aylin Prandi), even as the beautiful newcomer learns the ropes by helping in a scheme to get the goods on a phillandering theater owner so his wife won’t lose everything in the divorce. Director Nadir Mokneche has constructed a clever and uplifting analogy for survival and strength as Madame Aldjeria overcomes the odds by implementing one last score. By turns glibly funny and resonantly sad, this raconteurish dramedy fully lives up to its name.—*Eddie Cockrell*



IN FRENCH & ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wed., April 30, 8:30 PM, Avalon Theatre
Thurs., May 1, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Ploy

Pen-ek Ratanaruang

Thailand/The Netherlands, 2007, 100 minutes, color

Married restaurateurs Wit and Dang are exhausted after flying back to Thailand from the states to attend a funeral. In search of cigarettes, Wit ends up in the hotel bar drinking coffee with 18-year-old Ploy, whom he invites to their room for a shower and a nap despite his wife’s suspicious nature. Meanwhile, bartender Nut meets maid Tum in an empty room for a steamy encounter. What is real, and what is a jetlag-induced fever



dream? Some will see the story as a, um, ploy by writer-director Pen-ek Ratanaruang (*Invisible Waves*) to show the (non-explicit) sex. Others will argue the reverse: the sex is icing on a many-layered, slow-baked cake of ominous imagination and unfettered desire.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN THAI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sun., April 27, 5:30 PM, Landmark’s E St. Cinema
Mon., April 28, 8:15 PM, Landmark’s E St. Cinema

Patti Smith: Dream of Life *with Patti Smith in Person*

Steven Sebring

USA, 2008, 109 minutes, color and black and white



Winner of the cinematography prize at Sundance for director Steven Sebring and Phillip Hunt, *Patti Smith: Dream of Life* is a hypnotic plunge, a breathing collage of this legendary musician/poet/painter/activist’s philosophy and artistry that feels as if it sprang directly from her soul. A punk pioneer, Patti Smith’s fierce poetry and rock music shook up New York’s 1970s underground scene, and her work continues to be stirred organically by her rigorous mind, beloved artistic touchstones, and world events. Shot over 11 years, the film travels Smith’s mystical interior terrain—the ideas, losses, and memories and traces her outward adventures. Layered with mesmerizing recitations, music, and narration, the fluid journey incorporates performances, graveyard pilgrimages and political rallies, archival nuggets, and vérité moments with her working-class parents, children, and friends.—*2008 Sundance Film Festival*

Fri., April 25, 9:30 PM, Lincoln Theatre

★ In Person: Patti Smith and Director Steven Sebring

The Pope’s Toilet

El bano del papa



Cesar Charlone, Enrique Fernandez

Uruguay/Brazil/France, 2007, 97 minutes, color



The Pope is coming to Melo, a poor Uruguayan village on the Brazilian border, and everyone’s getting ready. Chief among occupations is petty smuggling, where men ride bicycles laden with necessities through the brush country across the border, dodging customs officers. The film centers on schemer and dreamer Beto, his long-suffering wife, and their adolescent daughter, who dreams of a better life as a TV announcer. Beto hatches a plan to build an outhouse along the Pope’s travel route and charge pilgrims for the privilege of using his facility. As Beto desperately tries to smuggle in his new toilet in time for the great event, his bicycle is stolen by a ruthless customs agent. Will Beto make it back to Melo in time? Just how many pilgrims will show up, and will they finally make Melo rich?—*Brenda Benthien, 32nd Cleveland International Film Festival, 2008*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 9:30 PM, Landmark’s E St. Cinema
Sun., April 27, 5:30 PM, Landmark’s E St. Cinema

★ Co-Presented with the Center for the Global South, American University



PVC-1

Stathos Stathoulopoulos

Colombia, 2007, 81 minutes, color

Shot in one continuous 85-minute take by a Greek-born, Columbian-raised, first-time producer-director who trained for 3 months to operate the video camera strapped to his body, *PVC-1* is based on true events. In rural Columbia, a woman and her family are the victims of a sadistic burglary. The criminals fit

a plastic explosive device around the woman's neck and threaten to blow her up unless they get ransom money. Unfolding in real time, the film perfectly captures the woman's desperation and horror as she frantically searches for help. Stathoulopoulos has created a compelling work that highlights the rampant terrorism that many Latin Americans live with daily. *PVC-1* was presented in the Directors' Fortnight at last year's Cannes Film Festival.—*Cleo Cacoulidis, Bright Lights Film Journal*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wed., April 30, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Sat., May 3, 7:00 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema



Roming

Jiri Vejdelek

Czech Republic/Romania/Slovakia, 2007, 107 minutes, color

Roming traces the madcap misadventures of three Roma men as they journey in a broken truck from northern Bohemia in the Czech Republic to Slovakia. Beyond its slapstick road-movie trappings, however, is a portrait of a nomadic culture searching for identity and acceptance. Jura is a modern

young man who excels in his university studies. His father, Roman, invites him on a cross-country road trip, but there is a catch: the men are going to meet the woman whom Jura is destined to marry. Jura's father arranged the set-up back when Jura was still a child. Shocked, Jura spurns Roman's request, but eventually relents. It will be a much wilder ride for Jura than anticipated, thanks to loose-cannon family friend Stano, who seems to attract trouble for a living. The proceedings have a



wacky, Rabelaisian quality, helped greatly by the laugh-out-loud performances.—*Dimetri Eipides, 2007 Toronto International Film Festival*

IN CZECH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 9:30 PM, Avalon Theatre
Mon., April 28, 6:00 PM, Avalon Theatre

✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of the Czech Republic

A Secret

Claude Miller

France, 2007, 105 minutes, color and black and white

A Secret, based on a best-selling autobiographical novel by Phillippe Grimbert, tells the story of a boy's uncovering a dark secret about his family's past. Set in several time periods, the film focuses on young Francois, a sickly and solitary boy who cannot understand his father's remoteness and critical tendencies. A family friend finally reveals to him the shattering story that traces the meeting of his parents during the tumultuous Occupation of World War II and the secrets that both his parents keep from him. This secret involves illicit passion, jealousy, and the loss of loved ones to the scourge of the Holocaust. *A Secret* is Claude Miller's 13th feature and caps a career that began in the 1970s with such milestone films as *The Best Way to Walk* and *This Sweet Sickness*.—*31st Montreal World Film Festival*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Mon., April 28, 8:20 PM, Avalon Theatre
Tues., April 29, 8:30 PM, Avalon Theatre



Short Cuts



Home

Acasa

Paul

Negoescu

Romania, 2007,
14 minutes, video

This short features conversations between a Bucharest taxi driver and his passenger, who is headed home for the holidays.

IN ROMANIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Run

Mark Albiston

New Zealand, 2007, 15 minutes, 35mm

A brother and sister learn how to confront their fears.



Ver Llover

Elisa Miller

Mexico, 2007, 13 minutes,
35mm

Two teenagers plan their escape to the big city. This short was a Cannes Palm d'Or winner in 2007.

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Polska Roadmovie

Bartosz Grudziecki

Germany/Poland, 2007, 30 minutes, 35mm

This critical and humorous psycho-drama about naïveté and prejudice tracks an affluent



German couple driving through Poland in search of the woman's former pen pal.

IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

The Mozart of Pickpockets

Philippe Pollet-Villard

France, 2006, 31 minutes, 35mm

A pair of unlucky thieves find that their fortune changes when they take in a deaf homeless boy. This film is a 2008 Oscar® winner for live-action short.

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 4:00 PM, Regal Cinemas
Sat., May 3, 4:00 PM, Regal Cinemas



The Show Must Go On

Wooahan segye

Han Jae-rim

South Korea, 2007, 110 minutes, color

If “The Sopranos” had featured more out-and-out comedy, the results might have resembled the South Korean underworld saga *The Show Must Go On*. There’s hardly a more bumbling gangster in all of South Korea than Kang In-gu (Song Kang-ho, star of *The Host*). A devoted family man whose wholesale produce business masks the real estate scams of his gang, the Dogs, Kang must balance the demands of his bloody business with daughter Hee-soon’s puberty, wife Mi-ryung’s desire for a new house, and a natural befuddlement at the world that suggests he’s in the wrong line of work. When rival gang the Jaguars threaten to disrupt the balance of power, Kang must make some hard decisions. Expanding on a supporting character he first developed in the 1997 hit *No. 3*, Song is terrific as a man whose ambitions far outstrip his brain power.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 7:00 PM, Landmark’s E St. Cinema
Sun., April 27, 7:45 PM, Landmark’s E St. Cinema

Silent Light

Stellet licht

Carlos Reygadas

Mexico/France/The Netherlands, 2007, 144 minutes, color

In a Mennonite community on the outskirts of Chihuahua, Mexico, Johan, a husband and father, breaks the rules of his community by falling in love and having an affair with another woman. Johan has been honest with his wife about his adultery, but this does little to reconcile the conflicts that plague him. Jonas’ inner turmoil is played out against the everyday habits and rituals of the family and the community—mealtimes, prayers, and tender moments that punctuate the day. Although these elements and the casting of nonprofessional actors could suggest an ethnographic tone, Carlos Reygadas’ control and mastery of image and sound leave no doubt that we are watching cinema at its most carefully and artfully constructed. *Silent Light* won the Jury Prize at last year’s Cannes Film Festival.—*Sandra Hebron, 2007 Times BFI 51st London Film Festival*

IN PLAUDIETSCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 9:15 PM, Avalon Theatre
Sun., April 27, 5:00 PM, Avalon Theatre

✦ Co-Presented with the Mexican Cultural Institute



Takva: A Man’s Fear of God

Ozer Kiziltan

Turkey/Germany, 2006, 100 minutes, color

Actor Erkan Can brings incredible authenticity to the role of a simple man who is faced with the ruination of the naive beliefs that have formed the mainstay of his life. In the oldest part of Istanbul, humble, God-fearing Muharrem works as a grunt to a businessman selling sacks and devotes his spare time to praying. When the sheik notices his honesty and devotion, Muharrem is offered the job of administrator to the sect’s financial dealings. He accepts the job but eventually realizes, as he collects rents from very impoverished people and is expected to turn a blind eye to

what he considers trespasses against holy law, that it involves actions that he finds morally repugnant, and a crisis of faith tears him apart.—*Sheila Seacraft, Neil Young’s Film Lounge*

IN TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., April 25, 9:15 PM, Avalon Theatre
Sat., April 26, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

Tell No One

Ne le dis a personne

Guillaume Canet

France, 2006, 126 minutes, color

Tell No One is an intricately plotted, expertly made, superbly performed thriller. Eight years after wife Margot (Mairie-Josée Cruze) was murdered during a midnight swim, pediatrician Dr. Alex Beck (Francois Cluzet) finds himself a suspect once again. He must elude the police and some shady thugs as he figures out who’s sending him surveillance footage of Margot—who appears to be very much alive. As this is the second feature from actor-turned-director Guillaume Canet, it’s no surprise to see French mainstays Andre Dussollier, Kristin Scott Thomas, Nathalie Baye, and Jean Rochefort in the solid supporting cast. With an eclectic soundtrack and shelf full of awards in France, *Tell No One* is stylishly, thoroughly engrossing.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wed., April 30, 6:30 PM, Embassy of France,
followed by a reception; tickets \$15.00
Fri., May 2, 6:30 PM, AMC Mazza Gallerie

✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of France



Special Event: The Wednesday, April 30 screening will be followed by a reception at the Embassy of France. Tickets: \$15.00.

Timecrimes

Los cronocrimenes



Nacho Vigalondo

Spain, 2007, 88 minutes, color

"Time flies here," says Clara, the companion of Hector, as they leisurely move into a country house in northern Spain. She

doesn't know the half of it: Hector's about to embark on a bizarre journey. Seeing a woman opposite the house, he goes to investigate and is stabbed by a bandaged stranger. Staggering to a nearby research laboratory, he meets a moonlighting scientist, who tricks him into a prototype device that sends him back 90 minutes in time. Then things get really strange; how many Hectors can the world hold? A brain-teaser with echoes of *Memento* and other exercises in the manipulation of time, *Timecrimes* is the brain-child of writer-director Vigalondo, who's thought out his elaborate construct with clockwork precision. With a Hollywood remake reportedly in the works, here's a sterling opportunity to be among the first American audiences to experience this utterly original new Spanish film.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., May 2, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Sat., May 3, 9:15 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

The Tracey Fragments

Bruce McDonald

Canada, 2007, 77 minutes, color

"My name is Tracey Berkowitz, just a normal girl who hates herself." The troubled teen, played by white-hot *Juno* star Ellen Page, is anything but ordinary: she's a runaway in search of her younger brother as a blizzard bears down on the unnamed Canadian urban wasteland. But "this is not some kind of, like, abuse story, Okay?" Tracey barks. "I don't cry over spilt milk, you know?" For all her expletive-laden bluster, she's still a tender 15, and, like legions of runaways before, she finds the world a cold, hard place. Perpetual Canadian maverick filmmaker Bruce McDonald employs a dazzlingly assured split-screen style to visualize Tracey's shattering anger, while Maureen Medved's remarkably authentic dialogue and voiceover rings utterly true to an adolescent's lament. Winner of the Manfred Salzgeber prize at the 2007 Berlin festival, *The Tracey Fragments* is an of-the-moment milestone in contemporary Canadian cinema.—*Eddie Cockrell*



Fri., April 25, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Sat., April 26, 7:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

Tuya's Marriage

Tuyade hunshi



Wang Quanran

China, 2006, 86 minutes, color

Tuya's Marriage, a stunningly photographed saga of survival, is universally enthralling. On the spartan, unforgiving plains of Inner Mongolia, Tuya (Yu Nan) labors mightily as a shepherd to support her young son and kind husband, Bater, who was disabled years before while digging a well. When Tuya is diagnosed with lumbar dislocation after helping lift a truck off a pinned neighbor, Tuya and Bater decide to divorce so Tuya can find a physically fit man to care for them all. The procession of suitors isn't exactly what they had in mind, however. Help eventually comes, from a source at once unlikely and inevitable. Detailing the hard calculus of survival, *Tuya's Marriage* is leavened with gentle rural humor as well as Yu's tremendous appeal as a woman of strength and character, committed to standing by her man even as she searches determinedly for new opportunities.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sat., April 26, 9:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Mon., April 28, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

Unfinished Sky

Peter Duncan

Australia, 2007, 94 minutes, color



In the rugged and remote Beaudesert region of Queensland, shepherd and widower John Woldring (William McInnes, from *Look Both Ways*) is startled to discover an Afghani woman, Tahmeena (Dutch actress Monic Hendrickx) bruised and bloody, staggering up the road to his house. At first wary of one another, the two soon grow close, and Waldren discovers the reason for her presence in Australia. Longtime FFDC patrons may be forgiven for a slight case of déjà vu, as *Unfinished Sky* is a subtle and moving remake of *The Polish Bride*, a hit of the 1999 festival. Hendrickx reprises her film debut role with fiery beauty, and director Peter Duncan—whose *Children of the Revolution* was also a FFDC favorite—understands the geopolitical forces that result in traumatic immigration and the unlikely emotional bonds that can form in the most unforgiving of places.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ENGLISH AND DARI

Mon., April 28, 6:30 PM, Regal Cinemas
Wed., April 30, 8:45 PM, Regal Cinemas

✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of Australia



Tricks

Sztuczki

Andrzej Jakimowski

Poland, 2007, 96 minutes, color

The story of two children in search of their father may seem rather conventional, but that story is enriched by a sense of space and rhythm in *Tricks*. Stefek is convinced that the man boarding a train every morning at the same hour is his father, who had left home before he was born. His sister Elka has suffered from her father's abandonment and doesn't wish to hear about him. Most sequences focus on different relationships: Stefek and his "father," who establish an oddly affectionate relationship in the train station; Elka and her boyfriend; and Stefek and his sister's boyfriend. The sequences comment on contemporary life in a small Polish town, with its rituals, gossips, and surprises. Tension arising in the background could equally lead to a happy or an unhappy ending. The utterly poetic sequence that concludes the film is a perfect answer to this dilemma.—*Gregory Valens, The Hollywood Reporter*

Tues., April 29, 6:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Thurs., May 1, 9:00 PM, Avalon Theatre

Unfinished Stories

Ravayat haye na tamam



Pourya Azarbayjani

Iran, 2007, 76 minutes, color



"Where are you going at this ungodly hour?" a cabbie asks one of three unrelated women whose traumatic nocturnal sojourns in a freezing cold Tehran form the connective tissue of this moody and intense O. Henry-like chain reaction of resolve in the face of prejudice. "There are all kinds of wolves out there." For teenaged Setareh, the challenge is getting through to her boyfriend by cell phone as their parents argue with each other; a kindly soldier helps, but not enough. Meanwhile, pregnant Hengameh has been thrown out by her angry husband and searches for answers. Finally, a penniless new mother tries to escape the hospital bill with her baby. The wolves, of course, are the men who alternately prey upon and placate these women, and director Pourya Azarbayjani washes the soundtrack in the jarring noises of the unforgiving city. "Take care of yourself," Setareh's friend urges, but the deck is stacked against her.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN PERSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Mon., April 28, 8:30 PM, Avalon Theatre
Wed., April 30, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre



The War on Democracy

John Pilger, Chris Martin

United Kingdom, 2007, 96 minutes, color and black and white

Australian-born, London-based journalist John Pilger has been, and

is, a vocal critic of American foreign policy. Like a rail-thin, deeply tanned version of Michael Moore, complete with a sing-song delivery that drips with irony (but without the baseball cap), Pilger's polemical style attracts as many critics as supporters. In *The War on Democracy*, Pilger begins with a spirited defense of Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez. He then moves on to explore U.S. participation in the fates of other Central and Latin American countries, including El Salvador, Nicaragua, Chile, and Bolivia. His ongoing verbal tussle with former CIA Latin American division head Duane R. Clarridge is a confrontational highlight. Provocative in the most volatile sense of the word, *The War on Democracy* is Pilger's inevitable stepping stone to a broader audience.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Sun., April 27, 3:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Sat., May 3, 5:00 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

We Are Together

Thina simunye



Paul Taylor

United Kingdom, 2007, 86 minutes, color



Music and family are the twin cornerstones of the children living at the Agape Orphanage in South Africa. In some fashion, they are the same thing, or as 12-year-old Slindile Moya says, "Singing makes me think of home, because that was where I learned to sing." Scenes of the choir rehearsing for a series of concerts in London (including one with Alicia Keys and Paul Simon) are juxtaposed with those of the Moya children visiting their parents' graves. However, the film never strays into easy sentiment, partly because the children's determination and resiliency outshine even the most despairing of circumstances. Winner of the Audience Award and Special Jury Prizes at the Tribeca Film Festival, the Amnesty International Film Festival, and the One World International Film Festival, the film is partnered with Bono's One Organization.—*2007 Vancouver International Film Festival*

Fri., April 25, 8:30 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Tues., April 29, 6:30 PM, Avalon Theatre

✦ Co-Presented with the Center for the Global South, American University



With Your Permission

Til doden os skiller

Paprika Steen

Denmark/Sweden, 2007, 95 minutes, color

Resolutely deadpan, slyly surreal, and achingly subversive, *With Your Permission* is probably the funniest film you'll see about domestic difficulties this year. The film is the much-anticipated new collaboration between actress-turned-director Paprika Steen (*The Celebration*) and prolific screenwriter Anders Thomas Jensen (*The King is Alive, The Green Butchers*), who worked together on director Susanne Bier's *Open Hearts*. Insecure Jan Bundgaard (Lars Brygmann), a disciplinarian at his job running a Denmark-Sweden ferryboat eatery who suffers from tinnitus, is regularly beaten by his stay-at-home wife, Bente (Sidse Babbett Knudsen), who's frustrated because her operatic career never took off. When his boss insists he enter therapy, Jan's too embarrassed to go to the victim's session and ends up with two wife-beaters, mechanics Alf (Rasmus Bjerg) and Rudy (Nikolaj Kopernikus). Hiring the thick-witted thugs to kill Bente, Jan's shocked to discover the duo's taken a shine to her—at his expense.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN DANISH AND SWEDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., May 2, 9:00 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Sat., May 3, 7:00 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

Youssou N'Dour: Return to Goree

Retour a goree



Pierre-Yves Borgeaud

Switzerland/Luxembourg, 2007, 110 minutes, color

The Grammy-winning Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour takes us on a musical journey. Guided in his mission by his friend, the blind pianist Moncef Genoud, Youssou N'Dour travels across from Atlanta to New Orleans and then from New York on to Bordeaux and Luxembourg, performing his songs, which are immersed in the culture of jazz and gospel. Rehearsing with some of the world's most exceptional musicians, he then prepares to return to Africa to perform a concert in Goree, an island off the coastline of Senegal that sits at the crossroads of the centuries-old trade route connecting Europe and West Africa, Christianity and Islam, infamous as a former center of the Atlantic slave trade, from where many Africans were deported to the Americas. An uplifting and heartwarming documentary.—*Keith Shiri, 2007 Times BFI 51st London Film Festival*

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IN ENGLISH & FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thurs., May 1, 8:45 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema
Sat., May 3, 9:00 PM, Landmark's E St. Cinema

✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of Switzerland

You, the Living

Du levande

Roy Andersson

Sweden/Germany/France/Denmark/Norway/Japan, 2007, 92 minutes, color



Is there a better way to try to explain humankind in its essence than to combine 50 short stories about a multitude of aspects of life? Perhaps, but nothing can come close to Roy Andersson's view of it. *You, the Living* defies definition, classification, and, at times, reason. Throughout this existential journey, we meet housewives, criminals, girls with crushes, drunks at a bar, and dogs being dragged across a street. As elaborately staged and composed as Andersson's previous film, the award-winning *Songs From the Second Floor*, each subsequent scene leaves the viewer longing for more answers but delivers more questions. Andersson, living up to his reputation as a brilliant auteur, leaves it up to us how to interpret the meaning of the scenes, using our own lives as a guide.—*32nd Cleveland International Film Festival, 2008*

IN SWEDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tues., April 29, 8:15 PM, Regal Cinemas
Thurs., May 1, 9:00 PM, Regal Cinemas

La Zona

The zone



Rodrigo Plá

Spain/Mexico, 2007, 95 minutes, color and black and white

La Zona, the feature directing debut of Rodrigo Plá, deals with class in a chilling, effective manner. The opening shot succinctly sets up the class divide as the camera moves from inside a clean, gated community in Mexico City and up over the high wall and barbed wire to look down on the cramped, rundown homes on the other side of the barricade. Security cameras topping the fences watch to make sure no one from the outside gets in. Calling this a "gated community" is not entirely accurate. It looks more like a fortress, with massive metal gates protecting the rich homeowners from the riffraff outside. When a thunderstorm causes a freak accident and power outage that allows a trio of youth to infiltrate the fortress and attempt a robbery, the residents take the law into their own hands to avenge the would-be robbers.—*Beth Accomando, KPBS San Diego*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Fri., April 25, 9:00 PM, Regal Cinemas
Mon., April 28, 8:30 PM, Regal Cinemas

✦ Co-Presented with the Embassy of Spain

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