

# DONNELL MEDIA CENTER

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DECEMBER 2005 FILM/VIDEO PROGRAMS

PRESENTED BY DONNELL MEDIA CENTER

All programs held in the Donnell Library Center Auditorium  
20 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street (between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 21, 2005, to February 12, 2006, is entitled **The Scriptor 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. December's screenings in this series will all take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 2:30 P.M.
- December's films tap the wealth of tales—legendary and heroic—that play such a significant role in the rich heritage of medieval times. The tale of the Spanish hero El Cid fittingly begins the December series, as he was an historical figure who achieved legendary status. Fritz Lang fashioned the Teutonic epic of the Ring of the Nibelung into two of the most celebrated silent films of all time. Sergei Parajanov called upon his inimitable mastery of color and place to evoke the legend of Suram Fortress. King Arthur and Robin Hood, the two most widely recognized of medieval legends, are represented by five films. Ranging from the austerities of Robert Bresson to the absurdities of Monty Python, these films demonstrate the power that medieval culture continues to exert over the contemporary imagination.

Support for these programs has been provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations in these programs do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Thursday, December 1, 2005

2:30 P.M.

LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

**El Cid**, DVD, color 182 minutes

Directed by Anthony Mann, 1961

Starring Charlton Heston and Sophia Loren

This classic Hollywood epic mixes biography with the legend of the Spanish warrior who drove the Moors from 11<sup>th</sup> Century Spain.

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

2:30 P.M.

LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

**Siegfried's Death**, Part One of Nibelungen, DVD, b&w, silent, 140 minutes

Directed by Fritz Lang, 1924

Starring Paul Richter and Margarete Schön

This lavish adaptation of the Nibelungen Saga is a masterpiece of the silent era. Siegfried, a warrior and a king's son, overcomes many challenges to win the beautiful Kriemhild.

Thursday, December 8, 2005

2:30 P.M.

LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

**Kriemhild's Revenge**, Part Two of Nibelungen, DVD, b&w, silent, 147 minutes

Directed by Fritz Lang, 1924

Starring Margarete Schön and Gertrud Arnold

In this second film of Lang's masterful adaptation of the Nibelungen Saga, Kriemhild marries Etzel, King of the Huns, but vows revenge for the loss of her true love.

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

2:30 P.M.

LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

**The Legend of Suram Fortress**, DVD, color, 88 minutes

Directed by Sergei Parajanov, 1984

Starring Levan Uchaneishvili and Dodo Abashidze

In Georgian with English subtitles. Parajanov's stunning sense of visual composition, for which he is justifiably celebrated, is manifest in this adaptation of a Georgian folk tale—a story of exile, poverty, serfdom, murder and the supernatural.

Thursday, December 15, 2005

2:30 P.M.

LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

**Lancelot of the Lake**, DVD, color, 85 minutes

Directed by Robert Bresson, 1974

Starring Luc Simon and Laura Duke Condominas

In French with English subtitles. Bresson relates this tale from the Knights of the Round Table with the rigor, austerity and elegance which mark each of his films. Its power derives from the simplicity of his means.

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

2:30 P.M.

LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

**The Adventures of Robin Hood**, 16mm film, color, 102 minutes

Directed by Michael Curtiz, 1938

Starring Errol Flynn and Olivia De Havilland

Flynn's definitive devil-may-care Robin Hood eludes the Sheriff of Nottingham and loves Maid Marian.

Thursday, December 22, 2005

2:30 P.M.

LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

**A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court**, 16mm film, color, 106 minutes

Directed by Tay Garnett, 1949

Starring Bing Crosby and Rhonda Fleming

Hollywood made a humorous and charming Crosby vehicle out of Mark Twain's biting satire.

Wednesday, December 28, 2005

2:30 P.M.

LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

**Robin and Marian**, DVD, color, 106 minutes

Directed by Richard Lester, 1976

Starring Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn

An aging Robin Hood returns with Little John from the crusades to seek the strong and eternally beautiful Marian.

Thursday, December 29, 2005

2:30 P.M.

LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

**Monty Python and the Holy Grail**, DVD, color, 91 minutes

Directed by Terry Gilliam, 1975

Starring Graham Chapman and John Cleese

A farcical retelling of the legend of King Arthur that became a cultural phenomenon.

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*All programs subject to last-minute change or cancellation*