SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK

PRESS RELEASE

Socrates Sculpture Park
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Film Forum and Socrates Sculpture Park Announce Line-Up for 17th Annual Free Outdoor Cinema Festival; D.A. Pennebaker's DONT LOOK BACK Launches Film Series on Wed, July 1

Film Forum and **Socrates Sculpture Park** are pleased to announce the 2015 programming for the park's Outdoor Cinema film festival: eight weeks of international movies shown under the stars, Wednesday evenings, July 1 - August 19. The series is presented by Socrates and Film Forum, in collaboration with **Rooftop Films**. Now **celebrating its 17th year**, the festival features open-air cinema, music, dance, and food, held in the 5-acre waterfront park in Long Island City, Queens.

While New York City hosts many outdoor summer movie series, this festival distinguishes itself by its critically acclaimed, international array of titles, programmed by Film Forum. John Hatfield, Executive Director of Socrates, originally extended an invitation to Film Forum programmers Karen Cooper and Mike Maggiore to partner with Socrates in the summer of 2013; this is the third year of their partnership. Rooftop Films has been a collaborator of the festival since 2010.

All films are presented in their original language with English subtitles and, **for the first time this year, every film will be projected onto a 40-foot wide screen**. Six of this year's presentations are selected by Karen Cooper, Film Forum's longtime Director. D.A. Pennebaker's cinema verité portrait of a young Bob Dylan on tour in Britain in 1965 (DONT LOOK BACK) kicks off the series, which includes: a comedy of class conflict from Argentina (LIVE-IN MAID); a stylized appreciation of the life and musicianship of Serge Gainsbourg (ironically titled, GAINSBOURG: A HEROIC LIFE); an eye-opening documentary on the ship-wreckers of Bangladesh (IRON CROWS); a gentle drama of a Saudi girl who longs for a bicycle (WADJDA); and a combined animation/life-action interpretation of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by the great Czech surrealist Jan Svankmajer (ALICE).

Dan Nuxoll and Holly Voges of Rooftop Films selected Gaspard Kuentz and Cédric Dupire's introduction to India's head-spinning Sonepur Fair (KINGS OF THE WIND & ELECTRIC QUEENS), and a collection of new short Swedish films that share a penchant for naturalism and distaste for gender binaries (I TURN TO YOU, BATH HOUSE, and PUSSY HAVE THE POWER, with additional titles to be announced).

The international festival celebrates the cultural diversity of Queens, where more than 135 languages are spoken, representing more than 120 countries. Each Wednesday evening embodies the culture of the film's country of origin by featuring regional cuisine from Queens restaurants and performances by local musicians and dancers (such as Adam Tully, Ginkgoa, and Xeno and Oaklander). Pre-screening performances begin at 7:00pm and films begin at sunset (weather permitting). **Admission to films and performances is free of charge**. The evening's food and performance line-up will be updated on http://socratessculpturepark.org.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →

"Socrates Sculpture Park and Film Forum's Outdoor Cinema brings together the best that Queens has to offer including independent films, food, performances, and much more," **said Commissioner Cynthia López, Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment.** "There's not a better summer time activity than a film under the stars with family and friends. The festival truly embraces the diversity of local talent and celebrates international cinema and outstanding documentary works. The outdoor festival showcases emerging artists and award-winning filmmakers in one of New York City's most popular green spaces."

"Film Forum and Rooftop Films have programmed a distinguished film series unlike any other in New York City," **said Socrates Sculpture Park executive director, John Hatfield**. "This season spans nearly five decades of filmmaking, presenting historic documentaries alongside recent cinematic achievements, including the very first film directed by a Saudi woman. We couldn't be more thrilled to present all eight films on a 40-foot screen at the water's edge, creating a magical cinematic experience here in Queens."

OUTDOOR CINEMA 2015 FILM SCHEDULE

July 1: DONT LOOK BACK U.S.

Arguably the greatest music documentary ever. Bob Dylan's 1965 British tour, intimately recorded by legendary filmmaker D.A. Pennebaker, reveals the genius/*enfant terrible* at the height of his growling '60s counter-culture persona, whether astonishing audiences with *Don't Think Twice, It's All Right, Subterranean Homesick Blues,* or *The Times They Are A-Changin'* – or torturing a *TIME* magazine reporter with Sphinx-like responses. The opening sequence, with Dylan in the alleyway, discarding placards on which his lyrics are scrawled, has become a culturally iconic moving image that has been ripped off ad infinitum. See the original. 1967, 96 minutes. Directed by D.A. Pennebaker.

July 8: LIVE-IN MAID ARGENTINA

Norma Aleandro, the grande dame of Argentine cinema (think Meryl Streep crossed with Penelope Cruz) plays a still-elegant haute-bourgeois divorcée, living in a fashionable Buenos Aires apartment, surrounded by a lifetime of consumer goods, but with little cash. Her maid of 30 years massages her feet and freshens her drinks -- but makes moves to abandon this sinking ship when the going gets tough. This is a wonderful comedy of class consciousness and codependency that easily and subtly crosses cultural boundaries. 2005, 83 minutes. Directed by Jorge Gaggero.

July 15: GAINSBOURG: A HEROIC LIFE FRANCE

The life and loves of French pop star Serge Gainsbourg are reimagined by comic book artist Joann Sfar, beginning with his childhood in Nazi-occupied Paris, through his wild and crazy years in the '50s and '60s as a singer-songwriter and lover of some of the world's most glamourous women (Bardot, Jane Birkin, beatnik icon Juliette Gréco). The film features many of the musician's greatest hits, as well a giant puppet alter-ego who personifies his worst proclivities. 2010, 122 minutes. Directed by Joann Sfar. (Note: Due to some nudity, this film is not recommended for children.)

July 22: IRON CROWS BANGLADESH

In this documentary shot in Chittagong, Bangladesh, the world center for ship-breaking, huge megaton behemoths are run aground and broken apart by men and boys who earn $2 a day. Remarkably beautiful cinematography affords indelible insights into how some of the most exploited people on earth retain their courage, decency and fortitude. A.O. Scott in *The New York Times* writes: "an unsettling hybrid of art and witness… the vivid record of a complex reality. The way it turns blunt, material facts into sublime images is both astonishing and troubling." 2009, 93 minutes. Directed by Bong-Nam Park.

July 29: KINGS OF THE WIND & ELECTRIC QUEENS INDIA

Documentary as Bollywood film: "The name of my stallion is King of the Wind. My mare is called Electric Queen and she electrocutes all who get in her way..." This incredible introduction to the head-spinning Sonepur Fair, a festival held at the confluence of the Ganges and Gandak rivers on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Kartika, comes from the Horse Breeder, who, along with the Showman, the Rider, the Exorcist, the Dancer and the Mahut (elephant tamer) comprise the cast. This starry-eyed impression of the festival is sensory overload, complete with all the frenetic pacing and explosions of neon that only a visit to this fair could offer. 2015, 56 minutes. Directed by Gaspard Kuentz and Cédric Dupire.

August 5: COLD CONFLICTS: SWEDISH SHORT FILMS SWEDEN

Dissensions can take many forms: a soon-to-be-divorced couple bickering; a brood of misfit animals squabbling; an all-female band debating the very definition of their feminism. With unfailing shrewdness, the following shorts depict various clashes and the intense relationships that trigger them. Sharing a penchant for naturalism and distaste for gender binaries, these clever films are further proof of Swedish cinema's incredible vitality. **I TURN TO YOU,** 2015, 15 minutes, directed by Victor Lindgren. **BATH HOUSE**, 2014, 15 minutes, directed by Niki Lindroth von Bahr. **PUSSY HAVE THE POWER**, 2014, 14 minutes, directed by Lovisa Sirén. More titles to be announced. (Note: Due to graphic language, this evening is not recommended for children.)

August 12: WADJDA SAUDI ARABIA

The first film directed by a Saudi woman, WADJA tells the charming, poignant story of a 10-year-old girl who longs for a bicycle so she can race her best friend (a boy) and attain some measure of independence in a society whose restrictions on women begin early. Without a hint of didacticism or bitterness, this child's tiny rebellion, ironically, leads her to compete in a Koran-reciting contest. 2012, 98 minutes. Directed by Haifaa al-Monsour. Complemented by **ME AND MY MOULTON**, a Canadian, Oscar nominated animation, also about girls, their bikes, and the downside of growing up Norwegian and uber-hip. 2014,14 minutes. Directed by Torill Kove.

August 19: ALICE THE CZECH REPUBLIC

"I cannot explain myself, I'm afraid, sir" said Alice, "because I'm not myself you see." – Lewis Carroll. His *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. No one has done justice to the infinitely creepy quality of Carroll's fantasy of childhood disorientation better than master Czech animator Jan Svankmajer. A live-action Alice encounters both animated animals (the White Rabbit looking like a taxidermist's nightmare) and objects (have knee socks ever been so scary?) on her trip down the existential rabbit hole. 1988, 84 minutes. Directed by Jan Svankmajer. (Note: This film is not recommended for young children.)

August 26: Rain date

SUPPORT

Outdoor Cinema 2015 is made possible, in part, by funds from the Theatrical Teamsters Local 817, in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment and the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, as well as public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the New York City Council.

Socrates Sculpture Park is grateful for the support of the City of New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Queens Borough President Melinda R. Katz, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, City Council Members Jimmy Van Bramer and Costa Constantinides, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, Commissioner Mitchell Silver, and NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl, and NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, Commissioner Cynthia López.

GETTING THERE
Socrates Sculpture Park is located at 32-01 Vernon Blvd (at Broadway) in Long Island City, Queens. Public Transportation to the park:

SUBWAY
N or Q train to the Broadway stop in Queens and walk eight blocks west on Broadway (toward the East River) to the intersection of Vernon Boulevard.
BUS
Q103, Q104 to Broadway and Vernon Boulevard
Q69, Q100X to Broadway and 21st Street

ABOUT SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK / socratessculpturepark.org
For nearly 30 years Socrates Sculpture Park has been a model of public art production, community activism, and socially inspired place-making. Known for fostering experimental and visionary artworks, Socrates has exhibited more than 1,000 artists on its five waterfront acres, providing them the financial support, materials, equipment, and space necessary to create large-scale works in the public realm. Open 365 days a year from dawn till dusk, the park is an epicenter of cultural programming, as a producer of contemporary exhibitions, a presenter of a multi-disciplinary performance series, and an educator of more than 10,000 children and teens each year - all free.

ABOUT FILM FORUM / filmforum.org
Film Forum is a nonprofit independent cinema, founded in 1970, located in lower Manhattan, committed to premiering a wide array of international movies that treat diverse social, political, historical and cultural realities. Our programs are selected with concern for each film's unique cinematic qualities, with emphasis upon innovative, controversial, challenging, and relevant new work.

ABOUT ROOFTOP FILMS / rooftopfilms.com
Rooftop Films is a is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization whose mission is to engage and inspire diverse communities by showing movies in outdoor locations, producing new films, teaching filmmaking to young people, and renting low-cost equipment to artists and non-profits. At Rooftop Films, we bring underground movies outdoors.

FILM FORUM

ROOFTOP FILMS

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