

Swiss Films in Chicago

*Der Freund*

The 44th Chicago International Film Festival will feature two Swiss films in its New Director's Category: ***Der Freund*** (the Friend) by **Micha Lewinsky** and ***Du bruit dans la tête*** (the Noise in My Head) by **Vincent Pluss**. The festival will run from October 16 to 29, 2008, and feature 175 movies from 47 countries. For more information on the movies, screening times and venues, visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com.

Micha Lewinsky's film ***Der Freund*** (Swiss German, English subtitles) was voted Best Swiss Film 2008 earlier this year. It has been screened at the Shanghai International Film Festival, at the Munich Filmfest and the Locarno Film Festival. The film's protagonist Emil is an endearing but somewhat awkward student idolizing singer Larissa. After he had finally gotten to know her, she dies unexpectedly. Mistaken by Larissa's family as her trusted boy-friend, Emil tries to give them comfort and in turn finds a surrogate family. But things get complicated when Larissa's sister Nora shows up. ***Der Freund*** is as quirky and humorous a story as it is heartbreaking. Screenings on October 18, 22 and 23, 2008.

Du bruit dans la tête (French, English subtitles) by Vincent Pluss screened at the 2008 Montreal World Film Festival. In this film, Pluss takes us on a journey with Laura, a journalist in her mid-30s. She has just split up with her boyfriend and struggles with her professional life. A chance encounter brings her together with Simon, an 18-year old street seller in Geneva, and Laura offers him a place to stay. Filmmaker Pluss lets the audience into the protagonists' thoughts and emotions, revealing the need people have for intimacy. Screenings on October 19, 25 and 26, 2008.

The 25th Annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival (CICFF) is the largest film festival in North America dedicated to children's movies. It will run from October 23 to November 2, 2008, featuring over 200 films from 44 countries. Switzerland will be represented with two short films: ***City Wasp*** (6 min) co-directed by **Stephan Wicki** (Switzerland) and **Steven W. Tod** (United States) and ***Sainte Barbe*** (8 min) by Swiss-based **Cédric Louis** and **Claude Barras**.

Called ***City Wasp***, Peter roams Chicago streets with a unique hearing device and assembles an amazing urban orchestra. ***City Wasp*** will be shown on Friday, October 24, at Facets Cinema (for details, see Calendar or www.cicff.org).

Sainte Barbe is a tale about how the affection between a little bald boy and his bearded grandfather survives beyond death, especially if the boy is inspired by the old man's rebellious spirit. The screening will be on Friday, October 31, at Harold Washington Cultural Center (for details, see Calendar or visit www.cicff.org).

*Sainte Barbe*

SOFA Chicago 2008, the critically acclaimed Sculpture Objects & Functional Art Fair, from November 7 to 9, 2008, at Navy Pier's Festival Hall in Chicago lists in its program the first United States screening of **Verena Endtner's** documentary film ***The Gold Weaver***. It is a very personal portrait of Lucerne-based goldsmith and jewellery designer Lucie Heskett-Brem. The film will be shown on Friday, November 7, at 2:00 pm (also see Calendar). Swiss documentary film maker Endtner follows Heskett-Brem's international career and her extraordinary passion for art and life. In her film, Endtner gives testimony to the primordial power of melting gold and details the transformation of a gold bar into stunning jewelry.

*Du bruit dans la tête**City Wasp*

Lucie Heskett-Brem

*The Gold Weaver*

European Jazz Meets Chicago with Swiss Bassist Christian Weber



Christian Weber



Calendar

Der Freund (The Friend), Swiss film (Swiss German, English subtitles) by **Micha Lewinsky** at AMC, 600 N. Michigan Ave, Chicago. Saturday, October 18, 2008, at 1:30 pm. Wednesday, October 22, 2008, at 6:15 pm. Thursday, October 23, 2008, at 8:45 pm. For more information, visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com.

The Noise in My Head (Du bruit dans la tête), Swiss film (French, English subtitles) by **Vincent Pluss** at ACM, 600 N. Michigan Ave, Chicago. Sunday, October 19, 2008, at 3:30 pm. Saturday, October 25, 2008, at 3:00 pm. Sunday, October 26, 2008, at 5:45 pm. For more information, visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com.

Swiss bassist **Christian Weber** will be featured at the second edition of **European Jazz Meets Chicago** on Wednesday, November 5, at Claudia Cassidy Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center. Weber will open this one-day festival with Chicago-based musicians Caroline Davies, alto saxophone, Jeb Bishop, trombone, and Tim Daisy, drums.

Weber was born in Zurich, Switzerland, and studied music between 1993 and 1995 in Germany and Austria. He has regularly performed with *Sudden Infant*, *Die Weltraumforscher*, and *Day+Taxi* and played concerts with Jacques Demierre, Irène Schweizer, Elliott Sharp, Co Streiff, Raed Yassin and many others. He maintains a busy international performance schedule and has appeared at jazz festivals across Europe and beyond.

Weber's appearance at European Jazz Meets Chicago is part of his United States tour. He will also perform for the Umbrella Musical Festival at The Hideout on Saturday, November 8 (www.hideoutchicago.com). In Milwaukee, WI, he will play at the Woodland Pattern Book Center on November 2, 2008 (www.woodlandpattern.org) and at venues in Cincinnati, OH, and Minneapolis, MN.

European Jazz Meets Chicago is organized in cooperation with the Umbrella Music Festival, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and select European Consulates General and cultural institutes. See full program of European Jazz Meets Chicago below. For more information, see Calendar or visit

www.umbrellamusic.org
www.chicagoculturalcenter.org
www.goethe.de/chicago

The Swiss contribution to European Jazz Meets Chicago is made possible in part by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, and the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago.

European Jazz Meets Chicago Program on November 5, Free Admission:

6:00 pm: Christian Weber Quartet (Switzerland) in the Claudia Cassidy Theater
Christian Weber, bass; Caroline Davis, alto sax; Jeb Bishop, trombone; Tim Daisy, drums

6:45 pm: Elizabeth Harnik Group (Austria) in Preston-Bradley Hall
Elizabeth Harnik, piano; Taylor Ho Bynum, cornet; Jeff Parker, guitar

7:30 pm: Mikolaj Trzaska Trio (Poland) in the Claudia Cassidy Theater
Mikolaj Trzaska, reeds; Kent Kessler, bass; Michael Zerang, drums

8:15 pm: Schlippenbach / Lovens Duo (Germany) in Preston-Bradley Hall
Alexander von Schlippenbach, piano; Paul Lovens, drums

9:00 pm: Zu (Italy) in the Claudia Cassidy Theater
Luca Mai, baritone sax; Massimo Pupillo, electric bass; Jacopo Battaglia, drums

10:00 pm: Braam-de Joode-Vatcher (Netherlands) in the Randolph Street Café
Michiel Braam, piano; Wilbert De Joode, bass; Michael Vatcher, drums

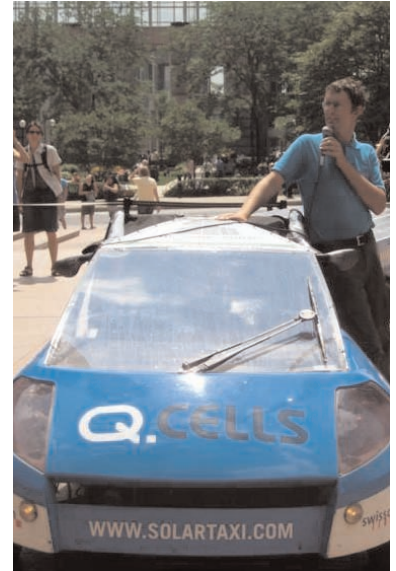
Solartaxi en Route in the Midwest

Calendar

City Wasp, Swiss live-action short film by **Stephan Wicki** and **Steven W. Tod** at Facets Cinema, 1517 West Fullerton Ave, Chicago. Friday, October 24, 2008, at 11:45 am. For more information, visit www.cicff.org.

Sainte Barbe, Swiss animated short film by **Cédric Louis** and **Claude Barras** at Harold Washington Cultural Center, 4701 S. King Drive, Chicago. Friday, October 31, 2008, at 9:45 am. For more information, visit www.cicff.org.

The Gold Weaver—Lucie Heskett-Brem. Swiss documentary film by **Verena Endtner** at SOFA 2008, Navy Pier Festival Hall, Chicago. Friday, November 7, 2008, at 2:00 pm. For more information, visit www.sofaexpo.com.



As announced in the last mosaic, Louis Palmer came with his **Solartaxi** through Chicago on August 18 and 19, 2008. The first Chicago stop was the world famous Sears Tower where numerous people gathered around the Solartaxi. Several local TV and radio stations were also present, giving Palmer the opportunity to explain his Solartaxi to a large viewing and listening audience.

A ride along Chicago's Michigan Avenue, a visit to the Computer and Engineering Department of the

Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and a meeting with officials of the City of Chicago offered the Solartaxi great exposure and Palmer most interesting discussion partners. At a special event at the residence of the Consul General of Switzerland, Palmer gave a detailed presentation about the Solartaxi and was able to interact with a sizeable audience interested in new technologies. Before Palmer drove on to Detroit, MI, he had a live appearance on ABC 7 News and was a guest on a local radio talk show.

Bank of America Chicago Marathon Swiss Cheering Station



As at previous Chicago marathons, under the auspices of the Consulate General of Switzerland, there will again be a **Swiss Cheering Station** at the **Bank of America Chicago Marathon** on Sunday, October 12, 2008.

The Swiss Cheering Station will be mid-course at **Mile 12.6 or K 20 on Franklin and Washington** (northeast corner). All supporters of the Swiss runners are invited to come to the cheering station at 9 am. Please bring Swiss flags, cow bells, Hopp Schwiz signs, etc. Swiss T-shirts will be provided.



News from Lucerne

Lucerne Artist Studio in Chicago

Brigitt Egloff's stay at the Lucerne Artist Studio ended late last month, and she has returned to Switzerland. She is followed by **Simone Dubler** and **Bettina Schaffner**. Both Dubler and Schaffner are graduates of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts and have worked with their cameras on joint projects. Under the signature **Tochtergesellschaft Dubler@Schaffner**, they are currently exhibiting "Mittsommer" at the Haus für Kunst Uri (www.hausfuerkunsturi.ch). In this project, they explore the rites and rituals surrounding the summer solstice in Scandinavia. Their residency will offer them the opportunity to explore the art scene in Chicago, develop new ideas, projects and make contacts to Chicago area artists.

This past August, **Claudia Bucher**, resident at the Lucerne Artist Studio in the fall 2005, returned to Chicago and staged the performance "*Will it make any difference?*" together with Chicago artist Rose Camastro-Pritchett at Caro d'Offay Gallery. Bucher already started to collaborate with Camastro-Pritchett during her residency. They also presented performances in Switzerland in the spring of 2007 while Camastro-Pritchett stayed in Lucerne on a grant offered by the Lucerne Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International Program and the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago.

Stephan Wicki resided at the Lucerne Artist Studio in the summer 2006. During his Chicago stay, he produced the short film **CITY WASP** with fellow artist Steven W. Tod. CITY WASP will be shown at the 25th Annual Chicago International Children's Film Festival (see Swiss films in Chicago.)

Calendar

Christian Weber, bass, at **European Jazz Meets Chicago** at the Chicago Cultural Center, Claudia Cassidy Theatre, 78 East Washington, Chicago. Wednesday, November 5, 2008, at 6:00 pm. Free Admission.

Christian Weber, bass, at **Umbrella Music Festival, Hide-Out**, 1354 W. Wabansia, Chicago. Saturday, November 8, 2008, at 9:00 pm. For more information, visit www.hideoutchicago.com.

Christian Weber, bass, at **Woodland Patter Book Center**, 720 East Locust, Milwaukee, WI. Sunday, November 2, 2008. For more information, visit www.woodlandpattern.org.

Swiss Cheering Station, Bank of America Chicago Marathon, Franklin & Washington (N/E corner) at Mile 12.6/K 20. Sunday, October 12, 2008, at 9:00 pm.



Mayors Urs. W. Studer and Richard M. Daley in Lucerne (Photo J. Heard)

Lucerne Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program

In September 2008 the Lucerne Committee helped organize a visit of **Mayor and Mrs. Richard M. Daley** to Lucerne, Switzerland, to mark the tenth anniversary of the sister city partnership between Lucerne and Chicago. It was Mayor Daley's first visit to Lucerne, and he was able to visit many important Lucerne sites and meet with people from various

sectors. Mayor Daley also visited with his counterpart in Lucerne, Mayor Urs W. Studer, and attended a concert by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which was on tour in Europe and performed at the world renowned Lucerne Festival. On his way to Lucerne, Mayor Daley made a brief stop in Zurich where he met his counterpart, Mayor Elmar Ledergerber, and briefly addressed the audience at a Podium Discussion at the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce.



mosaic

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