

## BIFF 2007 PROGRAMMING AS OF 3/30/07:

### FEATURE FILMS

Alice's Restaurant (US, 1969)

Arthur Penn Tribute Film

Directed by Arthur Penn

Written by Arlo Guthrie (song The Alice's Restaurant Massacree), Venable Herndon and Arthur Penn (screenplay)

Based on Arlo Guthrie's epic song about getting arrested for littering in Stockbridge, Mass., on Thanksgiving and the attendant results (including being refused for military service in the Vietnam draft), Arthur Penn's Alice's Restaurant—for which he was nominated for his second Academy Award for Best Director—vividly captures the so-called “generation gap” with colorful detail and great sympathy, while at the same time functioning as something of an elegy for a counterculture on its last legs. Filmed in and around Stockbridge, the movie features cameos by legendary folksingers Pete Seeger and Lee Hays as well as Stockbridge police Chief William “Obie” Obanhein, in his real-life role as the arresting officer. And Arlo, of course, plays himself, as only Arlo can.

Arranged (US, 2007) - East Coast Premiere

Written and Directed by Stefan Schaefer

Two young women – one an Orthodox Jew, the other Muslim – meet and become friends as first-year teachers at a public school in Brooklyn. Over the course of the year they learn they share much in common, not least of which is that they are both going through arranged marriages. Filmmaker in attendance.

Bonnie and Clyde (US, 1967)

Arthur Penn Tribute Film

Directed by Arthur Penn

Written by David Newman, Robert Benton

More than just a retelling of the real-life legend of Depression-era bank robbers Clyde Barrow (Warren Beatty) and Bonnie Parker (Faye Dunaway), Arthur Penn's Bonnie and Clyde was a landmark film, ushering in the era of the “New Hollywood” and making stars of Penn and the cast, which also included Gene Hackman and Estelle Parsons, who won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress. The taboo-breaking film is most notorious for its blend of humor and graphic violence (which now seems tame in the era of Quentin Tarantino, who was obviously greatly influenced by Penn), but its most enduring feature is its anti-Establishment viewpoint, in which what's good is bad and what's bad is good—an obvious commentary on the Vietnam War and one that presciently prefigured the coming decade of government scandals.

Broken English (US, 2006) – Regional Premiere  
Written and directed by Zoe Cassavetes

In a startling mature and nuanced performance, Parker Posey plays Nora Wilder, a thirty-something Manhattanite who is cynical about love and relationships, in this astute collaboration with first-time writer/director Zoe Cassavetes. Nora plugs away at her job in a posh downtown hotel and can't help but wonder what it is she has to do to find a relationship as ideal as her friend Audrey's (Drea De Matteo) "perfect marriage." It doesn't help that her overbearing mother (Gena Rowlands) takes every opportunity to remind Nora that she's still unattached. After a series of disastrous first dates, she meets Julien (Melvin Poupaud), a seemingly devil-may-care Frenchman with a passion for living. Expecting another disastrous ending, Nora tries to avoid making the same mistakes. She finds herself in Paris looking to break old patterns. Inevitably, Nora has to look inward before she can find a new outlook on life and most importantly, love.

Cook Off! (US, 2007) – East Coast Premiere  
Directed by Guy Shalem  
Written by Cathryn Michon, W. Bruce Cameron, Wendi McLendon-Covey based on the book "The Grrl Genius Guide to Life" by Cathryn Michon

Gluttony! Lies! Pay-offs! It's not a presidential election; it's the Van Rookle Farms Cook-Off! Since 1952, Van Rookle Farms has hosted its annual competition, where amateur chefs across America make their Van Rookle inspired recipes. The stakes are high this year, with the largest cash prize to date – one million dollars! A troupe of zany characters cooks till the drop, while cameras converge in this cut-throat two-day competition.  
Writer and cast in attendance.

The Curiosity of Chance (Belgium, 2006) - Regional Premiere  
Written and Directed by Russell P. Marleau

An already 'out' and eccentric teenager recruits a bizarre circle of friends – made up of two oddball outcasts, a straight jock he's crushing on and a drag queen – to help him bring down the homophobic bully threatening his would-be peaceful, high-school existence. Combine teen angst, 80's style and music with the flare of drag queens and what do you get? The Curiosity of Chance. It's like a John Hughes film that couldn't be made in the 80's.

Drop Back Ten (US, 2007) – World Premiere of the Director's Cut

Written and Directed by Stacy Cochran

Drop Back Ten is the story of a writer and his subject. Pete Barnes (James LeGros) loses his newspaper job in the first frames of the movie but quickly lands a magazine assignment, and is quickly dispatched by its editors to write a celebrity profile, a flattering piece about an emerging teen “star.” Pete soon discovers the star’s producers are as hard to handle as the elusive young actor himself – and Pete is promptly fired, rehired and sidetracked by the piece he is determined to write. A tale of the pursuit of a story, Drop Back Ten reveals the heartbeat of that story in its final moments when an unexpected character is disclosed as the story’s uncelebrated, but clear-eyed, witness. Filmmaker and cast in attendance.

Eagle vs. Shark (New Zealand, 2006) - Regional Premiere  
Written and Directed by Taika Waititi

From New Zealand comes a wickedly offbeat love story – a funny, fractured romance between two total misfits, woven into an all-consuming quest for revenge, and shot through with the strange, sweet hilarity of the human condition. Eagle vs. Shark introduces the original and delightfully different vision of writer/director Taika Waititi, a young Kiwi comic star who won an Academy Award nomination for his short film Two Cars, One Night, which premiered to acclaim at the 2004 Sundance Film Festival.

Exiled (Hong Kong, 2007) - Regional Premiere  
Directed by Johnny To  
Written by Kam-Yuen Szeto, Tin-Shing Yip

For the first time since The Mission in 1999, Anthony Wong (Infernal Affairs) and Francis Ng (Infernal Affairs 2) once again team up with Johnnie To and his regulars in another action-packed ensemble piece Exiled. The time is 1998. The setting is Macau. Every living soul jumps at every chance to make quick money before the Portuguese colony ushers in a new era under the Chinese rule. For the jaded hit men, they wonder where this journey will end. Against this background of fin-de-siecle malaise come two hit men from Hong Kong set to take out a renegade member trying to turn over a new leaf with his wife and newborn baby. They soon find themselves in the throes of a dilemma when two of their former associates also show up, intent on thwarting them at every cost.

Four Friends (US, 1981)  
Arthur Penn Tribute Film  
Directed by Arthur Penn  
Written by Steve Tesich

Academy Award-winning screenwriter Steven Tesich (Breaking Away) and Oscar-nominated director Arthur Penn team up for this “charming, powerful”

coming-of-age story to set against the protest, prosperity and broken promises of the '60s. Coming to America with big dreams, young Danilo stands before a future of endless possibilities...until he falls in love with Georgia. A free-spirited flower child, Georgia loves everyone...including Danilo's two best friends! But their friendships are strained when she becomes pregnant by one and marries another. Hurt and despondent, Danilo begins an angry search for someone to fill the void...until the friends' fateful paths cross once again for a last, explosive encounter. Cast in attendance.

The Go Master (China, 2006) – Regional Premiere  
Directed by Tian Zhuangzhuang

The Go Master, the long-anticipated new film by acclaimed 5th Generation Chinese director Tian Zhuangzhuang (Horse Thief, The Blue Kite, Springtime in a Small Town), is based on the true-to-life story of the world's most renowned master of the ancient game of Go, Wu Qingyuan. Go, a table game requiring intense stamina, energy, emotions, strategy and intellect from its players, was developed in ancient China but found a new home in post-Meiji Japan, where its adherents treated its rules and regulations in a fashion far stricter and more disciplined than that of its Chinese roots.

Wu, a native of China, emerged as a prodigy who, at a young age, moved to Japan and rose to prominence as the top Go player in the world. In Japan, Wu overturned the established traditions and strategies of this ancient game, earning multitudes of fans and enemies along the way. Set against the backdrop of the tumultuous Sino-Japanese history of the 20th century, he remained in Japan in spite of the politics and continued his passion for the game. Wu never returned to live in China again, making him a controversial figure in both countries. Now well into his 90s, he continues to reside in Japan playing Go, writing strategy books and living the life of The Go Master.

The Last Train (Germany, 2006) - Regional Premiere  
Written by Steve Glantz  
Directed by Dana Vavrova, Joseph Vilsmaier

For Christmas in 1937, Goebbels gave Hitler a complete set of Mickey Mouse films. For Hitler's 54th birthday, he decided to give him a Judenfrei Berlin. The Last Train tells the story of four families on that last desperate train from Berlin to Auschwitz. One of life's most bitter ironies is that under the most dire of circumstances, love for family and children is most exquisite and even more than the will to live drives husbands and wives, fathers, mothers, lovers to ruthless action and compromised morality. And even as they try to save themselves amid the thirst, hunger and heat, life goes on in the train. Children are bored. Diapers need to be changed. And memories of past happiness become almost as powerful as the present horror. Almost.

Writer in attendance.

Little Red Flowers (China, 2006) - Regional Premiere

Directed by Zhang Yuan

Written by Wang Shuo, Ning Dai, Zhang Yuan

Qiang is a four-year-old little rebel, possessed of a pair of luminous eyes and a precociously indomitable will. His father deposits him at a well-appointed residential kindergarten in post-1949 Beijing, since his parents are often away. Life at the kindergarten appears rich and colorful, made up of a variety of cheerfully sunny rituals and games meant to train these children to be good members of society. But it's not so easy for Qiang to adapt to this kind of carefully organized, minutely scrutinized collective life. A fierce individualist in miniature, he tries but fails to conform to the model his teachers enforce. Yet he still craves the reward that the other students win: the little red flowers awarded each day as tokens for good behavior. Will he succumb to the adult-enforced conformity around him, or will he insist on growing up his own way, by his own rules?

Made in Brooklyn (USA, 2007) - World Premiere

Written and Directed by Luca Palanca

Made in Brooklyn is four stories that take place in Brooklyn, NY all revolving around a cute little girl and her foul mouth mother selling lemonade. Our first story sets the tone of nice guys finish last, starring Michael Rispoli and Kathrine Narducci. Our second story stars John Enos and Richard Portnow telling us you can take the guys out of Brooklyn but you can never take the Brooklyn out of the guys. Our third story is your fish out of water story when four neighborhood guys leave their street in Brooklyn for the first time and decide to go camping, starring Luca Palanca, Peter Dobson, Costas Mandylor and Joe Tabbanella. Our final story is about two hit-men who use music to hide their fears. All stories are shot on location with five different directors. Filmmaker in attendance.

The Orange Thief (US/Italy, 2006) - Berkshire Premiere

Written and Directed by Vinnie Angel, Boogie Dean, Arthur Wilinski

Indelible characters populate the world of The Orange Thief a cocky, irrepressible and penniless young man who dreams of owning a piece of his beloved Sicilian land. And it is here, in Sicily, where we meet the fiery and sensual Rosalba whose songs melt the heart of the murderous "Turrido, the Smooth Blade" philosopher and brute, imprisoned for life. Here characters carry with them their dreams, be it salesman who wanders the countryside selling socks, the tourist whose shirt holds strange secrets, or the gentle prison guard singing sweetly to himself.

This is a world infused with magic realism. Utterly delightful, imaginative, and bold, this gem of a film features live music and singing integral to the narrative and impossible to forget. The making of the film is nearly as remarkable as the film itself. A seamless collaboration between three filmmakers using untrained but abundantly talented actors, this is a wildly original and truly independent endeavor. Filmmaker in attendance.

Rocket Science (US, 2006) - Regional Premiere  
Official Opening Night Selection  
Written and Directed by Jeffery Blitz

A teenager tackles the mysteries of life, love and public speaking in Rocket Science, a wry comedy of adolescent angst by Jeffrey Blitz, director of the Academy Award®-nominated documentary Spellbound. Making his feature narrative debut, Blitz leaves behind the conventions and clichés of coming-of-age tales to instead conjure a world where everyone, regardless of age, is befuddled by desire and the longing for human connection. Mixing humor with a compassionate regard for his characters and their idiosyncrasies, Blitz creates a film about the little insights that can emerge from, and ultimately eclipse, the agonies and disappointments of youth.

Strike (Germany, 2006) - East Coast Premiere  
Directed by Volker Schlöndorff  
Written by Andreas Pflueger, Sylke Rene Meyer

This is the story of Agnieszka - the smallest crane operator in the world, an orphan who becomes a mother, a refugee who finds a home, an illiterate who writes history. On the one hand the film deals with the paradigmatic aspect of history, that is, the recurring genesis of political movements. First come the dreamers, then the rebels, then the radicals and finally the politicians. And they remain. In the civil rights movements, the Green parties, the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution and so on... And it is often the women who start the ball rolling. It is always those who follow their calling; the secular saints - they are the people whose strength and vision empower countless others.

On the other hand, Strike is an uplifting story of personal courage. Agnieszka's was a constant uphill struggle. She was an illiterate, an orphan, a poor and lonely soul who could just as easily have ended up as an alcoholic, a broken and embittered woman. That is what is so wonderful and enchanting about her life - and so inspiring: each and every one of us can change the world.

The Ten (US, 2006) - Regional Premiere

Directed by David Wain  
Written by David Wain and Ken Marino

The Ten is comprised of ten blasphemous and hysterical stories inspired by the Biblical Commandments, each told in a different style, but with the characters and themes that overlap. The film is held together by a narrator (Paul Rudd) who, in turn, has his own moral problems.

Vier Minuten (Germany, 2006) - East Coast Premiere  
Written and Directed by Chris Kraus

Jenny is young. Her life is over. She killed someone. And she would do it again. When an 80-year-old piano teacher discovers the girl's secret, her brutality and her dreams, she decides to transform her pupil into the musical wunderkind she once was.

## DOCUMENTARIES

Children of the War (US, 2007) – East Coast Premiere  
Directed by Alexandre Fuchs

Hijos de la Guerra (Children of the War) is a feature length documentary film about the world's largest and most violent street gang: the Mara Salvatrucha, also known as MS-13. The MS-13 gang spans the Americas with an estimated membership of 100,000 people across the United States and Central America. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has declared the MS-13 the fastest growing and most violent street gang in the United States.

The Mara Salvatrucha was formed in Los Angeles in the late 1980s by Salvadoran Civil War refugees as a means to protect themselves from rival ethnic gangs. The newly formed gang channeled the widespread trauma of a genocidal civil war on entire generations of orphaned and abandoned children into fanatical violence. This formed the basis for MS's explosive growth.

Filmmaker in attendance.

Crazy Love (US, 2006) – Regional Premiere  
Directed by Dan Klores and Fisher Stevens  
Written by Dan Klores

Dan Klores' Crazy Love tells the astonishing story of the obsessive roller-coaster relationship of Burt and Linda Pugach, which shocked the nation during the summer of 1959. Burt, a 32 year-old married attorney and Linda, a beautiful, single 20 year-old girl living in the Bronx had a whirlwind romance, which culminated in a violent and psychologically complex set of actions that landed the pair's saga on the cover of endless newspapers and magazines. With the cooperation of the principals, Burt, now 79, and Linda, 68, Klores examines the human psyche and the concepts of love, obsession, insanity, hope and forgiveness.

Darius Goes West (US, 2007) - Berkshire Premiere  
Director: Logan Smalley

Where would you go if you'd never been away from home? What would you do if you didn't have much time left? DARIUS WENT WEST! Meet 15-year-old Darius Weems from Athens, Georgia, who was born with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), the most common fatal genetic disorder to affect children worldwide. In 1999, he watched his beloved older brother, Mario, pass away from the same disease at age 19. Soon after, Darius lost use of the muscles in his legs and had to begin using a wheelchair. A group of Darius's college-age friends decided there was no need for his quality of life to disintegrate along with his muscles. In the summer of 2005, they rented a wheelchair-accessible RV and took Darius, who had never seen mountains, the ocean or even crossed a state line, on the adventure of a lifetime. They also found joy, brotherhood and the knowledge that life, even when imperfect, is always worth the ride. Filmmaker in attendance.

Falling Down Stairs (Canada) – Berkshire Premiere  
Jacob's Pillow Collaboration  
Directed by Barbara Willis Sweete

Renowned cello virtuoso Yo-Yo Ma embarks on intense year long collaboration with choreographer Mark Morris, which culminates in a spectacular performance, conceived especially for film. Falling Down Stairs follows Mark and Yo-Yo from city to city, documenting their collaborations with remarkable intimacy, humor and candor.

Fully Awake: Black Mountain College (USA, 2007) – Premiere  
Directed by Cathryn Davis Zimmer and Neeley House

Fully Awake: Black Mountain College is a documentary film about an experimental college in North Carolina from 1933 to 1957. During its short existence, Black Mountain College significantly affected the American art scene, creating new models of artistic production that altered the very definition of "art." A haven for the avant-garde, the college's curriculum inspired collaboration and innovation. Attendees included Buckminster Fuller where he built his first geodesic dome, John Cage who staged the first multimedia "happening," and the Black Mountain Review published early Beat poets long before their work garnered attention elsewhere. Fully Awake: Black Mountain College explores this vibrant community, focusing on the college's unique educational style and the long reaching influence of its radical pedagogy. Filmmaker in attendance.

Ghosts of Cite Soleil (Denmark/US, 2006) – Regional Premiere  
Directed by Asger Leth, Milos Loncarevic

Billed as a Caribbean epic of family, love and violence, Ghosts of Cite Soleil takes us inside the lives of the notorious gang leaders who dominate the Haitian slum of Cite Soleil. The foot soldiers of the gang leaders are known as chimeres (or “ghosts”) and it was those ghosts that former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is said to have employed to silence his opponents. Shot in the months leading up to the overthrow of Aristide in 2004, this captures the smoldering tensions between two gang leaders and their love for the same woman.

Have You Seen Andy? (US, 2006) - Berkshire Premiere  
Directed by Melanie Perkins

Have You Seen Andy? Is the personal story of a childhood friendship abruptly ended by the tragic abduction of a young boy. On a hot summer day in August 1976, a ten year-old Andy Puglisi was playing along with dozens of other children at the Higgins Memorial Pool inn Lawrence, Massachusetts. The suddenly, he disappeared. Twenty-two years later, filmmaker Melanie Perkins, Andy’s childhood friend, begins her search for answers in this powerful feature-length doc. Filmmaker in attendance.

Hunt Angels (Australia, 2006) – Regional Premiere  
Directed by Alec Morgan

Rupert Kathner and Alma Brooks were the Bonnie and Clyde of Australian showbiz. He was an artist (although some might say con artist!) and a dreamer. She was a secretary at the local film studios, with a mysterious past and enough sass to get what she wanted. When they met in the late 1930s, a revolutionary duo was born.

In the Shadow of the Moon (UK, 2006) - Regional Premiere  
Directed by David Sington

In the Shadow of the Moon is an intimate epic, which vividly communicates the daring and the danger, the pride and the passion, of this extraordinary era in American history. Between 1968 and 1972, the world watched in awe each time an American spacecraft voyaged to the Moon. Only 12 American men walked upon its surface and they remain the only human beings to have stood on another world. Now for the first, and very possibly the last, time, In the Shadow of the Moon combines archival material from the original NASA film footage, much of it never before seen, with interviews with the surviving astronauts, including Jim Lovell (Apollo 8 and 13), Dave Scott (Apollo 9 and 15), John Young (Apollo 10 and 16), Gene Cernan (Apollo 10 and 17), Mike Collins (Apollo 11), Buzz Aldrin (Apollo 11), Alan Bean (Apollo 12), Edgar Mitchell (Apollo 14), Charlie

Duke (Apollo 16) and Harrison Schmitt (Apollo 17). The astronauts emerge as eloquent, witty, emotional and very human.

In the Shadow of the Moon features exclusive NASA film footage including astonishing space shots re-mastered from the original film rolls to reveal the Apollo program with a visual clarity and impact it has never had before. The mute 16mm rolls shot in Mission Control have been painstakingly lip-synced with the 16-track audio recordings of the mission controllers' voice loop to re-unite the pictures and sound of many historic moments for the first time, lending a striking immediacy to many dramatic scenes.

Invisible Wings (US/Berkshire) - World Premiere

Jacob's Pillow Collaboration

Directed by Nuria Olive-Belles

One of the most uniquely inspired dance works of all time, Invisible Wings makes a triumphant return to the Berkshires, first showing in this remarkable documentary at the Berkshire International Film Festival and in live performances at Jacob's Pillow in August. Says choreographer Joanna Haigood, who oversaw the film of her production, "When I first learned of the Pillow's historical connection to the Underground Railroad, I felt as if I had found the missing link in my understanding of its sanctuary-like atmosphere. For me, the atmosphere is also apparent in its history of spiritual investigation and practice as seen in the dances of Ted Shawn and in the artistic exploration that continues there today. My motivation and inspiration for this project lie in our social need to recognize and celebrate our histories—to illuminate and enrich our present through our past. In this particular situation, I feel that there is a great opportunity to unite 200 years of characters, stories, and place through performance and at the same time reveal and preserve an important part of our national heritage. The spirit of the Underground Railroad was driven by compassion, respect, and cooperation between many kinds of people. With the performance of Invisible Wings we celebrate its success through songs, dances, and stories of the time. We dedicate this work to all of our ancestors."

Lake of Fire (US, 2006) - Regional Premiere

Director: Tony Kaye

Ever since Roe v. Wade, the United States has been deeply divided on the issue of abortion. In that landmark case, an unmarried woman was refused an abortion in Texas. The judicial challenge that followed won women the right to legal abortions. Proponents and opponents have lined up on either side of the issue ever since, launching verbal abuse – and worse – at each other. As the religious right has increasingly flexed its power, the issue has become even more divisive – and violent.

Tony Kaye, best known for American History X, has been working on this documentary for the past fifteen years. The film is shot in a steely black and white; its monochromatic scheme is entirely apt and acts as a

counterpoint to its subject. While many try to treat the topic as a simple question of right and wrong, Kaye goes out of his way to probe the complexities of the issue; there are many shades of grey to the debate. He gives time to both sides, and if his own viewpoint ultimately becomes clear, he scores no easy points at anyone's expense.

Interviewing a range of individuals – from fundamentalist Christians to professors of sociology, philosophy and bioethics; from hardcore pro-lifers to equally impassioned pro-choice advocates – Kaye splices into what motivates both sides. It is in the grey areas that we find some of the most interesting commentary, much of which is provided by Noam Chomsky, who intelligently dissects the issue. Kaye also devotes time to nurses and doctors who have been threatened, some wounded or killed in attacks on their lives and clinics.

This is not a film for the faint-hearted; be warned that there are graphic images of termination procedures and their aftermath. Kaye endeavors to show abortion's physical and psychological reality – to make clear what exactly is at stake. Lake of Fire – the title comes from one person's description of what awaits abortionists in hell – is measured, intelligent and feels suitably objective regardless of one's own position. A brave film, it will prompt serious debate.

The American Elm: Majestic, Imperiled, Renewed (US, 2007) - Regional Premiere

Directed by Dan Smith

The American Elm: Majestic, Imperiled, Renewed chronicles the rich legacy of America's most popular and loved urban tree, its decimation from Dutch elm disease, and the discovery of disease-tolerant elms at a time when cities are most in need of tough, fast-growing, large-canopy trees. The Berkshire region's contribution to elm lore is featured prominently in the film, from Sheffield's planting of 1,000 trees during the Tree Bee of 1846 to the work today of Elm Watch, founded by photographer Tom Zetterstrom, who's work has put the Baldwin Hill elm image in top museums across the world. Filmmaker in attendance.

The Men Who Danced (US, 1985) - Berkshire Premiere

Jacob's Pillow Collaboration

Directed by Rob Honsa

The Men Who Danced presents the story of the first all-male dance company in the United States, known as Ted Shawn's Men Dancers. This award-winning film includes historic footage of the company performing in the 1930s, capturing the beauty and rigor of Shawn's choreography. Additionally, it tells the story of Jacob's Pillow, from the time it was an abandoned farm that Shawn purchased to house his new dance company to the world-renowned festival it is today. Highlights of the film include interview segments with eight of the original Shawn dancers at a 50th

anniversary reunion at The Pillow in 1982, as well as rare archival films and contemporary footage of these same dances being revived at the festival.

Ted Shawn's Men Dancers existed as a company for only seven brief years, but the group's impact has endured even as American male dancing has come a long way in subsequent decades. *The Men Who Danced* captures the early struggle and the vibrant personalities engaged in the battle, while also addressing the evolution and legacy of a concept that is still evolving today. Without Shawn, the American male dancer would not have achieved his fullest sense of maturity and independence, and Jacob's Pillow would not be the international center for dance that it has become.

John Gruen of *Dance Magazine* called this film, "One of the most authentic records we have of a most remarkable chapter in dance history" while the Dance Films Association's Deirdre Towers called it "unusually touching." Filmmaker in attendance.

*The Music Inn* (US, 2007) – Regional Premiere  
Directed by Ben Barenholtz

Tucked away amidst the gently rolling Berkshire Mountains, in Lenox, Massachusetts, something magical happened between 1951 and 1960 at a place called Music Inn. Under the stewardship of Stephanie and Philip Barber, Music Inn marked a turning point in the history of music in America.

Virtually next door to the Boston Symphony's Tanglewood Music Festival, the Inn evolved from a midsummer haven for some of America's greatest jazz and folk musicians and performers, through a period of jazz and folk "Roundtables" and then "Workshops" including scholars and critics, culminating in the first School of Jazz -- where earnest and talented students learned from and performed with accomplished masters. Frequent participation of students and performers from Tanglewood stimulated cross-fertilization between classical music and jazz. Music Inn was an undeniable force in the emergence of jazz from crowded and smoky urban clubs into concert halls.

During a decade rife with paranoia and finger pointing, an era of anti-Communism, anti-"Other" fervor, Music Inn was a bold experiment. There, aspiring musicians learned from the very best. Students and faculty, young and old, rich and poor, white and black, communed together, learned together and jammed together. Careers were launched and legends were made. Music Inn harbored a racial and cultural harmony that defied its surrounding environment and, for a brief time, music was all that mattered. Filmmaker in attendance.

*Nerves of Steel* (Australia, 2007) - US Premiere  
Directed by Andrea Ulbrick

The sport of Skeleton is a head-first, full-throttle slide down a winding, icy track, known as one of the most dangerous and demanding sports there is. And, for four fearless young women from Australia's beaches, it's

their unexpected chance to Olympic glory. Even though they'll work together to qualify for the Games, in the end, only one will be selected to compete. Handpicked for the challenge, science is now pushing them to new extremes. This exhilarating documentary follows the fate of the team – the athletes, manager and coach – as they hurtle towards the 2006 Torino Winter Games, tracking both the scientific juggernaut and the all-too-human drama. Cast member in attendance.

Park Avenue Cubists (US/Berkshire, 2007) - World Premiere  
Directed by James Christie  
Written by T.W. Timreck

Rare, vintage film footage from the 1930s and 40s, artfully re-mastered, tells the story of the glamorous artistic couple Suzy Frelinghuysen and George L.K. Morris who championed abstract art in America. The footage includes their European travel from the 1930s as well as their homes in the Berkshires (which Morris co-designed), New York City and Paris. Interviews of fellow artists including Will Barnet, and art critics Hilton Kramer and Barbara Rose, friends and family, explaining this couples impact on the history of Modern Art in America. The documentary is a lush visual and audio feast, filled with beautiful paintings, scenery and music. Filmmaker in attendance.

The Power of Community (US, 2007)  
Directed by Faith Morgan

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990, Cuba's economy went into a tailspin. With imports of oil cut by more than half – and food by 80 percent – people were desperate. This film tells of the hardships and struggles as well as the community and creativity of the Cuban people during this difficult time. Cubans share how they transitioned from a highly mechanized, industrial agricultural system to one using organic methods of farming and local, urban gardens. It is an unusual look into the Cuban culture during this economic crisis, which they call "The Special Period." Filmmaker in attendance.

A Tale of Tanglewood: Peter Grimes Reborn (Canada) --Northeast Premiere  
Directed by Barbara Willis Sweete

June 30, 1946. A nineteenth century English fishing village comes to life in the hills of Massachusetts. The occasion – an important one for modern music. The great Serge Koussevitzky, Founding Director of the Tanglewood Music Centre, commissions Benjamin Brittan to write "Peter Grimes" – an exciting new opera conducted by the 28 year-old Leonard Bernstein. Fifty years later, with Maestro Seiji Ozawa at the helm, Tanglewood remounts the now famous "Peter Grimes" with some of the world's most gifted young singers and instrumentalists. For Maestro Ozawa, it is an exciting

rebirth of opera at Tanglewood. For the student performers it is the musical challenge of a lifetime. For those who had been involved in the original production, it is an occasion, not only for the passing on of knowledge, but for reunion and nostalgia.

A Tale of Tanglewood: Peter Grimes Reborn weaves a tapestry that travels back and forth over the fifty years that separate the two performances, drawing parallels between the two productions as they build in momentum and culminate in a sizzling performance attended by many of the original performers – now in their 70's and 80's.

Out of this juxtaposition of past and present emerges a powerfully resonant, multi-layered, often humorous portrait of one of the world's great music institutes.

The Tradition of Coaching (US/Berkshire, 2007) – World Premiere  
Directed by Bill Sample

The Tradition of Coaching is a film that profiles the commitment, hard work and tradition that come into play as Coachmen from all over the country converge at Oreleton Farm in Stockbridge for a three-day exhibition to drive their vintage Coaches in this engaging and visually stunning sport. The Coaching background in the Berkshires is explored, with mention of notable Berkshire residents who were heavily involved in the sport in past years, when spectacular Coaches rolled along the byways of Lenox and Stockbridge to the delight of thousands of on-lookers. Filmmaker in attendance.

View from a Grain of Sand (US/Afghan, 2006) – Regional Premiere  
Directed by Meena Nanji

2001 saw an unprecedented level of international interest in the lives of Afghan women living under the Taliban. Since then, however, the media spotlight on Afghan women has fallen, and with it, public knowledge of the current situation Afghan women face. What are their lives like now? Have they really improved since a new government took power? Have they gained any real rights or do they still live in fear and repression?

View From A Grain of Sand explores these questions and reveals how Afghan women have had their rights stripped from them over the last 25 years. Told through the eyes of three Afghan women: a doctor, a teacher and women's rights activist, the project provides illuminating context for Afghanistan's current situation and the ongoing battle women face to gain even basic human rights.

Shot over a three-year period in the sprawling refugee camps of northwestern Pakistan and in the war-torn city of Kabul, the women's personal stories are located within the larger context of international interference, war, and the rise of religious fundamentalists in Afghanistan. The women lead us through Afghanistan's complex history, telling how global power plays have dramatically impacted their lives in devastating ways. Illustrated by verité footage of their everyday lives, together with rarely seen archival footage, their stories are powerfully

moving as they re-define strength and resilience in the face of on-going struggle, and give a full and visceral picture of a still divided and brutalized nation. As world attention has shifted to other crises, this project re-focuses the camera on Afghanistan, remembering the voices of those most vulnerable and most affected by the conflicts: women.

War/Dance (US/Uganda, 2006) – Regional Premiere  
Directed by Sean Fine and Andrea Nix Fine

Set in Northern Uganda, a country ravaged by more than two decades of civil war. War/Dance tells the story of Dominic, Rose, and Nancy, three children whose families have been torn apart, their homes destroyed, and who currently reside in a displaced persons camp in Patongo. When they are invited to compete in an annual music and dance festival, their historic journey to their nation's capital is also an opportunity to regain a part of their childhood and to taste victory for the first time in their lives.

## SHORTS

Betty La Flaca (US) – Northeast Premiere  
Written and Directed by Hugo Perez

Skinny Betty might just as well not exist given the lack of attention she gets from men, including her boyfriend Carlos. Her co-worker, Reina, recommends she have some work done to enlarge and enhance the most important part of the body--her butt. When Betty arrives at the homegrown 'clinica' in Maria Dolores living room in the Bronx, she has no idea how much impact a little 'work' will have on her life. Filmmaker in attendance.

Cracks (US) – World Premiere  
Directed by Micah Baskir

A young girl leaves her home to find herself compelled to travel an intricate path – walking only on the cracks in the pavement. Along her journey, she faces challenges of every variety and with a combination of luck and skill manages to happily skip on her way.

Cycle Unknown (US) – World Premiere  
Directed by Jessica Daniels

It's just another day of soap and fabric softener for FrankGalleano, who owns and operates his Queens neighborhood Laundromat. In a world full of eccentric characters, including his gum-popping sister Lydia and the omnipresent Man in a Mongolian hat, Frank works to maintain a sense of cleanliness and order over his domain, until his humdrum daily life is

suddenly disrupted. Enter Marie, an immaculate conception of woman, and the answer to Frank's prayers...until the fateful Sunday when Marie drops off a bundle of laundry that's dirtier than he ever could have imagined. Filmmaker in attendance.

Dear Talulah (US) Berkshire Premiere  
Directed by Lori Benson

Dear Talula is an autobiographical documentary film that tells the personal story of Lori Benson, a 38-year-old woman in New York City who is told she has breast cancer just 14 months after her daughter Talula is born. With an intimate and caring approach, her friends and husband follow her with a camera as Lori experiences her life change in an instant. Filmmaker in attendance.

The Dig (US) – Regional Premiere  
Directed by Joshua van Praag

A lonely archaeologist discovers objects buried along a Brooklyn riverbank that lead her on a journey to unearth glimpses of the lives and deaths that lie within them. Sabina Sciubba, of Brazilian Girls, Kim Chan (King of Comedy, Kundun) and Megan Wyler star in this story about loss and recovery in the big city. Filmmaker in attendance.

Escape Velocity (US) – World Premiere  
Directed by Scott Ligon

Digital Artist Scott Ligon has completed his first animated short film, Escape Velocity. The film explores the connection between Attention Deficit Disorder (A.D.D.) and creativity using his own life in self-deprecating, humorous examples. Scott forms a stream of consciousness, multi-layered narrative that emulated the day to day A.D.D. experience. Filmmaker in attendance.

Mariners & Musicians with Roseanne Cash (US) – New England Premiere  
Directed by Steve Lippman

Exploring the intersection of longing, ancestry, family and time, director Steven Lippman's cinematic tone poem weaves conversation, writings and music by acclaimed singer/songwriter/author Rosanne Cash. This tactile dreamlike journey unites recitation, candid ruminations, music, haunting Super 8mm & 16mm imagery, and Holga animation to create a unique portrait of an artist. Featuring songs from Rosanne's celebrated album 'Black Cadillac.' Filmed on location in New York City, Hendersonville, TN and Ventura, CA. Filmmaker in attendance.

Naturalized (US) – World Premiere  
Directed by Julia Kots

An Americanized Russian immigrant battles his overbearing family for the right to undergo the ultimate rite. Filmmaker in attendance.

Paraffin (UK) - World Premiere  
Directed by Laurence Easeman

Working as security drivers, escorting precious computer parts up to Scotland, ex-paratroopers Finn and Tony know very little about each other. That is until they journey back to London. Once the job is over, Tony coerces Finn into going out for a drink in a dingy nightclub in Middlesbrough. Finn begins to suspect that Tony is not all he appears to be. During breakfast Finn begins to suspect that Tony may be involved in the disappearance of a local child, who has been missing for five days. Without the courage to confront this unstable man Finn finally parts company with Tony and heads home. On his way home, the incident with Tony bothers him and Finn switches on the tracking system to follow Tony. His journey leads him to a local woods where Finn finally confronts Tony with surprising and unexpected, dramatic results.

The Rest of Time (US/Berkshires) - World Premiere  
Directed by John Whalen

The Rest of the Time is a six-minute, digitally composted dance film that celebrates the fragile mystery of our inevitable passing. Each of us faces a unique and certain death - but beyond the catastrophe there is something shared by all. Produced and directed by John Whalan, conceived and choreographed by Dawn Lane, The Rest of the Time combines a choreographer's optimistic view of acceptance, wit and commonality - with a filmmaker's uncertain vision of the incomprehensible moment between now and never. Filmed entirely on location at the historic Stockbridge Cemetery and features performances by five of the Berkshire's finest modern dancers. Filmmaker in attendance.

Small Boxes (Australia) - Northeast Premiere  
Directed by Rene Hernandez

Small Boxes follows the journey of Alberto Alvarez, a 20 year old Latino-Australian who lives with his mother and grandmother in the outer suburbs of Sydney. Alberto works the night shift unloading boxes at the local produce markets. On an outing with his grandmother, Alberto notices a "position vacant" sign and decides to go for the job. But making a change is difficult, and for Alberto it will mean learning about his identity and finding the courage to believe in himself.

Trigger Finger (US/Berkshires) -World Premiere  
Directed by Marc Maurino

Kate is a single mother desperate to stop her son Casey from going to war,

but will her love, the efforts of his friends, and even the involvement of his long-estranged father be enough to stop him? Filmmaker in attendance.

What the Future of Music Sounds Like (UK) – Northeast Premiere  
Directed by Matthew Bate

What the Future of Music Sounds Like tells of a lost chapter in the history of British electronic music through the pioneering work of composer Tristram Cary and the Electronic Music Studio.