

AROUND *town*

Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival

Today-Sunday

Anthology Film Archives

32 Second Ave.; \$10

The eight documentaries, two feature films, seven short films and seven animated clips selected for this year's Bosnian-Herzegovinian Film Festival give a sample of what went on in the Balkans during wartime and how the new countries are recovering. For schedules, visit bhffnyc.org/program.htm.

Prix Jean Vigo: 'Trop de Bonheur' and 'Les Filles de Mon Pays'

Saturday, 2 p.m.

MoMA; 11 W. 53rd St.

212-708-9400, \$10

French teenagers can be as wild as Larry Clark's kids. These two films depict their sexual explorations and anxieties. "Trop de Bonheur" follows two couples in a small town in the south of France, while the short "Les Filles de Mon Pays" covers the evening misadventures of a fifteen-year-old vamp.



New York City Ballet

New York State Theater, Lincoln Center

Columbus Avenue and 63rd Street

212-870-5570; \$30-\$86

Only a few weeks remain in New York City Ballet's spring season. This time around the company will perform several of Balanchine's famed black and white ballets, including "Concerto Barocco" and "Duo Concertant"; classic full-length works like "Fancy Free" and "An American in Paris"; and elegies to New York including "N.Y. Export: Opus Jazz."

ANGELA FAJARDO

'Mongolian Ping Pong'

Three Mongolian kids discover a small white ball floating in a creek and it flips their world upside down. When they find out that the toy is actually the "national ball of China," the boys set off to return it to its owners. Opens Friday at ImaginAsian, 239 E. 59th St., \$9, 212-371-6682. METRO/AF



metro
WEEKEND, APRIL 21-23, 2006

15

Bicycle Film Festival

The sixth annual Bicycle Film Festival rolls into town with flicks that chronicle the pedal and wheel subculture. Highlights include "B.I.K.E." a portrait of the Black Level Bicycle Club in New York, "M.A.S.H. and Fun Bike Shorts," an intimate look at the fixed gear riding style in San Francisco and "Redbull Meanstreets," shorts by the best East Coast riders filming their greatest stunts. Anthology Film Archives, 32 Second Ave., 212-505-518, \$10.50. METRO/AF



12 metro
WEEKEND, MAY 12-14, 2006

'Viva Cuba!'

This "Amelie"-style fairy tale is a trip to the physical and political landscapes of Cuba through the eyes of two children who travel the island by various conveyances. It won this year's Cannes Junior Award. Playing at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday at IFC Center, 323 Sixth Ave., 212-924-777. METRO/AF

12 metro
WEEKEND, JUNE 2-4, 2006

Spinning March 2

Brazilian Girls

Genre: Trip-hop boss nova



COURTESY WISSELL IMAGE PR/BLAZE.COM

Not exactly a DJ or a band, Brazilian Girls define themselves as "A collective in which musicians, DJs, poets, painters and bon vivants exchange ideas." This time they bring their sophisticated electronic palette and the hip retro-future sound to a club setting. A percussive, Thievery Corporation-like sound delivers an element of suspense, a mix of sensual, roiling beats with lyrics in five different languages — German, French, Italian, Spanish, and English — that promise to make a hybrid-musical landscapes party jumping from chill tunes for cocktails to throbbing dance vibes.

Angela Fajardo

Warsaw

8pm, \$20 general admission
 261 Driggs Avenue

Spinning March 18

Ellen Allien

Genre: Techno



COURTESY HOPPER/PR.COM

In her search for "dance, space and lust for life," Berlin-born Ellen Allien spins brainy minimal that invites you to enjoy right here-right now in a sort of mystical, magic embrace. Her mixes combine pop and abstract sounds, deep and rough beats, and analogue instruments. Search for the fulfilling dance. Also playing live, Black Strobe and Sleeparchive.

Angela Fajardo

Avalon

\$15 advance/\$25 door
 47 W 20th St, at Sixth Ave

Living in the Umbrella House

From the outside the "Umbrella House" looks like just another gentrified, downtown building — clean brick facade, newly painted fire escape — but when you reach the first floor, you find drawings of little yellow umbrellas on the wall and a huge industrial metal door without a doorbell. This squatter house on Avenue C between 2nd and 3rd Street is one of the only survivors of the 1989 Tompkins Square Riot, when disagreement about the park curfew and the homeless lead to a battle between police and squatters. The confrontation led to a wave of evictions in the late 90s, putting an end to much of the LES squatter culture.

This six-floor building is home to 30 people. Two of them have been living there ever since it was first squatted in 1989. Another two were born and raised at the squat. Artists, writers, photographers, workers and students coming from China, Puerto Rico, United States, Eastern Europe, Portugal and Colombia are some of the current tenants, earning the nickname "UN house" for its ethnic diversity and community labor.

Ricardo Leon, a poet living in the third floor for 15 years, said that when they first moved in the building didn't have windows, floors or stairs. They got drinking water from the hydrants and peed in Coke bottles. Even though Loisada was still a typical big city slum, squatters' main fear was the police, so they kept a 24-hour guard and maintained radio communication with the other squatters' buildings nearby. The empty spaces were assigned based on a six-month trial period where "house guests" participated in weekly community activities.

Tired of the battles with police, the tenants association joined an urban housing advocacy group and got legal tenancy in 2002. The squatters now pay a maintenance fee to keep the 115-year-old building running and to cope with the loans for mandatory renovations. The building is still under construction and they are not allowed to take any more people — so you're still going to have to try to make rent this month.

Angela Fajardo