

CONTEMPORARY MEXICAN FILMS/ JORNADAS DE CINE MEXICANO

October 2-5, 2003

Presented in association with the Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles.

In recent years, a new generation of Mexican filmmakers have achieved international recognition with their stories of Mexico -- ancient and modern -- urban and rural, with films like AMORES PERROS, Y TU MAMA TAMBIEN and JAPÓN. Our series returns for the third year to showcase new features including the L.A. Premiere of José Luis García Agraz' family drama EL MISTERIO DE TRINIDAD, Eva López-Sánchez's political thriller FRANCISCA; Alejandro Gamboa's over-the-top, Robin Hood-style tale EL TIGRE DE SANTA JULIA and Francisco Athié's sci-fi film VERA.

Other highlights include an amazing program of new short films, along with classic Mexican horror movies THE VAMPIRE'S COFFIN, ROBOT VS THE AZTEC MUMMY -- plus a Special 10th Anniversary Screening of the award-winning CRONOS with director Guillermo del Toro in person - !

Directors José Luis García Agraz, Francisco Athié, Michel Fránco, Alejandro Gamboa, Eva López-Sánchez, and Guillermo del Toro will appear in person during the series!

Series compiled by Gwen Deglise with the assistance of Chris D. Shorts program compiled by Andrew P. Crane.

THESE MAD PLACES: THE EPIC CINEMA OF DAVID LEAN

October 10 - November 2, 2003

Presented in association with the British Academy of Film & Television Arts/Los Angeles (BAFTA/LA)

Sponsored by the Consulate General of Great Britain.

When the British Film Institute recently published its critics' poll of the 100 Best British films ever made, it came as no surprise that 3 of the top 10 movies - BRIEF ENCOUNTER, LAWRENCE OF ARABIA and GREAT EXPECTATIONS - were directed by the same man: David Lean (1908 - 1991). His name is synonymous with visually breathtaking epics such as DR. ZHIVAGO, THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI and A PASSAGE TO INDIA - although he was nearly as acclaimed early in his career for intimate dramas such as BRIEF ENCOUNTER, and his masterful Dickens adaptations GREAT EXPECTATIONS and OLIVER TWIST. *"I love making motion pictures. Working on the script is important and very necessary, but I'm not a word man. I'm a picture man. I love getting behind a camera and trying to get images on the screen,"* Lean once observed.

Series compiled by Dennis Bartok.

ON-SET WITH FRENCH CINEMA

October 7 & 15, 2003

Co-presented with Unifrance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Film & TV Department - Consulate General in Los Angeles

Join us at the Egyptian Theatre for screenings and discussions with several of the most exciting voices in French cinema today while they are on tour this Fall through a collaborative program between Unifrance and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Guests in October include: Regis Wargnier (INDOCHINE, EAST/WEST, I AM KING OF THE CASTLE); Patrice Leconte (THE GIRL ON THE BRIDGE, THE MAN ON THE TRAIN, RIDICULE, MONSIEUR HIRE). The series continues November 19th with director Agnès Varda!

NEW ARGENTINE CINEMA SERIES

October 24-26, 2003

Presented in association with the Consulate General & Promotion Center of the Argentine Republic and INCAA (Instituto Nacional de Cine y Artes Audiovisuales).

With the collaboration of: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WORSHIP AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto).

Series compiled by Gwen Deglise, Matias Doorn.

After the success of last year's New Argentine Cinema Series, we're thrilled to be back with an even more impressive line-up of films -- including the LA Premieres of Eduardo Mignogna's latest, CLEOPATRA, a road movie with the amazing Norma Aleandro; Argentine New Wave rising star Israel Adrián Caetano's urban western RED BEAR; the winner of the Los Angeles Latino Film Festival, Carlos Sorin's beautiful HISTORIAS MINIMAS; and newcomer Diego Lerman's prize-winning SUDDENLY. Guest appearances will be announced on our website as they are confirmed.

Our very special thanks to our guest programmer Hebe Tabachnik!

The Alternative Screen: Independent Film Showcase

This bi-monthly showcase brings the best of new, undistributed American Independent Cinema from the far reaches of the film festival circuit to the Egyptian Theatre. Featured work is provocative, innovative and fiercely independent with an emphasis on filmmaking that displays a strong sense of personal style, spirit and vision. On select Thursdays.

Producer: Margot Gerber **Programming Committee:** Marc Benefield, Carl Dubiclay, David Groth, Mary McLwain, Tom Miller, Marvin Miranda, Phillip Scanlon, Sean Smith, Hebe Tabachnik.

To submit independent feature length films for consideration, send a ½" VHS tape to: Margot Gerber, American Cinematheque, Alternative Screen, 1800 N. Highland Avenue, Suite 717, Hollywood, CA 90028. Tapes will not be returned unless a self-addressed, stamped envelope is provided. Send short films attn: Andrew Crane.

FOREVER HOLLYWOOD

*The Most Star-Studded Film In Theatres Anywhere!
Exclusively at the Egyptian Theatre!*

Directed by Todd McCarthy & Arnold Glassman, FOREVER HOLLYWOOD (55 min.) celebrates a century of movie-making, as related by some of today's most popular actors and filmmakers. Featuring over 400 movie and archival clips (including footage from the famous Hollywood Hotel to the Hollywood Canteen) - plus brand new celebrity interviews. Tickets: \$5. Tour and movie \$10. Call 323.461.2020, ext. 3 for schedule changes. **Screening Saturday & Sunday at 2:00 PM & 3:30 PM and with behind the scenes historic theatre tours.**

October Calendar

Monday, September 22 - 7:30 PM

Special Sneak Preview! Director Wim Wenders In Person!! THE SOUL OF A MAN, 2003, Vulcan Prod./Road Movies, 100 min. Wim Wenders' exhilarating and involving salute to three legendary blues musicians who are little known to the general public: Blind Willie Johnson, Skip James and J. B. Lenoir. Narrated by Laurence Fishburne. With performances by Nick Cave, J.B. Lenoir, Beck, Lou Reed, Lucinda Williams, Los Lobos, Bonnie Raitt and others. **Discussion following with Wim Wenders.**

Thursday, October 2 - 8:00 PM

MEXICO

Los Angeles Premiere! EL MISTERIO DEL TRINIDAD (THE MYSTERY OF TRINIDAD), 2003, 95 min. The director of the acclaimed SALON MEXICO, José Luis García Agraz, returns with this sweeping family drama about a doctor (Eduardo Palomo) who is the illegitimate son of explorer Joaquin Aguirre. When his father drowns after an obsessive 30-year search for a lost Spanish shipwreck, Dr. Juan inherits a broken down salvage vessel - and a whole, unknown family who are not pleased to meet him. **Discussion following with director José Luis García Agraz.**

continued from previous column

Friday, October 3 - 7:00 PM

MEXICO

EL TIGRE DE SANTA JULIA, 2003, 124 min. Dir. Alejandro Gamboa. During the Mexican Revolution, "José de Jesus" (Miguel Rodarte) acquires his nickname, as well as a sexy gang of female outlaws in this highly entertaining, colorful and over-the-top, Robin Hood-style tale of the real-life exploits of José de Jesus Negrete aka El Tigre de Santa Julia. **Discussion following with Alejandro Gamboa.**

Friday, October 3 - 10:00 PM

MEXICO

Los Angeles Premiere: FRANCISCA, 2002, 88 min. Dir. Eva López-Sánchez. In this gripping political thriller a former East German Secret agent is unable to escape his past. In 1970, Bruno (Ulrich Noethen) tries to start a new life as a teacher in México. Diaz (Héctor Ortega), a ruthless Mexican secret police agent, threatens to deport him unless he agrees to keep tabs on students suspected of radicalism. But wherever he goes the past catches up with him. **Director Eva López-Sánchez to introduce screening.**

Saturday, October 4 - 5:00 PM

MEXICO

Los Angeles Premiere: VERA, 2001, 86 min. Dir. Francisco Athié. A science fiction/fantasy tale about an old man is trapped in the deepest caves of the Mayan territory. What follows could be a dream, a shaman's vision, or a death trip...climaxing in an encounter with the eerie android Vera. **Discussion following with Francisco Athié,**

Saturday, October 4 - 7:30 PM

MEXICO

Double Feature Tribute to Mexican Fantasy Films: EL ATAÚD DEL VAMPIRO (THE VAMPIRE'S COFFIN), 1957, 82 min. Dir. Fernando Méndez. Suavely sinister Germán Robles returns as evil vampire Count Lavud, in this sequel to the phenomenally successful THE VAMPIRE. (Dubbed English Print.) **LA MOMIA AZTECA CONTRA EL ROBOT HUMANO** (ROBOT VS. THE AZTEC MUMMY), 1957, 65 min. Dirs. Rafael Portillo and Manuel San Fernando. Luis Aceves Castañeda gives a wonderfully hammy performance as the super evil Dr. Krupp, intent on building a robot to help him rob the priceless treasure guarded by the Aztec mummy. (Dubbed English Print.)

Sunday, October 5 - 5:00 PM

MEXICO

"Recent Mexican Shorts Program" (approx. 80 min. total). A dazzling selection of innovative new short films from Mexico's emerging filmmakers, including: **"La Partida"** ("Departure"), dir. Gerardo Tort (11 min.); **"Silencio Profundo"** ("Deep Silence"), dir. Gustavo Loza (15 min.); **"Entre Dos"** ("Between Two"), dir. Michel Franco (10 min.); **"Contratiempo"** ("The Third Movement"), dir. Mauricio Bidault (10 min.); **"Brusco Despertar"** ("Rude Awakening"), dir. Ernesto Godoy (10 min.); **"E Pur Si Muove,"** dir. Agustín Calderón (4 min.); **"El Pez Dorado"** ("The Goldfish"), dir. Patricia Arriaga (10 min.); **"La Cumbre"** ("The Summit"), dir. Jorge Fons (5 min.); **"Sus Demonios"** ("Demons"), dir. René U. Villareal (10 min.); **"Volarte,"** dir. Carlos Colorado & Enrique Ramirez (8 min.). **Discussion following with director Michel Franco.**

Sunday October 5 - 7:15 PM

MEXICO

10th Anniversary Screening - Guillermo del Toro In Person! LA INVENCIÓN DE CRONOS (CRONOS), 1992, Focus Features, 92 min. Dir. Guillermo del Toro. Starring Federico Luppi, Ron Perlman. This absorbing Gothic tale was the winner of nine top Mexican Academy Awards, as well as the Critics' Week Prize at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival. The story reveals the secrets of an invention that has the power to grant eternal life, but gives its user a tremendous thirst for human blood. **Discussion following with director/writer Guillermo del Toro.**

Tuesday October 7 - 8:00 PM

FRENCH CINEMA

I AM THE KING OF THE CASTLE (JE SUIS LE SEIGNEUR DU CHATEAU), 1988, Odessa Films, 88 min. With his second feature, director Regis Wargnier (INDOCHINE) explores the world of 12-year-old Thomas (Régis Arpin) whose life is disrupted by his mother's death and then the arrival of Charles, the maid's son. A lyrical and visually stunning film with an amazing use of Prokofiev's music. With Jean Rochefort and Dominique Blanc. **Discussion following with director Regis Wargnier.** (In French with English subtitles.)

Wednesday, October 8 - 7:30 PM

50TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

New 35 MM Print! SHANE, 1953, Paramount, 118 min. Director George Stevens' classic western is the archetypal tale of rootless lone gunman, Shane (Alan Ladd) who finds brief respite on the Starrett family's (Van Heflin, Jean Arthur and Brandon de Wilde) farm -- only to be sucked into a range war led by malevolent hired killer Jack (Jack Palance). **Discussion following with George Stevens Jr., son of director George Stevens.**

Thursday, October 9 - 7:30 PM

ALTERNATIVE SCREEN

WE INTERRUPT THIS EMPIRE 2003, 55 min., USA. The **Whispered Media** Collective (BOOM: THE SOUND OF EVICTION) returns to the Cinematheque with a look at how anti-war protesters in San Francisco managed to shut down the city's financial district on March 20, 2003. Protest footage from the eye of the storm (including a choice "political pie in the face" segment) contrast with corporate media coverage in this enlightening look at radical resistance. **Discussion following with the filmmakers.**

BECOME THE SKY 2002, 53 min., USA. By turns a road movie, a political expose and a poetic meditation on the planet earth, this beautiful, often abstractly lensed film crisscrosses Texas to look at the devastating effects of petrochemical, nuclear and electric industries on air, land and water. Filmmaker **Laura Dunn** examines the way that the political and financial interests of powerful Texans Lyndon Johnson, Dick Cheney and the Bush family have shaped the economy of the world. **Two short films will begin the program: Jacob Bricca's "Homeland" 2003, 5.5 min., USA & Skizz Cyzyk's "Damn You Mr. Bush" 2002, 1:42 min., USA.**

Friday, October 10 - 7:30 PM

DAVID LEAN

In Glorious 70 mm: LAWRENCE OF ARABIA, 1962, Columbia, 216 min. The beautiful, near-godlike Peter O'Toole stars as the tortured, Man Who Would Not Be King in director David Lean's absolute masterpiece - as close to perfect as a film can get. Featuring one of the finest casts in any motion picture: Omar Sharif, Anthony Quinn, Jack Hawkins, Claude Rains and Alec Guinness. Winner of 7 Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. **Discussion following with Academy Award winning editor Anne V. Coates.**

Saturday, October 11 - 5:00 PM

DAVID LEAN

BRIEF ENCOUNTER, 1946, MGM/UA, 86 min. Dir. David Lean. A seemingly happily-married woman (Celia Johnson) gets a piece of grit in her eye at the train station; a married doctor (Trevor Howard) helps remove it. From such simple, commonplace stuff is woven one of the most heartbreaking portraits of lost love and longing ever put on film.

Saturday, October 11 - 7:30 PM

DAVID LEAN

In Glorious 70 mm: LAWRENCE OF ARABIA, 1962, Columbia, 216 min. Dir. David Lean. [See above for description.]

Sunday, October 12 - 4:00 PM

DAVID LEAN

New 35 mm. Print: GREAT EXPECTATIONS, 1946, MGM/UA, 118 min. Director David Lean's early masterpiece opens with a convict stumbling across a storm-wracked moor, and then plunges us into the story of an impoverished underdog, Pip (John Mills) trying to defy the rigid caste system of Victorian England. Co-starring Alec Guinness and Jean Simmons, with Oscar-winning, b& w photography by Guy Green.

continued from previous column

Sunday, October 12 - 7:30 PM

DAVID LEAN

In Glorious 70 mm: LAWRENCE OF ARABIA, 1962, Columbia, 216 min. Dir. David Lean. [See 10/10 for description.]

Wednesday, October 15 - 7:30 PM

FRENCH CINEMA

Director Patrice Leconte In-Person! MONSIEUR HIRE, 1989, Pathe International, 81 min. Dir. Patrice Leconte. Every night, Monsieur Hire (Michele Blanc) spies on his beautiful neighbor (Sandrine Bonnaire). She knows he's watching... When a young woman in the neighborhood is murdered, the police immediately suspect the lonely, middle-aged tailor. An unforgettable study of obsession and desire. **THE HAIRDRESSER'S HUSBAND** (LE MARI DE LA COIFFEUSE), 1990, F.T.D., 82 min. At the tender age of 12, Antoine's sexual urges are awakened by the ample charms of a female hairdresser. Fulfilling his childhood dream, a middle-aged Antoine (Jean Rochefort) proposes to a beautiful barber during his first visit to her salon. Another - but much lighter - study of obsession and desire from Patrice Leconte. **Discussion between films with director Patrice Leconte.** (Both films in French with English subtitles.)

Thursday, October 16 - 7:30 PM

DAVID LEAN

Double Feature: IN WHICH WE SERVE, 1942, MGM/UA, 115 min. Dirs. Noel Coward and David Lean. When their destroyer sinks, three British sailors - captain Noël Coward (who wrote the script and co-directed), officer Bernard Miles and ordinary seaman John Mills - flash back on their loved ones at home, their small triumphs and tragedies, on England itself and what they're fighting for. Widely hailed as one of the first "realistic" portraits of WWII on film. **THIS HAPPY BREED**, 1944, MGM/UA, 115 min. Dir. David Lean. Based on an acclaimed play by Noël Coward, this lovingly-crafted portrait covers several decades in the lives of a typical British family, charting their marriages, squabbles, births, deaths and understated resilience. Robert Newton (OLIVER TWIST) is cast against type as the middle-class father, with Celia Johnson (BRIEF ENCOUNTER) as his wife, aided by John Mills, Stanley Holloway and Lean's second wife Kay Walsh.

Friday, October 17 - 7:30 PM

DAVID LEAN

DOCTOR ZHIVAGO, 1965, Warner Bros., 193 min. Dir. David Lean. From the bloodstained march through the Moscow streets, to the snowbound train ride through the Ural Mountains, to the haunted ice palace at Varykino, DR. ZHIVAGO is the essence of pure cinema. Starring Omar Sharif, Julie Christie, Geraldine Chaplin, Rod Steiger, Tom Courtenay, Ralph Richardson and Siobhan McKenna, with music by Maurice Jarre.

Saturday, October 18 EGYPTIAN THEATRE 81st ANNIVERSARY

Egyptian Theatre Historic Tours & FOREVER HOLLYWOOD 10:30 AM Behind the Scenes Tour & New Slide Show 11:35 AM, 2:00 PM & 3:30 PM FOREVER HOLLYWOOD

Saturday, October 18 - 4:00 PM

DAVID LEAN

DOCTOR ZHIVAGO, 1965, Warner Bros., 193 min. Dir. David Lean. [See 10/17 for description.]

Saturday, October 18 - 7:30 PM - Midnight

SID GRAUMAN SEANCE!

EGYPTIAN THEATRE 81st ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Join us as we invoke the spirit of the year 1922 and the Egyptian Theatre's legendary founder, Sid Grauman. Our not to be missed anniversary party features cake and exotic ice creams, magic, period newsreels & films, plus, a talk on Sid Grauman by Mark Simon (one of our fabulous docents) *and* a real **SEANCE** -- conducted by Parapsychological Investigator and Psychic Medium **Michael J. Kouri** (as seen on "The View," "Oprah," "The History Channel" and many other radio and TV shows) -- to contact **Sid Grauman** and any other spirits lurking in the theatre. Prior to the Seance Michael will give a presentation on Haunted Hollywood and the Occult in 1920's Hollywood -- and -- he will perform psychic readings for select audience members. To learn more about Michael see www.icghosts.com. Period attire encouraged. **Anniversary reception: 7:30 PM; 8:30 PM Program & Seance.Special Ticket Price: \$20 Members; \$25 General; \$10 Balcony seating and a limited number of \$50 seats will be sold for a place at the Seance table.**

Sunday, October 19

Historic Tour & New Slide Show!

Egyptian Theatre Historic Tours & FOREVER HOLLYWOOD 10:30 AM Behind the Scenes Tour & New Slide Show 11:35 AM, 2:00 PM & 3:30 PM FOREVER HOLLYWOOD

Sunday, October 19 - 5:00 PM

DAVID LEAN

Double Feature: MADELEINE, 1950, Winstone Films, 101 min. Dir. David Lean. A true Lean rarity, this gothic melodrama is based on the real-life story of an aristocratic Glasgow woman, who was accused of poisoning her lower-class French lover in 1850. Lean's third wife, Ann Todd, was well cast as the icy, unfathomable murderess; the deep-focus b & w photography was heavily influenced by Welles' CITIZEN KANE. **HOBSON'S CHOICE**, 1954, Cowboy Pictures, 107 min. Dir. David Lean. In this Lean rarity, (based on the much-loved play by Harold Brighouse), Charles Laughton is at his cantankerous best as a father who refuses to give his three daughters a dowry - until his eldest child decides to marry without his approval. With John Mills.

Tuesday, October 21 - 7:30 PM

SHORT FILMS

"FLICKER, ATTACK OF THE 50 FOOT REELS!" The same exciting concept as last year's popular program: 25 new and established filmmakers brave the unknown, each shooting one roll of Super 8mm film (3 min.), handing it over to Flicker for processing and holding their collective breath until they finally get to see their film along with everyone else - the night of the screening! All editing is done "in camera" and sound is created without seeing the film. The filmmakers will be there to introduce what they hope is a masterpiece. Most of the filmmakers will appear in person.

Wednesday, October 22 - 7:30 PM

Peter Fonda In Person!

THE HIRED HAND, 1971, Sundance Channel, 90 min. This unassuming but powerful western was recently restored through the efforts of director and star Peter Fonda, editor Frank Mazzola and the Sundance Channel. After years away, worldweary Harry (Fonda), returns for good to the family farm with easygoing pal Arch (Warren Oates). Soon Harry's healing relationship with estranged wife, Hannah (Verna Bloom) is imperiled when grudgeholders from the past threaten them. Stunning, near hallucinatory cinematography by Vilmos Zsigmond. **Discussion following with director/actor Peter Fonda and editor Frank Mazzola.**

Thursday, October 23 - 7:30 PM

ALTERNATIVE SCREEN

JAMES ELLROY'S FEAST OF DEATH 2003, 90 min., USA/UK. **Vikram Jayanti** profiles hard boiled crime fiction writer James Ellroy (L.A. Confidential, My Dark Places) against a gruesome backdrop of intertwined tales of two unsolved murders -- the infamously remembered "Black Dahlia" and the slaying of Ellroy's own mother. **Rachel Max's** short **"Dead Kitty"** 2003, 3.5 min., USA precedes the feature. **Discussion following with director Vikram Jayanti & novelist James Ellroy.**

Friday, October 24 - 7:00 PM

ARGENTINE CINEMA

HISTORIAS MINIMAS (MINIMAL STORIES), 2003, Guacamole/Wanda Vision, 92 min. In director Carlos Sorin's third feature, three Patagonian villagers travel to pursue their humble dreams: 80 year-old Don Justo - sets off on foot to look for his missing dog;traveling salesman, Roberto (Javier Lombardo) plans to seduce a widow with a birthday cake, and young mother Maria (Javier Bravo) is selected to compete on a TV gameshow. *"Endowed with captivating simplicity, gentle humor, rich humanity and infectious generosity of spirit."* -- **Variety.**

continued on reverse →