

RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2006 DAY-BY-DAY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH

LOCATION: SHOWCASE CINEMAS AT PROVIDENCE PLACE, PROVIDENCE

Afternoon, TBA

MICHAEL CORRENTE RETROSPECTIVE

"American Buffalo"

Michael Corrente, director

88 min. USA, 1996

Cast • Dustin Hoffman, Dennis Franz & Sean Nelson

From the play by David Mamet, AMERICAN BUFFALO is a story of man's interminable struggle toward the top of the heap, a goal that ultimately and inevitably eludes most of us. Don Dubro, the proprietor of a dusty dark inner-city junk shop, holds court there with his friends and makes plans probably on a daily basis for his ascendancy to the top. He does this more out of habit than hope because he's long ago surrendered his future to the daily repetition of his life as guardian of the discarded remnants of others' possessions. Disheveled Teach, on the other hand, is either too dumb or too stubborn to accept the lot life has dealt him. Instead, he bucks like a wild horse under the saddle and refuses to be broken. Most pitiable of the trio which populates the movie is teenaged Bobby. Mistaking much of the palaver which passes between the older men as pearls of wisdom, Bobby is the only one of the trio who still has a chance to make a life for himself somewhere beyond this tired too-familiar neighborhood. A poignant and powerful character study of the traps we build for ourselves and the lies we tell ourselves.

LOCATION: FEINSTEIN IMAX THEATER PROVIDENCE PLACE, PROVIDENCE

9:30 – 10:20 a.m.

KIDSEYE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Children's Program All Ages

"Second Banana"

"Santa's Camels"

"Green"

"Moongirl"

"Going Home"

"Wander"

"Crooked Mick of the Speewah"

"Kater"

10:30 – 11:20 a.m.

KIDSEYE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Children's Program All Ages

"Kungfu Gecko"

7:20 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Short Film: “The Bigger Picture”

Feature Documentary:

“Secret Courage”

Tim Morse & Karen Morse, directors

82 min. Netherlands, U S A, 2005

Walter Suskind was a German Jew living in Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation. He was forced to serve as the Jewish head of deportation at the Hollandsche Schouwburg (the Jewish Theater), the main deportation site in Holland. Using his fluent German, his skills as an actor and businessman, and unfathomable courage and tenacity, he and an intrepid group of resistance workers orchestrated the escape of close to 1000 Dutch children who were marked for transport to the death camps.

In SECRET COURAGE, we hear the stories of five of the saved children in their own words. Eleven of the resistance workers interweave their own stories, painting a picture of an incredible rescue operation fraught with intrigue and danger, but also carrying the emotional and ethical burden of deciding who could be saved and who could not. Although Walter took the secret of this mission to his death, these survivors tell his story and reflect on his ability to carry on when others gave up. In an era where the word “hero” is so casually used, Secret Courage will bring to audiences the portrait of ordinary man, a salesman by profession, who chose to take a stand in the face of Nazi terrorism. Although vilified by those who never knew his secret, he was – in the end – a true hero.

Unlike more gruesome treatments of this subject, this film brings the moral dilemmas of the Holocaust to the audience in a compelling and personal way; it leaves us to question our own moral code and what each of us might do when faced with such choiceless choices.

9:30 – 11:30 p.m.

Feature Presentation:

“Colma: The Musical”

Richard Wong, Director

119 min. USA, 2006

Cast • H.P. Mendoza, Jake Moreno & L.A. Renigen

East Coast Premiere

“New York’s got New Jersey, San Francisco’s got the place where Colma stays.” In the small suburban town of Colma, where the dead outnumber the living 1,000 to 1, three friends fresh out of high school tackle the age old question that has plagued humanity: “Now what?” Together, Billy, Rodel and Maribel unwittingly begin the lifelong process of self-discovery and self-reliance, but at what expense? “Colma: The Musical” boasts 13 musical numbers featuring all original music by H.P. Mendoza. It is the feature directorial debut for Richard Wong.

LOCATION: COLUMBUS THEATER ARTS CENTER, PROVIDENCE

Noon – 5 p.m.

Filmmaker's Registration

5:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Short Film: "Pituco"

ROVING EYE DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION:

"Journey to Justice"

Steve Palackdharry, director

106 min. Germany, France, USA, 2006

JOURNEY TO JUSTICE tells the story of Howard Triest, a German Jew who fled Nazi Germany in 1939 when he was 16 years old, returned as an American soldier and then served as an interpreter during the Nuremberg Trial. He came face-to-face with imprisoned Nazi leaders who were co-responsible for the death of six million Jews, including Howard's parents at Auschwitz. At Nuremberg, Howard felt transformed, from victim to victor, and was able to reclaim parts of his German identity. The documentary also tells the story of how Margot, Howard's younger sister, was rescued from a detention camp in southern France just before her parents' deportation. Margot then saved ten other children from the Nazis in her subsequent escape to Switzerland.

7:00 – 8:45 p.m.

Student Short: "Tycho's Nova"

Feature Presentation:

"Shut Up & Sing"

Bruce Leddy, director

95 min. USA 2006

Cast • Chris Bowers, David Harbour, David Alan Basche, Elizabeth Reaser, Mark Feuerstein & Molly Shannon

New England Premiere

SHUT UP & SING is an ensemble comedy/drama about a group of guys who sang a cappella together in college and are now reuniting fifteen years later to sing at a friend's wedding. With their spouses and significant others in tow, the group takes a break from their less-than-perfect lives in New York City to spend a long weekend rehearsing at a rambling family beach house. Old feuds are stirred up, secrets are revealed, and relationships are tested as the group reflects on how their lives have progressed -- and in some cases, regressed -- since their college heyday. In the end, these lifelong friends have readjusted their perspective and raise their voices in song to celebrate what is good and true in their lives.

9:15 – 11:00 p.m.

Short Film: "Little Victim"

Feature Presentation:

"Expiration Date"

Rick Stevenson, director
94 min. USA, 2005

Cast • *Dee Wallace Stone, David Keith, Ned Romero & Robert Guthrie*

This beguiling romantic fable revolves around the impending fate of Charles Silvercloud III, a stoic young man whose father and grandfather were both killed in bizarre accidents on their 25th birthdays. As Charlie's own ill-fated birthday approaches, he prepares to meet his maker. But things take an unexpected turn when he meets a young woman who won't let him die in peace.

LOCATION: COLUMBUS THEATER CINEMATHÉQUE, PROVIDENCE

12:15 – 2:30 p.m.

EASTERN CROSSWINDS: JAPANESE SHORT FILM SERIES

“The Sandbox”

Kory Juul, director

5 min. U S A/New Zealand 2005

East Coast Premiere

Inspired by Akira Kurasawa's 'Dreams,' director Kory Juul's short cg animated film 'The Sandbox' tells a tale of artistic struggle, and perserverance.

“Missing Pages”

Jerome Olivier, director

24 min. Japan, 2006

After developing a time machine, an inventor finds himself enwrapped in a war ignited by his creation.

“Ketsuzoku”

Yuji Nukui, director

39 min. Japan, 2005

Cast • *Keiichi Mano, Tateki Matsuura & Masayuki Hidaka*

In modern day Tokyo, a young man's free will is consumed by the emptiness of the city. Shin has no hope for his life. It all seems meaningless. As if guided by an unseen force, he wanders out of the city to a place he recognizes... his grandmother's house where he spent his childhood summers and there he discovers his past and himself.

“Hiro”

Matthew Swanson, Director

20 min. Canada 2005

Cast • *Hiro Kanagawa, Vicky Huang, William Samples, Darryl Quon*

A shy, obsessive Japanese entomologist finds himself thrown into a plot straight out of a gangster movie when a pretty girl walks into life and runs off with his prized possession, an ultra-rare beetle purchased on the black market.

“Water”

Shuichi Yoshida, director

25 min. Japan 2006

Cast • Kazue Ito, Saori Koide, Yukihiro Takiguch & Satoru Kawaguchi

World Premiere

Prize winning Japanese novelist, in his first adaptation from one of his own novels, 'Water' brilliantly and delicately portrays the lives of two teenagers in director's own hometown of Nagasaki, Japan.

“Capturing the Lost Colors of Basara”

Kazuo Takahashi, director

30 min Japan, 2004

US Premiere

Infatuated with the charms of the 12 Divine Generals at Shin-Yakushi-ji Temple, Nara, Japan, experts in archaeology, conservation, pigmentation, laser scanning, and computer graphics collaborated to restore the true colors. After painstaking research, a Nara Period (710-784AD) statue of the warlord Basara Taisho, one of the 12 Divine Generals and a Japanese national treasure made of clay and presently colorless, was restored to its original, bright, 8th-century colors (red, blue, and gold) in 3D! Then the pigments left on the statue's face and body were analyzed. 'Object becomes history when it's gone.' says the chief priest of Shin-Yakushi-ji Temple. 'It will never be, now.

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Short Film: “Handyman”

Feature Presentation:

“The 4th Dimension”

Dave Mazzoni, director

80 min. USA, 2006

(English, German dialogue)

Cast • Louis Morabito, Miles Williams, Karen Peakes, Kate Laross & Suzanne Inman

According to Variety, the film is "simmering with neurotic emotions and surreal dream states, "The 4th Dimension" ...that touches subconscious nerves." The 4th Dimension is a meditative examination into the mind of an introverted genius who obsesses to solve the complexity of time. The 4th Dimension explores the dark and lonely world between dreams and reality.

Jack is a loner confined to a workbench in the back of an antique shop. When a mysterious woman presents him with a broken antique clock, unexplainable events begin to occur. After finding Albert Einstein's journal on his still unsolved Unified Field Theory, Jack becomes compulsive about analyzing time and theorizing its connection to his supernatural experiences, his surreal dreams, and his perception of reality, only to lead to the discovery of the biggest mystery of all - himself.

5:15 – 7:00 p.m.

HOMEGROWN DOCUMENTARY SHOWCASE

(FILMS MADE BY RHODE ISLANDERS)

“One Day Sale”

“Birdstate”

plus

ROVING EYE DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION:

“A Lively Experiment: Dr. John Clarke, Co-Founder of RI (1609-1676)”

Diane St. Laurent, Director

37 minutes. USA 2005

After immigrating to Boston to escape religious oppression in England, Dr. Clarke, a physician and scholar, was lead to Aquidneck Island by friend, Roger Williams. Over the next 35 years, under the quiet hands of John Clarke, Aquidneck Island became Rhode Island - a haven for those seeking a democratic community encouraging freedom of expression.

7:15 – 8:45 p.m.

GLOBAL PANORAMA: INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS

“Danya”

“My Backyard Was a Mountain”

“La Primavera”

“Dammi il La”

“Dutch Bird”

9:00 – 10:45 p.m.

THE PROVIDENCE GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

“Coffee Date”

Stewart Wade, Director

93 min. USA 2006

New England Premiere

Cast • Deborah Gibson, Elaine Hendrix, Jason Stuart, Jonathan Bray, Jonathan Silverman, Leigh Taylor Young, Sally Kirkland & Wilson Cruz

Stewart Wade’s Directorial debut is a winning comedy about a practical joke that spins wildly and enjoyably out of control. Thanks to his slacker brother Barry (Jonathan Silverman), Todd (Jonathan Bray), a straight guy, ends up on a blind date with Kelly (*My So-Called Life*’s Wilson Cruz), a gay man. Despite the awkward circumstances, the two hit it off and decide to take revenge on Barry by pretending to have really hit it off – Todd brings Kelly home and convinces his brother he’s gay. But when Barry tells their mother (Sally Kirkland), she arrives on the scene, desperate to convince Todd (and herself) that she’s really, really ok with his homosexuality. Despite his protestations, soon everyone believes he’s gay, including work colleagues Clayton (Jason Stuart) and Melissa (Deborah Gibson), leading Todd to wonder if he might actually be interested in Kelly after all...

LOCATION: CABLE CAR CINEMA, PROVIDENCE

“BETWEEN TAKES...Filmmakers’ Forum”

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Topic: “When You Have a Great Idea, But No Money”

Speaker: Paul Roselli

So you got this great idea for a video marketing program or a training piece but no money. You got a small grant but can't seem to find anyone to help you produce the program you know will make a difference at a price you can afford. So what do you do? Paul A. Roselli from Corporate Film & Video Productions has worked on marketing, training feature and documentary films for over 20 years. His work has appeared in films, television programs, marketing pieces, museums, and more. Paul works with non-profit organizations to help them get the message out in an affordable way. Learn how to work with producers over time, how to use interns effectively, how to develop and write the best plan for production, script writing techniques to make the project affordable, and how best to get the product you want.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

STU POLLARD RETROSPECTIVE: FILMS THAT HAD THEIR WORLD PREMIERE AT RIFF

“Nice Guys Sleep Alone”

Stu Pollard, director

92 min. USA, 1999

A young man (Sean O'Bryan) in Louisville sees his dating failures are related to his always being nice. All of his dates end up going with the rude, obnoxious guys. Deciding to change his ways, he goes after a new acquaintance (Sybil Temchen), who unfortunately is tired of the male bores she meets and is seeking Mr. Right - the rose-bearing guy who wants to be nice to her.

7:15 – 9:00 p.m.

Stu Pollard Retrospective

“Keep your Distance”

Stu Pollard, director

92 min. USA, 2005

In the perfectly normal town of Louisville, KY, there is a perfectly normal man living the perfect life. GIL BELLOWS stars as David Dailey - a man who has it all: A great career, a community that adores him, and an enduring marriage. But beneath the surface, David's idyllic world is crumbling. He's haunted by a series of mysterious notes that warn of an imminent fall from grace. His sultry wife Susan (KIM RAVEN) is hell-bent on expanding the horizons of their sex life - with or without him. His longtime assistant Whit (JAMIE HARROLD) is gunning for his job. And he finds himself increasingly attracted to Melody Carpenter (JENNIFER WESTFELDT), a curious stranger he instinctively trusts because she doesn't know him well enough to betray him. Complicating matters, Melody's jilted boyfriend Sean (CHRISTIAN KANE), a charming and talented trust fund baby, regards David and Melody's fledgling friendship with contempt. As his jealousy seethes deeper, he concocts a devious plan to win her back, unaware his overly protective father (STACY KEACH) has ordered his number one ally (ELIZABETH PEÑA) to keep an eye on everyone involved. As David and Melody grow closer, they discover they have much in common - including the maddening suspicion they're each being stalked - and are plunged into a harrowing web of desire, deceit, and paranoia. Suddenly, the man everyone loves fears everyone has a reason to bring him down. As his perfect life veers further and further off course, David is

about to learn that the biggest danger of having it all is having everything to lose.

LOCATION: JANE PICKENS THEATER, NEWPORT

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

ROVING EYE DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION:

“Lemonade Stories”

Mary Mazzio, Director

47 min. USA 2005

“Lemonade Stories,” a film about extraordinary entrepreneurs and their mums, chronicles the impact mothers have had on igniting the entrepreneurial spirit and innovative thinking. Virgin founder, Richard Branson and his sense of risk-taking, for example, emerged from the life and example of his mother, Eve, a pilot and WWII veteran. Billy Starr began the Pan-Mass Challenge, motivated by his mother's untimely death from cancer. He has since raised more than \$100 million for cancer research. Arthur Blank's vision for The Home Depot was inspired by his mother, a widow with no business experience, who took over and ran a family business with enormous success. The film features Richard Branson (Virgin); Arthur Blank (Home Depot); Russell Simmons (Def Jam); Kay Koplovitz (USA Network); Tom Scott (Nantucket Nectars) among others. This film was the subject of a USA Today cover story (complete with photos and a trailer on USA Today's home page); a cover story on Forbes.com, ABC News.com, Christian Science Monitor, The Boston Globe, NPR, Bloomberg Radio, Fast Company, CNNMoney.com, and also featured on CNN Headline News, among others.

LEMONADE STORIES also was awarded the first place Judge's Commendation for Best Documentary at the Rhode Island International Film Festival, one of the few festivals that qualify films for Academy Award Consideration.

3:00 – 4:45 p.m.

Feature Presentation:

“Lassie”

Roadside Attractions/Samuel Goldwyn Films

Charles Sturridge, Director-screenwriter

100 min. United Kingdom 2005

Cast: Peter O'Toole, Samantha Morton, John Lynch, Steve Pemberton, Jonathan Mason, and Peter Dinklage

LASSIE is a heartwarming and moving adventure that does excellent justice to the classic character. Sensitively written and directed by veteran British filmmaker Charles Sturridge. "Lassie" was recently showcased in the Family Festival section of the Tribeca Film Festival.

The filmmaker has assembled a sterling cast for this remake, set -- as was the original novel -- on the eve of World War II in a Yorkshire mining town. The opening scene, depicting a group of upper-crust hunters pursuing a fox only to

be foiled by Lassie, well establishes the class conflicts that form the subtext of the story.

Lassie is a part of the hard-pressed Carraclough family, including coal miner Sam (John Lynch); his loving wife, Sarah (Samantha Morton); and their 9-year-old son, Joe (Jonathan Mason). When hard times hit, the family is forced to sell their beloved dog to the high-toned Duke of Rudling (Peter O'Toole), who wants her for his granddaughter (Hester Odgers).

The adventures of the indefatigable collie are alternately amusing, thrilling and heartbreaking and are beautifully realized by the filmmaker's classical approach. The actors essay their roles with the utmost conviction, with particularly sterling work by the slyly funny O'Toole and child actor Mason. A gallery of estimable performers makes cameo appearances, including Edward Fox, Kelly MacDonald and, most effectively, Peter Dinklage as a kindly puppeteer who takes Lassie under his wing.

Best of all, of course, is the canine, or number of canines, in the title role. A worthy successor to the dog's cinematic and television forebears, this Lassie is bound to induce a run on pet stores and dog breeders everywhere.

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

THE PROVIDENCE GAY AND LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

“Scared New World”

Chris Brown, Director

81 min. USA 2005

Cast • *Fanny Ara-Herms, Harriet Schiffer-Scott, Josh Millican, Lena Zee & Zachary Schramm*

East Coast Premiere

A tough, strong and unforgettable film. Alma, a pot-dealing single mother, coasts through each day with little care and motivation until she meets a cancer patient in need of medical marijuana. Vargas, her roommate and friend for over a decade, works intensely in his room on a literary project that no one has seen and that in his words will 'change literature as we know it.' Moving into their Oakland apartment is Penny, a 19-year-old French foreign exchange student, in love with California and on her own for the first time. Embracing newfound freedoms, she explores her sexuality through two separate relationships -- one with a man, the other with a woman. 'Scared New World' is the story of three lives, separate but intertwined, trying to find balance in unstable times.

7:00 – 8:45 p.m.

Documentary Showcase:

“Three Women and a Chateau”

Catherine Ryan, Gary Weimberg, directors

80 min. USA 2006

The Heiress. The Countess. The Doctor. Although they never met, these 3 women shared a place and a passion: Chateau Carolands, a 100 room architectural masterpiece in Hillsborough, California; the 2nd largest private home in the

United States; and a three dimensional window into the last 100 years of American history.

The story of Chateau Carolands is like a Greek tragedy with a twist, with the chateau in the role of an enchanted magic mirror, so grand that it encourages a dangerous hubris in those who fall under its spell. We watch this drama unfold through three generations of owners of Carolands as they fall into failure and near-ruin, until the recent restoration brings about an artistic triumph for the house and current owner.

This is a story of fabulous wealth but also financial disaster, of great loves and bitter betrayals; including wars, earthquakes, a murder, a porno film, and of course great works of art and architecture. The documentary provides an insider's look at the struggles and desires of the ultra-rich in America, where even limitless money cannot guarantee that dreams come true.

9:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Documentary Showcase:

“Liberty Street: Alive at Ground Zero”

Peter Josyph, director

118 mins. USA 2006

New England Premiere

The focus of the film is 114 Liberty Street, which stands a few yards from the World Trade Center on one of the oldest streets in the nation. This small residential building escaped demolition when the Twin Towers were put up, and narrowly escaped it when they were knocked down. In this evacuated building, with its astonishing views of the site and the surrounding neighborhood, the viewer is eyewitness to the recovery and the removal at Ground Zero and to the lives of the people who were proud -- and cursed -- to call it home.

LOCATION: CASTLE CINEMA ONE, PROVIDENCE

5:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Hip, Hot and Short 1

“They’re Made Out of Meat”

“Project Huxley”

“Little Claus and Big Claus”

“Camp Manna”

“Santa Baby”

7:00 – 8:45 p.m.

Feature Presentation:

“Little Athens”

Tom Zuber, dir

105 min. USA, 2006

Little Athens is multi-storied drama/comedy about a single day in the lives of four groups of disillusioned youths living in a small rural town. The depression of their

dead-end lives eating away at them, these diverse characters pursue their own pathetic aspirations in lieu of true escape. Their separate journeys lead to an explosive house party, where each character desperately seeks to resolve the problems that define both them and their town.

LOCATION: CASTLE CINEMA TWO, PROVIDENCE

5:15 – 7:15 p.m.

Feature Documentary:

“Without Apology”

Susan Hamovitch, director

73 min. USA, 2006

'Without Apology' is the story of the filmmaker's family's 'dark secret' -- her brother Alan, born with a disability so severe he would never learn to speak.

Institutionalized in 1958, a taboo family topic for more than thirty years, Alan is only now -- after the expose of his state-run facility, the radical overhaul of medical thought on retardation and autism, --emerging as a member of his family and of the world.

Feature Documentary:

“Diamond in the Golden Land”

Dr. Glenn B. Short, director

54 min. USA/Burma, 2005

The Great Po Sein' is legendary in Myanmar. Until his death in the middle of the 20th Century, he was at the core of the cultural history of the nation. A gifted dancer, singer and actor, he created a legacy of classical dance that forms the basis of traditional performances in Myanmar today and was at the heart of the anti-colonial movement of his time, with the famous national founder, Aung San, father of Nobel Prize winner, Aung San Su Kyi.

By means of the documentary format, with interviews and stunning graphics, the dance of the ancient courts of Myanmar are revived and its history traced from its beginnings in the remote mountains and steppes of Central Asia and in the ancient dynasties of Myanmar.

7:15 – 9 p.m.

Feature Presentation:

“Statistics”

Frank Robak, director

104 min, USA, 2006

U.S. premiere

“Statistics” is the story of six individuals who all share one thing in common: they will become statistics by the end of the day. They are neither heroes nor criminals, but everyday people who will become victims of everyday life. The events that take place will be read about today and forgotten tomorrow, but in that blink-of-an-eye, their lives and the lives of the people around them will be changed forever. It happens every day. Despite the tragedies, this is not a story

about dying, but is in fact a very uplifting story about living. The message is simple: cherish life today because no one is guaranteed a tomorrow.