BAMcinémathek presents *Overdue: James B. Harris*, a retrospective of the unsung director and Kubrick collaborator, Apr 1—6

Harris in person!

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

Brooklyn, NY/Mar 4, 2015—From Wednesday, April 1 through Monday, April 6, BAMcinémathek presents *Overdue: James B. Harris*. A film industry force for nearly six decades, multi-hyphenate James B. Harris has created a small but hugely impressive body of work as a producer, director, and screenwriter. Perhaps best known for the string of classics he produced for Stanley Kubrick, including *Lolita* and *Paths of Glory*, Harris’ directorial work is ripe for rediscovery and showcases a particular knack for intelligent, tough-as-nails crime thrillers. This retrospective is presented in partnership with *Overdue*, critics Nick Pinkerton and Nicolas Rapold’s ongoing series of unsung cinematic gems.

After selling his film distribution company to begin producing, Harris met a young Kubrick while playing chess in Washington Square Park and the two became fast friends. Impressed with Kubrick’s second feature, *Killer’s Kiss* (1955), Harris launched a creative partnership with the up-and-coming director that lasted for nearly a decade.

Calling Kubrick “the most intelligent, most creative person I have ever come in contact with,” Harris first collaborated with him on *The Killing* (1956—Apr 5 & 6), a noir heist film about a racetrack robbery gone awry. “Arguably Stanley Kubrick’s most perfectly conceived and executed film” (Jonathan Rosenbaum, *Chicago Reader*), it inspired Kirk Douglas to seek out Kubrick for his next project. Harris and Kubrick reached new heights with *Paths of Glory* (1957—Apr 4)—“the film by which Stanley Kubrick entered the ranks of great directors, never to leave them” (Roger Ebert)—a bleak depiction of World War I featuring one of Douglas’ most powerful performances, as a colonel forced to send his men on a suicide mission. Harris and Kubrick’s final film together was their adaptation of Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita* (1962—Apr 5), which used a unique, nested narrative structure that Harris conceived to recreate the classic.

After their string of successes, Kubrick told Harris “you’ll never know complete satisfaction until you’ve tried your hand at directing.” Harris made his directorial debut with *The Bedford Incident* (1965—Apr 3), a nail-biting, Cold War submarine thriller featuring Sidney Poitier and Richard Widmark, and went on to direct four more films. His twisted sophomore feature, *Some Call It Loving* (1973), opens the series in a new digital restoration, following a lecherous jazz musician who gets more than he bargained for when he buys a carnival sideshow’s Sleeping Beauty. Harris then elicited exhilarating performances from James Woods in both the prison drama *Fast-Walking* (1982—Apr 2), which boasts a score by the legendary Lalo Schifrin, and the frenzied noir *Cop* (1988—Apr 4), an adaptation of James Ellroy’s crime novel *Blood on the Moon*. Also screening is Don Siegel’s Cold War espionage drama *Telefon* (1977—Apr 6), starring Charles Bronson and produced by Harris.

Harris will appear in person for Q&As following the screenings of *Some Call It Loving* and *Cop*, and will introduce a screening of *Paths of Glory*.

For press information, please contact
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Overdue: James B. Harris Schedule

Wed, Apr 1
7:30pm*: Some Call it Loving

Thu, Apr 2
4:30, 7, 9:30pm: Fast-Walking

Fri, Apr 3
2, 4:30, 9:30pm: The Bedford Incident

Sat, Apr 4
2, 6:30pm*: Cop
4:30, 9:30pm**: Paths of Glory

Sun, Apr 5
2, 7:15, 9:15pm: The Killing
4pm: Lolita

Mon, Apr 6
4:30, 9:30pm: The Killing
7pm: Telefon

*Q&A with Harris
**Intro by Harris

Film Descriptions
All films directed by James B. Harris and in 35mm unless otherwise noted.

The Bedford Incident (1965) 102min
With Richard Widmark, Sidney Poitier, James MacArthur.
The war-hawk captain (Widmark) of an American submarine destroyer relentlessly pursues a Soviet vessel until the conflict threatens to escalate to nuclear warfare. The Bedford Incident contains shades of Dr. Strangelove, with Kubrick’s macabre humor replaced by a cold sweat of unrelenting tension that doesn’t let up until the jaw-dropping climax.
Fri, Apr 3 at 2, 4:30, 9:30pm

Cop (1988) 110min
A deranged cop (Woods) goes rogue to track down a serial killer in this crazily violent pulp crime thriller adapted by Harris from a James Ellroy novel. The story’s sleazy exploitation trappings are lifted up by Harris’ perverse humor, echoes of classic film noir, and Woods’ off-the-wall manic energy, which Roger Ebert said “makes Dirty Harry look cool and reflective.”
Sat, Apr 4 at 2, 6:30pm Q&A with Harris at 6:30pm

Fast-Walking (1982) 115min
With James Woods, Tim McIntire, Kay Lenz.
Harris’ third directorial effort stars James Woods as crooked pothead prison guard Frank Miniver (aka Fast-Walking), who lines his pockets with petty racketeering—but gets in over his head when he agrees to spring a Black Power activist from the clink. Sharply scripted by Harris, this gritty, darkly comic drama boasts a characteristically gonzo performance from Woods and a score by jazz great Lalo Schifrin (Mission: Impossible, Dirty Harry).
Thu, Apr 2 at 4:30, 7, 9:30pm
The Killing (1956) 85min
Harris and Kubrick kicked off their three-film winning streak with this ultra-tense heist film, in which a band of two-bit crooks pull an elaborate racetrack robbery—only to see their perfectly laid plan unravel after the job. Unfolding in an intricate flashback structure, this coolly ironic noir features hardboiled dialogue by Jim Thompson and memorable character turns by professional oddballs like Elisha Cook Jr. and Timothy Carey.
Sun, Apr 5 at 2, 7:15, 9:15pm
Mon, Apr 6 at 4:30, 9:30pm

Lolita (1962) 152min
Directed by Stanley Kubrick. With James Mason, Shelley Winters, Sue Lyon.
Kubrick offers up a deliciously twisted take on Vladimir Nabokov’s eyebrow-raising masterpiece, in which European academic Humbert Humbert (Mason) develops an infatuation with his landlady’s all-American 14-year-old daughter (Lyon). Harris’ final film as producer for Kubrick features a scene-stealing performance by Peter Sellers as the mysterious Clare Quilty.
Sun, Apr 5 at 4pm

Paths of Glory (1957) 88min
Kubrick’s classic is a brutal World War I combat film, explosive courtroom drama, and blistering antiwar statement, starring Douglas as a French colonel who stands up for three men facing execution for desertion during a doomed mission. With steely monochrome photography, bravura tracking shots through the trenches, and an unforgettable final sequence, Paths of Glory is arguably the apex of Kubrick and Harris’ partnership.
Sat, Apr 4 at 4:30, 9:30pm Intro by Harris at 9:30pm

Some Call it Loving (1973) 103min
With Zalman King, Carol White, Tisa Farrow.
In Harris’ dreamlike, erotic puzzle film, a melancholic jazz musician (King) purchases a real life Sleeping Beauty (Farrow) from a carnival sideshow and whisks her away to his Gothic pleasure palace. Adding to the strangeness, the inimitable Richard Pryor appears in a remarkably twitchy turn as a rambling junkie jazz cat. “Unmissable for anyone with an open mind and a sense of cinematic adventure” (Time Out London). DCP.
Wed, Apr 1 at 7:30pm Q&A with Harris

Telefon (1977) 102min
Directed by Don Siegel. With Charles Bronson, Donald Pleasence, Lee Remick.
In this pulse-pounding Cold War espionage thriller, produced by Harris, a Russian officer (Bronson) is dispatched to the US to thwart a rogue KGB operative (Pleasence) activating brainwashed sleeper agents to kill Americans. Action auteur Don Siegel injects plenty of snap, crackle, and pop into this twist-filled spy-versus-spy yarn.
Mon, Apr 6 at 7pm

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 seventh annual BAMcinemaFest runs from June 17—28, 2015.

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.

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 Gabriele Caroti and 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)

Train: D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue

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.