



JAMES RIVER
25th
ANNUAL
FILM FESTIVAL



MARCH 13TH - 18TH 2018 • RICHMOND, VA

JAMES RIVER FILM FESTIVAL GUESTS 1994-2017

1994 • William Wegman • Slobodan Pesic • Elizabeth Cox • David Williams • 1995 • Scott MacDonald • Arthur Knight • Irby Brown • Dan Neman • F. T. Rea • Ululating Mummies • 1996 • Stan Brakhage • Linda Simensky • 1997 • John Columbus • Rob Tregenza • John Dilworth • Ululating Mummies • 1998 • Albert Maysles • Yvette Kaplan • John O'Brien • Raynor Scheine • Ululating Mummies • 1999 • Charles Burnett • Bill Plympton • Paul Arthur • David Williams • 2000 • Tom Verlaine • Karen Aqua • Alan Berliner • 2001 • Les Blank • Richard Myers • Corky Quakenbush • Gunnar Hansen • Elizabeth Barrett • Herb E. Smith • 2002 • Jonas Mekas • Ed Sanders • Joanna Priestley • Charlene Gilbert • Jim Stramel • Megan Holley • 2003 • Stephen and Timothy Quay • Gary Lucas • Jeff Kruli • Gordon Ball • Kevin Herschberger • Frank Christopher • Kenneth Greenberg • 2004 • Mel Stuart • Skip Elsheimer • David Williams • Bob Paris • John O'Brien • Ms. Films • NRG Krysys • 2005 • Pere Ubu • Nathaniel Dorsky • Diane Bonder • David Durston • Lynn Lowery • Duane Byrge • Dan Neman • 2006 • Ray Harryhausen • Gary Lucas • Martha Colburn • David Williams • Hotel X • 2007 • Chuck Statler • John Porter • Jeff Krulik • David Williams • Laura Browder • Douglas Newman • 2008 • Richard Kelly • Ken and Flo Jacobs • Azazel Jacobs • Rob Tregenza • Dee Dee Halleck • Emily Doe/Wholphin • Richmond Indigenous Gourd Orchestra • David Williams • 2009 • Bruce Bickford • Ellen Spiro • Christopher Holmes • Coby Batty • Jonny Hott • Brett Ingram • Kevin McNeer • Richard Robinson • Chris Strompolos • Ron Thomas Smith • Mary Beth Reed • Peter Schilling, Jr. • 2010 • Jem Cohen • Jordan Brady • Cindy Lou Adkins • Celia Maysles • Ashley Maynor • Hotel X • Rick Alverson • Sean Kotz • Chris Valluzo • Peter Schilling, Jr. • Barr Weissman • 2011 • Peggy Ahwesh • Jonathan Rosenbaum • R. Alverson • Meghan Eckman • Tammy Kinsey • Jeff Krulik • Gary Lucas • Peter Schilling, Jr. • Richard Knox Robinson • 2012 • Ross McElwee • Scott MacDonald • Jodie Mack • Rick Alverson • Mary Beth Reed • Clay McLeod • Chapman Almitra • Corey Hale Lytle • 2013 • Tom De Haven • David Gatten • Gwar/Slave Pit Productions • Kevin McNeer • Kendall Messick • Richard Myers • Stanislav Sokolov • David Williams • 2014 • Michael Almereyda • Tom Davenport • Michael Gibrall • Michael Maglaras • Caroline Martel • Richard Knox Robinson • Terri Templeton • Coby Batty • 2015 • Ralph Bakshi • Kevin Jerome Everson • Jonathan Hancock • Michael Pope • Stephen Ulrich & Big Lazy • David Williams • 2016 • Betsy Cox • John Heyn • Christopher Homes • J.J.McMoon • Jalyn Graham Owens • Jennifer Reeves • Marc Ribot • Kevin Willmott • 2017 • Guy Maddin • Angela Faye Martin • Stefan Osdene • Michele Poulos • Herb E. Smith • Alan Webber • Jim Thomson • Richmond Avant Improvisational Collective (RAIC) • Recluse Raccoon

Experimental, Independent, Avant-Garde, Foreign, Cult, Classic ... Defying labels since 1994!

Program Design by Sam Taylor
Cover Image from *Wendy & Lucy*

MARCH
13

TUESDAY

8 PM

RIVER OF GRASS ('96, 77 min.)

Dir: Kelly Reichardt, w/ Lisa Bowman, Larry

Fessenden

VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Admission: \$5

Guest director Kelly Reichardt's first feature is a variation on rural-bandit films in the tradition of *Gun Crazy* and *Badlands*. When Cozy, a bored housewife, meets Lee in a backwater Florida bar, sparks fly and the thrill-seekers are on the lam. Winner of 3 Spirit awards and nominated for Grand Jury Prize at Sundance. With selected shorts. Intro by Michael Jones, JRFS member, VCU & RMC Film Studies.

MARCH
14

WEDNESDAY

8 PM

PICKPOCKET ('59, 78 min.)

Dir: Robert Bresson, w/Martin LaSalle, Marika

Green

VISUAL ARTS CENTER

Admission: \$5

In the midst of the French New Wave, master stylist Robert Bresson distills story-telling to its spiritual essence. Michel, our Dostoyevskyan hero, rejects his intellectual life for one of petty crime, and through his ultimate emotional isolation, achieves salvation.

Intro by Richmond filmmaker Rick Alverson, *The Builder, New Jerusalem, The Comedian, Entertainment.*

MARCH
15

THURSDAY

1 PM

THIRTEEN ('97, 83 min.)

Dir: David Williams w/ Lillian Folley, Nina Dickens

With Richmond filmmaker David Williams

RICHMOND MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Admission: Free

A thirteen year old African-American girl yearns for a car and later takes a solo trip to the mountains she's never seen. Shot in RVA by native-son Williams with non-professionals, this docudrama achieves a reality rarely captured on screen. Championed by critic Roger Ebert, and an award-winner at the Berlin and Sundance festivals. Also, a short by Williams, *Waving* (1987, 4 min., poem by Dave Smith)

3 PM

MOVIE GRAB BAG

JRFS Committee Member: Coleman Jennings

RICHMOND MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Admission: Free

"Found" films—mostly discarded home movies—from the personal collection of Coleman Jennings, who amassed his collection over the years in an effort to preserve these lost moments in time. Join us for a glimpse into the past of strangers.



6:30 PM

ABOVE THE DROWNING SEA

(2017, 93 min.)

Dir/Prod: René Balcer and Nicole Zavaglia w/
narration by Juliana Margulies

With special guest René Balcer, Director and Caroline Hsu-Balcer, Co-Executive Producer

The stirring story of 20,000 Jewish refugees making their way from Vienna, Austria to Shanghai, China fleeing the Nazi menace at the advent of WWII, told through interviews with survivors and descendants. Though packed with history—did you know the Jewish presence in China dates to the 9th century—the stories of the subjects is what resonates here—a testament of compassion and humanity.



VMFA (Leslie Cheek Theatre)

Admission:
\$8/\$5 VMFA members

MARCH
16

FRIDAY

1 PM

FILM BLASTS FROM THE PAST

RICHMOND MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Admission: Free

Experimental and animated selections from JRFF's previous guest artists 1994-2017 including William Wegman, Stan Brakhage, Richard Myers, Les Blank, Karen Aqua, Bros. Quay, Jodie Mack and more! (approx. 100 min.)

3 PM

NOTHING BUT A MAN

('64, 95 min.)

Dir: Michael Roemer, w/ Ivan Dixon, Abbey

An overlooked indie African-American classic produced in the thick of the Civil Rights movement. Duff, a RR worker is forced to confront racism and his own self-denial when he falls for school-teacher Josie; starring Ivan Dixon of Broadway Porgy & Bess fame, and jazz singer Abbey Lincoln.

"One of the Top 10 Black Films of all Time"- *Ebony*

RICHMOND MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Admission: Free

5:30 - 7:30 PM

DER GOLEM HAPPY HOUR

STRANGE MATTER

No Cover/Donations
Accepted

Socialize and sample appetizers. Enjoy your favorite discounted drinks.

7:30 PM

DER GOLEM: HOW HE CAME INTO THE WORLD

('20, 68 min.)

Dir: Paul Wegener & Carl Boese w/ Wegener,
Steinruck

VCU's GRACE STREET THEATER

Admission:
\$10 advance/ \$15 at door



With return guest guitarist Gary Lucas live and Zgomot!

Renowned guitar wizard Gary Lucas brings the silent German classic to life—first presented as an inaugural event at Richmond's Jewish Holocaust Museum in 2003. Under the tyranny of the Emperor in 16th century Prague, a rabbi creates a powerful monster of clay to protect his people, but in the hands of his devious assistant, the Golem goes on a rampage. An inspiration to Universal's monsters of the 30s, photographed by famed cinematographer Karl Freund. After the movie Lucas jams with RVA quartet Zgomot and experimental shorts!

Co-sponsored by Plan 9 Music!

9 PM - MIDNIGHT
SILENT/MUSIC REVIVAL
AVANT-AFTER PARTY

GARDEN GROVE BREWING
No Cover/Donations
Accepted

With live soundtrack by OINuBi and avant-garde films!

MARCH
17 SATURDAY

10:30 AM

DAWSON CITY—FROZEN TIME

(2016, 120 min.)

Dir: Bill Morrison

VMFA (Leslie Cheek Theatre)

Admission:

\$8/ \$5 VMFA members

During the silent years, gold-boom town Dawson City, Alaska was the end of the movie circuit, and decades later hundreds of previously lost nitrate titles were discovered preserved under the permafrost. This is the story of a lost town as well—that in its brief glory sported several movie palaces, dozens of saloons, a couple of bordellos (one operated by the grandfather of our sitting president!) and a library. Less a movie than a time-machine!

10:30 AM

GUITAR WORKSHOP with GARY LUCAS

ERIC SCHINDLER GALLERY

Admission:

\$35 participant reserved

\$10 observer

Ask, watch, listen and learn with internationally-renowned guitarist Gary Lucas. Lucas has collaborated with Jeff Buckley, John Cale and John Zorn among others. Each participant gets a short one-on-one session; must provide own axe! Max.16 participants; gallery available for observers only.

1:30 PM

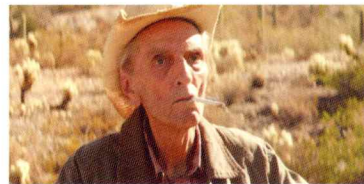
LET'S GET LOST ('89, 119 min.)

Dir: Bruce Weber

BYRD THEATRE

Admission: \$8

The hard life and times of jazz trumpeter Chet Baker achieves a cool sublimity as handled by filmmaker Weber (*Broken Noses*), with vintage outtakes and intimate interviews from fellow musicians, friends and ex-wives. *Let's Get Lost* premiered Richmond at the Byrd in 1994—our first Festival!



4 PM

LUCKY (2017, 88 min.)

Dir: John Carroll Lynch (TV's *Turn*) w/ Harry

Dean Stanton, Ed Begley, Jr., Tom Skerritt

BYRD THEATRE

Admission: \$8

With special guest Almitra Corey, Art Designer for Lucky, Night Moves!

The late, great Harry Dean Stanton stars in this quirky spiritual journey of a 90 yr. old atheist facing the sum of his life amidst a motley group of odd-ball acquaintances. Stanton's career spanned six decades with memorable roles in *Ride in the Whirlwind*, *Rancho Deluxe*, *Paris, Texas*, *Pretty in Pink*, *Wild at Heart*, *Wise Blood*, and *Repo Man*, part of the Harry Dean Tribute screening Saturday at midnight at the Byrd ! Ms. Corey will be available for a Q & A after the screening.

7:30 PM

WENDY & LUCY (2008, 80 min.)

Dir: Kelly Reichardt

Scr: Jonathan Raymond, w/ Michelle Williams, Will Oldham, Will Patton, Walter Dalton, and Lucy

VCU's GRACE ST. THEATER

Admission:

\$10/advance available
or at door

With special guest director Kelly Reichardt!

An indie classic practically since its release, Reichardt's variation on the "boy and his dog" story leaves out all sentiment in a tale reminiscent of Dreiser or Norris. Wendy (Michelle Williams) is on her way to Alaska to look for a job with dog Lucy in tow when her car breaks down in Oregon. Then she's faced with some tough choices. Ms. Reichardt will be available for a Q & A after the screening.

9 PM

NIGHT MOVES (2013, 110 min.)

Dir: Kelly Reichardt

Scr: Jonathan Raymond, w/ Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning, Peter Sarsgaard

VCU's GRACE ST. THEATER

Admission:

\$10/advance available
or at door

With special guest director Kelly Reichardt!

A radical environmentalist plot to explode a dam on a river to facilitate spawning fish in the Pacific NW goes awry when a fisherman drowns. What was once an act of activism becomes a capital crime--as the stakes get higher, paranoia and suspicion result in another moral consequence. A moody thriller by guest director Kelly Reichardt who will answer questions after the screening.

9 PM - MIDNIGHT

SILENT/MUSIC REVIVAL

AVANT-AFTER PARTY

GARDEN GROVE BREWING

No Cover/Donations
Accepted

**With live soundtrack by the Harry Patch Appreciation
and avant-garde films!**

MIDNIGHT

REPO MAN ('84, 92 min.)

Dir: Alex Cox, w/ Harry Dean Stanton, Emilio Estevez

BYRD THEATRE

Admission: \$8

The Harry Dean Tribute continues when teen punk Otto (Estevez) meets car repo man Stanton—a cult favorite complete with aliens, CIA, a '64 Chevy and some very weird canned food. Directed by Alex Cox (*Sid and Nancy*, *Walker*, *Straight to Hell*); sponsored by Movie Club in memory of the beloved Video Fan!



MARCH
18

SUNDAY

1:30 PM

GARY LUCAS plays the
FLEISCHER BROS.!

With vocals by Caroline Scruggs



BYRD THEATRE

Admission:
\$10 advance/\$15 at door

Guest guitarist Gary Lucas performs to a selection of Fleischer Brothers cartoons: "Swing You Sinners", a surreal Halloween spook-tacular, "Snow White" w/ Betty Boop, one of the most inventive cartoons ever, "Sinbad the Sailor" w/ Popeye, Olive and Wimpy in Planar 3-D, "Ain't She Sweet", a Talkartoon w/ Lillian Roth & more! Fun for young, old, and in-between! With vocal accompaniment by Richmonder Caroline Scruggs!



4 PM

CERTAIN WOMEN (2016, 107 min.)

Dir/Scr: Kelly Reichardt, w/ Michelle Williams,
Laura Dern, Kristen Stewart, James LeGros (from
stories by Maile Maloy)

BYRD THEATRE

Admission:
\$10 advance/\$10 at door

With guest director Kelly Reichardt!

The stories of three women's lives in a small Montana town intersect in subtle ways, and as usual in a Reichardt film, landscape and moral complexities loom large. One of the Best Pictures of the Year!

"...An indelible portrait of independent women!" - *The Guardian*

6:30 PM

**EVERY, EVERYTHING: THE MUSIC,
LIFE AND TIMES OF GRANT HART**

(2013, 97 min.)

Dir/Scr: Gorman Bechard w/ Grant Hart, Husker Du, et al.

GALLERY 5

Admission: \$8

The late Grant Hart's (*Husker Du*, *Nova Mob*) life from birth in South St. Paul to release of his 2013 album *The Argument* is well-covered in filmmaker Bechard's (*Color Me Obsessed*) rockumentary. Stylistically reminiscent of Errol Morris' *The Fog of War*, as eloquent conversationalist Hart is the only interviewee in the film, yet plenty of locations and clips for all the Husker fans! Intro by Chris Bopst.

Co-sponsored by Plan 9 Music!



8:30 PM

SILENT/MUSIC REVIVAL presents

BUNUEL'S surreal classic L'AGE D'OR

No Cover/ Donations

Encouraged

GALLERY 5

With live soundtrack by Houdan the Mystic!

When director Luis Bunuel's cryptic satire of Church and State was released in 1930 it was attacked by forces of Catholicism, Fascism, and deemed blasphemous ultimately by its producer, Vicomte de Noailles.

ABOUT THE 2018 FESTIVAL GUESTS:

RENÉ BALCER is a Canadian-American award-winning writer/producer/director who once studied under Jean Luc Godard, and worked for John Huston. He later worked as a journalist, editor and film critic and made documentaries for Canada's NFB. In the U.S., he collaborated with cult director Monte Hellman, Francis Ford Coppola and Steve Tisch, and wrote and produced the long running television series, *Law and Order* and currently, *Law and Order II*.

ALMITRA COREY is an ex-Richmonder and VCU alum, with a long list of credits in art production/design/direction in television and film, including *Life on Mars*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Taking of Pelham*, *The Invitation*, and as Art Director on *Lucky and Night Moves*.

GARY LUCAS is a four-time JRFF guest, a NY-based guitarist and composer who once played with Capt. Beefheart's Magic Band and later formed Gods and Monsters. He has collaborated with Leonard Bernstein, John Cale, Nick Cave, Jeff Buckley, Lou Reed and John Zorn among others. On January 27, 2017 he performed before the United Nations General Assembly on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

KELLY REICHARDT is a critically-acclaimed American indie writer-director whose credits include *River of Grass*, *Old Joy*, *Wendy and Lucy*, *Meek's Cutoff*, *Night Moves* and last year's *Certain Women*, chosen by many critics as one of the Best Films of 2016. She studied at Tufts, and her films have won awards at the Venice, Rotterdam, Sundance and New York Film Festivals. She received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2009 and is a Filmmaker-in-Residence at Bard College.

CAROLINE SCRUGGS is a soprano vocalist based in Richmond. She is a classically trained singer specializing in opera and jazz.

DAVID WILLIAMS is a native Richmonder and filmmaker best known for his award-winning films, *Lillian and Thirteen*. Both films were championed by late critic Roger Ebert, and *Thirteen* won the Quixote Award at the 1998 Berlin Film Festival.

ZGOMOT is Pippin Barnett-drums, Vlad Cuiujuclu-guitar and voice, Tim Harding-bass, & Gary Kalar-guitar. Both Barnett with Ululating Mummies and the Gourd Orchestra, Harding with Hotel X are past collaborators with the James River Film Festival.

LOCATIONS

Byrd Theatre • 2908 West Cary St.
Eric Schindler Gallery • 2305 East Broad St.
Gallery 5 • 200 West Marshall St.
Garden Grove Brewing Co. • 3445 West Cary St.
Grace Street Theater • 934 West Grace St.
Visual Arts Center • 1812 West Main St.
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts • 200 North Boulevard
Strange Matter • 929 West Grace Street

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

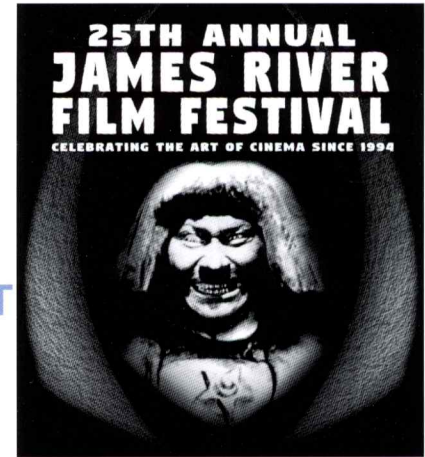
Dakotah Coates, Ken Hopson, Coleman Jennings, Michael Jones, Jameson Price, Meaghan Riley, Jeff Roll, Steven Warrick, Sam Taylor (Design) & the 2018 festival volunteers!

SPECIAL THANKS

David Williams, Rick Alverson, Caroline Scruggs, Peter Solomon, Almitra Corey, Richmond Main Public Library, Dept. Photo and Film, VCU, Jim Bland, Tim Harding and Zgomot, OINuBi, Harry Patch Appreciation Society, Houdan the Mystic, Ward Teft, Gallery 5, Dept. Art History, VCU, Le Lew and Amelia Langford, Grace St. Theater, Liz Borsetti and Visual Arts Center, Virginia Film Office, Virginia Tourism Corp., Trent Nicholas and VMFA, Todd Schall-Vess and Byrd Theatre, Movie Club, John Venable, Andrew Blossom, Harry Kollatz Jr., Chris Bopst, Garden Grove Brewing Co., Uptown Color, Linden Row Inn, Zoom Printng, Eric Schindler Gallery, Style Weekly, WRIR 97.3, RVA Magazine, Sifter, Ted Salins, Kuba Kuba, Ron Rogers & Strange Matter, Bijou Film Center, our advertisers and donors!

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ANNIVERSARY
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IN MEMORIAM PAST GUESTS

Stan Brakhage, Les Blank, Paul Arthur, Karen Aqua, Diane Bonder, Mel Stuart, David Durston, Ray Harryhausen, Ron Smith, Albert Maysles, Gunnar Hansen, and Irby Brown, friend and JRFS Committee Member

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The logo for Deep Groove Records is a circular emblem. It features a vinyl record with a stylized yellow and red "D" and "G" in the center. The words "DEEP" and "GROOVE" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, curving around the top and bottom of the record respectively. The background of the record is black with white concentric lines representing the grooves.

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country. Visit arts.vcu.edu for more info.

The logo features a central white circle containing the text '97.3' in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below the '97.3' is the call sign 'wrir' in a red, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a small red dot above the 'i'. To the right of 'wrir' is 'lpfm' in a smaller, black, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the call sign is a thin horizontal line, followed by the website 'WRIR.ORG' in a black, uppercase, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a background of concentric black circles that create a tunnel effect. On the left and right sides of the logo, there are vertical black bars of varying widths, resembling a barcode or a stylized frame.

97.3
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richmond independent radio

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