

# BRATTLE THEATRE

## Holidays 2007:

### October 26, 2007

### January 3, 2008

## SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS & PREMIERES

*Friday, October 26 – Thursday, November 1*  
EXCLUSIVE AREA PREMIERE!

### LAKE OF FIRE

Fri & Sat at 7:30p, Sun at 3:00p, Mon & Thu at 5:00, 8:00p, Wed at 6:30  
(2007) dir Tony Kaye w/Alan Dershowitz, Noam Chomsky, Nick Henoff, Dallas A. Blanchard, Norma McCorvey, Peter Singer, Randall Terry [152 min]  
Inflammatory word may not be an unfair term to give the work of director Tony Kaye. His first feature film, *American History X*, is infamous, not only for its onscreen depiction of neo-Nazism in America, but also for the offscreen battles between Kaye, the producers, and star Ed Norton. LAKE OF FIRE, his 16-year-in-the-making documentary about the abortion debate in the U.S. is a passionate, raw, controversial, disturbing, and hauntingly beautiful work about an overwhelmingly divisive and important issue. The film is a tour de force as Kaye sets out to explore the rocky terrain between both sides of the issue that has become a lynchpin of politics in the United States with the intention of being impartial, and his evenhandedness can be disarming. He draws as much from footage and imagery obtained from the operation Rescue as he does from more traditional sources, and his onscreen interviewees range from intellectuals like Noam Chomsky and Nick Henoff to "man-in-the-street" protesters to the frothy-minded proponents of abortion clinic bombings. All the while, Kaye tries hard not to take sides, and largely succeeds. The result is one of the most gorgeously stylistic and intensely graphic documentaries in many, many years.

*"A provocatively beautiful movie... Despite its surface sheen, however, LAKE OF FIRE is hardly detached from the passions it records. This surprisingly fluid and continuously engaging two-and-a-half-hour movie, which Kaye shot himself in luminous black-and-white and almost entirely in 35mm, is at once monumental and ghostly..."*

Kaye is not Michael Moore. LAKE OF FIRE provides no overt overview, only variations on the same conflict. As filmmaking, it's largely nonconcrete, allowing viewers ample time to read the faces and study the performances of sundry American types. Everyone thinks that this is – or should be – a free country, but there's no agreement as to what that means... The movie is shot in black and white, but projects as shades of gray." – J. Hebrman, *The Village Voice*

*Also Friday, October 26 – Sunday, October 28*  
EXCLUSIVE AREA PREMIERE!

### STEAL A PENCIL FOR ME

Fri & Sat at 2:30p, 4:30p, Sun at 2:30p, 4:00p, 6:00p  
(2007) dir Michele Ohayon w/Jack Polak, Ila Seep [94 min]  
STEAL A PENCIL FOR ME is a compelling documentary feature film by Academy Award nominee Michele Ohayon about the power of love and the ability of humankind to rise above unimaginable sufferings. In the Hague, Holland is under total Nazi occupation. In Amsterdam, Jack, an unassuming accountant, meets Ila, a 20-year-old beauty from a wealthy diamond manufacturing family who instantly steals his heart – at a birthday party. But Jack's pursuit of love is complicated, not just by the fact that he is poor but, because he also happens to be married to Manja, a flirtatious and mercenary woman.

As the Dutch Jews are being rounded up and deported, the husband, the wife and the lover find themselves at the same concentration camp; actually living in the same barracks. When Jack's wife objects to "the girlfriend" in spite of their unhappy marriage, Jack and Ila resort to writing secret love letters, which sustain them throughout the horrible circumstances of the war.

*"STEAL A PENCIL FOR ME is a terrific documentary about forbidden love in the most heinous of places." – San Francisco Chronicle*

*Friday, November 2 – Thursday, November 8*  
EXCLUSIVE AREA PREMIERE!

### EXILED

at 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 (+ Sat at 3:00); No 5:15 on Fri; Thu at 10:00 only  
(2006) dir Johnnie To w/Anthony Wong, Francis Ng, Simon Yam, Nick Cheung, Roy Cheung, Suet-Lan, Jesie Ho [110 min]  
The amazing opening scene of EXILED sets the tone for what is director Johnnie To's best films to date. A pair of hitmen shows up at an apartment with intent to kill Wo, the requisite gangster trying-to-go-straight, but they are side-tracked by the arrival of another pair of gunmen set on protecting him. The shoot-out that ensues (culminating in a door being flung through the air) is one of the most visceral put-out on film in recent years... Yet it ends with a group of old friends repeating the bullet-riddled apartment together. It turns out that these gangsters know each other well, and are childhood buddies – and they say they came together to try and protect one of their own is surprisingly touching.

Set in Macau, whose Portuguese-influenced architecture adds a Spaghetti Western feel to the whole film, EXILED follows the friends as they try to protect one of their own from the vengeance of Boss Fay (Yam) and make enough money to escape the region. Their schemes range from the ridiculous to the sublime to the tragic but, all the while, the film's charm and wit is on full display. EXILED is an effortlessly charming film and note-perfect homage to Sergio Leone, Sam Peckinpah, John Woo, film noir, and, basically, action filmmaking as a whole. Note perfect performances from some of Hong Kong's most soulful character actors (including the intense charisma of Anthony Wong and To's genius use of color and composition raise EXILED into the ranks of the best action filmmaking of the past decade.

*"The prolific and terrific Hong Kong crime-film director Johnny To isn't well known in the United States, but his dreamily violent, darkly funny "Exiled" should bring him a wider audience... To blends sentimentality, shocky fun and cool humor into a bewitchingly entertaining brew." – David Ansen, *Newsweek**

*Friday, November 9 – Thursday, November 15*  
EXCLUSIVE AREA PREMIERE!

### TERROR'S ADVOCATE

(2007) dir Barbet Schroeder w/Jacques Vergès [130 min]  
Communist, anti-colonialist, or right-wing extremist? What convictions guide the moral mind of Jacques Vergès? Filmmaker Barbet Schroeder (*Barfly*, *Reversal of Fortune*) takes us down history's darkest paths in his attempt to illuminate the onscreen depiction of neo-Nazism in America, but also for the offscreen battles between Kaye, the producers, and star Ed Norton. LAKE OF FIRE, his 16-year-in-the-making documentary that grips with the power of a political thriller.

As a young lawyer during the French-Algerian war, Vergès espoused the anti-colonialist cause and defended the Resistance Union, Djamilia Bouhired, who bore her country's hopes for freedom on her shoulders and was sentenced to death for planting bombs in cafes. Through innovative law techniques and by swaying international public opinion, Vergès obtained her release. For the rest of his career, Vergès has continued to defend the most indefensible clients – terrorists of all stripes (including the infamous Carlos the Jackal), dictators, and historical monsters such as Nazi lieutenant Klaus Barbie.

Schroeder explores and questions the history of terrorism through his penetrating investigation of this compelling man and leads us towards shocking revelations that expose long-hidden links in history. From the lawyer's inflammatory and provocative cases to his controversial terrorist links, Schroeder follows the winding trail left by this self-described 'Devil's advocate,' as he forges his unique path in law and politics.

*"I'll have to choose between defending the wolf or the dog. I choose the wolf, especially when he is bleeding." – Jacques Vergès*

*"A riveting drama. This fascinating story is fresh, epic and challenging to all preconceptions about the use of violence for political purposes." – Richard and Mary Corliss, *Time Magazine**

*"Astonishing... Jaw-dropping... works brilliantly as a documentary, with a narrative all the more amazing for being true." – A.O. Scott, *New York Times**

*"Completely exhilarating." – Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times**

*Also Friday, November 9 – Thursday, November 15*  
PREMIERE THEATRICAL ENGAGEMENT!

### CZECH DREAM

at 9:30p, No screening Tue  
(2004) dir Vit Klusak, Filip Remunda [87 min]  
Prague, Czech Republic, 31 May 2008 – It's a few minutes before 10am and there are more than 3000 people jostling in a remote parking lot. Suddenly the managers of Czech Dream, the new super store, rush out on the stage, greet their customers and briskly cut the glittering ribbon. The crowd starts moving. People start running... A moment later, the fastest of them are struck dumb; the hypermarket that they had reached is nothing but a huge film set... Documentary hyper-comedy CZECH DREAM is a feature film about a hypermarket that has never existed.

CZECH DREAM documents the largest consumer hoax the Czech Republic has ever seen. Two of Eastern Europe's most promising young documentary filmmakers set out to explore the psychological and manipulative powers of consumerism by using a government grant to fund a massive ad campaign for something that didn't exist. A funny and provocative look at the effects of rampant consumerism on a post-communist society and, by reflection, a comment on the consumerism that the U.S. exports every day to countries around the world.

*"A stunt film that would make Michael Moore and Morgan Spurlock proud." – indieWIRE*

*Friday, November 16 – Thursday, November 22*  
REPERTORY SERIES!

### BOSTON FILMED

Boston's rediscovery by Hollywood has been much touted in recent press and the Brattle applauds the invasion of stardom to the Hub. However, we also want to take the opportunity to shine a spotlight on some of the remarkable features that have been filmed here in the past. We are pleased to highlight Boston as the location for gritty crime dramas (MYSTIC RIVER) and classic romances (LOVE STORY), as well as period pieces (THE BOSTONIANS) and cutting-edge independents (BETWEEN THE LINES). Paramount Pictures has even turned up an archival print of the remarkable FRIENDS OF EDIE COYLE starring Robert Mitchum. We are particularly pleased to have a new interview with the director, who is nationally known director Brad Anderson for an evening of films featuring his Boston-shot NEXT STOP WONDERLAND and SESSION 9.

See below for full line-up and schedule.



*Sunday, November 25*

### MURDER SHE SAID

at 5:00, 7:15, 9:30  
(1977) dir Joan Micklin Silver w/John Hurd, Lindsay Crouse, Jeff Goldblum, Jill Eikenberry, Bruno Kirby [101 min]  
Joan Micklin Silver's film about the tensions between the staff at an alternative paper when the politics they espoused in the 60s give way to the materialism of the 70s and big business rears its ugly head. Set in the heart of Boston, the film's paper is called The Mainline but it bears more than a passing resemblance to both the *Boston Phoenix* and the *Real Paper* (not surprising since screenwriter Fred Barson worked for both). BETWEEN THE LINES, featuring a cast of (at the time) up-and-coming actors, is a little gem of 70s filmmaking that is often overlooked. One highlight of the film is the early performance by Jeff Goldblum as the paper's comedic foil and rock critic. **Not Available On Video.**

**MURDER MOST FOUL** **Double Feature!**  
at 5:30, 9:30  
(1964) dir George Pollock w/Margaret Rutherford, Charles Tingwell, Stringer Davis [90 min]  
Unfortunately for everyone, except for the innocent person on trial, a murder is set on the jury for a murder trial. In typical Marple fashion, she is the only holdout on the jury, refusing to convict. Instead, she joins an acting troupe in an attempt to uncover who the real killer is. The mystery is deliciously rich and Rutherford's performance is, as always, top notch in this, the last of her starring appearances as Marple.

**MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS**  
at 7:00  
(1974) dir Sidney Lumet w/Alfred Finney, Lauren Bacall, Ingrid Bergman, Jacqueline Bisset, Sean Connery, John Gielgud, Anthony Perkins, Vanessa Redgrave, Richard Widmark, Michael York [128 min]  
The all-star mystery that sets a string of intimates, MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS features the wonderful Alfred Finney in the role of Agatha Christie herself. Even though he clearly doesn't need the movie – perhaps it's just for fun, Faye Dunaway plays the insurance investigator who has her eye on both for the crime and for certain other extracurricular activities, including the most sexually charged game of chess ever filmed.

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G.K. Chesterton's pious investigator, Father Brown, takes his definitive onscreen turn in the form of the always-entertaining Alec Guinness. When an innocent man is found guilty of a murder, Guinness' humble, near-sighted Brown and a priceless religious artifact is stolen from him, he sets out to find the robber... not only to recover the artifact but also to save the man's soul. Where other detective films are long on action and short on charm, FATHER BROWN fits right in with Guinness' reputation for making gentle, witty films. A real charmer.

**MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS**  
at 7:00  
(1974) dir Robert Hamer w/Alec Guinness, Joan Greenwood, Peter Finch, Cecil Parker, Bernard Lee [91 min]  
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*Sunday, December 2*

### "PRE-RELEASE" 1945 VERSION

### THE BIG SLEEP

(1946) dir Howard Hawks w/Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall [116 min]  
This original version of the classic Bogie and Bacall features more of an emphasis on the original Raymond Chandler novel and less of an emphasis on the screen's chemistry between its two leads. Hence, it is slightly more intelligible as a mystery. Private detective Philip Marlowe is hired by a sickly millionaire to hush up a scandal involving his wayward daughter and ends up embroiled in a convoluted murder case.

**DEAD MEN DON'T WEAR PLAID**  
at 5:00, 9:30  
(1982) dir Carl Reiner w/Steve Martin [89 min]  
Steve Martin and Carl Reiner's hilarious send-up offbeats to film noir is also a remarkable experiment in moviemaking. Martin stars as Rigby Reardon, a private eye investigating the death of a prominent chess scientist. He is supported by an all-star cast of characters cut into the movie from other classic films – including Bogie himself as Reardon's assistant.

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