

DONNELL MEDIA CENTER

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

JANUARY 2006 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 21, 2005 to February 12, 2006, is entitled "The Splendor 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 presents 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 include works made by master filmmakers from around the world as well as works that were initially conceived as star vehicles by Hollywood studios. January's screenings in this series take place on Wednesdays at 2:30 P.M.
- January's films consider medieval life in Japan, Iceland and Norway—a notable remove from the church-dominated life of central Europe. January's programs also highlight the work of two scholars involving themselves, in very different ways, in questions raised by medieval culture. The critic Umberto Eco's best-selling mystery novel, *The Name of the Rose*, was adapted into film by Jean-Jacques Annaud. Medieval art historian Pamela Berger worked with Suzanne Schiffman, well known for her work with Truffaut, to write, produce and direct *THE SORCERESS*.

On Saturday, January 21, at 2:30 P.M., Dr. Berger, a professor of Medieval Art at Boston College, will present a lecture about the challenges of producing a film set in the Middle Ages, and, specifically, about how images from manuscripts informed the art direction of her film. The screening of *THE SORCERESS*, at noon, will precede her lecture.

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.

- On Tuesday, January 10th at 6:00 P.M., Donnell Media Center proudly co-sponsors **An Evening of Dance on Camera**, a special program held in conjunction with The 34th Annual Dance on Camera Festival. Founded in 1971 by Dance Films Association (DFA), an organization established in 1956 to encourage fruitful collaborations between dancers and filmmakers, this is the oldest dance film and video festival in the world. The program, "Galvanizing the Dance World to Embrace the Media" will address the current climate for funding and producing dance films and videos. This evening's program will consist of a panel of producer/directors with clips of their work. The distinguished panelists are: Moderator **Robert Yeselman**, director of *Dance/NYC*, **Henry Chalfant**, producer/director of *FROM MAMBO TO HIP HOP*, **Tony Silver**, producer/director of *STYLE WARS*, **Heather Lyn MacDonald**, producer/director of *BEEN RICH ALL MY LIFE*, **Ulrik Wivel**, Danish director of *JEG DIG ELSKER (I You Love)* and **Bart Van Langendonck**, producer of *BLUSH*. The Dance on Camera Festival opens January 4th at the Walter Reade Theatre and continues at venues throughout the city. For additional information on festival programs, please call DFA at (212) 727-0764, or visit www.dancefilmsassn.org.
- Donnell Media Center's "Viewpoint" series, **From Earth to Ugly Earth: World War II Films**, highlights documentaries, cartoons and short films made during or shortly after World War II. For each Thursday during January the screenings begin with a Private Snafu cartoon, which were made for soldiers' eyes only, as instructional short films. The films run the spectrum from propaganda such as *GERMAN NEWSREEL, 1940*; to documentaries of air campaigns such as *THUNDERBOLT, FIRES WERE STARTED* and *MEMPHIS BELLE*; to the role of women in the war effort with *WOMEN IN DEFENSE*; to newsreels made to bolster the home front such as *NAZI NEWSREEL* and *NEWS REVIEW NUMBER TWO*; to ground campaigns with *BATTLE OF SAN PIETRO*; to one of Disney's contributions to the war effort with *CHICKEN LITTLE*. The series ends with the world's first encounter with the Holocaust: *A PAINFUL REMINDER—EVIDENCE FOR ALL MANKIND* and Henri Cartier-Bresson's *REUNION*.

Wednesday, January 4, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

Gate of Hell, 16mm film, color, 86 minutes

Directed by Teinosuke Kinusaga, 1953

Starring Kazuo Hasegawa and Machiko Kyo

In Japanese with English subtitles. In this tale of obsessive love, adapted from a story from the Heian period (794-1185), a samurai falls in love with a married woman and will stop at nothing to possess her.

Thursday, January 5, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...FROM EARTH TO UGLY EARTH: WORLD WAR II FILMS

Fighting Tools, 16mm film, b&cw, 5 minutes

Directed by Bob Clampett, 1943

Private Snafu's negligence in maintaining his weapons ends in his being incarcerated in a German POW camp.

Women in Defense, 16mm film, b&cw, 10 minutes

Produced for the Office for Emergency Development, 1941

Narrated by Katharine Hepburn. Written commentary by Eleanor Roosevelt. This film explores the role of women in a wartime economy.

Nazi Strike, Volume 2 of **Why We Fight**, 16mm film, b&cw, 41 minutes

Directed by Frank Capra, 1943

The United States Government's version of how Germany drew England and France into a declaration of war.

News Review Number Two, 16mm film, b&cw, 41 minutes

Produced by the U. S. Office of War Information, 1943

An overview of the significant events of World War II between 1941 and 1944, made from American and Allied newsreels and service films.

Tuesday, January 10, 2006
6:00 P.M.

EVENING PROGRAM...CELEBRATING THE 34TH ANNUAL DANCE ON CAMERA FESTIVAL

The program, **Galvanizing the Dance World to Embrace the Media** will consist of a panel of producer/directors with clips of their work. The distinguished Panelists are: Moderator: **Robert Yesselman**, director of *Dance/NYC*, Henry Chalfant, producer/director of "From Mambo to Hip Hop," **Tony Silver**, producer/director of "Style Wars," **Heather Lyn MacDonald**, producer/director of "Been Rich All My Life," **Ulrik Wivel**, Danish director of "Jeg Dig Elsker" (I You Love), and **Bart Van Langendonck**, producer of "Blush."

Wednesday, January 11, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

In the Name of the Rose, 16mm film, color, 130 minutes

Directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud, 1986

Starring Sean Connery and Christian Slater

Based upon the novel by Umberto Eco. Sean Connery is a nonconformist monk investigating a series of murders.

Thursday, January 12, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...FROM EARTH TO UGLY EARTH: WORLD WAR II FILMS

The Home Front, 16mm film, b&cw, 5 minutes

Directed by Frank Tashlin, 1943

Contrary to Private Snafu's belief that his relatives are slackers, they are shown to be diligently participating in the war effort.

The Autobiography of a Jeep, 16mm film, b&cw, 10 minutes

Directed by Irving Lerner, 1943

A look at the designing of the jeep to meet military needs.

Nazi Newsreel, 16mm film, b&cw, 10 minutes

Produced by Die Deutsche Wochenschau, 1940

In German no subtitles. Shows various components of the Nazi war machine.

German Newsreel, 1940, 16mm film, color, 17 minutes

Produced by Die Deutsche Wochenschau, 1940

This propaganda film depicts Germany's defeat of France in 49 days.

The Battle of San Pietro, 16mm film, b&cw, 32 minutes

Directed by John Huston, 1945

A chronicle of the savage fighting between American and German forces for control of the Liri valley in Italy.

Thunderbolt, 16mm film, color, 43 minutes

Directed by William Wyler and John Sturges, 1945

Documents the activities of the 57th Fighter Group during "Operation Strangle" in Italy from 1944 to 1945 which destroyed vital supply routes deep behind German lines.

Wednesday, January 18, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

When the Raven Flies, DVD, color, 102 minutes

Directed by Hrafn Gunnlaugsson, 1943

Starring Jakob Þór Einarsson and Edda Björgvinsdóttir

In Swedish with English subtitles. An austere beautiful film, in which a young boy, spared when a Viking takes pity on him during a raid on his Celtic Christian family, plans his revenge.

Thursday, January 19, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...FROM EARTH TO UGLY EARTH: WORLD WAR II FILMS

Rumors, 16mm film, b&w, 5 minutes

Directed by Chuck Jones, 1944

Private Snafu is a disruptive force on his base, spreading rumors and believing every wild story he hears.

Fires Were Started, 16mm film, b&w, 66 minutes

Directed by Humphrey Jennings, 1943

A story of one particular unit of the British National Fire Service during one day and night in the middle of the London Blitz.

Memphis Belle, 16mm film, b&w, 43 minutes

Directed by William Wyler, 1944

Records the 25th and final mission over Germany of the B17F "Memphis Belle." The crew of the "Memphis Belle" were the first American flyers of the VIII Bomber Command to complete their tour of duty and return safely to the United States.

Saturday, January 21, 2006
12:00 P.M.

FEATURING...LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

The Sorceress, VHS, color, 97 minutes

Directed by Suzanne Schiffman, 1987

Starring Tchéky Karyo and Christine Boisson

In French with English subtitles. A Dominican friar visits a 13th-century French village in search of heretics. Producer **Paméla Berger** will lecture at 2:30 p.m. following the film.

Saturday, January 21, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

A lecture by **Paméla Berger** about the challenges of producing a film set in the Middle Ages will follow the film **The Sorceress**, which is screened at 12 Noon.

Wednesday, January 25, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...LUMINOUS TAPESTRIES: MEDIEVAL LIFE ON FILM

Kristin Lavransdatter, DVD, color, 180 minutes

Directed by Liv Ullman, 1995

Starring Elisabeth Matheson and Bjørn Skagestad

In Norwegian with English subtitles. In this adaptation of Norwegian novelist Sigrid Undset's acclaimed trilogy, a 14th Century Norwegian woman decides to break with tradition and marry the man she loves.

Thursday, January 26, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...FROM EARTH TO UGLY EARTH: WORLD WAR II FILMS

Spies, 16mm film, b&w, 5 minutes

No director credited, 1944

Private Snafu's irresponsible drinking results in a trip to hell and threatens the lives of Americans on a troop ship.

Chicken Little, 16mm film, b&w, 9 minutes

Directed by Clyde Geronimi, 1943

Produced by Walt Disney. Foxy Loxy can't penetrate the farmyard's defenses to steal chickens, so he decides to use psychology.

A Painful Reminder—Evidence for All Mankind, 16mm film, b&w/color, 69 minutes

Directed by Sidney Bernstein, 1945

This documentary incorporates the footage shot by the head of the Allied Film Section of the Psychological Warfare Division two or three days after the Allied troops liberated Nazi concentration camps. The film was suppressed until 1985.

Reunion, 16mm film, b&w, 21 minutes

Directed by Henri Cartier-Bresson, 1946

The story of the removal of French Nazi concentration camp prisoners to temporary hospitals, and their reunions with families and friends.

All programs subject to last-minute change or cancellation