

DON'T MISS A COMMENCEMENT EVE TRADITION!



**Commencement
Eve Pops 2016**
Fri., May 13 at 7:30 p.m.
King Concert Hall
There's trouble in River City
when a fast-talking sales-
man gets his heart stolen by
the town librarian. By turns
wicked, funny, warm, roman-
tic and touching, Meredith
Willson's six-time, Tony Award
winning musical comedy has
been entertaining audiences
since 1957.

Campus Ticket Office: 673-3501 or fredonia.edu/tickets

ROCKEFELLER ARTS CENTER PRESENTS A WORLD TRAVEL SERIES EVENT



The Promised Land: Adventures in the Middle East with Rick Ray

FREDONIA PLACE
IS A FULL-SERVICE ASSISTED
LIVING AND MEMORY CARE
COMMUNITY CONSISTING OF
1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Enjoy an ideal retirement at
Fredonia Place
where you spend time:



- Shopping instead of cleaning
- Relaxing instead of maintaining your home
- Enjoying the best of SUNY Fredonia with transportation via our air-conditioned motor coach
- The East Wing- Chautauqua County's premier Memory Care Unit
- Respite Care & Companion Suites

Please call us for a complimentary luncheon tour!

50 Howard Street, Fredonia, NY 14063

716-679-2250-www.fredoniaplace.com



 **FREDONIA**
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

LS Lake Shore Savings
Putting People First.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER



A former Lonely Planet backpacker turned cinematographer, writer and director, Rick Ray has produced more than 12 films on regions as diverse as Israel, Bali, Borneo, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Syria, Iceland, with titles that include *Raise The Bamboo Curtain* with Martin Sheen and the highly regarded *The Soul of India*.

Beyond these projects, Ray spent two years tracking down rare archival footage of the Dalai Lama's youth, the Chinese takeover of Tibet, documented subsequent hardships, and was granted a one hour audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to craft his award-winning documentary titled *10 Questions for the Dalai Lama*, which is currently in worldwide distribution.

One of the most popular filmmakers in the World Travel Series, Ray most recently appeared in 2011 with *East African Safari*.

WORLD TRAVEL SERIES FACTS AND FIGURES

- The World Travel Series was launched on Oct. 22, 1983 with a presentation of Andre de la Varre Jr.'s *Charming Vienna*. The event was attended by 595 people.
- Coming into tonight, more than 62,000 people have attended series events. This is the 139th program.
- The attendance record for a series event was set on Nov. 4, 1989 when 878 people attended a presentation of filmmaker/humorist Don Cooper's presentation of *Lumberjack in Alaska*.
- A total of 54 filmmakers have made presentations as part of the series.
- Filmmakers Doug Jones and Fran Reidelberger are ties for the most appearances in the series with 11 each. Mr. Jones first appeared on Jan. 25, 1986 with *The Great World Cruise of the Queen Elizabeth 2*. His final appearance came on Feb. 15, 2014 with *The Great Canadian Train Ride*. Mr. Reidelberger first appeared on March 8, 1986 with *Alaska - Our Northern Star*. His final appearance was on Sept. 25, 2010 with *The Other Side of Mexico*. Tonight's filmmaker, Rick Ray, is third on the all-time appearance list with nine presentations.
- During the course of the series, Rockefeller Arts Center has gone through four projectors (three 16 millimeter projectors and the current digital projector) and three movie screens.
- When the series began, Ronald Reagan was about halfway through his first term as president of the United States. Four other presidents have followed during the course of the series - George Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barrack Obama - each serving two terms.

ONE FINAL JOURNEY

Continued

But neither the decline in attendance nor the increasingly challenging finances are the main reason the series is coming to an end. A dwindling pool of filmmakers proved to be the ultimate deciding factor. In recent years, many of the established filmmaker-speakers have retired and new filmmakers have not entered the industry to replace them. It has become increasingly difficult to find three new acceptable-quality programs to put on the series each year.

While the series will end, many great memories remain.

I've made a lot of friends through presenting this series, among both the filmmakers and the audience members who regularly attended the programs. I've also appreciated the opportunity to provide so much educational and entertaining programming at an affordable price, and I was always glad to see people bring their kids along with our "kids get in free" offer.

I am extremely proud of the programs we have presented

to the community during the course of the World Travel Series. My own understanding of cultures, traditions and geography from other parts of the world has grown thanks to these programs, and I trust it has for community members as well.

While I have a certain sense of sadness about closing down the series, I also have a deep feeling of gratitude for the opportunity to be part of the travelogue industry, for the chance to serve the greater community, and for all the support the community has shown for the program.

And I'm particularly excited that we were able to Rick Ray to come back one more time. We have not shown his film on the Promised Land before. We have used every other film he has made in the last 33 years. In my opinion, he is the most talented filmmaker in the business. It's good to be going out on a strong note.



Director
Rockefeller Arts Center

ABOUT TONIGHT'S FILM

The Middle East is a region of paradoxes. It is a land where people go out of their way to make a stranger feel at home. At the same time, it is a land where unspeakable acts of brutality are carried out between enemy tribes and clans.

Take a personal journey through Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey with veteran filmmaker Rick Ray. See wonders such as Petra, Jerusalem, the Cedars of Lebanon and Cappadocia. Experience the hospitality of a dynamic people and the breathtaking scenery of a beautiful land.



PLEASE REMEMBER...

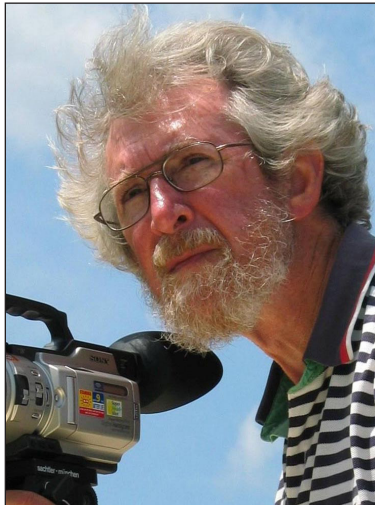
- The use of cameras or recording devices is prohibited.
- Food and drink are prohibited beyond the lobby area.
- To turn off all cell phones and electronic devices for the duration of the performance.

ONE FINAL JOURNEY

With tonight's presentation of *The Promised Land: Adventures in the Middle East*, the World Travel Series is taking its final journey - ending a 33-season run here at the State University of New York at Fredonia.

The World Travel Series was launched in the fall of 1983 with the presentation of Andre de la Varre Jr.'s *Charming Vienna*. Over the course of 33 seasons, another 138 programs featuring hundreds of destinations followed. More than 62,000 people have attended travel series events since its inception.

The series is part of the national travelogue industry in which independent filmmakers – often just one person, or perhaps a couple – travel to another part of the world, shoot documentary footage about that destination, and then return home to edit the footage, write a narrative script to go with it, put in background music and sound effects, and then travel from city to city across north America, sharing their



Doug Jones (top) and Fran Reidelberger are tied for most World Travel Series appearances by a filmmaker with 11 each.

travel experiences with local audiences. Often, the narration is done live by the filmmaker.

Continued

ONE FINAL JOURNEY

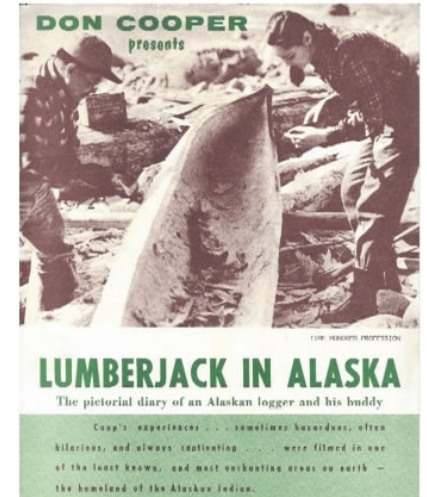
Continued

During the 1980s and early 1990s, events in the World Travel Series regularly drew between 600 and 800 patrons per show. The attendance record for the series was set in 1989, when 878 people attended a presentation of *Lumberjack in Alaska* with filmmaker/humorist Don Cooper.

By the mid-1990s, a variety of factors, including the increasing availability of high-quality travel programs on cable television began to impact attendance at travelogue programs around the country.

Changing audience tastes and a gradual diminishment of the number of filmmaker-speakers touring each season led a number of series, including those run by Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh and the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., to discontinue their travelogues.

Fredonia was not immune from the decline in audience attendance.



Don Cooper's *Lumberjack in Alaska*, which was presented on Nov. 4, 1989, hold the World Travel Series attendance record for a single event at 878.

However, efforts were made to keep the series going as long as it was sustainable, even if it had to be subsidized. During the last 10 years, corporate support from Fredonia Place and funds from the Friends of Rockefeller Arts Center have allowed the series to continue even though the finances are not as good as in the heyday of the program. Average attendance at the Fredonia series over the last four seasons has averaged 225.

Continued