

## THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL

## BOSTON INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF WOMEN'S CINEMA

in association with the Coolidge Corner Theatre  
and the Brattle Theatre  
Thursday, April 3 - Sunday, April 6, 2003

Featuring over 20 premieres and sneak previews, plus  
visiting filmmakers, parties, panel discussion and workshops



## THURSDAY, MARCH 27

PRE-FESTIVAL KICK-OFF  
AT THE COOLIDGE CORNER  
THEATRE

SPECIAL PRE-FESTIVAL EVENT!  
SNEAK PREVIEW!

CO-PRESENTED BY  
92.5 THE RIVER

## LAUREL CANYON

at 7:30pm  
(U.S.A., 2002, 105 min.) directed by  
Lisa Cholodenko, starring Frances McDormand,  
Kate Beckinsdale, Christian Bale, Alessandro  
Nivola

Sam, a recent graduate of Harvard Medical School, and his equally straight-laced fiancée, Alex, relocate to Sam's hometown of Los Angeles, where he will complete his residency. They move in with his mom, while they look for an apartment of their own. Sam's mom, Jane, is a pot-smoking, free-wheeling, free-loving record producer. Sam has devoted most of his life to not being his mother's son. Director Lisa Cholodenko (*High Art*) once again displays her talent for creating a seductive and enveloping world inhabited by richly drawn characters who are compelled to reach beyond the narrow confines of their own experiences. Frances McDormand's exceptional performance as Jane and Folk Implosion's fantastic soundtrack are the cherries on top of this delicious exploration of human nature under the pressures of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. (A Sony Pictures Classics release)

Join us for a pre-screening seen-and-be-seen soiree at 7 PM. Wine, beer and cheese served.

Frances McDormand in Lisa Cholodenko's  
LAUREL CANYON



## THURSDAY, APRIL 3

AT THE COOLIDGE CORNER  
THEATRE

OPENING NIGHT SELECTIONS!  
GALA PREMIERE!

## NORMAL

at 7:30pm  
(U.S.A., 2002, 110 min.) directed by Jane  
Anderson, starring Jessica Lange, Tom Wilkinson  
Happily married pillars of the community Irma  
and Roy have shared a wholesome, apple-pie  
kind of life in small-town Illinois for 25 years.  
Beyond appearances, however, things are not  
quite right. For most of his life, Roy has lived  
with a secret: He was born into the wrong  
body. His revelation that he can no longer live  
the charade of life as a man leaves his family  
stunned and bewildered. Tracing the highlights  
of Roy's metamorphosis--both the gradual  
physical changes and the subtle social adjust-  
ments at work, church, and family gatherings--  
the film conveys the family's struggle to survive  
an emotional high-wire act performed in view  
of the entire town. Based on Anderson's own  
play, "Looking For Normal." (An HBO Film)

Shows First

## DEVIL TALK

(U.S.A., 2002, 5 min.) directed by Illeana  
Douglas, starring Michael Panes  
A slice of life comedy about Satan, his mom,  
and his search for a publicist.

Followed By

## OPENING NIGHT GALA

At 10:00pm  
Join actor/director Illeana Douglas and  
other filmmakers and -shakers as we take over  
the Coolidge Corner Theatre to kick off our  
next decade in style. Sumptuous hors  
d'oeuvres from Boston-area women chefs  
and fine wines will be served!



Tom Wilkinson and Jessica Lange in  
Jane Anderson's NORMAL

## Tickets/Catalogue:

The official Festival Catalogue  
will be available March 27, 2003  
and will include complete  
information on visiting  
filmmakers, parties, and related  
events. Advance tickets for  
all screenings are available  
through TicketWeb and at the  
Brattle Theatre and Coolidge  
Corner Theatre box offices,  
beginning March 12.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 4

AT THE BRATTLE THEATRE

SNEAK PREVIEW!

## MARION BRIDGE

at 3:15pm  
(Canada, 2002, 90 min.) directed by Wiebke von  
Carolsfeld, starring Molly Parker, Rebecca  
Jenkins, Stacy Smith, Marguerite McNeil  
This story about sibling relations is fraught with  
competitiveness and long standing misgivings, but  
above all deep-rooted understanding and love.  
Molly Parker (*Kissed, Center of the World, Six Feet  
Under*), plays Agnes. Struggling with her own self-  
destructive behavior, Agnes returns to Nova Scotia  
from Toronto because of the failing health of her  
mother Rose. She is met by her older sister  
Theresa, a devout catholic who has recently been  
dumped by her husband for a younger woman, and  
Louise, the middle child who has retreated from the  
outside world. Her arrival sets in motion a chain of  
events that allows a family to reconnect with their  
world and each other. Winner of Best First Feature  
at Toronto International Film Festival 2002. (A Film  
Movement release) Co-presented by Chlotrudis  
Awards.

SNEAK PREVIEW!

## MORVERN CALLAR

at 5:15pm  
(Great Britain, 2002, 97 min.) directed by  
Lynne Ramsay, starring Samantha Morton,  
Kathleen McDermott  
Scottish director Lynne Ramsay follows up her  
acclaimed debut *Ratcatcher* with this deft, at times  
darkly comic portrait. A disconnected young  
woman, Morvern Callar, wakes up on Christmas  
Day to find that her writing boyfriend has committed  
suicide next to her. Rising star/Academy-award  
nominated actor Samantha Morton (*Under the Skin,  
Minority Report, Sweet and Lowdown, Jesus' Son*)  
plays Morvern, who further discovers her  
boyfriend's unpublished novel on his computer. She  
signs her name to his work, and begins a long  
strange journey. Ramsey's distinctive visual lyricism  
inspires the film's free-flowing, semi-dreamlike  
trance state, but it is Morton's superb performance,  
half shell-shocked, half willfully self-aware, that  
fully fleshes out its examination of a woman looking  
for something, anything, to awaken the life within  
her. (A Cowboy Pictures release).

FRIDAY NIGHT SPOTLIGHT!  
SNEAK PREVIEW!

## RIPLEY'S GAME

at 7:30pm  
(U.S.A./U.K./Italy, 2002, 110 min.) directed by Liliana  
Cavani, starring John Malkovich, Dougray Scott,  
Ray Winstone, Lena Heady  
Based on the novel by Patricia Highsmith, and from  
the director of the controversial *The Night Porter*  
(see Sunday, April 6), RIPLEY'S GAME is set in pre-  
sent day Italy, where art connoisseur, harpsichord  
aficionado, master of souffles and genius of impro-  
visational murder, Ripley finds his complacency  
shaken when he is scorned at a local party. While  
any ordinary sociopath might repay the insult with  
some mild act of retribution, the game Ripley has in  
mind is far subtler and infinitely more sinister.  
Ripley is played this time by the world-weary John  
Malkovich, who may have been born to play this  
role. Previously made by Wim Wenders as *The  
American Friend*.

SNEAK PREVIEW!

## FRIDAY NIGHT

at 10:00pm  
(France, 2002, 86 min.) directed by Claire Denis,  
starring Valerie Lemercier, Vincent Lindon  
Claire Denis (*Beau Travail, Chocolat, Nnette and  
Boni*) conjures up a spellbound night in Paris.  
Laure, having packed up her possessions to move  
in with her lover, is more unsettled than she  
appears. Needing to get out in the fresh air, she  
jumps in her car, only to become stuck in a terrible  
traffic jam. As she takes in the sights and sounds  
around her - the blare of horns and arguments, the  
shimmer of lights and camaraderie - Laure notices  
the stranger who will that night change her life.  
Intensely erotic and romantic, FRIDAY NIGHT is a  
lyrical ode to unexpected pleasures, to the inde-  
pendence of one's true self, and to the most beau-  
tiful city in the world. (A Wellspring Cinema Release)

AT THE COOLIDGE CORNER  
SCREENING ROOM

PREMIERE!

## HAND ON THE PULSE

at 5:00pm  
(U.S.A., 2002, 52 min.) directed by Joyce Warshaw  
The poignant story of Joan Nestle, political and  
sexual "bad girl." Co-founder of the Lesbian  
Herstory Archives in New York City, Joan has  
made a significant contribution to our  
understanding of women's sexuality, gender  
issues, and the preservation of lesbian history  
and culture for the last half century. (A Frameline  
release) Shows with the short BEAUTY PARLOR  
CENSUS by Margaret Broucek.

SNEAK PREVIEW!

## LOVE AND DIANE

at 7:00pm  
(U.S.A., 2002, 155 min.) directed by  
Jennifer Dworkin  
The story of a woman getting off crack cocaine  
in New York City, struggling with welfare and  
reclaiming her children from the foster care sys-  
tem, LOVE AND DIANE is epic in its scope and cos-  
mic in its implications. The problems of one black  
mother and her troubled children are a metaphor  
for how society works, or doesn't. Questions of  
Diane's recovery, redemption, and salvation are not  
just her themes, but ours. The idea of tragedy, in an  
almost classic sense, arises via the relationship  
between Diane and her oldest daughter, Love, who  
seems destined by some divinely authored script to  
repeat the missteps of her mother. And yet the tri-  
umph of the human spirit--another cliché, perhaps,  
but perfectly appropriate here--is the payoff for the  
five years filmmaker Dworkin spent following Diane  
and her family, and the concise and emotionally  
concentrated two-plus hours she allows us to  
spend with them. A masterpiece! (A Balcony  
Releasing and Women Make Movies Release)

PREMIERE!

## RENO: REBEL WITHOUT

A PAUSE  
at 10:00pm  
(U.S.A., 2002, 71 min.) directed by Nancy Savoca,  
starring Reno  
Reno is an "opinionated, radical feminist alterna-  
tive voice who creates heavily improvised stream-  
of-consciousness topical monologues with incredi-  
ble wit, political consciousness and common  
sense." (the *Village Voice*) Reno's rapid-fire  
witness to the events of September 11th and how  
they affected her personally and the world at large  
became an emotional and cathartic work that drew  
beleaguered crowds (including local policeman  
and firefighters). In light of great tragedy, Reno is  
searching for a way to process the complexity of  
the pain and find a way back to laughter. (A 7th  
Art Pictures release)

## MORVERN CALLAR



## SATURDAY, APRIL 5

AT THE BRATTLE THEATRE

## FILMMAKER WORKSHOP

FROM SCREENPLAY TO SCREEN:  
DEVELOPING MULTI-DIMENSIONAL  
ROLES FOR WOMEN  
12:30pm - 3:00pm  
Many of the most interesting and complex  
female characters in cinema have appeared in  
films directed and written by women. The dis-  
tinct relationship between female  
directors/writers and their leading female stars  
has translated to a powerful and stunning body  
of work over the past decade - highlighted  
regularly in this festival through such films as  
*Clockwatchers, Lovely and Amazing, High Art,  
I Shot Andy Warhol, Female Perversions, Boys  
Don't Cry,* and *Kissed* to name only a few.

Join director/actor Illeana Douglas (*To Die For,  
GoodFellas, Cape Fear, Grace of My Heart,  
Devil Talk*) and a special guest director (to be  
announced shortly) in the important discussion  
on the daring task of developing complex roles  
for women in cinema. Topics included: the  
process of selecting appropriate actors and  
the casting procedure, raising production  
money based on those choices, and making  
multi-dimensional female characters work on  
screen and in the theaters.

Note: The cost of the workshop is \$45 and  
includes complimentary sandwiches, coffee  
and tea. Participants are encouraged to arrive  
at noon.

PREMIERE!

## LONG LIFE, HAPPINESS

& PROSPERITY  
at 3:15pm  
(Canada, 2002, 90 min.) directed by Mina  
Shum, starring Sandra Oh, Valerie Tian,  
Russell Yuen, Ric Young, Chang Tseng  
Against a vibrant palette of symbolic Chinese  
colors--blue for long life, red for happiness,  
gold for prosperity--director Mina Shum  
(*Double Happiness*) carefully constructs a  
close-knit, working-class community revolving  
around a Dim Sum eatery and the local All-Fix  
lotto-and-fortune-telling mart. Out of the vivid  
details of this Chinese Diaspora world emerge  
widely recognizable characters, who, while  
desperately striving to set things right, must  
learn to trust the universe.

SNEAK PREVIEW!

## CHAOS

at 5:15pm  
(France, 2001, 109 min.) directed by Coline  
Serreau, starring Catherine Frot, Vincent  
Lindon, Rachida Brakni  
A frenetic modern story from France. A bour-  
geois couple encounter a prostitute in need, and  
their lives are never the same again. From the  
skilled writer/director of the French smash hit,  
*Three Men and a Cradle.* (A New Yorker Films  
Release) Co-presented by The French Consulate.

SATURDAY NIGHT SPOTLIGHT!  
SNEAK PREVIEW!

## MORVERN CALLAR

at 7:30pm  
(Great Britain, 2002, 97 min.) directed by Lynne Ramsay,  
starring Samantha Morton, Kathleen McDermott  
See Friday, April 4 for description.

SNEAK PREVIEW!

## RIPLEY'S GAME

at 10:00pm  
(U.S.A./U.K./Italy, 2002, 110 min.) directed by  
Liliana Cavani, starring John Malkovich,  
Dougray Scott, Ray Winstone, Lena Heady  
See Friday, April 4 for description.

AT THE COOLIDGE CORNER  
SCREENING ROOM

PREMIERES!

## TV DREAMS: 4 NEW SHORTS

at 1:00pm  
These four outstanding documentaries playfully  
comment on various aspects of television and  
popular culture: NOVELA NOVELA, by Liz Miller,  
looks at a radical and popular youth soap  
opera, considered the "Friends" of Nicaraguan  
TV; SPIT AND POLISH: HEROINES FROM HONG  
KONG, by Birgit Rathsmann, looks at female  
action stars in Hong Kong; TV DREAM  
HOUSES, by Pamela Ezell, spotlights the archi-  
tectural drawings by Mark Bennet of TV homes  
from *I Love Lucy* to *Leave it To Beaver*; and  
D.E.B.S., by Angela Robinson, a pseudo TV pilot  
of a version of *Charlie's Angels* played as  
lesbian debutantes. All four are equal parts  
socially aware and outright entertaining.

PREMIERE!

## SISTERS IN CINEMA

at 3:15pm  
(U.S.A., 2003, 60 min.) directed by Yvonne Welbon  
SISTERS IN CINEMA traces the careers, lives  
and sisters of inspiring African-American women  
filmmakers such as Treddie Souders, Zora  
Neale Hurston, Madame C.J. Walker, Maya  
Angelou, Madeline Anderson, Kathleen Collins  
Pretymann, Darnell Martin, Kasi Lemmons and  
Julie Dash. Shows with short STRANGE AND  
CHARMED by Shari Filoit.

PREMIERE!

## FLAG WARS

at 5:30pm  
(U.S.A., 2003, 86 min.) directed by Linda Goode  
Bryant, co-directed by Laura Portias  
A powerful cinema verite look at the life of a  
black community as it is being gentrified by  
white gays and lesbians. The resulting Flag  
Wars in the community are played out literally  
through the colorful flags dotting the commu-  
nity (America, Gay and Black Nationalist) and  
through the drama of the everyday lives of the  
residents of Olde Towne East in Columbus,  
Ohio, in their homes, in the courtroom and on  
the streets. Shows with short THE TASTE OF  
DIRT by Yvonne Welbon.

## GEORGIE GIRL

at 7:40pm  
(New Zealand, 2002, 70 min.) directed by Annie  
Goldson and Peter Wells  
This is the fascinating profile of Georgina  
Beyer, a Maori ex-sex worker who became the  
world's first transgender person to be elected  
to national office. Chronicling Georgina's trans-  
formations from farm boy to celebrated cabaret  
diva to grassroots community leader, the docu-  
mentary couples interviews and sensual  
images of Beyer's nightclub and film perfor-  
mances with footage from a day in the life of  
the Minister of Parliament. (A Women Make  
Movies Release) Shows with short GIVE OR  
TAKE AN INCH by Lee Friedlander.

## UNDERGROUND VOICES

at 9:30pm  
(U.S., 2002, 60 min.) curated by Rebecca M. Alvin  
A program of experimental and personal films  
and videos by a diverse group of women.  
The works range from non-narrative abstract  
experiences to campy comedies. The seven  
filmmakers included are: Rebecca M. Alvin;  
Jennifer Evans; Michelle Handelman; Nicole  
Koschmann; Carol Leigh; Jenny Packard; and  
Madeline Schwartzman.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 6

AT THE BRATTLE THEATRE

## FILMMAKER PANEL

ROLES FOR WOMEN IN THE MOVIES:  
INDIE AND BEYOND

Noon - 1:30pm  
Join us for our annual filmmaker panel  
discussion, where visiting filmmakers come  
together and discuss the opportunities and  
challenges that face women directors today.  
Panel participants to be announced shortly.  
Visit [www.beaconcinema.com/womfest](http://www.beaconcinema.com/womfest)  
for regular updated information. Complimentary  
pastries, coffee and tea will be served.

PREMIERE!

## WHAT I WANT MY

WORDS TO DO FOR YOU

at 1:45pm  
(U.S.A., 2002, 78 min.) directed by Madeleine  
Gavin, Judith Katz, Gary Sunshine  
In this raw and deeply emotional documen-  
tary, a group of inmates at the Bedford Hills  
Correctional Facility for Women are asked to  
address meaning in their lives in a writing  
workshop led by playwright Eve Ensler (*The  
Vagina Monologues*). The writing group  
includes high-profile convicts such as  
Pamela Smart and former Weather  
Underground members Kathy Boudin and  
Judy Clark, each of whom faces the chal-  
lenge of addressing her crime and reckoning  
with her past. Featuring Glenn Close, Marisa  
Tomei, Rosie Perez, Mary Alice.

## THE NIGHT PORTER

at 3:15pm  
(Italy, 1973, 118 min.) directed by  
Liliana Cavani, starring Charlotte Rampling,  
Dirk Bogarde  
Thirteen years after WWII, a former SS con-  
centration camp officer (now working as a  
night porter at a Vienna hotel) reunites with a  
past victim-lover, who coincidentally checks  
into the hotel with her husband.  
An operatic and disturbing cult classic, from  
the director of the new RIPLEY'S GAME.

SNEAK PREVIEW!

## MARION BRIDGE

at 5:50pm  
(Canada, 2002, 90 min.) directed by  
Wiebke von Carolsfeld, starring Molly  
Parker, See Friday, April 4 for description

CLOSING NIGHT SELECTION!  
SNEAK PREVIEW!

## WHALERIDER

at 7:55pm  
(New Zealand, 2002, 105 min.) directed by  
Niki Caro, starring Keisha Castle-Hughes  
Niki Caro's wonderfully inspired feature,  
WHALE RIDER, is a lush and radiant tale  
about a Maori community's struggle to  
overcome its own limitations and the  
coming of age of one exceptional little girl.  
An extraordinarily beautiful film filled with  
sweeping landscapes and whales, WHALE  
RIDER is an emotionally powerful story of  
love, rejection, bravery, and destiny. (A  
Newmarket Cinema Release) Plays with  
SET SET SPIKE by Emily Hubley.

PREMIERE!

## RUB AND TUG

at 10:00pm  
(Canada, 2002, 90 min.) directed by Soo Lyu,  
starring Don McKellar, Lindy Booth, Tara  
Spencer-Nairn, Kira Clavell  
RUB AND TUG is an amusing portrayal of a  
fascinating subculture. Lawrence, the owner  
of a "full body" massage parlor, suspects  
that the three girls who work for him are  
secretly performing sex with customers.  
To catch them in the act, he hires Conrad to  
serve as the parlour's unlikely manager.  
A battle wages as Conrad and the three  
street-smart gals fight for control of the par-  
lour. A surprise and a treat, this festival hit  
has won the hearts of film goers across  
North America.

AT THE COOLIDGE CORNER  
SCREENING ROOM

SNEAK PREVIEW!

## LOVE AND DIANE

at 1:00pm  
(U.S.A., 2002, 155 min.) directed by Jennifer  
Dworkin See Friday, April 4 for description.

## RECONSTRUCTION

at 4:15pm  
(Romania/U.S.A., 2001, 90 min.) directed by  
Irene Lutzig  
This is the bizarre story of the 1959 "Ioanid  
Gang" bank heist in communist Romania.  
Harvard graduate/filmmaker Irene Lutzig  
reveals a mesmerizing family story spanning  
three generations about the subversive  
crime of six Jewish intellectuals--one of  
whom is the director's grandmother -- while  
presenting a compelling and complex exami-  
nation of modern-day Romania.(A Women  
Make Movies Release) Co-presented by the  
Boston Jewish Film Festival.

PREMIERE!

## CINEMANIA

at 6:15pm  
(Germany/U.S.A., 2002, 80 min.) directed by  
Angela Christlieb and Stephen Kijak  
Every city has its cinemaniacs, eccentrics  
whose lives "are" the movies they compul-  
sively watch--often from the same favorite  
seat. Here are six oddballs from the Big  
Apple, who carry cinematic obsession to  
the max, compulsively counting number of  
movies viewed, gloating over their collec-  
tions, calibrating running times with subway  
schedules. A perfect crowd-pleaser!

PREMIERE!

## DANCE BY DESIGN

at 8:00pm  
(U.S.A., 2003, 60 min.) directed by Valerie  
Weiss  
Angela, an architecture student, yearns to be  
a professional dancer, but a lifetime of intel-  
lectual and physical training has not taught  
her how to have fun in her passion. This is  
the debut feature film from Valerie Weiss,  
founder and Filmmaker-in-Residence of  
Harvard University's Dudley Film Program.

PREMIERE!

## RENO: REBEL WITHOUT

A PAUSE

at 9:45pm  
(U.S.A., 2002, 71 min.) directed by Nancy  
Savoca, starring Reno  
See Friday, April 4 for description.

## BONUS DAY: MONDAY, APRIL 7

AT THE COOLIDGE CORNER  
SCREENING ROOM

## TV DREAMS:

4 NEW SHORTS

at 5:30pm (see Sat., April 5 for description)

## WHAT I WANT

MY WORDS TO DO

FOR YOU  
at 7:30pm (see Sun., April 6 for description)

## GEORGIE GIRL

at 9:15pm (see Sat., April 5 for description)