

wexner center
for the arts

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**RENOWNED INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER JIM JARMUSCH VISITS
THE WEXNER CENTER DURING OCTOBER RETROSPECTIVE**

**DIRECTOR OF *NIGHT ON EARTH*, *STRANGER THAN PARADISE* IS LATEST
CONTEMPORARY FILMMAKER TO BE CELEBRATED BY THE CENTER**

“I do it my way or I don’t do it.”—Jim Jarmusch

Combining a dryly comic sensibility, a mastery of restrained technique, and a deep sympathy for society’s misfits, independent film director **Jim Jarmusch** has produced as distinctive a body of movies as any American artist working today. **Throughout October**, the Wexner Center will present a retrospective of his movies, which range from such minimalist comedies as *Permanent Vacation* and *Stranger than Paradise* to more darkly elaborate visions of America in *Dead Man* and *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai*. An Akron native, Jarmusch has worked with such actors as Winona Ryder (*Night on Earth*), Johnny Depp (*Dead Man*), and Roberto Benigni (several films). For this month-long retrospective, the Jarmusch films will be paired with movies by directors he admires.

Jarmusch will appear at the Wexner Center on **Friday, October 12** for an onstage conversation with his most perceptive commentator, author and *Chicago Reader* critic Jonathan Rosenbaum. Rosenbaum is the author of a book on *Dead Man* and the more recent *Movie Wars: How Hollywood and the Media Conspire to Limit What Films We Can See*. On the night of the conversation, visitors will receive a complimentary booklet with an interview between Jarmusch and Rosenbaum, as well as some texts by the director.

The Jarmusch films will be screened throughout October in the Wexner Center Film/Video Theater. Unless otherwise noted, events are \$5 for general public; \$4 for Wexner Center members, students, and senior citizens; and \$2 for children under 12.

news release

Friday, October 5 / 7 pm

Jarmusch brings together the unlikely trio of Tom Waits, John Lurie, and Roberto Benigni in ***Down by Law*** (1986; 107 mins.), a comic fable about three self-destructive characters who spring themselves from a Louisiana prison and escape into the bayou. Also showing tonight is Jean-Pierre Melville's first gangster film ***Bob le flambeur*** (1955; 102 mins.), which follows the exploits of an ex-gangster turned high roller as he moves from one high-stakes game to the next.

Sunday, October 7 / 2 pm / Free

Rosenbaum has called ***Dead Man*** (1995; 120 mins.) "the fulfillment of a cherished counterculture dream, the acid western." A visually haunting period piece set in the late 19th century, it stars Johnny Depp as a mild-mannered accountant who flees to the frontier after a false murder accusation. For the second film of the evening, Jarmusch has chosen Howard Hawks' ***The Big Sky*** (1952; 122 mins.), an action-packed adaptation of A.B. Guthrie's novel about an expedition up the untamed Missouri River, starring Kirk Douglas.

Wednesday, October 10 / 7 pm

Forrest Whitaker stars as a philosophical hit-man in Jarmusch's most recent feature, ***Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai*** (1999; 116 mins.), which coolly mixes and matches the values of hip-hop culture with French noir films and the Samurai code of honor. Jarmusch calls Seijun Suzuki's ***Branded to Kill*** (1967; 91 mins.)—the second film of the night—"the ultimate '60s Japanese hit-man movie, with touches of total surrealism and some of the most sophisticated use of wide-screen composition in the history of cinema."

Friday, October 12 / 7 pm

A Conversation with Jim Jarmusch and Jonathan Rosenbaum

Jarmusch discusses his work in this onstage conversation with film critic Jonathan Rosenbaum. Their conversation will be interspersed with film clips and followed by questions from the audience. Tickets are \$7 for the general public and \$5 for Wexner Center members, students, and senior citizens.

Wednesday, October 17 / 7 pm

This evening features two Jarmusch films. Set in Memphis, ***Mystery Train*** (1989; 110 mins.) follows two young Japanese tourists as they make a pilgrimage to the shrines of rock 'n' roll. With Screamin' Jay Hawkins. The silent comedy ***The High Sign*** (1921; 20 mins.) is, according to Jarmusch, "one of my favorite two-reelers by one of my favorite directors (and actors)...Buster Keaton." Rounding out the night is Robert Frank and Alfred Leslie's ***Pull My Daisy*** (1959; 30 mins.), described by Jarmusch as a "Beat-generation classic...one of the coolest, most human films ever made." With Allen Ginsberg, Gregory Corso, and voiceover by Jack Kerouac.

Wednesday, October 24 / 7 pm

In the brilliantly simple ***Night on Earth*** (1991; 128 mins.), Jarmusch presents five taxi-cab conversations between passengers and drivers in five different cities: Los Angeles, New York, Paris, Rome, and Helsinki. With Winona Ryder, Rosie Perez, Gena Rowlands, and Roberto Benigni. A groundbreaking advocate of 'personal' filmmaking, John Cassavetes directs and costars (with his wife, Gena Rowlands) in ***Love Streams*** (1984; 141 mins.), a portrait of a dysfunctional Los Angeles-based sister and brother desperate for love, but unable to attain it.

Thursday, October 25 / 7 pm

Directed by Jarmusch while still an NYU film student, ***Permanent Vacation*** (1980; 80 mins.) is a droll portrait of a young man bored by the prospect of responsibility or even the future. With a score by John Lurie. ***The Devil, Probably*** (1977; 90 mins.)—chosen by Jarmusch for this screening—was French master Robert Bresson's most controversial film, focusing on the last six months in the life of a young Parisian in search of his own death.

Friday, October 26 / 7 pm

Year of the Horse (1997; 107 mins.) captures Neil Young's 1996 tour with his band Crazy Horse. Intercut with interviews and archival footage, Jarmusch's tribute to the singer offers an unforgettable portrait of a rock legend. Directed by Charlotte Zwerin, the Clint Eastwood-produced ***Thelonyous Monk: Straight No Chaser*** (1989; 89 mins.) also offers riveting performance footage, in this instance of the inimitable, magnificent jazz pianist.

Sunday, October 28 / 2 pm / Free

Jarmusch's breakthrough film, ***Stranger than Paradise*** (1984; 89 mins.), won him the Palme d'Or at Cannes and established him as an innovative master of American independent film. Characterized by its use of long takes, this film of three vignettes follows the lives of two hapless losers shaken from their inertia by the arrival of Eva, a 16-year-old cousin from Hungary. She leads the young men from New York City to the frozen shores of Cleveland's Lake Erie, and then to a more paradisiacal Florida. With John Lurie, Richard Edson, and Eszter Balint. In Yasujiro Ozu's ***Tokyo Story*** (1953; 134 mins.), the second film of the night, an elderly couple travels to Tokyo where they are greeted less than enthusiastically by their grown children, and shunted from one family to the next. Ozu's tale is a devastating vision of alienation in the modern world.

FILM AND VIDEO AT THE WEXNER CENTER

Every year the Wexner Center screens more than 100 film and video works from around the world, including award-winning independent international and American films, documentaries, and Hollywood classics. The center often brings in directors to introduce their own films, including Terence Davies (*The House of Mirth*), Todd Haynes (director of *Poison and Safe*), Allison Anders (*Gas, Food Lodging, Grace of My Heart*), and Philip Kaufman (*The Right Stuff, The Unbearable Lightness of Being*).

The Jim Jarmusch retrospective is presented with support from the Ohio Arts Council. Special thanks to Rachel Dengiz of Exoskeleton for invaluable help with this series, and to Jonathan Rosenbaum.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: Jim Jarmusch Retrospective

Description: Retrospective of director Jim Jarmusch's films, including an appearance by Jarmusch.

Dates and times: October 5 at 7 pm; October 7 at 2 pm; October 10 at 7 pm; October 12 at 7 pm (Jarmusch in conversation); October 17 at 7 pm; October 24 at 7 pm; October 25 at 7 pm; October 26 at 7 pm; October 28 at 2 pm.

Location: Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St. (at 15th Avenue).

Tickets: Most screenings \$5 for general public; \$4 for Wexner Center members, students, and senior citizens; \$2 for children under 12. Some films are free.

Ticket outlet: Wexner Center Ticket Office/Information Desk.

Public information: 614 292-3535 and www.wexarts.org.

Images of Jarmusch and the films available upon request.

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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