

Arisia 2007 Film Room Schedule

Many years ago, when dinosaurs roamed the earth and there were only three television channels, the film room was one of the big draws at a con and everyone packed in to see old favorite films. Today with home video and millions of television channels, people aren't quite as desperate. So we've tried to make an attempt to schedule movies that you won't see on television, and movies that have to be seen with a crowd of obsessed fen in order to get the whole effect, the kind of thing you won't get at home on television.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

V for Vendetta 4:00pm

Adapted from Allan Moore's graphic novel, this tells the story of a fascist government in a Britain of the future, and Evey Hammond's part in bringing it down with the help of V. It's dark and shadowy, part 1984 and part Batman. Visually stunning. *35mm Cinemascope, 132 min*

This feature will be preceded by the short subject **Christmas/Barney/Easter**, a set of three five-minute films involving a dystopian future described from a child's viewpoint. *16mm, 15 min.*

World, The Flesh, & the Devil 6:45pm

A 1960 Hugo Award Nominee, this movie shows a post-apocalyptic New York City with only three people remaining. Harry Belafonte's performance alone makes this a spectacular film. Seldom shown today because many perceive it as only an allegory about the sixties civil rights movement, it is really a film about social upheaval in general and how people behave when taken out of their familiar society. This was Belafonte's only SF film, and this showing may be your only chance to see it ever. *16mm B&W, 95 min.*

Preceded by **E.P.M.**, a short subject film exploring law enforcement technology in the not-so-distant future. This is more or less an example of Robocop technology, as adapted to a town like Mayberry. *16mm, 3 min.*

Space Angel 8:30pm

A curious product of the early 1960s, this is an animated children's television show employing Synchro-Vox, a process in which live action lips were rotoscoped onto still drawings. The plotlines and the artwork both owed a lot to the pulp SF styles of the day and were quite advanced for a kid's show of that era. We'll be showing one half-hour episode at random from an original archive print. With a surprise. *(46 min, 16mm Sakuracolor)*

Men into Space: Flareup 9:30pm

Rushed into production as rapidly as possible after Sputnik, this CBS television series took place in spacecraft, space stations, a moonbase, and in various locations around the solar system, thanks to amazing matte artwork by Chesley Bonestell. It went on the air with technical assistance from military and scientific space organizations which later were merged to form NASA, making it probably the first serious hard science fiction show on television and certainly the first aimed at adults. The episode we show is from the Hugo-nominated second season, first airing 8/17/60, starring William Lundigan as Col. Edward McCauley, and Werner Klemperer playing a Russian major. The print is in magnificent shape and just looks fabulous. *16mm B&W (Eastman Direct MP). 28 min.*

US-Soviet Space Mission 10:00pm

This is a 1974 film on the upcoming Apollo-Soyuz joint flight. Watch American astronauts trying to learn Russian while Marshall Titov visits Disneyland. We run this in memoriam for Vladimir Sergeevitch Syromatnikov, the designer of the docking systems, who died this past September. *16mm, approx 22 min.*

Voyage Dans la Lune 11:00pm

Astronomers in pointy hats visit the moon in a cannon-fired projectile loaded by bathing-suit-clad women. There they meet the unfriendly denizens of the moon and beat a hasty retreat. This 1902 **silent** film was made by Georges Melies and was the first special-effects-driven SF film ever made. Widely pirated when first released, it will be presented with organ accompaniment by Gary McGath. *16mm, 15 min*

Preceded by Mike Donahue's home movies of **LACON IV** with organ accompaniment. *16mm, Color by Magno, 4 min.*

The Tunnel 11:30pm

The Big Dig has nothing on these guys! This British 1934 film, written by Curt Siodmak, details the building of the undersea tunnel between London and New York. It takes place in a world of the future, with television, transatlantic autogyros and radium drills, and is really quite beautifully photographed with some excellent effects. The print we are showing is of rather poor quality but as far as we can tell it is the only one in the US and comes from an archive collection. If you enjoyed Things to Come, you'll find this film heavier on the human interest and lighter on the philosophy but still with impressive futuristic technology. An Arisia exclusive. *16mm B&W, 69 min*

SATURDAY MORNING

The Andromeda Strain 9:00am

A probe sent to gather microorganisms from outer space is very successful, putting the entire world at risk. The Wild-fire team is mobilized to investigate in this film by Michael Crichton. This is a classic from the days before Crichton started reworking his own material and is still remarkably relevant today. We have an archive print that is really quite magnificent-looking. *16mm Cinemascope, 131 min.*

Battle of the Planets 11:30am

Originally produced in 1972 as Science Ninja Team Gatchaman, this Japanese Anime program was re-edited for American consumption in 1978 to tell the story of five transmuted orphans and their guardian robot 7-Zark-7, fighting weekly against evil robot enemies sent by their nemesis, Zoltar. In this episode, Peaks of Planet Odin, they find themselves on a working vacation. *in 16mm, Color by Getty, approx. 26 min*

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Flaming Ears

noon

This 1992 Austrian underground film is a story of three women in a destroyed city in 2700, and was described at its premiere as an "Edgy cyberdyke fantasy." It's a story of pyromania, comic books, reptiles, and alien lovers, with many individual plot threads that come together only at the end. Or maybe not. You will not see this film shown anywhere else, and it is worth the viewing just for the edgy but perfectly-done setting. The San Francisco Weekly says, "Imagine the film that J.G. Ballard might have made if he'd been born an Austrian dyke." In German with subtitles. *16mm, 80 min.*

V for Vendetta

1:30pm

Adapted from Allan Moore's graphic novel, this tells the story of a fascist government in a Britain of the future, and Evey Hammond's part in bringing it down with the help of V. It's dark and shadowy, part 1984 and part Batman. Visually stunning. *35mm Cinemascope, 132 min*

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12 Monkeys

4:00pm

Terry Gilliam's nightmarish story of a time traveller, sent back to stop a bioterrorist attack, who is sent back six years earlier than intended and isn't taken seriously. This is a very dense and compacted story with a lot going on in a short period of time. Time travel has become almost a cliché but this movie makes it new and unique. *35mm, 129 min.*

Preceded by *Star Trek Bloopers Reel II*. This isn't the usual blooper reel that I know of; it was created by Allan Greenfield at NBC from various bits and pieces, and it's sort of fragmentary in overall appearance. This is a little throw-back to the sort of thing you might have seen in the film room thirty years back. Parts may not be suitable for children. **16mm, 6 min.**

Wargames

11:30pm

Teenage cracker uses his IMSAI to start the atomic destruction of the world. The Legion of Doom describes this film as "Puerile and offensive to hackers." Richard Stallman says, "I don't get my kicks from that sort of movie." Absolutely devoid of any redeeming content or even a tiny vestige of technical accuracy, this film provides a little nostalgic glimpse of a more naive world. This movie is presented in conjunction with the Institute for Very Bad Cinema. *35mm, 114 min.*

SUNDAY MORNING

The Tunnel

9:00am

The Big Dig has nothing on these guys! This British 1934 film, written by Curt Siodmak, details the building of the undersea tunnel between London and New York. It takes place in a world of the future, with television, transatlantic autogyros and radium drills, and is really quite beautifully photographed with some excellent effects. The print we are showing is of rather poor quality but as far as we can tell it is the only one in the US and comes from an archive collection. If you enjoyed *Things to Come*, you'll find this film heavier on the human interest and lighter on the philosophy but still with impressive futuristic technology. An Arisia exclusive. *16mm B&W, 69 min.*

Journey to Far Side of the Sun 10:30am

This 1969 live action film is written and produced by Gerry Anderson of Thunderbirds fame, and it has his trademark model effects. An international coalition of space scientists finds another planet orbiting the sun, and an expedition is formed to investigate. The effects and the plot are very sophisticated for 1969, and the ending is characteristically British. This film has not been shown in the US since its first release, and we have an amazing Technicolor print that has been in the archives for almost forty years. It is worth staying late at the con to see this film. *35mm Technicolor, 101 min.*

Audience Choice

12:30 PM

We will run any of the films listed for this weekend. You must arrive at 12:30 in order to cast your vote. Film will begin promptly at 12:45 after setup and preparation.