

MAY - AUGUST 2006

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A
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FILM FORUM

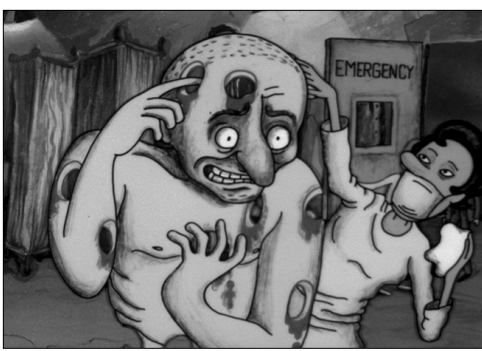
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CALENDAR PROGRAMMED BY KAREN COOPER
AND MIKE MAGGIORE



EL DOCTOR

MAY 10 - 23
2 WEEKS

Cartoons No Laughing Matter?

THE FLOODED PLAYGROUND by Lisa Crafts
IT PAINS ME TO SAY THIS by George Griffin
THE BACK BRACE by Andy & Carolyn London
EL DOCTOR by Suzan Pitt
WHO I AM AND WHAT I WANT
by Chris Shepherd & David Shrigley
EVERYBODY'S PREGNANT by Debra Solomon
DOG by Suzie Templeton
SON OF SATAN by JJ Villard

LONG BEFORE *SOUTH PARK* AND ANIME, INDEPENDENT ANIMATORS EXPLORING THEIR DARKER RECESSES reinvented the cartoon. These 8 new short films range from Suzan Pitt's spectacularly beautiful and bizarre geriatric Mexican fantasy to Lisa Crafts's elegant, baroque nightmare of childhood fears. George Griffin develops a simple premise — a man and a woman reminiscing — into a cacophony of vulgarity, guilt, vengeance and redemption. And JJ Villard riffs on a Charles Bukowski story of raw teenage gang violence. While exploring the traumas of death, disability and betrayal, these animations keep their funny bone intact and their brain cells working overtime.

PROGRAM NOT APPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN.
1:15, 3:15, 6, 8, 10



STAGEDOOR

MAY 24 - JUNE 6
2 WEEKS

Stagedoor

PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY ALEXANDRA SHIVA
USA 2005 79 MINS.

THERE ARE SUMMER CAMPS FOR TENNIS PLAYERS, COMPUTER GEEKS AND OVERWEIGHT TEENS, BUT ONLY STAGEDOOR MANOR, deep in the heart of the Catskills, can boast alumni such as Natalie Portman, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Felicity Huffman and Robert Downey Jr. Alexandra Shiva focuses on five Broadway song-and-dance wannabes who in one short summer rehearse their hearts out and put on a show to rival anything Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney produced in all those '40s musicals. These aren't your average teenagers: their role models are Ethel Merman and Ezio Pinza; they'd prefer a SAG card over admission to an Ivy League college; and they know all the words to *Mame* and *Pajama Game*.

1, 3, 4:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10



UN ANIMAL, DES ANIMAUX (TOP)

ICE / SEA

JUNE 7 - 13
1 WEEK

Ice / Sea

DIRECTED BY VIVIAN OSTROVSKY
FRANCE 2005 32 MINS.

Un Animal, Des Animaux

DIRECTED BY NICOLAS PHILIBERT
FRANCE 1994 59 MINS.

FROM FRANCE, THE LAND WHERE POODLES ENJOY A GOOD CROISSANT: TWO WITTY VISUAL TREASURES WITH ANIMALS at their core. Life by the seaside brings out the romantic adventurer in us all in Vivian Ostrovsky's wild and wacky vision of the good life: a clumsy penguin wends it way along a rocky path, sharing screen time with a variety of contented poodles, a beached shark, a gorgeously colored Portuguese-speaking parrot — and best of all, a huge tiger taking a romp in the ocean. Nicolas Philibert (TO BE AND TO HAVE) visits Paris's legendary Museum of Natural History (founded in 1889, renovated and reopened in 1994), recording the painstaking work of artists who repaint, re-feather, fluff, and retro-fit a menagerie of stuffed specimens, destined to form a *grande promenade* in the museum's spectacular new ground floor. Leave it to the French to speculate that the gorilla who no longer fits into his glass cage may have put on some weight.

1, 3, 4:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10

JUNE 14 - 27
2 WEEKS

a/k/a Tommy Chong

PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY JOSH GILBERT
USA 2005 78 MINS.

THE US GOVERNMENT VERSUS THOMAS B. KIN CHONG, A/K/A TOMMY CHONG, the bandana-clad half of stoner comedy duo Cheech & Chong. In 2003 Chong was charged with selling bongos over the internet and sentenced to nine months in federal prison. As part of the government's \$12 million drug paraphernalia sting operation, "Operation Pipe Dreams," Chong, a vocal opponent of Bush's handling of the *War on Terror*, was singled out among 55 defendants to serve time. Josh Gilbert captures the avuncular Chong as he turns his arrest-by-SWAT-team into hilarious stand-up material. But the laughs are seasoned by recognition of our government's questionable priorities and its shameless use of the judicial system to scapegoat a counterculture icon.

1, 3, 4:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10



A/K/A TOMMY CHONG

JUNE 28 - JULY 11
2 WEEKS

The Motel

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY MICHAEL KANG
USA 2006 76 MINS. PALM PICTURES

MICHAEL KANG'S DEBUT FEATURE, IN THE WORDS OF *VARIETY*, "SIGNALS THE ARRIVAL OF A SINGULARLY PROMISING FILMMAKER." With extraordinary subtlety of feeling, *THE MOTEL* tells a coming-of-age tale of chubby, 13-year-old Ernest (Jeffrey Chyau), a second generation Chinese-American, who helps run his mother's sleazy rent-by-the-hour motel. His relationship with teenage Christine (Samantha Futerman, who played the young lead in *MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA*), who works at her family's Chinese restaurant, is soon overshadowed by a charismatic stranger (Sung Kang, from *BETTER LUCK TOMORROW*), a sexy Korean-American ne'er-do-well inhabiting the motel for trysts with prostitutes. Kang uses the specific realities of these Asian-American lives to create a believable, nuanced universe *not* defined by ethnicity — a world recognizable to anyone who has survived adolescence.

1, 2:50, 4:30, 6, 8, 10



THE MOTEL

JULY 12 - 25
2 WEEKS

Excellent Cadavers

DIRECTED BY MARCO TURCO

ITALY / FRANCE 2005 92 MINS. IN ENGLISH & ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES FIRST RUN / ICARUS FILMS

A POWERFUL, MIND-BOGGLING DOCUMENTARY, BASED ON THE EPNOMYOUS BOOK BY ALEXANDER STILLE ABOUT THE SICILIAN MAFIA and the heroic prosecutors Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino — who brought hundreds of criminals to trial beginning in the 1980s (in '82 there was a Mafia killing in Palermo every 3 days), until they themselves were murdered in 1992. Their work galvanized public outrage as Mafia foot soldiers testified in court that they threw bodies into vats of acid to liquefy them. The violence they described was embodied by the no-holds-barred photographs of death in the streets, made by Letizia Battaglia, who appears in the film. The Mafia's pervasive hold on Italy is documented here, as well as the entrenched corruption of the nation's politicians, dating back to the end of World War II, when Mafia figures were installed in positions of power to counteract the growth of the Italian Communist Party.

1, 2:50, 4:40, 6:30, 8:20, 10:10



EXCELLENT CADAVERS



THE PHOTOGRAPHER, HIS WIFE, HER LOVER

JULY 26 - AUGUST 8
2 WEEKS

The Photographer, His Wife, Her Lover

PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY PAUL YULE

ENGLAND / USA 2005 80 MINS FIRST RUN / ICARUS FILMS

O. WINSTON LINK TOOK ELEGANT BLACK-AND-WHITE NIGHTTIME PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LAST OF THE GREAT STEAM LOCOMOTIVES, as they chugged majestically across small-town America in the 1950s. A curmudgeon and "paranoid-schizophrenic, manic-depressive" (according to his brother), Link married Conchita Mendoza when he was 73 and she 48. From there the story could be told by Stephen King: Conchita successfully marketed the photographs for increasing profit while becoming sexually entangled with another man — all the time keeping Link captive and incommunicado in his basement darkroom! Paul Yule's film is a fascinating investigation into personality, crime, marriage, contemporary art, and the ever-malleable nature of truth.

1, 3, 4:45, 6:30, 8:15, 10



LUNACY

AUGUST 9 - 22
2 WEEKS

Lunacy

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JAN SVANKMAJER

CZECH REPUBLIC / SLOVAKIA 2006 118 MINS
IN CZECH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ZEITGEIST FILMS

JAN SVANKMAJER, MASTER ANIMATOR AND DYED-IN-THE-WOOL SURREALIST, has influenced Tim Burton, the Quay Brothers and anyone who has ever harbored the fear that objects may be conspiring against them. *LUNACY* builds on his previous features (*ALICE*, *FAUST*, *CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE*, *LITTLE OTIK*), melding the creepiness of Edgar Allen Poe's stories (*Premature Burial*, *The Mad Psychiatrist*) with the sex and violence decadence of the Marquis de Sade. A "philosophical horror film" (according to Svankmajer), *LUNACY* asks *who's free?*, *who's mad?*, and *why does all that raw meat seem to have a life of its own?* Not for the faint of heart.

1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30



FRATRICIDE

AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 5
2 WEEKS

Fratricide

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY YILMAZ ARSLAN

GERMANY 2006 96 MINS. IN KURDISH, GERMAN & TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES KOCH LORBER FILMS

A PRIZE-WINNER ON THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL CIRCUIT, *FRATRICIDE* IS AN ELEGANTLY SHOT, GRIPPING DRAMA OF YOUNG KURDS AND TURKS relocated to Germany where they hope to escape the tribal violence and poverty of their homeland. Instead, they find themselves strangers in a strange land: inhabitants of a soulless society where prostitution, street violence and prejudice offer no respite from the past. The friendship that evolves between one young man and the youngster he attempts to mentor suggests that love and loyalty are one's best hope against bitterness and rage. But the harsh reality of refugee life in Western Europe that *FRATRICIDE* unflinchingly portrays subverts even their best instincts.

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

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