

# MICHAEL CORRENTE SHOWCASE

## RIIFF 2006 Programming

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2006**

**LOCATION: SHOWCASE CINEMAS AT PROVIDENCE PLACE, PROVIDENCE**

**1:00 p.m.**

### **MICHAEL CORRENTE RETROSPECTIVE**

#### **"Outside Providence"**

Michael Corrente, director

*From by book of the same name by Peter Farrelly*

96 min. USA, 1999

Cast • Alec Baldwin, Sean Hatosy, Amy Smart

Set in 1974 Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Tim Dunphy is a teenage slacker and stoner who is part of a dysfunctional lower-class family which includes his widowed, ill-tempered, bigoted father, his wheelchair-bound younger brother Jackie and their one-eyed, three-legged dog. After Tim and his stoner friends get into trouble one-too many times with the law, his father sends him off to Cornhill Academy, a prep school in Cornwall, Connecticut for his senior year where Tim meets new friends and gets a new view on life and his own existence. A touching coming of age film that is sure to resonate.

**Thursday, August 10, 2006**

**LOCATION: SHOWCASE CINEMAS AT PROVIDENCE PLACE, PROVIDENCE**

**1:00 p.m.**

### **MICHAEL CORRENTE RETROSPECTIVE**

#### **"American Buffalo"**

Michael Corrente, director

88 min. USA, 1996

Cast • *Dustin Hoffman, Dennis Franz & Sean Nelson*

From the play by David Mamet, AMERICAN BUFFALO is a story of man's interminable struggle toward the top of the heap, a goal that ultimately and inevitably eludes most of us. Don Dubro, the proprietor of a dusty dark inner-city junk shop, holds court there with his friends and makes plans probably on a daily basis for his ascendancy to the top. He does this more out of habit than hope because he's long ago surrendered his future to the daily repetition of his life as guardian of the discarded remnants of others' possessions. Disheveled Teach, on the other hand, is either too dumb or too stubborn to accept the lot life has dealt him. Instead, he bucks like a wild horse under the saddle and refuses to be broken. Most pitiable of the trio which populates the movie is teenaged Bobby. Mistaking much of the palaver which passes between the older men as pearls of wisdom, Bobby is the only one of the trio who still has a chance to make a life for himself somewhere beyond this tired too-familiar neighborhood. A poignant and powerful character study of the traps we build for ourselves and the lies we we tell ourselves.

**Saturday, August 12, 2006**

**LOCATION: OUTDOOR SCREENING, WESTMINSTER STREET PARK, PROVIDENCE**

*(located at Grant's Block Park, near 250 Westminster)*

**STARS UNDER THE STARS: MICHAEL CORRENTE RETROSPECTIVE**

**8:15 p.m.**

**"Federal Hill"**

Authored, produced and directed by Providence-native Michael Corrente, is set in Federal Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, a local Italian-American neighborhood.

A band of five best friends—Ralph (Nicholas Turturro), Nicky (Anthony DeSando), Frank (Michael Raynor), Joey (Robert Turano), and Bobby (Jason Andrews)—grew up together in Federal Hill, and each of them becomes allied with crime in one way or another. Ralph is a hotheaded cat burglar; Nicky is a smooth small-time coke dealer; Frank is the son of a local mobster; Joey is a paroled convict; and Bobby is a counterfeit money dealer who owes thirty grand to a counterfeiter. When Nicky sells a bag of coke to a rich, blond Brown student, Wendy (Libby Langdon), he is immediately smitten by her upscale glamour and dreams of escaping Federal Hill with her. Nicky's best friend and bed-sharing roommate Ralph is jealous of Nicky's new love, and tries desperately to douse Nicky's infatuation. Failing to persuade him, Ralph conceives of a break-in to guarantee that the relationship crumbles.

Borrowing from memories of his own youth, Corrente breathes new life into a fired plot that could so easily have degenerated into melodrama and cliché. Dangerously reminiscent of Scorsese's *MEAN STREETS* and *GOODFELLAS*, what redeems *FEDERAL HILL* is its small-budget authenticity. Its ability to be striking comes through its semi-autobiographical underpinnings, its seductive, moody black-and-white photography, and its bold relocation of its New York mafia scene from the big-city streets to small-town Providence. Reviewed by Roger Ebert, "FEDERAL HILL covers familiar ground, but with feeling and style...Corrente is not just treading in Scorsese's footsteps but testing new ground...The series of ironic developments at the end of the movie feels a little like movie plotting, yes, but Corrente has set them up well enough to get away with them. Y'know?"

The program will be preceded by **ABOUT HANDMADE PUPPET DREAMS**; A selection of short puppet films by independent artists exploring their hand made craft specifically for the camera. The program is curated by Heather Henson who will be on hand that evening. Miss Henson has sought out an eclectic collection of contemporary artisans who carefully weave the craft of filming and puppetry into their work that is articulated in this program.

Heather Henson is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Design in animation and attended The California Institute of the Arts to broaden her expertise in visual spectacles for theatre.

*This presentation is free to the general public!*