Welcome to the 6th Annual Traverse City Film Festival!

This year’s fest is a brazen, incendiary celebration of art — specifically, the art of cinema, cinema that is not afraid to take risks, to challenge the conventional wisdom, to move an audience so profoundly that everyone will feel transported to a place where it’s safe to think and explore and rebel.

We remain dedicated to finding only the best films from around the world and bringing them to you here in the beautiful north country. We have more films than ever before, including some very special surprises:

A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES — We’ve lined up rare prints of “A Hard Day’s Night” and “Help!” plus a brand new feature based on The Beatles’ formative years as we remember the band on the 40th anniversary of their breakup.

A SALUTE TO CUBAN FILM — We’re flying in movies and their makers from Cuba for this special spotlight on a country with a vibrant and mostly unknown (as least in America) film industry.

3D COMES TO TC — But only for really great movies like the unusually hilarious “Cane Toads: The Conquest” and the mind-blowing concert doc “U2 3D.”

SHORT FILMS GET THEIR DUE — This year we’re redoubling our efforts on the short film front to bring you seven diverse programs, including two special appearances by the most acclaimed, prominent filmmakers of the genre, Jon Alpert and Academy Award nominee Rory Kennedy.

OUR FAVORITE FILMMAKERS RETURN — As part of a sizeable group of returning filmmakers, we will have two U.S. Premiers of foreign documentaries with the directors present: “Draquila – Italy Trembles” by our own TCFF board member Sabina Guzzanti and “Czech Peace” by the Eastern European mischief makers who were the hit of our first fest with “Czech Dream.”

NEW AND IMPROVED FILM SCHOOL — We’re doubling the number of Film School classes offered this year and relocating to a great venue, Northwestern Michigan College’s Scholars Hall. We’re even planning a master class with famed animator Bill Plympton, one of America’s all-time great artists, who has a short in this year’s festival.

TCFF FILM FORUM SERIES — You know how it is when you leave an awesome movie that has just rocked your socks and you say, “Man, I’d sure like to go somewhere and talk to others about what we just saw?” Well, now you can! Eight festival screenings this year will be part of a new Film Forum series. Chat with fellow festivalgoers at our free after-the-movie community discussions in our outdoor Film Lounge in Lay Park on Union St.

NEW TICKET SYSTEM AND VOUCHERS — We have a new ticketing system, and even though this is a transition year, we hope to vastly improve the ticketing experience. And we’re adding a voucher system, so if you don’t know what you want to see, or if you want to get into sold out shows in the standby line, buy a voucher at the regular ticket price, good for any regular film.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD — We will honor two of the most important leaders of the independent movie industry for the last 30 years, the co-presidents of Sony Pictures Classics, Tom Bernard and Michael Barker, the men who brought us “Waiting for Guffman,” “The Fog of War” and “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon,” among many others. They’ll be here in person.

As you can see, we’ve really ups the ante this year and I’m convinced you are going to love this festival. There’s no doubt you will be frustrated by the inability to see everything. You’ve got some hard choices to make — but not really, because every film on this year’s schedule is truly fantastic. You could literally throw ten darts at the schedule to pick ten random films, and you couldn’t go wrong. So pack in as many movies as you can and enjoy this year’s festival.

MICHAEL MOORE
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, TRAVERSE CITY FILM FESTIVAL
STATE THEATRE | 233 E. Front Street
Originally built in 1916, and lovingly restored to its former glory by Michael Moore and an army of volunteers, the year-round 530 seat movie house is the perfect place to see a movie. The State lights up downtown as the festival’s anchor, a historic landmark and the community’s gathering place.

CITY OPERA HOUSE | 112 1/2 E. Front Street
Constructed in 1891, the City Opera House was the first commercial building in Traverse City to make use of the electric light. Fully restored as a cultural center, the new balcony makes this beautiful and historic community treasure the festival’s third largest venue with 465 seats. Location of the TCFF Brilliant Books store!

OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE | 148 E. Eighth Street
Home to the Traverse City Civic Players, created in April 1960 to bring amateur theater to northern Michigan, the OTP season runs annually from fall through summer with a variety of outstanding productions. The 320 seat main auditorium is the festival’s most intimate and enveloping venue.

LARS HOCKSTAD AUDITORIUM | 301 W. Seventh Street
TC Central Grade School’s Lars Hockstad Auditorium is year-round host to numerous professional and student stage productions and concerts for the Traverse City area. In use since its construction in 1922, at 830 seats, Lars Hockstad is the festival’s, and downtown’s, largest indoor auditorium.

MILLIKEN AUDITORIUM | 1701 E. Front Street
The Michael and Barbara Dennos Museum Center at Northwestern Michigan College is the region’s premiere cultural center offering world class programming in the visual and performing arts. The museum’s 367 seat Milliken Auditorium offers perfect comfort and sight lines, a huge screen and excellent acoustics.

OPEN SPACE PARK | Grandview Parkway at Union Street
One of Traverse City’s most beautiful and versatile public places, Open Space Park on the shores of Grand Traverse Bay is the perfect spot to enjoy a free outdoor family movie with 7 pm concerts beforehand. And all day long, Open Space is the best summertime fun northern Michigan has to offer.

BOX OFFICE & CYBERCAFE | 300 E. Front Street
One block east of the State Theatre you will find the festival’s main box office, store and cybercafe. Art Van Furniture has sponsored a comfortable space to watch festival trailers, talk movies, review the schedule, enjoy coffee courtesy of Crema and surf the web on computers with connectivity sponsored by AT&T.

FILM SCHOOL | 1701 E. Front Street
Conveniently located just a few steps away from Milliken Auditorium, right on the festival loop, Scholars Hall at Northwestern Michigan College is host to this year’s expanded Film School. Twice daily Wed.-Sat. during the festival, more than 130 people of all ages will learn together in one of Northern Michigan’s finest centers of learning.

Frequently Asked Questions
The Traverse City Film Festival is an annual celebration of film in one of the most beautiful areas in the country — Traverse City, Michigan. We show the best in world cinema, American and foreign, fiction and non-fiction, classics and premieres, features and shorts. Our mission is to show “Just Great Movies.”

When does the festival take place? The 6th Annual Traverse City Film Festival will be held July 27-August 1, 2010. The 7th Annual TCFF is scheduled for July 26-31, 2011.

What happens in the Open Space Park on the waterfront? Tuesday through Sunday at dusk (about 9:45 pm), a classic film is shown on a giant inflatable screen on the water. Admission is free. All films shown outdoors are rated G, PG or PG-13. Seating is first come, first served. Musical entertainment begins at 7 pm, and vendors offer dinner and snack food. Families are welcome to bring blankets and lawn chairs and to make a night of it by the Bay.

What are the free panels at the City Opera House? Free daily panel discussions featuring directors, writers, actors and other film industry members are held Wednesday through Sunday at 9:30 am. Free tickets (max two per person) are handed out beginning at 8:30 am. Ticketed patrons may then leave and return before the panel to line up by ticket number.

Where can I learn more about the films? The festival schedule is online at www.traversecityfilmfest.org with links to web sites, trailers and other info. You can also visit the main festival box office between 12 noon and 8 pm every day after July 11 and speak with our wonderful box office volunteers. They are always willing to offer tips and suggestions.

Who funds the festival? The festival is funded by local businesses, community groups and individuals. Sponsors are needed for each theater, film and event. If you would like to contribute, please contact us at 231-392-1134. The Traverse City Film Festival is a nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status.

Who are the people behind the Traverse City Film Festival? The TCFF was founded by Oscar-winning filmmaker Michael Moore. The board members are Larry Charles (“Borat”), Terry George (“Hotel Rwanda”), Sabina Guzzanti (“Viva Zapatero”), Christine Lahti (“Running on Empty”), author Doug Stanton and photographer John Robert Williams.

What is the mission of the festival? We are committed to showing “Just Great Movies” and helping to save one of America’s few indigenous art forms — the cinema. We are committed to showing great movies that both entertain and enlighten the audience. We need movies that seek to enrich the human spirit and the art of filmmaking, not the bottom line. Our goal is for people to leave the theater with the feeling that they just watched something special.

How do I contact the Traverse City Film Festival? We can be reached by phone at the festival office, 231-392-1134, via email at info@traversecityfilmfestival.org or via mail at PO Box 4064, Traverse City MI 49685. The box office can be reached at 231-922-8903.
FRIENDS OF THE FILM FESTIVAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Saturday, July 24, 2010 | 7 - 9 pm
Clinch Park on the Bay, Rain or Shine
This year, instead of the annual potluck party, we are excited to announce that we will be treating our Friends of the Film Festival and their families to an ice cream social by the Bay, with ice cream, frozen yogurt and toppings sponsored by Moomers Homemade Ice Cream, to thank them for their Friendship. We’ll even have free train rides for everyone (weather and equipment allowing).

FOUNDERS PARTY
Sunday, July 25, 2010 | 1 pm
The Bay Theatre/Ciccone Vineyards and Winery
The annual Founders Party for festival sponsors features a sneak preview of one of the festival’s best films at the Bay Theatre in Suttons Bay, followed by a reception at Ciccone Vineyards and Winery. It’s our small way of thanking the sponsors who fund the Traverse City Film Festival.

OPENING NIGHT PARTY
Tuesday, July 27, 2010 | 8:30-11:30 pm
Street Party on Front St. between Park and Cass, Rain or Shine
Tuesday night we welcome the world of film to Traverse City in a party the likes of which Traverse City has never seen. Front Street will be transformed into a world bazaar featuring food and music from around the world, with more than 20 generous restaurants, chefs and vendors offering delicious international cuisine, paired with delicious beer, vodka and wine provided by our generous neighbors. Tickets are $50. Friends of the Festival receive 50% off party tickets.

FILMMAKER PARTY
Friday, July 30, 2010 | 8:30-11:30 pm
Wade Trim Parking Lot, Downtown at Front and Park, Rain or Shine
Mingle with the filmmakers, the board of the TCFF, other festival guests, and fellow film lovers in everyone’s favorite transformed parking lot. Food from 12 local restaurateur sponsors will delight your Friday night palette, paired perfectly with beverages from local vendors, vintners, distillers and distributors. Tickets are $25.

CLOSING NIGHT PARTY
Sunday, August 1, 2010 | 8-11 pm
The Park Place Dome (like you’ve never seen or heard it before)
Come dance the festival away as we say goodbye to another fantastic festival at the Park Place Dome. Can we really make the dome seem like a starry Michigan evening? We’re certainly going to try. One thing is for sure—the food will be a local showcase of Michigan-made products from over 30 different restaurants and vendors. We will also feature wine, beer, vodka, and some great music. Festival feature and short film award winners and the Friends of the Film Festival Grand Prize Drawing winner will be announced, too. Tickets are $50. Friends of the Festival receive 50% off party tickets.

CLOSING NIGHT POST PARTY
Sunday, August 1, 2010 | 11 pm - 2 am
Fire Fly, 310 Cass Street at Washington
Can’t get enough? Head to Fire Fly after the closing night films and festivities to keep the party going.

VOLUNTEER PARTY
Monday, August 2, 2010 | 6-9 pm
Clinch Park on the Bay, Rain or Shine
The celebration continues on Monday as we honor the amazing, hard-working, talented, generous volunteers who make the festival possible! 20 local restaurant and vendor sponsors will treat our 1,200 volunteers to an American Picnic on the Bay.
PANELS
The week before the festival, the Traverse City Film Festival will announce the line up for one of the most popular festival offerings: the free daily film industry panels at the City Opera House. This is where our visiting filmmakers tell stories and offer opinions, mixing it up with each other and the audience. These sessions range from the hilarious to the moving. They begin at 9:30 am Wednesday-Sunday, so that you won’t miss lunch or your first movie at noon.

Free tickets for a given day’s panel are handed out beginning at 8:30 a.m. to guarantee seating. Ticketed patrons may leave and return to line up following the numbers on the panel tickets. A maximum of two tickets per person will be distributed.

BRILLIANT BOOKS
Be sure to stop in to the City Opera House during the festival to visit the amazing selection of TCFF film related books set up by Brilliant Books, an independent book store in Suttons Bay.

FILM SCHOOL
We’re doubling the number of Film School classes offered this year and relocating to NMC’s Scholars Hall. We’re even planning a master class with famed animator Bill Plympton, one of America’s all-time great artists who has a short in this year’s festival. Look for the class schedule the week before the festival. Tickets are just $5 per class, and they run at 12 noon and 3 pm Wednesday through Saturday.

FILM LOUNGE:
FILM FORUM SERIES AND LIVE MUSIC
Lay Park on Union Street is the best festival destination to enjoy great live music and great film talk, and it’s free. The Film Forum series is NEW THIS YEAR: Wednesday through Saturday after specially designated noon and 3 pm movies (listed below), join fellow movie lovers in the Film Lounge park to discuss what you’ve just seen and heard in an informal community in the round format. And stay for great sets from volunteer musicians. Look for the entertainment schedule the week before festival, too.

Wednesday
Budrus: after noon movie (see page 19)
12th & Delaware: after 3 pm movie (page 18)

Thursday
Waiting for “Superman”: after noon movie (page 21)
Restrepo: after 3 pm movie (page 21)

Friday
American Radical: after noon movie (page 18)
8: The Mormon Proposition: after 3 pm movie (page 18)

Saturday
Most Dangerous Man in America: after noon movie (page 20)
GasLand: after 3 pm movie (page 19)
**Opening Night**

**THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT**

2009 | USA | R | 104 min.

Sometimes there’s a film that’s just right for its time and place, a perfect match for the spirit of its time. This alt-family comedy from director Lisa Cholodenko (“Laurel Canyon”) is just such a film — a classically crafted work that effortlessly taps the cultural zeitgeist to offer a portrait of a quintessentially modern family. Hard-working doctor Nic (Annette Bening) has been with her partner Jules (Julianne Moore) for almost twenty years. The couple has it all — a house in the suburbs, steady income, and two teenage kids, Laser (Josh Hutchinson) and college-bound Joni (Mia Wasikowska). Everything’s going smoothly for the family until Laser pressures his just-turned-eighteen sister into using her new legal standing to track down the identity of their biological father. The anonymous sperm donor turns out to be Paul (Mark Ruffalo), the hunky proprietor of a hip organic restaurant who’s more than a little curious to meet the kids he never knew he had. But as Paul enters into their lives, the family’s balance is thrown into disarray. A breakout hit at this year’s Sundance Film Festival, this rich, hilarious film is easily the best American indie of the year.

TUE 7 PM ST

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**Closing Night**

**THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE**

2009 | Sweden, Denmark, Germany | R | 129 min.

This thrilling neo-noir is the sequel to the wildly successful “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” and is based on the second in the bestselling “Millennium” trilogy of novels by Stieg Larsson. The titular girl, Lisbeth Salander, is many things: she’s tough, independent, sexy, anti-social, and painfully smart. She’s also a wanted woman. After returning to Sweden clandestinely to aid her journalist partner Mikael Blomkvist in a sex-trafficking investigation, Lisbeth becomes the target of a manhunt when her fingerprints are found on the weapon that has left two journalists dead. Lisbeth and Mikael set out to find the truth behind the murders, dredging up ghosts, dodging authorities and dispatching some menacing bad guys along the way. Whether you’re a devoted reader and not, you’ll be glued to your seat during this labyrinthine journey into the criminal underbelly of Larsson’s Stockholm in this gritty and compelling thriller.

SUN 6:00 PM ST

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**NOWHERE BOY**

2009 | UK | R | 98 min.

Director Sam Taylor Wood’s portrait of the artist as a smart, talented, but directionless young man who steals records and skips school in 1955 Liverpool provides a fascinating fictional look at John Lennon’s early path from boy to man to legend. Powerful performances from BAFTA nominated actresses Kristin Scott Thomas and Anne-Marie Duff, who play the aunt who raised him and the estranged mother who fought for his attention in his teen years, bring to life a crucial part of the journey that led to the creation of the greatest rock band of all time. From meeting a young Paul McCartney and starting up The Quarrymen as a refuge from his painful past, to falling in love for the first time, “Nowhere Boy” avoids the pitfalls of biopic nostalgia to reveal the emotional and musical birth of a legend.

TUE 6:30 PM COH
TWISTER
1996 | USA | PG-13 | 113 min.
In June, we had earthquake in Traverse City and in July, conditions are looking right for a “Twister!” Pack your foul weather gear for the next natural disaster to hit town — on the big screen. Steven Spielberg produced this extreme action blockbuster, which follows a rag-tag team of storm chasers who risk their lives in pursuit of science. Armed with breakthrough technology aimed at tracking tornado movement, our daring crew dodges flying cattle and fights off rival storm chasers led by the nefarious Dr. Jonas Miller on their action-packed mission. With a tornado at their heels and a stormy romance afoot, will our team make it out alive?

TUESDAY AT DUSK

HELP!
1965 | UK | NR | 90 min.
“Help!” is on the way. The Beatles’ second film is a madcap romp through the Austrian Alps with Fiendish Thingys and everybody’s favorite mop topped foursome. Inspired by the Marx Brothers’ “Duck Soup” and taking off James Bond films, the premise involves a mysterious cult that discovers their sacrificial ring is stuck on the finger of the one and only Ringo Starr! Will Ringo get away or will he be forced to be the next sacrifice to the goddess Kaili? Sing along with 11 Beatles greats including “Ticket to Ride” and “You’re Going to Lose That Girl” and celebrate the zany greatness that is The Beatles.

THURSDAY AT DUSK

RAISING ARIZONA
1987 | USA | PG-13 | 94 min.
Joel and Ethan Coen’s second feature film is a rollicking masterpiece. Perpetual criminal Hi falls in love with the cop taking his mug shot, Ed, and they are married soon after. Upon discovering that Ed is infertile and adoption is an impossibility because of Hi’s criminal record, the couple kidnaps one of the quintuplets of local furniture mogul Nathan Arizona, figuring five kids is too many for one family anyway. Their happy new child-rearin’ life is all they had hoped it would be, until a pair of Hi’s old cellmates shows up unannounced after breaking out of jail in this fast-paced cult classic.

FRIDAY AT DUSK

INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE
1989 | USA | PG-13 | 127 min.
Our favorite fedora-wearing, whippet-dogging, snake fearing archaeologist adventurer returns to Open Space, this time in search of the Holy Grail. Steven Spielberg and George Lucas team up for the third installment of the famed Indiana Jones series that sees Indy (Harrison Ford) reunite with his estranged father (Sean Connery, cue swooning) in a race against the Nazis. Traveling from Venice to the heart of Nazi Germany and on to the Canyon of the Crescent Moon, Indy and his father are never far from trouble.

SATURDAY AT DUSK

FINDING NEMO
2003 | Australia, USA | G | 100 min.
You don’t need to speak Whale to understand the humor and heart in this Pixar classic. After the young and plucky clownfish Nemo is caught by a Sydney dentist, it’s up to his overprotective father Marlin to track him down. Accompanied by the forgetful yet relentlessly chipper Dory, their quest takes them across the vast ocean, where they encounter everything from vegetarian sharks and a swarm of beautifully enticing jellyfish to surfer-dude turtles. Experience this underwater adventure on the waterfront at the Open Space. The festival thanks Disney for this great community treat!

SUNDAY AT DUSK

MARY POPPINS
1964 | USA | G | 139 min.
Come on down to Open Space for a movie that is “Practically Perfect” in every way and sing along to your favorite tunes as Disney’s beloved magical nanny inspires happiness wherever she flies. In Mary’s charge, the Banks children learn the meaning of “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious,” discover the medicinal effects of “A Spoonful of Sugar,” and “Step in Time” with a band of lively chimney sweeps. A chance to re-watch this Walt Disney masterpiece on the big screen is not to be missed, so bring the entire family for an unforgettable evening and enjoy your “Jolly Holiday” at the Open Space!
**CANE TOADS: THE CONQUEST**

2010 | Australia | PG | 90 min.

The South American cane toad’s unstoppable journey across the Australian continent has long been the focus of great controversy and bizarre fascination. The cane toad was introduced to Australia in 1935 in an attempt to control the greyback cane beetle. Unfortunately, the toads were disinclined eat the beetles. Instead, they set about doing what cane toads do best — multiplying, migrating and thriving. 75 years later, in a country equipped with unprecedented scientific capabilities and unabated public will to battle the invasion, it seems nothing will stop the march of the Toad. Science and genetic mutation have failed, so too has physical aggression. Fences and traps have proved ineffectual, as have natural predators and topographic barriers. No other species has occupied a nation’s consciousness like this toad, which has achieved both criminal and cult status. “Cane Toads: The Conquest” explores the history, the science, the human conflict and the bizarre culture surrounding this notorious environmental blunder. Director Mark Lewis injects his trademark irreverence and humor into the first independent 3D movie ever made, a story filled with engaging characters and incredible first hand accounts. This is a truly poignant environmental cautionary tale on the issue of invasive species and human folly. As the world wrestles with the idea that we have irretrievably altered our own ecosystem, these bulbous creatures may be the ultimate metaphor for the inevitable path upon which we have set ourselves. *In Person: Director Mark Lewis, Executive Producer Clark Bunting*

**U2 3D**

2007 | USA | G | 85 min.

Disappointed that U2 had to cancel their East Lansing tour stop? Don’t sweat it! This year the TCFF will feature the first-ever live-action digital 3D film. “U2 3D” is a unique cinematic experience that places viewers within the pulsing energy of a stadium concert given by the world’s most popular band. Marrying innovative digital 3D imagery and multi-channel surround sound with the excitement of a live U2 concert — shot in South America during the final leg of their “Vertigo” tour — this film creates an immersive theatrical experience unlike any 3D or concert film that has come before. See and hear Bono, The Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen Jr. rock out to your favorite U2 hits including “Beautiful Day,” “With or Without You” and “Where the Streets Have No Name.” Ushering in a new dimension of filmmaking, “U2 3D” takes viewers on an extraordinary journey they will never forget. Print courtesy 3ality Digital and National Geographic Entertainment

*SAT 6 PM LH*
APART TOGETHER
2009 | China | NR | 93 min.
Wang Quan'an's latest masterpiece centers on Chinese civil war veteran Liu's visit his elderly one-time love Yu'e after a lengthy break; the couple separated when Liu, a Nationalist soldier, fled to Taiwan. Their reunion proves uncomfortable for Yu'e and her family: her common-law husband Lu is also an ex-soldier who fought for the side of the Communist mainland, and their adult children with whom they share a home are unsettled by Liu's presence. This engaging chamber piece with a quiet political undercurrent is elevated by a dry sense of humor and fleeting moments of lyricism.

WED 9:30 AM MIL | SUN 3 PM MIL

A BRAND NEW LIFE
2009 | France, South Korea | NR | 92 min.
Nine-year-old Jin-hee loves spending time with her dad, which makes his decision to drop her off at a Catholic orphanage with no intention of coming back all the more bewildering. In shock and denial, Jin-hee initially refuses to eat or speak while clinging to the hope that her father will return, before slowly beginning to navigate her new world. The story is told with a pleasingly light, unmanipulative touch, but the barely articulated emotional devastation at the core of this film will break your heart. This must-see will haunt you with the same bitter-sweet warmth as a great book.

THU 6 PM MIL

CASTAWAY ON THE MOON
2009 | S. Korea | NR | 116 min.
Driven to despair by life's failures, Kim aims to end it all by leaping off a bridge. But he can't even get suicide right, and the non-swimmer ends up washed ashore on an island in the middle of the river, the city in sight but tantalizingly out of reach. Slowly growing accustomed to his isolation, Kim becomes the Robinson Crusoe of his island. Meanwhile, in a high rise on the banks of the river, a shut-in happens upon Kim with her zoom lens, and the two isolated misfits discover the joy of less-than-instant messaging through notes left in bottles and messages scrawled in the sand. This must-see rom com will move you in ways you haven't felt at the movies in years.

WED 3 PM ST | SUN 6 PM MIL

CHERRY
2009 | USA | NR | 100 min.
Aaron is a smart but sheltered incoming Ivy League freshman, pushed to pursue an engineering track by his controlling mother. Liberated by the newfound freedom of life away from the nest, Aaron decides to enroll in a drawing class, where he meets and falls for Linda, a 34-year-old former wild-child who has returned to school to straighten out her life. Linda invites Aaron to her place, and a bizarre love triangle ensues when, instead of getting lucky with his free-spirited classmate, he gets introduced to Beth, Linda's punky 14-year-old daughter who develops a crush of her own on Aaron. This clever, provocative coming-of-age tale was shot downstate in Kalamazoo. In Person: Jeffrey Fine

SAT 3 PM LH

CHERRY BLOSSOMS
2008 | Germany | NR | 127 min.
A deeply stirring portrait of love, loss, mourning and renewal, this tender cross-cultural tale is sure to be one of the most moving films you'll ever see. Rudi and Trudi are a retirement-aged couple living in Bavaria. Rudi is content with his day-to-day routine; Trudi yearns to fulfill her lifelong dream of traveling to Mount Fuji. When tragedy strikes while the couple is visiting their two grown children in Berlin, Rudi makes the pilgrimage alone to Tokyo where he meets a young Butoh dancer who gives him new perspective on his wife and himself. Renowned director Doris Dörrie has crafted an insightful and affecting gem.

THU 9:30 AM MIL | SUN 3 PM ST

THE CONCERT
2009 | France | NR | 119 min.
Once one of the USSR's greatest conductors, Andrei Filipov was demoted for refusing to fire the Bolshoi Orchestra's Jewish members during the communist era. Twenty-five years later, Filipov is a defeated man, reduced to a janitorial position in the great concert hall. Then opportunity knocks in the form of a fax inviting the Bolshoi to step in for a gig in Paris after another orchestra cancels. Filipov intercepts the message before it gets to the higher-ups, and hatches a daring plan to gather up his old buddies and pose as the Bolshoi. This delightful musical dramedy was a crowd favorite in festivals around the globe.

WED 6 PM ST | FRI 3 PM LH
**FARSAN**

2009 | Sweden | NR | 97 min.

With a uniquely Scandinavian sense of oddball humor on full display, “Farsan” (Swedish for “Father”) is a heart-warming comedy about manliness. As a Middle Eastern immigrant living in Sweden, Aziz (played by the director’s father) has a pretty good life: he’s got a steady job, and is expecting his first grandkid soon. He’s even got time to teach his punch-less co-worker Jørgen a thing or two about being a man (which apparently involves being pushed out a moving car). But when it comes to finding a sweethearth of his own, the long-widowed Aziz needs more than a little assistance from his pals.

**THE FRENCH KISSERS**

2009 | France | NR | 90 min.

Like many 14-year-old boys, pimple-faced Hervé and his mullet-sporting metalhead friend Camel spend their days fantasizing about their female classmates while lacking the allure or confidence to actually approach one. When an attractive girl inexplicably sets her sights on Hervé, he suffers ample embarrassments along the way to love. Equally laugh- and cringe-inducing, this smart, raunchy teen sex comedy — picture a French version of “American Pie” — was a runaway hit in its home country and is an audience favorite at festivals around the globe.

**THE HAPPY POET**

2010 | USA | NR | 85 min.

An unemployed post-grad poet dreams of opening an all-organic food stand, despite having terrible credit and little business know-how. He manages to secure a minuscule loan from an amused banker — just enough to buy a hot dog cart and convert it into a health food stand that attracts two loyal customers in slacker-philosopher Curtis and the poetry-loving Agnes. An intelligent comedy about eco-consciousness and the entrepreneurial spirit, this is a dryly funny, very indie movie in the vein of “Slacker.” In Person: Paul Gordon, David Hartstein

**HEARTBREAKER**

2010 | France | NR | 104 min.

Set in glamorous Monte Carlo, this uber popular rom com tells the story of Alex, a master of seduction, who runs an unusual business with his sister and brother-in-law: they are hired by concerned parents and friends to break up couples “who shouldn’t be together.” Alex’s latest assignment is the group’s most challenging to date: he must charm haughty wine expert Juliette away from her seemingly perfect fiancé before their wedding, and he might have to break the first rule of the biz: never break up a romance where the woman is truly happy. It’s slated for an “American remake;” catch the real thing here.

**IN THE BEGINNING**

2009 | France | NR | 135 min.

Based on a bizarre true story, this brilliant film is about a small-time con man who stumbles into a town that has fallen on hard economic times. Part of the town’s bad luck is the fact that the government canceled the superhighway that was to have brought the world to their door. The con comes up with a plan to scam the town: he pretends to be from a new construction company that has decided to build the highway after all. Suddenly everyone’s hopes are (falsely) raised, believing they are going to be saved. And Paul insists that the town leaders and businesses pay him up front to get the job done. A chilling, too-close-to-home story for any area struggling in these hard times.

**THE INFIDEL**

2010 | UK | NR | 105 min.

London family man Mahmud does his best to be a good Muslim, even if he’s a little lax in his observances from time to time with regards to the whole “no drinking” and “no swearing” thing. But one day his life is turned upside down after discovering stunning news that he was adopted — and his parents were Jewish! Mahmud’s real name? Solly Shimshillewitz. His only friend through the ensuing identity crisis is a Jewish-American cabbie who offers a few pointers to his newfound Hebrew comrade. Adding to his crisis of faith, Mahmud’s revelation comes just in time for his son’s upcoming marriage to the daughter of a fiery fundamentalist Islamic cleric. A side-splitting, perfectly played high-concept comedy.

**LEBANON, PA**

2009 | USA | NR | 100 min.

After learning that his father has passed away, Philadelphia advertising executive Will heads to rural Lebanon, PA, to get his dad’s affairs in order. There, he meets his dad’s staunchly conservative second cousin Andy, a father of two. Will forms an unlikely friendship with Andy’s bright and bubbly 17-year old daughter CJ (Rachel Kitson), who confides in him that she’s pregnant. Director Ben Hickernell’s earnest sophomore feature offers a bittersweet look at the urban/rural cultural divide in America through the lives of one extended family. In Person: Ben Hickernell, Rachel Kitson

**TRaverse city film festival**

TRAVERSE CITY FILM FESTIVAL | JULY 27 - AUGUST 1, 2010

**FILMS**
**THE MAN NEXT DOOR**
2009 | Argentina | NR | 103 min.
Leonardo is a world-famous interior designer who lives in Le Corbusier’s Casa Curutchet. One day, horror strikes: he awakes to the sound of workmen opening a hole for his neighbor Victor’s new window — and it looks directly into his famous home! Victor just wants a little more sun, but a window is out of the question for Leonardo. As negotiations between the two men grow more and more strained, the film evolves into a class war that pits the refined against the uncouth, offering a sharp critique of the materialistic shallowness that comes with privilege.
**WED 9 PM MIL | SAT 9 PM OTP**

**ME AND ORSON WELLES**
2008 | UK | PG-13 | 114 min.
Orson Welles may be best remembered for his work as director/writer/producer/actor in films like “Citizen Kane” and “The Lady from Shanghai,” but even before hitting it big on the silver screen, he enjoyed a rather successful theater career. This film by Richard Linklater follows a wannabe teenage actor as he somewhat haphazardly gets cast in the Welles-helmed 1937 staging of a modern “Julius Caesar.” Anchored by a phenomenal performance by Christian McKay as Welles, this Manhattan-set period piece is a treat for lovers of stage and screen.
**WED 9:30 AM LH | SAT 3 PM ST**

**PLEASE GIVE**
2009 | USA | R | 90 min.
Catherine Keener and Oliver Platt star in this new comedy from Nicole Holofcener (“Friends With Money”), a piercing look at an upper-middle-class woman’s sense of guilt about her privileged position in life. On the one hand, Kate gives regularly to the homeless. On the other, she and her husband indulge a somewhat morbid materialism — their successful vintage furniture store sells pieces inherited by grieving children, and they have their eyes set on expanding their already-spacious apartment once their aging neighbor Andra kicks the bucket. Holofcener is at the top of her game with this bitingly funny and insightful film.
**THU 3 PM ST | SAT 9:30 AM LH**

**THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES**
2009 | Argentina | R | 129 min.
Winner of the 2010 Best Foreign Film Oscar, this mesmerizing crime drama interweaves a politically charged whodunit with generation-spanning romances, all the elements of classic cinema at its finest. Haunted by the memory of a brutal murder case for over 25 years, a retired court investigator decides to write a novel about the horrific crime to exorcise his inner demons. We follow his relentless pursuit of the killer, aided by his bumbling-genius colleague Sandoval and their cautious superior Irene. A true cinematic treat, this labyrinthine legal thriller will leave you talking hours after you leave the theater.
**WED 3 PM LH | SUN 9 PM ST**
SOLITARY MAN
2009 | USA | R | 90 min.
Michael Douglas stars with Mary-Louise Parker, Susan Sarandon and Danny DeVito in this dark comedy about an aging anti-hero lothario who finds himself mired in a mid-life catastrophe after his wife leaves him and his successful empire of car dealerships crumbles around him in the wake of a self-inflicted scandal. Ben’s compulsive womanizing gets him into even more trouble after his new girlfriend asks him to accompany her teenage daughter to college. But the visit to his alma mater only amplifies Ben’s unreserved behavior in this sharply written story with a top-notch cast.

THE TROTSKY
2009 | Canada | NR | 114 min.
Privileged 17-year-old Montreal student Leon Bronstein is the reincarnation of celebrated Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky. Or maybe he’s not. But that doesn’t stop him from initiating a hunger strike at his father’s workplace or organizing the student’s union at his new public school. Living his life by flashcards with bullet points from Trotsky’s life (No. 9: Get assassinated), Leon sets off on a campaign to rally his fellow classmates to action. But will they answer the call? This outlandish film plays out as a rare brand of high school comedy that eschews sex (well, not entirely) in favor of political action. In Person: Director Jacob Tierney

WELCOME
2008 | France | NR | 110 min.
17-year-old Iraqi refugee Bilal is nearing the end of an arduous 2,500 mile journey, on a mission to reunite with his girlfriend Mina in England. All that stands in his way now is the English Channel — and seemingly insurmountable security measures aimed at deterring illegal immigrants from crossing. Bilal finds an unlikely friend in Simon, a middle-aged swimming coach at a public pool in Calais with his own girl problems. Bilal hatches a plan: with Simon’s help, he’ll swim the Channel. This compelling drama manages to keep its politics at the personal level, offering a chance to step into an immigrant’s shoes.

WHEN WE LEAVE
2010 | Germany | NR | 119 min.
Trapped in an abusive marriage in Istanbul, Umay decides she’s had enough. With her 5-year-old son Cem, Umay makes a clandestine escape to her family’s home in Berlin. Initially welcoming of their daughter’s “visit,” Umay’s staunchly traditional family soon starts pushing her to return to her husband despite her pleas. Umay is forced to flee with her son once again after her father and brother attempt to kidnap Cem and bring him back to his father. This multi-award winning debut feature may leave you unable to move at its conclusion — it’s a top must-see. In Person: Director Feo Aladag

WILL YOU MARRY US?
2009 | Switz. | NR | 90 min.
Set in small-town Switzerland, this affectionate, brilliant rom-com centers on Rahel, a civil registrar who performs the town’s marriages. Her life is thrown for a loop when her now-famous former bandmate Ben shows up in the quiet town. Ben is looking for a place out of the limelight to get hitched to his movie-star girlfriend, and asks Rahel to perform the ceremony. But the situation gets dicey when Rahel, who is having problems of her own with her cheating husband, realizes that her feelings for Ben are stronger than ever. This irresistible comedy is a joy to watch.

TINY FURNITURE
2009 | USA | NR | 98 min.
Lena Dunham wrote, directed and starred in this breakout feature, winner of Best Narrative Feature at SXSW, a hotbed for up-and-coming American indie talent. Dunham plays Aura, a college grad who returns home from her liberal arts school to her artistic family’s Tribeca loft with nothing but a useless film theory degree and 357 hits on her YouTube page. Disarmingly funny and self-aware (it’s set in Dunham’s real-life apartment, and her mother and sister play versions of themselves), this refreshingly real portrait of post-college ennui features a sharp, scathingly funny script.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>State Theatre</th>
<th>City Opera House</th>
<th>Old Town Playhouse</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>**7:00 p</td>
<td>Opening Night**</td>
<td>**6:30 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT</strong></td>
<td><strong>NOWHERE BOY</strong></td>
<td><strong>STRIPS</strong></td>
<td><strong>12TH &amp; DELAWARE</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>**9:30 a</td>
<td>THE SECRET OF KELLS**</td>
<td>**9:30 a</td>
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<tr>
<td>**9:30 a</td>
<td>KIRIKOU AND THE SORCERRESS**</td>
<td>**12:00 p</td>
<td>SOLITARY MAN**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**9:30 a</td>
<td>OBOLVION ISLAND**</td>
<td>**12:00 p</td>
<td>AMERICAN RADICAL***</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>**9:30 a</td>
<td>ELEANOR'S SECRET**</td>
<td>**9:30 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**9:30 a</td>
<td>FARSAN**</td>
<td>**12:00 p</td>
<td>WAITINGFOR &quot;SUPERMAN&quot;**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**9:00 a</td>
<td>REEL INJUN**</td>
<td>**12:00 p</td>
<td>THE LAST COMMAND**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**7:00 p</td>
<td>Opening Night**</td>
<td>**3:00 p</td>
<td>CHERRY BLOSSOMS**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**9:00 p</td>
<td>THE MAN NEXT DOOR**</td>
<td>**6:00 p</td>
<td>Closing Night**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**9:30 a</td>
<td>THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES**</td>
<td>**9:00 p</td>
<td>SOLITARY MAN**</td>
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<tr>
<td>**9:30 a</td>
<td>THE TILLMAN STORY**</td>
<td>**9:00 p</td>
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<td>Open Space</td>
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<td>9:30 a</td>
<td>ME AND ORSON WELLES</td>
<td>9:30 a</td>
<td>APART TOGETHER</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>12:00 p</td>
<td>LEBANON, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p</td>
<td>THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES</td>
<td>3:00 p</td>
<td>IRANIAN COOKBOOK</td>
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<td>6:00 p</td>
<td>THE INFIDEL</td>
<td>6:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>9:00 p</td>
<td>THE MAN NEXT DOOR</td>
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**Tuesday at Dusk**

**Twister**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lars Hockstad</th>
<th>Milliken Auditorium</th>
<th>Open Space</th>
<th>Film School</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 a</td>
<td>FARSAN</td>
<td>9:30 a</td>
<td>CHERRY BLOSSOMS</td>
<td>12:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p</td>
<td>WAITING FOR “SUPERMAN”*</td>
<td>12:15 p</td>
<td>HOW TO FOLD A FLAG</td>
<td>3:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p</td>
<td>MID-AUGUST LUNCH</td>
<td>3:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>6:00 p</td>
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<td>6:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>6:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>9:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>9:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Thursday at Dusk</td>
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**Thursday at Dusk**

**GASLAND**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 a</td>
<td>GASLAND</td>
<td>9:30 a</td>
<td>MOST DANGEROUS MAN</td>
<td>12:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p</td>
<td>THE HAPPY POET</td>
<td>12:30 p</td>
<td>SMILE ’TIL IT HURTS</td>
<td>3:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p</td>
<td>THE CONCERT</td>
<td>3:00 p</td>
<td>HORN OF PLENTY</td>
<td>6:00 p</td>
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<td>6:00 p</td>
<td>CANE TOADS</td>
<td>6:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>9:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 p</td>
<td>RUSH: BEYOND THE LIGHTED STAGE</td>
<td>9:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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**Friday at Dusk**

**GASLAND**

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<tr>
<td>9:30 a</td>
<td>PLEASE GIVE</td>
<td>9:30 a</td>
<td>MID-AUGUST LUNCH</td>
<td>12:00 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p</td>
<td>MOST DANGEROUS MAN*</td>
<td>12:00 p</td>
<td>HIS &amp; HERS</td>
<td>3:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p</td>
<td>CHERRY</td>
<td>3:00 p</td>
<td>COLLAPSE</td>
<td>6:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 p</td>
<td>U2 3D</td>
<td>6:00 p</td>
<td>AUTO*MATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 p</td>
<td>HEARTBREAKER</td>
<td>9:00 p</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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**Saturday at Dusk**

**PLEASE GIVE**

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<tr>
<td>9:30 a</td>
<td>ELEPHANT IN LIVING ROOM</td>
<td>9:30 a</td>
<td>WELCOME</td>
<td>12:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p</td>
<td>WHEN WE LEAVE</td>
<td>12:00 p</td>
<td>THE OATH</td>
<td>3:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p</td>
<td>MIKE’S SURPRISE</td>
<td>3:00 p</td>
<td>APART TOGETHER</td>
<td>6:00 p</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 p</td>
<td>LEBANON, PA</td>
<td>6:00 p</td>
<td>CASTAWAY ON THE MOON</td>
<td>9:00 p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 p</td>
<td>WILL YOU MARRY US?</td>
<td>9:00 p</td>
<td>AMERICAN RADICAL</td>
<td>Sunday at Dusk</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Sunday at Dusk**

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*TCFF Film Forum Series*
**11/4/08**

2009 | USA | NR | 70 min.

On Nov. 4, 2008, Americans went to the polls to vote in an historic election, and filmmaker Jeff Deutchman launched an experiment in filmmaking as a socially collaborative endeavor by giving cameras to 20 filmmakers around the country and the world, and asking them to film the historic day from 5 am to 4 am the next morning. The result is an exhilarating look at the incredible day when a country built on the backs of African slaves elected its first African-American president, and a film that's particularly poignant two years later.

In Person: Director Jeff Deutchman

Sun 6 pm Coh

**12TH & DELAWARE**

2009 | USA | NR | 80 min.

An abortion clinic occupies one side of the intersection of 12th and Delaware in the small town of Fort Pierce, FL; just across the street, an anti-abortion center counsels pregnant women against abortion and regularly protests their pro-choice neighbors. With incredible access to both facilities and the women who use their services, this superbly crafted, emotionally charged doc from Oscar-nominated directors Rachel Grady and Heidi Ewing places us smack in the middle of one of America's most passionately fought ideological wars.

In Person

Wed 3 pm otp | Fri 6 pm Coh

**AMERICAN RADICAL: THE TRIALS OF NORMAN FINKELSTEIN**

2009 | USA, Canada | PG | 84 min.

The son of concentration camp survivors and a fierce, outspoken critic of Israeli and American policy regarding Palestine, Jewish-American professor Norman Finkelstein courts and combats controversy at every turn. Finkelstein travels far and wide as he works to dismantle what he describes as “the Holocaust industry,” in which Israel exploits the Holocaust to divert attention from their oppression of Palestinians. What emerges is a portrait of a passionate renegade whose zealous fervor has made him enemies throughout the academic community (he’s been fired from two universities), but whose strength of conviction prevents anything from deterring him from his mission.

In Person: Directors David Ridgen and Nicholas Rossier

Fri 3 pm Coh | Sun 9 pm Mil

**AUTO*MATE**

2009 | Czech Rep | NR | 90 min.

In 2003, the city of Prague saw its first organized mass bike ride in protest against the city’s insane traffic congestion. Five years later, more than five thousand bikers were supported by the city on a ride organized by Auto*Mate (“Checkmate to Cars”), an initiative created as a call to arms for the citizens of Prague to band together for a healthier and livelier city. This playful, lighthearted and deeply personal essay film by one of the movement’s founders uses six years of footage, combining animation and home movies to protest against the tyranny of “our automobile-automatic society” and to show how Prague has begun to reclaim its urban space.

In Person

Pending: Director Martin Marecek

Sat 6 pm Mil
**BUDRUS**
2009 | Palestine | NR | 82 min.
Along a stretch of the Israel-Palestine border, the Israeli government is building a wall that cuts through several Palestinian communities, including the village of Budrus (pop. 1,500). An unlikely hero emerges to protect the village’s interests: unassuming family man turned activist Ayed Morrar decides that nonviolence is the answer. Like a Palestinian MLK, he organizes a diverse coalition, uniting disparate Palestinian political factions as well as Israeli and international objects. One of this year’s great and most hopeful docs. 
*In Person: Director Julia Bacha*

**CLEANFLIX**
2009 | USA | NR | 88 min.
Let’s say you’re a movie-loving Mormon who wants to check out “Titanic,” but your religious leaders won’t let you because Kate Winslet gets naked. What do you do? In the early 2000s, you’d go to a Utah video store that rented “clean” versions of Hollywood blockbusters, with the R-rated bits removed. This art vs. religion doc tracks the rise and fall of these do-it-yourself censors who incurred the litigious wrath of 16 Hollywood directors (including Redford, Scorsese and Spielberg) for sins against copyright. 
*In Person: Directors Andrew James and Joshua Ligairi*

**COLLAPSE**
2009 | USA | NR | 82 min.
Doomsayer Michael Ruppert is given the floor for the full 82 minutes of this beyond-sobering doc to deliver his unhindered view of the coming political and environmental apocalypse. If you take Ruppert at his word (and it’s harder than you’d think to dismiss his logic), he’ll have you believing that in the not-too-distant future, our entire industrial and economic infrastructure will collapse once fossil fuels become too expensive and we’re left without a viable alternative. This mesmerizing documentary ranks high in the running for horror film of the year.

**CZECH PEACE**
2010 | Czech Rep | NR | 100 min.
TCFF’s favorite mastermind Czech mischief-makers are back with the story of Star Wars, the Cold War and the War on Terror converging on a small Czech village. The US military wants a radar base in a former Soviet rocket site, despite protest from locals who fear they’ll once again fall victim to the foreign policies of an international superpower. Featuring a uniquely Eastern European brand of absurdist humor, this rollicking doc is an inclusive portrait of the Czech Republic 20 years after communism’s fall. 
*International Premiere. In Person: Vít Klusák and Filip Remunda*

**DRAQUILA — ITALY TREMBLES**
2010 | Italy | NR | 93 min.
It’s 2009, and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, a man who once described himself as the “Jesus Christ of politics,” sees his ratings drop following news of corruption and sex scandals; meanwhile, the historic town of L’Aquila is devastated by an earthquake. Where most see disaster, Berlusconi sees opportunity, so he swoops into L’Aquila for photo-ops and promises new housing for displaced victims. A year later, over two thirds of evacuees remain in limbo. Satirist Sabina Guzzanti’s latest skewering of Italian politicians was the controversial toast of Cannes this year. 
*In Person: Sabina Guzzanti*

**THE ELEPHANT IN THE LIVING ROOM**
2010 | USA | NR | 103 min.
Far from their native jungles and deserts, exotic animals are kept as pets in homes and backyards all across America. In Ohio, Tim Harrison acts as animal control for some of the world’s deadliest animals on a daily basis. Hitch a ride in Harrison’s pickup truck as he helps build cages for one man’s pair of adult lions and attends an auction where a father buys his son a baby alligator — as Harrison puts it, “You can buy a cobra, but you can’t buy common sense.” An expertly crafted and eye opening film for people on both sides of the animal rights issue. 
*In Person: Michael Webber, Tim Harrison*

**GASLAND**
2009 | USA | NR | 107 min.
Natural gas: America’s great hope for energy independence! Or is it? Josh Fox assumes the role of citizen-journalist to investigate “fracking” — hydraulic drilling for natural gas — after a company offers him big bucks for a lease on his family home in rural PA (which happens to sit on top of one of the world’s largest reserves of natural gas). From Congressional hearings that exempted natural gas companies from the Safe Drinking Water Act to kitchens where tap water can be lit on fire, this enlightening and darkly humorous film sheds light on an issue at the forefront of American energy and environmental policies. 
*In Person: Josh Fox*

**GOOGLE BABY**
2009 | Israel | NR | 76 min.
Now we can also outsource our pregnancies to India! Israeli filmmaker Zippi Brand Frank tracks the globalization of baby making from an Israeli businessman to egg donors in the US and a surrogacy center in India — a business advertised as a cost-effective option for Western clients who are unable to conceive on their own. Balancing between the Israeli entrepreneur who launched the pregnancy outsourcing business and a fertility specialist who runs a surrogacy clinic in India offering good paying jobs to poor women with few other opportunities, Brand presents a complex subject with a delicate touch.

**TRVERSE CITY FILM FESTIVAL | JULY 27 - AUGUST 1, 2010**
Opening Night

THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT
2009 | USA | R | 104 min.
Sometimes there’s a film that’s just right for its time and place, a perfect match for the spirit of its time. This alt-family comedy from director Lisa Cholodenko (“Laurel Canyon”) is just such a film — a classically crafted work that effortlessly taps the cultural zeitgeist to offer a portrait of a quintessentially modern family. Hard-working doctor Nic (Annette Bening) has been with her partner Jules (Julianne Moore) for almost twenty years. The couple has it all — a house in the suburbs, steady income, and two teenage kids, Laser (Josh Hutchinson) and college-bound Joni (Mia Wasikowska). Everything’s going smoothly for the family until Laser pressures his just-turned-eighteen sister into using her new legal standing to track down the identity of their biological father. The anonymous sperm donor turns out to be Paul (Mark Ruffalo), the hunky proprietor of a hip organic restaurant who’s more than a little curious to meet the kids he never knew he had. But as Paul enters into their lives, the family’s balance is thrown into disarray. A breakout hit at this year’s Sundance Film Festival, this rich, hilarious film is easily the best American indie of the year.

TUE 7 PM ST

Closing Night

THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE
2009 | Sweden, Denmark, Germany | R | 129 min.
This thrilling neo-noir is the sequel to this year’s wildly successful “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” is based on the second in the bestselling “Millennium” trilogy of novels by Stieg Larsson. The titular girl, Lisbeth Salander, is many things: she’s tough, independent, sexy, anti-social, and smart. She’s also a wanted woman. After returning to Sweden to clandestinely aid her journalist partner Mikael Blomkvist on an investigation into a sex-trafficking investigation, Lisbeth becomes the target of a manhunt when her fingerprints are found on the weapon that has left two journalists dead. Lisbeth and Mikael set out to find the truth behind the murders, dodging the authorities and dispatching of some menacing bad guys along the way. Whether you’re a devoted reader and not, you’ll be glued to your seat for this labyrinthine journey into the criminal underbelly of Larsson’s Stockholm in this gritty and compelling thriller.

SUN 6:00 PM ST

NOWHERE BOY
2009 | UK | R | 98 min.
Director Sam Taylor Wood’s portrait of the artist as a smart, talented, but directionless young man who steals records and skips school in 1955 Liverpool provides a fascinating fictional look at John Lennon’s early path from boy to man to legend. Powerful performances from BAFTA nominated actresses Kristin Scott Thomas and Anne-Marie Duff, who play the aunt who raised him and the estranged mother who fought for his attention in his teen years, bring to life a crucial part of the journey that led to the creation of the greatest rock band of all time. From meeting a young Paul McCartney and starting up The Quarrymen as a refuge from his painful past, to falling in love for the first time, “Nowhere Boy” avoids the pitfalls of biopic nostalgia to reveal the emotional and musical birth of a legend.

TUE 6:30 PM COH
HARLAN: IN THE SHADOW OF JEW SUESS
2008 | Germany | NR | 99 min.
Acclaimed German director Veit Harlan’s 1941 film “Jew Suss” stands as one of the most infamously viscous pieces of anti-Semitic propaganda ever produced for the Nazi party. After World War II, Harlan was the only film director to stand trial for crimes against humanity. He was twice found not guilty, and left to continue his film career until his death in 1964. In this stirring doc, Felix Moeller tells the story of Harlan’s life, career and legacy, and explores the effects of Harlan’s lasting notoriety on his family.

THU 6 PM OTP

IRANIAN COOKBOOK
2010 | Iran | NR | 72 min.
In this deceptively simple doc, Mohammed Shirvani sets up shop in the kitchens of six Iranian housewives, all his relatives, as they prepare meals for their families during Ramadan. The women share their love for food and a few trade secrets (one hasn’t washed her hands for two years, explaining: “Imagine all the vitamins they must contain!”), but what begins as a series of cooking lessons for traditional Persian cuisine subtly evolves into a deeply pointed look at the relationships between men and women. This smart doc tackles issues of domesticity that carry far beyond its national borders.

WED 3 PM MIL

THE MISCREANTS OF TALIWOOD
2008 | Australia | NR | 93 min.
Guerrilla filmmaker George Gittoes spent two years in a Taliban-controlled area of northern Pakistan near the Afghan border, where a cottage film industry dubbed “Taliwood” thrives in spite of constant pressure from local mullahs to shut it down. Gittoes agrees to act in one of their over-the-top, low-budget action films, shot just a cave or two away from where Osama bin Laden is purportedly hiding. Utterly fearless and bizarrely comic, the film exposes one of the world’s most dangerous locales. Adults only: scenes of graphic violence.

In Person: Director George Gittoes
FRI 3 PM OTP | SAT 9 PM COH

HIS & Hers
2009 | Ireland | NR | 80 min.
Inspired by his mother’s life experiences, Ken Wardrop brings his cinematic eye into the Irish home, building one of the most original and moving films we saw this year from interviews with seventy Irish women, shown sequentially from young to old. The women’s stories of the men closest to them — fathers, sons, husbands and lovers — are a breath of fresh air blowing in from the midlands of Ireland. No one has ever made a documentary like this one. It’s charming, sweet, amazing and hilarious; you’ll leave the theater with a smile on your face, and want to call your mother.

SAT NOON MIL

HOW TO FOLD A FLAG
2009 | USA | NR | 85 min.
Upon returning to their native soil after a 15-month Iraq tour together, four U.S. Army veterans take different paths in readjusting to civilian life: Jon runs for Congress in upstate New York; Javorn works at a plant while attending college in North Carolina; Michael pursues a career as a traveling cage fighter in Texas; and convenience store clerk Stuart plays in a heavy metal band in Colorado. Meanwhile, they all struggle with the sense that their sacrifices in an unpopular war are undervalued by their communities and countrymen.

THU 12:15 PM MIL

THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN AMERICA: DANIEL ELLSBERG AND THE PENTAGON PAPERS
2009 | USA | NR | 94 min.
In the 1960s, ex-Marine Daniel Ellsberg was a committed Cold Warrior as a top Defense Dept. analyst, he played a crucial role in shaping America’s Vietnam strategy. But the more he learned about the war in Southeast Asia, the more his support wavered. In a life- and country-changing act of defiance, Ellsberg released the Pentagon Papers to the press in 1971, effectively blowing the whistle on five administrations worth of lies about American policy in Vietnam. A top-notch political thriller and a Best Documentary Oscar nominee.

In Person: Directors Judith Ehrlich and Rick Goldsmith
FRI 9:30 AM MIL | SAT NOON LH
**THE OATH**

2010 | USA | NR | 95 min.

Abu Jandal drives a taxi in Yemen, but once he was one of Osama bin Laden’s closest bodyguards. Meanwhile, Salim Hamdam — Jandal’s brother-in-law and former personal driver for bin Laden — is a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay on seemingly tenuous terrorism charges. This thoroughly gripping documentary, during which Hamdam faces a military tribunal at Gitmo purportedly while protecting fellow soldiers from a Taliban ambush, is a deeply personal window into the mindset of those who are directly affected by the war on terror.

*In Person: Director Laura Poitras*

**SUN NOON MIL**

**RESTREPO**

2009 | USA | R | 94 min.

This edge-of-your-seat doc transports you smack dab in the middle of one of the US Army’s most dangerous assignments: Outpost Restrepo in Afghanistan’s Korengal Valley, a Taliban stronghold. This harrowing film may leave every-one, regardless of political ideology, wondering just WTF is going on, as we watch soldiers whose only clear goal is to keep each other alive until their deployment ends. Winner of the Sundance Grand Prize, this mind blowing film adds a human face to daily news stories and will leave you unnerved for days afterward.

*THU 3 PM OTP | SAT 9 PM MIL*

**RUSH: BEYOND THE LIGHTED STAGE**

2009 | Canada | NR | 107 min.

Rush fans rejoice! This comprehensive look at one of rock’s greatest bands offers unprecedented access to the Canadian trio, recounting their history from the childhoods of founding members Geddy Lee and Alex Lifeson, to the discovery of drummer Neil Peart, and on through their catalog of top-sellers, which ranks third only behind the Beatles and The Rolling Stones. A joyous doc that’s thorough enough to satisfy the most rabid fan while remaining accessible to the uninitiated.

*In Person: Directors Sam Dunn and Scot McFadyen*

**THU 9 PM LH | SAT MID ST**

**SMILE ‘TIL IT HURTS**

2009 | USA | NR | 82 min.

You may not believe the bizarre story of Up With People, a campy, cultish youth choir born of an ultra-conservative religious sect. Embraced by the Nixon administration and financed by corporate giants like GM and Halliburton, the thousands-strong ensemble of clean-cut good-niks (including a young Glenn Close) were popular for decades, performing at 4 Super Bowls. Featuring kitschy archival footage from the group’s heyday, this musical odyssey offers a rare window into our American culture.

*In Person: Director Lee Storey*

**FRI 12:30 PM MIL**

**SOUTH OF THE BORDER**

2009 | USA | NR | 78 min.

Three-time Oscar winning director Oliver Stone offers a controversial look at our Central and South American neighbors, shedding light on the misunderstood, often misrepresented world of Latin American politics. Focusing primarily on Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a man famous in America more for his outspoken criticism of the U.S. than for his efforts to improve the lives of his citizens, Stone gets up close and personal with the leaders of 7 countries as they explain their plans to regain control over their countries’ resources and achieve economic independence.

*WED 6 PM MIL | FRI NOON OTP*

**TEENAGE PAPARAZZO**

2009 | USA | NR | 94 min.

Under siege by the paparazzi, an actor famous for playing a famous actor turns his own camera on the photographers. How meta can you get? Adrian Grenier (HBO’s “Entourage”) directs this intelligent and personal exploration of America’s obsession with celebrity culture, teaming up with thirteen-year-old fledgling paparazzo Austin Visschedyk to infiltrate the ranks of Hollywood’s star-shooters. Making the most of Grenier’s ties to other major celebs and tabloid darlings, they’ve made one of the best films ever made about our twisted appetite for celebrity news.

*THU 9 PM MIL | SUN 6 PM MIL*

**THE TILLMAN STORY**

2009 | USA | NR | 94 min.

Following 9/11, Pat Tillman quit his lucrative NFL career to enlist as an Army Ranger, and was instantly embraced as a modern American patriot and hero. His death while on duty in Afghanistan, purportedly while protecting fellow soldiers from a Taliban ambush, elevated his heroism to near-mythical status. But Tillman’s family refused to accept the military’s “official” story or to let their son become fodder for the pro-military propaganda machine, investigating the cover-up of Pat’s death, and fighting for the right to a fitting legacy for their son.

*WED 3 PM COH | SAT 6:30 PM OTP*

**WAITING FOR “SUPERMAN”**

2009 | USA | NR | 102 min.

A TCFF 2010 Must-See, this blood curdling examination of the state of public education follows a handful of students as their families struggle to find quality education. With brilliant animation and access to fascinating people, it puts faces on the statistics, traveling to “academic sinkholes” in states across the nation where dropout rates are over sixty percent. Whether you agree with the film’s take on unions and teachers or not, it’s certain to get the debate going. Sundance Best Doc Audience Award. *In Person: Director Davis Guggenheim, Producer Lesley Chilcott*

*THU NOON LH | SAT NOON COH*
**FILMS**

**TRAVESE CITY FILM FESTIVAL | JULY 27 - AUGUST 1, 2010**

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**SHORTS FOR MIDNIGHT**

These blasphemously funny, action-packed and chillingly frightening shorts will have you rolling in the aisles and hiding behind your seats. “The Apostles” argue over who’s going to pick up the check after the Last Supper, and Dock Ellis’s legendary drug-infused no-hitter is given a trippy animated treatment. In cartoonist Bill Plympton’s latest, a young calf is mesmerized by a fast food billboard. A boy and his mother make a frightening game out of the end of civilization in “How I Survived the Zombie Apocalypse,” while a man and his dog try to survive a cruel winter in “Off Season.” These shorts and more make TCFF’s first-ever midnight shorts program a must-see. Program length: 77 min.

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**THE APOSTLES**
Jeff Chan; Canada | 2009 | 8 min.

**THE COW WHO WANTED TO BE A HAMBURGER**
Bill Plympton; USA | 2010 | 6 min.

**DOCK ELLIS & THE LSD NO-NO**
James Blagden; USA | 2010 | 5 min.

**HOW I SURVIVED THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE**
Christian Cantamessa; USA | 2009 | 10 min.

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**CLASH**
2009 | Vietnam | NR | 90 min.

Virtually everyone in Vietnam saw this top-grossing blockbuster, so we had to see it, too. Martial arts giants Johnny Tri Nguyen and Ngo Thanh Van reunite in this story of a high-kicking heroine forced to complete a series of dangerous missions for a crime boss in exchange for the safe return of her kidnapped daughter. On what should have been the final mission, she recruits a team of murderous misfits, which leads her to the handsome and mysterious Quan. Trinh’s attraction to Quan may prove fatal as the pair take on the criminals of the Vietnamese underworld. Romantic tension and martial arts kick-assery abound in this popcorn movie indulgence that will have you on the edge of your seat.

**TUCKER AND DALE VS. EVIL**
2010 | USA | NR | 89 min.

Tucker (Alan Tudyk) and Dale (Tyler Labine) are just a couple of country hicks on vacation in the woods, looking to get some R & R in their ramshackle cabin. Along comes a gang of preppy college kids, also on holiday, who mistake the harmless hicks for homicidal hillbillies after a member of their group goes missing. Comedy ensues as a horrified Tucker and Dale attempt to avoid the bloodshed while their accusers die off one by one in a series of freak accidents. With its knowing nods to slasher movie clichés, this killer comedy is a must-see for any fans of the genre.

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**MONSTERS DOWN THE HALL**
S. Vollie Osborn; USA | 2009 | 15 min.

**OFF SEASON**
Jonathan van Tulleken; USA | 2009 | 13 min.

**WINNER: BEST SHORT FILM**
Peter Meech; USA | 2010 | 4 min.

**YOUR LUCKY DAY**
Dan Brown; USA | 2010 | 16 min.
**A SALUTE TO CUBAN FILM**


*FILMMAKING?*

This year at the Traverse City Film Festival we take you inside Cuba without getting a call from the State Department! We believe art and cinema and ideas should never be censored — and for 50 years our own government has put up a blockade to prevent us from being exposed to artists who live in Cuba. And our laws prevent U.S. filmmakers from selling their films to Cuban TV. So at this year’s fest, we’re going to break through this senseless embargo with an amazing assortment of Cuban films. Cuba has been isolated from us for a half century. And we have tried to stop every other nation from trading with them. This has kept them a very poor country.

So, what are the people like in Cuba? How do they live without iPhones, text-messaging and toilet paper? Can they possibly be happy? What are their dreams and aspirations? Why do they live nearly as long as we do?

One way to find out might be to watch their movies. You’ll be some of the few Americans to see Cuban films — right here in Traverse City, MI. You’ll be surprised at how original, funny, satirical, and, yes, controversial their films are, how they poke fun and criticize the way the Cuban government does things.

Be the first one of your Facebook friends to gain some real insight about the forbidden land of Fidelistas and mojitos through the lens of Cuban filmmakers. And we are airlifting these Cuban filmmakers behind “enemy” lines right here to northern Michigan so you can see their movies and meet them in person. Top filmmakers from Cuba will be here and you will learn how they make films in Cuba, what their cinemas are like, and that they don’t have to get Fidel’s approval in order to make them. What? You can’t say that! You don’t want to miss this rare inside look at the Cuban people and their way of life.

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**DREAMING IN BLUE**

2008 | NR | 65 min.
Baseball isn’t only America’s national past time — it’s also Cuba’s. In this fun and hotly controversial doc, we follow the Havana-based team Industriales (the New York Yankees of Cuban baseball) as “The Blues” play out their season with an unfiltered glimpse behind the scenes, in the dugout, on the road and in the streets of Havana. Independently produced and directed by Cuban filmmaker Ian Padron, who interviews former and current stars as well as rabid fans, you will see why it took him years to overcome the politics to finally get this unique film in Cuban theaters. This delightful film is not just for sports fans. *In Person: Director Ian Padron*

SAT NOON OTP

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**HORN OF PLENTY**

2008 | NC-17 | 107 min.
A sexy romp with a large cast of zany characters, this madcap comedic satire from director Juan Carlos Tabio about the power and allure of money stars Cuba’s most popular actor, Jorge Perugorria, as an over-educated factory worker in Yamaguey. In a small town where everyone seems to be part of the extended family of Castineiras (a surname as common as Smith in the U.S.), news of an huge inheritance for members of the Castineiras family throws the community into chaos, illuminating the ways in which Cuba is plagued by isolation, bureaucracy, poverty and class discrepancies. Mature audiences only. *In Person: Jorge Perugorria*

FRI 3 PM MIL

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**VIVA CUBA!**

2005 | NR | 80 min.
A delicious and refreshing film treat, this magical coming-of-age road film offers a rare peek inside a Cuba we really never see. Grade school classmates Malu and Jorgito are inseparable, in spite of their parents’ conflicting ideologies and social status. When Malu’s mother decides to leave Cuba, the duo travels from Havana to the other end of the island to find Malu’s father before he signs the exit papers. This memorable family-friendly film features beautiful scenes of Havana and the Cuban countryside as the runaways make their way across post-revolution Cuba. *In Person: Director Juan Carlos Cremeria Malberti*

THU NOON OTP

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**STRAWBERRY AND CHOCOLATE**

1994 | R | 108 min.
The only Cuban film to be nominated for an Oscar tells the story of a chance meeting between a gay intellectual dissident and a naive party-line student at an outdoor Havana ice cream café in 1979 and their evolving relationship. There’s spying, intrigue, a flaky, man-hungry neighbor, desire, spirituality and something quite extraordinary that emerges from their time together in the confined quarters of Diego’s decaying Havana apartment. You won’t be finished with this film when you leave the theater. *In Person: Lead Actor Jorge Perugorria*

SAT 6 PM COH

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**FILMS**

TRAVERSE CITY FILM FESTIVAL | JULY 27 - AUGUST 1, 2010

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THE LAST COMMAND (WITH THE ALLOY ORCHESTRA)
1928 | USA | NR | 88 min.
We are proud to introduce the world famous Alloy Orchestra accompanying one of the greatest pictures of the silent era, Josef von Sternberg’s “The Last Command.” A down and out former Czarist general (Emil Jannings in a towering performance that earned him the first ever Best Actor Oscar) finds a small role in a Hollywood film, directed by a man he once imprisoned (William Powell, “The Thin Man”)! Purported to be based on a real life story as told by Ernst Lubitsch, this satire on the studio system, combined with von Sternberg’s stylized genius and a great performance by Jannings, is as sublime as the original film score by the Alloy Orchestra.

JEFF GARLIN’S GEMS:
DODSWORTH
1936 | USA | NR | 101 min.
The second installment in Jeff Garlin’s (co-founder, Traverse City Comedy Festival) annual TCFF classic film series is William Wyler’s masterful portrait of a marriage in collapse. Walter Houston’s much younger wife, bored with married life, convinces him to sell his interest in the Revelation Motor Company and move away to Europe. As Houston tries to figure out what to do with the second half of his life, he makes mistakes, but figures it out. Sadly, his wife may not. Wyler makes no mistakes in this perfectly realized and rarely seen dramatic gem. In Person: Jeff Garlin

MIKE’S SURPRISE
What surprises does Mike have in store for us this year? Festival founder and president Michael Moore will show up with... a sneak preview of a big Hollywood movie? A buried treasure that the public hasn’t seen in years? A home movie? Nobody knows until the show begins, sometimes not even Mike. Whatever the two surprises are this year, only the curious and the brave should attend.
SAT 6 PM ST | SUN 3 PM LH

REEL INJUN
2009 | Canada | NR | 85 min.
Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond takes us on a funny, fascinating trip through a century of Hollywood cinema to record and reflect on depictions of native people in film. Approaching the search with a playfully raised eyebrow, Diamond’s journey through a library of over four thousand films dealing with Native people and culture never rails against the fact that virtually all of them got it wrong. Instead, he captures celebrated Native and non-Native directors, writers, actors and activists, including Adam Beach, Chris Eyre, Clint Eastwood, Sacheen Littlefeather and Russell Means, looking at how the myth of “the Injun” has influenced the world’s understanding, and misunderstanding, of Natives, and how the struggle to shape their own image continues. In Person: Director Neil Diamond, Chris Eyre

SUN 9 AM ST
**Tribute to The Beatles**  
Forty years ago, the most popular band of all time devastated fans around the world with the news that they were parting ways. Relive the music and enjoy this rare opportunity to see prints of “A Hard Day’s Night” and “Help!” plus a brand new feature based on The Beatles’ formative years, as we remember the band on the 40th anniversary of their breakup.

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**NOWHERE BOY**  
2009 | UK | R | 98 min.  
Director Sam Taylor Wood’s portrait of the artist as a smart, talented, but directionless young man who steals records and skips school in 1955 Liverpool provides a fascinating fictional look at John Lennon’s early path from boy to man to legend. Powerful performances from BAFTA nominated actresses Kristin Scott Thomas and Anne-Marie Duff, who play the aunt who raised him and the estranged mother who fought for his attention in his teen years, bring to life a crucial part of the journey that led to the creation of the greatest rock band of all time. From meeting a young Paul McCartney and starting up The Quarrymen as a refuge from his painful past, to falling in love for the first time, “Nowhere Boy” avoids the pitfalls of biopic nostalgia to reveal the emotional and musical birth of a legend.  

**TUE OPENING NIGHT 6:30 PM COH**

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**A HARD DAY’S NIGHT**  
1964 | UK | NR | 87 min.  
In this great mock doc, one of the funniest and best musical films ever made, The Beatles — the world’s most famous rock and roll band — travel from their home town of Liverpool to London to perform in a television broadcast. Along the way they rescue Paul’s unconventional grandfather from various misadventures, and they must find Ringo, who goes missing just before the concert. “Can’t Buy Me Love” is just one of the greats we’ll hear when we bring this rare print to TC to celebrate the lads from Liverpool who changed the face of music and the world for the better, forever.  

**FRI 6 PM OTP**

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**HELP!**  
1965 | UK | NR | 90 min.  
“Help!” is on the way. The Beatles’ second film is a madcap romp through the Austrian Alps with Fiendish Thingys and everybody’s favorite mop topped foursome. Inspired by the Marx Brothers’ “Duck Soup” and taking off James Bond films, the premise involves a mysterious cult that discovers their sacrificial ring is stuck on the finger of the one and only Ringo Starr! Will Ringo get away or will he be forced to be the next sacrifice to the goddess Kali? Sing along with 11 Beatles greats including “Ticket to Ride,” and celebrate the zany greatness that is The Beatles.  

**THU DUSK OPEN SPACE**
### Wednesday

**THE SECRET OF KELLS**

2009 | France, Belgium, Ireland | NR | 75 min.

Twelve-year-old Brendan is forbidden from traveling outside the walls of the medieval abbey Kells, an outpost under regular siege by Viking invaders. When a master illustrator of illuminated manuscripts shows up in Kells to seek refuge from the Vikings, Brendan is captivated by the treasure he has brought with him: a magical and ancient book of secrets. While his uncle is busy fortifying the walls to protect the town from the raiders, Brendan ventures off into the mysterious forest to aid Brother Aidan in completing the book. With the help of a fairy named Aislyn, Brendan races against time to save his town through the power of enlightenment. Nominated for an Oscar. In English. Recommended for ages 6 and up.

**The Secret of Kells**

**KIRIKOU AND THE SORCERESS**

1998 | France | NR | 74 min.

With visually breathtaking, painterly animation and an original soundtrack by Grammy Award-winner Youssou N’Dour, this critically acclaimed children’s feature created by Michel Ocelot (“Azur and Asmar,” TCFF ’09) brings to life a magical African tale about a precocious infant boy named Kirikou who discovers that a sorceress named Karaba has cursed his village. Our tiny hero sets out on an incredible journey to confront the evil sorceress and find out what drove her to curse their village in the first place. The sumptuous visuals depict the African landscape in exquisite detail, right down to native females’ traditional ensembles (no shirts). A rare and intelligent animated treat that values asking questions rather than making clear distinctions between good and evil. In English. Recommended for ages 6 and up.

**The Secret of Kells**

**Friday**

**OBILIVION ISLAND**

2009 | Japan | NR | 98 min.

This stunningly rich and imaginative CGI anime transports you to the fantastic world of Oblivion Island, a parallel universe inhabited by creatures who build entire cities out of abandoned children’s trinkets. Haruka is a lonely teenager who lost her mother at an early age. One day, as she is looking for her mother’s old hand mirror, she spots a strange, furry creature and follows it onto Oblivion Island. Her visit to the island does not go unnoticed by the evil overlord, the Baron, who needs Haruka’s beloved mirror in order to take over the human world. Haruka’s quest to recover her mirror is filled with excitement, fantasy and friendship in this dazzlingly animated adventure. In Japanese with English subtitles, a chance to expose kids to foreign language film. Recommended for ages 10 and up.

**ELEANOR’S SECRET**

2009 | France | NR | 75 min.

From the imagination of Academy Award-nominated French animator Dominique Monfery comes this enchanting tale that celebrates the joy of reading. Nat has fond memories of his Aunt Eleanor reading to him from her library of enchanting storybooks. But his inability to read keeps him from enjoying the book collection left to him by his late aunt, so his parents decide to sell the unwanted treasures to a shady antiques dealer. Just before the book buyer comes to collect, Nat discovers that the characters in Eleanor’s tomes come to life in the library, but will disappear forever if the enchanted books are removed! Nat must face the challenge of overcoming his weak reading skills with the help of classic literary characters like Alice in this rollicking modern-day fairytale. In English. Recommended for ages 5 and up.

THUR 9:30 AM ST

FRI 9:30 AM ST

SAT 9:30 AM ST
Jon Alpert and Rory Kennedy, Live in Person

Two of the finest practitioners of the art and discipline of short filmmaking, winners of multiple awards, will attend this year’s festival with their most recent work to inaugurate the festival’s ongoing, serious commitment to showcasing great work in the short film form.

Shorts by Jon Alpert

THE LIFE AND WORK OF JON ALPERT
Alpert’s history of the world (or at least the history of video) takes you on a roller coaster ride from the Middle East to Michigan. He’s been blacklisted twice, shot at a hundred times, changed history now and then, and won more awards than there’s room to mention. Plus, he’s probably the only man in the world who has met Fidel, Saddam, and Michael Moore. 110 min.

CHINA’S UNNATURAL DISASTER: THE TEARS OF SICHUAN PROVINCE
A riveting look at the effects of an earthquake that devastated central China, this heartbreaking documentary interviews families who lost children because of the government’s shoddily constructed schools. 38 min.

Shorts by Rory Kennedy

THE FENCE
This hard-hitting, morbidly funny and often infuriating doc calls into question the effectiveness and examines the unforeseen consequences of America’s 700-mile fence built along the Mexican border, an unfinished project that’s already consumed three years and over three billion dollars in taxpayer money. 35 min.

THE HOMESTEAD STRIKE
Part of The History Channel’s series “10 Days that Unexpectedly Changed America,” this important look at early labor activism chronicles the deadly showdown between striking workers and armed guards at Carnegie Steel in 1892 and its devastating effect on the US labor movement. 60 min.

Short Documentaries

From Dubai to Harlem to right here in northern Michigan’s Petoskey, this diverse documentary program offers a globetrotting snapshot of contemporary issues. Experience a father’s fight against an unjust tragedy, and a mother’s fight against a broken community; discover what Muslims look for in their soul mates; and learn about parasites through body-painting.

Program length: 100 min.

BLCKWTR’S YOUNGEST VICTIM
Jeremy Scahill; USA | 2010 | 26 min.

FINDING MR. AND MRS. RIGHT: DUBAI STYLE
Elham Sharaf, Hind Al Hammadi; United Arab Emirates | 2009 | 20 min.

A HARLEM MOTHER
Ivana Todorovic; USA | 2010 | 14 min.

HOW TO SAVE A FISH FROM DROWNING
Kelly Neal; UK | 2007 | 13 min.

PARASITES: A USER’S GUIDE
Sharon Shattuck; USA | 2010 | 27 min.

Shorts by University of Michigan Students

From the University of Michigan’s Film and Video Student Association, these two shorts showcase some of our state’s top young filmmaking talent. In person: the U of M Lightworks student filmmakers, who will hold a discussion session and take questions following the screenings. Program Run Time: 44 min. plus discussion

THU NOON COH

CAMP CHAPEL
Director: Bhanu Chandum, Writer: Michael Burke, Producer: James Alsobrooks
Alex was just your standard teenage ladies man, ready for an epic Spring Break in Mexico, until a mix up lands him in his worst nightmare: church camp. Now he’s out to win the heart of a beautiful camper and redeem himself. Or maybe just survive.

MARGARET AND IZZEY
Director: Ben Ellmann, Writer: Erin Whittemore, Producer: Mercedes Holguin
Margaret Annenberg, a pill-popping workaholic, grudgingly visits home and reunites with Izzey, the long-lost friend she thought had disappeared. Though Margaret fears he’s totally crazy, Izzey just might be her last best hope to turn her life around.
Short Fiction 1
Centered on the theme of relationships, these nine award-winning shorts have something for everyone. One young man finds the woman of his dreams in the sexy “Pin-Up” while another enters a duel to the death for his love in “The Crush.” A woman can’t seem to get out from under her slumbering husband in “The Man Who Slept” and an elderly couple trades messages on a laundry line in “Underwear.” Program length: 120 min.

THU 6 PM COH

BOX Anna Dobos; USA | 2010 | 9 min.
The Cemetery Club
Yitz Brilliant; USA | 2010 | 22 min.
The Crush
Michael Creagh; Ireland | 2009 | 15 min.
God of Love
Luke Matheny; USA | 2010 | 18 min.
Intimate Game
Chris Ullens; UK | 2008 | 6 min.
The Man Who Slept
Inès Sedan; France, Canada | 2009 | 12 min.
Pin-Up
Tania Verduzco; Mexico, Spain | 2009 | 18 min.
Underwear
Tomer Gendler; USA | 2009 | 14 min.
Yulia
Antoine Arditti; France | 2009 | 6 min.

Short Fiction 2
We pored over hundreds of shorts to bring you this program, representing the very best films from around the world. An aging actor faces the challenges of working in a youthful industry in “The Hardest Part” and a Japanese playwright struggles after casting his proud father in the lead in “The Hirosaki Players.” In “Tit for Tat,” a young neo-Nazi fights with his ideology after unwittingly befriending a young black girl, while in “Article 174,” an Iranian faces harsh punishment for a minor discretion. Program length: 110 min.

WED NOON OTP

Article 174
Faraz Fesharaki; Iran | 2010 | 13 min.
Cubes
Kelly Goeller; USA | 2009 | 3 min.
Delilah, Before
Melanie Schiele; Singapore | 2009 | 10 min.
The Hardest Part
Oliver Refson; UK | 2009 | 14 min.
The Hirosaki Players
Jeff Sousa; USA | 2010 | 19 min.
Surface
Trent Hilborn, Mark Mazur; USA | 2010 | 20 min.
The Pool
Thomas Hefferon; Ireland | 2010 | 12 min.
Teleportation
Markus Dietrich; Germany | 2009 | 13 min.
Tit For Tat
Ivana Lalovic; Switzerland | 2009 | 6 min.

Shorts for Midnight
TCFF’s first-ever midnight shorts program is a must-see — these blasphemously funny, action-packed and chillingly frightening shorts will have you rolling in the aisles and hiding behind your seats. Program length: 77 min. See page 23

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Shorts for Midnight Program Listings
Please see MIDNIGHT, page 23