I'm at one of the most interesting cultural events I've been to in years. It's at a new art-house movie theater in Omaha.

Fellini's masterpiece AMARCORD is just ending. A group of artists from around the world is going to discuss how their work compares to this celebration of small town life.

The movie theater, Film Streams, is a marvel. It's brand new, gorgeous and only plays sophisticated independent films...

— Adam Davidson,

NPR's "Morning Edition"

Film Streams at the Ruth Sokolof Theater

**2011 Annual Report** 

# Dear Friends of Film Streams,

We will always remember 2011 as the year of THE DESCENDANTS. Our world-renowned board member brought a little Hawaii to Omaha in November when he premiered his terrific film at the hometown nonprofit cinema he helped to found and build. We are thrilled for Alexander's success and can't thank him enough for significantly helping make 2011 our best year yet. Last year saw our biggest crowds ever, with well over 54,000 people experiencing our programs. We also saw the most memberships and individual donations ever.

Since 2007, more than 4,000 individuals and families have supported Film Streams through annual support, a membership contribution, or a gift to Feature, our annual gala. And I want to thank you all for being so supportive of our mission. All of you understand that there are so many wonderful, thought-provoking films being made around the world every year. You understand that there are classics that need to be celebrated and exhibited with an audience, on the big screen. You know that film is a truly powerful medium that can effect real and positive change.

An exciting example from this past year: In July, we welcomed director Greg Jacobs for an opening night screening of LOUDER THAN A BOMB, his exhilarating documentary about the world's largest youth poetry slam in Chicago. The discussion that followed that evening inspired some wonderful community leaders to launch Louder Than a Bomb: Omaha for students here in town. It will get under way this spring.

"We saw our biggest crowds ever in 2011, with well over 54,000 visitors..."

2012 will continue the 2011 theme, when a true icon in her own right, the descendant of a Hollywood icon whose own acting career started in Omaha, joins us for Feature IV. We are sincerely looking forward to welcoming Jane Fonda back to Nebraska. We can't imagine a better 5th anniversary for the start-up arts organization you all have supported so enthusiastically, now known throughout our community as an arts institution.

Thanks to all of you for making us who we are today—a truly community-supported, mission-based cinema.

I'll look forward to seeing you at the Ruth Sokolof Theater!

Best & warmest wishes,

Rachel Jacobson

Film Streams Executive Director

## First-Run Films

new films premiered in 2011...

...international films from Botswana, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and the UK...

...new work by acclaimed filmmakers Claire Denis, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Mike Leigh, Sofia Coppola, Alejandro González Iñárritu, Steven Soderbergh, Terrence Malick, Errol Morris, Lars von Trier, Steve James, and Alexander Payne...

...selections representing the true diversity of filmmaking voices, including outstanding new work by women and African American directors, and honest, true-to-life stories about gay identity and relationships underrepresented in mainstream cinema...

...documentaries about the Black Power movement, the fascinating saga of a tabloid superstar, the world's largest slampoetry competition for teens, a fashion photography icon, a Formula One racing legend, the personal impact of China's soaring economy and massive migrant population, inner-city violence intervention, print journalism in the 21st century, the endangerment of lions in Africa, growing up in Communist Russia, and real-life superheroes.

#### **Most Popular Premieres Overall**

1 The Descendants (USA)

2 The Tree of Life (USA)

3 Jane Evre (UK)

4 Sarah's Key (France)

Oscar Shorts! The Academy Award-Nominated Short Films (various countries)

6 Melancholia (Denmark/Sweden/France/Germany)

7 Biutiful (Spain/Mexico)

Of Gods and Men (France)

9 I Love you Phillip Morris (USA/France)

10 Page One: A Year Inside the New York Times (USA)



#### **Most Popular Documentaries**

Page One: A Year Inside the New York Times (USA) 1

Louder Than a Bomb (USA) 2

The Interrupters (USA) 3

Bill Cunningham New York (USA) 4

The Black Power
Mixtape 1967-1975 (Sweden) 5



## Repertory Films

# 66 classic films shown in 2011



#### **Most Popular Classics of 2011**

To Kill a Mockingbird 1962 (USA) 1

Nosferatu 1922 (Germany) 2

It's a Wonderful Life 1946 (USA)

It Happened One Night 1934 (USA) 4

The Sound of Music 1965 (USA) 5

The Godfather 1972 (USA) Members Select Winner

Looney Tunes (USA) 7

The Goonies 1985 (USA)

I Vitelloni 1953 (Italy)

The Philadelphia Story 1940 (USA) 10

#### Steven Soderbergh

February 11 - March 24, 2011

If he does indeed retire in the near future, as he suggested on-stage during his conversation with Kurt Andersen at Feature III, it's a remarkable career Steven Soderbergh leaves behind—one we proudly celebrated with this series in conjunction with our fundraiser gala in February, and which featured two of Steven's own personal favorites: Victor Erice's THE SPIRIT OF THE BEEHIVE and Richard Lester's A HARD DAY'S NIGHT.

#### Great Directors: Federico Fellini

April 1 – June 16, 2011

In an era when directors were treated like royalty, nothing was as exciting culturally as the release of a new Fellini picture. With this 12-film series, we relived that time—presenting ten of Fellini's greatest films, a documentary about his work, and another landmark of Italian cinema (Rossellini's ROME, OPEN CITY) co-written by our director of honor. Series generously sponsored by Omaha Steaks.

#### **Screwball Comedies**

July 22 - September 29, 2011

To watch some of the greatest screen legends—Cary Grant, Barbara Stanwyck, Clark Gable, Carole Lombard, Katharine Hepburn—wittily dish and banter at a thrilling, rapid-fire pace is to experience Hollywood at its finest. An irresistible summer series featuring 10 comedies from the Golden Age of cinema.

#### Prints in Landscape

November 1 – 15, 2011

A special three-film series featuring contemporary cinematic views of the American West, presented in collaboration with Joslyn Art Museum and in conjunction with the museum's exhibit, American Landscape: Contemporary Photographs of the West.

## Forever Young Family & Children's Series

Ongoing

From the Marx Brothers to the magical new documentary MAKE BELIEVE, from a selection of Looney Tunes classics to the Academy Award nominated A CAT IN PARIS, our ongoing Family & Children's Series featured 24 titles spanning 78 years of cinema (1933-2011). Made possible with support from the Lincoln Financial Foundation.

#### Silents in Concert

Film Streams was honored to collaborate with a truly amazing group of musicians, each bringing their own unique approach to the art of live musical accompaniment. Series gener ously sponsored by Sam Walker, with additional support from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

## The Alloy Orchestra plays Wild and Weird (October 4)

Silent shorts from 1906-1927

Nosferatu (October 21)

Live music by Others (Orenda Fink, Todd Fink, Ben Brodin).

## The Adventures of Prince Achmed

(November 10)

Live music by Breakfast (Ryan Fox, Jake Bellows, Ben Brodin

#### The Endless Summer

(December 1)

Live music by Matteah Baim.

#### **People on Sunday** (December 6)

Live music by Nick White, Derek Pressnall, Dan McCarthy

#### **The General** (December 15)

Live music by Jim Boston (Great Plains Ragtime Society).

# free programs for students in 2011...

including Daytime Screenings for Visiting Classes and our monthly free Student Night...

numerous opportunities for students to experience our programming free of charge. Our annual calendar of Daytime Screenings for Visiting Classes allows teachers to bring their students to the theater for film-based field trips, and our Student Night (first Monday of every month) provides free tickets for whatever we're showing that day, often with a 4pm "Film Club" screening featuring a guided post-show talk.

Throughout the year, Film Streams offers

Additionally, Film Streams works with other nonprofits and community groups, particularly those serving disadvantaged youth, to present free movies and a behindthe-scenes tour of our projection booth.



Students attend a special Daytime Screening of TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD as part of the Peter Kiewit Foundation's "Summer Fun" program.

### Education

...1,334 students attended Student Night in 2011 (up 37% from 2010)...

...116 students from 5 schools for a screening & discussion of Truffaut's THE 400 BLOWS...

...142 schools represented, including our Top 6 for 2011:

- 1 UNO 37.5%
- 2 Creighton University 25.3%
- 3 Creighton Prep 7.2%
- 4 UNMC 3.8%
- 5 UNL 3%
- 6 (tie) Omaha Central & Omaha South 2.2%

## A sampling of our student events in 2011

#### **A Time for Burning**

March 16, 2011

A daytime screening of the 1966 Academy Award nominated documentary about race relations in Omaha, attended by 60 students from Millard West High School, with a post-show discussion led by Millard West English Department Head Lloyd Hoshaw.

### Peter Kiewit Foundation "Summer Fun"

## **To Kill a Mockingbird** August 4, 2011

A special daytime screening and post-show discussion attended by 158 kids participating in the Peter Kiewit Foundation's "Sumer Fun" initiative.

#### Sarah's Key

October 3, 2011

A Student Night "Film Club" screening with post-show discussion led by Beth Dotan, Executive Director of the Institute for Holocaust Education.

#### The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975

November 4, 2011

A student Night "Film Club" screening with post-show discussion led by Peggy Jones, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Black Studies at UNO, and Jannette Taylor, Exec. Director of Impact One Community Connection.

#### La Misma Luna

November 16, 2011

A daytime screening of the 2007 drama about immigration, attended by 118 students from Bellevue West, Central, and Ralston high schools, with a post-show discussion led by Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, Professor of Political Science at UNO and Assistant Director of the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies of the Great Plains (OLLAS).

"Thank you so much for giving our class the opportunity to watch the movie. It was a very good movie and was an amazing experience for me. This trip opened my eyes and I will consider watching another foreign film."

-Garson, Central High School

# Community Development & Special Programs

46

## events in 2011...

... collaborated with 19 community groups and organizations on film-based events...

... **presented programs** with 47 visiting artists, including 16 filmmakers and 13 musicians.

#### Partnerships with Community Organizations, Director and Artist Visits, and Panel Discussions



"Is it really a prediction anymore to propose that Film Streams will rivet us in the coming year with awesome Q&As, uniquely relevant fare and creative events? Nah. But I'll predict that anyway."

—Ryan Syrek, The Reader (December 2011)



In September, Film Streams and NET Television welcomed POV Executive Director Simon Kilmurry to Omaha for a special program and preview of upcoming POV docs.

#### **Ghost Bird**

March 15, 2011

Screening and panel discussion presented with The Nature Conservancy, Nebraska Chapter.

#### La Vie En Rose

March 20, 2011

Screening and post-show Q&A with "the voice of Edith Piaf," singer Jil Aigrot, presented with Omaha Performing Arts.

#### Director Screenings:

#### **Putty Hill & Hamilton**

April 16 & 17, 2011

Opening night screening of PUTTY HILL and post-show Q&A with director Matthew Porterfield, and a one-time screening of his debut feature HAMILTON with introduction by Matthew.

#### **Reefer Madness**

May 19, 2011

Special screening presented with the BLUEBARN Theatre in conjunction with their production of "Reefer Madness: The Musical."

#### Girls Rock! The Movie

July 6, 2011

Special screening and panel discussion presented with Omaha Girls Rock.

#### Director Screening:

#### **Louder Than a Bomb** July 29. 2011

A special opening night screening of LOUDER THAN A BOMB and post-show Q&A with director Greg Jacobs.

## Director Screening: When We Stop Counting August 9, 2011

Screening and panel discussion, featuring director Elisabeth Reinkordt and participants from the documentary, presented with the Latino Academic Achievement Council, Nebraska Appleseed, and Plains States Region Anti-Defamation League.

#### **Local Filmmakers Showcase** August 19 – 25, 2011

Our second annual program celebrating area filmmakers, featuring work by Charles Fairbanks, Joshua France, Molly Zavitz, Teal Gardner, Megan Plouzek, Ryle Smith, and Joel Sartore. Curated by jurors Sara Adkisson Joyner, Andrea Dominguez, Roger duRand, Mark Hoeger, Peggy Jones, Simon Joyner, Bob Mundy, Maggie Mundy, Derek Pressnall, and Betiana Simon.

#### **Forks Over Knives**

August 30, 2011

Special screening presented with Whole Foods Market Omaha.

#### POV Executive Director Simon Kilmurry

September 15, 2011

A behind-the-scenes look at PBS' award-winning documentary showcase, presented with NET Television.

#### The Interrupters

August 31, 2011

Special screening and discussion presented with Impact One Community Connection and Omaha 360.

#### The Interrupters

September 7, 2011

Special screening and panel discussion featuring: Willie Barney, President and Facilitator of the Empowerment Network and Omaha 360; Jannette Taylor, Executive Director of Impact One Community Connection; Thomas Warren, former Omaha Chief of Police and currently CEO of the Omaha Urban League; and Ben Gray, Omaha City Councilman.

#### **Reel Injun**

September 20, 2011

Screening and post-show discussion with actor Gary Farmer, presented with Native American Public Telecommunications, in conjunction with the fourth biennial VisionMaker Film Festival, and sponsored by the Native American Studies Program at UNO.

## Director Screening: **The Quilted Conscience**October 6, 2011

Screening and post-show Q&A with director John Sorenson and several of the Sudanese-American students featured in the film. Presented with The Grace Abbott School of Social Work at UNO and the University of Nebraska Foundation, and sponsored by Beardmore Chevrolet Subaru.



A post-show panel about Steve James' THE INTERRUPTERS, featuring (from left to right): Thomas Warren, CEO of the Omaha Urban League; Willie Barney, President of the Empowerment Network; Jannette Taylor, Exec. Director of Impact One Community Connection: and Omaha City Councilman Ben Gray.

## Director Screening: Dirty Girl October 17, 2011

A fundraiser celebration with director Abe Sylvia, producer Jana Edelbaum, and actor and Omaha native Nicholas D'Agosto, featuring a preview screening, post-show Q&A, and after-party. Food and drinks provided by Omaha Steaks and Upstream Brewing Company.

Special thanks to Todd and Betiana Simon.

The "story quilt" featured in THE QUILTED CONSCIENCE on display in our lobby during the October event.



#### Ongoing Collaborations

#### The Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD

Presented with Opera Omaha, featuring Prelude Talks before all live broadcasts.

#### Cinemateca

Biennial repertory series presented with and co-curated by the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Stay tuned for our next Cinemateca series in 2012.

#### Arthouse: Bemis Artists Talk Film

A film-based conversation series presented with the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts. Featured in 2011: Federico Fellini's AMARCORD, May 17, 2011.

Director Screenings and Visiting Artists programs supported by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



"Honestly, the screening I've been most looking forward to is this one...Thanks for coming. I am so happy for us, for Film Streams, for this, for all of it, for all of you."

—Alexander Payne

"The hottest ticket in town Sunday evening was at Film Streams, where all 206 seats of the nonprofit theater's main auditorium were packed for both preview screenings of THE DESCENDANTS."

—Omaha World-Herald



Event Chairs, The Weitz Family:

Barbara & Wally Weitz, Katie Weitz White & Watie White, Kate & Roger Weitz, Meredith & Drew Weitz

A record \$217,000 raised to support Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater...

...more than 1,500 in attendance, with hundreds of thousands more hearing Kurt Andersen's interview with Steven Soderbergh on 'Studio 360'.

## 2011 Income

## & Expenditures

#### **Contributed support** (47%)

Individual giving	\$144,500
Corporate gifts	\$26,000
Foundation gifts	\$161,000
Government grants	\$85,000
Special events	\$143,000

Total contributed \$559,500

#### **Earned revenues** (53%)

To/from unrestricted net assets

Total income

Interest-sav/shortterm inv Rental revenue  Total earned revenues	\$1,500 \$40,500 <b>\$622,500</b>
Sales tax on taxable revenues  Membership dues  Interest-say/shortterm inv	-\$41,000 \$116,000 \$1.500
Merchandise	\$1,000
Concessions	\$142,000
Box office	\$362,500

#### **Expense**

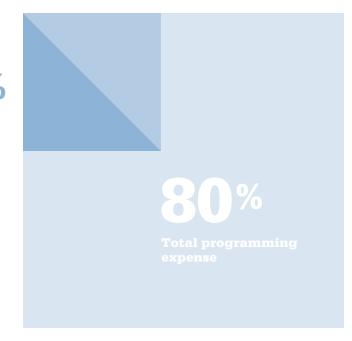
General programming	\$255,000
First run films	\$450,000
Repertory films	\$92,000
Education programs	\$16,000
Community dev. & special programs	\$28,000
Total programming expense (80%)	\$841,000
Total programming expense (80%)  Management & general (10%)	\$841,000 \$103,000
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Management & general (10%)	\$103,000

Management & general

Fundraising & special events 10%

-\$132,000

\$1,050,000



<sup>1</sup> Alexander Payne at the first of two preview screenings of his Academy Award-winning THE DESCENDANTS (November 2011).

<sup>2</sup> Film Streams Executive Director Rachel Jacobson (center) with Board Members Betiana Simon and Katie Weitz White at the Waikiki Party (November 2011).

 $<sup>3\,</sup>$   $\,$  Kurt Andersen and Steven Soderbergh on stage at Feature III (February 2011).

## Film Streams Supporters

#### Many thanks to the following contributors for their support of the Ruth Sokolof Theater.



#### Gifts & **Donations** \$20.000+

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The Todd & Betiana Simon Foundation

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In Memory of Thomas J. Walsh: Virginia Walsh

In Honor of the Weitz Family Kristin Williams & Erin Porterfield

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& 2011 Favorites

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& 2011 Favorites

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The Black Power Mixtape

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#### Alex Wodzinski

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#### Jim Foyt

Projectionist
The Descendants /
To Kill a Mockingbird

#### Jeff Jenkins

Projectionist Cedar Rapids / A Hard Day's Night

#### **Matt Maine**

Projectionist
Melancholia / The Goonies

#### **Connie White**

Balcony Booking Another Year / Trouble in Paradise

#### 2011 Interns

Jimmy Helm, Heidi Lang, Brent Lubbert, Cody Ma, Andrew Tatreau

# Katie Weitz White, Chair Rebecca Allen LeAnne Baker Joe Benson

LeAnne Baker
Joe Benson
Dave Brown
Bob Cairns
Carol Chandler
Kesley Conover
Lissa Deonarain
Kerri Dietz Pillen
Julie Dodd
Hudlie Dolce
Bev Engelkamp
Sheri Forman
Estella Fox
Colleen Frost

Lauren Garcia
Wendy Hamilton
Mary Helms
Joe Holm
Sara Howard
TJ Jones
Jane Keller
Diane Kirchmann
Margaret Kirkeby
Kaitlyn Klein
Susan Kuzela
Sarah Lemke
Yasmiene Mabrouk
Christine Malloy
Mary McHale

Jacquie Montag
Mike Penka
Emma Penrose
Tara Petersen
Alden Robinowitz
Briana Ryan
Terri Sharpe
Shannon Smith
Carroll Steiner
Nichole Turgeon
Travis Upshaw
Carol Van Pelt
Mary Wampler
Charles Wetzel
Michelle Zych



The Descendants 2011

## 2,165 showtimes in 2011...

...11,642 bags of popcorn, 196 scones, 1,368 glasses of wine, 408 cans of La Croix...

...stories and mentions from The New York Times, NPR, Wired Magazine, CNBC, The Current (Criterion Collection), Moving Image Source, Delta Sky, and Entrepreneur Magazine...

...we have now surpassed 200,000 visitors for our programs since opening the Ruth Sokolof Theater.

