



Phoenix AZ—February 15, 2010

MADCAP Theaters presents Indie Epics: *Taxidermia*, *Red Cliff*, *Elect the Dead Symphony*, *Marina of the Zabbaleen* & Cult Classics on the big screen in March

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS

Thursday March 4 (7, 8:15, 9:30pm) – *Elect the Dead Symphony* \$8

On March 16th, 2009, Serj Tankian (System of a Down), a Grammy Award winner and one of rock's most unconventional front men, took the stage at the majestic Auckland Town Hall in New Zealand with the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra to perform a very special orchestral interpretation of his critically acclaimed debut solo album *Elect the Dead*. The dynamic one-off performance was recorded and filmed in HD by six cameras, and the dramatic result has been captured in *Elect the Dead Symphony*.

BEST WORST MOVIE DOUBLE FEATURE

**Friday March 5 & Saturday February 6 - *The Room* (8pm) & *Birdemic: Shock & Terror* (10pm)
\$10 Double feature**

The Room (2003) back by popular demand! The unintentionally hilarious steaming pile of "relationship drama" that's been hailed as "Floor Plan 9 from Outer Space" and "without a doubt, the worst film ever made, including movies made on Betamax cameras in special education high school classes." Gag me with a plastic spoon! This will be followed by *Birdemic: Shock & Terror* (2008). Perhaps the most discussed and anticipated avian-based disaster film since *The Birds*, *Birdemic* is equal parts both epochal tale and cinematic warning shot. It tells the story of a couple unexpectedly and unforgettably caught in the eye of a feather-based storm...an apocalyptic attack winging down from the skies in a twisted morass of feathers, talons and blood-soaked claws. Officially Rejected from Sundance 2009, it has to be seen to be believed!

TWISTED EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS

**Friday March 5 & Saturday March 6 – *Mondo Cane* (4, 8pm) & *Taxidermia* (6, 10pm)
\$10 Double feature**

Taxidermia (2006) contains three generational stories, about a grandfather, a father, and a son, linked together by recurring motifs. The dim grandfather, an orderly during World War Two, lives in his bizarre fantasies; he desires love. The huge father seeks success as a top athlete — a speed eater — in the post-war pro-Soviet era. The grandson, a meek, small-boned taxidermist, yearns for something greater: immortality. He wants to create the most perfect work of art of all time by stuffing his own torso. Historical facts and surrealism become intertwined as magical realism, like in the works of Gabriel García Márquez or the Hungarian writer Lajos Parti Nagy; the script is based on two of the latter's stories. Palfi added the third story, that of the grandson the taxidermist. This plays on a double bill with *Mondo Cane* (1962). Various themes pop up along the way through this impressive, hard-hitting documentary feature, notably the cruel treatment inflicted on animals, including the human species. *Vehicle* is impressive on many counts: first, the material found on a round-the-world hunt; second, the juxtaposition of the various elements, sequences, and themes in order to provoke the viewer.

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS

Saturday March 6 – *The Rarest Greatness of Chuck Jones: Unseen Awesome Animation* (5, 7, 9pm) 16MM \$10

Dennis Nyback, independent film archivist and historian returns to MADCAP Theaters for one night only to present a 16mm tribute to the pioneering animation of Chuck Jones. In a career that spanned almost seventy years, Jones made over 250 films, won four Academy Awards®, and was nominated for six others. Jones' razor-sharp eye for character movement, his legendary sense of timing, and his beguilingly irreverent wit have combined to create some of the classic cartoons of all time. Nyback is pleased to present some of Jones' unseen animation curiosities in this 80 minute exclusive program that will feature *Gateway to the Mind* a trippy Bell Telephone educational special featuring animation by Jones, as well as the much parodied musical ensemble *One Froggy Evening*. Rounding out the program will be the trio of

Snafu educational/instructional shorts produced between 1943 and 1945 during WW2; **Coming Snafu, Spies and a Lesson on Camouflage.**

DOCUMENTARY

Thursday March 11 (7pm), Friday March 12 & Saturday March 13 (5, 7, 9pm) – Marina of the Zabbaleen \$8

At first glance this HD-CAM-shot documentary, *Marina of the Zabbaleen (2008)* might seem dismal: 11-year-old Marina and her irrepressible siblings live on an inhabited rubbish dump outside Cairo. Yet Engi Wassef's part-Tribeca-funded feature manages to be oddly life-affirming amidst the squalor. This is no grim, heavy-handed tragedy - rarely has a soundtrack contained more genuine laughter, or a squabbling family shown more love. Marina and her clan are Zabbaleen, garbage collectors who process and recycle 2,000 tons of fetid rubbish every day. Marina of the Zabbaleen follows this delightful, serious-eyed little girl as she goes to school, plays with her three wild siblings Mina, Romani and Yousef (Marina is the only 'calm' one, says her mother), and faces the constant threat of eviction from their slum surroundings ('built' in 1969).

GRINDHOUSE REDUX

**Friday March 12 & Saturday March 13 – The Evil Dead (8pm) & the Hills Have Eyes II (10pm)
\$8 Double feature**

In the fall of 1979, Sam Raimi and his merry band headed into the woods of rural Tennessee to make a movie. They emerged with *The Evil Dead (1981)* a roller coaster of a film packed with shocks, gore, and wild humor, a film that remains a benchmark for the genre. Ash (cult favorite Bruce Campbell) and four friends arrive at a backwoods cabin for a vacation, where they find a tape recorder containing incantations from an ancient book of the dead. When they play the tape, evil forces are unleashed, and one by one the friends are possessed. The gory mayhem continues in Wes Craven's *The Hills Have Eyes II (1985)*. Everyone's favorite desert-dwelling mutant cannibals return in this gruesome sequel to the classic drive-in shocker! Years after the original massacre which pitted a suburban family against a band of cave dwellers, traumatized survivors lead a team of dirt bikers back into the wild for a bus expedition. After their vehicle breaks down, the travelers must fend for their lives when the hungry savages (led by spooky Michael Berryman) emerge from the hills in search of dinner! Vicious, delirious, and outrageous!

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS

Thursday March 18 (7pm), Friday March 19 & Saturday March 20 (4, 6.40, 9.20pm) – Red Cliff \$8

Legendary action-cinema master John Woo and international superstar Tony Leung reunite for the first time since the 1992 classic *HARD BOILED* in *Red Cliff (2008)*, the epic historical drama based on a legendary 208 A.D. battle that heralded the end of the Han Dynasty. Red Cliff opens as power hungry Prime Minister-turned-General Cao Cao (Zhang Fengyi) seeks permission from the Han dynasty Emperor to organize a southward-bound mission designed to crush the two troublesome warlords who stand in his way, Liu Bei (You Yong) and Sun Quan (Chang Chen). As the expedition gets underway, Cao Cao's troops rain destruction on Liu Bei's army, forcing him into retreat. Liu Bei's military strategist Zhuge Liang (Takeshi Kaneshiro) knows that the rebels' only hope for survival is to form an alliance with rival warlord Sun Quan, and reaches out to Sun Quan's trusted advisor, war hero Zhou Yu (Tony Leung). Vastly outnumbered by Cao Cao's brutal, fast-approaching army, the warlords band together to mount a heroic campaign – unrivaled in history – that changes the face of China forever. A massive hit in Asia and the most expensive Asian film production of all time, RED CLIFF is a breathtaking war epic that marks the triumphant return of John Woo.

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENTS

Friday March 19 & Saturday March 20 (6, 8 & 10PM) – The Slammin' Salmon \$8

The Broken Lizard gang is back with *The Slammin' Salmon (2009)*, a rowdy comedy that spends a night in a restaurant of the same name. Boxer Cleon Salmon (Michael Clarke Duncan, 1999 Academy Award nominee for *The Green Mile*) owns the swanky eatery and needs to raise fast cash to settle a gambling debt. He challenges his hapless crew to a contest to see who can up-sell the most in order to reach his goal of \$20,000 before closing time. Director Kevin Heffernan sets a rapid-fire pace loaded with pratfalls, spit takes, food fights, and bathroom humor. *The Slammin' Salmon* brings together the usual Broken Lizard (*Club Dread*, *Supertroopers*, and *Beerfest*) regulars: Paul Soter, Erik Stolhanske, Steve Lemme, Jay Chandrasekhar, and Heffernan (as the jittery manager). Cobie Smulders and April Bowlby round out the cast as frenzied waiters who'll do anything to avoid a "broken-rib sandwich" from the intimidating Salmon.

PLEASE EMAIL FOR SCREENERS, HI-RES IMAGES AND INFORMATION – andrea@madcaptheaters.com

For more information visit: www.midnightmoviemamacita.net or www.madcaptheaters.com

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