

For Immediate Release
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Early Spring 2011 Special Events & Series

All films open to the public

Ticket Prices:

\$7.00 general admission/\$5.50 seniors/\$4.00 students & kids 12 and under

Special event prices may apply

For more information, including screening times & locations, visit

<http://cinema.cornell.edu>

The 7th Annual Elegant Winter Party and Benefit for Cornell Cinema

Featuring a screening of the 1927 version of **Chicago**

with live piano accompaniment by Dr. Philip Carli

Saturday, February 12 at 7:30pm in Willard Straight Theatre

Cornell Cinema hosts their seventh annual Elegant Winter Party, a must-attend event for all cinema-loving Ithacans. Dress up in your winter best and enjoy 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 recently rediscovered 1927 silent version of **Chicago**, with accompaniment by silent film pianist extraordinaire Dr. Philip Carli, all in the elegant Willard Straight Theatre. Proceeds from this event will help Cornell Cinema continue to provide its eclectic slate of cinematic offerings from around the world in the face of diminishing grant support. Tickets are \$45 general (\$80 a pair) and \$25 student (\$40 a pair), and are available now at CornellCinemaTickets.com, and starting Monday, February 7 from 104 Willard Straight Hall, or by calling 607-255-3522.

Cornell Cinema and Dan Smalls Presents (DSP) Premiere

Spark of Being

with live music by Dave Douglas and Keystone

Friday, February 4 at 7:30pm in Willard Straight Theatre

Advance tickets \$20 general, \$15 student (\$25/\$18 at the door)

The latest film by experimental maker Bill Morrison (**Decasia**) is a meditation on contemporary art, technology, and other themes through the lens of the Frankenstein story. Working with new, archival, and distressed footage, Morrison developed the film in collaboration with two-time Grammy-nominated jazz musician Dave Douglas while the two were in residence at Stanford University. Douglas's original score will be performed by his electric band Keystone (a sextet with trumpet, tenor/soprano sax, Rhodes piano, electric bass, drums, and turntables), which was created to work with films. The result is a stunning multimedia piece evoking the complexity and detail of the story's intertwining narratives, which unfolds with a score that is at times bucolic and others explosive. Advance tickets are on sale now at <http://dansmallspresents.com> and <http://CornellCinemaTickets.com>; starting Saturday, January 29 at Ithaca Guitar Works, and starting Monday, January 31 from 104 Willard Straight Hall, from 9am-5pm. Cosponsored with the Cornell Council for the Arts and the Atkinson Forum in American Studies.

Best Documentary 2010: Selections from the Short List

Featuring a post-screening discussion with Prof. Robert Hockett (Law)
following **Inside Job** on Wednesday, January 26

and a post-screening discussion following **Precious Life** on Thursday, February 24

Every year, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences whittles down the number of films to be considered for the Best Documentary Oscar to a top fifteen list (a practice also used for the animated feature and all shorts categories). This year's selection, culled from a total of 101 eligible films, is one of the strongest slates in years. Join Cornell Cinema in celebrating five of the shortlisted selections screening in this calendar, documentaries that will challenge your beliefs, help you understand an increasingly complicated world, and move and inspire you, as only the best in cinema, fiction or non-fiction, can.

Inside Job (2010) Directed by Charles Ferguson	Jan 26 & 29
Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould (2010) Directed by Michele Hozer, Peter Raymont	Jan 28 – 30
Waste Land (2010) Directed by Lucy Walker	Feb 11, 13 & 15
Waiting for "Superman" (2010) Directed by Davis Guggenheim	Feb 17 & 19
Precious Life (2010) Directed by Shlomi Eldar	Feb 24

Shanghai Express

with introduction by Society for the Humanities Fellow Yunte Huang
Thursday, January 27 at 7:15pm in Willard Straight Theatre

Shanghai Express (1932), the fourth and final collaboration between cinematographer Lee Garmes (who won an Oscar for this work) and director Josef von Sternberg, is a rich evocation of a Far East that never was, starring Marlene Dietrich as a fallen woman redeemed by love, and Anna May Wong as an American-educated Chinese woman with a complex past. The screening will be introduced by Yunte Huang, author of *Charlie Chan: The Untold Story of the Honorable Detective and His Rendezvous With American History*, who this semester is teaching a seminar entitled Yellowface (the interpretation of Asians by non-Asian actors). Cosponsored with the Society for Asian American Graduate Affairs and the Society for the Humanities.

Fellini Fever!

With series introduction by Professor Karen Pinkus (Romance Studies/Comparative Literature)
Monday, January 31 at 7:00pm in Willard Straight Theatre

Cornell Cinema's Monday Night Classic Cinema series focuses on the work of Italian auteur Federico Fellini with a selection of some of his best films. It begins on January 31 with **I Vitelloni**, his first commercial success for which he received an Academy Award nomination. The screening will be introduced by Professor Karen Pinkus who is teaching a course on Fellini this semester. The series ends with a beautiful new print of **8½**, his masterpiece, that has been called perplexing, rich with enigmas, and downright impossible – and, by some, the greatest European film of all time. Cosponsored with the Department of Romance Studies.

I Vitelloni (1953)	Jan 31, Feb 1
La Strada (1954)	Feb 7 & 8
Nights of Cabiria (1957)	Feb 14 & 15

La Dolce Vita (1961)
8 ½ (1963)

Feb 21 & 22
Feb 28 & March 1

Art from Unexpected Places

Featuring filmmaker Vincent Grenier with **Revelations of the Everyday**
Tuesday, February 1 at 7:15pm in Willard Straight Theatre

Cornell Cinema presents three programs about art originating from unlikely sources: our ordinary surroundings; a brutal beating that unleashes a fantasy world in the victim's backyard; the largest trash dump in the world on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro and the garbage pickers who work there. The series begins with a visit on February 1 by Ithaca-based experimental filmmaker Vincent Grenier, who was recently named one of the Top 50 Avant-Garde Filmmakers working today in a *Film Comment* poll. Grenier's short films and videos offer subtle surprises of light, color, form, and composition, inviting the viewer to see the everyday anew. The program will include Grenier's color explosion, **Burning Bush** (2010), which screened in last fall's Wavelengths section of the Toronto International Film Festival as well as in Views from the Avant-Garde at the New York Film Festival.

Revelations of the Everyday Directed by Vincent Grenier	Feb 1
Marwencol (2010) Directed by Jeff Malmberg	Feb 8 & 10
Waste Land (2010) Directed by Lucy Walker	Feb 11, 13 & 15

Immigration Investigations

With series introduction by Professor Maria Cristina Garcia (Latino Studies)
at **9500 Liberty** on Wednesday, February 2 at 7:00pm
in Willard Straight Theatre

Cornell Cinema, in conjunction with the Institute for Social Sciences, presents a film series (two feature films; two documentaries) in conjunction with the Institute's theme project this year, *Immigration: Settlement, Integration and Membership*. The films explore issues as outlined in the ISS press release: "Immigration is both a central component of the American experience, and a cause for questions and anxieties about the integration of newcomers, the terms of their inclusion, and national identity. Contemporary migration is no different in this respect. However, today's immigrants do share three distinctive characteristics: first, immigrants today hail predominantly from Latin America and Asia rather than Europe; second, there is a significant proportion of the undocumented among the foreign born; and third, there has been a shift in settlement patterns away from traditional gateway areas to non-traditional destinations." This series is also being shown in conjunction with the following classes: Asian American Communities (AMST 2041); The US-Mexico Border (AMST 2250); and Latinos in the U.S.: 1898 to the Present (AMST 2610). For more about the Institute for Social Sciences, visit <http://socialsciences.cornell.edu>.

9500 Liberty (2009) Directed by Annabel Park and Eric Byler	Feb 2
Children of Invention (2009) Directed by Tze Chun	Feb 9
From the Other Side (2002) Directed by Chantal Akerman	Feb 16
A Thousand Years of Good Prayers (2008) Directed by Wayne Wang	Feb 23

L'Age d'Or

with introduction by Professor Patty Keller (Romance Studies)
Thursday, February 3 at 7:15pm in Willard Straight Theatre

Cornell Cinema will screen a new print of Luis Buñuel's classic **L'Age d'Or** (1930), which was co-written by Salvador Dali, as the kick-off for the graduate seminar The Architecture of Desire—Luis Buñuel and Film Theory being taught by Professor Patty Keller, who will introduce the film on February 3. Considered the high point of cinematic surrealism, "[t]he plot concerns two sweethearts who are desperate to consummate their relationship. Thwarted at every turn by the 'establishment' in various austere guises, their quest becomes a ferocious satire castigating everything from bourgeois ethics to the Church....although **L'Age d'Or** retains its power to shock, it is now hailed as a breathless monument to early cinematic verve, courage and sheer creativity." (*BBC Four*) The film only will also screen on February 5.

IthaKid Film Festival

Saturdays at 2pm in Willard Straight Theatre
Featuring live accompaniment by Dr. Philip Carli with
The Adventures of Prince Achmed on Feb 12
and **Sing-a-Long Mary Poppins** on Feb 26

Bring the kids! Each year, on Saturdays in the late fall and early spring, Cornell Cinema and the Ithaca Youth Bureau host the *IthaKid Film Festival*, a series of unusual children's programs, most offered at the low price of just \$3 for adults and \$2 for kids 12 and younger. The shows start at 2pm and all happen in the beautiful Willard Straight Theatre, where reasonably priced popcorn is offered. Highlights include a screening of **The Adventures of Prince Achmed**, considered to be the first animated feature, with live piano accompaniment by Dr. Philip Carli and an introduction by media artist and puppeteer Mara Alper, who worked with **Achmed's** creator, Lotte Reiniger, and will talk about that history and demonstrate how kids can make their own shadow puppets (recommended for ages 6 and up; special ticket price \$5 adults/\$4 kids 12 and under); and a special **Sing-a-Long Mary Poppins** on February 26, hosted by Cornell Cinema's Mistress of Ceremonies and Magical Songstress Railey Savage, featuring a costume contest! (Recommended for ages 5 and up; special ticket price \$10 adults, \$8 kids 12 and under. Advance tickets available now at <http://CornellCinemaTickets.com> and starting February 21 from the Cornell Cinema Office, 104 Willard Straight Hall, 9am-5pm.)

7 Days in Slow Motion (2009) Directed by Umakanth Thumrugoti	Feb 5
The Adventures of Prince Achmed (1925) Directed by Carl Kock, Lotte Reiniger	Feb 12
Megamind (2010) Directed by Tom McGrath	Feb 19
Sing-a-Long Mary Poppins (1964) Directed by Robert Stevenson	Feb 26
The Gold Rush (1925) Directed by Charlie Chaplin	March 5

Idiots & Angels

with animator Bill Plympton
Wednesday, February 16 at 9:15pm in Willard Straight Theatre

Cornell Cinema welcomes celebrated hand-drawn animator Bill Plympton with his latest feature **Idiots & Angels** (2008). When a selfish, mean-spirited, average Joe wakes up with a pair of

angel's wings sprouting out of his back, his life is transformed against his will. Try though he may to reject the wings and the unwanted attention they garner, he finds himself undeniably and irrevocably changed, and acting as defender of the wings and the goodness they represent. With a soundtrack featuring Tom Waits and Pink Martini, the otherwise wordless film is a darkly comedic, veritably monochromatic cartoon that mines the dregs of humanity for illumination. Plympton has been nominated twice for the Best Animated Short Academy Award (for **Guard Dog** and **Your Face**) and has received many accolades for his short and feature animations. His most recent short, **The Cow Who Wanted to be a Hamburger** (2010) has been shortlisted for the Academy Award this year, and will be shown with **Idiots & Angels**. He is the only animator ever to draw every frame for an animated feature film by himself. His visit is cosponsored with the Cornell Council for the Arts.

Cars, Culture & the City

Featuring **A Different Path** with filmmaker Monteith McCollum

Tuesday, February 22, 7:15pm, Schwartz Center for Performing Arts Film Forum

In conjunction with the exhibition "Unpacking the Nano," on display at Cornell's Johnson Museum from January 18 – March 21, with the related symposium, "Unpacking the Nano: The Price of the World's Most Affordable Car," taking place March 10 & 11, Cornell Cinema presents a series of films exploring the connections between cars and culture in a number of cities around the world, including Mumbai, Lagos, Tehran and New York City. The series begins with local filmmaker Monteith McCollum (**Hybrid**) presenting his new documentary **A Different Path** on February 22, which follows a sidewalk activist senior in Seattle, a critical mass trumpeter in Toronto, a city kayaker in New York and others, as they struggle to make their way through the modern automobile-centric urban environment. To learn more about the Nano exhibition and symposium, visit <http://aap.cornel.edu/events/nano>. Cosponsored with the College of Architecture, Art & Planning and the Cornell Council for the Arts.

A Different Path (2010) Directed by Monteith McCollum	Feb 22
Taxi No. 9211 (2006) Directed by Milan Luthria	March 2 & 3
Lagos/Koolhaas (2002) Directed by Bregtje van der Haak	March 9 & 10
Ten (2002) Directed by Abbas Kiarostami	March 16 & 17
<i>Late Spring calendar:</i>	
Tucker: The Man and His Dream (1988) Directed by Francis Ford Coppola	March 30 & April 1
The French Connection (1971) Directed by William Friedkin	TBA

SXSW 2010: 2 Winners

Cornell Cinema will screen the two top award winning films from the Austin-based South by Southwest Film Festival in this calendar, both of which have picked up several more awards and accolades since premiering at the Festival in March of 2010. The Documentary Feature Award went to Jeff Malmberg's **Marwencol**, about the remarkable art created by a brain-damaged man in his upstate New York backyard. And Lena Dunham's directorial debut **Tiny Furniture**, a post-college coming of age story, took the Narrative Feature Award.

Marwencol (2010)	Feb 8 & 10
Directed by Jeff Malmberg	
Tiny Furniture (2010)	Feb 25, 26 & 28
Directed by Lena Dunham	

Night Catches Us

with an introduction by Professor Cheryl Finley (Africana/Art History)
 Friday, February 25, 7:00 in Willard Straight Theatre

Cornell Cinema celebrates Black History Month with the premiere of a new independent film written and directed by Tanya Hamilton, **Night Catches Us**, which explores the after-effects of sixties activism. The Black Panthers were a powerful activist group in the 1960s, but by the 1970s many of those who were first involved in the group had retreated into exile, either in hiding or into normal lives with day jobs and mortgages. The film focuses on two such members: Patricia, now a civil rights lawyer (played by Kerry Washington), and Marcus (played by Anthony Mackie), who has returned to Philadelphia after a four year absence. The film premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and has been nominated for an Indie Spirit Award for Best First Feature. A second screening of the film only will be held on Sunday, February 27. Cosponsored with the Africana Studies and Research Center and Black Students United.

China Now

China has the world's fastest-growing economy, undergoing what has been described as a second industrial revolution, but the economic changes have had vastly different effects on the people of China, who remain under the strict control of the Communist Party, the world's biggest political party. Amid these conditions and the advent of inexpensive digital technology, documentary filmmakers have found fertile ground, even if their work is at times in violation of Chinese law. This March Cornell Cinema will screen two recent films—both turning up on lots of best documentaries of 2010 lists--depicting aspects of this new China: **Last Train Home** by Lixin Fan, a Chinese-born Canadian immigrant who splits his time between Montreal and Beijing, and **Ghost Town** by Zhao Dayong, an independent filmmaker from Guangzhou, who spent many months living in the small, impoverished village of Zhiziluo near the Myanmar border to make his film. **Last Train Home** is an uncompromising look at one family's struggles during the yearly exodus when China's 130 million migrant workers journey to their home villages for the New Year's holiday. **Ghost Town** is a sensitive, extraordinary portrait of Chinese life in a remote village in China's Yunnan Province, a region that sees little benefit from the nation's thriving economy. The film had its world premiere at the 2009 New York Film Festival.

Last Train Home (2010)	Mar 3, 5 & 7
Directed by Lixin Fan	
Ghost Town (2009)	Mar 11 & 13
Directed by Zhao Dayong	

Stake Land

with filmmaker Jim Mickle
 Friday, March 4, 9:20pm in Willard Straight Theatre

Cornell Cinema welcomes emerging horror auteur Jim Mickle, whose highly cinematic and entertaining low-budget horror flick **Stake Land** (2010) won the Midnight Madness Award at the recent Toronto Film Festival. Set in a post-apocalyptic world after a vampire epidemic has ravaged the country, the film follows a recently-orphaned boy who is taken in by a grizzled vampire hunter known only as Mister. Together they navigate the deserted towns of northeastern America, trying

to make their way to rumored safe havens in Canada, taking in a nun (played by Kelly McGillis) and two other young survivors along the way. But the path towards possible safety is fraught with not only vampires, but a cadre of well-armed religious fanatics determined to rule the earth in the new era. Mickle graduated from NYU's undergraduate film program and learned how to make independent films by working as a lighting technician on projects such as **Transamerica** with Felicity Huffman and John Cameron Mitchell's **Shortbus**. He also developed his visual style by working as a storyboard artist. He first toured the festival circuit with **The Underdogs**, where he worked with actors Nick Damici. A few years later, Mickle and Damici wrote **Mulberry Street**, Mickle's feature directorial debut that earned critical acclaim in festivals and among horror aficionados all over the world. **Stake Land**, which was co-written by and stars Damici, continues their exploration of the darker aspects of American culture by reimagining traditional elements of horror.

Women's History Month

Cornell Cinema celebrates Woman's History Month with two films about remarkable women. The first, **Vision: From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen**, is a dramatization of the life of the 12th century Benedictine nun in Dark Ages Germany whose visions, proto-feminism, musical prowess, knowledge of medicine, and flair for the dramatic made her a simultaneously adored, and contentious, figure. The film stars famed Fassbinder actress Barbara Sukowa. The second, the documentary **Ahead of Time**, offers a look at the life of celebrated foreign correspondent and photojournalist Ruth Gruber whose work gave her unique insight into the modern history of Jewish people.

Vision: From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen (2009)	Mar 4, 5 & 6
Directed by Margarethe von Trotta	
Ahead of Time (2009)	Mar 5 & 6
Directed by Bob Richman	

Jewish Film Festival

Featuring 11am Sunday screenings on February 27, March 6, and March 13
and a post-screening discussion following **Precious Life** on Thursday, Feb 24

It has become a tradition for Cornell Cinema to host a Sunday morning Jewish Film Festival during the spring semester and this year you can join them at 11am for three great films with Jewish themes (with additional evening screenings for late risers). As added enticement, complimentary coffee & bagels are offered at the morning screenings, thanks to the efforts of Temple Beth-El's arts committee. This year's Festival will be bookended by two of 2010's most extraordinary documentaries: **Precious Life** and **A Film Unfinished** (however, only evening screenings will be offered of these titles). The Festival is cosponsored with Cornell's Program for Jewish Studies, Temple Beth El, Tikkun v'Or, Cornell Hillel Jewish Student Union and the Cornell Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Precious Life (2010)	Feb 24
Directed by Shlomi Eldar	
Nora's Will (2008)	Feb 26, 27 & March 1
Directed by Mariana Chenillo	
Ahead of Time (2009)	March 5 & 6
Directed by Bob Richman	
Anita (2009)	March 12 & 13
Directed by Marcos Carnevale	
A Film Unfinished (2010)	March 15 & 17
Directed by Yael Hersonski	

**Charlie Chaplin:
A Retrospective of New 35mm Prints!**

Beginning in February and continuing through May, Cornell Cinema and Cinemapolis present a Charlie Chaplin retrospective of new 35mm prints, giving Ithaca audiences the opportunity to experience the legend as he was meant to be seen: bigger than life on a movie screen. The series begins at Cornell Cinema in March with **The Gold Rush**, the film Chaplin himself said he wanted to be remembered by and that contains some of his best-known gags, including the dancing dinner rolls and the famous shoe-for-dinner. Two of Chaplin's final films, **Limelight** and **A King in New York**, as well as a program of three lesser-known early shorts, screen in this calendar. The series will continue in the Late Spring '11 calendar.

Cinemapolis (cinemapolis.org):

Modern Times (1936)	Feb 18 - 22
City Lights (1931)	Feb 23 - 27

Cornell Cinema

The Gold Rush w/A Day's Pleasure (1925/1919)	March 5 & 8
The Chaplin Revue: A Dog's Life, Shoulder Arms & The Pilgrim	March 6 & 7
Limelight (1952)	March 12 & 13
A King in New York (1957)	March 14 & 15

Late Spring Calendar

The Kid w/The Idle Class (1921)	March 28 & 29
A Woman of Paris w/Pay Day (1923/1921)	April 4 & 5
The Circus w/Sunnyside (1928/1919)	April 10 - 12
City Lights (1931)	April 18 & 19
The Great Dictator (1940)	April 25 & 26
Monsieur Verdoux (1947)	May 2 & 3

The Legend of Pale Male

with filmmaker Frederic Lilien

Tuesday, March 8 at 7:00pm in Willard Straight Theatre

The Legend of Pale Male is the remarkable true story of the Red Tail Hawk that took up residence in one of the swankiest addresses in New York City, and Frederic Lilien, the Belgian lawyer-cum-filmmaker whose life was changed by it. When the majestic bird's nest was removed by the building's owners, the outcry over it became a national story, with protests by bird watchers, celebrities, and common New Yorkers who found inspiration in the raptor. The surprising and uplifting outcome was something usually seen only in movies. Lilien will also be speaking at the Lab of Ornithology on Monday, March 7 at 7:30pm as part of the Lab's Monday Night Seminars series.

Foreign Film Premieres

Cornell Cinema is Ithaca's *international* film festival, and each calendar includes foreign films that would not be shown in the area otherwise. In this calendar, they present films from France, Australia, Cameroon, Germany and South Korea, in addition to those already mentioned above. **Carlos**, **White Material** and **Mother** constitute three of the most critically acclaimed foreign films of 2010. Don't forget your passport! The *Passport to the world* (free at the Cinema Box Offices) is an incentive to travel more widely throughout the cinematic globe. Get a stamp at four foreign language films and then see a fifth film for free. The Passport program is cosponsored with

the International Students Programming Board, the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, the International Students & Scholars Office, and the Public Service Center.

Carlos (France, 2010) Directed by Olivier Assayas	Feb 5, 6 & 7
Samson and Delilah (Australia, 2010) Directed by Warwick Thornton	Feb 11, 13 & 14
White Material (France/Cameroon, 2009) Directed by Claire Denis	Feb 18, 19, 22 & 23
Vision: From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen (Germany, 2009) Directed by Margarethe von Trotta	March 4, 5 & 6
Mother (South Korea, 2010) Directed by Bong Joon-ho	March 10 -12

More Ithaca Premieres

Ithaca audiences searching for new cinematic experiences need look no further than Cornell Cinema. In each calendar they present films and events that otherwise would not be seen in the region. In addition to the many others mentioned in this release, three other programs will premiere in this calendar. The independent film **Howl** dramatizes the life of Allen Ginsberg and the uproar following the publication of his most famous poem, and stars one of the hottest young actors working today, James Franco (**127 Hours**). Cornell Cinema will also premiere the always popular **Oscar Nominated Shorts** programs.

Howl (2010) Directed by Jeffery Friedman, Rob Epstein	Jan 25, 26 & 28
Oscar Nominated Shorts: Animation! (2010) Directed by various	Feb 17, 18, 19 & 20
Oscar Nominated Shorts: Live Action! (2010) Directed by various	Feb 19 & 20