



Photo Credit: PAPAZZIBYAPPOINTMENT.COM

Steven Soderbergh, Kurt Andersen and Alexander Payne help raise more than \$217,000 for Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater

Omaha, Nebraska (2/24/2011) – A gala celebration last Sunday featuring Academy Award-winning filmmakers Steven Soderbergh and Alexander Payne and Peabody Award-winning journalist Kurt Andersen raised more than \$217,000 for Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater, Omaha's nonprofit cinema.

The event, Film Streams' *Feature III*, featured a conversation with Soderbergh about his prolific and diverse filmmaking career (including *Traffic*, *Erin Brockovich*, *Sex, Lies, and Videotape*, *Out of Sight*, the *Ocean's Eleven* series), as well as reports of his impending retirement. Andersen, the host of the Peabody Award-winning radio program *Studio 360*, conducted the interview following introductions by Oscar-winning writer-director Alexander Payne (*Sideways*, *About Schmidt*, *Election*, *Citizen Ruth*).

Both Payne and Andersen are Omaha natives and Film Streams board members.

The fundraiser was the third such event since Film Streams opened the Ruth Sokolof Theater in 2007. Previous special guests include Laura Dern in 2008 and Debra Winger in 2009. Proceeds from *Feature III* support Film Streams' year-round programming, including the presentation of new American independents, foreign films, documentaries, classics, director retrospectives and themed series, as well as an arts education program for students and a unique Community Development program that facilitates film-based collaborations with other nonprofits and community groups in and around Omaha.

Please see the following pages for more details about the event, including the *Feature III* Event Chairs, Gold and Silver Host supporters, and quotes from the program.

For more information or high resolution event images, please contact Casey Logan, (402) 933-0259 ext. 11 or casey@filmstreams.org.

Feature III

IN SUPPORT OF FILM STREAMS' RUTH SOKOLOF THEATER

An Evening with Academy Award-winning Director Steven Soderbergh

Interview by **Kurt Andersen**,
with an Introduction by **Alexander Payne**.

.....

WHEN: Sunday, February 20, 2011

WHERE: Holland Performing Arts Center, Omaha, Nebraska

EVENT CHAIRS: The Weitz Family: Barbara & Wally Weitz,
Katie Weitz White & Watie White, Kate & Roger Weitz, Meredith & Drew Weitz

GOLD HOSTS: Nancy & David Jacobson · Eve & Fred Simon/Betiana & Todd Simon ·
Annette & Paul G. Smith · The Sokolof/Javitch Family · Barbara & Wally Weitz ·
Katie Weitz White & Watie White

SILVER HOSTS: Avenue Scholars Foundation · Sue, Chris & Madeleine Behr ·
Bluestem Prairie Foundation, Kutak Rock LLP · Susan & Mike Lebens ·
Maggie & Robert E. (Bob) Mundy · Mark Hoeger/Andy Anderson/Thompson H.
Rogers/Oberon Motion Communications · Nancy & Joel Schlessinger · Valmont
Industries, Inc. · Brenda & Michael Whealy

TICKETS SOLD: 1,603 **FUNDS RAISED:** \$217,000 (gross)

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 & Mike Fahey Street in North Downtown Omaha.

More information at www.filmstreams.org.

-CONTINUED-

FEATURE III QUOTES

Rachel Jacobson

(Film Streams Founder & Executive Director):

"This night is special. It's special for Omaha, and it would be special anywhere. Your presence and the amazing turnout this evening is an inspiring show of support for what Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater is. We are more than a movie theater. Like our fellow cultural organizations working to make Omaha great, we are both defined by our community and we help to define it. Someday I hope that nonprofit, mission-based filmhouses will be available in cities of all sizes, just like a public library or museum. For the time being, thanks to all of you, Omaha is ahead of the curve."



Katie Weitz White

(Event Chair & Film Streams Board Member):

"I can't tell you how excited and proud our family is to be hosting FEATURE III tonight. Thank you so much for being here, whether you are a Film Streams regular member, or have not yet been to Film Streams, it is incredible to see so many people here to celebrate film as an art form and to support the work and mission of Film Streams."



Alexander Payne (Introducing Steven Soderbergh):

"I first met Steven in 1989, on a sound mixing stage, when he was finalizing *Sex, Lies, and Videotape* before its commercial release, and I was beginning the sound mix for my UCLA thesis film. We became friends years later, and as his friend I can tell you that although he is in constant motion on a trajectory all his own, he keeps up with other directors of all ages, he serves on boards, he foments collegiality, he cheerleads. He invites others to see and comment on his work, and he accepts invitations to do the same. As our mutual friend Mike Nichols says, 'Soderbergh leads the way.' Oh, he does one other thing – he pauses in his work to come to Omaha to support one of the world's most unique and uncompromising non-profit cinematheques, Film Streams."



Kurt Andersen

"One of the great pleasures in doing this is re-seeing all of the Steven Soderbergh movies that I love so much and seeing a few, like, I'm ashamed to say *SOLARIS*, that I hadn't seen at the time and realizing what A) an extraordinary movie that is and B) being reminded what a great talent he is."



From Top: Rachel Jacobson; Katie Weitz White & Alexander Payne; Steven Soderbergh.

All photos by: PAPAZZIBYAPPOINTMENT.COM

Steven Soderbergh:

"[SEX, LIES, AND VIDEOTAPE] was a weird thing because it taught me a valuable lesson, which is you have to be careful what conclusions you draw from things that work. What took me a while to learn from that film finding a much larger audience than any of us would have anticipated was that I wasn't a writer, really. That I wrote to get in, but I wasn't really a writer, and that my career would be better served by working with other writers. And that saved me in a lot of ways. I think I wouldn't have near the opportunities that I've had if I'd continued to look at myself as a writer-director."

On reports of his retiring from filmmaking: "The tyranny of narrative is just really starting to really wear on me. I'm convinced there's some other way of organizing images and ideas that can create an emotional response in an audience, but I can't figure out what it is. I certainly don't think that I can get somebody to write a check to sort of let me go off and take however long it takes to figure it out. So I just need to step out. I've been running really fast in a certain direction for a while, and I want to change."

"The making of any art is just problem-solving. As you work at it, your filtering system gets better. You're able to eliminate the versions that aren't any good faster. But at a certain point, the solves sort of become the same. And when I started feeling like, I've done this shot before, I've done a scene that's about this before, when that started to happen, that's when I started thinking seriously about a shift, because I don't like that feeling, I don't like that feeling of repeating something I've done, even if it was a good thing."

.....

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 & Mike Fahey Street within the Saddle Creek Records complex in North Downtown Omaha. For more information, visit us online at www.filmstreams.org.

Film Streams is grateful for the wonderful support of our members, individual donors, corporations, foundations, and government organizations who make our programming possible, including support from:

