

# Milwaukee French Film Festival 2005

February 11 – 13, 15 – 20

In memory of Dr. Sheldon Stone

*This program is made possible with the support of UWM Union Programming, the Center for International Education, the Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies, Department of Film, Department of French, Italian and Comparative Literature, French and Francophone Studies Certificate Program, Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French, the Alliance Francaise, ARTE Television, Marie Bonnel and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy (NYC), Max and Sandra Dermond, and Dr. Richard Stone.*

## Film Schedule:

### February

11	Monsieur N	7pm
12	Strayed ( <i>Les égarés</i> )	5pm
	Seaside ( <i>Bord de mer</i> )	7pm
	Nickel and Dime ( <i>À la petite semaine</i> )	9pm
13	Seaside ( <i>Bord de mer</i> )	5pm
	Nickel and Dime ( <i>À la petite semaine</i> )	7pm
15	Pickpocket	7pm
16	The Models of Pickpocket ( <i>Les modeles de pickpocket</i> )	7pm
17	Pickpocket	7pm
18	Seducing Doctor Lewis ( <i>La grande séduction</i> )	7pm
	Viva Algeria ( <i>Viva Laldjerie</i> )	9pm
19	Viva Algeria ( <i>Viva Laldjerie</i> )	5pm
	Strong Shoulders ( <i>Des épaules solides</i> )	7pm
	Seducing Doctor Lewis ( <i>La grande séduction</i> )	9pm
20	Strong Shoulders ( <i>Des épaules solides</i> )	5pm
	Lumumba	7pm

Friday, February 11 – 7pm – Opening Night - *Free screening*

**Monsieur N**

(Antoine de Caunes, France/UK, 120min., French/English/Corsican w/Eng St., 35mm, 2003)

Flitting enticingly between mystery, romance and intrigue Antoine de Caunes' handsomely crafted, impeccably played and ingeniously plausible period piece charts the final years of Napoleon's exile on St. Helena. Centering on the battle of wills between the Napoleon and his island jailor, Sir Hudson Lowe, the film also examines the conspiratorial motives of those who shared in the deposed Emperor's banishment and shadowy demise. Based on real events, **MONSIEUR N.** is a powerful historical intrigue and a compelling story of one of the most important figures of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*"[E]xcellent staging, fine cinematography and first-rate acting,"* HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Saturday, February 12 – 5pm – *Free screening*

**Strayed** (*Les Égarés*)

(André Téchiné, France/UK, 95 min., French w/ Eng. St., 35mm, 2003)

Set in 1940 at the beginning of France's occupation by the Germans, the recently widowed Odile (Emmanuelle Béart) is a young, beautiful mother fleeing Paris with her two children. When German planes bomb the road filled with refugees, the family hides in the woods where they encounter Yvan (Gaspard Ulliel), a 17 year-old illiterate delinquent whose survival skills and charm soon prove indispensable. The four fugitives stumble upon an abandoned house that becomes, for a brief time, the setting for a makeshift family. Odile, at once suspicious of and attracted to the mysterious stranger, soon finds herself at the center of a fascinating set of personal and sexual dynamics.

*"One of the year's best films."* FILM COMMENT

Saturday, February 12 – 7pm

Sunday, February 13 – 5pm

**Seaside** (*Bord de mer*)      *\*Milwaukee Premiere*

(Julie, Lopes-Curval, France, 88 min., French w/ Eng. St., 35mm, 2002)

**Winner – Camera D'Or – Cannes Film Festival**

In Cayeux, a small coastal town on the Bay of Somme, beautiful young Marie works at a pebble processing plant. Her boyfriend, Paul, a warehouse employee in winter and a lifeguard in summer, doesn't understand Marie's dreamy temperament and stifles her with his clumsy love. The people who vacation in Cayeux remind Marie that youthful dreams lie elsewhere. She wants to leave, and when Albert, a young executive at the plant gets fired, he seems like a genuine Prince Charming. From this and several other stories, aided by close, revealing observations, we see a community perched between transition and stasis. *"A reminder of how, at its best, French cinema is unparalleled at tapping the essence of humanity in all its forms."* TIME OUT NY

Saturday, February 12 – 9pm

Sunday, February 13 – 7pm

**Nickel and Dime** (*À la petite semaine*) \*Milwaukee Premiere

(Sam Karmann, France, 100 min., French w/ Eng. St., 35mm, 2003)

With equal doses of charm, humor, and romance, Sam Karmann's engaging crime drama follows a group of criminals in the working-class neighborhood of Saint-Ouen in Paris.

When fifty-something Jacques is released after serving five years in prison, he goes right to his local hangout and reunites with his old hoodlum friends Francis and Didier.

Jacques would prefer to find a real job, but when wheeler-dealer Marcel tries to lure him with talk of fast money, it is soon difficult to resist the temptations of a life of crime.

Based on the true story of Désir Carré, a petty criminal who decided to begin acting after several stays in jail. *"French cinema has always had a particular fascination with the everyday realities of small-time crime, and Sam Karmann's taut ensemble piece is an impressive addition to the canon."* Jonathan Romney

Tuesday & Thursday, February 15 & 17 – 7pm – Free screenings

**Pickpocket**

(Robert Bresson, France, 75 min., French w/ Eng. St., 35mm, 1959)

Modeled after Doestoevsky's **Crime and Punishment**, Bresson's **Pickpocket** is nevertheless a characteristically rigorous and purely cinematic treatment of a young man's drift into petty thievery and his achievement of grace. *"It is one of those consummate works of art which in one flash pales everything you have ever seen. I would be tempted to say Pickpocket is the finest film I've seen if Bresson hadn't made three or four other films which affect me as deeply... an unmitigated masterpiece"* Paul Schrader

Wednesday, February 16 – 7pm – Free screening

**The Models of Pickpocket** (*Les modèles de Pickpocket*) \*Milwaukee Premiere

(Babette Mangolte, France, 89 min., French w/ Eng. St., Beta SP, 2003)

After a chance encounter with a person who appeared in Bresson's classic film, filmmaker/cinematographer Mangolte searches out the other lead "models" (Bresson's preferred label for the non-professionals he deployed as characters in his films).

CHICAGO READER's Jonathan Rosenbaum writes, *"The most beautiful of her works... one that deserves to be called a poetic personal essay as well as a documentary... Mangolte seems to imply that it's possible to confuse Bresson's films with life because they're made up of its very substance."*

Friday, February 18 – 7pm

Saturday, February 19 – 9pm

**Seducing Dr. Lewis** (*La Grande séduction*) \*Milwaukee Premiere

(Jean-François Pouliot, Canada, 108 min., French w/Eng St., 35mm, 2003)

A ragtag fishing community on a tiny impoverished island must persuade a young Montreal-based doctor to live in their town in order to get a much-needed new factory.

Over a one-month trial period, the villagers try to satisfy his every need and convince him that their town offers all the charms of a thriving metropolis. However, as the good-

hearted duplicity develops, and Doctor Lewis begins to respond to the simple “authenticity” of the village, the question arises: how will he feel when he finds out it’s based on lies? Winner of seven Jutra Awards (French-Canada’s Oscar) and a huge Canadian box-office smash: “*Very funny! Warm, sweet. Would fit comfortably in a British comic tradition that stretches from the old Ealing Studios films to recent hits like **The Full Monty.***” NY TIMES

Friday, February 18 – 9pm – *Free screenings*

Saturday, February 19 – 5pm

**Viva Algeria** (*Viva Laldjerie*) \*Milwaukee Premiere

(Nadir Moknèche, Algeria/France, 113 min., French w/ Eng. St., 35mm, 2003)

A peek into the double life of Goucem, club-hopping siren by night and career-girl mistress of a married doctor by day, becomes a drama of the intertwined lives of three women in mood-drenched Algiers, a city split between a proud and vibrant past and a violent present. Director Mokneche, known as “the Algerian Almodóvar,” conjures up atmosphere as he compassionately portrays women caught by tradition as they reach for modernity. “*VIVA ALGERIA jumps off the screen with humor, poignancy and local color.*” VARIETY

Saturday, February 19 – 7pm – *Free screenings*

Sunday, February 20 – 5pm

**Strong Shoulders** (*Des Épaules solides*) \*Milwaukee Premiere

(Ursula Meier, Switzerland/France/Belgium, 96 min., French w/ Eng. St., Beta SP, 2003)

At a special school for athletes, where intense physical training is the curriculum, fifteen-year-old Sabine (an extraordinary performance by Louise Szpindel) is determined to become the fastest runner in the world. Fighting the notion that she can’t compete with men, she must also struggle with her maturing body and sexual awakening as well as the fragile tendencies of the human heart. “*Ursula Meier’s debut feature film is a rare achievement—a moving, vibrant portrait of young female athletes who have full and complex inner lives.*” (*MOMA New Directors/New Films 2004*) Presented as part of ARTE Television’s Masculin/Feminin series focusing on contemporary gender relations. ARTE is a French-German TV station that creates programs of European and international relevance.

Sunday, February 20 – 7pm – *Free screening*

**Lumumba**

(Raoul Peck, France/Belgium, 115 min., French w/ Eng. St., 35mm, 2000)

The remarkable, true story of Patrice Lumumba, the formerly vilified and later redeemed leader of the independent Congo. Writer/director Raoul Peck renders an emotional and tautly woven account of this towering figure in African history whose flair for oratory and an uncompromising belief in the capacity of his homeland helped build a prosperous nation independent of its former Belgium overlords. *Sponsored by UWM Union*

*Sociocultural Programming and the UWM Department of Africology. For more information, contact, UWM Union Sociocultural Programming, 414-229-6997.*

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**The Films of Ousmane Sembene**

March 18-20

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**UWM Union Theatre**

2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl. UWM Union

Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$4 Students, \$5 General

(414) 229-4070 or (414) 229-4825