FILM PROGRAM

1. TEUVO TULIO: NORTHERN TONES
2. THE REBEL SET: FILM AND THE BEAT LEGACY
3. BARCELONA MASTERS: JOSÉ LUIS GUERRÍN AND PÈRE PORTABELLA
4. IN THE REALM OF OSHIMA

4th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC
Mailing address 2000B South Club Drive, Landover, MD 20785
Film Events

The Sign of the Cross

Saturday, January 3 at 2:30

British playwright Wilson Barrett’s Victorian melodrama was the source for Cecil B. DeMille’s lavish epic about early Christians in Nero’s Rome. This precocious archival print preserves the director’s fondness for an “extravagant fantasy on Roman pomp”. — Andrew Sarris (Photofest/Paramount)

Les Lutins du Court-Métrage: New Shorts from France

Friday, February 13 at 1:00

Five new examples from France illustrate the beauty and versatility of the short film form. 200,000 Fantômes (Jean-Gabriel Périot, 2007, 10 minutes), Une dernière journée (Xavier Bourdelèe, 2007, 12 minutes), Mr. Jeu-Louje (Kathy Sebbah, 2007, 26 minutes), Pina Colada (Alice Warczoc, 2008, 10 minutes), and L’Enfant borne (Pascale Mesléa, 2007, 15 minutes)

Ciné-Concert: Show Life

Saturday, February 14 at 4:30

Asian-American icon Anna May Wong flourished in Germany for a brief time in the 1920s. One of her triumphs was this obliquely romantic tale of unrequited love between a valet and a knife thrower, a Madame Butterfly scenario filled with dance and cabaret. Made at the renowned Babelsberg Studios, the film’s original title was Schmutziges Geld (Dirty Money). (Richard Eichberg, 1928, English subtitles, silent with live accompaniment by London pianist Stephen Horne, 94 minutes)

American Independents: The Black Maria

Saturday, February 21 at 2:00

Named for Thomas Edison’s pioneering West Orange, New Jersey, film studio, the “Black Maria,” this renowned festival competition is now in its twenty-eighth year. A selection of the best cutting-edge experimental shorts and documentaries culled from the December 2008 judging is introduced by the Black Maria Festival’s director, John Columbus. (approximately 120 minutes)

New Masters of European Cinema

Saturday, March 14 at 2:30

Acclaimed Czech director Petr Zelenka has taken his inspiration for his most recent film from the famously long-running stage adaptation of Dostoyevsky’s novel at Prague’s Divadlo Machines Theatre. In the film, actors rehearse the Karamazov story in a huge empty steelworks factory outside the historic city of Nowa Huta, Poland. Zelenka’s story includes a foray into the play’s audience as well as the lives of its actors. (Petr Zelenka, 2008, 35 mm, Czech and Polish with subtitles, 110 minutes)

Ciné-Concert: Caesar Julia Caesar

Saturday, March 14 at 1:00

Director Enrico Guazzoni made a number of historical epics for the successful Italian production house Cinecittà. This one, Caju Julius Caesar (Caio Giulio Cesare), was released just one year after Guazzoni’s Antony and Cleopatra, screened last fall at the National Gallery. Burnett Thompson performs his original piano score for the film. (Enrico Guazzone, 1914, 35 mm, 60 minutes)

A Town of Love and Hope

Friday, February 21 at 1:00

New Masters of European Cinema: Of Time and the City

Saturday, March 14 at 12:30

Acclaimed Polish filmmaker Mrz Kapania’s native Lviv is the subject of his latest essay film—a glorious evocation of his own childhood and poetic account of the city’s still dominant Jewish community, a memento that has all but disappeared. His stance vis-à-vis urban cultural conservation is eloquently expressed in often surprising and thought-provoking juxtapositions of imagery and sound. Presented in association with the Environmental Film Festival. (Terence Davies, 35 mm, 2007, 77 minutes)

Les Lutins du Court-Métrage: New Shorts from France

Friday, February 13 at 1:00

Five new examples from France illustrate the beauty and versatility of the short film form. 200,000 Fantômes (Jean-Gabriel Périot, 2007, 10 minutes), Une dernière journée (Xavier Bourdelèe, 2007, 12 minutes), Mr. Jeu-Louje (Kathy Sebbah, 2007, 26 minutes), Pina Colada (Alice Warczoc, 2008, 10 minutes), and L’Enfant borne (Pascale Mesléa, 2007, 15 minutes)

Ciné-Concert: Show Life

Saturday, February 14 at 4:30

Asian-American icon Anna May Wong flourished in Germany for a brief time in the 1920s. One of her triumphs was this obliquely romantic tale of unrequited love between a valet and a knife thrower, a Madame Butterfly scenario filled with dance and cabaret. Made at the renowned Babelsberg Studios, the film’s original title was Schmutziges Geld (Dirty Money). (Richard Eichberg, 1928, English subtitles, silent with live accompaniment by London pianist Stephen Horne, 94 minutes)

American Independents: The Black Maria

Saturday, February 21 at 2:00

Named for Thomas Edison’s pioneering West Orange, New Jersey, film studio, the “Black Maria,” this renowned festival competition is now in its twenty-eighth year. A selection of the best cutting-edge experimental shorts and documentaries culled from the December 2008 judging is introduced by the Black Maria Festival’s director, John Columbus. (approximately 120 minutes)

New Masters of European Cinema

Saturday, March 14 at 2:30

Acclaimed Polish filmmaker Mrz Kapania’s native Lviv is the subject of his latest essay film—a glorious evocation of his own childhood and poetic account of the city’s still dominant Jewish community, a memento that has all but disappeared. His stance vis-à-vis urban cultural conservation is eloquently expressed in often surprising and thought-provoking juxtapositions of imagery and sound. Presented in association with the Environmental Film Festival. (Terence Davies, 35 mm, 2007, 77 minutes)

Ciné-Concert: Caesar Julia Caesar

Saturday, March 14 at 1:00

Director Enrico Guazzoni made a number of historical epics for the successful Italian production house Cinecittà. This one, Caju Julius Caesar (Caio Giulio Cesare), was released just one year after Guazzoni’s Antony and Cleopatra, screened last fall at the National Gallery. Burnett Thompson performs his original piano score for the film. (Enrico Guazzone, 1914, 35 mm, 60 minutes)

A Town of Love and Hope

Friday, February 21 at 1:00

New Masters of European Cinema: Of Time and the City

Saturday, March 14 at 12:30

Acclaimed Polish filmmaker Mrz Kapania’s native Lviv is the subject of his latest essay film—a glorious evocation of his own childhood and poetic account of the city’s still dominant Jewish community, a memento that has all but disappeared. His stance vis-à-vis urban cultural conservation is eloquently expressed in often surprising and thought-provoking juxtapositions of imagery and sound. Presented in association with the Environmental Film Festival. (Terence Davies, 35 mm, 2007, 77 minutes)
Dust Thursday March 19 at 12:30
Sunday March 22 at 4:30
A methodical chronicle about the most commonplace material—ordinary dust—uncovers astonishing facts and in the end offers nothing less than a new way to view the world. “Perceives the subject as one of nature’s undefeatable enemies, yet one of its most fascinating”—Nathan Southern. (Hartmut Bitomsky, 35 mm, 2007, 96 minutes)

Teuvo Tulio: Northern Tones Latvian-born Finnish actor and director Teuvo Tulio (1912–2000) forged a distinctive style in the late 1930s, loading his wildly melodramatic narratives with exaggerated metaphor and feeling. Starkly beautiful Scandinavian nature cinematography mirrors emotion—rivers surge when love is realized; a tempest rages when anger swells. Although Tulio’s films are rarely screened today, the celebrated contemporary Finnish filmmakers Mika and Aki Kaurismäki acknowledge their stylistic debt to him. These four works from the 1930s and 1940s are presented through the cooperation of the National Audiovisual Archive, Helsinki, with special thanks to Satu Laaksonen, Florence Almozini, Adrienne Mancia, and Kathy Geritz.

Song of the Scarlet Flower Sunday January 4 at 4:30
A landowner’s son falls in love with a servant only to face his family’s rejection. He leaves home to adopt the life of a lumberjack and a libertine but suffers consequences in the end. Song of the Scarlet Flower is a sumptuous paean to the Finnish landscape and one of the most popular films of the 1930s. (1938, 35 mm, Finnish with subtitles, 110 minutes)

Cross of Love followed by The Way You Wanted Me Saturday January 10 at 2:30
The lighthouse keeper’s daughter is engulfed by the sinful life of the city in this symbol-rich work based on a Pushkin story. Eventually, the girl finds a handsome artist to marry—until her tarnished past is revealed. Critic Peter van Bough notes, “Tulio’s productions remain in the grand operatic tradition—as profound as they are absurd.” (1946, 35 mm, Finnish with subtitles, 95 minutes)

In the Fields of Dreams Sunday January 11 at 4:30
The breathtaking beauty of the Finnish countryside is again the backdrop for a finely honed melodrama whose over-the-top storyline plumbs the depths of the religious culture of the Finnish peasantry. Beautiful Sirkka Salonen, Miss Europe of 1938, plays a naïve servant who, as the film’s pivotal centerpiece, stagnates halfway among the household help. (1946, 35 mm, Finnish with subtitles, 108 minutes)

The Rebel Set: Film and the Beat Legacy
In association with the exhibition Looking In: Robert Frank’s “The Americans,” this program surveys in six sections the artist-made and avant-garde film movement of the 1950s and early 1960s. Themes and subject matter often overlap with contemporary art, photography, and music as filmmakers find a language for interior thought and expression.

Beat and The End followed by Cry of Jazz Saturday January 17 at 2:30
Christopher Maclaine’s Beat is a short choreographic study of human movement (1958, 16 mm, 6 minutes) while The End is his darkly humorous take on the last day of life for six people, culminating in an imaginary end-of-the-world sequence set to Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony (1953, 16 mm, 35 minutes).

Filmed in Chicago in the late 1950s, Cry of Jazz provides an Afrocentric view of jazz history and presciently predicts the civil unrest of subsequent decades. (Edward O. Bland, 1958, 16 mm, 35 minutes)

Pull My Daisy followed by The Savage Eye Saturday January 17 at 4:00
Pull My Daisy is the quintessential Beat experience on film, an improvisational scene from an unproduced play by Jack Kerouac, shot in a Greenwich Village apartment. (Robert Frank and Alfred Leslie, 1959, 35 mm, 30 minutes)

Intense repartee in The Savage Eye between a down-and-out woman and a poet (her own conscience) is “a tour-de-force lesson in camera eye technique,” said Jonas Mekas, and a precursor to the cinema verité movement. (Ben Maddow, Sidney Meyers, Joseph Strick, and Haskell Wexler, 1959, 16 mm, 68 minutes)

The motif of the naive country girl corrupted by the city recurs in The Way You Wanted Me. Sunlit images of Finland’s rural landscapes convey both calm and order while the town, shown at night, is sheer chaos. (1944, 35 mm, Finnish with subtitles, 99 minutes)
Shadows and Bridges-Go-Round
Introduction by Desson Thomson
Sunday January 18 at 4:30

With its unstructured, naturalistic narrative about three young people footloose in Manhattan, Shadows comes close to emulating the improvisational qualities of jazz. (John Cassavetes, 1959, 35 mm, from UCLA Film Archive with new preservation funded by The Film Foundation and Hollywood Foreign Press, 82 minutes)

In Bridges-Go-Round, stock footage of Manhattan’s bridges becomes counterpoint for two wildly divergent musical tracks, one jazz and the other electronic. (Shirley Clarke, 1958, 16 mm, 7 minutes)

Kenneth Anger, Stan Brakhage, Bruce Baillie, Ken Jacobs
Sunday January 25 at 4:30

An anthology of 16 mm films by Kenneth Anger, including Eaux d’Artifice (1953, 13 minutes), Scorpio Rising (1964, 30 minutes), and Rabbit’s Moon (1972, 8 minutes), is followed by Ken Jacobs’ Little Cobra Dance (1957, 2 minutes), and Stan Brakhage’s Dazzletrim (1954, 7 minutes) and The Dead (1960, 11 minutes). Bruce Baillie’s Mass for the Dakota Sioux (1963–1964, 20 minutes) is last.

Echoes of Silence and Happy Birthday to John
Saturday January 31 at 2:00

In Echoes of Silence, short installments from the isolated lives of people living in Greenwich Village are sustained by the soundtrack music of Charles Mingus, Pete Seeger, Igor Stravinsky, and Sergei Prokofiev. (Peter Emmanuel Goldman, 1965, 16 mm, 75 minutes)

He Stands in a Desert Counting the Seconds of His Life
Saturday January 31 at 4:00

Assembled from Jonas Mekas’ footage collection, this diary-like film records his friends and acquaintances from the 1960s, including many figures in the avant-garde—Hollis Frampton, Peter Kubelka, Ken Jacobs, and P. Adams Sitney, among others. (Jonas Mekas, 1965, 16 mm, 124 minutes)

Barcelona Masters: José Luis Guerín and Pere Portabella

Born a generation apart in Barcelona, Pere Portabella (b. 1929) and José Luis Guerín (b. 1960) share a genius for making uniquely imaginative works of uncommon breadth and beauty. Although their interests are different, both combine fictional and documentary elements to explore mythology, memory, and art as well as the mundane facets of daily life. Interspersed throughout are fascinating diversions and strange junctures of sights and sounds. Coinciding with Preview Spain Arts and Culture, the Gallery wishes to thank the Embassy of Spain, Helena Gomez, Mary Baron, Linda Lileenfeld, and Filmoteca de Catalunya.

Innifree
Sunday February 1 at 4:30

José Luis Guerín shows his fondness for John Ford’s classic The Quiet Man by traveling to County Clare, Ireland, where Ford’s film was made. Exploring The Quiet Man’s myth and aftermath among local residents, Guerín finds unpre-
The Silence before Bach
Saturday February 14 at 2:00
Portabella’s most recent work is a musical experiment as well as a film, a meditation on music’s social history that “creates a diachronic between sound and image,” writes J. Hochheiser, and “exciting; new contexts for Bach, not so much reimagining the music, but placing it in unfamiliar territory to emphasize its nuances.” (Pere Portabella, 2007, 35 mm, Spanish, German, and Catalan with subtitles, 102 minutes)

Warsaw Bridge
preceded by Playback
Sunday February 15 at 4:30
Slyly undermining his own eccentric narrative, a love triangle set in contemporary Poland, Portabella creates a tale with mise-en-scène clearly inspired by Luis Buñuel and reflects on architecture, landscape, music, food, and painting (in an homage to the bathers and odalisques of Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres). “An anthology of his own interests,” notes Jonathan Rosenbaum. (Pere Portabella, 1990, 35 mm, Spanish with subtitles, 85 minutes)

In the City of Sylvia
Sunday February 22 at 4:30, Saturday February 28 at 3:30
A romantic young artist spends three days in the city of Strasbourg searching for a young woman named Sylvia whom he thinks he met there years before. The haunting sadness of his situation is underscored by Guerín’s beautiful virtuoso photography, casting, editing, and musical scoring. (José Luis Guerín, 2007, 35 mm, ambient sounds, some French and Spanish, 84 minutes)

Soma Photos in the City of Sylvia
José Luis Guerín in person
Saturday February 28 at 2:00
An essay in the style of French avant-gardist Chris Marker, Soma Photos in the City of Sylvia juxtaposes still photographs from Guerín’s The City of Sylvia with other stills to create a context for a much broader theme — the “unattainable woman” in poetry, art, and filmmaking. (José Luis Guerín, 2007, 35 mm, Spanish with subtitles, 67 minutes)

In the Realm of Oshima
The filmmaker who ushered in the Japanese New Wave in the late 1950s, Nagisa Oshima (b. 1932, Kyoto), rejected the genteel tenor of Japanese filmmaking and chose as his métier the turmoil of contemporary politics and culture. Imperfect characters from society’s fringes were his vehicles for complex and often controversial ideas, while his formal brilliance won accolades around the world. This series, organized by James Quandt, and the National Gallery of Art, and the National Gallery of Art, and the National Gallery of Art, and the National Gallery of Art.

A Town of Love and Hope
followed by Diary of Yunbogi
Saturday March 7 at 2:00
A boy’s lucrative con game consists of continually reselling his pet pigeon — a homing pigeon — to fund his mother’s medical expenses. Then the boy befriends a black American pilot, even as he becomes their whipping boy for feuds and jealousies. One thing they have not considered — what if Japan loses the war? (1961, 35 mm, Japanese with subtitles, 97 minutes)

Shiro Amakusa, the Christian Rebel
Saturday March 28 at 4:00
A rare historical film from Oshima’s oeuvre, Shiro Amakusa is based on a true event, a seventeenth-century uprising in which a young boy known as Shiro (played by popular actor Hashizo Okawa) led the poor and exploited Christian peasantry against the Shogunate. (1962, 35 mm, Japanese with subtitles, 100 minutes)

The Ceremony
Saturday March 29 at 4:30
Chronicling the history of a powerful provincial family, The Ceremony is a satiric allegory of Japan’s postwar predicament told through flashbacks at the family’s yearly ceremonial gatherings. By requiring ordinariness and obedience at all costs, the patriarch clearly caused ensuing generations to crack under pressure. With these major Kinoscope awards (Japan’s highest film honor) bestowed in 1972, the film is seen by many as Oshima’s masterpiece. (1971, 35 mm, Japanese with subtitles, 122 minutes)
An ongoing program of classic cinema, documentary, avant-garde, and area premieres occurs each weekend in the National Gallery’s East Building Auditorium, 4th Street at Constitution Avenue NW. Films are shown in original format. Programs are free of charge but seating is on a first-come, first-seated basis. Doors open approximately 30 minutes before each show. Programs are subject to change. For more information, visit our Web site: www.nga.gov/programs/film or call 202.842.6799.

Jan

3 SAT 2:30 Event The Sign of the Cross, Martin Winter introduction
4 SUN 4:30 Teuvo Tulio Song of the Scarlet Flower
6 TUE 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
9 FRI 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
10 SAT 2:30 Teuvo Tulio Cruise of Love, The Way You Wanted Me
11 SUN 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
12 TUE 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
15 FRI 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
16 SAT 2:30 The Rebel Set Beat: The End, City of Jazz
17 SUN 4:00 The Rebel Set Pull My Daisy, The Savage Eye
18 FRI 12:30 Event An American Journey
19 SAT 4:30 The Rebel Set Shadow, Bridges-Go-Round, Dawson Thomson introduction
20 SUN 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
23 FRI 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
25 SUN 4:30 The Rebel Set Kenneth Anger, Stan Brakhage, Bruce Baillie, Ken Jacobs
27 TUE 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
31 SAT 2:00 The Rebel Set Stories of Silence, Happy Birthday to John
4:00 The Rebel Set He Stands in a Desert Counting the Seconds

Feb

1 SUN 4:30 Barcelona Masters Inextreme
3 TUE 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
6 FRI 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
7 SAT 2:00 Event Emilie Coht, Animator
4:00 Barcelona Masters Miro / Dahre, Shadow Train
8 SUN 4:30 Barcelona Masters Vormer, Jonathan Rosenbaum introduction
12 THURS 12:30 Event Augustus Saint-Gaudens: Master of American Sculpture
13 FRI 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
4:00 Event Les Lapins du Grand Métron: New Shorts from France
14 SAT 2:00 Barcelona Masters The Silence before Bach
4:30 Event Cine-Concert: Show Life
15 SUN 12:00 Event Augustus Saint-Gaudens: Master of American Sculpture
4:30 Barcelona Masters Playback, Warsaw Bridge
17 TUE 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
19 FRI 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
21 SAT 2:00 Event American Independents: The Black Maria
22 SUN 4:30 Barcelona Masters In the City of Sylvia
24 TUE 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
27 FRI 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
28 SAT 2:00 Barcelona Masters Some Photos in the City of Sylvia
3:30 Barcelona Masters In the City of Sylvia

Mar

1 SUN 4:30 Event New Masters of European Cinema: The Brothers Karamzov
3 TUE 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
6 FRI 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
7 SAT 2:00 In the Realm of Oshima A Town of Love and Hope; Diary of Runbogu
4:00 In the Realm of Oshima Cruel Story of Youth
8 SUN 4:30 In the Realm of Oshima True Story of Youth
10 TUE 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
13 FRI 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
14 SAT 1:00 Event Cine-Concert: Lupu/Julius Caesar
2:30 Event Of Time and the City
4:30 In the Realm of Oshima Night and Fog in Japan
15 SUN 4:30 In the Realm of Oshima The Sun’s Burial
17 TUE 11:30 Art Film Pompeii and the Roman Villa
19 THURS 12:30 Event Dust
22 SUN 4:30 Event Dust
28 SAT 2:00 In the Realm of Oshima The Catch
4:00 In the Realm of Oshima Shiro Amakusa, the Christian Rebel
29 SUN 4:30 In the Realm of Oshima The Ceremony