

BAMcinémathèque presents **Retro Metro**, a 16-film ride through the history of the New York City subway, Sep 26—Oct 5

Featuring director Leslie Harris in person for *Just Another Girl on the I.R.T.*

The Wall Street Journal is the title sponsor for BAM Rose Cinemas and BAMcinémathèque.

Brooklyn, NY/Aug 25, 2014—From Friday, September 26 through Sunday, October 5, BAMcinémathèque presents **Retro Metro**, a 16-film ride through the history of the New York City subway, from dreamy visions of modern city life in the 1930s to the glory days of graffiti art in the 1970s when there was still a K train and rides cost less than \$1.

Opening the series on Friday, September 26 is Walter Hill's cult hit **The Warriors** (1979), in which the titular gang has to make it from the northern borough of the Bronx all the way back to their home in Coney Island, navigating graffiti-covered train cars and battling the Boppers, the Hi-Hats, the Lizzies, and more along the way. Notoriously gritty and crime-ridden, the New York City subway of the 1970s and 80s inspired thrillers such as Joseph Sargent's **The Taking of Pelham One Two Three** (1974—Sep 28), a "superior exercise in urban paranoia" (Dave Kehr, *Chicago Reader*) about a hijacked 6 train held for ransom, and William Friedkin's cat-and-mouse police thriller **The French Connection** (1971—Oct 5), which won five Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director.

Screening on Saturday, September 27 are two tributes to street art of the era: Stan Lathan's **Beat Street** (1984), a touchstone of 80s hip-hop and the culture of DJs, b-boys, and graf artists; and Tony Silver's trailblazing documentary **Style Wars** (1983)—winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize—which chronicles the rise of hip-hop and the legends that made the subway a paradise for graffiti art.

Retro Metro also takes a ride back further in time to the heyday of streetcars in Ted Wilde's silent romp **Speedy** (1928—Oct 3), with Harold Lloyd in the title role on a quest to save the last horse-drawn trolley. D. A. Pennebaker's mesmerizing first film **Daybreak Express** (Oct 2—1953) whirls down the now-defunct Third Avenue elevated rail line to the sounds of Duke Ellington's eponymous recording and screens with Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly's **On the Town** (1949), in which Kelly meets his lady love passing through the turnstiles. Vincente Minnelli's masterful **The Clock** (1945—Oct 1; screening with Stan Brakhage's **The Wonder Ring**) is a valentine to the romance of the majestic Grand Central Station, featuring Judy Garland in her first dramatic non-singing role.

Other highlights include Larry Peerce's tense thriller **The Incident** (1967—Oct 3), featuring the late Ruby Dee, Beau Bridges, and Martin Sheen in his film debut as a hoodlum who holds a train hostage; John Schlesinger's **Midnight Cowboy** (1969—Sep 28), the first X-rated film to win the Oscar for Best Picture; John Badham's Brooklyn-set disco classic **Saturday Night Fever** (1977—Oct 4); Ray Enright's pre-Code musical **Dames** (1934—Sep 29; screening with Frank Kuenstler's **El Atlantis**), which showcases a kaleidoscopic, subway-set Busby Berkeley dance number; and Leslie Harris' **Just Another Girl on the I.R.T.** (1992—Sep 30) an "artfully stylized, explosively funny" (Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*) coming-of-age story set in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, which will feature Harris in person for a Q&A following the screening.

For press information, please contact:

Lisa Thomas *Publicist* | lthomas@BAM.org

Hannah Thomas *Publicity Assistant* | hthomas@BAM.org

Tel: 718.636.4129 | Fax: 718.857.2021 | press@BAM.org

Lisa Thomas at 718.724.8023 / lthomas@BAM.org
Hannah Thomas at 718.724.8002 / hthomas@bam.org

Retro Metro Schedule

Fri, Sep 26

3, 5, 7:30, 9:45pm: *The Warriors*

Sat, Sep 27

3, 7:30pm: *Style Wars*

5, 9:30pm: *Beat Street*

Sun, Sep 28

2, 7pm: *The Taking of Pelham One Two Three*

4:30, 9:30pm: *Midnight Cowboy*

Mon, Sep 29

7, 9:30pm: *Dames + El Atlantis*

Tue, Sep 30

8pm: *Just Another Girl on the I.R.T.* *

Wed, Oct 1

7, 9:15pm: *The Clock + The Wonder Ring*

Thu, Oct 2

7, 9:15pm: *On the Town + Daybreak Express*

Fri, Oct 3

2, 4:30, 9:15pm: *The Incident*

7pm: *Speedy* with live piano accompaniment

Sat, Oct 4

4:30, 7, 9:30pm: *Saturday Night Fever*

Sun, Oct 5

2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm: *The French Connection*

*Q&A with director Leslie Harris

Film Descriptions

All films in 35mm unless otherwise noted.

***El Atlantis* (1973) 21min**

Directed by Frank Kuenstler.

This experimental short by New York poet Frank Kuenstler features footage shot in the 1950s of the now-vanished Third Avenue El, set to a soundtrack of Kuenstler playing a toy piano. *Screens with Dames.*

Preserved by Anthology Film Archives. 16mm.

Mon, Sep 29 at 7, 9:30pm

***Beat Street* (1984) 106min**

Directed by Stan Lathan. With Guy Davis, Rae Dawn Chong, Jon Chardiet.

This awesomely 80s time capsule follows a group of Bronx-bred hip-hop heads, DJs, B-boys, and MTA graffitiists as they attempt to hit the big time, with a slew of musical performances by now-legendary acts like Afrika Bambaataa, Grandmaster Melle Mel & the Furious Five, Doug E. Fresh, Treacherous Three, and more.

Sat, Sep 27 at 5, 9:30pm

The Clock (1945) 90min

Directed by Vincente Minnelli. With Judy Garland, Robert Walker, James Gleason.

A young woman (Garland, in a rare dramatic performance) and a soldier (Walker) meet and fall in love while he's on 48-hour leave. Vincente Minnelli's tender, hopelessly charming love story—which abounds with trademark Manhattan locales, including a famous sequence in the subway—is given visual panache thanks to the director's typically inventive camerawork and set design. *Screens with The Wonder Ring.*

Wed, Oct 1 at 7, 9:15pm

Dames (1934) 91min

Directed by Ray Enright. With Ruby Keeler, Dick Powell, Joan Blondell.

This snappy pre-Code musical confection features kaleidoscopic dance numbers courtesy of native Hollywood surrealist Busby Berkeley, including the show-stopping “I Only Have Eyes for You,” wherein stars Ruby Keeler and Dick Powell ride the subway straight into a geometric acid-trip dream sequence involving hundreds of floating Keeler heads. *Screens with El Atlantis.*

Mon, Sep 29 at 7, 9:30pm

Daybreak Express (1953) 5min

Directed by D.A. Pennebaker.

Trailblazing documentarian Pennebaker's very first work was this jazzy chronicle of a ride aboard the Third Avenue El, snappily edited to the rhythms of the titular Duke Ellington track. *Screens with On the Town.*

Thu, Oct 2 at 7, 9:15pm

The French Connection (1971) 104min

Directed by William Friedkin. With Gene Hackman, Roy Scheider, Fernando Rey.

William Friedkin's gritty cat-and-mouse masterpiece is as tough as police thrillers come, with Gene Hackman and Roy Scheider as a pair of flawed yet dedicated cops out to intercept a huge heroin shipment arriving from France. Their pursuit of urban kingpin Alain Charnier (Rey) leads to one of the most spectacular car chase scenes (shot in Brooklyn, along 86th Street and Utrecht Avenue) ever filmed. *DCP.*

Sun, Oct 5 at 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30pm

The Incident (1967) 107min

Directed by Larry Peerce. With Tony Musante, Martin Sheen, Beau Bridges.

Fear rides the rails in this gritty Gotham nerve-shredder as two sadistic hooligans (Musante and Sheen, each making their film debut) terrorize the passengers (Ed McMahon, Ruby Dee, and Thelma Ritter among them) aboard a Bronx subway train. Steeped in the nihilism of New Hollywood, *The Incident* is a tense, edgy portrait of violence run amok in the urban jungle. *DCP.*

Fri, Oct 3 at 2, 4:30, 9:15pm

Just Another Girl on the I.R.T. (1992) 92min

Directed by Leslie Harris. With Ariyan A. Johnson, Kevin Thigpen, Ebony Jerido.

Brash 17-year-old Brooklynite Chantel (the commanding, charismatic Johnson) is a smart, sassy high-school student from the projects who's determined to go to college and become a doctor—until her plans get derailed. Leslie Harris' explosively entertaining indie drama—which won a Special Jury Prize at Sundance—is a groundbreaking, streetwise look at the experiences of inner-city black females.

Tue, Sep 30 at 8pm / Q&A with Leslie Harris

Midnight Cowboy (1969) 113min

Directed by John Schlesinger. With Dustin Hoffman, Jon Voight, Sylvia Miles.

Originally rated X, the heart of Schlesinger's film is not its time capsule capture of 1969 New York, but the oddly affecting relationship between Voigt (as a small-town boy looking to become a stud in the big city) and Hoffman (whose character's name, Ratso Rizzo, really says it all).

Sun, Sep 28 at 4:30, 9:30pm

On the Town (1949) 98min

Directed by Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly. With Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Jules Munshin.

Kelly, Sinatra, and Munshin light up the screen as three sailors in the Big Apple with a one-day pass to see everything. Set to a Comden and Green score, this love letter to grand old New York marks the film directing debut of theater director Donen and Kelly, who shot everything on location.

Thu, Oct 2 at 7, 9:15pm

Saturday Night Fever (1977) 118min

Dir. John Badham. With John Travolta, Karen Lynn Gorney, Barry Miller.

John Travolta discoed his way into pop-culture immortality as the white-suited Tony Manero, a Bay Ridge hardware store clerk who lives only for the thrill of the dance floor. Packed with Bee Gees hits and colorful 1970s Brooklyn character (including the then-graffiti-scrawled MTA), *Saturday Night Fever* captures both the glamour and grit of the disco era. *DCP.*

Sat, Oct 4 at 4:30, 7, 9:30pm

Speedy (1928) 85min

Directed by Ted Wilde. With Harold Lloyd.

This time capsule of 1920s New York is an amusement ride from beginning to end, with Harold Lloyd—whose athletic slapstick is in top-notch form—as the title character, a soda jerk turned cabbie fighting to save the city's last horse-drawn trolley from the evil forces of the mass transit monopoly. This silent masterpiece includes a sequence in which Speedy entertains his girlfriend in Coney Island—a mini-masterpiece of sight gags and slapstick—and be on the look out for a cameo by Babe Ruth!

Fri, Oct 3 at 7pm / *With live accompaniment*

Style Wars (1983) 69min

Directed by Tony Silver.

The essential record of 1980s street art, this trailblazing documentary captures graffiti legends like DONDI, Seen, and one-armed writer Case as they turn New York City and its subway system into a sprawling, spray-painted wonderland—much to the chagrin of irascible Mayor Koch. Winner of the documentary Grand Prize at Sundance, *Style Wars* captures the break-dancing battles, seminal music, and propulsive energy of hip-hop culture before it went mainstream. *HDCAM.*

Sat, Sep 27 at 3, 7:30pm

The Taking of Pelham One Two Three (1974) 104min

Directed by Joseph Sargent. With Walter Matthau, Robert Shaw, Martin Balsam.

It's a bad day at the office for crusty subway cop Lt. Garber (Matthau), when a trench coat-clad quartet of machine-gun wielding villains hold a downtown 6 train hostage for a million dollar ransom. Arguably the ultimate subway flick, this tense, blackly comic urban jungle thriller captures 70s-era Gotham in all its gritty glory.

Sun, Sep 28 at 2, 7pm

The Warriors (1979) 92min

Directed by Walter Hill. With Michael Beck, James Remar, Dorsey Wright.

"Can you dig it?" New York's subway tunnels become a labyrinthine maze of surreal ultraviolence as marauding gangs in splendiferously outrageous outfits—including neon-painted baseball uniform-wearing baddies—battle for control of the city. Action auteur Walter Hill's art-damaged cult classic fashions a gleamingly grimy, dystopian vision of New York full of dazzling nighttime imagery.

Fri, Sep 26 at 3, 5, 7:30, 9:45pm

The Wonder Ring (1955) 6min

Directed by Stan Brakhage.

Brakhage's kaleidoscopic short—commissioned by fellow avant-garde pioneer Joseph Cornell—is an impressionistic elegy for the Third Avenue El on the eve of its demolition. *Screens with The Clock. 16mm.*

Wed, Oct 1 at 7, 9:15pm

About BAMcinématek

The four-screen BAM Rose Cinemas (BRC) opened in 1998 to offer Brooklyn audiences alternative and independent films that might not play in the borough otherwise, making BAM the only performing arts center in the country with two mainstage theaters and a multiplex cinema. In July 1999, beginning with a series celebrating the work of Spike Lee, BAMcinématek was born as Brooklyn's only daily, year-round repertory film program. BAMcinématek presents 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 not only presented major retrospectives by major filmmakers such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Manoel de Oliveira, Shohei Imamura, Vincente Minnelli (winning a National Film Critics' Circle Award prize for the retrospective), Kaneto Shindo, Luchino Visconti, and William Friedkin, but it has also introduced New York audiences to contemporary artists such as Pedro Costa and Apichatpong Weerasethakul. In addition, BAMcinématek programmed the first US retrospectives of directors Arnaud Desplechin, Nicolas Winding Refn, Hong Sang-soo, and, most recently, Andrzej Zulawski. From 2006 to 2008, BAMcinématek partnered with the Sundance Institute and in June 2009 launched BAMcinemaFest, a 16-day festival of new independent films and repertory favorites with 15 NY feature film premieres; the sixth annual BAMcinemaFest ran from June 18—29, 2014.

Credits

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

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Pepsi is the official beverage of BAM.

Brooklyn Brewery is the preferred beer of BAMcinématek.

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BAMcinématek is programmed by Nellie Killian and David Reilly with assistance from Jesse Trussell. Additional programming by Ryan Werner.

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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.org.