

**UWM French and
the Union Theatre present
The 23rd Annual Festival of Films in French**

February 14-23, 2020

This year's exciting festival line-up transports us through time and across the francophone world as restless spirits seek to make their dreams of freedom, love, or escape come true. A politically weary Israeli (*Synonymes*), and a Moroccan chef (*Tazzeka*) set their sights on Paris in contrast to a graphic designer who leaves the capital to pursue environmentally sound farming in Normandy (*A Modern Shepherdess*). Three films feature orphans finding their way: *Zombi Child* which shifts between contemporary Paris and 1960s Haiti, *Ma vie de courgette*, a stop-motion children's film (not set in Paris but based on a novel by Gilles Paris) and *Jeux interdits*, the classic film in which two young children use their imaginations to survive in World War II Paris. In *Yao*, the eponymous Senegalese 13-year old teaches the famous French actor about his roots along the road home to his village, whereas a new arrival among hermits in rural Quebec changes things up (*Il pleuvait des oiseaux*). The challenges of love are explored in three other film classics: Jacqueline Audry's *Olivia* takes place in a French finishing school, Agnès Varda's *Le Bonheur* sets her story in the suburbs of Paris and Serge Gainsbourg's *Je t'aime moi non plus* chooses the "middle of nowhere" as his setting, A new release explores love as well, in an 18th century tale of a courtship with portrait gone awry (*Portrait de la jeune fille en feu*). Two documentaries bring together witness accounts from surviving Malagasy rebels (*Fahavalo, Madagascar 1947*) and the intimate memories of the editor of Lanzmann's *Shoah* who gave six years of her life to the outsized project (*Ziva Postec*) while our two silent films strike with their difference in style (*La cigarette, Emak Bakia*). Let us transport you across time and space in the Francophone world!

THANKS/CREDITS:

The UWM French Program is grateful for the generosity of Dr. Richard Stone and the continued support of the Québec Government Office in Chicago.

The films *Tazzeke* and *Emak Bakia* are 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. She loved preparing North African dishes and was a fan of “old movies,” *En souvenir...*

We thank our many UWM co-sponsors: the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival, Student Involvement, the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, the Community Media Project, the Department of Film, Video, Animation and New Genres, the Department of History, the Middle Eastern North African Studies Certificate Program, the Institute of World Affairs, Global and International Studies, the Department of African and African Diasporic Studies, the MA in Language, Literature and Translation (MALLT), the Department of French, Italian & Comparative Literature, the program in German in FLL and the College of Letters and Sciences. We greatly appreciate the community sponsorship of the Alliance Française of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee French Immersion School, and SWAAF (Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French).

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 Martine Darmon Meyer (1929-2013).

Friday, February 14 • 7pm

Olivia

Jacqueline Audry, DCP, 88 min, France, 1951 (French)

A landmark in Queer cinema. With this 19th century boarding school feminist drama, France's groundbreaking director Audry creates a fairy tale setting for the students' discovery of love and attraction.

Co-sponsored by the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival and the Department of Women and Gender Studies



Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIQucslg0Is>

Friday, February 14 • 9pm Sunday, February 16 • 7pm

Portrait de la jeune fille en feu (*Portrait of a Lady on Fire*)

Céline Sciamma, Blu-ray, 120 min, France, 2019 (French)

On an isolated island in Brittany at the end of the eighteenth century, a female artist is commissioned to paint a young woman's wedding portrait. When they develop romantic feelings for each other, how will they proceed?



*Co-sponsored by the Milwaukee
LGBT Film/Video Festival*

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-fQPTwma9o>

Saturday, February 15 • 5pm Sunday, February 23 • 3pm

Il pleuvait des oiseaux (*And the Birds Rained Down*)

Louise Archambault, Blu-ray, 127 min, Québec, 2019 (French)

The quiet life of three elderly hermits living deep in the woods is shaken by the arrival of an octogenarian unjustly institutionalized all of her life and a young photographer interviewing survivors of the area's deadliest forest fire.



Co-sponsored by the Québec Government Office in Chicago

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kj_Wq8FfI8

Saturday, February 15 • 7:30pm

Sunday, February 23 • 5:30pm

Tazzeka

Jean-Phillippe Gaud, Blu-ray, 95 min, France/Morocco, 2018 (French, Arabic)

Elias learned the secrets of traditional Moroccan cuisine from his grandmother who raised him in the village of Tazzeka. Years later, through an encounter with a top Paris chef and a young woman named Salma, he is inspired to leave home.



In memory of Nicole Darmon Chandler

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qODP5nJzmP4>

Saturday, February 15 • 9:30pm

Saturday, February 22 • 7pm

Yao

Philippe Godeau, DCP, 103 min, France/Senegal, 2019 (French)

In his village in northern Senegal, 13-year-old Yao's dream of meeting his hero Seydou Tall, a famous French actor of Senegalese descent, is realized when Tall is invited to Dakar to promote his book. Together they embark on a road-trip that takes Yao home and Tall back to his roots.



Co-sponsored by the Department of Film, Video, Animation, and New Genres

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeEyLN255UQ>

Sunday, February 16 • 1pm

Sunday, February 23 • 1pm

Ma vie de courgette (*My Life as a Zucchini*)

Claude Barras, Blu-ray, 65 min, France/Switzerland, 2016 (French)

After losing his mother, a young boy is sent to a foster home with other orphans his age where he begins to learn the meaning of trust and true love.



Co-sponsored by the Alliance française de Milwaukee

Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4d9N5Y_sN8Q

Sunday, February 16 • 5pm

Ziva Postec, la monteuse derrière le film *Shoah* (*Ziva Postec: The Editor Behind the Film Shoah*)

Catherine Hébert, Blu-ray, 92 min, Canada, 2018 (French, Hebrew, English, Czech, German, Polish)

Ziva Postec devoted years of her life to editing *Shoah*, Claude Lanzmann's epic opus about the Holocaust. The editing room virtuoso—a survivor in her own way—goes behind the scenes to tell her story of the monumental undertaking.



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

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TM3P1KDp3M>

Monday, February 17 • 7pm

Zombi Child

Bertrand Bonello, Blu-ray, 103 min, France, 2019 (French)

In 1980, Clairvius Narcisse returns to the city after having labored as a zombi on a Haitian sugar cane plantation since 1962. His descendant attends the Légion d'honneur's high school in Paris after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and reveals the family secret to her friends, with unforeseen consequences.



Co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTAhxbxI0jA>

Tuesday, February 18 • 7pm

La cigarette (*The Cigarette*)

Germaine Dulac, DVD, 51 min, France, 1919 (Silent)

In this earliest extant film by Dulac, an older husband suspects that his liberated young wife is having an affair, a plot that reflects the post-World War I crisis of masculinity in France.

with:



Emak-Bakia (*Leave Me Alone*)

Man Ray, 16mm, 19 min, France, 1926 (Silent)

Man Ray's "cinemoem" melds elements of dada and surrealism, incorporating rayographs, double exposure, and soft focus, techniques he used in his still photography.

With live piano accompaniment by Renato Umali

In memory of Nicole Darmon Chandler

No trailers

Wednesday, February 19 • 7pm

Jeune bergère (*A Modern Shepherdess*)

Delphine Détrie, DCP, 87 min, France, 2018 (French)

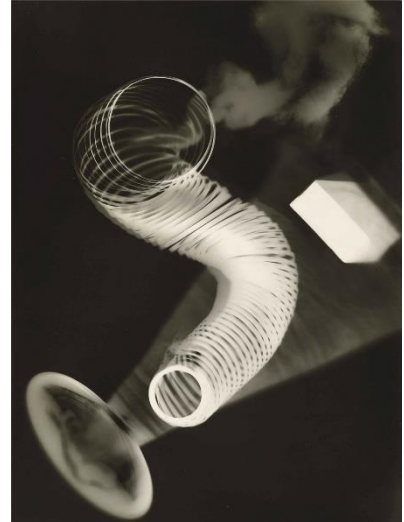
This documentary tells the story of Stéphanie, a graphic designer, who leaves Paris to raise sheep in Normandy. On the vast salt meadows of the Cherbourg Peninsula, she develops a deep connection with this land by the sea.

Co-sponsored by UWM Student Involvement



Trailer only available in French https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pd9jsZO_dHg

Thursday, February 20 • 7pm



Jeux interdits (*Forbidden Games*)

René Clément, DCP, 86 min, France, 1952 (French)

After Paulette loses her parents and pet dog in a German air raid, she meets Michel, a peasant boy who is only a few years older. Together the two children try to make sense of the chaotic and crumbling world around them.



Trailer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_m00tBc114

Friday, February 21 • 7pm

Le bonheur (*Happiness*)

Agnès Varda, DCP, 79 min, France, 1965 (French)

In this provocative take on fidelity and happiness, François, who appears happily settled in the suburbs of Paris with his wife Thérèse and their two small children, starts an affair with a postal worker.



Co-sponsored by the UWM Union Cinema

Trailer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_apt9n4y88

Friday, February 21 • 9pm

Je t'aime moi non plus (*I Love You, I Don't*)

Serge Gainsbourg, DCP, 89 min, France, 1976 (French)

Pining for love in her dead-end waitressing job at a truck stop, Johnny falls for Krassky, a garbage truck driver. When he reciprocates her feelings, they both fail to notice the growing jealousy of Krassky's boyfriend, Padovan.



Co-sponsored by the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLSZ38tDG5w>

Saturday, February 22 • 4pm

Fahavalo, Madagascar, 1947

Marie Clémence Andriamonta-Paes, Blu-ray, 90 min, 2018 (Malagasy, French)

This historical documentary puts in dialogue rare archival footage, witness accounts and the survivors of the 1947 uprising against colonial rule in Madagascar who evoke their long resistance as *fahavalo* or enemies of France.



fahavalo-film.com

FAHAVALO, Madagascar 1947
un film de Marie-Clémence Andriamonta Paes

Co-sponsored by the Department of History, the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy & the Alliance française de Milwaukee

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIS84Q2VTTI>

Saturday, February 22 • 9pm Sunday, February 23 • 7:30pm

Synonymes (*Synonyms*)

Nadav Lapid, Blu-ray, 123 min, France/Israel/Germany, 2019 (French, Hebrew, English)

Yoav, a young Israeli, has a one-way ticket to Paris where he hopes to find salvation from the madness that prevails in his country. Steadfastly resolved to erase his origins, he refuses to speak Hebrew and instead obsessively studies his French dictionary.



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

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9u1Htlmlb6s>

All films are in French and other languages w/English subtitles.

All films are **FREE** and open to the public!