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CALENDAR PROGRAMMED BY
KAREN COOPER AND MIKE MAGGIORE

THE POOL

SEPTEMBER 3 – 16
2 WEEKS

The Pool

DIRECTED BY CHRIS SMITH

USA 2007 95 MINUTES IN ENGLISH & HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES VITAGRAPH FILMS

IN THIS CHARMING, ELEGANTLY SHOT FABLE SET IN NEIGHBORHOODS OF POVERTY AND PRIVILEGE IN GOA, India, 18-year-old Venkatesh ekes out a living working in a hotel and pounding the pavement selling plastic baggies. It's a far cry from his fantasy — to dive into the glimmering David Hockney-esque swimming pool of an upper-class family. Remarkably, this neorealist tale, reminiscent of the great Satyajit Ray, is written and directed by an American, Chris Smith, acclaimed director of AMERICAN MOVIE and THE YES MEN. "A truly independent gem of a feature. A delight on every level. Uplifting without a drop of sap." — Sheri Linden, *The Hollywood Reporter.*

1:15, 3:15, 6, 8, 10

VIRTUAL JFK

SEPTEMBER 17 – 30
2 WEEKS

Virtual JFK

Vietnam If Kennedy Had Lived

PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY KOJI MASUTANI

USA 2008 80 MINS.

SCOTTISH HISTORIAN NIALL FERGUSON CALLS IT *VIRTUAL HISTORY:* the great *what if's*, the plausibility of *counterfactuals*. First-time filmmaker Koji Masutani and Brown University professor James G. Blight ask: "Can a president make a decisive difference in matters of war and peace… or, are the forces that drive a nation into war a lot more impersonal, out of the control of any single human being, even a president?" In 1963 the US had 16,000 military advisors in Vietnam. In 1968, Johnson had 500,000 troops there. VIRTUAL JFK rethinks the legendary 1,000-day presidency, selecting from more than 250 hours of archival material some of the brightest, funniest moments from the Kennedy press conferences as well as some of the scariest ones, when the Cold War threatens to turn hot. The 800-pound gorilla in the room is, of course, George W. Bush and his war in Iraq.

1, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8, 10

BALLAST

OCTOBER 1 – 14
2 WEEKS

Ballast

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY LANCE HAMMER

USA 2008 96 MINS ALLUVIAL FILM CO.

WINNER, BEST DIRECTOR AWARD, 2008 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL. A young boy drifts through the spare flatlands of a wintry Mississippi township and a middle-aged man sits in his rural home, frozen in grief after his brother's suicide. These striking images set in motion a riveting story of three people trying to reposition their lives after experiencing a traumatic loss. Lance Hammer has been compared to the Dardenne Brothers, for the assured hand with which he tells a delicate, quietly unfolding story using understated means and non-professionals from the Mississippi Delta. "The one indisputably great film at Sundance '08… (This) poetic and profound movie transcends categories and announces the arrival of a major new filmmaker." —Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*.

1:15, 3:15, 6, 8, 10

OCTOBER 15 – 21
1 WEEK

Frontrunners

DIRECTED BY CAROLINE SUH

USA 2007 80 MINS. OSCILLOSCOPE PICTURES

WHAT DO TIM ROBBINS, THELONIOUS MONK, DREW NIEPORENT, Jerry Nadler, and Lucy Liu all have in common? They all graduated from Stuyvesant, the jewel in the crown of NYC's high schools for gifted students. Not surprisingly, some of the nation's smartest, most media-savvy teenagers run an election for class president with primaries, televised debates, newspaper endorsements and considerable schmoozing in the halls. Stuyvesant accepts 3% of the 25,000 kids who apply, and when just one is going to be class president, you can bet that tensions run high.

1, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8, 10

FRONTRUNNERS

OCTOBER 22 – NOVEMBER 4
2 WEEKS

Stranded

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY GONZALO ARIJON

FRANCE 2008 126 MINS. IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ZEITGEIST FILMS

"A CINEMATIC TOUR DE FORCE. Like the story it tells — one of nobility born of degradation — STRANDED: I'VE COME FROM A PLANE THAT CRASHED IN THE MOUNTAINS … packs a knock-out punch." — John Anderson, *Variety*. In 1972, a plane filled with cheerful, well-to-do young men crashed in the remote Andes. STRANDED recreates the extraordinary experience of those who initially survived and who after two months found their way out of this frozen hell. ALIVE was a commercial release, but STRANDED is the definitive, haunting version of this profoundly moving drama.

1:15, 4, 6:40, 9:10

STRANDED

NOVEMBER 5 – 18
2 WEEKS

Stages

DIRECTED BY MIJKE DE JONG

THE NETHERLANDS 2007 88 MINS IN DUTCH WITH ENGLISH SUBS

***STAGES* COULD EASILY HAVE BEEN TITLED "SCENES FROM A DIVORCE."** Roos and Martin are an attractive, previously-married 40ish couple whom we get to know from their edgy meetings at elegant Dutch restaurants. Their counterparts could be found any evening in Tribeca, the Marais or Highgate. But it's their troubled 17-year-old son, Isaac, who sets them apart. Why does Isaac have an obsession with samurai swords and why is he so silent? STAGES looks at the unforeseen consequences of the narcissistic behavior we equate with an affluent, post-modern lifestyle.

1, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8, 10

STAGES

NOVEMBER 19 – DECEMBER 2
2 WEEKS

Harvard Beats Yale 29–29

DIRECTED BY KEVIN RAFFERTY

USA 2008 105 MINS.

HARVARD STADIUM, NOVEMBER 23, 1968: for the first time since 1909, the football teams of Harvard and Yale are undefeated as they meet for their final game. Yale is heavily favored, with Brian Dowling, its captain and quarterback, satirized in classmate Garry Trudeau's *Doonesbury* strip. Harvard's lineman is Tommy Lee Jones — Al Gore's roommate. Kevin Rafferty (ATOMIC CAFÉ) intercuts original footage with the hilarious, suspenseful recollections of the 50 men who played in what has become one of college football's most famous games.

1, 3:15, 5:40, 7:50, 10:10

HARVARD BEATS YALE 29–29

DUST

DECEMBER 3 – 9
1 WEEK

Dust

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY HARTMUT BITOMSKY

GERMANY/SWITZERLAND 2007 90 MINS. IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ICARUS FILMS

IT DOESN'T GET MORE BASIC THAN DUST. And it is only a filmmaker of Harmut Bitomsky's stature who could successfully tackle a subject so seemingly uncinematic — by bringing to it a rigorous intelligence and a masterful visual imagination. DUST scours industrial sites and office building interiors, paint factories, and demolition sites. It deals with dust-repellent products, the medicinal cost of dust, the history of the Dust Bowl and the aftereffects of the dust created on 9/11. The definitive film on an elusive phenomenon that is both everywhere and nowhere.

1:15, 3:30, 6, 8, 10

WENDY AND LUCY

DECEMBER 10 – 23
2 WEEKS

Wendy and Lucy

DIRECTED BY KELLY REICHARDT

USA 2008 80 MINS. OSCILLOSCOPE PICTURES

OSCAR NOMINEE MICHELLE WILLIAMS *(BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN)* STARS IN A NEW DRAMA FROM KELLY REICHARDT. Manohla Dargis, writing in the *NY Times* about the film from Cannes: "(A) pitch-perfect triumph… In the space of a few years, Ms. Reichardt…has become one of the most interesting young American filmmakers. Her latest follows Wendy (Ms. Williams), a girlish woman with watchful eyes and a hesitant smile, who, with her mutt, Lucy, is on her way to a new life in Alaska with too little money when she runs into trouble in Oregon. With uninflected realism, an attentive camera and no weeping strings, Ms. Reichardt makes palpably, tragically real what it means to be struggling at the very edge of the economic abyss. Like OLD JOY…WENDY AND LUCY is political to the bone but without any of the usual grandstanding…"

1, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8, 10

MICHAL DANIEL

THEATER OF WAR

DECEMBER 24 – JANUARY 6
2 WEEKS

Theater of War

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOHN WALTER

USA 2008 95 MINS. WHITE BUFFALO ENTERTAINMENT

MERYL STREEP IS AN UNFORGETTABLE MOTHER COURAGE in Tony Kushner's adaptation of the Brecht masterpiece, presented by The Public Theater/NY Shakespeare Festival in Central Park during summer 2006. Filmmaker John Walter's earlier documentary, HOW TO DRAW A BUNNY, explored the psychological ramifications of the life and art of Ray Johnson. His new movie could easily have been a star vehicle for Streep and Kevin Kline. Instead he digs deeply into Brecht's motives and politics, unearthing the playwright's famed (and famously clever) testimony before the House Un-American Activities Committee (the day after which he quit the United States). THEATER OF WAR is about theater and war, capitalism and Marxism, the postwar anti-Communist hysteria of the 1950s, and one literary genius's ability to make art from them all.

1:15, 3:15, 6, 8:10, 10:10

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