

UWM Union Theatre Presents:

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL 2003: Feb. 14 - March 2

This program is made possible with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture.

- 14 **Little Brothers** 6pm
Alias Betty 8 pm
- 15 **Alias Betty** 6 pm
My Wife is an Actress 8 pm
- 16 **Little Brothers** 6 pm
Alias Betty 8 pm
- 17 **Umbrellas of Cherbourg** 8 pm
- 18 **India Song** 7 pm
- 19-20 **Lola** 8 pm
- 21 **Girls Can't Swim** 6 pm
Murderous Maids 8 pm
- 22 **Murderous Maids** 6 pm
Code Unknown 8 pm
- 23 **Girls Can't Swim** 6 pm
Murderous Maids 8 pm
- 26-27 **Bob The Gambler** 8 pm
- 28 **Little Senegal** 6pm
Karmen Gei 8pm

March

- 1 **Karmen Gei** 6pm
Little Senegal 8pm
- 2 **Little Senegal** 6pm
Karmen Gei 8pm

Friday, February 14 -- 8pm *\$4 Discount, \$5 General*

Saturday, February 15 -- 6pm

Sunday, February 16 -- 8pm

Alias Betty (Betty Fisher et autres histoires) *Milwaukee Premiere

(Claude Miller, France, 101min, 35mm, French w/Eng. St., 2001)

Betty is a young single mother whose son dies in an accident. Devastated by the loss, she barely notices when her deranged mother kidnaps a boy from the projects to replace him. Soon Betty decides to keep her new "son" and becomes the unwilling party to a criminal act. The plot thickens at the entrance of the boy's sexually promiscuous mother and unsavory circle of friends. Featuring award-winning performances from three of France's most acclaimed actresses, Nicole Garcia, Sandrine Kiberlain, and Mathilde Seigner.

Friday, February 14 -- 6pm *Free screenings

Sunday, February 16 -- 6pm

Little Brothers (Petits frères) *Milwaukee Premiere

(Jacques Doillon, France, 92min, 35mm, French w/Eng. St., 2000)

This sincere study of childhood in the projects is as gritty as it is lyrical and recalls Italian neo-realist cinema. Talia, a 13-year old girl, runs away from home with her beloved pit bull Kim. Talia, in an attempt to rescue Kim, strikes an uneasy friendship with four boys. Soon Talia and her gang of "petits frères" find real friendship and humanity in their harsh surroundings.

Saturday, February 15 -- 8pm *Free screening

My Wife is an Actress (Ma femme est une actrice)

(Yvan Attal, France, 93min, French w/ Eng. St., 35mm, 2001)

Tells the story of a struggling sports writer (Yvan Attal) married to a successful and famous actress (Charlotte Gainsbourg), leading to jealousy of her new film co-star, Terrence Stamp. *"An enjoyable romantic comedy! A terrifically deft picture about the thick line that separates movie glamour from the real world, and the thin line that separates movie glamour from the real world, and the thin line between common sense and paranoia."* Elvis Mitchell, *The New York Times*

Monday, February 17 – 8pm \$3 Discount, \$4 General

The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (Les parapluies de Cherbourg)

(Jacques Demy, France, 87min, French w/English subtitles, 35mm, 1964)

Jacques Demy's bittersweet and ravishing classic, featuring the music of Michel Legrand and a star-making turn by Catherine Deneuve, in a film where every word is sung!

Experimental Tuesdays Presents:

Tuesday, February 18 – 7pm *Free screening

India Song

(Marguerite Duras, France, 120min, French w/ Eng. st., 16mm, 1974)

Duras's oft-discussed but rarely screened modernist masterpiece. Set among an outpost of fashionably dressed foreign diplomats in an Indian city along the Ganges in the 1930's, *India Song* choreographs layerings of voice, camera movement, stasis, and gesture to craft a hypnotic fugue of free-floating memory and unmoored time. With the indomitable Delphine Seyrig. **Print courtesy of French Cultural Services**

Wednesday and Thursday, February 19 & 20 -- 8pm \$4 Discount, \$5 General

Lola *Restored 35mmB/W Cinemascope Print

(Jacques Demy, France, 91min, French w/Eng. st., 35mmB/W, 1961)

Jacques Demy's first film stars the radiant Anouk Aimée as Lola, a cabaret dancer who, while anxiously awaiting the return of the father of her child, dallies with an American sailor and rekindles the love of a childhood friend. *"One of the most neglected of all the major works of the French New Wave!"* - Jonathan Rosenbaum

Friday, February 21 – 8pm \$4 Discount, \$5 General

Saturday, February 22 – 6pm

Sunday, February 23 – 8pm

Murderous Maids (Les Blessures assassines) *Milwaukee Premiere

(Jean-Pierre Denis, France, 94min, 35mm, French w/Eng. St., 2001)

This superbly chilling tale is based on one of the most extraordinary crimes of 20th Century France, in which an upper middle class woman and her daughter were brutally murdered by their young maids, who are sisters, in 1933. This most authentic dramatization encompasses an in-depth psychological study and intense love story between the two sisters. The Cesar Award-winning acting of Sylvia Testud, in the role of a paranoid schizophrenic servant, gives this crime of passion an intelligence no Hollywood version could match. Contains Adult Content: For Mature Audiences Only

Friday, February 21 – 6pm *free screenings

Sunday, February 23 -- 6pm

Girls Can't Swim (Les Filles ne savent pas nager) *Milwaukee Premiere

(Anne-Sophie Birot, France, 101min, French w/Eng. St., 35mm, 2000)

This touching story of two girls in transition features one of the rising young stars of French Cinema, Isild Le Besco (**Sade**) as Gwen. She lives on the Brittany coast where her best friend Lise joins her every summer vacation. But in the turmoil following Lise's father's death, their reunion is soon soured by Gwen's maturing interest in the opposite sex. *"The complexity of the teenage heart has seldom been more deftly portrayed."* John Anderson, *Newsday* Contains Adult Content: For Mature Audiences Only

Saturday, February 22 – 8pm *free screening

Code Unknown

(Code inconnu: Récit incomplet de divers voyages) *Milwaukee Premiere

(Michael Haneke, France, 117min, French w/Eng. St., 35mm, 2001)

Special Jury Prize Cannes Film Festival

From acclaimed French director Michael Haneke (**The Piano Teacher**), starring Academy Award winner Juliette Binoche, comes *"the most intellectually stimulating and emotionally provocative piece of European cinema of recent times."* (*Sight and Sound*) A seemingly innocuous, yet cold incident on a busy Parisian street briefly links the lives of five very different people: a struggling actress, a teacher of deaf children, a war photographer, an aimless teenage boy, and a Romanian illegal immigrant. Contains Adult Content: For Mature Audiences Only

Wednesday and Thursday, February 26 & 27 -- 8pm Tickets: \$4 Discount, \$5 General

Bob The Gambler (Bob Le Flambeur) *New 35mm Restoration

(Jean-Pierre Melville, France, 98min, French w/Eng. st., 35mmB/W, 1955)

A losing streak causes the silver-haired Bob, an ex-gangster, now compulsive gambler to take a crack at a safe in a seaside casino. Pulp fiction elevated to high art, this 1955 street-smart comedy is a slyly stylized evocation of underworld life in post World War II Paris. *"The cinematic birth of cool!"* - J. Hoberman, *Village Voice*

Friday - Sunday, Feb. 28 - March 2 *Free Screenings

Community Media Project Presents

Friday, Feb. 28 – 6pm

Saturday, March 1 – 8pm

Sunday, March 2 – 6pm

Little Senegal **Milwaukee Premiere*

(Rachid Bouchareb, Algeria, France, Germany, 97 min, w/Eng. st., 35mm, 2001)

This beautifully photographed film follows Alloune, a man who gives tours of the Senegal coastline where long ago his ancestors were imprisoned and shipped across the Atlantic in the slave trade. Alloune decides that he must track the path of his own ancestors, so he travels to the United States. He wanders from one former plantation to the next, asking questions, looking in libraries, and researching an extended family tree.

Friday, Feb. 28 -- 8pm

Saturday, March 1 – 6pm

Sunday, March 2 – 8pm

Karmen Gei **Milwaukee Premiere*

(Joseph Gai Ramaka, France/Senegal, 84min, French & Wolof w/Eng. St., 35mm, 2001)

A sexy new version of Carmen re-located to the Dakar Coast explores the eternal conflict between the desire for freedom and the societal need for rules and law. *"Here is one of the most beautiful modern presentations of the Carmen myth, reconstructed with a new setting, contemporary Senegal."* -- *Le Figaro(Paris)*

**All screenings held at the UWM Union Theatre, 2nd Level of
UWM Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., (414) 229-4070**

Discount tickets offered to Students, UWM Faculty, Staff, & Alumni, and Senior Citizens.

The **2003 French Film Festival** is made possible with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture. Co-sponsored by UWM Union Programming, UWM Union Theatre, the Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature, Center for International Education, Department of Film, Community Media Project, LGBT Film/Video Festival, and Alliance Française of Milwaukee.