

Film at UO experiments with time

■ 'La Jetée' was the inspiration for the 1995 film 'Twelve Monkeys'

By Rory Carroll
Oregon Daily Emerald

This Wednesday at 8 p.m., the UO Cultural Forum will show French Director Chris Marker's 1962 film "La Jetée" at 180 PLC.

Widely regarded as an influential experimental film, "La Jetée" is the story of a man living in the wake of global nuclear holocaust. Scientists submerged far below the earth's surface decide that, with little hope for the future, they must turn their attention to recapturing the past. They see time travel as the only escape from the forsaken planet. The problem is that no one has a strong enough memory of the time before World War III to travel back. One man, however, has a vivid memory of a tragic moment from his childhood, and uses it as a doorway into the former world.

"La Jetée" served as the inspiration to Terry Gilliam's 1995 film "12 Monkeys." Gilliam also made "Brazil" and "The Fisher King." "La Jetée" is far simpler than that high-budget Hollywood version, according to Vladimir Solmon, film coordinator for the Cultural Forum.

"It is sparse in the plot line," Solmon said. "I'm a big fan of the sparseness."

The film is made up entirely of stills that fade into one another, along with some subtitles. The absence of sound provided an avenue for UO graduate Aaron Trant to supply his own soundtrack. Trant will perform his live film score, playing percussion that he has prepared to accompany the film.

Trant said that his interest with "La Jetée" first started with the

film "12 Monkeys."

"I am a big Terry Gilliam fan, and when I learned that 'La Jetée' was the original inspiration for the film, I thought I should check it out."

Trant said his main goal with the score is to enhance the overall mood of the film.

"'La Jetée' is a very dark story and I try to capture that in the score," he said. "I also try to move between different moods [love, fright, violence etc.] with subtlety so that every mood is somehow connected with a common thread."

Trant has scored the piece for vibraphone, bongos, bass drum, two toms, various cymbals, gongs, chimes and triangles.

"I have also included some not-so-mainstream instruments such as mixing bowls and whistles," he said.

Two years ago, Trant performed a live score to Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" with a group called the After Quartet. A University graduate who is currently working on his Masters at the New England Conservatory in Boston, he said he enjoys returning to his alma mater to perform.

“It is sparse in the plot line. I'm a big fan of the sparseness.”

Vladimir Solmon
film coordinator
Cultural Forum

"I have decided to come back because I had such a great experience there with 'Metropolis,'" Trant said. "This campus is also very interested in new music and new projects like this, and I thought a lot of other people in the area would be interested."



Courtesy of EMU Cultural Forum
(Chris Marker's 1962 film "La Jetée," which was the inspiration for the 1995 film "12 Monkeys," will be shown at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Room 180 PLC.)

The show will open with some short avant-garde films including George Melies' "Trip to the Moon," Marcel Duchamp's "Anemic Cinema," Jean Vigo's "Taris," Orson Welles' "Hearts of Age," and Salvador Dali and Luis Bunuel's "Un Chien Andalou."

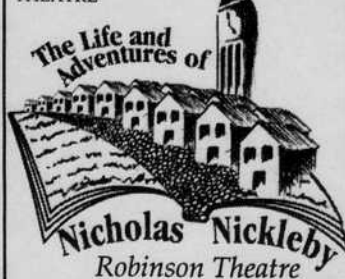
Vladimir said that because "La Jetée" is only 30 minutes long, she wanted to show several opening films.

"I was trying to find things that would fit," she said. "I'm a fan of early avant-garde."

Although she admits that the seats in PLC 180 are not exactly luxurious, she said the sound quality is surprisingly good.

The cost is \$5 for students, and \$6 for the public. The show begins at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Room 180 PLC.

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Cheap dates start in the kitchen

By Joe Walsh
Oregon Daily Emerald

The end of the school year is near, and as summer break gets closer, two things are likely to happen.

For one, the sun will come out more and stay out longer, which means more to do outdoors. Second, all of us poor college kids will only get poorer as our financial aid accounts dry up.

Problem: There is more to do, but less money to do it with.

Solution: Use what you already have.

Here's an idea for a cheap date that won't cost you anything, assuming that you have the following bare necessities. And even if you don't have them, you can always steal... err... borrow from your roommates.

First, pack a simple picnic lunch that you and your significant other can enjoy at a park. Prepare a couple of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, chips, fruit

and juice or soda. It's easy and it's stuff that most people should already have around the house. And although it's basically effortless, your date will think of you as sweet and thoughtful. You have plenty of time after the initial dating period to prove him or her wrong.



Next, take your date and the lunch to a park. Washburn Park, near the corner of 19th Avenue and Agate Street, is close to campus and just down the street from the dorms. With lots of lush, green grass, it's the perfect place to sit down and enjoy an outdoor picnic. And with its large open field, the two of you can enjoy the next inexpensive activity.

When you're done with lunch, show your date your playful side

with something that even the least gifted athlete can do with acceptable proficiency: throw a Frisbee. Almost everyone has a Frisbee, or at least a friend who has one. An easy game of catch will lighten the mood and create a playful atmosphere, which can lead to good things later... such as ice cream.

Just down the street from Washburn Park is Sweet Treats ice cream parlor at 1604 E. 19th St. The two of you can cool off there with some of the best ice cream in town. And at less than \$2 for a single scoop, you won't need to take out another student loan.

With the exception of the ice cream, everything you need for this cheap date should already be in your cupboards and refrigerator.

Substitute as necessary, and with a little resourcefulness you should be able to enjoy a priceless date at a minor cost.

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