

DONNELL MEDIA CENTER

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NOVEMBER 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

- This season, Donnell Media Center is joining The New York Public Library's History and Social Sciences Library in a considered examination of the culture of the Middle Ages. The Research Library exhibition, which will be displayed in Gottesman Exhibition Hall from October 21st, 2005, to February 12, 2006, is entitled *The Spondor of the Word: Illuminated Manuscripts at The New York Public Library*. The exhibition is built around the Library's extraordinary collection of medieval manuscripts, many on public display for the first time.
- From November 2005 through January 2006, Donnell Media Center will present a series of films entitled *Luminous Tapestries: Representations of Medieval Life in World Cinema*. The films in this series have contributed, each in their own particular way, to the general public understanding of the Middle Ages. The films will include works made by master filmmakers from around the world as well as works that were initially conceived as star vehicles by Hollywood studios. November's screenings in this series will all take place on Wednesdays at 2:30 PM.
- November's films center around historical figures of the period. The month's offerings begin with Katherine Hepburn's indelible characterization of Eleanor of Aquitaine in *The Lion in Winter*, and end with Mel Gibson's highly lauded (if historically suspect) view of William Wallace in *Braveheart*. November's films also include the Egyptian filmmaker Youssef Chahine's life of the Islamic philosopher Averroes, Andrei Tarkovsky's stunningly beautiful tribute to the 15th century Russian icon painter, Andrei Rublev, and a rarely seen Rossellini portrait of Saint Francis. Cantico, experimental filmmaker James Herbert's contemplation of Saint Francis, completes the program on Saint Francis.
- In November, the Media Center is also presenting a Viewpoint series entitled *Images Medievales: Documentaries and Short Films Depicting Medieval Life and Culture*. This series, entirely drawn from the Media Center's film and video collections, examines the Middle Ages from a variety of perspectives and will be presented on three Thursdays at 2:30 PM. The November 3rd program demonstrates how the art and architecture of the Middle Ages can assist in the modern understanding of the period. The November 10th program focuses on the centrality of the Sacred to medieval life; the November 17th program extends that investigation to examine the idea of the holy pilgrimage and what we are able to understand about the experience of the pilgrim.
- Support for these programs has been provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusion, or recommendations in these programs do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Wednesday, November 2, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Featuring...Luminous Tapestries: Medieval Life on Film

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, November 3, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Viewpoint...Images Medievales: Medieval Documentaries

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, November 9, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Featuring...Luminous Tapestries: Medieval Life on Film

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, November 10, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Viewpoint...Images Medievals: Medieval Documentaries

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, November 16, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Featuring...Luminous Tapestries: Medieval Life on Film

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, November 17, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Viewpoint...Images Medievals: Medieval Documentaries

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, November 23, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Featuring...Luminous Tapestries: Medieval Life on Film

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, November 27, 2005

2:30 P.M.

Viewpoint...Images Medievales: Medieval Documentaries

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

Directed by Chris Felper, 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