

Over the next months the Pharos Arts Foundation will be screening an eclectic range of rare documentaries in The Shoe Factory. Fascinating, moving, controversial and plain wonderful, these films explore topics related to animal rights, art, music, architecture, and the spaces we move in, relationships with our selves, our families, nature and the divine as well as the folly and genius of man.



SCREENINGS AT THE SHOE FACTORY January – March 2012 / 8.30pm

 **Pharos Arts Foundation**

Wednesday 18 January
Koyaanisqatsi – Life Out of Balance
Director: Godfrey Reggio
Music by: Philip Glass
Duration: 83'
Language: English with Greek subtitles

"An electrifying piece of film making." Empire.

Prepare to experience a truly remarkable film – a cinematic masterpiece so extraordinary it regales the senses, stimulates the mind and actually redefines the potential of film making. Celebrated director Godfrey Reggio, innovative cinematographer Ron Fricke and composer Philip Glass have created a spellbinding film so rich in beauty and detail that each viewing it becomes like a new and different film.

Unique, profound, mesmerizing, and thought-provoking, *Koyaanisqatsi* contrasts the tranquil beauty of nature with the frenzied hum of contemporary urban society. Uniting breathtaking imagery with a hauntingly evocative, award-winning score, it is original and fascinating.

The world premiere of *Koyaanisqatsi* took place at the Santa Fe Film Festival in April 1982. According to Hopi Dictionary, the Hopi word *koyaanisqatsi* is defined as "life of moral corruption and turmoil" or "life out of balance".

Sunday 22 January
Why we fight
Director: Eugene Jarecki
Duration: 98'
Language: English

Why We Fight describes the rise and maintenance of the United States military-industrial complex and its fifty-year involvement with the wars led by the United States to date, especially its 2003 Invasion of Iraq. The documentary asserts that in every decade since World War II, the American public was misled so that the Government could take them to war and fuel the military-industrial economy maintaining American political dominance in the world. Interviewed about this matter, are politician John McCain, political scientist and former-CIA analyst Chalmers Johnson, politician Richard Perle, neoconservative commentator William Kristol, writer Gore Vidal, and public policy expert Joseph Cirincione. The Film won the Grand Jury Prize for Documentary and one of the 2006 Grimme Awards in the competition "Information & Culture".

Wednesday 1 February
The Animals Film
Director: Victor Schonfeld
Narrated by: Julie Christie
Duration: 120'
Language: English with English subtitles

Controversial, confrontational and riveting, *The Animals Film* shocked British cinema and television audiences when it was first screened in 1982. The film received worldwide critical acclaim for its filmic power, questioning how and why modern societies exploit animals for food, fur, sport, entertainment and science. This unique work shows scenes that had never been filmed before and footage uncovered through dogged research. It is noteworthy for its groundbreaking ironic style, integrating diverse 'found footage' including cartoons, newsreels, advertisements, and government propaganda films, mingled with vox pops and rock music. When the film was screened in Sweden, some of the most influential politicians of the country were asked to watch it and discuss it afterwards. Ultimately, this led to legislative change in Sweden over the treatment of animals.

Narrated by Julie Christie, with music by David Byrne/Talking Heads and a compelling score composed and performed by Robert Wyatt, *The Animals Film* was partly funded by artist Willem de Kooning who donated one of his paintings which was then sold at auction.

Sunday 5 February
The Salzburg Festival
Director: Tony Palmer
Duration: 196'
Language: English with English subtitles

"Fascinating, riveting and simply stunning". The New York Times.

The Salzburg Festival has hosted every great star of the opera and concert hall, from Toscanini to Anne-Sophie Mutter, from Fischer-Dieskau to Barenboim, from Pollini to Mitsuko Uchida. In this film, the first to tell the story of this remarkable Festival, set in the birthplace of Mozart, director Tony Palmer has been granted unprecedented access to Austria's film archives. Highlights include performances of *Jedermann* from 1920 to the present day featuring actors such as Maximilian Schell and Klaus Maria Brandauer; *Don Giovanni* (with Furtwängler in 1954 and a controversial performance directed by Peter Sellars in the 90s); a wealth of footage of Herbert von Karajan, including performances and never-seen-before home movies; and film of the Nazi hierarchy at the Festival during the Second World War. Alongside this historical footage, the film interviews contemporary stars such as Plácido Domingo, Valery Gergiev, Lang Lang, James Levine, Anna Netrebko, Riccardo Muti and Simon Rattle, who tell their stories and open their hearts about this unique Festival.

With the kind support of the Embassy of Austria



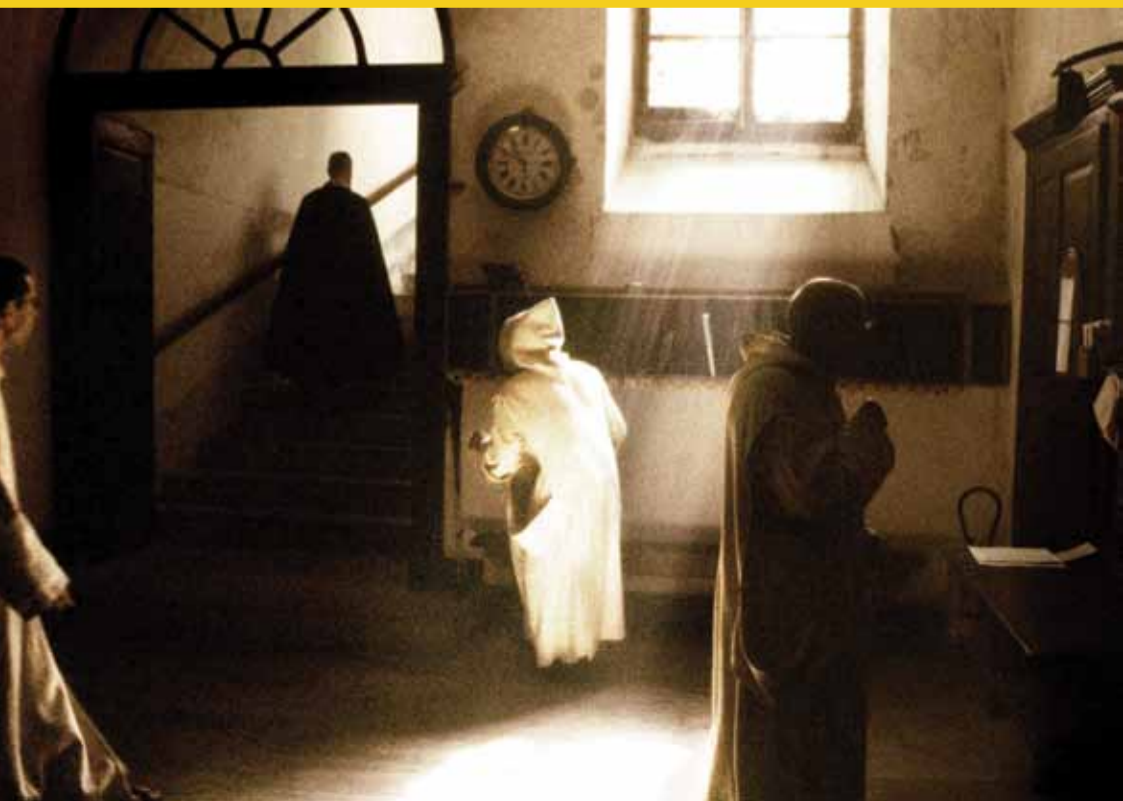
Sunday 12 February
Into Great Silence
Director: Philip Gröning
Duration: 162'
Language: French & Latin with English subtitles

"A rare celluloid experience that truly transports us into another world" Time Out (UK).

Into Great Silence is the phenomenal box office smash hit about life inside the Grande Chartreuse that has opened to rapturous acclaim across the Western World. Gröning made his request 19 years ago to film inside the monastery where the last photos taken were in 1960, only to be told that it was 'too early'... Eventually, as a result of this long standing and trusted relationship between the Film Director and the General Prior, permission to film was granted.

Into Great Silence is a very strict, next to silent documentary on monastic life with no music except the chants in the monastery, no interviews and no commentaries and is the first feature to document life inside the mother house of the legendary Carthusian Order in the French Alps.

The film won the Best Documentary Award in 2006 European Film Awards and the 2005 Bavarian Film Awards, and Special Jury Prize for World Cinema Documentary in SUNDANCE.



Wednesday 15 February
Our Daily Bread
Director: Nikolaus Geyrhalter
Duration: 92'

Welcome to the world of industrial food production and high-tech farming! To the rhythm of conveyor belts and immense machines, the film looks without commenting into the places where food is produced in Europe: monumental spaces, surreal landscapes and bizarre sounds - a cool, industrial environment which leaves little space for individualism.

People, animals, crops and machines play a supporting role in the logistic of this system which provides our society's standard of living. There is no voiceover or music, just the sound and rhythms of conveyor belts and machinery. The stunning visuals which range from absorbing and lovely to horrifying speak for themselves as indictments of the industry and its cruelty to both land and the animals.

Nominated for Best Documentary Award in the 2006 European Film Awards, *Our Daily Bread* received the Special Jury Award in the 2005 Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival and won the Best Film Award in the 2006 Ecocinema International Film Festival.

With the kind support of the Embassy of Austria



Wednesday 22 & Sunday 29 February
Andrés Segovia in Portrait
Director: Christopher Nupen
Language: English with English subtitles

This portrait celebrates the extraordinary quest of Andrés Segovia, the Andalusian par excellence who, in his childhood, fell in love with the sounds of the Spanish guitar and within 20 years had elevated it from the status of a folk instrument to the highest levels of the international concert platform. His achievement is among the marvels of Western music.

These two very different Christopher Nupen films are *Segovia at Los Olivos* (Wednesday 22 February), shot in Segovia's new home on the Costa del Sol in Andalucía in 1967, when he was 75, and thought by Segovia to be the best thing he ever did for television, and the prize-winning *Andrés Segovia: The Song of the Guitar* (Sunday 29 February), filmed in Granada and the Palaces of the Alhambra in 1976 when the Grand Master was 84.

The film features music by Albeniz, Bach, Scarlatti, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Granados, Sor, Rameau, Tarrega, Torroba.

With the kind support of the Embassy of Spain



Wednesday 7 March
A film about Benjamin Britten
Director: Tony Palmer
Duration: 103'
Language: English

This documentary gives the viewer an intimate look into one of the most profound love affairs of the 20th Century – the relationship between Benjamin Britten and his lover and life-long companion and inspiration, Peter Pears.

Britten and Pears faced up to a hostile world with unflinching dignity, producing a string of masterpieces that established English music as internationally preeminent in the middle years of the 20th century. Among the music featured is extracts from Peter Grimes, Billy Budd, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The War Requiem, Curlew River, Death in Venice, The Nocturne and The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra.

Sunday 11 March
The Genius of Photography
Director: Tim Kirkby
Language: English with English subtitles

The first major television history of the most influential art form in the world, *The Genius of Photography* explores the key events and the key images that have marked the development of photography – from daguerreotype to digital, portraits to photo-journalism, art to advertising.

Telling the stories behind the world's greatest photographs and photographers, the series takes us from the achievements of the first photographers to the acceptance of photography as a credible medium; from its adoption as an essential household possession to the impact and possibilities of the digital world. And, with interviews with some of the world's greatest living photographers including William Eggleston, Nan Goldin, William Klein, Martin Parr, Sally Mann, Robert Adams, Juergen Teller, Andreas Gursky and Jeff Wall, it seeks to understand what makes a truly great photograph. *The Genius of Photography* chronicles this magical, unpredictable and democratic medium that has transformed the way we see ourselves and our lives.

The film won the Royal Television Society Arts Award 2007.

Wednesday 14 March
My Architect
Director: Nathaniel Kahn
Duration: 116'
Language: English

"A warm, richly suggestive, deeply human film". The Observer

Louis I. Kahn is considered by many historians to have been the most important architect of the second half of the 20th century. A Jewish immigrant who overcame poverty and the effects of a devastating childhood accident, Kahn created a handful of intensely powerful and spiritual buildings – geometric compositions of brick, concrete and light.

While Kahn's artistic legacy was a search for truth and clarity, his personal life was secretive and chaotic. His mysterious death in a train station men's room left behind three families – one with his wife and two with women with whom he had long-term affairs. The child of one of these extra-marital relationships, Kahn's only son Nathaniel, sets out on a journey to reconcile the life and work of this mysterious man. Revealing the haunting beauty of his father's monumental, Nathaniel's personal journey becomes a universal investigation of identity, a celebration of art and ultimately, of life itself.

Sunday 18 March
Black Sun
Director: Gary Tarn
Duration: 70'

"It's one of the boldest, most beautiful and haunting films to have appeared from anywhere... An extraordinary evocation". Daily Telegraph

Black Sun, winner of many international awards tells the story of Hugues de Montalembert, a French artist and filmmaker living in New York, who was blinded during a violent assault in 1978. After the attack, Montalembert learned to cope with his despair and to go through life a new way, seeking to make ordinary things extraordinary. Defying expectation, this remarkable artist continued to travel the world alone, learning to navigate life in a new and beautiful way.

With this portrait of a man's extraordinary reaction to a life-changing event, Tarn has created an expressionist film whose power lies in visualising a world from the perspective of the blind de Montalembert. Part- survivor's testimony, part- philosophical meditation on the nature of perception, *Black Sun* is a celebration of the life that makes us see the world anew.

The Film won the Grand Prix of the Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival and the Jury Award in Newport International Film Festival and Sarasota Film Festival in 2006.

Sunday 25 March
Beethoven & Resonance
Live Recording from Auditorium San Fedele in Milan, June 2011
Duration: 68'

This film materializes an innovative artistic project by offering a dynamic listening of Beethoven's *Bagatelles, Op. 119* and *Op. 126*, alternately with 12 short pieces written by young composers who were finalists in the San Fedele Prize. It offers renewed listening of Beethoven's final piano works, creating a surprising sense of expectation by discontinuing already memorized listening patterns. Another original feature of this film is its collective making, an unusual fact for a prize for young artists. Instead of requiring a personal piece from each composer, this project sought to elicit a common venture in which each composition would be at once a part of an ensemble and an autonomous, personal piece of work.

The main goal of the San Fedele Prize, and its distinguishing feature, is to offer young composers a humanistic and artistic formation course focused on integrating the problematic of musical technique within a larger horizon of the meaning of life and being human. This project, although undoubtedly complex and not risk-free, resonates with the ever-growing desire of today's composers to enter in a dynamic dialogue with the past.

