

Ann Arbor Film Festival
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**ANN ARBOR FILM FESTIVAL'S SPECIAL PROGRAMS
SHOWCASE RARE FILMS, INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKERS**

*Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences will present Japanese film
pioneer Matsumoto and a 50-year experimental retrospective*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANN ARBOR, Mich., February 6, 2007 – A galaxy of special programs will augment the independent and experimental films in competition at the 45th Ann Arbor Film Festival. The AAFF takes place March 20-25, 2006 in the historic Michigan Theater.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences will present two rare film events:

- **Legendary Japanese filmmaker Tashio Matsumoto in person** on Wed., March 21. He'll show the influential 1969 feature, *Funeral Parade of Roses*, and a selection of short films made over 30 years. It will be the only North American appearance by the pioneer of avant-garde documentary, experimental film, multimedia, and video art. Noted Japanese film scholar Jonathan Hall (University of California at Irvine) will introduce him and moderate a Q&A session. Co-presented by the University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies.
- In a rare collaboration, **AAFF and San Francisco Cinematheque will co-present an extraordinary selection of 11 rarely seen experimental films** made over 50 years that use images of the body to make political and artistic statements. The showings take place on Sat., March 24. Both presenters are known for showcasing avant-garde filmmakers. The program will include works by Willard Mass, George Kuchar, James Broughton, Barbara Hammer, Martha Colburn and others. For a complete list of films, please visit the AAFF website:
<http://www.aafilmfest.org/screenings/sanfranciscocinema>

Other special programs include a **sound and light performance by New York architect and artist Bruce McClure** on Fri., March 23. With modified 16mm film projectors, guitar effect pedals and an assortment of film loops, McClure plays his projectors as if they were instruments of light and sound. His work has been exhibited at museums, galleries and cinemas internationally, most recently at the Rotterdam Film Festival.

Also on March 23, AAFF hosts a **Robert Todd retrospective**. Still to be slotted: an exclusive midnight screening of **Alejandro Jodorowsky's hard-to-find cult classic, *El Topo***, in a newly released 40th anniversary re-mastered 35mm print.

On Wed., March 21st at 5pm, remember filmmaker **Helen Hill** with a memorial and retrospective at the Firefly Club on Ashley Street in downtown Ann Arbor. Hill's work has often been shown at AAFF, and she was a past juror and good friend. She was tragically murdered in New Orleans this past January. The 45th AAFF is dedicated to her memory.

AAFF expects more visiting filmmakers than usual, because of funding controversies and the Helen Hill Tribute, in addition to the hundreds of films that will be exhibited in competition. If you are interested in providing housing for a filmmaker during AAFF, please contact Housing Coordinator Myrna Rugg at housing@aafilmfest.org

You will receive an all-access festival pass for your generosity. You will NOT be expected to provide around-town transportation, airport pickup or drop off, or any other logistical matters, unless you choose to do so. You need only provide a quality home for their stay.

About Ann Arbor Film Festival

The Ann Arbor Film Festival celebrates independent and experimental filmmakers and artists of the moving image from around the world. The longest-running festival of its kind in North America, it was founded in 1963 and is one of the premiere festivals in the nation. Now in its 45th year, it attracts thousands of entries from filmmakers in over 30 countries competing for an awards purse of more than \$20,000. Created as an alternative to commercial cinema and mainstream film festivals, the annual week-long festival remains true to its original goal of promoting film as art and honoring the artists who make it all possible. This year's festival runs March 20-25, 2007. For more information, please visit www.aafilmfest.org.

About Ann Arbor Film Festival Sponsors

Major supporters of the Ann Arbor Film Festival include The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences, the Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor's 107one, Borders, Weber's Inn, the State Street Area Association and SEE Eyewear.

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