

Also recommended



Musicwood

Directed by Maxine Trump
2012, 80 minutes
Purchase: \$350 / Classroom Rental: \$125


For hundreds of years, the acoustic guitar has been made from the same species of Spruce. Today, due to an extreme logging practice known as clear-cutting, this tree is in danger of disappearing—and with it, the acoustic guitar.

“Riveting... celebrates the legacy of the acoustic guitar and chronicles the ongoing fight to save it.” —EcoWatch

Puppet

Directed by David Soll
2007, 52 minutes
Purchase: \$310 / Classroom Rental: \$125

Centered around the development and staging of a complex work of modern puppet theater, this illuminating documentary offers a look at the fascinating history of American puppetry—its cultural roots and influence—as well as its current renaissance.

 **“HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. A fascinating, thought-provoking film, with top notch production values and a good balance between showcasing the art, and a discussion of the process and ideas around it.”**

—Educational Media Reviews Online

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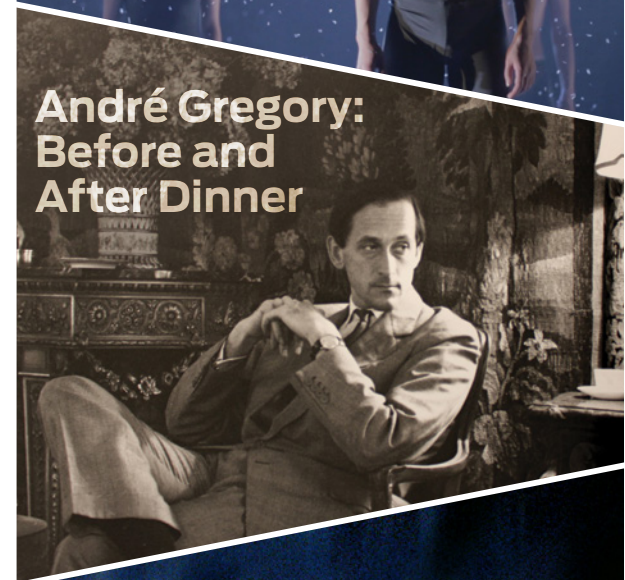
 THE CINEMA GUILD

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BAM150



André Gregory: Before and After Dinner



Becoming Traviata



2013 Performing Arts Collection

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BAM150

Directed by Michael Sládek

2012, 86 minutes

Purchase: \$310 / Classroom Rental: \$125

A captivating history of the nation's oldest performing arts center, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, which mirrors the evolution of dance and theater in 20th century America. This enthralling documentary includes footage of performances, interviews with legendary directors and cultural icons, and an astonishing treasure trove of 150 years worth of archival materials.

Features interviews with Laurie Anderson, Peter Brook, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Chuck Davis, William Forsythe, Phillip Lopate, Meredith Monk, Mark Morris, Steve Reich, Alan Rickman, Isabella Rossellini, Robert Wilson, historian Mike Wallace, Wim Wenders, and more.

André Gregory: Before and After Dinner

Directed by Cindy Kleine

2012, 108 minutes

DVD includes deleted scenes and outtakes

Purchase: \$350 / Classroom Rental: \$125

A wonderful exploration of the life and work of groundbreaking director, actor and artist André Gregory. A witty and often hilariously funny raconteur, Gregory looks back on a career that spanned decades, shattered boundaries and established him as a cultural icon. He recalls the making of *My Dinner with André*, the Louis Malle-directed classic in which he starred and co-wrote, reflects on his pivotal role in American theatre, dishes on his brief sojourn in Hollywood, and talks about the discovery that led him to question his own identity and life's work. Bringing us back and forth in time, Gregory looks not only at his life, but at the nature of art, love and the creative process.

✓ Critics' Picks

"An indelible, gripping documentary portrait... feels almost like a sequel to *My Dinner With André*. Mr. Gregory is a spellbinding raconteur."

—*The New York Times*

"Gregory is a provocative thinker, and vigorous and vital presence, as witnessed in clips of his groundbreaking theatre work, interactions with acting students, and artistic endeavors. The film reminds viewers that artists are works in progress." —*Booklist*

★★★★ "Highly Recommended." —*Video Librarian*



Becoming Traviata

Directed by Philippe Béziat

2012, 112 minutes

Purchase: \$350 / Classroom Rental: \$125

An absorbing behind-the-scenes look at the staging of a major operatic production, Verdi's masterpiece "La Traviata," starring world-famous French coloratura soprano Natalie Dessay and directed by the celebrated Jean-François Sivadier.

Over two months, filmmaker Philippe Béziat follows the production's development from opening rehearsals to glorious realization with music performed by the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Louis Langrée.

Becoming Traviata captures key dramatic and intimate moments as Sivadier and his diva invent, and then re-invent their Violetta. The film transcends the traditional behind-the-scenes documentary and shines light on a question essential to the performing arts: "How does one become a character?"

"Dressed in workout-style clothes that emphasize the hard, physical work of rehearsal, and wearing minimal makeup, Ms. Dessay... lets the camera observe her closely... For an opera star, for any kind of star, it's remarkably unvain and oddly endearing."

—*The New York Times*

"An exquisitely observed look at performance and the creative process."

—*The Los Angeles Times*

"A spare and ravishing doc." —*The Village Voice*