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## Cinematique shows award-winning films

JESSY BERKOWITZ AND  
MEGAN O'BRIEN

### THE SEAHAWK

Thalian Hall's Cinematique film series shows award-winning films Mondays and Wednesdays.

The program started in 1992 when public radio station WHQR and St. John's Museum of Art decided to give Wilmington audiences the chance to see quality films not usually seen in the area.

The films were originally shown at College Road Cinemas, but moved to Thalian Hall in 1996.

"We are a historic theater that likes to stay busy and provide a broad range of events for our audience," Thalian's administrative office manager Stacy Edmunds said. "[Cinematique] is a nice, old-fashioned movie house experience; it's not the usual cookie-cutter theater with 16 or 20 screens."

Though Wilmington does not have an independent theater, the purpose of Cinematique is not simply to show independent films.

"Occasionally, Cinematique will play movies made by local artists," said George Scheibner, operations manager at WHQR. "But that's not really the purpose behind Cinematique."

The series focuses on showing award-winning films that would not necessarily be shown in the major theaters.

"Lately, those have been put out by smaller companies," Edmunds said, "but that is not always the case."

The films include, but are not limited to, independent and foreign films. They are picked by a committee of five or six people that meets every two weeks and discusses what films they would like to show.

Edmunds said that this summer's series was very successful, especially Fox Searchlight's "Boys Don't Cry," starring Hilary Swank.

By far the most successful film ever shown by Cinematique was Miramax's "The English Patient." So many people wanted tickets that the local news aired a story on the line, which poured out of Thalian Hall every night.

Among upcoming films, Edmunds expects "But I'm a Cheerleader" to have strong sales.

The next show is "Trixie," which airs Sept. 4-6, then "Croupier" Sept. 19-20 and "But I'm a Cheerleader" Sept. 25-27.

Thalian opened in 1585, making it one of the oldest continuously active theaters in the country. It was originally intended to serve Wilmington as the city hall and local theater, and it provides the same services today. Over 250 productions a year are performed there, by local and international groups.



Even if you aren't interested in the movies shown at Thalian Hall, a visit might be in order just to appreciate the beauty of the theatre, which was built in 1858.

Photo by  
James Flint/  
The Seahawk