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Early Spring 2010 Special Events & Series

All films open to the public

Ticket Prices:

\$6.50 general admission/\$5.00 seniors/\$4.00 students & kids 12 and under

Special event prices may apply

For more information, including screening times and locations, visit

<http://cinema.cornell.edu>

The 40th Anniversary Elegant Winter Party and Benefit for Cornell Cinema

Featuring a screening of King Vidor's **Show People**

and the Charlie Chaplin short **Behind the Screen**

With live piano accompaniment by Dr. Philip Carli

Saturday, February 6th at 7:30pm in Willard Straight Theatre

Cornell Cinema hosts their sixth annual Elegant Winter Party, and this year they celebrate four decades of being Ithaca's year-round film festival. A must-attend event for cinema-loving Ithacans, the party includes a cocktail hour starting at 7:30pm, featuring scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and desserts, courtesy of some of Ithaca's finest dining and catering establishments, a cash bar, live music, drawings for an array of wonderful door prizes, and a 9pm screening of the Charlie Chaplin short **Behind the Screen**, followed by **Show People**, starring silent film comedienne Marion Davies, with accompaniment by silent film pianist extraordinaire Dr. Philip Carli, all in the elegant Willard Straight Theatre. Both short and feature offer a comical insider's look at Hollywood in the early years. **Show People** was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry in 2003 by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant." Proceeds from this event will help Cornell Cinema continue to provide its eclectic slate of cinematic offering from around the world. Tickets are \$45 general (\$80 a pair) and \$25 student (\$40 a pair), and are available now at CornellCinemaTickets.com, and starting Monday, February 1 from 104 Willard Straight Hall, or by calling 607-255-3522.

Dormitorium: Film Decors by the Quay Brothers

Timothy and Stephen Quay, identical twins born in Pennsylvania but long residents of England, are world renowned for their visually exquisite and unsettling stop-motion

animated films. Cornell's College of Architecture, Art and Planning is hosting an exhibition of eleven rarely seen sets from these films in the John Hartell Gallery in Sibley Dome titled *DORMITORIUM: Film Decors by the Quay Brothers*, from January 25 to February 5, and in conjunction with this exhibit, Cornell Cinema presents two programs featuring the films themselves. On January 26 and 28 they show **Tales from the Brothers Quay**, a collection of six short works, most in recently struck new prints, including **Street of Crocodiles** (1986, 21 mins), based on the work of Bruno Schulz and selected by Terry Gilliam as one of the ten best animated films of all time, and **Rehearsals for Extinct Anatomies** (1987, 14 mins), a non-linear dreamlike trip into the Quays' singularly surreal world of unusual architectural forms, living skulls, psychedelic patterns, and robots made of drafting tools and found objects. Also on the program: **The Cabinet of Jan Svankmajer** (1984, 14 mins); **The Epic of Gilgamesh** (1985, 11 mins); **Stille Nacht I** (1988, 2 mins); and **The Comb** (1991, 18 mins). On January 28 and 30, they screen **The Piano Tuner of Earthquakes**, the brothers' second feature film, which merges live action and animation in a vaguely 18th century imaginary world where a beautiful opera singer falls prey to an evil inventor on the eve of her wedding, and later becomes captivated by the doctor's piano tuner who bears a resemblance to her lost lover. For more information about the exhibit, visit <http://www.aap.cornell.edu/events>.

Tales from the Brothers Quay	Jan 26 & 28
The Piano Tuner of Earthquakes (2006)	Jan 28 & 30

IthaKid Film Fest

Bring the kids! Each year, on Saturdays in the late fall and early spring, Cornell Cinema and the Ithaca Youth Bureau bring to town the *IthaKid Film Fest*, a series of unusual children's programming, most offered at the low price of just \$3 for adults and only \$2 for kids 12 and younger. The shows start at 2pm and all happen in the beautiful Willard Straight Theatre. The series brings three wonderful and acclaimed adaptations of children's books: the animated comedy **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs** (recommended for ages 6 and up); Spike Jonze's live action version of Maurice Sendak's **Where the Wild Things Are** (recommended for ages 8 and up); and Wes Anderson's charming stop-motion retelling of Roald Dahl's **Fantastic Mr. Fox** (recommended for ages 7 and up). Also included in the series are two screenings of **Earth**, the first film in the DisneyNature series, which follows polar bear, elephant and humpback whale families on their remarkable journeys across our great blue planet, doing what they need to do to survive. A direct descendant of the BBC television series "Planet Earth," **Earth** features the same kind of "eye-popping, state-of-the-art nature photography" (*LA Times*), but on an appropriately awe-inspiring scale (recommended for ages 6 and up).

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (2009) Directed by Chris Miller & Phil Lord	Jan 30
Where the Wild Things Are (2009) Directed by Spike Jonze	Feb 13
Earth (2009) Directed by Alastair Fothergill & Mark Linfield	Feb 20 & 27
Fantastic Mr. Fox (2009)	March 6

Directed by Wes Anderson

Hits from the '70s: Cornell Cinema Celebrates Its 40th Birthday

2010 marks Cornell Cinema's 40th year as Ithaca's year-round film festival, and they kick off their fifth decade with a look back at ten of the most popular films from their first, the 1970s. Highlights include the comedy classics **Young Frankenstein** and **Monty Python and the Holy Grail**, the Connery-as-Bond **Dr. No**, Bertolucci's **Last Tango in Paris**, Scorsese's **Taxi Driver** and Kubrick's **A Clockwork Orange**, as well as new prints of **Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid** and Truffaut's **Small Change** (**Annie Hall** and **A Woman Under the Influence** will screen in later calendars). In addition, they are holding a contest: with admission to any of these films in this calendar, you are eligible to cast a guess for which film was the *most* popular in the 70s. The winners will be selected at random in mid-March from all the correct entries. First Prize is a ten-admission discount card, valid for one full year; Second Prize is five guest passes, valid for one full year; Third Prize is a Cornell Cinema Reel Culture t-shirt.

Young Frankenstein (1975) Directed by Mel Brooks	Feb 1 & 2
Last Tango in Paris (1973) Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci	Feb 8 & 9
Monty Python & the Holy Grail (1974) Directed by Terry Gilliam	Feb 13, 15 & 16
A Clockwork Orange (1971) Directed by Stanley Kubrick	Feb 22 & 23
Dr. No (1962) Directed by Terence Young	March 1 & 2
Taxi Driver (1976) Directed by Martin Scorsese	March 6, 8 & 9
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969) Directed by George Roy Hill	March 11, 13 & 19
Small Change (1976) Directed by Francois Truffaut	March 15 & 16
Annie Hall (1977) Directed by Woody Allen	Coming in May
A Woman Under the Influence (1974) Directed by John Cassavettes	Coming in July

Cities: Inside and Out

Cornell Cinema and the Department of City and Regional Planning present a series of films that explore cities as a dynamic unit, a character every bit as vital, rich and important as the individual actors. These films depict with visceral clarity aspects of a city's complexity, taking into account political, economic and cultural dimensions, moving beyond the mere look of the urban setting. Highlights include the new Chinese film **24 City**, a hybrid narrative/documentary about an aircraft parts plant being converted into

a high-rise development in Sichuan Province, a process that highlights the social disparity running rampant in China as the nation retools from a planned to a market-based economy. Similarly, in **The Greening of Southie**, the first entirely “green” residential building is constructed in the working-class neighborhood of South Boston by union workers who will never be able to afford living there. On the other hand, Claire Denis’s **35 Shots of Rum** depicts a rarely seen mixed-race, middle-class community living in the suburbs of Paris. In the film the college student daughter of an African immigrant debates colonialism in her classes, railing against the ways “the global South” is perpetually indebted to the industrialized world. These ideas are fleshed out in **The End of Poverty?**, a thought-provoking documentary that posits a direct link between the legacy of colonialism and the current unequal distribution of wealth that leaves much of the world’s population in a stunning state of poverty, from the shantytowns of Kenya to the favelas of Brazil. Speakers will introduce most of the Wednesday night screenings.

Chinatown (1974) Directed by Roman Polanski	Feb 3
The Garden (2008) Directed by Scott Hamilton Kennedy	Feb 10 & 13
City of God (2002) Directed by Fernando Meirelles and Katia Lund	Feb 17 & 19
24 City (2009) Directed by Jia Zhang-ke	Feb 24 & 26
35 Shots of Rum (2009) Directed by Claire Denis	March 3, 5, 6 & 8
The End of Poverty? (2008) Directed by Philippe Diaz	March 10
The Greening of Southie (2008) Directed by Ian Cheney	March 17

Oscar Docs – And the Nominees Are...

Each year the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science releases a short-list of fifteen films it is considering for the five Oscar nominees in the Best Documentary Feature category. Cornell Cinema is screening three of these titles in February, ones they feel are top contenders for the five coveted slots. First is **The Cove**, which was recently awarded the top prize by the National Board of Review; tied with another one of their selections, **The Beaches of Agnes**, for the top award from the LA Film Critics; won the Audience Award at last year's Sundance Film Festival; and caused Roger Ebert to declare it a certain Oscar nominee. *Variety* wrote “Eco-activist documentaries don't get much more compelling than **The Cove**, an impassioned piece of advocacy filmmaking that follows ‘Flipper’ trainer-turned-marine crusader Richard O'Barry in his efforts to end dolphin slaughter in Taiji, Japan.” **The Beaches of Agnes**, made by the octogenarian grand dame of the French New Wave, Agnes Varda, was the most well reviewed documentary of the year according to metacritic.com. A beautiful, playful and insightful look back at her life and the movies she and her husband Jacques Demy made, the film itself is a reminder of all that Agnes Varda has contributed to cinema over her long career, including both documentaries and features, as well as a voice and presence like

no other. **Valentino: The Last Emperor** was made by *Vanity Fair* writer and editor Matt Tyrnauer, and follows the lives and careers of the Italian design guru and his business partner Giancarlo Giammetti. Fashion critics, at least, say Tyrnauer has earned one of the five nominee spots, having shadowed one of the most notoriously difficult people to work with in the industry. The five nominees will be announced on February 2.

The Cove (2009) Directed by Louie Psihoyos	Feb 5, 7 & 9
The Beaches of Agnes (2009) Directed by Agnes Varda	Feb 11, 12 & 16
Valentino: The Last Emperor (2009) Directed by Matt Tyrnauer	Feb 20 & 21

The 29th Annual Black Maria Film and Video Festival

With Festival Director John Columbus

Tuesday, February 9, 7:15pm, Schwartz Center for Performing Arts Film Forum

Named for Thomas Edison's 1893 experimental motion picture studio, this touring festival features cutting edge films from prominent avant-garde, documentary and animation film and videomakers world-wide. Tonight's program will include the top award-winning entries in the documentary and animation categories: **The Solitary Life of Cranes** by Eva Weber and **Pickles to Nickles** by Danielle Ash, respectively. **Cranes** captures 24 hours in the life of London as seen from the dizzying perspective of crane operators. Part city symphony, part visual poem, the film captures hidden aspects of the life of a city from an omniscient point of view. A cardboard city of shopkeepers and their neighborhoods are revealed in **Pickles**. The program will be rounded out by several other short films, including Ithaca experimental filmmaker Vincent Grenier's lovely garden-set **Coda**. Complete line-up at cinema.cornell.edu.

5 Masters of World Cinema – New Work

Cornell Cinema's Early Spring 2010 Flicksheet boasts Ithaca premieres of recent work by five of the world's most renowned filmmakers working at the top of their form. Agnès Varda has been making features and documentaries with a distinct experimental style since the 1950s, and her latest, **The Beaches of Agnes**, is a thoroughly enjoyable self-referential work, which recently won France's Cesar Award for best documentary film. Frederick Wiseman, a contemporary of Varda's, has produced a tremendous body of documentaries since the 1960s, films offering intimate depictions of social institutions. His latest, **La Danse**, reveals the inner workings of the Paris Opera Ballet, and includes breathtaking dance sequences from rehearsals and performances. Aleksandr Sokurov is a generation younger, and has been hailed as the successor to the great Russian filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky, making poetic films exploring a variety of themes since the 1980s. **The Sun**, made in 2005 but just now making its way to American screens, is the third in Mr. Sokurov's trilogy about 20th-century dictators, a fascinating act of historical imagination depicting Hirohito's last days as Emperor. French filmmaker Claire Denis, a contemporary of Sokurov, was raised in colonial Africa, and this upbringing has had a

profound effect on her filmmaking. Her debut feature film **Chocolat** (1988), was a semi-autobiographical meditation on African colonialism and her recent **35 Shots of Rum** portrays an African immigrant and his daughter living in Paris, reflecting the new face of Europe. Finally, there is the youngest of the bunch, Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhang-ke, who is regarded as a leading figure of the "Sixth Generation" movement in Chinese cinema. His **24 City** is a fascinating hybrid of both fiction and non-fiction, which weaves together the stories of three generations of factory workers into an oral history of post-revolutionary China and a bracing meditation on the massive physical and psychological changes transforming the country. All of the films appear on Indiewire's critics' poll of the best films released in 2009, four of them in the top 20.

The Beaches of Agnes (2009) Directed by Agnes Varda	Feb 11, 12 & 16
24 City (2009) Directed by Jia Zhang-ke	Feb 24 & 26
La Danse (2009) Directed by Frederick Wiseman	Feb 26 - 28
35 Shots of Rum (2009) Directed by Claire Denis	March 3, 5, 6 & 8
The Sun (2005) Directed by Aleksandr Sokurov	March 4 - 6

Africana@40: Looking Back/Moving Forward

Behind the Rainbow, with filmmaker Jihan El Tahri, Thursday, Feb 18, 7:00, Free
Testament, with filmmaker John Akomfrah, Friday, Feb 19, 7:00, Free
 In Willard Straight Theatre

The Africana Studies and Research Center at Cornell University is celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2010, and among other events this year they are hosting a mini-film festival at Cornell Cinema on February 18 and 19. On Thursday they host filmmaker Jihan El Tahri, who will present her award-winning film **Behind the Rainbow** (2009). Focused on the conflicts within the ANC, in power in South Africa since the end of Apartheid, this rigorous, complete and richly documented film deals with the fratricide struggle between Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma. And on Friday, they host filmmaker John Akomfrah and his 1988 narrative film **Testament**, in which historic archival footage, dream sequences and political reflections are interwoven to create a complex experiment that is intensified by the ritualistic music: twenty years after Ghana's socialist experiment under Kwameh Nkrumah, a former activist returns to her home country as a reporter. She is supposed to do a report on Werner Herzog's **Cobra Verde**, part of which was filmed in a former slave fort in Ghana. For more information about the Africana Studies and Research Center, visit asrc.cornell.edu.

Art Documentaries x 3

Film captures the spark of creativity in three excellent and enlightening documentaries playing at Cornell Cinema in February, each about a different creative art. The series

begins with **Valentino: The Last Emperor**, which takes the viewer behind the scenes of legendary couturier Valentino Garavani, one of the most celebrated fashion designers in history. Following the designer through his last collection before retiring, the film captures the end of an era in global fashion. **Visual Acoustics** examines the photography of Julius Shulman, considered the greatest photographer of architecture in the world. Shulman made his name by beautifully photographing the work of such modern giants as Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van der Rohe, Richard Neutra, and Frank Gehry, especially in and around Los Angeles. Moving from the camera to the stage, **La Danse: The Paris Opera Ballet** gives the viewer an intimate look at one of the best dance companies in the world as they prepare for and perform in their demanding seven-ballet season, culminating with Waltz's Romeo and Juliette.

Valentino: The Last Emperor (2009) Directed by Matt Tyrnauer	Feb 20 & 21
Visual Acoustics (2009) Directed by Eric Bricker	Feb 20 & 23
La Danse (2009) Directed by Frederick Wiseman	Feb 26 - 28

Temple Grandin

With Frank H.T. Rhodes Class of '56 Professor Temple Grandin
and Producer Scott Ferguson '82
Thursday, February 25, 7:00pm, Willard Straight Theatre

Claire Danes stars in this biopic about Temple Grandin, a Frank H.T. Rhodes Class of '56 Professor at Cornell, who is a scientist, innovator, professor of animal science at Colorado State University, renowned animal welfare activist, much-in-demand veteran of the speaking circuit, and arguably the world's most accomplished and well-known adult with autism. Her experience growing up with severe autistic symptoms allowed her unique insights into the behavior of cows and other animals, leading her to her life's work of developing more humane methods and facilities for livestock handling. This new biopic chronicles her life in the 1960s and 1970s, beginning with her high school years when she was expelled for throwing a book at a female classmate who had been tormenting her, and ending after she had established her business, Grandin Livestock Handling Systems, a vehicle through which she's designed one-third of all the livestock-handling facilities in the U.S. Grandin's books include "Animals in Translation" and "Thinking in Pictures," and she is the subject of the title essay in "An Anthropologist on Mars" by Oliver Sacks, a former A.D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell. These books and other writings, as well as in-person interviews, formed the basis of the film's script. Scott Ferguson '82 has been working professionally in the film business since 1989 and has regularly returned to Cornell to share his work, most recently with last year's **Gigantic**, which he executive produced, and prior to that with **Brokeback Mountain**, which he co-produced.

Jewish Film Festival

Cornell Cinema hosts a Sunday morning Jewish Film Festival this March, featuring three 11am Sunday screenings of great films with Jewish themes (with additional evening screenings for late risers). As added enticement, complimentary bagels & coffee are offered at the morning shows. This year includes the delightful **Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg**, by the maker of **The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg**, which tells the humorous and eye-opening story of television pioneer Gertrude Berg. Berg was the creator, principal writer, and star of *The Goldbergs*, a popular radio show for 17 years, which became television's very first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949. Next is **\$9.99**, a stop motion puppet animation film, based on the surreal short stories of Etgar Keret, one of the leading voices in Israeli contemporary literature. Lastly is **Lemon Tree**, based on a true story about life around the Green Line, and starring Palestinian actress Hiam Abbass, who won the Best Actress Award from the Israeli Film Academy for her portrayal of a widow whose livelihood is threatened when her lemon grove is marked for destruction by her Israeli government minister neighbor. The Festival is cosponsored with Temple Beth El, Tikkun v'Or, Cornell Hillel Jewish Student Union and the Program of Jewish Studies.

Yoo Hoo, Mrs Goldberg (2009) Directed by Aviva Kempner	Feb 28 & March 2
\$9.99 (2008) Directed by Tatia Rosenthal	March 7, 9 & 11
Lemon Tree (2008) Directed by Eran Riklis	March 14 & 16

The Ukrainian Time Machine

With experimental filmmaker Naomi Uman

Tuesday, March 2, 7:15pm, Schwartz Center for Performing Arts Film Forum

Cornell Cinema welcomes experimental filmmaker Naomi Uman, who will screen selections from her latest project on Tuesday, March 2. A former private chef to Malcolm Forbes, Calvin Klein and Gloria Vanderbilt, Uman traded in her eggbeater and oven mitts for a 16mm Bolex and acid resistant black rubber gloves, and has become known for her signature handmade aesthetic, often shooting, hand-processing and editing her films with the most rudimentary of practices. In 2006 she set off on a reverse journey that her great grandparents made from the Ukraine in 1906, hoping to experience what it is like to be an immigrant. She began a life in a small village where people still live as if it were 100 years ago, not knowing the language or anyone there. She will show four short films as part of what she calls **The Ukrainian Time Machine: Clay** (12 min), **Coda** (3 min), **Kalendar** (10 min) and **On This Day** (5 min), as well as some of her earlier work, all shown on 16mm film. Uman's films have been exhibited widely at the Sundance and Rotterdam International Film Festivals, The New York Film Festival, and the San Francisco International Film festival among others; she has also screened her work at The Guggenheim Museum, The Whitney, The Smithsonian, and Mexico City's Museo de Arte Moderno. Her visit is cosponsored with the Central New York Programmers Group and Presentation Funds from the Experimental Television Center.

Cyclonic: The Dance & Life of Eva Tanguay
With live music by Mary Brett Lorson and the Soubrettes
Saturday, March 13, 7:15pm, Willard Straight Theatre
and **The Wild Girl**
with live piano accompaniment by Mary Brett Lorson
Sunday, March 14, 2:00pm, Willard Straight Theatre

The legacy of legendary vaudeville performer Eva Tanguay is explored in two special programs at Cornell Cinema created by Ithaca musician Mary Brett Lorson, who has been researching the life of this early-twentieth-century mass media celebrity, and whose grandmother was Tanguay's costumer. According to Lorson, "Tanguay was contradiction personified. Tough but puny, maternal but unmarriageable, smart but uneducated, appealing but bizarre," with a style of dancing like no other. Tanguay starred in two silent films: **Energetic Eva!** (1916) and **The Wild Girl** (1917), and Mitzi Gaynor portrayed her in the bizarre Lloyd Bacon film, **The I Don't Care Girl** (1953). Lorson has been researching Tanguay's life and writing songs inspired by it for a full-length stage play. An offshoot of this exploration is the multi-media presentation **Cyclonic: The Dance and Life of Eva Tanguay**, which takes center stage on Saturday, March 13 with live music by Lorson and the Soubrettes (Amelia Sauter, Leah Houghtaling, Jen Middaugh), theatrical readings about Tanguay, and short original dance films by Lorson and Andrea Minicozzi that imagine what Eva's dancing may have been like (featuring dancer Ashley Kirsner), and a clip from Howard Estabrook's **The Wild Girl** depicting the real Eva dancing. A talk-back with Lorson and the other performers will follow. Then on Sunday, Lorson provides piano accompaniment to **The Wild Girl**, a comedy in which Tanguay stars as a gypsy, a performance meant to capture on screen and capitalize on her lusty stage vitality. Read more about the first "rock star" of the 20th century, Eva Tanguay, at slate.com/id/2236658.

From Page to Screen: Three Recent Adaptations

Reading a good book is a marvelously visual process in its own, unique, way – the scenes occur in the mind's eye, as vivid as any Technicolor concoction on a movie screen. The lure of adapting those images to an actual screen is too great for most screenwriters and directors, and countless novels have undergone the transformation, to wildly varied results. In March, Cornell Cinema presents three of the latest successes, each staying true to its source material and fleshing it out with stellar performances, a strong director's vision, and a tight screenplay. **Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire** wears its pedigree in its title, the heart wrenching and controversial 1996 novel about Clareece "Precious" Jones, an obese and abused black teenager pregnant with her second child at 16. It is cosponsored with the CU Women's Resource Center. Australian director John Hilcoat adapted Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel **The Road** to screen with powerful visuals of a father and son trying to survive in a post-apocalyptic America. And **Disgrace**, based on the Booker Prize-winning novel by J.M Coetzee, transports us back to post-apartheid South Africa, where a fallen professor, played by John Malkovich, must face uncomfortable realities.

The Road (2009)

March 10, 12, 13 & 17

Directed by John Hillcoat
Precious (2009)

March 12, 14, 15 & 18

Directed by Lee Daniels
Disgrace (2009)
Directed by Steve Jacobs

March 12, 14, 18 & 19