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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Horror/Cult Film Series at the Firehouse Center Starting October 29th**

Burlington, VT: (October 21, 2009) Corresponding with the Firehouse Gallery exhibition *Medicine & Mortality* (opening Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>), Burlington City Arts will present a four film series entitled *The New Flesh: The Films of David Cronenberg*, exploring this award-winning filmmaker's early horror and cult films. This free film series begins on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, and runs four consecutive weeks on the second floor of the Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts on Church Street.

On Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, preceding the final film of the series, Burlington City Arts will host a special roundtable discussion on the themes and subjects of David Cronenberg's films. Speakers will include Tony Magistrale, Professor of English and Chair of the University of Vermont English department, UVM English lecturer Sarah E. Turner, and UVM Assistant Professor of Film and Television Studies Sarah Nilsen. Both Tony Magistrale and Sarah E. Turner have published written works discussing Cronenberg's films.

Award-winning Canadian filmmaker David Cronenberg is known as the originator of the venereal horror genre. Not for the faint of heart, Cronenberg's films explore themes such as disease, disaster and the transformation of one's physical self. Other films by the director include *The Fly*, *The Dead Zone*, *Scanners*, and more recently, Oscar-nominated films *A History of Violence* and *Eastern Promises*.

### ***The New Flesh: The Films of David Cronenberg***

Thursdays, 7pm, Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts, Second Floor

Please note, these films are for mature audiences and contain adult subject matter.  
Showings are free, and donations will be accepted.

**Thursday, October 29th – Videodrome:** 1983, 87 min, Unrated, starring James Woods, Deborah Harry. Sleazy lowlife cable TV operator Max Renn (Woods) discovers a demented and twisted broadcast called "Videodrome." More than a TV show--it's an experiment using TV transmissions to permanently alter the viewer's perception. Caught between the forces that created "Videodrome" and the desire to control it, Renn's body and reality itself begins to change with horrifying results.

**Thursday, November 5th - Dead Ringers:** 1988, 116 min, Rated R, starring Jeremy Irons. Two bodies. Two minds. One soul. Separation can be a terrifying thing. The Mantle brothers (both played by Irons) are gynecologists - and identical twins. Enter their world – a world of seduction and deception with disturbing results. Winner of the LA Film Critics Award for Best Director, and NY Film Critics Award for Best Actor (Jeremy Irons)

**Thursday, November 12th – Existenz:** 1999, 97 min, Rated R, starring Jude Law, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Willem Dafoe. During tests for her new virtual reality game eXistenZ, the leading game designer in the world, Allegra Geller (Leigh), is attacked by a fanatic assassin. She flees with a young marketing trainee, Ted Pikul (Law), into the virtual world that she has created. The lines between fantasy and reality become quickly blurred, leading to an uncertain near-future for all involved.

**Thursday, November 19th – Crash:** 1996, 100 min, Rated NC-17, starring James Spader, Holly Hunter. Not to be confused with Paul Haggis' film of the same title, Cronenberg's *Crash* is based on the 1973 novel by J.G. Ballard, concerning a cult of car-crash fetishists who view car crashes as liberation of sexual energy. The viewer is asked to enter a surreal world of, quite simply, sex and car crashes. Winner of the Special Jury Prize at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival.

*The New Flesh: The Films of David Cronenberg* is an important part of Burlington City Arts, which is dedicated to the promotion of excellence, experimentation, and education in all forms of contemporary art. For more information about gallery exhibitions, special events, classes and workshops, please call 802.865.7166 or visit

[BURLINGTONCITYARTS.COM](http://BURLINGTONCITYARTS.COM).

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