

VMA Arts & Cultural Center

1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence, RI 02903

401.621.9660

www.vmari.com

(Cinemathèque Theatre)

Tickets: \$10 general admission

Wed., 8/11:

12:00 p.m.

The Heron and the Geisha: A Life in Dance

Directed by Noriko Sakamoto

37 min. JAPAN, 2009

The unknown world of Nihon buyo (classical Japanese dance) will be unfurled by the master, Yoshie Tachibana and her disciples. The audience will experience the essence of learning nihon buyo and nihon buyo itself by being taken into the inside her studio, the backstage of National theater, and the studios of the various artisans who are the essential parts of nihon buyo.

The Calling

Directed by David Ranghelli

77 min. Peru/U S A, 2009

' The Calling is a Beautiful film...it's a poetic Spiritual meditation.' - Barbara Kopple Life is a calling. And every call is both thrilling and daunting. Transporting viewers to distant lands and into deep regions of the human soul, The Calling reveals the joys and anxieties of religious life. Putting flesh and blood on questions that are often viewed too piously or abstractly, this documentary focuses on three people who are members of a Catholic community that aids the poor living on the dusty edges of Lima, Peru. It's a film that provides an intimate glimpse into the nature of belief, the bonds of family, and being brave enough to ask: Who am I? Over the course of the film we meet Orlando Castillo, a young man who wishes to become a priest, despite his parents reservations. Mother Mary-Elizabeth a woman torn between her call and the emotional needs of her biological children. And we witness how Fr. Philip Scott – the community's founder - faces the personal and logistical challenges of moving his fledgling mission from the USA to his native country - Peru. Peru is not a safe place to practice mercy. Armed only with the power of their convictions, our protagonists venture into this desperate and uncertain landscape determined to make a difference. The Calling invites viewers to question their relationships, temporal and spiritual, as it delves into the fundamental and enduring questions that add meaning and value to our lives.

2:00 p.m.

Piano Fingers

Directed by Nicholas Carmen

25 min. U S A, 2010

Howard and May, a once-famous entertainment couple from the 1950s, have entombed themselves in a decaying house cluttered with memorabilia from the peak of their career. As May begins to lose her memory to Alzheimer's disease, Howard attempts to rekindle their love through the music they performed in their youth.

My Kidnapper

Directed by Mark Henderson

83 min. Colombia, Germany, United Kingdom, 2010

In 2003 Mark Henderson was one of eight backpackers taken hostage whilst trekking in the Colombian jungle. What had started as an innocent tourist adventure, ended up as 101 terrifying days of captivity and uncertainty about his future. Eleven months after his release Mark received an email from Antonio, one of his kidnappers, and one of the other hostages received a facebook friend request from Antonio's girlfriend, another of their captors. That email was the start of a five-year correspondence between hostage and kidnapper that eventually drew Mark back to the one part of the world he thought he'd never see again and face to face with the man who had once held the key to his freedom. My Kidnapper is an emotional journey into a kidnapping, told from all sides. This deeply personal, authored documentary follows Mark and three of his fellow hostages as they return to the Sierra Nevada mountains in northern Colombia, the place where they lived out their worst nightmares. As they travel deeper into the jungle, they discover the truth behind what happened to them, come to understand how they all dealt with the ordeal and finally have the chance to confront two of their kidnappers.

4:00 p.m.

F-Art

Directed by Nicole Sudhaus

10 min. U S A, 2010

A brief look at two young female artists struggling to stand out in the ever evolving world of modern art. Flatulence is what inspires Josephina Carmichael and Jezebel Cresswell. They call it Flatulence Art...in short, F-Art.

The Handover

Directed by David Stubbs

15 min. New Zealand, 2008

Paul is a single dad who loves spending time with his daughter Katy, but handing her back at the end of the weekend reminds him of everything he has lost – his family, his home and Helen, the love of his life. In the course of one fateful evening, in the aftermath of returning Katy to her mother, Paul seizes an opportunity for one last moment of intimacy with Helen. But as he soon discovers, his act of transgression comes with a price.

Mama always told him

Directed by Annabel Osborne

8 min. Australia, 2010

George has always suffered from 'love at first sight', and falls in love way too quickly, but perhaps this time George really has met 'the one'. Can George remember his Mother's shrewd advice?

Shop Secret

Directed by Danny Prussman

15 min. U S A, 2009

Scotty Kapoor (Ravi Patel) is a secret shopper who's dream is to be a secret agent. In order to prove his worth to the FBI, his father / boss (Kumar Pallana), and his ex-girlfriend, he must solve a case at one of his 'shop' locations before he gets fired for not focusing on his job.

Just Like Us

Directed by Ahmed Ahmed

72 min. Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, U S A, United Arab Emirates, 2010

Modern technology and globalization have made the world a much smaller place and caused us to be more interconnected as people, yet cultural misconceptions persist. Through a celebration of culture and comedy, this film uproots the widely held misconception that Arabs have no sense of humor - when in fact they laugh, and are, just like us. This documentary features Egyptian-American comedian Ahmed Ahmed, in his directorial debut, along with a host of critically acclaimed international stand-up comedians. Presented by Cross Cultural Entertainment and Cross Cultural Productions, Just Like Us exemplifies their goal of reintroducing socially relevant issues to the world in an effort to build cultural bridges in this age of greater tolerance, understanding and acceptance. The film documents four countries in the Middle East, showcasing the cultures of Dubai, Lebanon, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Egypt with sold out crowds totaling over 20,000 people. Contemporary stand-up comedy has the powerful ability to provide relief, encourage a younger generation, break down barriers and serves as a platform for cross cultural dialogue. This art form is very new to the Middle East and older generations did not have the opportunity to appreciate this creative platform. However, through the current Internet age stand-up comedy has flourished in the Arab region over the past few years, and continues to show us that laughter is the common language of the world.

Thurs., 8/12:

12:00 p.m.

Animation Showcase: RIIFFToons

A Lost and Found Box of Human Sensation

Directed by Stefan Leuchtenberg & Martin Wallner

15 min. GERMANY, 2010

When his father dies unexpectedly, a young man seeking to cope with his grief goes on a powerful emotional journey through time and space.

Barko

Directed by Allison Craig

8 min. U S A, 2010

Barko is a lonely, unloved, and abused dog who has established himself as the unwilling clown of a circus run by poodles. His seemingly random fear of hot dogs is rationalized by flashbacks conveying a former owner who occupies his time tormenting the poor pup with the processed snack. Yet, in the end, Barko suddenly finds himself in the arms of a caring boy who shows him that he can experience a little love after all.

Death Row Diet

Directed by Mike Salva & Tom Snyder-

3 min. U S A, 2009

Jonathan Katz plays a man who is on death row and Weight Watchers

Hazed

Directed by Jacquie Rushlow

2 min. CANADA, 2009

When cute little dead birds start dropping out of a smoggy sky, a naive smoke-spewing factory discovers the toxic side effects of his own existence. Can the factory conquer his guilt in time to save the world?

Poppy

Directed by James Cunningham

10 min. New Zealand, 2009

Poppy is set on France's western front in World War One, Two New Zealand soldiers are trapped behind enemy lines. They find a baby in a muddy ditch, under its dead parents. One of the men wants to save it – the other does not. Based on true events, Poppy was written by the great-grandson of one of these soldiers

Skylight

Directed by David Baas

3 min, Canada, 2009

An animated mock documentary about the ecological plight of penguins in the Antarctic, possibly foretelling cataclysmic results for the rest of the world.

The Gruffalo

Directed by Max Lang & Jakob Schuh

27 min. United Kingdom, 2009

Featuring Helena Bonham Carter, John Hurt, Robbie Coltrane & Tom Wilkinson

A half hour animated film based on the classic picture book written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler. A magical tale of a mouse who takes a stroll through the woods. Encountering three predators who all wish to eat him - a fox, an owl and a snake - the plucky mouse has to use his wits to survive.

The Mouse That Soared

Directed by Kyle Bell

6 min. U S A, 2009

A famous flying circus mouse reflects on his humble beginnings in this high-altitude adventure in aerodynamics.

Toothnapped

Directed by George Dondero

5 min. U S A, 2010

For a six year old a loose tooth is a painful reminder that growing up can hurt. Lucky a tooth under a pillow produces a fiscal boon that can ease that pain. Toothnapped is an animated film about a young girl whose misadventure might not payout the financial reward she was looking for but maybe the opportunity to learn a life lesson.

Vaseline & Pepper

Directed by Fraser Munden

5 min. Canada, 2010

An animated documentary about a baby-faced 12 year-old who comes up with an ingenious disguise in an attempt to get into a strip club.

Win Big

Directed by Martha Grant

5 min. U S A, 2010

Amidst the ruins of a casino resort city, a high stakes game of blackjack between Fly and Centipede goes awry.

Yellow Cake

Directed by Nick Cross

8 min. Canada, 2009

A fantastic funny animal cartoon featuring geopolitical bullying, social unrest, worker revolt, and some tasty yellow cakes.

Zero

Directed by Christopher Kezelos

12 min. Australia, 2009

Born into a world of numbers, an oppressed zero discovers that through determination, courage and love... nothing can be truly something.

2:00 p.m.

Day Before Yesterday

Directed by Patricia Chica

12 min. Canada, 2009

A young woman is being questioned by two police detectives. She was found unconscious, nearly dead, in a suburban neighborhood. She has no recollection of who she is or how she got to that place. When a man comes forward identifying himself as her husband, she makes a decision about her life from that point forward.

De L'eau Glacée Dans Les Veines (Ice Water in the Veins)

Directed by Cimon Charest

45 min, Canada, 2010

A documentary about the unique history of ice canoeing in Québec. Experience two captivating stories celebrating a little-known tradition. Follow the reconstitution of a St. Lawrence River crossing by the ancestors of the Lachance family from Ile-au-Canoe. Discover the modern-day competition through the extraordinary passion of Isle-aux-Coudre native, Nathalie Dufour, and her teammates.

Wrong Side of the Bus

Directed by Rod Freedman

56 min. Australia, South Africa, 2009

There is a high price to pay for being a bystander. Sidney Bloch, a professor of psychiatry, returns to South Africa from Melbourne for his medical school reunion, determined to resolve his guilt for colluding with Apartheid, that has troubled him for forty years. He is accompanied by his

teenage son, Aaron who turns out to be his harshest critic. WRONG SIDE OF THE BUS is one man's journey to forgiveness.

4:00 p.m.

Le Grand Sault (The Grand Falls)

Directed by Hervé Demers

15 min, Canada, 2009

Wandering with her beloved near the rushing waterfall, a young woman has no idea that their peaceful meeting place will be the scene of immense turmoil.

Ellen

Directed by: Kyle Hausmann-Stokes

13 min. U S A, 2010

A chronically insecure high school girl becomes prey to a deranged kidnapper and must learn to believe in herself and her abilities in order to escape his enslavement.

Sofia

Directed by Shervin Kermani

14 min. Canada, 2009

In his final moments Joseph, an old reclusive painter, has a dream where he wanders through many of his memories. Over the course of a nostalgic odyssey, he encounters many images from his past including that of his late wife, professor, and a memory of his mother Sofia, a ballerina whose beautiful dancing becomes for the older man an image of redemption.

Queen of the Sun

Directed by Taggart Siegel

83 min. U S A / Australia, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Switzerland, United Kingdom, 2010

Without bees, Albert Einstein said, 'man would only have four years of life left.' From the director of THE REAL DIRT ON FARMER JOHN comes a profound, alternative look at the tragic global bee crisis. Juxtaposing the catastrophic disappearance of bees with the mysterious world of the beehive, QUEEN OF THE SUN weaves an unusual and dramatic story of the heart-felt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers from around the world. Featuring Michael Pollan, Gunther Hauk and Vandana Shiva, QUEEN OF THE SUN reveals both the problems and the solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature.

Fri., 8/13:

12:00 p.m.

KIDSEYE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

KidsShorts

Flocons et carottes (Snowflakes And Carrots)

Directed by Samantha Leriche-Gionet

4 min. CANADA, 2010

A little girl steals all the carrots she can find on snowmen.

The Gruffalo

Directed by Max Lang & Jakob Schuh

27 min. United Kingdom, 2009

Featuring Helena Bonham Carter, John Hurt, Robbie Coltrane & Tom Wilkinson

A half hour animated film based on the classic picture book written by Julia Donaldson and illustrated by Axel Scheffler. A magical tale of a mouse who takes a stroll through the woods. Encountering three predators who all wish to eat him - a fox, an owl and a snake - the plucky mouse has to use his wits to survive.

Paperboy

Directed by Mark LaFleur

30 min. U S A, 2009

The story of a paperboy and a girl on his paper route, who are trying to meet face to face for the first time.

Capitan

Directed by Diego Diaz

6 min. U S A, 2009

Junior uses his imagination to find closure in the death of his grandmother.

Fishing With Sam

Directed by Atle Blakseth

6 min. Norway, 2009

Catching fish on the North Pole can be challenging. Some have more luck than others. The unfortunate ones may totally need a different fishing approach.

Sidewalk Symphony

Directed by Jonathan Salemi

8 min. U S A, 2009

A 12 year old boy gets his Ipod taken away, and instead uses his imagination to make music with the environment around him.

Ormie

Directed by Rob Silvestri

3 min. CANADA, 2009

Ormie is a Pig, in every sense of the word. Pig see cookie. Pig want cookie. But they are out of reach...or are they? See Ormie's attempts to gain the warm sweet taste that is his obsession.

The Visitor

Directed by: David Azer

4 min. U S A, 2010

A boy comes home to find a mysterious alien creature eating his cookies. He decides to take matters into his own hands, but the alien might not be what he was expecting.

The MisInventions of Milo Weatherby

Directed by William Whirity

22 min. U S A, 2009

A young boy named Milo Weatherby is the next Thomas Edison... or at least he'd like to think so. When Milo's newest invention, the Reverse

Microwave, actually turns out to be a time machine, he and his best friend Levi set out on an adventure through time.

2:00 p.m.

Indelible

Directed by Brian Lynch

21 min. Canada, 2010

The son of an embittered motel manager meets a young refugee too scarred by her memories to venture outside her room. Without words, the two children find a way to tell each other their stories, unknowingly touching everyone around them.

Berliner

Directed by Kim Nelson

90 min. Canada / Germany, 2010

First they were called 'Guest-workers', then, foreigners and now 'Allah's Daughters Without Rights'. BERLINER is a documentary film that exposes assumptions about, and issues for, women of Turkish background living in Berlin: navigating wearing (or not wearing) the headscarf, a classist education system and sensationalist media stories about their lives. BERLINER explores the lives of first, second and third generation women and their real struggles, as Muslims, and as part of the largest minority group in Berlin: post-war, post-Wall and post 9/11.

4:00 p.m.

Off Season

Directed by Jonathan Van Tulleken

12 min. U S A, United Kingdom / Canada, 2009

An alcoholic transient, with only his dog for a companion, steals from summer cottages during the brutal winter of the off-season. When he ventures from his usual path in search of a full bottle he makes a terrifying discovery that unravels his solitary existence.

One Thousand Pictures RFK's Last Journey

Directed by Jennifer Stoddart

38 min. U S A/United Kingdom, 2009

On a hot afternoon in June 1968 following a funeral mass in St Patrick's cathedral New York, the Kennedy family and their guests boarded a train at Penn Station to take Robert F Kennedy, assassinated two days before, back to Washington to bury him next to his brother John. Not anticipated were the thousands of people who lined the route to pay their respects to the Senator and who were captured by the camera of Magnum photographer Paul Fusco who was on the train. One Thousand Pictures tells the story of that journey and of America at the time through some of the people who were there and in the pictures, providing an extraordinary portrait of 1960's America. .

Gerrymandering

Directed by Jeff Reichert

81 min. U S A, 2010

The film follows Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's campaign to pass Prop 11, a controversial redistricting reform measure in CA and spins off into redistricting stories in eight different states. It features interviews w/ Schwarzenegger, Howard Dean, Ed Rollins, former Governors Gray Davis

and Pete Wilson, and other politicians and journalists. Gerrymandering examines the effects of a broken redistricting system, illustrated via a range of stories, including the famous 2003 case when a group of Texas Democrats fled the state by bus in the middle of the night to avoid a Republican power grab at the hands of Tom Delay. It shows how even the most reform-minded politicians like then state legislator Obama and Representative John McCain worked the system to draw safe districts which guaranteed their own election. Gerrymandering is the first film on this subject, and its findings are provocative and revelatory - showing culpability in both parties and surrounding this obscure issue in all its complexity and absurdity.