

# A light that cuts through the mud-black despair

by Azed Majeed

Wish there was a way to see all your fave flicks without sneaking a twenty out of your Mama's pocketbook? Well, I'm here to tell ya', there is a light which cuts through the muddy, black despair of movie-going: repertory cinema. The reps are the last bastion of cinephelia. Here in da city wid da big tower we have a number of alternatives to the pay-through-the-nose first run houses.

## The Bloor

Located in the fashionable Annex district of Toronto, The Bloor Cinema is legendary among all those who love movies.

### Pros:

- an excellent array of films;
- doesn't rely upon recent Hollywood blockbusters — also runs many foreign, rare and classic films.

### Cons:

- lots of blonde, blue-eyed guys with ponytails eating trail mix in the lobby.

## The Kingsway

Out of all of the rep cinemas this one is my personal favourite. The Kingsway is located on the outskirts of the city at 3030 Bloor West. The cinema is never packed.

### Pros:

- less annoying people;
- good films;
- you can go for a nice walk after the show;
- Bert and Ernie's cheap chicken wings are right down the street.

### Cons:

- a very long trip — it's rare you make it on time;
- endless deliberations about making such a lengthy trip for a measly movie;
- Bert and Ernie's cheap chicken wings are right down the street.

## The Revue

Located in the west end at 400 Roncesvalles, The Revue offers, without question, the best selection of films for the movie buff.

### Pros:

- excellent films;
- lots of foreign films and films which you meant to see years ago, but missed;

- great 'theme' double bills featuring back-to-back films from important filmmakers, such as Francois Truffaut (unlike First Choice double bills featuring two films starring Judd Nelson).

### Cons:

- the theatre has an odour similar to an Italian neighbourhood during wine-making season;
- seats rumoured to be designed by Josef Mengele.

## The Fox Beaches

Located in the picturesque Beaches neighbourhood of Toronto at 2236 Queen East, The Fox provides one of the most scenic pre- and post-cinematic experiences in the city.

### Pros:

- it's in The Beaches;
- it's usually quiet;
- the snack bar is on a severe

incline, like the villain's hide-out on the old *Batman* series starring Adam West.

### Cons:

- usually second-run Hollywood blockbuster feature films;
- not as many artsy or classic films;
- atmosphere in the theatre redefines any rational concept of dampness.

## The Cinematheque

Part of The Uptown theatre's Backstage on Balmuto street, The Cinematheque is for the serious filmgoer. These films are intellectually challenging, esoteric and usually excellent. The Cinematheque is not officially part of the repertory group; therefore the prices are higher for non-members.

### Pros:

- a central location;
- it's a small, quaint theatre with a large screen;
- The Uptown is right around the corner, which allows you to see a rapid, shallow piece of crap like *Pure Luck* to balance the heavy, arty film at The Cinematheque.

### Cons:

- an audience made up of mostly York film students;
- the remaining audience members are people who think they know a lot about film, yet were not accepted into the film program at York;
- waiting for long periods of time in a line-up with the aforementioned groups;
- blonde, blue-eyed guys with po-

nytails and Birkenstocks eating trail mix or cheese and crackers brought from home;

- I might be there.

## The Paradise

Located at the point where Bloor street stops being quaint, The Paradise is the latest theatre to join the repertory chain.

### Pros:

- a fairly decent selection of films;
- it's newly renovated.

### Cons:

- it used to be a porno theatre.

## The Nostalgic

Situated next to The Kingsway Theatre, The Nostalgic specializes in classic films from the early 1900s through to the 1950s.

### Pros:

- great old movies, some of which

are not often shown on television;

- right next to The Kingsway, so film maniacs can alternate.

### Cons:

- a tiny screen;
- a tiny theatre;
- in such small surroundings, enjoyment of films is limited due to numerous distractions — people breathing.

Some of the other venues for second-hand viewing are The Art Gallery of Ontario, which specializes in foreign film festivals and avant-garde cinema. For a variety of Canadian shorts and features, both narrative and documentary, check out The John Spotten Cinema, located in The National Film Board building on John st.

In conclusion, I would like to say... forchrissake, how many films can a person watch? Why don't you pick up a book once in a while!

## Here's the switch

The following theatres belong to the Festival chain of second-run movie houses:

The Bloor (506 Bloor Street West); phone: 532-6677

The Fox (2236 Queen Street East); phone: 691-7330

The Kingsway (3030 Bloor Street West); phone: 236-1411

The Paradise (1006 Bloor Street West); phone: 537-7040

The Revue (400 Roncesvalles); phone: 531-9959

Prices at Festival cinemas are: \$3.25 for members for regular screenings, \$6.50 for non-members; \$6.00 for members for premiere (first run) screenings; \$7.50 for non-members. On Tuesdays, shows are \$2.00 for members and \$3.50 for non-members. Memberships, which are good for one year, cost \$5.50.

The Nostalgic Cinema is affiliated with the Festival chain, but it has a different price structure. Admissions are: \$3.75 for members, seniors and children under 12; \$6.25 for all others. Annual memberships are \$5.50. The Nostalgic can be found next to The Kingsway at 3030 Bloor Street West; phone: 236-1411.

The Cinematheque is affiliated with the Festival of Festivals/Cinematheque. Its offices are at 70 Carlton street; screenings take place at the Backstage Cinema, 31 Balmuto Street. Films cost \$4 for members, \$5 for non-members and \$3.50 for students and seniors. Memberships range from \$25 to \$500. For more information, phone 923-3456.

## High Holy Day Services

at the Scott Religious Centre  
Moshe and Dan Ronen officiating  
Tickets:

Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur  
Students \$30, Faculty \$90  
Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur  
Student \$20, Faculty \$55

If you would like to sponsor a Kiddush for Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur, please call the JSF.

## Blue Jays Baseball

Join the JSF contingent when York students go to the dome for the Blue Jays game on Wednesday, September 11. Get your tickets from the JSF in advance. Meet at Wilson subway station at 6:30 pm. Game starts at 7:35.

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The JSF will hold its annual election for the Board of Directors on Wednesday, September 25, 1991 at 7pm in the Council Chambers, Room 313, York Student Centre. Nomination forms and rules are available from the JSF. Attention New Members: Registration of new members will take place in the JSF office until Wednesday, September 25, at 7 pm. Current members who are on the mailing list should go to the Council Chambers at 7 pm sharp. To verify if you are registered call Claire at the JSF.

## PRIVILEGE CARD

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... and more to come!

Students \$10/Staff, Community \$15

Card available to individuals only.

Visit our offices to get your card!

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