



LUNAFEST

♦ CWC PRESS KIT ♦

WHAT:

- **LUNAFEST FILM FESTIVAL**
- 9 short films, total running time 90 minutes
- In English and other languages, with English subtitles
- Discussion after the film

WHEN:

- **Tuesday, April 17**
- **Wednesday, April 18**

Screening at 7:00 pm each night. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

WHERE:

- **Cincinnati Art Museum**, 953 Eden Park Drive, Eden Park/Mt. Adams.
- Easy Access, Free Parking (click for [Directions & Map](#))

TICKETS:

- Tickets are **\$8 for adults and \$6 for Art Museum members and students with valid ID.**

\$6 tickets are ONLY available online, by phone, at the Museum, and at the door subject to availability.

ADVANCE TICKETS:

- **ON-LINE**
- toll-free 1-877-548-3237 (tix sales only)
- at the Art Museum

and at these outlets (**\$8 tix only, cash only**), click each location for a map:

- Clifton-Ludlow Ave. - [Sitwell's Coffee House](#) 513 281 7487
- Mt. Lookout Square - [Lookout Joe Coffee Roasters](#) 513 871 8626
- Northside-Hamilton Ave - [Shake It Music & Video](#) 513 591 0123
- Covington-Main Strasse - [The Bean Haus](#) 859 431 2326

Tickets will also be available at the door, if not sold out in advance.

Attention Media: Please do NOT publish the toll-free ticket sales number. This is the number for the CWC ticket service company – they handle sales only and cannot assist callers with questions about the venue, film content, handicapped access, parking, etc. Instead, please publish to the telephone and website contact info below:

Telephone: 859.781.8151

Website: <http://www.cincyworldcinema.org>

LUNAFEST FILM FESTIVAL

The LUNAFEST program features nine short films totaling 90 minutes. With locations including India, Ireland, China, Mexico, the UK and the USA, the films range from humorous animation to touching documentaries.

All of these award-winning films celebrate women in our local and global communities and address contemporary issues and situations faced by women around the world, including domestic violence, infanticide, breast cancer, adoption, the cycle of life and death, and perceptions of beauty, ethnicity, and body image.



Proceeds will benefit the Breast Cancer Fund and the local hosts of the event. The Breast Cancer Fund is a national non-profit working to identify, and advocate for elimination of, the environmental and other preventable causes of breast cancer. In addition to Cincinnati World Cinema, your local hosts include the University of Cincinnati Women's Center and Department of Women's Studies.

The 2006-2007 LUNAFEST film line up:

MANN KE MANJEERÉ

Director **Sujit Sircar**, India, 2001, 5:15. In Hindi with English subtitles

Renowned actress **Mita Vasisht** enacts the journey of a fearless woman who leaves an abusive marriage and works as a truck driver to support her daughter and herself. Women of all ages and backgrounds climb into the truck to escape the violence they face in their lives. They dance and rejoice on the back of the truck, and the film closes with them dancing together on the sand dunes of Rajasthan. The short film is well-choreographed, exuberant and enchanting, and has proved an invaluable tool across the globe in raising the important issues of violence against women, women in non-traditional occupations and women's access to public space. The title song was composed by Shantanu Moitra, with **Shubha Mudgal** singing lyrics written by Prasoon Joshi.

The story was inspired by the life of a young Muslim woman, Shameem Paathan. Born into a well-to-do family and the daughter of 7 sons, Shameem fell in love, and against the wishes of her family married the man of her choice. That she made the wrong choice soon became apparent. When her son was three and a half years old, Shameem finally decided to fend for herself. She went through a series of businesses and finally she learned how to drive, an unheard of occupation for a woman in her society. She now drives her own van in Ahmedabad, ferrying passengers.

PLUM FLOWER

Director Serena Moy, China/USA, 2005, 10:00. In Cantonese, with English subtitles.

Set in 1948 China, a mother and father must decide the fate of their fifth daughter, a newborn baby girl. Baby girls were seen as an encumbrance, this was a time when female infanticide was a normal occurrence in poor rural communities. Females could not carry on the family name, so they were less desirable when too many were born to one family.

Based on the true story of the filmmaker's family, the strength of poverty and desperation weigh heavily on the hearts of both parents as they wrestle with a staggering moral choice of whether or not to keep their daughter. Holding a bottle of poison in one hand and her daughter in the other, the mother names her child Plum Flower. The Chinese place great emphasis on the value of a name, will Plum Flower grow to fulfill the promise in her name?

SLIP OF THE TONGUE

Director Karen Lum, USA, 2005, 04:00

This spoken-word short shows that getting comfortable sometimes means shedding abrasive labels, whether literal or figurative. A look at perceptions of beauty, ethnicity, and body image.

BREACHED

Director Laura Richard, USA/Mexico, 2005, 18:00

One member of a group of illegal immigrants is pregnant, nearing delivery, and is determined to have her baby on American soil.

CITY PARADISE

Director Gaelle Denis, UK, 2005, 06:00

A fascinating and artistic combination of live-action, rich 2D and 3D animation, with amazing color choice and music. This is the story of Tomoko, a young Japanese girl who comes to London to learn English. At first, she doesn't like it and she hardly even leaves the house. But that changes radically when, quite by accident, she discovers a mysterious, secret underground city below London, a place that's colorful and friendly. In the wake of this experience, she meets a lot of new friends, learns English and makes one wonderful discovery after another.

TOP OF THE CIRCLE

Director Shaz Bennett, USA, 2005, 05:00

In this beautiful and humorous experimental documentary, Shaz Bennett has finally found the top of a circle exploring the cycle of life and death.

DEAR TALULA

Director Lori Benson, USA, 2006, 34:00

Lori Benson's documentary is richer and more emotionally charged than many feature-length films. This autobiographical short takes an intimate look at Lori, a 37-year-old woman in New York City who, just 14 months after the birth of her first child, discovers she has breast cancer. She confronts the concepts of femininity and body image and ultimately arrives at self-acceptance. With humor and grace Lori shares her most intimate thoughts and discoveries as this profound experience leaves her to stand in the reflection of her own mortality, ultimately achieving a stronger connection to her true self.

Benson made **Dear Talula** as a love letter to her daughter, intended to uplift, not to devastate. Indeed, this is a film that speaks to us all and will move and inspire anyone familiar with the way life can confront us with unwelcome surprises - something from which none of us are immune.

KYLIE GOLDSTEIN-ALL AMERICAN

Director Eva Saks, USA, 2005, 3:00

A documentary short about a real 6-year old Chinese-American girl who was adopted as a baby in China by an American family in New York, Eva Saks made the film to empower Kylie Li-Ya Rose Goldstein to tell her own story. Through her story, the important phenomenon of Chinese adoption and American multi-culturalism is introduced. There have been other documentaries dealing with this subject, although not many, but this is the only one that approaches it from the point of view of the adopted child.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Director Melina Padua, Ireland, 2004, 02:30

A new strain of a disease dangerous to livestock is being discussed on the radio. A grazing cow listening to the program naturally gets rather worried about the topic, but soon discovers that ignorance is bliss. Did you know that cows produce more milk when listening to music?

**About Cincinnati World Cinema,
Lunafest and the Breast Cancer Fund,
the University of Cincinnati Women's Center and
the University of Cincinnati Department of Women's Studies**

Cincinnati World Cinema

The mission of the **Cincinnati World Cinema** is to provide the community with outstanding motion pictures that explore the human condition and celebrate cultural diversity. CWC is committed to the importance of films that inform and educate, as well as entertain. To enhance the educational experience, our film events typically include discussions with local authorities and/or filmmakers.

We present films that otherwise might not be seen in this market, with genres including international, documentary, American independent, live-action and animated shorts and locally-produced works. Cincinnati World Cinema actively collaborates with arts, cultural and educational organizations locally and throughout the region to curate and co-present individual films, thematic collections or series consistent with the CWC mission.

LUNAFEST

Started in 2001, LUNAFEST is an annual film festival that tours nationally. Beginning with a handful of venues, the festival has grown significantly each year and will reach approximately 100 communities via the current tour. LUNAFEST screenings are special evenings where women (and their friends, families, partners, husbands and boyfriends) can gather to view a selection of diverse films that embody a wide range of topics. The works range from documentaries and narratives to animated shorts and cover subjects such as women's health, relationships, cultural and racial diversity, sexuality and spirituality.

LUNAFEST was created to support women on a number of levels:

- To provide women filmmakers the opportunity to be seen and heard
- To empower women by showcasing women's issues, stories and amazing moments
- To support women's health and Luna's partnership with the Breast Cancer Fund
- To support local communities and organizations
- To provide women with a forum to communicate, share and inspire social change within their communities

About LUNA

The genesis of Luna is straightforward, but no less significant for its simplicity. In Berkeley California, there is a company named Clif Bar, Inc. They make energy bars, primarily for athletes. In the late 1990s the women at Clif Bar, in response to their own needs and those of their friends, developed a product they called the Luna Bar, a nutritional bar with natural contents formulated to benefit women during and after pregnancy. The resultant focus of LUNA is notable because of their clear and consistent commitment to improving the lives of their customers. Luna of course is in business to stay in business, but their philosophical model is conveyed through their operations and the programs they support. The LUNAFEST film festival is one of several programs embraced by the organization. Please visit www.lunabar.com to learn more about their story, programs and products. If you are an aspiring filmmaker, or know someone who is, please check with the good folks at LUNAFEST regarding film submission procedures.

The Breast Cancer Fund

The Breast Cancer Fund (BCF) identifies and advocates for the elimination of the environmental and other preventable causes of the disease. Founded in 1992, BCF works from the knowledge that breast cancer is not simply a personal tragedy, but a public health priority that demands action from all. BCF works to challenge the myths and perceptions surrounding breast cancer while providing inspiration to the women who suffer from the disease. Through public education, prevention and public policy initiatives, BCF mobilizes the public and secures the institutional changes and legislative reforms necessary to eliminate the environmental links to breast cancer

The Breast Cancer Fund was a founding partner of LUNAFEST in 2001, and LUNA continues to honor their work by directing 15% of all proceeds of LUNAFEST to their cause. In reciprocal fashion, LUNA is a primary corporate sponsor of the Breast Cancer Foundation. As such, LUNA is an active partner via financial support, event sponsorship, and participation in its programs to prevent breast cancer. LUNA's commitment to BCF is

consistent with its long-term commitment to providing healthy food and a clean environment. With the wide reaching effects of breast cancer, and the devastating number of women diagnosed each year, the women of LUNA are proud to join in the fight and support BCF's mission. To learn more about the Breast Cancer Foundation please visit <http://www.breastcancerfund.org>.

The UC Women's Center

The UC Women's Center is dedicated to meeting the diverse needs and interests of women and LGBT students at the University of Cincinnati, striving to identify and respond to student-driven concerns and committed to action which benefits women.

The UC Women's Center has a long history at the University of Cincinnati. Established in 1978 as Women's Programs and Services, the office served as a referral center for female students. The small, initial staff connected students and staff to resources and events that were off-campus. Over the years, the Center's staff grew and the office's programs and opportunities grew with it. Today there is a vast array of programs and services. Students can join one of the peer education groups focused on preventing sexual assault or body acceptance. Women of color can participate in the Food 4 Thought lunch series exploring issues of relevance to their lives or join Shades of You: A Society for Women of Color. Women experiencing violence or abuse in their lives can call our 24-hour crisis line for support and guidance.

The Women's Center works collaboratively with the University community to:

- Empower women by providing services, resources, and programs that represent a diverse range of interests and concerns;
- Recognize, celebrate, and promote awareness of the multicultural realities of women's lives, particularly across race, sexual orientation, class, age, and abilities;
- Expand available choices to students to facilitate informed and responsible decision making;
- Create a justice-based world by challenging imbalances of power based on social, political, and economic factors.

To learn more about the UC Women's Center, contact director Dr. Barbara Rinto, or program managers Amy Howton or Tamika Odum.

UC Women's Center, Division of Student Affairs & Services
University of Cincinnati, Steger Student Life Center, Suite 571
PO Box 210179, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0179, Phone: 513-556-4401 <http://www.uc.edu/ucwc>

The UC Department of Women's Studies

The Department of Women's Studies is the academic home for the study of women and gender at the University of Cincinnati. Through interdisciplinary teaching, research, and community outreach, it seeks to create a more inclusive and transformative understanding of women and men. The Department explores the intersections of race, nationality, class, gender, and sexuality. Informed by feminist perspectives, it nurtures the development of leaders, scholars, and activists and builds scholarly community among core and affiliate faculty across the university. The Department serves as a catalyst for curricular, institutional, societal, and global change.

The Department of Women's Studies at the University of Cincinnati, is one of the oldest and most respected and established academic programs in Women's Studies in the country. Through its MA in Women's Studies, its innovative MA/JD joint degree in Women's Studies and Law, its Graduate Certificate and its popular Undergraduate Major and Minor, students gain a broad and in-depth understanding of women's and gender issues. Students in Women's Studies at UC experience small classes with much individualized attention, outstanding research and teaching faculty, rigorous and diverse curricula, internship and study abroad opportunities, graduate student teaching experience, regular symposia and guest speakers, an excellent placement record, and a highly supportive environment. They also enjoy mentoring and grant support from the Friends of Women's Studies, one of the oldest and largest Women's Studies community support groups in the country.

To learn more about the Department of Women's Studies, contact director Dr. Anne Sisson Runyan.

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http://asweb.artsci.uc.edu/womens_studies