

## Mid Century Oregon Genius, a four part film + speaker screening series

### Description of program activities

#### Part One

Mid Century Oregon Genius: JAMES + JAMES, OCT 10 & 11, 2014

Oct. 10, 7:00 PM James Ivory participated in a Q & A following MAURICE. Ticket sales: \$1,493.00.

Oct. 11, 10:30 AM James Ivory introduced AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A PRINCESS and took questions in a Q & A. Ticket sales: \$156.

Oct. 11, 1:30 PM Richard Blue and James Dormeyer introduced THE OLIVE TREES OF JUSTICE Ticket sales: \$201.

Oct. 11, 3:00 PM Panel discussion including Richard Blue, James Dormeyer, and Gill Dennis. Free.

#### Part Two

Mid Century Oregon Genius: HARRY + HOMER, Jan. 16 & 17, 2015

Jan. 15, 7:00 PM SOLD OUT Dennis Nyback introduced HEAVEN AND EARTH MAGIC. Panel discussion included Dennis Nyback, Eric Isaacson, and Chuck Pirtle. Ticket sales: \$935.

Who Makes Pop? Jan. 17, 3:00 PM

Richard Blakeslee spoke about independent filmmaking in the 1970s in Portland. Anne Richardson spoke about the roots of Portland's independent film scene in the silent era. Free.

Jan. 16 7:00 PM SOLD OUT Bill Plympton introduced SELECTED SHORT FILMS OF HOMER GROENING. Lisa Groening and Matt Groening introduced the films they selected. Lisa Groening led a panel discussion with Bill Plympton, Matt Groening, Tom Schrader and Ted Mahar. Ticket sales: \$3,869.00.

### Description of events that have had a significant effect on the project

James Ivory, the Blue family, and the Groening family provided films, waived rental fees, and helped shape programming. They brought their personal insights to the table, and I was honored to work with them.

While the donation of the labor of James Ivory, Richard Blue, Lisa Groening and Matt Groening hugely elevated the quality of the series, it also greatly expanded the administrative work required to coordinate our shared efforts. The event which had the most significant effect on the project was the enthusiastic involvement of the above group. They made immeasurable improvements to the events they helped create.

### Evaluation of the project to date

For any future event of this type I would devote attention to pre-selling blocks of tickets to colleges. This approach would kill three birds with one stone. Sell tickets, expose students to film history, build alliances with film department and history department faculty members.

### Discussion of the degree to which project objectives were achieved

The project's primary objective was to raise awareness of one chapter in Oregon film history. A secondary objective was to gather oral histories. A third objective was to screen rarely seen films to increase both popular enjoyment of and scholarly understanding of Oregon film history. A fourth objective was to build a network of relationships, and demonstrate the potential for working together.

It has always been my goal to use living artists and writers as interpreters of Oregon's rich film, animation and cartooning history. The Mid Century Oregon Genius series provided ample opportunity for this. James Ivory knew James Blue. Bill Plympton, Walt Dimick, and Richard Blakeslee knew Homer Groening. They wanted to share what they knew. So did Lisa and Matt Groening. We kept the focus off celebrity and on history.

"Anne is really interested in promoting the fact that Oregon has some creative indie filmmakers," says Lisa Groening, Homer's daughter. "Dad is just one of the people in the group. And that group represents artistic expression that took place in Oregon. If it was less than that [the family] wouldn't be interested." Oregonian, January 15, 2015

The Mid Century Oregon Genius screening series fulfilled every objective. The Hollywood Theatre, Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission, James and Richard Blue Foundation and MovieMaker Magazine worked together with Oregon Movies, A to Z to bring a four part screening series to the public. A set of online newspaper articles now reference James Ivory, James Blue and Homer Groening as Oregon filmmakers. I was able to get oral histories from James Ivory and Richard Blue. I was able to tap a network of living artists to help me interpret the history, and I was able to tap the families of the artists we are celebrating to provide ultra rare films.

I would love to develop this model of public history/arts education, and to work again with a network of Oregon artists to bring film, animation and cartooning history to Oregon audiences.

#### Full financial accounting of the expenditure of the grant

##### Income:

5,000 Kinsman Foundation  
8,000 Miller Foundation  
720 James and Richard Blue Foundation  
5,750 ticket sales

Total Mid Century Oregon Genius income: \$19,470

##### Expenses

3,400 Speaker fees  
2,468 Airfare  
821 Hotel  
158 Film rentals  
2,875 Hollywood Theatre rental  
6,000 Anne Richardson's salary (June 2014 -Jan 2015)  
1,150 Josh Winsor, graphic designer/videographer  
921 Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission/admin  
508 Lunch for panelists, guest speakers, volunteers  
335 Printing

Total Mid Century Oregon Genius expenses: \$18,626