

Film Streams At the Ruth Sokolof Theater **2009 Year-End Report**

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Dear Film Streams Friends,

What an incredible two and a half years it has been! We're so fortunate to have a wonderful staff, board of directors, and volunteers keeping the momentum going, and whether you've seen films at the Ruth Sokolof Theater, brought friends to the movies, become a member, volunteered, or given a significant donation, all of you have helped Film Streams to grow into a vital part of the Omaha/Council Bluffs area. The fact that we reached our fundraising goals in 2009, a difficult year for nonprofit arts organizations, is an amazing tribute both to your generosity and to our community's passion for this unique arts venue.

The most gratifying thing about being the Director of Film Streams is constantly hearing from so many of you about your experiences here at the Ruth Sokolof Theater. More than 40,000 people came to our community cinema in 2009. Visitors bought tickets for little-known American Independents like *MEDICINE FOR MELANCHOLY* and *SITA SINGS THE BLUES*; foreign films from France, Israel, and Italy set in India, Lebanon, and Argentina; documentaries on subjects ranging from saving dolphins in Japan to women's liberation in Liberia to Ivy League college football; classic films as they were meant to be seen—on the big screen, with an audience. Thousands came for our Collaborative Film Events with other nonprofits and participated in screenings and discussions with local experts, film subjects, and the filmmakers themselves.

In 2010, you'll see some major upgrades at our concessions stand, more new films from all over the world, and a local filmmaker initiative to launch careers here in Omaha and the surrounding region. We'll continue to fulfill our promise of presenting enriching, community-building experiences around cinema.

I'm so excited to continue to watch Film Streams grow and evolve!

Thank you all so much for contributing to the cultural vibrancy of our wonderful community and engaging with the potential and power of the art of film. As always, please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, and requests (402.933.0259, ext. 12; rachel@filmstreams.org).

All my best wishes for 2010!

Rachel Jacobson

Director, Film Streams at the Ruth Sokolof Theater

Feature 2009

A FILM STREAMS EVENT

For our second annual fundraiser gala, Feature 2009, Film Streams welcomed acclaimed actress Debra Winger to the Holland Performing Arts Center for a spirited and entertaining conversation with Oscar-winning filmmaker and Film Streams Board Member Alexander Payne. The event raised more than \$149,000 for the Ruth Sokolof Theater.

"Places like Film Streams are now making us realize that there's something [about experiencing cinema in a theater with an audience] that can't be examined. It just has to be acknowledged. It's important."

— Debra Winger

(Feature 2009, September 13, 2009)



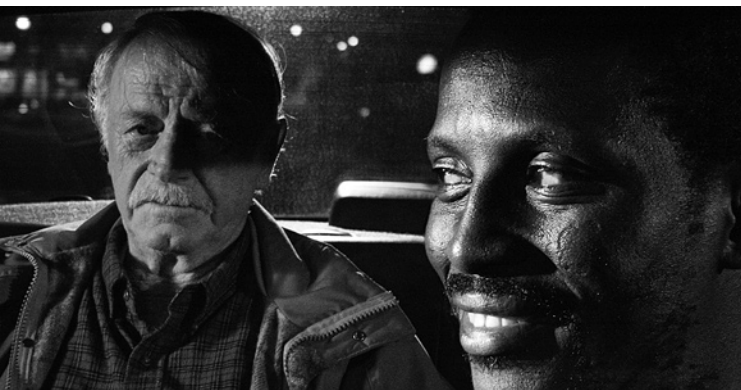
Debra Winger and Alexander Payne.



Feature 2009 Event Chairpersons Annette and Paul Smith with Film Streams Director Rachel Jacobson and special guest Debra Winger.

First-Run Films

From internationally acclaimed directors like Jane Campion (*BRIGHT STAR*), Francis Ford Coppola (*TETRO*), and the Coen brothers (*A SERIOUS MAN*) to rising filmmakers such as Ramin Bahrani (*GOODBYE SOLO*), Steve McQueen (*HUNGER*), and Lynn Shelton (*HUMPDAY*), the past year brought a wonderful variety of new films to the Ruth Sokolof Theater. In all, **we premiered 35 new films in 2009**, including a diverse selection of American independents, documentaries, and foreign films from more than a dozen countries.



Top 10 Most Popular Premieres of 2009

1. **Food, Inc.** (USA)
2. **A Serious Man** (USA)
3. **Bright Star** (UK/Australia/France)
4. **Chéri** (UK/France/Germany)
5. **Oscar Shorts – Animated & Live Action** (Various countries)
6. **Gomorra** (Italy)
7. **The September Issue** (USA)
8. **Goodbye Solo** (USA)
9. **Waltz with Bashir** (Israel/Germany/France/USA)
10. **The Messenger** (USA)

Repertory Films

More than 90 classics returned to the big screen in 2009 as part of Film Streams' repertory program. We celebrated great directors (John Cassavetes), performers (Henry Fonda, Debra Winger), genres (Westerns), an extraordinary era (New Hollywood: American 70s, sponsored by Sam Walker and Elizabeth Emlen Walker), new 35mm restorations (*LOLA MONTÉS*, *THE WILD CHILD*, *MANHATTAN*) and much more in what has become one of the most extensive classic film programs in the country. In addition, we expanded our children's programming (supported in part by Lincoln Financial Foundation) to 13 family-friendly films.

"The value & inspiration
& introspection &
curiosity that Film
Streams brings to our
lives is *immeasurable!*"

—Film Streams Members Amy
& Stuart Chittenden

Top 10 Most Popular Classics of 2009

1. **The Wizard of Oz** 1939
2. **Amadeus** 1984
3. **Gone with the Wind** 1939
4. **The Never-Ending Story** 1984
5. **12 Angry Men** 1959
6. **The Good, The Bad and the Ugly** 1966
7. **Lawrence of Arabia** 1962
8. **The Princess Bride** 1987
9. **The Wild Child** 1970
10. **Minnie & Moskowitz** 1971



Education

Each and every month, students can experience great cinema for FREE as part of our Student Nights program (supported by the Peter Kiewit Foundation) and High School Film Club (supported by the Qwest Foundation). In 2009, more than 1,000 students took advantage of these programs, including students from over 20 high schools or middle schools in the

Omaha/Council Bluffs metro area, 14 colleges and universities in Nebraska and SW Iowa, and more than 40 other schools throughout the country. While we like those numbers, we want to see them grow significantly in 2010. Please help us by telling every student you know about the free opportunities available to them at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater! For more info, visit our Education page at **filmstreams.org**

Community Development & Special Programs

In addition to presenting great cinema 365 days a year (weather permitting!), we also strive to create arts opportunities beyond the films themselves. The past year brought a wonderful variety of special events to the theater, including numerous collaborative screenings overseen by our outstanding Community Development Committee.

An Evening with Seymour Cassel
(Feb 13, 2009)

Special screening of MINNIE & MOSKOWITZ with post-show Q&A with star Seymour Cassel.

Antwone Fisher (Mar 10, 2009)
Screening and discussion with Antwone Fisher in person, presented with Project Harmony.

The Battle for Whiteclay
(Mar 28, 2009)

Special screening and discussion with director Mark Vasina and activist Frank LaMere.

Gone with the Wind

(Apr 17-23, 2009)
Presented with Lauritzen Gardens and Omaha Community Playhouse.

Amadeus (Apr 24-30, 2009)
Presented with Omaha Symphony, and featuring a special screening with Music Director Thomas Wilkins.

Two Million Minutes (May 5, 2009)
Screening and discussion presented with the Youth Leadership Omaha Ambassadors.

Food Fight (Jun 2, 2009)
Screening and discussion with director Christopher Taylor, presented with Alegent Health.

Breaking Away (Jul 9, 2009)
Screening and discussion with former Omaha planning director Marty Shukert, presented with Activate Omaha.

Wild About Omaha (Jul 24, 2009)
Free screenings of THE LAST WALTZ & MONTEREY POP in conjunction with an outdoor concert at Slowdown, part of Mutual of Omaha's centennial celebration.

Food, Inc. (August 4, 2009)
Special screening and panel discussion.

The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford
(Aug 23, 2009)

Special screening and discussion with author Ron Hansen, presented with the (downtown) Omaha Lit Fest.

The Miracle Worker (Aug 25, 2009)
Screening and panel discussion presented with the Nebraska Foundation for Visually Impaired Children (NFVIC).

Soul Power (Oct 6, 2009)
Special screening and discussion with Peggy Jones and Dr. Zebulon Miletsky from UNO's Dept. of Black Studies.

Inherit the Wind (Oct 13, 2009)
Screening and discussion presented with ACLU Nebraska.

Reporter (Oct 27, 2009)
Screening and discussion with director Eric Metzgar and Dr. Ngwarsungu Chiwengo of Creighton University, presented with KANEKO.

American Stories
(Oct 30 – Nov 12, 2009)
Eight documentaries and two director screenings presented with the Nebraska Humanities Council and Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Hollywood Chinese (Nov 5, 2009)
Screening and discussion with director Arthur Dong, presented with the Nebraska Humanities Council and Federation of State Humanities Councils.

Revolution '67 (Nov 6, 2009)
Screening and discussion with directors Marylou Tibaldo-Bongiorno and Jerome Bongiorno, presented with the Nebraska Humanities Council and Federation of State Humanities Councils.

The Insider (Nov 17, 2009)
Screening and discussion with attorney Charles J. Mikhail, presented with UNO's College of Arts & Sciences, the Dept. of History, and the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Objectified (Dec 17, 2009)
Screening and discussion presented with design alliance OMAha and Omaha Creative Institute.

Ongoing Collaborations

Arthouse: Bemis Artists Talk Film

Special screenings and discussions featuring Bemis Center artists and moderated by Bemis Center curator Hesse McGraw. Films and topics in 2009 included François Truffaut's, THE WILD CHILD, the works and influence of director John Cassavetes, Sidney Lumet's DOG DAY AFTERNOON, and a very special screening of THE COOK, THE THIEF, HIS WIFE & HER LOVER with artist-chef Paul Renner.

The Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD

Presented with Opera Omaha. Prelude talks in 2009 featured Opera Omaha General Director John Wehrle, Stage Director Jim de Blasis, KANEKO Director Hal France, UNL Director of Opera William Shomos, Opera Omaha Resident Music Director J. Gawf, and Opera Omaha Artistic Advisor & Principal Stage Director Garnett Bruce.

2009 Income & Expenditures

Contributed Income

Individual Giving	\$62,257.00
Foundation Gifts	\$136,700.00
Corporate Gifts	\$12,651.70
Feature 2009	\$149,555.00
Government	\$49,660.00

Total Contributed \$410,823.70

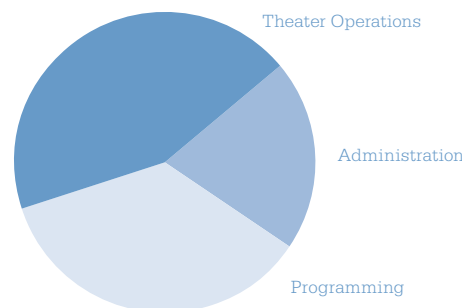
Operational Income

Box Office	\$257,544.00
Concessions	\$78,773.67
Membership Dues	\$109,310.00
Interest, Rentals & Other Revenue	\$30,940.11
Sales Tax Reconciliation	-\$27,403.25

Total Earned Revenue \$449,164.53

To/From Unrestricted Net Assets \$60,353.69

Total Income \$920,341.92



Expense

Theater Operations	\$405,207.88
Programming	\$327,895.44
Administration	\$187,238.60

Total Expense \$920,341.92

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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Rachel Jacobson

Founder/Director
 First-Run: Sita Sings the Blues
 Classic: Dog Day Afternoon

Casey Logan

Communications Coord.
 First-Run: Hunger
 Classic: Faces

Hallie Sharkey

Membership Associate
 First-Run: Sita Sings the Blues
 Classic: Dog Day Afternoon

Maggie Wood

Office & Operations Manager
 First-Run: The September Issue
 Classic: Rushmore

Andrew Bouska

Associate Manager
 First-Run: Bright Star
 Classic: The Wizard of Oz

Amanda Fehlnr

Shift Manager
 First-Run: Waltz with Bashir
 Classic: The Secret of NIMH

Aaron Haug

Shift Manager
 First-Run: Goodbye Solo
 Classic: Taxi Driver

Cooper Moon

Shift Manager
 First-Run: Tetro
 Classic: Rosemary's Baby

Craig D

Theater Staff
 First-Run: A Serious Man
 Classic: Rosemary's Baby

Joe Knapp

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 First-Run: Revanche
 Classic: The Parallax View

Chris Viner

Theater Staff
 First-Run: The Beaches of Agnès
 Classic: Faces

Jim Foyt

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 First-Run: Gomorra
 Classic: Lawrence of Arabia

Jeff Jenkins

Projectionist

Lindsay Trapnell

Education Program Coord.
 First-Run: Bright Star
 Classic: The Landlord

Connie White

Balcony Booking
 First-Run: Revanche
 Classic: Johnny Guitar