12/14/2017 10:29 AM

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***Cathy Portuges: LINEUP FOR BROCHURE***

***25th annual massachusetts multicultural film festival 2018 "Film Lives!"***

wednesday 28 february

***500 YEARS*** (2017, Pamela Yates, USA, 108 min, in English, Spanish, & Mayan languages)

The third and final installment of Pamela Yates's trilogy "The Resistance Saga," following *When the Mountains Tremble* (1982) and *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* (2011), *500 Years* exposes Guatemala's official history of brutality, entrenched racism and genocide through the indigenous Mayan population's uprising that threatens to topple a corrupt government.

Introduction by Daniel Pope (UMass)

The director Pamela Yates and producer Paco de Onis will be present for discussion.

7:30pm UMass Amherst

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wednesday 7 march

"In Search of Suchomel in Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah*: Constructing the Holocaust Perpetrator between the Outtakes and the Finished Film." Erin McGlothlin (German & Jewish Studies, Washington U. offers poignant new insights into Lanzmann’s monumental holocaust documentary, based upon extensive research on the hundreds of hours of outtakes in the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Followed by a screening of ***CLAUDE LANZMANN: SPECTRES OF THE SHOAH*** (2015, dir Adam Benzine, UK, 58 min; Academy Award nominee, Documentary Short Subject). The 92-year-old French journalist, philosopher and filmmaker reflects on the trials and tribulations he faced during the 12-year journey to make his Holocaust masterpiece, *Shoah* (1985)*.* In this special Director's Cut, Lanzmann discusses the challenges of tracking down Nazi officials and traumatized death camp survivors, fighting in the French Resistance as a teenager, his relationship with philosophers Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre, and his hopes and expectations for the future in this intimate portrait.

Co-sponsored by UMass Institute for Holocaust, Genocide & Memory Studies.

Introduction by Jonathan Skolnick (UMass)

7:30pm UMass Amherst

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wednesday 21 march

***GI JEWS: JEWISH AMERICANS IN WWII*** (2017, dir Lisa Ades, USA, 87 min)

Over half a million Jews joined every branch of the military and saw action on all fronts during WWII, uprooted from their working- and middle-class neighborhoods. In this groundbreaking feature documentary for broadcast on national public television, Jewish veterans bring their unique and profound war experiences to life--how they fought, struggled with anti-Semitism, and emerged transformed.

Co-sponsored by Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival

Introduction by Catherine Portuges (UMass)

7:30pm UMass Amherst

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\*note: an additional screening sponsored by Pioneer Valley Jewish Film Festival will be held at 7:00pm Monday, March 26, Springfield Jewish Community Center, Goldstein Auditorium, 1160 Dickinson Street.

wednesday 28 march

***UMASS CATALAN FILM FESTIVAL (10th EDITION)***

https://www.facebook.com/CFFUMass/

***INSTITUTIONS OF FEAR/ELS INTERNATS DE LA POR*** (2016, dir Montse Armengou and Ricard Belis, Catalonia, 75 min., in Catalan and Spanish with English subtitles)

During the Francoist period and extending well into the democratic era, hundreds of thousands of children were incarcerated in charitable institutions, religious schools, orphanages, tuberculosis sanatoria or Social Assistance Centers across Spain and subjected to physical, psychological and sexual abuse. Child labor was a common experience for many who were also exposed to dubious medical practices. This provocative documentary broadcast on Catalan public television explores a silenced aspect of the contemporary history of Spain where, unlike in Ireland where mistreatment of children under state care has been acknowledged, such cases have not been prosecuted.

The director will be present for discussion

Introduction by Sebastiaan Faber (Oberlin College)

7:30pm UMass Amherst

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wednesday 4 april

***SVETLANA BOYM: EXILE AND IMAGINATION*** (2017, dir Judith Wechsler, USA, 60 min)

In 1980, age 21, literary and cultural critic Svetlana Boym (1959-2015) left the USSR for the US. After graduate studies at Boston University and Harvard, she became the Carl Hugo Reisinger Professor of Slavic and Comparative Literature at Harvard University. A brilliant writer and scholar of ambitious scope and great imagination, she explored motifs of exile, nostalgia, the diasporic imagination and forms of freedom in her books, essays and artmaking. Interweaving videos, interviews, photographs, and photomontage with the subject's original texts and film excerpts, this moving documentary pays tribute to her legacy. Director Judith Wechsler was awarded the Chevalier de l’ordre des arts et des lettres for her filmmaking and publications on 19th and 20th century art.

The director will be present for discussion

Introduction by

7:30pm UMass Amherst

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wednesday 11 April

***ANGEL WAGENSTEIN: ART IS A WEAPON*** (2017, dir Andrea Simon, U.S./Bulgaria, in Bulgarian, English, German and Russian w/ English subtitles, 84 min)

An exquisitely crafted and intellectually provocative documentary essay on the great Bulgarian screenwriter, novelist, and lifelong revolutionary Angel Wagenstein. At 95 he remains a man of massive charm and ferocious intelligence, a passionate witness to history and an active participant in the debate on Bulgaria’s rocky post-communist future. Wagenstein’s life and work raise critical questions (more timely now than ever) on when, how and why to resist the totalitarian impulse … and where the paths of resistance may lead.

Co-sponsored by the UMass DEFA Film Library and German Studies, Mount Holyoke

Introduction by Barton Byg (UMass)

The director will be present for discussion this evening and the following evening in conjunction with the screening of *STARS/STERNE*.

7:30pm UMass Amherst

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Thursday 12 April

***STARS/STERNE*** (1959, dir Konrad Wolf, East Germany/Bulgaria, 88mim, in German, Bulgarian, Yiddish, and Ladino with English subtitles)

This gripping drama, based on the personal story of screenwriter Angel Wagenstein during the Holocaust in the Balkans, sheds light on the Sephardic experience of WWII. Stationed in a secluded Bulgarian village in 1943, Walter, an artist and sergeant in the Wehrmacht, lives an almost idyllic life far away from the war. Soon, a transit camp is set up for Jews arriving from Greece. When Ruth, one of the Greek Jews, asks Walter to help a pregnant woman in the camp, the two form an unlikely bond. Co-sponsored by DEFA Film Library; German Studies, Mount Holyoke College; UMass Institute for Holocaust, Genocide & Memory Studies.

Introduction by Skyler Arndt-Briggs (UMass)

Andrea Simon, director of *Angel Wagenstein: Art is a Weapon* (screening Wed. April 11), will be present for discussion

7:00 pm

Amherst Cinema, 20 Amity Street, Amherst, MA

wednesday 18 April

***BETTING ON ZERO*** (2016, dir Ted Braun, USA, 104 min)

Writer-director Ted Braun’s critically acclaimed first feature film, *Darfur Now*, presented on our campus in 2007, won the NAACP Image Award for best documentary of 2007. Continuing his work in non-fiction across documentary and scripted forms with a focus on global conflict, *Betting On Zero* explores the battle waged by controversial hedge fund titan Bill Ackman and Latina activist Julie Contreras to expose Herbalife as a massive international pyramid scheme. (Premiere, 2016 Tribeca Film Festival, special jury mention, World Documentary Competition). Ted Braun (Joseph Campbell Endowed Chair in Cinematic Ethics, USC School of Cinematic Arts) will be present for Q&A and will hold a master class for Film Studies students on ethics in documentary filmmaking the following day.

Introduction by Shawn Shimpach (UMass)

The director will be present for discussion

7:30pm UMass Amherst

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wednesday 15 April

Wed Apr 25

Closing night: ***FACES PLACES/VISAGES VILLAGES (***2017, dir Agnès Varda and JR, France, 89 min )

Kindred spirits, 89-year old Agnès Varda, the legendary French New Wave pioneer, teams up with acclaimed 33-year-old French photographer JR to co-direct this enchanting documentary/road movie, traveling through French villages in JR’s photo truck meeting locals and producing epic-size portraits displayed on houses, barns, storefronts and trains. *Faces Places* documents these encounters and the unlikely, tender friendship they formed along the way. Golden Eye, Cannes; Documentary Oscar nominee, 2018; Varda was awarded an Honorary Oscar in 2017 for lifetime achievement.

Introduction by Barry Spence (UMass)

7:30pm UMass Amherst

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