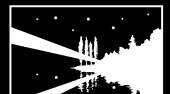


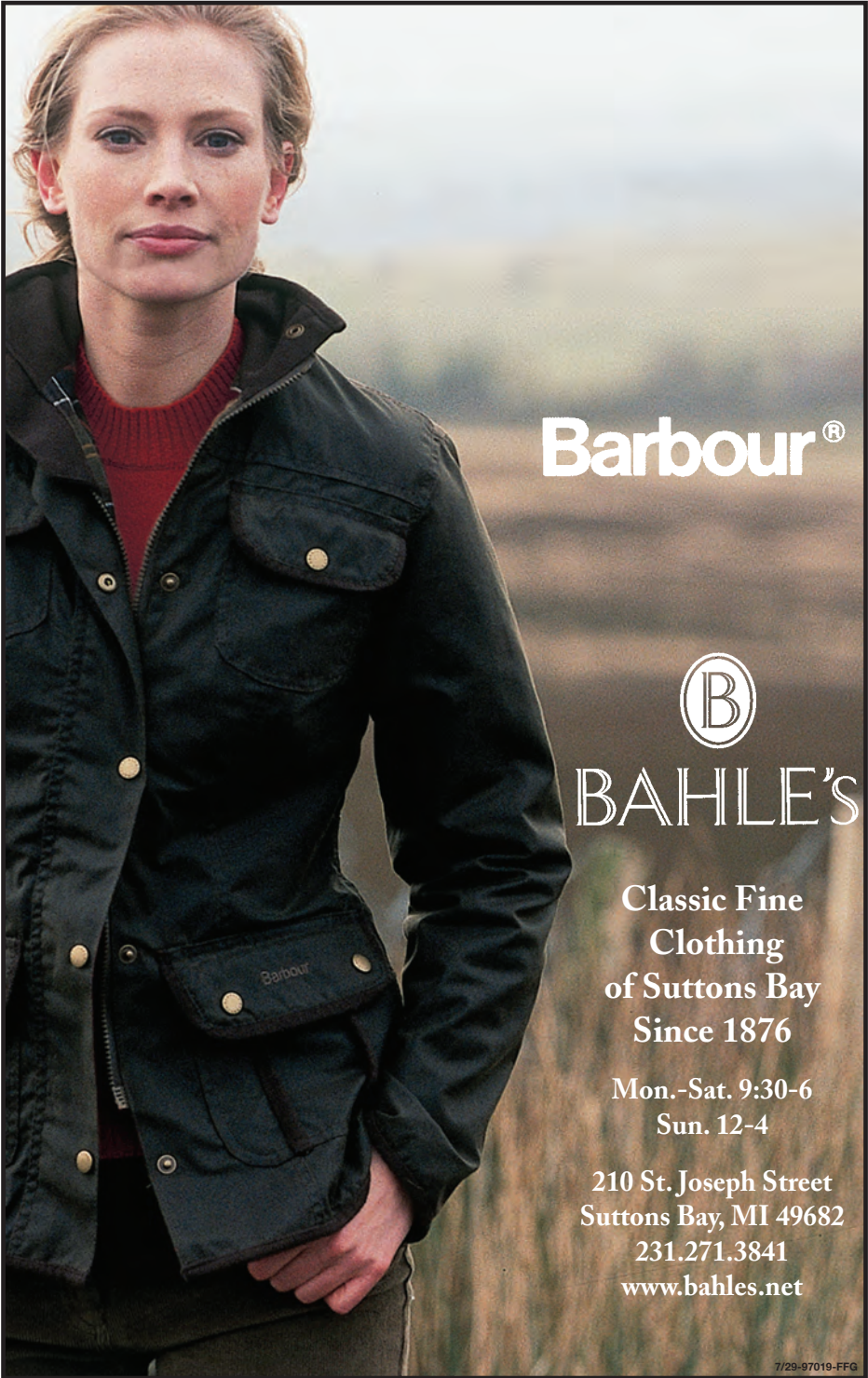
4th Traverse City Film Festival

July 29 - August 3, 2008



Program Guide





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Mission Statement

The Traverse City Film Festival is committed to showing “Just Great Movies” and helping to save one of America’s few indigenous art forms, the cinema.



The Traverse City Film Festival believes that people love to go to the movies, but the movies these days don't seem to love the people. We are committed to showing great movies that both entertain and enlighten the audience. We believe people will flock to good movies and pack the theaters that show great ones. We need movies that seek to enrich both the art form and the human spirit, not the bottom line.

It is places like Traverse City with neighborhood movie theaters that made going to the movies the most popular form of entertainment in the world. Something of that magic has been lost, and we seek to reclaim it. We believe the public will respond with enthusiasm if they are presented with movies of substance. Our goal is for people to leave the theater with the feeling that they just watched something special.

See you at the movies!



Dear Friends of the Traverse City Film Festival,

Welcome to what I'm sure you'll agree is our most exciting festival to date. Now in our fourth year, the Traverse City Film Festival continues its commitment to present only the best in world cinema and to support filmmakers who bring us the best of this great American art form. This year we are proud to welcome to Traverse City the biggest female rock star in history - Madonna! She will present her new film, "I Am Because We Are." We are also thrilled that the legendary talk show host Phil Donahue will be here to show his powerful new film, "Body of War."

And we are honored to be joined by the legendary Hollywood director of "Singin' In the Rain," "On the Town," and "Funny Face," Mr. Stanley Donen. He will present his three classics in person and share with us the behind-the-scenes stories of Hollywood's heyday and working with the likes of Frank Sinatra, Audrey Hepburn, and Gene Kelly.

We're adding our fifth indoor venue this year, the Milliken Auditorium in the Dennon Museum Center. We are opening and closing this year's festival with two great new comedies, and the festival itself this year has nearly a dozen comedies, a record and a welcome relief for the times in which we live.

Special sections of this year's festival include a salute to the blacklisted Hollywood screenwriter, Dalton Trumbo (his son will join us), a memorial to Ingmar Bergman and Michelangelo Antonioni, and a section called "Movies from People Who Want to Kill Us - films by and about Muslim people in the Middle East that might give us a better understanding of the world in which they live (hint: they don't really want to kill us). We are showing a special kids film on Friday and Saturday mornings at the State (for ages 8 and up), plus we have two excellent "midnight" films this year - a French horror movie and a Swedish one. They do it a different way over there and their characters don't use a saw.

Please join us each night (Tuesday-Saturday) outdoors in the Open Space on the Bay for free films under the stars. And take a risk on a film that you know nothing about, or one that may have a strange title. We have brought only "great movies," so I promise you that you can't go wrong.

This past year we lost three very special people to our young film festival. Stuart Hollander was our attorney and protector, and his smarts and generosity are sorely missed. Kyle Sonnemann was our warehouse manager who volunteered umpteen hours to the festival and died tragically at a young age. And finally, we lost the angel of the State Theatre, Buzz Wilson, the first person to come forward when I asked for help in renovating and re-opening the State Theatre. Without him it couldn't have happened. He loved Kubrick and he wanted to leave a legacy behind for his family and for Traverse City. I can't tell you how much I will miss him. Not many want to take on the struggle that is necessary to make things happen. Most, sadly, will cower at the first sign of trouble. Not Buzz. Our next projects were to take on the monopoly that prevents the State from showing whatever film we want, and to put in the theater's sprinkler system. I guess I'm looking for a new angel. Buzz is busy with all the others. We dedicate this year's fest to these three individuals.

We promise all of you that we will continue to offer movies that are not only outstanding, but also movies that give us the chance to laugh and to think. And maybe to act. We are blessed in many ways, mostly because we all have each other.

Yours,

Michael Moore
President and Founder, Traverse City Film Festival

Letter from Governor Jennifer Granholm



Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 4th Annual Traverse City Film Festival (TCFF).

In just four short years, the TCFF has grown to one of the largest film festivals in the Midwest and among the most respected in the country. Thank you Michael Moore, the TCFF board, sponsors, filmmakers, and volunteers for your dedication to this vibrant cultural event.

As films from around the world are screened in northern Michigan, we are given a rare opportunity to view some very thought-provoking films, films that if not for the tenacity of Michael Moore may never have been seen by the movie-going public. Thank you, Michael, for bringing us these motion pictures that engage our collective conscience and cause us to think and maybe even spur us to act.

This year, the TCFF is dedicated to three very special people — Stuart J. Hollander, Kyle Sonnemann, and Buzz Wilson. Their passing has left a palpable void in the TCFF family and in the hearts of all who knew and loved them. They will be sorely missed. Godspeed, dear friends.

Now, before the theater lights go down and the projector reels begin to roll, I want to again welcome you to the 4th Annual Traverse City Film Festival and another terrific lineup of “Just Great Movies.”

Sincerely,
Jennifer M. Granholm
Governor

Letter from Mayor Michael Estes



Welcome Movie Lovers,

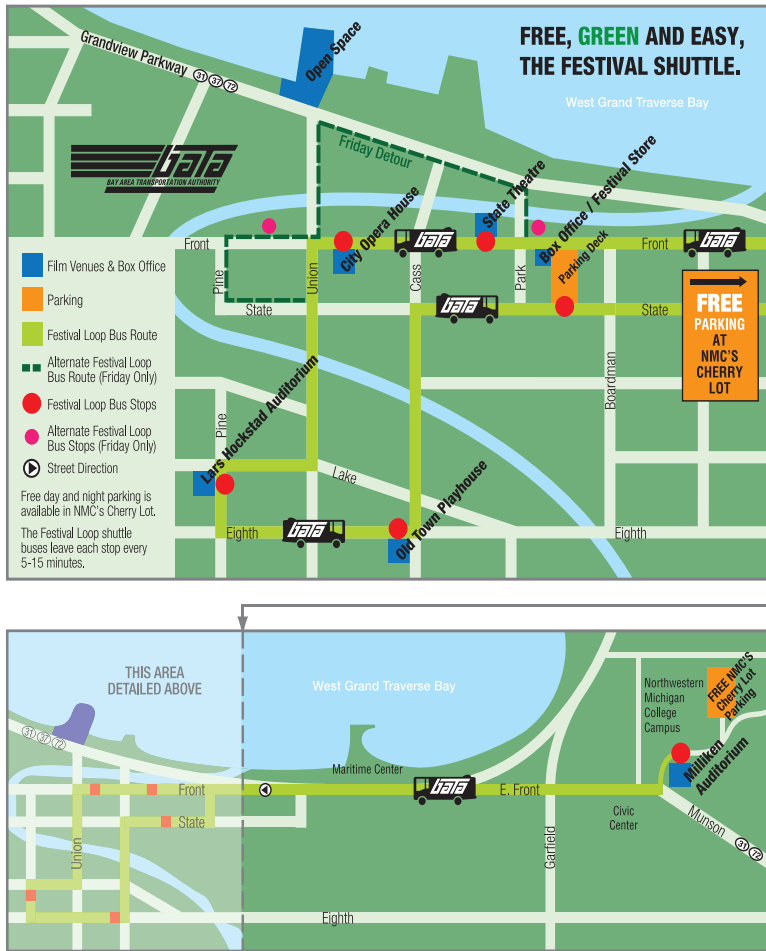
On behalf of the residents of Traverse City and our City's friendly merchants, we thank all of the attendees of the fourth annual Traverse City Film Festival. It's difficult to imagine that just five short years ago, this event was merely a dream of three enterprising artists. Today hundreds of volunteers run our State Theatre on a daily basis, then quintuple their efforts to host this annual event.

Between attending your favorite films and industry panels, take some time to dine, visit, and enjoy all of the wonders nestled around the picturesque Grand Traverse Bay and nearby Lake Michigan. We are home to scores of exciting restaurants, several of which are within walking distance of the festival movie houses. Should you be adventurous, you can rent a kayak to use on the Bay or the Boardman River, or a bike to ride the TART trail. A short drive will take you up Old Mission Peninsula for scenic views and wine tours. Relax in our many parks, soak up rays along our golden beaches, and take an evening sail on a tall ship. You'll find us less crowded and more relaxed than other destinations. For details, visit our Convention & Visitors Bureau, conveniently located on the corner of Union and Grandview Parkway.

We're confident you'll absolutely enjoy the film festival and your visit to Traverse City!

Michael Estes
Mayor

Festival Loop: Free, Green and Easy



Where to Park

NMC's Cherry Lot near Milliken Auditorium — Free Parking!
 Take the Free Festival Loop Shuttle and park all day and night without worry or cost. The Larry C. Hardy Parking Deck is also on the Festival Loop. For movies at Lars Hockstad Auditorium, please help us be good neighbors. If you cannot use the free and accessible Festival Loop, park in the City lots along Union Street, or in business lots after hours. Thank you for your help!

Festival Loop

The festival offers a free shuttle to all of our venues. Please park at NMC's Cherry Lot, near Milliken Auditorium, where buses will stop every 5 to 15 minutes to pick up festival patrons and take them around the festival loop. From 9am until after the last show Wednesday through Sunday, the loop stops at each of our venues, the free festival parking lot, and the downtown parking garage. It's free, green and easy!

Festival Information

Ticket Information

- Ordering tickets online is the easiest way:
www.traversecityfilmfest.org
- By Phone: (231) 929-1627.
- In Person: At the Main Box Office and Festival Store in The Art Center, downtown Traverse City, Tuesday 12noon-7pm; Wednesday-Saturday 9am-9pm; and Sunday, 9am-5pm.
- If tickets are still available at the time of the festival, they will be sold at the door of each show. If a show is listed as sold out, a stand-by ticket line will form 30 minutes before each screening.
- A tip: Even if you hear that a show is sold out, our experience tells us there are always a few seats that open up. Sometimes over 30 people are seated. So don't give up!
- Seats to regular movies are \$9.00.
- Opening and closing night movie screenings are \$25. Opening and closing night parties are ticketed separately and are \$50.
- Open Space movies are free. Also free are the daily film industry panels held at 10am in the City Opera House.
- For more information, call (231) 392-1134 or log on to www.traversecityfilmfest.org.

Friends of the Traverse City Film Festival

Your membership support means that the film festival can purchase much-needed equipment and supplies, operate and maintain a year-round office, and continue to bring special guests and great films to Traverse City while keeping ticket prices affordable for the entire community. And here's the best benefit of all: become a Friend of the Film Festival and you get to buy your tickets to next year's festival ONE FULL WEEK before they go on sale to the general public! You'll also receive 50 percent off festival parties, an invitation to the annual members picnic, and other exclusive benefits.

Join the Friends program before noon on August 3, 2008, and you could win one of the following prizes at the drawing during the Closing Night Party (need not be present to win):

- A Traverse City Film Festival pass for life
- A pass to see all of the 2009 festival films



And if you join the 2009 Friends before the end of August 2008, you will get the lowest membership rate (\$25 for seniors, \$50 for individuals, \$100 for couples)! We double the Friendship rates in September to encourage people to join early.

Information about the Friends of the Film Festival program can be found at www.traversecityfilmfest.org, at all movie screenings during the festival, and at the main box office.

Join today, support your festival, and get your chance to win a great prize!

(Please note: the Friends program and State Theatre Memberships are unrelated programs.)

Physical Access, Hard of Hearing & Deaf Resources

All indoor venues are open for wheelchair and physical access. Hard of hearing accommodations are available as well. Please see our web site at www.traversecityfilmfest.org for complete details. The Festival Loop shuttle buses provided by BATA are equipped with a lift and are wheelchair accessible.



State Theatre, 233 E. Front St.

The State is the home of the Traverse City Film Festival. A classic Traverse City landmark, the State Theatre harkens back to the golden days of cinema. Originally built in 1916, the theater underwent a complete renovation in six weeks before opening for year-round operations on November 17, 2007. A community-based, mission-driven, volunteer-staffed art house, the State Theatre shows just great movies throughout the year.

Sponsored by Richard and Diana Milock



The City Opera House, 112½ E. Front St.

Constructed in 1891, the City Opera House is a remarkable community asset. In 1897, it was the first commercial building in Traverse City to make use of the electric light. For many years, this Victorian theater was a center for the community. Closed in the mid-1940s, it was reopened in the mid-1980s after a diligent restoration campaign with the goal of creating a community cultural center for frequent and diverse public use. The Opera House hosts the festival's free film industry panels, held every day at 10am. Tickets are available each morning at 9am.

Sponsored by the Traverse City Record-Eagle



Old Town Playhouse, 148 E. Eighth St.

The Old Town Playhouse is home to the Traverse City Civic Players, a group created in April 1960 to bring amateur theater to northern Michigan. Located just three blocks from downtown Traverse City, the Old Town Playhouse season runs annually from fall through summer with a variety of productions. Performance areas include a 358-seat main stage auditorium and an 80-seat studio theater.

Sponsored by Lars Kelto Technology Services



Lars Hockstad Auditorium, 301 W. Seventh St.

Located in the historic Traverse City Central Grade School, Lars Hockstad Auditorium is a year-round host to numerous professional and student stage productions and concerts for the Traverse City area, and is one of downtown Traverse City's largest indoor public gathering places. Air conditioned for the second summer in a row, just for the festival, Lars Hockstad Auditorium has been in use since its construction in 1922.

This Event Not Sponsored by Traverse City Area Public Schools.

Sponsored by Leelanau.com



Milliken Auditorium in the Dennos Museum Center, 1701 E. Front St.

The Dennos Museum Center at Northwestern Michigan College is a cultural center offering world class programming in the visual and performing arts. The museum offers a changing array of exhibitions in three galleries and a sculpture court; features a "hands on" Discovery Gallery; and a Gallery of Inuit art, the museum's major permanent collection. The museum's 367 seat Milliken Auditorium offers concerts in blues, jazz, chamber, and world music, and hosts the productions of numerous performing arts groups in the region.

In Memory of Stuart J. Hollander



Free Movies at the Open Space Corner of Union Street and Grandview Parkway

One of Traverse City's most beautiful and versatile public gathering places, an ideal venue to enjoy an outdoor movie as well as the very best summertime fun northern Michigan has to offer. Movies start at dusk every night, but the entertainment begins for the whole family at 7pm with great musicians and entertainers. Movies will be shown Tuesday through Saturday nights. If a movie is rained out, it will be shown on Sunday.

Sponsored by Michael Moore



Enjoy ^{the}
Show!



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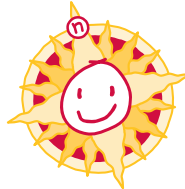
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The TRAVERSE CITY FILM FESTIVAL is proud to acknowledge and thank the Official Sponsors of the 2008 film festival. Their support reflects a commitment to sustaining the vitality of independent film, filmmakers, and audiences, and to the Traverse City community.

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Free Movies at the Open Space



Ghost Busters

1984/USA/PG/105 min.

Tuesday at Dusk

Starring three of the 1980s best comedians, Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis, "Ghostbusters" was an instant classic with its winning combination of big-budget special effects and deadpan comedy. With Sigourney Weaver, Rick Moranis, Ernie Hudson, and Annie Potts.

Sponsored by Critter Control, Grand Traverse Trucking and Traverse Cold Storage



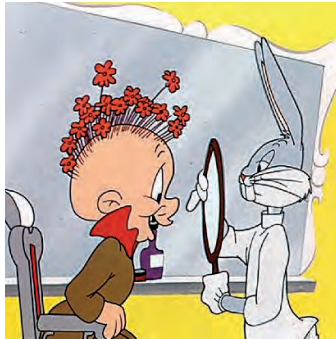
Back to the Future

1985/USA/PG/117 min.

Friday at Dusk

The perfect summer blockbuster, this action-packed time-traveling comedy stars Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly, a typical 1980s teen who travels back in time to 1955. After accidentally interrupting his teenaged parents' courtship, Marty has to reunite them to make sure he'll still exist in 1980.

Sponsored by TBA Credit Union



The Best of Looney Tunes

Wednesday at Dusk

The TCCF welcomes you to see some of the world's most beloved cartoons like you've never seen them before. We're talking about the best of the best here: Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and friends in the zaniest, most dazzling crown jewels of animation's golden age.

Sponsored by One Up Web



Singin' in the Rain

1952/USA/Approved/103 min.

Thursday at Dusk

Stanley Donen's delightful comedy is widely considered to be one of the best musicals of all time, with some of the most memorable song-and-dance numbers ever filmed. Required viewing for any lover of cinema. With Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds.

Sponsored by Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge



A League of Their Own

1992/USA/PG/128 min.

Saturday at Dusk

Madonna, Geena Davis, Rosie O'Donnell, and Tom Hanks star in this winning sports movie based on the true story of the All-American Girls Pro Baseball League. Plenty of laughs and plenty of heart in this story set in the league's founding year of 1943 make it the perfect way to end a summer day.

Sponsored by North Peak Brewing Company & Kilkenny's

Parties and Receptions



Friends of the Film Festival Potluck Party

Saturday, July 26, 4-7pm; Historic Front Lawn at the Village at Grand Traverse Commons

Join festival founders Michael Moore, John Robert Williams, Doug Stanton, and the rest of our family of Friends for a potluck picnic exclusively for Friends of the Film Festival and their families. Celebrate pre-festival weekend with other Friends, live music, and fun for Friends of all ages. Invitation only.

Founders Party

Sunday, July 27, 1pm; The Bay Theatre/Ciccone Vineyards
The Founders Party for festival sponsors features a 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. Sponsors will enjoy exquisite edibles through the generosity of Grandview Catering, with additional food provided by Food for Thought and Grocer's Daughter Chocolates, Great Lakes Tea & Spice and Higher Grounds Trading Company.

Sponsored by Mark D. Herman, CFP, Smith Barney, Dean & Cindy Robb, and Mary Fisher & Michael Venditto

Opening Ceremony and Reception

Tuesday, July 29, 2pm; In Front of the State Theatre, 233 E. Front Street

Be a part of the festival's official kick off ceremony in front of the State Theatre. Free and open to the public. An invitation only reception follows at Red Ginger.

Sponsored by Red Ginger

Opening Night Party

Tuesday, July 29, 8:30-11:30pm; Wade-Trim Parking Lot, Park Street, downtown Traverse City

Join your hosts Michael Moore and the rest of the Board of Directors as we welcome the filmmakers from around the world. Rub shoulders with the people who make the movies. We'll transform the outdoor space on Park St., just around the corner from the State Theatre, into a summer garden for the evening. Dance to some great music and enjoy fabulous local

food provided by Poppycock's, The Betsie Bay Inn, El Dorado, Moomer's Homemade Ice Cream, Lil Bo's, House of Doggs, American Spoon Foods, Morsels Bakery, The Cooks' House, Opa Coney Island Grill, Catch Island Grill, Great Lakes Tea & Spice and Higher Grounds Trading Company.

Sponsored by H. Cox and Son

Closing Night Party

Sunday, August 3, 8:00-11:00pm; Historic Front Lawn at the Village at Grand Traverse Commons

Celebrate the last night of the festival with the Jury Awards ceremony; meet the board, the jury, festival founder Michael Moore, and our filmmaker guests. Enjoy a night of outstanding music, wine, beer, and phenomenal food from the area's top restaurants. Recap the week's highlights and surprises. Taste fabulous foods donated by Trattoria Stella, Amical, Patisserie Amie, The Bowery, Café Habana, North Peak, Bowers Harbor Inn, Kilkenny's, Blue Tractor, Underground Cheesecake, Higher Ground Trading Company, Great Lakes Tea & Spice and Silvertree Deli. The Friends of the Film Festival Grand Prize Drawing will also be held during the party.

Sponsored by Williams Chevrolet Honda Kia

Volunteer Party

Monday, August 4, 7-10pm; On the Beach

Our thank-you party for the stellar volunteers who make the festival possible. The event is being catered by The El Dorado with desserts by Moomer's Homemade Ice Cream and Morsels Bakery. Celebrate a job well done!

Sponsored by The El Dorado

Parties feature beverages by Bel Lago Winery, Black Star Farms, Brys Estate Vineyard & Winery, Chateau Chantal Winery and B & B, Chateau Fontaine, Chateau Grand Traverse, Ciccone Vineyard & Winery, Forty Five North, Good Harbor Vineyards, Good Neighbor Organic Vineyard & Winery, L. Mawby Vineyards, Left Foot Charley, Shady Lane Cellars, and Willow Vineyards, and cherry vodka drinks from Grand Traverse Distillery. Featured beers by H. Cox and Son.

Madonna at TCFF



I Am Because We Are

Sat, 8pm, State Theatre | Sat, 8pm, City Opera House
USA/2008/Not Rated/86 mins.

Headlining this year's festival, the TCFF welcomes Madonna to Traverse City for a once-in-a-lifetime event. A powerful look at the effects of AIDs on orphaned children living in Malawi (the second-poorest country in the world), "I Am Because We Are" is a portrait of a country in distress, the story of a personal journey, and a call to action. Madonna will be present at the State to introduce the film; Opera House viewers will see her introduction through a live feed. All proceeds from these screenings go to Madonna's charitable organization Raising Malawi.

Sponsored by Christine & Mike Zenn and Pam & Bernie Stover (State)

Sponsored by James and Kirsten Pappas (City Opera House)

Simulcast Production Sponsored by Sharon Edson

Technical Services Provided by ABC 29&8, TV 7&4, and Charter Communications

Opening Night



Vicky Cristina Barcelona

Tues, 7pm, State Theatre | Tues, 7pm, City Opera House
USA, Spain/2008/Rated PG-13/96 mins.

Woody Allen's sexiest and most entertaining film in years kicks off this year's TCFF. This breezy, intelligent comedy follows best friends Vicky (Rebecca Hall) and Christina (Scarlett Johansson) on a summer vacation to Barcelona, where the adventurous Christina falls under the charms of Spanish painter Juan Antonio (Javier Bardem, this year's Oscar winner for Best Actor). After the three spend a weekend together, Juan Antonio's fiery ex-wife Maria Elena (Penelope Cruz) enters the picture. A rare example of a brand of smart romantic comedy that's nearly extinct nowadays, this new film from one of America's true auteurs is the perfect film for a hot summer night.

Sponsored by Blue Lake Entertainment and Kathleen Glynn (State)

Sponsored by Mark and Cynthia Newham, loving supporters of MM (City Opera House)

Closing Night



Hamlet 2

Sun, 6pm, State Theatre | Sun, 6pm, City Opera House
USA/2008/Rated R/94 mins.

In writer-director Andrew Fleming's best film since "Dick," brilliant British comedian Steve Coogan stars as Dana Marschz, a failed actor-turned-high-school-drama-teacher whose class is facing elimination by the school board. Dana's plays, adaptations of recent Hollywood fare, don't even get a passing grade from the 9th-grader who writes reviews for the high school newspaper, so he decides to write an original script: a sequel to Hamlet featuring a time machine, appearances by Einstein and Hillary Clinton, and musical numbers like "Rock Me Sexy Jesus." This irreverent but brainy comedy should finally get Coogan the recognition he deserves on American soil, and features a stellar supporting cast, including Catherine Keener, David Arquette, and Elisabeth Shue (as Elisabeth Shue).

Sponsored by Chris Denny (State)

Sponsored by Madeline Robinson (City Opera House)



The Deal

Wed, 3pm, State Theatre | Fri, 3pm, Lars Hockstad Auditorium
USA, Canada/2008/Not Rated/100 mins.

This smart bit of screwball Hollywood satire stars William H. Macy as Charlie Berns, a down-on-his-luck (OK, suicidal) showbiz producer who throws caution to the wind and pitches his nephew's script — a period piece about England's only Jewish prime minister Benjamin Disraeli — to studio execs. To help sell the pic, he enlists Bobby Mason (LL Cool J), a newly converted Jewish action star eager to play the lead as long the script gets a little action added to the plot. The supporting cast of this hilarious film includes Meg Ryan as a savvy studio exec, Jason Ritter as Charlie's scriptwriting nephew, and Elliot Gould as a high-profile Rabbi turned credits-hungry producer.

Sponsored by Passageways Travel (Wed)

Sponsored by Dr. Julie Johnson (Fri)



Flash of Genius

Thu, 9pm, Milliken Auditorium | Sat, Noon, Lars Hockstad Auditorium
USA/2008/Rated PG-13/119 mins.

Based on the inspirational true story of one man's decades-long battle with the American auto industry, "Flash of Genius" stars Greg Kinnear as inventor Robert Kearns, a humble Midwest family man from Detroit. Denied recognition for inventing a device that would eventually be used in every car in the world, Kearns took on an impossible lawsuit against corporate giants in that would eventually reach all the way to the Supreme Court. This modern David vs. Goliath story of a man obsessed with justice is sure to be an Oscar contender. Come see it first here in TC in a special sneak preview!

Sponsored by Right Brain Brewery (Thu)

Sponsored by Joanne K. Thomas and Rhonda Estes (Sat)



Frozen River

Thu, 6pm, Milliken Auditorium | Fri, 3pm, City Opera House
USA/2008/Rated R/97 mins.

The remarkable debut feature from writer/director Courtney Hunt, "Frozen River" presents the story of Ray, a working-class mother of two who lives near a Mohawk reservation in upstate New York. After her gambling-addicted husband runs off with the family's savings, Ray sets off to track him down, but instead she finds a Mohawk woman named Lila driving his car. The two form an unlikely bond out of necessity after Ray learns that Lila runs an illegal smuggling ring, earning big bucks for transporting illegal immigrants into the U.S. by driving over the frozen St. Lawrence River. Equal parts gripping drama and a character study of women struggling to survive, "Frozen River" won the Grand Jury Prize for Best Dramatic Film at Sundance.

Sponsored by Dick & Marla Lavature, Supporting the Arts (Fri)



Idiocracy

Wed, 3pm, Old Town Playhouse | Fri, 6pm, City Opera House
USA/2006/Rated R/84 mins.

From the hilariously twisted mind of Mike Judge ("Office Space") comes a brilliant piece of satire about average-guy Joe Bauers (Luke Wilson) who, after taking part in a military hibernation experiment gone awry, awakens 500 years in the future to find out he's the smartest person alive. By a large margin. It seems that sometime in the 21st century, stupid people began procreating at a rate far exceeding the smart ones. In the devolved world of 2505, Joe is recruited by the White House to solve the world's problems by figuring out things like the fact that plants need water, not Gatorade, to survive.

Sponsored by Federico's Design Jewelers / Hanna Bistro Bar (Wed)

Sponsored by Cherry Republic (Fri)



The Last Winter

Wed, 9pm, Milliken Auditorium | Thur, 3pm, Lars Hockstad Auditorium
USA, Iceland/2007/Not Rated/101 mins.

So you want to drill in the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge? What if the stuff you found below the surface wasn't oil? From indie-horror master Larry Fessenden ("Wendigo") comes a chilling tale of terror set in the frozen tundra of the Arctic. Gung-ho boss Ed Pollack (Ron Perlman) tries to keep a cagey crew of oil-company workers at a drilling station on track in spite of numerous "accidents," but he has trouble keeping control, and rising temperatures in the north add to the crew's suspicion that something's not quite right. Billed as an environmental horror film, this atmospheric flick is one of the best American additions to the horror genre in recent memory.



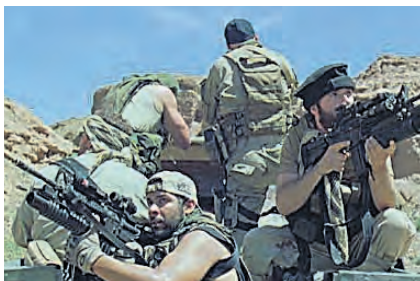
Man in the Chair

Thur, Noon, City Opera House | Fri, 9pm, Milliken Auditorium
USA/2007/Rated PG-13/107 mins.

This lovingly crafted film is both a celebration of classic cinema and a moving examination of our country's neglect of elders. Michael Angarano ("Almost Famous", "Sky High") stars as Cameron Kincaid, a troubled, movie-loving L.A. high schooler who dreams of winning a short film contest. While watching the classic "Touch of Evil" at an old movie theater, Cameron meets an old curmudgeon named Flash Madden (Christopher Plummer), who just happens to have worked as a gaffer on "Citizen Kane." Flash grudgingly agrees to work on Cameron's movie, and he enlists the help of other film industry retirees from the Motion Picture Retirement Home for the Elderly to assist. Plummer steals the show as the cantankerous old gaffer who worked with just about everyone in Hollywood's heyday.

Sponsored by Mike and Colleen Wolfe, Enjoy the Movies! (Thur)

Sponsored by Anna Wege (Fri)



The Objective

Sun, 9pm, Old Town Playhouse
Morocco/2008/Not Rated/90 mins.

Set in the bleak deserts of Afghanistan two months after 9/11, this supernatural thriller from Daniel Myrick (co-creator of "The Blair Witch Project") tracks a group of Special Ops soldiers on a mission to discover the source of some strange radioactive energy in the mountains. The film follows CIA agent Ben Keynes (Jonas Ball) as he leads their covert mission into the heart of the desert, but things start going wrong as the team nears their destination... The hauntingly beautiful barren landscape makes the perfect stage for this wartime horror film, a chilling journey into the realm of the unknown.

Sponsored by Rainbow Rehabilitation / The Buzz Wilson Family



Redacted

Sat, 6pm, City Opera House

USA, Canada/2007/Rated R/91 mins.

Veteran director Brian De Palma ("Scarface," "Casualties of War") trains his critical lens on the war in Iraq in this gritty, confrontational story about a group of soldiers stationed at a checkpoint in Samarra. Worn down by the monotony and constant terror of guarding their station, the soldiers kill a pregnant woman as she races through the checkpoint on the way to the hospital. This sets off a harrowing, unforgettable chain of events in the desert. De Palma's low-budget film combines footage from surveillance cameras, video diaries, and a faux-documentary to create a sense of immediacy, and a set of great performances by relatively unknown actors adds to the realism of this film, which is all the more terrifying because it is based on a true story. We strongly caution anyone under eighteen who plans to watch "Redacted," one of the most controversial films of the year.

Sponsored by Rainbow Rehabilitation / The Buzz Wilson Family



War, Inc.

Thur, 9pm, State Theatre | Sun, 3pm, Lars Hockstad Auditorium

USA/2008/Rated R/106 mins.

A sharp, quick-witted political satire, "War, Inc." follows hot-sauce-addicted hit man Brand Hauser (John Cusack, who co-wrote the script) on his mission to assassinate an oil minister in the fictional country of Turaqistan — a country in the Middle East that is controlled by a huge corporation run by a former U.S. Vice President (Dan Aykroyd). This hilarious take on governmental and corporate greed features a standout supporting cast, including Marisa Tomei as liberal reporter Natalie Hegalhuizen, Joan Cusack as a public relations whiz for a military-corporate tradeshow, and Hilary Duff as Turaqi pop star Yonica Babyyeah (the Brittany Spears of the Middle East).

Sponsored by Steve and Sarah Trippe Family (Thur)

Sponsored by Daniel and Debbie Edson (Sun)



Yonkers Joe

Wed, 6pm, State Theatre

USA/2008/Not Rated/102 mins.

In this suspenseful but touching film, tough-guy Chazz Palminteri (Oscar nominee for "Bullets over Broadway") stars as Yonkers Joe, a slick small-time conman who frequents East Coast casinos with his girlfriend Janice (Oscar winner Christine Lahti), trying to find ways to outwit security cameras. When Joe gets word that his mentally disabled son Joe Jr. (Tom Guiry, in an amazing performance) is being kicked out of his special school, he has to come up with a perfect scam that will allow him to pay his son's expenses for years to come. As Joe, Janice, and Joe Jr. head to Las Vegas for one huge score, testing their relationships along the way, "Yonkers Joe" manages a perfect balance between gritty and heart-warming, bolstered by masterful performances by its three seasoned leads.

Sponsored by Judy Levin, Realtor



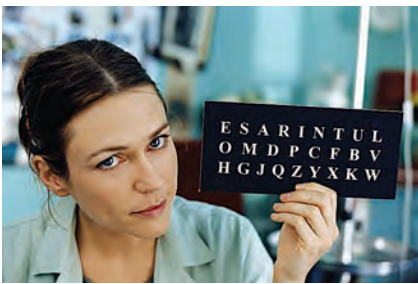
Absurdistan

Thur, Noon, Old Town Playhouse

Germany, Azerbaijan/2008/Not Rated/88 mins.

Welcome to Absurdistan, a small, arid rural village in an imaginary former-Eastern-bloc country. The town is facing a water shortage, but the men are too lazy to fix the rickety pipeline and the women are getting fed up with their virility-proud husbands' apathy. Led by young Aya (Kristyna Malerova), the women make a simple vow: "No water, no sex." The men's only hope is Temelko (Maximilian Mauff), whose promised wedding (and honeymoon) with Aya is put on hold until he finds a solution to the water problem. A hilarious refiguring of the Lysistrata fable, this absurdist battle of the sexes story unfolds as a perfectly pitched lyrical comedy.

Sponsored by The Cherry Stop



The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

Thur, Noon, Milliken Auditorium | Sat, 9pm, Old Town Playhouse

France, USA/2007/Rated PG-13/112 mins.

Artist-turned-director Julian Schnabel adapts the memoirs of paralyzed writer Jean-Dominic Bauby for his captivating third film. This visually breathtaking biopic puts the audience behind the eyes of Bauby, a youthful editor of "Elle" magazine who suffers a massive stroke and is left with "locked-in syndrome," only capable of controlling one eye. With a paralyzed body but fully functional mind, he writes an entire book documenting his life, communicating solely through blinking. A true testament of the power of film to give the audience an entirely new perspective on the world.

Sponsored by Excel Physical and Occupational Therapy / Marci R Bultemeier DO, and David E. Oakley MD (Sat)



4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days

Wed, 6 pm, Milliken Auditorium

Romania/2007/Not Rated/113 mins.

Set in against a stark, urban backdrop in late-'80s Romania (two years before revolution removed communist leader Ceausescu from power), this masterful film follows the college student Otilia (in an Oscar-worthy performance by Anamaria Marinca) as she helps her roommate Gabita procure an abortion from the black market. A brilliantly discomfiting and artfully made film about abortion that's more interested in the people involved than in taking a stand on the issue, this second feature film from Romanian writer-director Cristian Mungiu took home the Palme d'Or for best film at Cannes in 2007. One of the year's most powerful films.

Sponsored by Rainbow Rehabilitation / The Buzz Wilson Family



Goodbye Bafana

Wed, 6pm, City Opera House | Sun, 9pm, City Opera House

Germany, France/2008/Rated R/118 mins.

This engaging, powerful drama tells the story of prison guard James Gregory (Joseph Fiennes), the man who was Nelson Mandela's (Dennis Haysberth) jailor for twenty-one years. The two men develop an unlikely friendship over the decades they spend together (from 1968 to Mandela's release in 1990), as Gregory gains an intimate understanding of Mandela through his letters and their daily contact. Fiennes gives in his best turn since "Shakespeare in Love," and Haysberth ("Far From Heaven") turns in a standout performance as the famous prisoner. A captivating, beautifully shot film.

Sponsored by Clyde & Harriet McKenzie (Wed)

Sponsored by National City (Sun)



The Grocer's Son

Thur, 6pm, Old Town Playhouse | Fri, 9pm, City Opera House
France/2007/Not Rated/96 mins.

A gorgeous, modest, and quietly intoxicating valentine to rural life, "The Grocer's Son" follows thirty-year-old Antoine (Nicolas Cazalé, nominated for the César, the French Oscar, for Most Promising Actor for this role) as he reluctantly leaves the city to fill in for his father as a grocer in his home in rural Provence, while his father recovers from a heart attack. Antoine's vibrant neighbor Claire tags along, simply hoping for a quiet spot to study for her college exams. But tensions mount between family members upon Antoine's return, while Antoine's attraction to Claire blossoms when she accompanies him on his deliveries. A humble but skillfully told story of life and romance in the French countryside.

Sponsored by Grand Traverse Pie Company (Thur)

Sponsored by The English Inn and Convention Center, Gary and Donna Nelson (Fri)



Let the Right One In

Fri, 11:50pm, State Theatre | Sat, 9pm, Lars Hockstad Auditorium
Sweden/2008/Not Rated/114 mins.

A huge hit at its Tribeca premiere (winner of the award for Best Narrative), this genre-bending romance/vampire film from Swedish director Tomas Alfredson tells the story of an unlikely relationship between twelve-year-old misfit Oskar and his new neighbor Eli, a wide-eyed girl who lives with her reclusive father. One of the strangest coming-of-age stories ever put to film evolves as Eli and Oskar grow close — but Eli must keep her true identity secret, which proves more and more difficult as the body count rises around their frigid Swedish suburbs. Visually stunning and perfectly paced, this novel take on the vampire genre manages to combine gore and puppy-love romance in a surprisingly sincere portrait of an adolescent coming into his own.



Mongol

Wed, 9pm, Lars Hockstad Auditorium | Thur, 3pm, State Theatre
Germany, Kazakhstan, Russia/2007/Rated R/125 mins.

Nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign film, this stunning epic action film by acclaimed Russian director Sergei Bodrov recounts the formative years of a young Genghis Khan. Boasting breathtaking, gorgeously photographed landscapes and a rich, almost ethnographic look at the life of this legendary 12th-century nomad, "Mongol" succeeds where so many recent Hollywood epics fail, extending beyond the realm of pulp adventure into a convincing (albeit bloody) take on ancient history. A truly great cinematic experience that deserves to be seen on the big screen in all its epic splendor.

Sponsored by Coldstone Creamery/DeYoung's Art Supply & Picture Framing (Wed)

Sponsored by Kennametal, Inc. (Thur)



Paraiso Travel

Thur, 9pm, Lars Hockstad Auditorium | Sat, 3pm, Milliken Auditorium
USA, Colombia/2008/Not Rated/116 mins.

A box-office hit in its native Colombia, "Paraiso Travel" follows the harrowing, unforgettable journey of college-aged Marlon as his girlfriend Reina uses her seductive powers to convince him to cross illegally into the US, with dreams of a new life in New York. After Marlon loses his queen in Queens, he has to make it in this uncompromising new world on his own. Featuring an impressive performance by John Leguizamo as a stuttering S&M photographer who shares a rundown apartment with Marlon, this second feature from Colombian native Simon Brand offers a fresh, realistic perspective on the tough life of undocumented immigrants.



Persepolis

Wed, Noon, City Opera House

France/USA/2007/Rated PG-13/95 mins.

Iranian artist Marjane Satrapi adapts her autobiographical graphic novel in this highly lauded animated feature. "Persepolis" explores the impact of the Iranian revolution on Marjane, following her as a young girl in Tehran, through her rebellious adolescence, to her experiences as an expatriate in Europe and eventual return to Iran. Both a touchingly personal coming of age story and a tale of life under a religious dictatorship, this stylish black-and-white animated film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.

Sponsored by AAUW Book Club



The Pope's Toilet

Wed, Noon, Lars Hockstad Auditorium | Sun, 6pm, Old Town Playhouse

Uruguay, Brazil, France/2007/Not Rated/97 mins.

Based in part on true events, this film tells the story of the small Uruguayan town of Melo, where Pope John Paul II made a visit in 1988 as part of his tour of Latin America. Swept into a frenzy by media reports of tens of thousands of potential visitors, the poor townfolk of Melo decide the Pope's visit could benefit them financially as well as spiritually, so they put their money into making thousands of chorizos and hamburgers to feed hungry travelers. Small-time smuggler Beto thinks he's got the best plan of all — he sets about building "The Pope's Toilet," where all the visitors can find relief. Fascinating both for its story and its cultural documentation, this touching, humorous and poignant film was Uruguay's foreign-language Oscar submission in 2007.

Sponsored by www.telecomclassifiedads.com (Sun)



Sleep Dealer

Wed, 3pm, Milliken Auditorium | Fri, 3pm, Old Town Playhouse

Mexico, USA/2008/Not Rated/90 mins.

This amazingly inventive lo-fi science fiction debut from writer-director Alex Rivera investigates the issue of illegal immigration in the not-so-distant future — a future in which corporations control the water supply and the U.S.-Mexico border is truly airtight. But the need for cheap labor remains, so Americans have set up a sweatshop-like factory in Mexico where workers plug their nervous systems into a global network to control robots across the border — as one character puts it, "You get Mexican labor without the Mexicans." Rivera's dystopian concept is ambitious and he pulls it off in spite of a very low budget, delivering a thrilling, ingenious and topical film that was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance.

Sponsored by Dr. Patricia, Stephen and Ben Blessman (Wed)



The Substitute

Thur, 9pm, City Opera House | Sun, 9pm, Milliken Auditorium

Denmark/2007/Rated R/93 mins.

Substitute teachers always feel like they're from another planet. Well, what if that feeling was true? The Danish box-office hit of summer '07, "The Substitute" — billed as a "children's thriller" — tells the story of a sixth-grade class whose new ruthless substitute teacher Ulla Harms (Paprika Sheen) can read minds. And freeze time. When her class finds out their field trip to Paris is actually something more sinister, they decide to take action — but their parents think they're just fibbing to get out of schoolwork. Delivering equal part drama, black comedy, and sci-fi thrills, this new film from writer/director Ole Bornedal ("Nightwatch,") is a welcome addition to the youth horror genre that should appeal to younger and older viewers alike.

Sponsored by Cali's / Venus (Thur)



Sympathy for the Lobster

Fri, 3pm, Milliken Auditorium | Sat, 5pm, State Theatre
Italy/2007/Not Rated/90 mins.

Italian actress/director Sabina Guzzanti is coming back to Traverse City! The director of 2006 fan fave "Viva Zapatero" returns with this new mockumentary, revisiting the crazy world of Italian politics and television censorship. Guzzanti reunites with the cast of her former Saturday Night Live-type show "Avanzi" (a satirical show that stopped airing once Berlusconi came to power), and starts rehearsing for a benefit performance. Brimming with wit, this hilarious, eloquent film offers insight into the world of Italian politics and also explores the role a comedian can play in the political realm.

Sponsored by David Hannawalt (Fri)
Sponsored by Amical (Sat)



Tell No One

Fri, 6pm, State Theatre | Fri, 9pm, Lars Hockstad Auditorium
Sun, 6pm, Lars Hockstad Auditorium
France/2006/Not Rated/125 mins.

Winner of four César Awards (the French equivalent of the Oscars) and nominated for five more, the decade's best thriller comes from Guillaume Canet and Philippe Lefebvre's adaptation of American novelist Harlan Coben's international best-seller. The film starts with Alex Beck (Francois Cluzet) and his wife Margot (Marie-Josée Croze) on a romantic trip to a remote lake, a spot the couple has visited since childhood. In a chilling scene late in the night, Margot is murdered and Alex is knocked unconscious. Eight years later, Alex is still mourning his wife's death, and the discovery of two more bodies at the lake motivates the police to reopen his wife's case. But everything changes when Alex receives an unexpected email on the eighth anniversary of Margot's murder. An intricately plotted, edge-of-your-seat thriller, superbly acted by a supporting cast that includes Marina Hands, Andre Dussollier, Nathalie Baye, Gilles Lellouche, and Kristin Scott Thomas.

Sponsored by The Homestead (Fri, State)
Sponsored by L. Mawby (Sun)



When Did You Last See Your Father?

Sat, 6pm, Milliken Auditorium | Sun, Noon, Lars Hockstad Auditorium
UK, Ireland/2007/Rated PG-13/92 mins.

Two of England's top actors — Oscar-winner Jim Broadbent ("Iris") and Colin Firth ("Then She Found Me", "Love Actually") — team up for this moving, heartfelt exploration of a troubled father-son relationship. Broadbent plays Arthur Morrison, a self-absorbed doctor who ridicules his son Blake (Firth) for studying literature instead of medicine. When we first meet the pair, Arthur lies on his deathbed, stricken with cancer. Blake has come to visit his father, and tries to come to terms with his mixed-up feelings for his dad. Through a series of flashbacks, director Anand Tucker takes us deep inside Blake's thoughts, offering a series of vivid episodes from his past which paint Arthur as a boisterous, womanizing man, who is only occasionally a good father. Based on the best-selling memoirs of novelist Blake Morrison.

Sponsored by Eurostop Cafe Deli (Sat, Sun)



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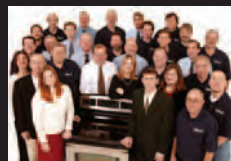
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Milliken Auditorium



Open Space



Ghost Busters

Noon	The Pope's Toilet
3 pm	CSNY Déjà Vu
6 pm	Song Sung Blue
9 pm	Mongol

Noon	Helvetica
3 pm	Sleep Dealer
6 pm	4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days
9 pm	The Last Winter

**The Best of
Looney Tunes**
Wednesday at Dusk

Noon	Bigger, Stronger, Faster*
3 pm	The Last Winter
6 pm	Kenny
9 pm	Paraiso Travel

Noon	The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
3 pm	Up The Yangtze
6 pm	Frozen River
9 pm	Flash of Genius

Singin' in the Rain
Thursday at Dusk

Noon	Baghdad High
3 pm	The Deal
6 pm	Anvil! The Story of Anvil
9 pm	Tell No One

Noon	The Prisoner
3 pm	Sympathy for the Lobster
6 pm	Captain Abu Raed
9 pm	Man in the Chair

Back to the Future
Friday at Dusk

Noon	Flash of Genius
3 pm	Religulous
6 pm	Anvil! The Story of Anvil
9 pm	Let The Right One In

Noon	War, Love, God & Madness
3 pm	Paraiso Travel
6 pm	When Did You Last See Your Father?
9 pm	Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame

A League of Their Own
Saturday at Dusk

Noon	When Did You Last See Your Father?
3 pm	War, Inc.
6 pm	Tell No One
9 pm	Mike's Surprise

Noon	Blow-Up
3 pm	Wild Strawberries
6 pm	Pray the Devil Back to Hell
9 pm	The Substitute

(Rain Date)
Sunday at Dusk

Movies From People Who Want To Kill Us

These five outstanding new films from Muslim countries beg the question: Do we really know who they are and what life is like over there?



Captain Abu Raed

Fri, 6pm, Milliken Auditorium | Sun, 12:30pm, State Theatre
Jordan/2007/Not Rated/100 mins.

The first independent film to come out of Jordan and the country's first feature of any kind in the last fifty years, "Captain Abu Raed" tells the story of a loveable but lonely old janitor who finds an airplane captain's hat in the trash, which convinces the kids in his neighborhood that he's been around the world. Abu obliges the kids, telling stories of far-off lands he's never seen, hoping to expand the minds and improve the lives of the poor children who are starting life much like he did. Jordan-born, American-educated writer/director Amin Matalqa has a superb sense of the film medium — with this, his debut feature, he won the Audience Award in the World Cinema Competition at Sundance. A touching, uplifting tale that you'd never seen in the multiplexes, this movie is what the film festival is all about. The director and producer will answer questions at their screenings.

**Sponsored by In Memory of Justice James H. Brickley,
Joyce Braithwaite Brickley and Governor and Mrs. William G. Milliken (Fri)**

Sponsored by American Spoon & Serenity Tea Bar and Café (Sun)



Dinner with the President: A Nation's Journey

Fri, Noon, City Opera House | Sun, Noon, Old Town Playhouse
Pakistan/2007/Not Rated/82 mins.

One day, Pakistani filmmakers Sabiha Sumar and Sachithanandam Sathananthan decided to call up their dictatorial president and invite him to dinner, and asked if they could film it. Astonishingly, he agreed. Part of the "Why Democracy?" project (which brought TCFE-fave "Please Vote for Me" to last year's festival), this documentary explores Pakistani citizens' relationships to their president, General Pervez Musharraf, who came to power following a military coup in 2001. The filmmakers start at the top, discussing politics with Musharraf himself in an intimate, personal conversation over dinner. The documentary then ranges across Pakistan, gaining insight into the political state of the country from a diverse cross-section of individuals. Director S. Sathananthan will answer questions following the film.

Sponsored by Falconer Wealth Management (Fri)



Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame

Sat, 9pm, Milliken Auditorium | Sun, 3pm, City Opera House
Iran/2007/Not Rated/77 mins.

This stunning debut feature from 18-year-old Iranian director Hana Makhmalbaf follows a fable-like day in the life of a resourceful six-year-old girl who must overcome many obstacles simply to get to school. She goes to great lengths just to procure a notebook, and she is attacked and kidnapped by a group of boys playing war games in no-man's land. Set in Bamian, a small town in Afghanistan where the Taliban infamously destroyed giant Buddha statues in 2001, this epic and poetic film offers an incredible document of life in a war-torn nation and the effects of daily devastation on the minds of children.

H:
Sponsored by Hagerty Insurance Agency, Inc. (Sun)
Sponsored by



Head Wind

Thur, 9pm, Old Town Playhouse
Iran/2008/Not Rated/65 mins.

A fascinating look at government censorship in Iran, this documentary from acclaimed director Mohammad Rasoulof ("Iron Island") investigates the way Iranians bend the rules in order to access media from the outside world. By installing rooftop satellite dishes, pirating DVDs, and hacking internet access, the Iranian people show an overwhelming desire for information that is untouched by their Islamic government. Rasoulof offers a thorough guide to Iran's information black market in this intriguing look at a country struggling with the transition to the digital age.

Sponsored by



War, Love, God & Madness

Sat, Noon, Milliken Auditorium | Sat, 6pm, Old Town Playhouse
Iraq, Netherlands, Palestine, Sweden, UK/2008/Not Rated/72 mins.
After Saddam Hussein was removed from power in 2004, filmmaker Mohamed Al-Daradji returned to his native Baghdad to make the feature film "Ahlam." This documentary captures the production of that award-winning feature. But this is more than just a "making-of" documentary. It also offers an unparalleled look at the horrifying conditions a country descended into chaos, and the nightmarish experiences faced daily by the crew while making their feature — their attempts to shoot on location in Baghdad with bullets flying all around is an amazing thing to witness. The crew was subjected to torture and interrogation, was caught in the middle of battles, and yet never lost its vision. A powerful journey about fighting for dreams, this film shows just how much collective determination is needed to make art in the most difficult surroundings.

Sponsored by Big Boy Restaurant of Traverse City (Sat)

Stanley Donen Tribute

The legendary Hollywood director Stanley Donen is coming to this year's TCFF — and he's bringing some treasures from Tinseltown with him! The director of countless classics, Donen has worked with just about every Hollywood great, including Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, Audrey Hepburn, Frank Sinatra, Cary Grant, and Ingrid Bergman. We're bringing three of his very best films to this year's festival and the director will be on hand to introduce these great movies in person!

Funny Face

Thur, 3pm, City Opera House
USA/1957/Not Rated/103 mins.

A legendary collection of talent — Stanley Donen, Fred Astaire, and Audrey Hepburn — comes together for this satirical musical about 1950s intellectuals and life in the world of high fashion. Hepburn stars as Jo, a bookworm from Greenwich Village who is discovered by fashion photographer Dick Avery (Astaire). But Jo has no desire to leave behind her books for the glitz and glamour of the runways in Paris, until she learns that she'll have a chance to discuss philosophy with a professor she idolizes there. Nominated for four Academy Awards and set to the music of George and Ira Gershwin, this charming romance stands as one of Donen's best.

Sponsored by Kay and Bob Stehouwer, Judy and Bob James



On The Town

Fri, 3pm, State Theatre
USA/1949/Not Rated/98 mins.

The debut musical from the directorial team of Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly, "On the Town" stars Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin as three sailors on 24-hour leave in the Big Apple. The first musical ever shot on location, this film offers a singing and dancing tour of New York as the sailors go sightseeing and pick up girls. Winner of the Academy Award for Best Scoring of a Musical. Part of our tribute to Stanley Donen, the legendary director will be on hand for the screening.

Sponsored by Ciao Bella Ristorante



Singin' In The Rain

Thu, 9:30pm, Open Space
USA/1952/Not Rated/103 mins.

A certified classic of American cinema, this delightful musical comedy from the directing team of Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly is widely considered to be one of the best Hollywood musicals of all time. The story follows Don Lockwood (Kelly) and Lina Lamont (blonde bombshell Jean Hagen), two darlings of the silver screen at the end of Hollywood's silent era. When talkies arrive in Tinseltown, they have to reinvent their act to keep with the times. The only problem: Lina's voice is, well, painful. They decide to dub her part, and call on chorus-line girl Kathy Selden (Debbie Reynolds) to be her voice. This lighthearted, energetic musical features some of the most memorable song-and-dance numbers ever committed to film. Donald O'Connor turns in a stellar performance as Kelly's best pal, and Cyd Charisse steams up the screen in her duet with Kelly.

Sponsored by Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge



One of the most celebrated screenwriters of all time, Dalton Trumbo was the writer behind classics including “The Brave One,” “Roman Holiday” and “Spartacus.” He was also a member of the Hollywood Ten — ten writers and directors who refused to give testimony to the House Committee on Un-American Activities and were therefore blacklisted in the entertainment industry. For years, Trumbo went uncredited on some of the best films made anywhere in the world. The Traverse City Film Festival salutes a great artist who stood behind, and suffered for, his beliefs and his art.

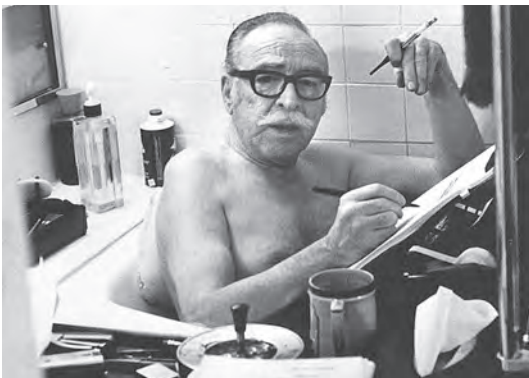


Johnny Got His Gun

Sun, Noon, City Opera House
USA/1971/Rated PG/111 mins.

Oscar-winning screenwriter Dalton Trumbo adapts his own 1939 novel to the screen in this gripping antiwar film, his only directorial effort. The plot centers on Joe Bonham (Timothy Bottoms), an American soldier who is badly injured by a shell blast in WWI. Left with a fully functioning brain but without a working body, Joe is trapped, a prisoner of his own mind. The film delves deep into his thoughts, probing Joe's dreams and flashbacks to examine his condition and meditate on the senselessness of war. Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at Cannes on its release.

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Trumbo

Sat, 3pm, City Opera House
USA/2007/Rated PG-13/96 mins.

Dalton Trumbo was one of Hollywood's most talented and celebrated screenwriters, responsible for indispensable classics like “Roman Holiday,” “Spartacus,” and “Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo.” He was also a member of the Hollywood Ten, accused of Communist sympathies and blacklisted from the film industry. “Trumbo” tells the story of this remarkable Hollywood figure, a man who stood by his principles even when doing so cost him his livelihood. This documentary uses Trumbo's poignant, personal letters to tell his story, read by Joan Allen, Michael Douglas, Paul Giamatti, Nathan Lane, Liam Neeson, Donald Sutherland, and others. A remarkable portrait of a true Hollywood legend, “Trumbo” is based on a stage play written by Dalton's son Christopher.


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