

For Immediate Release

December 11, 2008

SYMPHONY SPACE PRESENTS MEL BROOKS: MAN IN TIGHTS

Beginning **December 21** and running through **February 4**, **Symphony Space** presents **Mel Brooks: Man in Tights**, a film series exploring six of the most uproarious works by the titular director, writer, composer, lyricist, comedian, actor and producer.

One of the few entertainers to have won Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony Awards, Brooks, a native New Yorker, is best known for his broad, farcical comedies and film parodies. *Man in Tights* looks at Brooks' most well known films, influenced in equal parts by 1930s Borscht Belt comedy and the early luminaries of television, beginning on **December 21** with his first feature film, 1968's *The Producers* (later to become a long-running Broadway musical and, then once again, a successful film offering), along with his 1987 *Star Wars* parody, *Spaceballs*. On **December 28** Symphony Space presents Brooks' wild west parody *Blazing Saddles* and his take on an age-old story *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*. The series wraps up on **January 4** with screenings of Brooks' black and white 1930s horror film *Young Frankenstein* (the Broadway musical version of this film also calls it a day on the 4th) and his whirlwind tour of human history from the dawn of man through the French Revolution *History of the World: Part I*.

When Symphony Space opened its doors in 1978 with its first production, *Wall to Wall Bach*, it gathered together an eclectic group of musicians, professional and amateur, well-known and emerging. What began as a natural outgrowth of the cultural epicenter that is the Upper West Side, traditionally home to many of the great actors, writers, dancers and musicians of our time, remains a unique melding of world-class artistry with the informality and intimacy of a neighborhood salon.

For more information, please contact Brian Shimkovitz or Carla Sacks at Sacks & Co., 212.741.1000, brian@sacksco.com or carla@sacksco.com.

MEL BROOKS: MAN IN TIGHTS

Six outrageously funny films from the man who would do anything for a laugh. As Brooks himself says, “My movies rise above vulgarity.”

The Producers

December 21 at 3:30 P.M. & 7:30 P.M. \$11; Members \$7

“The more time passes the more combustible Brooks’s burlesque of Nazism and the post-war remnants of old-school Jewish showbiz seems.”—*Village Voice*

1968. USA. 88 min. Zero Mostel, Gene Wilder, Dick Shawn.

Max Bialystock is a washed-up theatre producer, driven to romancing little old ladies for cash to keep his business going. His accountant comes up with a scheme to oversell the shares to a show that’s guaranteed to flop...and walk away with the moolah. Surely a musical named *Springtime for Hitler* will be their winner (read: loser)...or will it?

Academy Award: Best Writing (Story & Screenplay, written directly for the screen). Writers Guild of America: Best Original Screenplay.

Spaceballs

December 21 at 5:30 P.M. \$11; Members \$7

“There are some great visual gags in the movie, and the best is Pizza the Hutt, a creature who roars and cajoles while cheese melts off its forehead and big hunks of pepperoni slide down its jowls.”—*Roger Ebert*

1987. USA. 96 min. Brooks, John Candy, Rick Moranis, Bill Pullman.

Meet Lone Starr and Barf, two of the characters in this Star Wars parody, as they romp all over the known galaxy in a beat-up spaceship that just might really look like an RV. They’re soon to meet Yogurt, a wise old creature who’s out to defeat the evil Dark Helmet. What could be sillier?

Blazing Saddles

December 28 at 3:30 P.M. & 7:45 P.M. \$11; Members \$7

“No film better illustrates the enduring appeal of Brooks’ enormously influential fusion of time-tested Borscht Belt shtick, post-modern *Hellzapoppin* playfulness, lowbrow comedy and uniquely American vulgarity.”—*The Onion*

1974. USA. 93 min. Technicolor. Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder, Slim Pickins, Harvey Korman, Madeline Kahn, Brooks.

An over-the-top Old West parody featuring a black sheriff with a white sidekick in a racist town. Throw in farting cowboys, a Yiddish speaking Sioux chief, a buxom dance-hall chanteuse with a speech impediment, and hilarious, tasteless one-liners like, “Excuse me while I whip this out,” and you’ve got an instant cult favorite.

Writers Guild of America: Best Comedy written directly for the screen.

Robin Hood: Men in Tights

December 28 at 5:30 P.M. \$11; Members \$7

“There is tremendous glee to be derived from the spontaneity of his outrageous antics. Marks a return to the wild, anarchic scatological comedies that made Mel Brooks a marquee name around the world.”—*Variety*

1993. USA. 104 min. Cary Elwes, Richard Lewis, Dave Chappelle, Issac Hayes, Tracey Ullman.

Forget Friar Tuck. Enter Rabbi Tuckman! That should give you an idea of the antics in store for you as our smooth hero Robin fights the Sheriff of Nottingham in this spoof of the Merry Men of Sherwood Forest.

Young Frankenstein

January 4 at 6:45 P.M. \$11; Members \$7

“As funny as we expect a Mel Brooks comedy to be, but it’s more than that: it shows artistic growth and a more sure-handed control of the material.”—*Roger Ebert*

1974. USA. 106 min. B&W. Gene Wilder, Peter Boyle, Marty Feldman, Cloris Leachman, Teri Garr.

Talk about dysfunctional families! Though he’s the grandson of the famous Dr. Frankenstein, a young neurosurgeon denies his past, until he inherits the family castle and reads grandpa’s book of experiments. With the help of Igor, grandson of the original Igor, he sets out to bring a body back to life with hilarious results.

Hugo Award. Nebula Award. Five Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films Awards.

History of the World: Part I

January 4 at 9:00 P.M. \$11; Members \$7

1981. USA. 92 min. Color. Brooks, Dom DeLuise, Madeline Kahn, Harvey Korman, Cloris Leachman, Gregory Hines.

A whirlwind tour of human history—from early man to the Spanish Inquisition and the French Revolution—with a stellar cast and glossy production values, including a Busby Berkeley-style number as hilarious as it is outrageous.

BOX OFFICE

Tickets for performances are available:

- In person at 2537 Broadway at 95th Street, Tuesday-Sunday, noon to 7 P.M.
- Over the telephone at (212) 864-5400, Tuesday-Sunday, 11 A.M. to 7 P.M.
- Online at symphonyspace.org.

For more information, please contact Brian Shimkovitz or Carla Sacks at Sacks & Co., 212.741.1000, brian@sacksco.com or carla@sacksco.com