

wexner center
for the arts

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WEXNER CENTER GETS READY TO ROCK WITH SUMMER FILM SERIES

SERIES FEATURES REGIONAL DEBUTS OF DIG! AND FESTIVAL EXPRESS

This summer the Wexner Center presents **Rock Docs**, a film series that marries rock and popular music with innovative documentary filmmaking. Organized by the Wexner Center, Rock Docs runs through **July and August** and includes films about forward-looking contemporary artists (Radiohead, Wilco, The Dandy Warhols), canonic groups (The Who, the Ramones, the Rolling Stones), and those that defy categorization (Jandek). Many of the films transcend the mere act of preserving live performances by examining the hardships and pitfalls that accompany artistic expression, fame, and life on the road. This series marks the regional premieres of Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner *Dig!* and *Festival Express*, which *Variety* called “an instant classic.”

All films and double features are \$6 for the general public, and \$4 for members, students, and senior citizens, unless otherwise noted. All screenings take place in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St. Call 614-292-3535 for advance tickets. Digital images for press are available by calling Erik Pepple at 614-688-3261.

Promotional support is provided by *Alive*.

The schedule follows.

Thursday–Saturday, July 8–10 / 7 pm

Regional Premiere

***Dig!* (Ondi Timoner, 2004)**

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival, *Dig!* (105 mins.) follows the disparate career arcs of two friends and eventual rivals: Anton Newcombe of The Brian Jonestown Massacre, and Courtney Taylor of The Dandy Warhols. The film examines the choice between art and industry as Taylor learns to navigate the corporate music world and Newcombe destroys any hope of financial success through his steadfast refusal to compromise.

Wednesday, July 14 / 7 pm | 2nd feature at 8:15 pm

Blank Generation (Amos Poe and Ivan Kral, 1976)

MC5 * A True Testimonial (David C. Thomas, 2002)

Including live performances by the Ramones, the Patti Smith Group, Television, and Blondie, *Blank Generation* (55 mins.) is an invaluable record of New York's emerging punk scene in the 1970s. Blending archival footage and contemporary interviews, *MC5 * A True Testimonial* (120 mins.) tells the story of this legendary Detroit proto-punk group, which rose from garage-band origins to be at the forefront of the radical political movements of the 1960s.

Wednesday, July 21 / 7 pm | 2nd feature at 8:45 pm

I Am Trying to Break Your Heart (Sam Jones, 2002)

Meeting People is Easy (Grant Gee, 1999)

I Am Trying to Break Your Heart (92 mins.) follows Chicago-based rock band Wilco through the troubled making of its acclaimed album *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, recorded during the corporate takeover of its record company. *Meeting People is Easy* (99 mins.) follows Radiohead on its 1997–98 *OK Computer* world tour as the band shuttles from interview to interview and concert to concert, perfectly capturing the boredom facing a band on the road.

Wednesday, July 28 / 7 pm | 2nd feature at 8:55 pm

Scratch (Doug Pray, 2001)

Freestyle: The Art of Rhyme (Kevin Fitzgerald, 2000)

Preceded by ***Language of the Streets*** (David Knight and Terry Martin, 2003)

Directed by *Hype!*'s Doug Pray, *Scratch* (92 mins.) focuses on hip-hop DJs and the practice of scratching vinyl records to create distinctive rhythms and sounds. Featuring Grandmixer DXT, Africa Bambaataa, and the Beastie Boys' Mixmaster Mike, Scratch "is as arresting to watch as it is to listen to" (*Austin Chronicle*). Chronicling the story of underground hip-hop from the early 1980s to the present, *Freestyle* (76 mins.) explores the world of improvisational rap—a rarely recorded art form of spontaneous rhyming. With Supernatural, Craig G, Mos Def, and more. Also on the bill is *Language of the Streets* (8 mins.), which premiered in May as part of the new Youth Division of the Wexner Center's Ohio Short Film/Video Showcase. It explores the effects of hip-hop and hip-hop culture on the attitudes and perceptions of Dayton-area high school students.

Friday–Saturday, July 30–31 / 2 pm

Free screening

What's Happening! The Beatles in the U.S.A. (Albert and David Maysles, 1964)

Directed by legendary and influential documentary filmmakers Albert and David Maysles (*Gimme Shelter*), this film chronicles the Beatles' first trip to the U.S. in February 1964. 45 mins.

Wednesday, August 4 / 7 pm | 2nd feature at 8:45 pm

Regional Premiere: *Festival Express* (Bob Smeaton, 2003)

The Last Waltz (Martin Scorsese, 1978)

Constructed out of footage long unavailable for legal reasons, *Festival Express* (90 mins.) features great performances by Janis Joplin, the Grateful Dead, the Band, and the Flying Burrito Brothers, captured as these acts and others conducted a concert tour of Canada by train. Martin Scorsese's *The Last Waltz* (117 mins.) records the last performance by the

Band on Thanksgiving 1976. The film features performances by Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, Joni Mitchell, Ronnie Hawkins, and Emmylou Harris.

Wednesday, August 11 / 7 pm | 2nd feature at 8:40 pm

Greendale (Bernard Shakey, 2003)

The Kids Are Alright (Jeff Stein, 1979)

Released under the pseudonym Bernard Shakey, Neil Young's "musical novel" *Greendale* (83 mins.) unfolds in a series of vignettes about a small California town. The story is brought to life through Super-8 footage and some of Young's best music in years. *The Kids Are Alright* (108 mins.) is a straight-ahead history of The Who, rock's original anarchists. It's filled with historical interviews and great performance footage.

Wednesday, August 18 / 7 pm | 2nd feature at 8:45 pm

Sympathy for the Devil (Jean-Luc Godard, 1970)

Jandek on Corwood (Chad Friedrichs, 2003)

Godard's infamous meditation on 1960s counterculture, *Sympathy for the Devil* (92 mins.) intercuts footage of such revolutionaries as The Black Panthers with shots of the Rolling Stones in the studio working out "Sympathy for the Devil." *Jandek on Corwood* (88 mins.) examines reclusive outsider musician Jandek, who has self-released 35 albums since 1978. Jandek has never performed live and never grants interviews, but his music moved *Spin* magazine to proclaim him one of "the ten most interesting musicians of the 1980s." The film is introduced by Jandek fan Jerry Dannemiller, of local band Moviola.

WEXNER CENTER

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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