

MOVIE

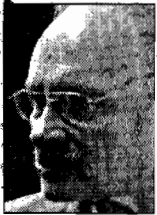
mojo

REVEALING ITEMS FROM AN EXHIBITIONISTIC INDUSTRY

By BOB LONGINO / blongino@ajc.com

King of 'cheesy' short films set to visit

If you were high-camp director **John Waters**, you would worship the over-the-top short films of **George Kuchar** for their incessant pastiche, thrilling imagery and bombastic drama.



Kuchar

Just taste a few of Kuchar's 214 titles: "**Nectar of the Neophytes**," "**I was a Teenage Rumpot**" and "**Hold Me While I'm Naked**."

Kuchar, 65, who built his legend in the underground film movement in the era of **Andy Warhol**, is coming to Atlanta next week for a series of events where portions of his prolific work will be screened.

And what is it Baltimore's Waters says of him? "I decided to make movies after I saw his early movies," Waters is quoted as saying on the DVD for Kuchar's short-film collection "Color Me Lurid." "George Kuchar made 'cheesy' an art form."

Kuchar will appear in person Thursday and March 21 at, respectively, Emory University and downtown's Eyedrum where selections of his works will be screened. Preceding those will be a Tuesday lecture (8 p.m., Emory's 206 White Hall) by **Gene Youngblood** that includes film clips.

Thursday's program (8 p.m., Emory's 101 White Hall) focuses on Kuchar's fascination with weather. Included is the six-minute "**Wild Night in El Reno**" (1977) with its often fascinating images of harsh winds and lightning strikes outside a motel in Oklahoma.

Friday's program (8 p.m., Eyedrum, 290 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 8) involves eight early classics, including the outlandish, 15-minute "**Hold Me While I'm Naked**" (1965).

Its free-flowing outrageousness involves a film director (Kuchar) who consistently requests his actresses to disrobe. The film bursts with colored wigs, pop art and overly dramatic piano riffs.

And humor, too.

Kuchar explains to his busty actress he's thinking about the next day's shoot in which perhaps she'll be "found naked in a fallout shelter and [have] those radioactive welts on your thigh."

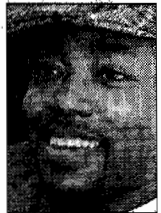
You can just imagine hearing Waters laughing all the way from Baltimore.

TO SEE OR NOT TO SEE "PATHOLOGY": If plans hold, MGM'S "**Pathology**," in which medical students play a gory "perfect murder" game, won't be pre-screened for critics before its April release.

You might wonder why.

Mojo believes the R rating description speaks volumes: "disturbing and perverse behavior throughout, including violence, gruesome images, strong sexual content, nudity, drug use and language."

THE NEXT RAINFOREST FILM: Atlanta-based producer **Will Packer** and his Rainforest Films are preparing to shoot the thriller "**Obsessed**" with **Beyonce Knowles**, **All Larter** and **Idris Elba** for 2009. Filming is expected to begin May 5 in Los Angeles.



Packer

Packer, like many local filmmakers and others, is watching the progress of a revised Georgia entertainment tax incentive bill passed unanimously in the state House last week and under consideration in the state Senate.

It basically ups tax credits from 9 percent to 30 percent for productions that spend more than \$500,000 in Georgia and include a qualified promotion of the state.

Packer says the revision could allow him to bring his planned production of an urban remake of "**The Big Chill**" to Georgia this fall.

Meanwhile, Packer and his Rainforest partner **Rob Hardy** are being featured on Sunday's "**Our World With Black Enterprise**" at 1 p.m. on TV One.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: This year's ultrasuccessful **Atlanta Jewish Film Festival** has scheduled repeat screenings for its audience award winners. The fest's best documentary — "**I Have Never Forgotten You**," featuring Nazi hunter **Simon Wiesenthal** — and its best narrative — "**Nina's Journey**," a World War II drama about a woman making her way from Nazi-occupied Poland to Sweden — will screen at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively, on March 30 at Atlantic Station. Tickets: \$9 per screening. www.ajff.org.