

**wexner center**  
for the arts

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## **WEXNER CENTER PRESENTS FIRST ANNUAL COLUMBUS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL IN DECEMBER**

***CULTURALLY DIVERSE FILM FESTIVAL INCLUDES ACCLAIMED TITLES FROM JAPAN, FRANCE, INDIA, GERMANY, SOUTH KOREA***

*Columbus*—The Wexner Center presents the first annual **Columbus International Children's Film Festival**, featuring four days of critically acclaimed international films for family audiences **December 2–5, 2004**. This festival, the first and largest of its kind in Columbus, is organized by the Wexner Center and will be held in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater.

"The featured films will introduce families and children to the experiences, concerns, and languages of children from other countries and cultures from around the world," says Chris Stults, co-organizer of the festival and a member of the Wexner Center's Film/Video programming staff. "We're proud of the quality of films that we have found and the diversity of cultures we'll be able to represent." With films from France, Iran, India, Japan, Germany, and more, the festival includes the Ohio premiere of the stunning Bollywood musical *Makdee: Web of the Witch*; Charles Burnett's underrated masterpiece *Nightjohn*; a program titled "Iranian Shorts for Tots"; and *Destino*, a film collaboration between Disney and Salvador Dalí.

Shelly Casto, co-organizer of the event and director of school and youth programs at the Wexner Center, says, "The program expands the Wexner Center's commitment to providing world-class arts experiences to children, which range from Family Days in our galleries to this season's *Cinderella* performances by a renowned Scottish puppeteer." Casto will be developing a **discussion guide for families**. On Saturday and Sunday, the **Wexner Center Café will feature child-friendly items on the menu**. Families will also have an opportunity to explore the children's section of the Bookshop and participate in free, self-directed hands-on **art projects**.

Unless otherwise noted, tickets for each individual film are \$3 for the general public and \$2 for members. Packages of any six tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$10 for members. The Wexner Center Film/Video Theater is located at 1871 N. High St. at The Ohio State University; the public can call 614 292-3535 or stop into the Wexner Center for advance tickets.

## **THE SCHEDULE:**

*Age ranges listed are recommendations only. All subtitles, except for A Little Monk, will be read aloud in English in the theater by an Ohio State University theater student.*

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2 / 7 pm**

#### **Ohio premiere**

***A Little Monk*** (Joo Kyung-jung, South Korea, 2002)

Recommended for ages 10 and up

Subtitled. Brief nudity; some adult situations and subjects.

The visually stunning *A Little Monk* (102 mins) explores the lives of three Buddhist monks living in the mountains of Korea. Do-nyeom, a 9-year-old abandoned by his mother to be raised by a temple master, yearns for the secular life of all the other boys in his school and looks for sympathy from his 20-year-old “brother” who is struggling with the prospect of a life spent without romantic relationship. The film gently builds to a heartbreaking conclusion regarding Do-nyeom’s longing for an adoptive mother. While not expressly made for children, this film presents a child’s perspective with great sensitivity.

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3 / 7 pm**

***Small Change*** (François Truffaut, France, 1976)

Preceded by ***Destino*** (Dominique Monfery, USA/France, 2003)

Recommended for ages 8 and up

*Small Change* is rated PG for mild adult language and very brief nudity.

*Destino* is rated PG for mild sensuality.

Beloved French New Wave filmmaker François Truffaut’s *Small Change* (104 mins.) is regarded by many to be the definitive cinematic portrait of childhood. By focusing his vignettes on a mélange of children ranging from several months old to adolescence, Truffaut was able to capture the joys and pains of growing up with surprising amounts of warmth, humor, and verisimilitude. But most remarkable is the way the film respectfully treats its young characters and shows the world from their innocent point of view. *Destino* (7 mins.), a wordless short that revives a collaboration between Salvador Dalí and Disney that began over 50 years ago, follows a ballerina on a journey among strange objects in a dreamlike landscape.

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4**

**10:30 am:**

#### **Columbus premiere**

#### **Iranian Shorts for Tots**

Preceded by ***Kaya*** (Nicole Torre, USA, 2002)

Recommended for ages 4 and up

Based on a series of fables and folktales, this program of four incredibly diverse wordless shorts from Iran features *Sweet Story* (Mohammad Reza Abedi, 1995; 14 mins.), *Companion* (Ali Asgharzdeh, 1994; 15 mins.), *The Flower, the Bird and the Sun* (Bahram Javaheri, 2001; 11 mins.), and *Shangoul and Mangoul* (Farkhondeh Torabi & Morteza Ahadi, 2000; 17 mins.). The films follow plants and

animals on beautiful and humorous adventures of discovery. *Sweet Story* celebrates the spirit of an elderly woodcutter who saves a magical crane, and *The Flower, the Bird, and the Sun* explores the magical interdependence of animals, plants, and the sun. In *Kaya* (3 mins.), the live-action American short that opens the screening, a young girl discovers the eternal beauty and companionship of nature.

**12 noon:**

***Nightjohn*** (Charles Burnett, USA, 1996)

Recommended for ages 9 and up

***Free; tickets must be picked up the day of the screening.***

Moderate degree of implied violence and intense subject matter; subject is slavery.

One of the most powerful and overlooked family films of the past decade, Charles Burnett's *Nightjohn* (103 mins.) tells the moving story of 12-year-old Sarny, a girl enslaved on a plantation whose life is changed by learning to read. She is taught by Nightjohn, a man who successfully escaped slavery but courageously returned in order to teach others. Sarny soon learns that knowledge, for all its dangers, also brings power. *Nightjohn* screening is courtesy of Disney Channel. This free screening is presented in association with Member Appreciation Days.

**2 pm:**

**Ohio premiere**

***The Butterfly*** (Philippe Muyl, France, 2003)

Recommended for ages 8 and up

Subtitles read in English

A delicate story of companionship, *The Butterfly* (85 mins) follows 8-year-old Elsa's quest for paternal guidance. Left alone by her single mother for several days, Elsa stows away with her grandfatherly neighbor, Julien, who is off to the mountains in search of a rare butterfly. Julien unwittingly finds himself in the role of teacher and protector as he explores the natural and human worlds with his young protégée.

**4 pm:**

**A Musical Afternoon with Buster Keaton**

Recommended for ages 4 and up

"A Musical Afternoon with Buster Keaton" is a program of three of the most entertaining and sidesplitting short films starring Buster Keaton. These timeless shorts (*Scarecrow* (1920), *Cops* (1922), and *One Week* (1920)) are enjoyable for the whole family and are examples of slapstick at its best. Live musical accompaniment by Columbus jazz band Honk, Wail and Moan.

**7 pm:**

**Ohio premiere**

***Makdee: Web of the Witch*** (Vishal Bhardwaj, India, 2002)

Recommended for ages 8 and up

Subtitles read in English. Mild comedic violence.

Makdee: *Web of the Witch* (91 mins.) is an entertaining Bollywood musical thriller for children.

Chunni and Munni are twin rivals who find themselves in deep with the local witch. Ever at odds with the local butcher, her teacher, and her family, one sister finds herself charged with the responsibility to not only save her twin, but to ultimately unite her community.

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5**

**1 pm:**

#### **Midwest Premiere**

***The King and the Mockingbird*** (Paul Grimault, France, 1980)

Recommended for ages 4 and up

Subtitles read in English.

Considered the finest in French animated cinema, *The King and the Mockingbird* (83 mins.) tells the story of a king's search for true love. A king lives in a fantastical palace with more rooms and gadgets than he knows what to do with. One day his portrait comes to life and replaces him on the throne. The portrait king falls in love with a portrait maiden and strives to marry her, despite her love for a portrait shepherd. A clever mockingbird is the maiden's only hope.

**3 pm:**

#### **Columbus premiere**

***The Tenth Summer*** (Jörg Grünler, Germany, 2003)

Recommended for ages 8 and up

Subtitles read in English. Brief adult language used by the children.

Kali is king for a day on his 10<sup>th</sup> birthday in the charming drama *The Tenth Summer* (97 mins.). He commands a summer filled with fun: building a zoo in the basement, romancing a girlfriend, and teaching a monkey circus tricks. As his parents while away their lives worrying about jobs and bad neighbors, Kali sees beyond the surface and finds the true meaning of community.

***Digital images of the films for the media are available upon request; contact Erik Pepple at 614 688-3261 or [epepple@wexarts.org](mailto:epepple@wexarts.org).***

### **EVENT SUPPORT**

The Columbus International Children's Film Festival is presented by **Cardinal Health** and the **Ohio Arts Council**.

The Wexner Center's 2004–05 education season is presented by **Bank One**.

Programs for children and families are presented with additional support from **12 1/4 Circle**—an active group of Wexner Center members—and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

The 2004-05 film/video season is presented with support from the **Douris Corporation**.

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