

## SYMPHONY SPACE ANNOUNCES 2008/2009 SEASON OF FILM PROGRAMMING

THALIA FILM BEGINS SEPTEMBER 21 WITH  
PAUL SCHRADER'S PERSONAL CHOICE

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE MEL BROOKS: MAN IN TIGHTS,  
THE BEST FILMS OF 1939, REEL RHYTHMS FILM FESTIVAL AND  
OPERA AND DANCE ON FILM

Long a cinematic treasure of the Upper West Side, where for generations fledgling filmmakers like Scorsese, Bogdanovich and Allen learned their craft and Columbia and Barnard students caught the latest art-house or revival films, the refurbished, state-of-the-art Leonard Nimoy Thalia continues the tradition in Symphony Space's 31<sup>st</sup> Season, with film festivals, special series and—in many cases—double features.

**Thalia Film** presents a wide variety of programs, ranging from career retrospectives of funnymen and screen sirens to explorations of cultures abroad and entertainment for the whole family. The classic retrospectives, new independent features and film festival collaborations begin with **Paul Schrader's Personal Choice** on September 21 and continue through **Reel Rhythms**, the **5<sup>th</sup> NY World Music Film Festival** in June.

**Paul Schrader's Personal Choice** kicks off Thalia Film September 21-November 2, with the favorite films and personal inspirations of the writer of some of Martin Scorsese's best work (including *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*) and director of films including *American Gigolo* and *Auto Focus*. In association with ArtMattan Productions, the **16<sup>th</sup> Annual African Diaspora Film Festival** follows November 30-December 14 putting a spotlight on life in the African Diaspora.

Beginning December 21 Symphony Space's Thalia Film program explores a range of classic films. Starting with **Mel Brooks: Man in Tights**, a series featuring the greatest movies from the master of the spoof including *The Producers*, *Young Frankenstein* and *Blazing Saddles*. Thalia Film then joins in Symphony Space's February festival, The 1939 Project, with the **Best Films of 1939**, February 1-22.

Showing throughout the 2008/2009 Thalia Film season is **Opera on Film**, which brings opera productions from a number of Europe's most esteemed festivals and theaters to New York audiences with high-definition surround sound screenings. New this year will be rare screenings of **Dance on Film** during the month of April—Dance Month at Symphony Space. As part of its Just Kidding family program, Symphony Space will also present selections from the **New York International Children's Film Festival** throughout the 2008/2009 programming season along with a February 28 Kids Films screening of the classic **The Wizard of Oz**.

Spanning March through April 12 is **Jeanne Moreau: La Reine Moreau**, celebrating the work of the mysterious and seductive stage star who was discovered by Louis Malle. **Jim Jarmusch's Personal Choice** will highlight the groundbreaking director's favorite films April 19-May 31. Bringing Thalia Film's 2008/2009 season to a close is **Reel Rhythms**, the **5<sup>th</sup> NY World Music Film Festival: The Francophones** beginning on June 7.

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, Krista Williams or Carla Sacks at Sacks & Co., 212.741.1000,  
brian@sacksco.com, krista@sacksco.com or carla@sacksco.com.**

## SCHEDULE

Before there was ever a Symphony Space, there was a Thalia, widely considered one of the most important art house cinemas in New York Season. Symphony Space carries on the tradition to this day, every single Sunday, with classic retrospectives, new independent features, and collaborations with film festivals. And for the true film buff, our Tuesday night screenings provide an in-depth look at rare cinema.

### SUNDAYS AT THE THALIA

From the classics of yesteryear to today's newest masterpieces, the Leonard Nimoy Thalia is the place to be on Sunday afternoons and evenings for an intelligent well-crafted film before you start another week. Check [symphonyspace.org](http://symphonyspace.org) for program updates throughout the season.

#### **Paul Schrader's Personal Choice**

**September 21-November 2 at times tbd \$11; \$7 Members**

The writer of some of Scorsese's best films (including *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*) and director of films including *American Gigolo* and *Auto Focus* chooses his favorite films and personal inspirations for a unique Thalia series. Opening on Sept 21 at 6pm with a screening of *The Walker* and a personal appearance by Mr. Schrader.

#### **16<sup>th</sup> Annual African Diaspora Film Festival**

**November 30-December 14 at times tbd \$11; \$7 Members**

In association with ArtMattan Productions, Symphony Space is proud to be a part of the African Diaspora Film Festival, putting a spotlight on African Diaspora life and culture and redesigning the Black cinema experience.

#### **Mel Brooks: Man in Tights**

**December 21-January 11 at times tbd \$11; \$7 Members**

The greatest movies from the master of the spoof, two of which have already become Broadway musicals. Selections include *The Producers*, *Space Balls*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Blazing Saddles*, and *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*.

#### **Best Films of 1939**

**February 1-22 at times tbd \$11; \$7 Members**

As part of the 1939 festival, we take a look at several classics from what is widely considered to be the Golden Age of cinema. Selections may include *Wuthering Heights*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Goodbye Mr. Chips*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, and *Ninotchka*.

#### **Jeanne Moreau: La Reine Moreau**

**March 1-April 12 at times tbd \$11; \$7 Members**

Beautiful, mysterious, and seductive, stage-star Moreau was "discovered" by Louis Malle, and went on to work with some of the best international directors, including Truffaut, Frankenheimer, and Antonioni. Selections may include *The Bride Wore Black*, *Diary of a Chambermaid*, *Jules and Jim*, and *A Woman is a Woman*.

## **Reel Rhythms – 5<sup>th</sup> NY World Music Film Festival: The Francophones** **June 7-28 at times tbd \$11; \$7 Members**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Reel Rhythms focuses on many aspects of different cultures' music every year. This year we're looking at Francophone influences from a wide variety of places all over the globe: France, Canada, Belgium, Africa, Southeast Asia –and we'll even look at locally influenced forms like Zydeco, Cajun and Creole.

## **TUESDAY NIGHTS AT THE THALIA**

Lovers of cinema can't go wrong at the Leonard Nimoy Thalia on Tuesday nights. Through collaborations with faculty from the Columbia University School of the Arts Film Division, PBS's POV series and more, Symphony Space brings you films you won't see anywhere else, often with introductions, discussions, and filmmaker talkbacks. Check [symphonyspace.org](http://symphonyspace.org) for program updates throughout the season.

## **OPERA ON FILM**

Symphony Space and Emerging Pictures continue the exclusive Manhattan screenings of high-definition surround sound opera films from Europe's premiere music festivals and theatres. Last season Opera on Film played to sold-out houses of enthusiastic opera, theatre, and music fans. This season the series returns with an array of the greatest artists in theatrically compelling productions, set against the background of memorable music. You don't want to miss out. Visit online at [symphonyspace.org](http://symphonyspace.org) for film, production, and cast updates.

### **Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* from Teatro la Fenice, Venice (2008)**

**September 14 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members**

**September 24 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Antonino Fogliani Director: Bepi Morassi Artists: Francesco Meli, Bruno De Simone, Rinat Shaham, Roberto Frontali, Giovanni Furlanetto

This production was an immediate hit when it was staged in Spring 2008.

### **Bellini's *Norma* from Teatro Comunale di Bologna (2008)**

**October 5 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members**

**October 15 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Evelino Pido Director: Federico Tiezzi Artists: Daniela Dessi, Fabio Armiliato, Nino Surguladze

This 2008 production marked International star soprano Daniela Dessi's debut in the title role; the critics raved unanimously about her performance.

"In her debut as Norma, Dessi won the game. Her Norma is vocally convincing and emotionally very touching"—*Opera Chic Blog*

### **Mozart's *Don Giovanni* from the Salzburg Festival (2008)**

**October 26 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members**

**November 5 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Bertrand de Billy Director: Claus Guth Artists: Christopher Maltman, Matthew Polenzani and Erwin Schrott

In the title role, British baritone, Christopher Maltman, Winner of the Lieder Prize at the 1997 Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, made his first appearance in Salzburg in an opera production.

“American tenor Matthew Polenzani has perhaps the finest tenor voice of his generation, and he sang with aristocratic elegance and potency. I’ve never heard Ottavio’s first aria, sung more beautifully or expressively.”—*Boston Phoenix*

## **Gounod’s *Roméo et Juliette* from the Salzburg Festival (2008)**

**November 9 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members**

**November 12 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Yannick Nézet-Séguin Director: Bartlett Sher Artist: Rolando Villazón

“Rolando Villazón of Mexico dominated the ensemble ... blessed with a fresh gleaming tenor, an admirable sense of rapture, a ringing top and pervasive sensibility.”—*Financial Times*

Tony Award winning director Bartlett Sher makes his European opera debut with this production.

## **Verdi’s *Otello* from the Salzburg Festival (2008)**

**November 16 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members**

**December 3 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Riccardo Muti Director: Stephen Langridge Artists: Aleksandrs Antonenko and Carlos Álvarez

Verdi’s last tragic opera *Otello*, like Shakespeare’s play, is a shattering psychological drama. The new production for the Salzburg Festival is directed by Stephen Langridge, who in 2006 attracted attention with his production of Offenbach’s *Bluebeard in Bregenz*.

## **Humperdinck’s *Hänsel und Gretel* from the Glyndebourne Festival**

**December 21 at 6:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members**

**December 28 at 6:00 pm**

Conductor: Kazushi Ono Director: Laurent Pelly Artists: Jennifer Holloway, Adriana Kučerová, Irmgard Vilsmajer, Klaus Kuttler, Wolfgang Ablinger-Sperrhacke, Amy Freston, Malin Christensson

“What lifts the evening are the beautifully romantic, lovingly nuanced playing of the London Philharmonic under Kazushi Ono’s lyrical direction, and the spirited performances of the two main characters.”—*Times (London)*

## **Verdi’s *Rigoletto* from Teatro Regio di Parma (2008)**

**January 4 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members**

**January 7 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Massimo Zanetti Director: Stefano Vizioli Artists: Francesco Demuro, Leo Nucci, Desiree Rancatore, Marco Spotti, Stephanie Iranyi, Katarina Nikolic, Roberto Tagliavini, Orazio Mori, Mauro Buffoli

## **Verdi’s *Don Carlo* from Teatro alla Scala, Milan (2008)**

**January 25 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members**

**February 9 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: Daniele Gatti Director: Stéphane Braunschweig Artists: Ferruccio Furlanetto, Giuseppe Filianoti

**Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth* from Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Florence (2008)**

**February 15 at 3:00 pm \$21; \$19 Members**

**February 18 at 7:30 pm**

Conductor: James Conlon Director: Lev Dodin Artists: Vladimir Vaneev, Vselovod Grivnov, Geanne-Michele Charbonnet

In 1998, this remarkably powerful production won the Abbiati Prize, the most prestigious Italian music award given by the Italian Association of Music Critics. Ten years later the production was masterfully conducted by James Conlon, music director of the Los Angeles Opera.

## DANCE ON FILM

***Bolt* from the Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow**

**April 7 at 7:30 pm \$21; \$19 Members; \$15 Children**

Choreographer: Alexi Ratmanski Artists: Anastasia Yatsenko, Andreï Merkuriev

Shostakovich's second ballet Bolt brings together serious and popular music and dance.

"One of those theatrical events that can cause even the most jaded viewer to stand up and cheer."—*The Moscow Times*

***The Pharaoh's Daughter* from the Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow**

**April 14 at 7:30 pm \$21; \$19 Members; \$15 Children**

Choreographer: Pierre Lacotte from Marius Petipa Artist: Svetlana Zakharova

Marius Petipa was convinced that music existed just for dance, and dance, just for ballerinas.

"With *The Pharaoh's Daughter* the Bolshoi has a vehicle in which the company's prima ballerina, Svetlana Zakharova, can shine."—*The New York Times*

***Mediterranea* from La Scala Ballet, Milan (2008)**

**April 28 at 7:30 pm \$21; \$19 Members; \$15 Children**

Choreographer: Mauro Bigonzetti Artist: Massimo Murru

*Mediterranea* focuses on the gestures and the moves in a refined balance between lyricism and pure energy.

"A hit with the public, *Mediterranea* was acclaimed by critics for its power."—*Dance Magazine*

## KIDS' FILMS

For the fledgling actor or director in your family, or just for the sheer fun of a weekend afternoon at the movies.

**The Best Selections from The New York International Children's Film Festival**

**October 25; November 29; December 27; January 3 & 24, March 7 & 14, April 18 at times tbd  
\$11; \$8 Children; \$6 Members**

Throughout the season, NY International Children's Film Festival brings Symphony Space family audiences great films from around the world. Specific titles are chosen as each date approaches, and additional Saturday and Sunday screenings are often added, so log on to [symphonyspace.org](http://symphonyspace.org) and sign up for our e-mail newsletter to make sure you don't miss a thing!

## **The Wizard of Oz**

**February 28 at 11:00 am \$11; \$8 Children; \$6 Members**

Take your kids over the rainbow with Dorothy Gale as she meets a cast of magical characters who escort her to the shining Emerald City. 70 years after its initial release, this classic is still considered one of the best movies of all time.

## **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](http://symphonyspace.org).

**For more information, please contact**

**Brian Shimkovitz, Krista Williams or Carla Sacks at Sacks & Co., 212.741.1000,  
[brian@sacksco.com](mailto:brian@sacksco.com), [krista@sacksco.com](mailto:krista@sacksco.com) or [carla@sacksco.com](mailto:carla@sacksco.com).**