

DONNELL MEDIA CENTER

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

MAY 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

- On Wednesdays in May at 2:30 P.M., Donnell Media Center attempts the impossible by encapsulating the multifaceted career of the inimitable Noel Coward—producer, director, writer and actor—in the “Featuring” series **A Brief Encounter with Noel Coward**. The Media Center presents five films produced within the brief span of eight years, Coward's most prolific period, including BLITHE SPIRIT, THIS HAPPY BREED, THE ASTONISHED HEART, IN WHICH WE SERVE, and, of course the classic 1945 film from which we borrowed our series title.
- On Thursdays in May at 2:30 P.M., Donnell Media Center presents **In Past and Future Tense: Ray Bradbury on Film**. The “Viewpoint” series begins with John Huston’s feature—length film MOBY DICK, for which Bradbury is credited with penning the screenplay. However, Bradbury is best known for his short stories and many of his novels are collections of related short stories. On May 11th and 18th short films based upon Bradbury’s short stories will be screened. These include USHER II, which is introduced by Bradbury; THE VELDT; THE VISITOR; the award-winning QUEST; ALL SUMMER IN A DAY; and the Emmy nominated ELECTRIC GRANDMOTHER. The series ends with SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES.
- On Thursday, May 4th at 6:00 P.M., Donnell Media Center presents a “Meet the Makers” with director **Abigail Honor**, who will screen and discuss her documentary SAINTS AND SINNERS (2004). The film chronicles the plight of Edward DeBonis and Vincent Maniscalco who, after living together for over seven years, decide to get married in New York City. Unlike other gay couples that formalize their relationship in a domestic union, the two devout Catholic men will settle for nothing short of the “Holy Sacrament of Marriage.” In addition, they seek to be the first gay couple to have their marriage listed in the Weddings section of *The New York Times*.
- On Thursday, May 11th at 6:00 P.M., Donnell Media Center presents a “Meet the Makers” program with director **Manny Kirchheimer**, who will screen and discuss TALL: THE AMERICAN SKYSCRAPER AND LOUIS SULLIVAN (2004). The documentary traces the development and experiments of skyscraper architecture in Chicago and New York City between the second half of the 19th century through the 20th century. In particular, it demonstrates the rivalry between Louis Sullivan, who's credo was that “form ever follows function,” and his chief rival Daniel Burnham, who embellished his tall structures with Beaux Arts decorations and is best remembered for his Flatiron Building on 23rd Street in Manhattan.
- On Saturday, May 13th, the Media Center is serving up two film feasts—each a testament to the joys of food, and each a beautifully rendered contemplation of the vagaries of human life.

At 12:00 Noon, Juzo Itami's TAMPOPO (the first Japanese noodle western!!) fills up the screen with its tale of a trucker, expert in the appreciation of great noodle soup, who decides to tutor a young widow in the preparation and presentation of the main offering of her noodle restaurant. The central story flows into and out of many other brief narratives, all centered around food, with perspectives that range from etiquette to eroticism.

In the second film, Gabriel Axel's BABETTE'S FEAST, which begins at 3:00 P.M., the beautiful Stephane Audran painstakingly prepares a magnificent meal. The film, based on an Isak Dinesen short story, features Audran as a French refugee, taken in by two maiden sisters who sacrificed the possibilities of their own lives to care for their aged and austere pious father in an isolated village on the coast of Denmark. Babette repays the kindness of the sisters with a gift that transforms their lives.

Wednesday, May 3, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH NOEL COWARD

The Astonished Heart, 16mm film, color, 70 minutes
Directed by Terence Fisher and Anthony Darnborough, 1950
Starring Noel Coward, Celia Johnson, Margaret Leighton and Joyce Carey

Thursday, May 4, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...IN PAST AND FUTURE TENSE: RAY BRADBURY ON FILM

Skywhales, 16mm film, color, 10 minutes
Directed by Phil Austin and Derek Hayes, 1983
Moby Dick, 16mm film, color, 115 minutes
Directed by John Huston, 1956
Screenplay by Ray Bradbury
Starring Gregory Peck, Richard Basehart, Orson Welles and Leo Genn

Thursday, May 4, 2006
6:00 P.M.

MEET THE MAKERS...DIRECTOR ABIGAIL HONOR PRESENTS **SAINTS AND SINNERS**

Saints and Sinners (80 minutes, 2004) covers the planning and disappointments of creating a real "Catholic Wedding" for two religious gay men.

Wednesday, May 10, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH NOEL COWARD

In Which We Serve, 16mm film, b&w, 113 minutes
Directed by Noel Coward and David Lean, 1942
Starring Noel Coward, John Mills, Bernard Miles, Celia Johnson, Joyce Carey and Richard Attenborough

Thursday, May 11, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...IN PAST AND FUTURE TENSE: RAY BRADBURY ON FILM

Usher II, (The Ray Bradbury Theater, Season 4, Episode 5), video, color, 26 minutes
Directed by Lee Tamahori, 1990
Introduced by Ray Bradbury
Starring Patrick Macnee and Ian Mune
The Veldt, 16mm film, color, 24 minutes
Directed by Bernard Willets, 1979
The Visitor, 16mm film, color, 22 minutes
Directed by Buz Alexander, 1988
Quest, 16mm film, color, 30 minutes
Directed by Saul and Elaine Bass, 1983

Thursday, May 11, 2006
6:00 P.M.

MEET THE MAKERS...DIRECTOR MANNY KIRCHHEIMER PRESENTS HIS DOCUMENTARY **TALL: THE AMERICAN SKYSCRAPER AND LOUIS SULLIVAN**

Tall: The American Skyscraper and Louis Sullivan (82 minutes, 2004) traces the development and experiments of skyscraper architecture in Chicago and New York City between the second half of the 19th century through the 20th century, and demonstrates the rivalry between architects Louis Sullivan and Daniel Burnham.

Saturday, May 13, 2006
12:00 P.M.

SATURDAY PROGRAM...MOVEABLE FEAST

Tampopo, 16mm film, color, 114 minutes
Directed by Juzo Itami, 1986
In Japanese with English subtitles
Starring Tsutomu Yamazaki and Nobuko Miyamoto

3:00 P.M.

SATURDAY PROGRAM...MOVEABLE FEAST

Babette's Feast, 16mm film, color, 102 minutes
Directed by Gabriel Axel, 1987
In Danish with English subtitles
Based on the story by Isak Dinesen
Starring Stéphane Audran, Birgitte Federspiel, Bodil Kjer and Jarl Kulle

Wednesday, May 17, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH NOEL COWARD

This Happy Breed, video, b&w, 110 minutes
Directed by David Lean, 1947
Narrated by Laurence Olivier
Starring Robert Newton, Celia Johnson and John Mills

Thursday, May 18, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...IN PAST AND FUTURE TENSE: RAY BRADUBURY ON FILM

The Ugly Little Boy, video, color, 26 minutes
Directed by Barry Morse and Don Thompson, 1976
Based on the short story by Isaac Asimov
All Summer in a Day, video, color, 25 minutes
Directed by Edward Kaplan, 1982
Electric Grandmother, video, color, 48 minutes
Directed by Noel Black, 1981
Starring Maureen Stapleton and Edward Hermann

Wednesday, May 24, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH NOEL COWARD

Blithe Spirit, 16mm film, color, 96 minutes
Directed by David Lean, 1945
Starring Rex Harrison, Constance Cummings, Margaret Rutherford and Joyce Carey

Thursday, May 25, 2006
2:30 P.M.

VIEWPOINT...IN PAST AND FUTURE TENSE: RAY BRADUBURY ON FILM

The Tell-Tale Heart, video, color, 8 minutes
Directed by Ted Parmelee, 1969
Narrated by James Mason
Based on the short story by Edgar Allen Poe
Something Wicked this Way Comes, DVD, color, 94 minutes
Directed by Jack Clayton, 1983
Starring Jason Robards, Jonathan Pryce, Diane Ladd, Royal Dano and Vidal Peterson

Wednesday, May 31, 2006
2:30 P.M.

FEATURING...A BRIEF ENCOUNTER WITH NOEL COWARD

Brief Encounter, 16mm film, b&w, 86 minutes
Directed by David Lean, 1945
Starring Celia Johnson, Trevor Howard and Stanley Holloway

All programs subject to last-minute change or cancellation