



RUTH SOKOLOF THEATER  
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FILMSTREAMS.ORG

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Feature 2009

A FILM STREAMS EVENT

*Acclaimed actress and special guest **DEBRA WINGER** to take center stage  
with Oscar-winner and Film Streams Board Member **ALEXANDER PAYNE**  
in support of Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater*

**Omaha, Nebraska**—Film Streams is thrilled to announce that three-time Academy Award nominee **Debra Winger** will be the special guest for **Feature 2009**, the second annual fundraiser celebration in support of the nonprofit's Ruth Sokolof Theater.

On Sunday, September 13, 2009, Ms. Winger will join Oscar-winning filmmaker and Film Streams Board Member **Alexander Payne** on stage at the Holland Performing Arts Center for a special conversation about her life and career. The program will begin in the Peter Kiewit Concert Hall, with a reception following. Event Chairpersons for Feature 2009 are Paul and Annette Smith.

From her stunning breakthrough in 1980's **URBAN COWBOY** to her critically acclaimed role in 2008's **RACHEL GETTING MARRIED**, Ms. Winger has long been acknowledged as one of the screen's finest actresses. She has appeared in more than 20 films and received three Academy Award nominations for her outstanding performances in **AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN** (1982), **TERMS OF ENDEARMENT** (1983)—which she filmed in Nebraska—and **SHADOWLANDS** (1993). In 2001, she produced and co-starred in **BIG BAD LOVE**, which her husband Arliss Howard wrote, directed and starred in. Other notable credits include **CANNERY ROW** (1982), **MIKE'S MURDER** (1984), **THE SHELTERING SKY** (1990), and **A DANGEROUS WOMAN** (1993).

Most recently, Ms. Winger received widespread praise and an Independent Spirit Award nomination for her standout performance in director Jonathan Demme's **RACHEL GETTING MARRIED**. In 2008, she also published her debut book, **undiscovered** (Simon & Schuster), a collection of deeply personal essays reflecting on life. Ms. Winger is an activist for such causes as Sight Savers International, an organization working to eradicate blindness in the world's poorest countries, and Hand In Hand, a multi-lingual co-educational school in the Middle East that allows Arab and Jewish children to learn together.

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“We are so honored to have Debra as our special guest for Feature 2009, and to have Alexander’s incredible involvement once again,” said Film Streams Founder and Director Rachel Jacobson. “Their understanding and support of Film Streams’ mission, and their mutual passion and appreciation for film as an art form, means so much to our organization. Debra and Alexander are also both brilliant and fearless artists, which should bring about a pretty spectacular conversation.”

Tickets for the event will go on sale in July, with more ticketing information to be announced in the coming weeks.

All proceeds from the event will support Film Streams, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural environment of the Omaha-Council Bluffs area through the presentation and discussion of film as an art form.

For questions about Feature 2009, please contact Casey Logan at (402) 933-0259 ext. 11 or [casey@filmstreams.org](mailto:casey@filmstreams.org).

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## FILM STREAMS BACKGROUND

Film Streams is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the cultural environment of the Omaha-Council Bluffs area through the presentation and discussion of film as an art form. In July 2007, we opened the Ruth Sokolof Theater, our two-screen cinema located at the corner of 14th & Webster within the Saddle Creek Records complex north of downtown Omaha. Our theater’s grand opening included a month-long series curated by Omaha native and Film Streams Board member Alexander Payne.

Designed to serve both the passionate cineaste and casual filmgoer, our cinema hosts four principal programs: (1) **First Run Films:** American independents, documentaries, and foreign films making their theatrical premiere in the region; (2) **Repertory Selections:** Classic films, themed series, and director retrospectives celebrating the entire history of cinema; (3) **Arts in Education:** A film history and criticism program for area high school students, including daytime screenings for classes and a free after-school program with post-show dialogues led by teaching artists and guest lecturers; and (4) **Community Development:** Lectures, forums, Q&A sessions with film professionals, partnerships with other nonprofits and community groups on film-based events, special one-time screenings for area filmmakers, and other activities that engage the public in a continuous dialogue about film and contribute to a vibrant local arts community.

In July 2008, Film Streams hosted our first annual fundraiser, Feature 2008, which brought more than 1,000 people to the Holland Performing Arts Center for a conversation between Oscar-winning filmmaker Alexander Payne and acclaimed actress Laura Dern.

As a nonprofit committed to screening films based on their creative, artistic and social merits, Film Streams depends on the support of our membership program, individual donors, grants from foundations, corporations and government organizations, and community volunteers.

For more information, please visit us online at [www.filmstreams.org](http://www.filmstreams.org).

