

# NEWS RELEASE

August 25, 2008

FRED JONES JR. MUSEUM OF ART  
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA - NORMAN  
CONTACT MICHAEL BENDURE, Public Relations Officer, 405-325-3178, mbendure@ou.edu  
FAX: 405-325-7696  
www.ou.edu/fjjma

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WITH PHOTO

### **FredFilms Series Kicks Off at OU's Art Museum Aug. 28**

NORMAN, OKLA. – Film fans are in for a treat as FredFilms returns at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, at the University of Oklahoma. One of the many programs at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, the FredFilms weekly film series reveals a glimpse of cinema as it relates to a certain theme each semester.

FredFilms presents *Working Under Foreign Conditions: Russians Making Movies in Other Lands* in conjunction with the upcoming *American Artists From the Russian Empire* international exhibition, which opens Oct. 4.

With a broad selection of works on loan from museums, galleries and private collections, *American Artists From the Russian Empire* will examine the impact of American culture and art movements on Russian artists living in the United States and will highlight the influence and contributions of Russian artists in shaping American culture.

"I thought it would be interesting to create a film series along similar lines, featuring movies made outside of Russia on which filmmakers who came from Russia worked," said Benjamin Alpers, Reach for Excellence associate professor in the Honors College and film series curator at FJJMA. "Such a series is, by design, very diverse. It features all sorts of movies made in a variety of different countries."

Alpers said his selections for this semester's cinema focuses on multiple angles of Russian filmmaking.

"I've made a point of looking not only at directors from Russia, really the Russian empire and later the Soviet Union, but also producers, set designers, cinematographers, screenwriters and even composers," he said.

The film series runs Thursday nights in the Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium on the museum's lower level. All screenings begin at 7 p.m. and are intended for mature audiences. A full schedule of films and dates is available online at [www.ou.edu/fjjma](http://www.ou.edu/fjjma).

The series opens with the 1922 German silent version of "Othello," directed by Russian-born Dimitri Buchowetski, and concludes with an American film about terrorism, "Day Night Day Night," made by Russian-born director Julia Loktev in 2006.

In between, Alpers plans to screen a French comedy from 1931, director René Clair's "A Nous La Liberté," whose innovative production design was by the Russian-born Lazare Meerson. Additional films include two American musicals, "Love Me Tonight" from 1932, directed by the Tbilisi-born Rouben Mamoulian, and "Easter Parade" from 1948, with music by Irving Berlin, who came from Mogilev in what is now Belarus, and a famous documentary about Cuba by Soviet director Mikhail Kalatozov.

"I think there's something in this series that ought to appeal to any film buff," Alpers said. "As always, I've tried as much as possible to select films that are important, unusual and, most of all, entertaining."

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located at 555 Elm Ave. in Norman, on the corner of Boyd Street and Elm Avenue. Films are shown in the museum's Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium in the lower level.

Admission to the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is free to all OU students with a current student ID and all museum association members, \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for children 6 to 17 years of age, \$2 for OU faculty / staff, and free for children 5 and under. Admission is free on Tuesdays. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by phone at (405) 325-4938.

## **PHOTO OUTLINE**

Film buffs beware: FredFilms is back in action at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma. The weekly film series returns Aug. 28 with the 1922 German silent version of "Othello" in the museum's Mary Eddy and Fred Jones Auditorium. FredFilms is curated by Benjamin Alpers, Reach for Excellence associate professor in the Honors College.