Toronto film festival unveils plans for its new home

(AP) – The Toronto International Film Festival said Tuesday it was planning a new film center that would be its headquarters and a film mecca for the city.

Filmmaker Ivan Reitman, whose hits include "Ghostbusters" and "Animal House," was on hand for the announcement in the city where he grew up after emigrating with his family as a child from Czechoslovakia.

The new complex, to cost 120 million Canadian dollars (U.S. 883 million) will include a five-story building, a library and archives, along with screening, dining and bar facilities and a Festival Tower condominium development.

Expected to be completed for the September 2006 festival, the project is a partnership that includes Reitman and his sisters and the Daniels Corp. real-estate developers.

"We saw this as a great opportunity to build something special, something that gives back to the profession that I've had the good fortune to be in, to give back to the city and this country that took us in as immigrants," Reitman said.

He told how, at the age of 4, he and his parents fled communist Czechoslovakia in 1950 and came to Toronto to start a new life.

One of his father's first purchases was a property that housed a car wash and which now is a parking lot.

In offering that property for the new center, Reitman said he hoped it would serve as "a suitable tribute to the hard work and survival and the wonderfulness of our parents."

Piers Handling, the festival director, said having a single facility for the festival has been a dream since its 1975 inception.

"The festival center that we want to build will be right here in Toronto, and act not just as a magnet for our own very talented filmmakers but I believe it will act as a place where the world will come to Toronto, to celebrate film, to see films and to learn more about them," Handling said.

Festival managing director Michele Maheux said a campaign to raise money to build the center was being launched, with $18.5 million (U.S. $12.8 million) already committed.

The festival, held in September, is the largest in North America, with world and North American premiers of major films each year. It screens films in several theaters around the city, with increasing demand for seats each year resulting in long lines and people shut out of some showings.

FILM BEAT

Film Beat lists what's playing at alternative film theaters, special movie events and local flicks. Movie schedules may change after press time, so be sure to call ahead. Film beat listings can be submitted to: Nicole Stafford, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 801 East Maple, Birmingham, Mich. 48009 or e-mail nstafford@oe.homecomm.net.

DETROIT FILM THEATRE, Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-3237, www.dia.org/dft. Adult admission, $6.50, senior citizens, full-time students with valid identification and DIA members, $5.50. Discount tickets available in book for five for $25. Films screened Friday-Monday. All Monday shows are in the evening.

April 6, *Spider* (UK), director David Cronenberg's film about the daily struggle of a schizophrenic named Spider (Ralph Fiennes) in London after his release from a mental institution.

April 7, *The Iceman Cometh*, 1973, rarely seen, uncut version of director John Frankenheimer's screen adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's masterpiece.

BEDFORD THEATRE, 17360 Lahser in Detroit, call (313) 537-2560. Regular admission, $3.

April 11-12, *Three Stooges Festival*, six of the Three Stooges best 20-minute two-reel films, tickets are $4 for this event.

BREW AND VIEW AT THE MAGIC BAG, 22920 Woodward, Ferndale, (248) 544-3030, www.magicbag.com, movie nights on Wednesdays and Thursdays in small theater setting with full bar, must be at least 21, doors open 8 p.m., films start at 9:30 p.m., box office hours 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., $2.

April 9, *B Mile*, Eminem makes his film debut in a story about life and survival in the big city.

April 10, *Just Married*, Brittany Murphy and Ashton Kutcher play a young newlywed couple on their honeymoon in Europe in a comedy about the obstacles to marriage.

MICHIGAN THEATER, 603 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, (734) 668-8463, www.michtheater.com. Adult admission, $8, students and senior citizens, $6.25, Michigan Theater members, $5.50. Films are shown daily.

April 8 and 10, *Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary* (Austria), documentary capturing a series of interviews with 81-year-old Traudl Junge, Hitler's private secretary.

Opening, *Cowboy Bebop* (Japan), based on the animated television series, Japanese director Shinichiro Watanabe starts with a terrorist explosion that releases a deadly virus on the masses. Then it's up to the bounty-hunting Bebop crew to catch the culprit in this animated film.

Continuing, *Russian Ark* (Russia), a 19th century French aristocrat travels through the Russian State Hermitage Museum and encounters historical figures from the last 200 years.

STATE THEATER, 233 State St., Ann Arbor, (734) 761-8667 or www.michtheater.com. Adult admission, $8, students and senior citizens, $6.25.

Opening, Bend It Like Beckham, a comedy about bending the rules to reach your goal that explores the world of women's soccer.

Continuing, The Pianist, Oscar winner for Best Director and Best Actor, Roman Polanski's film is based on the memoirs of the talented pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman, a Polish Jew who miraculously survived World War II.

Continuing, *The Quiet American*, Director Phillip Noyce's adaptation of the Graham Greene novel with Michael Caine as a veteran English journalist and Brendan Fraser as an idealistic American.

MAIN ART THEATRE, 118 North Main at 11 Mile in downtown Royal Oak, (248) 542-0180. Adult evening admission is $8.50. Matinees before 6 p.m. and admission for seniors and children is always $6. Call theater for schedule.

MAPLE ART THEATRE, 4135 W. Maple in Bloomfield Township, (248) 542-0180. Adult evening admission is $8.50. Matinees before 6 p.m. and admission for seniors and children is always $6. Call theater for schedule.

UPTOWN BIRMINGHAM 8, 211 South Old Woodward in downtown Birmingham, (248) 644-3456. Adult admission is $8.50 in the evening and $6 for matinee showings before 6 p.m. Admission for seniors age 55 and older is $5.50 all the time. Admission for children age 12 and under is $5.75 all the time. Call theater for schedule.

WHERE CAN I FIND?

Through reader feedback, this interactive feature is dedicated to helping readers locate retail merchandise that's difficult to find. If where a product is sold or service is available, call (248) 901-2555 and leave a message with your name and phone number. Please be patient about your requests and feedback; we receive an overwhelming number of phone calls. Also, please spell any uncommon items. If you don't see information about your request, we couldn't find it. Requests are published twice.

WHAT WE FOUND

– Breck shampoo can be found at the Meijer store in Livonia or call the Breck Company at (800) 258-3425 and they will ship you the shampoo.

– Girl's ribbed knit tights can be purchased at Marshall Field's in Westland (during the winter season) or through Land's End catalog (800) 356-4444 or the Legg's catalog (888) 567-3487 and at Kids R Us.

– An inflatable pillow with suction cups can be purchased at Bed Bath & Beyond or Linen's at Things and through the Avon Wellness catalog campaigns 7 & 8, item number 287-287.

– The following stores sell the 10-inch fry pan splatter shield: Bed Bath & Beyond, Linens and Things or through the Making a Home Betty Crocker catalog (800) 433-4069 and Amazing Savings on Greenfield and 10 Mile Road; Dry dollar stores; Partner Jack's on Canton Center and Cherry Hill roads in Canton.

– A bombe décor consignment store is Consignment Interiors 43335 Seven Mile Road in Northville.

– The BB Wahoo's chocolate cake recipe was published in the March 4, 2003, issue of Woman's Day magazine on page 204. For a single copy of the magazine call (800) 498-1993 or on the Internet at www.womansday.com.

– For Smith Brother's cough drops, try the Garden City Hospital gift shop.

– For peach lotion Mary Kaye cosmetics sells one similar to Victoria's Secret.

– Waldon Farms chocolate syrup 0 calories can be purchased at Westborn Market in Livonia.

– A fabric store near Wayne County is Haberman's in Royal Oak (248) 541-0010.

FIND AND SEARCH

– The Harvest Moon cookbook will have a Web site in the near future.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

– A store that sells a plastic and canvas shoe holder (holds 30 pair of shoes) the top fits over a door and it has Velcro on the bottom to hold to a door for Cindy of Canton.

– A store that sells a bedspread with seashells, lighthouses in blue (not a comforter style) for a full size bed for Edith.

– A store that sells Secret unscented antiperspirant roll-on for Kathy.

– A business that buys used opera 12-inch vinyl records for John.

– The recipe for Maurice salad dressing from either Hudson's, Jacobson's or the Pool restaurant for Michele in Livonia.

– A store that a used flat duck boat for fishing in shallow waters for Leo of Livonia.

– A store that sells a 14-inch Madame Alexander baby doll for Velma.

– A store that sells the panoramic sugar eggs (Sydney Bogg's use to sell them) for Michele.

– A store that sells the equipment used to transfer 8mm film to videocassette of DVD's (K-mart use to sell the machine) for Joan of Wayne.

– A store that sells the Coca-Cola hats and scarf for the Coca-Cola teddy bear for Fran of Farmington.

– A store that sells Jones soda pop for Lori.

– The recipe for Blazo's banberry pie or where the pie can be purchased for Sue of Canton.

– A consignment store that accepts ladies tall full figure full-length fur lined leather coat for Bernice of Southfield.

– A store that sells men's washable slippers with a back (no slip-ons) size 10.

– A store that sells leggings by Energie (formerly sold at Meijer stores) for Terri of Garden City.

– A consignment store that accepts home décor items in the Livonia, Northville area for Marge.

– A store that sells Bonnie Bell bronzing gel for Lillian of Westland.

– A fabric store other then Joanne's or Hancock fabrics in the Wayne County area for Selma

– Some one who can repair an antique bathroom weight scale (needs the springs) for M.R. of Redford.

– A store that sells sugarless bubble gum in bulk for Ann of Plymouth.

– Some one who can repair wooden chairs for Renee of Westland.

– A store that sells perma press size 10 blouses.

Compiled by Sandi Jarackas

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

KidCinema Amusements
Showcase Cinemas
Showplace Dearborn 1-8
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Showcase Westland 1-8
[illegible]

Star Theatres
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Star Great Lakes Crossing
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Star Fairlane 8
[illegible]

Star Southfield
[illegible]

Star Brighton
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Star Westbrook Mall
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United Artists Theatres
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United Artists Commerce 16
[illegible]

Wyndham Theatre
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Wyndham Theatre Plymouth
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Wyndham Theatre Ann Arbor
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**Wyndham Theatre Ann Arbor Cinema 16