

## TROUBLED WATER

Friday, February 12 at 7:00 and Sunday, February 14 at 4:00



Released from prison after serving an eight-year sentence for the murder of a young child, Thomas returns to Oslo to arrange the scattered pieces of his life and pursue a quiet redemption. He finds employment as a church organist, settles into a small apartment and even manages an awkward but genuine courtship of Anna, the church pastor. Honest about his lack of religious faith, Thomas is nonetheless affected by the music he plays, letting the hymns wash over him with an effect at once caustic and purifying. The tension mounts when a schoolteacher recognizes the organist as the convicted murderer of her child. Director Erik Poppe skillfully combines two strong stories about people who try to come to terms with the past, and explores the possibilities for forgiveness and atonement in a world colored by cruel chance and irreparable acts. "Its absolutely the best movie I have seen in years!" -Michael Moore (2008, 115 min., in Norwegian w/ English subtitles)

<http://www.filmmovement.com/filmcatalog/index.asp?MerchandiseID=214>

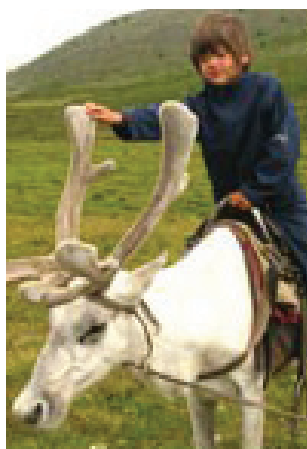
## THE GOLDEN COACH

Sunday, February 21 at 4:00

Jean Renoir's magnificent color film is highlighted by Anna Magnani (whose centenary we celebrate this year), a troupe of commedia dell'arte players, and the music of Vivaldi. In this eighteenth-century story, Renoir takes as his subject the contrast between theater and life, and the point where they merge, focusing on a commedia dell'arte troupe touring Peru and their temperamental star, Camilla - the luminous Magnani at her comic best. "The noblest and most refined film ever made." - Francois Truffaut (1953, 100 min.) **Repeated Sunday, March 14**

## THE HORSE BOY

Friday, February 26 at 7:00 and Sunday, February 28 at 4:00



A scenic adventure as well as an intensely personal journey and spiritual quest, THE HORSE BOY follows a young couple and their autistic son from their ranch in Texas to a trek on horseback through Outer Mongolia in a quest to treat his condition with shamanic healing. When their son was diagnosed with autism, Rupert Isaacson, a travel writer and former horse trainer, and his wife Kristin Neff, a psychology professor, sought the best medical care for Rowan. After traditional therapies had little effect, they discovered that Rowan had a profound affinity for animals - particularly horses - and decided to embark on their odyssey. The filmic companion to Isaacson's best-selling book of the same name, this ravishing documentary combines travel adventure, shamanic tradition and an intimate look at the autistic mind. Writer/Producer: Rupert Isaacson. Camera/Director: Michel Orion Scott. (2009, 93 min) <http://www.horseboymovie.com>

### SPRING 2010

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Discount tickets: 5 films for \$24/\$20



## DAVID THOMSON will discuss his book *The Moment of Psycho: How Alfred Hitchcock Taught America to Love Murder*

Friday, March 5 at 7:00



One of America's most respected film critics and historians, David Thomson explores the horror and inspiration of Hitchcock's greatest film. By 1960, when *Psycho* premiered in New York, nothing like it had existed before: it killed its star off after 40 minutes; audiences weren't allowed in the theater after the film had started; there was no happy ending, and it offered the most violent scene to date in American film. "Most films of the '50s are secret ads for the American way of life," Thomson writes. "*Psycho* is a warning about its lies and limits."

Drawing on his encyclopedic knowledge of Hollywood, Thomson explains how Hitchcock made *Psycho* as a direct challenge to Hollywood on nearly every standard he could find. Thomson argues that *Psycho* was not just a sensation in film; it altered the very nature of our desires. Sex, violence and horror suddenly took on new life. "*Psycho* was the new American film," Thomson writes, "and the assurance in its maker of having a bit of fun with so much blood seemed like a new attitude for what would soon be regarded as the swinging and insouciant sixties."

Thomson, who lives in San Francisco, is the author of many books on film, including *The Biographical Dictionary of Film* and *Rosebud*. He regularly contributes film commentary and criticism to *The New York Times*, *Film Comment*, *The New Republic*, *Salon*, and *The Guardian*.

Screening of *PSYCHO* (109 min., with Anthony Perkins and Janet Leigh) will follow book signing.

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## THE GOLDEN COACH

Sunday, March 14th at 4:00 - See Sunday, February 21

## THEY CAME TO PLAY

Friday, March 19 at 7:00 and Sunday, March 21 at 4:00



THEY CAME TO PLAY follows seventy-five passionate artists competing in the Van Cliburn Foundation's International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs, held every four years in Fort Worth, Texas. Players convene from all over the world, ranging from self-taught to classically-trained, aged thirty-five to almost eighty, for a week of intense competition, music and camaraderie. The film provides an intimate look into the lives of these colorful, multi-faceted competitors as they strive to balance the demands of work and family with their love of music. It's a feast for the ears for any music lover--composers represented include Debussy, Beethoven, Schumann, Schubert, and more. (2008, 90 min.)

[www.theycametoplay.com/](http://www.theycametoplay.com/)

## MIRACLE IN A BOX: A Piano Reborn

Friday, April 16 at 7:00

"The restoration of a Steinway becomes a lyrical meditation on following the heart's true passion in this beautifully crafted documentary, the latest from Academy Award-winning filmmaker John Korty (*Who Are the DeBolts? And Where Did They Get Nineteen Kids?*). A wonderful Bay Area tale, the film traces the path of a 1927 grand piano owned by a music teacher who bequeathed her treasure to her alma mater, UC Berkeley, with the stipulation that the university ultimately reward it to "a worthy student of piano." Before it can be given away, however, it must be restored, and here the essence of the story unfolds, as Korty follows the piano's rebirth under the masterful care of Oakland's venerable Callahan Piano Service. From the wire-wrangling technicians to the winning student pianist, each contributor to the instrument's journey offers joyful inspiration." —Deanna Quinones, *MILL VALLEY FILM FESTIVAL*(2009, 57 min.) [www.miracleinabox.com/](http://www.miracleinabox.com/)

**Filmmaker John Korty in person!**

## AMREEKA

Friday, April 23 at 7:00 and Sunday, April 25 at 4:00

Director Cherien Dabis's auspicious debut feature, AMREEKA, is a warm and lighthearted film about one Palestinian family's tumultuous journey into Diaspora amidst the cultural fallout of America's war in Iraq. Muna Farah, a Palestinian single mom, struggles to maintain her optimistic spirit in the daily grind of intimidating West Bank checkpoints, the constant nagging of a controlling mother, and the haunting shadows of a failed marriage. Everything changes one day when she receives a letter informing her that her family has been granted a U.S. green card. Reluctant to leave her homeland, but realizing it may be the only way to secure a future for Fadi, her teenage son, Muna decides to quit her job at the bank and visit her relatives in Illinois to see about a new life in a land that gives newcomers a run for their money. Dabis weaves an abundance of humor and levity into this tale of struggle, displacement, and nostalgia and draws an absorbing and irresistibly charming performance from actress Nisreen Faour as Muna, who stands at the heart of this tale. (2009, 96 min.)

www.amreeka.com

## THE BEACHES OF AGNES

Friday, April 30 at 7:00 and Sunday, May 2 at 4:00



"Starting alone on a beach, admitting the theatrical aspect of her self-presentation, the eighty-year-old director Agnès Varda sets up the serious play and heartfelt whimsy of this filmed autobiography. When, moments later, her crew strews the beach, under her exacting direction, with rickety arrays of antique mirrors, she

establishes her retrospective gaze as a truth inseparable from the fictions of her imagination. Though she fulfills the rules of the genre, with a more or less chronological guided tour through the sites (in France and elsewhere) and the sights (her movies, photographs, and art projects) of her life, her main order of business is love. Her clever, freely associative set pieces spark encounters with family and long-unseen friends and guide her spoken reminiscences. The emotional core of the film is Varda's life with her late husband, the director Jacques Demy (who died in 1990), who, even now, continues to inspire her. Uninhibited about sex, generous in her affections, worldly-wise, blending solemn or tender recollections with self-deprecating antics, Varda, seemingly freed from fear and shame by age and honors, goes far beyond a tale of life lived in art and makes a work of art in its own right, one of her best—a poignant, rapturously emotional tribute to life itself." – THE NEW YORKER (2008, 110 min., in French w/English subtitles) <http://www.cinemaguild.com/beachesofagnes/>

## O AMOR NATURAL

Sunday, May 9 at 4:00,

Friday, May 14 7:00 and Sunday, May 16 at 4:00



"In Brazil, carnality is celebrated without the shame felt by other more puritanical cultures. Carnality and poetry become intertwined in this luscious documentary and in the book of the same name which is the wellspring for the film. Carlos Drummond de Andrade was a beloved and respected Brazilian poet whose life spanned nearly the entire 20th century. He never intended his erotic poems to

be made public, but the posthumously published O AMOR NATURAL has proved to be near to the hearts (and other parts) of all Brazilians who happen upon it. At first, director Heddy Honigmann's idea of having older, even ancient Brazilians of all socioeconomic backgrounds recite Drummond's extremely explicit verses on camera seems like a slightly perverse joke. But we soon realize that Drummond's poetry, like that of the better-known Pablo Neruda, expresses the true language and innermost feelings of his people. Wickedly funny, but also warm and moving (not to mention hot, hot hot), this movie is a must-see for anyone who loves sex, life, and the Brazilian way." - SFIFF(1996, 76 min.) [www.heddy-honigmann.nl/](http://www.heddy-honigmann.nl/)

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