

RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

2006 LOCATION DAY-BY-DAY CALENDAR

JANE PICKENS THEATRE, TOURO STREET, NEWPORT

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH

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 moms, 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 Carracloough 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.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10TH

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Short Films: "The Cole Nobody Knows", "Shipwrecked"

ROVING EYE DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION:

"A Life Among Whales"

Bill Haney, Director

56 min. USA, Netherlands, 2005

Weaving together natural history and biography, *A Life Among Whales* is a fascinating exploration into the life and work of whale biologist and activist Roger Payne. Payne's controversial discovery in the early 1970s that whales sing "songs" helped ignite the modern day environmental movement. His pioneering spirit has consistently advanced the boundaries of science and activism over the

last four decades. With beautiful and haunting images, *A Life Among Whales* follows one scientist's dedication to saving the whales and forces us to question our stewardship of Earth and our co-existence with some of its most intriguing creatures.

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

ROVING EYE DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION:

“Flying Downhill: Bode Miller”

W.C. Rogers, Director

124 min. USA, 2006

Bode Miller is among the world's fastest skiers and is arguably the very best American to hit the slopes and a challenge to the great legends of the sport. His style is wild and untamed, as was his childhood on a 450-acre homestead near Fanconia, New Hampshire. This film chronicles Miller's meteoric rise in the realm of the Alpine ski race—a path beset with major injuries and alternative training methods—en route to the top of World Championship and Olympic competition.

5:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Feature Presentation:

“ears open. eyeballs, click”

Canaan Brumley, Director

95 min. USA/ Canada 2005

They have to learn everything all over again: from shoe-cleaning to ten-second showers. Only then, marching and fighting techniques are addressed. For twelve weeks, the recruits of Platoon 1141 of the U.S. Marines are subjected to the orders of screaming drill instructors. In nearly two hours of pure *cinéma vérité*, the spectator experiences them, too. No voiceover, no interviews, just the camera that stays close to the soldiers, or keeps its distance for a more abstract impression of life on the base. Rapidly edited images reflect the frenzy and the soldiers' anxiety. During a nocturnal cleaning marathon, the fatigue is palpable. The soundtrack is largely filled with yelled orders and the soldiers' "Yes sir, aye-aye sir." Only a subtle musical score offers some relief. The film is divided into twelve chapters with short titles that betray a subtle sense of humour.

This film is the first half of Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket* brought to reality. Told in a handful of titled chapters, this portrait of soldiers in training isn't your average documentary; with no interviews or narration, Brumley presents our characters with visual emotion and intensity. Rather than getting to know each of the recruits personally as they fight through boot camp, we travel the road with them and witness the experiences up close and personal.

Debuting director Brumley was once a marine himself, on the base where he shot his film. He chose not to focus on individual people: the soldiers are interchangeable and the drill instructors all look similar. Only briefly does he highlight the rise and fall of one ambitious soldier from the platoon; the real protagonist is and remains the army base.

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

ROVING EYE DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION:

"Brats: Our Journey Home"

Donna Musil, Director

98 min. USA 2005

World Premiere

Air Force brat Kris Kristofferson leads us on a heartfelt journey into the strange but interesting life of an American military "brat". Based on poignant and provocative interviews with adult brats of all ethnicities, including General H. Norman Schwarzkopf and author Mary Edwards Wertsch. This is the first non-fiction film to explore the peculiar subculture of brats from the child's point-of-view.

With the filmmaker in attendance

9:00 – 11:00 p.m.

Feature Documentary:

Short Film: "Katrina's Wake"

"Vajra Sky Over Tibet"

John Bush, director

97 min. USA/Tibet, 2005

New England Premiere

VAJRA SKY OVER TIBET is a documentary feature and a cinematic pilgrimage to some of the most revered venues and festivals still surviving in Tibet. Vajra is a Sanskrit word - the thunderbolt of illumination, flashing from the vastness of an open sky. This poignant journey bears witness to the indomitable faith of its endangered Buddhist community and the imminent threat to its very survival. The vastness of the Tibetan sky, reflecting snowy mountains, rushing rivers, and turquoise lakes, leads the journey west. Responding to the denial of the human right to practice one's religion without interference, Tibetans visit these legendary sites with a defiant ardor and overt displays of devotion. As interviews were not appropriate because of likely retribution, VAJRA SKY employs the evocative voice of Tenzin Choegyal, a Tibetan in exile. Many of Tibet's most legendary musicians and singers are featured in the compelling soundtrack. *The film has received the blessing of The Dalai Lama.*