

**UWM French and  
The Union Theatre present  
The 26th Annual Festival of Films in French**

**February 17-26, 2023**

This festival attends to women's choices and showcases adaptations and transpositions to the silver screen while traveling from Quebec to Belgium and France and onto Madagascar with generational stories about survival and exile, histories of decolonization and discrimination, and documentaries about state repression (*Un pays qui se tient sage*) and capitalist ventures (*Étoile du matin*). Where opening night features two stories of young women facing unwanted pregnancies in France in the 1960s (*L'événement*) and '70s (*Annie colère*), Alice Diop's *Saint Omer* revisits the court case of a woman's infanticide. *Arlette!* follows the challenges a young minister of culture faces in the Quebec government and Germaine Dulac's 1920s scientist must choose between her career and her family (*La mort du soleil*). The lives of two towering figures – Simone Veil and Frantz Fanon – retrace the fight for human rights and justice of the last century. While sons (*Secrets de mon père*) and grandsons (*Interdit aux chiens et aux Italiens*) reconnect using animation with their families' silenced past of the Holocaust and 1920s economic exile from Italy, African American soldiers' experiences after WWI in France are documented in *Fighting for Respect* and *La permission* recounts a GI's leave from his base in 1967 France. Our classic this year comes with a twist. It is the 2021 adaptation of Balzac's *Illusions perdues*, which contrasts with the 2019 staging of Rameau's 1735 *Les Indes galantes* with urban dance forms taking center stage at the Bastille Opera, and the super 8 texture of the Ernaux family films. Join us for 17 films that remember and story ethical and existential truths for today and tomorrow.

**THANKS/CREDITS:**

The UWM French Program thanks the Albertine Cinémathèque, a program of FACE Foundation and Villa Albertine, with support from the CNC (Centre National du Cinéma), and SACEM/Fonds Culturel Franco-Américain. We are grateful for the generosity and continued support of the Québec Government Office in Chicago.

We thank our many past and present UWM co-sponsors: Student Involvement, Union Cinema, the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, CIE's U.S. Department of Education Title VI NRC Grant, the Department of Dance, the Department of Global Studies and the Program in French, the Department of Women's & Gender Studies, the Department of African and African Diasporic Studies, the Department of History, the Film Studies

Program, the MA in Language, Literature and Translation (MALLT), the Institute of World Affairs, and the College of Letters & Science.

The film *Simone, le voyage du siècle* is in memory of Nicole Darmon Chandler, a resident of Milwaukee for over 40 years, and a former president of the Alliance française. Nicole participated in French language activities at UWM for decades and was a fan of films. We also thank her daughter, Kitty Morse, for her continued and generous support.

We greatly appreciate the community sponsorship of the Alliance française of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee French Immersion School, SWAAF (Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French) and the Lynden Sculpture Garden.

We extend a special note of gratitude to our colleague Professor Emerita Gabrielle Verdier for her vision in establishing the UWM Festival of Films in French with Professor Martin Darmon Meyer (1929-2013).

## **PROGRAM:**

Friday, February 17 • 7pm

### **L'événement** (*Happening*)

Audrey Diwan, Blu-ray, 100 min, France, 2021 (French)

*Golden Lion, 2021 Venice Film Festival*



Adapted from Annie Ernaux' 2000 eponymous novel recounting her traumatic recourse to an illegal abortion. In 1963, Anne the social renegade daughter of working-class parents faces the dilemma of risking her life and aborting or having the baby and sacrificing her future in a race against time, a few months before sitting for her final exams at university.

*Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program*

**Copies of Annie Ernaux' *L'événement* and, thanks to Boswell Book Company, translations of her works were for sale at the Student Union Cinema.**

*Trailer:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqsPt2lfOx0&t=1s>

Friday, February 17 • 9pm

**Annie colère** (*Angry Annie*)

Blandine Lenoir, DCP, 119 min, France, 2022 (French)

*US premiere*

February 1974, Annie, a mother of 2, finding herself accidentally pregnant, is assisted by the MLAC an organization working concretely with women to offer abortions, share information about contraception and sex education as well as engaging in civil disobedience to promote women's rights and freedom of choice.



*Co-sponsored by Women's and Gender Studies*

**Talkback with Leah Wilson (Women's and Gender Studies).**

*Trailer:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCmzrBmCwb4>

Saturday, February 18 • 4:30pm

**Indes galantes** (*Gallant Indies*)

Philippe Béziat, MP4, 108 min, France, 2021 (French)

*Midwest premiere*

Resonating with the 1789 storming of the Bastille, the documentary follows the 2019 staging of *Les Indes Galantes* at the Opéra Bastille. In this version of Rameau's 1735 baroque masterpiece, urban dances and opera singing come together and rush the traditional barriers separating the opera world from urban cultures.



*Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & Co-sponsored by the Department of Dance*

*Trailer:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vk4yHOTJxhY&t=1s>

Saturday, February 18 • 7pm  
Sunday, February 26 • 4:30pm

**Simone, le voyage du siècle** (*Simone: Woman of the Century*)  
Olivier Dahan, DCP, 140 min, France, 2021 (French)

*Midwest premiere*

This epic and intimate portrait of Simone Veil follows her exceptional life from



Holocaust survivor to French magistrate and President of the European Parliament, paying tribute to her resilience, strength and courage, as she sought justice for all and championed gender parity, and women's access to contraception and legal abortion.

*Co-sponsored by the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies*

*In memory of Nicole Darmon Chandler*

Trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRh4W\\_vpbuk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRh4W_vpbuk)

Sunday, February 19 • 2:30pm

**Les secrets de mon père** (*My father's secrets*)

Véra Belmont, Blu-ray, 73 min, France/Belgium, 2022 (Adapted for the English Language dub. with the voices of Elliott Gould, Miriam Margolyes, David Baddiel and Ilan Galkoff)

*US premiere*

*Audience Award-Winner, Cannes Kids 2022*



Based on Michel Kichka's autobiographical graphic novel, this animation film, in which two young Jewish brothers growing up happily in Belgium in the 1960s want to know about their father's past, is about breaking the silences that often prevail between the survivors of the Holocaust and their children.

*Co-sponsored by the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies*

**Talkback with Rachel Baum (Deputy Director, Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies).**

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uGWbeb-HP8&t=6s>

Sunday, February 19 • 4:30pm

Saturday, February 25 • 7:30pm

**Saint Omer**

Alice Diop, DCP, 122 min, France, 2022 (French)

*Grand Jury Prize & Lion of the Future, 2022 Venice Festival*

In this courtroom drama based on the 2016 trial in Saint Omer of a French-Senegalese woman accused of infanticide, the convictions of Rama, a novelist expecting a child who attends the proceedings, falter as she listens to the witnesses' testimonies and the mother's own wish to understand her actions.



*Co-sponsored by the Department of Global Studies & the Institute of World Affairs*

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oldZzLZTNIs&t=2s>

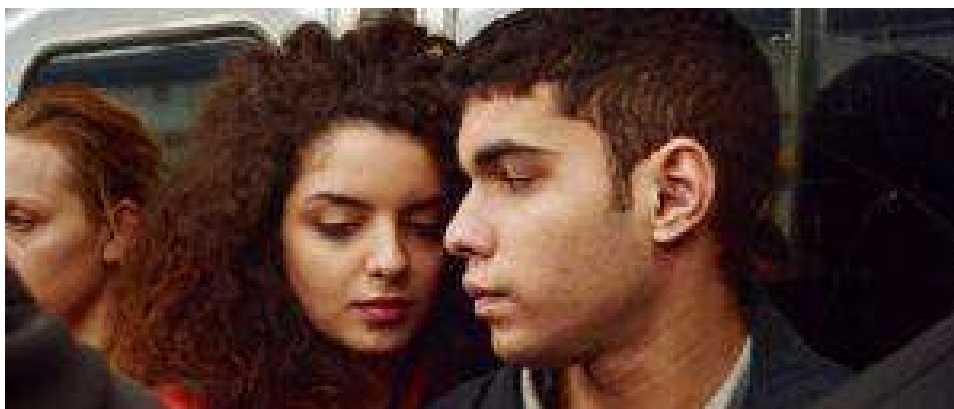
Sunday, February 19 • 7pm

**Une histoire d'amour et de désir** (*A Tale of Love and Desire*)

Leila Bouzid, MP4, 103 min, France, 2021 (French)

*Critic's Week – Closing Film, 2021 Cannes Festival*

*Wisconsin premiere*



Ahmed, 18, French of Algerian origin, grew up in the suburbs of Paris. At university, he meets Farah, an energetic young Tunisian girl, who has

just arrived in Paris. While discovering a corpus of erotic Arabic literature, the shy Ahmed falls in love with Farah, as he struggles to find himself.



*Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & Co-sponsored by MALLT*

**Talkback with Caroline Seymour-Jorn (Department of Global Studies, Director of Global & International Studies).**

*Trailer:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4njdaZTjr4&t=2s>

Monday, February 20 • 7pm

**Fighting for Respect: African American Soldiers in WWI**

Joanne Burke, MP4, 54 min, United States/France, 2021 (English)

The documentary captures the plight of the African American soldiers who fought for democracy abroad in segregated US Army troops through archival film footage, letters written from the Front, and the experiences of soldiers who received the French Croix de



guerre for their distinguished service and faced discrimination and white supremacist violence when they returned to the US in 1919.

*Co-sponsored by the Department of History*

*Trailer:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJBBA8w1QIU&t=1s>

Monday, February 20 • 8pm

**La permission** (*The Story of a Three Day Pass*)

Melvin Van Peebles, DCP, 87 min, France, 1967 (English, French)

Adapted from his 1967 eponymous novel, Van Peebles' feature debut tells the story of Turner, an African American WWII GI stationed in France, who is granted a three-day leave from base. In Paris, he meets a white French shop clerk and

together they spend the weekend enjoying their romance even as they experience France's contradictory attitudes about race.



*Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & Co-sponsored by the UWM Union Cinema*

*Trailer:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLo6geyWTqU&t=2s>

Tuesday, February 21 • 7pm

**La mort du soleil** (*The Death of the Sun*)  
Germaine Dulac, DCP, 83 min, France, 1921 (Silent)

*Milwaukee premiere*



A young researcher is passionate about her work as assistant to a tuberculosis specialist. Her dedication arouses the jealousy of her husband who asks her to choose between her profession and her family.

**With live piano accompaniment by Renato Umali.**



*Co-sponsored by the UWM Film Studies Program*

**Talkback with Tami Williams (Film Studies program, Department of English).**

Wednesday, February 22 • 7pm

The projection of *Aza Kivy – Morning Star* was **RESCHEDULED** to Saturday, February 25 • 2:30pm.

**Aza Kivy – Étoile du matin** (*Aza Kivy – Morning Star*)

Nantenaina Lova, MP4, 77 min, Madagascar, 2020 (Malagasy)

*US premiere*

Edmond's boat is named 'Aza Kivy' (don't give up) to give himself and his fellow Vezo of southwest Madagascar courage to safeguard the livelihood they draw from fishing, which is under threat from Chinese trawlers plundering the ocean's resources and from an Australian company's mining project which requires the construction of a large seaport and the displacement of some 8000 inhabitants.



*Co-sponsored by UWM Student Involvement*

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQhsWnhhKKU>

Thursday, February 23 • 7pm

**Illusions perdues** (*Lost Illusions*)

Xavier Giannoli, Blu-ray, 149 min, France, 2021 (French)

*7 Césars, including Best Film*

*Wisconsin premiere*



Adapted from Balzac's eponymous novel *Illusions perdues* (1837-43), and resonating with our times, the period drama is set in 1821 in Paris, where Lucien Rubempré, the idealistic young poet from Angoulême, succeeds as a gifted

critic in acceding to the artistic and literary circles of the haute bourgeoisie even as he realizes the cynicism of an economic system where everything can be bought.

*Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & Co-sponsored by the Alliance française de Milwaukee*

**Introductory remarks by Gabrielle Verdier (Co-founder of the Festival of Films in French).**

*Trailer:* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ltl1Zuar\\_g&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ltl1Zuar_g&t=1s)

Friday, February 24 • 7pm

### **Arlette!**

Mariloup Wolfe, DCP, 118 min, Québec, 2022 (French)



*US premiere*

In this political satire about image and power, Arlette Saint-Amour, a fashion magazine editor, is invited by the Premier of Quebec to join his cabinet as minister of culture. Ambitious and inexperienced, Arlette incurs the wrath of the finance minister with her

unconventional politics and use of the media to reinvigorate the arts.

*Co-sponsored by the Québec Government Office in Chicago*

*Trailer:* <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/arlettevosta>

Friday, February 24 • 9:30pm

**Un pays qui se tient sage** (*The Monopoly of Violence*)

David Dufresne, DCP, 86 min, France, 2020 (French)

*Wisconsin premiere*

In response to the increasingly violent repression of citizen-led protests denouncing social injustices and inequalities, this documentary invites citizens from all walks of life to exchange views together and interrogate society's rule of law and the legitimacy of the use of force by the State.



*Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & Co-sponsored by the Alliance française de Milwaukee & the Institute of World Affairs*

*Trailer:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChkRiQeQK8k&t=1s>

Saturday, February 25 • 4:30pm

**Les années super 8** (*The Super 8 Years*)

Annie Ernaux / David Ernaux-Briot, Blu-ray, 60 min, France, 2022 (French)

*Directors' Fortnight Selection, 2022 Cannes Festival*

*Wisconsin premiere*



Shot between 1972 and 1981, by Philippe Ernaux, the super 8 silent family archive footage captures Annie Ernaux's start as a writer, her first book, and the ending of her marriage. The text she reads overlays the images, interrogates the clichés and the social conventions they portray to associate an intimate testimonial with a social history of the decade.

*Trailer:* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C\\_zKW0P8D6o&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_zKW0P8D6o&t=1s)

Saturday, February 25 • 6pm

**Frantz Fanon, trajectoire d'un révolté** (*Fanon, the Incensed Rebel*)

Mathieu Glissant / Audrey Maurion, MP4, 53 min, France, 2021 (French)

*US premiere*

The documentary retells the all-too short life trajectory of Fanon (1925-1961), the Martinican psychiatrist whose militant actions and radical revolutionary thinking engaged the fundamental issues of racialized oppression around the world, moving from theorizations of blackness to colonialism, anti-colonial struggle, and decolonization.



*Co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies*

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/644878123>

Sunday, February 26 • 2:30pm

**Interdit aux chiens et aux Italiens** (*No Dogs or Italians Allowed*)

Alain Ughetto, DCP, 70 min, France/Italy, 2022 (French, Italian)

*Gan Foundation Prize & Jury's Prize, 2022 Annecy Festival*

*Midwest premiere*



In Northern Italy, in the early 1900s, the Ughettos dream of leaving the region, where life has become unbearably difficult. As a fictional dialogue between grandmother Cesira and her grandson-director, the poignant animation film

follows the family's exile over three generations after they cross the Alps and settle in France.

*Co-sponsored by the Department of Global Studies & HOME-Lynden Sculpture Garden*

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=185HUoBzYfc&t=1s>

All films are in French and other languages with English subtitles. All films are **FREE** and open to the public.



## HOMMAGES:

February 23, 2023



February 25, 2023

