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UNCSA School of Filmmaking and the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts Launch Film Series

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (January 8, 2010) – The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) School of Filmmaking and Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts are launching a film series entitled “The Big Screen: Treasures from the UNCSA Moving Image Archive.” All ticket proceeds will benefit UNCSA School of Filmmaking scholarships.

The Big Screen series highlights selections from UNCSA’s extensive collection, which includes 16,500 original feature film prints on 70mm, 35mm & 16mm; 240 live action and animated short films, documentaries and newsreels on 35mm and 16mm; 4,600 previews of coming attractions on 35mm; and 9,300 videocassette, laserdisc and DVD titles. The UNCSA Moving Image Archive is the fifth largest non-commercial archive in the country.

The first film in the series, King: A Filmed Record...Montgomery to Memphis, will be shown on Sunday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Theatre, ACE Exhibition Complex on the UNCSA campus. Ticket prices are $8 for general admission and $2 for UNCSA students with ID. Tickets will be sold at the door only, beginning one hour before screening time.

Incorporating newsreel and other period footage, King: A Filmed Record is a critically-acclaimed documentary directed by Sidney Lumet and Joseph L. Mankiewicz, which serves as a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King. Beginning with the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955, when King was 27 years old, the film traces the life of the American Civil Rights icon—confrontations in Birmingham, the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom in 1963, the voter-registration marches in Selma, the Chicago housing protests—ending shortly after his assassination in 1968.

Interspersed throughout are dramatic readings by friends and admirers, including Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Ruby Dee, James Earl Jones, Clarence Williams III, Burt Lancaster, Charlton Heston, Harry Belafonte, Paul Winfield, Marlon Brando and Sidney Poitier. King: A Filmed Record originally received a one-night-only screening in about 600 theatres across the country in March of 1970 (with all proceeds being donated to the Dr. Martin Luther King Special Fund), and it was later shortened to 90 minutes for television broadcasts and video releases. Though the full-length documentary has recently been made available on DVD in a special commemorative edition, UNCSA will be screening an extremely rare 35mm print archival print, which has essentially been out of public
circulation since that one-time event. The National Film Preservation Board added the film to the National Film Registry in 1999. This film is not rated.

The Big Screen Film series will continue throughout the spring and summer. All films will be shown at the Main Theatre, ACE Exhibition Complex on the UNCSA campus.

The second film, Tomorrow, which was released in 1972, will be shown on Saturday, January 30, at 7:00 p.m. Directed by Joseph Anthony, Tomorrow features Robert Duvall, Olga Bellin, Sudie Bond, Richard McConnell, Peter Masterson, William Hawley, James Franks, Johnny Mask, Effie Green and Ken Lindley.

In the backwoods of Mississippi, a lonely farmer (Duvall) agrees to look after a pregnant woman (Bellin) who was abandoned by the father of her child. Tomorrow is based on the short story of the same name by Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner. It was first published in the Saturday Evening Post in 1940 and later reappeared in the writer’s short story collection Knight’s Gambit. Though it’s considered one of Faulkner’s lesser-known stories, it has been dramatized in three different mediums—each time by the same writer, celebrated playwright Horton Foote. In 1960, he was hired to adapt the story into a teleplay for an episode of Playhouse 90 for director Robert Mulligan, who would later direct To Kill a Mockingbird (which featured an Academy Award-winning screenplay by Foote). Eight years later, Foote rewrote it as an off-Broadway play starring Duvall and Bellin, and, finally, as the screenplay for this version of the film. Many critics believe this is the definitive adaptation of any of Faulkner’s work, and Duvall has cited it as his personal favorite of all the films he’s done. This film is rated PG.

Additional films in the series:

Pink Floyd the Wall (1982) Saturday, February 20, 7:00 p.m. Rated R. Directed by Alan Parker. With Bob Geldof, Christine Hargreaves, James Laurenson, Eleanor David, Bob Hoskins, Kevin McKeon, Jenny Wright, David Bingham and Alex McAvoy.

Once Upon a Time…When We Were Colored (1996) Saturday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. Rated PG. Directed by Tim Reid. With Al Freeman Jr., Phylicia Rashad, Leon, Paula Kelly, Salli Richardson-Whitfield, Anna Maria Horsford, Bernie Casey, Isaac Hayes and Willis Norwood Jr.


Bringing Up Baby (1938) Saturday, July 10, 7:00 p.m.


“We are delighted to have the opportunity to show the general public some of the remarkable films in the UNCSA Moving Images Archive,” said David Spencer, senior curator, UNCSA Moving Image Archives. “We have an extensive selection of films, and we are thrilled to be able to give audiences the chance to see these movies in the format in which they were designed to be screened.”

The Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts (www.kenanarts.org) is a privately funded program of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts that incubates projects that sustain artists at every point in their creative development through strategic partnerships that capitalize on visionary thinking in the arts.

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts (www.uncsa.edu) is the University of North Carolina’s conservatory for the arts, dedicated entirely to the professional training of students possessing exceptional talents in the performing, visual and moving image arts. UNCSA offers students focused, intense, professional training at the high school, baccalaureate, and masters levels in its schools of Dance, Design and Production, Drama, Filmmaking and Music.

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