

DONNELL MEDIA CENTER

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

OCTOBER 2005 FILM/VIDEO PROGRAMS

PRESENTED BY DONNELL MEDIA CENTER

All programs held in the Donnell Library Center Auditorium
20 West 53rd Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues) (212) 621-0609

ADMISSION FREE



The New York Public Library

- On Wednesdays in October, Donnell Media Center presents **In Frankenstein's Footsteps** a tribute to the influence of the movie FRANKENSTEIN (1931). James Whale never imagined that his film would create a new genre of chillers. These films are similarly themed around a man who wants to create life, a power reserved for gods. Punishments follow his arrogance, sometimes to humorous effect. Films to be screened include ABBOTT AND COSTELLO MEET FRANKENSTEIN (1948), GOTHIC (1986), EDWARD SCISSORHANDS (1990) and BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN (1935).
- On Thursdays in October, Donnell Media Center's **Viewpoint** series celebrates the Beat writers with **Dig it: The Beat Generation**. The Beats were free thinkers who liberated themselves from the American bourgeoisie. The Beats used stream-of-consciousness poetry and prose, rejecting traditional artistic forms. They dabbled in Eastern religions and experimented with drugs to produce a new-found beatific illumination. Typified by Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, William S. Burroughs' *Naked Lunch* and Allen Ginsberg's *Howl*, the Beats challenged us to change the way we understand and define literature. Films to be screened include THE BEATS: AN EXISTENTIAL COMEDY (1980), WHAT HAPPENED TO KEROUAC? (1986), TOWERS OPEN FIRE (various dates), BURROUGHS, THE MOVIE (1985), PULL MY DAISY, (1959) ALLEN GINSBERG AND LAWRENCE FERLINGHETTI (1966), WHOLLY COMMUNION (1965), WEST COAST: BEAT AND BEYOND (1993) and GANG OF SOULS (1989).

Wednesday, October 5, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Featuring...In Frankenstein's Footsteps

Chicken Thing, 16mm film, color, 10 minutes

Directed by Todd Holland, 1985

After watching a horror movie on TV, a boy falls asleep only to be awakened by his chest of drawers, which has grown in size.

Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein, 16mm film, b&w, 82 minutes

Directed by Charles T. Barton, 1948

Starring Bud and Lou, Bela Lugosi and Lon Chaney Jr.

Two railway porters unwittingly deliver the "undead" bodies of The Monster and Dracula to a wax museum.

Thursday, October 6, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Viewpoint...Dig It: The Beat Generation

The Beats: An Existential Comedy, video, b&w, 36 minutes

Directed by Philomene Long, 1980

A "film poem" that focuses on the Beat poetry scene of the late 1950s.

What Happened to Kerouac?, video, color, 96 minutes

Directed by Richard Lerner, 1986

A documentary about the life and career of Jack Kerouac, and his decline into alcoholism.

Wednesday, October 12, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Featuring...In Frankenstein's Footsteps

Manly Games, 16mm film, color, 14 minutes

Directed by Jan Svankmajer, 1988

In this macabre soccer match, the players score goals by inflicting gruesome tortures on their opponents.

Gothic, 16mm film, color, 87 minutes

Directed by Ken Russell, 1986

Starring Gabriel Byrne, Julian Sands, Natasha Richardson and Myriam Cyr

Lord Byron and Percy Shelly, Shelley's fiancée Mary Godwin, her stepsister Claire Clairmont and Byron's friend John Polidori spend a hallucinogenic evening sharing terrifying fantasies.

Thursday, October 13, 2005
2:30 P.M.

Viewpoint...Dig It: The Beat Generation

Towers Open Fire, video, b&w and color, 35 minutes

Directed by Anthony Balch, various dates

Four short experimental films written by and starring William S. Burroughs.

Burroughs, the Movie, video, color, 87 minutes

Directed by Howard Brookner and Alan Yentob, 1985

The quintessential biography of this Beat grandfather.

Wednesday, October 19, 2005
2:30 P.M.

Featuring...In Frankenstein's Footsteps

Darkness, Light, Darkness, 16mm film, color, 7 minutes

Directed by Jan Svankmajer, 1989

A man builds himself from a ball of clay inside a miniature house.

Edward Scissorhands, 16mm film, color, 100 minutes

Directed by Tim Burton, 1990

Starring Johnny Depp, Winona Ryder and Dianne Wiest

A fable about a man-made boy whose creator dies before attaching human hands to his body and he is left with sharp scissors for hands.

Thursday, October 20, 2005
2:30 P.M.

Viewpoint...Dig It: The Beat Generation

Pull My Daisy, 16mm, b&w, 29 minutes

Directed by Robert Frank and Alfred Leslie, 1959

Narrated by Jack Kerouac

A surreal dinner party with Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, a Lower East Side working class family, and a bishop.

Allen Ginsberg and Lawrence Ferlinghetti, 16mm, b&w, 30 minutes

Directed by Richard Moore for NET, 1966

The two poets are interviewed.

Wholly Communion, 16mm, b&w, 35 minutes

Directed by Peter Whitehead, 1965

Documents a "happening" in London's Royal Albert Hall with readings by Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso and Ernst Jandl.

Wednesday, October 26, 2005
2:30 P.M.

Featuring...In Frankenstein's Footsteps

Betty Boop in Blunderland, 16mm film, b&w, 7 minutes

Directed by Dave Fleischer, 1934

Betty falls asleep while doing an "Alice in Wonderland" jigsaw puzzle, and ends up in a similar dream world.

Bride of Frankenstein, 16mm film, b&w, 75 minutes

Directed by James Whale, 1935

Starring Boris Karloff, Colin Clive and Valerie Hobson

Baron Frankenstein is blackmailed by Dr. Pretorius into reviving his monster and building a mate for it.

Thursday, October 27, 2005
2:30 P.M.

Viewpoint...Dig It: The Beat Generation

West Coast: Beat and Beyond, video, color, 58 minutes

Directed by Chris Felver, 1993

An overview of the San Francisco Beat scene.

Gang of Souls, video, color, 58 minutes

Directed by Maria Beatty, 1989

Reflections about the Beat movement by artists influenced by the movement.

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All programs subject to last-minute change or cancellation