



### ***Irvine Welsh's Ecstasy***

**Rob Heydon, 2011, 99 min, NR**

*Irvine Welsh's Ecstasy* is a film adaptation of Scottish writer Irvine Welsh's novella *The Undefeated*, and premieres after 10 years in

production. Like cult hit *Trainspotting*, it deals with the impact of drugs on people's lives. Categorized as a dark romantic comedy, the film follows the romance between the unhappily married Heather (Kristin Kreuk) and aging clubber Lloyd (Sinclair) as they explore a chemical romance and discover whether their love for one another is drug-induced or real. "It's a story about transformation for each of the characters," says lead actor Adam Sinclair. "Each one goes on their own journey to find their ecstasy. You assume it's about drugs, but it's not at all."

**Preceded by *Dixieland*, Sara Jane Strickland, Cara Nelligan, Nikolai Ostonal and Shawn Robertson**

This documentary explores—from different perspectives—the issues around new and existing methadone clinics in London, Ontario.



### ***Monsieur Lazhar***

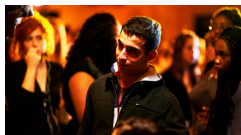
**Philippe Falardeau, 2011, 94 min, NR, French with English subtitles**

From Philippe Falardeau and the producers of last year's Academy

Award-nominated *Incendies* comes *Monsieur Lazhar*. Bachir Lazhar is a middle-aged Algerian immigrant seeking political refuge in Quebec. Bachir jumps at the opportunity to replace a Montreal elementary school teacher who committed suicide one night after class, and the school's overworked principal is initially relieved. To these children in shock, Bachir's traditional teaching methods, in the context of Quebec's endless pedagogical reforms, may well provide the structure they need. The screenplay could have led to a very dark and dry film, but *Monsieur Lazhar* is a luminous tale about the lessons we learn regardless of age.

**Preceded by *Refugee*, Roja Rohani**

Refugee presents the story of Leo, a Kurdish refugee, who fled from Iran during the civil war and traveled to Canada.



### ***Romeo Onze***

**Ivan Grbovic, 2011, 91 min, PG, French and Lebanese with English subtitles**

Rami (Ali Ammar), a young man struggling with a physical disability, desperately tries to find his way in this touching story set in Montreal's Lebanese community. Working at the family restaurant and living under his parents' roof, Rami occupies a world meticulously controlled by his father. Intensely shy but curious about women, Rami escapes online, where he has constructed an avatar called Roméo 11, a confident and successful globe-trotting businessman. One day he takes a bold step by agreeing to date a woman with whom he's struck up an online flirtation, leading to one of the film's most memorable sequences.

**Preceded by *The Witch in My Attic*, Charlie Conlon**

This short animation is based on a scary bedtime story told during childhood.



### ***Le Vendeur***

**Sébastien Pilote, 2011, 107 min, NR, French with English subtitles**

Widower Marcel Levesque (Gilbert Sicotte) is the top car salesman in a small Quebec town. He's past retirement age, but still shows up for work every day with

enthusiasm. His only interests outside of work are his daughter Maryse (Nathalie Cavezzali) and his grandson. Part of Marcel's drive comes from his painful awareness of his own mortality, but it's also sparked by the state of the town. The paper mill is being shut down and most people are leaving. But there are events even a top salesman can't control, and Marcel's life is about to change suddenly and immeasurably.

**Preceded by *Black Wax*, Justin Chasty**

A film about record collectors in London, Ontario, *Black Wax* analyzes their lives and looks into how records effect them emotionally and financially.



### ***West Wind: The Vision***

**of Tom Thomson**

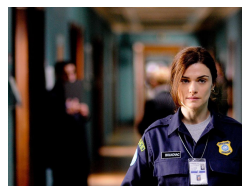
**Michèle Hozer and Peter Raymont, 2011, 90 min, NR**

As in their recent collaboration *Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould*, Peter Raymont

and Michèle Hozer investigate a genius and the nature of his genius. What made Thomson one of the first to recognize the beauty of the Canadian territories, portraying our swamps, trees and skies with such glorious energy? He witnessed the dramatic colours, moods and intensity of the woods and responded with bold compositions, thick, rhythmic brushstrokes and a shocking palette. The directors have created an enjoyable, visually stunning and thoughtful reflection on that life.

**Preceded by *The York*, John DuGray**

*The York* is a look back at The York Hotel in London, Ontario, and the artistic community that made it a place all their own.



### ***The Whistleblower***

**Larysa Kondracki, 2010, 100 min, NR (adult language and nudity)**

Based on true events, this harrowing political thriller recounts the story of Nebraska police officer Kathryn Bolkovac,

who discovers a deplorable United Nations cover-up and launches an indomitable fight for justice. Kathryn (Rachel Weisz) accepts a well-paying UN peacekeeping job. She arrives in post-war Bosnia expecting a harmonized international effort, but is greeted with disorder and irresponsibility. UN officers behave like immature college students, Bosnian police are uncooperative and there is rampant sexism. When a brutally injured young woman lands in the UN's care, Kathryn unearths a terrible underworld of sex trafficking and traces the path of criminality to a shocking source.

**Preceded by *6 - 13/16*, Matt Rossoni (adult nudity)**

Images of masculinity in advertising: made to lure, they also alienate.



## **2012 SCHEDULE**

**See the hottest in Canadian film during the heart of the winter!**

### **FEATURE FILMS**



### **STUDENT SHORT FILMS**



### **SPECIAL GUESTS**

### **TICKETS**

- Opening Night Gala (film and party) - \$15
- 11-film package - \$60 (non-transferrable, does not include opening night gala film)
- 4-film package - \$30 (transferrable, does not include opening night gala film)
- Tickets at door, 15 minutes before feature - \$10

Both gala tickets and packages are available at Eventbrite or by calling 519.661.0333.

Individual tickets are available at the door 15 minutes before the screening.

**MUSEUM | LONDON**

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### ***The Whale***

**Suzanne Chisholm and Michael Parfit, PG**

Museum London shares Festival excitement with middle and high schools: *The Whale* ties in with the School Board's emphasis on Environmental Education. Narrated by Ryan Reynolds, the film tells the true story of a young killer whale—an orca—nicknamed Luna, who lost contact with his family on the coast of British Columbia and turned up alone in a narrow stretch of sea between mountains, a place called Nootka Sound. Luna started making contact with people in boats and on the shore, but this contact would not be simple. *The Whale* celebrates the life of a being from the sea who teaches us that the greatest secrets in life are still to be discovered.

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FILM SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8  
FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING FOR SCHOOLS  
10:30 am and 12:30 pm - *The Whale*, Suzanne Chisholm and Michael Parfit, PG

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9  
GALA FILM AND OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION  
7:00 pm - *Irvine Welsh's Ecstasy*, Rob Heydon, 2011, 99 min, NR  
9:00 pm - Opening Night Reception with DJ Andycapp

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10  
2:00 pm - *Cloudburst*, Thom Fitzgerald, 2010, 93 mins, NR (adult language and nudity)  
5:00 pm - *Monsieur Lazhar*, Philippe Falardeau, 2011, 94 min, NR, French with English subtitles  
8:00 pm - *West Wind: The Vision of Tom Thomson*, Michèle Hozer and Peter Raymont, 2011, 90 min, NR  
11:00 pm - *The Whistleblower*, Larysa Kondracki, 2010, 100 min, NR (adult language and nudity)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11  
11:00 am - Master Class with Triana Productions  
1:00 pm - *Eco-Pirate: The Story of Paul Watson*, Trish Dolman, 2011, 110 min, PG  
4:00 pm - *Romeo Onze*, Ivan Grbovic, 2011, 91 min, PG, French and Lebanese with English subtitles  
7:00 pm - *Le Vendeur*, Sébastien Pilote, 2011, 107 min, NR, French with English subtitles  
10:00 pm - *A Beginner's Guide to Endings*, Jonathan Sobol, 2010, 93 min, NR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12  
1:00 pm - *Breakaway*, Robert Lieberman, 2010, 100 min, PG  
4:00 pm - *Amy George*, Yonah Lewis and Calvin Thomas, 2011, 95 min, 14A  
7:00 pm - *i am a good person/i am a bad person*, Ingrid Veninger, 2011, 82 mins, NR  
9:00 pm - CLOSING PARTY AND AWARDS NIGHT

GUESTS WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE!

HELP US LAUNCH AND CLOSE THE FESTIVAL!

Gala Film and Opening Night Reception  
with DJ Andycapp  
February 9, 9:00 pm, \$15

Production Designer (and homeboy) Dean O’Dell, Actor Shawn Shorer and Cameraman/Second Unit Director Juan Montalvo will introduce the film *Irvine Welsh's Ecstasy* and join us for a Q&A. They will stay on to inaugurate the first annual Domestic Arrivals Festival of Canadian Film. DJ Andycapp has been playing for nearly 20 years and—as somewhat of a musicologist with regards to dance culture from its roots in New York City’s underground disco, new wave, and hip-hop scenes—his tastes are wildly eclectic. And Andy Hicks is well-suited to open our Film Festival: he is just completing a master’s degree in the Department of Film at The University of Western Ontario.

Master Class with Triana Productions  
February 11, 11:00 am

Constanza Burucúa offers advice about developing, producing, funding and distributing documentary films. Part owner of Triana Productions—along with Juan Andrés Bello—Burucúa will speak about *Viva Venezuela*, a 2006 documentary produced for UNESCO. Commissioned by Venezuela’s Ministry of Culture, the short documentary won acclaim from UNESCO and, in 2009, inspired a subsequent series of thirteen 23-minute television episodes. Admission is free and open to the general public. Constanza Burucúa holds a PhD from the University of Warwick, UK. Juan Andres Bello has produced several works for A&E/The Biography Channel, and previously worked ten years in TV programming and acquisitions. Both currently teach in the Department of Film at The University of Western Ontario.

Closing Party and Awards Night  
February 12, 9:00 pm, Free

Join us for this FREE evening celebrating four days of terrific Canadian film—admission to the day’s films is not required and all are welcome! The evening starts off with the People’s Choice Awards for best feature and the top three student short films. Teen Actor Gabriel del Castillo Mullally (*Amy George*) and Editor Chris Wiseman (*i am a good person / i am a bad person*) will be with us to celebrate the winners. The evening continues with live instrumental electronica music by local talent Ian Doig-Phaneuf of *A Priori*.



Amy George  
Yonah Lewis and Calvin Thomas, 2011, 95 min, 14A

Amy George tells the story of thirteen-year-old Jesse (Gabriel del Castillo Mullally), who is given a school art assignment for which he’s asked to incorporate autobiographical elements. Reading somewhere that “you can never be a true artist until you have made love to a woman,” Jesse endeavours to overcome this handicap. He looks first at school, then through the window of his new neighbour, the eponymous Amy (Emily Henry). Jesse expresses and represses a range of emotions during this period, and as he searches for his artistic voice, Jesse will find a way to see himself through his own eyes.

Preceded by *Faint Hearts* by Patrick Barfoot  
*Faint Hearts* revolves around Kale Stein, who meets up with an old female friend he hasn't seen for a year-will he reveal his feelings to her?



A Beginner’s Guide to Endings  
Jonathan Sobol, 2010, 93 min, NR

Duke White (Harvey Keitel) hasn’t been an ideal father to his five boys. An inveterate gambler who never experienced a windfall he couldn’t blow within twenty-four hours, he has come to the end of his rope, literally. Years ago, he signed up his three eldest sons for unsafe drug tests that turned out to have dire consequences: the boys’ life expectancy has been substantially reduced. Upon receiving the news after their father’s funeral, the sons return to their family home in Niagara Falls, where they respond to their eminent demises in different yet equally hilarious ways.

Preceded by *Entrada*, Danny Dunlop  
*Entrada* is a science fiction drama portraying hope at the end of the world.



Breakaway  
Robert Lieberman, 2010, 100 min, PG

Rajveer Singh (Vinay Virmani) grew up in a loving Sikh-Canadian home in suburban Toronto, and now works for his uncle’s trucking company. But what he really wants to do is play hockey, so he corrals his Punjabi buddies to form a team of their own. Enter coach Dan Winters (Rob Lowe). And because the story wouldn’t be complete without romance, coach Winters happens to have a sister (Camilla Belle), who is as beautiful as she is elusive. Raj’s attempts to win her heart inspire the film’s one big musical number on ice. Director Robert Lieberman keeps *Breakaway* bubbling with a mix of immigrant angst and smart comedy.

Preceded by *Death by Hotwings*, Josh Litman  
A man orders suicide wings at a restaurant and dies.



Cloudburst  
Thom Fitzgerald, 2010, 93 min, NR (adult language and nudity)

Stella (Olympia Dukakis) is a foul-mouthed 80-year-old lesbian, comfortably ensconced in rural life with her longtime partner Dot (Brenda Fricker). But when Dot takes a fall and 911 has to be called, her granddaughter Molly arranges for her to live in a nursing home. Unwilling to live without one another and determined to gain recognition of their relationship, Stella and Dot take off from their home base of Maine for Nova Scotia, planning to get legally married. Ever since his debut *The Hanging Garden*, Fitzgerald has been a unique voice in queer Canadian cinema, marked by his films’ unpretentious, colloquial humour and rich emotional textures.

Preceded by *Butt-Scooting*, Solafa Rawas  
A performance art piece in which the artist explores ‘forced boredom’ of Saudi women due to limitations on their mobility, self-expression and personal fulfillment.



Eco-Pirate: The Story of Paul Watson  
Trish Dolman, 2011, 110 min, PG

The film follows “professional radical ecologist” Captain Paul Watson as he repeatedly flouts the law so he may apprehend what he sees as the more serious law-breakers: the illegal poachers of the world. Part high-octane adventure, the film follows Watson and his crew and seamlessly segues in and out of a wealth of archival footage from decades of confrontational activism. From the genesis of Greenpeace to sinking a pirate whaling ship off Portugal, this film chronicles the extraordinary life of the most controversial figure in the environmental movement-the heroics, the ego, the urgency of the world’s original eco-pirate.

Preceded by *Alley Cats*, Cory Downing  
The story of a bike “militia” in London, Ontario.



i am a good person/ i am a bad person  
Ingrid Veninger, 2011, 82 min, NR

*i am a good person/i am a bad person* opens with filmmaker Ruby White (Veninger) departing to a film festival in England, where her eighteen-year-old daughter Sara (Veninger’s real-life daughter Hallie Switzer, who also starred in Veninger’s *Modra*) will tag along as her assistant. Sara’s sullenness and Ruby’s *laissez-faire* ways drive the two women apart, and a sudden change of plans pushes the characters toward transformative experiences. For Sara, this evolution takes place along the alleys of the Père Lachaise Cemetery or at the foot of the Eiffel Tower. Meanwhile, Berlin’s Brandenburg Gate provides the backdrop for Ruby’s realization about her art and life.

Preceded by *Corridor*, Ryan Stam and Nicole Cheese  
A young man faces a startling realization after waking up in a deserted and locked corridor with no knowledge of how he ended up there.