

Movies return to art museum

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Film returns to Cincinnati Art Museum this month after an absence of almost two years. New partner Cincinnati World Cinema is opening big, with the local premiere of "Army of Shadows," the 1969 movie that is the most lauded film of 2006 opens the series January 30-31.

Based on a novel of the French Resistance written during World War II and distributed in the United States for the first time last year, "Army of Shadows" towered over year-end Top 10 lists either as Best Film or Best Foreign Film, with the word "masterpiece" in regular use by rapturous critics.

The volunteer-run Cincinnati World Cinema, founded by James Kesner and Tim Swallow, celebrates five years in business this month. Executive director Swallow says that the new deal with the Cincinnati Art Museum, seven months in the making and renewable annually through 2011, will afford the region's serious film fans almost twice the options they've had for almost two years.

Swallow expects to book at least four nights a month in the museum's handsomely renovated and upgraded auditorium. Equipped with a 35mm projector, as well as 16mm and digital



The critically acclaimed "Army of Shadows," about the French Resistance, was made in 1969 but not distributed in the U.S. until last year.

projection and surround-sound, "our film menu can expand."

Swallow says he won't announce titles more than two months out in order to avoid potential "bidding wars." Audiences can expect a mix of classics, retrospectives, themed programming and plenty of terra incognita.

There are just too many good films that need to be seen, says Swallow, and he's planning to use weekends for extended runs and special screenings. Those will include the Feb. 27 preview and March 3-4 world premiere of Cincinnati filmmaker Melissa Godoy's documentary "Do Not Go Gently," about aging.

Swallow says weekend matinees offer the best opportunity for that film's primary audience – "seniors and the baby boomers who are caring for them."

Last summer Cincinnati World Cinema had turn-away crowds at two screenings of Oscar-nominated documentaries at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

"We'll still do things at other venues," says Swallow. "The PaddleFest Film Festival at the Museum Center, multidisciplinary combinations of film and music and film and dance, at the Madison or at local universities. But the bulk of the presentations

IF YOU GO

What: Cincinnati World Cinema

When: Jan. 30-31, "Army of Shadows";
Feb. 13-14, "Romantic Shorts";
Feb. 20-22, Oscar-Nominated Shorts 2007";
Feb. 27, March 3-4, "Do Not Go Gently."

Times vary, call or check online at www.cincyworldcinema.org for updated information.

Where: Fath Auditorium, Cincinnati Art Museum, Eden Park

Tickets: \$8, \$6 students.

Info: 859-781-8151

will be in the museum's Fath Auditorium."

Coming up pre-Oscars on Feb. 20-22, World Cinema will unroll this year's live action and animated shorts, titles to be determined Jan. 23 when Academy Award nominations are announced, giving film fans a chance to make their Oscar picks before the ceremony.

Swallow is thinking collaboratively, and points to a Feb. 14 screening of "Romantic Shorts," which will be shown in a package with a similarly themed art museum tour, as what he hopes will be the first of many partnerships. He's also anticipating a "film festival down the road."