

Swiss Day at Daley Plaza

Calendar

“Fraulein”, Swiss film (English subtitles) by **Andrea Staka** at the Int. Summer Screening Series, Claudia Cassidy Theatre, Chicago Cultural Center. Wednesday July 23, 2008, at 6:30 pm. For more information, call 312-332-FILM or visit <http://www.chicagofilmfestival.org>. Free admission, audience discussion after the screening.

“Maria Bethânia: Musica e Perfume”, Swiss film (English subtitles) by **Georges Gachot** at Facets Cinematheque, 1517 N. Fullerton, Chicago. Friday, July 18, to Thursday, July 24, 2008. For screening times, call 773-281-4114 or visit www.facets.org.

“Youssef N’Dour: Return to Gorée”, Swiss film (English subtitles) by **Pierre-Yves Borgeaud** at Facets Cinematheque, 1517 N. Fullerton, Chicago. Friday, July 18, to Thursday, July 24, 2008. For screening times, call 773-281-4114 or visit www.facets.org.



Climate Trail



The third annual **Swiss Day at Daley Plaza** will showcase Switzerland on August 1st from 11am to 2 pm. This celebration on the Swiss National Day will include live entertainment, giveaways, the Climate Trail poster exhibition and the chance to learn more about Switzerland and local Swiss organizations. Daley Plaza will be transformed into a “Swiss Plaza” for this event.

Over the lunch hour, the **New Glarus Folklore Group** will take the stage again this year to demonstrate Swiss folklore such as yodeling, flag throwing, coin rolling and alphorn playing. The **Sam Burckhardt Quartet** with Swiss saxophonist Sam Burckhardt will play jazz, swing and blues tunes.

This year’s Swiss Day at Daley Plaza has a special feature: **the Climate Trail**. This exhibition was produced as part of the **ThinkSwiss** initiative and will invite visitors to explore colorful posters about climate change, scientific findings and solutions. The Climate Trail offers an interactive questionnaire and the chance to win t-shirts.

Two **Information Tents** will be part of Swiss Day at Daley Plaza. Volunteers will talk about the local Swiss organizations; sign up new members and answer questions about Switzerland as a tourist destination, business location and educational choice. Brochures, leaflets, and other Swiss-related material will be handed out.



All participating organizations will be introduced to the Daley Plaza audience. In a free drawing, one lucky visitor will be given a round-trip ticket to Switzerland for two offered by Swiss International Air Lines and two Swiss Passes offered by Switzerland Tourism. Swiss Day at Daley Plaza is organized by the Consulate General of Switzerland in collaboration with the Swiss-American Business Council (SABC), the Swiss Club of Chicago, the United Swiss Societies of Chicago, the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago and the Lucerne Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program. Swiss Mountain Water also contributes to this event.

Swiss Films in Chicago



Maria Bethânia

As part of the International Summer Screening Program, coordinated by Cinema/Chicago, the Consulate General of Switzerland will present the Swiss film **Das Fräulein** (English subtitles) at the Claudia Cassidy Theatre in the Chicago Cultural Center on July 23, 2008, at 6:30 pm. Directed by **Andrea Staka**, this feature film was awarded the Golden Leopard Award at the 2006 Locarno International Film Festival.

Das Fräulein is both an intimate portrait of three strong-minded women and an exploration of the consequences of people migrating across national, cultural and religious boundaries. Ruza left Serbia for Switzerland full of hope for a better life. Mila has lived in Switzerland with her family for decades, working hard with the dream of one day owning a home back in Croatia. The two women's daily lives are a succession of repetitive activities until twenty-something Ana arrives from Sarajevo and upsets their painstakingly organized world. Jan Lisa Huttner, manager of www.films42.com and columnist at JUF

Das Fräulein



News, will lead an audience discussion after the screening.

The Summer Screening Program 2008 features a number of international films presented by the countries collaborating in this program. Screenings are offered free of charge at Claudia Cassidy Theatre every Wednesday night until September 10.

Swiss films **Youssou N'Dour: Return to Gorée** and **Maria Bethânia: Musica e Perfume** will be shown at Facets Cinematheque from July 18 through July 24, 2008 (for more information, see Calendar or visit www.facets.org). Both films are presented by ArtMattan Productions New York.

The musical road movie, **Youssou N'Dour: Return to Gorée** (English and French with English subtitles) tells of Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour's historical journey following the trail left by slaves and by the jazz music they invented. Nominated for the Swiss Film Prize for Best documentary in 2008 this film by Swiss director **Pierre-Yves Borgeaud** is an uplifting and heartwarming documentary.

Maria Bethânia: Musica e Perfume (Portuguese with English subtitles) is a documentary about Maria Bethânia, a living musical legend whose earthy interpretations of Brazilian film music have inspired generations of fans and musical colleagues all over the world. Swiss-based film director **Georges Gachot** invites us to enter the universe of Maria Bethânia, giving us an insight into the intimate sphere of Maria Bethânia's creative process, and the history of Brazilian music.

Youssou N'Dour



Solartaxi

Swiss school teacher, Louis Palmer, has been making his way around the world in the **Solartaxi**, a completely solar-powered car. Palmer and his Solartaxi will be found at high visibility venues in Chicagoland, offering rides and information about the vehicle, trip and crew (details will be announced

separately when they become available.) For more information visit www.solartaxi.com.

As he makes his way through forty countries in five continents, Palmer is showing the world that there are replacements for fossil fuels that are viable, renewable and in use today. His car uses the energy provided by Q-Cell solar panels on its roof and trailer. The car can go up to 55 miles per hour and has experienced only minor technical difficulties (e.g. a flat tire) in the thousands of miles it has traveled thus far.

The Solartaxi was Palmer's dream, but it was made a reality with the help of Q-cells, Swisscom, Technopark, Zebra, Schindler, and Teacher Training University of Central Switzerland (PHZ) among others. Chicago events with the Solartaxi will be organized in part by the Consulate General of Switzerland with the support of Presence Switzerland.



Calendar

Swiss National Day Celebration at the Swiss Club of Chicago at American Legion Memorial Civic Center (Indoors & Outdoors), 6140 W. Dempster, Morton Grove, Illinois. Saturday, August 1, 2008, from 4 to 9 pm. For information, call 773-230-2048 or visit www.swissclubchicago.com.

Swiss Day at Daley Plaza: entertainment, information about Switzerland as a tourist destination, educational choice or science and business location. Friday, August 1, 2008.

Climate Trail: exhibition about climate change solutions at Swiss Day at Daley Plaza on Friday, August 1, 2008.

Untitled Sound Objects by Swiss Artists **Pe Lang** and **Zimoun** at Koscielak Gallery, 1646 N Bosworth Ave, Chicago. Opening reception on Friday, September 12, 2008. Exhibition all of September 2008. For more information, call 773-252-9921 or visit www.gosiakoscielak.com.

Swiss National Day at the Swiss Club of Chicago

The **Swiss Club of Chicago** will hold a **Swiss National Day Celebration** for the Chicago area at the American Legion Memorial Civic Center in Morton Grove, IL, on Saturday, August 2, 2008, from 4 to 9:00 pm. For more information, see Calendar or visit www.swissclubchicago.com.

Consul General Giambattista Mondada will be attending the celebration and address the audience on this special occasion. Swiss dance and folk

music, Swiss food, games and fun activities for children, including the much loved Lampion parade, will guarantee to make this celebration a special event for adults and children. Swiss National Day at the Swiss Club of Chicago is open to club members and the public. It is supported by the Consulate General of Switzerland, the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago and the United Swiss Societies of Chicago.

News from Lucerne

Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago

After four productive months of immersion in art, exploring Chicago, and meeting people, Gabi Kopp—illustrator and cartoon and comics artist—has gone back to Switzerland. She was succeeded at the Lucerne Artist Studio by **Brigitt Egloff** in early June. Egloff is the twenty-third artist from Lucerne to reside at the Lucerne Artist Studio since its inception in 2001.

Egloff is a lecturer in the School of Art and Design at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts. She has a diverse background that includes fashion design, photography and visual arts, which contributes to her multi-dimensional approach to visual media. Egloff's unusual use of photography and textiles gives her works depth. While in Chicago she will be further developing her artwork and network with the local art scene.

News from Lucerne continued

Chicago Artists in Lucerne

Three Chicago artists have been invited to explore the cultural landscape in the Lucerne area during the 2008 summer months. This invitation was made possible in part by the Lucerne Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities Program and a grant by the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago. **Lou Mallozzi** and **Sandra Binion** spent their grant time in Switzerland in June. Mallozzi is an audio artist in Chicago who works in live performance, music, radio art, sound installation, CD recording, soundtrack design, and visual art. He is Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Experimental Sound Studio and is on the faculty of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. While in Switzerland, he collaborated and performed with various artists such as violist Charlotte Hug and electronic musician Andreas Glauser. Binion, a visual artist active in the Chicago art scene, has shown her collections at The Art Institute of Chicago, International Center of Photography in New York and many other celebrated venues.

Paul Giallorenzo is currently spending time in Switzerland. Originally from New York, Giallorenzo is a Chicago-based improviser, composer, and sound designer who plays piano, synthesizer, and electronics in a wide variety of groups and contexts, ranging from jazz and improvised music to electro-acoustic/noise. Giallorenzo has played with Lucerne-based musicians in Chicago on various occasions. He has plans for collaborations in Lucerne and will explore new possibilities in the Swiss sound design and electronics scene.

Lucerne Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program

The Lucerne Committee welcomed a delegation from Lucerne, Switzerland, who visited Chicago in the first half of July to explore art and architecture. The Lucerne visitors had a tightly packed program. They were able to see many architectural highlights and immerse themselves in Chicago's art galleries. Mr. Urs W. Studer, Mayor of Lucerne, was part of the delegation and visited with Mr. Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago. The Lucerne Committee hosted a special reception for the Lucerne visitors on the 99th floor of the Sears Tower.

Member of the Lucerne Committee, **Sam Burckhardt**, was honored with the Swiss Blues Award at the Basel Blues Festival 2008. Burckhardt has been playing blues, swing and jazz since he was fourteen and sat in on drums for the blues pianist Eddie Boyde. He accompanied and was mentored by Sunnyland Slim, moving to Chicago to join the iconic Chicagoan's band. Since those early days, Burckhardt has developed a unique and noteworthy style of his own, something the Chicago Sun-Times described as "alive with sweet harmonies, wistful melodies, fetching arrangements and fresh slants." You can hear Burckhardt play with his quartet at Swiss Day in Daley Plaza at August 1st (see separate article).



Sam Burckhardt

Meanwhile in Lucerne

Lucerne hosted this year's Swiss Federal Yodel Fest from June 26 to 29 and set a new record with its three hundred and fifty thousand visitors. Yodelers from around the world—including a group from New Glarus, WI—converged on the city to celebrate traditional Swiss culture, often with a modern twist (also see www.jodlerfestluzern.ch.) Some of the New Glarus Yodelers will perform as the **New Glarus Folklore Group** at Swiss Day at Daley Plaza on August 1st (see separate article).

Chicago Symphony Orchestra European Tour

Lucerne is the third stop of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) on their 2008 European Tour. After playing in the Netherlands and England, the CSO will join the Lucerne Festival to play two performances on September 12 and 13. For more information, please visit www.lucernefestival.ch.

Swiss Artists Pe Lang and Zimoun at the Koscielak Gallery Chicago

Swiss-based artists Pe Lang and Zimoun will present their work, *Untitled Sound Objects*, at the Koscielak Gallery at 1646 N. Bosworth Ave, Chicago, from September 5 through September 30, 2008 (see Calendar and visit www.gosiakoscielak.com).

Pe Lang (b.1974) is a skilled electrician/artist and has produced art since 1997 both in Zurich, Switzerland, and abroad. Zimoun (b.1977) is a self-taught artist and makes his home in Berne, Switzerland, where he has worked as an artist since 2000. Since 2004 Zimoun and Pe Lang have worked together and exhibited their art and made performances across Europe and North America

and Singapore. More information on these two artists can be found at [/www.pelang.ch](http://www.pelang.ch), www.pelang.ch, and www.zimoun.ch.

At Koscielak Gallery in Chicago, Pe Lang and Simon present their work in conjunction with Susan Michod: *Paintings*. Michod is a Chicago-based artist who has extensively exhibited in major galleries and museums across the U.S. and abroad (for more information, visit www.susanmichod.com).

Pe Lang and Zimoun's exhibition at the Koscielak Gallery was made possible in part by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, Zurich, Switzerland.

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