

For Immediate Release
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Summer 2009 Special Events & Series

All films open to the public

Ticket Prices:

\$6.50 general admission/\$5.00 seniors & CU faculty and staff/\$4.00 students & kids

Special event prices may apply

For more information, including screening times and locations, visit

<http://cinema.cornell.edu>

Cinema Under the Stars

Outdoor Screenings on the Willard Straight Terrace

June 25, July 9 & July 22

Cornell Cinema's outdoor screenings on the Willard Straight terrace are perfect evenings. If you've attended in previous years, we know you'll come back, and if you've never been, then you're in for a real treat. With images flickering on the screen hung alongside the fabulous Memorial Room windows, stars twinkling above, and a warm summer breeze wafting through the air, life doesn't get much better! Each event begins at 8:30pm, when you're welcome to join us on the terrace to listen to music and watch the sunset over Cayuga Lake from one of Cornell's loveliest locations. We offer a full cash bar and complimentary snacks to enjoy both before and during the screenings, which begin at 9:30pm, after sunset. We'll screen three classics this year: The Marx Brothers' great political mash-up **Duck Soup**, on Thursday, June 25th; the Humphrey Bogart-Katherine Hepburn romantic adventure **The African Queen** on Thursday, July 9th; and Billy Wilder's clever and cool American film noir **Double Indemnity** on Wednesday, July 22nd. In the unlikely event of a summer rain, the shows will take place in Willard Straight Theatre. We expect this summer's events to be as popular as ever, so buy your tickets early! Prices: \$12/\$10 students & seniors. No comps, discount cards or guest passes accepted. Advance tickets will go on sale starting the Monday before each screening (June 22, July 6 and July 20 respectively) at the Cinema office, 104 Willard Straight Hall, from 9am – 5pm or from the Willard Straight box office, 7:40 – 8:30pm. For more info call 255-3522.

Duck Soup (1933)	June 25
Directed by Leo McCarey	
The African Queen (1951)	July 9

Directed by John Huston
Double Indemnity (1944)
Directed by Billy Wilder

July 22

Three Music Documentaries

Great music brings us together, sometimes physically, for outdoor concerts and impromptu jam sessions, and sometimes emotionally, when a song's power moves us in unexpected ways. This June we explore those connections in three documentaries about the extraordinary power of music to break barriers, bridge boundaries and beautify our lives. We begin with **Anita O'Day: The Life of a Jazz Singer**, a fabulous look at the long life of one of the finest jazz vocalists of all time, who died in 2006 at the age of 87 (and still recording!). She led a full life that included jail time, heroin addiction and an amazing performance of "Sweet Georgia Brown" at the 1958 Newport Jazz Festival, captured in the documentary **Jazz on a Summer's Day**. Next, take a trip to Africa with banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck, who traveled to Uganda, Tanzania, Gambia and Mali to track down the origins of his instrument, which came to North America on slave ships. In **Throw Down Your Heart**, he also finds the time to jam with musicians everywhere he goes. Finally, veteran Spanish director Carlos Saura brings us a performance film about the bluesy, soul-baring Portuguese music known as fado. **Fados** was recorded on a giant set sectioned off with flowing curtains that sometimes act as projection screens behind some of the finest *fadistas* of today, including Mariza, Caetano Veloso, and Ricardo Ribeiro. "Above all, **Fados** is a celebration of human expressivity that, with a stripped-down soundstage and some extraordinary bodies, allows you to appreciate how emotion becomes art." (*NY Times*)

Anita O'Day: The Life of a Jazz Singer (2008) Directed by Robbie Cavolina & Ian McCrudden	June 14, 16 & 19
Throw Down Your Heart (2009) Directed by Sascha Paladino	June 15, 17 & 19
Fados (2009) Directed by Carlos Saura	June 18, 20 & 23

Best Foreign Language Film Oscar Winners

This summer join Cornell Cinema in celebrating some of the great classics that were awarded an Oscar for being deemed the best foreign language film in the year of their release – all in beautiful new prints! First up is Japanese master Akira Kurosawa's moving **Dersu Uzala**. Based on the autobiographical novels of a Russian explorer who meets an old Asian hunter in turn-of-the-century Siberia, the film poetically and spectacularly (it was shot in widescreen Sovscope) depicts the unusual friendship that develops between them. A year earlier, Italian maestro Federico Fellini's **Amarcord** captured the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar, his fourth film to win the award after **La Strada** (1954) (showing in late August), **Nights of Cabiria** (1957) and **8½** (1963). Felliniesque in every sense of the word, **Amarcord** depicts a fantasy-vision of Fellini's seaside hometown of Rimini during the fascist period. Featuring Nina Rota's classic, nostalgia-

tinged score, this new restoration was supervised by director of photography Giuseppe Rotunno. Lastly, we present Constantine Costa-Gavras's **Z** (1969), based on real political events that took place in Greece, when socialist and peace activist Gregorios Lambrakis was killed by thugs in open view of the police in 1963. The ensuing investigation uncovered a vast police and government conspiracy and a secret right-wing organization whose members had carried-out the assassination. When Costa-Gavras went to make his film a few years later, Greece was under military control, and so he shot the film in Algeria with an international cast featuring Yves Montand and Jean-Louis Trintignant. Banned in Greece upon its release, along with Costa-Gavras, actress Irene Papas and the letter "Z" itself (which means, "he lives"), the film plays as one of the most suspenseful political thrillers ever made.

Dersu Uzala (1975) Directed by Akira Kurosawa	July 1, 3 & 7
Amarcord (1974) Directed by Federico Fellini	July 10, 11 & 13
Z (1969) Directed by Constantine Costa-Gavras	July 17, 19 & 21
Coming in next calendar:	
La Strada (1954) Directed by Federico Fellini	August 24 & 27

City Cinema

With a to-be-confirmed introduction by Professor Amy Villarejo before
Of Time and the City on July 14

This summer Cornell Cinema presents three films that look at our urban environments with new perspectives and insights. British director Terence Davies's **Of Time and the City** is a personal cinematic essay on the Liverpool of his youth featuring remarkable archival footage. Davies instructed his editor to "cut it as if it were fiction, with images which speak" and added a layered soundtrack of popular and classical music, voices, radio clips and his own powerful, poignant voiceover. "It is a deeply personal piece of art that never descends into the confessional or the therapeutic, and a work of social and literary criticism that never lectures or hectors, but rather, with melancholy, tenderness and wit, manages to sing." (A.O. Scott, *NY Times*) Catalan filmmaker Pere Portabella sets his **Warsaw Bridge** primarily in the city of Barcelona, with its medieval past, avant-garde vibe and architecture of the great Antonio Gaudí. "Although Pere Portabella always expressed a particular interest through his films in architecture and its visual description, in spaces where the senses expand beyond the action, in [**Warsaw Bridge**] he seems to insistently stress, right from the title itself, his status as an audiovisual architect." (Diego Trerotola) Three of the most exciting filmmakers of today tackle the Japanese megalopolis of **Tokyo!** Described by its distributor as a "trptych, rhapsody, psychogeography, omnibus, urban valentine, freak show, mindwalk and many other things, **Tokyo!** is a fantasy in three movements that will make you see one of the world's greatest cities – if not any city – in unpredictable new ways."

Of Time and the City (2008) Directed by Terence Davies	July 14 & 16
Warsaw Bridge (1990) Directed by Pere Portabella	July 24, 27 & 29
Tokyo! (2009) Directed by Michel Gondry, Leos Carax, Bong Joon-ho	July 26, 30 & 31

Catalan Surrealist: Pere Portabella

Catalan filmmaker Pere Portabella creates highly visual, surrealist films—not unlike those of his former colleague and countryman, Luis Buñuel – that have been critically and artistically acclaimed in his home country and Europe, but up until recently, have rarely screened in the United States. Fortunately for us, director Jonathan Demme saw Portabella’s work in Barcelona several years ago and was so impressed that he helped two of Portabella’s films find U.S. distribution. We had the pleasure of showing **The Silence Before Bach** last September when the film was making a special tour of the U.S. before it obtained distribution. Composed of a series of vignettes that all revolve around the music of Bach, from a player piano playing to an empty villa, to a cellist playing in the middle of a subway car, to a dancing horse, this film explores the nature of music and its transformational power. Forgoing traditional devices such as plot and temporality, **Warsaw Bridge (Pont de Varsòvia)** is dated 1989, the year of the fall of the Berlin Wall and a time of great change in Europe and the world at large. At the core of the film are three characters—a novelist, a professor, and an orchestra conductor – whose stories intersect through the strange death of a fourth friend. But the film transcends far beyond them, and is a complex work that comments on the relationship between history and the present, on art and science, and may in fact be indescribable but is certainly fascinating. Don’t miss this rare chance to see Portabella’s visionary work on the big screen, as the last we heard, he does not release his films on DVD.

The Silence Before Bach (2008)	July 15, 18 & 20
Warsaw Bridge (1990)	July 24, 27 & 29

More Ithaca Premieres

Ithaca audiences searching for new cinematic experiences need look no further than Cornell Cinema. In each calendar we present films and events that otherwise would not be seen in the region. In addition to many of the above films, three premieres round out our calendar. Ron Mann’s documentary **Know Your Mushrooms** (featuring a soundtrack by the Flaming Lips!) looks at the world of fungus hunters, eaters, trippers and aficionados with humor and wonder, and even if you never gave a mushroom a thought outside the supermarket, you’ll walk away with a greater understanding of this fascinating species that just may be responsible for the development of human consciousness. Alien consciousness is the subject of **Battle for Terra**, a beautifully animated science fiction that imagines the human race as the invaders of a peaceful planet of tadpole-like creatures after the Earth is ruined. They are looking for a new

planet to settle, but plans are foiled by a bright Terrian girl who befriends a human pilot who has begun to question his race's quest for domination. This ecological fable is suitable for children 7 and up. Not suitable for children is **Hunger**, a brutally lyrical film from Turner Prize-winning visual artist Steve McQueen about I.R.A. prisoners in Margaret Thatcher's England staging a hunger strike and no-clothes, no-washing protests. "Positively riveting. An artistic masterpiece. A harrowing, poetic film." (*Washington Post*)

Know Your Mushrooms (2009) Directed by Ron Mann	June 24, 26 & 29
Battle for Terra (2007) Directed by Aristomenis Tsirbas	June 30, July 2 & 4
Hunger (2008) Directed by Steve McQueen	July 6, 8 & 10

Arthouse Repeats

Maybe you missed it when it first came out, or maybe it was so good that you *have* to see it again. In either case, we're here to help! This summer Cornell Cinema brings back two great arthouse films that had particularly short runs in town. **The Garden** looks at the inspiring and heartbreaking story of the largest community garden in the United States. Created after the Rodney King riots, this 14-acre greenspace in South Central LA operated for years. When shady deals put the garden in jeopardy, the low-income Latinos who farmed there banded together to fight corrupt politicians, greedy developers, and racism to save their oasis. **Sin Nombre** follows the odyssey of a beautiful young Honduran woman, her father, and uncle, as they attempt to cross the gauntlet of the Latin American countryside to find a new life in the United States. Along the way she crosses paths with a teenage Mexican gang member who is maneuvering to outrun his violent past and elude his unforgiving former associates. Shot in real locations with a cast of unknown Latino actors, this Sundance award-winner presents a thrilling, beautifully shot look at the immigrant experience.

The Garden (2009) Directed by Scott Hamilton Kennedy	July 23 & 25
Sin Nombre (2009) Directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga	July 25, 28, August 1

Popular Hits

One thing that sets Cornell Cinema apart from many repertory cinemas is that in addition to the classics, the foreign films, the documentaries, silents and experimental works, we also screen popular Hollywood hits. This summer, stop by, eat some popcorn (with *real* butter), and escape into the fairy tale world of **Coraline** or the dystopian America of **Watchmen**; delight in the verbal repartee between Julia Roberts and Clive Owen in the spy thriller **Duplicity**; see just how bad summer jobs can be in **Adventureland**; be charmed by Amy Adams and Emily Blunt in **Sunshine Cleaning**; and be moved by Jamie Foxx's portrayal of a troubled, homeless musician in **The Soloist**.

Coraline (2009) Directed by Henry Selnick	June 20, 21 & 27
Duplicity (2009) Directed by Tony Gilroy	June 26, 28 & July 4
Watchmen (2009) Directed by Zack Snyder	June 27, July 3 & 5
Adventureland (2009) Directed by Greg Mottola	July 11, 12 & 17
Sunshine Cleaning (2009) Directed by Christine Jeffs	July 18, 19 & 24
The Soloist (2009) Directed by Joe Wright	July 26, 31 & August 1