

# Inside Oregon

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**October 2, 2006**

## Lecture offers A to Z tour of Oregon's utopias

Since the founding of the Aurora Colony on the Pudding River 150 years ago, Oregon has been the home of nearly 200 documented attempts to establish communities that collectively can be considered utopian endeavors. On Tuesday, October 10, Jim Kopp, an authority on the utopian tradition, will offer an A to Z historical tour of utopias in Oregon in a talk entitled "From Abba's Way to The Zoo: The Hitchhiker's Guide to Oregon's Utopias." The lecture begins at 7 p.m. in the Knight Library Browsing Room on the University of

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## UO professor among finalists for Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize



Dorianne Laux, a professor of creative writing at the University of Oregon, has been named as one of five finalists for the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize, a

\$25,000 award from The Nation magazine and the Academy of American Poets for the best book of poems published in the U.S. during the past year.

[Full story »](#)

## Epstein and Shoemaker named ACLS Fellows

University of Oregon professors Maram Epstein and Stephen Shoemaker have received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). The fellowships are designed to provide a year of support to scholars doing research in fields such as literature and language, history, anthropology, political theory, philosophy, classics, religion, art history, musicology and diverse world civilizations and cultures.

### Contact Us

#### Published by:

Public and Media Relations  
Johnson Hall  
1098 East 13th Ave.

#### Mailing address:

Inside Oregon  
Public and Media Relations  
1239 University of Oregon  
Eugene, OR 97403-1239

#### Telephone:

(541) 346-3134

#### Fax:

(541) 346-2537

#### Email:

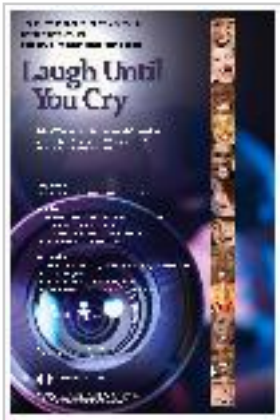
<mailto:pmr@uoregon.edu>

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## Free film series focuses on comedies from around the world



The International Resource Center (IRC) has launched its Fall 2006 International Film Series entitled "Laugh Until You Cry." All films are free and open to the public.

The movies are shown on Thursdays evenings at 7 p.m. in the IRC (in the EMU above the Post Office).

[Full story »](#)

## UO faculty featured in leading Northwest contemporary art exhibit



The Oregon Biennial, one of the most highly recognized exhibitions of contemporary Northwest art hosted by the Portland Art Museum, features 34 Oregon artists

including three University of Oregon art faculty members.

[Full story »](#)

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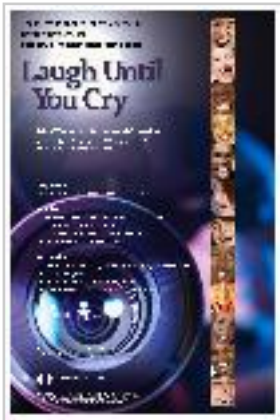
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Most utopian experiments in Oregon took place after 1965 with the rise of communes and intentional communities, but there are many significant precursors to these modern utopian undertakings. Kopp's lecture will offer an overview of these efforts and will trace his attempts to uncover additional information about many of the lesser known communities and some experiments that were realized in concept only.

Kopp, who is director of the Aubrey R. Watzek Library at Lewis & Clark College, will place these utopian endeavors in the broader context of the utopian tradition, in both its literary and communal manifestations, as well as in the framework of viewing Oregon as Eden.

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## University of Oregon Bookstore Events

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

**Joe Kurmaskie**

*Momentum Is Your Friend: The Metal  
Cowboy and His Pint-Size Posse Take on  
America*

University of Oregon, Willamette Hall, Room  
100

541-346-4331

7 p.m.

**About the Book:**

**Publisher Comments:**

Most people bring their inner child on an

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epic adventure. Joe Metal Cowboy Kurmaskie actually took his two kids along. For a 4,000-mile bicycle ride across America, Joe's seven-year-old son, Quinn, rides a tagalong bike attached to his dad's; and behind that is five-year-old Enzo in a bike trailer.

Our hero the Metal Cowboy answers the question, "What are you, crazy?" with a resounding and cheerful "Yes." Unassisted—with no support crew except his boys' comic relief and the periodic kindness of strangers—he pedals hundreds of pounds of gear and offspring over mountain passes, across the wide plains, through thunderstorms, and into the heart of what it means to be a dad.

Along the way they encounter everything that makes up America—small-town kindness and inner-city heart, wild horses and highway roadkill, a bitter Vietnam vet and a hopeful young inventor, grizzly bears and bison roaming free, cyclists and monstrous RVs, a very peppy cheerleader and a visitation from the ghost of the author's father, horrible traffic and serene dirt roads, a monastery and a distillery, baseball, and yes, lots of pie.

By the time they reach Washington, D.C., two months after leaving Portland, Oregon, they've bonded in a rare way. Kurmaskie writes, "We share a secret, the three of us; one permanent summer in our hearts now, where we're never apart."

### **Review:**

"An infectious celebration of life." Boston Globe

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### **Review:**

"David Sedaris trapped in the body of Lance Armstrong." Arizona Star

### **Review:**

"Like the travel books of Bill Bryson, Kurmaskie's collection of essays focuses on the little known. Travelogues are a dime a dozen, but the ones that find something fresh and unusual to talk about are fairly rare. A thoroughly delightful excursion."

Booklist

### **About the Author:**

**Joe Kurmaskie**, dubbed the "Metal Cowboy" by a blind rancher he encountered one icy morning in Idaho, has been addicted to the intoxicating freedom and power of the bicycle ever since he "borrowed" his big sister's banana-seat bike at the age of five. As he careened down the neighborhood hill, much to his parents' dismay, Joe set in motion what has become a lifelong love affair with the road and the wheel.

Joe Kurmaskie has been a journalist for two decades. He's been a contributing writer to *Bicycling Magazine*, *Details*, and *Men's Journal*. He worked as an editor for five years at an AP newspaper, before becoming an author and entertainer (mostly so he could sleep in later.) His work has appeared in *Details*, *Midwest Bike* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. He reviews books for *The Oregonian* and is an educator for Literary Arts Inc and Community of Writers—COW writer in residence at Portland State University. He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife Beth and his three boys Quinn and Lorenzo and Matteo. They attempt without much success to grow webbed feet during

the "wet" season.

Joe Kurkaskie is also the author of *Metal Cowboy* (Breakaway, 1999) and *Riding Outside the Lines* (Crown 2001). You can find out more at his website: <http://www.metalcowboy.com>.

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

### **Thomas Hager**

*The Demon Under the Microscope*  
University of Oregon, Knight Library  
Browsing Room, 1501 Kincaid  
541-346-3053  
7 p.m.

### **About the Book:**

The Nazis discovered it. The Allies won the war with it. It conquered diseases, changed laws, and single-handedly launched the era of antibiotics. This incredible discovery was sulfa, the first antibiotic. In *The Demon Under the Microscope*, Thomas Hager chronicles the dramatic history of the drug that shaped modern medicine.

Sulfa saved millions of lives—among them those of Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt Jr.—but its real effects are even more far reaching. Sulfa changed the way new drugs were developed, approved, and sold; transformed the way doctors treated patients; and ushered in the era of modern medicine. The very concept that chemicals created in a lab could cure disease revolutionized medicine, taking it from the treatment of symptoms and discomfort to the eradication of the root cause of illness.

A strange and colorful story, *The Demon*

*Under the Microscope* illuminates the vivid characters, corporate strategy, individual idealism, careful planning, lucky breaks, cynicism, heroism, greed, hard work, and the central (though mistaken) idea that brought sulfa to the world. This is a fascinating scientific tale with all the excitement and intrigue of a great suspense novel.

For thousands of years, humans had sought medicines with which they could defeat contagion, and they had slowly, painstakingly, won a few battles: some vaccines to ward off disease, a handful of antitoxins. A drug or two was available that could stop parasitic diseases once they hit, tropical maladies like malaria and sleeping sickness. But the great killers of Europe, North America, and most of Asia—pneumonia, plague, tuberculosis, diphtheria, cholera, meningitis—were caused not by parasites but by bacteria, much smaller, far different microorganisms. By 1931, nothing on earth could stop a bacterial infection once it started... But all that was about to change... from *The Demon Under the Microscope*

### **About the Author:**

**Thomas Hager** (<http://www.thomashager.net>), a veteran science writer, is the author of four books, including *The Demon under the Microscope* (Harmony/Crown 2006) and two acclaimed biographies of Linus Pauling. He is a former correspondent for the *Journal of the American Medical Association* and a contributing writer at American Health.

After earning a master's degree in medical microbiology and immunology—then another

in journalism—Hager started his professional career as a communications intern at the National Cancer Institute. He then worked as a freelance medical writer, serving as a contributor to *American Health* and West Coast news correspondent for the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, before founding *LC Magazine*, a trade publication for scientists, in 1983. For 10 years he edited *Oregon Quarterly*, the magazine of the University of Oregon. More than 100 of his articles on medicine and science have been published in periodicals ranging from *Readers Digest* and *Self* to *Cardio* and *Medical Tribune*. For six years he served as Director of Communications and Marketing for the University of Oregon, and spent two years directing the University of Oregon Press.

Thomas Hager lives in the hills near Eugene, Oregon, with his wife Lauren Kessler, and three children, Jackson, Zane, and Elizabeth.

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12**

### **Barry Lopez and Debra Gwartney**

*Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*

Knight Library Browsing Room

541-346-3053

7 p.m.

Co-Sponsored by the Humanities  
Department and UO Libraries

### **About the Book:**

Barranca, kiss tank, desire path, envelope field, point bar. These terms—and hundreds like them—make up the language of the American landscape. They describe our mountains, farmlands, woods, and



backyards. And while many of them have fallen out of regular use, they are vital to our understanding of place and of a language that many still seek to use purposefully every day.

Now 850 landscape terms have been gathered together and defined by some of America's finest writers in *HOME GROUND: Language for an American Landscape*, the first book of its kind and a thoroughly unique record of a rich vocabulary. Edited by Barry Lopez, the National Book Award winning author of *Arctic Dreams*, *HOME GROUND* is sure to revitalize our sense of place. Writes Lopez in his Introduction, "What many of us are hopeful of now, it seems, is being able to gain—or regain—a sense of allegiance with our chosen places, and along with that a sense of affirmation with our neighbors that the place we've chosen is beautiful, subtle, profound, worthy of our lives."

Forty-five writers contributed to *HOME GROUND*, including Barbara Kingsolver, Charles Frazier, Jon Krakauer, Joy Williams, Bill McKibben, and Antonya Nelson. Their definitions are evocative pieces of original writing that not only define a word, but create vivid images of our landscape and its diversity.

### **About the Editors:**

#### **BARRY LOPEZ**

Upper McKenzie River, Oregon Cascades

**Barry Lopez** is the author of *Resistance*, *About This Life*, *Light Action in the Caribbean*, *Arctic Dreams*, for which he received the National Book Award, and nine

other works of fiction and nonfiction. He has written for a wide range of magazines, including *Harper's*, *Granta*, the *Paris Review*, the *Georgia Review*, *National Geographic*, and *Outside*, and is a recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim, Lannan, and National Science Foundations. For more information please go to <http://www.barrylopez.com>.

## **DEBRA GWARTNEY**

Salmon, Idaho

**Debra Gwartney** is a member of the writing faculty at Portland State University and a freelance editor. Her short stories, essays, and articles have appeared in numerous magazines and journals. In addition to awards in both writing and editing, she is a recipient of a Wurlitzer Foundation fellowship in nonfiction and is a former Bread Loaf Writers' Conference nonfiction scholar.

Gwartney served as administrator of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Oregon, taught undergraduate courses in fiction and nonfiction and worked with the Center for the Study of Women in Society.

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12**

### **Garrett Epps**

*Democracy Reborn: The Fourteenth Amendment and the Fight for Equal Rights in Post-Civil War America*

175 Knight Law, 1515 Agate St.

541-346-3852

7 p.m.

### **About the Book:**

A riveting narrative of the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment, an act which

revolutionized the U.S. constitution and shaped the nation's destiny in the wake of the Civil War. Though the end of the Civil War and Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation inspired optimism for a new, happier reality for blacks, in truth the battle for equal rights was just beginning. Andrew Johnson, Lincoln's successor, argued that the federal government could not abolish slavery. In Johnson's America, there would be no black voting, no civil rights for blacks.

When a handful of men and women rose to challenge Johnson, the stage was set for a bruising constitutional battle. Garrett Epps, a novelist and constitutional scholar, takes the reader inside the halls of the Thirty-ninth Congress to witness the dramatic story of the Fourteenth Amendment's creation. At the book's center are a cast of characters every bit as fascinating as the Founding Fathers. Thaddeus Stevens, Charles Sumner, Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, among others, understood that only with the votes of freed blacks could the American Republic be saved. "Democracy Reborn" offers an engrossing account of a definitive turning point in our nation's history and the significant legislation that reclaimed the democratic ideal of equal rights for all U.S. citizens.

### **About the Author:**

**Garrett Epps**, a former staff writer for the Washington Post has written for the New York Times, the New Republic, and the New York Review of Books, and served as articles editor of Law and Contemporary Problems. His book concerning Oregon's famous peyote case: *To an Unknown God: Religious Freedom on Trial* was one of three finalists

for the American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award in 2002.

He has been a visiting associate professor at Boston College of Law and Duke Law School. Epps joined the faculty after a clerkship with the Honorable John O. Butzner Jr. of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Virginia.

He is the Orlando John and Marian H. Hollis Professor of Law at the University of Oregon.

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## Free health screenings for UO PEBB employees

Learn your numbers for body mass index (BMI), blood pressure, blood sugar, and blood cholesterol during a free health screening. All participants will receive a confidential, personal review and consultation with a health coach.

Screenings are available October 11 – 13 by appointment only. Call Human Resources at 541-346-2939 or email [kcooks@hr.uoregon.edu](mailto:kcooks@hr.uoregon.edu) for details.

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The EMU Craft Center is currently registering for Fall term workshops & classes. Please visit <http://craftcenter.uoregon.edu> or call 541-346-4361 for more information.

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## Recent gifts to CAMPAIGN OREGON: Transforming Lives

Following are a few of the recent contributions from private donors to benefit University of Oregon students, faculty members, programs and facilities:

**Gerald Alexanderson**—\$25,000 pledge to the Chyna Alexanderson Endowment to purchase materials for Special Collections in UO Libraries.

**Janet O'Dell Davies**—\$26,623 for the School of Journalism and Communication.

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**Jaclyn and Sol M. Israel**—\$75,000 pledge for the Sol and Jackie Israel Scholarship Endowment in the School of Law.

**Korea Foundation**—\$35,000 to the Korea Foundation Exhibit Support Fund in the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art.

**Ellison C. Morgan**—\$250,000 pledge for the Securities Analysis Center in the Lundquist College of Business.

**National Basketball Association**—\$50,000 for the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center in the Lundquist College of Business.

**Gerald S. Wilson**—\$25,000 pledge to UO Libraries for library services to student athletes.

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Laux is the author of "Awake," "What We Carry," "Smoke" and "Facts About the Moon," as well as "The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry." Winner of a 2001 Guggenheim Fellowship, her poems and essays have appeared in "The Best American Poetry," "The Best of the American Poetry Review," "The Harvard Review," "The New England Review," "The Alaska Quarterly Review," "The Southern Review," "The Kenyon Review," "Shenanodoah," "Ploughshares," "ZYZZYVA," "The Washington Post," "DoubleTake," "Five Points," "Barrow Street," and others. She is the two-time recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in poetry, an Editor's Choice III award, and a Pushcart Prize and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Laux has been a fellow at BreadLoaf and contributing editor of "Poetry Flash."

Other finalists for the Marshall Award are Christian Barter for "The Singers I Prefer," Jack Gilbert for "Refusing Heaven," Eleanor Lerman for "Our Post Soviet History Unfolds," and Ron Slate for "The Incentive of the Maggot."

The winner will be announced in November.

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Epstein, a professor of Chinese, received the fellowship to support her study of filial piety in 18<sup>th</sup> century China. Through readings of

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fiction, criminal case memorials, local histories and memorial biographies, Epstein's project delves into the role gender has played in the changing practices of filial piety. Her research suggests that the late-imperial fascination with female chastity inspired the creation of new modes of filial virtue. Epstein's work highlights the importance of filial piety in Chinese culture of the time—a central difference between traditional Chinese self-identity and modern, western-based conceptions of self.

Shoemaker, a religious studies professor, is one of the first to investigate conflicting Islamic and Christian accounts about when and where the prophet Muhammad died. Islamic tradition marks Muhammad's death at Medina in 632. However, earlier and more numerous Christian sources suggest that the prophet survived to lead the conquest of the Near East, beginning in 633-4. These uncertainties about Muhammad's death raise larger questions about the reliability of traditional Islamic narratives, Shoemaker concludes. In addition, Shoemaker's research calls attention to the importance of applying similar methods to the study of Christian and Islamic origins.

The ACLS was established in 1919 to represent the U.S. in the Union Académique Internationale (UAI) (International Union of Academies). The UAI, also established in 1919, was designed to encourage cooperation and collaboration among top scholars in member countries.

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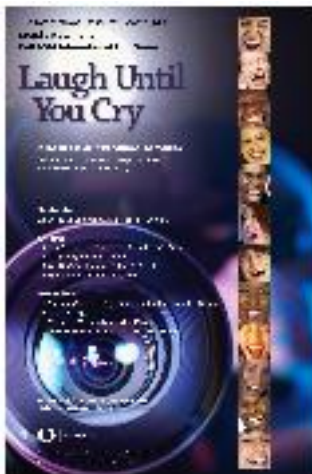
# Inside Oregon

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October 2, 2006

## Free film series focuses on comedies from around the world



The International Resource Center (IRC) has

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launched its Fall 2006 International Film Series entitled "Laugh Until You Cry." All films are free and open to the public. The movies are shown on Thursdays evenings at 7 p.m. in the IRC (in the EMU above the Post Office).

## **OCTOBER**

**Oct. 5**—Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (Australia)—Rated PG—104 minutes

**Oct. 12**—L'Aberge (France)—Rated R—122 minutes

**Oct. 19**—The Wedding Banquet (China)—Rated R—106 minutes

**Oct. 26**—Yana's Friends (Israel)—Not rated—90 minutes

## **NOVEMBER**

**Nov. 2**—Importance of Being Earnest (UK)—Rated PG—97 minutes

**Nov. 9**—TBA

**Nov. 16**—Mr. Hulot's Holiday (France)—Not rated—114 minutes

**Nov. 30**—De Noche Vienes, Esmeralda (Mexico)—Rated R—103 minutes

For more information, call 541-346-0887 or visit <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~irc>.

[UO faculty featured in leading Northwest contemporary art exhibit](#)

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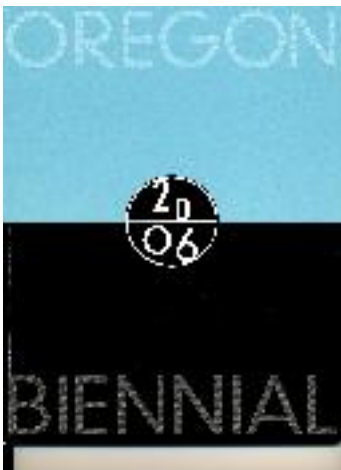
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October 2, 2006

## UO faculty featured in leading Northwest contemporary art exhibit



The Oregon Biennial, one of the most highly

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recognized exhibitions of contemporary Northwest art hosted by the Portland Art Museum, features 34 Oregon artists including three University of Oregon art faculty members.

The UO artists include sculptor, [Amanda Wojick](#), with her pieces "Rock Island Mound" and "Near the Steep Drop"; painter [Laura Vandenberg](#) with her installation of fifteen drawings entitled "Coast," "Gap," "Drainage," "Slashpiles," "Fence," "Stack," "Holes," "Island," "Basin," "Pyramid Lake" and "Pink Canyon"; and sculptor [Marcy Adzich](#) with her pieces "Large Surface Area" and "The Divide (Buffalo Jump)."

Entries from 768 artists were received. The UO artists are the only artists from the Eugene/Springfield region. The exhibition began on July 29 and closes on Sunday, October 8.

Jennifer Gately, Arlene and Harold Schnitzer Curator of Northwest Art, states in her essay in the exhibition catalog that "the work points to a strong engagement with national trends; perhaps the most obvious was an overarching use of paper as a medium." Gately discusses the work of Wojick, Vandenberg, and Adzich as "pushing the boundaries of landscape to explore the realm of imaginary places or fantastical worlds."

Begun in 1949 as an annual exhibition, the current Oregon Biennial now serves as a snapshot of the state's current artistic influences and trends. Other UO art faculty members featured in past Oregon Biennial exhibits include Carla Bengtson (2003), Jan

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Reaves (2003), Amanda Wojick (2003), Terri Warpinski (1995), and Margaret Prentice (1991).

"The UO Department of Art excels as an academic and artistic community that continues to inspire students and faculty colleagues," says department head, Kate Wagle, professor of metals and jewelry.

"The work by faculty members is shown around the world and highly respected in the Northwest region, bringing an international, contemporary art conversation to our students and the community. Exploring the boundaries of contemporary art-making and critical thinking is both our business and our passion."

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The International Resource Center (IRC)  
proudly presents its  
**Fall 2006 International Film Series**

# Laugh Until You Cry

## Nine Weeks of International Comedies

All films shown Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the IRC  
(in the PMU above the Post Office)

### September

28 *O Alto da Compadecida* (Brazil) NR 104 min.

### October

5 *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Australia) PG 104 min.

12 *L'Auberge* (France) R 122 min.

19 *The Wedding Banquet* (China) R 106 min.

26 *Yana's Friends* (Israel) NR 90 min.

### November

2 *The Importance of Being Earnest* (United Kingdom) PG 97 min.

9 To be arranged

16 *Mr. Hulot's Holiday* (France) NR 114 min.

30 *De Noche Vienes, Esmeralda* (Mexico) R 103 min.

For more information, contact (541) 346-0887 or  
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