

# Feinstein IMAX Providence Place

## RIIFF Evening Screenings; Week of August 8th

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### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2006**

**7:20 p.m.**

#### **THE BIGGER PICTURE**

Tristan Higgs, Director

10 min. USA 2005

Eight-year-old Josie longs to grow up but her student mom won't let her. An accidental encounter with the legacy of the Holocaust forces Josie to take her first step into a larger world.

#### **SECRET COURAGE: THE WALTER SUSKIND STORY**

Tim Morse & Karen Morse, directors

82 min. Netherlands, U S A, 2005

Walter Suskind was a German Jew living in Amsterdam during the Nazi occupation. He was forced to serve as the Jewish head of deportation at the Hollandsche Schouwburg (the Jewish Theater), the main deportation site in Holland.

Using his fluent German, his skills as an actor and businessman, and unfathomable courage and tenacity, he and an intrepid group of resistance workers orchestrated the escape of close to 1000 Dutch children who were marked for transport to the death camps.

In Secret Courage , we hear the stories of five of the saved children in their own words. Eleven of the resistance workers interweave their own stories, painting a picture of an incredible rescue operation fraught with intrigue and danger, but also carrying the emotional and ethical burden of deciding who could be saved and who could not.

Although Walter took the secret of this mission to his death, these survivors tell his story and reflect on his ability to carry on when others gave up. In an era where the word "hero" is so casually used, Secret Courage will bring to audiences the portrait of ordinary man, a salesman by profession, who chose to take a stand in the face of Nazi terrorism. Although vilified by those who never knew his secret, he was – in the end – a true hero.

Unlike more gruesome treatments of this subject, this film brings the moral dilemmas of the Holocaust to the audience in a compelling and personal way; it leaves us to question our own moral code and what each of us might do when faced with such choiceless choices.

**9:15 p.m.**

## **COLMA: THE MUSICAL**

Richard Wong, Director

119 min. USA, 2006

Cast • H.P. Mendoza, Jake Moreno & L.A. Renigen

### **East Coast Premiere**

"New York's got New Jersey, San Francisco's got the place where Colma stays." In the small suburban town of Colma, where the dead outnumber the living 1,000 to 1, three friends fresh out of high school tackle the age old question that has plagued humanity: "Now what?"

Together, Billy, Rodel and Maribel unwittingly begin the lifelong process of self-discovery and self-reliance, but at what expense?

Colma: The Musical boasts 13 musical numbers featuring all original music by H.P. Mendoza. It is the feature directorial debut for Richard Wong.

## **THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2006**

**7:20 p.m.**

### **THREE WOMEN AND A CHATEAU**

Catherine Ryan, Gary Weimberg, directors

80 min. USA 2006

The Heiress. The Countess. The Doctor. Although they never met, these 3 women shared a place and a passion: Chateau Carolands, a 100 room architectural masterpiece in Hillsborough, California; the 2nd largest private home in the United States; and a three dimensional window into the last 100 years of American history.

The story of Chateau Carolands is like a Greek tragedy with a twist, with the chateau in the role of an enchanted magic mirror, so grand that it encourages a dangerous hubris in those who fall under its spell. We watch this drama unfold through three generations of owners of Carolands as they fall into failure and near-ruin, until the recent restoration brings about an artistic triumph for the house and current owner.

This is a story of fabulous wealth but also financial disaster, of great loves and bitter betrayals; including wars, earthquakes, a murder, a porno film, and of course great works of art and architecture. The documentary provides an insider's look at the struggles and desires of the ultra-rich in America, where even limitless money cannot guarantee that dreams come true.

**9:15 p.m.**

### **DIRT**

Jeff Bowden, Greg Biggerstaff, Directors

**81 min. USA, 2005**

A season inside the soul of American racing—the World Class Street Stocks—at the legendary Devil's Bowl Speedway, in Mesquite, Texas—as the racers careen on and off the track toward the 2002 season championship. Shot in mixed

formats, DIRT focuses on seven competitors, including; Gayla Jones, a rookie and the only woman driver at the half-mile oval; and Travis Pace, a former champ who missed the previous season after accidentally blowing up his house.

**Friday, August 11, 2006**

7:20 p.m.

**LOVE IN THE AGE OF DION**

Philip Cioffari,

100 min. USA, 2006

Cast • Tod Engle, Jerry Ferris, Marta Milans, Christina Romanello, Jack Ryland, Bridget Trama & Waverly Yates.

For 26 years Frankie Razzini has carried in his wallet the picture of his first love. Now, with his second marriage on the rocks, his life in L.A. in shambles, he returns to his old neighborhood in the Bronx. With his childhood buddy and two women from the neighborhood, he re-visits his favorite haunts. What he finds changes his (and their) lives in unexpected ways.

**9:15 p.m.**

**BOMBHUNTERS**

Skye Fitzgerald, Director

85 min. USA/CAMBODIA 2006

Between 1968 and 1973, over 20 million bombs, cluster munitions, and landmines were dropped on Cambodia. Over thirty years later, the countryside is still littered with landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). To clear their land for farming, and to feed their families, villagers increasingly turn to the harvesting of scrap metal for profit. This is the story of these remarkable individuals, as they search for and dismantle war munitions in order to survive.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2006**

**7:20 p.m.**

**A LIFE AMONG WHALES**

Bill Haney, director; Tim Disney, Producer

57 min. USA/NETHERLANDS 2005

Weaving together natural history and biography, 'A Life Among Whales' is a fascinating exploration into the life and work of whale biologist and activist Roger Payne. Payne's controversial discovery in the early 1970s that whales sing "songs" helped ignite the modern day environmental movement. A charismatic and passionate individual, Payne's pioneering spirit has consistently advanced the boundaries of science and activism over the last four decades.

"A Life Among Whales" traces Payne's scientific research beginning with his early work in Patagonia, where for two years, he, his wife and four young children lived in tents on a remote bay so that they could have unhindered access for the study of Southern Right Whales. It explores Payne's tireless and passionate fight to ban whaling - a ban which today, 20 years after an international moratorium was imposed is threatened - and follows him to his present day study of ocean pollution and his work with The Ocean Alliance, a non-profit organization and global leader in whale research and conservation which he founded.

With beautiful and haunting images, 'A Life Among Whales' follows one scientist's dedication to saving the whales and forces us to question our stewardship of the Earth and our co-existence with some of its most intriguing creatures.

Director Bill Haney is from Portsmouth, RI

**9:15 p.m.**

**EARS, OPEN. EYEBALLS, CLICK**

Canaan Brumley, Director

95 min. USA/ Canada 2005

They have to learn everything all over again: from shoe-cleaning to ten-second showers. Only then, marching and fighting techniques are addressed. For twelve weeks, the recruits of Platoon 1141 of the U.S. Marines are subjected to the orders of screaming drill instructors. In nearly two hours of pure *cinéma vérité*, the spectator experiences them, too. No voiceover, no interviews, just the camera that stays close to the soldiers, or keeps its distance for a more abstract impression of life on the base. Rapidly edited images reflect the frenzy and the soldiers' anxiety. During a nocturnal cleaning marathon, the fatigue is palpable. The soundtrack is largely filled with yelled orders and the soldiers' "Yes sir, aye-aye sir." Only a subtle musical score offers some relief. The film is divided into twelve chapters with short titles that betray a subtle sense of humour.

This film is the first half of Stanley Kubrick's *Full Metal Jacket* brought to reality. Told in a handful of titled chapters, this portrait of soldiers in training isn't your average documentary; with no interviews or narration, Brumley presents our characters with visual emotion and intensity. Rather than getting to know each of the recruits personally as they fight through boot camp, we travel the road with them and witness the experiences up close and personal.

Debuting director Brumley was once a marine himself, on the base where he shot his film. He chose not to focus on individual people: the soldiers are interchangeable and the drill instructors all look similar. Only briefly does he highlight the rise and fall of one ambitious soldier from the platoon; the real protagonist is and remains the army base.

Cited as one of the "Best International Film Festivals in the United States," by Chris Gore of *Film Threat*, the **Rhode Island International Film Festival** is the largest film festival in New England screening a record 282 films. The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** (is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for artistic interaction and exchange among independent filmmakers, directors, producers, distributors, backer, and the film-going community. Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri, Providence Mayor David M. Cicilline, and US Senator Jack Reed serve as honorary chairs to this year's event. During the 2006 event, over 282 films will be presented.

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** is supported in part by the *City of Providence, the Providence Tourism Council, the Providence Department of Arts,*

*Culture & Tourism, Clear Channel Communications, Sony, Rule Broadcast Systems, WJAR TV 10, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Amtrak, Providence Monthly, Radio Disney, The Feinstein IMAX Theatre Providence Place, UPN28, Delta Airlines, WBRU Radio, Showcase Cinemas Providence Place and contributions from members and community supporters.*

TICKETS

Single show    Adult \$10        Child \$6

Film showings are at the **Feinstein IMAX Theatre Providence Place**. To purchase tickets, please contact the Feinstein IMAX Theatre ticket booth at (401) 453-IMAX or online at [www.imax.com/providence](http://www.imax.com/providence). Reserved seating is available for all shows.