

RIIFF FILM PROGRAMMING 1998

ACCIDENT

USA/GERMANY 1997 6.15 mins. GF Productions
Dir: Peter Besson

Premiere

An accident on the side of the road involving the little boy of a young family is not exactly what it seems to be.

AFTER SHOCKS: VOICES AND VISIONS OF YOUTH IN A VIOLENT WORLD

USA 1998 32 mins.;
Dir: Stephen A. Roy
From Fall River, MA comes this real-life documentary about youth violence and its prevention.

A KENNING

USA 1998 B&W Animation/Short 13 mins.
Dir: Justin Bisceglia

New England Premiere

Experimental, stop-motion animated film loosely based on Edgar Allen Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart.

AMERICAN NURSE AT WAR, AN

USA 1998 36 mins.
Dir: Stephen L. Hooper

RI Premiere.

This striking documentary tells the story of a WWI Red Cross Nurse. Marion McCune Rice of Brattleboro, VT, who spent four years in France caring for sick and wounded soldiers. Winner of the 1st Place Audience Choice for Documentary Featurette at Film Fest New Haven '98.

BETWEEN US

USA 1998 48 mins.
Dir: Mary R. Katzke
A brave candid film about coping with breast cancer and learning to survive. Filled with hope and humanity.

BOXED MAN

USA 1998 110 mins.
Dir: Nicholas Pasyanos
World Premiere
A compelling look at breaking into business in your 20s and seeing your ideals face reality.

BOYS, LES

CANADA 1997 Comedy 107 mins. Films Lions Gate
Dir: Louis Saia
Cast: Marc Messier, Remy Girard, Patrick Huard

United States Premiere

Québec's top-grossing movie ever comes to the US with our closing night gala presentation. Taking a classic hockey tale and telling it with large dollops of broad-appeal comedy is the clue to the film's success. The story of a gang of ordinary guys who get their kicks by playing in an amateur hockey league, is highly entertaining and delivers the goods. Christopher Fournier's script contains memorable

scenes which keep the laughs flowing with no downtime. Don't miss this gem!

BRIEF WALK, A

USA 1997 19 mins.

Dir: Ian Bang

Cast: Choy-Ling Man, Yoshinori Yamamoto

NE Premiere

Sachiko, a young Japanese woman seeking independence in New York City, remembers a day from her life in Japan.

BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS CULTURES

An Explorer's Journal

USA 1997 documentary 28.30 mins.

Dir: Paul Ginocchio

A cross-cultural documentary about a teacher who learns an important cultural lesson and transcending human differences.

BUSK

Canada 1998 B&W Comedy/Short 6 mins.

Dir: Paula Tiberius

United States Premiere

A white French-Canadian rapper tries to make it on the streets of Toronto, but keeps coming up against the prejudice of the 'hood.

BUTTERFLY DANCE, THE

USA 1998 27 mins.

Dir: Max Reynal

East Coast Premiere

A freaky gardener. A scared young woman. A ghost. Things get a little strange as their small suburban lives go bump in the night. Gold Award for Best Dramatic Short at the Houston WorldFest '98.

CARVE A NEW WORLD;

INDIA 1998 24 mins.;

Dir: Harish Bhimani

A look at the caste system in modern India and a call for basic human rights.

CENSUS TAKER, THE

USA 1998 Comedy-Drama Short 28 mins.

Dir: Aaron Cohen

A down-on-his-luck census taker decides to take the easy way out by inventing people and addresses. He wakes one day to discover the people and places he has created now exist. Starring Manny Jacobs and Jenni Blong.

CHOREOGRAPHY FOR A BUTTERFLY, A

Norway Animated/Short 3 mins.

Dir: Kyoung Hee Oh

3D computer animated short celebrates the rebirth of a being through the symbolic butterfly dance.

CIRCLE IN A SQUARE

USA 1998 15.30 mins.

Dir: Pablo Aravena

Understanding the complexities of relationships in the 90s.

CLOSER THAN THE BOY NEXT DOOR: A TWISTED ROMANCE

USA Drama/Comedy/Feature 115 mins.

Dir: Bo Mehrad

Siblings Justin and Janeane search for meaning in their unstable lives. Soon their frustrations draw them closer than ever until they find some answers in very strange and very shocking places. Featuring Erik Bennett, Ellen Ferris, and Kathy Garver (''Cissy'' of TV's Family Affair). Nominated Best Feature, 1998 New York Independent Film Festival.

COMMON SENSE OF THE WISDOM TREE, THE

USA 1998 18.12 mins. Poemotion Productions

Dir: Roger Blonder

East Coast Premiere

Using Poemotion, a form of animation, this short tells the story of the interconnectiveness of life through the evolving imagery and rhyme.

CONCIERGERIE, LA

CANADA 1997 Drama 90 mins. Films

Lions Gate

Dir: Michel Poulette

Cast: Serge Dupere, Macha Grenon, Jacques Godin

Nominee Montreal Film Festival ''Grand Prix d' Ameriques''

United States Premiere

From Canada comes this quirky gem that wowed audiences at the Montreal Film Festival. Expressing a mixture of excitement and nervousness, the veteran Montreal-based distributor, Christian Larouche says *La conciergerie* is a dark thriller — a genre not usually made in Quebec.'' Distributed by Cinepix Films, *La conciergerie* is Michel Poulette's second feature. The former TV director's feature debut in 1994, *Louis 19, le roi des ondes*, is one of Quebec's biggest commercial hits grossing \$1.3 million. Originally conceived as a TV series, *La conciergerie* ended up a feature film about a young cop searching for the killers of his partner. The trail leads him to the conciergerie, a mysterious building with 12 occupants. Starring Serge Dupere and Macha Grenon, the film was nominated for Canada's Genie Award—their version of the Academy Award.

CONDITIONAL LOVE

CANADA/USA 1997 60 mins.

Dir: Ardele Lister

Premiere.

A witty, poignant examination of the Canadian self-image, both personal and social. Masterful documentary on the film business in Canada.

CONFESSION, THE

USA 1998 Comedy/Short 20 mins.

Dir: Edwin Baker

New England Premiere

Black comedy about a lapsed Catholic who picks the wrong priest for confession. Starring James DuMont and Richard McGonagle.

COYOTE

USA 1998 Crime Drama 124 mins.

Dir: Elliot Jacobson & Shane Liem-Jacobson

New England Premiere

Dramatic look at illegal immigration from the perspective of a young American college graduate who is drawn into the lucrative business of immigrant smuggling. Over time he experiences firsthand the hypocrisies on both sides of the issue. Features songs by international Gypsy recording artist Manzanita and a musical score by Evan Evans, son of jazz great Bill Evans.

CURE FOR SERPENTS, A

USA 1997 Drama/Short 15 mins.

Dir: Elise Mac Adam

No dirt. No touching. No germs. No life...until Lucy decides to let her boyfriend inside. Featuring Liza Weil, Caitlin Clarke, Richard Blake.

CURSE ON BOTH YOUR HOUSE, A

AUSTRALIA 1998 10 mins.

Dir: Brian M Logan

United States Premiere

Shakespeare was never like this clever Australian short.

DEAD END

USA 1998 25 mins.

Dir: Bao Vu

Powerful film about 12 year old Ton, unaccepted at school and emotionally devastated by his father's death, vow to help his mother pay the rent.

DEADTIME

USA 1998 30 mins. Bob's Your Uncle Pictures

Dir: James Brett

World Premiere

An existential getaway flick with the crossfire turned inside out.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN VASQUEZ, THE

USA 1997 6 mins.

Dir: Jason Dunn

From the USA and China comes this live action/animated film in which an aged pirate faces the ghost of his former captain.

DIRT ON MOM, THE

USA 1997 Animated/Short 10 mins.

Dir: Doug Aberle

New England Premiere

Characters are animated pipecleaners. Dad must overcome his jealousy over his wife's success as an archaeologist, while dealing with a backyard that has been converted into a dig, and neighbors with a UFO in their basement. Voices by Doug Aberle and Bonny Metoxin.

DOLL HOSPITAL

CANADA 1997 48.52 mins.

Dir: Donna Caruso

United States Premiere

From Saskatchewan, Canada, a startling, evocative true story, told in documentary fashion on breast cancer.

ECHO OFF

USA 1997 27 mins. Image Series Studios
Dir: Lee Songe
A Bergmanesque journey through self-obsession and reflection.

EPILOGO

ARGENTINO 1998 6.30 mins.
Dir: Diego Fried
United States Premiere
From Argentina comes this visual tour de force that pays homage to film noir..

ERUDITION

AUSTRALIA 1997 22 mins.
Dir: Lester Crombie
United States Premiere
An elderly Irish prankster tricks his old university into inaugurating a Department of Humor.

EVERYBODY BOWL

USA 1998 Animation/Short 3 mins.
Dir: Dustin Woehrmann
New England Premiere
Based on real-life interviews, this animated mini-documentary looks at the secrets and fashions of what makes bowlers strike.

EYES SQUARED

AUSTRALIA 1997 4.30 mins.
Dir: Nat Eaton
United States Premiere
From Australia comes this surreal short film detailing one man's destructive love/hate relationship with his TV remote control.

FATHER, SON WORK TAPES

USA 1998 86 mins.
Dir: Michael P. Reano
Premiere
What role do our fathers play in our upbringing? Michael Reano from Middleboro, MA asks that questions and several others in this telling documentary.

FEATHERS

CANADA 1997 10 mins.
Dir: Luke Carroll
From Vancouver comes the story of Pedro, an illegal immigrant who finds beauty in his new land, but must confront the price of freedom.

FINAL CUT, THE

USA 1998 80 mins.
Dir: Brian Douglas Moakley
World Premiere
From Malden, MA., comes this semi-documentary about roommates confronting a life-and-death situation. Reality vs. perception gets blurred as the characters confront their own demons.

FISHING WITH GANDHI

USA 1998 72 min. Gabe Weisart Productions Comedy

D. Gabe R. Weisert, Dir./Prod.

New England Premiere

Recalling such indie-comedy prototypes as "Stranger Than Paradise" and "Slacker," this loony little gem has two of the most amiable, vociferous dummies to appear in movie: the brothers Reichmuth, two human speedbumps on the road to nowhere. The plot: Having just left the Seattle wedding of his widowed mother to the brother of her late husband, somber 20-something Danno (Dan Klein) decides to hitchhike back home to San Francisco and has some rather bizarre adventures. A witty, hilarious no-budget feature that will keep you in stitches.

FIRST PRINCE

USA 1998 6.4 mins fxM

Shorts

Dir: Matt Nix & Victor Fanucchi

Premiere

Before Prince Charming arrives, another prince attempts to awaken the sleeping princess.

FIVE WIVES, THREE SECRETARIES AND ME

USA 1998 Documentary 82 mins. Asset Pictures

Dir: Tessa Blake

NE Premiere

In 1994, filmmaker Tessa Blake flew to Houston to receive a million-dollar trust fund from her father. Six months later, she returned with a camera to begin her portrait of Tommy Blake—Houston oil man, Hollywood playboy, hotshot lawyer, and serial monogamist (leaving behind him a trail of Texas Execs.) Along with searching for the facts behind family myths, the film explores the madcap comedy of Texana, from the five-story hairdos of determined debutantes. This hilarious documentary explores a one-of-a-kind character who could only come from the Lone Star State.

FLYING WITH THE ANGELS

USA 1998 17 mins. Green Building Films

Dir: Richard Newton & Nancy Ferguson

Music by Mark Mothersbaugh (Devo, "Rugrats")

East Coast Premiere

The diary of a woman's subconscious as she takes a spiritual journey from her relationship with a man to her relationship with herself.

FØN

CANADA 1998 6.22 mins.

Dir: Matthew Poirier

United States Premiere

From Ontario comes this experimental film that blends aural and visual narratives to tell one story; a newly styled-musical..

4:00 A.M.

USA 1998 13 mins Half-Round Bastard Prods.

Dir: Robert DeLuca

World Premiere

Being honest in relationship can have unintended ramifications.

4 SECOND DELAY

USA 1998 Drama/Short 30 mins.

Dir: Rod Lurie

Famed investigative journalist Bob Woodward must decide whether to reveal the identity of his secret source, Deep Throat, when he is confronted with a hostage situation. Winner of Best Narrative Short, Atlanta Film Festival.

FISH

USA 1998 Comedy/Short 9 mins.

Dir: Sarah Shute

NE Premiere

A man goes fishing and catches an amazing fish. Directed by Brown '91 grad Sarah Jane Shute.

FROG & WOMBAT

USA 1998 Family Comedy 93.5 mins Pigtail

Productions

Dir: Laurie Agard

Cast: Lindsay Wagner, Ronnie Cox, Kristen Rudrud, Ross Malinger

East Coast Premiere

A quirky female "Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn" meets "Rear Window," this charming film talks about friendship, loyalty and finding the truth. From her bedroom window, Allie (walkie-talkie handle "Frog") discovers the cover up of a serious crime. Her school principal has committed a murder. Or has he? When her best friend, Jane (walkie-talkie handle "Wombat") rejects this idea, a brazen Frog sets up outlandish surveillance. Much to Wombat's dismay, Frog turns to Francesca, the adventurous new sixth-grader, who enthusiastically helps her search for clues. Comedy and conflict ensue as the mystery puts their loyalties and friendship to the test. An ideal family film that has a refreshing slant on today's young people.

GENTLEMEN LIKE CHRIS

USA 1998 10.57 mins.;

Dir: Eric Devlin Taylor

World Premiere

A strikingly visual story that examines the inter-personal moments that occur between strangers.

GOD COMES AS A CHILD

CANADA 1998 24 mins.

Dir: Jeremiah Hayes

US. Premiere

From Montreal, a glowing testament to the endurance of the human spirit as told in the story of Florence Perralla who endured Lou Gehrig's disease.

GONE AGAIN

USA 1997 B&W Drama/Short 28 mins.

Dir: Anna Geddes

Ayla, a young woman on the run, hitches a ride with a handsome, brooding Hal. Filmed on location in Rhode Island and Mass. Starring Selma Blair, Andrew Heckler and Evelyn Solann.

GRANDPA'S FINGERS

Canada 1997 Drama/Short 5 mins.

Dir: Lisa Hayes

East Coast Premiere

An elderly man recounts a story to his two young granddaughters, explaining how he lost some of his fingers. A short fable about family, storytelling and cannibalism that gives new meaning to the phrase "finger food." Featuring the director's real grandfather Roy Monk.

GREYS

AUSTRALIA 1998 9.40 mins.

Dir: Lester Crombie

United States Premiere

From Australia the aliens have landed. Beware!.

HEALING BEYOND A CURE

CANADA 1998 25 mins.

Dir: Jill Sharpe

United States Premiere

From Vancouver, this wonderful film is an inspiring journey about coming face-to-face with one's own mortality.

HEARTWOOD

USA 1997 91 mins. Cotler Brothers. Prods.

Romantic Drama

Dir: Steve and Lonny Cotler

Cast: Jason Robards, Eddie Miles, Hilary Swank

World Premiere

A coming-of-age love story set against the beautiful redwood forests of Northern California. Heartwood is a wondrous fable of a young man whose search for his place in the adult world leads to the greatest discovery of all—a sense of pride and self-worth. Rich with metaphors and the classical elements of a treasured fairy tale, the film expresses themes of love and self-reliance against the backdrop of a demoralized town struggling to transform itself and forge a new spirit of community. The message of the film is that "Life will teach you to stand tall."

HELP!

USA 1998 Comedy/Short 23 mins.

Dir: Joshua Aiello

From Boston University Film School grad Josh Aiello comes a comedic interpretation of his social life. With Andy Burton, Kimberly Jose and Meghan Morrisey.

HERE DIES ANOTHER DAY

USA 1998 Drama/Short 30 mins.

Dir: Caryn West

New England Premiere

A noir thriller set against McCarthyism and the Cold War of the 1950's in which a young English professor cares for her senile, elderly father—a former literary giant. Explores themes of paranoia, real and imagined enemies and simplistic thinking vs. complex, unresolved problems. Starring blacklisted veteran actor John Rudolph (Prizzi's Honor, Seconds), Judith Hoag (Armageddon) and James Patrick Clarke (Pat Ryan on Ryan's Hope).

HOLY BODY TATTOO: POETRY & APOCALYPSE, THE

CANADA 1998 26 mins.

Dir: James Smith

United States Premiere.

An incredible dance piece out of Vancouver that is visually striking and boldly shot.

HONEY & ASHES

SWITZERLAND/TUNISIA 1996 Drama 82 mins. Seventh Art
Releasing

Dir: Nadia Fares

Cast: Nozha Khouadra, Amel Ledhili, Samia Mzali

Best First Feature, San Francisco International Film Festival

East Coast Premiere

Winner of the Best First Feature prize at the 1997 San Francisco Film Festival, Nadia Fares's accomplished debut film explores the patriarchal strictures of contemporary North African culture through the overlapping stories of three women from different walks of life. The film is a passionate statement about the condition of women in the Arab world, the stories illustrate the way in which men can maintain constricting moral beliefs about women and their given roles. A not to be missed, power film!

HONEY MOCCASIN

CANADA 1998 47 mins.

Dir: Shelley Niro

United States Premiere.

From Ontario comes this comedy/drama about two rival bars, one owned by Honey Moccasin, the other a karaoke bar owned by Zachary Johns. Someone is stealing pow wow dancers' outfits. Honey, the ever resourceful sleuth, tracks down the culprit.

HOUSEKEEPER, THE

USA 1998 7.4 mins. fxM Shorts

Dir: Nancy Keystone

NE Premiere

A housekeeper heals and mends the lives of people whose houses she cleans.

HOW HIGH THE CASTLE WALLS

SCOTLAND 1997 13.55 mins.

Dir: Shiona McCubbin

East Coast Premiere

From Scotland comes this documentary based on the writer/actor's own experience with cancer and deals with the humor, the glamour and the drugs. Winner of the Best Narrative Short at the San Jose Cinequest Festival.

HYDERABAD BLUES

India/USA 1997 Romance-Comedy/Feature 85 mins.

Dir: Nagesh Kukunoor

New England Premiere

Chronicle of a young man's return to his native India after living in the United States for 12 years. He quickly finds he can no longer relate to the things that were once second nature. Mostly in English with smatterings of Hindi. Audience Award for Best Film at 1997 Peachtree Int'l Film Festival, Atlanta.

HYDROMANCY

CANADA 1998 Experimental/Short 8 mins.

Dir: Gerda J. Cammaer

United States Premiere

Abstract images of water as a source of inspiration and as a creative force. A visualization of the "oceanic" feeling, the experience of feeling connected, the sensation of something unlimited and infinite.

L'HYPOTHÈSE RIVALE

CANADA 1997 26.5 mins. Les Films de l'Argent de Poche

Dir: Normand Bergeron

Cast: Denis Podalyès

United States Premiere

Is there a scientific reason for the way we behave and act?

IBBIE'S TURN

CANADA 1997 Drama/Short 25 mins.

Dir: Stacey Dewolfe

Ibbie Bower (David Rego) meets Julie (Mary Kronhert) the woman of his dreams—beautiful, sweet-maybe, too good to be true. Maybe it is.

IF I CAN'T DO IT

USA 1997 56 mins.

Dir: Walter L. Brock

Kentucky filmmaker Brock recently had this work chosen for the PBS "Point of View" (POV). A look at a cantankerous, disabled old man and his courageous push for independence. Winner of the Golden Sphere Award for Human Rights at the San Francisco Film Festival.

I'M ON FIRE

USA 1998 3.4 mins fxM Shorts

Dir: Ryan Rowe

Premiere

A very short film about a guy on fire.

IRISH SEA

CANADA 1998 5.15 mins.

Dir: Deborah McAnulty

From Vancouver comes this music video featuring the artists Slack.

IT HAPPENED IN THE STACKS

CANADA 1998 Comedy/Short 10 mins.

Dir: Hope Thompson

New England Premiere

Noir melodrama about a lesbian librarian's struggle as she encounter the capricious behavior of a would-be kennel owner searching for a reference. Starring Eileen O'Toole, Sky Gilbert, Sarah Stanley, Moynan King. Bronze Medal Winner, Houston Worldfest 1998.

JOE'S WEDDING

CANADA 1996 Romantic Comedy 99 mins.Arto-Pelli Motion Pictures

Dir: Michael Kennedy (short film director for "Kids in the Hall")

Cast: D.W. Moffett, Kate Vernon

East Coast Premiere

An edgy, romantic-comedy featuring the two most star-crossed lovers since Romeo and Juliet stayed out past their curfew. Joe's supposed to be marrying the boss's daughter in three days, but today he is chained

naked to a navy mine and staring down the barrel of a gun held in Uta's shaking hands. This original humorous romp will warm your heart as Joe and Uta discover how to be true to one another, and how not to get to the church on time. The film stakes out its territory somewhere between a British bedroom farce and "Something Wild." Director Kennedy's work has included "Robin of Locksley" for Showtime, "Jets" and work for the cult TV series, "The Kids in the Hall."

JORGE

USA/United Kingdom 1997 B&W Drama/Short 29 mins.
Dir: Joel Hopkins

New England Premiere

George is looking for love. When a beautiful girl scoops a ladybug from his neck, George can't get her off his mind. When she shows up at work, he is forced to act. Winner of Best Short Narrative, Minneapolis Film Festival.

JOUR DE FÊTE

FRANCE 1948 80 mins. Miramax Films Comedy
Dir: Jacques Tati

Cast: Jacques Tati, Jacques Beavais, Guy Decomble
Color Restoration Version ~ Special Archival Presentation

Exclusive Regional Premiere

In his debut film, master clown Jacques Tati plays a bicycle-riding postman in a sleepy village who, inspired by a newsreel of a super-efficient US postal system, resolves to match it at all costs—with hilarious results. It is a little-known fact that Jour de fete, beloved as a black-and-white classic, was originally shot in color, with an adjacent "back-up" camera shooting in black-and-white. Experimental Thomsoncolor film stock was used, a new French process that was supposed to rival American Technicolor. Unfortunately, although the negative was developed, the processing company was never able to strike a color print, and the negative languished for four decades unseen. At long last, through the painstaking efforts of cinematographer François Ede and Tati's daughter, editor Sophie Tatischeff, a way to print the color version was found. The original color camera was located, its special lens and filter re-created, and a new printing method invented. The result is at last the film Jacques Tati intended; not Technicolor bright, but delicately hued, like a charming hand-colored picture postcard. The long-overdue arrival of the color restoration of this delightful film is cause for celebration. Before Mr. Bean, there was Jacques Tati! (Thanks to Miramax Films for this special presentation.)

KID NERD

CANADA 1998 Comedy/Short Feature 45 mins.
Dir: Shereen Jerrett

New England Premeire

An offbeat look back at nerdhood by adults who have come to terms with their nerdiness. Covers such sensitive topics as bullies, sports and the prom. Starring Penn Jillette, of magician duo Penn & Teller fame.

KILLIAN'S CHRONICLE

USA 1994 112 mins. Lara ClassicsDrama
Dir: Pamela Berger

Cast: Christopher Johnson, Robert McDonough, Eva Kim, Jonah Ming Lee

RI Premiere

“Five hundred years before Columbus when the Vikings clashed with the Native Americans, a Celt was put ashore, and became one of the first recorded Europeans to set foot on this continent....” This beautifully shot tale of a confrontation between a European and a New England Indian tribe has a twist that makes the film a true original. Based on a Viking legend, the film tells the story of a Celtic slave who leaves his ship to explore the territory. Killian has been captured by Norsemen, yet hopes to win freedom and return to his homeland. His quest and what he learns to survive demonstrate movingly how once upon a time men shared the land they inherited and taught one another their life’s lessons. A film for the whole family, that is filled with delightful details and strong acting. Killian’s Chronicle is a treasure.

LANDLORD, THE

USA 1998 27.30 mins.

Dir: Aki Takemura

East Coast Premiere.

A violin student struggles to win a concertmaster position. His landlord, once a great violinist, starts giving him lessons and regains his own love for music.

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

CANADA 1998 16 mins.

Dir: Thor Andersen

United States Premiere

The relationship between metaphysics and memory are examined in this moody piece from Vancouver told in flashbacks. Winner of the Best Dramatic Short at the Cascadia Festival of Moving Images..

LAST SUPPER, THE

USA 1998 23 mins.

Dir: Jason Olsen

Premiere.

From Texas comes this story of one man’s journey into the dark corners of the human psyche.

LES GRANDS MORNES

CANADA 1997 18.45 mins.

Dir: Christian Daigle

United States Premiere

From Québec City comes this comedy of great creativity.

LIBERTÉ 66

CANADA 1997 21 mins.

Dir: Martin Brouard

United States Premiere.

From Québec, following a drug overdose, a singer is confronted with a strange deal by the devil himself.

LIGHT, THE

USA 1998 7 mins.;

Dir: Philip Scarsborough

From Mississippi comes this award-winning short deals with the dragons we run from or after and the divine light we chase. Told in dream-like imagery.

LITTLE CASTLES

USA 1997 28.53 mins.

Dir: Lillian B. Bowers

Premiere

A surprising little documentary out of John Waters country—Baltimore, MD.—featuring the man himself! Winner of the 40th Rochester International Cine Golden Eagle Award.

LOOKING FOR MIAMI BEACH

USA 1998 Comedy-Drama/Feature 82 Mins.

Dir: Paul Haddad & Donald H. Hewitt

New England Premiere

An amnesia-stricken drifter, self-named "X", uses his loss of memory to reinvent himself over the course of a Fourth of July weekend spent with a bickering young couple in Palm Springs. Through X's lack of identity the couple learns more about their own connection to their lives and each other. Starring Nils Juul-Hansen, Gabrielle Conforti and Mosa Kaleel. Played at New York Independent Film Festival.

LOST IN MANCHESTER

USA 1998 30 mins.

Dir: Steve Gatta

Woonsocket, RI native-son, Steve Gatta, shares his twisted view of a ride to the Don Knots Karate Centre in New Hampshire.

LOVE, DEATH AND THE GOLDEN TOOTH

USA 1998 22 mins.

Dir. Jeffrey L. Lyon

Premiere

From Wisconsin, a black comedy which combines love death and a golden tooth in a satirical look at the absurdity of post-modern behavior and thought.

MARRY ME OR DIE

USA 1997 Romantic Comedy 85 mins. Three Spear Prods.

Dir: Bob Hoge

Cast: Roxanne Beckford, Bob Hoge, Amanda Wyss

East Coast Premiere

To marry or not to marry, that's the question. There comes a time in every man's life when he must answer the really big questions—does he want love, does he want commitment, or does he want to stay single and continue to hope that he'll be shipwrecked on a remote island with the Russian women's gymnastic team? Like many men, Ray Dawkins doesn't think that he's the marrying kind. But Ray didn't count on meeting beautiful Barbie Crawford, and he sure as heck didn't count on falling in love. Now he's got to decide—and fast because Barbie's about to accept a job in Jamaica and leave Ray's indecisiveness far behind. A funny, wry commentary on modern romance.

MEN ARE FROM MOON

USA 1997 5.20 mins.

Dir: Elizabeth Sher

Interviewer Mel Sharpe finds out what men know about menopause in this very documentary short.

MIDNIGHT MAMBO

USA 1997 Comedy-Drama/Feature 110 mins.

Dir: Philip Marino

New England Premiere

Carlos, a Guatemalan immigrant toiling as a dishwasher in an Italian restaurant, finally returns home after sending money to his wife Luisa for two years. But he finds her and the cash gone...off to Texas with her American lover. Carlos returns to LA, solicits the help of his friend Tony, and the two hit the road in search of Luisa. Starring Vicente Ramos-Bermudez (Brown alum, graduate degree in Politics) as Carlos and Director Philip Marino as Tony. Winner of Audience Award at 1998 Saguaro Film Festival.

MISFITS: AMERICAN PSYCHO

USA 1998 4 mins.

Dir: John Cafiero

The legendary horror punks the Misfits are resurrected from their eternal slumber by the iconic Fiend to wreak havoc on an unsuspecting public. A mini horror film set within a music video. Featuring the band as itself: M. Graves, Doyle Wolfgang von Frankenstein, Jerry Only and Dr. Chud.

MONGOLIA ON THE EDGE OF TIME

USA 1998 32 mins.

Dir: Lisa L. Seidenberg

A powerful look at the peoples of Mongolia, in a beautifully shot and timely documentary.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER LOVE

CANADA 1998 11.14 mins

Dir: Catherine Edwards

United States Premiere

A moody little piece from Canada that tells of a mother and her daughter who are dead and are wandering their home town, looking for a way to come back to life.

MY SISTER STORY

USA 1997 21.07 mins.

Dir: Jessica L. Jennings

Premiere.

From Brewster, MA comes this personal documentary about coming to terms with one's past in order to grow towards truth. Ms. Jennings is a 1998 RISD graduate.

NEW WINDOWPANE, A

USA 1997 Documentary/Short 12 mins.

Dir: Ian Bang

New England Premiere

A documentary film about Ibsen and Strindberg translation and performance for the stage, television and radio. Featuring Dame Wendy Hiller (Academy Award winner in 1958's *Separate Tables*), Michael Meyer (the definitive English translator and biographer of Ibsen and Strindberg) and Scottish actor Brian Cox.

NICHE

USA 1998 Comedy/Feature 90 mins.

Dir: David Horowitz

Three college grads try to get through the confusion of growing up, holding down jobs and having relationships. Starring Greg Nunn, Nick Gray and Leotis Sanders.

NOCTURNE

CANADA Experimental/Short 6 mins.

Dir: Michael Crochetiere

United States Premiere

A boy with a sparkler ignites the urban nocturnal fog of Montreal and turns it into an impressionistic palette. Winner of Best Experimental Film Award at the 1997 Victoria Independent Film & Video Festival.

OF MERMAIDS AND FORDS

USA 1998 22.30 mins.

Dir: Dominique Mertens

A reunion of 8 mermaids and a merman as they come together for a 50th reunion in Weeki Wachee, FL.

ONE DIVIDED BY TWO: KIDS AND DIVORCE

USA 1998 14 mins.

Dir: Joyce Borenstein

A delightful animation that addresses the issue of young children facing a divorce in the family.

ONE HAND, LEFT

USA 1998 9 mins. fxM Shorts

Dir: Corky Quakenbush

NE Premiere

A story of jealousy and betrayal between the left and right hands of a concert pianist—told from the P.O.V. of the left hand.

OPEN HOUSE

USA 1998 2 mins.

Dir: Daniel Pejril

An animated short black comedy in which Guy's new home houses his destiny.

ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES

USA 1998 95 mins. Nickoll Arcade Films Drama

Dir: Andrés Heinz

East Coast Premiere

Picture the cast of "Friends" before its members became household names. Place this unknown but talented cast in a lakeside summer home in up-state New York, and you have the genesis for Robert Weston Ackerman's fact-based screenplay, filmed in his mother-in-law's house. Paul, a Darwin-spouting evolution buff, has invited five college friends, one of whom he married, for annual reunions here for the past nine years. And while he's perfectly happy with the status quo, the other five, including his pregnant wife, pursue their own agendas. The ensemble cast features Elon Gold (*The Dana Carvey Show*), Jean Louisa Kelly (*Mr. Holland's Opus*, *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*, *Uncle Buck*), Michael Kelly (*Red River*), Jonathan LaPaglia (*Deconstructing Harry*), Amanda Peet (*One Fine Day*, *She's the One*), and Sybil Temchen (*Amongst Friends*, *The Passion of Ayn Rand*). The film recently premiered in New York and Los Angeles with the prestigious First Look Film Series and won a Gold Medal for "Best First Feature" at the 1998 Houston Film Festival.

OTHER PEOPLE HAVE OXYGEN

CANADA 1998 22 mins.

Dir: Kaveh Nabalian

United States Premiere

From Canada, a poetic document of a middle-aged artist trying to rediscover the excitement of life, painting and himself.

PAM FLAM & THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE

USA 1998 8 mins. fxM Shorts

Dir: Betsy Thomas

NE Premiere

A romance between a man who thinks he's the center of the universe (consequently everyone looks like him) and a woman whom nobody notices.

PATAGONIA

USA 1997 28.30 mins.

Dir: Luis Valdovino

From Colorado comes this lyrical expression of personal experiences told from the perspective of an Argentinean in the United States. Winner of the Visions of the US. Film Festival.

PERSONALS, THE - IMPROVISATIONS ON ROMANCE IN THE GOLDEN YEARS

USA 1998 37 mins. Keiko Films Documentary

D. Keiko Ibi

World Premiere

This Academy Award winning Documentary Short is being premiered in the form of an Avid cut from a longer documentary submitted by Keiko. From the time she had submitted to our Festival to her acceptance, the film had been picked up by Cinemax. Due to contract restrictions, she was unable to show the full version of the film. She then submitted a shortened version direct from the Avid editor. The rest, as they say, is history. The film: on stage, a group of seniors perform their roles with energy and laughter. Off stage, they conduct their everyday activities in silence. The film depicts a surprisingly humorous and seldom seen image of older people just as hungry as the rest of us for love, sex and companionship. Not to be missed!

PESO, UN

MEXICO 1998 8.40 mins.

Dir: Paul Ganus

East Coast Premiere

A short black comedy which makes a comment on the emerging socio-economic divisions within the emerging democracy of the Mexican Republic. In English and Spanish..

PHIL TOUCHES FLO

USA 1998 6.5 mins. fxM Shorts

Dir: David Burdsell

Premiere

Flo is a dog. Flo's owner doesn't like it when people touch Flo. Flo's owner is not a nice man. Phil touches Flo.

PHONE, THE

USA 1998 Horror-Comedy/Short 5 mins.

Dir: J. Darin Wales

Haunted by the invasion of modern communication, the heroine (Christine Smith) takes matters into her own hands to rid her life of troublesome technology

PUNCTUATED EQUILIBRIUM

CANADA 1998 3.30 mins

Dir: Anthony Morgan

East Coast Premiere.

From Vancouver, a scrappy romp dance film playing inventive games with ten foot ladders. Winner of the American Dance Festival's ``Dancing to the Camera'' Award.

REASSURANCE

USA 1998 Drama/Short 12 mins.

Dir: Royce Segal

In the summer of 1949, 19 year old Jerry finds himself working for a funeral insurance agency catering to low-income black families. Along his weekly route of collections, he meets Mrs. Battle, a kindly old black woman who begins to crack Jerry's confident façade.

REFUTATION OF TIME, A

USA 1997 8 mins.

Dir: Luis Valdovino

An unusual message concerns the nature of time proving the real is irrational. Winner of the Jury Award at the New York Expo.

RITA'S LUCKY SUMMER

USA 1997 26.27 mins.

Dir: Abby Freedman

From Massachusetts. Set in 1963, this charming video tells the story of two young working women and their hopes and dreams.

SEASON

USA 1998 10 mins.;

Dir: Robert Woods

United States Premiere

The relationship between a young girl from Vancouver Island and her family changes after she looks through an old photo album in which the pictures come to life.

SHADOW

USA 1998 16 mins.

Dir: David A. Davidson

Premiere

A woman sheds light on her terrifying agoraphobia through struggles to define the boundaries between reality and illusion. The Opening Film for the Telluride Independent Film Festival.

SHE'S SO COLD

USA 1998 12 mins.

Dir: Angel Connell

Premiere

From Massachusetts. A music video with a futuristic edge, based on the Rolling Stones song of the same name.

SHORT TIME IN A SMALL PLACE, A

USA 1998 5 mins.

Dir: Timothy Decker
From Tennessee comes this exploration of the effects of urbanization on the family unit.

SHORT WAIT BETWEEN TRAINS, A

USA 1998 Drama/Short 26 mins.

Dir: Rick Wilkinson

New England Premiere

Four Negro combat soldiers return home from the carnage of WWII. As they stop to switch trains in rural Georgia, an unexpected encounter and a violent confrontation show them that their "war" is not over yet. Starring David Ramsey, Nick Gillie, Les Robinson and Shelton Mack. Wilkinson is an Emmy award winning journalist.

SLAVES OF HOLLYWOOD, THE

USA 1998 Comedy/Feature 80 mins.

Dir: Terry Keefe & Michael Wechsler

East Coast Premiere

Absurdist look at group of young college graduates working at their first jobs in corporate Hollywood, all as assistants to abusive producer bosses. Features up and coming actor Hill Harper as Fisher Lovelace. Harper can also be seen in Spike Lee's He Got Game, Get On The Bus, and the upcoming Miramax film Hav Plenty. With songs by the swing band Jump With Joey.

SNOW FIELD, THE

USA 1997 Drama/Short 17 mins.

Dir: Peter Coston

New England Premiere

Dramatization of the Malmedy Massacre of WWII in which a group of American prisoners were slaughtered by the German SS in a Belgian field. Winner for Best Director of New Line Cinema Award/1997 Columbia University Faculty Selects.

SOMBRIO

CANADA 1998 13 mins.

Dir: Matthew J. Blecha

United States Premiere.

From Vancouver. What if photos could talk and tell their story? This well-directed film addresses that question as it provides an examination family relationships.

SONGBIRD

Norway 1998 Animated/Short 13 mins.

Dir: Kyoung Hee Oh

Computer generated animation. Story of a man and his loneliness takes place on a surrealistic island.

SOUFFLE D'ELIAN, LE (ELIAN'S BREATH OF LIFE)

Canada 1998 Drama/Short 30 mins.

Dir: Cimon Charest

US. Premiere.

French language film from Quebec. In an ecologically ravaged future, a young man must go off in search of the "essential-liquid" needed to properly operated the breathing apparatus that keeps him alive. His quest leads him through hostile and arid desert lands. Starring Jean-Francois Lessard, Andre Chagnon and Valerie Lavoie.

SOUND OF PEACE

USA 1997 7.5 mins Walden Woods Film Co.

Dir: Barry J. Hershey

RI Premiere

A cinematic meditation in which a synthesis of viscerally experienced waves of sound and engaging images creates a calm and transcendent experience.

SOUP OR SALAD?

USA 1998 Comedy 4.20 mins.

Dir: Mitchell Bard

East Coast Premiere

A laugh-out-loud short. On a blind date, you can be your own worst enemy.

SPICE GUYS, THE

USA 1998 5.45 mins.

Dir: Bob Stewart

First the women, now the men in this outrageous spoof.

SPLOOSH

CANADA 1998 3.5 mins. United Nathan Prods.

Dir: Nathan Garfinkel

United States Premiere

Five tourists think they see the infamous lake monster Ogopogo, only to discover that it saw them first.

SPOTS & STRIPES

GERMANY 1998 15 mins. Academy of Media Arts, Cologne

Dir: Almut Getto

United States Premiere

A modern fairy tale about adolescence.

STOLEN HEART

CANADA 1997 88 mins. Backroad Films Corp. Drama

Dir: Terry O'Brien

Cast: Lisa Ryder, Randy Hughson, Gary Farmer, James Gatto

United States Premiere

Winner "Best Canadian Feature" at the Victoria 1998 Independent Film Festival

A modern comedy of errors where a kidnapping is a means of settling accounts. Lisa Ryder (*Newsroom, Forever Knight, City of Dark*) plays Joey, a drifter who's worn through her last dead-end job. She decides to take action with Avery (Christopher Healey) and Creed (James Gatto), who plan to kidnap the daughter of a local self-help guru (Randy Hughson) and his wife (Shirley McQueen). Naturally, it all goes wrong, but never in the expected ways. With a detective on their trail (Gary Farmer), Joey engineers a crucial double-cross, and ends up alone with the victim (Meghan). Then things really get interesting.

TABALA: RHYTHMS IN THE WIND

USA 1997 52 mins.

Dir: Erica Pomerance

The vibrant, rhythmic worlds of artists of the African diaspora told in song and dance.

TED

USA 1998 Comedy/Feature 82 mins.

Dir: Gary Ellenberg

New England Premiere

A dark, comedic mockumentary about alleged Unabomber Ted Kaczinsky. A parody of tabloid-style reporting and its place in our culture. Features performances by Andy Dick (TV's NewsRadio), Edie McClurg as Ted's mother (Natural Born Killers) and Jeff Corey. McClurg took Best Actress honors at the 1998 Chicago Alternative Film Festival.

TELL TALE VIBRATOR, THE

USA 1997 Comedy 7 mins.

Dir: Jill Chamberlain

A cute spoof whose title says it all. New England Premiere

THIS WAY UP

CANADA 1997 Comedy 15 mins. United Nathan Prods.

Dir: Nathan Garfinkel

Regional Premiere

A film that asks—What happens to all those little things that you lose throughout your life?"

TIGERS!

UNITED KINGDOM 1998 12 mins.

Dir: Jonny Kurzman

United States Premiere.

From the UK. comes this charming parable of a man who rediscovers his lost innocence with the help of a small boy. A lament to those lazy, hazy, summer days of childhood, which we thought would last forever.

TYGER, TYGER

USA 1997 Drama/Short 30 mins.

Dir: Timothy Cox

New England Premiere

In the bloodied trenches of World War I, a young priest who has lost his faith in courage and a hardened corporal find they are bound together by duty to their country and try to find humanity in an inhumane war. Finalist, 1997 Hollywood Film Festival.

WORKING TO DISTRACTION

USA 1998 26 mins.

Dir: Marc A. Klutznick

Premiere

Two college friends, one an aspiring filmmaker, learn how to master the art of doing nothing...well.

WYNONA'S WRECKER

USA 1998 Comedy/Short 5 mins.

Dir: J. Darin Wales

New England Premiere

The male ego is confronted by feminist capitalism as Joe Kool meets Wynona and her wrecker. Starring Christa Kessler and Jason Drass.

