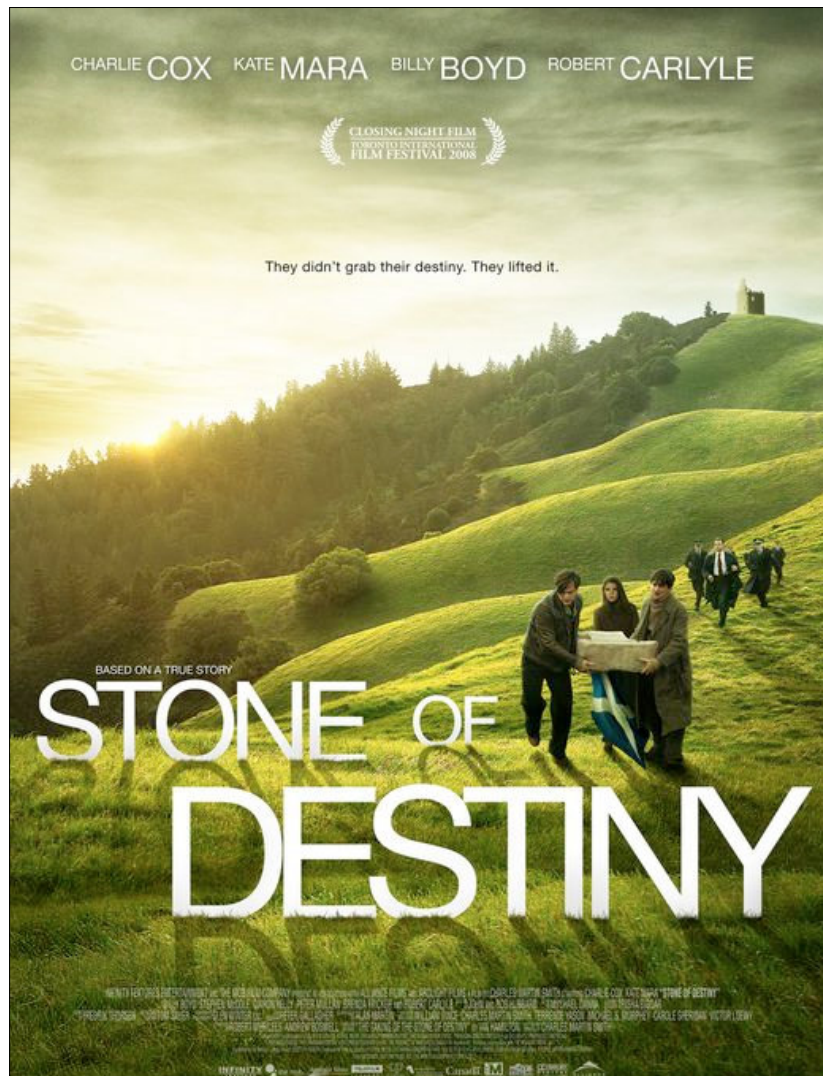


15th Vernon International
FILM FESTIVAL



11 Canadian and International films
Presented by the VERNON FILM SOCIETY

March 6 - 12, 2009
Vernon Towne Theatre

**Welcome to our 15th International Film Festival
March 6— March 12, 2009**

FILM SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 6:30 pm STONE OF DESTINY SATURDAY, MARCH 7 6:30 pm MONGOL SUNDAY, MARCH 8 6:30 pm NECESSITIES OF LIFE MONDAY, MARCH 9 5:00 pm ONE WEEK 7:30 pm TELL NO ONE	TUESDAY, MARCH 10 5:00 pm OUTSOURCED 7:30 pm THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 5:00 pm THE EDGE OF HEAVEN 7:30pm 50 DEAD MEN WALKING THURSDAY, MARCH 12 5:00 pm MOTHERS @ DAUGHTERS 7:30 pm LEMON TREE
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Admission:

\$6.00/film \$25.00/5 film pass

If you buy a pass, please remember that you should be in the theatre at least 10 min. before the film starts to guarantee a seat.

After that we may release the seat to other patrons

Doors open at 6:00 pm on Fri., Sat and Sun and at 4:30 pm on weekdays

All films will be shown at: Vernon Towne Cinema

2910 - 30th Ave, Vernon, B.C. V1T 2B7, 545-0303

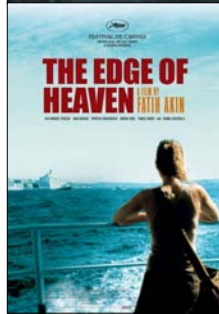
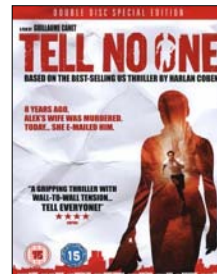
Advance tickets/passes will go on sale at the theatre and The Bean Scene Coffee House (Across the street from theatre) starting on

FRIDAY, February 27.

Programs are available at the following locations:



**Towne Theatre
Bean Scene
Library
Museum
Art Gallery
Arts Centre
OK College Library**



STONE OF DESTINY

6:30 pm - Friday, March 6

Canada - 96 min

PG (Coarse language)



Veteran film and television actor Charles Martin Smith has appeared in many of the American cinema's more memorable achievements, from *American Graffiti* to *The Untouchables*. More recently, he began directing; his 1997 comedy *Air Bud* won numerous awards – including the Golden Reel Award at the Genies. His next film, *The Snow Walker* (2003), was a Film Circuit hit and a multiple-award-winner and moved audiences the world over with its tale of survival after a plane crash in the tundra. *Stone of Destiny*, which was the Closing Night Gala film at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival®, marks Smith's latest return to the director's chair. The film recounts the story of Ian Hamilton (Charlie Cox) a proud Scottish nationalist who secured a prominent place in his country's history books by bringing the Stone of Destiny back home in the fifties. Also known as the Stone of Scone, the Stone of Destiny had been used during the crowning of Scottish kings for more than a mil-

lennium. Over seven centuries ago, King Edward I of England took the 152 kilogram rock back to England, where it remained until Hamilton made his famous raid and reclaimed it. Numerous myths surround this stone, which now sits in a high-security museum among swords, jewels, crowns and other Scottish royal regalia; chief among these lingering questions is whether or not the real stone was actually reclaimed. There is no doubt, however, that Hamilton's feat struck a deep chord among Scots and provided further evidence that English colonialism was entering its bitter final days. Smith brings a deft hand to this compelling film, in which all the ingredients of a true romantic epic come to life onscreen.

"This closing-night crowd-pleaser...(is) half heist, half lark, all Scottish ." - National Post

MONGOL

6:30 pm - Saturday, March 7

Germany/Kazakhstan/Russia/
Mongolia - 120 min

14A (Gory violence)
English subtitles



The tale of how a young boy ascended to become the greatest ruler of Mongolia centres this epic tale of love and betrayal from director Sergei Bodrov. *Mongol*, a Special Presentation at the 2007 Toronto International Film Festival®, reaches Shakespearean heights in its narrative account of a family that is torn apart, cast aside and eventually restored to power. Nine-year-old Temudgin sets off with his father, a khan, to search for a bride. Travelling across the region's stark and beautiful tundra, Temudgin sees a girl whom he proclaims to be his wife, though his choice runs counter to his father's wishes. But his life instantly changes when a group of Tartars poison his father. Even though he is next in line to rule, the rest of the tribe refuses to accept leadership from a young boy. They cast out his entire family, forcing them to eke out a meagre existence. An epic about courage and resourcefulness follows, as the boy gradually reasserts his claim to the leadership of his kingdom. His saga plays out against the stunning landscapes

of Central Asia, where tribal loyalties rule and violent warfare trumps other means of resolving differences. The grand canvas of the storyline clearly stimulates Bodrov, and he relishes the visual opportunities afforded in the scenes of realistic warfare. But he also finds ample time for the quiet moments between Temudgin, his wife and his beloved mother. Family forms the bedrock of behaviour, and Bodrov constantly returns to this idea in re-imagining a vital period of Mongolian history. A cinematic feast for the eyes, *Mongol* is an awe-inspiring journey of the man who conquered half the world.

**2007 Academy Awards
Nominated for Best Foreign Film**

"Full of stunning views of China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan ... (it) feels like an old-fashioned epic."
- Los Angeles Times

NECESSITIES OF LIFE

6:30 pm - Sunday, March 8

Canada - 102 min

PG (No advisory)

**Voted one of Canada's
TOP TEN FILMS OF 2008**

The Necessities of Life, from prolific documentary filmmaker Benoît Pilon, is a gorgeous, elegiac story that examines Canada's rich heritage of multiculturalism by seeking out a period when there was virtually no contact between the Inuit and the rest of Canada. Pilon has created a highly accessible film that was recently selected as Canada's official entry into the Academy Award® competition for 2008. The film also won three awards, including the Special Grand Prize of the Jury at the 2008 Montreal World Film Festival. Set in the 1950s, *the* film recalls a time when tuberculosis was a serious problem for many underserved communities. As the disease spread, many Inuit were forced to leave their homes in search of treatment elsewhere. As the film begins, Tivii (a mesmerizing performance by *Atanarjuat's* Natar Ungalaaq) is brought to a sanatorium in Quebec City, where he is told he



has to leave his family behind and face treatment alone. Suddenly he finds himself removed from everything he knows, surrounded by a language he does not speak, and facing a future that is uncertain. While *the* film covers vast terrain – the socio-historical period in which it is set, the contrasting worlds of its characters, the universal language of compassion that can bind people together – it is Ungalaaq's exquisite performance that elevates this film from what is already elegant, humanist and skillfully crafted into a truly poetic work of art.

**2009 Academy Awards
Canada's Official Entry**

"...Ungalaaq has this unbelievable presence on the screen..." - Montreal Gazette

ONE WEEK

5:00 pm - Monday, March 9

Canada - 94 min

PG (Coarse language, violence, drug use)

One Week, a Gala at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival®, is the highly anticipated second feature from Michael McGowan, whose remarkable debut, *Saint Ralph*, was named one of Canada's Top Ten films of the year in 2005. *One Week* is a film that explores how an imminent crisis can transform a person's perspective on the world and the meaning of true living. As the title indicates, Ben Tyler (Joshua Jackson) has just been diagnosed with a terminal illness. What should he do? What would you do? For Ben, engaged to a beautiful woman, Samantha (Liane Balaban, *New Waterford Girl*), the only answer that makes sense is to see as much of his country as he can, in a way that allows him to experience the dizzying freedom of the road and help him search within himself for sources of meaning. To this end, he gets on his motorcycle and journeys from Toronto to Tofino, BC. Along



the way, he has encounters that enable him to get at the heart of who he is. A film with this premise can be treated in many ways; McGowan wisely eschews severity and heavy-handedness in order to bring charm, buoyancy and a sometimes-sad lyricism to Ben's quest for meaning. *One Week*, which masterfully brings large stretches of this country's scenic landscape to the screen, is in many ways a universal story combining the best of the odyssey film with an intensely personal account of how the threat of mortality can reawaken one to the joys and bittersweet experiences of life.

"...a moving and tremendously involving piece of work." - Reel Film Reviews

TELL NO ONE

7:30 pm - Monday, March 9

France - 125 min

14A (Violence)

In French with English subtitles

**Best Actor & Best Director
2007 Cesar Awards (French Oscars)**

An innocent man is on the run after he's accused of murder and his spouse seemingly returns from the grave in this thriller from France. Alex Beck (François Cluzet) is a doctor who has slowly been putting his life back together after his wife Margot was murdered by a serial killer. Eight years on, Alex is doing well enough until he finds himself implicated in the murder of two people, with plenty of evidence pointing to him as the killer even though he knows nothing of the crimes. The same day, Alex receives an e-mail that appears to be from Margot (Marie-Josée Croze), which includes a link to a video clip that seems to be recent and features his late wife looking alive and well. Margot's message warns Alex that they are both being watched, and he struggles to stay one step ahead of the law as a gang of strong-arm men intimidate Alex's friends into telling whatever they might



know about him. Alex's sister Anne persuades her well-to-do lover Helene (Kristin Scott Thomas) to hire a well respected attorney, Elisabeth Feldman (Nathalie Baye), to handle Alex's case. While Elisabeth tries to keep Alex out of jail, she learns that her client has a warrant out for his arrest, and Alex goes on the lam while he and his lawyer struggle to find out the truth about the murder as well as Margot's reappearance. Tell No One (aka Ne Le Dis a Personne) was based on the international best-selling novel by Harlan Coben.

"A crafty, swift, subtly stylish thriller" - Washington Post

OUTSOURCED

5:00 pm - Tuesday, March 10

USA - 98 min

PG (No advisory)

A note-perfect comedy, *Outsourced* follows a Seattle call-centre manager who discovers life and love in India when he's "outsourced." Inspired by director John Jeffcoat's semester abroad in Southern Asia, *Outsourced* captures with great generosity and wit the comic magic of an American out of his element. Thirty-two-year-old Todd Anderson (Josh Hamilton) manages Western Novelty's order-filling call centre. "We sell kitsch to rednecks," he explains, with typical efficiency. Told by boss Dave (Matt Smith) that his entire department is abruptly being outsourced to India, Todd staves off unemployment by accepting a contract to travel there and train his replacement. *Outsourced* has good fun early on with Todd's introduction to Indian hospitality, marked by endless cups of sweet tea and polite inquiries of "What is your good name, please?" But the film is far too astute and charming to rest on stereotypes. When Todd lands at his com-



pany's half-built office in Mumbai, he meets young Indians mystified by Americans' desire to buy such products as Burger Brander and plastic Cheeseheads. Through the business skill, sincere friendship and eventual love of employee Asha (Aysha Dharker), Todd learns to embrace his new surroundings and marshal the available forces to get the job done. Outsourcing has become an all-too-familiar phenomenon, and there are a million ways to get this story wrong, but the combination of a smart script, agile direction and winning performances make *Outsourced* a guaranteed hit.

"A sweetly acted and neatly executed social comedy ."
- Boston Globe

THE BOY IN THE STRIPED PAJAMAS

7:30 pm - Tuesday, March 10

UK - 94 min

PG (Violence)



Based on the 2006 novel by John Boyne, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* relates a young German boy's experience and perspective of the Holocaust. This deeply affecting film, tells an unlikely story of a friendship between two boys on different sides of a concentration camp fence. Eight-year-old Bruno (Asa Butterfield), the sheltered young son of a concentration camp commander, is annoyed to learn that he and his family will soon be uprooted to the countryside after his father receives a promotion. Ignorant and naive, Bruno has a vague inkling that his father is a Nazi officer but lacks any notion of what that means. The only clues the boy has to his occupation are the shadows cast from his mother's worried looks and from his own observation that the local "farmers" in the distance all seem to be wearing "pajamas." He never presses his father for more information. Lonely

and curious, Bruno steals out of the house and finds a boy his age named Shmuel lurking in desperation by a wire fence. Deeply ignorant of the truth of Shmuel's circumstances, Bruno forms a friendship with him that leads to shocking revelations and a powerful and surprising conclusion. Blessed by marvellous performances all around, the film is truly elevated by young newcomer Asa Butterfield, who is particularly memorable in his first major role.

2008 Chicago International Film Festival Audience Choice Award

"The power of this Holocaust tale sneaks up and floors you."
- Rolling Stone

THE EDGE OF HEAVEN

5:00 pm- Wednesday, March 11

Germany/Turkey/Italy
- 122 min

14A (Sexually suggestive scenes)
In German and Turkish with English



The fragile lives of six people connect on emotional voyages toward forgiveness and reconciliation in Germany and Turkey. Nejat disapproves of his widower father Ali's choice of prostitute Yeter for a live-in girlfriend. But changes his mind when he discovers she sends money home to Turkey for her daughter's education. Yeter's sudden death distances father and son. Nejat travels to Istanbul to find Yeter's daughter Ayten. However, political activist Ayten is already in Germany, having to flee the Turkish police. There, she meets Lotte who invites rebellious Ayten to stay in her home, a gesture not pleasing to her conservative mother. When Ayten is even-

tually arrested, she is deported and imprisoned in Turkey. Lotte travels to Turkey, where she gets caught up in the seemingly hopeless situation of freeing Ayten.

2007 Cannes Festival Best Screenplay

2008 German Film Awards Best Film & Best Director

"The Edge of Heaven is a film to be seen, savored and thoughtfully appreciated."
- New York Observer

50 DEAD MEN WALKING

7:30 pm- Wednesday, March 11

Canada/UK - 118 min

14A (violence; coarse language;
sexually suggestive scene)

**Voted one of Canada's
TOP TEN FILMS OF 2008**

Jim Sturgess turns in a star-making performance opposite Ben Kingsley in *Fifty Dead Men Walking*, a sweeping political thriller that gives a face to what Northern Ireland wryly calls "the Troubles." Directed by Kari Skogland with grit, precision and a focus on the human drama, this film, a Gala Presentation at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival®, highlights the personal toll wrought by the larger civil conflict. Martin (Sturgess) is a small-time Belfast hustler working in the late eighties. . As such, he makes a prime target for British intelligence. Recruited by a complex, wily agent (Kingsley), he starts feeding information about IRA activities to the British. With every success, he intensifies the danger posed to himself and his family. The IRA is shown to be ruthless in its retribution; once an infiltrator has been found out, he becomes a



"dead man walking." His girlfriend pleads with him to come clean about his covert status, understandably terrified of what such dirty work could mean for their safety. Skogland captures the character of Northern Ireland in the eighties with great sensitivity, reflecting both the despair of the situation and the resolve it produced. The real Martin McGartland claims that the information he passed to the British saved at least fifty lives. He is still in hiding.

**2008 Vancouver International Film Festival
Best Western Canadian Film Award**

"... a very compelling story that provides a very human aspect to "the troubles" and is made stronger by some very good performances by its leads." - The Critical Critics

MOTHERS&DAUGHTERS

5:00 pm - Thursday, March 12

Canada - 85 min

PG (Coarse language)

**2008 Vancouver International Film Festival
Women in Film Award
Most Popular Canadian Film Award**

Premiering at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival®, *Mothers&Daughters* is an acute exploration of the many different facets of the mother-daughter bond. Director Carl Bessai (*Unnatural & Accidental, Normal*) has created a film that is entirely fresh yet openly pays homage to iconic filmmakers and movements past and present. Mining the rich terrain of the connection between mothers and their female children, Bessai's brilliant ensemble cast breathes life into six unique and engaging characters. The high-strung pulp romance novelist Micki (Babz Chula) eclipses her sullen daughter Rebecca (Camille Sullivan, *Mount Pleasant, Normal*), an actress who finds Mom overwhelming. Brenda (Gabrielle Rose, *Normal*), a dedicated housewife and mother, is shocked to learn that her husband has left her for a younger woman. Her daughter Kate (Tiffany Lyndall-Knight, *I, Robot*;



Capote), meanwhile, is less sympathetic. Finally, when Celine (Tantoo Cardinal, *Unnatural & Accidental*), a Metis woman who owns her own business, is hired by Cynthia (Tinsel Korey), a saddened young professional, troubling questions arise. With clarity and courage, the performers deliver inspired moments from across the entire spectrum of emotions. It is a testament to Bessai and to his cast that *Mothers& Daughters* emerges as such a delightful work. Never overly sentimental, the actors pay tribute to the intricacies of these complex female relationships while ensuring that each scene serves the complex web of stories.

**Not yet released
at time of printing**

LEMON TREE

7:30 pm - Thursday, March 12

Israel - 106 min

Not yet rated
In Arabic and Hebrew with English sub-

Audience Award 2008 Berlin Film Festival



Lemon Tree, the tenderly wrought latest feature from Eran Riklis (whose *The Syrian Bride* was a Film Circuit favourite), has already screened at several festivals internationally and is sure to warm hearts and stimulate minds upon its theatrical release. Set in the volatile region of the Middle East, *Lemon Tree* finds a delightful way of broaching politics and other, more nuanced human affairs. Salma (Hiam Abbass, *The Visitor*) is a Palestinian widow who has lived in her lemon grove near the Israel-West Bank border for decades. When the Israeli defence minister moves in across the way, Israeli security forces are quick to descend upon Salma, claiming that her lemon trees are a possible threat to the minister's safety. They ask that she remove her trees from the land. Outraged by this demand, Salma teams up with a young Palestinian lawyer, Ziad Daud, and the issue goes all the way to the Israeli Supreme Court. As the fight

rages, the minister's wife, begins to pay attention as she battles her own problems: she's bored and feels trapped in her domestic situation. Slowly the two women form a bond that ultimately erodes the tensions still percolating after years of bitter conflict between their two nations. This film explores many complex issues pertaining to personal and political identity as Salma wades into the thorny quagmire that is the Middle East crisis. Ultimately, however, it is the layering of human emotion on top of situational contingencies that allows this film to glimpse beyond the bleak bigger picture and into the intimate human dramas that remind us of the will to live, love and go on.

"The rare ability to make intelligent, entertaining cinema from hot-button current issues is beautifully illustrated by *Lemon Tree*."
- Variety

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