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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Art film lovers delight
New film series featured monthly
at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library and InfoZone News Museum

PUEBLO – The Rawlings Public Library and the InfoZone News Museum in association with Film Movement offers the public the opportunity to watch first run, award-winning, independent films for FREE! The films featured on the InfoZone's presentation screen are the same ones that are released to movie theaters nationwide, and have won awards at Sundance, Toronto and Cannes Film Festivals and others.

Because the seats are free, the limited seating fills up quickly. To reserve your seat, please call 719-562-5604 or email the InfoZone at infozone@pueblolibrary.org. Tickets can also be picked up in advance at the InfoZone front desk. The February film, *Ali Zaoua*, will be shown at 6 and 8 p.m. Films shown from March through December will be shown at 7 p.m. in the InfoZone. A new film is shown the third Saturday of each month.

Those attending the films can also enjoy rich and flavorful goodies offered by the Daily Grind in the library's new coffee shop, Java By The Book. Drinks with a lid will be allowed in the InfoZone, however food is not allowed. Java By The Book will be open a half hour before the beginning of the film for your convenience.

Independent films for viewing at the InfoZone and distributed through the Film Movement are geared toward viewing by an audience of 18 years and older. The films' content and topics may not be suitable for children of a young age. The films portray adult situations including some hard language and violence. These films are not rated, as the classifications or ratings that accompany many films and movies have not been designated to these independent films.

For more information and a schedule of movies, sign up for the InfoZone email club either by visiting the InfoZone front desk or by sending an email to us at infozone@pueblolibrary.org.

The Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library is located at 100 E. Abriendo Ave. in the heart of Pueblo's Mesa Junction area. To get there from north I-25, take the 98B/First Street Exit. Turn right onto First Street, left on Union Avenue. Travel through the Historic Union Avenue District, turn left on Abriendo Avenue and left on Bates Lane. From south I-25, take the 98B/First Street exit. Turn left onto First Street, left on Union Avenue, left on Abriendo Avenue and left on Bates Lane.

February 21 @ 6 & 8 p.m.
Ali Zaoua

In the film *Ali Zaoua*, Ali, Kwita, Omar and Boubker are a group of street urchins living on the hard streets of Casablanca. Their everyday lives are filled with violence, begging, and indifference. In order to survive, they create a bond of friendship and family between them.

The bond is cut short when Ali is senselessly killed by a blow to the head, his life taken by a single act of a rival gang. Ali's friends decide not to report his death to the police, who would have the boy buried in a potter's field. Instead they decide to give him a worthy burial, to bury Ali on the private island he so often dreamed.

Ali Zaoua, directed by Nabil Ayouch of Morocco, is a Moroccan film with English subtitles. To read more reviews visit: <http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/AliZaoua-10000729/reviews.php>

“Ali Zaoua is at its best when showing us the fractured innocence that these children share—they may only be eight, but they’ve already developed an understanding of the harsh realities of the world that’s far beyond their years.”—BBC

“The boys, who alternate between boyish exuberance and soul-crushing sadness, are perfectly natural for Ayouch’s camera, giving a documentary-like realism to the story.”—The Seattle Times

March 20 @ 7 p.m.

He Died with a Felafel in His Hand

He Died With A Felafel In His Hand, directed by Richard Lowenstein of Australia, is a darkly humorous search for love, meaning and bathroom solitude. Faithful to the cult novel by John Birmingham upon which it is based, the film follows Danny through a series of shared housing experiences in a succession of cities on the east coast of Australia. Together these vignettes form a forceful, sometimes turbulent narrative that leaves the viewer entertained, exhausted and surprisingly reflective.

He Died With A Felafel In His Hand made its U.S. premiere recently at the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival, where it won three awards—

- Best Director
- Best Screenplay
- Best Supporting Actress (Emily Hamilton)

The film made its world premiere as the closing night film at the Melbourne Film Festival, and won the Audience Award at the Rosemount London Australian Film Festival in the UK for its European Premiere.

“Lowenstein fills the screen with vivid imagery and even more vivid characters and manages to hold them back from overstepping the mark and falling headlong into complete absurdity.”

—The Hollywood Reporter

April 17 @ 7 p.m.

Hop

Director Dominique Standaert of Belgium brings to life the realities of life without a visa in a foreign country. All Justin and his father want to do is enjoy a soccer game together. This sparks a chain of events which leads to his father’s deportation, and Justin finds himself alone and on the run. Enlisting the help of a former anarchist, Justin embarks on a thrilling adventure to reunite with his father. But to fight the system, he will need to apply the secret of the Hop.

French and Dutch with English subtitles, *Hop* has won:

- Grand Prix Cine Junior 94 (France)
- Prix de public Cine Junior 94
- Prix Art et Essais Jeune Public
- Best main actress (Joseph Plateau awards)

Hop also received nominations for:

- Best film of the year 2003 (Belgian critics)
- Best screenplay (Joseph Plateau awards - Belgium’s Oscars)
- Best main actor (Joseph Plateau awards)
- Best main actress (Joseph Plateau awards)

- Best film (Joseph Plateau awards)
- Best music score (Joseph Plateau awards)

For more information on *Hop*, visit the following website:
<http://www.hometown.aol.com/heyooogie/page27.html>

May 15 @ 7 p.m.

Manito

Set in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, *Manito* is the fictional story of two days in the life of two Latino brothers, Junior and Manny.

In the 1990's Washington Heights transformed from the crack-cocaine capital to one of the most vibrant Spanish-speaking communities in the U.S. But as the drug dealers disappeared, their violent legacy continued to cast a shadow over the neighborhood and its residents. Junior Moreno, an ex-convict struggling to get his life back, is a product of that legacy. His brother Manny, the Salutatorian of his high school class, embodies the hope for the future of the neighborhood. On the night of his graduation party, Manny faces an ill-fated decision that could change his life forever.

Manito, directed by Eric Eason of the United States of America, became one of the most honored and talked about independent films of the year. The following represents some highlights of the film's outstanding festival run:

- Special Grand Jury Prize - Sundance Film Festival
- Best Emerging Filmmaker - TriBeCa Film Festival
- Open Palm - Gotham Awards
- Grand Jury Prize - SXSW
- Grand Jury Prize - Urbanworld
- Best American Film - Avignon Film Festival
- Special Jury Prize - Atlanta Film Festival
- Special Jury Prize - Muestra Internacional de Cine de Santo Domingo

To read more reviews on *Manito* visit: <http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/Manito-1123475/>

"From the snows of Sundance to the sands of Florida's South Beach, the creative team behind the Washington-Heights-set family drama, Manito has worked tirelessly to turn a low-budget dream into bountiful reality."—New York Daily News

June 19 @ 7 p.m.

El Bola

Spanish with English subtitles, *El Bola* is about a 12-year-old boy raised in a violent and unforgiving environment. Embarrassed by his family life, he retreats from his classmates engaging them only through a dangerous game. The arrival of a new boy at school, from whom he learns a new definition of friendship, leads to the discovery of a family where communication and love prevail over domination and violence.

The film parallels the lives of a caring father unable to connect with his willful yet loving son, and that of distant Pablo (El Bola) and his father who, incapable of giving him the love he needs, replaces it with something far more sinister. One father imprints his son in an improbably gentle manner with a tattoo stylus, the other brutally with his fists. Told through both the children's and adult's point of view, Acheró Mañas's *El Bola* is a stirring narrative that lodges in the memory.

El Bola has won over 30 international awards as well as U.S. appearances at Lincoln Center, San Francisco International Film Festival and American Cinematheque. The following represents a sampling of *El Bola*'s international awards:

- 4 Goya Awards (Spain's Academy Awards):
Best Film, Best Emerging Director, Best Original Screenplay,
Best Emerging Actor
- Best Film – Avignon Film Festival
- “Fassbinder Award” and Best Screenplay – European Film Awards
- Special Prize Oic – San Sebastian International Film Festival
- Best Spanish Film granted by the Spanish association of film producers
- Best Film granted by the Andalusian association of screenwriters
- Best Emerging Director granted by the Actor's Guild of Spain
- “Alfa Y Omega” Award for best film

For more reviews, visit <http://ofcs.rottentomatoes.com/movie-10002206/reviews.php>.

“Because of its graphic portrayal of parental child abuse, only the most cold-hearted viewer could fail to respond to Acheró Mañas’s wrenching film ‘El Bola’.”—The New York Times

July 17 @ 7 p.m.

Inch’Allah Dimanche

In the aftermath of World War II, France attempted to replenish its weakened work force by recruiting men from North Africa. In the mid-1970’s the French government relaxed its immigration policy to allow the families of Algerian men to join them. *Inch’Allah Dimanche*, directed by Yamina Benguigui of France, provides us with a deeply moving memoir of the sense of isolation and vulnerability that the immigrant family experienced upon arrival at a time when racial integration was virtually non-existent.

This French film with English subtitles follows the life of Zouina who is torn from her home in Algeria. With her three children and her abrupt mother-in-law, Aicha, she rejoins her husband. When she befriends a cosmetics factory worker, Zouina develops an interest in French culture and her new world. This curiosity and her desire to experience freedom compel Zouina to take her children on secret excursions when her husband and mother-in-law are out of the house. Through these little adventures, she comes to terms with the difficulties of immigration, women’s rights and adapting.

Inch’Allah Dimanche has received the following awards:

- Toronto Intl. Film Festival FIPRESCI Award winner
- Marrakech International Film Festival Grand Prix winner
- Bordeaux International Festival for Women in Cinema Audience Prize and Golden Wave Winner
- Amiens International Film Festival Special Jury Prize
- Closing Night Film--Women With Vision: On the Move

For a Frenchman’s review on this movie, visit

http://www.frenchfilms.topcities.com/nf_Inch_Allah_dimanche_rev.html

August 21 @ 7 p.m.

Light of My Eyes

Release Venice Film Festival award winner for Best Actor and Best Actress, *Light of My Eyes* follows the precarious romance between two people cast adrift in a lonely urban landscape. Antonio is a “fallen angel,” an ordinary man without direction or ambition. Maria is a single mother whose life is slipping out of her control. As Antonio is drawn deeper into her fragile situation, he discovers a sense of

hope they both might not be ready for yet. *Light of My Eyes*, directed by Giuseppe Piccioni, is Italian with English subtitles.

Venice International Film Festival Winner including:

- Best Actor
- Best Actress
- Sergio Trassati Award
- Golden Lion Nomination
- Eight David di Donatello Award (Italian Oscars©) Nominations including:
 - Best Film
 - Best Director
 - Best Actor
 - Best Actress
 - Best Cinematography

Visit <http://www.dvdtalk.com/reviews/read.php?ID=8425> to read a more in depth review.

September 18 @ 7 p.m.

OT: Our Town

Against all odds, students at Manuel Dominguez High School set out to put on school's first theatrical production in over 20 years. But what does Thornton Wilder's famous play about life in rural Grover's Corners have to do with Compton, California? *OT: Our Town* follows the students on their discovery of the power of art and the human spirit.

Directed by Scott Hamilton Kennedy of the United States of America, *OT: Our Town* was the Los Angeles Film Festival winner: Best Documentary Award.

To read PBS's review of *OT: Our Town* visit http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/americancollection/ourtown/ei_ot.html

"Terrific fun! OT: Our Town is lively and touching." --New York Times

October 16 @ 7 p.m.

Ginger and Cinnamon

While vacationing on the Greek "Isle of Love," the repressed 30 year old Stefania reluctantly plays chaperone to her precocious 15-year-old niece, Meggy.

Unbeknownst to Stefania, Meggy plans to lose her virginity before the summer is over. Amidst a mélange of sun rash, broken diets, nervous girls, sleeping bags, 80s music and a little ginger and cinnamon, the two women discover themselves and their sexuality. Amid the turmoil of teen-age hormones, an innocent love triangle emerges between Meggy, Stefania and Stefania's ex-boyfriend.

Directed by Daniele Luchetti of Italy, *Ginger and Cinnamon*, is an Italian movie with English subtitles.

Go to <http://hometown.aol.com/fatamorgana15872/page18.html> for more information on this film.

"... I felt like falling in love with my screen characters again, in a light and joyous way ... with a carefree film that still had things to say, that was fun and reflective too ... Co-written with his wife, actress Stefania Montorsi, who also stars in the film, the story is a cross between a comic opera, a film of gossip and confidences ... all on a territory that has always been part of my imagination: Greece."

— Leonardo Jattarelli, Il Messagero

“*One of the best Italian films!*” — Angela Ponta, GQ

“*An hour and a half of pure fun.*” — La Repubblica, P.D’Agnostini

November 20 @ 7 p.m.

The Party’s Over

Directed by Rebecca Chaiklin and Donovan Leitch of the USA, *The Party’s Over* examines how the American political process addresses, and often fails to address, the country’s most pressing issues. The film follows Philip Seymour Hoffman as a concerned citizen on an uncensored journey of politics in America.

A follow-up to the critically acclaimed *Last Party* from 1993 starring Robert Downey Jr., the film contains behind-the-scenes footage of activists, politicians and celebrities from Susan Sarandon to Charlton Heston, from Jesse Jackson to Pat Robertson, from Eddie Vedder to Willie Nelson and from Rudy Giuliani to Michael Moore.

Go to <http://www.dvdtalk.com/reviews/read.php?ID=8364> for more background on *The Party’s Over*.

“*FOUR STARS! Philip Seymour Hoffman provides an amazingly candid and insightful look at the contemporary American political process. Hoffman’s perfect in his role as our tour guide. With plenty to tick off or scare the bejeezus out of just about everyone, The Party’s Over provides the proverbial icing on the cake with its actual election-day denouement. Here, the film unflinchingly shows just how badly democracy got raped in the Florida debacle. A sad but true ending that, while it makes this already excellent film even more poignant and important, also shows us why in the Florida debacle. A sad but true ending that, while it makes this already excellent film even more poignant and important, also shows us why The Party’s Over and other films like it are so screamingly relevant to America.*” — Film threat

December 18 @ 7 p.m.

Morlang

Julius Morlang is a successful artist. For 15 years, he has been married to Ellen, his muse and personal manager. When Ellen confesses to a brief affair with a rival up-and-coming artist, Morlang retreats into the arms of a young admirer. An unexpected and devastating development strains Julius and Ellen’s relationship even more. Loosely based on a true story, *Morlang* is a chilling, psychological drama about jealousy, betrayal, and revenge.

Directed by Tjebbo Penning of Amsterdam, *Morlang* won the following awards:

- Cairo International Film Festival (October 2001)
- Best Actor
- Best First work of a director

The film was also nominated at the Dutch Film Festival (September 2001) for the Golden Calf Nomination for Best Scenario.

For more information, visit <http://www.morlangthemovie.com>.