

Thursday, November 4, 2011

Opening Night

Opening Night Party – FREE (no tickets required)

6 – 9 p.m.
Torpedo Factory Art Center

Griefwalker

7:30 p.m.
Convergence
1801 N. Quaker Lane

This National Film Board of Canada feature documentary is a lyrical, poetic portrait of Stephen Jenkinson's work in teaching sessions with doctors and nurses, and with dying people and their families, in meditative and often frank exchanges about the origins and consequences of how we live and die. Where does our culture's death phobia come from? Is there such a thing as good dying? How can seeing your life's end be the beginning of your deep love of being alive. Jenkinson bears a message: death is not something to be denied or avoided but "befriended" and grief is not an emotion, but a skill. (70m, Canada) Documentary, Director: Tim Wilson

Special Guest: Stephen Jenkinson. Q&A with audience.

Ride the Divide

9:30 p.m.
Old Town Theatre
815 1/2 King Street

An inspiring journey about the world's toughest mountain bike race, which traverses 2700 miles along the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains. The film weaves three characters' experiences with immense mountain beauty and small town culture as they all attempt to pedal from Banff, Canada to a small, dusty crossing on the Mexican border.
(80m, USA) Documentary, Director: Hunter Weeks

Special Guests: Producer Joe Cantwell. Q&A with audience.

Friday, November 5, 2011

Leading Ladies

7 p.m.
AMC Hoffman Theatres 20 – 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

A zany comedy about two sisters, their gay best friend, and their overzealous stage mom. When one sister gets pregnant and the other plans to waltz out of the closet, the family must hustle to maintain their status quo in the harsh arena of competitive dance.

(102m, USA) Romantic Comedy, Directors: Erika Randall Beahm, Daniel Beahm

Guests: Dance Champions/Choreographers/Actors Melanie LaPatin and Benji Schwimmer and actor Laurel Vail. Q&A with audience and dancing at the after-party at Yves' Bistro – just steps from the theater.

Athenaeum – Short Films Series

Athenaeum
201 Prince Street

7 p.m.
“Lift”

Maggie is a bespectacled filing clerk. Clark is a confident corporate executive. Maggie knows they have a special connection, if only she can get Clark to notice her. To get close to him, Maggie coordinates their daily ride up in the elevator, hoping today's the day he will realize they're meant for each other. But when another, more stylish woman grabs Clark's attention, Maggie decides it's time to change, and she devises a plan to finally stand out. (10m, USA) Romantic Comedy, Director: Ann Marie Allison

Special Guest: Director Ann Marie Allison. Q&A with audience after “Finding Time” with Ivan Kander.

7:10 p.m.
“Finding Time”

Harris, a young scientist, spends every waking hour attempting to crack the secret of time travel. He has let his research and work consume his life. On one particular night, Harris encounters a future version of himself who attempts to explain the importance of appreciating the time we are given, suggesting that instead of struggling to control time, perhaps it is better to simply appreciate it. (10m, USA) Drama, Director Ivan Kander

Special Guest: Director Ivan Kander. Q&A with audience with Ann Marie Allison.

7:40 p.m.

“Caoineadh” (Lament)

An unusual love story that takes place in Dublin, Ireland. (7m, USA) Romance, Travel, Director: Toby Woskwo

7:47 p.m.

“A Joke”

Bryce and Nadia, a young couple, have been dating for about 3 months when Bryce decides to bring Nadia to his favorite sledding hill. After much persuasion, Nadia agrees to ride with him down the steepest slope on the hill. While barreling down the treacherous path, Bryce whispers something in Nadia’s ear, creating a mystery that is revealed years later. (13m, USA), Romantic Comedy, Director Andy Brown

8 p.m.

“Two Hours in the Dark”

Blindsided by the success of his comedy, ‘It Happened One Night,’ which swept the 1935 Oscars, director Frank Capra became crippled with fear. Convinced his next film would fail, he deteriorated to the brink of death—until the day a mysterious stranger showed up, changing Capra’s life, and films, forever. Did this experience inspire “It’s a Wonderful Life? You decide. (35m, USA) Drama, Director: Chip Hackler

8:40 p.m.

“The Cycle”

Crystal, a loving wife and mother, is the owner of a charming neighborhood bookstore in Brooklyn. Her eight year-old daughter, Corinne, enjoys spending midsummer afternoons playing in front of the store. But the tranquility of a beautiful day unravels when a teenage boy steals her bicycle. While Crystal’s decision to call the police is seen as a betrayal by some of her neighbors, others choose to join the search. As events unfold, underlying tensions caused by economic disparities begin to surface. Will the search for a child’s bicycle unite this fragile community or ignite a conflict that could blow it apart? (18m, USA) Drama, Director: Roy Clovis

9 p.m.

“Una Caja de Botones” (A Box of Buttons)

Andres cannot possibly afford the presents his daughter wants for Christmas. That makes him tell his daughter the truth about the tradition of the Three Wise Men (the Spanish version of Santa Claus). This revelation launches them on a voyage of emotional discovery. (20m, Spain), Drama, Spanish with English Subtitles, Director: Maria Reyes Arias

Saturday, November 6, 2011

AMC HOFFMAN – THEATRE 20:

Race to Nowhere (SHOWCASE A)

1 p.m.
AMC Hoffman Theatre 20
206 Swamp Fox Road

Director Vicki Abeles turns the personal political, igniting a national conversation in her new documentary about the pressures faced by American schoolchildren and their teachers in a system and culture obsessed with the illusion of achievement, competition and the pressure to perform. (Documentary, 85m, USA) Director: Vicki Abeles

Special Guest: Director Vicki Abeles. Q&A with audience.

Jaffa (SHOWCASE B)

3 p.m.
AMC Hoffman Theatre 20
206 Swamp Fox Road

In the heart of Jaffa, Reuven's garage is a family business. His daughter Mali and his son Meir, as well as Toufik, a young Palestinian, work there. No one suspects that Mali and Toufik have been in love for years. As the two lovers secretly make wedding arrangements, explosive tension builds between Meir and Toufik.

(Drama, 106m, Israel) Director: Keren Yedaya, Hebrew and Arabic with English Subtitles

Grass Roots (SHOWCASE C)

5 p.m.
AMC Hoffman Theatre 20
206 Swamp Fox Road

An entertaining look at the battle that ensued in Las Vegas over a ballot initiative to approve the regulation and taxation of marijuana. In a place where almost everything is legal not all vices are treated equally. See what happens when a modern political campaign runs into law-and-order on the Vegas Strip.

(Documentary, 88m, USA) Director: Jeffrey Daniels

Special Guests: Producer Joe Cantwell, Dr. Ann Pritchett, former senior analyst in the White House Drug Policy Office and Sabrina Fendrick of the National Organization to Reform Marijuana Laws (NORML). Q&A with audience.

The River Why (SHOWCASE D)

~ D.C. Premiere ~

7 p.m.

AMC Hoffman Theatre 20
206 Swamp Fox Road

Set on the banks of a wild river, *The River Why* is the story of 20-year-old Gus Orviston, considered the Mozart of flyfishing, who leaves his big city home in rebellion from his family to live in a secluded cabin on the banks of a wild river. Instead of finding fishing bliss, his desolation drives him on a reluctant quest for self-discovery. In the process he comes in contact with an assortment of eccentric characters who help him in his journey to adulthood. Most of all, *The River Why* is a love story – the love of a man for the wilderness, and for a beautiful woman who comes to share it with him. Based on the wildly popular novel by David James Duncan.
(Drama, 101m, USA) Director: Matthew Leutwyler

Special Program: Project Healing Waters

L’Affaire Farewell (SHOWCASE E)

9:15 p.m.

AMC Hoffman Theatre 20
206 Swamp Fox Road

In 1981, a KGB Colonel, disenchanted with what the Communist ideal has become, decides he is going to change the world. Making contact with a French civil engineer working in Moscow, he passes documents containing the most important USSR secrets about the U.S. A tense drama that involves Ronald Reagan and François Mitterrand and pits the communist version of “Deep Throat” against the Cold War. Was he trying to save the world or only his son? Based on a true story, “Farewell” is an espionage film about events that changed history. Advisory: Language, not appropriate for young audiences.
(Thriller, 113m, France) Director: Christian Carion
French, Russian with English subtitles

AMC HOFFMAN – THEATRE 21:

Voices in the Clouds (SHOWCASE A)

~ East Coast Premiere ~

1 p.m.

AMC Hoffman Theatre 21
206 Swamp Fox Road

Asian-American man journeys to discover the spirit and heritage of his deceased mother, uncovering the wonders of an ancient tribal culture in Taiwan... a vibrant culture on the verge of vanishing into history books.(Documentary, 77m, Taiwan, USA) Director: Aaron Hosé

Special Guest: Director Aaron Hosé. Q&A with audience.

Griefwalker [2nd screening] (SHOWCASE B)

3:00 p.m.
AMC Hoffman Theatre 21
206 Swamp Fox Road

This National Film Board of Canada feature documentary is a lyrical, poetic portrait of Stephen Jenkinson's work in teaching sessions with doctors and nurses, and with dying people and their families, in meditative and often frank exchanges about the origins and consequences of how we live and die. Where does our culture's death phobia come from? Is there such a thing as good dying? How can seeing your life's end be the beginning of your deep love of being alive. Jenkinson bears a message: death is not something to be denied or avoided but "befriended" and grief is not an emotion, but a skill.

(Documentary, 70m, Canada) Director: Tim Wilson

Please Note: The Thursday night film screening at Convergence features special guest Stephen Jenkinson.

Faubourg Tremé: The Untold Story of Black New Orleans (SHOWCASE C)

4:30 p.m.
AMC Hoffman Theatre 21
206 Swamp Fox Road

Long before Hurricane Katrina, writer Lolis Eric Elie and filmmaker Dawn Logsdon—two native New Orleanians – began documenting the rich, living culture of Faubourg Tremé's historic neighborhood—origin of the southern rights movement and the birthplace of jazz.

(Documentary, 68m, USA) Director: Dawn Logsdon

Living Downstream (SHOWCASE D)

6:00 p.m.
AMC Hoffman Theatre 21
206 Swamp Fox Road

Based on the acclaimed book by ecologist and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber, PhD., "Living Downstream" is an eloquent and cinematic feature-length documentary following Sandra during one pivotal year as she works to break the silence about cancer and shine a light on its environmental links.

(Documentary, 55m, USA) Director: Chanda Chevannes

Fred and Vinnie (SHOWCASE E)

~ *East Coast Premiere* ~

7:15 p.m.
AMC Hoffman Theatre 21
206 Swamp Fox Road

Vinnie, a happy agoraphobic, lives vicariously through Fred, his quirky friend. Since Vinnie hardly leaves his apartment, everything Fred does is an exciting adventure: be it going to the post office, the video store, or on a wacky date. Vinnie is the adoring parent Fred never had.

Advisory: language, not appropriate for children
(Comedy, 90m, USA) Director: Steve Skrovan

Special Guest: Writer and Actor Fred Stoller. Q&A with audience.

Meisjes (The Over the Hill Band) (SHOWCASE F)

9:15 p.m.
AMC Hoffman Theatre 21
206 Swamp Fox Road

Upon the death of her husband, Claire decides to reconnect with her estranged son, down and out R&B musician Sid. She asks him to help her restart the popular girl group she used to sing in with two of her friends from the old days. Sid would rather drown in the North Sea but eventually agrees under one condition: the band has to play HIS music. Advisory: language, not appropriate for young audiences

(Drama, 93m, Belgium) Director: Geoffrey Enthoven
Flemish with English subtitles

AMC HOFFMAN – THEATRE 22:

My Tale of Two Cities (SHOWCASE A)

1 p.m.
AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

Filmed in the style of “Super Size Me” and “Roger & Me”, “My Tale of Two Cities” is a funny and heartfelt movie that tells the comeback story of “St. Elmo’s Fire” screenwriter Carl Kurlander who moved back to the real-life “Mister Rogers Neighborhood” only to find both himself and his hometown of Pittsburgh in a mid-life crisis.

(Documentary, 85m, USA)

Special Guest: Stephanie Dangel Reiter. Q&A with audience.

SHOWCASE B

3 p.m.

“Letter Home”

AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

In times of trouble, home is only a letter away. There was only one person who understood the hell William Kemp went through... and when history repeats, William is the one who will have to understand.

(Drama, 9m, Canada) Director: Ken Pak

3:10 p.m.

“Home from the War: The Voices of Vietnam”

~ World Premiere ~

AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

A story of veterans forty years after the Vietnam War now fighting a government that doesn't care, a society that forgot them and the ghosts of war that are fought every day. Featuring the Doobie Brothers, Shad Meshad, Bobby Muller and Vietnam veterans form every walk of life. A cautionary tale that asks us how will we treat our veterans returning from today's wars?

Advisory: language, sexual content, violence, not appropriate for young audiences

(Documentary, 56m, USA) Director: Randall Wilson

4:10 p.m.

“The Desperate”

~ World Premiere ~

AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

On a rainy night near a concentration camp being bombed during the waning years of WWII, the son of a top ranking and fearsome Nazi General is mortally wounded. With the camp's doctor having been transferred to the Eastern front, the only doctor available to perform the life-saving surgery is a condemned, elderly Jewish inmate at the camp.

(Drama, 33m, USA) Director: Ben-Hur Sepehr

SHOWCASE C

5:00 p.m.

“Up Under the Roof”

~ D.C. Premiere ~

AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

During the dustbowl era on a dilapidated farm, a lonely ten-year-old boy begins hearing strange noises above his bedroom ceiling at night. The noises grow threatening as the thing in the attic becomes restless and hungry. Through a friendship with a visually impaired girl, he comes to understand that he must face this thing hiding up under the roof before it consumes him.

(Drama, 20m, USA) Director: Darin Read

5:20 p.m.

“Examined Life”

AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

“Examined Life” pulls philosophy out of academic journals and classrooms and puts it back on the streets. Filmmaker Astra Taylor accompanies some of today’s most influential thinkers on a series of unique excursions through places and spaces that hold particular resonance for them and their ideas. (Documentary, 88m, Canada) Director: Astra Taylor

SHOWCASE D

7:00 p.m.

“Kavi”

~ D.C. Premiere ~

AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

2010 Oscar-nominated short film, “Kavi,” is about a boy in India who wants to play cricket and go to school, but instead he is forced to work in a brick kiln as a modern-day slave. Unsatisfied with his fate, Kavi must either accept what he’s always been told, or fight for a different life even if he’s unsure of the ultimate outcome.

(19m, India, USA) Director: Gregg Helvey (local filmmaker from Loudon County), Hindi with English subtitles

7:20 p.m.

“Khudakushi – Birds of Prey”

~ World Premiere ~

AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

A story about two young Muslim men living in Mumbai, India and their terrorist plot to blast their way out of the society that suffocates them.

Advisory: violence, not appropriate for young audiences
(Drama, 65m, India) Director: Rakesh Mehta

Bodhisattva – and more (SHOWCASE E)

~ *East Coast Premiere* ~

8:45 p.m.

AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

Maya shares a curious relationship with her father. They are close, but she is unable to forgive him for her mother’s suicide. When she comes to Calcutta from the U.S., instead of staying with him she stays with an old classmate Anu and her husband Avik. What starts as a fun visit, soon turns into a psychological battle that peaks to a shattering climax. A story about human relationships encircling ego, pride, power and obsession, this film takes a look at a modern dysfunctional family in urban India. (Drama, 87m, India, USA) Director: San Banarje

Advisory: Violence

Special Guest: Director and Actor San Banarje. Q&A with audience

10:30 p.m.

“Workhorse”

~ World Premiere ~

AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

Hard working financial analyst, Liz, goes on an Internet date and is drugged. She wakes up in a hotel with vague memories of being raped. Back at work, she tries to trace the man, John, on the Internet with no success, but one night she sees him on the tube. Liz follows John to a pub, where she sees him meet with another girl from her office. She follows them to a hotel, where she finds out what really happened to her.

Advisory: sexual content, language, not appropriate for young audiences
(Drama, 12m, United Kingdom) Director: Adrian Tanner

10:45 p.m.

“Leka med Dockor” (An Affair with Dolls)

~ D.C. Premiere ~

AMC Hoffman Theatre 22
206 Swamp Fox Road

Hanna is left alone in a penthouse apartment with a box of dolls. When her boyfriend returns to her, things take a serious turn.

Advisory: sexual content, language, not appropriate for young audiences
(11m, Sweden) Director: Hans Montelius

THE LYCEUM FILM SCREENINGS

The Killing of Mary Surratt & More (SHOWCASE A)

4:00 p.m.

“The Killing of Mary Surratt”

201 S. Washington St.

Boardinghouse innkeeper Mary Surratt was one of four Southern sympathizers who was tried, convicted, and executed for conspiring to assassinate President Lincoln. Believed by many to have been innocent, she was nevertheless doomed to be the first woman killed by the U.S. government, who was eager to put the whole tragic affair behind them.

(Drama, 19m, USA) Director: Chris King

Special Guest: to be announced

Animation Shorts & Workshop with Rob Cloutier:

5:00 p.m.

“The Smallest Thing”

~ World Premiere ~

201 S. Washington St.

A man in an empty world comes upon a flower and discovers its value.

(Animation, 3m, Canada) Director: Yong Jin Kim

5:05 p.m.

“Kings”

~ East Coast Premiere ~
201 S. Washington St.

Two old men traveling on a train together engage in an escalating conflict that they try to resolve by playing the card game WAR. They then dominate the only innocent victims they can find. Kings poses the question ‘is War inevitable?’
(Animation, 7m, USA) Director: Barbara Mones

5:15 p.m.

“Threads”

~ World Premiere ~
201 S. Washington St.

Set in Mongolia, Threads is about a young girl who comes to terms with her mother’s death by reliving their most cherished and loving times together. Lush, visual storytelling at its best.
(Animation, 8m, USA) Director: Barbara Mones
Special Guest: Animator Rob Cloutier

Virtuoso: The Olga Samaroff Story (SHOWCASE B)

6:15 p.m.

“Virtuoso: The Olga Samaroff Story”

~ East Coast Premiere ~
201 S. Washington St.

Virtuoso, a 60-minute documentary film, is the true, yet untold story of one of America’s great female concert pianists of the early 20th century. Overshadowed by her famous husband, Leopold Stokowski, whose talent she first recognized and career she fostered, Samaroff was at the very center of a vibrant American musical life in the early 20th century. Based on the book, “An American Virtuoso on the World Stage,” this documentary follows her life from Texas (as Lucy Hickenlooper) to her rise as Olga Samaroff, the celebrated concert star of her time.
(Documentary, 61m, USA) Director: Donna Kline

Special Guest: Sara Leila Sherman, Pianist

Steamboat Bill, Jr. (SHOWCASE C)

8:00 p.m.

“Steamboat Bill, Jr.” – with live piano accompaniment

201 S. Washington St.

Steamboat Bill, Jr. contains some of Buster Keaton’s best and most spectacular sight gags in a silent movie. Keaton plays Willie Canfield, the namby-pamby son of rough-and-tumble steamboat captain Steamboat Bill Canfield (Ernest Torrence). When he’s not trying to make a man out of his boy, the captain is carrying on a feud with Tom Carter (Tom McGuire), the wealthy owner of a fancy new ferryboat. Carter has a pretty daughter, Mary King (Marion Byron), with whom Willie falls in love.
(Silent Film Classic, 70m, USA) Director: Charles Reisner

Special Guest: Andrew Simpson, Pianist

Sunday, November 7, 2011

Food & Film Day

~ Sponsored by Healthy Food Alexandria ~

**Durant Arts Center
1605 Cameron Street**

4:00 p.m. – Food and Chef Demonstrations

5:00 p.m.
“Corner Plot “
1605 Cameron St.

Amid the tangle of commuter traffic, shopping malls and office buildings that define life inside the beltway rests a one-acre piece of farmland under the care of 89-year-old Charlie Koiner. With the help of his only daughter, Charlie continues to work his land, share his produce, and enjoy the farm life he’s always known. “Corner Plot” explores one man’s steadfast authenticity in a changing world. (Documentary, 10m, USA) Directors Ian Cook and Andre Dahlman

Special Guests: Directors Ian Cook & Andre Dahlman Q&A with audience, Charlie & Lynn Koiner, invited.

5:10 p.m.
“Mad City Chickens”
~ D.C. Premiere ~
1605 Cameron St.

Mad City Chickens started out as a group of like-minded, pro-poultry people (also known as the “poultry underground”). This is a film aimed at educating the urban population on the benefits of raising one’s own food, and to bring to light the misconceptions people might have about the raising of poultry in an urban setting. Mad City Chickens offers an introductory class in citizen activism and for those who are interested in raising birds in their own backyard.

(Documentary, 78m, USA) Directors: Tashai Lovington, Robert Lughai

Special Program: Panel Discussion with Chefs and Filmmakers

***7:00 p.m. Film Festival Closing Ceremony & Awards – Free
(no tickets required)***