

2006 Labor Film Series

The Monroe Community College Faculty Association is a sponsoring member of the film series. All films will be shown at the Eastman House Dryden Theater, 900 East Avenue)

Friday, September 1

8 p.m.

WHICH WAY IS UP? (Michael Schultz, US 1977, 94 min.) The late, great Richard Pryor takes on three comic roles in this hilarious American remake of Lina Wertmuller's political satire, *The Seduction of Mimi*. Our hero is Leroy Jones (Pryor), a fruit picker whose accidental union membership, promotion to manager and romance with a labor organizer puts him at odds with his friends and family. Pryor also plays Leroy's dirty old man of a father and the obnoxious Rev. Lenox Thomas.

Friday, September 8 — Rochester Premiere

8 p.m.

SIR! NO SIR! (David Zeiger, US 2005, 84 min.) This powerful and surprising new documentary chronicles the largely forgotten anti-war activities of active-service American GIs and other members of the military during the Vietnam era. Veterans who participated in the opposition movement and organized their fellow troops tell their own stories. *Sir! No Sir!* opens a little-investigated chapter of history and shows how soldier-workers can protest unfair and dangerous working conditions.

Friday, September 15 — Rochester Premiere

8 p.m.

ISN'T THIS A TIME! A TRIBUTE CONCERT FOR HAROLD LEVENTHAL (Jim Brown, US 2004, 90 min.) On Thanksgiving Day, 2003, some of the most influential talents in American folk music gathered at Carnegie Hall for a concert to honor Harold Leventhal (1919-2005), their long time supporter and promoter. Among the artists who performed were Pete Seeger, Leon Bibb, Theodore Bikel, Peter, Paul and Mary, Arlo Guthrie, and the surviving members of The Weavers, the only musical act to be blacklisted during the McCarthy era. A joyous testament to the power of music to overcome oppression, the songs performed

include "Guantanamo," "City of New Orleans," "Where Have All the Flowers Gone," and "Sinner Man" — the Weavers' tribute to George W. Bush.

Friday, September 22

8 p.m.

BUBBLE (Steven Soderbergh, US 2005, 72 min.) One of the best and most overlooked films so far released in 2006 is this spellbinding account of the triangle that develops around three workers at a doll factory in Southeastern Ohio. Told entirely with non-professional performers, the story revolves around the factory's hiring of Rose (Misty Dawn Wilkins), which subtly disrupts the friendship between young Kyle (Dustin Ashley) and his heavy-set, middle-aged co-worker Martha (Debbie Doebereiner). Part neo-realist character study and part murder mystery, *Bubble* looks and feels like no other movie out there and it will have you talking and thinking about it for days.

Friday, September 29

8 p.m.

LOST IN AMERICA (Albert Brooks, US 1985, 91 min.) Inspired by the heroes of *Easy Rider*, highly paid Los Angeles advertising executive David (co-screenwriter and director Brooks) and his wife Linda (Julie Hagerty) decide to "drop out" of society and set out to see the country in a very expensive Winnebago. When Linda blows the couple's nest egg in a Las Vegas casino, the couple get the best jobs they can — crossing guard and fast food assistant manager — in a small Southwestern town. One of the funniest movies ever made, Brooks' brilliant satire takes aim at materialistic yuppies in Reagan-era America and hits the target every time.

Friday, October 6 — Rochester Premiere

8 p.m.

WHO NEEDS SLEEP (Haskell Wexler & Lisa Leeman, US 2006, 78 min.) In 1997, after working a typical 19-hour day on a film set, assistant cameraman Brent Hershman fell asleep behind the wheel, crashed his car, and died. Deeply disturbed by his colleague's preventable death, Oscar-winning cinematographer director and activist Haskell Wexler made this powerful and personal documentary essay on our quality of life which shows how sleep deprivation and long work hours are a lethal combination.

Friday, October 13

8 p.m.

GOIN' DOWN THE ROAD (Donald Shebib, Canada 1970, 90 min.) One of the most acclaimed Canadian features ever made, Shebib's powerful, realistic drama follows two uneducated laborers (Doug McGrath and Paul Bradley) from the maritime provinces who move to Toronto hoping to find high-paying jobs and the sweet life. Deeply humanistic and observant, it offers us unique insight into the everyday struggle for survival.

Friday, October 20

8 p.m.

FIVE EASY PIECES (Bob Rafelson, US 1970, 98 min.) In his first major leading role, Jack Nicholson is Bobby Dupea, an oil rig worker from a wealthy family of musicians. When a family emergency summons him home, Bobby is forced to take a hard look at his past —and his future. One of the key films of the 1970s, this depiction of a society dropout is a study in class and alienation.

Friday, October 27 — Rochester Premiere

8 p.m.

OUR DAILY BREAD (UNSER TÄGLICH BROT) Nikolaus Geyrhalter, Austria 2005, 92 min.) Without dialog and using pristinely photographed images right out of a chilling science-fiction movie, this fascinating new visual essay examines how food is mass-produced in the contemporary world. Detailing the industrial harvesting of fruits and vegetables as well as the breeding and slaughter of animals, director Geyrhalter reveals a sometimes shocking, dehumanized vision worthy of Stanley Kubrick. *Our Daily Bread* may forever change your ideas of how food gets to your table.