

Arts council gears up for festival

Eighth season for offering foreign and alternative film

The Oakville Arts Council's Film Festival returns for its eighth season with a lineup of foreign and alternative film second only to Toronto.

Since the films come directly from the Toronto International Film Festival, they are current, engaging and award winning cinema. The season begins Sept. 17 with the critically acclaimed film *Russian Ark*. In Russian with subtitles, this film is a "technical and artistic masterpiece" according to the *New York Post* and a "glorious experience to witness" according to Roger Ebert.

Russian Ark is also captivating because it is unique. Director Aleksandr Sokurov shot this film in one take - 90 minutes start to finish with 850 actors and extras. Set in the splendour of the Hermitage, the film takes the viewer through 35 rooms of the building, crossing four centuries and re-enacting history on a grand scale. The film engages real and imagined characters from Russian and European history all within the context of the Hermitage, "the ark of the Russian soul" according to Sokurov.

The lineup for the first five films include two films from the U.S., *Spellbound* on Sept. 22, and *Owning Mahowny* on Oct. 6. A

German film entitled *Nowhere in Africa* will be shown on Wednesday, Oct. 1 and *L'Homme du Train* is the French film slated for Wednesday, Oct. 15. November screenings will include *Together*, *Winged Migration* and the *Magdalene Sisters*.

The Oakville Arts Council Film Festival uses two theatres for its screenings, the Showcase Cinema in Burlington and Silvercity Mississauga. Burlington films are screened on alternate Wednesday evenings, and Silvercity Mississauga films are shown on Monday evenings.

All films begin at 7 p.m. and cost \$7 for members and \$9 for non-members. The festival will show 24 films in the September to April season. Viewers will save \$36 after purchasing a film membership for \$12 for an individual. Arts Council members receive the discount price of \$7 per film.

As well as top-rated foreign and Canadian films, the festival features special guests. Last year after the screening of *Ararat*, lead actor David Alpay spoke to the audience about his Armenian background and what he learned in shooting the film with Atom Egoyan. This very moving film about the Armenian genocide of

1915 was made even more personal by Alpay's first-person account of the film and what the acting experience meant to him. Alpay's acting was even more stunning considering it was his first feature film.

Another over-the-top evening was an appearance by Scottish actor Billy Boyd who was touring with a collection of Scottish short films. His claim to fame however, is as Pippin in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Cameras flashed as he was adored by teenage girls.

In addition to top-rated films, the arts council tries to feature as many special event nights as possible. Feedback is welcomed from patrons and volunteers.

Oakville was one of the first film festivals in southern Ontario to join with the Toronto International Film Festival.

According to Film Circuit Manager Blair Haynes, "Since 1996, the year we helped the Oakville Arts Council launch their first exciting film series, we have been continually impressed with their dynamic ability to program with both sensitivity and flair while instilling great loyalty in their audiences. We congratulate the Arts Council on being one of the great successes on the Film Circuit."

The Nylons take the stage here Sept. 27

The Nylons are coming to Oakville. Promoting their new album, *Play On*, which is their 14th offering in their 21 years of recording music, they'll be taking the stage at the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts (OCPA) on Saturday, Sept. 27.

Still best known for their rendition of *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*, their new album is a mixture of original material and songs written by some of their favourite artists, like Sting, James Taylor and Paul Simon.

Tickets to see the a cappella group of Mark Cassius, Garth Mosbaugh, Arnold Robinson and Claude Morrison are going for \$48.99, 41.99 with a Big Ticket subscription and \$37.99 with a Big Ticket Plus subscription.

Tickets can be purchased at the OCPA, 130 Navy St., or by phone at 905-815-2021.

Get into the swing of Big Band era

The 17-piece Toronto All-Star Big Band and the six voices of The Serenaders return to the Oakville Centre for the Performing Arts on Oct. 19 with an new spectacular swing show, *The Big Swing Broadcast*.

Riding the nostalgic airwaves of the 1930s and '40s, this award-winning cast of young talent will swing in *The Big Swing Broadcast*, a stirring new song and dance tribute to the heroes of the Big Band era including Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington and the fabulous Dorsey Brothers.

The Toronto All-Star Big Band has earned a sterling reputation on the Big Band circuit, frequenting major theatres and festivals throughout Ontario and in the northern U.S. and garnering standing ovations and rave reviews.

The show starts at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$29.99. For ticket information call the Oakville Centre box office at 905-815-2021. The Oakville for the Performing Arts is located at 130 Navy St.

Citizen Appointments to the Community Advisory Committee to Petro-Canada




Applications are now being accepted for membership on the Community Advisory Committee to Petro-Canada. The Committee's mandate is to work cooperatively with Petro-Canada Oakville Refinery, in reducing negative environmental impacts on the community and to investigate community complaints and to make recommendations concerning the environmental effects of Petro-Canada's operations at the Oakville Refinery on the local community.

Members of the public are invited to submit their expressions of interest in serving on the Committee, accompanied by a resume outlining educational, business, technical, and community experience. Applicants should please note that meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month, at 3:30 p.m. at the Oakville Refinery site.

Applications must reach the Clerk's Department of the Town of Oakville no later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2003. Anyone requiring further information may contact:

Carol Provost, Committee Co-ordinator
Town of Oakville, 1225 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, Ontario, L6J 5A6
(905) 338-4129
cprovost@oakville.ca

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2003-2004 **Film Festival**

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Russian Ark Wed., Sept. 17 • Showcase Burlington

Director: Aleksandr Sokurov Language: Russian Rating: PG
An unprecedented event took place recently when, inside the Hermitage in St Petersburg, film director, Alexander Sokurov, shot a feature-length film, *Russian Ark*, in an hour and a half of real time. The camera was switched on and ninety minutes later switched off after proceeding through thirty-five rooms, crossing four centuries, and re-enacting history on a grand scale. Sokurov was motivated by the idea of making an expensive film in one breath, as it were. Told in one fluid shot, *Russian Ark* floats like a dreamlike journey through the majestic spaces of the Hermitage, engaging real and imagined characters from Russian and European history (850 actors and extras took part in the filming of this production). "...a technical and artistic masterpiece." - New York Post "The film is a glorious experience to witness..." - Roger Ebert



Spellbound Mon., Sept. 22 • Silvercity Mississauga

Director: Jeff Blitz Language: English Rating: F
Who would have thought that one of the most crowd-pleasing films of the year would be a documentary about children competing in the U.S. National Spelling Bee? An audience favourite around the world, *Spellbound* is a bright, captivating documentary that captures the humour, pathos and astounding suspense of competition. The film tracks the progress of eight champion spellers from across the US as they work their way to the championship spelling competition in Washington, D.C. The kids vary in age, as well as economic, social and ethnic backgrounds. "Spellbound is that rare documentary that's as funny, exciting and entertaining as any fictional film that Hollywood puts out." - CinemaSpeak "Jeff Blitz paints the spelling bee as an unusual incarnation of the American dream..." - Eyeweekly



Nowhere in Africa

Wed., Oct. 1 • Showcase Burlington
Director: Caroline Link Language: German Rating: AA

A presentation of the Toronto International Film Festival, *Nowhere in Africa* is a superbly photographed, finely crafted and highly intelligent drama that deals with the effects of displacement on a German-Jewish family taking refuge in Kenya at the outbreak of World War II. Emotionally complex and broad in scope, the film showcases expert direction from Oscar nominee Caroline Link and the vast, breathtaking scenery of the African savannah. In 1938 Germany, Jetta Rendlich, accompanied by her young daughter, Regina, abandons her well-to-do Jewish family to join her ailing lawyer husband, Walter on his farm in Kenya. Academy Award Winner for Best Foreign Film. "Terrific performances all around." - Eye Weekly.



Owning Mahowny

Mon., Oct. 6 • Silvercity Mississauga
Director: Richard Kwietniowski Language: English Rating: AA

In 1982, one unassuming Canadian man came to represent the all-encompassing greed of the early 1980's by ingeniously embezzling over \$10 million dollars from his employer. Adapted from "Stung", the best selling account of this true story, director Richard Kwietniowski's *Owning Mahowny* unravels the fascinating tale of polite, mild mannered Dan Mahowny, an assistant bank manager with a head for numbers, a knack for making decisions and a devastating appetite for gambling. Rejecting the possible material wealth and glamour afforded by gambling and, instead, betting only for the thrill of it - Dan Mahowny was an addict. John Hurt delivers his best performance in years as the steely, self-serving casino manager eagerly exploiting another man's sickness. The odyssey of Dan Mahowny, over twenty years after his arrest, is as gripping and timely now as when it happened.



L'homme du Train

Wed., Oct. 15 • Showcase Burlington
Director: Patrice Leconte Language: French Rating: AA

Acclaimed director Patrice Leconte (*The Widow of St. Pierre*, *Ridicule*) brings his usual mastery of cinematic nuance to the utterly fascinating *The Man on the Train*. Leconte's casting of Johnny Hallyday (France's greatest living rock star) and Jean Rochford (France's leading stage and screen star) in the two lead roles is cause for excitement in itself. Hallyday plays aging, reluctant gangster Milan, who arrives on the late train in a small French town to cash a bank. When he discovers the town's only hotel is closed, he meets Manesquier, a retired schoolteacher. Talkative, outgoing Manesquier offers Milan a room in his decaying mansion and Milan accepts seeing a good opportunity to hole up for a few days before the bank job. "Hallyday has such a dominating presence onscreen that only a great actor such as Rochford can counterbalance his power...a triumph of moviemaking." - Hollywood Reporter.

Films are screened at 7pm at either Silvercity Mississauga (403 and Hwy. 5 on Vega Boulevard) or Showcase Burlington (3325 Harvester Road). Tickets are \$9 or \$7 for film festival or OAC members only and are available at the door on the day of the screening at 6:30pm or in advance up until one day before the screening at these community outlets: Bookers Book Store (172 Lakeshore Road East, Oakville) and Different Drummer Books (513 Locust Street, Burlington). For more information, call the OAC at 905-815-5977 or email cineline@yahoo.com. Note: All foreign language films are shown in their original format with English subtitles.

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Shopping NEWS

Snapshots of Oakville
Celebrating 35 Years

Calling All Oakville Amateur Photographers!

The 2004 edition of the Award Winning Oakville Community Guide is currently under production.

The 35th Anniversary edition will celebrate "Snapshots of Oakville," a photographic look at all of the wonderful people, places and events that make Oakville so wonderful.

We want your photos! In addition to the award winning Oakville Beaver photographer's shots, we will also be including photos submitted by local residents. Your photo could be chosen as the best! and be included in the guide. The winner will receive a gift certificate package worth \$500. An additional 10 honourable mentions will receive a dining certificate to a local restaurant. Others will receive their photo published in this year's anniversary guide.

We will also be including photos of our local Oakville photographers to salute their talents.



Submission Deadline: Friday, October 31st

The Oakville Community Guide is a Winner of:

- CNA • Best Special Section
- CSA • Best General Interest
- SN • Best Vertical Product
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Send Photos to: Community Guide Photo Contest

Attention: Paula Hendriques
c/o Oakville Beaver, 467 Speers Rd.
Oakville, Ontario L6K 3S4

Please write name, address and phone number on back of photo. Please include self addressed envelope for photos you wish returned. Digital photos may be received in jpeg format. Send to paula@oakvillebeaver.com