

FARGO
The Film Festival

March 6–9, 2002

@ The Historic Fargo Theatre

www.fargofilmfestival.com

SCHEDULE @ a glance...

Wednesday Evening, March 6th

- 5:00-9:00 p.m. **Early Bird Registration**
- 6:00 p.m. **The Farm** 58 min. USA (Emmy-award documentary)
Directed by Liz Garbus. Introduced by Filmmaker Liz Garbus.
- 7:30 p.m. **Do It For Uncle Manny** USA 2001 (Best Feature Comedy)
Directed by Adam Baratta, *Director Present*.

After Glow: Juano's Restaurant

Thursday, March 7th

A celebration of the art of documentary filmmaking Thursday Morning

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration, Fargo Theatre Lobby**
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Press Conference, Fargo Theatre. An introduction to the festival's featured filmmakers and honored guests.
- 9:45 a.m. **Eugene McCarthy: I'm Sorry I Was Right** 29 min., USA 2001 (Best Short Documentary) Directed/Produced by Mike Hazard, *Director Present*
- 10:30 a.m. **Nocturne** 6 min. Canada 1996 (Short Documentary)
Directed/Produced by Michael Crochetiere
- 10:45 a.m. **Subterranean Passage** 32 min. Canada 1999 (Short Feature),
Directed/Produced by Michael Crochetiere
- 11:20 a.m. **The Terms** 11 min. Ireland 2001 (Short Feature), Directed by Johnny O'Reilly, Produced by Lemon Cut Ltd./Niall McLoughlin

Thursday Afternoon

12 Noon Luncheon/Panel Discussion on Documentary filmmaking/filmmakers-
Avalon Event Center- Matt Olien, moderator. Panelists Mike Hazard, Jilann Spitzmiller, Hank Rogerson, and our own Bill Snyder.

1:45 p.m. **Homeland** 58 min. USA 1999 (Best Feature Documentary)
Directed by Jilann Spitzmiller and Hank Rogerson,
Produced by Philomath Films, Director Present

3:15 p.m. **Melting Glass** 29 min. USA 2001 (Best Short Film)
Directed/Produced by Patrick Grandaw, *Director Present*.

4:00 p.m. **Dreamer** 20 min. USA 2000 (Short Feature)
Directed by David Lee Hoskins, Produced by
Cinemoon Films/Juleen Murray Shaw, *Producer Present*.

Thursday Evening

- 5:30 p.m. Pre-Party – **Juano's Restaurant** – honoring Documentary award winners Mike Hazard, Jilann Spitzmiller, Hank Rogerson and our own Bill Snyder –
Sponsored in part by the State Bank of Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo.
- 7:00 p.m. **Cool and Crazy** 105 min. Norway 2001 (Invited Feature Documentary)
Directed by Knut Erik Jensen, Produced by Tom Remlov.

Please Note:

Films marked in gold
are Award Winners.

- 9:00 p.m. **Cleaning Up!** 78 min. Finland 2001 (Feature Documentary)
Directed by Rostislav Aalto, Produced by Zen Media & Cube Film
Informal After-Glow for festival "Night-Owls" @ Juano's Restaurant

Friday, March 8th

A celebration of student filmmakers
and additional short feature submissions

Friday Morning

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration, Fargo Theatre Lobby**
- 9:00 a.m. **Claire** 20 min. Israel 2001 (Student Film)
Directed/Produced by Aharon Shem-Tov and Aline Shem-Tov
- 9:30 a.m. **Babysitting** 14 min. London 2001 (Student Film),
Directed/Produced by Christian Regnandof and Max Jacoby
- 10:00 a.m. **The Slug** 18 min. USA 2001 (Student Film),
Directed/Produced by Wook Steven Heo
- 10:30 a.m. **Up** 15 min. USA 2001 (Student Film)
Directed by Chad Park, Produced by Frank Mele
- 10:50 a.m. **A Bouncing Baby Boy** 12 min. USA 2001 (Student Film)
Directed/Produced by Fyl Orbus
- 11:10 a.m. **Planet** 3 min. USA 2001 (Student Film)
Directed/Produced by Jeff Kasper
- 11:20 a.m. **Mean People Suck** 8 min. USA 2001 (Best Student Film)
Directed/Produced by Matthew Cole Weiss, *Director Present.*

Friday Afternoon

- 12 Noon Luncheon/Panel Discussion, Perspectives from students and educators,
Avalon Events Center, Troy Parkinson, moderator with panelists
Rich Zinober, Greg Carlson, Kirk Roos, Matthew Weiss, Tony McRae,
followed by a brief informal exchange: "Van Hook: A Work In Progress"
the making of a professional S.A.G. film with no budget.
- 1:45 p.m. **Rita, Pigboy and Me** 30 min. USA 2001 (Student Film)
Directed/Produced by Eric Gordon, *Director Present.*
- 2:30 p.m. **Sanchezz Traylor** 7 min. USA 2000 (Student Film)
Directed by Troy Parkinson, Produced by Third Rail Productions
- 2:45 p.m. **Destination Lost** 5 min. USA 2001 (Student Film),
Directed/Produced by Dusty Bias, Nancy Kuehn, Bob Henington
- 3:00 p.m. **Donkey Punch** 13 min. USA 2001 (Student Film),
Directed/Produced by Scott Stengrim
- 3:15 p.m. **Shall We Play a Game?** 10 min. USA 2001 (Animation),
Directed/Produced by Brenda Carlson
- 3:30 p.m. **Clown Car** 19 min. USA 1999 (Short Feature)
Directed by David Garrett, Produced by Blue Sky Pictures

Friday Afternoon (continued)

- 3:40 p.m. **The Terror of the Invisible Man** 2 min. USA 2001
(Short Feature) Directed by Adam Roffman/Wayne Kimball,
Produced by Roffman/Kimball Productions
- 3:45 p.m. **The Quarry** 29 min. USA 2001 (Short Feature),
Directed by Greg Chwerchak, Produced by Gabrielle Berberich
- 4:25 p.m. **The Book and the Rose** 29 min. USA 2001 (Short Feature),
Directed by Jeff Bemiss, Produced by Chartercrest Films/Eric Kmetz

Friday Evening

5:30 p.m. Pre-party – **Plains Art Museum** – in conjunction with
Duncan Ganley Opening. Pre-party Sponsored in part by Forum Communications

- 7:00 p.m. **Mean People Suck** 8 min. USA 2001 (Best Student Film),
Directed/Produced by Matthew Cole Weiss, Director Present
- 7:30 p.m. **Inertia** 95 min. Canada 2001 (Feature Film) Directed by Sean
Garrity, Produced by Indian Snackbox/Brendon Sawatzky
- 9:15 p.m. **Thank You, Goodnight** 104 min. USA 2001 (Feature Film),
World Premiere Screening!!!
Directed by Chuck Griffith, Produced by Burkhardt/Griffith Productions
- 9 p.m.–12 Midnight **Post-parties:**
Moose Lodge screening additional student films and Spirit Room in
conjunction with a gallery opening featuring the work of Marjorie Schlossman
- 12 Midnight **Gutsman** 3 min. USA 2001 (Short Film)
Directed/Produced by Lance Myers
- 12:05 a.m. **Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter** 85 min.
Canada 2001 (Best Cult Film) Directed/Produced by Lee Demarbre

Saturday, March 9th

A celebration of Native American Voices

Saturday Morning

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration, Fargo Theatre Lobby**
- 8:15 a.m. Native American Blessing by Ambrose Little Ghost, Spirit Lake Tribal Elder
- 8:30 a.m. **Rez-Robics for Couch Potato Skins** 30 min. USA (Native American Voices)
Directed/Produced by Pam Belgarde/Gary Rhine, Director Present.
- 9:10 a.m. **In the Light of Reverence** 73 min. USA (Native American Voices),
Directed by Christopher McLeod, Produced by Sacred Land Film Project
- 10:30 a.m. **Wind River** 34 min. USA 2000 (Native American Voices),
Directed by Drury Gunn Carr, Produced by High Plains Films
- 11:15 a.m. **Jim Northrup: With Reservations** 29 min. USA 1996
(Best Short Film: Native American Voices)
Directed by Mike Rivard, Produced by Mike Hazard

Saturday Afternoon

- 12 Noon Luncheon/Panel discussion **Avalon Events Center:**
Minnesota/North Dakota filmmaking/filmmakers.
- 1:30 p.m. **My Three Friends** 30 min. USA 2001 (**Native American Voices**),
Directed/Produced by Selma Lussier/Sai Thao
- 2:00 p.m. **All My Relatives** 60 min. USA 2001
(**Best Feature Film Native American Voices**)
- 3:00 p.m. **Sucker Punched** 27 min. USA 2000 (**Native American Voices**), Directed by
Steven Henke, Produced by the University Video Center/University of Iowa
- 3:35 p.m. **On and Off the Res With Charlie Hill** 60 min. USA 2000
(**Native American Voices**), Directed by Sandy Sunrising Osawa,
Produced by Upstream Productions

Saturday Evening

- 5:30 p.m. Final pre-party, **Avalon Events Center**, celebrating the life of Ted Larson,
honoring Jule Selbo, award recipient. Honoring the director of the
Best Feature Film, *The Third Lion*, Manlio Roseano.
Pre-Party sponsored in part by Cass County Electric and Robert Gibb and Sons.
- 7:15 p.m. **The Third Lion** 60 min. Italy 2001 (**Best Feature Film**)
Directed by Manlio Roseano, Produced by Skene' Snc., *Director Present.*
- 9:00 p.m. **Wooly Boys**
- 12:05 a.m. **Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter** 85 min. Canada 2001
(**Best Cult Film**) Directed/Produced by Lee Demarbre



Margie Bailly
FARGO THEATRE
Executive Director

In the final days preceding the 2nd Annual Fargo Film Festival my mind has been filled with the frenzied chaos of last-minute festival details offset by the compelling, confounding images of the 2002 Olympics. Occasionally, festival details have merged with an Olympic event, giving me the sensation of a 30-person bobsled team careening down the hill toward a giant silver screen.

With the combined strength of this volunteer "bobsled" team, the artistic power of 30+ extraordinary film makers and the widespread community support from throughout the region, we've created a film festival of olympic proportion (at least in spirit) without the distracting controversy. I'm extremely grateful for the challenge of the race, the strength of the team and the remarkable talent of the film makers.

Let the films begin!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margie Bailly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The **Fargo Film Festival** Honors the life and work of...



TED LARSON (1940-2000) is best known for his presentations of classical film, seminars and movie series events at colleges, theatres and arts centers throughout the region. He was named Distinguished Alumnus of Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM) in 1998 for contributions to students and film studies.

A Glyndon, Minnesota native, Larson graduated from MSUM in 1962 with speech/theatre and English degrees and taught at Benjamin Franklin Junior High School in Fargo for six years. He then joined the speech and theatre arts faculty at MSUM, where he taught for 32 years. He directed MSUM's International Film Festival and Summer Cinema Film Series for more than 20 years. He also held a master's degree in speech and drama from the University of Kansas.

A long-time member of the Fargo Theatre's board of directors, he was one of the initiators and co-producers of its Silent Movie Night, which began in 1974. He also collaborated with symphonies in Butte and Billings, Montana, as a guest scholar. Most recently, and up until his death, Ted was extensively involved in planning for the first ever Fargo Film Festival.

Through his work in locating, restoring and reconstructing lost and rare films, Ted and his longtime collaborator and friend, Rusty Casselton, have made donations of valuable motion pictures to The Library of Congress, The George Eastman House, The UCLA film and Television Archive and The Museum of Modern Art. Until his death he also administered the Colleen Moore Film Grant program at MSUM, which funds projects for student filmmakers. He and Rusty have also provided Kevin Brownlow, British film documentarian, with rare film footage for his television productions *Universal Horror* and *Lon Chaney*.

Among his many achievements, Larson has helped a number of talented young filmmakers develop careers. His former students have worked with the likes of Steven Spielberg, David Letterman and George Lucas.

Ted was a unique presence who impacted constituencies, institutions and audiences throughout the United States. We are deeply saddened by his death and acutely aware that Ted Larson is indeed irreplaceable.



The Ted M. Larson Award

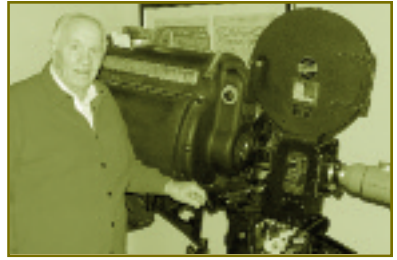
for Outstanding Contributions to the Film Industry goes to Jule Selbo.



Jule Selbo's *SLEEPING BEAUTY* (to star Whitney Houston) is now in pre-production at Disney Studios. She is currently at work on two projects for Disney, the Prequel to "Little Mermaid" and "Fairies". Her feature film *HARD PROMISES* starred Sissy Spacek and William Peterson. She wrote *HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME, PART DEUX*, which will be released in 2002. She has produced and written over 100 hours of television. Among her credits: George Lucas' *YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES*, *HERCULES* (Universal) *ABC'S LIFE GOES ON*, *CBS'S TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL*, Aaron Spelling's *MELROSE PLACE*, *PBS'S VOYAGE OF THE MIMI*, *FOX'S SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND*, *HBO'S PRISON STORIES: WOMEN ON THE INSIDE* (Cable Ace Award nomination), *MTV'S UNDRESSED*, *ABC'S TIME COP*, *NICKELODEON'S SPORTS THEATRE* as well as *THE FLASH*, *SINBAD* (Syndicated) *TALES FROM THE DARKSIDE*, *MONSTERS*, *SEARCH FOR TOMORROW* (Writer's Guild Award for Outstanding Writing). Her animation work includes Disney's *CINDERELLA TWO*, *ANGELA ANACONDA* for Fox Children's Network and Disney's *CLASSIC STORIES*. She recently executive produced a MTV series with Roland Joffe, completing 110 episodes. Her short stories have appeared in *ALFRED HITCHCOCK MYSTERY MAGAZINE*. Her plays have been produced at *ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE*, *ANNENBERG CENTER* in Philadelphia, *WESTBETH THEATRE* and *NO SMOKING PLAYHOUSE* in NYC and *THEATRE 40* and *INTERACT THEATRE* in Los Angeles. She has recently completed a feature film script *PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN*, based on the novel, for Universal. She also teaches playwriting at California State University.

Jule is a graduate of Fargo North High and was a student of Ted Larson's at Ben Franklin Junior High, before he stated teaching at MSUM.

A tribute to Fargo's own **Bill Snyder**



Film Producer Bill Snyder started Bill Snyder Films in 1946 when he came home from duty as a Signal Corps officer in World War II and bought a professional movie camera. A year later he went to Africa where he filmed for three different expeditions. He then became the very first film and photo director for WDAY-TV in Fargo. After six years in television he opened Bill Snyder Films again, and with artist Norm Selberg as the art and animation director, and John McDonough as the film editor and music genius, he produced over 800 audio visual and television projects ranging in length from a string of ten second TV spots to one hour documentaries.

For a number of years, Snyder Films was the only full service industrial movie maker in the area with full cell animation, multi-track sound mixing and sound stage facilities. Nationally recognized, it won over 60 national and international awards.

Clients ranged from the makers of Melroe Bobcat skid-steer loaders and Steiger Tractors in North Dakota to the vast Farm Credit System in Washington, D.C. For three years beginning in 1956, Bill Snyder personally covered many news stories about kids in the three state area for Walt Disney's Mickey Mouse Club Newsreel. Snyder retired in 1983 when he sold the company.

The Fargo Film Festival documentary short and feature awards honor the significant career and accomplishments of Bill Snyder.

Congratulations to Our 2002 Documentary Award Winners!

Thurs., March 7th ***Eugene McCarthy: I'm Sorry I Was Right*** 29 min., USA 2001
9:45 a.m. (**Best Short Documentary**) Directed/Produced by Mike Hazard.
See page 9 for synopsis and filmmaker information.

Thurs., March 7th ***Homeland*** 58 min. USA 1999 (**Best Feature Documentary**)
1:45 p.m. Directed by Jilann Spitzmiller and Hank Rogerson, Produced by Philomath Films.
See page 10 for synopsis, awards and filmmaker information.

Wednesday, March 6th

EVENING

5:00-9:00 p.m. **Early Bird Registration**

6:00 p.m. ***The Farm*** 58 min. USA (**Emmy-award documentary**) Directed by Liz Garbus. Introduced by Filmmaker Liz Garbus. Ms. Garbus' appearance at the 2002 Fargo Film Festival is in conjunction with her on-campus symposium at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Synopsis: *The Farm* is a result of a three-year relationship that Garbus fostered with Louisiana Corrections official and with six men confined at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. It is an insightful and candid look inside the daily workings of the justice system and its impact on individual lives.

The Farm (continued)

Filmmaker: Liz Garbus is one of America's most celebrated young voices in documentary filmmaking. She is the founder of New York City's Firecracker Films and has created award-winning documentaries for Lifetime, A & E, Showtime, HBO, MTV, Disney, Discovery Channel, Sundance Channel and the BBC. Garbus' body of work delves into a wide range of significant social concerns. She has been featured in print journalism nationwide and been a guest of *The Charlie Rose Show*, *CNN* and *Good Morning America*.

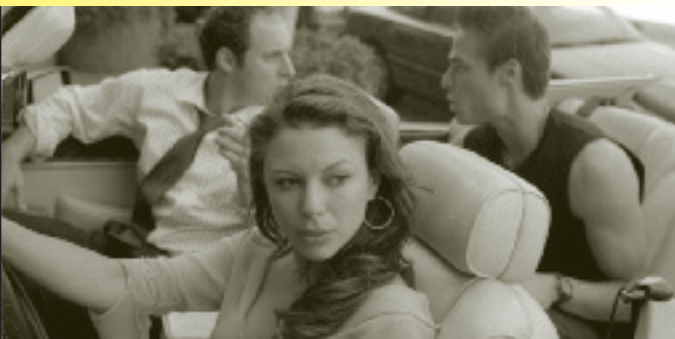
7:30 p.m. **Do It for Uncle Manny** USA 2001 (Best Feature Comedy)

Directed by Adam Baratta, *Director Present*.

Synopsis: A hilarious send-up of the Hollywood lifestyle and all of the trappings that come with it. Meet Danny and Stuart, old college friends whose lives are heading in separate directions in their post-fraternity days. Danny (Adam Baratta) is an out of work actor with a free spirit and a penchant for beautiful women. Stuart (Shane Edelman) is a tightly wound law-school graduate who hasn't had a date in three years. Stuart comes to Los Angeles to visit his Uncle Manny (George Wyner), one of the most powerful producers in Hollywood. Armed with Uncle Manny's Rolls Royce and priceless watch, he reunites with Danny and together they hit the LA nightlife like "high rollers." A simple night out turns into a three-day odyssey that will test their friendship and change their lives forever.

Awards: Winner Best Comedy, Best Screenplay, Best Actress, Best Directorial Debut, New York International Film and Video Festival.

Filmmaker: Adam graduated from Temple University and completed three years of training at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Adam added film credits to his considerable success in live theatre, appearing most recently in "Lava Lounge", 2001. After completing the screenplay for "Do It for Uncle Manny", Adam ultimately assumed the role of director as well as playing a major role in the film.



After Glow:
Juano's Restaurant

Thursday, March 7th

A celebration of the art of
documentary filmmaking

Morning

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Fargo Theatre Lobby**

9:00 a.m. Opening Press Conference, Fargo Theatre. An introduction to the festival's featured filmmakers and honored guests.

9:45 a.m. **Eugene McCarthy: I'm Sorry I Was Right** 29 min., USA 2001
(Best Short Documentary) Directed/Produced by Mike Hazard, *Director Present*



Synopsis: A poet and writer of 21 books, the film uses McCarthy's words to portray himself. In engaging interviews, we learn about McCarthy's experience as a novice monk at St. John's, the lessons of the Vietnam War, and some of his ideas on the dangers of corporate control of our minds. A central theme of the program is the threat of corporate power in general and the military industrial complex in particular.

Filmmaker: Video Artist and Artist-in-Residence, 1974-present. Mike is a writer, producer, editor, director and teacher. Credits include: *Eugene McCarthy: I'm Sorry I Was Right*, 2001, which won Best Short Documentary, Fargo Film Festival, 2002. *The Ducks of Hazard*, 2000. Mike also won the Video Artist Fellowship: Jerome Foundation, 1997, *Jim Northrup: With Reservations*, 1996 and *The Movie at the End of the World: Thomas McGrath*, which won him the first prize at Birmingham International Film Festival, 1982.

10:30 a.m. **Nocturne** 6 min. Canada 1996 (Short Documentary)

Directed/Produced by Michael Crochetiere

Synopsis: A train passes by, a boy with a sparkler in his hand leads us into the world of night. A dark, haunting portrait of the urban landscape in a nocturnal fog.

Awards: Director's Choice New Jersey Black Maria Film Festival, Best Experimental Film, Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival

10:45 a.m. **Subterranean Passage** 32 min. Canada 1999 (Short Feature),
Directed/Produced by Michael Crochetiere

Synopsis: *Subterranean Passage* is a film about the profound influence that parents have upon children, the boundless resiliency of the human spirit and the redemptive power of the imagination when one still has the ability to believe completely.

Awards: Multiple Awards to include: The Nashville Indie Film Festival, the Niagara Indie Film festival, the Vancouver Island Film Festival.

11:20 a.m. **The Terms** 11 min. Ireland 2001 (**Short Feature**), Directed by Johnny O'Reilly, Produced by Lemon Cut Ltd./Niall McLoughlin

Synopsis: A father and son live in a caravan in the middle of nowhere. When the son burns down the caravan, his father decides to kill him in a bizarre and convoluted execution pact. Having agreed to "The Terms" of the pact, the son plays out his father's game with unpredictable consequences.

Afternoon

12 Noon Luncheon/Panel Discussion on Documentary filmmaking/filmmakers-
Avalon Event Center- Matt Olien, moderator. Panelists Mike Hazard, Jilann Spitzmiller, Hank Rogerson, and our own Bill Snyder.

1:45 p.m. **Homeland** 58 min. USA 1999 (**Best Feature Documentary**)

Directed by Jilann Spitzmiller and Hank Rogerson,
Produced by Philomath Films, Director Present

Synopsis: A documentary about four Lakota Indian families living on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Filmed over three years, it weaves an intimate and lyrical portrait of contemporary Native American life through the personal stories of a spiritual leader, a grandmother, a community activist, and an artist. The film balances the harsh realities of reservation life with the strength and vibrancy of the Lakota culture. *Homeland* is an inspiring film which invites us to remember the value of humor, family, faith and our connection to the natural world.

Awards: BEST DOCUMENTARY AUDIENCE AWARD at AFI FEST, and BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT at the Nashville Independent Film Festival. Other credits include and Oprah Winfrey spot, PBS, ABC, The Discovery Channel, Bravo and A & E the History Channel.

Filmmakers: Hank Rogerson and Jilann Spitzmiller are internationally known for their moving and intimate films about Native Americans. They are currently creating a web site about Native American storytelling for PBS.ORG, called Circle of Stories, to be launched in Oct., 2002. Their acclaimed film, *Homeland* was funded by ITVS.

3:15 p.m. **Melting Glass**

29 min. USA 2001

(**Best Short Film**)

Directed/Produced
by Patrick Grandaw,

Director Present

See Synopsis on page 11



Melting Glass (continued)

Synopsis: A poignant drama about an American glassblower in Prague and his Czech fiancée. When news of a promotion threatens to send him home against the wishes of his fiancée and her family, Jerry discovers that love over international borders can be more fragile than crystal.

Awards: Grand Jury Prize *Best of Festival* at the Vancouver Island International Film Festival. His film, *The Shy and the Naked*, recently won the CINE Golden Eagle Award.

Filmmaker: Patrick finished undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he co-wrote and directed *Trois Heures Dix*, an American/French co-production which was recently shown in the Milwaukee's Best Film Festival. Patrick has now finished graduate studies at the University of Southern California's Graduate Cinema Program with his thesis film *Melting Glass*.



4:00 p.m. **Dreamer** 20 min. USA 2000 (**Short Feature**)

Directed by David Lee Hoskins, Produced by
Cinemoon Films/ Juleen Murray Shaw, *Producer Present*.

As a former Teaching Assistant of Ted Larson's, it is our pleasure to welcome Juleen Murray Shaw to the Fargo Theatre and our festival.

Synopsis: This dream within a dream tells of a woman who's serial visions of a little Asian girl beckoning her to "come home" lead her to seek psychiatric help. The psychiatrist's views of the supernatural seem to originate deep within the woman herself and lead to an unexpected climax. When she awakens, the dream serves as a defining moment about what to do with her life.

Awards: Spielberg Award, Worldfest Houston

Evening

5:30 p.m. Pre-Party – **Juano's Restaurant** – honoring Documentary award winners Mike Hazard, Jilann Spitzmiller, Hank Rogerson and our own Bill Snyder – *Sponsored in part by the State Bank of Fargo, Moorhead and West Fargo.*

7:00 p.m. **Cool and Crazy** 105 min. Norway 2001 (**Invited Feature Documentary**)
Directed by Knut Erik Jensen, Produced by Tom Remlov.

Synopsis: A documentary following the Berlevag Male Choir on a tour to Murmansk, Russia. It is also about the dignity of lives lived under the extraordinarily harsh conditions of the far north. The performers are men who daily brave some of the worst weather conditions on earth, living whole lives, and seeking refuge from daily toil through music. It is a story about men, love, politics, and fish. The film follows the choir on tour to Murmansk, Russia, where they perform to wild applause. Film audiences will respond with wild applause to this funny, compelling and poignant documentary.

9:00 p.m. **Cleaning Up!** 78 min. Finland 2001 (**Feature Documentary**)
Directed by Rostislav Aalto, Produced by Zen Media & Cube Film

Synopsis: *Cleaning Up!* is an "on-the-road" documentary about a Finnish indie band "Cleaning Women" and their first-ever tour to Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. What happens when the band – after living weeks on the floors of wherever – finally meets the American talent scout who makes a million dollar offer? Don't miss the answer to this offer!

Informal After-Glow for festival "Night-Owls" @ Juano's Restaurant

Friday, March 8th

A celebration of student filmmakers and additional short feature submissions

Friday Morning

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Fargo Theatre Lobby**

9:00 a.m. **Claire** 20 min. Israel 2001
(**Student Film**) Directed/Produced by Aharon Shem-Tov and Aline Shem-Tov

Synopsis: Following the death of her mother, Claire arrives in Israel, trying to re-establish her place in the lives of her father and ex-lover. However, she finds that time has changed the lives of her most beloved: her father lives with another woman and her boyfriend has different plans.



9:30 a.m. **Babysitting** 14 min. London 2001 (**Student Film**),
Directed/Produced by Christian Regnandof and Max Jacoby

Synopsis: Babysitting can be a precarious business, especially if the young girl in your charge, who also happens to be a friend's sister, manages to seduce you. And she will not stop there, although her brother comes back now.

10:00 a.m. **The Slug** 18 min. USA 2001 (**Student Film**),
Directed/Produced by Wook Steven Heo

Synopsis: A twisted comic drama about a wild journey of a mysterious coin. Each individual that comes into contact with this coin imparts a different perspective upon its significance. Everyone is gradually getting involved with this magical fake coin, and chases each other, in a game of hide-and-seek. Who will have the fake coin finally?

10:30 a.m. **Up** 15 min. USA 2001 (**Student Film**)

Directed by Chad Park, Produced by Frank Mele

Synopsis: This timeless story of Man plays out in a desolate prison world, where a prisoner dreaming of the ultimate escape discovers that he can fly. But when both the prisoner and his risen-spirit are finally destroyed, it is revealed that the prisoner and his captors were all one and the same man, shedding light on that eternal struggle inside Man: we are our own captives.

10:50 a.m. **A Bouncing Baby Boy** 12 min. USA 2001 (**Student Film**)

Directed/Produced by Fyl Orbus

Synopsis: Recent events have taken a toll on a lonely mother as she drinks herself to sleep late one night. Alcohol, combined with regrets and TV images, torment her sleep until she can take no more and decides to put an end to her pain. But an old children's book and a little red ball will have their own say in her final moments.

11:10 a.m. **Planet** 3 min. USA 2001 (**Student Film**)

Directed/Produced by Jeff Kasper, *Director Present.*

Synopsis: Narrative-commentary on subconscious thought, its system of ideals and its practices.

11:20 a.m. **Mean People Suck** 8 min. USA 2001 (**Best Student Film**)

Directed/Produced by Matthew Cole Weiss, *Director Present.*

Synopsis: Three kids. A Snot. A Rebel. A Jock. None of them are exactly "nice." When they get together, anything can happen.

Kate (*Dominique Swain*) is the girl everyone loves to hate. As has become tradition, everyday she meets her friends Casey (*James Franco*) and Nick (*Eric Christian Olsen*) after school to trash the kids they dislike. But today is no ordinary day. Today, Kate has just been in a violent fight with her little sister (*Beverly Mitchell*), and now she's got plenty on her mind. When she poses the question, "What's the worst thing you've ever done to somebody else," the guys realize they're in for some excitement. As they each reveal some humorous but cruel anecdotes about their pasts, the mood slightly tenses up, and their memories get more and more disturbing, to a point of no return. But, how much can they trust each other? Who really is the meanest? And most importantly, do mean people really get what's coming to them in the long fun? Only "Mean People Suck" can answer.

Filmmaker: MATTHEW COLE WEISS (Director/Screenwriter/Producer) has already started making his dreams come true at the age of 22. Matthew was born and raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia, and in high school had a recurring role on the soap opera "All My Children". He then took roles in such films as Spike Lee's "Bamboozled", as well as in "54" and "The Boiler Room". As a freshman at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, Matthew became an entertainment journalist with the Washington Square News. Soon, he started freelance writing with such magazines as US Weekly, Maxim, and Premiere, and continues to work for US Weekly today. He has interviewed almost every star in Hollywood, from Julia Roberts to Michael Jackson and Robert DeNiro to Paul McCartney. Matthew wrote an award winning one-act play, "The Epiphany", which was performed at NYU in 1999, and has previously worked at Jersey Films and Miramax. He is an avid volunteer and supporter of Breast Cancer Awareness, and has started his own scholarship for filmmakers entering college. "Mean People Suck" marks his directorial debut. It has been screened at the Palm Springs Short Festival, Los Angeles Short Film Festival, Texas Film Festival, and the AFI Film Festival, and most recently won the title of Best Student Film at the Fargo Film Festival. Matthew has made a deal with Robert Teitel and George Tillman Jr.'s State Street Pictures at Twentieth Century Fox to develop "Mean People Suck" into a feature film. He is shopping around his first feature script. Matthew graduated New York University in May with honors.

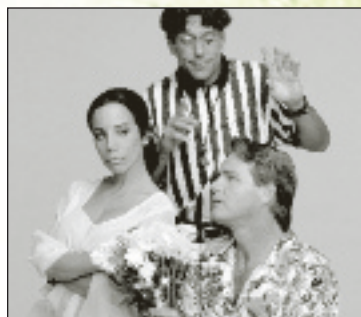
Friday Afternoon

12 Noon Luncheon/Panel Discussion, Perspectives from students and educators, **Avalon Events Center**, Troy Parkinson, moderator with panelists Rich Zinober, Greg Carlson, Kirk Roos, Matthew Weiss, Tony McRae, followed by a brief informal exchange: "*Van Hook: A Work In Progress*" the making of a professional S.A.G. film with no budget.

Kirk Roos: North Dakota native Kirk Roos has been working in the entertainment business for 10 years. After working in Los Angeles for five years in every aspect of film/tv and theatre possible, he and some fellow "film enthusiasts" decided to tackle the ultimate challenge: to produce a professional feature length film, *Van Hook*. That was 1999. Today, Kirk works for an advertising company in Minot, ND and continues to work on *Van Hook*.

1:45 p.m. ***Rita, Pigboy and Me***
30 min. USA 2001 (**Student Film**)
Directed/Produced by
Eric Gordon, *Director Present*.

Synopsis: A satirical comedy about the relationship between a model and a professional athlete who physically represent the ideal couple; however, with the assistance of a psychiatrist and a lawyer, they discover that they are quite incompatible.



2:30 p.m. ***Sanchezz Trailer***
7 min. USA 2000 (**Student Film**)
Directed by Troy Parkinson,
Produced by Third Rail Productions

Synopsis:
Crime has a new enemy...
and he's ready to kick some ass!

2:45 p.m. ***Destination Lost*** 5 min. USA 2001 (**Student Film**),
Directed/Produced by Dusty Bias, Nancy Kuehn, Bob Heningson

Synopsis: Temptations overwhelms a stranded man's curiosity.

3:00 p.m. ***Donkey Punch*** 13 min. USA 2001 (**Student Film**),
Directed/Produced by Scott Stengrim

Synopsis: The main character Scott is in love with his best friend Melissa. At a party one night, he decides to tell her. Every chance he gets, he is stopped by some incident. Finally, during a game of truth or dare, he tells her with surprising results.

3:15 p.m. ***Shall We Play a Game?*** 10 min. USA 2001 (**Animation**),
Directed/Produced by Brenda Carlson

Synopsis: An experimental stop-motion animation film featuring seven different board games: Monopoly, Chess, Sorry, Dominoes, Jenga, Checkers and Scrabble. The game pieces appear to move about the frame on their own.

3:30 p.m. ***Clown Car*** 19 min. USA 1999 (**Short Feature**)
Directed by David Garrett, Produced by Blue Sky Pictures

Synopsis: Two clowns break down in the middle of the desert and wander for days with nothing to live on but cream pies and seltzer.

Awards: Best Short: Crested Butte, Savannah, Dances with Films.

3:40 p.m. ***The Terror of the Invisible Man*** 2 min. USA 2001
(**Short Feature**) Directed by Adam Roffman/Wayne Kimball,
Produced by Roffman/Kimball Productions

Synopsis: A vindictive and homicidal scientist discovers the serum for invisibility and sets out to take his revenge upon his peers at the local community college who mocked him. He soon discovers it takes more than madness to be a mad genius.

3:45 p.m. ***The Quarry*** 29 min. USA 2001 (**Short Feature**),
Directed by Greg Chwerchak, Produced by Gabrielle Berberich



Synopsis: It was just a regular "ladies' night," or at least it was supposed to be. The next morning a handsome foreigner is found dead in the quarry behind a rural New Jersey home. Was it murder? An accident? A drunken orgy gone wrong? Three local cops put the pieces together from the very different recollections of the women involved.

4:25 p.m. ***The Book and the Rose*** 29 min. USA 2001 (**Short Feature**),
Directed by Jeff Bemiss, Produced by Chartercrest Films/Eric Kmetz

Synopsis: Set in 1942. When John Barnes acquires an old book filled with intriguing handwritten notes, he begins a correspondence with its previous owner – and it promises to be more than just an exchange of letters.
Based on the popular short story by Max Lucado.

Awards: Best Short Film, Northampton Film Festival.

Director Present



Friday Evening

5:30 p.m. Pre-party – **Plains Art Museum** –
in conjunction with Duncan Ganley Opening
Pre-party Sponsored in part by Forum Communications



Duncan Ganley... in his own words

"The basic premise of my work and strategy is an examination of the traces of our identities within a wider cultural fabric. Specifically, my exploration deals with representation with and via the mediated image. With a mass of experience have become blurred, the referral of an experience as being "like a film" or something happening "in slow motion", displays our dependence on image-media to verify our own realities. Focussing on the language of cinema, my investigation touches on; the impossibility, yet desire, of being involved in cinematic characters' action; visualizing the "unseen" through convention of the lens-based image and the tension between the viewers' role as an on-looker and complicit participant. By utilizing the media of photography, video and digital imaging, my intention is to reveal the inherent falsehoods in the interpretation of the lens-based image, through a process that re-frames, distorts and fragments the constant flow of images that surround us."

7:00 p.m. **Mean People Suck** 8 min. USA 2001 (**Best Student Film**),
Directed/Produced by Matthew Cole Weiss, Director Present
Please see [Friday, 11:20 a.m.](#), for synopsis and film information.

7:30 p.m. **Inertia** 95 min. Canada 2001 (**Feature Film**) Directed by Sean Garrity, Produced by Indian Snackbox/Brendon Sawatzky

Synopsis: This feature examines the complicated romantic inter-relations of four urban 20-somethings as they stumble into awkward infidelity and unrequited love in search of something more.

Awards: Best First Feature Film, Toronto International Film Festival,
Best Director, Cinequest, San Jose.

9:15 p.m. **Thank You, Goodnight** 104 min. USA 2001 (**Feature Film**),
Directed by Chuck Griffith, Produced by Burkhardt/Griffith Productions

World Premiere Screening!!!



Synopsis: "Thank You, Good Night" is the story of "The Handy Kaufmans," a band of twenty-somethings living in New Jersey, struggling to secure a record deal in the wake of Kurt Cobain's death. After a four-year effort, the group decides to go on the road in a last ditch effort to succeed. Along the way, they experience internal trials and tribulations, constantly questioning their talent and one another.

9 p.m.-12 Midnight **Post-parties:**

The Moose Lodge with the screening of additional student films and Spirit Room in conjunction with a gallery opening featuring the work of Marjorie Schlossman.

12 Midnight **Gutsman** 3 min. USA 2001 (**Short Film**)

Directed/Produced by Lance Myers

Synopsis: Gutsman has found out from an inside source that Dr. Potatoes is performing unnecessary surgery. His attempt to stop the evil doctor degenerates into a bloodbath of absurd proportions.

12:05 a.m. **Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter** 85 min.

Canada 2001 (**Best Cult Film**) Directed/Produced by Lee Demarbre

Synopsis: The second coming is upon us, and Jesus has returned to earth. But before he can get down to the serious business of judging the living and the dead, he has to contend with an army of vampires that can walk in the daylight. This film combines kung-fu action with biblical prophecy and a liberal dose of humour.

Filmmaker: Lee Gordon Demarbre was born in Chicoutimi, Quebec, on March 8th, 1972. Lee has always lived in Canada, often moving from province to province. Now settled in the nation's capital, Lee has picked a career in filmmaking. After having studied film at Carlton University in Ottawa and taking the IFCO workshop blocks, Lee finished his first film, *Harry Knuckles* in the spring of 1998. The film found success at various Canadian film festivals and spawned a sequel shortly afterwards. *Harry Knuckles and the Treasure of the Aztec Mummy* (1999) earned over seven international film festival awards and gave Lee the chance to travel and screen Harry in Los Angeles and at the prestigious Canned film festival. Recently Lee has incorporated his own production company, Odessa Filmworks Inc., and has released his first feature length film, entitled *Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter* (2001).

Saturday, March 9th

A celebration of Native American Voices

Saturday Morning

8:00 a.m. **Registration, Fargo Theatre Lobby**

8:15 a.m. Native American Blessing by
Ambrose Little Ghost, Spirit Lake Tribal Elder

8:30 a.m. **Rez-Robics for Couch Potato Skins**
30 min. USA (**Native American Voices**)
Directed/Produced by Pam Belgarde/
Gary Rhine, *Director Present.*

Synopsis: Developed as an exercise and diet public service message. The result is a very entertaining film that effectively delivers its healthy living message.

Awards: Best Public Service Video, San Francisco American Indian Film Festival

9:10 a.m. **In the Light of Reverence** 73 min. USA (**Native American Voices**),
Directed by Christopher McLeod, Produced by Sacred Land Film Project

Synopsis: Devils Tower. The Four Corners. Mount Shasta. All places of extraordinary beauty – and impassioned controversy – as Indians and non-Indians struggle to co-exist with very different ideas about how the land should be used. This film documents the struggles of the Lakota in the Black Hills, the Hopi in Arizona and the Wintu in California to protect their sacred sites.

Awards: Best Documentary Feature, American Indian Film Festival,
Jury Award, Telluride Mountain Film Festival

10:30 a.m. **Wind River** 34 min. USA 2000 (**Native American Voices**),
Directed by Drury Gunn Carr, Produced by High Plains Films

Synopsis: A modern-day story of cowboys and Indians. White ranchers on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Central Wyoming are fighting to protect the right to water for irrigated agriculture. The Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes are fighting to save the de-watered Wind River and a part of their own heritage.



11:15 a.m.

Jim Northrup: With Reservations

29 min. USA 1996

(Best Short Film: Native American Voices)

Directed by Mike Rivard,
Produced by Mike Hazard



Jim Northrup: With Reservations (continued)

Synopsis: A wild trip through Indian Country. The scribbler-activist honors his Anishinaabe/Ojibwe/Chippewa traditions in the film with his winning poems, short stories, and barbed humor. We follow Northrup traveling all over the country, living his life in the circle of the seasons.

Filmmaker: Mike Rivard is a musician and filmmaker living in Stillwater, MN. He is currently working on a series of artist portraits for European television.

Saturday Afternoon

12 Noon Luncheon/Panel discussion **Avalon Events Center:** MN/ND filmmaking/filmmakers, **Bill Marcil Jr.**, moderator, with panelists **Mike Hazard, Joanne Olson, Ken Promersberger, Deb Wallwork, Kirk Roos** and **Margie Bailly**, followed by a brief informal exchange: "Shooting Independent Features in North Dakota" with **Tony Tilton** and **Chris Jacobs**.

Tony Tilton: KVLV-TV Director and veteran local filmmaker, Tony Tilton, shares and anecdotes making films in every genre. Limited budgets, time and other unique problems and potential solutions illustrated by various clips from the Director's Cut of Tilton's recently completed third feature film *Hollywood Nocturne*.

Chris Jacobs: Movie-making on nominal budgets, the sometimes blurred distinction between "amateur" and "independent" productions, and ways that aspiring filmmakers with low financial resources can make a \$100,000 feature for under \$1,000.

1:30 p.m. **My Three Friends** 30 min. USA 2001 (**Native American Voices**), Directed/Produced by Selma Lussier/Sai Thao

Synopsis: A narrative that explores the struggles faced by young women growing up on the reservation. The story illustrates the lives of three teenagers dealing with pregnancy, rape, and family conflict. The video was written, acted, photographed and edited by young women and produced as a gift to their community.

2:00 p.m. **All My Relatives** 60 min. USA 2001 (**Best Feature Film Native American Voices**) Directed/Produced by Mary John, Director Present

Synopsis: This film chronicles the oral history of the last 100 years of the Spirit Lake Dakota Nation, through four generations of all of the director's extended relatives. Each generation represents the time of her grandfather, Henry Longie's birth in 1898 to the present.

Filmmaker: Mary's formative years were spent with her grandparents on the Spirit Lake reservation. Her mother married when she was seven years old and moved them from their carefree home in the hills for the city life of Fargo where she attended grade school at St. Mary's parochial and continued onto Shanley High School where she graduated in 1970. Mary and her 17 year old son have lived in the Fargo-Moorhead area most of their lives. Mary has served on different native committees in the community and has Bachelor of Arts Degree from MSUM.

3:00 p.m. **Sucker Punched** 27 min. USA 2000 (**Native American Voices**), Directed by Steven Henke, Produced by the University Video Center/University of Iowa

Synopsis: Native American, Delaney Apple, describes his incredibly challenging life while growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota. Gangs, violence, death, alcohol and drugs became a way of life at a very young age until a particularly horrific incident – inflamed by alcohol, drugs and violence – stopped his young life, literally, in its tracks. He then tells how his very existence was transformed and re-created through traditional Lakota spirituality.

Awards: Silver Axiem Award 2000; New York Festivals, Finalist 2000; Accepted into American Indian Film Festival; Broadcast on South Dakota Public Television

3:35 p.m. **On and Off the Res With Charlie Hill** 60 min. USA 2000 (**Native American Voices**), Directed by Sandy Sunrising Osawa, Produced by Upstream Productions

Synopsis: *On & Off the Res' with Charlie Hill* is a story about one Native American's dream to become a stand up comedian and the continuing obstacles faced in achieving this dream. The documentary weaves together performance clips, interviews, and music by Floyd Westerman to create an inspiring, thought-provoking, and humorous story.

Saturday Evening

5:30 p.m. Final pre-party, **Avalon Events Center**, celebrating the life of Ted Larson, honoring Jule Selbo, award recipient. Honoring the director of the Best Feature Film, *The Third Lion*, by Manlio Roseano.

Pre-Party sponsored in part by Cass County Electric and Robert Gibb and Sons.

7:00 p.m. Presentation of Ted. M Larson Award to Jule Selbo, Fargo native and former student of Ted Larson.

7:15 p.m. **The Third Lion** 60 min. Italy 2001 (**Best Feature Film**)

Directed by Manlio Roseano, Produced by Skene' Snc., *Director Present.*

Synopsis: On a winter night, the priest of Saint Margaret, Don Guglielmo, has been found dead, apparently of natural causes. For a long time he was studying and keeping very jealously, three ancient parchments. The parchments describe the existence of a mysterious treasure linked with an ancient esoteric cult that seems to be connected with Don Guglielmo's death. What are these ancient parchments and why did Don Guglielmo die from a heart attack even with a healthy heart?

Filmmaker: March, 2000 he founded the first film production company in the northeastern part of Italy, "Skene Snc." through which he produced, wrote and directed *Il Terzo Leone* (*The Third Lion*). He currently works now as director/producer on a series of documentaries about the Celts in Europe and is working on securing financing for his next feature artwork.



9:00 p.m. **Wooly Boys**



Wooly Boys is a contemporary adventure set in the remote, picturesque North Dakota Badlands. It's a humorous, heartwarming story about over programmed, over protected 14-year old Charles (Joe Mazzello), a big city boy, who regains his lost childhood while reluctantly helping his earthy sheepherder grandfather, Stoney, (Peter Fonda) and his grizzled partner, Shuck (Kris Kristofferson) flee federal authorities in a stolen hearse. Ultimately a coming of age story for both Stoney and Charles, it speaks to multiple generations about the importance of family, and is a lesson in love and respect.

12:05 a.m. **Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter** 85 min. Canada 2001
(Best Cult Film) Directed/Produced by Lee Demarbre
See Friday, 12:05 a.m. on page 17 for synopsis and film information.

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The Spirit of the late Ted Larson



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



My heartfelt thanks and endless gratitude to an
"Olympic Caliber Team" of Film Festival Volunteers!

— Margie Bailly

Fargo Film Festival

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\$5,000



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Support from the Mondragons and Juano's Restaurant is invaluable to the Fargo Theatre and the Film Festival.