



Silver Screen Society plans busy summer

June 30, 2005

By Brooks Robards

Entering its fourth year of programming, the Silver Screen Society will present a bumper crop of independent, foreign, classic and documentary films this summer. A non-profit, volunteer-run organization, the society is led by film aficionado Richard Paradise of Vineyard Haven.

A grand total of 20 movies at four venues in three Island towns are scheduled, and, for the first time, three will be shown at the Tabernacle in Oak Bluffs. The fun starts at the Tabernacle on July 12 with "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill," an intriguing tale of three San Francisco escapees and the people who care for them. The collaboration with the Camp-meeting Association is a first for the Society and allows it to expand its audience at the spacious Tabernacle.



The society will show two more family-oriented documentaries at the Tabernacle on Tuesdays in July. "Microcosmos," a fascinating, up-close look at the insects

we share our world with, is planned for July 19. "Rivers and Tides" follows, portraying the environmental artist Andy Goldsworthy at work on his miraculous creations. These three films start at 8 pm.

The society will also offer three other special film events during July at the Katharine Cornell Theatre in Vineyard Haven. The first presents well-known writer and cartoonist Jules Feiffer, a longtime Vineyard summer resident, who will appear at the movie version of his play "Little Murders" on July 14 at the Katharine Cornell Theatre in Vineyard Haven. Feiffer wrote the screenplay for the film, a dark urban comedy directed in 1971 by Alan Arkin. He will field questions about "Little Murders" which stars Elliott Gould and has been described as "torridly on target and eerily funny," after the 8 pm screening.

The following Saturday, July 23, the off-beat and acclaimed auto-documentary "Tarnation" will be shown. Filmmaker Jonathan Caouette uses his camera to cope with a schizophrenic mother and abusive foster parents. Mr. Paradise says he hopes to bring Caouette to the Island for the screening.

Director Jonathan Berman will introduce his documentary "Commune!" on July 28. The movie examines the Sixties phenomenon of communal living through a visit to the Black Bear Ranch in northern California.

A special members-only party and show will be held on July 21. Hors d'oeuvres, wine, and beer will be served at the Mansion House, with a surprise film screening at the Katharine Cornell Theatre to follow.

August films, 70s and scary

August will mark the return of the society's popular Movie Museum Series at the Grange Hall in West Tisbury. Running through Sept. 8, the series features popular films of the 1970s. "A New Leaf" kicks off the series on August 4. The comedy by Elaine May, former Mike Nichols stand-up partner, features a playboy who tries to marry a wealthy woman and murder her. Woody Allen's classic 1976 comedy "Sleeper," about a nerd who wakes up in the future, follows on August 11.

On August 18 "Jaws" will be screened, along with Edie Blake's home movies taken during on-Island production of the Spielberg blockbuster. Blake also authored a book, "Making of the Movie Jaws," which has been re-issued for the 30th anniversary of the movie.



Roman Polanski's thriller "The Tenant," where strange things start happening in an apartment formerly occupied by a suicide victim, will screen August 25. "Two Lane Blacktop," the 1971 drag-race movie starring James Taylor in his only Hollywood film performance to date, will be shown September 1. Peter Bogdanovitch's landmark "The Last Picture Show," based on the Larry McMurtry novel, will close the Movie Museum series September 8. Starring Timothy Bottoms, Jeff Bridges, and Cybill Shepherd, it captures life in a small Texas town between World War II and the Korean War. These films will all be shown at 8 pm. The outdoor summer horror series at Featherstone Center for the Arts begins Tuesday, August 16 with a screening of the original, 1933 "King Kong." H.G. Wells's classic "The Invisible Man," starring Claude Rains, follows August 23, and "Bride of Frankenstein," with Elsa Lancaster and Boris Karloff, on August 30. These screenings begin at 8:30 pm, weather permitting.

For information on films and events visit www.mvfilmsociety.com or call Mr. Paradise at 696-9369.