

# UWM FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL – FEBRUARY 2001

**UW-Milwaukee Union Theater, 2200 E. Kenwood Boulevard**

*The fourth annual French Film Festival at UW-Milwaukee will again be offered FREE of charge to the campus and the community. These recent, award-winning films have never yet been shown in Milwaukee. This program is made possible with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture (CNC). It is co-sponsored by UWM Union Programming, the Center for International Education, the LGTB Film/Video Festival, the Film Department, the Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature, and the Alliance Française of Milwaukee. Special thanks to Emory Business Valuation, LLC, for its generous support. All films are in French with English subtitles.*

**Friday, February 16, and Friday, February 23, 2001, 8:00 PM**

***L'Humanité*** Directed by Bruno Dumont (director of *La vie de Jésus*)

In a quiet, working-class town in northern France, an 11-year-old girl is found dead, brutally raped and murdered. A police investigation begins. The slow-witted, overly sensitive detective is almost incapacitated by the horror of the crime, and by the suffering of the people he comes in contact with during his inquiries. This slow and meditative film, tangentially a detective story, is really an inquiry into the nature of evil and compassion, suffering and forgiveness. The luminous cinematography elevates mundane details to painterly beauty. **Grand Jury Prize, Best Actor, Best Actress, (Cannes, 1999)**

**Saturday, February 17, 6:00 PM and Sunday, February 18, 8:00 PM**

***La Patinoire (The Ice Rink)*** Directed by Jean-Philippe Toussaint.

*A film director attempts to shoot a romance set in the world of ice hockey, but seems cursed by his location: a real (and very slippery) ice rink!. Struggling to finish the film in time for the Venice Film Festival, he and his crew slide into one obstacle after another. Full of Jacques Tati-style visual gags, the film makes fun of filmmaking with the grace of burlesque.*

**Saturday, February 17, 8:00 PM and Sunday, February 18, 6:00 PM**

***Beau travail (Good Work)*** Directed by Claire Denis

In the East African enclave of Djibouti, the men of a Foreign Legion outpost spend their days practicing military drills under the scorching desert sun. Their leader seems a perfect legionnaire. He runs the troop like a well-oiled machine—until the arrival of a new recruit inflames and upsets the delicate balance. Inspired by Melville's "Billy Bud," Denis explores the rituals, codes and emotional conflicts of this enclosed male world.

**Saturday, February 24, 6:00 PM and Sunday, February 25, 8:00 PM**

***Le petit voleur (The Little Thief)*** Directed by Erik Zonca (*Dreamlife of Angels*)

When "S," a good-looking guy with an attitude, gets fired from his job as a baker's apprentice, he decides to become a gangster. Moving to Marseille, he joins a group of petty thieves, learns to box and act tough, and adopts the prevailing macho disregard for others which ultimately proves his undoing. Not for the faint of heart. Influenced by Bresson, Zonca is a "more humanist and overtly leftist filmmaker." The Village Voice.

**Saturday, February 24, 8:00 PM and Sunday, February 25, 6:00 PM**

***Ceux qui m'aiment prendront le train (Those Who Love me Can Take the Train)***

Directed by Patrice Chereau. Starring Charles Berling and Jean-Louis Trintignant.

Before the celebrated painter, Jean-Baptiste, dies, he asked to be buried in a distant corner of France: the grand cemetery of Limoges. Upon his death a coterie of friends and lovers duly sets out by train to attend the funeral. A kind of dysfunctional extended family, this band of bohemians and eccentrics find the dynamics of their relationships irrevocably altered. An extravagantly shot, kinetic melodrama by the director of "La Reine Margot." **Best Director, Best Cinematography, 1998 Cesar Awards .**

