

The Hollywood Theatre launches new series

Artistic director Richard Beer handpicked documentaries from around the world

By Charity Prater

The Hollywood Theatre has launched a new film series featuring some of the best documentaries from around the world. Every other week the Theatre will show a different film that will play for two consecutive weekends.

Kicking off the month of February will be *Abduction: The Megumi Yokota Story* playing February 3, 4, 10 and 11. Directed by Philippe Diaz, the story takes place on an eerie Japanese road in 1977, when 13-year-old Megumi Yokota is abducted by North Korean spies and not found for twenty years. The story is seen through the perspective of her parents who spend years relentlessly

searching for their daughter.

Richard Beer, artistic director for the Hollywood Theatre, spent hours watching movies before deciding which ones to include in the series.

"The films in the series were handpicked because of their ability to provoke my emotions in various ways," says Beer, "and because they are rare films that Portlanders would not otherwise have a chance to see."

Playing February 17, 18, 24, and 25 will be *China Blue*, directed by Micha Peled. The film takes place in a China sweatshop where Jasmine and her teenage friends work under torturous conditions at a blue jeans factory.



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When, in order to meet supply needs, the factory owner strikes a deal with a Western client, the tension erupts, revealing the truth behind many of the clothes we wear.

"The social injustice of the Chinese sweatshops in *China Blue* infuriated me and made me re-evaluate aspects of my life," says Beer. "I want others to know and feel the truth behind where the clothes we wear are coming from."

On March 3, 4, 10, and 11, the Hollywood Theatre will present *No Restraint*. Directed by Alison Chernick, it takes viewers onto a whale ship off the coast of Japan and captures the work of the adventurous artist Matthew Barney.

"*No Restraint* is a fascinating look inside the artistic process of one of the art world's most controversial and spellbinding personalities," says Beer. "I really enjoyed the experience I had when watching this film, so I

had to put it in the series for others to enjoy."

If the series proves to be popular, Beers plans to continue offering it.

"If just one person comes away from each film feeling somewhat changed by what they saw, I think the program is a success," says Beer. "Film has the ability to effect social change. In the case of documentaries, this can open our eyes to worlds that we never knew existed. If we can open peoples' eyes to what the world outside of ours is like, then our job has been accomplished."

The cost of admission at the Hollywood Theatre is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors 65 and older and children 4-12. You can also buy a punch card worth ten admissions for \$40. For more information, go to www.filmaction.org. The Hollywood Theatre is located at 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd. ★