



A division of the Toronto International Film Festival Group

May 12, 2004

SUMMER OVERVIEW

CINEMATHEQUE ONTARIO'S ILLICIT SUMMER SEASON FEATURES AMERICAN *NOIR*, ANNA MAY WONG, SIXTIES CINEMA, VISCONTI AND FRENCH CRIME FILMS

Toronto – Scofflaws, *femme fatales*, and counterculture icons populate **Cinematheque Ontario**'s annual slate of Summer classics. Summer at the Cinematheque features retrospectives of Anna May Wong and Luchino Visconti, as well as three early films by Bernardo Bertolucci. Spotlights include American *Noir*, films from Russia's Lenfilm Studio, and *French Crime Classics*. Another series of American films – Sixties Hollywood classics – begins with a lecture by renowned critic J. Hoberman. Finally, **Cinematheque Ontario** hosts a free screening of **CENERE**, and *Exclusive Limited Runs* of **PICCADILLY**, **THE CLAY BIRD**, **THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS** and **LA DOLCE VITA**. Complete programme details and **Cinematheque Ontario** members' advance tickets go on sale May 19 through the Official website, www.bell.ca/cinematheque, or by calling the **Bell Infoline** at **416-968-FILM**. **Cinematheque Ontario**'s Summer Season launches May 28 and runs through August 21.

Deadly Detours: 15 Noir Classics (May 28 - June 17) includes lynchpins of the genre such as Tourneur's **OUT OF THE PAST** (1947), Welles's **THE LADY FROM SHANGHAI** (1948), and Lang's **THE BIG HEAT** (1953), but also offers several rarely screened *noir* forays like Edgar G. Ulmer's **DETOUR** (1945), Delmer Daves' **DARK PASSAGE** (1947), and Edmund Goulding's recently revived **NIGHTMARE ALLEY** (1947). Fifteen films shed light on the amorality, greed, obsessions, and poisoned passions that thrive in the duplicitous world of *noir*.

The singular career and talent of Los Angeles native Anna May Wong is long overdue for rediscovery and celebration. A stunning beauty, Wong was the first Chinese-American actress to become an international celebrity, appearing in over 50 films, making the transition from silents to talkies and even to television.

Dangerous To Know: Screen Star Anna May Wong (June 4 - 16) presents eight of these films, including the celebrated and newly restored **PICCADILLY** (1929), as well as **SONG** (1928), **PAVEMENT BUTTERFLY** (1928), **DAUGHTER OF SHANGHAI** (1931), **DAUGHTER OF THE DRAGON** (1931), **SHANGHAI EXPRESS** (1932), and **DANGEROUS TO KNOW** (1938).

Created in the wake of the Bolsheviks' victory in 1918, Lenfilm Studio established a reputation for attracting some of the very "free spirits" who were then gravitating to the new Soviet cinema, and remains open and active today. **Eisenstein to Sokurov: 12 Classics from Lenfilm Studio** (June 11 - July 1) is a brief survey, revealing an astonishing history of artistic excellence, cinematic innovation, and political courage, including such films as **OCTOBER** (1928), **THE NEW BABYLON** (1929), **KING LEAR** (1970), and **THE SECOND CIRCLE** (1990).

Cinematheque Ontario Lecture Series welcomes film critic and historian J. Hoberman to the Cinematheque stage for a lecture and book signing. Senior critic at *The Village Voice*, author of many books on film, and contributor to the *New York Times*, *The London Review of Books*, and other publications, Hoberman will deliver a lecture based on his new book, *The Dream Life: Movies, Media and the Mythology of the Sixties* (2003), prior to the screening of **THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE** (1962), on Friday, June 25. The lecture and screening also kick off *The Dream Life: J. Hoberman on Sixties Cinema* (June 25 - July 3), a series of classic movies that figure in Hoberman's examination of Sixties cult movies, like **DR. STRANGELOVE OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE BOMB** (1964),

BONNIE AND CLYDE (1967), and **THE WILD BUNCH** (1967), among others.

On May 29, **Cinematheque Ontario** invites Toronto moviegoers to enjoy a *Free Screening* of a rare cinematic treat: an archival print of Febo Mavi and Arturo Ambrosios's **CENERE** (1916), starring Italian stage star Eleonora Duse in her only film appearance. **CENERE** is presented with live piano accompaniment by William O'Meara.

Cinematheque Ontario presents four *Exclusive Limited Runs* as part of its Summer programming: E.A. Dupont's **PICCADILLY** (1929), starring Anna May Wong, screens as a newly restored 35mm print on June 5 and 6; Tareque Masud's **THE CLAY BIRD** (2002), a Toronto theatrical premiere, plays from June 18 - 24; Gillo Pontecorvo's **THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS** (1966) screens from July 6 - 10; and closing out the Summer season is Federico Fellini's **LA DOLCE VITA** (1959), in a new Scope print, from August 18 - 21.

Another prominent part of the Summer programming is the 22-film retrospective of films by Italian master Luchino Visconti. The first of only four North American tour dates for the retrospective, *Maestro: The Films of Luchino Visconti* (July 6 - August 13) is the complete Visconti, composed of newly made 35mm prints, restorations and rarities. Highlights of *Maestro* include Visconti's early work as assistant director to Jean Renoir on **UNE PARTIE DE CAMPAGNE** (1937) and **THE LOWER DEPTHS** (1936); the Toronto premieres of **DAYS OF GLORY** (1945) and **APPUNTI SU UN FATTO DI CRONACA** (1951); and the classics – **DEATH IN VENICE** (1971), **SENSO** (1954), **LA TERRA TREMA** (1948), **THE LEOPARD** (1963), **THE DAMNED** (1969), and Visconti's swan song, **THE INNOCENT** (1976). As a special treat, **Cinematheque Ontario** is offering a free screening of Visconti's **LUDWIG** (1973) on August 12.

From July 13 through August 14, **Cinematheque Ontario** screens *Fatal Beauty: French Crime Classics* – 23 films by such celebrated directors as Godard, Duvivier, Chabrol, Melville, Franju, Truffaut, Malle, Clouzot, Becker, Clément, and Dassin – a natural bookend to the American *noir* series, *Deadly Detours*. This stellar selection of classic crime films, all imported especially for these screenings, include restored prints of **TOUCHEZ PAS AU GRISBI** (1953), **RIFIFI** (1955), **PÉPÉ LE MOKO** (1937), **LE CERCLE ROUGE** (1970), **THE TRUTH** (1960), and **MISSISSIPPI MERMAID** (1969); as well as new 35mm prints of **QUAI DES ORFÈVRES** (1947) and **EYES WITHOUT A FACE** (1960).

The final programme of the season is *Italian Trilogy: Three Early Films By Bernardo Bertolucci* (August 5 - 11). This collection of films, that confirmed Bertolucci's reputation as one of the most important directors of his generation, features a new 35mm print of **BEFORE THE REVOLUTION** (1964), as well as the full-length print of **THE CONFORMIST** (1970), and the little known **THE SPIDER'S STRATAGEM** (1970).

All **Cinematheque Ontario** screenings are held at the Art Gallery of Ontario's Jackman Hall, 317 Dundas St. West, Toronto (McCaul Street entrance). Regular tickets are \$6 for Members; \$5.50 for Student Members and Seniors; and \$10.10 for Non-Members. *Limited Runs* and *Special Presentations* are \$7.25 for Members and \$11.50 for Non-Members. *Cinematheque Ontario Lecture Series* tickets are \$10.25 for Members and \$15.50 for non-members. All screenings are restricted to individuals 18 years of age or older, unless noted otherwise. For ticket information, call the **Bell Infoline** at **416-968-FILM** or visit the Official website: www.bell.ca/cinematheque.

Cinematheque Ontario's Summer Season

Deadly Detours: 15 Noir Classics
May 28 - June 17

CENERE
May 29

PICCADILLY
June 5 - 6

Dangerous to Know:
Screen Star Anna May Wong
June 4 - 16

Eisenstein to Sokurov:
12 Classics from Lenfilm Studio
June 11 - July 1

THE CLAY BIRD
June 18 - 24

The Dream Life:
J. Hoberman on Sixties Cinema
June 25 - July 3

Cinematheque Ontario Lecture Series:
J. Hoberman on Sixties Cinema &
THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE
June 25

THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS
July 6 - 10

Maestro: The Films of Luchino Visconti
July 6 - August 14

Fatal Beauty: French Crime Classics
July 13 - August 14

Italian Trilogy:
Three Early Films By Bernardo Bertolucci
August 5 - 11

LA DOLCE VITA
August 18 - 21

Cinematheque Ontario is a division of The Toronto International Film Festival Group. The Group generates an annual economic impact of \$67 million CAD, including \$33 million in tourism, and operates with an annual budget of \$13 million. Currently, the Group employs more than 75 full-time staff, 500 part-time and seasonal staff, and counts upon the largess of 1,700 volunteers year-round. The Group is a registered charitable arts organization that operates the Toronto International Film Festival®, Cinematheque Ontario, Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children, The Film Reference Library, Film Circuit, Talk Cinema, Canada's Top Ten, and Industry & Education.

The Toronto International Film Festival Group's most recent major initiative is Festival Centre, a unique international destination that celebrates the world of film in the most culturally diverse city. New programming will draw two million people each year to 4,000 film events, servicing the public and industry 52 weeks a year. With the consolidation of Toronto International Film Festival Group programmes under one roof – theatres and increased education, archive, and installation space – Festival Centre will be a focal point for film lovers of all ages from around the world. To support this endeavour, a capital surcharge is added to all programming initiatives. Now included in ticket pricing is a \$0.25 capital surcharge on Members' tickets and a \$0.50 on Non-Members' tickets. Membership pricing now includes a \$2 capital surcharge on individual memberships, \$4 dual memberships and \$5 on deluxe memberships. For more information on Festival Centre, visit www.tiffg.ca.

Cinematheque Ontario thanks its supporters **Ontario Media Development Corporation, Bell Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, and Toronto Film School.**

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