

# The Cinema, Inc.

We proudly invite you to join us for the

**2009 – 2010 Season**

44<sup>th</sup> year of screening great films!

**Films and Subscription Form**

Visit us online at [www.cinema-inc.org](http://www.cinema-inc.org)



The Cinema, Inc. screens films at 7:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at The Rialto Theatre, 1620 Glenwood Avenue (near Five Points) Raleigh, NC

**September 13**  
*Network*

**December 13**  
*Travellers and Magicians*

**March 14**  
*Akira Kurosawa's Dreams*

**June 13**  
*My Darling Clementine*

**October 11**  
*Italian for Beginners*

**January 10**  
*Zelig*

**April 11**  
*Bright Leaves*

**July 11**  
*Blue*

**November 8**  
*The Fog of War*

**February 14**  
*Sullivan's Travels*

**May 9**  
*The Land*

**August 8**  
*Happy Times*

## September 13, 2009 — Network

USA, 1976, Color, Not Rated, 122 Minutes

Directed by Sidney Lumet.

Starring Peter Finch, Faye Dunaway, William Holden, Robert Duvall.

Fired after 25 years of service, network TV anchorman Howard Beale (Peter Finch) has an on-air meltdown culminating in the *cri de coeur*, "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore!" Ratings soar. Programming executive Diana Christensen (Faye Dunaway) decides to retain Beale, recasting him as "The Mad Prophet of the Airwaves" and providing him a platform for his increasingly unhinged rantings. A biting satire of our sensationalized mass media *circa* 1976, *Network* now seems oddly prophetic in anticipating "reality" television and today's overheated cable news shows. The film won Oscars for Best Screenplay (Paddy Chayefsky), Best Actor (Finch), Best Actress (Dunaway), and Best Supporting Actress (Beatrice Straight).

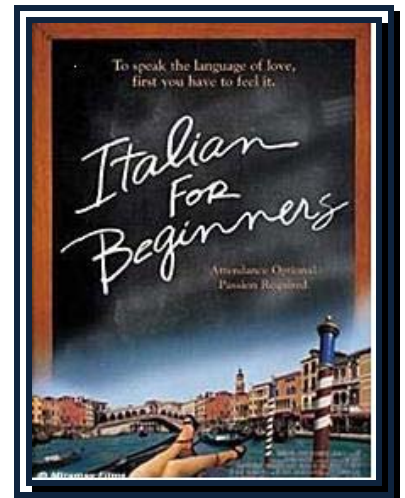


## October 11, 2009 – Italian for Beginners

Denmark, 2001, Color, Rated R, 112 Minutes, Subtitled.

Directed by Lone Scherfig. Starring Anders W. Berthelsen, Anette Stovebek, Peter Gantzler, Ann Eleonora Jorgensen.

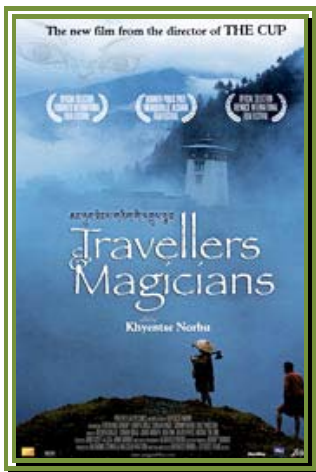
An Italian language class leads to three very different romantic relationships among six lovelorn Danes in this lighthearted and subtle romantic comedy. The characters -- a minister, a barmaid, a hotel clerk, a hairdresser, a waiter, and a pastry shop assistant -- fumble toward love and friendship amid the complications and sorrows of daily life. In the film's centerpiece, the group flees Copenhagen for a sunswept vacation in Venice. Filmmaker Lone Scherfig is the lone female member of the *avant-garde* Dogme 95 Collective founded by Lars von Trier (*Breaking the Waves*) and Thomas Vinterberg (*The Celebration*). She brings a unique sensibility to the movement's *vérité* style while preserving its naturalism and emotional honesty. Shot on a shoestring budget of less than \$1 million, *Italian for Beginners* won the Silver Bear juried prize at the Berlin Film Festival in 2001.



**November 8, 2009****The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara**

USA, 2003, Documentary, Not Rated, 106 Minutes.  
 Directed by Erol Morris. Starring Robert McNamara.

*The Fog of War* is a fascinating portrait of former Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara by esteemed documentarian Errol Morris. Morris structures his film around "11 Lessons from the Life of Robert McNamara," drawn from 20 hours of interviews with the 85-year-old McNamara, who commands the screen with his brilliance and intensity. By turns candid and evasive, impassioned and detached, sympathetic and monstrous, McNamara reflects on his role in bringing seatbelts to the Ford Motor Company, planning the firebombing of Japan in World War II, and escalating the war in Vietnam. Enriched by archival footage, photographs, and music from composer Phillip Glass, *The Fog of War* raises timeless (and timely) questions about war, human nature, and the uses and limits of power.

**December 13, 2009 – Travellers and Magicians**

Bhutan, 2004, Color, Not Rated, 108 Minutes, Subtitled.  
 Directed by Khvintse Norbu. Starring Tshewang Dendup, Lhakpa Dorji.

The first feature ever filmed in the kingdom of Bhutan, *Travellers and Magicians* weaves two parallel, fable-like tales about men seeking to escape their mundane lives. Dondup (Tshewang Dendup), a young government official, dreams of moving to America while stuck in a beautiful but isolated village. At his first chance, he heads for town and an awaiting visa, but things don't go quite as planned. Missing the bus, he hitchhikes with an elderly apple seller, a sage young monk, and an old man traveling with his beautiful daughter, Sonam. The monk tells Dondup a story of another young man, Tashi (Lhakpa Dorji), who sought a land far away: a tale of lust, jealousy and murder that holds up a mirror to the restless Dondup and his blossoming attraction to the innocent Sonam. This film is a magical mixture of rustic road movie and mystical fable -- a potpourri of desire and its consequences set in a breathtaking landscape.

**January 10, 2010 – Zelig**

USA, 1983, Black and White, Rated PG, 79 Minutes.  
 Directed by Woody Allen. Starring Woody Allen, Mia Farrow, Garrett Brown.

Before Benjamin Button and Forest Gump, there was Leonard Zelig. In this groundbreaking "mockumentary," writer-director Woody Allen plays Zelig, a chameleon-like cipher whose neuroses allow him to assimilate completely into his surroundings. Psychologist Eudora Fletcher (Mia Farrow) studies Zelig and seeks to protect him from his would-be exploiters. Combining voice-over, real and fake newsreels, and interviews with the likes of Susan Sontag and Saul Bellow, *Zelig* uses the conventions of documentary to weave its protagonist into the fabric of 20th-century history. The results are as technically impressive as they are funny.

**February 14, 2010 – Sullivan's Travels**

USA, 1941, Black and White, Not Rated, 90 Minutes.  
 Directed by Preston Sturgis. Starring Joel McRea, Veronica Lake, William Demarest, Eric Blore.

Preston Sturgis' masterpiece tells the story of John "Sully" Sullivan (Joel McRea), director of such Hollywood trifles as *Hey Hey in the Hayloft*. Disillusioned by his comedic successes, Sullivan hits the road as a penniless hobo, seeking insight into the lives of the poor in order to make a socially conscious film, "Oh Brother, Where art Thou?" With his studio bosses' lackeys in hot pursuit, Sullivan meets a failed actress credited as the Girl (Veronica Lake), who joins him on his journey. Dedicated to "those who made us laugh: the motley mountebanks, the clowns, the buffoons, in all times and in all nations, whose efforts have lightened our burden a little," *Sullivan's Travels* celebrates the value of laughter in our lives.



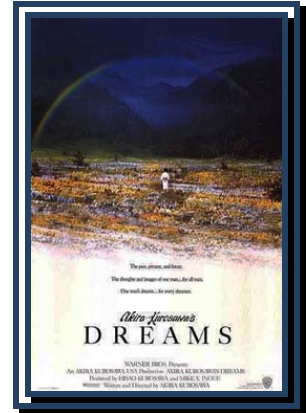
## March 14, 2010 – Akira Kurosawa's Dreams

Japan, 1990, Color, Not Rated, 120 Minutes, Subtitled.

Directed by Akira Kurosawa. Starring Akira Terao, Mitsuko Baisho, Martin Scorsese.

A series of vignettes based on the director's dreams, *Dreams* offers a window into the mind of Japan's most renowned filmmaker. In the opening "Sunshine Through the Rain," a young boy sneaks into the forest to watch a procession of enchanted foxes. In "The Peach Orchard," an older boy witnesses tree spirits performing a delicate dance. Weary travelers face the elemental wrath of a snow enchantress in "The Blizzard," while "The Tunnel" finds a military officer haunted by the ghosts of his regiment. "Crows" finds an art aficionado literally walking into the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh (Martin Scorsese). "Mount Fuji in Red" and "The Weeping Demon" are fantastical cautionary tales about the hazards of nuclear power. *Dreams* concludes with the pastoral "Village of the Watermills."

Meticulously designed and beautifully photographed, *Dreams* evinces its creator's labor-of-love ethic in every frame.

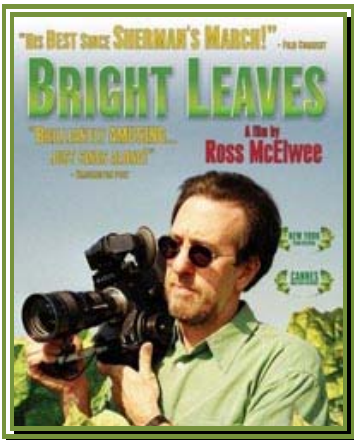


## April 11, 2010 – Bright Leaves

USA, 2004, Color, Not Rated, 106 Minutes.

Directed by Ross McElwee.

Ross McElwee (*Sherman's March*) is an autobiographical filmmaker and North Carolina native. His great-grandfather was a tobacco baron who invented the formula for Bull Durham tobacco but ultimately lost his fortune and ended in bankruptcy. Inspired by the 1950 movie, *Bright Leaf*, which was loosely based on his great-grandfather's rivalry with Washington Duke (and starred Gary Cooper and Lauren Bacall), McElwee produced *Bright Leaves* in Durham, North Carolina, to explore his family's complicated relationship with tobacco. Through conversations with family members, cancer patients, friends in the tobacco industry, and the film historian Vlada Petric, McElwee undertakes a deeply personal examination of the culture that arose from the cultivation of bright leaf tobacco in North Carolina after the end of the Civil War.

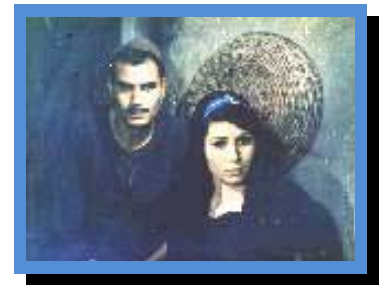


## May 9, 2010 – The Land

Egypt, 1969, Color, Not Rated, 130 Minutes, Subtitled.

Directed by Youssef Chahine. Starring Mahmoud El Miligui, Nagwa Ibrahim; Hamdi Ahmad, Ali El Scherif, Yehia Chahine, Ezzat El Alaili.

Egyptian director Youssef Chahine won a lifetime achievement award at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997. His feudal epic, *The Land*, has been hailed as the greatest Egyptian film ever made. Set in the cotton-growing region along the Nile, the film portrays the struggle between a peasant village and a local landowner, who connives to appropriate the land that has sustained life in the Nile Valley for millennia. Against this backdrop, two men – the peasant Abdel Hadi (Ezzat El Alaili) and the educated Mohammed Effendi (Hamdi Ahmad) -- vie for the hand of a beautiful peasant girl, Wassifa (Nagwa Ibrahim). Eight years in the making, *The Land* is a moving tribute to the people's resistance against the forces of privilege and corruption.



## June 13, 2010 – My Darling Clementine

USA, 1946, Black and White, Not Rated, 97 Minutes.

Directed by John Ford. Starring Henry Fonda, Ward Bond, Tim Holt, Don Garner, Walter Brennan, Grant Withers, Victor Mature, Cathy Downs.

In this genre-defining western from director John Ford, Wyatt Earp (Henry Fonda) and his three brothers stop outside Tombstone, Arizona, on the way to sell their cattle in California. After they refuse an offer for the stock from Old Man Clanton (Walter Brennan) and his son, Ike (Grant Withers), their cattle are stolen and the youngest brother is killed. Wyatt agrees to serve as Tombstone's marshal and soon meets Doc Holliday (Victor Mature). The wary friendship between the marshal and the consumptive, gun-slinging gambler is complicated by the arrival of Doc's former love, Clementine Carter (Cathy Downs). Although it features the legendary gunfight at the OK Corral, *My Darling Clementine* is more concerned with the creation of a community, the rule of law, and the civilizing influence of women in the Wild West.

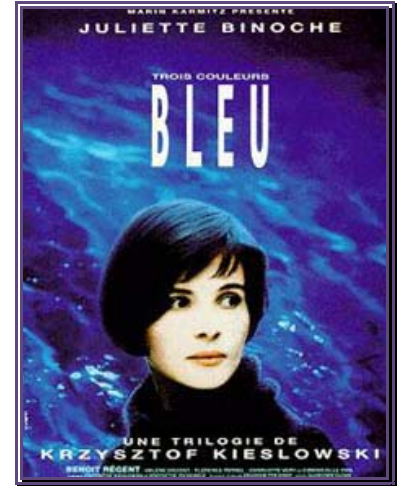


## July 11, 2010 – Blue

France, 1993, Color, Not Rated, 98 Minutes, Subtitled.

Directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski. Starring Juliette Binoche, Claude Duneton.

Set in Paris at the dawn of the European Union, *Blue* is the first film in director Krzysztof Kieslowski's "three colors" trilogy, based on the French flag and national motto, "Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity." After surviving a car accident that claims her husband and daughter, Julie (Juliette Binoche) destroys all vestiges of her former life and withdraws into isolation. Determined to live her new life alone, Julie ultimately finds that she cannot rid herself of human connections. The film follows Julie through her grief as she emerges from her devastating loss and reenters the world as a vital, creative being. Music is central to *Blue*; Kieslowski's frequent collaborator, Zbigniew Preisner, composed the score prior to shooting, so that the film's action could follow its rhythms. The director's deft use of color as metaphor brings an additional layer of emotional depth to the story as it unfolds on the screen.

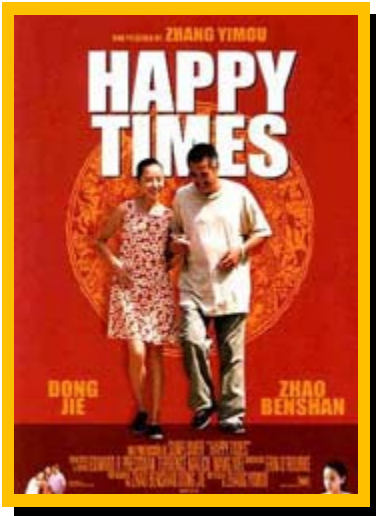


## August 8, 2010 – Happy Times

China, 2002, Color, Not Rated, 106 Minutes, Subtitled.

Directed by Zhang Yimou. Starring Dong Jie, Zhao Benshan, Li Xuejian.

Zhang Yimou co-directed and choreographed the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2008 Olympics. His second film set in a modern city, *Happy Times* is a bittersweet comedy about Zhao (Zhao Benshan), a retired factory worker who hopes to marry a rotund divorcee (Dong Lihua). To win over his prospective bride, Zhao creates the impression that he is a man of means. He enlists the aid of his best friend Li (Li Xuejian), who devises a plan to raise the 50,000 yuan Zhao needs for a suitable wedding. The two men refurbish an abandoned bus, dub it the Happy Times Hotel, and rent it out to young couples in need of privacy. Their business suffers when the upright Zhao can't bring himself to close the door to the "hotel" while it is occupied. Hoping to impress his betrothed with his position as a hotel manager, Zhao offers to employ her blind stepdaughter, Wu Ying (Dong Jie), as a masseuse. As he goes to increasingly absurd lengths to deceive Yu, they develop a deep if accidental bond that redeems his enterprise.



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**The Cinema, Inc.**  
**PO Box 20835**  
**Raleigh, NC 27619**  
**(919) 787-7611**

(new e-mail address) Contact us anytime at  
[thecinemainc@gmail.com](mailto:thecinemainc@gmail.com)

Raleigh's oldest and finest nonprofit film society, The Cinema, Inc. has chosen 12 classic motion pictures for its this season. Whenever possible, The Cinema books a wide screen 35mm print, and The Cinema makes every effort to locate good-quality prints of each film.

Very rarely, a poor-quality print, the destruction of the only existing print, copyright negotiations, or withdrawal of the film from the market due to a video release may force The Cinema to substitute a film of similar content and quality.

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[thecinemainc@gmail.com](mailto:thecinemainc@gmail.com)

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## THE CINEMA, INC.'S 2009-10 SEASON TICKET ORDER FORM

The Cinema, Inc  
 PO Box 20835, Raleigh, NC 27619

2009-10 season ticket price is \$20.00.

**That's 12 movies for just \$1.67 each!**

Please fill out this form and mail your check or money order (not cash)

*Your tickets will be mailed to you in late August (or later if you subscribed after August).*

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Note: If you wish to receive our monthly film notes, you must provide us with a working e-mail address. You will also receive an e-mail confirmation of your order.

NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUESTED: \_\_\_\_\_ ( **at \$20 ea.**) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

**The Cinema, Inc. will not share your contact information or e-mail address with any other organization.**