

SPECIAL EVENTS

1975 STRATFORD FILM FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Stratford's Eleventh International Film Festival September 13 to 20 once again offers a Day With Canadian Filmmakers, as well as a selection of new and interesting foreign films, new works by John Frankenheimer and Richard Lester, and a retrospective of comedian Harold Lloyd's films.

As in past years, the Festival is offering Full Memberships and Evening Memberships at bargain rates. Full Memberships entitle the holder to see all films, including the opening and closing night galas for just \$30. A \$20 Evening Membership provides admittance to both the 7 and 9 p.m. showings each evening from Sunday, Sept. 14 to Friday, Sept. 19.

The opening presentation Saturday, Sept. 13 at 8:30 p.m. is the Canadian premiere of the American film **Visit to a Chief's Son**. Produced in Kenya by still photographer Robert Halmi from his novel of the same name, the story of the effect an African has on a remote scientist and his somewhat selfish son was directed by Lamont Johnson (**McKenzie Break**, **Groundstar Conspiracy**, **You'll Like My Mother**, **The Execution of Pvt. Slovik**, **The Last American Hero**) who will be present at the Festival for the weekend.

The Festival begins earlier, however, with the presentation of the Canadian film **Lions for Breakfast** at 10 a.m. Saturday morning. This children's film stars Jan Rubes, prominent on both opera stage and TV screen, as an old drifter who teams up with two brothers for some adventures. Director William Davidson and producer Tony Kramreither will be present, as well as the bluegrass music makers Cliff Edwards and Black Creek.

Sunday, September 14, begins with **Between Wars**, an Aussie flick shown at Cannes involving the growth of psychiatry in middle-class Australia (7 p.m.) followed by two Peter Hall films from Britain. The first, **Akenfield**, uses the technique perfected by Michel Brault in **Ile aux Coudres** to enable Suffolk villagers to recreate their own lives and remember the lives of their ancestors, and the second is a world premiere of **Landscape**, a 35 minute film of Harold Pinter's play.

Monday, once again, is the day delegated to the Canadian filmmaker. Box lunches are available for a get-together in the park at noon, Sept. 15. At 3.30 p.m. Gilles Carle's 1971 film **Les Mâles** is presented as one of Rock Demers ten-best-from-ten-years choices celebrating ten years of Faroun Films. Claude Jutra's new film **Pour le meilleur et pour le pire**, a tender but uncompromising look at modern-day marriage in Montreal, is at 7 p.m., and **Me**, John Palmer's feature from the play by Martin Kinch, another long-awaited Canadian film, will be screened at 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 16 is dedicated to Hungarian film. The three features are **Catsplay**, Karoly Makk's perceptive study of ageing, memory and the female psyche (7 p.m.), **Football in the Good Old Days**, Pal Sandor's bizarre tale of a team's manager and his efforts to keep his star goalkeeper, and **Dreaming Youth**, a skilful study of the closed world of a professor and his family by Janoz Rozsa.

Wednesday, Sept. 17, the French film **F is for Fake** is described as a "fabulous, masterful and exuberantly original" work in which Orson Welles and François Reichenbach examine fakery in life and art. (7 p.m.) At 9.30 p.m. a film from the Netherlands, **Mariken van Nieumeghen** is a reconstruction of plague-ridden Middle Ages based on an early morality play, directed by Jos Stelling.

Thursday, Sept. 18, offers a curious mixture of English and Indian work. At 7 p.m. **The Moon and the Sledgehammer** by Philip Trevelyan is a film document of an unusual south-England family preoccupied with their philosophy, woodland, and some odd machinery. It is followed by **A Private Enterprise**, a BFI production directed by Peter K. Smith, of the efforts of a young Indian foundry worker in the Midlands to persevere with business plans. Finally, at 9.30 p.m., a rare short film by Satyajit Ray, **The Inner Eye**, precedes **Nirmalyam**, a tale of the decline and fall of a village oracle in southwest India which won the National Film Awards in India.

Friday, Sept. 19, John Frankenheimer will try to attend the screening of his new film **Impossible Object**, which was made in France and stars Alan Bates as the English writer living abroad who seeks to accomplish the impossible in life and love. At 9.30 p.m. the latest acquisition by Faroun Films, the Japanese **Kaseki**, directed by Kobayashi is about a businessman played by Shin Saburi, who searches for the meaning of his life while in Paris for a holiday.

A Saturday afternoon double feature September 20 starts with **All Creatures Great and Small** at 3.30 p.m. in which Anthony Hopkins plays the veterinarian James Herriot dealing with the people and animals of Yorkshire in a charming thirties' tale. Following is **The Adventures of Sinbad the Sailor**, an animated adventure from Czechoslovakia's Karel Zeman.

The closing presentation Saturday night, September 20 at 8.30 p.m. is the Canadian premiere of **Royal Flash**, Richard Lester's latest romp. Malcolm McDowell, Oliver Reed, and once again, Alan Bates, with Florinda Bolkan as Lola Montez, are involved in this Prisoner of Zenda invention, inspired by George MacDonald Fraser's novelistic resuscitation of Harry Flashman, the bully of Tom Brown's Schooldays.

The Harold Lloyd series will be presented at 1.30 p.m. September 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 and will be followed daily by feature films selected by Rock Demers of Faroun Film. These features begin at 3.30 p.m. and represent the ten-best-of-ten-years. The Festival is honoring Mr. Demers, a successful independent Canadian film distributor for a decade, for his "courageous and essential service to filmmakers and their audiences."

Of special interest to all film buffs and Festival regulars who enjoy meeting filmmakers, performers and producers at the morning coffee hour will be the week-long presence of the esteemed critic and professor John Russell Taylor, as critic-in-residence.

Further information may be obtained by writing the Stratford Festival Office, Stratford, Ontario. □

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