



Senna calendar as a present

IF YOU have a Formula One fanatic in the family and are stuck for a Christmas present to give them, then this 'permanent' calendar of the great Ayrton Senna could be the answer. It features 12 stunning photographs of the driver by the great Formula One photographer, Rainer Schlegelmilch, and is valid forever. Schlegelmilch has long been one of Senna's greatest admirers and says



the calendar will serve 'as a perpetual reminder of the career of this uniquely talented racing driver'. It charts the key dates in the driver's career, recalling Senna's pole positions and race victories on the appropriate days. To find out more: www.schlegelmilch.com/Newsenna/kalender2004/default.htm

Diary dates

BAM events

BAM kick starts the festive season on the 3rd with a 'Feathers and Boas' cabaret evening at the Salon Sabor, Galerie Charles III. Then on the 7th it's the BAM Annual 'End of Year Dinner' held at the Lycée Technique Hôtelière, and on the 16th there's a 'Traditional Christmas Lunch' with a few surprises thrown in at the Riviera Marriott Hotel at Cap d'Ail port. For 2005, make a note in the diary of **January 21/22** for 'The Thistle and Shamrock Weekend' (a tribute to Robert Burns). Happy Hours are on the 9th and 23rd at Le Bistrotquet from 6.30pm to 8pm. Tel: +377 93 50 19 52.

Monaco-USA

THE MONTHLY get-together is on December 7. For details call 06 80 86 77 15 or email monacousa2@yahoo.com

New ballet

LES Ballets de Monte-Carlo is performing a new work by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. Called *In Memoriam*, the production will be premiered at the Grimaldi Forum on December 26. Jean-Christophe Maillot's *Romeo & Juliet* is on December 31 and 1, 2, 3 January. Tel: +377 99 99 3000

Canadian Club

THIS Club's events begin on the 4th with a day trip to the Serravalle village outcrop complex in Italy. Christmas lunch is at St Benoit and scheduled for December 18th, while the monthly Happy Hour at the Sabor (Vino is on the 30th. Detail will soon be on the website www.canadians-sur-la-cote.org. You can email: club.pug@wanadoo.fr. Tel: +33 (0)4 93 77 53 12.

Rasmus concert

FINNISH pop rock band Ti Rasmus will be performing, at the Grimaldi forum on the 3rd of December in a one-off concert for World Aids Day. Tickets for this event cost €25, with profits going to the Croix-Rouge Monégasque (Red Cross), and to the Fight Aids Monaco association. Tel: +377 97 97 68 13.

Press Point

Government update

- Preliminary estimates put the 2005 budget deficit in the area of €120 million, similar to last year's final tally, according to Finance Minister François Blanchet. He also reports 'better than expected income from congresses, tourist reservations and cruises'.
- the Principality is expected to sign an agreement with the Organisation for Economic and Development, December 7 on **taxation at source**. Conditions are likely to be similar to those accepted in Switzerland.
- The Monte-Carlo Tennis Masters Series is changing hands. A new SAM (Société Anonyme Monégasque) is being set up with three shareholders: the Principality, SBM and the Monégasque Tennis Federation.
- A bill on **freedom of the press** is currently under government study, though will not, said Minister of State Patrick Leclercq, require a 'spectacular measure'.
- Mr Leclercq indicated that the audit of **Automobile CI** of Monaco accounts will be made public.
- José Badia, responsible **public works**, estimates that meeting the costs of 11 damage caused by the bar in May 2004 at the Stade Lo will now be €2 million, also summed up the installation of one-way traffic in front of the Collège Charles III at Lycée Technique as 'with major difficulties' if the measure to provide more security students continues to be positive, it will be extended beyond December 31.
- Plans to build a **public youth centre** at the Portier location, on hold pending re-zoning.
- Mr Leclercq declined comment on who will now **Ambassador to Spain** sit Jacques Boisson was appointed to the Council of Europe.

THEATRE PRINCESSE GRACE

Under the Presidency of Princess Stéphanie of Monaco

Thursday 9 and Friday 10 December at 9pm
LES 50 BALALAÏKAS DE SAINT-PETERSBOURG
National Balalaïkas Andreyev of Russia Orchestra
Direction and conductor: Dmitri HOCHLOV



It was during a brilliant show given on the 20th of March 1888 by 8 musicians, one of which was Vasily Andreyev, that this orchestra made its debut. In 1913, for its 25th anniversary, they were 30 and in 1986 Dmitri Hochlov became artistic director and conductor of an ensemble that now has 50 musicians. The success of the orchestra is such, in its educative objective, that popular Russian music is now played in all the big concerts, not just in Russia but outside, giving regular visitors to our continent since 1987. They have a huge following here, won over by the beauty and authenticity of their voices and harmonies.

Prices: €34 and €31. Students and under-21s: €17 and €15

Tuesday 21 December at 9pm
Exclusive
SPIRITUALS & GOSPEL SONGS
"THE SENSATIONAL
NIGHTINGALES"



This group was founded in 1942 by Barney Parks, former singer with the Dixie Hummingbirds. From the start, the Sensational Hummingbirds have stood out as one of the most brilliant quartets in the United States, attracting great soloists such as Paul Owens, Julius Cheeks, Charles Johnson, Calvert McNair and Darrell Lusher. Very active in the US, as evidenced by all their records, the Sensational Nightingales have been regular visitors to our continent since 1987. They have a huge following here, won over by the beauty and authenticity of their voices and harmonies.

Prices: €28 and €25. Students and under 21s: €14 and €12

Ticket office: +377 93 25 32 27

Location: Avenue d'Estérel, Monte-Carlo
Tel: (06) 777 93 25 32 27

Classic films every Tuesday

Plus mad-cap Spaniards dominate Comedy Film Festival

The Archives Audiovisuelles de Monaco has delved into its large cinematic library to offer movie lovers an opportunity to see hit films that are no longer in distribution. Once a month, on Tuesday evenings, from now until June 28, the public will be able to settle into one of the 380 seats in the intimacy of the Théâtre des Variétés to laugh, cry, empathise or sympathise with the works of directors like Billy Wilder, Jean-Luc Godard or Elia Suleiman. The films, all in version originale with French subtitles, have one common denominator: they all use a different country in the Mediterranean as a prime protagonist.

Topical subject

This month's offering, on the 21st, is *Intervention Divine*, a French-Palestine production that takes place in Nazareth. The Suleiman film, which won Cannes Jury and Critics' prizes in 2002, alternates between humour and desperation, love and politics, as it explores what critics have described as 'a metaphor that reinvents the history of Suleiman's troubled country'.

To kick-off the new year on **January 11** comes the 1986 French-Egyptian production, *Le Souffle* by Youssef Chahine who dedicated this story about the escape afforded by the

Hollywood idol Gene Kelly. Total, the 1934 Jean Renoir classic, offered **February 22**, is the love story of an Italian immigrant in Provence, a forerunner of Italian neorealism. The Turkish film *Uzak*, scheduled for **March 15**, won the Grand Prix and Best Actor Awards at the 2003 Cannes Film Festival. Its central character is a photographer haunted by a sense of the void between his life and his ideals.

Jack Lemmon vehicle

The choice on **April 26** is the hilarious, 1972 Billy Wilder comedy *Avanti!*, starring Jack Lemmon as a rich American who arrives in Naples to repatriate his father's body, only to find that his late father had been less than candid about his private life. On **May 17**, it's Jean-Luc Godard's 1986 *Pierre Le Fou*, starring Jean Paul Belmondo and Anna Karina in a tale of love and murder on the Côte d'Azur. And finally on **June 28** comes the 1991 Egyptian *Mendiant et Orgueilleux* directed by Asama El-Bakry which pans through the lives of a university professor, a minor civil servant, a poet and a police officer who all share the philosophy of the *Mendiant* and the *Orgueilleux*: 'I have nothing, I want nothing, I'm free'.

All films start at 8.30pm. The tickets cost €5 (€2 for children) but are only available on the night at the door.

Comedy film results

Meanwhile, at the Grimaldi Forum in November, a mad-cap Spanish film, *Seres Queridos* ('So Close'), took top prizes at the 4th Monte-Carlo Comedy Film Festival. The ingredients that brought director and scriptwriter Dominic Harari's *Seres* the Best Film and Best Script awards were an eccentric cast of characters, a bizarre plot, a laugh-a-second-pace and technical perfection. The scenario revolves around a daughter's introduction of a Palestinian fiancé into a Jewish family whose oddball members include a nymphomaniac sister, her unruly daughter, a brother who has opted for Jewish Orthodoxy over drugs and a coping, neurotic mother.

Another Spanish film, *Cosas Que Hazen Que La Vida Valga La Pena* (roughly translates into 'What's Life Got That's Worth Living'), by Manuel Gomez Pereira, was the vehicle that brought Best Actor and Best Actress awards to Eduard Fernández and Ana Belén and an award for the best original, musical score to Benguín Mendizabel.

By unanimous decision, the Jury Prize was awarded to the cast of the American comedy *April's Shower*, directed by Trish Doolan.

Special Mention went to



Emmanuelle Béart and Edouard Baer attended the first public showing of their film, *A Boire*

Michele Lucchese, the young protagonist of the Beppe Cino film, *Miracolo a Palermo*, which Cino described as 'bringing us to comedy because of its surprise conclusion'.

The eight films short listed for awards had a common denominator: integration of ethnic or sexual minorities in a world that bears the pretence of a global village, but often lacks cultural acceptance. The Festival concluded with Life-Time Achievement awards, one of which went to the French Actress Micheline Presle.

Charities are beneficiaries of this festival. Receipts from the four evening premières, one of which was Marion Vernoux's *A Boire*, were turned over to Bimbi Prematuri, Mission Enfance, Action Innocence and Amade.

Los Bolton

Non-violent films showcase

HOT on the heels of the comedy film festival comes the second edition of a festival which showcases and rewards non-violent films.

The symbol for these awards is the Angel to signify peace, harmony and positive energy. Films being shown from December 2 to 4 at Cinéma Le Sporting are:

2nd at 7pm: *Beat The Drum*, a South African film by David Hickson which tells the story of a young orphan Zulu boy who goes to Johannesburg in search of his uncle.

2nd at 3pm: *El Corazon de Jesus* from Bolivia tells the story of Jesus, a government employee who finds himself in a ward with terminally ill patients.

3rd at 8pm: *Red Rose*, a period feature film from Scotland about Robbie Burns.

3rd at 3pm: from Palestine comes *The Olive Harvest*, by Hanna Elias. One of very few films to have been made in the Palestinian Authority it has generated immense media attention since its release earlier this year.

3rd at 11am: *L.A. Twister* is an American comedy about two friends making a movie on their own terms.

4th at 11am: *Divan* is a humorous, first-person documentary directed by Pearl Gluck.

Tickets will be sold on the day at the door.