

BAMcinématek presents *Jonathan Demme: Heart of Gold*, a retrospective commemorating the late, influential filmmaker, Aug 4–24

Series includes special guests Paul Thomas Anderson, Edwidge Danticat, Jim McKay, Paul Lazar, Jenny Lumet and more to be announced

“[A] hero to a generation of filmmakers and film lovers.” –*The New York Times*

June 29, 2017/Brooklyn, NY—From Friday, August 4 through Thursday, August 24, BAMcinématek presents *Jonathan Demme: Heart of Gold*, commemorating the eclectic breadth and intimate scope of the director’s career, one that is both important and personal to BAM. Gina Duncan, Associate Vice President of Cinema says: “Jonathan Demme was a rare individual, a good guy in the film industry (and the world). His love of people, his compassion and curiosity, is infused in every frame of his work. This is what made him a great filmmaker. His passing is a huge loss, but thankfully, we’ll always have his movies.”

Before winning a Best Director Academy Award for his Best Picture-winning *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991—Aug 12), Demme began his career as a writer-director for Roger Corman. The three films produced by Corman: *Caged Heat* (1974—Aug 15), *Crazy Mama* (1975—Aug 16), and *Fighting Mad* (1976—Aug 15) along with *Citizen’s Band* (1977—Aug 6) are bound by wheel-squealing car chases and the dusty roads of the American West. Also in the 70s, Demme directed the sleek noir-thriller *Last Embrace* (1979—Aug 11) starring Roy Scheider. Down-on-your-luck middle America is the setting for Demme’s working-class comedy *Melvin and Howard* (1980—Aug 5 & 13), featuring an Oscar-winning performance by Mary Steenburgen.

In the 1980s, Demme brought comedy to the forefront with *Something Wild* (1986—Fri, Aug 4) a screwball comedy-thriller starring Melanie Griffith and Jeff Daniels, *Married to the Mob* (1988—Aug 5), starring Michelle Pfeiffer as a widowed mob wife trying to start over, and the WWII-era, women-in-the-workforce comedy *Swing Shift* (1984—Aug 11), a film where Demme’s personality shines through even in the studio’s edited version. Concurrently, while working on *Swing Shift*, Demme was also filming the concert-documentary *Stop Making Sense* (1984—Aug 18-24). Using the same humanist gaze honed in his feature films, Demme captures a live Talking Heads performance, paying careful attention to the way the bandmates interact and play off one another. *Heart of Gold* also features two of Demme’s Neil Young concert films, *Neil Young: Heart of Gold* (2004—Aug 20) and *Neil Young Trunk Show* (2009—Aug 20), and a *Music Video Program* (Aug 21) featuring Demme’s collaborations with New Order, Bruce Springsteen, The Feelies, and more.

Heart of Gold also features an array of Demme’s real passion: documentaries, including the Spalding Gray film-monologue *Swimming to Cambodia* (1987—Aug 17), which will be shown with *Accumulation With Talking Plus Water Motor* (1978), which captures a performance by choreographer Trisha Brown, and *Storefront Hitchcock* (1998—Aug 19) immortalizing musician Robyn Hitchcock’s performance outside a New York City storefront. Two oft-forgotten documentaries, *Cousin Bobby* (1992—Aug 17) in which Demme reconnects with his politically charged long lost cousin, a fiery white priest working in an African American neighborhood, and *I’m Carolyn Parker* (2011—Aug 8), which follows the namesake protagonist, a New Orleans Lower Ninth Ward resident, across five years of rebuilding post-Hurricane Katrina. Other selected documentaries include *The Agronomist* (2003—Aug 13), a tribute to Haiti’s Jean Dominique, and *Jimmy Carter: Man From Plains* (2007—Aug 13).

Other series highlights include Demme’s Best Actor Academy Award winner *Philadelphia* (1993—Aug 6 & 16), as well as the film adaption of Toni Morrison’s novel *Beloved* (1998—Aug 14), Demme’s homage

to the French New Wave, *The Truth About Charlie* (2002—Aug 9), the remake of the 1962 political thriller *The Manchurian Candidate* (2004—Aug 7), the homecoming drama starring Anne Hathaway, *Rachel Getting Married* (2008—Aug 10), *A Master Builder* (2013—Aug 22) starring Julie Haggerty and Wallace Sean, and writer Diablo Cody's *Ricki and the Flash* (2015—Aug 23), starring Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline.

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Jonathan Demme: Heart of Gold Schedule

Fri, Aug 4

4:15, 7pm: *Something Wild*

Sat, Aug 5

2, 6:45pm: *Married to the Mob*

4:20pm: *Melvin and Howard*

Sun, Aug 6

2pm: *Philadelphia*

4:45pm: *Citizen's Band*

Mon, Aug 7

4:30, 7:30pm: *The Manchurian Candidate*

Tue, Aug 8

7pm: *I'm Carolyn Parker*

Wed, Aug 9

4:30, 7, 9:30pm: *The Truth About Charlie*

Thu, Aug 10

4:30, 7:10, 9:45pm: *Rachel Getting Married*

Fri, Aug 11

2, 7pm: *Swing Shift*

4:30, 9:30pm: *Last Embrace*

Sat, Aug 12

4, 9pm: *The Silence of the Lambs*

Sun, Aug 13

2pm: *Melvin and Howard*

4:15pm: *Jimmy Carter: Man From Plains*

7pm: *The Agronomist*

Mon, Aug 14

7pm: *Beloved*

Tue, Aug 15

7pm: *Fighting Mad*

9:15pm: *Caged Heat*

Wed, Aug 16

7pm: *Philadelphia*

9:45pm: *Crazy Mama*

Thu, Aug 17

7pm: *Swimming to Cambodia + Accumulation With Talking Plus Water Motor*

9:15pm: *Cousin Bobby*

Fri, Aug 18

2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm: *Stop Making Sense*

Sat, Aug 19

2, 4:30, 9:30pm: *Stop Making Sense*

7pm: *Storefront Hitchcock*

Sun, Aug 20

2, 9:30pm: *Stop Making Sense*

4:30pm: *Neil Young: Heart of Gold*

7pm: *Neil Young Trunk Show*

Mon, Aug 21

4:30, 7pm: *Stop Making Sense*

9:15pm: *Music Video Program*

Tue, Aug 22

4:30, 10pm: *Stop Making Sense*

7pm: *A Master Builder*

Wed, Aug 23

4:30, 9:30pm: *Stop Making Sense*

7pm: *Ricki and the Flash*

Thu, Aug 24

4:30, 9:30pm: *Stop Making Sense*

Film Descriptions

All films directed by Jonathan Demme.

A MASTER BUILDER (2013) *With Wallace Shawn, Lisa Joyce, Andre Gregory.* Demme directs the legendary duo of Wallace Shawn and Andre Gregory in this arresting adaptation of Ibsen's drama. Shawn stars as a renowned, egomaniacal architect whose household is turned upside down by the sudden appearance of a young woman (Joyce) from his past. The director's restrained approach highlights the powerhouse performances and dreamlike quality of Ibsen's text. *DCP. 130min.* Tue, Aug 22 at 7pm

THE AGRONOMIST (2003) For four decades until his assassination in 2000, Jean Dominique gave voice to the people of Haiti, speaking out against the country's repressive dictatorships over the airwaves of the independent radio station he founded. Through vivid archival footage and interviews with Dominique himself, Demme crafts a powerful tribute to the man and to the spirit of resistance he embodied. *35mm. 90min.* Sun, Aug 13 at 7pm

**Q&A and book signing with producer and author Edwidge Danticat (The Art of Death: Writing the Final Story) following the screening.*

BELOVED (1998) *With Oprah Winfrey, Danny Glover, Thandie Newton.* The big screen adaptation of Toni Morrison's supernatural novel stars a stunning Oprah Winfrey as an escaped slave haunted by visitations from the daughter she killed years earlier to spare from slavery. Though overlooked by audiences unprepared for its uncompromising expressionist intensity, *Beloved* stands as an impossible-to-shake experience that captures the harrowing power of Morrison's vision. *35mm. 172min.* Mon, Aug 14 at 7pm

CAGED HEAT (1974) *With Erica Gavin, Juanita Brown, Roberta Collins.* "White hot desires melting cold prison steel!" Demme made his directorial debut with what may be the ultimate women-behind-bars shocker, which blends the Corman factory's grindhouse titillation with a potent feminist revenge theme. Plus, there's creepy cult favorite Barbara Steele as the sadistic warden and a score by none other than John Cale. *83min.* Tue, Aug 15 at 9:15pm

CITIZEN'S BAND (1977) *With Paul Le Mat, Candy Clark, Bruce McGill.* Made in the midst of the CB radio fad that swept the 70s, Demme's loving ode to offbeat Americana follows a host of small town oddballs (with monikers like Chrome Angel and Electra) whose lives crisscross over the airwaves. In the director's hands, what could have been a novelty attempt to cash in on a craze becomes a warmly human and sweetly funny community portrait. *16mm. 98min.* Sun, Aug 6 at 4:45pm

**Intro by filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson*

CRAZY MAMA (1975) *With Cloris Leachman, Stuart Whitman, Ann Sothern.* When she loses her beauty shop, single mom Melba (Leachman) hits the road with her mother and daughter for a wild cross-country crime spree through 1950s America. The second of three films Demme made for Roger Corman's New World Pictures is a fast, funny, freewheeling tour through Brylcreem-era kitsch, with a subversive female empowerment edge. *16mm. 83min.* Wed, Aug 16 at 9:45pm

COUSIN BOBBY (1992) Demme's oft-overlooked documentary gem records the filmmaker's reunion with his long lost cousin Robert Castle, an impassioned activist and Episcopalian minister preaching in Harlem. With typical generosity of spirit, Demme traces Castle's unique journey—how an association with the Black Panthers led to his political awakening and made him a crusader for civil rights—as well as their shared family history. *70min.* Thu, Aug 17 at 9:15pm

FIGHTING MAD (1976) *With Peter Fonda, Lynn Lowry, John Doucette.* Peter Fonda is a motorcycle-riding, crossbow-wielding vigilante who takes matters into his own hands when a corrupt mining corporation tries to push his family off their Arkansas farm. This Roger Corman production delivers plenty of stick-it-to-the-man attitude and exploitation kicks, but there's also a real feeling for character that's distinctively Demme. *35mm. 90min.* Tue, Aug 15 at 7pm

I'M CAROLYN PARKER (2011) Demme trains his humanist camera on one of his most endearing and inspiring subjects. When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, retired restaurant cook Carolyn Parker was the last to leave and the first to return to her home in the city's devastated Lower Ninth Ward. Shot over the course of five years, this infinitely compassionate portrait follows the optimistic-against-all-odds Ms. Parker as she works tirelessly to rebuild her life and community. *DCP. 91min.* Tue, Aug 8 at 7pm

JIMMY CARTER: MAN FROM THE PLAINS (2007) Demme catches up with the former president and national treasure as he tours America in support of his controversial book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, which became a lightning rod for criticism over its perceived anti-Israel bias. As Carter answers his detractors with both humility and rigorous intelligence, a complex portrait emerges of a formidable thinker with a deep commitment to the cause of Middle East peace. *35mm. 125min.* Sun, Aug 13 at 4:15pm

LAST EMBRACE (1979) *With Roy Scheider, Janet Margolin, Christopher Walken.* Traumatized by the murder of his wife, a guilt-ridden government agent (Scheider) emerges from a sanitarium to mysterious death threats (written in ancient Hebrew, no less) and an even more mysterious woman living in his apartment. Demme channels Hitchcock—complete with lush Miklós Rózsa score and a cliff-hanging Niagara Falls climax—in this twisty mash-up of classic noir and 70s paranoia thriller. *35mm. 102min.* Fri, Aug 11 at 4:30 & 9:30pm

MARRIED TO THE MOB (1988) *With Michelle Pfeiffer, Matthew Modine, Dean Stockwell.* This fabulously 80s Mafia comedy stars a marvelous Michelle Pfeiffer as a mobster's wife whose new suitor happens to be an undercover FBI agent (Modine). Demme has a blast with the day-glo colors, big hair, and thick Long Island accents, while the choice soundtrack rocks New Order, Tom Tom Club, and Brian Eno. *35mm. 104min.* Sat, Aug 5 at 2 & 6:45pm*

**Q&A with filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson and actor Paul Lazar*

THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE (2004) *With Denzel Washington, Meryl Streep, Liev Schreiber.* Demme reimagines the Cold War classic for the Bush II years, with Liev Schreiber as the Gulf War soldier-turned-vice-presidential nominee, Denzel Washington as the Army major who suspects he's a brainwashed sleeper agent, and a marvelous Meryl Streep as the nefarious matriarch orchestrating the whole thing. It's a thrilling, audacious update that's even timelier in this conspiracy-consumed age. *35mm. 129min.* Mon, Aug 7 at 4:30 & 7:30pm

MELVIN AND HOWARD (1980) *With Paul Le Mat, Mary Steenburgen, Jason Robards.* Balancing gentle satire with a genuine feeling for middle-American life, Demme's breakthrough plays like a Preston Sturges screwball for the early 80s. Inspired by a true story, it follows luckless Utah milkman Melvin Dummar (Le Mat) through years of ups and downs following a life-altering brush with none other than Howard Hughes. Highlight: Mary Steenburgen (in an Oscar-winning performance) tap dancing to The Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction." *DCP. 95min.* Sat, Aug 5 at 4:20* & Sun, Aug 13 at 2pm
**Intro by filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson*

MUSIC VIDEOS PROGRAM *Music is the animating force in so many of Demme's films, so it's no surprise that the director brought his distinctive sensibility to videos for artists like New Order (the classic "Perfect Kiss" video), Bruce Springsteen, The Feelies, and post-punk pioneers Suburban Lawns. In true Demme style, the filmmaker largely forgoes visual pyrotechnics in favor of a stripped-down style that puts the focus firmly on the performance. Digital. 90min.* Mon, Aug 21 at 9:15pm **Free screening*

NEIL YOUNG: HEART OF GOLD (2006) The first of three concert films Demme made with Neil Young finds the beloved troubadour in a mellow, reflective mood. Filmed at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium shortly after Young's surgery for a brain aneurysm, *Heart of Gold* imparts a sense of autumnal serenity as the legend (backed by Emmylou Harris) delivers moving renditions of songs from his then-new album *Prairie Wind* and classics from his iconic back catalogue. *35mm. 103min.* Sun, Aug 20 at 4:30pm

NEIL YOUNG TRUNK SHOW (2009) Demme's second collaboration with Neil Young plays like the flipside to *Heart of Gold*. Where that performance was introspective and acoustic, *Trunk Show* is raucous and electric. The rock veteran tears through blistering renditions of "Like a Hurricane" and "Spirit Road," balanced by intimate versions of fan favorites like "Harvest" and "Ambulance Blues." 82min. Sat, Aug 20 at 7pm

PHILADELPHIA (1993) *With Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington, Jason Robards.* Demme's empathetic worldview informs the first major studio film to tackle the AIDS crisis. Tom Hanks received the first of his back-to-back Oscars for his powerful portrayal of a gay lawyer who, after being fired from his firm because of his HIV-positive status, joins forces with a homophobic attorney (Washington) to take his wrongful termination suit to court. Though time may have dulled the impact of its message, *Philadelphia* remains a sincerely moving human drama. DCP. 125min. Sun, Aug 6 at 2pm & Wed, Aug 16 at 7pm

RACHEL GETTING MARRIED (2008) *With Anne Hathaway, Rosemarie DeWitt, Debra Winger.* Anne Hathaway is the hellacious, fresh-from-rehab whirlwind who tears through her sister's wedding weekend in Demme's bittersweet look at family dysfunction and healing. In many ways, this late-career triumph marked something of a return to the director's roots, harkening back to the loose-limbed, big-hearted character studies that defined his early career. 35mm. 113min. Thu, Aug 10 at 4:30, 7:10* & 9:45pm
*Q&A with writer Jenny Lumet and camera operator Charles Libin, Moderated by filmmaker Jim McKay.

RICKI AND THE FLASH (2015) *With Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, Mamie Gummer.* Meryl Streep goes to eleven as leather-clad barroom rocker Ricki, who returns home to the family she left decades earlier to see her daughter (Gummer) through a rough patch. Demme's final narrative feature combines his abiding love for rock 'n' roll and career-long penchant for endearing losers into one wonderfully shambolic, heartfelt last hurrah. DCP. 101min. Wed, Aug 23 at 7pm

THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (1991) *With Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Ted Levine.* Demme received the greatest acclaim of his career—plus a boatload of Oscars, including Best Picture and Director—for one of his most atypical projects, though his humanist stamp is evident even in such chilly horror territory. Anthony Hopkins delivers one of cinema's most indelible portrayals of psychopathy as incarcerated cannibal killer Hannibal Lecter, who draws FBI agent Clarice Starling (Foster) into his twisted mind games. DCP. 118min. Sat, Aug 12 at 4 & 9pm

SOMETHING WILD (1986) *With Jeff Daniels, Melanie Griffith, Ray Liotta.* Melanie Griffith's kinky, scotch-guzzling rebel whisks Jeff Daniels' dweeby Manhattan wage slave away for a cross-country joyride that's all fun and games until her seriously scary convict husband (Liotta) shows up. This screw-loose screwball pulses with a nervy New Wave energy, thanks to a soundtrack that features David Byrne, Oingo Boingo, and The Feelies, who show up onscreen playing the coolest high school reunion ever. 35mm. 114min. Fri, Aug 4 at 4:15 & 7pm*

*Intro by filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson

STOP MAKING SENSE (1984) David Byrne dons the big suit for this rapturous concert film masterpiece, which features the Talking Heads at their peak performing classics like "Psycho Killer," "Burning Down the House," and "This Must Be the Place." Directed with elegant restraint by Demme, it's above all a showcase for the live-wire energy and compelling strangeness of Byrne, who has the magnetic presence of a bona fide movie star. DCP. 88min. Fri, Aug 18 at 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30pm; Sat, Aug 19 at 2, 4:30 & 9:30pm; Sun Aug 20 at 2 & 9:30pm; Mon, Aug 21 at 4:30 & 7pm; Tue, Aug 22 at 4:30 & 10pm; Wed, Aug 23 at 4:30 & 9:30pm & Thu, Aug 24 at 4:30 & 9:30pm

STOREFRONT HITCHCOCK (1998) The setup is simple: Robyn Hitchcock performs in front of a New York City storefront window. But as always when Demme films musicians, it's an alchemical meeting of two artists: the director's superbly judged camera style comes together with the cult musician's cracked charisma to produce something sublime. 35mm. 77min. Sat, Aug 19 at 7pm

SWIMMING TO CAMBODIA (1987) *With Spalding Gray.* As he did for the Talking Heads in *Stop Making Sense*, Demme lends his unobtrusive style to this film version of legendary monologist Spalding Gray's

acclaimed one-man show. Focusing on the performer's recollections of his experiences in Southeast Asia, it's a captivating showcase for Gray's tightly wound intensity and his alternately sardonic and incisive observations. + **ACCUMULATION WITH TALKING PLUS WATER MOTOR** (1978) Demme captures innovative choreographer Trisha Brown performing a meta-narrative-dance work. 35mm. 96min. Thu, Aug 17 at 7pm

SWING SHIFT (1984) *With Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Christine Lahti.* Goldie Hawn produced and stars in this tender, 1940s-set comedy, which comes with a 1970s feminist twist. She's a World War II-era housewife who, after her husband is shipped off to fight, finds new love and a new sense of self while working in an aircraft factory. Even in the studio's edited version, Demme's touch is evident both in the affectionate evocation of everyday American life and in the just-right retro-nostalgic details 35mm. 100min. Fri, Aug 11 at 2 & 7pm

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHARLIE (2002) *With Thandie Newton, Mark Wahlberg, Tim Robbins.* Following her husband's murder, a woman (Newton) finds herself on the run through Paris from shadowy figures intent on retrieving the \$6 million he stole from them. Demme's exuberant update of the 1963 Audrey Hepburn-Cary Grant romp *Charade* channels the spirit of the French New Wave (complete with cameos from Anna Karina, Agnès Varda, and Charles Aznavour) and the result is breathless, freewheeling fun. 35mm. 104min. Wed, Aug 9 at 4:30, 7 & 9:30pm

About BAMcinématek

Since 1998 BAM Rose Cinemas has been Brooklyn's home for alternative, documentary, art-house, and independent films. Combining new releases with BAMcinématek year-round repertory program, the four-screen venue hosts new and rarely seen contemporary films, classics, work by local artists, and festivals of films from around the world, often with special appearances by directors, actors, and other guests. BAMcinématek has hosted major retrospectives of filmmakers like Spike Lee, Chantal Akerman, John Carpenter, Manoel de Oliveira, Luis Buñuel, King Hu, and Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics' Circle Award prize for the retrospective), and hosted the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Hong Sang-soo, Andrzej Zulawski, and Jiang Wen. Since 2009 the program has also produced BAMcinemaFest, New York's home for American independent film, and has championed the work of filmmakers like Janicza Bravo, Andrew Dosunmu, Lena Dunham, and Alex Ross Perry. The 12-day festival of New York premieres, now in its ninth year, runs from June 14—25, 2017.

Credits

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor of BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcinématek.

Steinberg Screen at the BAM Harvey Theater is made possible by The Joseph S. and Diane H. Steinberg Charitable Trust.

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BAM Rose Cinemas are named in recognition of a major gift in honor of Jonathan F.P. and Diana Calthorpe Rose. BAM Rose Cinemas would also like to acknowledge the generous support of The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, The Estate of Richard B. Fisher, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, Brooklyn Delegation of the New York City Council, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and Bloomberg. Additional support for BAMcinématek is provided by The Grodzins Fund and the Julian Price Family Foundation.

Your tax dollars make BAM programs possible through funding from the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito, Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn

Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

Special Thanks Bonnie Yassky/Clinica Estetico; Paul Thomas Anderson; Edwidge Danticat; Chris Chouinard/Park Circus; Jesse Chow/Universal Pictures; George Watson & Hannah Prouse/BFI; Jack Durwood/Paramount Pictures; Dave Jennings/Sony Pictures Repertory; Michael Dicerio/Sony Pictures Classics; Sean Gallagher/Jacob Burns Film Center; Kristie Nakamura/WB Classics; Veronica Neely/20th Century Fox; Joan Miller/Wesleyan Cinema Archives; Mary Tallungan/Disney; Cindy Banach/Palm Pictures; Rocco Caruso; Richard Abramowitz/Abramorama; Paul Snyder

General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a bar menu and dinner entrées prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater); D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue

Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center

Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.