

february 12-15 2009

Boulder International Film Festival

celebrating the bold
spirit of independent
film

B!FF



9:17 a.m. BREAKFAST AT JILL'S. • 1:30 p.m. SPAaaaaah...
10:49 p.m. TRIPPED THE LIGHT...*and it was* FANTASTIC.



TIME WELL SPENT.

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To the legions of highly discerning individuals who actually read the welcome letters in film festival programs, welcome!

This year, the Boulder International Film Festival proudly presents a stellar program of films from the decade's greatest filmmakers. We've gathered surprising, funny and courageous films that have been presented this year in some of the top film festivals in the world—Cannes, Berlin, Telluride, Toronto, Sundance and Human Rights Watch International, including seven films that are shortlisted for the 2009 Academy Awards. As always, we'll also screen bold original works by new filmmakers that are just now bursting onto the horizon.

Our international reach was greatly enhanced this year with our merger with the Boulder Asian Film Festival and access into the vast explosion of films from Asia.

Recently, I read that the number one favorite activity of travelers is "people watching." Thousands of people in Boulder have already discovered that the Boulder International Film Festival is the ultimate travel experience...a joyous feast of not only watching the exteriors of people from many countries and cultures, but also getting inside their heads, their hearts and their passions, and actually seeing the world through their eyes. There's a big world out there beyond American mass entertainment. Walk out into the light. Blink your eyes and prepare to be amazed.

But to be amazed this year, buy your tickets early. To remain accessible, we haven't raised our film ticket prices in five years. And last year, despite adding an additional 700-seat theatre to our venues, we were overwhelmed by sold-out crowds...even on Sat. and Sun. mornings.

We look forward to greeting you personally throughout the Festival. It'll be a grand Valentine weekend you'll never forget.

Robin Beeck, Executive Director
Boulder International Film Festival



Photo by Mary Krafczyk-Johnston

Robin Beeck

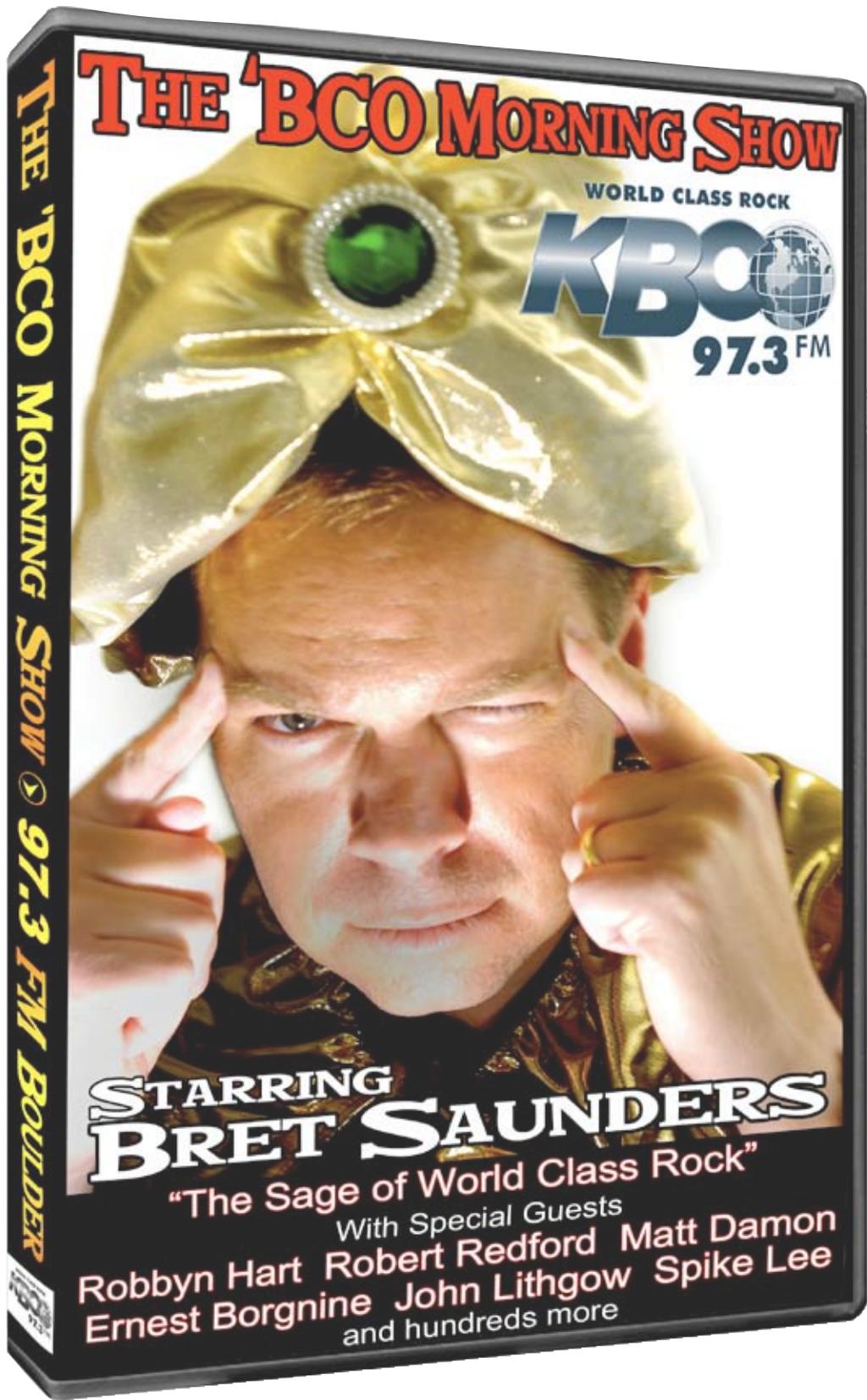
biff venues

- Film Venue
- Parking Garage: free on weekends
- Parking Lot or Meters: free after 7pm & Sundays
Boulder High: free on weekends
- Information Booth
- Festival Registration
- Filmmakers' Lounge

Boulder High School	Boulder Public Library	Boulder Theater	Hotel Boulderado	The Draft House	St Julien Hotel
1604 Arapahoe Ave	1000 Canyon Blvd	2032 14th St	2115 13th St	2027 13th St	900 Walnut St

GENEROUS SUPPORT FOR THE FESTIVAL PROVIDED BY THE FOLLOWING GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS





thankyou

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*Great films make
a LASTING impression
on our minds.*

(Great public relations does, too.)

On behalf of our team and our clients—nationally and here at home in Boulder/Denver—congratulations to the Boulder International Film Festival for making Boulder a great place to be in February.

Linhart Public Relations is proud to provide pro bono public relations and marketing support for the Boulder International Film Festival for the 3rd consecutive year.



A Denver-based public relations and corporate communications counseling firm, delivering results for national, international and regional clients in a variety of industries.

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tickets

FREE

FILMMAKERS' PANEL
SPECIAL EVENT B

STUDENTS

FREE FOR STUDENTS
AGE 13+ WITH VALID ID

PROGRAMS

2 23 24 27 35

STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW

■ This program is subject to change.

■ Films are not rated and may include profanity, nudity, mature subject matter and subtitles.

■ Many of the scenes in these films are performed by trained professional actors and should not be attempted at home.

FILM PROGRAM TICKETS

REGULAR ADMISSION \$10
STUDENTS / SENIORS WITH VALID I.D. \$ 8

VIP PRIORITY PASS \$345*

OPENING NIGHT PROGRAM 1 \$35*

FILMMAKERS' RECEPTION SPECIAL EVENT A \$12/15^{door}

VALENTINE'S GALA + Chevy Chase PROGRAM 17 \$85*

CLOSING NIGHT AWARDS & FILM PROGRAM 38 \$35*

* PLUS SERVICE CHARGES

how to purchase tickets

Please note the program numbers of your chosen films and events before you get online or call for tickets – you will need these to complete your order.

> online:

www.biff1.com
www.bouldertheater.com

> phone:

303.786.7030

> in person:

Boulder Theater Box Office
Or at the door 30' before start time

PURCHASE IN ADVANCE

Advance tickets for all BIFF programs, workshops and events must be purchased through the Boulder Theater Box Office online, over the phone or in person.

PURCHASE DAY OF SHOW

Tickets can be purchased from the Boulder Theater online and over the phone until 90 minutes before the program begins. Tickets may also be purchased the day of the event at the program venue 30 minutes before start time.

PICKING UP YOUR TICKETS

Boulder Theater: Advance purchase tickets for this venue are available for pickup anytime that the Boulder Theater box office is open or can be printed at time of online purchase.

Boulder Library/Boulder High: Advance purchase tickets for these venues will be available for pickup at the Boulder Theater anytime up to ONE HOUR before the program begins. For pickup less than an hour before your program begins, tickets will be available for pickup at the venue in which the program is being held.

boxoffice

BOULDER THEATER BOX OFFICE
2032 14th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80302

REGULAR HOURS

Monday - Friday: 3:00pm - 7:00pm
Saturday: 12:00pm - 5:00pm

BOX OFFICE FESTIVAL HOURS

Thursday, Feb. 12 3:00pm - 9:00pm
Friday, Feb. 13 9:30am - 10:30pm
Saturday, Feb. 14 9:30am - 9:00pm
Sunday, Feb. 15 9:30am - 9:00pm



For questions, call 303.449.2289

Or stop by the **BIFF Information Booth** in the Kiosk on the Pearl Street Mall at 13th and Pearl streets. Festival hours:
Wednesday, Feb. 11: 10:00am - 6:00pm
Thursday, Feb. 12: 10:00am - 7:00pm
Friday, Feb. 13: 9:30am - 8:30pm
Saturday, Feb. 14: 9:30am - 8:30pm
Sunday, Feb. 15: 9:30am - 6pm

THE BIFF VIP PRIORITY PASS

For the ultimate film lover who wants guaranteed entrance to all film programs and events, and wants to walk right past the line. Provides access to all screenings, panels, workshops and public parties.

This pass includes:

An invitation to the Opening Night Party and film premiere, the Saturday night Valentine's Gala with Chevy Chase, the BIFF Filmmakers' Reception, and the Closing Night Film and Awards Celebration.

A limited number of VIP Passes are available, so get yours early.

Please Note: Passes are non-transferable. Passholders must arrive for programs at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the film to guarantee entrance.

be a vip

FILM LOVERS UNITE

Spend Valentine's night at the romantic and historic Hotel Boulderado with an exclusive Valentine package that includes 2 tickets to the Saturday Night Gala.

Starting at \$224

Call 303.442.4344

PROGRAM 1

OPENING NIGHT BASH

& film premiere

Thursday, February 12, 6:30pm

Boulder Theater

\$35 +service charge / Free for VIP Passholders

Join us in kicking off our 5th BIFF with a festive reception featuring music by Chris Daniels and the Kings. The evening's Opening Film Premiere is *Nothing But the Truth*, starring Kate Beckinsale, Alan Alda and Matt Dillon. Director Rod Lurie will attend the screening, and there will be a Q&A afterwards. See the full film synopsis on page 10.

Doors open at 6:30pm / 6:15pm for VIPs
Music 6:30pm – 8:00pm by Chris Daniels and the Kings

Film begins at 8pm

Light appetizers served

Drinks available for purchase

A fundraiser for the nonprofit Colorado Film Society and The Boulder International Film Festival.

Private BIFF VIP/Filmmaker Reception

Friday, Feb. 13, 4-6pm

14th Street Bar & Grill

VIP Passholders only

Space is limited so arrive early!

SPECIAL EVENT A

BIFF FILMMAKER RECEPTION+

Friday, February 13, 6:00-8:00pm

The Draft House, 2027 13th St

\$12 /\$15 door Free for VIP Passholders

Tickets available at Boulder Theater or at the door with cash or check

Drinks available for purchase

Light appetizers served

Music by Jack Hadley

Meet the provocative artists behind the films and celebrate BIFF's merger with the Asian Film Festival. The venue is Boulder's newest hot spot, the Draft House. Rub elbows with filmmakers and film lovers as you enjoy the Draft House's perfectly balanced and handcrafted beers, along with delicious wines and tasty appetizers. Blues and Asian music by Jack Hadley. The Draft House is proud to be the Official Filmmaker Lounge for the Boulder International Film Festival.

SPECIAL EVENT 17

VALENTINE'S GALA + an evening with chevy chase

Saturday, February 14, 7:00pm

Boulder Theater

\$85 +service charge / Free for VIP Passholders

Step out onto the red carpet this Valentine's Day. Enjoy a red hot evening of live music by Hazel Miller, paparazzi, filmmakers galore, and sensuous foods from the Cheesecake Factory. Chevy Chase will receive an Award of Excellence in Comedy as well as be honored with a film retrospective of his work, followed by a Q&A session on stage with Ron Bostwick, BIFF executive producer.

Doors open at 7:00 / 6:45pm VIPs
Music 7:00 - 9:00pm

Tribute/Award to Chevy 9:00pm

Food by The Cheesecake Factory

Music by the Hazel Miller Jazz Trio

Drinks available for purchase



WORLD PARTY FOR PEACE

closing night awards & film

Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country

Sunday, February 15, 6:30pm

Boulder Theater

\$35 +service charge / Free for VIP Passholders

Desserts and coffee served

Drinks available for purchase

Music by Nawang Khechog, Sherefe, Michael Stanwood

Special Guest: Inge Sargent, Burmese Princess

Doors open at 6:30pm/VIP Passholders 6:15pm

Music & Dancing 6:00-8:00pm

Awards Ceremony 8:00-8:30pm

Film at 8:30pm

Q&A with Burmese Princess Inge Sargent to follow

Celebrate the bold spirit of independent film as we honor the best of the Festival at the Closing Night Awards Ceremony, beginning with a reception with live music, dessert and coffee, followed by an awards presentation to the exciting winners of BIFF 09.

Closing Night will kick off with a celebration of world music featuring the multifaceted Michael Stanwood and his international folk and ethnic instruments, including the Khaen and the Australian Didgeridu. Then enters the exciting Sherefe (Jesse Manno, Zahara and James Hoskins) playing authentic regional Middle Eastern and Balkan instruments. Finally, the Festival is honored to present Tibet's foremost world music composer and musician (student and friend of His Holiness the Dalai Lama), the internationally acclaimed Nawang Khechog.

The evening's big event is an exclusive pre-release screening of *Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country*, winner of the grand prize at the International Documentary Federation of Amsterdam, and coming straight to BIFF from Sundance, where it made its first appearance in the U.S. The film focuses on video journalists in the closed country of Burma who risk their lives to disseminate information about the Burmese government's crackdown on peaceful protestors. See page 33 for full synopsis.



SPECIAL EVENT B

FILMMAKERS' PANEL

Saturday, February 14, 3:00-4:15pm, Boulder Public Library

Free to the public – No ticket required

Our fifth annual roundtable discussion by visiting filmmakers will be hosted, for the second year in a row, by writer and independent film maven Chris Gore, founder of *Film Threat* magazine and author of *The Ultimate Film Festival Survival Guide*. This year, we tackle the topic of fundraising. The challenges of today's economy makes it ever harder to find financing. Every film project needs money to fuel it—where can we get some? The panel will share their own stories, and take questions and comments from the audience.

dialog
& community

opening night

party

Thursday, February 12

reception 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Light appetizers

Drinks available for purchase

Music by Chris Daniels & the Kings

Film 8:00pm

premiere nothingbutthetruth

“A fierce, fire-breathing movie, laced with stinging laughs.”
Rolling Stone

“Excellent parable of our power-mad post-9/11 government.”
Slant Magazine

“Powerful, gripping, constantly surprising and brilliantly acted.”
Pete Hammond, Hollywood.com

“Between Rod Lurie’s intelligent script and Kate Beckinsale giving the performance of her career, *Truth* is an unforgettable look at timely and topical issues.”
Ed Douglas, ComingSoon.net

Q&A filmmaker in person >>

A conversation with director, writer and producer Rod Lurie will follow the film.



ERIC CHARBONNEAU, WIRE IMAGE



A PRE-RELEASE SCREENING FROM YARI FILM GROUP

PROGRAM 1

Nothing But the Truth

USA, Feature Film, 2008, 108 Minutes

Rob Lurie’s gripping political thriller parallels the jailing of *New York Times* reporter Judith Miller for refusing to name the source of her story blowing the cover of CIA operative Valerie Plame. The CIA story was allegedly leaked by Vice President Cheney’s office in retaliation for Plame’s U.S. ambassador husband’s contradiction of the Bush claim that Saddam Hussein was ordering yellow-cake uranium from Nigeria, the central reason for the U.S. invasion of Iraq. It was a major embarrassment for the Bush neo-cons, who were trying to whip up a case for war.

The film begins with a bang, as the U.S. President survives an attempted assassination. Eager to blame Venezuela as an excuse to “liberate” an oil-rich country, a power-hungry administration begins an air attack on Caracas, all on the basis of what could be faulty intelligence. But when reporter Rachel Armstrong (Kate Beckinsale) publishes an

article suggesting the Venezuelan link is a fraud, she picks up some powerful enemies, particularly when she cites tough-talking, foul-mouthed CIA operative Erica Van Doren (Vera Farmiga) as opposing the invasion. With their kids going to the same school, Armstrong and Van Doren actually know each other, and their relationship is, well, crackling.

Eager to set an example to the press, the feds send in special prosecutor Patton Dubois (a snarky Matt Dillon), who demands to know Rachel’s confidential source. When Rachel refuses, she is sent to prison, made hell by the federal guards trying to make her talk. Her newspaper hires famous civil rights lawyer Albert Burnside (Alan Alda, who delivers an Oscar-worthy performance) to defend her, but Burnside knows, from deep in the stitches of his designer suits, that, since 9/11, national security trumps the First Amendment every time.

Directed, written and produced by Rod Lurie

Also produced by Marc Frydman and Bob Yari

Starring Kate Beckinsale, Matt Dillon, Angela Bassett, Alan Alda, Noah Wyle, Courtney B. Vance, Vera Farmiga, David Schwimmer



PROGRAM 2

Friday, 10:00am, Boulder Theater

Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame

Iran, Feature Film, 2007, 81 min

Winner of Michael Moore's Founders Prize at the Traverse City Film Festival and dozens of awards at film festivals throughout the world

This wonderful film, made by an 18-year-old Iranian woman, was shot in war-torn Afghanistan near the tragic emptiness of the ruins of the 100-foot-tall Buddhas destroyed by the Taliban. Armed only with a notebook and her mother's lipstick for a pencil, 6-year-old Bakhtay (the film's narrator) stubbornly travels alone on a long, dangerous journey to a recently opened girls' school across the river. Along the way, she is harassed by ruthless boys playing games that mimic the terrible violence they have witnessed during their young lives: the boys want to stone her, to blow her up as the Taliban blew up the Buddha and to shoot her "like Americans do." "Children are the future adults," says director Hana Makhmalbaf. "If they get used to violence, the future of the world will be in great danger."

Directed by Hana Makhmalbaf
Colorado Premiere

PROGRAM 3

Friday, 12:00pm, Boulder Theater

JCVD

France/Luxembourg/Belgium, Feature Film, 2008, 96 min

"Meta-movie parody par excellence." Cannes Film Festival

This hilarious movie asks the question: What would you do if you were a superstar action hero, you inadvertently walk into a bank during a heist, and the relieved hostages all turn to you waiting for you to kick some butt? Well, first you should worry about how effective your karate kicks are without your choreographer present.

In a surprisingly affecting performance, Jean-Claude Van Damme takes the audience inside his own head, like *Being John Malkovich*, and what we see is an ordinary guy, with joys, dreams and worries about things like his career (now fading fast because Steven Seagal, recently shorn of his ponytail, is getting all the Van Damme-like roles). And what about the check Jean-Claude bounced to his last divorce attorney? Of course, there are the memories of all the beautiful women, but five of them are now his angry ex-wives. And then there are the custody battles. Will Jean-Claude ever take charge of this life-threatening hostage crisis, or will he just dither along, like he's done in so many other crises in his life?

Directed By Mabrouk el Mechri
Boulder Premiere

unwinkinggaze



PROGRAM 4

Friday, 2:15pm, Boulder Theater

Prodigal Sons

USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 86 min

Filmmaker Kimberly Reed was understandably nervous about her trip back to Montana, because, when she left her small hometown 20 years ago, she was Paul Reed, star high school quarterback. But her return was soon eclipsed by her older, adopted brother Marc, who has an auto-accident brain injury that has left him with profound mood swings, and who has always held deep resentments towards Paul/Kimberly. Marc unexpectedly receives a call from his previously-unknown birth mother, one Rebecca Welles, who tells Marc that he is the only known grandson of Orson Welles and Rita Hayworth. This discovery grows into a visit by Kim and Marc to Croatia to meet granddad Orson's longtime paramour, Oda Kojar. With all the undercurrent of explosive sibling psycho-drama, what could possibly go wrong? Reed's unflinching look at identity, gender and the past challenges us to wonder if we can ever truly become someone else.

Directed By Kimberly Reed

Boulder Premiere

Kimberly Reed in person

Co-presented with the CU Department of Communication and faculty member Dr. Jane Elvins



"Tennessee Williams looks like 'Sesame Street' compared to this family."

Cannes Film Festival



PROGRAM 5

Friday, 4:45pm, Boulder Theater

The Unwinking Gaze: The Inside Story of the Dalai Lama's Struggle for Tibet

UK/India, Feature Documentary, 2008, 70 min

"It could force China into a more civil, humanitarian stance toward Tibet."

Paul Tataru (The Guardian)

This unforgettable film was conceived as a chance to show the Chinese the unfiltered, unedited Dalai Lama. To show that he is no fanatical religious leader bent on splitting China, only a gentle, funny, deeply spiritual man trying to make some space in the People's Republic for the preservation and growth of Tibetan culture. Accordingly, BBC director Joshua Dugdale was given unprecedented access to the Dalai Lama's daily life and activities—his breakfast, his debriefing of his envoys to China, his normally closed-door dialogue with Chinese officials and his travels to visit world leaders. *The Unwinking Gaze* is perhaps the most honest and genuine film about the Dalai Lama likely to be released in his lifetime.

Directed by Joshua Dugdale

Colorado Premiere

Q&A

A conversation with Rep. Lobsang Nyandak Zayul, the Representative of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to the Americas, and head of the Office of Tibet in New York with follow the film.

Co-presented with Tenzin Dhongyal and the Tibetan Association of Colorado

Also showing in Program 13: Friday, Feb. 13, 9:15pm, Boulder High



PROGRAM 6
Friday, 7:00pm, Boulder Theater
Sunshine Cleaning

USA, Feature Film, 2008, 102 min

sunshine cleaning

Directed by: Christine Jeffs
Screenplay by: Megan Holley
Produced by: Glenn Williamson, Marc Turtletaub, Peter Saraf, Jeb Brody
Co-Produced by: Robert Dohrmann

Cast: Amy Adams, Emily Blunt, Alan Arkin, Jason Spevack, Steve Zahn, Clifton Collins, Jr., Mary Lynn Rajs kub

A PRE-RELEASE SCREENING FROM OVERTURE FILMS

A single mom and her slacker sister find an unexpected way to turn their lives around in the off-beat dramatic comedy *Sunshine Cleaning*. Directed by Christine Jeffs (*Rain, Sylvia*), this uplifting film about an average family that finds the path to its dreams in an unlikely setting screened in competition at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

Once the high school cheerleading captain who dated the quarterback, Rose Lorkowski (Academy Award® nominee Amy Adams) now finds herself a thirty-something single mother working as a maid. Her sister Norah, (Golden Globe® winner Emily Blunt), is still living at home with their dad Joe (Academy Award® winner Alan Arkin), a salesman with a lifelong history of ill-fated get rich quick schemes.

Desperate to get her son into a better school, Rose persuades Norah to go into the crime scene clean-up business with her to make some quick cash. In no time, the girls are up to their elbows in murders, suicides and other...specialized situations.

As they climb the ranks in a very dirty job, the sisters find a true respect for one another, and the closeness they have always craved finally blossoms. By building their own improbable business, Rose and Norah open the door to the joys and challenges of being there for one another—no matter what—while creating a brighter future for the entire Lorkowski family.

PROGRAM 7
Friday, 9:30pm, Boulder Theater

Anvil: The Story of Anvil

USA/Canada, Feature Documentary, 2008, 80 min

This could be *Spinal Tap*, but the real-life Anvil came first and—hilariously, almost eerily—never quit. Born in the '50s, Steve “Lips” Kudlow and Robb Reiner (no relation)

“The best documentary I’ve seen in years!” Michael Moore **“A hymn to the human spirit, played loud in power chords.” James Rocchi, Cinematical** **“Some of the scenes in *Anvil* are so outrageous, it feels like this must be a *Spinal Tap* sequel. It isn’t. These guys are for real...The year’s great rock movie!” Pete Maiden, *Rolling Stone*** **“Hilarious and achingly touching.” Critic’s Pick, *LA Weekly*** **“The only heartwarming film ever made about a heavy metal band.” Kenny Turan, *LA Times***

came roaring out of Canada in the '70s as the “demigods of Canadian metal,” releasing the greatest album in metal history, *Metal on Metal*. They influenced a musical generation, including Metallica, Slayer and Anthrax, before inexplicably doing a header into oblivion. (They blame it on “bad management.”)

But the eternally optimistic Reiner, Kudlow and their long-suffering wives—unintentionally funny throughout the film—are still looking forward to that Great Comeback Tour that will, of course, never happen. Or will it? Headbangers, bring your hankies.

Directed by Sacha Gervasi
Colorado Premiere





SHORT INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES



PROGRAM 9

Friday, 1:00pm, Boulder Public Library

The Conscience of Nhem En

USA/Cambodia, Short Documentary, 2008, 25 min

Nominated for a 2009 Academy Award

Academy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Okazaki presents this chilling look at Cambodia's S-21 prison three decades after the fall of the Khmer Rouge. Of the 17,000 who entered the facility, only eight are known to have survived. In this documentary, three survivors tell their stories, as does former Khmer Rouge soldier Nhem En, who photographed thousands of prisoners before they were executed. As the film progresses, its title becomes more ironic.

Directed by Steven Okazaki
Colorado Premiere

Smile Pinki

USA/India, Short Documentary, 2008, 40 min

Nominated for a 2009 Academy Award

This real-world fairy tale follows Pinki, a wide-eyed five-year-old girl in rural India born with a cleft lip, on her magical journey from social isolation to acceptance.

Directed by Megan Mylan
Colorado Premiere

Nora

USA/UK, Short Documentary, 2008, 35 min

"Nora Chipaumire storms the barricades... a powerful woman with a strong message to deliver." Village Voice

World-renowned dancer Nora Chipaumire revisits the landscape of her violent childhood in war-torn Zimbabwe. Interspersed with her anguished dance masterpiece, "Struggle, Cry, Revolution," are images of dancers of all ages, from young schoolchildren to ancient grandmothers, stories told through dance and the rhythm of gourds and hip-hop, and the glorious African music of legendary composer Thomas Mapfumo.

Directed by Alla Kovgan and David Hinton
Colorado Premiere



PROGRAM 8

Friday, 10:30am, Boulder Public Library

Stage IV: A Journey into the Unknown

USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 86 min

How does one family's dream change when Boulder mom Anne Bermingham is given nine months to live? Life becomes an emotional roller coaster ride, but some things still go on: spousal challenges, the big fight over the Christmas tree and reflections on a sex life without breasts. Then there's 9-year-old son Liam's difficult question: "When is Mom going to die?" Through it all, Anne discovers what living life to its fullest means. *Stage IV* flows between lightness and sadness, courage and fear, love and anger in a turbulent yet ultimately serene journey of awakening to the present moment.

Directed by Hanneh Rudkilde

Hanneh Rudkilde in person

Followed by a Q & A with the director and Connie Holden, Director of Oncology Services for Boulder Community Hospitals

preceded by
Questions of Art

Colorado/Student/USA, Short Documentary, 2008, 12 min

Through the exploration of three sculpture artists and their craft, *Questions of Art* examines the thought process of the artist and the methods of creation.

Directed by Zach Jankovic
Zach Jankovic in person





PROGRAM 10

Friday, 4:15pm, Boulder Public Library

Choose Connor

USA, Feature Film, 2008, 109 min

"Luke Eberl's Choose Connor is a real stunner...all the more remarkable because writer-director Eberl was only 20 when he made it. He's a filmmaker of formidable powers of persuasion." LA Times

Best known around Boulder as the cheeky kid who was always asking skeptical questions of local officials during his own weekly interview show on Channel 54, Boulder native Luke Eberl makes a triumphant return with his highly acclaimed first film.

A smart coming-of-age political thriller, this film is the story of Owen, an idealistic, politically astute teen who is drawn to local congressman Lawrence Connor (played by Steven Weber), an obsessively ambitious politician seeking election to the Senate. Owen is proud to be named Youth Spokesperson for the Connor campaign, but finds his image being used increasingly in a fierce blizzard of TV and radio ads advocating Connor's issues that Owen doesn't support. Soon, Owen begins to learn the frightening truth about the deranged secret world of politics in which he is now involved.

Directed by Luke Eberl
Luke Eberl in person



preceded by
The Final Hour

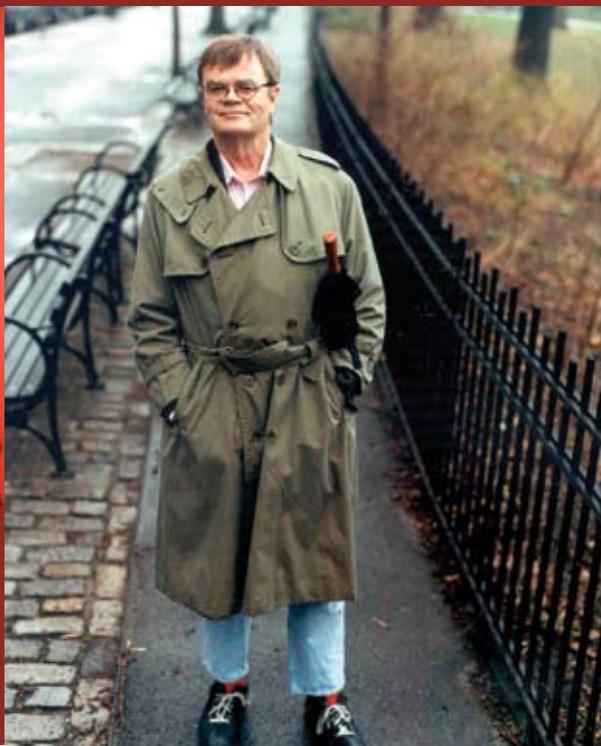
Colorado/Student/USA, Short Film, 2008, 10 min

Winner of the Big Freakin Deal Film Festival held in Boulder

A musical of epic proportions about one college student's quest to reach his last final on time.

Directed by Mark Crawford
Mark Crawford in person





“A GALVANIZING PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER WORTHY OF REPEAT VIEWINGS.”

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PROGRAM 11

Friday, 7:00pm, Boulder Public Library

Revanche

Austria, Feature Film, 2008, 121 min

Nominated for the 2009 Best Foreign Film Academy Award

Winner at the Berlin Film Festival

“A galvanizing psychological thriller worthy of repeat viewings.”

Toronto International Film Festival

A strange optimism and beauty seem to exist within the world of this graphic, hyper-realistic Austrian film that spins a story of two very different couples whose fates are intertwined by a single stray bullet. Tamara, who seeks to escape the grime and sexual degradation of the Vienna brothel in which she works, falls desperately in love with ex-con Alex, who believes that their ticket out would lie in robbing a bank in the sleepy Austrian village of his ancestors. When the plan backfires, Alex finds refuge at the desolate farm of his elderly grandfather. Intertwining relationships are revealed as events converge in this surprising, challenging and mesmerizing film.

Directed by Eric Bergkraut
Boulder Premiere

PROGRAM 12

Friday, 7:00pm, Boulder High School

Garrison Keillor: The Man on the Radio in the Red Shoes

USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 84 min

Emmy-winning director Peter Rosen gives us a brilliant, golden movie of rainbows over small towns and church ladies in print dresses as he presents a year in the life of Garrison Keillor. America's most beloved humorist, Keillor is best known for taking his jokes, music and monologues across the country in his traveling radio show. In his gentle, sonorous voice, Keillor weaves us into that place where all the children are famously above average: Lake Wobegon, Minnesota, home of the Chatterbox Cafe, Bertha's Kitty Boutique and the Lady of Perpetual Responsibility Catholic Church. Keillor's great Chekhovian genius is in creating characters that remind us of people who we kind of once knew.

Directed by Peter Rosen
Boulder Premiere

Peter Rosen in person

Co-presented with KUNC Radio

Also showing in Program 37, Sunday, Feb 15, 7:30pm, Boulder High School



PROGRAM 13

Friday, 9:15pm, Boulder High School

The Unwinking Gaze: The Inside Story of the Dalai Lama's Struggle for Tibet

UK/India, Feature Documentary, 2008, 70 min

(Same as Program 5, page 12)

filmmaker in person >>



Peter Rosen has produced and directed over 100 full-length films and television programs which have been distributed world-wide and have won awards at major film festivals. He has worked directly with some of the most important figures in the arts such as Leonard Bernstein, Yo-Yo Ma, Beverly Sills, Stephen Sondheim, Alexander Godunov, Martha Graham, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Van Cliburn, Claudio Arrau, I. M. Pei and Garrison Keillor.



PROGRAM 14

Saturday, 10:00am, Boulder Theater

Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison

USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 86 min

It was January 1968, a few days before the Tet offensive in Vietnam, in a year that would be saturated with violence and change. In a gray prison cafeteria in Northern California, hard men doing hard time witnessed the making of an electrifying masterpiece, *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison*, one of the greatest live albums ever made. The album would catapult a country singer to international stardom, and reach out to a nation hungry for hope by giving voice to society's outcast and forgotten. Lines like: "I shot a man in Reno/Just to watch him

die/When I hear that whistle blowing/I hang my head and cry" showed that Cash's own struggle with demons meant that he understood the guilt, pain and sorrow of losing control of one's life. Despite making millions, Cash continued doing concerts in prisons and became one of the nation's leading advocates for prison reform.

Directed by Bestor Cram
Colorado Premiere

I shot a man in Reno/Just to watch him die/When I hear that whistle blowing/I hang my head and cry

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PROGRAM 15

Saturday, 12:15pm, Boulder Theater

SHORTS PROGRAM ONE



Hot Dog

USA, Short Animation, 2008, 6 min

In the second sequel to the Oscar-nominated short *Guard Dog*, our plucky hero joins the fire company to save the world from house fires and gain the affection he so richly deserves. Typically, the results never turn out the way he planned.

Directed by Bill Plympton
Boulder Premiere

Small Avalanches

USA, Short Student Film, 2008, 15 min

Adapted from a short story by author Joyce Carol Oates, *Small Avalanches* is the gripping thriller about 13-year-old Nancy's dangerous encounter with a predatory middle-aged man on a hot summer's afternoon.

Directed by Gillian Munro
Colorado Premiere

Mama L'Chaim

USA/Germany, Short Doc, 2008, 6 min

61-year-old Chaim cares for his 95-year-old mother. These lively and humorous characters share the light-hearted antics of daily life, along with the tears and memories of the Holocaust. *L'Chaim!* (to life!)

Directed by Elkan Spiller
Colorado Premiere

New Boy

Ireland, Short Student Film, 2007, 11 min

*Nominated for a 2009
Academy Award*

*Winner of the Best Short Award at
the Tribeca Film Festival*

After witnessing the brutality of soldiers against his father in Africa, Joseph is relocated to safety in Ireland. But he soon finds himself the unexpected victim of another kind of brutality: bullying at school. How will he deal with it?

Directed by Steph Green
Boulder Premiere

In the Dark

USA, Short Student Film, 2007, 17 min

On the eve of Ayatollah Khomeini's return to Iran, a double agent, hunted by the new revolutionary government, agrees to exchange crucial information with the CIA in return for safe passage out of the country.

Directed by Alex Fazeli
Colorado Premiere
Alex Fazeli in person

Russian Choir

Germany, Short Film, 2008, 3 min

In split screen, a Cossack fight song grows all the more rousing.

Directed by Sebastian Fischer and Thierry Horace
Boulder Premiere

Spider

Australia, Short Film, 2007, 10 min

*Winner at Sundance and Sydney
Film Festivals*

As mum used to say: "It's all fun and games until somebody loses an eye."

Directed by Nash Edgerton
Boulder Premiere





american outrage

PROGRAM 16

Saturday, 2:30pm, Boulder Theater

American Outrage

Colorado/USA, Feature Documentary, 2007, 56 min

Fresh from the 2008 Human Rights Watch International Film Festival, this beautifully shot film shows the inner day-to-day working spirit of a Nevada Indian ranch. It explores why the U.S. government has spent millions of dollars persecuting and prosecuting two elderly Western Shoshone women grazing a few hundred horses and cows on desolate open-range desert lands outside their ranch—lands that have been treated to the Shoshone for 150 years. Carrie and Mary Dann are feisty Western Shoshone sisters who have endured five terrifying livestock roundups by armed federal marshals in which hundreds of their horses and cattle were confiscated.

Could all this have anything to do with the fact that the Dann's grazing-land claims are on top of a potentially huge gold mine, making the sisters' removal from their ancestral lands profitable for some of the world's largest gold companies? Naa, probably just a coincidence.

Directed by Beth and George Gage

Boulder Premiere

Beth and George Gage and Carrie Dann in person

Co-presented with NARF (Native American Rights Fund)



preceded by

Her Life is My Teacher

Colorado/USA/India, Short Documentary, 2007, 12 min

This short documentary explores the roots of Abdul Salam's lifelong passion to improve the lives of women in southern India.

Directed by Craig Volk

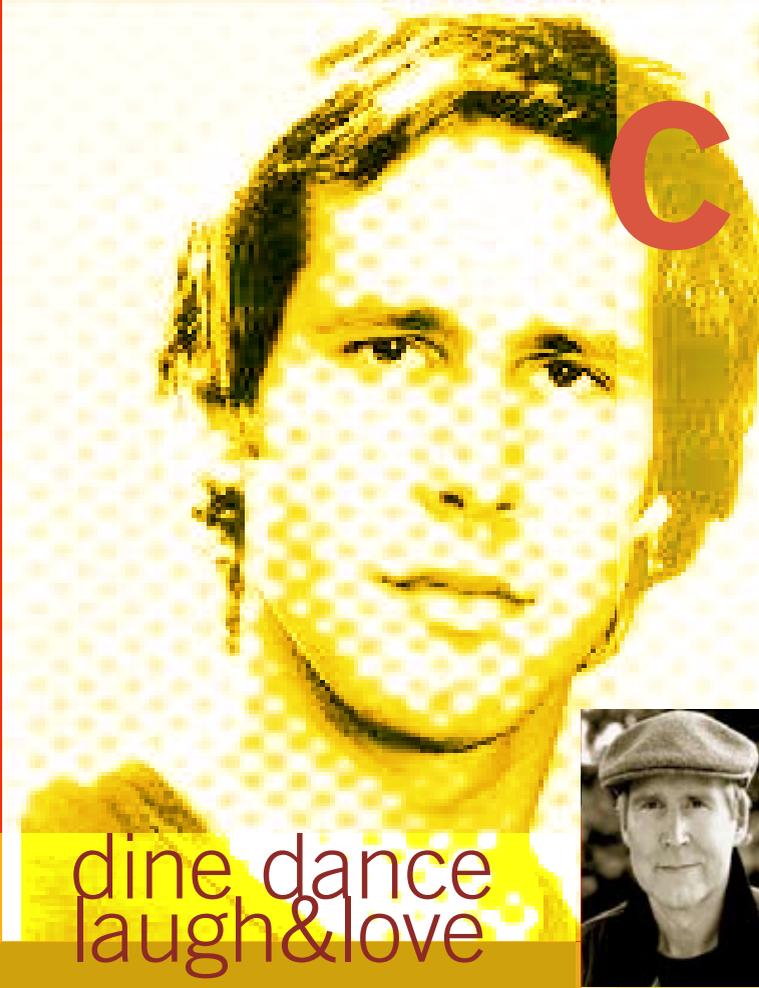
Boulder Premiere

Craig Volk in person

AFTERSHOW Q&a

Carrie Dann joins the film-makers Beth and George Gage along with members of NARF for a talk following the film.





RED CARPET VALENTINE'S GALA + evening with **Chevy**

Be the ball, Danny.

It was our Bicentennial Year, and the most powerful man in America was a tall, limber young comedian named Chevy Chase who, arguably, changed history and helped bring down the President of the United States by portraying Gerald Ford in an election year as a clumsy boob who fell down spectacularly and once stapled his hand to the Presidential desk.

Born Cornelius Chase, and nicknamed "Chevy" by his grandmother, Chase was a former supermarket manager and writer for the Smothers Brothers who impressed Lorne Michaels with his pratfalls. Michaels signed him up immediately as a host and writer of his new show, "Saturday Night Live." Chase, as a host, became a big hit, and as a writer, along with Buck Henry and Al Franken, wrote some of the funniest comedy sketches of all time.

Although he would return as a guest-host many times, Chase left SNL after only a year and pursued a long and highly successful movie career in such comedy film classics including: *Caddyshack*, in which he re-joined Bill Murray; *The Three Amigos*, with Steve Martin and Martin Short; and as Clark Griswold in *National Lampoon's Vacation*, in which he awkwardly went skinny-dipping with Christie Brinkley. The Clark Griswold movie *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* is played every holiday season as an antidote to *It's a Wonderful Life*.

In addition to his work in film, Chase has played an important role in this country's environmental movement, helping his wife Jayni launch the Center for Environmental Education in Maine (www.ceeonline.org). The Center works with K-12 schools to address climate change issues and to cultivate healthy lifestyles by teaching children to be more environmentally aware.

Chase's next role is in *Stay Cool*, a new comedy from The Polish Brothers (*The Astronaut Farmer*, *Twin Falls Idaho*, *Northfork*) hitting theaters this year.

Special thanks to Oak Thorne for making this evening possible.



tribute

dine dance
laugh & love
black-tie-optional

PROGRAM 17
Saturday, 7:00pm, Boulder Theater
**Red Carpet Valentine's Gala
+ Chevy Chase Tribute**

Doors open at 7:00pm
6:45pm VIP passholders
Music, food, dancing 7-9:00pm
Tribute/Award to Chevy 9:00pm
Food by The Cheesecake Factory
Music by the Hazel Miller Jazz Trio
Drinks available for purchase
Admission: \$85 +service charge
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PROGRAM 18

Saturday, 10:30am, Boulder Public Library

Saving Luna

Canada, Feature Documentary, 2007, 95 min

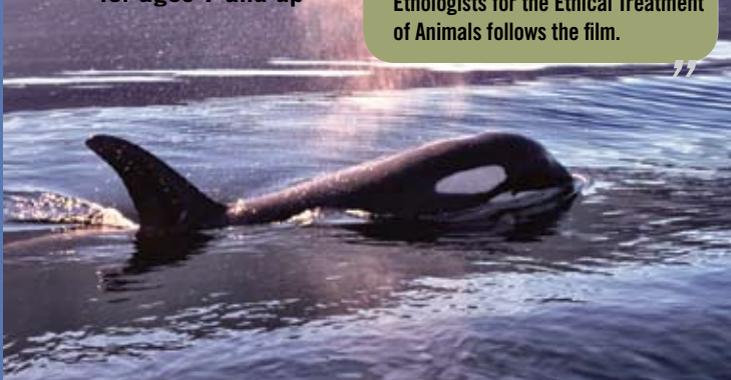
Playing to packed houses throughout the world, this film is a true story about Luna, a baby killer whale (orca), who became lost from his family in 2001 and found himself alone in Nootka Sound, British Columbia. A highly social animal, Luna was often heard making whale calls. The calls were beautiful but heartbreaking as there was never a response from the other whales. Desperately lonely, Luna began to make friends with people, and he became both treasured and feared. To natives he was the spirit of a chief. To boaters he was a goofy friend. To conservationists he was a cause. And fishermen swore to put a bullet in him. But to filmmakers Parfit and Chisholm, Luna was a great friend who became a symbol of the world's wildest beauty: easy to love, but impossible to save.

Directed by Suzanne Chisholm and Michael Parfit
Boulder Premiere

**Appropriate
for ages 7 and up**

Q&a

“A talk with Marc Bekoff, CU, author and cofounder, with Jane Goodall, of Ethologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals follows the film.”



PROGRAM 19

Saturday, 12:45pm, Boulder Public Library

Air India 182

Canada/Ireland/UK, Feature Documentary, 2008, 96 min

This gripping detective film tells the story of Air India flight 182, which was blown up by a suitcase bomb 200 miles off the coast of Ireland on June 22, 1985, killing all 329 people on board. It was the most deadly act of air terrorism before 9/11. “We’ve heard about it in fragments of personal loss, conspiracy theory, erased surveillance tapes, bungled investigations and cultural divide,” Canadian filmmaker Gunnarsson said. “But now, after 22 years, three trials and two commissions, a coherent narrative has emerged.” While most of the film focuses on the events leading up to the bombing, including wiretaps of the Vancouver-based Sikh conspirators themselves, Gunnarsson includes a brief rundown of some of the mistakes and idiocy that came after this tragedy, particularly the fact that only one man was convicted in this whole terrible mess.

Directed by Sturla Gunnarsson
Produced by David York and Sturla Gunnarsson
Colorado Premiere
David York in person

Q&a filmmaker in person



PROGRAM 20
Saturday, 4:45pm, Boulder Public Library

School of Thought

Colorado/USA, Short Documentary Film, 2008, 40 min
Something's happening in the heartland. David Lynch (*Blue Velvet*, *Twin Peaks*, *The Elephant Man*) and friends make a surprise visit to the K-12 Maharishi School in Fairfield, Iowa. There, they tour the giant Golden Dome of this "consciousness-based" educational institution, where the upper grades consistently score in the top 1% of the nation on standardized tests, the athletes win state championships every year and each student is required to meditate twice a day. Is transcendental meditation the answer to drugs, alcohol abuse and violence in our schools?

Directed by Tony Perri
Colorado Premiere
Tony Perri in person

Q&A filmmakers in person

Come Back to Sudan

Colorado/USA, Short Documentary Film, 2007, 27 min

Winner at the Aspen Shortsfest

The last time Lado Jurkin, Mabior Mayom and Deng Dau saw their families and their homes in Sudan, they were eight years old. This was before the war forced them to flee and resettle in Boulder, Colorado 20 years ago, as told in the film *The Lost Boys of the Sudan*. All grown up now, and accompanied by their adoptive American mother Jean Wood (Mama Jean), the boys undertake a journey to their homeland to reunite with their families and their memories. This beautiful, touching film was directed by Boulder's own Patti Bonnet and BIFF returning filmmaker Daniel Junge (*Iron Ladies of Liberia* and *They Killed Sister Dorothy*).

Directed by Daniel Junge
Produced by Patti Bonnet
Patti Bonnet in person



"SCHOOL OF THOUGHT is great work, great thought and great heart."

DAVID LYNCH



PROGRAM 21
Saturday, 6:45pm, Boulder Public Library

Make-Out with Violence

USA, Feature Film, 2007, 105 min

Winner at Atlanta and Memphis Indie Film Festivals

"A lyrical, surreal and deeply felt zombie movie that constantly subverts and rethinks the genre." Nashville Scene

An often-funny tale of a boy trying to honor his unrequited love for a girl named Wendy, who has mysteriously disappeared. He and his brother eventually find her corpse tied to a tree in the woods, but it is strangely animated...and has developed a taste for raw flesh. The boys secretly transport the undead Wendy to an empty house and, as the sweltering summer pushes on, they must maintain the appearance of normalcy for their friends and family as they search for ways to bring back the Wendy they once knew. *Make-Out* follows the rich horror tradition of Edgar Allan Poe, who wrote two stories about the gruesome resurrection of beautiful women, Ligeia and Morello, with the hope that, by understanding death, his audiences could better enjoy life.

Directed by The Deagol Brothers
Colorado Premiere
Appropriate for ages 14 and up

Preceded by:

Adobo

Colorado/USA, Short Film, 2008, 12 min

Winner of the Boulder Asian Film Festival screenplay competition

A dark comedy about a twenty-something Philippina, Delia, who is constantly threatened by vicious, off-leash dogs in her Boulder neighborhood. Enraged by the dogs' indifferent owners, she serves up delicious revenge.

Directed by Bob and Joe Larue
Colorado Premiere
Bob and Joe Larue in person



i bring what i love

PROGRAM 22

Saturday, 10:00am, Boulder High School

The Last Days of Shishmaref

Netherlands/USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 95 min

On the Academy Awards short list

Scientists have called them the first victims of global warming: the ancient Inupiaq village of Shishmaref is being eaten by the sea. It's difficult to watch this film without sympathy for the villagers as their homes fall into the ocean and they are met with the task of relocating their entire population of 600 people miles inland. The icy landscape—its water, smoke, steam and sky—is beautifully and quietly photographed, as are the village's inhabitants. Every frame is a slow, poignant portrait. We feel the loss of the families, too poor to protect themselves from the impending doom, as they realize that they will never recover a way of life now being destroyed by the warming Northern oceans.

Directed by Jan Louter
Colorado Premiere

Followed by a Q&A with Shannon McNeeley, National Science Foundation Fellow, Institute for the Study of Science and Environment, NCAR

PROGRAM 23

Saturday, 12:15pm, Boulder High School

The Human Experience

USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 90 min

Drawing sellout audiences around the world, and a winner at the Maui Film Festival, this remarkable film is the story of a band of brothers who travel the world in search of answers to the questions: Who am I? Who is Man? Why do we search for meaning? Their journey brings them into the lives of the homeless on the streets of New York City, the orphans and disabled children of Peru, and the abandoned lepers in the forests of Ghana, Africa. What the young men discover changes them forever. Through one-on-one interviews and real-life encounters, the brothers are awakened to the beauty of the human person and the resilience of the human spirit.

Directed by Charles Kinnane
Produced by Joseph Campos
Colorado Premiere

Charles Kinnane, Joseph Campos and Jeffrey Azize (who appears in the film) in person

PROGRAM 24

Saturday, 2:30pm, Boulder High School

Youssou Ndour: I Bring What I Love

USA/Senegal, Feature Documentary, 2008, 102 min

Like his grandmother, Youssou Ndour is a griot, a Senegalese musical storyteller. Youssou is also an international platinum-selling superstar in the Muslim world who has collaborated with Peter Gabriel and Bruce Springsteen and used his fame to draw attention to human rights at Amnesty International concerts and UNICEF efforts in Africa. Ndour is listed as one of *Time* magazine's one hundred most influential people in the world. Devoutly Muslim, he decided in 2004 to release his pan-African album *Egypt*, which praises prophets and saints and gives Islam a human and smiling face. Condemned as "blasphemous" by some religious authorities, the album flopped in Senegal and caused Ndour to fear for his life. Will *Egypt*'s Grammy win and huge worldwide success change the perception of Ndour in his own country?

Directed by Chai Vasarhelyi
Boulder Premiere

the greatest breakup story ever told

"I am enchanted. I am swept away. I am smiling from one end of the film to the other. It is astonishingly original. It brings together four entirely separate elements and combines them into a great whimsical chord." **Roger Ebert**



Winner of best picture at the 32nd Annecy Animated Film Festival

PROGRAM 25

Saturday, 4:45pm, Boulder High School

Sita Sings the Blues

USA, Feature Animation, 2007, 82 min

Nina is an animator whose husband dumps her by email. Sita is a goddess dumped by her husband Rama. Why couldn't these two women, 3,000 years apart, make their marriages work? This award-winning, beautifully animated interpretation of parts of the Indian epic, *Ramayana*, was rendered on a laptop by a single animator mostly using Flash. Nina Paley lays down wildly imaginative musical interludes that use authentic 1920s blues recordings to link the narratives of these two unfortunate ladies. Why did Rama reject Sita? Why did the animator's husband reject the animator? Find out in this groundbreaking triumph of personal motion picture art.

Directed by Nina Paley
Boulder Premiere



“Show me a good loser and I’ll show you a born loser.” Vince Lombardi

AFTERSHOW

A short performance by the barbershop quartet *Ponderosa Vigilantes-Boulder Timberliners Chapter* follows the film.

PROGRAM 26

Saturday, 6:45pm, Boulder High School

American Harmony

USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 86 min

You didn't have to be a big spelling bee fan to enjoy *Spellbound*, and you don't have to be a big barbershop music fan to really love *American Harmony*, because both films are really about gut-wrenching, ultra-obsessive competition, where contestants go to unimaginable lengths just to win a prize. Destined to be one of this year's surprise films, *American Harmony* follows Max Q (Maximum Quartet), a group that never seems to get a break in the high-stakes, high-pressure world of

competitive barbershop singing. Will this talented crew ever taste the intoxicating barbershop-glory of a gold medal at the International, or will they yet again be consigned to the ash-heap of funny, good-natured also-rans?

Directed by Aengus James

Produced by Colin King Miller

North American Premiere

Aengus James and Colin King Miller
in person

Q&A filmmakers in person >

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PROGRAM 27

Saturday, 9:15pm, Boulder High School

The Pope's Toilet

Uruguay, Feature Film, 2007, 90 min

Winner of 11 South American film festivals

Beto, like many men in the impoverished Uruguayan border town of Melo, is a small-time smuggler-on-a-bicycle, earning a living for his family by passing on tax-free goods from Brazil and constantly dodging customs officers. But when Pope John Paul II announces that he will visit Melo, in all his opulence, to demonstrate solidarity with an actual poverty-stricken village, the townsfolk sense a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Apparently tens of thousands of visitors will come to Melo from Brazil, and nearly everyone in town is setting up a stall to sell food, drink or religious trinkets. Beto thinks outside the box when he decides what to peddle to the visiting pilgrims. Melo is director Fernandez's home town and, using locals as actors, he creates a masterfully witty and evocative film.

Directed by Eric Bergkraut
Boulder Premiere



legendary, bare-knuckled environmentalist Paul Watson

PROGRAM 28

Sunday, 10:00am, Boulder Theater

Pirate for the Sea

USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 102 min

"Pirate has the grand vision of an epic poem."
Telluride Film Festival

One of the most talked-about films of the year, *Pirate* is a surprising film about the legendary, bare-knuckled environmentalist Paul Watson, one of the founders of Greenpeace. Watson patrols the seas with his ship, the low-tech Farley Mowat, and its roughneck volunteer crew who use any means necessary to thwart the illegal harvesting of whales, dolphins, sharks and the clubbing of seals throughout the world, including ramming poachers' boats and diving into the ocean to cut nets. Filmmaker Ron Colby spent eight years as a crewmember with Captain Watson and, with his hand-held camera, created this classic of the open sea and any-means-necessary environmentalism.

Directed by Ron Colby
Produced by Patricia Van Ryker
Boulder Premiere
Ron Colby and Patricia Van Ryker in person

Q&a filmmakers in person

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PROGRAM 29
Sunday, 12:30pm, Boulder Theater



SHORTS PROGRAM 2



I Met the Walrus

Canada, Short Animation, 2007, 6 min

During John Lennon and Yoko Ono's 1969 "bed-in" for peace, 14-year-old Jerry Levitan snuck into John Lennon's hotel room with a tape recorder and persuaded him to do an interview, which is animated here in a cascading flood of colors and images.

Directed by Josh Raskin
Boulder Premiere

Tag

Russia, Short Film, 2008, 13 min

Winner at the Moscow International Film Festival

Comedy in its barest form shot in one continuous take, this hilarious bit of minimalist slapstick follows a man suddenly exposed to the world and left to fend for himself.

Directed by Natalya Uglitskikh
Boulder Premiere

On the Line

Germany/Switzerland, Short Student Film, 2007, 30 min

Nominated for a 2009 Academy Award

Winner of 2008 Student Academy Award and 12 major world film festivals

A department store security guard is secretly in love with a clerk in the store's bookshop. When he witnesses a seeming rival being attacked on the train, he faces a moral dilemma, and his formerly controlled life breaks down.

Directed by Reto Caffi
Boulder Premiere

Now and Before

USA, Short Student Animation, 2008, 5 min

A short animation exploring the speed of time.

Directed by Ozaki Narimitsu
Boulder Premiere

The Wednesdays

Ireland, Short Animation, 2008, 14 min

Winner at Aspen, Chicago, Galway and Barcelona Film Festivals

This funny, poignant tale follows an elderly couple who rediscover sensuality, love, fun and adventure with the help of some magic pills. Because the supply is limited, they only take the tablets on Wednesdays. "Oh, I do so look forward to Wednesdays," the wife says, taking her husband's hand and smiling shyly. What are these "magic pills" anyway? All we can say is that you can buy them too, without a prescription, right here in Boulder.

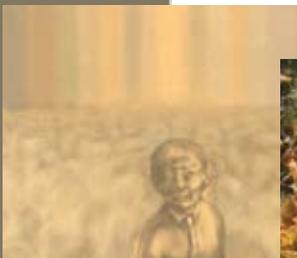
Directed by Conor Ferguson
Boulder Premiere

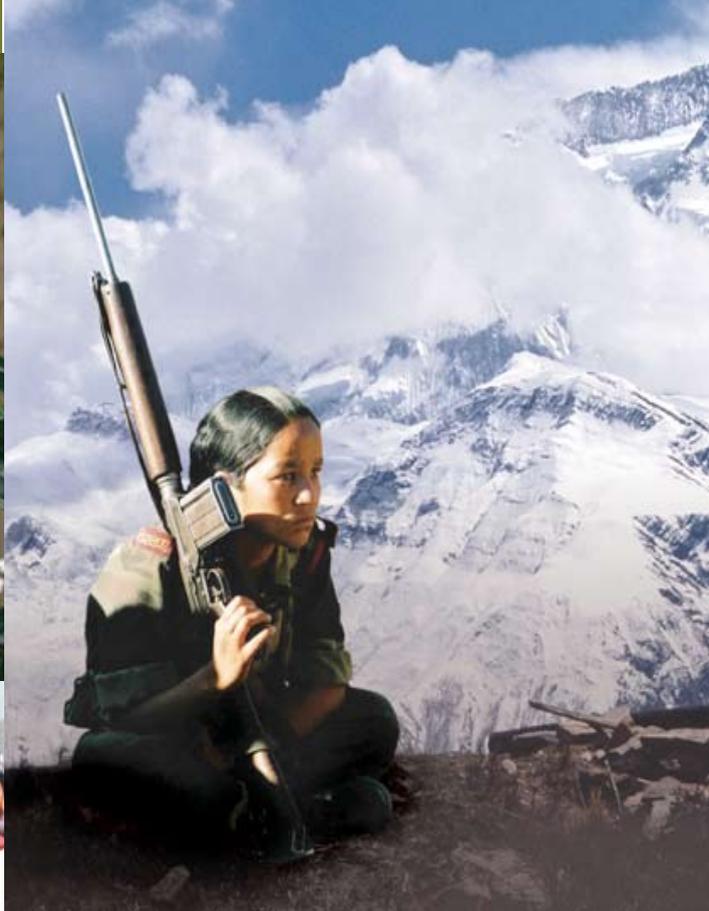
Peter and Ben

UK, Short Documentary Film, 2007, 10 min

As a young man, Peter dropped out of society and became a sheep rancher in a rolling, lush valley in Wales where he lived, contented and alone, for 30 years. Then Peter found Ben, an orphaned lamb that quickly grew into a big woolly sheep. A love story between a man and his sheep.

Directed by Pinny Grylls
Boulder Premiere





PROGRAM **30**
Sunday, 2:30pm, Boulder Theater

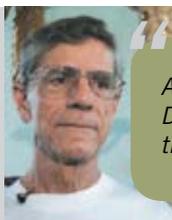
They Killed Sister Dorothy

Colorado/USA/Brazil, Feature Documentary, 2008, 93 min

On the Academy Awards short list

Directed by Colorado's own Daniel Junge (*Iron Ladies of Liberia* at BIFF 08), and narrated by Martin Sheen, this chilling film investigates the execution-style murder in Brazil of activist American nun Sister Dorothy Stang. With her colleagues, Sister Dorothy was fighting deforestation and helping native landowners reclaim land that had been stolen from them by large ranching and logging companies. Many believe these wealthy and powerful companies hired assassins to murder Sister Dorothy. The film follows her courageous brother David as he travels through Brazil to find out the truth about her death and seeks out her alleged attackers and the ranchers who hired them. The footage of hundreds of miles of deforested land is heartbreaking.

Directed by Daniel Junge
Produced by Henry Ansbacher and Nigel Noble
Boulder Premiere
David Stang in person



Q&a

A talk with David Stang, Dorothy's brother, follows the film.

”

PROGRAM **31**
Sunday, 12:30pm, Boulder Public Library

The Sari Soldiers

USA/Nepal, Feature Documentary, 2008, 90 min

“Gives credence to the old feminist (cliche) that if women were given power, they would speedily put an end to war.” Variety

Winner at New York's Human Rights Watch Film Festival

Filmed under treacherous conditions over the three years following Nepal's King Gyanendra's dissolution of Parliament and the crackdown on civil liberties in 2005, Julie Bridgham's admirably even-handed film follows six different women who are trying to bring justice and democracy to Nepal. You'll meet low-caste Devi, who witnessed her niece being raped and killed and her daughter “disappeared” by the Royal Army; Kranti, a commander in the Maoist Insurgency (the Maoists are 40% women and are fighting Nepal's entrenched caste system and its traditional oppression of women); and activist Ram Kumari, whose pro-democracy forces engineer an alliance between the Maoists and other Nepalese political parties against the monarchy, and bring millions of protesters to the streets of Kathmandu. Will they succeed in bringing democracy to Nepal?

Directed by Julie Bridgham
Colorado Premiere
Julie Bridgham in person

Q&a

filmmaker in person >>



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 Great Deal

Eat Drink Love



PROGRAM **32**

Sunday, 3:00pm, Boulder Public Library

The Prince of Broadway

USA, Feature Film, 2008, 99 min

Grand Prize Winner at the Turin International Film Festival

The latest film by rising-star indie filmmaker Sean Baker is about Lucky, a charismatic West African NYC street salesman with a hearty laugh who runs a nonstop hustle selling knock-off designer merchandise to passing tourists. Lucky's luck changes when his ex-girlfriend drops off a baby she says is his, and then disappears. Like all new parents, Lucky finds that his life has turned upside down.

The genius of this film is that Lucky is played by a real Ghanaian NYC street hustler named Prince Adu, who attracted other outrageous characters from his neighborhood to play themselves in the film. Their complicated personal stories began to weave into Baker's fictional script, resulting in one of the grittiest and surprisingly funny films about the lives and loves of immigrants in America that you'll ever see.

Directed by Sean Baker
Boulder Premiere
Sean Baker in person

<< filmmakers
in person >>

preceded by

Glass Reunion

USA/Colorado, short film 2008, 7 min

Glass Reunion won Best Film at The Shoot Out 24 Hour Film-making Festival. Now in its fifth year, the Shoot Out Boulder is a pioneering film festival that challenges filmmakers to trust their courage and determination to make a 7-minute film in just 24 hours.

Directed by Brad Stabio
Brad Stabio in person



PROGRAM **33**

Sunday, 10:00am, Boulder High School

The English Surgeon

UK/Ukraine, Feature Documentary, 2007, 93 min

"Funny, frightening and deeply moving."
The Times, London

This passionately made prize-winning documentary is finding enormous appeal in international film festivals. It follows London neurosurgeon Henry Marsh on his 15th annual vacation to Ukraine, a country where neurosurgery barely exists and doctors operate under grueling conditions with an utter lack of equipment. Dr. Marsh brings used equipment, surgical expertise and an extraordinary teaching ability to assist in developing a rudimentary neurological clinic in Kiev that could eventually help hundreds of patients. Few scenes in documentary history are as tense as the prolonged 15-minute brain operation we witness. The patient—an epileptic named Marian Dolishny—is awake the whole time, and his brain is accessed by a cordless household drill that loses its battery charge halfway through the operation. This film is a life-affirming testament to the impact one person alone, unaffiliated and unfunded, can have on this world.

Directed by Geoffrey Smith
Colorado Premiere

Q&a

Co-presented with Project C.U.R.E.
Followed by a Q & A with Bob Stansbury,
Needs Assessor, PROJECT C.U.R.E.

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journey to
the center program 34>>



editor's note: Thank you to *Backpacker* magazine for sharing their full page ad to give us a glimpse of the epic adventure film *Journey to the Center*. Headquartered right here in Boulder, the good people at *Backpacker* continue to create a portal to the wild and natural landscape with their award-winning magazine. "We believe strongly in the power of film to inspire and educate, to bring the stories and fetes of outdoor adventurers to life for millions around the globe." *Backpacker*



PROGRAM 34

Sunday, 12:15pm, Boulder High School

Red Gold

Colorado/USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 55 min

Winner of the Audience Award at the 2008 Banff Mountain Film Festival

This remarkable film shows the potential impact of the construction of the world's largest open pit mine in the pristine headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers in Bristol Bay, Alaska—the two largest remaining sockeye salmon runs on the planet. Colorado filmmakers Ben Knight and Travis Rummel, in association with Trout Unlimited, spent two months in Bristol Bay documenting the tension between native fishermen who oppose the dam and mine officials who say they will build a “clean” mine that will leave the salmon’s habitat untouched. This exquisite story goes beyond the conflict, offering a portrait of a unique way of life that wouldn’t exist if the salmon don’t return.

**Directed by Ben Knight and Travis Rummel
Boulder Premiere**

Ben Knight and Travis Rummel in person

Journey to the Center

USA/China, Feature Documentary, 2008, 54 min

Winner of Best Film on Mountain Sports at the 2008 Banff Mountain Film Festival

In 1996, American spy satellites discovered a geographical anomaly in the center of China. Analysts began to worry that the Chinese were constructing a nuclear missile silo. A group of agents posing as cavers were sent to investigate. It turned out to be a natural phenomenon—the world’s deepest vertical cave. Its name is Xiao Tiankeng, The Heavenly Pit. Journey with three world-renowned BASE jumpers as they travel 10,000 miles by airplane, river boat and 4x4 truck to confront the mist and mystery of the old cave, an ancient culture and their own demons at the center of their dangerous mission. Millions of years old, a half-mile deep, Tiankeng has waited for eons to test the endurance, skill and courage of the men who dare to parachute into her heart.

**Directed by Jens Hoffman
Colorado Premiere**

Co-presented with the Boulder Adventure Film Festival



PROGRAM 35

Sunday, 2:45pm, Boulder High School

Tulpan

Kazakhstan/Russia, Feature Film, 2008, 100 min

Winner of the Un Certain Regard Award at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival

Tulpan is an astonishing nature/ethnographic movie of Asia’s vast steppes, with unforgettable panoramas of distant dust storms, tornados, lightning storms and close-in portraits of the everyday lives, families and humor of the hardy people who have managed to live there for hundreds of generations. This documentary-style retelling of an old folk tale is about fun-loving nomad Asa, returning from a stint in the Russian Navy, who has ambitions of becoming a shepherd like his ancestors. But to become a shepherd, he must have a wife, and, unfortunately, the only unmarried girl in the area is Tulpan (Tulip), whom Asa has never seen. Planning to leave the steppe and go off to college, Tulpan tells her parents to reject Asa, saying that his ears are too big. A negotiator is brought in to defend the nobility of Asa’s ears. Director Dvortsevov has produced a funny, unforgettably beautiful film.

**Directed by Sergei Dvortsevov
Boulder Premiere**



PROGRAM 36

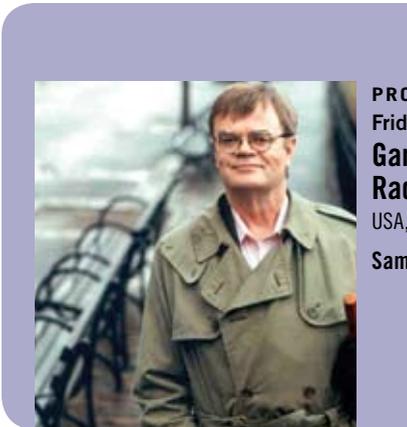
Sunday, 5:00pm, Boulder High School

Glass: A Portrait of Philip in Twelve Parts

USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 115 min

This musically sumptuous film was a labor of love for seven-time Oscar nominee Scott Hicks (*Shine*), who was almost a part of Glass’s family for two years as he did all the camera work and interviews for this film himself. Philip Glass, 70, is one of the great composers of classical music of the past 50 years. He has written everything from symphonies to movie scores, and his minimalist music is so famous that Glass has been featured as a character on “The Simpsons.” As one would expect, music is a major part of Glass’s life. His wife somewhat ruefully says it’s “his finest communication,” but he doesn’t allow it to consume him. Even as he focuses on the pre-production of his opera adaptation of “Waiting For The Barbarians,” we see Glass on a roller coaster, making pizza from scratch with his young children and hanging out with his friends. Special appearances by Chuck Close, Ravi Shankar, Martin Scorsese, Woody Allen and Errol Morris.

**Directed by Scott Hicks
Colorado Premiere**



PROGRAM 37

Friday, 7:30pm, Boulder High School

Garrison Keillor: The Man on the Radio in the Red Shoes

USA, Feature Documentary, 2008, 84 min

Same as Program 12, page 16

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closingnight

PROGRAM 38 Sunday, 6:30pm, Boulder Theater

awards program

world party for peace & film premiere

celebrate the bold spirit of independent film

Doors open at 6:30pm/VIP Passholders 6:15pm

Music & Dancing 6:30-8:00pm

Awards Ceremony 8:00-8:30pm

Film at 8:30pm

Desserts and coffee served

Drinks available for purchase

music **nawang khechog sherefe** michael stanwood

Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country

Norway/Sweden/Denmark/UK/Burma, Feature Documentary, 2008, 86 min

Top Prize Winner at IDFA Amsterdam, the world's top documentary festival. This film comes straight to BIFF from Sundance, where it made its first appearance in the U.S.

In September of 2007, 10,000 Buddhist monks, risking torture and death, led the "Saffron Revolution" that brought hundreds of thousands of demonstrators to the streets of Rangoon to march peacefully and protest a cruel military dictatorship that has held the country hostage for more than 40 years. Burma has been closed to the outside world for decades, so how did we witness these events? The revolution was kept alive on TV screens all over world by the unbelievable bravery of a small band of video journalists calling themselves the DVB. Led by a person code-named Joshua, who directs his courageous army of video warriors to film the government abuses in their country, the DVB smuggles their footage out of Burma and broadcasts it to the world via satellite. As government intelligence begins to understand the enormous power of the tiny video-cams, the DVB becomes a prime target, and the life-and-death chase is on—all captured on video, of course.

Directed by Anders Ostergaard

Produced by Lise Lense Miller

Colorado Premiere

the Vleehr



We will honor nationally reknown sculptor Bill Vleehr with a short film about his work by Laird Grimm. Thank you, Bill for generously making the awards for BIFF every year!

AFTERSHOW Q&a



This film will be followed with a Q & A with Burmese Princess Inge Sargent, author of *Twilight over Burma* and a recipient of the United Nations Association International Human Rights Award. Inge is a long-time Boulder teacher, and heads a Burmese expatriot organization that raises hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund Burmese refugees in Thailand.

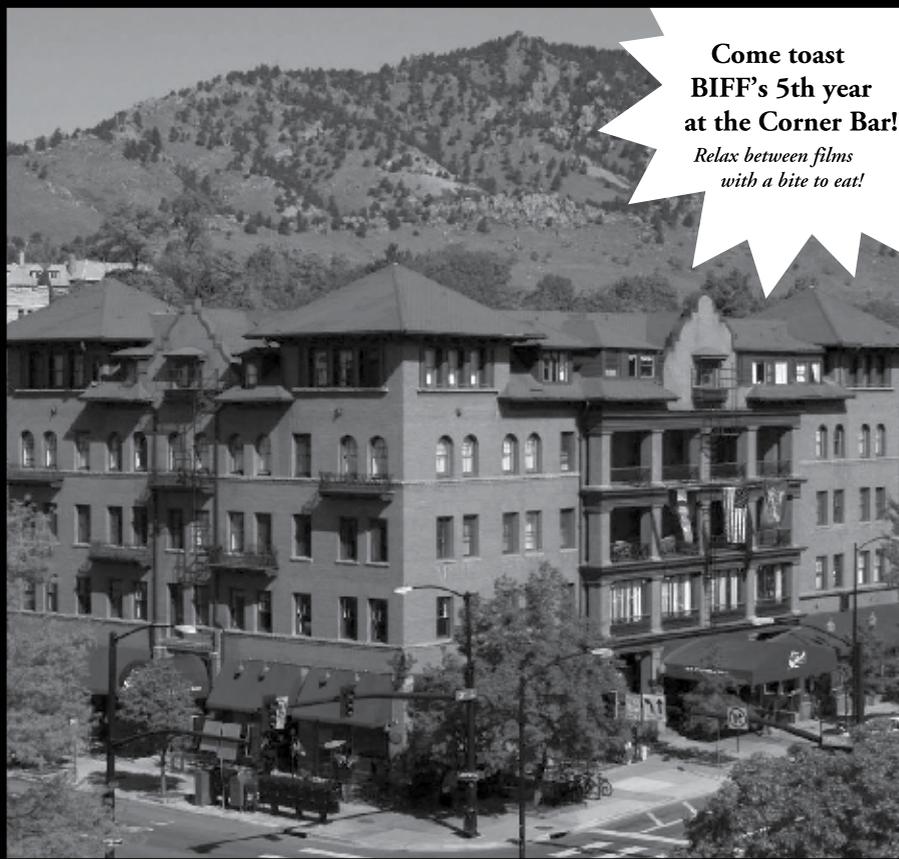


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The Colorado Film Society

BIFF is produced by The Colorado Film Society, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to encourage and celebrate the art of film by creating a dynamic forum for artistic, social, and cultural awareness in the community. The CFS aims to inspire and enlighten Colorado audiences with the Festival and other film programs throughout the year; to conduct educational outreach programs for students and film lovers alike; to be a resource for local filmmakers and film organizations; and to provide independent filmmakers with a venue for showcasing their ideas and growing their careers.

Sign up for the CFS monthly newsletter at www.biff1.com.

See BIFF photos online at:

www.photomalone.com and fashionistaphoto.com

SPOTLIGHT

Neal Lemlein / BIFF Jury President



"As a "Hollywood migrant", arriving in Boulder 3 years ago, I've marveled at the Boulder International Film Festival. The overall quality of film entries, in all categories, is nothing short of remarkable. Entertaining, thought-provoking, compelling and highly relevant, the BIFF festival weekend has become a "must-attend" occasion for film enthusiasts internationally. I am delighted to play a small part in this wonderful event."

OTHER ROLES:

PRESIDENT, AROUND THE BEND MEDIA, INC
FILM EXECUTIVE, AUTHOR, ENTREPRENEUR
MEMBER, ACADEMY OF MOTION PICTURE ARTS AND SCIENCES

applause for our amazing volunteers...

Without the dedication of BIFF's too-numerous-to-list-here volunteers,

the Festival would be impossible. **thank you! bravissimo!**

schedule

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feb 12

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feb 13

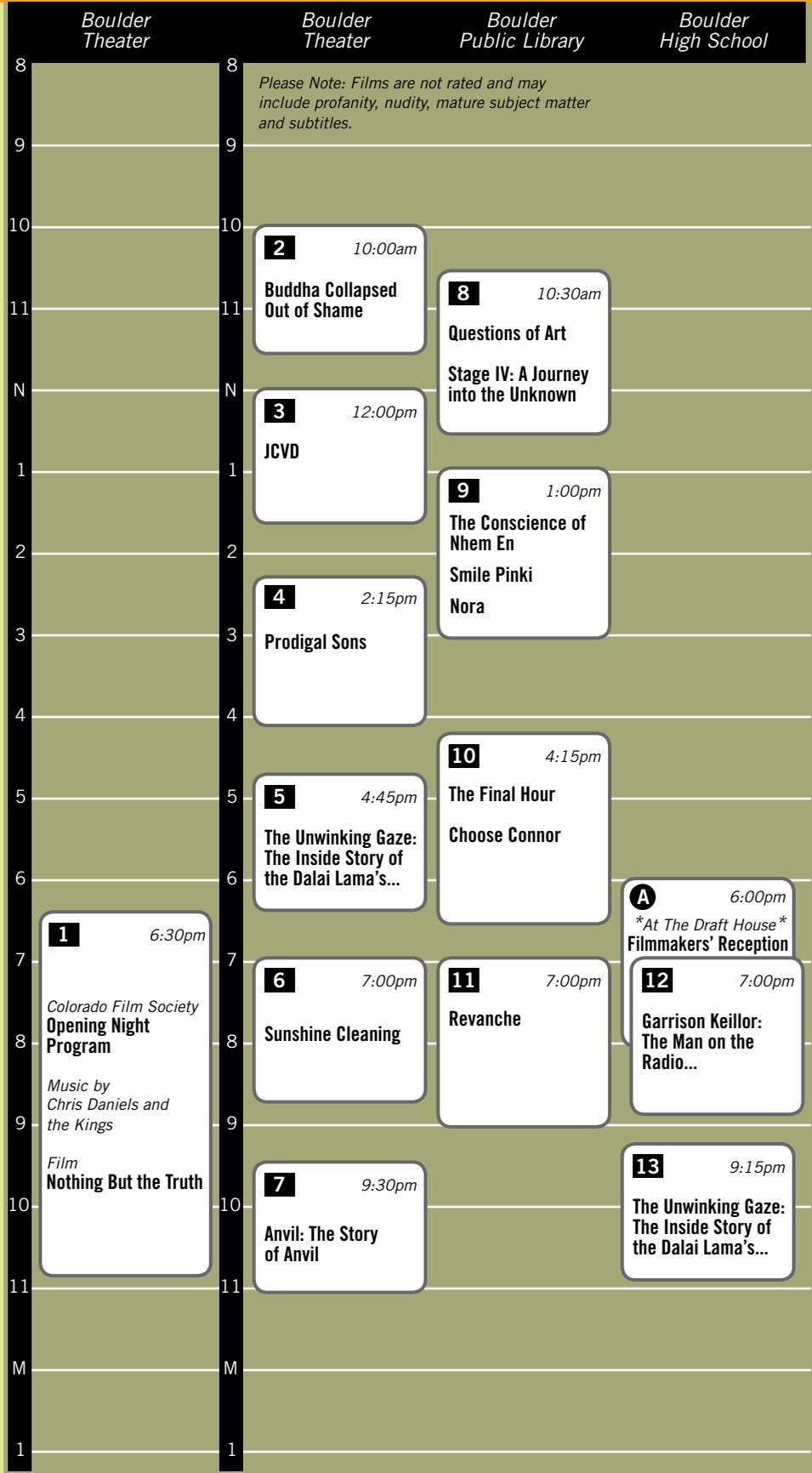
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SATURDAY

feb 14

SUNDAY

feb 15

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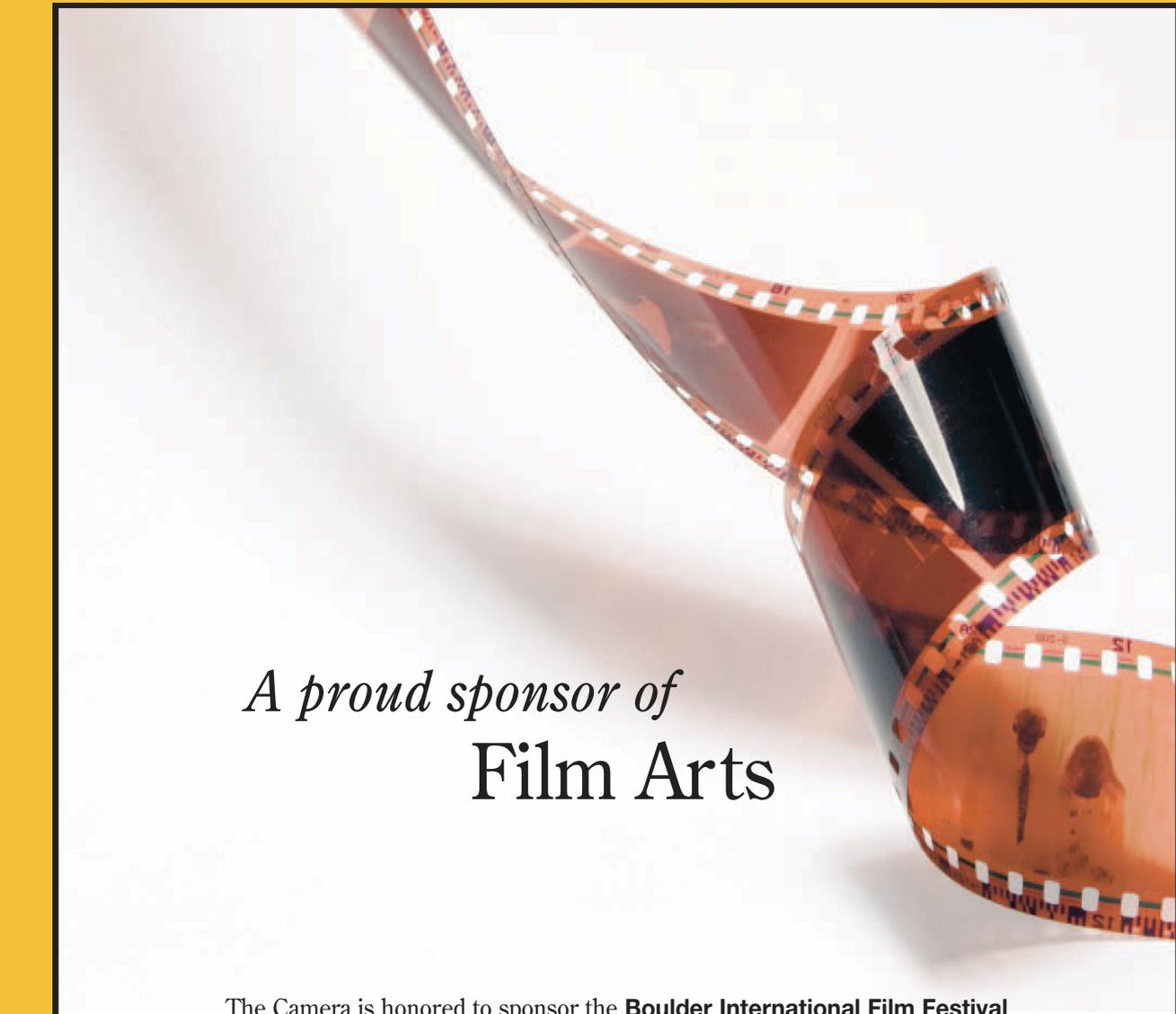
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