

# Three Films

## Archaeology Film Festival 2004

For the second year, a series of international films and videos will be shown at the McDonald Theatre for five days in July. This year, the Archaeology Channel presents films from 19 countries. The jury selected these 19 films on ancient cultures, archaeology and indigenous peoples to be shown from Tuesday, July 13 through Saturday, July 17 on the big screen. However, all 55 entries will be available for private viewing in the video bar in the theater lobby during the festival. Doors open at 5:45 pm daily through Friday. On Saturday, doors open at 10:15 am, and the last film plays about 4:30 pm. Prizes for best entries, as determined by jurors and audience votes, will be announced at the end of the festival. For ticket information, call 344-5572 or go to [filmfest@archaeologychannel.org](mailto:filmfest@archaeologychannel.org).

Jane Waldbaum, president of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), is the festival's first keynote speaker. Waldman will talk about "Cultural Wars: Tales from the Trenches" on Tuesday night. Her illustrated talk is sandwiched between *Guardians of Angkor* and *Iraq's Lost Treasure*, two films that detail the looting of ancient sites and the loss and occasional recovery of treasures.

David Hurst Thomas, Curator of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History, delivers a second keynote address, "Skull Wars Revisited," mid-after-

noon Saturday. Thomas is the author of the critically acclaimed book, *Skull Wars: Kennewick Man, Archaeology, and the Battle for Native American Identity*.

**IRAQ'S LOST TREASURE** (USA) by Jason Williams. National Geographic Film and Television. 2004, 57 minutes. Plays at 8:45 pm on July 13.

Shot during the days following the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the film chronicles the efforts of international archaeologists to assess the damage of major looting at the National Museum in Baghdad, restore order and search for missing treasures, including priceless solid gold artifacts discovered in the ruins at Nimrud. The Nimrud ruins, now guarded by U.S. troops, had been hit by looters, who destroyed priceless pieces of world history and culture. Important antiquities are successfully recovered, but the film highlights the uncertain future of such projects.

**SASTUN: MY APPRENTICESHIP WITH A MAYA HEALER** (USA, Belize) by Guido Verwey and Eva Langsdorff. 2002. 20 minutes. Plays at 9 pm on July 15.

This documentary follows the quest of American herbalist Rosita Arvigo to preserve the ancient wisdom of one of the last, great Maya shamans, Don Elijo Panti of Belize, and to protect the rain forests where healing plants grow. Arvigo's journey is circuitous, yet

Don Elijo hears of her and comes to talk with her. He makes Arvigo his apprentice, secured by her promise to save his knowledge to help his people. Arvigo has attracted international attention to the plight of such plants threatened by deforestation and to bring science to bear on traditional healing plants, but much remains to be done.

**KURTAL: SNAKE SPIRIT** (Australia) by Nicole Ma. Australian Film Commission., 2003. 27 minutes. Plays at 1 pm on July 17.

Set against the deep red of a spectacular Australian sunset, a single dancer pounds the earth rhythmically, his chant the hypnotic summoning of the snake spirit, Kurtal, who lives in the waterhole revered by his people. Spider, an 80-year-old Aboriginal elder, has brought his family across the Great Sandy Desert of

Western Australia, to visit the sacred site.

The family encompasses a wide age-range, from older and younger women and men, children and babies. The pilgrimage is the way for Spider, who was born at Kurtal, to pass on the ancient ceremonies to the new generation. A moving testament to the continent's original people, *Kurtal* shows a community that wants to keep its links to the past strong and vital. Spider's dance and the vivid paintings and colorful weavings of the people express a spiritual connection to their unique cultural history.

Under the stunning visuals run the words of Spider, a man who lives in both the contemporary world and in the world invoked by the dreaming song. *Kurtal* is Spider's desire to share the mystery of this ancient culture with us. It's a generous, loving gift. **EW**



Aboriginal Australian elder, Spider, summons the snake spirit, Kurtal.

## movie clips

### OPENING OR RETURNING:

**Afropunk:** Director James Spooner delves into the tensions of race in America through the eyes of African American punk rockers in this 70-minute documentary. Following the film, musician Vince Black will lead a discussion. \$2-\$5. At 9 pm on 7/9 at DIVA, 110 W. Broadway.

**Anchorman:** Subtitled "The Legend of Ron Burgundy," this comedy stars Will Ferrell as an unctuous, untalented newscaster who's a legend only in his own mind. PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark.

**Archaeology Film Festival:** Showing 19 juried films selected from 55 entries from July 13 through July 17 at the McDonald Theatre, including *Iraq's Lost Treasure*, *Sastun: My Apprenticeship with a Maya Healer*, and *Kurtal: Snake Spirit*. See reviews this issue.

**Breakin' All the Rules:** When his fiancée dumps him, Jamie Fox writes a "how to" book on dumping, which becomes a best seller. Also with Morris Chestnut and Gabrielle Union. PG-13. Movies 12. PG-13.

**Flesh Gordon (1972):** A little soft-core sex comedy based on the 1930s sci-fi serial, *Flash Gordon*. NR. LateNite Bijou.

**King Arthur:** Excellent cast includes Clive Owen, Keira Knightley, Stellan Skarsgard, Stephen Dillane, Ray Winstone, Ioan Gruffudd. Directed by Antoine Fuqua and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, this revisionist history, action adventure is not your great-grandpa's Arthurian tales. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World.

**Love Me If You Dare (Jeux d'Enfants):** Childhood relationship between Sophie and Julien persists into their adult years, when they've become love-hungry but strangely unable to see their love for each other. Directed by Yann Samuell, film stars Guillaume Canet and Marion Cotillard. R. Bijou.

**Mean Girls:** Lindsay Lohan plays a high-school student raised by zoologist parents in the African bush, who falls for a popular girl's ex-boyfriend. PG-13. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

**Mother, The:** Directed by Roger Michell and written by Hanif Kureishi, movie stars Anne Reid as a suburban grandmother who gets involved with a much younger man (Daniel Reed, *Sylvia*), who is sleeping with her daughter (Cathryn Bradshaw). *The NYTimes* Stephen Holden: "Neither good nor evil, the characters are complicated, ordinary people

copied as best they can with their emotional wounds and fear of the future." R. Bijou.

**Sleepover:** Teen comedy adventure pits two rival groups of girls against each other in an all-night scavenger hunt. PG. Cinemark.

**Thirst:** Alan Smitow and Deborah Kaufman's documentary looks at how water is becoming the catalyst for explosive community resistance to globalization. Activists claim that water is a human right, while corporations call it a commodity. On "POV" at 11 pm on 7/13 on OPB, but check listings to be sure.

**Films open the Friday following EW publication date unless otherwise noted. See archived reviews at [www.eugeneweekly.com](http://www.eugeneweekly.com)**

### CONTINUING:

**Alamo, The:** The famous 13-day battle of 1836 in a San Antonio mission pitted 200 men against an overwhelming Mexican army. Stars Patrick Wilson, Jason Patric, Billy Bob Thornton, Dennis Quaid and Emilio Echevarria. Directed by John Lee Hancock as understated drama. Highly recommended. PG-13. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

**Big Lebowski, The (1997):** The Coen brothers' bowling flick with a kidnapping subplot stars the marvelous Jeff Bridges, with Coen regulars John Goodman, Steve Buscemi and John Turturro as assorted bowling eccentrics. The plot is a thin excuse for a Coen brothers romp, a laugh-out loud series of mistaken identities, dream sequences and chases. With Julianne Moore, Peter Stormare. R. LateNite Bijou.

**Chronicles of Riddick, The:** Riddick (Vin Diesel) ends up on a multicultural planet invaded by a despot planning to subjugate everyone with his non-human warriors, the Necromongers. (Named for a bad rock band?) Also stars Thandie Newton, Alexa Davalos, Colm Feore, Linus Roache and Judi Dench. PG-13. Movies 12.

**Day After Tomorrow, The:** Directed by Roland Emmerich, starring Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal, Emmy Rossum, Sela Ward. A climatologist (Quaid) tries to figure out a way to save the world from abrupt global warming. He must get to his son (Gyllenhaal) in New York, which is being taken over by a new ice age. PG-13. Movies 12.

**Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story:** Can social rejects save their small local gym from gentrification? Only director Rawson Thurber and his stars Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn, Christine Taylor and Rip Torn know for sure. PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark.

**Ella Enchanted:** Anne Hathaway is a perfectly obedient girl. She does what she's told, literally. Based on Newberry-winning novel. PG. Movies 12.

**Envy:** Ben Stiller, Jack Black in Barry Levinson's film about kooky inventor (Black), who suddenly becomes wealthy from a spray that makes dog poop disappear. Neighbor (Stiller) grows murderously envious. Christopher Walken co-stars. PG-13. Movies 12.

**Fahrenheit 9/11:** Winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes 2004, Michael Moore's nonfiction film is more restrained than his later films and better for it. The film is respectful, moving and informative, as well as opinionated and occasionally heavy handed. Don't miss. Highest recommendations. R. Bijou. Cinemark. **Online archives.**

**Garfield, The Movie:** The poster promises "frisky business" as Garfield, the smarty pants kitty, makes his film debut. PG. Cinemark.

**Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban:** Alfonso Cuarón directs the third film based on the series by J.K. Rowling. Harry (Daniel Radcliffe), Ron (Rupert Grint) and Hermione (Emma Watson), now teenagers, return to Hogwarts, where they face their darkest fears. The very best so far. Highly recommended. PG. Cinemark. Cinema World. **Online archives.**

**Hellboy:** Based on Mike Mignola's Dark Horse Comics series, this supernatural action adventure stars Ron Perlman, John Hut, Selma Blain and Doug Jones and is directed by Guillermo del Toro. Highly entertaining, sweet film. See it. Movies 12. PG-13. **Online archives.**

**Hidalgo:** Based on autobiography of distance rider Frank T. Hopkins, played by Viggo Mortensen, this epic action-adventure takes place during a 3,000 mile survival race across the Arabian Desert in 1890. PG-13. Movies 12.

**Home on the Range:** Disney animated film features voices by Roseanne Barr, Judi Dench, Jennifer Tilly, Cuba Gooding Jr., Randy Quaid, Steve Buscemi, Carole Cook and Governor Ann Richards., while singing comes from k.d. lang, Bonnie Raitt, Tim

McGraw and The Beau Sisters. PG. Movies 12.

**Kill Bill Vol. 2:** The Bride (Uma Thurman) pursues her next foes, Budd (Michael Madsen), Ellie Driver (Daryl Hannah) and finally, Bill (David Carradine). Bloody. Quentin Tarantino's epic shows he makes movies that move and characters who kill, but to what end, besides his own self-gratification? R. Movies 12. **Online archives.**

**Notebook, The:** Nick Cassavetes directs Gena Rowlands and James Garner, Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams in the screen adaptation of Nicholas Sparks's best-selling romantic novel. With Sam Shepard and Joan Allen. Deserves to be seen for its depiction of real first love, with a great performance by McAdams. Recommended. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World. **Online archives.**

**Scoby Doo 2 Monsters Unleashed:** Some scary action, rude humor and language. PG. Movies 12.

**Shrek 2:** Mike Myers returns as Shrek, Cameron Diaz is his new wife, Princess Fiona, and Eddie Murphy's his sidekick, Donkey. Now the newlyweds face Queen Lillian (Julie Andrews) and King Harold (John Cleese). Fairy godmother

(Jennifer Saunders), Prince Charming (Rupert Everett) and the ferocious Puss in Boots (Antonio Banderas). So-so sequel. Cinemark. **Online archives.**

**Spider Man 2:** Peter Parker aka Spidey (Tobey Maguire) returns as a college student by day who still loves Kirsten Dunst and a superhero when needed against his new nemesis, Otto Octavius (Alfred Molina). Sam Raimi directs. Looks great! PG-13. Cinema World. Cinemark. **See review this issue.**

**Stepford Wives, The:** Frank Oz directs Nicole Kidman, Matthew Broderick, Bette Midler, Christopher Walken, Faith Hill and Glenn Close in this updated comedy-thriller about a perfect, 1950s-era community in Stepford, Connecticut. PG-13. Cinemark. **Online archives.**

**Terminal:** Steven Spielberg directs Tom Hanks as a tourist who has to live at Kennedy airport because his homeland disappeared in a civil war, so his passport is no good. He falls in love with Catherine Zeta-Jones, whose comic talent is wasted in a dumb-dame role, while Hanks only works part-time. Too long and too cute. PG-13. Cinemark. Cinema World. **Online archives.**

**Two Brothers:** Jean-Jacques Annaud

(*The Bear*) directs this adventure story about the power of friendship between twin tiger cubs. Stars Guy Pearce, Jean-Claude Dreyfus and Philippine Leroy-Beaulieu. PG. Cinemark.

**Van Helsing:** Monster killer Van Helsing (Hugh Jackman) teams up with Kate Beckinsale in Transylvania to bring down Count Dracula (Richard Roxburgh). PG-13. Movies 12..

**What the Bleep Do We Know?** Through interviews with cutting-edge scientists and spiritual teachers, a brand new way of thinking about consciousness, intentionality and the ability to make a difference in the world emerges. But it begins with Amanda (Marlee Matlin). Highly recommended. NR. Bijou. **Online archives.**

**White Chicks:** Comedy about FBI agents who go undercover as high school debutantes to investigate a kidnapping ring. Stars director Keenen Ivory Wayans, Shawn and Marlon Wayans. PG-13. Cinemark.

**Bijou Art Cinemas (686-2458)**  
**Cinema World 8 (342-6536)**  
**Cinemark 17 (746-5202);**  
**Movies 12 (741-1231)**

## VIDEO CLIPS

### NEW RELEASES ON VIDEO

Releases subject to change. Available the Tuesday following date of EW publication, sometimes sooner. See archived movie reviews at [www.eugeneweekly.com](http://www.eugeneweekly.com)

**Barbarian Invasions, The:** Canadian writer director Denys Arcand's acclaimed 2003 film revisits the generation created for *The Decline of the American Empire* (1987). *LA Weekly's* Ella Taylor writes, "The film has the fluid rhythms, the delight in talk and food, and the nourishing intellectual richness of Renoir, Louis Malle and, in a certain mood, Bertolucci." Highest recommendations. R.

**Bourne Identity, The:** Matt Damon, Franka Potente, Chris Cooper, Clive Owen and Brian Cox star in Doug Liman's character-based spy thriller based on Robert Ludlum's best seller. A man with amnesia (Matt Damon) sets out to discover who he is and why everyone wants to kill him, and along the way he discovers love (Franka Potente). A subtle skewing of the genre, it's highly recommended. PG-13. **Online archives.**

**Dreamers, The:** Bernardo Bertolucci's film, set during the Paris uprising of 1968, stars Michael Pitt, Eva Green and Louis Garrel as three young cineastes who hole up in their apartment and play sex and movie games. It's a beautiful reminder that youthful dreams may not change the ways of the world, but they may forever alter the dreamers. Very highest recommendations. NC-17. Bijou. **Online archives.**

**Manchurian Candidate, The (1962):** One of the few Cold War era films to survive with anything like its original punch, this John Frankenheimer political thriller sports amazing visual imagery and a taut screenplay by George Axelrod that's still shocking. Based on Richard Condon's novel about a brainwashed veteran of the Korean War (Laurence Harvey) and his buddy (Frank Sinatra). Janet Leigh is the love interest; Angela Lansbury's his criminally manipulative mother. Sinatra's best ever screen roles, Fabulous. Not rated.

**Next Week: The Human Stain, Port of Shadows, Stage and Spectacle: Three Films by Jean Renoir, and Starsky and Hutch.**