

EAT WITH ME

DESTABILIZING AGENTS

DisOrient film fest seeks to upend stereotypes of Asian-Americans

In his groundbreaking 1978 book *Orientalism*, the late critic Edward Said went after the West's misconceptions about the exotic and inscrutable otherness of Asian cultures, often so lavishly and fantastically portrayed in colonial writing. "From the beginning of Western speculation about the Orient," Said wrote, "the one thing the Orient could not do was represent itself."

In the West, stereotypes about Asians and Asian culture are persistent and often particularly tenacious — i.e., bad drivers, tight-lipped and clannish, whiz-bang at math. The 10th Annual DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon, running April 17-19 at the Bijou Art Cinemas, seeks to rattle through the pop art of cinema our longstanding misconceptions by deconstructing media stereotypes of Asians and Asian-Americans.

Among the offerings at DisOrient is a slew of world and Oregon premieres as well as workshops, lectures and Q&A sessions with many of the films' directors, producers and writers. For instance, the Saturday, April 18, showing at 9:23 pm of *Eat With Me* will be followed by an appearance by writer-director David Au and lead actor Sharon Omi.

On its surface, *Eat With Me* is a simple romantic comedy. Elliot (Teddy Chen Culver) is a young gay man living in Los Angeles and running a failing restaurant — he's just not a very good cook, cranking out standard Asian fare for a customer base rapidly dwindling to zero. When his mother, Emma (the wonderful Sharon Omi), leaves her "asshole" husband, she seeks out her estranged son, showing up at his workplace with a suitcase and a scared, helpless look. She moves into his messy bachelor pad, where she commences cleaning and, when Teddy's not around, discovering with discomfort the accouterments (Condoms! Beefcake magazines!) of her son's gay lifestyle.

Per DisOrient's mission of destabilizing our expectations about all things Asian, the trajectory of *Eat With Me* is at once familiar and disarming. Emma at first seems the classic Asian-American wife and mother — taciturn, servile, disapproving — and yet it is her openness and warmth that works (with a little help from an accidental hit of ecstasy) to break the ice with Teddy, who, against stereotypes of a more "progressive" young generation, is walled-off and alienated by his own sexuality.

In the end, *Eat With Me*, despite following a pat rom-com formula, begs a reassessment of the gulf that divides Asian-Americans, both from Western culture and among themselves in the family unit. Of course, any thawing of homophobic tension is greatly facilitated by George Takei of *Star Trek* fame, who makes a lovely cameo in a park to comfort Emma after she walks in on Elliot and his new lover. ■

The 10th Annual DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon plays April 17-19 at Bijou Art Cinemas (492 E. 13th Ave.), with more special events held at New Hope Christian College, Sam Bond's Brewery and the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. For tickets and a full list of screenings and events, visit disorientfilm.org and

MOVIE CAPSULES

Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter

Strip away the playful tenderness and uplifting score of the French film *Amélie*, and it has much in common with *Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter*, the latest work by American actor and director David Zellner, known for his indie flicks *Goliath* and *Kid-Thing*. Both films star nearly mute twentysomethings with pixie haircuts, stuck in dead-end jobs with nary a fulfilling relationship in sight. And both women cope by wrapping themselves in a protective cocoon of make-believe. But whereas *Amélie*'s fantasies lead her to love, Kumiko's send her down a darker path, propelling her from the sallow urbanism of Tokyo to the snow-whipped landscapes of Minnesota. And the film wastes no time presenting its catalyst: A VHS tape of *Fargo* — the 1996 dark comedy by the Coen brothers — that Kumiko (played with tempered grace by Rinko Kikuchi) finds mysteriously buried near a coastal cave in Japan. Wrapped in layers of reality itself — it's based on a true story turned urban legend — *Kumiko* pits truth against belief, posing that whichever leads to happiness is the worthy path. (Bijou Metro)

It Follows

There is very little that is postmodern about the new horror film *It Follows*, though writer-director David Robert Mitchell does take Wes Craven's "sex is death" prohibition from *Scream* and utterly runs amok with it, creating a randy little masterpiece of post-AIDS paranoia and terror. The set-up is as simple as the moral implications are complex: At the end of a strange, somewhat disturbing date, Jay (Maika Monroe) has steamy backseat sex with Hugh (Jake Weary), who immediately drugs her, ties her up in an abandoned building and tells her he's passed her "it" — a shape-shifting, slow-moving but persistent demon that will continue to follow Jay until it either kills her or she fucks someone else, passing it along. Channeling such legendary filmmakers as horror master John Carpenter and, to a lesser degree, Stanley Kubrick, Mitchell employs a tinkling, almost cheesy score of synthesized music combined with gorgeous cinematography — jump cutting from anxiously airy wide-angle shots to jarring close-ups — to create an atmosphere that is at once hypnotic and unnerving. (Bijou Metro)

BIJOU Showtimes
Apr 17-23
492 E. 13th Ave.
bijou-cinemas.com

2015 DISORIENT ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL
For showtimes and tickets visit:
www.disorientfilm.org

WALKING WITH THE ENEMY
Mon, Tue, Thu 4:15, 7:00
Wed 4:15

OCCUPY THE FARM *presented by Beyond Toxics*
Mon, Tue, Thu 5:15, 7:45
Wed 7:45

PLANETARY Wed only 3:45, 5:45
ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL (free sneak preview)
Wed only 7:00

Showtimes and info: 541-686-2458

BIJOU METRO 43 W. Broadway
bijou-cinemas.com

WHILE WE'RE YOUNG
Fri-Sun 12:45, 3:00, 5:00, 5:15, 7:15, 7:30, 9:30, 9:45
Mon-Thu 2:30, 4:15, 4:45, 6:30, 7:00, 8:45, 9:15

IT FOLLOWS
Fri-Sun 5:25, 7:45, 10:00
Mon-Thu 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

KUMIKO, THE TREASURE HUNTER
Fri-Sun 12:15, 2:40
Mon-Thu 2:15

WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS
Fri-Sun 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
Mon-Thu 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

MONSTERS: DARK CONTINENT
Fri-Sat 12:00, 2:30
Sun 12:00
Mon-Thu 1:45

Jewish Film Festival presents
EXODUS 1947 & MY BROTHER'S KEEPER Sun 3:00

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Delta Hwy. between I-5 & Bellline
Crown Club Members \$5.50 Tuesday
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IMAX: FURIOUS 7 [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. 12:15 3:45 7:15 10:15

MONKEY KINGDOM [CC,DV] (G) Fri. - Sat. (12:30 2:40) 4:50 7:00 9:15

CHILD 44 [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (12:35 3:50) 7:25 10:35

PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2 [CC,DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (11:30 12:00 2:00 2:30) 4:30 5:00 7:00 7:30 10:00

TRUE STORY [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (12:05 2:35) 5:10 7:40 10:10

UNFRIENDED [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (11:55 2:10) 4:25 6:40 9:25

THE LONGEST RIDE [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (12:10 3:30) 6:50 9:55

FURIOUS 7 [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (11:45 3:00) 6:45 9:45

GET HARD [CC,DV] (R) ★ Fri. - Sat. (11:25 2:15) 4:45 7:35 10:05

HOME [CC,DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (2:05 PM) 4:35 PM 7:10 PM

HOME 3D [CC,DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (11:50 AM) 9:35 PM

DANNY COLLINS (R) Fri. - Sat. (11:50 2:25) 5:05 7:45 10:20

DO YOU BELIEVE (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. 9:50 PM

CINDERELLA [CC,DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (11:40 2:45) 6:30 9:20

KINGSMAN: THE SECRET SERVICE [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (12:25) 4:20 7:20 10:25

ALBANY 7 Next to Fred Meyer

PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2 [CC,DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (1:00) 4:00 7:05 9:40

UNFRIENDED [CC,DV] (R) Fri. - Sat. (1:30) 4:30 7:35 10:05

THE LONGEST RIDE [CC,DV] (PG-13) Fri. - Sat. (12:40) 4:20 7:15 10:10

FURIOUS 7 [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (12:30 3:40) 6:50 10:00

GET HARD [CC,DV] (R) ★ Fri. - Sat. (12:25) 4:10 7:30 9:50

HOME [CC,DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (11:5 PM) 9:10 PM

HOME 3D [CC,DV] (PG) ★ Fri. - Sat. (3:30 PM) 6:30 PM

THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (12:50 3:50) 6:40 9:30

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PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2 [CC,DV] (PG) Fri. - Sat. (1:15) 4:20 7:00 9:45

FURIOUS 7 [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (12:45 3:55) 7:15 10:15

GET HARD [CC,DV] (R) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1:30) 4:30 7:30 10:00

THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT [CC,DV] (PG-13) ★ Fri. - Sat. (1:00 3:50) 6:45 9:40

Times For 04/17 - 04/18© 2015 www.REGmovies.com

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UNBROKEN 3:10	THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING 3:10	WHIPLASH 5:30	THE VOICES 5:30
LOVE THY NEIGHBOR 7:25	ST. VINCENT 7:25	THE IMITATION GAME 7:25	THE BABADOOK 9:30
THE VOICES 9:30	THE VOICES 9:30	THE VOICES 9:30	THE VOICES 9:30

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CHAPPIE (DIG) (R) 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:25	HOME (DIG) (PG) 11:25, 12:10, 2:00, 3:25, 4:35, 6:05, 7:20, 8:35, 9:50
CINDERELLA (2015) (DIG) (PG) 11:10, 12:15, 1:55, 3:20, 4:45, 6:20, 7:35, 9:05, 10:20	THE LONGEST RIDE (DIG) (PG-13) 12:05, 3:35, 7:05, 10:05
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT (3D) (PG-13) SPECIAL EVENT PRICING: \$3.00 UPCHARGE ALL TICKETS 2:30, 9:10	MCFLARLAND, USA (DIG) (PG) 11:30, 3:40, 7:05, 10:05
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: INSURGENT (DIG) (PG-13) 11:35, 1:25, 4:25, 6:15, 7:15, 10:25	MONKEY KINGDOM (DIG) (G) 11:05, 12:25, 2:40, 5:05, 7:45, 10:10
FURIOUS 7 (DIG) (PG-13) 11:15, 12:00, 1:20, 2:25, 3:30, 4:30, 6:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:20	PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2 (DIG) (PG) 11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
GET HARD (DIG) (R) 11:40, 2:20, 4:55, 7:40, 10:15	TRUE STORY (DIG) (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
	UNFRIENDED (DIG) (R) 11:00, 12:20, 2:35, 5:00, 7:50, 10:10

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