



SIXTEENTH ANNUAL
**JAMES RIVER
FILM FESTIVAL**

VIRGINIA'S FESTIVAL FOR THE INDEPENDENT-MINDED

OFFICIAL PROGRAM GUIDE

APRIL 12-19, 2009

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA RMICWEB.ORG

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL JAMES RIVER FILM FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 12

7 p.m. *Body of War*

with director Ellen Spiro
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

Monday, April 13

7 p.m. The Biggest Picture presents an
Environmental Triple Bill!!!!

Cane Toads: An Unnatural History
Lost Worlds: Life In The Balance
The Beekeepers with filmmaker
Richard Robinson
Carver Healing Arts Gallery
Admission Free

Tuesday, April 14

7 p.m. VCUarts Cinema presents
Pierrot le Fou (Crazy Pete)
VCU's Grace Street Theatre
Admission \$6

Wednesday, April 15

7 p.m. Double Bill!!!!

Magic and the Movies and
Short Films by Mary Beth Reed
with filmmaker Mary Beth Reed
Carver Healing Arts Gallery
Admission Free

Thursday, April 16

7 p.m. *My Winnipeg*
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

Friday, April 17

Noon *Greed*

Richmond Public Library, Main Branch,
Basement Auditorium
Admission Free

1 - 4 p.m. Hands on Animation Workshop

with Bruce Bickford
VCU's Pollak Building, Room 305
Admission \$40; VCU students w/ID:
\$20; Limited to 15 people!

4 p.m. Student Films from the Maggie L. Walker

Governor's School Government &
International Studies
The Firehouse Theatre
Admission Free

6 - 7:30 p.m. Virginia Film Office Reception

The Firehouse Theatre
Admission Free

7:30 p.m. JRFJF Juried Competition Finalists

Co-sponsored by the Virginia Film
Office and the Virginia Production
Alliance
The Firehouse Theatre
Admission Free

10:30 p.m. *My Winnipeg*

The Firehouse Theatre
Admission \$6

Midnight *My Blue Star: The Life and Hunchin'*

Times of Hasil "Haze" Adkins
with director Ron Smith
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

Saturday, April 18

10 a.m. 3 Shorts by Christopher Holmes and

Las Hurdes/Land Without Bread
with filmmaker Christopher Holmes
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

Noon *Monster Road* with director Brett Ingram

and claymation master Bruce Bickford
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

2:30 p.m. *The Exiles*

The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

4:30 p.m. *My Blue Star: The Life and Hunchin'*

Times of Hasil "Haze" Adkins
with director Ron Smith
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

8 p.m. Bruce Bickford Double Feature and

WRIR After Party!!!
Prometheus' Garden and *CAS'L*
with musical score written & performed
by Johnny Hott and Coby Batty
Gallery 5
Admission \$10

Midnight *Raiders of the Lost Ark: The Adaptation*

with producer and star Chris Strompolos
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

Sunday, April 19

12:30 p.m. *Rocaterrania*

with director Brett Ingram
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

2 p.m. *Raiders of the Lost Ark: The Adaptation*

with producer and star Chris Strompolos
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

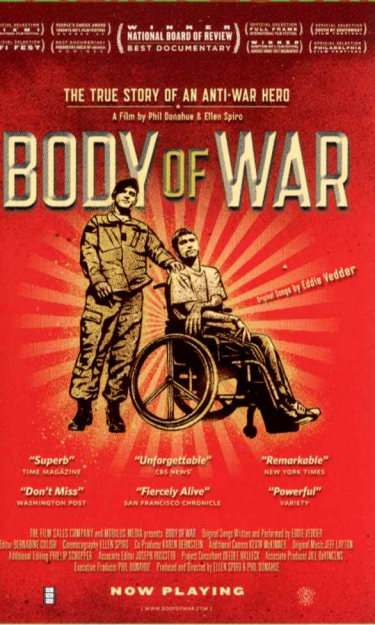
5 p.m. *Stalin Thought of You*

with director Kevin McNeer
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

7 p.m. *Body of War*

Movieland at Boulevard Square
(Bow-Tie Cinemas)
Admission \$6

FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



Sunday, April 12

Body of War (2008, 87 min.)
 with director **Ellen Spiro**
7 p.m., The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

Body of War is an intimate and transformational feature documentary about the true face of war today. Meet Tomas Young, 25 years old, paralyzed from a bullet to his spine – wounded after serving in Iraq for less than a week. *Body of War* is Tomas' coming home story as he evolves into a new person, coming to terms with his disability and finding his own unique and passionate voice against the war. The film is produced and directed by talk show superstar Phil

Donahue and ex-Richmonder Ellen Spiro, and features two original songs by Eddie Vedder. *Body of War* is a naked and honest portrayal of what it's like inside the body, heart and soul of this extraordinary and heroic young man. The People's Choice Award at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival and the National Board of Review's Best Documentary of 2007, *Body of War* is a powerful testament, not only against war, but also to one man's courage to say so. Spiro will be available for a Q&A session after the screening.

Monday, April 13

The Biggest Picture presents an Environmental Triple Bill!!!!

Cane Toads: An Unnatural History (Mark Lewis, 1992, 48 min.)

Lost Worlds: Life In The Balance (Bayley Silleck, 2007, 40 min.)

The Beekeepers with filmmaker **Richard Robinson**

(2008, 28 min., color)

7 p.m., Carver Healing Arts Gallery
Admission Free

In 1935 the devastation wrought by the cane beetle on Queensland's sugar crop pressured the Australian government to import Hawaiian cane toads by the sack load. *Cane Toads* points out that within decades the toads had reproduced at rates to be considered a nuisance, as well as upsetting a delicate ecological balance – one female can lay 40,000 eggs per summer! Introduction of a foreign species, flora or fauna, has become a major issue in the era of globalization. By the way, the toad never really took to the cane beetle – stray dogs were a favorite though. "Humorous, an absolute delight!" – *The New York Times*

Lost Worlds is a visual exploration of the interconnectedness of all species and the growing imbalance between them from locations around the globe.

The Beekeepers is an experimental documentary film that explores Colony Collapse Disorder: due to the changing environment, bees all over the world are dying. With beekeeping threatened with extinction, VCUarts Photography and Film grad Richard Robinson's film charts the history of this



ancient profession, searching for answers to its current plight while daring the documentary form to be as artful and mysterious as its subject. Come see for yourself why *The Beekeepers* was an official selection of the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. Robinson will be available for a Q&A session after the screening. *The Biggest Picture*, Richmond's second annual environmental film festival is scheduled for May 16 and 17 at the Byrd Theatre.

Tuesday, April 14

VCUarts Cinema presents *Pierrot le Fou (Crazy Pete)*

(Jean Luc Godard, 1965, 105 min., color, recent 35mm film print)



**7 p.m., VCU's Grace
Street Theatre
Admission \$6**

Iconoclastic New Wave director Godard returns to the gangster/ bandit-on-the-run genre of *Bande à part* and *Breathless*. In this version a man (Jean-Paul Belmondo) and a woman (Anna Karina) on the run from the Parisian mob live an idyllic existence in the south of France until tragedy strikes in the form of a string of betrayals. Lovingly photographed by Raoul Coutard in Techniscope, the film is highly reflexive, and essentially plotless and scriptless, perhaps the most Godardian of all his films – “a film where there has been no writing, no editing and no sound mixing.” – David A. Cook, *A History of Narrative Film*.

Wednesday, April 15

Double Bill!!!

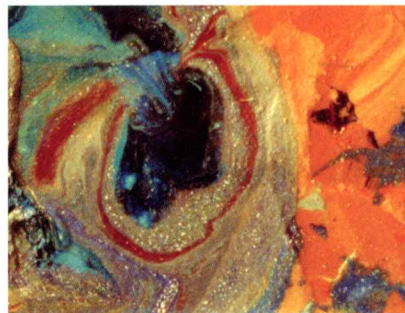
Magic and the Movies (Various short films, Approx. 60 min.)

Short Films by Mary Beth Reed (Various 16mm films, Approx. 50 min.)

with filmmaker Mary Beth Reed

7 p.m., Carver Healing Arts Gallery

Admission Free



According to noted film scholar Erik Barnouw in his book, *The Magician and the Cinema*, “Nineteenth century magicians brought to their profession a zestful appetite for science ... every new scientific invention had magic possibilities. The magician made it his business to stay a step or two ahead of public understanding of science.”

Thus, began the relationship between magicians and the movies. Magicians used magic lanterns and movie projectors to create illusions, which led many of them to explore filmmaking itself. The “trick film” was a staple of early cinema – by turning off the camera you could make someone or something appear or disappear, like magic. This program features a variety of films and filmmakers which highlight this connection between magic and the movies – from early magician-film pioneer, Georges Méliès (*A Trip to the Moon*, 1902), to amateur filmmaker extraordinaire Sid Laverents, whose 1970 film *Multiple SIdosis* was named to the Library of Congress' National Film Registry in 2000. Program introduced by film critic and author Peter Schilling, Jr.

Filmmaker Mary Beth Reed is a recent addition to the faculty of the VCUarts Cinema program, and her films employ a variety of methods – hand painting

and processing, travelling mattes, optically printed imagery both fabricated and found and soundtracks both original and popular. With roots to filmmakers Stan Brakhage (JRFF guest 1996), Richard Myers (JRFF guest 2001), and Bruce Baille to painters like Robert Rauschenberg, her works have been screened in festivals and museums in Europe and the U.S. Films to be screened: *Floating Under a Honey Tree*, *Sandcastle*, *Moose Mountain*, *Sunday Afternoon*, *Collaboration with Stan Brakhage/Garden Path*, and *Montessori Sword Fight*. Reed will be available for a Q&A session after the screening.

Thursday, April 16

My Winnipeg (Guy Maddin, 2008, 78 min.)

7 p.m., The Byrd Theatre

Admission \$6

From the director of *Tales of Gimli Hospital*, *Archangel*, *Careful*, and *The Saddest Music in the World*, comes *My Winnipeg*, a city-symphony film that's part essay, part diary, and hands down, flat out one of the best films of 2008. Maddin's "docu-fantasia" (his term) about his hometown is as personal as it is fanciful – tidbits from the Maddin family closet are woven seamlessly with wild yarns of



Winnipeg's fronturing, using archival and staged footage and layered with the filmmaker's own voice-over in perhaps the most surreal documentary since Luis Buñuel's *Las Hurdes*, aka *Land Without Bread*. *My Winnipeg* is a brilliant, sad, and funny film, starring the late cult actress Ann Savage (*Detour*) as the director's mother.

Friday, April 17

Greed (Erich von Stroheim, 1924, 130 min.)

Noon, Richmond Public Library, Main Branch, Basement Auditorium
Admission Free

Von Stroheim's silent version of novelist Frank Norris' *McTeague* has achieved classic status despite its abridged form – less than one-fourth the running time of nine hours as originally delivered by the director to his Metro studio bosses, and cut ultimately to its present duration. Although much of Stroheim's adaptation of Norris' "naturalist" novel is lost forever, what remains is the wonderful deep focus cinematography by William Daniels, Stroheim's mise-en-scène and location shooting in San Francisco and Death Valley, the acting of legend Zasu Pitts, and the universal nature of *McTeague*'s rise and fall. The film will be introduced by Jim Collier, RMIC board member and Radford professor of media and advertising.



Hands on Animation Workshop with Claymation Master Bruce Bickford

1 - 4 p.m., VCU's Pollak Building, Room 305
Admission \$40; VCU students w/ID: \$20
Limited to 15 people!

Claymation master Bruce Bickford will conduct

three-hour, hands-on workshop, sharing the techniques he's developed over a lifetime of work. Reserve your spot by emailing james@rmicweb.org. Workshop is limited to 15 people!

Student Films from the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School Government & International Studies

4 p.m., The Firehouse Theatre

Admission Free

Introduced by instructor Todd Raviotta, this free program is a selection of films by the past two years of students in his Senior Seminar in Digital Filmmaking at Maggie Walker, where the focus is not so much on the technology as it is on the storytelling and personal expression. The screening will be followed by a Q&A session with the student filmmakers!

Virginia Film Office Reception

6 - 7:30 p.m., The Firehouse Theatre

Admission Free

Join us for hors d'oeuvres and drinks courtesy of the Virginia Film Office and meet this year's guests! Open to the public. (Cash bar)

JRFF Juried Competition Finalists (Approx. 90 min.)

Co-sponsored by the Virginia Film Office and the Virginia Production Alliance

7:30 p.m., The Firehouse Theatre

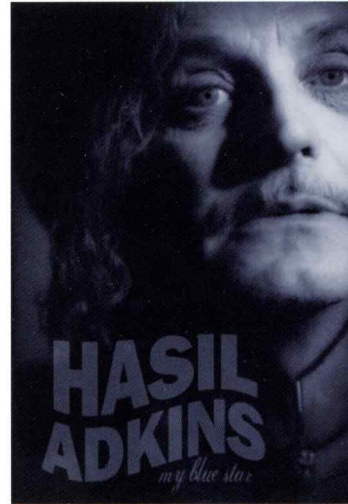
Admission Free

Every year the James River Film Festival, the Virginia Film Office and the Virginia Production Alliance co-sponsor a national juried competition of short films in any genre – animation, drama, experimental, documentary. And every year we screen the jurors' selections and award \$2,000 in prizes, including the People's Choice Award. This year's competition is juried by Robert "Ebert" Ellis, our resident JRFF critic; Jim Collier, professor of media at Radford University; Patrick Gregory, filmmaker and professional cinematographer; Jere Kittle, filmmaker and web designer; Trent Nicholas, adjunct professor of film studies in VCU's Department of Art History; and Janet Scagnelli, for many years a

professional animator in New York and Richmond. Since 1994, the James River Film Festival has awarded more than \$26,000 to independent filmmakers in Virginia and states nationwide.

This year the finalists are:

Jennida Chase, *Strange Fits of Passion We Have Known*, 2 min., Richmond, VA
Dan Currier, *Labeled*, 10 min., Richmond, VA
Tom Dziedzic, *Redemption Stone*, 30 min., Falls Church, VA
Jacob Dodd, *Tide*, 10 min., Richmond, VA
Montres Henderson, *I Play for Her*, 6 min., RoanokeVA
Derek Meyer, *Carry On*, 8 min., FL
Dan Nelson, *Mother There*, 2 min., Richmond, VA
Joshua Nicholson, *Hazelnut*, 8 min., Virginia Beach, VA
Joseph Rohrs, *Snowed*, 13:30 min., Virginia Beach, VA
Okamoto Yasuhiro, *Monster*, 13:30 min., JAPAN



My Winnipeg (Guy Maddin, 2008, 78 min.)

10:30 p.m., The Firehouse Theatre
Admission \$6

See Thursday, 7:00 p.m. description.

My Blue Star: The Life and Hunchin' Times of Hasil

"Haze" Adkins (2009, 75 min.)

with director Ron Smith
Midnight, The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

According to Richmond filmmaker Ron Smith, "Hasil Adkins is the Godfather of Psychobilly, the King of Appalachian Punk, a Hillbilly Blues Savant and the World's Greatest One-man Band."



The Exiles

(Kent Mackenzie, 1961, 72 min.)

**2:30 p.m., The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6**

Selected for the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival, *The Exiles* (1961) is an incredible feature film by Kent Mackenzie chronicling a day in the life of a group of twenty-something Native Americans who left reservation life in the 1950s to live in the district of Bunker Hill, Los Angeles, California. Bunker Hill was then a blighted residential locality of decayed Victorian mansions, sometimes featured in the writings of Raymond Chandler, John Fante and Charles Bukowski. The structure of

the film is that of a narrative feature, the script pieced together from interviews with the documentary subjects. Despite (or because of) the fact that no other films at the time were (and still very few now are) depicting Native American peoples (aside from the overblown stereotypes in Westerns) let alone urban Native Americans, *The Exiles* could not find a distributor willing to risk putting it out theatrically, and so over the years it fell into obscurity, known and loved by cinephiles and admired for its originality and honesty by such Native American filmmakers as Chris Eyres (*Smoke Signals*, 1998) and Ben-alex Dupris (experimental filmmaker and writer) but remaining largely unseen to the public, including communities like the ones depicted in the film. Milestone's 2008 theatrical release provided the opportunity to redeem this fact and the James River Film Festival brings it to Richmond for the first time – don't miss this rare cinematic treat!

My Blue Star: The Life and Hunchin' Times of Hasil "Haze" Adkins (2009, 75 min.) **with director Ron Smith**

**4:30 p.m., The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6**

See Friday midnight description.

Bruce Bickford Double Feature and WRIR After Party!!!

Prometheus' Garden (1988, 28 min.) **and CAS'L** (2008, 47 min.)

with musical score written & performed by Johnny Hott and Coby Batty

**8:00 p.m., Gallery 5
Admission \$10**



Best known for his collaborations with rock iconoclast Frank Zappa in the 1970s (*Dub Room Special*, *Baby Snakes*, *The Amazing Mr. Bickford*), underground animator Bruce Bickford has influenced generations of artists with his startlingly original vision. Join us for a double feature of Bickford's post-Zappa work.

Prometheus' Garden (1988, 28 minutes) is the only completed film over which Bickford maintained complete creative control. Except for a handful of select screenings, the film has resided in the basement of the reclusive Bickford for two decades. Inspired by the Greek myth of Prometheus, a Titan who

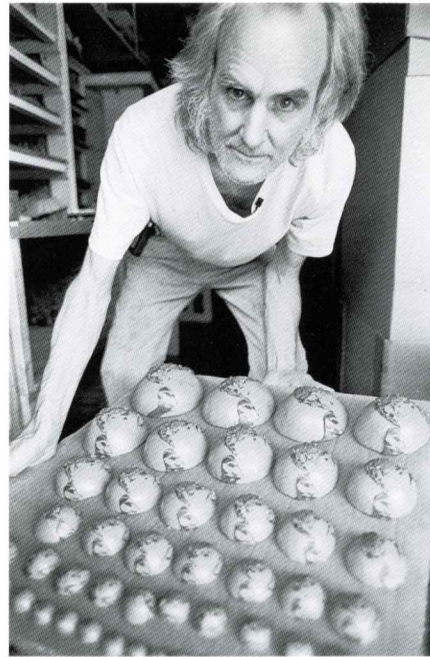
Smith says he never planned on making a documentary about legendary bad boy Hasil Adkins, “but after Hasil passed (in 2005) I had all this footage and friends said, ‘Ron, you got to do something with it,’ so I put together what I had.” Smith had earlier sent Adkins a painting he’d done of him and when the singer called up to order more, a friendship sprouted. “Sometimes he’d call me up at 3 a.m. and play a song he’d just written, and I visited him lots of times in the hollow where he lived in West Virginia.” Screening as a work-in-progress, Smith’s film utilizes talking heads and performance footage as well as plenty of on-camera time for the show’s star. Smith will be available for a Q&A session after the screening.



Saturday, April 18

**3 Shorts by Christopher Holmes
and *Las Hurdes/Land Without
Bread* (Luis Buñuel, 1932, 27 min.) with
filmmaker Christopher Holmes
10 a.m., The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6**

NC-based filmmaker Christopher Holmes won the top prize in JRFF’s juried show in 2005 for *Fence Dogs*, and was a finalist two other years. Recently returned from Slamfest in Park City, Utah, the filmmaker will show his previous entries as well as surrealist director Luis Buñuel’s 1932 documentary, *Las Hurdes/Land without Bread*, “the only film I could think of off the top of my head that would complement my own films. I can’t figure out how I’m supposed to interpret *Las Hurdes*, which is why I think I like it so much.” Holmes will screen *Fence Dogs* (10 min.): One man’s search for a lost dog unearths a Southern town after a deadly fire; *Arrowhead* (24 min.): Two rural eccentrics battle over rights to a coveted arrowhead in this allegory of manifest destiny; and *Sapsucker* (12 min.): One man’s crusade to dispatch a rare woodpecker leads him to discover an ecology of sight and sound that’s more than he bargained for. Holmes will be available for a Q&A session after the screening.



Monster Road
(Brett Ingram, 2004, 80 min.)
**with claymation master
Bruce Bickford and
director Brett Ingram
Noon, The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6**

Documentary filmmaker Brett Ingram is out of Raleigh, NC but his quarry here is reclusive claymation master Bruce Bickford out of Seattle. Bickford’s work for Frank Zappa’s videos (*Baby Snakes*, *The Amazing Mr. Bickford*) made him an underground celebrity, but Ingram’s film looks beyond the works into the artist’s life that created them. From family dialectics (his father was a very successful engineer)

thru playground politics to a tour of Vietnam, we see Bickford’s response in a miniature world – sublime, violent and uncertain. Ingram’s profile is both probing and empathetic, and the footage of father and son memorable and affirming. *Monster Road* is as informative in its way as Zwigoff’s *Crumb* and perhaps indispensable to an understanding of Bickford’s art. Bickford and Ingram will be available for a Q&A session after the screening.

We will also screen Brett Ingram’s animated short, *Spent* (1994, 7 min.) and Bruce Bickford’s line animation *The Comic That Frenches Your Mind* (2008, 5 min.).

created the first mortals from clay and stole fire from the gods, *Prometheus' Garden* immerses viewers in a cinematic universe unlike any other. The dark and magical images of this haunting film unfold in a dreamlike stream of consciousness revealing an unlikely cast of clay characters engaged in a violent struggle for survival. Enchanted forests, animated torture chambers, hamburgers that morph into mythical monsters, and epic battles between giants, fairies, and anachronistic historical figures populate just a small corner of Bickford's animated universe.

The main event is a rare film performance – a screening of Bickford's silent opus, *CAS'L*, with a score written and performed live by Richmond's very own Johnny Hott and Coby Batty. Bickford describes *CAS'L* this way: "Mercenaries and other obnoxious brutes are trying to muscle in on the castle territory. They're looking for trouble and find it; stray energies morph them into grotesque bulbous heads. The conquistadors and barbarians of the castle are smoking the wrong brand of cigarettes, causing them to commit random violence – even against each other. Some little people and fairy folk defeat many of them." JRFF guest filmmakers Bruce Bickford and Brett Ingram (*Monster Road*) will introduce the program.



Immediately following the performance, media sponsor WRIR 97.3 FM will host a JRFF after party with WRIR dj Mary Claire.

Raiders of the Lost Ark: The Adaptation

(Made from 1982-1989, Premiered May 2003, 100 min.)

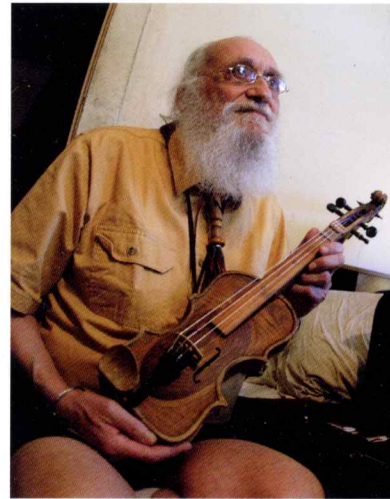
with producer Chris Stropoulos

**Midnight, The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6**

A shot-for-shot remake of *Raiders of the Lost Ark* produced and directed by



three boys from the Mississippi Gulf Coast – Eric Zala, Jayson Lamb and Chris Stropoulos – over 20 years ago. The trio of 10-year-olds began shooting in the summer of 1982 and wrapped seven years later. This remake has everything – the rolling boulder, the live snakes, the heart-thudding truck sequence, and everywhere flames, flames, flames. With a few inventive substitutions – a puppy dog stands in for a monkey, a boat for a plane – they didn't skimp on production value by including a submarine, a truck on fire, a melting face, the same copy of a 1936 *Life* magazine used in the original. Stropoulos will be available for a Q&A session after the screening.



Sunday, April 19

Rocaterrania (2009, 74 min.)

with director Brett Ingram

**12:30 p.m., The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6**

Director Brett Ingram first noticed the subject of his most recent documentary on a bus in Raleigh years ago – an eccentrically dressed gentleman who spoke to the driver with a hint of German accent. Two years later as new videographer at NC's Natural History Museum he actually met the man – Renaldo Kuhler, a scientific illustrator at the museum.

Eventually Kuhler showed him his secret creation – an illustrated, incredibly detailed history of a magical kingdom known as *Rocaterrania*, which he'd been working on for over fifty years! *Rocaterrania* premiered in February in NYC, and is being hailed as an important revelation of "outsider art." Ingram will be available for a Q&A session after the screening.

RAIDERS

of the **LOST ARK**
: the **ADAPTATION**

Raiders of the Lost Ark: The Adaptation

(Made from 1982-1989, Premiered May 2003, 100 min.)

with producer and star **Chris Stropoulos**

2 p.m., The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

See Saturday, midnight description.

Stalin Thought of You (2008, 58 min.)

with director **Kevin McNeer**

5 p.m., The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$6

An in-depth look at Russia's greatest political cartoonist, Boris Efimov, who died last year at the age of 108. A close friend and supporter of Leon Trotsky (there is home movie footage of the two), Boris later finds himself working under Stalin. Tension builds when Efimov is further compromised by the certainty that Stalin had his journalist brother killed. Richmond native McNeer befriended the cartoonist in his later years, and was given access to Efimov's home movies, which gives the audience a look inside the Red Curtain like never before, i.e. shots of Stalin supervising the cartoonist at work! Presented in the U.S. for the first time courtesy of the director and the JRF. McNeer will be available for a Q&A session after the screening.

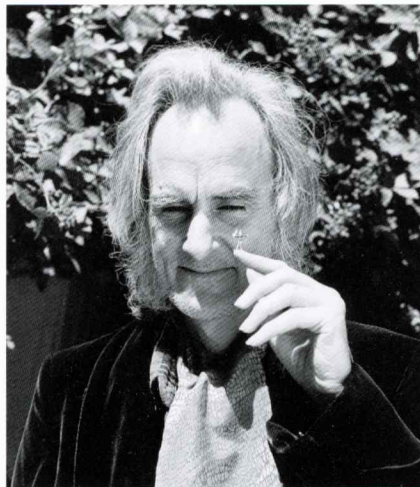
Body of War (Phil Donahue & Ellen Spiro, 2008, 87 min.)

7 p.m., Movieland at Boulevard Square (Bow-Tie Cinemas)
Admission \$6

See Sunday, April 12th description.

ABOUT THE GUESTS

Coby Batty is a native of Richmond. As a young boy he spent several years in the starring role of Amal in the Christmas production of "Amal and the Night Visitors." He has enjoyed success as a part of the GriefBirds, the Fugs, NRGKrysis and his new project, Prongtong.



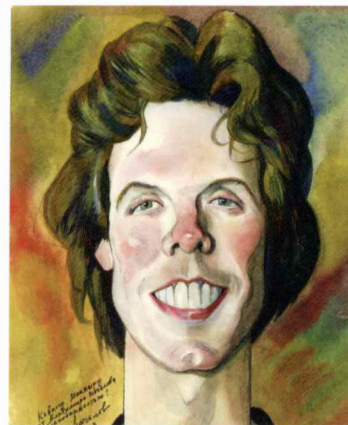
Bruce Bickford was born in Seattle in 1947. Inspired by Willis O'Brien's animation in *King Kong* and the work of Ray Harryhausen, Bickford began animating in the mid-1960s. After a tour of duty in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine, he sought work as an animator in California where he met rock musician Frank Zappa. After a six-year collaboration with Zappa in the 1970s, Bickford returned to Seattle where he has lived since. Following the completion of *Prometheus' Garden* in 1988, Bickford has created several hours of clay and line animation, none of which have been fully completed. In 2004, Bickford appeared in the award-winning documentary feature, *Monster Road* (directed by Brett Ingram), about his life and work.



Christopher Holmes currently teaches film at UNC-Greensboro and was a finalist in three previous JRFF juried competitions, including Grand Prize in 2005 with *Fence Dogs*. His films have played the Milano (Italy), Indie-Memphis, Anchorage and Slamfest Film Festivals as well as PBS-TV in North and South Carolina.

Johnny Hott was raised in Richmond on drum corps and country music. He was a founding member of House of Freaks, Famous Actors From Out of Town, Chez Roue and his current new project, Prongtong.

Formerly an electrical engineer on the Space Shuttle Main Engine Program, **Brett Ingram** exchanged his pocket protector for a movie camera in 1990. His first documentary feature, *Monster Road*, won sixteen awards (including “Best Documentary” at the 2004 Slamdance Film Festival) and premiered on Sundance Channel in 2005. A 2007 Guggenheim Fellow, Ingram teaches filmmaking in the Media Studies Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Ingram’s second documentary feature, *Rocaterrania*, premiered at Cinequest San Jose Film Festival in February 2009.



Kevin McNeer is a native Richmonder and graduate of St. Christopher’s High School. He studied filmmaking in Moscow and currently lives and works there as a professional filmmaker.

Mary Beth Reed studied film under Phil Solomon and Stan Brakhage at University of Colorado-Boulder, and later earned MFAs at Bard College and California Institute of the Arts. Her films have been screened at the Museum of Modern Art, New York Film Festival’s Avant Garde sidebar and in Europe with filmmaker Courtney Hoskins.

Richard Robinson is an award-winning photographer based near Charlottesville, Virginia. His still photography has appeared in numerous publications, including *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Time*, and *The Washington Post Magazine*, and has been exhibited nationally. Robinson earned his MFA in Photography and Film at VCU (December 2008), and his thesis film, *The Beekeepers*, was his directorial debut as a filmmaker and an official selection at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. Robinson first learned beekeeping in Zutphen, the Netherlands, more than twenty years ago.

Peter Schilling Jr. is a Minnesota-based novelist and film critic. His work has appeared in *The Rake* magazine and the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, as well as his own blog, *The Bug* (www.mudvillemagazine.com/bug/weblog.php). He is the author of the acclaimed novel, *The End of Baseball*, and is currently at work on both a graphic and conventional novel.

Ron Thomas Smith also hails from Richmond and has worked in video production for over fifteen years with clients including Bill Clinton, the Dalai Lama and Hank Williams III. He is currently working on an MTV-reality show on West Virginia folk artist Jesco White.



For two decades, **Ellen Spiro** has created award-winning documentaries including *Diana's Hair Ego*, *Greetings from out Here*, *Roam Sweet Home*, *Atomic Ed & the Black Hole*, *Are the Kids Alright?* and *TROOP 1500*. She built her reputation doing small-scale unobtrusive productions – often as a one-woman crew. She is noted for her ability to bring a sense of humor and warm humanism to her social-justice themes. An Austin, TX resident now, she spent her adolescent years in Richmond, where her father is on the faculty of VCU. Her films have been televised worldwide and are in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art, and she is the recipient of Guggenheim, Rockefeller and NEA fellowships.

Chris Strompolos, Eric Zala and Jayson Lamb met while attending Christ Episcopal Day School, an elementary school in South Mississippi, at ages 9–10. When Chris saw the movie *Raiders of the Lost Ark* when it was released in 1981, he was completely captivated by the movie's adventurous spirit and taken with the character of Indiana Jones. He came up with the idea to remake

the film, with himself playing the part of Indiana Jones. On the Mississippi Gulf Coast from 1982–1989 while remaking *Raiders of the Lost Ark* in the summers, Chris developed a passion for acting and producing. During the school year however, Chris attended a boarding academy for six years on the north shore of Long Island, New York, and he went on to complete his degree in Theater and Production at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio, Class of 1993. He came to Los Angeles in 1994 to pursue the common creative dream of being an entertainer, producer and writer and has successfully navigated his way into and learned the ins and outs of multiple entertainment industries: the video game industry, the music industry and the film business. Recently, Eric and Chris founded an independent film company aptly named “Rolling Boulder Films.”



LOCATIONS

The Byrd Theatre, 2908 West Cary Street (in Carytown)

Carver Healing Arts Gallery, 1208 West Marshall Street
(behind VCU's Siegel Center)

The Firehouse Theatre, 1609 West Broad Street (at Lombardy & Broad)
Gallery 5, 200 W. Marshall Street

Movieland at Boulevard Square (Bow-Tie Cinemas), 1301 North Boulevard
at West Leigh Street

Richmond Public Library, Main Branch, 101 East Franklin Street
(basement auditorium)

VCU's Grace Street Theater, 934 West Grace Street

VCU's Pollak Building, 325 North Harrison Street

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Jim Collier, Robert Ellis, Patrick Gregory, Michael Harl, Christopher Hibben,
Michael Jones, Jere Kittle, Trent Nicholas, James Parrish, Jeff Roll, Ted Salins,
Janet Scagnelli and John Wade.

SPECIAL THANKS

John Mhiripiri and Anthology Film Archives; Irby Brown; Joe Masher,
Spencer Klein and Bow-Tie Cinemas; Todd Schall-Vess and The Byrd Theatre;
Elizabeth Southard and the Carver Healing Arts Gallery; Ward Teft and
Chop Suey Books; Melissa Gropman, Stephen Harris and The Firehouse Theatre;
Amanda Robinson and Gallery 5; Todd Raviotta and the Maggie L. Walker
Governor's School for Government & International Studies; Jim Bland and
Plan 9 Music; Donna Pletcher, Lee Church and the Richmond Public Library,
Main Branch; Bill and Bertie Selvey; Jim Stramel; Rob Tregenza and VCUarts
Cinema; John Venable; Doug MacDonald and Video Fan; Rita McClenny,
Mary Nelson and the Virginia Film Office; Ellie St. John and the Virginia Production
Alliance; Amy Heller, Dennis Doros and Milestone Film & Video; Michael Harl,
Alyssa Salomon, Liz Humes and WRIR.

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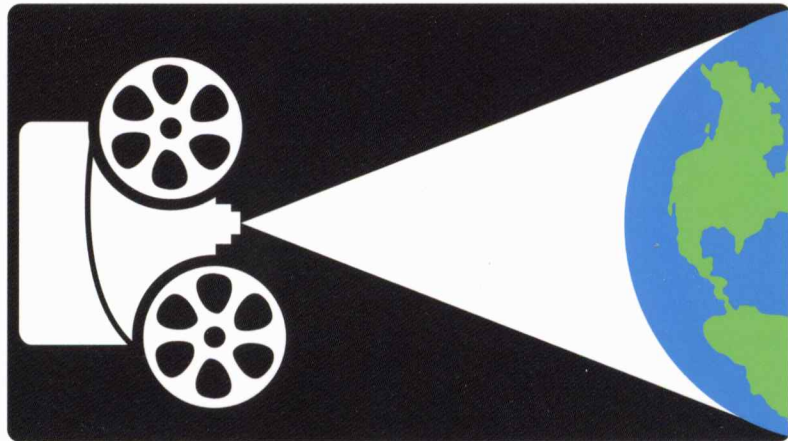
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