

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCREENING SERIES 'THE LIFE OF FILM: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF *REVERSE SHOT*' SALUTES THE ONGOING VITALITY OF CINEMA AND CRITICISM

Preview screening of Terrence Malick's *To the Wonder*, rare screening of *Primer*, with director Shane Carruth in person, and films by Miguel Gomes, Douglas Gordon, Lucrecia Martel, among titles selected and introduced by *Reverse Shot* writers

April 4–7, 2013

Astoria, New York, March 12, 2013—Founded in early 2003, the online film magazine *Reverse Shot* (reverseshot.com) is one of the most dynamic voices in contemporary film criticism. Made up of an ever-expanding community of writers in New York and beyond, *Reverse Shot* publishes reviews of contemporary films and essays that maintain a conversation with film history. Richard Porton of *Cineaste* magazine recently said: "Online magazines such as *Reverse Shot* . . . are in many respects, [this] generation's equivalents of *Film Comment* and *Sight & Sound*." To mark its tenth anniversary, Museum of the Moving Image is collaborating with *Reverse Shot* editors and writers to present a film series that celebrates the ongoing vitality of screen culture and film criticism—a sentiment that is especially urgent amidst constant media chatter about the death of film culture. The series ***The Life of Film: A Decade of Reverse Shot***, taking place from April 4 through 7, 2013, features eight films from the past decade that the writers have selected as works that best represent the ongoing excitement and possibility of movies.

The series opens with two special screenings: *Primer*, the 2004 debut feature by Shane Carruth (*Upstream Color*) with the director in person on April 4; and a preview screening of Terrence Malick's new feature, *To the Wonder*, which stars Ben Affleck and Rachel McAdams, on April 5. Other, rarely screened titles in the series are Miguel Gomes's *The Face You Deserve*, Lucrecia Martel's *The Headless Woman*, Douglas Gordon and Philippe Parreno's *Zidane: A 21st Century Portrait*, and the avant-garde shorts *O'er the Land* by Deborah Stratman and *Draft 9* and *Shayne's Rectangle* by Dani Leventhal. Each program will be accompanied by a new essay on *Reverse Shot* and introduced in person by a writer. On Sunday, April 7, there will also be a panel discussion of the state of film and criticism by a selection of the magazine's writers.

With the exception of *Primer* and *To the Wonder*, all programs in the series are free with Museum admission.

"We wanted to do this series to counter all the tiresome talk about the so-called death of film and of film criticism with some concrete examples of why we should remain more than optimistic," said Michael Koresky, *Reverse Shot* co-editor. "All of these films—challenging and entertaining narrative, avant-garde, or documentary works—point the way to an exciting cinematic future."

"*Reverse Shot* has maintained a relationship with the museum via our ongoing programming collaboration around the series *See It Big!*," said Jeff Reichert, *Reverse Shot* co-editor. "We can't think of a better place to celebrate the past decade of our work and look to the bright future of movies than this essential, forward-thinking institution."

Koresky and Reichert conceived and have co-curated the Museum's ongoing screening series *See It Big!* since 2011.

"*Reverse Shot* has played a vital role in film culture in the past decade," said David Schwartz, the Museum's Chief Curator. "The popular film series *See It Big!*, at the Museum, celebrates the experience of seeing great movies in a theatrical setting. We are pleased to have this opportunity, with *The Life of Film*, to present an eclectic selection of great recent movies, and introduce our audience to some of *Reverse Shot's* finest writers."

Press Contact: Tomoko Kawamoto / tkawamoto@movingimage.us / 718 777 6830

SCHEDULE FOR 'THE LIFE OF FILM: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF REVERSE SHOT,' APRIL 4–7, 2013

All screenings take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue in Astoria. Screenings are included with Museum admission and free for Museum members unless otherwise noted. Tickets for Friday evening screenings (when the Museum offers free gallery admission) are \$12 adults / \$9 students and senior citizens.

SPECIAL SCREENING

Primer

With Shane Carruth in person

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Shane Carruth. 2004, 112 mins. 35mm. With Shane Carruth, David Sullivan, Casey Gooden. Writer-director-star Carruth captivated the Sundance crowd this year with his new feature *Upstream Color*. His 2004 debut, *Primer*, won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance, and has since gained a large and devoted cult following. Filmed on a shoestring budget, this mind-bending and mysterious tale of a group of young scientists who invent a time machine in a garage never sounds or goes where you expect it to.

TICKETS : \$20 public / \$12 Museum members / free for Silver Screen members and above.

SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING

To the Wonder

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Terrence Malick. 2013, 112 mins. DCP. With Olga Kurylenko, Ben Affleck, Rachel McAdams, Javier Bardem. Malick's follow-up to his monumental *The Tree of Life* is much smaller in terms of scale, but no less intensely spiritual and visually glorious. After they experience a runaway romance in Paris, an American man brings an Eastern European single mother and her daughter back to Oklahoma so they can start a new life together. But adjustment to this beautiful, strange new world is not so easy for her. A poetic, existential inquiry into love, faith, and the universe's mysteries, this is an exquisite, challenging work about human longing.

TICKETS : \$20 public / \$12 Museum members / free for Silver Screen members and above.

The Face You Deserve

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Miguel Gomes. 2004, 108 mins. 35mm. With José Airosa, Gracinda Nave. This shape-shifting debut feature by Portuguese filmmaker Miguel Gomes (*Tabu*) opens as a comic portrait of a sulky music instructor experiencing a midlife crisis on the eve of his 30th birthday. On the outs with his girlfriend, he travels to the countryside and falls under the spell of an enchanted house. Combining elements of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and classic Hollywood musicals with Jacques Rivette-like meta-games, *The Face You Deserve* is a genre-defying woodland fantasy about the psychic hangover of childhood and the transformative nature of cinema itself.

The Headless Woman

Introduced by Chris Wisniewski, writer and the Museum's Deputy Director for Education and Visitor Experience

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 6:00 P.M.

Dir. Lucrecia Martel. 2008, 87 mins. 35mm. With Maria Onetto, Claudia Cantero, César Bordón. In the brilliantly directed third feature from Argentinean auteur Martel, Onetto plays a dentist whose mental state appears to unravel after she hits and runs over something—a dog? a child?—with her car. In charting her recuperation from the accident, Martel crafts a sonically and visually rich character study that plays as both a psychological mystery and an examination of class and social privilege. Ambiguous, unsettling, and excoriating, *The Headless Woman* cemented Martel as a singular and formidable presence in contemporary world cinema.

Zidane: A 21st Century Portrait

Introduced by critic Eric Hynes

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2:00 P.M.

Dir. Douglas Gordon, Philippe Parreno. 2006, 90 mins. 35mm. Edited from footage shot by seventeen cameras over the course of one soccer match, this astonishing nonfiction experiment keeps a tight focus only on the iconic French-Algerian soccer star Zinedine Zidane, eliding all other players (including a barely glanced David Beckham) and details of the game in favor of a singularly sensational and cubistically mediated portrait of the athlete. Visually stunning and sonically extraordinary, *Zidane* is more than a reinvention of the sports film, it's a nimble manifesto on cinema, time, and the swiftly expiring narrative of our lives.

“Reverse Shot, Forward Motion”: Roundtable Discussion

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 4:00 P.M.

Reverse Shot critics Michael Koresky, Eric Hynes, Andrew Tracy, and Genevieve Yue, and other special guests will participate in a roundtable discussion about the state of film and criticism.

Deborah Stratman and Dani Leventhal: Avant-Garde Voices

Introduced by critic Genevieve Yue

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 6:00 P.M.

O'er the Land. Dir. Deborah Stratman. 2009, 52 mins. 16mm. Stratman's beguiling essay on “freedom” in all its various guises, picks over the detritus of early 20th century Americana, including border patrols, recreational flamethrower ranges, French-Indian War reenactments, high school football games, and one heart-stopping death-defying leap from the heavens. Preceded by: ***Draft 9***. Dir. Dani Leventhal. 2003, 28 mins. Digital projection. ***Shayne's Rectangle***. Dir. Dani Leventhal. 2011, 5 mins. Digital projection. Brimming with visceral force, Dani Leventhal's video pieces describe life as it is caught in the act: sometimes messy, sometimes sublime, always unafraid. From the rough immediacy of *Draft 9's* diary structure to the subtle color shifts of *Shayne's Rectangle*, Leventhal's view of the phenomenal world is unflinching and intuitive, her camera as much a companion as a tool in her unyielding search for signs of life.

MUSEUM INFO

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday except for select holiday openings and special programs. Holiday openings include March 25 (Mon), March 26 (Tue), April 1 (Mon), and April 2 (Tue), from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, screenings are included with Museum admission.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults (18+); \$9.00 for senior citizens and for students (13+) with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: 718 777 6877, members@movingimage.us

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit movingimage.us.

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