

American Cinematheque at the Egyptian and Aero Theatres
DECEMBER 2006 CALENDAR

www.americancinematheque.com | 323.466.FILM

Tickets: www.fandango.com

Egyptian Theatre Programming:
6712 Hollywood Blvd. in Hollywood (90028)

70 MM NIGHTS
November 30 – December 2 at The Egyptian Theatre

Like many of our American Cinematheque patrons, the spectacle of watching a 70mm film on the big, big screen is one of our very favorite things. There is something about the grandeur, the monumental sweep of events as they unfold with this larger gauge format that tends to enthrall even the most jaded audience member. Of course, there have been mediocre movies filmed and presented in 70mm. Consequently, we're not just talking about any old motion picture - we're talking about classics. If you are longing for that hypnotically fascinating sensation of being riveted to the silver screen, not just by the wonder of the presentation, but by the greatness of the film itself, please join us for three nights featuring three very different 70mm classics – **LORD JIM**, **THE SOUND OF MUSIC** and **CLEOPATRA**.

Series compiled by Chris D.

Special Thanks: Michael Schlesinger/SONY REPERTORY; Schawn Belston & Caitlin Robertson/20th CENTURY FOX.

Thursday, November 30 – 7:30 PM

70mm Print!

LORD JIM, 1965, Sony Repertory, 154 min. This vast, atmospheric adaptation of Joseph Conrad's classic novel was aimed at recapturing the magic of **LAWRENCE OF ARABIA**, pairing actor **Peter O'Toole** with a gifted director in **Richard Brooks** (**IN COLD BLOOD**) and prestigious literary material. O'Toole is perfectly cast as an idealistic sailor who is branded a coward for abandoning an apparently-sinking ship during a storm – then given a chance to redeem his conscience and his soul by aiding in a native revolution in the South Pacific jungle. Equally mesmerizing are **Eli Wallach** as a sadistic warlord, **James Mason** as an avaricious mercenary and **Daliah Lavi** as a courageous native girl. This superb restoration of the film by Columbia Pictures has resulted in one of the sharpest, most eye-popping 70 mm. prints we've seen. With **Paul Lukas**, **Curt Jurgens**.

Friday, December 1 – 7:30 PM

70mm Print!

SOUND OF MUSIC, 1965, 20th Century Fox, 174 min. For many, **THE SOUND OF MUSIC** is *the* ultimate 70 mm. experience, from the first silent, sweeping shots of the Austrian Alps, to **Julie Andrews** suddenly bursting into song like a force of nature. An Oscar-winner for Best Picture and **Robert Wise's** flawless direction, this story of The Trapp Family Singers is a

reason, a virtual *commandment* to go see movies on the Big Screen. Co-starring **Christopher Plummer, Eleanor Parker, Anna Lee, Marni Nixon and Angela Cartwright**, with a wonderful script by **Ernest Lehman**.

Saturday, December 2 – 7:30 PM

Brand New Restored 70mm Print!

CLEOPATRA, 1963, 20th Century Fox, 248 min. Cleopatra (**Elizabeth Taylor**) attempts to secure her power as Queen of Egypt by charming Julius Caesar (**Rex Harrison**) and her lover Mark Antony (**Richard Burton**). But despite her efforts, Egypt is ultimately integrated into the Roman Empire. Directed and co-written by **Joseph L. Mankiewicz**, this epic historical drama boasts spectacular sets and costumes that simply have to be seen in 70mm in this latest restoration from 20th Century Fox. Cleopatra's spectacular entry into Rome with her golden Sphinx pulled by thousands is a true cinematic moment!!

Sunday, December 3 – 12 NOON – 11:00 PM OUTFEST FUSION

Outfest presents Fusion, the Los Angeles LGBT People of Color Film Festival. **For the complete schedule visit www.outfest.org. Purchase tickets in advance at www.ticketweb.com or by calling 213-480-7088.** [Not an American Cinematheque event]

Tuesday, December 5 – 7:30 PM

MVPA - The 9th Annual Director's Cuts Film Festival. Approx. 92 min. A showcase of short films by today's leading music video directors, spanning a variety of narrative genres and visual styles. Presented by the **Music Video Production Association (MVPA)**, the trade organization at the center of the music video community, Director's Cuts represents the best and the brightest in the industry. The evening will boast a line-up of short films by music video directors and a handful of rare music videos. Directors **Noble Jones, Liam Lynch, Evan Bernard, Ben Mor, W.I.Z., Robert Hales** and **Happy** are showcased; you may know them best for their work with artists like Mary J. Blige, Foo Fighters, Beastie Boys, Nas, Marilyn Manson, Jet and David Gray, so here's an opportunity to see a whole other side of them. For a full list of directors and film information, visit www.mvpa.com
Reception with hosted beer and wine bar following the screening.

Wednesday, December 6 – 8:00 PM

OUTFEST WEDNESDAYS

AUNTIE MAME, 1958, Warner Bros., 143 min. Dir. **Morton DaCosta**. We're thrilled to ring out yet another year with an Outfest holiday tradition, the AUNTIE MAME extravaganza! Beloved comedienne and camp icon **Rosalind Russell** (GYPSY) commands center stage as eccentric socialite Mame Dennis, who throws the best parties and throws back the stiffest martinis you've ever seen. America's favorite rich and eccentric relative, acting as a protector to a lonely young nephew, bravely faces the ravages of poverty, snobby stuffed shirts and romantic rivalry to emerge like a phoenix from her own ashes. Join a high-spirited audience of Mame-lovers as we celebrate the glory of Rosalind Russell and a magnificent supporting cast in this raucous, riotous, interactive screening of a movie masterpiece. This evergreen portrait of fabulousness is a queer classic to end all queer classics! **Reception and party preceding the screening at 6:00 PM.**

Thursday, December 7 – 7:30 PM

DVD Release Celebration

TRUE-LIFE ADVENTURES, 1948-1960, Walt Disney, approx. 90 min. The TRUE-LIFE ADVENTURES -- a series of 13 groundbreaking film shorts and short features released between 1948 - 1960 that captured the wonder of animals and nature and won eight Academy Awards® -- epitomize the magic of **Walt Disney**. In classics such as "Seal Island," "The Living Desert," "The Vanishing Prairie" and "White Wilderness," Walt blended his unique sense of innovation with creativity and technology to put together films that brought fascinating insights into the world of wild animals as well as attention to the importance of conserving our outdoor heritage. The acclaimed series makes its long-awaited DVD debut from Walt Disney Home Entertainment on December 5. This program will consist of highlights from some of the most famous and popular entries. *"Some of my first and fondest production experiences were on these wonderful films, so they're very close to my heart...the movies remain as relevant and entertaining today, a whole new generation will be able to discover them... Like the specialists at Disney's Animal Kingdom who are carrying on that tradition, Walt cared deeply about wildlife and its conservation. And, equally important, he made films that were solid entertainment."*- Roy Disney. **Discussion following the screening with Roy Disney and a panel of some of the filmmakers (TBA).**

CRISPIN GLOVER'S "WHAT IS IT?"

Limited Engagement December 8 – 10 at The Egyptian Theatre

Showtimes: 8:00 PM daily

WHAT IS IT? premiered at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival and won Best Narrative Film at the 2005 Ann Arbor Film Festival. In the same year Mr. Glover was awarded the prestigious Maverick Award from the Method Fest which was presented to him by esteemed film director Werner Herzog. The film also won the Midnight Extreme Award at the Sitges Film Festival Spain 2006

WHAT IS IT?, 2005, Volcanic Eruptions Productions, 72 min. Veteran actor **Crispin Hellion Glover**, who has appeared in over 30 films as an actor, including RIVER'S EDGE, CHARLIE'S ANGELS, THE DOORS, WILLARD, DEAD MAN, BACK TO THE FUTURE, WHAT'S EATING GLIBERT GRAPE, WILD AT HEART, THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT the upcoming BEOWULF, THE WIZARD OF GORE, EPIC MOVE and BOB BAILEY'S DISCO BALLS brings his debut feature film as a director, **WHAT IS IT?** to the Egyptian Theatre for an exclusive 3-day Los Angeles engagement. Known for creating many memorable, incredibly quirky characters onscreen as an actor, Glover's first effort as a director will not disappoint fans of his offbeat sensibilities and eccentric taste. Featuring a cast largely comprised of actors with Down Syndrome, the film is not about Down Syndrome. Glover describes it as *"Being the adventures of a young man whose principal interests are snails, salt, a pipe and how to get home, as tormented by an hubristic racist inner psyche."* In addition to writing and directing **WHAT IS IT?**, Glover also appears in the film as an actor in the role of "Dueling Demi-God Auteur and The young man's inner psyche." **Fairuza Balk** voices one of the snails. **WHAT IS IT?** is part one of a trilogy. Parts two, **IT IS FINE EVERYTHING IS FINE...**! is currently in post-production. On part two, Glover collaborated with Utah writer-actor Steven C. Stewart, who also appears in **WHAT IS IT?** Stewart passed away from complications from cerebral palsy in 2001. The

soundtrack makes use of Wagner and Bartok excerpts to ironic effect, as well as tracks by late Church of Satan high priest Anton LaVey, Charles Manson and a country track by Klassic Klan recording artist Johnny Rebel.

"Scenes with naked women in elephant masks, Shirley Temple, Glover being lowered deus-ex-machina style into a Maxfield Parrish scene...It's like Fellini on psychedelics -- wildly creative but completely twisted." -- Jane Ganahl, San Francisco Examiner

"It's unlike anything I've ever seen before...the unrestrained id of an artist at full frenzy, unafraid to mount onscreen what others would judiciously edit out. Glover's film is like that the fever dream of a crazy person."

--Dennis Dermody, Paper Magazine

"ABSOLUTELY the most uncompromising and original thing I've seen. People try to compare it to the likes of surrealist hero Luis Buñuel and trailblazer Werner Herzog, but I say Glover has transcended even them." --Kelly O., The Seattle Stranger Weekly

Preceding the film is an hour-long live dramatic presentation of his "Big Slide Show" which features illustration and commentary from eight of his books. Following the film screenings he will appear for q & a at all shows The evening will end with a signing of his books Rat Catching, Oak Mot, and What It Is, And How It Is Done.

Special Ticket price: Cinematheque Members \$12; Students \$15; General Admission \$18.
For more info, go to www.crispinglover.com

Saturday, December 9

Egyptian Theatre Historic Tour & FOREVER HOLLYWOOD

10:30 AM Behind the Scenes Tour

11:35 AM FOREVER HOLLYWOOD

Sunday, December 10

Egyptian Theatre Historic Tour & FOREVER HOLLYWOOD

10:30 AM Behind the Scenes Tour

11:35 AM FOREVER HOLLYWOOD

Monday, December 11 – 7:30 PM

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS, 1990, 20th Century Fox, 100 min. A treat for the whole family, director **Tim Burton's** touching and witty gothic fairytale tells the story of a boy (**Johnny Depp**) created by an eccentric inventor (**Vincent Price**) who dies, leaving his creation alone and unfinished. With only scissors for hands, Edward must find his place in a strange new suburban world where the well-meaning community struggles to see past his appearance to the innocence and gentleness within. With **Winona Ryder, Alan Arkin, Kathy Baker**. *After global success with his inspired interpretations of Swan Lake, Cinderella and the multi-award winning Play Without Words, Matthew Bourne has adapted Edward Scissorhands from the original Tim Burton film, creating a new modern classic. Matthew Bourne is back at the Ahmanson Theatre from December 12-31, 2006 with his latest creation! **Discussion following the film with renowned choreographer, Matthew Bourne.***

IN A LONELY PLACE – THE REBELLIOUS CINEMA OF NICHOLAS RAY

December 15 – 20 at The Egyptian Theatre

Like few American directors before or since, **Nicholas Ray** was capable of imbuing his films with the violent, gleeful, contradictory impulses of his own personality. But his color-saturated stories of abusive men and morally stronger women, of Americans caught in the awful throes of re-imagining themselves, as in **REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE, BIGGER THAN LIFE, THE LUSTY MEN** (sadly unavailable for screening) or **WIND ACROSS THE EVERGLADES**, have to be seen on the Wide, Wide Screen to appreciate why Ray remains such an enigma.

Born in Wisconsin in 1911, Ray spent his early years soaking up a staggering array of influences: studying architecture with Frank Lloyd Wright, working with Elia Kazan in New York's Theatre of Action, promoting folk music with Pete Seeger and Alan Lomax. He directed his first film, **THEY LIVE BY NIGHT** (1948), working with producer John Houseman. Ray soon gained a reputation for his unique, intuitive rapport with actors in such films as **IN A LONELY PLACE** and **ON DANGEROUS GROUND**, and also for his combative, almost sado-masochistic relationship with the Hollywood establishment. Although his strangest, most daring (and some say greatest) film came in 1954 with the surreal Joan Crawford western, **JOHNNY GUITAR**, it was the epochal **REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE** (1955) that was his most widely-acclaimed success. His unique friendship with James Dean became the stuff of legend, but it was Ray's discovery of the widescreen Cinemascope format on **REBEL** that helped shape the rest of his career. Sadly, almost inevitably, Ray quit Hollywood in the early 1960's (or, more likely, Hollywood quit him). He spent the rest of his creative years as a teacher, inspiring a new generation of filmmakers including Jim Jarmusch and Wim Wenders. Nicholas Ray died in New York in 1979.

Series compiled by Chris D.

Special thanks: Marilee Womack/WARNER BROS.; Emily Horn and Barry Allen/PARAMOUNT; Caitlin Robertson/20th CENTURY FOX; Michael Schlesinger/SONY REPERTORY; Dennis Bartok.

Friday, December 15 – 7:30 PM

JOHNNY GUITAR, 1954, Republic (Paramount), 110 min. **Joan Crawford** is headstrong Vienna, a saloon-owner waiting for the railroad to reach her town. But her friendship with charming outlaw, The Dancing Kid (**Scott Brady**) jeopardizes her standing in the local community. If things weren't bad enough, the uptight landowners are led by vindictively jealous Emma (a frightening **Mercedes McCambridge**) who will do anything to repress her yen for The Kid, even if she has to lynch half the town to do it. Enter Vienna's returning old flame, Johnny (**Sterling Hayden**), a fast-draw who has given up guns for a guitar! Only director **Nicholas Ray** could pull off something so brazen - a color-coded, violent, romantic tall tale rife with allegorical references to the rabid right wing of 1950's America. A stunning achievement that comes off like a crazy quilt collaboration between Luis Bunuel, Anthony Mann and Vincente Minelli! Victor Young did the lush score with Peggy Lee singing the memorably torrid theme song. Co-starring **Ward Bond, Ernest Borgnine, John Carradine. NOT ON DVD.**

TRUE STORY OF JESSE JAMES, 1957, 20th Century Fox, 92 min. Director **Nicholas Ray** was hamstrung by studio interference in his remake of the Tyrone Power-starring original, but there are still enough off-kilter touches as well as the filmmaker's trademark brilliant use of color to make it more than worthwhile viewing. This time around, **Robert Wagner** and **Jeffrey Hunter** star as Jesse and Frank James respectively, with a great supporting cast that also includes **Agnes Moorehead**, **John Carradine**, **Alan Hale, Jr.** and **Hope Lange**. **NOT ON DVD**.

Saturday, December 16 – 6:00 PM

Double Feature:

THEY LIVE BY NIGHT, 1948, Warner Bros., 95 min. **Nicholas Ray's** directorial debut (and his own favorite) is a deeply-felt tale of young love struggling to survive in a cruel, unforgiving world. **Farley Granger** and **Cathy O'Donnell** are memorable as star-crossed lovers Bowie and Keechie in this darkly romantic and melancholy adaptation of Edward Anderson's depression-era crime classic Thieves Like Us. In Ray's hands, it's Romeo and Juliet for the film noir era. Co-starring a wonderfully sociopathic **Howard da Silva**. **NOT ON DVD**.

ON DANGEROUS GROUND, 1952, Warner Bros., 82 min. Dir. **Nicholas Ray**. A violent, embittered metro cop (**Robert Ryan**) in hot water with his boss gets sent upstate to help with a small town manhunt. The search leads him into a fateful confrontation with his own off-limits heart when he falls in love with the fugitive's blind sister (**Ida Lupino**). Sterling contributions all around: A.I. Bezzerides' savvy script, Ray's vigorous direction, Bernard Herrmann's magnificent, brassy score, and Ryan's ferocious performance make this one of film noir's most affecting statements about anger and alienation in the big city. The contrast between city and country, brutality and tenderness is pure Ray.

Saturday, December 16 – 9:30 PM

Double Feature:

IN A LONELY PLACE, 1950, Sony Repertory, 94 min. Dir. **Nicholas Ray**. A brilliant, moody drama of a screenwriter (**Humphrey Bogart**) accused of murder, and the starlet (**Gloria Grahame**) afraid to trust him. On one level, a poisonous rejection of all things Hollywood; on another, a love triangle of almost demonic intensity between the director and his two stars. Although Dorothy B. Hughes' original novel was also possessed of a desolate ending, Ray's equally downbeat climax was quite different and undoubtedly did not find favor with the studio powers-that-be. Co-starring **Frank Lovejoy**.

PARTY GIRL, 1958, Warner Bros., 99 min. Director **Nicholas Ray's** ultra-stylish homage to 1930's gangster films revolves around an ice-cold chorus girl (**Cyd Charisse**) and her equally cynical lawyer boyfriend (**Robert Taylor**) who want to sever their ties to organized crime. But the film really belongs to Ray's stunning use of color and the widescreen as well as **Lee J. Cobb** in a savage caricature of a Capone-like mobster. **NOT ON DVD**.

Sunday, December 17 – 7:30 PM

Double Feature:

BIGGER THAN LIFE, 1956, 20th Century Fox, 95 min. Director **Nicholas Ray's** subversively twisted portrait of suburban life centers on a teacher (**James Mason**) who becomes addicted to cortisone and experiences visionary, tyrannical delusions. Ray's superb use of color and shot composition reaches a deliriously surreal intensity here that, at times, borders on the

psychedelic. In addition to one of Mason's finest performances, there's also standout work from co-stars **Barbara Rush** and **Walter Matthau**. A must for Ray fans. **NOT ON DVD.**
WIND ACROSS THE EVERGLADES, 1958, Warner Bros., 93 min. Director **Nicholas Ray's** rarely screened drunken masterpiece stars **Christopher Plummer** as a young game warden in early 1900's Florida, trying to stop bigger-than-life, outlaw poacher **Burl Ives** and his gang of cutthroats (including a young **Peter Falk**) from decimating the wild heron population. Shot on atmospheric and very swampy locations, Ray's depiction of the frontier surrendering to civilization is worthy of **THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS**. And, like Welles, Ray himself was barred from finishing or editing the final cut of the film. Produced and written by Budd Schulberg (writer of **ON THE WATERFRONT**). **NOT ON DVD.**

Wednesday, December 20 – 7:30 PM

Double Feature:

REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE, 1955, Warner Bros., 111 min. Director **Nicholas Ray's** awesome, mythic saga of teen disobedience and alienation in 1950's America made **James Dean** and co-star **Natalie Wood** instant cultural icons. Ray's use of color and the Cinemascope screen remains groundbreaking to this day, rivaling Hitchcock for striking frame compositions and bold symbolism. Co-starring **Sal Mineo, Jim Backus, Corey Allen, Dennis Hopper**. "...the film still breathes like a hurt, brooding animal. It's an indelible vision of a pretty 1950s America with a searing crack in it... a movie so audacious it can only be poetry, a kind of cinematic free verse..." – Peter Stack, [San Francisco Chronicle](#).

BITTER VICTORY, 1957, Sony Repertory, 103 min. **Richard Burton** is a fatalistic captain at odds with his indecisive and inexperienced superior, a timid major played by **Curt Jurgens**, as they undertake a dangerous mission across the desert to steal secret documents from the Nazis during WWII. Burton had left Jurgens' beautiful wife, **Ruth Roman**, heartbroken years before, and this association further poisons the relationship between the two officers. One of **Nicholas Ray's** most underrated and most beautifully directed masterworks is full of subtle touches that build inexorably to a shattering and tragic conclusion. Originally cut by over 20 minutes in America, this is the restored and original uncut version. Writing about **BITTER VICTORY** in [Cahiers du Cinema](#), Jean Luc Godard famously declared "*Henceforth there is cinema. And the cinema is Nicholas Ray.*"

SCREWBALL HOLIDAYS

December 21, 2006 – January 1, 2007 at The Egyptian Theatre

December 27 – January 1, 2007 at the Aero Theatre

Our fourth annual holiday comedy festival offers up another platter of delicious treats from the days when Hollywood could make folks laugh without the use of dangerous animals or sharp objects. From enchanting romance to scary monsters—and isn't it sometimes hard to tell them apart?—we have a full score of mirth-making classics to perk you up after a brutal day of shopping...or looking for a parking space...or getting stuck in traffic...or reading the newspaper...You'll find the well known (**THE AWFUL TRUTH, UNFAITHFULLY YOURS, THE MORE THE MERRIER**) as well as the rarely-screened (**THEODORA GOES WILD, CLUNY BROWN, THE EGG AND I**) classics here featuring a mob of phenomenally talented people, including such legendary performers as **Irene Dunne, Cary Grant, Jean Arthur, Jack Benny,**

Lucille Ball, W. C. Fields, Fred MacMurray, Claudette Colbert, Judy Holliday, Jack Lemmon, Bob Hope and more!

Series compiled by Chris D. Program notes: Mike Schlesinger.

Special Thanks: Michael Schlesinger/SONY REPERTORY; Paul Ginsburg/UNIVERSAL; Marilee Womack/WARNER BROS.; Emily Horn and Barry Allen/PARAMOUNT; Caitlin Robertson/20th CENTURY FOX.

Thursday, December 21 - 7:30 PM

Irene Dunne Double Feature:

Newly Restored 35mm Print! **THE AWFUL TRUTH**, 1937, Sony Repertory, 92 min. Dir. **Leo McCarey**. McCarey won a Best Director Oscar for this side-splitting masterpiece in which **Irene Dunne** and **Cary Grant** decide to divorce...but darn it, it just doesn't seem to take. With **Ralph Bellamy** (in his defining "other man" role), **Alex D'Arcy**, (Miss) **Cecil Cunningham** and **Joyce Compton**, who steals the show with her unique rendition of "Gone With The Wind."
>> **Also showing at The Aero, December 28.**

Newly Restored 35mm Print! **THEODORA GOES WILD**, 1936, Sony Repertory, 94 min. Dir. **Richard Boleslawski**. **Irene Dunne's** first big comedy role casts her as a small-town gal with a dark secret: she writes racy best-sellers! When enamored publisher **Melvyn Douglas** figures it out, he shows up on her doorstep and threatens to, uh, expose her if she doesn't give him a tumble! With **Thomas Mitchell**, **Thurston Hall** and **Spring Byington**; based on a story by Mary McCarthy (Kevin's sister). **NOT ON DVD.**

Friday, December 22 - 7:30 PM

Domestic Help Double Feature:

RUGGLES OF RED GAP, 1935, Universal, 92 min. Dir. **Leo McCarey**. Another McCarey classic stars **Charles Laughton** as a veddy proper English valet who's won in a poker game by a man from the Wild West (**Charlie Ruggles**). And thus the clash of cultures commences. With **Mary Boland**, **ZaSu Pitts**, **Roland Young**, **Leila Hyams** and many others. And remember: always bring the pot to the kettle! **NOT ON DVD.**
>> **Also showing at The Aero, December 28.**

CLUNY BROWN, 1946, 20th Century Fox, 100 min. Director **Ernst Lubitsch's** last complete film is one of his funniest. **Jennifer Jones** is Cluny Brown, a female plumber who winds up working as a maid on an English estate; in other words, it's RUGGLES in reverse. **Charles Boyer** is delightful as a penniless Czech intellectual smitten with Cluny and befriended by rich, naive **Peter Lawford**. With **Helen Walker**, the unparalleled **C. Aubrey Smith** and **Una O'Connor**, and not one but two **Reginalds** (**Owen** and **Gardiner**). **NOT ON DVD.**

Saturday, December 23 - 7:30 PM

Domestic Bliss Double Feature:

THE LONG, LONG TRAILER, 1954, Warner Bros., 96 min. Dir. **Vincente Minnelli**. Long before **VACATION** and **RV**, **Lucille Ball** and **Desi Arnaz** hit the road (though *not* as the Ricardos) in this slapstick romp about newlyweds who buy a shiny new trailer and decide to take a cross-country honeymoon. Needless to say, "there's gonna be a lotta 'splainin' to do!"

With **Marjorie “Ma Kettle” Main, Keenan Wynn and Madge Blake**; written by Albert Hackett and Frances Goodrich (FATHER OF THE BRIDE).

Newly Restored 35mm Print! **THE FIRST TIME**, 1952, Sony Repertory, 89 min. Dir. **Frank Tashlin**. Tashlin’s live-action directorial debut is a charming domestic frolic about a couple (**Bob Cummings** and **Barbara Hale**) struggling with their first year of being parents. Plenty of diaper gags ensue...and it’s narrated by the baby! With **Bill Goodwin** and (Miss) **Jeff Donnell** as the wacky neighbors; written by Tashlin and the husband-wife team of Hugo Butler and Jean Rouverol—and Robert Aldrich was the associate producer! **NOT ON DVD.**

Monday, December 25 - 5:00 PM

Preston Sturges Double Feature:

UNFAITHFULLY YOURS, 1948, 20th Century Fox, 105 min. Dir. **Preston Sturges**. Sturges’ last truly great comedy has an ingenious premise: symphony conductor **Rex Harrison** suspects wife **Linda Darnell** is cheating on him, and imagines three courses of action as he conducts three different (and appropriate) pieces of music. As hilarious as it is audacious, this is a must-see. With **Rudy Vallee, Barbara Lawrence, Lionel Stander**, and an uproarious cameo by **Edgar Kennedy**, who admires the way Rex “handles Handel.”

CHRISTMAS IN JULY, 1940, Universal, 67 min. Dir. **Preston Sturges**. Sturges’ second feature as director stars **Dick Powell** as a humble clerk who thinks he’s won a big contest and starts spending like it’s, well, you know. Big problem: he doesn’t know he’s the victim of a practical joke. Typical madcap mayhem with **Ellen Drew, Raymond Walburn, William Demarest, Franklin Pangborn** and the rest of the Sturges Stock Company. And if you can’t sleep at night...

>> **Both films showing at The Aero, December 30.**

Tuesday, December 26 - 7:30 PM

Back To Nature Double Feature:

THE EGG AND I, 1947, Universal, 108 min. Dir. **Chester Erskine**. This riotous cousin of **GEORGE WASHINGTON SLEPT HERE** (see below) stars **Fred MacMurray** as a city fella who yearns for the simple joys of farming, and **Claudette Colbert** as his dutiful but long-suffering wife. This was not only Universal’s biggest hit of the late ‘40s, but the supporting characters of Ma and Pa Kettle (**Marjorie Main** and **Percy Kilbride**) were so popular that they were spun off into another *nine* features! **NOT ON DVD.**

IT’S A GIFT, 1934, Universal, 73 min. Dir. **Norman Z. McLeod**. Considered by some to be The Great Man’s greatest film, this short, sweet **W.C. Fields** vehicle is little more than a series of zany sketches loosely tied to his desire to move to California and grow oranges. Includes the legendary “Mr. Muckle” and “Carl LaFong” scenes, as well as the hanging mirror and sleeping porch routines. **Jean Rouverol**, who co-wrote **THE FIRST TIME** (see above), plays Fields’ daughter.

>> **Also showing at the Aero, December 27.**

Wednesday, December 27 - 7:30 PM

Jack Benny Double Feature:

GEORGE WASHINGTON SLEPT HERE, 1942, Warner Bros., 93 min. Dir. **William Keighley**. George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart’s last play was a smash hit about a man who decides to buy a dilapidated farmhouse in Bucks County, much to the disgust of his wife. But since **Jack**

Benny's persona was all about stinginess, Warners decided to reverse the roles! But it's still a laff riot, with **Ann Sheridan** as Benny's rustically-inclined spouse and great support from **Charles Coburn, Hattie McDaniel, Franklin Pangborn** and—a genuine coincidence—the future Pa Kettle, **Percy Kilbride**. And the set was left over from ARSENIC AND OLD LACE!
NOT ON DVD.

IT'S IN THE BAG, 1945, Paramount, 87 min. Dir. **Richard Wallace**. One of the earliest versions of The Twelve Chairs, this wonderful vehicle for legendary radio comedian **Fred Allen** sends him on a hunt for his inheritance, which has been hidden in one of five chairs (it's a lower-budget film). But no expense was spared on guest stars, including **Don Ameche, William Bendix, Robert Benchley, Rudy Vallee, Binnie Barnes** and (of course) **Jack Benny**, as well as **Minerva Pious** as Mrs. Nussbaum (from Fred's radio show). Plus it has maybe the funniest opening credits ever. **NOT ON DVD.**

Thursday, December 28 - 7:30 PM

Caribbean Fantasy Double Feature:

THE GHOST BREAKERS, 1940, Universal, 85 min. Dir. **George Marshall**. After the enormous success of THE CAT AND THE CANARY, **Bob Hope** and **Paulette Goddard** were quickly reteamed in this even better outing, which sends them to a "haunted" castle on a tiny island off the coast off Cuba. Not only funny but genuinely spooky as well, with A-list support from **Richard Carlson, Paul Lukas, Anthony Quinn, Tom Dugan, Jack Norton, Noble Johnson** (as a zombie) and top black comic **Willie Best**. Thirteen years later, Marshall remade this with Martin and Lewis as SCARED STIFF, and it became a hit all over again.

MR. PEABODY AND THE MERMAID, 1948, Paramount, 89 min. Dir. **Irving Pichel**. Delightful comic romantic fantasy in which **William Powell**, suffering from mid-life crisis, is smitten by a beautiful young mermaid (**Ann Blyth**) while on vacation in the Caribbean...which doesn't sit particularly well with his wife. Nunnally Johnson scripted this first and best of all the fishy love stories; **Irene Hervey** and **Andrea King** co-star. **NOT ON DVD.**

Friday, December 29 - 7:30 PM

Jean Arthur Double Feature:

THE MORE THE MERRIER, 1943, Sony Repertory, 104 min. Dir. **George Stevens**. Stevens' last comedy is a topical romance about a wartime housing shortage in Washington. **Jean Arthur** reluctantly sublets half her apartment to retired millionaire **Charles Coburn**—who promptly sublets half of *his* half to dreamy soldier **Joel McCrea**! Coburn won an Oscar for his inspired performance in this captivating film, which was also nominated for Best Picture, Director, Actress, Story and Screenplay. Remade 23 years later as WALK, DON'T RUN—which was Cary Grant's last film.

Newly Restored 35mm Print! **TOO MANY HUSBANDS**, 1940, Sony Repertory, 84 min. Dir. **Wesley Ruggles**. A delectable comedy from Somerset Maugham's play Town and Country, which essentially puts a gender switch on Enoch Arden: a year after **Fred MacMurray** is reported drowned, wife **Jean Arthur** marries his partner and best friend **Melvyn Douglas**...and then Fred turns up very much alive, forcing the two to compete for her affections. Ironically, that same year, RKO made MY FAVORITE WIFE, in which it's the *wife* lost at sea! A seldom-seen gem that hasn't even been shown on TV for many years. **NOT ON DVD.**

Saturday, December 30 - 7:30 PM

Marriage On The Rocks Double Feature:

Newly Restored 35mm Print! PHFFFT!, 1954, Sony Repertory, 91 min. Dir. **Mark Robson**. Arguably the greatest comedy ever with no vowels in its title, this adorable variation on THE AWFUL TRUTH finds **Judy Holliday** and **Jack Lemmon** (in his first starring role) getting a divorce, only to learn jumping back into the dating pool is a lot harder than it seems. **Jack Carson** and a young **Kim Novak** co-star in this saucy George Axelrod farce; the title, by the way, came from columnist Walter Winchell's term for a break-up. **NOT ON DVD.**

EVERYBODY DOES IT, 1949, 20th Century Fox, 98 min. Dir. **Edmond Goulding**. Another comic rarity from writer Nunnally Johnson, in which **Celeste Holm's** dreams of an operatic singing career are being thwarted by building contractor hubby **Paul Douglas's** interference. What happens next is too wildly funny to be revealed here. A bravura supporting cast includes **Linda Darnell** as a rival singer, **Charles Coburn**, **Millard Mitchell** and **George Tobias**; based on a story by—we kid you not—James M. Cain! **NOT ON DVD.**

Monday, January 1 - 5:00 PM

Scary Laughs Double Feature:

ABBOTT AND COSTELLO MEET FRANKENSTEIN, 1948, Universal, 83 min. Dir. **Charles Barton**. Still considered the greatest horror spoof ever, as Bud and Lou run afoul of Frankenstein's Monster, Dracula and the Wolfman (played straight by **Glenn Strange**, **Bela Lugosi** and **Lon Chaney, Jr.**), with the Count intending to install Lou's tiny brain in the Monster. If you've never seen this tour de force in a theatre with an audience, then you have no better way to ring in the New Year!

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE, 1944, Warner Bros., 118 min. Dir. **Frank Capra**. The granddaddy of all black comedies, a tender tale of two sweet old ladies with this odd little habit of poisoning people, plus their three darling nephews: a homicidal maniac who looks like Boris Karloff (who created the role on Broadway), a nut who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt, and worst of all, a theatre critic. **Cary Grant**, **Priscilla Lane**, **Raymond Massey**, **Peter Lorre**, **Jack Carson** and original cast members **Josephine Hull** and **Jean Adair** move two miles a minute under Capra's assured direction. Actually filmed in 1941, but it couldn't be released until the ultra-popular show closed on Broadway!

AERO THEATRE PROGRAMMING:
1328 Montana Avenue in Santa Monica (90403)

Friday, December 1 – 7:30 PM

Montana Avenue Holiday Walk Event:

THE THREE STOOGES' 72nd ANNIVERSARY! Sony Repertory, 118 min. A socko-boff collection of seven of their greatest to keep you "nyuking" into the holidays! **"Men In Black"** (1934, Raymond McCarey) brought them their only Oscar nomination and gave the world "Calling Dr. Howard, Dr. Fine, Dr. Howard!" **"Violent Is The Word For Curly"** (1938, Charley Chase) features their beloved song, "Swingin' The Alphabet" ("B-A-Bay, B-E-Bee..."). **"You Nazy Spy!"** (1940, Jules White) anticipates Chaplin's THE GREAT DICTATOR, introducing us to Moe Hailstone, supreme dictator of Moronica. Perhaps their most critically-acclaimed short, it was the personal favorite of both Moe and White. **"Brideless Groom"** (1947, Edward Bernds) crams Buster Keaton's SEVEN CHANCES down to two reels as Shemp must marry immediately to earn his inheritance. A favorite of Quentin Tarantino, who excerpted it in PULP FICTION. **"An Ache In Every Stake"** (1941, Del Lord) is a gag-crammed masterpiece in which they play icemen recruited to cook a last-minute birthday dinner for Vernon Dent. **"Micro-Phonies"** (1945, Edward Bernds) puts Curly in drag as a substitute for wannabe opera singer Christine McIntyre. And the quintessential **"In The Sweet Pie and Pie"** (1941, Jules White) concludes with one of the screen's all-time colossal pie-fights; there's also a bunk-bed gag later swiped for THE GREAT ESCAPE. Spread out, knuckleheads! *Join the Cinematheque today, get a goody bag and get in for free! Plus a sidewalk boutique featuring movie posters and more!*

IN-PERSON TRIBUTE TO DIRECTOR STEPHEN FREARS

December 2 – 6 at the Aero Theatre.

Stephen Frears was born in 1941 in Leicester, England and worked as an assistant director for a number of years on such films as Lindsay Anderson's IF... and Karel Reisz' MORGAN! before graduating to full-fledged directing. His feature directorial debut came in 1971 with the bittersweet crime comedy drama, GUMSHOE, starring Albert Finney. Although a fine film, it didn't catch fire at the box office, and Frears toiled away for quite a few more years helming British television shows before making another feature in 1979 with BLOODY KIDS. It wasn't until 1984 with THE HIT starring John Hurt, Terence Stamp and a very young Tim Roth that he received unanimous critical acclaim and found a cult smash on his hands. More standout cinema followed in quick succession from the mid-1980's on with **MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE, PRICK UP YOUR EARS, SAMMIE AND ROSIE GET LAID, DANGEROUS LIAISONS** and THE GRIFTERS. The 1990's and up to the present have been a mixture of big studio films (HERO, MARY REILLY, HIGH FIDELITY) and smaller, more personal projects (THE SNAPPER, THE VAN, **DIRTY PRETTY THINGS**). Falling somewhere in between was his collaboration with producer, Martin Scorsese, and writer, Walon Green, the criminally underrated **THE HI-LO COUNTRY**. The universally-acclaimed **THE QUEEN**, starring Helen Mirren, is his latest effort. Please join us for this In-Person tribute to a truly great filmmaker.

Series compiled by Gwen Deglise.

Special Thanks: Scott Watts/MIRAMAX; Paul Ginsburg/UNIVERSAL; Marilee Womack/WARNER BROS.; Amy Lewin/MGM Repertory.

Saturday, December 2 - 7:30 PM

Stephen Frears In-Person!

Double Feature:

THE QUEEN, 2006, Miramax, 97 min. Combining the vicarious rewards of a detailed biopic with the gentler pleasures of an insightful character study, director **Stephen Frears** puts the monarchy under the microscope in this irreverent comedy-drama. Set in 1997, it details the bond of trust that slowly develops between the 71-year-old Queen Elizabeth – humanized by the Oscar-caliber performance of **Helen Mirren** in the title role – and prime minister, Tony Blair (**Michael Sheen**) following the death of Princess Diana. With **James Cromwell**, **Sylvia Syms**. **DANGEROUS LIAISONS**, 1988, Warner Bros., 119 min. Dir. **Stephen Frears**. Games of seduction, lust, and manipulation spotlight **Glenn Close** and **John Malkovich's** devilish gambling over innocent **Michelle Pfeiffer** – games in which even the winner ends up a tragic loser. Before **VALMONT** and **CRUEL INTENTIONS**, Frears set a high standard for filming Choderlos de Laclos's novel (which was one of Marie Antoinette's favorite books and a guilty pleasure in 1782). Of the many cinematic versions, this still arguably remains the best adaptation. ***Discussion in between films with director Stephen Frears.***

Sunday, December 3 - 7:30 PM

Stephen Frears In-Person!

Double Feature:

MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDRETTE, 1985, MGM Repertory, 97 min. Through a gallery of fine performances and situations, director **Stephen Frears** draws a subtle relationship between a young Pakistani (**Saeed Jaffrey**) and his fascist punk lover (**Daniel Day-Lewis**). A benchmark in queer cinema from the 1980's, and a major portrait of societal disintegration in a Great Britain rife with racism and a thriving underground economy. Oscar nominated for Best Screenplay by Pakistani Hanif Kureishi.

PRICK UP YOUR EARS, 1987, MGM Repertory, 111 min. Dir. **Stephen Frears**. A caustically entertaining biopic of the controversial young British playwright, Joe Orton (a volcanic **Gary Oldman**) who was murdered in 1967 by his lover and early collaborator, Kenneth Halliwell (**Alfred Molina**). A harrowing portrait of fatal jealousy and an obsessive love gone bad. With **Vanessa Redgrave**, **Julie Walters**. ***Discussion in between films with director Stephen Frears.***

Wednesday, December 6 - 7:30 PM

THE HI-LO COUNTRY, 1998, Universal, 114 min. Director **Stephen Frears**, producer Martin Scorsese and screenwriter Walon Green (**THE WILD BUNCH**) adapted Max Evans novel into this poignantly affecting and underrated saga of the evolving New West in post -WWII New Mexico. Best friends, brawling Big Boy (**Woody Harrelson**) and introspective war veteran, Pete (**Billy Crudup**) fall in love with the same girl (**Patricia Arquette**) who is married to the foreman (**John Diehl**) of a big rancher (**Sam Elliott**) gobbling up smaller enterprises. Tensions mount amongst all concerned as the narrative unfolds – we know there will be a calamitous result, but when it fatefully comes, it is from a comparatively unexpected source. Co-starring

Penelope Cruz as a Mexican girl carrying a torch for Pete, seemingly in vain. With a mournfully beautiful score by Carter Burwell.

DIRTY PRETTY THINGS, 2001, Miramax, 97 min. This gripping cross-cultural thriller colored with romance and humor is also a portrayal of the harsh life of illegal aliens in modern London. French star **Audrey Tautou** (AMELIE) is a Turkish maid and **Chiwetel Ejiofor** (INSIDE MAN) a former Nigerian doctor caught in a criminal web involving organs traffic. Director **Stephen Frears** shifts style and genre, once more casting his mesmerizing spell on an unsuspecting audience.

IN-PERSON TRIBUTE TO DIRECTOR PRODUCER IRWIN WINKLER:
December 7 & 8 at the Aero Theatre.

In a career as celebrated as it is accomplished, director and producer, **Irwin Winkler**, commands a distinguished reputation in the motion picture industry as one of its most progressive and honored filmmakers. Winkler's films have garnered four Academy Award Best Picture nominations including ROCKY, RAGING BULL, THE RIGHT STUFF and **GOODFELLAS**. ROCKY walked away with the Best Picture Oscar in 1976. In total, Winkler's filmography has amassed 12 Academy Awards and 45 nominations. Most recently he added the Golden Globe and Grammy nominated DE-LOVELY about the life of Cole Porter and starring Kevin Kline.

After a highly successful and celebrated career as a screen producer, Winkler decided to conquer new worlds. He made his directorial debut in 1989 with an original screenplay he wrote about the Hollywood blacklisting era, GUILTY BY SUSPICION starring Robert DeNiro and Annette Bening, which became the official United States entry that year at the Cannes Film Festival. He followed by directing and producing such films as NIGHT AND THE CITY with DeNiro and Jessica Lange, THE NET starring Sandra Bullock, AT FIRST SIGHT with Val Kilmer and Mira Sorvino, the critically acclaimed Kevin Kline starrer LIFE AS A HOUSE and DE-LOVELY. In 2004 the Cannes Film Festival feted DE-LOVELY as the closing night gala event. No newcomer to Cannes Film Festival honors, Winkler and then partner Robert Chartoff, had three of their films entered in 1970 with LEO THE LAST winning Best Director for John Boorman, STRAWBERRY STATEMENT receiving the Jury Award, and **THEY SHOOT HORSES, DON'T THEY** garnering the closing night honors. Winkler also produced such great films as Richard Fleischer's THE NEW CENTURIONS, Karel Reisz' THE GAMBLER, Martin Scorsese's NEW YORK, NEW YORK, Bertrand Tavernier's 'ROUND MIDNIGHT and Costa-Gavras' THE MUSIC BOX. His latest directorial effort is the much-anticipated **HOME OF THE BRAVE**. Please join us for this In-Person tribute to an outstanding filmmaker.

Series compiled by Gwen Deglise.

Special thanks: Jeff Sanderson; MGM; Marilee Womack/WARNER BROS.; Mary Tallungan/DISNEY.

Thursday, December 7 - 7:30 PM

Sneak Preview! Irwin Winkler In-Person!

HOME OF THE BRAVE, 2006, MGM, 105 min. Dir. **Irwin Winkler**. From Academy Award winner **Irwin Winkler** comes the story of four American soldiers nearing the end of their tours of duty in Iraq. Shortly after learning their unit will soon return home, they are sent on one final humanitarian mission to bring medical supplies to a remote Iraqi village. The unit is ambushed and takes heavy losses. The surviving troops suffer both physical and psychological injuries. Now, as they return to the United States, the four soldiers must face memories of the past as they return to civilian life and look towards the future. With **Samuel L. Jackson**, **Jessica Biel**, **Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson** and **Brian Presley**. *Discussion following with director Irwin Winkler.*

Friday, December 8 - 7:30 PM

Irwin Winkler In-Person!

Double Feature:

GOODFELLAS, 1990, Warner Bros., 145 min. **Irwin Winkler** produced this quintessential mob epic directed by **Martin Scorsese** and based on Nicholas Pileggi's Wiseguy. **Ray Liotta** stars as Henry Hill, a real life mobster, whose captivating narration rivals that of previous Scorsese anti-hero, Travis Bickle. **Joe Pesci** won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor as charismatic sociopath, Tommy DeVito, and **Robert DeNiro** shines as the brutal Jimmy Conway. Filled with memorable characters, a wealth of atmosphere, beautiful tracking shots (cinematographer Michael Bauhaus), and, as always, an amazing Scorsese soundtrack. The all star cast also includes **Lorraine Bracco**, **Paul Sorvino**, **Frank Vincent** and even a young **Michael Imperioli** ("The Sopranos") in the short, but memorable, role of Spider.

THEY SHOOT HORSES, DON'T THEY? 1969, Disney, 120 min. Based on the hardboiled novel by Horace McCoy, director **Sydney Pollack**'s horrifying character study takes place during a claustrophobic, depression era dance marathon. **Michael Sarrazin** and **Jane Fonda** are the tragic couple determined to make it into the home stretch to win the much-needed prize money. With an Academy Award-winning performance by **Gig Young** as the marathon emcee. Co-starring **Susannah York**, **Red Buttons**, **Bruce Dern**, **Severn Dardin**, and **Al Lewis**. *Discussion in between films with producer Irwin Winkler.*

Saturday, December 9 - 7:30 PM

Special Booksigning Event!

Co-presented with the Visual Effects Society

In conjunction with Lorne Peterson's booksigning of Sculpting A Galaxy, Inside The Star Wars Model Shop at Every Picture Tells A Story, join us for a rare screening of the original and unique STAR WARS: EPISODE IV – A NEW HOPE. Lorne is one of the original ILM model builders. He ran the ILM modelshop for many years afterwards and has the distinction of being one of the few people who worked on all six STAR WARS films.

STAR WARS: EPISODE IV – A NEW HOPE, 1977, 20th Century Fox/LucasFilm, 121 min. Dir. **George Lucas**. There's a reason STAR WARS changed the culture and industry of movies, captivated millions of people and made billions of dollars: it was supremely entertaining and, because its story, themes and characters were so classical, it remains so today. Luke Skywalker (**Mark Hamill**) teams up with Han Solo (**Harrison Ford**), R2D2, C3PO and Chewbacca to help rescue a princess (**Carrie Fisher**) from the evil overlord,

Darth Vader. This first and best of the six movies is especially interesting to see now that the three prequels have been completed and released; creator George Lucas has been under-praised for his political sophistication, for a reappraisal of the STAR WARS movies, begun at the end of the Vietnam war and completed during the U.S. occupation of Iraq, reveals a powerful anti-imperialist message that resonates especially strongly today. We'll be screening the special edition released in 1997. **Lorne Peterson will introduce the screening. Booksigning at Every Picture Tells A Story at 6 PM.**

Sunday, December 10 - 7:30 PM

Sneak Preview!

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS, 2006, Sony Pictures, 116 min. Dir. **Gabriel Muccino**. Chris Gardner (**Will Smith**) is a bright and talented, but marginally employed salesman. Struggling to make ends meet, Gardner finds himself and his five-year-old son evicted from their San Francisco apartment with nowhere to go. When Gardner lands an internship at a prestigious stock brokerage firm, he and his son endure many hardships, including living in shelters, in pursuit of his dream of a better life for the two of them. **Discussion following the screening with director Gabriel Muccino.**

Wednesday, December 13 - 7:30 PM

Kevin Thomas' Favorites

STAGECOACH, 1939, Warner Bros., 96 min. Dir. **John Ford**. Released in 1939, that banner year for American movies, STAGECOACH, some argue, is not John Ford's greatest western. But surely it is one of the most enduringly enjoyable films of all time. It's the kind of picture that, when you happen upon it airing on TV, you are swiftly hooked, no matter how familiar it is to you. The journey has been a potent metaphor for life's passage as far back as Chaucer and beyond, and here it is especially exciting as a stagecoach full of involving characters, superbly drawn and played, travels through dangerous Indian territory. After a decade in movies **John Wayne** became a star once and for all time as the Ringo Kid, gallantly defending vulnerable shady lady, **Claire Trevor** while **Thomas Mitchell's** drunken doctor won him an Oscar. Also memorable: a shifty **John Carradine** and **Louise Platt's** proper gentlewoman. Adapted by Dudley Nichols from Ernest Haycox's story, "Stage to Lordsburg." - Kevin Thomas. **Film Critic Kevin Thomas will introduce the screening.**

Thursday, December 14 - 7:30 PM

Sneak Preview! Actresses Rene Zellweger, Emily Watson and Director Chris Noonan In-Person!

MISS POTTER, 2006, Weinstein Company, 93 min. Dir. **Chris Noonan**. Beatrix Potter has delighted generations with her beloved children's tales, having created the world of Peter Rabbit, Mrs. Tiggly-winkle, Jeremy Fisher and their friends. **Renee Zellweger** stars as Beatrix Potter, a sheltered but talented young woman who falls in love with her publisher, Norman Warne (**Ewan McGregor**) once they begin to work together. This is the story of a woman whose life was marked by incredible professional success and unimaginable personal grief - a woman who survived to become one of the world's most successful children's writers of all time. Co-starring **Emily Watson**. **Discussion following with director Chris Noonan and actresses Rene Zellweger and Emily Watson.**

THE PINK PANTHER FILMS
December 15 & 16 at the Aero

Francois: *Do you know what kind of bomb it was?*

Inspector Clouseau: *The exploding kind.*

(From THE PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN)

Between 1964 and 1978, actor **Peter Sellers** and director/writer **Blake Edwards** collaborated on one of the most phenomenally popular and beloved film comedy series of all time, creating an international sensation out of disaster-prone Inspector Clouseau and his partners in crime, including Chief Inspector Dreyfus (**Herbert Lom**), Cato (**Burt Kwouk**) and the fabulous Pink Panther diamond. Please join us for a special holiday treat featuring all five original Pink Panther movies.

Series compiled by Gwen Deglise and Dennis Bartok.

Special Thanks: Amy Lewin/MGM Repertory.

Friday, December 15 - 7:30 PM

THE PINK PANTHER, 1964, MGM Repertory, 113 min. Director/writer **Blake Edwards** introduced one of the most beloved characters in modern cinema - **Peter Sellers'** absolutely clueless Inspector Jacques Clouseau - with this effervescent, champagne-colored comedy about a notorious British jewel thief and playboy (**David Niven**) on a ski holiday with nephew **Robert Wagner**, mistress **Capucine**, exotic princess **Claudia Cardinale** and a priceless diamond in tow. With music by the great Henry Mancini.

A SHOT IN THE DARK, 1964, MGM Repertory, 101 min. **Blake Edwards'** follow-up to THE PINK PANTHER gave both director and star free reign to unleash a non-stop barrage of pratfalls, sight gags and linguistic nonsense. Everything seems freshly minted, from **Herbert Lom's** hysterics as Chief Inspector Dreyfus to **Burt Kwouk's** first appearance as Cato. What makes **Peter Sellers'** Inspector Clouseau so endearing is the resolution of a thousand years of cross-channel rivalry in the form of a Brit impersonating an irresistibly clumsy Frenchman. With **Elke Sommer**, **George Sanders**.

Saturday, December 16 - 5:00 PM

THE RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER, 1975, MGM Repertory, 113 min. Dir. **Blake Edwards**. After a ten year hiatus, **Peter Sellers** and Edwards re-teamed for what many consider the flat-out funniest film in the series. When the famed Pink Panther diamond of Lugash disappears again, Inspector Clouseau is called in to investigate the supposedly retired jewel thief (wonderfully suave **Christopher Plummer**) who's suspected of taking it. Remember the immortal line: "I arrest you, Sir Charles Phantom, the notorious pink Lytton!" With **Catherine Schell**, **Herbert Lom**.

Saturday, December 16 - 7:30 PM

THE PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN, 1976, MGM Repertory, 103 min. Dir. **Blake Edwards**. Clouseau (**Peter Sellers**) is promoted to Chief Inspector when his arch-nemesis Dreyfus (**Herbert Lom**) suffers a nervous breakdown. But beware: when Dreyfus gets his hands on a Disappearing Ray Machine, only Clouseau can save the world from destruction (if

he doesn't destroy it first himself!).

REVENGE OF THE PINK PANTHER, 1978, MGM Repertory, 104 min. Dir. **Blake Edwards**. **Peter Sellers'** last completed film as Clouseau shows him in fine form, as he's targeted for assassination by a drug lord. When news of Clouseau's "death" reaches the insane Chief Inspector Dreyfus he makes a remarkable recovery - but don't count the indestructible Clouseau out just yet ...! With **Dyan Cannon**, **Burt Kwouk**.

Sunday, December 17 - 6:30 PM

In-Person Tribute to Guillermo del Toro!

CRONOS (LA INVENCIÓN DE CRONOS), 1993, Lions Gate, 94 min. Dir. **Guillermo del Toro**(**PAN'S LABYRINTH**; **HELLBOY**; **BLADE II**). Starring **Federico Luppi**, **Ron Perlman**. This absorbing Gothic tale was the winner of nine top Mexican Academy Awards, as well as the Critics' Week Prize at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival. The story reveals the secrets of an invention that has the power to grant eternal life, but gives its user a tremendous thirst for human blood. "*Del Toro, a skilled craftsman, obviously takes great pleasure in guiding viewers through a melange of cinematic styles: the film tips its hat to a number of Mexican film genres, from vampire horror to thrillers to wrestling films.*" -- [Screen International](#)

THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE, 2001, Sony Classics, 106 min. Set against the backdrop of the Spanish Civil War, director **Guillermo Del Toro's** third feature (and first in his native Spanish) follows ten-year-old refugee Carlos (**Fernando Tielve**), the newest resident of a war-wracked orphanage. His amenities include bullies, an unexploded bomb in the courtyard and the ghost of a slain child. Co-written by Del Toro, **THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE** is a remarkably poignant yet subtle ghost story. Featuring longtime Del Toro collaborator Guillermo Navarro's exquisite cinematography. Also with **Federico Luppi** and **Eduardo Noriega**. *Discussion in between films with director Guillermo del Toro. A pair of tickets to the Invitation Only Premiere of Guillermo del Toro's PAN'S LABYRINTH at the Egyptian Theatre on Monday, December 18 will be raffled off at the screening.*

Thursday, December 21 - 7:30 PM

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, 1946, Paramount, 130 min. Director **Frank Capra's** inspiring tale balances both pathos and joy. The legendary **Jimmy Stewart** is at his finest as the distraught George Baily, a man about to commit suicide on Christmas Eve. And who can forget **Henry Travers** as the helpful Angel Clarence or **Lionel Barrymore** as avaricious banker Mr. Potter? Featuring **Donna Reed** in the role that launched her to stardom and a young, charming **Gloria Grahame**. You have seen it before, now see it on the big screen.

Friday, December 22 - 7:30 PM

WHITE CHRISTMAS, 1954, Paramount, 120 min. Director **Michael Curtiz'** (**CASABLANCA**) sadly neglected Christmas classic. Paramount's first film shot in widescreen Vistavision is a love story, set in a Vermont inn. Two Army buddies, **Bing Crosby** and **Danny Kaye** turned post war song and dance team, find romance with **Rosemary Clooney** and **Vera-Ellen**, while rescuing their old General (**Dean Jagger**) from financial ruin. With 13 songs highlighted by the snow bound train rendition of Irving Berlin's "Snow." "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep" was Oscar-nominated for Best Song.

Saturday, December 23 - 7:30 PM

In 70 mm! **LAWRENCE OF ARABIA**, 1962, Columbia, 216 min. The beautiful, near-godlike **Peter O'Toole** stars as the tortured, Man Who Would Not Be King in director **David Lean's** absolute masterpiece – as close to perfect as a film can get. Featuring one of the finest casts in any motion picture: **Omar Sharif** (in his first major English-speaking role), **Anthony Quinn, Jack Hawkins, Claude Rains** and **Alec Guinness** as Prince Feisal. D.P. Freddie Young's 70 mm. photography is rightly considered to be a work of genius, matched by Robert Bolt and Michael Wilson's screenplay, Maurice Jarre's stirring score and John Box's production design. Winner of 7 Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. *"When you're in the desert, you look into infinity ... It makes you feel terribly small, and also in a strange way, quite big."* – David Lean.

SCREWBALL HOLIDAYS

December 21, 2006 – January 1, 2007 at The Egyptian Theatre

December 27 – January 1, 2007 at the Aero Theatre

Our fourth annual holiday comedy festival offers up another platter of delicious treats from the days when Hollywood could make folks laugh without the use of dangerous animals or sharp objects. From enchanting romance to scary monsters—and isn't it sometimes hard to tell them apart?—we have a full score of mirth-making classics to perk you up after a brutal day of shopping...or looking for a parking space...or getting stuck in traffic...or reading the newspaper...There are the well known (**THE AWFUL TRUTH, UNFAITHFULLY YOURS, THE MORE THE MERRIER**) as well as the rarely-screened (**THEODORA GOES WILD, CLUNY BROWN, THE EGG AND I**) classics here featuring a mob of phenomenally talented people, including such legendary performers as **Irene Dunne, Cary Grant, Jean Arthur, Jack Benny, Lucille Ball, W. C. Fields, Fred MacMurray, Claudette Colbert, Judy Holliday, Jack Lemmon, Bob Hope** and more!

Series compiled by Chris D, Gwen Deglise and Grant Moninger. Program notes: Mike Schlesinger.

Special Thanks: Michael Schlesinger/SONY REPERTORY; Paul Ginsburg/UNIVERSAL; Marilee Womack/WARNER BROS.; Emily Horn and Barry Allen/PARAMOUNT; Caitlin Robertson/20th CENTURY FOX.

Wednesday, December 27 - 7:30 PM

W.C. Fields Double Feature:

THE BANK DICK, 1940, Universal, 72 min. Dir. **Eddie Cline**. **W.C. Fields'** most enduringly popular feature casts him as Egbert Sousé, a layabout who inadvertently catches a bank robber and is "rewarded" with a job as the bank's security guard. A matchless cast, including **Una Merkel, Jessie Ralph, Grady Sutton, Franklin Pangborn, Jack Norton** and the one-and-only **Shemp Howard** helps make this an authentic American classic. Written by "Mahatma Kane Jeeves" (as in, "My Hat, My Cane, Jeeves").

IT'S A GIFT, 1934, Universal, 73 min. . Dir. **Norman Z. McLeod**. Considered by some to be The Great Man's greatest film, this short, sweet **W.C. Fields** vehicle is little more than a series

of zany sketches loosely tied to his desire to move to California and grow oranges. Includes the legendary "Mr. Muckle" and "Carl LaFong" scenes, as well as the hanging mirror and sleeping porch routines. **Jean Rouverol**, who co-wrote *THE FIRST TIME* (see above), plays Fields' daughter.

>> **Also showing at the Egyptian, December 26**

Thursday, December 28 - 7:30 PM

Leo McCarey Double Feature:

Newly Restored 35mm Print! **THE AWFUL TRUTH**, 1937, Sony Repertory, 92 min. Dir. **Leo McCarey**. McCarey won a Best Director Oscar for this side-splitting masterpiece in which **Irene Dunne** and **Cary Grant** decide to divorce...but darn it, it just doesn't seem to take. With **Ralph Bellamy** (in his defining "other man" role), **Alex D'Arcy**, (Miss) **Cecil Cunningham** and **Joyce Compton**, who steals the show with her unique rendition of "Gone With The Wind."

>> **Also showing at the Egyptian, December 21**

RUGGLES OF RED GAP, 1935, Universal, 92 min. Dir. **Leo McCarey**. Another McCarey classic stars **Charles Laughton** as a veddy proper English valet who's won in a poker game by a man from the Wild West (**Charlie Ruggles**). And thus the clash of cultures commences. With **Mary Boland**, **ZaSu Pitts**, **Roland Young**, **Leila Hyams** and many others. And remember: always bring the pot to the kettle! **NOT ON DVD.**

>> **Also showing at the Egyptian, December 22**

Friday, December 29 - 7:30 PM

Bums & Millionaires Double Feature:

MY MAN GODFREY, 1936, Universal, 94 min. Dir. **Gregory La Cava**. "You people have confused me with the U.S. Treasury!" barks **Eugene Pallette** to his spoiled, filthy-rich family, including daughter, **Carole Lombard**, who acquires tramp **William Powell** during a scavenger hunt and makes him her butler, whereupon he teaches her a few lessons about being human. Comeuppance for the wealthy was sure-fire material during the Depression, and no film ever did it better than this one. With **Alice Brady**, **Mischa Auer**, **Gail Patrick** and **Alan Mowbray**. **I'LL GIVE A MILLION**, 1938, 20th Century-Fox, 75 min. Dir. **Walter Lang**. This undeservedly obscure jewel is about a millionaire (**Warner Baxter**) who rescues a tramp (**Peter Lorre!**) from drowning, musing that he'd give a cool "mill" to anyone else who would do a good deed. Try and guess what happens next. The supporting cast is practically a who's-who of wonderful character actors - far too many to list here - so just do yourself a good deed and come see it. Actually a remake of a 1935 Italian film; one of the adapters was Boris Ingster, who later directed Lorre in the creepy cult thriller *STRANGER ON THE THIRD FLOOR*. **NOT ON DVD!**

Saturday, December 30 - 7:30 PM

Preston Sturges Double Feature:

UNFAITHFULLY YOURS, 1948, 20th Century Fox, 105 min. Dir. **Preston Sturges**. Sturges' last truly great comedy has an ingenious premise: symphony conductor **Rex Harrison** suspects wife **Linda Darnell** is cheating on him, and imagines three courses of action as he conducts three different (and appropriate) pieces of music. As hilarious as it is audacious, this is a must-see. With **Rudy Vallee**, **Barbara Lawrence**, **Lionel Stander**, and an uproarious cameo by **Edgar Kennedy**, who admires the way Rex "handles Handel."

CHRISTMAS IN JULY, 1940, Universal, 67 min. Dir. **Preston Sturges**. Sturges' second feature as director stars **Dick Powell** as a humble clerk who thinks he's won a big contest and starts spending like it's, well, you know. Big problem: he doesn't know he's the victim of a practical joke. Typical madcap mayhem with **Ellen Drew, Raymond Walburn, William Demarest, Franklin Pangborn** and the rest of the Sturges Stock Company. And if you can't sleep at night...

>> **Both films showing at the Egyptian, December 25**

Monday, January 1 – 5:00 PM

Classic New Year's Comedies:

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA, 1935, Warner Bros, 92 min. Dir. **Sam Wood**. **The Marx Brothers'** first film for MGM, first without Zeppo, and their biggest box office hit. Heck, you know the plot, so just enjoy the stateroom scene, the contract routine, and tons of great one-liners. And remember: there ain't no sanity clause! Numerous writers (many uncredited) include George S. Kaufman, Morrie Ryskind, Al Boasberg and even Buster Keaton. **With Kitty Carlisle, Allan Jones, Sig Rumann, Walter Woolf King**, and of course, **Margaret Dumont**.

MONKEY BUSINESS, 1931, Universal, 77 min. Dir. **Norman Z. McLeod**. **The Marx Brothers'** first original screenplay — by S.J. Perelman and an uncredited Ben Hecht, among others — is perhaps their most bizarre (and the only one in which they have no character names). They're stowaways on an ocean liner, wreaking havoc and getting mixed up with rival gangsters as well as **Thelma Todd**. Includes the famous scene where all four try to get through customs by pretending to be Maurice Chevalier. **With Rockliffe Fellows, Harry Woods, Ruth Hall and Tom Kennedy** (no relation to Edgar).