



Green “Films on the Green”

OUTDOOR FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ENVIRONMENT IN JUNE U.S. PREMIERE OF YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND’S “HOME” IN CENTRAL PARK

New York, May 7, 2009—*Films on the Green* is going... green! For its second year running, the popular **free outdoor French film festival** will feature movies about the **environment** and the beauty of the natural world, as we seek to tackle the challenges of global warming and environmental degradation. Following the remarkable success of last year’s inaugural “Films on the Green,” the **Cultural Services of the French Embassy** and the **New York City Department of Parks and Recreation** have once again joined forces to present a selection of seven critically acclaimed French films that will be screened every Friday at sunset in city parks during the months of June and July.

The festival’s opening night will see the **U.S. premiere** of *Home*, a feature documentary and global call-to-action directed by famed aerial photographer **Yann Arthus-Bertrand**. Shot entirely from the air, over a two-year period and in 54 different countries, *Home* gives viewers a new perspective on the planet, and a new awareness of the importance of protecting it. The screening will take place at Cedar Hill (79th St & 5th Ave) in Central Park, on Friday, June 5, in association with the United Nations Environment Programme. In a world first, *Home* will be released simultaneously in movie theaters, outdoors during public screenings, on DVD, online and on television, all on **World Environment Day (June 5)** in over 100 countries. Co-produced by **Europacorp** (Luc Besson’s production company) and **Elzévir Films**, and with the support of **PPR Group**, the movie will be distributed for free in a concerted effort to reach the widest possible audience.

Three other feature films will complete this environmental series of *Films on the Green*. The Academy Award winning *March of the Penguins*, the epic story of penguins fighting to survive in the Antarctic that made nature documentaries cool again, will be screened on Friday June 12. *Microcosmos*, a spectacular look into the tiny world of insects, with such highlights as bees collecting nectar, spiders wrapping their catch and a mosquito hatching, will play on June 19. Last but not least, *The Big Blue*, Luc Besson’s timeless and fascinating movie unfolding in the enigmatic world of free-diving, will be shown on Friday June 26. All three movies will be screened in **Washington Square Park** (see below for more details, including film capsules).

English-language screenings will take place **every Friday of June and July** (except July 3 and 31) at sunset (**around 8:30pm**, seating begins at 8:15pm), and will be **free of charge**.

WHEN	WHERE	WHAT
Friday June 5 ~ 8:30pm	Central Park Cedar Hill (79th St & 5th Ave)	U.S. Premiere of <i>Home</i> – Yann Arthus-Bertrand
Friday June 12 ~ 8:30pm	Washington Square Park	<i>March of the Penguins</i>
Friday June 19 ~ 8:30pm	Washington Square Park	<i>Microcosmos</i>
Friday June 26 ~ 8:30pm	Washington Square Park	<i>The Big Blue</i>

The three July screenings will take place in Tompkins Square Park on July 10, 17 and 24. The movies will be announced in a second press release.

For more information: www.frenchculture.org

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FILM CAPSULES

<p>Home (U.S. Premiere)</p> <p>Screening: June 5 – around 8:30pm Central Park – 79th St & 5th Ave</p> <p>Genre: Documentary (2009)</p> <p>Country: France</p> <p>Duration: 90 min (short version)</p> <p>Director: Yann Arthus-Bertrand</p> <p>Production: Europacorp – Elzévir Films</p> <p>Distributor: 20th Century Fox</p> <p>Narrator: Glenn Glose.</p>	<p>Global warming, resource shortages, endangered species: humans are jeopardizing their own living conditions. By the end of the century, relentless consumption will have exhausted almost all of our planet's natural resources. But it is too late to be pessimistic: we barely have 10 years left to reverse the trend. We need to become aware of our abusive exploitation of Earth's gifts and change our way of life. <i>Home</i> is a travel notebook, showing landscapes captured from a bird's eye view. This film calls for a new awareness, inviting the viewer to stop for a moment in order to look at our planet and realize how we treat her treasures and her beauty.</p>
<p>March of the Penguins 2006 Academy Award for Best Documentary</p> <p>Screening: June 12 – around 8:30pm Washington Square Park</p> <p>Genre: Documentary (2005)</p> <p>Country: France</p> <p>Duration: 84 min</p> <p>Director: Luc Jacquet</p> <p>Production: Bonne Pioche Production</p> <p>Distributor: Warner Independent</p> <p>Narrator (US): Morgan Freeman</p> <p>MPAA Rating: G</p>	<p>In the Antarctic, every March since the beginning of time, the quest begins to find the perfect mate and start a family. This courtship will begin with a long journey—a journey that will take hundreds of miles across the continent by foot, in freezing cold temperatures, in brittle, icy winds and through deep, treacherous waters. They will risk starvation and attack by dangerous predators, under the harshest conditions on Earth, all to find true love.</p> <p><i>"A nature documentary that captures the ferocity and heroism of nature"</i> <i>The Hollywood Reporter</i> Kirk Honeycutt</p>
<p>Microcosmos</p> <p>Screening: June 19 – around 8:30pm Washington Square Park</p> <p>Genre: Documentary (1996)</p> <p>Country: France / Switzerland / Italy</p> <p>Duration: 77 min</p> <p>Directors: Claude Nuridsany and Marie Perennou</p> <p>Production: BAC Films</p> <p>Distributor: Miramax Films</p> <p>Narrator (US): Kristin Scott Thomas</p> <p>MPAA Rating: G</p>	<p>A documentary of insect life in meadows and ponds, using incredible close-ups, slow motion, and time-lapse photography. It features bees collecting nectar, ladybugs eating mites, snails mating, spiders wrapping their catch, a scarab beetle relentlessly pushing its ball of dung uphill, endless lines of caterpillars, an underwater spider creating an air bubble to live in, and a mosquito hatching.</p> <p><i>"The camerawork [...] creates a remarkably rich, ultra-colorful tableau, and the plethora of tight closeups of the bugs in action sets this effort well apart from garden-variety docus."</i> <i>Variety</i> Brendan Kelly</p>
<p>The Big Blue</p> <p>Screening: June 26 – around 8:30pm Washington Square Park</p> <p>Genre: Feature Film / Drama (1988)</p> <p>Country: France / USA / Italy</p> <p>Duration: 116 min (edited version)</p> <p>Director: Luc Besson</p> <p>Starring: Jean-Marc Barr, Jean Reno, Rosanna Arquette, Paul Shenar, Griffin Dunne</p> <p>Production: Gaumont</p> <p>Distributor: 20th Century Fox</p> <p>MPAA Rating: PG</p>	<p>From celebrated French director Luc Bresson comes this epic adventure/romance based on the life of legendary free diver, Jacques Moyal, a man who, without the benefit of scuba gear, plunges up to 300 feet below the surface. Filming in such beautiful locations as the Bahamas and the Riviera, director Bresson has created a magical tale of one man's love for the inhabitants of the sea, <i>The Big Blue</i>, the only place where Mayol feels at home.</p> <p><i>"The film's undersea footage has a powerful otherworldly quality."</i> <i>The New York Times</i> - Janet Maslin</p>

ABOUT YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND

Recently named a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environmental Programme, Yann Arthus-Bertrand is world-renowned for his spectacular aerial photography, which has been the subject of several books and exhibits, and which is regularly featured in leading publications. Through his book, TV series, Google Earth partnership, and large-scale traveling exhibition, "Earth From Above", Yann Arthus-Bertrand has reached the hearts and minds of hundreds of millions of people around the world with a message of love for our planet.

Credits

Organized by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation.

The Cultural Services of the French Embassy would like to thank the generous sponsors who made this event possible: JC Decaux, BNP Paribas, Tablet Hotels, TV5 Monde, FACE (French American Cultural Exchange), UNEP (the United Nations Environment Programme), Pangea Organics, the French Mission to the United Nations, Green Drinks, AirFrance Skyteam and PPR.

High-resolution photos of "Home" (Yann Arthus-Bertrand):

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For more information:

www.frenchculture.org

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