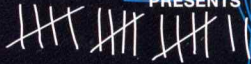




**JAMES RIVER
FILM SOCIETY**
PRESENTS



JAMES

FILM

FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL

Virginia's festival for the independent-minded
MARCH 19 - 25, 2010 - RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

RMICWEB.ORG



THE FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

10 a.m. *For Memories' Sake* and *Quick Feet, Soft Hands* with filmmakers Ashley Maynor and Paul Harrill
Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

Noon *Wild Blue Yonder* with co-director Celia Maysles!
Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

2 p.m. *An Unlikely Weapon: The Eddie Adams Story* with producer and ex-Richmonder Cindy Lou Adkins!
Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

4 p.m. *I AM COMIC* - with director Jordan Brady and narrator/interviewer Rich Shynder
Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

7 p.m. *An Evening with Jem Cohen*
Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

9:30 p.m. *Patti Smith: Dream of Life*
Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

1 p.m. *Virginia Creepers: The Horror Host Tradition of the Old Dominion* with directors Sean Kotz & Chris Valluzzo, Bill Bowman (The Bowman Body), Mark Bartholomew (Dr. Gruesome) & Matt Pak (Skeeter),

Craig T. Adams (Uncle Felonious and other characters on Dr. Madblood), Rick Clark (The Keeper), John Dimes (Dr. Sarcofiguy) and Jerry Moore (Karlos Borloff)
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$5

4 p.m. *The Hidden Fortress* Restored 35 mm print!
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$5

6:30 p.m. *Benjamin Smoke* with filmmaker Jem Cohen
VCU Grace Street Theatre
Admission \$5

8:30 p.m. *The Lady from Shanghai* on 35mm! with guest critic Peter Schilling
VCU Grace Street Theatre
Admission \$5

MONDAY, MARCH 22

6:30 p.m. *The Charles Bukowski Tapes, Part I* (Note: Part II plays Tues., 3/23, 8:30 pm)
The Firehouse Theatre
Admission \$5

8:30 p.m. The Biggest Picture presents a Big River Double Feature: *Big River* and *Big River Man*
The Firehouse Theatre
Admission Free

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

6:30 p.m. *Infinite Animation: The Life and Work of Adam Beckett*
The Firehouse Theatre
Admission \$5

8:30 pm *The Charles Bukowski Tapes, Part II* (Note: Part I plays Monday, 3/22, 6:30 pm)
The Firehouse Theatre
Admission \$5

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

6:30 pm *The Builder* with co-writer/director Rick Alverson
The Firehouse Theatre
Admission \$5

9:30 p.m. *The Secret To A Happy Ending: A documentary about the Drive-By Truckers* - with director Barr Weissman and artist Wes Freed
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$5

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

The James River Film Festival and the VCU/UR French Film Festival present ...

6:30 p.m. *Marching Band* - with French director H el ena Cotinier, French producer Annie Miller and production manager and Richmonder Isaac Regelson
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$5 (free to French Film Festival Pass holders)

9 p.m. *Les plages d'Agn s/The Beaches of Agn s* - Richmond Premiere on 35 mm!
The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$5 (free to French Film Festival pass holders)

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

2 p.m. *Poe & the Avant-garde: The Fall of the House of Usher*
Richmond Public Library, Main Branch, Basement Auditorium
Admission Free

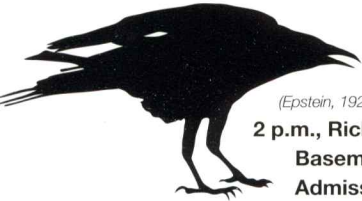
5 p.m. *Virginia Film Office Reception*
Plant Zero Art Center
Admission Free (Cash bar)

6:30 p.m. *JRFF Juried Competition Finalists* Co-sponsored by the Virginia Film Office and Virginia Production Alliance
Plant Zero Art Center
Admission Free

8:30 p.m. *Georges M li s meets Hotel X Live!*
Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

10:30 p.m. *Fugazi: Instrument* with filmmaker Jem Cohen!
Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

FRIDAY, MARCH 19



**Poe & the Avant-garde:
*The Fall of the House of Usher***

(Epstein, 1928, 50 min., silent) (Watson and Webber, 1928, 13 min., silent)

**2 p.m., Richmond Public Library, Main Branch,
Basement Auditorium
Admission Free**

Edgar Allen Poe's *The Fall of the House of Usher* was the source of two experimental film adaptations in 1928, in France and in the U.S. The best known is by French director Jean Epstein, who also cited as a source Poe's *The Oval Portrait* – surreal, atmospheric, very avant. The American version, by James Sibley Watson and Melville Webber, is an attempt to capture the mood of Poe's tale through optical distortions, prismatic refractions, shadows and multiple exposures. Introduced by Michael Jones.

Virginia Film Office Reception

**5 - 6:30 p.m., Plant Zero Art Center
Free (Cash bar)**

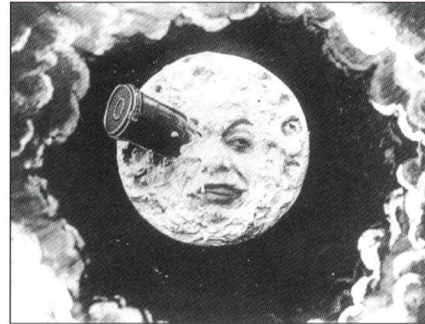
Meet and mingle with festival guests and volunteers, area filmmakers, professionals and film enthusiasts over hors d'oeuvres and beverages courtesy of the Virginia Film Office. Open to the public.



JRFF Juried Competition Finalists (Approx. 107 min.)

**Co-sponsored by the Virginia Film Office
and Virginia Production Alliance
6:30 p.m., Plant Zero Art Center
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, narrative, experimental, documentary. This year's jurors are Jim Collier, professor of media at Radford University; Robert Ellis, JRFF critic-at-large; Megan Holley, screenwriter/filmmaker; Trent Nicholas, adjunct professor of film studies, Virginia Commonwealth University; Janet Scagnelli, animator/filmmaker. This year's finalists are: **Karen Aqua** (*Twist of Fate*, 9 min.), **David Ellsworth** (*Surface Kinetic*, 14 min.), **Erik Gernand** (*Non-Love Song*, 8 min.), **Dennis Iannuzzi** (*Vitruvius' Toybox*, 6 min.), **Barton Landsman** (*Banana Bread*, 9 min.), **Richard Martin** (*Apart*, 8 min.), **Hans Montelius** (*Mannen med kulorna*, 15 min.), **Jeffrey Jon Smith** (*The Miracle*, 29 min.), **J. Darin Wales** (*Plink*, 9 min.). After the screening, the jury will announce the awards, including the Virginia Filmmaker Award and the populist People's Choice Award. Since 1994 the JRFF has awarded more than \$28,000 to independent filmmakers!

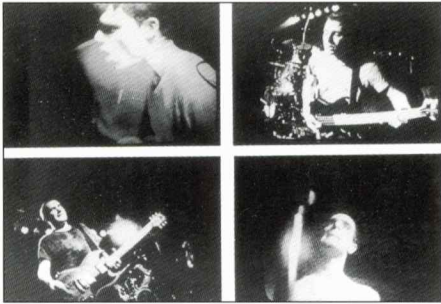


**Georges Méliès meets
Hotel X Live!**

**8:30 p.m., Plant Zero
Art Center
Admission \$5**

The French father of special effects meets Richmond's most versatile ensemble – only the highflying Hotel X can match the daring feats of illusionary agility achieved by one of the

greatest artists of the primitive film era – Georges Méliès, magician and pioneer filmmaker. Méliès made more than 400 films in his career, almost all in the fantasy realm, and is best known for the first international blockbuster, *A Trip to the Moon* (1902). Tonight's program features these less often seen, magical Méliès masterpieces: *The Impossible Voyage*, *The Black Imp*, *The Wonderful Living Fan* and *The Mermaid*.



Fugazi: Instrument

(Jem Cohen, 1999, 115 min.)

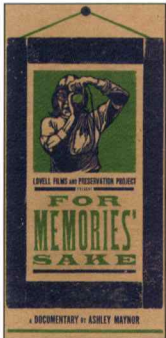
with filmmaker Jem Cohen!
10:30 p.m.

Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

Filmed between 1988-1997, Cohen's slice-of-Fugazi-life is comprised of interviews, early benefits and concerts, news bites and dreamy,

associative images of road life. A true collaboration between Cohen and the activist hardcore band from DC, *Instrument* has an organic feel, as if formed by the band and the music as much as by the filmmaker. Highlights include the band at Lorton Correctional Institute, Ian swinging and singing from a basketball goal during a high school show and hypnotic sequences of Fugazi fans in close-up. Jem Cohen will be on hand to introduce the film and to answer questions afterward.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20



For Memories' Sake

(Ashley Maynor, 2009, 29 min.)

Quick Feet, Soft Hands

(Paul Harrill, 2008, 26 min.)

with filmmakers Ashley Maynor
and Paul Harrill

10 a.m., Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

Filmmaker Maynor reveals the rather extraordinary life of a seemingly ordinary woman, Southern housewife and grandma, Angela Singer. Yet this

Southern homemaker has taken an average of 12 photos daily for 35 years, amassing a remarkable archive of 150,000 pictures of family and friends; this personal archive becomes the focus in this moving generational portrait of life and love. "A particular and universal story." – Tom Rankin, Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University.

Set against the backdrop of our national pastime, Award winning filmmaker Paul Harrill's latest film, *Quick Feet, Soft Hands*, follows a young couple's pursuit of the American Dream. Greta Gerwig (*Baghead, Hannah Takes the Stairs*) stars as Lisa, a young woman whose hopes of moving up are tied to Jim, a minor league baseball player. As Jim falls deeper into a batting slump, the couple must cope with the day-to-day realities of being young and poor. And they must confront the prospect that they may never make it to the big leagues. "American viewers addicted to plot and action in their films stand to learn a lot from the work of Paul Harrill. ... He restores mystery to the events of our everyday lives – not the bogus mystery of who-did-it, but the genuine, unfathomable mystery of what we are and why we do the things we do." – Ray Carney, film critic and author. Ashley Maynor and Paul Harrill will be on hand for a Q&A session following the film.

Filmmakers Salon! Following the Q&A filmmakers are invited to participate in a more intimate discussion with Ashley and Paul – we'll move to the Plant Zero Café for coffee and conversation about the joys and challenges of what Paul refers to as "self-reliant filmmaking."



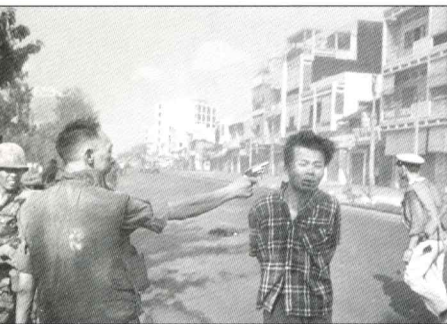
Wild Blue Yonder

(Celia Maysles and Charlene Rule, 2009, 75 min.)

with director Celia Maysles!
Noon, Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5

Autobiographical interrogation of filmmaker Maysles and her relationship with father David Maysles, who with brother Albert produced some of the most

important American documentaries of the '60s and '70s – *Salesman*, *Gimme Shelter*, *Grey Gardens*. The Maysles worked in an American vein of cinema verité they dubbed “direct cinema.” Daughter Celia strives to establish contact with her father’s memory (he died when she was seven) and his career through family and friends – as revealing of familial relations as her father’s and Uncle Al’s *Grey Gardens* (1975).



An Unlikely Weapon: The Eddie Adams Story

(Susan Morgan Cooper, 2009, 85 min.)

**with producer and
ex-Richmonder
Cindy Lou Adkins!**

**2 p.m., Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5**

An Unlikely Weapon is an insightful profile of late Pulitzer-winning photojournalist Eddie

Adams, whose fame rested largely on a single photograph he took in the streets of 1968 Saigon. One of the most-recognized photographs of the 20th century – a Vietcong prisoner being executed by Saigon police – changed history and the life of the man who took it. His brilliant career spanned thirteen wars and the biggest names in entertainment and politics, but somehow that never seemed enough for the iconoclastic Adams. Narration by Kiefer Sutherland; interviews with Tom Brokaw, Gordon Parks and Peter Jennings. Producer and ex-Richmonder Cindy Lou Adkins will be present for a Q&A after the screening.

I AM COMIC *(Jordan Brady, 2009, 86 min.)*

**with director Jordan Brady and narrator/interviewer Rich Shydner
4 p.m., Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5**

Through candid interviews and privileged backstage access, director Brady explores the world of the working comedian. Featuring Sarah



Silverman, Jeff Foxworthy, Tim Allen, David Attell, Kathy Griffin, Janeane Garofalo, Louis C.K., Phyllis Diller and others. We also track retired stand-up Rich Shydner’s comeback – big in the 1980s, he tries to make it with new audiences after a thirteen year absence. Introduced by John Porter. Mr. Brady and Mr. Shydner will be on hand for a Q&A after the screening.

An Evening with Jem Cohen!

**7 p.m., Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5**

Jem Cohen is a New York-based filmmaker/media artist whose works are built from his own ongoing archive of street footage, portraits, and sound. His films and installations often navigate the grey area between documentary, narrative, and experimental genres. Cohen has worked extensively with musicians including Godspeed You Black Emperor!, Fugazi, Vic Chesnutt, the Ex, Terry Riley, Elliott Smith, R.E.M., Sparklehorse, and the Orpheus Orchestra. Join Jem

Cohen for a rare treat – a personally guided tour through his body of work, featuring a selection of short films handpicked by Cohen himself.



Patti Smith: Dream of Life

(Steven Sebring, 2009, 109 min.)

**9:30 p.m., Plant Zero Art Center
Admission \$5**

Director Sebring's acclaimed documentary portrait of poet/musician Patti Smith was in production for over a decade. Shooting in 16mm black and white, Sebring chronicles Smith

at home, on the road, at concerts and readings. While coping with the loss of husband Fred, friends Allen Ginsberg and Robert Mapplethorpe, Smith returns to the stage, immersing herself in her work and the causes she champions. The director, who claimed never to have watched a rock-doc before, offers up a rare glimpse into the life of revered, generational icon Patti Smith.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21



Virginia Creepers: The Horror Host Tradition of the Old Dominion

(Sean Kotz & Chris Valluzzo, 2009, 120 min.)

with directors Sean Kotz & Chris Valluzzo, Bill Bowman (The Bowman Body), Mark Bartholomew (Dr. Gruesome) & Matt Pak (Skeeter), Craig T. Adams (Uncle Felonious and

other characters on Dr. Madblood), Rick Clark (The Keeper), John Dimes (Dr. Sarcofiguy) and Jerry Moore (Karlos Borloff)

**1 p.m., The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$5**

For more than 50 years the hosted horror late-night movie was a Friday or Saturday tradition in every Virginia television market. The feature was inevitably a B-movie, the cornier the better, but not nearly as corny as the hosts themselves! This doc takes you back to the days of local, live television with photos, interviews, sound bites, and clips thought to be lost forever – lively and funny, a walk down memory lane of nightmarish proportions. See Bowman play his ukulele and hum the theme song once again – fun for kids of all ages! DVD signing and panel discussion the directors and horror shows hosts after – meet the Bowman Body in person! Introduced by John Porter.



The Hidden Fortress

(Akira Kurosawa, 1958, 126 min., b&w, in Japanese w/subtitles)

**Restored 35 mm print!
4 p.m., The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$5**

In commemoration of Japanese director Akira Kurosawa's birthday centennial, we're proud to present *The Hidden Fortress*, the inspiration

behind George Lucas' *Star Wars* and one of his most popular and accessible films. Quick synopsis: In the 16th century, a cynical samurai (Mifune) is hired to escort disguised princess (Chiaki) and two clownish sidekicks (think Chewbacca and R2D2!) through the enemy's kingdom. An avowed fan of American action directors John Ford and Howard Hawks, Kurosawa shows their influence here with this charming blend of suspense, action and comedy. George Lucas says, "Kurosawa's ability to transform a vision into a powerful work of art is unparalleled." Francis Ford Coppola called Kurosawa "One of the greatest directors ever to work in the cinema." A treat for all ages!



Benjamin Smoke

(Jem Cohen, 2000, 73 min.)

with filmmaker Jem Cohen
6:30 p.m.

VCU Grace Street Theatre
Admission \$5

This profile of Atlanta-based rocker Benjamin Smoke (who died in 1999 at age 39), falls somewhere on the fringe of Werner Herzog's documentary subjects and Harmony Korine's Gummo, for both gravitate to the outsider – often in extremis – as subject. Robert Dickerson is the charismatic Benjamin

Smoke, a sometimes drag queen whose love of Patti Smith records and a desire to become an artist and rocker led to a bubble of fame in Georgia and underground circles. Smoke's story is heroic and inspirational, and director Cohen captures his subject with compassion and respect.



The Lady from Shanghai on 35mm!

(Orson Welles, 1948, 87 mins.)

with guest film critic
Peter Schilling
8:30 p.m.

VCU Grace Street Theatre
Admission \$5

Like the best films noir, *The Lady from Shanghai*, is the sordid tale of double-cross and murder. But in the hands

of Orson Welles, the movie is also an examination of his doomed marriage to Rita Hayworth. Welles plays Michael O'Hara, a not-too-bright Irish seaman, who falls for Hayworth's Elsa Bannister, and sails the seas with the femme fatale and her loathsome husband (Everett Sloane). Despite being cut almost in half by the studio, and with a plot so complex even Welles couldn't figure it out, *Lady* remains a classic thriller whose climactic shoot-out in a hall of mirrors is one of the iconic scenes in film history. Introduction by guest film critic Peter Schilling.

MONDAY, MARCH 22

The Charles Bukowski Tapes, Part I (Barbet Schroeder, 1987, 120 min.)

(Note: Part II plays Tues., 3/23, 8:30 pm)

6:30 p.m., The Firehouse Theatre

Admission \$5

Presented in two parts, each composed of 26 vignettes of 3-4 minutes, *The Charles Bukowski Tapes* offers fans a close-up rarely seen. Filmed by director Schroeder while waiting for a go-ahead on the feature, *Barfly*, Bukowski ruminates and essays on women, writing, his childhood, NY agents, Hollywood, Henry Miller and his favorite bars among other topics. Filmed at Bukowski's San Pedro house and other LA haunts, Bukowski, now finally famous, seems to fully enjoy the camera crew's attention. Forget *Factotum*, forget *Barfly* – this is the genuine Chinaski.

The Biggest Picture presents a Big River Double Feature:

Big River (Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, 2009, 30 min.)

Big River Man (John Maringouin, 2009, 94 min.)

8:30 p.m., The Firehouse Theatre

Admission Free

Big River, the new documentary by *King Corn* filmmakers Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, explores the ecological consequences of industrial agriculture. It is a companion to *King Corn*, screened at last year's James River Film Festival. Trading their combine for a canoe, the filmmakers set out to follow the trail of the pesticides and fertilizers used in the production of their one acre of corn



– all the way from Iowa to the Gulf of Mexico. “A sharp and clever reminder that nothing ever really goes away, certainly not the soup of chemicals we’re pouring on our fields.” – Bill McKibben, author, educator, and environmentalist.

Big River Man, a winner at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival, is about the world’s greatest endurance swimmer – 52 year-old Martin Strel swims

whole rivers to highlight their pollution to the world. A national hero in his native Slovenia, Martin attempts his greatest feat yet – to swim the entire length of the Amazon River, all while drinking two bottles of wine a day. Director Maringouin says he set out to make a documentary with an environmental message, “but that message got eclipsed by insanity.”

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

Infinite Animation: The Life and Work of Adam Beckett

(A selection of short films, Approx. 90 min.) with Beckett biographer Pam Turner

6:30 p.m., The Firehouse Theatre

Admission \$5

Adam Beckett (1950-1979) left an indelible mark on the world of experimental animation. Influenced by John Whitney Sr. and his love of science fiction, his award-winning films consist of magical evolving geometric and abstract shapes

created with his pioneering optical printer techniques. His ingenuity would attract George Lucas, who made him the head of the rotoscope and animation department for *Star Wars*. Titles include *The Letter*, *Heavy-Light*, *Evolution of the Red Star*, *Kitsch in Synch* and more. Adam’s biographer, Pamela Turner, associate professor in VCU’s Kinetic Imaging Department and Director of the Adam Beckett Project for iotaCenter, will introduce.

The Charles Bukowski Tapes, Part II (Barbet Schroeder, 1987, 120 min.)

(Note: Part I plays Monday, 3/22, 6:30 pm)

8:30 p.m., The Firehouse Theatre

Admission \$5

See Monday, March 22 for description.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24



The Builder (Rick Alverson, 2009, 94 min.)

with co-writer/director Rick Alverson

6:30 p.m., The Firehouse Theatre

Admission \$5

Many Richmonders know Rick Alverson through his music (Spokane); now come get to know Rick Alverson, filmmaker, through his new feature, *The Builder*. From its opening meditative moments when we first meet “the builder” as he moves through his morning rituals – taking a bath, cutting his hair with scissors, making coffee, boiling eggs and eating – we know right away this is not your standard movie fare. Following an Irish immigrant carpenter from coastal Queens to the Catskills to Richmond and beyond, *The Builder* is an American existential portrait that explores the gulf between the idea of a thing and the thing itself. Alverson explains: “This type of production is meant to be small, intimate, local – I cast people who I know, whose personalities I understand, so that I can recontextualize them in the film. I really don’t want to project a worldview. I find that reprehensible, arrogant. A film should be much more communal, something captured that we’re looking at together.” Rick Alverson will be on hand to introduce the film and for a post-screening Q&A.



The Secret To A Happy Ending: A documentary about the Drive-By Truckers (Barr Weissman, 2010, color, 101 min.)

with director **Barr Weissman** and artist **Wes Freed**

9:30 p.m., The Byrd Theatre

Admission \$5

This is a film about the redemptive power of rock and roll; it's about the American South, where rock was born; it's about a band straddling the borders of rock, punk and country; it's about making art, making love and making a living; it's about the Drive-By Truckers. This film documents the band and their fans as they explore tales of human weakness and redemption. With unparalleled access, this documentary encompasses three critical years of touring and recording as the band struggles to overcome trauma and survives a near breakup, in a persistent search for a happy ending. Filmmaker Barr Weissman will be on hand for a post-screening Q&A and artist Wes Freed, who created original artwork for the film, will sign and sell STAHE movie posters.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

Bridging of Festivals



JAMES RIVER
FILM FESTIVAL

Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond present

french film festival

The James River Film Festival and the VCU/UR French Film Festival present ...

Marching Band (Claude Miller, 2009, 95 min.)

with French director **Héléna Cotinier**, French producer **Annie Miller** and production manager and Richmonder **Isaac Regelson**

6:30 p.m., The Byrd Theatre

Admission \$5 (free to French Film Festival Pass holders)

French director Miller and his crew followed the marching bands of Virginia State University and University of Virginia through the waning months of President Obama's 2008 Campaign. Given the importance of the youth vote to Obama's success, Miller has recorded the optimism and dreams of a whole generation in this revelatory documentary.



Les plages d'Agnès / The Beaches of Agnès

(Agnès Varda, 2008/2009 U.S.; 108 min.,

French w/English subtitles)

Richmond Premiere
on 35mm!

9 p.m., The Byrd Theatre
Admission \$5 (free to French Film Festival pass holders)

French New Wave director

Agnès Varda's latest and declared final film is a visually sumptuous and multi-layered essay, the cinematic memoir of an artist whose life is inseparable

from her art and memories. Tracing her life via clips of her films and those of husband/director Jacques Demy – revisiting locations of previous shoots, observing crowds passing in the streets – Varda (*Cleo from 5 to 7*, *Vagabond*) settles ultimately on the beaches in her life as the film’s abiding motif for time’s passage. Richard Brody of *The New Yorker* declared it “A work of art!” and the *Film Comment* critics’ poll named it “One of the year’s ten best!”

ABOUT THE GUESTS

Cindy Lou Adkins created and produced *An Unlikely Weapon*, the award-winning documentary about her late brother-in-law, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Eddie Adams. The film was on the short list this year for an Academy nomination. While attending Virginia Commonwealth University, Cindy Lou landed her first acting role in Louis Malle’s *My Dinner With Andre*. The film was shot in Richmond and premiered at the Biograph Theatre. She then went on to appear in other feature films including *Disturbia* and *Bad Santa*, as well as numerous television episodes and commercials. Currently, Ms. Adkins is developing a reality show and is beginning work on a new documentary.

Rick Alverson is a filmmaker, musician and carpenter. He has released 10 records on the renowned independent label Jagjaguwar, most recently as the founding member of the band Spokane. *The Builder* (2009), his first feature film, was shot chronologically over the course of a year, in Far Rockway Queens, the Catskills and Richmond, VA, where he currently lives. He has just completed work on his second feature, *New Jerusalem*, again shot in Richmond, which stars *The Builder*’s Colm O’Leary and Will Oldham (a.k.a. Bonnie “Prince” Billy).

Jordan Brady barely graduated from Meadowbrook High School in 1982. After two years of scholastic failure at Virginia Tech, he dropped out and took the open mic stage in the basement of Matt’s British Pub. With mentors like Richmond comic Brett Leakea, Jordan began a 12-year career as a stand up comedian. *I AM COMIC* is his fifth feature film he’s directed and, besides being his most recent film, it is his most personal film to date.

Jim Cohen is a New York-based filmmaker/media artist whose works are built from his own ongoing archive of street footage, portraits, and sound. His films and installations often navigate the grey area between documentary, narrative, and experimental genres. *Benjamin Smoke*, co-directed with Peter Sillen, was selected for festivals including Berlin, Edinburgh, Melbourne, London, and Vancouver. *Instrument*, the feature-length documentary made with the band, Fugazi, premiered at the Rotterdam Film Festival and was chosen for the 2000 Whitney Biennial. Cohen has had retrospectives at venues including the NFT in London, Buenos Aires Independent Film Festival (BAFICI), the Gijon Film Fest (Spain) and the Oberhausen Film Fest (Germany). He did a series of collaborative films and installations with Patti Smith for her recent show at the Fondation Cartier in Paris. Cohen has worked extensively with musicians including Godspeed You Black Emperor!, Fugazi, Vic Chesnutt, the Ex, Terry Riley, Elliott Smith, R.E.M., Sparklehorse, and the Orpheus Orchestra.

Paul Harrill’s narrative films and documentary videos have screened on five continents at film festivals, museums, and on television. Venues have included the Museum of Modern Art (New York), Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, and the Sundance Film Festival, where Harrill’s short film *Gina, An Actress, Age 29* was awarded the Jury Prize. Harrill’s work has been supported by the Independent Television Service (ITVS) and the Aperture Film Grant (among others), and by residencies at Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Harrill has taught courses in digital video production at Virginia Tech since 2006. In addition to his teaching and filmmaking, Harrill maintains a popular weblog, selfreliantfilm.com, which discusses issues surrounding the art and practice of do-it-yourself regional filmmaking. He is the producer and co-cinematographer of the documentary *For Memories’ Sake*, directed by Ashley Maynor.

Happily romping through their 18th year of musical adventures, 2005 Theresa Pollak Prize winners for Excellence in the Arts **Hotel X** continue their sonic explorations of groove with vigor. Seven albums over the years are soon to

be joined by a much-anticipated eighth, and ongoing collaborations with stellar musicians like Grammy-nominee Cheick Hamala Diabate from Mali keep exciting and expanding the process.

Horse Archer Productions was founded in 2005 by **Sean Kotz and Chris Valluzzo**, two Virginia natives and current residents of the New River Valley. Before forming the company, Kotz taught writing, literature and film at Virginia Tech and Valluzzo completed the director's certificate program at the New York Film Academy and worked heavily in the DC Metro indie scene. Their first feature film, *Hokie Nation*, hit theaters in 2007 and propelled the company on to three more documentaries in two years – *The Henry Reed Legacy*, *Why Old Time?* and *Virginia Creepers*. Future projects include documentaries on Highwoods String Band, pro-wrestler Jimmy Valiant and in fall of 2010, they anticipate the release of *Hi There Horror Movie Fans*, a documentary about the Bowman Body.

Ashley Maynor is a documentarian whose films and new media works have been exhibited around the country. Maynor is also engaged with building communities through video partnerships, empowering youth and communities to tell their own stories. Maynor's creative work, outreach, and research have been supported by the Southern Humanities Media Fund, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Maynor has taught workshops as a video facilitator for Scribe Video Center's Precious Places Project and as a guest artist in the Arts Council of the Blue Ridge's Artists in Schools program. She is the co-founder and program director of Virginia Tech's Blacksburg Stories Youth Video Workshop and organizes Southwest Virginia's annual Home Movie Day celebration. Maynor joined the Virginia Tech Cinema Program in Fall 2008 as a Visiting Assistant Professor.

Celia Maysles was born and raised in New York City and graduated with a degree in Hispanic Studies from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, OR. Her first feature film, *Wild Blue Yonder*, about her personal search to learn more about

her father, famed verite filmmaker David Maysles, premiered in November 2007 and was "one of the most talked about documentaries at IDFA" (*Variety*). *Wild Blue Yonder* continues to play on international television and is being exhibited in universities around the world. She has also worked as a producer, developer, and real people recruiter for Corra Films since 2004, working on projects including the feature documentary *Jack*, VH1 pilot "Proof," MTV's "True Life: I'm Amish," and *The Disappearance of McKinley Nolan*.

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*, mudvillemagazine.com/bug. He is the author of the acclaimed novel, *The End of Baseball*, and is currently at work on both a graphic and conventional novel.

Rich Shydner, writer and interviewer for *I AM COMIC*, was a stand-up comedian, headlining favorite of all the comedy clubs in the 80's and 90's with numerous guest spots on *The Tonight Show* with Carson and Leno as well as *The Letterman Show*. He has had his own HBO and Showtime specials and has been a comedy writer for Rosanne and Jeff Foxworthy. His recent book, *I Killed*, garnered great reviews and a lot of attention within the comedy community. He is currently writing a book on the history of comedy.

Barr Weissman is a documentary film director, editor and producer who has produced and edited films for Discovery Channel, National Geographic, NBC, PBS, and others. In addition, Barr has edited and helped produce several independent documentaries, including the Academy award winning film, *The Stonecarvers*, *Mr. Justice Brennan*, and the feature *Finding Our Voices*. His work has been recognized by the Emmy's, received awards at film festivals worldwide, and screened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. A native Washingtonian, Mr. Weissman produced and independently distributed two critically acclaimed documentaries about the city – *Home: The Langston Terrace Dwellings* and *A View From The Street: The Art Of Lily Spandorf*. He lives in Takoma Park, MD with his wife, three wonderful daughters, and dog, Skidoo, who is almost trained.

Bridging of Festivals



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Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Richmond present
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Bridging the Festivals: French director **Hélène Cotinier**, French producer **Annie Miller** and production manager and Richmonder **Isaac Regelson** appear courtesy of a partnership with the VCU-UR French Film Festival, March 25-28, 2010. For more information visit www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu.

LOCATIONS

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

The Firehouse Theatre, 1609 West Broad Street (at Lombardy & Broad)

Plant Zero Art Center, 0 East 4th Street (off Hull Street, south of the 14th Street/Mayo Bridge)

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

VCU Grace Street Theater, 934 West Grace Street

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Jim Collier, Robert Ellis, Michael Harl, Megan Holley, Hotel X, Michael Jones, Jere Kittle, Trent Nicholas, James Parrish, John Porter, Jeff Roll, Janet Scagnelli, Peter Schilling, Kathryn Stephens, Wayne Tripton and John Wade.

SPECIAL THANKS

John Mhiripiri and Anthology Film Archives; Lainie and Steve Gratz and all the Balliceaux crew; Lucas Krost and The Branching; Irby Brown; Todd Schall-Vess and The Byrd Theatre; Melissa Gropman, Stephen Harris and The Firehouse Theatre; Patrick Gregory; Jim Bland and Plan 9 Music; Carolyn Crone and Plant Zero Events; Donna Pletcher, David Kilmon and

the Richmond Public Library, Main Branch; Bill and Bertie Selvey; Jim Stramel; Rob Tregenza and VCUarts Cinema; John Venable; Peter Kirkpatrick, Françoise Ravaux-Kirkpatrick and the VCU-UR French Film Festival; Jill Ware, Lee Lew and the VCU Grace Street Theatre; Doug MacDonald and Video Fan; Rita McClenny, Mary Nelson and the Virginia Film Office; Mark Remes and the Virginia Production Alliance; Michael Harl, Mike Rutz, Alyssa Salomon and WRIR 97.3 FM Richmond Independent Radio.

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JAMES RIVER FILM SOCIETY

The Richmond Moving Image Co-op is pleased to announce the formation of the James River Film Society. This summer look for a new website, information about membership and exciting new plans for presenting and supporting independent film in Richmond.

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