

UWM French Film Festival 2006
Feb. 3-12, 2006

The 9th Annual French Film Festival
In memory of Dr. Sheldon Stone.

All films are in French w/English Subtitles.

All films except *Brodeuses*, *L'esquive*, and *A tout de suite* are free to the public
This program is made possible with the support of UWM Union Programming, the Center for International Education, the Center for 21st Century Studies, Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature, the Department of Film, Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French, the Alliance Française, ARTE Television, Marie Bonnel and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, Max and Sandra Dermond, and Dr. Richard Stone.

Friday, February 3, 8 pm

***Les Choristes* (The Chorus)**

(Director: Christophe Barratier, France, running time: 1h 37m, 35 mm, 2004.)

In 1949, just as France is beginning to emerge from the devastation of WWII, Clément Mathieu, (Gérard Junot), a mild-mannered music teacher, finds himself ill-prepared for the demands of his new position at a school for juvenile delinquents. Disagreeing with the school's repressive system of education, Mathieu chooses a different approach as he turns to music as a means of reaching the boys and transforming their lives. Winner of two Césars and two Academy Award nominations as well as numerous other awards. Admission is free to the public.

Saturday, February 4 7pm

Sunday, February 5, 5pm

Brodeuses (Sequins) Milwaukee Premiere

(Eléonor Faucher, France, 88 min, 35mm, 2004)

A rebellious 17-year-old just becoming accustomed to living on her own learns that she is pregnant, and to conceal this, quits her job and takes a temporary position working for Mrs. Melikian (Ariane Ascaride), a designer of haute couture embroidery, who has just lost her son. As the two work together, stitch by stitch, the bond between them grows as does Claire's belly. Claire becomes a more skilled embroiderer as she prepares for her baby's arrival, and Mrs. Melikian accepts her loss with Claire's help.

"Les Brodeuses is one of those films that deals with the relationship between two people with the utmost delicacy, like a precious material to be handled carefully."- Florence Columbani, *Le Monde*. Critics' Week Grand Prix, SACD's Screenwriters Award, Cannes Film Festival (2004)
(\$4 Discount, \$5 General)

Saturday, February 4, 5pm

Sunday, February 5, 7pm

10e Chambre—Instants d'audience (The 10th District Court: Moments of Trial) Milwaukee Premiere

(Raymond Depardon, France, 105 min, 35mm, 2004)

The proceedings of a Paris misdemeanor court's hearings constitute a fascinating documentary on the ins and outs of the French judicial system. Granted special permission to film the proceedings, Depardon follows the stories of 12 men and women and their encounters with the law, from drunken-drivers to illegal immigrants. *10e Chambre* reveals the class differences and expectations of Parisian society, as well as some of the country's most pressing social issues.

Admission is free to the public

Saturday, February 4, 9pm

Saturday, February 11, 5pm

Rue de figuiers Milwaukee Premiere

(Yasmina Yahiaoui, France, 81min, beta, 2005.)

A colorful and timely comedy of the daily lives of North African women who chose to live "European-style," *Rue des Figuiers* takes place in the Maghrebian districts of Toulon, France, where everyone knows each other. Yahiaoui shows the solidarity of three women, as they deploy many stratagems to make of Fadéla, the wife of Marfouz, the hairdresser, a free woman. *Rue des Figuiers* shows the condition of the Maghrebian woman in France as they attempt to free themselves from family supervision, and the pressure of the "village." Admission is free to the public

Two Classic « Films Noirs »

Wednesday, February 8, 7pm

Pépé le Moko

([Julien Duvivier](#), France, 94 min, 35mm (black and white), 1937)

In the greatest gangster film of all time, Duvivier brings to the silver screen a gripping tale of love, passion, friendship and loyalty, as Pépé le Moko (Jean Gabin) reclusively hides in the underground of the Casbah quarters of Algiers. Elusive and dangerous, Pépé is considered one of France's most wanted criminals. However, upon meeting a beautiful "parisienne", Gaby Gould (Mireille Balin), Pépé discovers that his heart is in Paris. Willing to risk his life and freedom to pursue his new love, Pépé takes to the streets of Algiers to find Gaby. Admission is free to the public

Thursday, February 9, 7pm

Touchez pas au Grisbi

([Jacques Becker](#), France/Italy, 94min, 35mm (black and white), 1953)

The great Jean Gabin stars as Max , an aging gangster, who, along with his partner, Riton, has pulled one last job and intends to retire as soon as it's safe to cash in the millions they have stolen. Max is an anachronism...his style, moral code, honor and ways are caught up in changing times. *Grisbi* is a noir classic that departs from the generic film noir clichés and creates an absorbing , character-driven story...leading to a lonely highway with guns drawn ...trying to keep from losing everything. Admission is free to the public

Friday, February 10, 7pm

Saturday, February 11, 9pm)

L'Esquive (Games of Love and Chance) Milwaukee Premiere

(Abdellatif Kechiche, France, 117min, 35mm, 2003)

Set in a bleak housing project, *L'Esquive* follows a group of teenagers, mainly poor and immigrants, involved in a class production of Marivaux's 18th century classic, *Le jeu de l'amour et du hasard*. At rehearsals, in and out of the class room the characters interact, revealing a lot about France's multi-ethnic youth culture. The film's main focus, however, seems to be the French language shown through the juxtaposition between the teenagers' multi-ethnic slang and the polished rhetoric of the 18th century.

Best Film, Best Director, Most Promising Actress (Sara Forestier), César Awards (2005),. (\$4 Discount, \$5 General)

Friday, February 10, 9:15pm

Sunday, February 12, 7pm

***Comment conquérir l'Amérique en une nuit* (How to Conquer America in One Night) Milwaukee Premiere**

(Dany Laferrière, Canada/Haiti, 97min, 35mm, 2004.)

Newly arrived in Montréal, and determined to conquer North America by charming blond-haired women, Gégé, a Haitian in his thirties, lands up at Fanfan's - his nostalgic uncle who has given up poetry for a good old taxicab and dreams of returning to his homeland. Over the course of one night filled with humor and friendship -- highlighted by a party attended by twins Andrée and Denise, two Quebecers with contrasting charms -- the two fun-loving guys take stock of their lives, memories and fantasies. Meanwhile, on television, various celebrities draw up a comic portrait of North American society. Best First Fiction Feature, Montreal World Film Festival, 2004. Admission is free to the public.

Saturday, February 11, 7pm

Sunday, February 12, 5pm

***A tout de suite* (Right Away)**

(Benoît Jacquot, France, 95min, 35mm, 2004)

A stylish, erotically charged thriller, *À Tout de Suite* is the highly anticipated new film from acclaimed French director Benoit Jacquot (*Sade, A Single Girl*). Based on actual events, it tells the story of sexy, free-spirited Lili, a Parisian art student who falls for a charismatic bank robber and joins him on the run, a dizzying cross-continent escape through Spain, Morocco and Greece, when a sudden betrayal leaves her stranded in the middle of nowhere. Visually stunning, *À Tout de Suite* is a mesmerizing account of one woman's breathtaking journey of self-discovery.

"A genuine masterpiece! A mixture of hardboiled storytelling and cavalier coolness."
David Fear, Time Out New York (\$4 Discount, \$5 General)

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Sunday, February 12, 3pm

***A bout de souffle* (Breathless)**

(Jean-Luc Godard, France, 89min, DVD, 1960.)

Arguably one of the dozen or so most influential films of the twentieth century, *A bout de souffle* depicts the adventures of Michel Poiccard, a young Bogart-wannabe, on the run from the law after stealing a car and killing a police officer. With his American girlfriend, Patricia, a student and aspiring journalist, the two spend their time evading the police, making love and stealing cars in an effort to raise enough money to escape into Italy. As the pursuing police draw near, Michel's bravado and desperation grow...

Admission is free to the public.