

EU's pull-out guide to the

2008 Jacksonville Film Festival



Pages 19 - 30 are part of the guide to the 2008 Jacksonville Film Festival. Please pull-out these pages and save them for a complete guide to everything happening with the festival May 15 - 21.

The Jacksonville Film Festival is one of our favorite events all year. From movie lovers to art lovers to music lovers to people that just like to party, the Jacksonville Film Festival has something for everybody. Take in some serious documentaries on topics as varied as the economy to the career of the late Hunter S. Thompson. Not into documentaries? Check out their healthy selection of narrative features. From comedies such as *Skills Like This* to innovative dramas like *The Tracey Fragments*, you'll need this guide to get you to the best films in the festival. Our writers have already watched a good deal of the films featured, so we have some reviews from a local perspective. Whether you're looking for a complete schedule of where, when and what films or just some insight to select the features you are most interested in, there isn't a better partner you could have at the Film Fest than the EU.

showcase events

(All presentations below will take place at the Florida Theatre) To purchase tickets in advance for any of the films mentioned, please call (904) 355-2787

Opening Night Celebration

Thursday May 15, 2008
Southeast Premiere of *Crazy*

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. – Opening Night Ceremony and screening of *Crazy* and see the stars
10 p.m. – 1 a.m. – **Opening Night Celebration** at Maverick's, celebrate with Ali Larter, Waylon Payne, Rick Bieber, Jimmy Bruno, David Smith, Skip & Nancy Frye, Jerry Carris, Ed Cotton, and Dave Plummer of CRAZY \$15 opening night movie / \$25 Mavericks party

Viva Cinema Celebration

Friday May 16, 2008
Southeast Premiere of *Meteoro*

6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. – Cocktail Reception at the Florida Theatre
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. – Viva Cinema Ceremony and Screening of *Meteoro*
10 p.m. – 1 a.m. – **SAMBA! SALSA! AND SWING!** Party at The Jacksonville Landing
\$15 Includes reception, film and after party at The Jacksonville Landing

Hollywood Film and Gala

Saturday May 17, 2008
East Coast Premiere of *The Year Of Getting To Know Us*

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. - Cocktail Reception at the Florida Theatre
7:30 p.m.– 9:30 p.m. -Hollywood Night Film Presentation - **The Year Of Getting To Know Us**
10 p.m. – 1 a.m. - **Hollywood Night Gala** Downtown Public Library
\$15 Includes cocktail reception and film presentation
\$75 Hollywood Night Gala – sponsored by Grey Goose and Bacardi

Hip-Hop For The Masses Celebration

Sunday May 18, 2008
Southeast Premiere of *Inside The Circle*

6 pm. – 8 p.m. - Ceremony and Screening of *Inside The Circle*
8 p.m. – 11 p.m. – **Hip-Hop For The Masses** street party
\$15 Includes film presentation and street party

Europa!Europa!

Monday May 19, 2008

6 pm. – 8 p.m. - Ceremony and Screening of "Regarde Moi" (Ain't Scared)
8 p.m. – 11 p.m. – After party at Cafe 331 featuring hor d'ouvres and music from Europa. Guest receive one complimentary Bacardi drink with their film ticket. There is no charge for this event



Lucy Lui and Jimmy Fallon in *The Year of Getting to Know Us*

venues

The 2008 Jacksonville Film Festival will be held at the following venues. All of the locations except for Fuel Coffeehouse are located in downtown Jacksonville and are within walking distance of each other.

Fuel is located in Five Points, only a few minutes away.

The Florida Theatre
128 East Forsyth Street
Phone: (904) 355-2787
floridatheatre.com

Fuel Coffeehouse
1037 Park Street
(904) 425-3835
myspace.com/fuelin5pts

Jacksonville Main Library
303 N Laura St
(904) 630-2665
jpl.coj.net

Mavericks Rock N' Honky Tonk,
Upstairs at The Jacksonville Landing
2 Independent Dr # 250
(904) 356-1110
mavericksatthelanding.com

Times-Union Center- Terry Theatre
300 West Water Street.
(904) 633-6110
jaxevents.com

Cafe 331
331 West Forsyth St.
354-1999

programs

THE WORLD OF DOCS

Screenings of the best of documentaries from around the world.

VIVA CINEMA

Viva Cinema includes a broad selection of films from Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America including Brazil.

STUDENT FILM PROGRAM

Student film screenings, as well as FREE workshop and awards presentation for high school and college students.

BRINGING HOLLYWOOD HOME

This series will focus on films with a connection to Jacksonville and Florida.

MADE IN THE U.S.A

The biggest film program, these films focus on films written, directed and produced in the USA.

THE SHORT OF IT

The best of USA and International short films

INDEPENDENT BLACK CINEMA

This program will focus on the black films from the U.S.A., Europe, and Africa.

ON THE EDGE

Cutting edge films including experimental, avant-garde and horror.

A TASTE OF ASIA

Films from Asian region.

GAY AND LESBIAN CINEMA

The newest independent films with GLBT themes.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE PLEASE

A program of films, specifically for, by, or about deaf people.

COMING OF AGE

Films that deal with teenage issues that are universally appealing and uplifting.

HIP HOP FOR THE MASSES

Films that focus on hip-hop, break dancing and urban themes that inspire.

EUROPA! EUROPA!

The best of European Independent Films.



BAY STREET IS THE
UN-OFFICIAL

Film Fest After Party

MARK'S

315 East Bay St

DIVE BAR

331 East Bay St

the films of the fest

Let these descriptions help you decide which films you will see at this year's Film Fest. We've watched many of them to provide a local perspective, and the Fest has provided us with the rest. From a review by Al Letson and many by your favorite EU writers to interviews with the stars and makers of many of the films. Find the flicks that tickle your fancy and fill your week with great independent cinema, Jacksonville Film Fest style.

90 MILLAS (90 MILES)

(USA, 2007, 66 min) *Viva Cinema, World of Docs, Made in the USA*

Emilio Estefan, award-winning record producer and husband of music diva Gloria Estefan, helms this lively and poignant tribute to the musi-

cal sounds of his native Cuba. Featuring the likes of legendary Latin musicians Arturo Sandoval, Chocolate Armenteros and Gloria herself, *90 Miles*

is a moving portrait of the artists in exile. Director: Emilio Estefan, Producers: Emilio Estefan and Jose Maldonado. **Fuel, Tue.- 6 pm**

A NASHVILLE STATE OF MIND

(USA, 2008, 83 min., World Premiere) *Viva Cinema, Made in the USA, World of Docs*

Special guest appearances from industry professionals like Hank Williams III, Jody Williams, Dan Keen, Doc McGhee and Scott McGhee. Director: John-Martin Vogel, Producer: John-Martin Vogel, Eric Mainade, Executive Producer: Samantha Gibb. **Fuel, Fri.- 8 pm, Sat.- 8:30 pm**

To the general public, Nashville, Tennessee has always been perceived as the epicenter of country music – a hit factory that nurtures new talent with big record company contracts and radio marketing. Each new star is produced and polished by a consortium of producers and musicians who control the artist from recording studio to radio air play to booking tours. It's an assembly line with set rules. If a new artist can't make the

right contacts, then it's over. They pack their bags and go back to their hometowns.

This penetrating documentary shows another side of Nashville's burgeoning singer/songwriter alternative scene – a community of independent artists who support each other and play a wide variety of genres – from the sneering alt-country of Hank Williams III to a cadre of promising songwriters who play at open-mic nights and jam together at parties around bonfires. They move to Nashville to stay and they get day jobs to support themselves while they explore this exciting scene.

Some of these aspiring artists go on to sign record deals, and some launch independent labels as free agents. But as this film depicts, all these Nashville transplants have one thing in common: they care about the music. Specifically the

quality of the songwriting. Their non-threatening camaraderie helps them gauge their progress and whether or not they have what it takes to launch careers from the vibrant Nashville underground scene. They're not there to become rock or country stars, but to help each other attain success.

In today's Nashville's alternative scene many new venues have opened up to accommodate all these new musicians playing diverse genres. New artists are featured every night and everyone can be heard and judged by the audience. The documentary points out that among this new wave of aspiring artists, the standards are high, and the group looks up to the most talented songwriters. Incredibly, no one seems to have copped an attitude of superiority and the better songwriters share their secrets with the group. It sounds idealistic, and in some ways it is, but the sharing

of musicianship and songwriting ideas seems to encourage cooperation rather than mean-spirited backstabbing.

So what is "a Nashville state of mind?" Hank Williams III said it best when he stated that this alternative scene is about the music and being creative by bypassing the factory system of old Nashville. It's a scene in which playing music and sharing ideas rule supreme. If someone rises to stardom, all the better. The group rejoices and celebrates their friends' success. *A Nashville State of Mind* is about writing quality songs. If one can do that, then they will find a place in this scene and perhaps go on to national prominence. From this film, we can surmise that there are other cities with scenes similar to Nashville-like "An Austin State of Mind, or, dare I say, "A Jacksonville State of Mind." - **By Rick Grant**

AIN'T SCARED (REGARDE-MOI)

(France, 2007, 97 min) *Narrative Feature, Drama*

Follow the lives of the teenagers that live in France's ghetto. This black and white French film brings together the American understanding of life in the projects, at least what we understand about

it through media, and shows that things aren't so different in France. Fatima is about to be a famous soccer player and the film takes place during his last week there with his best friend Yannick, his younger brother Khalidou and his girlfriend Julie. Most of the kids are worried about being whores

versus losing their virginity, but their older siblings are worried about becoming petty criminals or making their way into the professional world. If there is one common thread between the movies I've screened for this festival, it is that modern children are isolated from their parents and not getting

the affection they need. This theme has never been more heavy-handed than in this film, which deals with racial bitterness, the desire to be something different, and the cold reality of life in the projects. **Times Union Center, Tue.- 8:30 pm - By Jon Bosworth**

ANTES DE LAS ONCE (JUST BEFORE ELEVEN)

(Puerto Rico, 2008, 82 min., color, International Premiere) *International Premiere, Viva Cinema, Coming of Age*

Klo, is a young vivacious fourteen year-old girl who is about to turn fifteen. She feels that she

already has all of the responsibilities of an adult, but she feels one thing is missing. After all she already takes care of her father, she cleans the house, she cooks, irons and has read the books of the greatest authors in the Latin world. As the most significant birthday of a Latina approaches she feels she is ready to take that next huge step towards adulthood; lose her virginity. Starring:

Amy Rosario, Marianna Monclova, Daria Delgado, Felix Monclova, Jose Irizarry Rodriguez, Alexandra Malagon, Flor Joglar, Chelo and Inti. Director: Andres Ramirez, Producers: Jesse Charbonier Rodriguez and Ileana Ciena, Executive Producers: Rey Pascual, Flora Perez Garay and Isreal Rodriguez, Screenwriter: Ray Figueroa. **Times Union Center, Sat.- 11:30 am, Sun. - 1:30 pm**



THE BIRTHDAY

(The Netherlands, 2007, 63 min) *World of Docs, Gay and Lesbian*

A young man is followed in his process of becoming a woman through a transsexual operation in Iran, up to and beyond his operation. We meet his boyfriend, other transsexuals; among

them, a woman becoming a man, the doctors, a priest and his family. All of them are religious, all of them are changing lives, but why would a 'free' man choose to become an 'unfree' woman

and lead a veiled life from now on? A portrait of schizophrenic lives in a schizophrenic environment. Directed by Nigin Kianfar and Daisy Mohr. **Fuel, Fri.- 10 pm**

CHASING THE DEVIL

(USA, 2008, 101 min., color, East Coast Premiere) *Gay & Lesbian, World of Docs, Made in the USA*

John Sterback is a member of the most

politically incorrect subculture in America. He's a self-described 'ex-gay,' someone who claims to have changed their sexual orientation from gay to straight. Richard Cohen is John's inspiration and represents the public face of the 'ex-gay' movement while hiding his own controversial past.

Chasing the Devil uncovers the truth behind the claims of reparative therapists who attack gay identity as nothing more than a developmental disorder that can be fixed with a healthy dose of therapy and prayer. Joanne Highley and Peter-Toscano take viewers deeper inside the world

of ex-gay ministries with their journeys inside New York City's LIFE Ministry, where demons are believed to cause homosexuality, and exorcisms are the preferred form of treatment. Directed and Produced by: Mishara Canino-Hussung and Bill Hussung. **Fuel, Sat.- 6 pm, Sun.- 6:30 pm**

CRACKER: THE LAST COWBOYS OF FLORIDA

(USA, 2007, 75 min., color & B/W, North Florida Premiere) *In the USA, World of Docs, A Family Affair* **Library, Sat.- 2:45 & 6:45 pm**

If you were asked to participate in an exercise of association and given the topic Florida, you would probably answer sunshine, beaches, oranges, retirees and Disney World. Filmmaker Victor Milt would like to enter cowboys and cattle ranching into your thought process with his documentary, *Cracker: The Last Cowboys of Florida*. It was quite a revelation to learn about the real cowboys, ranchers, cattlemen and women that have played such an integral role in the state for so long. Milt's film demonstrates the history, culture, work, surroundings and struggle of this simple, yet beautiful, albeit often laborious, way of life.

Milt and his wife Kim, who produced the documentary, had a long career making television

commercials. Kim grew up in Arcadia, a small town in Central Florida southeast of Tampa and north of Cape Coral. It was on the couple's trips to see family in the area that Victor's interest in cowboys was whetted. After retiring, the couple decided to make the Sunshine State their permanent residence. Milt set out to pay homage to the cowboys and land that intrigued and captivated him on his many visits by capturing them in photos and paintings. His hobby quickly evolved and eventually grew to be the now-celebrated documentary.

From the scenic prairies and rustic corrals to the rip-roaring rodeos and convivial town parades, the film gives you a real sense of not just what these people do, but who they really are. High morals, a tenacious work ethic and reverence for God, family and land permeate through the culture with the utmost sincerity and sanctity and are not a shtick performed when the stereotype is being called upon. Mostly told in first-person interviews,

it is apparent that the project was conceived and made from a place of veneration.

Cracker makes a major tone shift from the triumphant and often jubilant stories and philosophies of the cowboys, ranchers, rodeo performers and historians to a very serious SOS sent to audiences about the affect of ever-increasing development. Cattle families that have worked in the industry for many generations from the same land are being forced to sell to developers because of persistently accelerating taxes and costs. There is also less land for their herds to graze. It's a call that transcends politics and economic debate, going straight to the human concerns that range from a dying culture and diminishing virgin forest land to questions about food supply.

The message of preservation comes swift and is in no way seamless, but makes sense in the context. Milt effectively introduces the people, their work and their land knowing that you will quickly go from backwoods curiosity to affection.

Without taking a breath, he shows how close the entire culture and pristine land is to being lost forever. It's more than a message to Florida residents about preservation, it's a warning to anyone in the world that watches, about the sense of urgency that must be embraced. His plea is simple: do something. It's not heavy-handed, but rather very real, very inspiring in the sense of at least spreading awareness.

The charm of the cowboy and cattle rancher way of life doesn't take a second seat to the message of conservation. *Cracker: The Last Cowboys of Florida* gives viewers the important chance to see both land and a way of life that is uniquely unaffected by the fast moving world around it . . . before it is developed into nonexistence.

Director: Victor Milt, Executive Producer: Barbara Carlton, Kim Milt, Producer: George Pratt, Mac Martin, Martin Ross. **—By Brenton Crozier**



CRAZY

(USA, 2008) *Southeats Premiere! Made in the USA*

Crazy is an independent feature based on the life of legendary Nashville guitarist, Hank Garland, who played on recordings by artists such as Roy Orbison, Patsy Cline and Elvis Presley. As a result of his often conflictive experience with the Nashville

Mob of the 1950s and his tempestuous relationship with his wife, Garland barely survived a near-fatal car crash only to be subjected to electro-shock treatments, which tragically ended his playing career at the age of thirty-one. Garland also wrote "Jingle Bell Rock," and was a long-time resident of Orange Park, Florida, before he died in 2004. Musician and actor Waylon Payne, who played Jerry Lee Lewis in

Walk the Line, portrays Garland in the film. Actress Ali Larter, who plays Nicki Sanders in the television series *Heroes*, portrays Evelyn Garland. *Crazy* was directed, produced and written by Rick Bieber, who will attend opening night along with actors from the film. Directed by: Rick Bieber. **Florida Theatre, Thur.- 7:30 pm (Read EU's interview with Waylon Payne on page 29.)**

DOHAA (DARK WATERS)

(India, 2007, 93 min., International Premiere) *Taste of Asia, Coming of Age, Books Alive*

Set in rural Western India, *Dohaa (Dark Waters)* is the story of physical lust and its horrific consequences for two tender lives. Bhiki, a single

mother of three, is the mistress of Vishnu. On the verge of puberty, Bhiki's daughter Kamli is shunned by her classmates. While the village grocer and class bully lust for her, Kamli develops tender feelings for Ajay, who arrives from Mumbai and joins her class. Will the swirling *Dark Waters* of poverty and lust destroy Kamli's innocence, her capacity

to love tenderly and devour her or will she survive to grow stronger? Based on the Marathi novella "Kaleshar Pani" by noted author H.M. Marathe, the film presents a portrait of an impoverished rural life in India. Starring: Harshada Tamhankar, Director: Raj Paranjpe, Executive Producer: Raj Paranjpe, Writer: Raj Paranjpe. **Library, Fri.- 6:30 pm, Sat.- 8:45 pm**



DYING TO LIVE

(USA, 121 min., color, Southern USA Premiere) *World of Docs, made in the USA*

Documentary filmmaker Ben Mittleman decides to turn the camera on himself when confronted with the same open-heart surgery that derailed his father's life. *Dying to Live* chronicles

the testing of a man's heart and the processing of answers found in sorrow. The film goes beyond his personal medical experience revealing the raw realities of his fight to survive, along with

the relentless challenges facing the loved ones around him during his mid-life crisis. Director: Ben Mittleman, Producers: Ben Mittleman and Robert F. Landau. **Library, Mon.**



THE END

(England, 70 min., B/W) *World of Docs, On the Edge, Europa! Europa!*

The End is a never before told story of a

group of men with a common bond. All born into poverty in the east end of London, striving for a better life and all that is found is a life in crime. Unashamed and unapologetic these men live their lives defined by a code of honor. *The*

End reveals a bloody history and the confessions of the cockney gangster.

Director: Nicola Collins, Producer: Teena Collins, Screenwriter: Nicola Collins. **Fuel, Fri.- 6:30 pm, Sat.- 4 pm**

FREKUENSIA KOLOMBIANA

(Colombia, 2007, 58 min) *Viva Cinema, Hip-Hop for the Masses, Coming of Age, World of Docs*

Frekuensi Kolombiana explores the traditional forms of Colombian music and its relation to Hip-Hop. By way of interviews, events, situations and landscapes, the documentary, uncovers a youth that constructs from exclusion a movement

of hope and truth. As we witness their efforts to self-produce, organize and multiply knowledge, we realize their necessity to perpetuate, communicate, give and exist. Through the lyrics of Camajan, Club, Por Razones de Estado, Zona Marginal and others,

we discover the lucid consciousness of a youth that through art, seeks to awaken and renew its society. This documentary represents the voice of the Colombian street. Directed by Jose Miguel Restrepo Moreno. **Fuel, Sat.- 10:45 pm, Sun.- 4 pm**

GHOSTS OF THE HEARTLAND

(USA/CHINA, 2007, 81 min, B/W) *Made in the USA, Taste of Asia*

It's 1952, the McCarthy era is at its peak

and big city reporter, Roland Lu, is returning to his hometown of Millville. When Roland arrives in town he finds that the Chinese community is experiencing persecution similar to the early stages of the Jewish experience in 1930s Germany. Roland fears that

his old nemesis, McCarthyite thug Frank Dugan, is behind a plot to steal land from the Chinese the way he did twenty years earlier from Native Americans. Roland suffers from a bad case of racial self-hatred. His old girlfriend Liz, fears he will sell out the

Chinese to write his big story, to win the Pulitzer, so he can be accepted into white society. Either way, Roland will have to take on Frank Dugan. Director, Producer, Screenwriter: Allen Blumberg. **Times Union Center, Sat.- 6:30 pm, Sun.- 5:15 pm**

GONZO

(2007, 120 min) *World of Docs, Made in the USA*
Gonzo, narrated by Johnny Depp, is the definitive film biography of a mythic American fig-

ure, a man Tom Wolfe called our "greatest comic writer," Hunter S. Thompson. He began his writing career at Rolling Stone Magazine. They devoted an

entire issue (its best-selling ever) to the man that launched a thousand sips of whisky, endless snorts of cocaine and a brash, irreverent, fearless style of

journalism named "Gonzo" after an anarchic blues riff by James Booker. Directed by Alex Gibney. **Times Union Center, Tue.- 6 pm**

(film descriptions continued on page 26)

check the schedule: 2008

Use this handy schedule to navigate the Jacksonville Film Festival from the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts to Fuel Coffeehouse in Riverside. Times are subject to change, so check filmfestival.jacksonville.com for an updated guide in case there were any last minute adjustments.

thursday may 15th

7:30 p.m. **CRAZY** Opening Night Ceremony and screening - Florida Theatre
10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. - **Opening Night Party** – Mavericks

friday, may 16th

6 p.m.- **METEORO** *Viva Cinema* - Florida Theatre
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – Cocktail Reception
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. – Viva Cinema Ceremony and Screening
6:30 p.m. **THE PROMOTION** *Special Presentation* – Times-Union Performing Arts Center
6:30 p.m. **DOHAA (Dark Waters)** (93 min) *Taste of Asia, Coming of Age, Books Alive* - Jacksonville Public Library
6:30 p.m. **THE END** (70 min) *World of Docs, On the Edge, Europa! Europa!* – Fuel
8:00 p.m. **A NASHVILLE STATE OF MIND** (83 min) *Made in the USA, World of Docs* – Fuel
9:00 p.m. **SURFWISE** (94 min) *World of Docs, Made in the USA* - Jacksonville Public Library
9:00 p.m. **REMARKABLE POWER** (91 min) *Made in the USA* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center
10:00 p.m. **THE BIRTHDAY** (63 min) *World of Docs, Gay and Lesbian* – Fuel
10 p.m. – 1 a.m. – **SAMBA! SALSA! AND SWING! Party** – Jacksonville Landing

saturday, may 17th

11:00 a.m. **THE LINGUISTS** (70 min) *World of Docs, Made in the USA, Taste of Asia, Viva Cinema* - Jacksonville Public Library

11:30 a.m. **ANTES DE LAS ONCE (Just Before Eleven)** (82 min) *Viva Cinema, Coming of Age* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center
12:00 p.m. **SHORTS OF EPIC PROPORTIONS** – Fuel
1:00 p.m. **A PERFECT MATCH** (47 min) *World of Docs, Made in the USA*, Preceded by short film **RACKET** (12 min) *Viva Cinema, Short of It* - Jacksonville Public Library
2:00 p.m. **CUTS LIKE A KNIFE** *Shorts* – Fuel
2:00 p.m. **HOMELAND** (95 min) *Made in the USA* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center
2:45 p.m. **CRACKER: THE LAST COWBOYS OF FLORIDA** (75 min) *World of Docs, Bringing Hollywood Home, A Family Affair* - Jacksonville Public Library
4:00 p.m. **QUID PRO QUO** (93 min) *Made In The USA* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center
4:00 p.m. **THE END** (70 min) *World of Docs, On the Edge, Europa! Europa!* – Fuel
4:45 p.m. **MILLION CALORIE MARCH** (102 min) *Made in the USA, World of Docs, Bringing Hollywood Home* - Jacksonville Public Library
6:00 p.m. **THE YEAR OF GETTING TO KNOW US** *Hollywood Film* - Florida Theatre
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. - Cocktail Reception
7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. - Hollywood Night Film Presentation
6:00 p.m. **CHASING THE DEVIL** (101 min) *Gay & Lesbian, World of Docs, Made in the USA* – Fuel
6:30 p.m. **GHOSTS OF THE HEARTLAND** (81 min) *Made in the USA, Taste of Asia* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center
6:45 p.m. **CRACKER: THE LAST COWBOYS OF FLORIDA** (75 min) *World of Docs, Bringing Hollywood Home, A Family Affair* - Jacksonville Public Library
8:15 p.m. **INVISIBLES** (106 min) *World of Docs, Viva Cinema, Celebration of Black Cinema* - Jacksonville Public Library
8:30 p.m. **A NASHVILLE STATE OF MIND** (83 min) *Made in the USA, World of Docs* – Fuel
8:45 p.m. **DOHAA (Dark Waters)** (93 min) *Taste of Asia, Coming of Age,*

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Books Alive - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

10:00 p.m. – 1 a.m. **Hollywood Night Gala** – Courtyard /Jacksonville Public Library

10:45 p.m. **FREKUENSIA KOLUMBIANA** (58 min) *Viva Cinema, Hip-Hop for the Masses, Coming of Age, World of Docs* – Fuel

sunday, may 18th

11:00 a.m. **SURFWISE** (94 min) *World of Docs, Made in the USA* - Jacksonville Public Library

11 a.m. **SHUT UP AND DO IT** (85 min) *Made in the USA, Viva Cinema Alive* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

12:00 p.m. **THE BEST OF STUDENT SHORTS** – Fuel

1:15 p.m. **THE LINGUISTS** (70 min) *World of Docs, Made in the USA, Taste of Asia, Viva Cinema* - Jacksonville Public Library

1:30 p.m. **ANTES DE LAS ONCE** (82 min) *Viva Cinema, Coming of Age* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

2:00 p.m. **THE BEST OF JACKSONVILLE STUDENT SHORTS** – Fuel

4:00 p.m. **FREKUENSIA KOLOMBIANA** (58 min) *Viva Cinema, Hip-Hop for the Masses, Coming of Age, World of Docs* – Fuel

4:00 p.m. **HOMELAND** (95 min) *Made in the USA* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

5:15 p.m. **GHOSTS OF THE HEARTLAND** (81 min) *Made in the USA, Taste of Asia* - Jacksonville Public Library

6:00 p.m. **INSIDE THE CIRCLE** *Hip-Hop for the Masses, Ceremony and Screening* - Florida Theatre

8:00 p.m. – 11 p.m. **HIP-HOP FOR THE MASSES STREET PARTY** - Florida Theatre

6:30 p.m. **CHASING THE DEVIL** (101 min) *Gay & Lesbian, World of Docs, Made in the USA* – Fuel

6:30p.m **I.O.U.S.A** (82min) *Made in the USA* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

9:00 p.m. **REMARKABLE POWER** (91 min) *Made in the USA* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

monday, may 19th

6:00 p.m. **NORTH STARR** (120 min) *Made in the USA, Black Cinema* - Jacksonville Public Library

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. **REGARDE MOI** (Ain't Scared) (95 min) *Europa! Europa!* Ceremony and Screening

6:30 p.m. **SHUT UP AND DO IT!** (84 min) *Viva Cinema, Made in the USA* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

7:00 p.m. & 9:30 p.m. **THE TRACY FRAGMENTS** (93 min) *Coming of Age, On The Edge* – Fuel

8 p.m. – 11 p.m. – *Europa After Party* at Cafe 331

8:45 p.m. **DYING TO LIVE** (121 min) *World of Docs, Made in the USA* - Jacksonville Public Library

9:00 p.m. **QUID PRO QUO** (93 min) *Made In The USA* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

tuesday, may 20th

6:00 p.m. **GONZO** (120 min) *World of Docs, Made in the USA* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

6:00 p.m. **NORTH STARR** (120 min) *Made in the USA, Black Cinema* - Jacksonville Public Library

6:00 p.m. **90 MILLAS (90 Miles)** (66 min) *Viva Cinema, World of Docs, Made in the USA* – Fuel

7:30 p.m. **UNDER THE SKIN** (59 min) *World of Docs, On the Edge* – Fuel

8:30 p.m. **REGARDE MOI** (Ain't Scared) (95 min) *Europa! Europa!* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

8:45 p.m. **LA FAMILIA TORTUGA (The Turtle Family)** (139 min) *Viva Cinema, Coming of Age* - Jacksonville Public Library

9:00 p.m. **UNDER THE SKIN** (59 min) *World of Docs, On the Edge* – Fuel

wednesday, may 21st

6:00 p.m. **UNDER THE SNOW** (95 min) *Viva Cinema* - Jacksonville Public Library

6:00 p.m. **BEST OF SHORTS Awards & Special presentation of 48 hour film project winners** - Times-Union Performing Arts Center

8:00 p.m. **SKILLS LIKE THIS** (87 min) *Made in the USA* - Times-Union Performing Arts Center, Followed by Closing Night Celebration

HOMELAND

(USA, 2007, 95 min) *Made in the USA*

Upon completing his service in the Israel Defense Forces, Kobi Zucker needed to get away from the pressures of the ongoing struggles of the

Middle East. With memories of his tour of duty in the territories fresh in his mind, he comes to New York City and meets the girl of his dreams. Beautiful and intelligent, Leila is everything that Kobi has ever wanted. But Leila is Palestinian, having come

to New York from the West Bank with her family following the death of her oldest brother during the Intifada. Despite their differences, Kobi and Leila fall in love. Meanwhile, Leila's only surviving brother, Ghazi, is having his own troubles adapting

to life in his new country and comes under the spell of a radical Muslim preacher. Ghazi is determined to prevent Leila from dishonoring her family while Leila struggles with her feelings for Kobi and her past. **Times Union Center, Sat.- 2pm, Sun.- 4 pm**

I.O.U.S.A

(USA, 2008, 82 min) *Made in the USA, World of Docs*

Times Union Center, Sun.- 6:30 pm

"I would argue that the most serious threat to the United States is not someone hiding in a cave in Afghanistan or Pakistan, but our own fiscal irresponsibility."

This is the opening line of the documentary *I.O.U.S.A.* We've all been reluctantly admitting in hushed tones and quiet corners that we are in a recession. Some organizations say it's the worst

financial crisis since the Great Depression, while others shrug it off as a "brief correction."

This film follows Robert Bixby of the non-partisan, grass-roots organization the Concord Coalition, which is devoted to advocating fiscal responsibility, along with David Walker, the Comptroller General and the head of the US Government Accountability Office (essentially the government's accountant) on what they call the Fiscal Wake Up Tour. As bad as the news they are delivering seems, don't let it stop you from adding this film to your itinerary. After seeing it you will have a better

understanding of how a national economy works, what is different now than ten years ago, and an overall understanding that will help you trump the pundits at the office. That's not to say this film is political.

"Facts aren't Democrat or Republican. Facts aren't liberal or conservative. The facts are just the facts," David Walker said during an interview with Diane Rehm on National Public Radio.

Here are a couple of those facts: The Federal debt is currently 8.7 trillion dollars. That number is growing to the tune of \$239 billion a year, currently,

and that figure will continue to increase. Almost 50% of our debt is held by foreign interests. 65% of all the money borrowed in the world by countries last year was borrowed by the United States. That is ten times as much as the next largest borrower.

I know, none of that convinced you to see this movie, but the information really is compelling and the education is rewarding. This usually rather dry information is spiced up with some good graphs, some upbeat music and then laced with Saturday Night Live skits and clips from The Daily Show and the Colbert Report. **-By Jon Bosworth**

INSIDE THE CIRCLE

(USA, 2007, 102 min) *Southeast Premiere! Hip-Hop for the Masses, Coming of age, World of Docs, Taste of Asia*

Florida Theatre, Sun.- 8 pm

The latest documentary film by Marcy Garriott

(*Heart of Antarctica, Split Decision*), *Inside the Circle* takes the viewer deep into the subculture of

the contemporary B-Boy. It's not *Krush Groove* and it's not *You Got Served*. Instead, you get a straightforward view of how these dedicated street dancers see themselves, each other, and the world they are trying to get up in.

From Romeo, the former tagger and street dancer turned founder and promoter of the annual B-Boy City tournament in Austin, Texas, to Josh and Omar, two breakers that started out together and now are in different crews. From 2002 through

2006 we meet their teammates and other crews while tapping into the brohymn mentality and ghetto philosophy of this lifestyle. And while at certain points the film borders on taking itself far too seriously, there's a definitive sincerity and enough street custom and formality to make a sociologist's mouth water.

Jumping from tournament to tournament, with the lives of the protagonists mixed in along the way, we see some truly incredible breakdancing in

Austin, Mexico, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Russia. Part gymnastics, part Pilobolus, and part subway performance, we're schooled in the nuances of what judges look for and the definitions of the Top Rocket, Footwork, and the Freeze, just to name a few.

As various crews and individuals put their skills on the line and battle it out for respect, Romeo, Josh, and Omar grow, change, and struggle to stray true to what they love and "hold it down inside the circle." **- by Ian Desousa**



INVISIBLES

(Spain, 2007, 106 min., color) *World of Docs, Viva Cinema, Celebration of Black Cinema*

Library, Sat.- 8:15 pm

This is a story of stories. Featur-

ing five stories: 1) The life of a Bolivian girl working in Barcelona trying to finance the survival of her family, who are devastated by an illness which nobody is trying to cure. 2) Women of the Democratic Republic of Congo have suffered the worst consequences of war. 3) The dramatic tale of thousands of children in Northern Uganda. 4)

The story of how pharmaceutical companies operate at the expense many people in Africa. 5) The final piece goes to Colombia and the guerilla warriors that dominate the lives of the farmers in that region. Producer: Javier Bardem Directors: Wim Wenders, Javier Corcuera, Mariano Barroso, Isabel Coixet, Fernando Leon de Aranoa.

LA FAMILIA TORTUGA (The Turtle Family)

(USA/Mexico, 2007, 139 min.) *Viva Cinema, Coming of Age*

Library, Mon.- 8:45 pm

La Familia Tortuga is a somber look at a family dealing with death. Maria has passed and left her family in disrepair. The film takes place in the scope of one entire day, on the eve of what is purportedly the anniversary of her departing.

The story successfully balances the struggles of the four main characters. Omar, a young teenag-

er deals with his sexuality and struggles to find his identity within the family, while his older sister Ana deals with her rather unexceptional boyfriend and a volatile relationship with her father, Jose. Jose tries to cope with the void left in his life, while trying to reach a respectable unemployment settlement in his role as a trade unionist. The most interesting character, Uncle Manuel, helps raise his niece and nephew, but has the tendency to meddle the other family members into complete annoyance.

Even the way the film was shot, conveys an enveloping darkness that is bringing the disintegration of the family's alliance and ultimately their

individual joy.

Although not particularly uplifting, La Familia Tortuga is a unfiltered look at the problems that people face at various stages in their life without throwing in contrived quirkiness or bits existing only as shock value. Extremely well acted and emotionally perceptive, La Familia Tortuga is sure to resonate with a broad audience.

Starring: Jose Angel Bichir, Luisa Pardo, Manuel Plata Lopez and Dagoberto Gama. Director: Ruban Imaz Castro, Producer: Maribel Muro, Screenwriter: Ruban Imaz Castro, Gabriela Vidal. **- Brenton Crozier**



THE LINGUISTS

(USA, 2007, 70 min., color) *World of Docs, Made in the USA, Taste of Asia, Viva Cinema*

David and Greg are *The Linguists*: scientists racing to document languages on the verge of extinction. In Siberia, India, and Bolivia, the linguists' resolve is tested by the very forces stifling languages: institutionalized racism and violent economic

unrest. David and Greg must overcome their own fears and preconceived notions to draw speakers from decades of silence. Their journey takes them deep into the heart of the cultures, knowledge, and communities at stake. Starring: Gregory Anderson,

K. David Harrison. Directors: Daniel Miller, Jeremy Newberger and Seth Kramer, Producers: Daniel Miller, Jeremy Newberger and Seth Kramer, Screenwriter: Daniel Miller. **Library, Sat.- 11 am, Sun.- 1:15 pm**

METEORO

(Brazil, 2007) SOUTHEAST PREMIERE! *Viva Cinema*

Florida Theatre, Fri.- 7:30

The Viva Cinema movie to see at this year's Fest is *Meteoro*, a Brazilian picture that will be getting its southeast premiere at the JFF.

It's Brazil in the 1960s and a group of men have been recruited to build a road from Brasilia to Fortaleza as part of President Juscelino Kubitschek's "50 Years in 5" growth and development campaign. The crew is working in a remote area of the Brazilian outback but is kept comfortable with regular supply deliveries from the government and

monthly visits from the loveliest prostitutes in the region, a bus full of ladies known as "Muchachas de la Madama" (Madam's Girls). During one of their visits, a freak storm knocks out the radio and the only bridge out of the settlement, effectively stranding the girls and keeping supply trucks out. It's also around this time that a coup d'état throws the government into turmoil.

Just like that the compound is forgotten by those who commissioned it and is completely cut off from the rest of the world. Food and water soon dwindle down to nothing and, just when it looks like the end for these settlers, a meteor smashes into the ground, striking an underground spring and

saving them all. What was once a deserted death-trap instantly turns into an idyllic oasis and the men and women dub it "Meteoro" (Meteor) in honor of the miraculous hunk of rock from on high.

For years the citizens of Meteoro lived in a state of blissful peace- a utopian society built on diversity, free love, communion with the earth and a disinterest in material possessions. Then the sky brings them yet another unexpected surprise; a military helicopter finds their sanctuary and threatens to take away the little plot of paradise they've made for themselves.

Meteoro is the brainchild of Diego de la Texera, an award-winning Puerto Rican filmmaker who

co-founded one of San Juan's very first movie studios. *Meteoro* is only de la Texera's second feature film, in spite of being in "the biz" for decades. Still, with invitations to some of the most prestigious Latin American film festivals in the world and a handful of awards under its belt, de la Texera's dreamy period piece has more than proven his skills behind the camera.

The film is sprinkled with witty dialogue and quirky characters, bringing lightness to a piece that could have easily been overlooked. An incredibly eclectic and talented cast brings the ragtag band of hippies to life, each giving wonderful and memorable performances. **-By Kellie Abrahamson**



MILLION CALORIE MARCH

(USA, 2007, 102 min., color) *Made in the USA, World of Docs, Bringing Hollywood Home*

Sixty five percent of the country is overweight, 100 percent are in need of inspiration. Join comic personality Gary Marino, after a 150 lb. weight loss, as he takes audiences on the

road with his team of misfit road managers as they attempt to inspire the country by walking from Florida to Boston. *Million Calorie March*, Marino's 1200 mile fundraiser and awareness campaign, picks up where *Supersize Me* left off. Educating and inspiring the public on America's obesity epidemic while exploring such issues

as food addiction, portion sizes, the weight loss industry, child obesity, discrimination, depression, sleep apnea, relapse and much more. Director and Screenwriter: Gary Marino, Executive Producers: Gary Marino and Todd Patkin, Co-Producer: Jimmy Jay Friedan. **Library, Saturday - 4:45 pm**

NORTH STARR

(USA, 2007, 120 min., color) *Made in the USA, Black Cinema Library, Mon.- 6 pm*

At its essence, *North Starr* is the story of a man running from the past in an effort to find himself. After a visually stunning opening sequence, filled with symbolism and foreshadowing, *North Starr* moves into the familiar territory of a drug deal gone bad. Demetrious flees his troubled life in Houston for the rugged landscape of East Texas after witnessing the brutal murder of a friend. The contrast between the opening sequence and the murder is indicative of the triumphs and failures of this movie.

The director, Matthew Stanton, is bold enough to challenge the audience with provocative images and concepts, and yet does not have the script to support these ideas.

Upon escaping Houston, on the road to nowhere, Demetrious meets a modern black cowboy, Darring, who takes the place of the big brother he lost years ago on the hard streets of Houston's 9th Ward. The loss of Demetrious' brother is never really developed, which becomes a glaring problem in the progression of the movie. Darring takes Demetrious in and introduces him to the small town in which he lives. Although befriended by many of the residents, the specter of racism and a dark secret threatens to overcome Demetrious and his new friends.

The cinematography of the desolate East Texas terrain is at times stunning, but the writing and basic story plot continually disappoint. Symbols and characters appear without explanation and the dialogue at times is stunted and too wordy. Actor Jerome Hawkins turns in a competent performance of Demetrious only to be held back by the limitations of the writing.

North Starr attempts to illuminate the cost that a dark secret can take on the souls, as well as on a community. Lofty goals that, unfortunately, the film does not accomplish. Director: Matthew Stanton, Producers: Matthew Stanton, Dr. Paula Windham and Peter Levermann. Screenwriter: Matthew Stanton. **-By Al Letson**



A PERFECT MATCH

(USA, 2008, 47 min) *World of Docs, Made in the USA*

It is 1950 and the civil rights movement is

beginning to take shape. Racial tension is escalating as blacks attempt to break down the barriers of segregation. Althea Gibson, 20, is the best Negro tennis player in America. Having grown up on the rough streets of Harlem, Althea now dreams of

becoming a tennis champion, but her battle to integrate the elitist sport would prove tumultuous. Five years later, Althea meets Angela Buxton, a Jewish girl from London, who is also an outcast on the international tennis circuit. Angela and Althea be-

come best friends, and in 1956 win the Wimbledon Doubles Championship, thus proving what friendship, courage and determination can achieve in the face of adversity. Directed by Bestsy Blankenbaker. **Library, Sat.- 1 pm**

REMARKABLE POWER

(USA, 2007, 91 min.) *Made in the USA*

Directed by Brandon Beckner. **Times Union Center, Fri.- 9 pm, Sun.- 9 pm**

Loaded with B-List actors, this story of Hollywood young and old is a joyride of a dark comedy that deftly weaves together the stories of seemingly unrelated people. Kevin Nealon is Jack West, a late night talk show host that has been

working in Hollywood since he was a child on the Bonanza rip-off show Sizzler. Tom Arnold plays a private investigator playing the best written role of his career. Athena is a young hip webmaster that photographs freshly dead people, and Ross is a dirt rockin stoner that we meet while he is smoking pot off a beer can and eating a beef patty from a fork.

What ties the stories of these very different characters together? A lot of things. Preston's coke dealer, the Jewish crime boss Moses, is one link. But who's Preston? Preston was one of the

testimonials on an infomercial for a series of tapes that can change your life. Ross likes the idea of going from rags to riches and he purchased those tapes when he heard Preston's testimonial on that infomercial.

The tapes arrive the day before he meets Preston in person. But Preston needs something from the loser Ross, and following Preston into the Beach House leads Ross forever away from his path to a life as a Domestic Enhancement Specialist. As all Hollywood stories go, there is murder,

accidental and intentional, lurid sexual affairs, and police dressed as Batman and Robin.

From the involvement of the Russian mob through the porn movie King Dong and well into the batting cage torture of Disco by He-Bro, one of Moses' thugs, this film is loaded with genuinely funny circumstances and punch lines. The ending seemed a little far-fetched and overly glamorized, and certainly every villain didn't get his due, but that's sort of how things go in Hollywood. Isn't it? **- By Jon Bosworth**

QUID PRO QUO

(USA, 2007, 93 min) *Made In The USA*

A semi-paralyzed radio reporter is sent out to investigate a story that leads him into an odd subculture and on a journey of disturbing self-re-

alization. Written and Directed by Carlos Brooks. Starring Nick Stahl, Vera Farmiga, Ashlie Atkinson, Rachel Black, Dylan Bruno, Kate Burton.

Times Union Center, Sat.- 4 pm, Mon.- 9 pm

SHUT UP AND DO IT!

(USA, 2007, 84 min) *Viva Cinema, Made in the USA*

Michael is fed up with the portrayal of Latinos in film and TV. With his passion for acting and self respect hanging in the balance, he decides to take destiny into his own hands

by making a movie. Michael's dream soon becomes a nightmare as he encounters the trials of independent film making. Michael's comic and emotional journey leads him to realize that

there might be more to his dreams than just making a movie. Directed by Bruno Irizarry. **Times Union Center, Sun.- 11 am, Mon.- 6:30 pm**



SKILLS LIKE THIS

(USA, 2007, 87 min., color, East Coast Premiere, Closing Night Film) *Made in the USA*

Times Union Center, Wed.- 8 pm

Max Solomon (Spencer Berger) is a white man with a bitching afro. He also turns out to be rather good at stealing things. *Skills Like This* follows Max on a strangely subdued nihilistic freakout

after his play, "The Onion Dance," fails miserably and he realizes he's a very bad writer.

Joining Max on his wayward spiral are Dave (Gabriel Tigerman), his uptight roommate, and Tommy (Brian D. Phelan), the entertainingly stupid friend who's described in the film as a "fully functional seven year old." Max comes to the realization that the more he steals the better he feels (though he has no problem giving it all back), and enjoys an incredibly understated spree of larceny that plays

out like a bizarre journey of self discovery.

Written by Spencer Berger and directed by Monty Miranda, *Skills Like This* watches like a strange amalgamation of *Bottle Rockets*, *Camus' The Stranger*, and a disaffected 20-something's sitcom with a style and atypical humor all it's own.

Starring: Spencer Berger, Brian D. Phelan, Gabriel Tigerman, Kerry Knuppe, Jennifer Batter, Ned Bellamy, Marta Martin and Zach Cumer. **-By Ian Desousa**

SURFWISE

(USA, 2007, 94 min., color) *World of Docs*

In the mid-1950s Dorian Paskowitz was a successful doctor living the good life in the territory of Hawaii, until two devastating divorces and the realization that he had no interest in money or

status caused him to completely upend his life. Dorian dropped his practice and traveled to Israel for a year where he lived among the Bedouins, developed a lifelong obsession with a healthy diet, and introduced surfing to Israel. Returning to the States, he met his wife Juliette, and the rest was history. Director: Doug Pray, Executive

Producers: Todd Wagner, Mark Cuban, Joana Vicente and Jason Kliot, Producers: Tommy Means, Matthew Weaver, Jonathan Paskowitz and Graydon Carter. **Library, Fri.- 9 pm, Sun.- 11 am**



(film descriptions continued on page 28)

THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS

(Canada, 2007, 93 min) *Coming of Age, On The Edge* Directed by Bruce McDonald. **Fuel, Mon.- 7 & 9:30 pm**

This may be the best film I have ever seen in my life. It is not amateurish, it views as professional a production as anything coming out of mainstream Hollywood. It is not void of any familiar faces, the lead role is played by Ellen Page, who was also the star of *Juno*. It is not the hackneyed work of a "filmmaker" that thinks they are an auteur, it is well written, authentic as hell, and the execution of the story was incredibly innovative. But if you are epileptic, I would recommend skipping this film.

Tracey Berkowitz is a regular fifteen-year old girl. You know this because she tells you. She is

not abused by her parents, she is not hooked on drugs, she is not a prostitute. Her and her friends are not up to antics that will shock and horrify you. Because she doesn't really have any friends. That isn't because she smells or she's poor or anything out of the ordinary. It is because she is a regular fifteen-year old girl that is called "titless" by most of the people in her school and "it" by the rest.

The story is confusing at the beginning, but as you acclimate to the idea of being inside of the mind of Tracey Berkowitz, you will adjust to the cocophany of images that are hurled at you simultaneously. These are *The Tracey Fragments*. You, viewer, are lucky. You get to see it all. Tracey's fantasies playing alongside the more repressed realities. You see her dreamy crush at school, the oh-so emo Billy Zero. But not as it really is. Not yet. She has some things she has to face first.

Director Bruce McDonald took Maureen Medved's adaptation of her own novel and created a visual masterpiece that forces you to become Tracey and to see her horrifying reality from the inside.

This film is the true gem of this festival. More than just a well told story, it is an unparalleled cinematic experience while also being sort of the female, movie version of Holden Caulfield. You will have to see it to understand.

- Jon Bosworth



UNDER THE SKIN

(USA, Japan, 2007, 59 min) *World of Docs, On the Edge*

Tebori tattoos have been outlawed by the Japanese government, due to its underworld ties. For the first time ever, viewers will be able to see the small and secret society of the Horitoshi Family,

as well as their rich culture, exotic land, the history and mythology of Japanese tattooing. Barth has gained much respect from the Horitoshi Family throughout his career and is the only Westerner

welcomed to immerse into this highly guarded world, which until now, the average person would have zero access. Directed by Billy Burke. **Fuel, Tue.- 7:30 & 9 pm**

UNDER THE SNOW

(Spain, 2007, 95 min) *Viva Cinema*

Following the unusual connection made between four female workers at different stages of their lives, *Under the Snow* captures factory life in a way rarely seen; personal, flirtatious and intro-

spective. With the winter season fast approaching and orders piling up in the snow chain division, supervisor Javier and shy assistant Jairo are joined by temporary workers, motherly Karmentxu and

feisty Angela. For long, frigid days they each pack chains in silence until Angela starts breaking the rules. Directed by Candela Figueira and Maitena Muruzabal. **Fuel, Wed.- 6 pm**

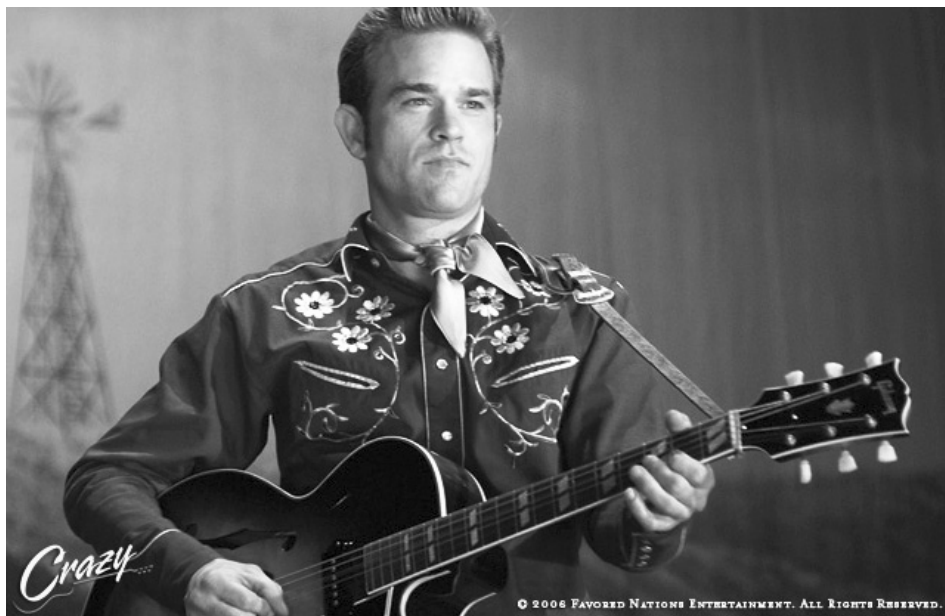
THE YEAR OF GETTING TO KNOW US

(USA, 2007, 90 min) *Hollywood Film*

A successful New York journalist, Christopher Rockett is a man who feels everything in his work and nothing in his life. When his estranged father suffers a stroke, he's forced to return to his tiny

hometown in Florida, where the events of his dysfunctional past swirl around him. *The Year of Getting to Know Us* is a story about what we all fear most: Becoming just like our parents. The film

stars Sharon Stone, Jimmy Fallon, Lucy Liu, Tom Arnold and Ileana Douglas. Directed by: Patrick Sisam (II). The annual Film Festival Gala will immediately follow. **Florida Theatre, Sat.- 7:30 pm**



getting to know waylon payne

interview with *Crazy* star by kellie abrahamson

"When I was in the 8th grade, my drama teacher, Mrs. Eileen Starke, told me there were several places I needed to be, but the theater stage was not one of them," Waylon Payne said, adding with satisfaction, "I showed her."

Indeed he has. Since Payne made his silver screen debut as Jerry Lee Lewis in *Walk the Line*, the Nashville native's acting career has taken off. Payne has a number of movies coming out soon, including the supernatural thriller *Ghost Image* and a crime drama called *Kingshighway*. But it's his film *Crazy*, a biopic in which he portrays celebrated musician Hank Garland, that's getting the red carpet treatment at this year's Jacksonville Film Festival. Perhaps that's because Garland has a local connection, spending the final years of his life in the First Coast area.

Though you may not think you know who Hank Garland is, you certainly know his work. Garland was a legendary guitar picker and session man who played with everyone from Roy Orbison to Elvis Presley. His biggest claims to fame though are his hit song 'Sugarfoot Rag' and the Christmas classic he co-wrote, 'Jingle Bell Rock.' *Crazy* follows his career from the first time he stepped onto the stage at the Grand Ole Opry at age 15 to his final performance there 30 years later. The bulk of the film, however, centers on Garland's personal life, particularly his marriage to a blonde beauty named Evelyn, played by *Heroes* star Ali Larter.

Hank and Evelyn's love story has a less than happy ending. Infidelity, a debilitating car crash and a stint in a mental institution effectively ended both their marriage and Hank's music career. Instead of becoming a household name, Garland ended up quietly living the last 40 years of his life in Orange Park with his brother and sister-in-law, Billy and Amy Garland.

"I think that it started out being more of a music thing, you know. Everyone involved in it was really, really music inclined," Payne told EU in a recent interview. "[But] a lot of the focus shifted to what the important story was... this love that was sort of crazy, if you will."

Payne says he was drawn to the part because it is such a beautiful, bittersweet tale. He also says his own experiences getting the role and later during filming were bittersweet as well.

"It's such an arduous process," he said. "The audition thing went on for literally months and after everyone put their faith in me, I just didn't want to let anyone down."

The topsy-turvy existence of the country and jazz phenomenon was hard enough for Payne to portray, but a tragedy in his own life made things even more difficult.

"I'm gonna tell you the truth; it was a very, very hard shoot," Payne said. "There were three pivotal scenes that were shot on the final day of shooting and on [that day] I awoke to a phone call... it was a lady telling me that my mother had passed... It's a hard movie for me to watch at times because it was so different there at the end and I can see it on my face... I think it contributed a lot to the final mood [of the film]."

His performance in *Crazy* has already been something of a launching pad for his movie career but, a life long musician himself, Payne also has his sights set on getting his own music heard. His debut album, *The Drifter*, was re-released earlier this year and a live album with Willie Nelson is expected soon. Payne says the sudden jolt to his career is, well, crazy.

"I went from *Walk the Line*, which was just a little [role]... to leading in films," he mused. "It's just really bizarre how life turns. One day you're not really doing much and the next day you're getting the opportunity to know the world and they get to know you a little bit better."

Crazy will be Jacksonville Film Festival's opening night film. Writer, director and producer Rick Bieber and the film's actors are scheduled to attend the screening and opening night celebration. Tickets for the opening night ceremony and movie are \$15. An additional \$10 will also get you into the pre-ceremony cocktail reception and the post-screening after party at Mavericks. To purchase tickets and to get more information on the event, head to filmfestival.jacksonville.com. For more information on *Crazy*, the cast and Hank Garland, visit crazy-themovie.com.

big budget, local scenery

behind the scenes of *The Year of Getting to Know Us* by erin thursby

One of the most anticipated movies at the Jacksonville Film Festival will have some familiar scenery, as well as some well-known actors. *The Year of Getting to Know Us*, stars SNL comic Jimmy Fallon, Sharon Stone, Tom Arnold and Lucy Liu, among others, and was filmed in the Jacksonville area.

Fallon plays Christopher Rockett, a successful New York journalist who is forced to return to his small North Florida hometown when his estranged father has a stroke. He's suddenly faced with the fact that he has become his father and must learn to get in touch with his emotions before he suffers the same fate—dying alone. It's a late coming of age story.

You'll recognize many of the local bridges (including the Hart and Matthews) used in the movie for the driving scenes. The airport where Jimmy Fallon's character loses his luggage and is forced to rent a very girlie PT Cruiser is at our own Jacksonville Airport.

Some of the homes featured in the film can be found in the Empire Point neighborhood and in Hidden Hills.

The company responsible for producing the film in Jacksonville was Ring Productions, a local film production company. This was their first project, so they were understandably excited that it had such star power and was one of the feature films to be chosen for Sundance.

Lawrence Najem Executive Producer & VP of Ring Productions says that for the film, "the pieces just seemed to fit together. We wanted to make our first project in our hometown of Jacksonville and this involved a story that was in a fictitious North Florida town."

The company got their start about six years ago, by representing John Travolta while he was filming a project in Jacksonville.

"We began a relationship with Hollywood through John Travolta and through his agency, the William Morris agency."

Despite some criticisms from the crew about Jacksonville's nightlife (or perhaps the lack of it), Najem contends that the stars of the project loved it here.

"Sharon Stone fell in love with Jacksonville Beach. The restaurants, the people and did bring her children to stay, for a short time... When I saw the stars at Sundance this past January, they all again mentioned how nice Jacksonville was and the people were here... They would be filming on the set and neighbors would bring cookies... and they really got a kick out of it."

Ring is in post-production on its second film, a Tim Allen comedy (also featuring Jenna Elfman and Andie MacDowell) which they filmed in Connecticut. Najem says that he hopes to film more in Jacksonville, but while Florida is a state where it's relatively cheap to film, it's competing with other states (such as Connecticut, New Mexico, Louisiana and Mississippi) that give filmmakers huge tax breaks and other incentives.

"We do want to film here, but we also have to take into account... the best place that our investors should be for tax purposes... Florida is competitive, but not as competitive as we would like."

More than 1.8 million dollars were spent in Jacksonville during the filming, bringing in a nice bit of outside revenue. Najem tells us that the warm response from community members is one of the reasons stars enjoy working here. We're not jaded like some New Yorkers because, after all-- "it's not commonplace in Jacksonville to have a big budget film filming in your backyard."

Here's hoping Ring Productions, and state legislation, will make it a little more commonplace in the future.

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festival dining

These restaurants located in downtown Jacksonville are within walking distance of most of the Film Festival venues. They all serve dinner, but call for hours. If you need directions you can ask one of the Downtown Ambassadors, Jacksonville's Downtown safety and hospitality team. Ambassadors are easy to spot in their bright orange shirts and pith helmets as they walk and bike throughout Downtown Jacksonville, day and night. Park the car and enjoy the walk.

downtown restaurants

Big Pete's Pizzeria 118 N. Julia St., 356-2680
Burrito Gallery 21 E. Adams St., 598-2922
Cafe 331 (see our review on page) 331 West Forsyth St, 354-1999
Cafe Nola @ MOCA (closed during much of the festival for special events)
333 N. Laura St., 366-6911
Casa Dora Italian Restaurant 108 E. Forsyth St., 356-8282
Chew 117 W. Adams St., 355-3793
De Real Ting Café 128-1 W. Adams St., 633-9738
Einstein Bros Bagels 225 Coastline Dr., 634-4579
Juliette's Bistro 245 W. Water St., 355-6664
La Cena Ristorante 211 N. Laura St., 633-9255
London Bridge Eatery & Pub 100 East Adams St., 359-0001
Nicky G's 119 E. Bay St., 356-7200
Plaza III Steakhouse 225 E. Coastline Dr., 598-0234
Trellises Restaurant Hyatt Regency Riverfront 225 E. Coastline Dr., 634-4540
Zodiac Grille 130 W. Adams St., 354-8283

jacksonville landing

There is a selection of restaurants at the Jacksonville Landing located at 2 Independent Dr. The food court has your usual food court assortment of eateries. This is a good option when you don't have much time or everyone wants something different. The Landing also hosts an assortment of sit down restaurants with a terrific view.

American Café 353-4503
Benny's Steak & Seafood 301-1014
Bourbon Bayou 674-6714
Dona Maria's 598-2696
Hooters 356-5400
Koja Sushi 350-9911
Mongo's Flat Hot Grill 665-0123
Twisted Martini 353-8464
Vito's Italian Café 355-0064

southbank dining

You can make your Film Festival experience even richer by taking a trip across the river on the River Taxi and dining on the Southbank. These restaurants are within walking distance of the River Taxi drop-offs. Just ask the Captain to take you to the closest one drop to your destination.

American Grill Crowne Plaza Riverfront 1201 Riverplace Blvd., 398-8800
bb's 1019 Hendricks Ave., 306-0100
Chart House 1501 Riverplace Blvd., 398-3353
Morton's The Steakhouse 1510 Riverplace Blvd., 399-3933
River City Brewing Company 835 Museum Cir., 398-2299
Ruth's Chris Steakhouse Crowne Plaza Riverfront, 1 Riverplace Blvd., 396-6200
Sake House 1478 Riverplace Blvd., 306-2188
Tastings: A Wine Experience 1515 Prudential Dr., 346-0605
The Wine Cellar 1314 Prudential Dr., 398-8989

nightclubs

You can get an alcoholic beverage at most of the restaurants downtown but if you want some late night clubbing after a day of viewing films, then check out these area hot spots.

Burrito Gallery 21 E. Adams St., 598-2922
Cafe 331 331 West Forsyth St., 354-1999
Club TSI Discotheque 335 E. Bay St., 424-3531
De Real Ting Café 128-1 W. Adams St., 633-9738
Dive Bar 331 E. Bay St., 359-9090
Mark's 315 East Bay Street, 355-5099
Mavericks Rock N' Honky Tonk & Miss Ellie's Bardello Jacksonville Landing, 356-1110
The Pearl 1101 N. Main St., 791-4499
Twisted Martini Jacksonville Landing, 353-8464