

2008 French Film Festival

In memory of Dr. Sheldon Stone

Sixteen films from the French-speaking world by veteran European (Resnais, Chéreau, Buñuel, Oliviera) and francophone filmmakers from Quebec (Binamé) and Africa (Sissako). In addition to a well-established filmmaker of North African descent (Rachid Bouchareb), the festival includes a new series entitled Vivre Ensemble (Living Together), five films by emerging filmmakers who look at contemporary French society in all of its aspects, with special emphasis on its multiculturalism.

The Tuesday experimental film evening features filmmaker Philip Cote in person. Eleven films are MILWAUKEE PREMIERES. Twelve of the sixteen films are free screenings. All films are in French w/English Subtitles. Talkbacks following certain screenings.

Location

All films will be showing at the UW Milwaukee [Union Theatre](#) located at [2200 East Kenwood Boulevard, Milwaukee WI](#) between Stowell Avenue on the east and Maryland Avenue on the west, on the east side of Milwaukee. The Theatre is located on the [second floor](#) of the Union. Paid parking is located underneath the Union and entered on the north side of Kenwood Boulevard.

Sponsored By:

The French Film Festival is made possible with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy and the French Ministry of Culture (including the Florence Gold Foundation, the Grand Marnier Foundation, highbrow entertainment, agnès b, and the Franco American Cultural Fund) for the Tournées Festival films, the French Consulate in Chicago for the Vivre Ensemble Series, Délégation du Québec à Chicago and Dr. Richard Stone.

We are also grateful for the co-sponsorship of [UWM Union Programming](#), the [Center for International Education](#), Community Media Project, the Film Department, the [Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature](#), the Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French and the Alliance Française of Milwaukee.

Admission

All films are free to the public except for **The Rocket, Private Fears in Public Places, Belle Toujours, Gabrielle and Poison Friends.**

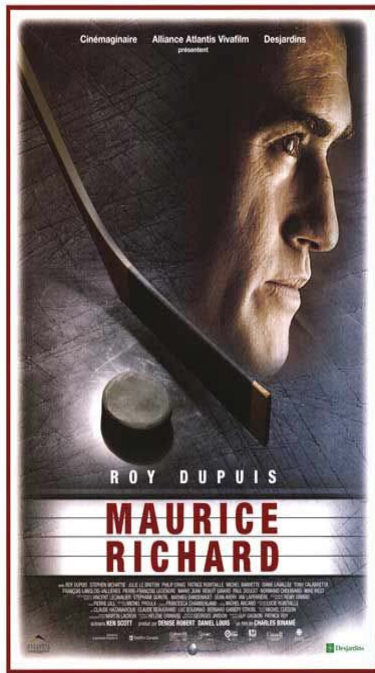
\$4 for UWM students w/ proper ID; \$5 for UWM faculty, staff, alumni, senior citizens and non-UWM students- all w/ proper ID; \$6 for general public

Maurice Richard - The Rocket

Friday, February 8, 7:00 PM

Saturday, February 9, 9:00 PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



Synopsis: The biopic about Quebec's most famous hockey player, Maurice "The Rocket" Richard, focuses on the struggles of a French Canadian in the National Hockey League dominated by Anglophones. In the face of constant discrimination underdog Richard begins to speak his own mind about the injustice which creates an organizational conflict that would culminate in his infamous 1955 season suspension that sparks an ethnic riot in protest and ignites the "révolution tranquille" in Québec.

Winner of 11 awards including Best Actor for Roy Dupuis. "The Gladiator of hockey films." (Brian C. Johnson, McLean's Magazine).

Charles Binamé, Québec, Canada, 35 mm, 124 min, 2005.

Coeurs (Private Fears in Public Places)

Friday, February 8, 9:30 PM

Saturday, February 9, 2:30 PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

Synopsis: For six strangers in search of love, the City of Lights can be a very lonely place. Resnais proves himself a true auteur again, telling an apparently simple tale of love and longing. Six characters struggle to achieve or maintain meaningful relationships. A real estate agent (André Dussollier) secretly loves his younger assistant (Sabine Azéma). His sister (Isabelle Carré) is disappointed by her succession of blind dates. A frustrated woman (Laura Morante) tries to find an apartment while dealing with her unemployed boyfriend (Lambert Wilson). A lonely bartender (Pierre Arditi) takes care of his sex-obsessed father (Claude Rich). They will meet and affect each others' lives in unexpected, amusing, but also touching ways.

Presented as part of The Tournées Festival.
Alain Resnais, France, 35 mm, 120 mn, 2006

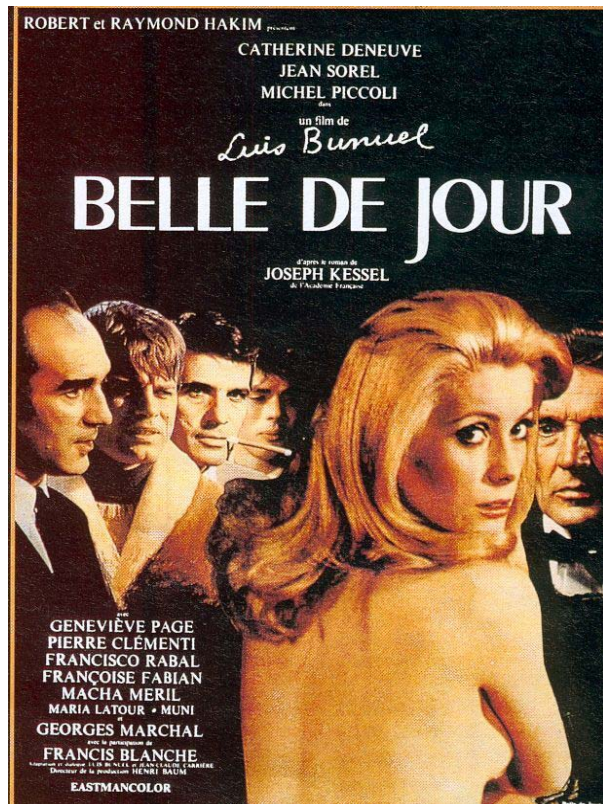


Belle de jour

Saturday, February 9, 5:00 PM - FREE Admission
Sunday, February 10, 5:00 PM - FREE Admission

Synopsis: A psychological drama about a bored housewife's bizarre sexual fantasies featuring a career-best performance from the stunning Catherine Deneuve. As effective and erotic as it was when it was first released 40 years ago, Belle De Jour tells the story of Severine (Deneuve) who remains virginal with her husband while secretly enjoying a rich fantasy life. She imagines being forced to have sex and ends up working in brothel during the day, under the ironic gaze of her husband's friend Henri Husson, played by Michel Piccoli.

Luis Buñuel, France/Italy, 35 mm, 95 mn, 1967



Belle de jour

Saturday, February 9, 7:00 PM
Sunday, February 10, 7:00 PM

Synopsis: A sequel to the classic "Belle de Jour" as well as a self-proclaimed homage to its creators Luis Bunuel and Jean-Claude Carriere, this is a typically playful effort from the indomitable 98-year-old filmmaker Manoel de Oliveira. 38 years after the original story, Michel Piccoli reprises his role as the devilish Henri Husson. He finds Severine again (played by Bulle Ogier) and, over an elegant dinner, tantalizing her with the secret of her past, takes a slow and ironic revenge.

Michel Piccoli as Husson and Bulle Ogier as S?verine in "Belle Toujours."



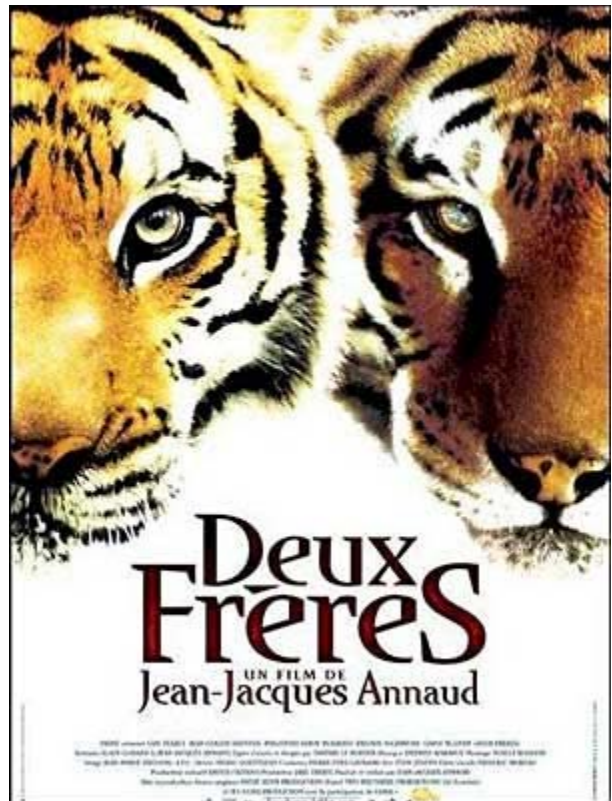
TALKBACK FOLLOWS - Manoel de Oliveira, Portugal/France, 35 mm, 68 min, 2006

Deux frères (Two Brothers)

Sunday, February 10, 1:00 PM - FREE Admission

Synopsis: Set in 1930s French Indo-China, the film follows the adventures of twin tiger cubs--one shy and gentle, the other bold and fierce--that are born among the temple ruins of an exotic jungle. However, on a fateful day, the brothers are separated. When they are fully grown the brothers find themselves reunited--but as forced enemies, pitted against each other. Magnificently filmed by J.J. Annaud ("The Bear"), "Two Brothers" honors the power and beauty of these beasts even as it underscores the cultured savagery of the men who are crowding them out." Ty Burr, Boston Globe.

Jean-Jacques Annaud, France, 35 mm, 109 mn, 2004



Quand tu descendras duciel (When You Come Down to Earth)

Saturday, February 10, 3:00 PM - FREE Admission
MILWAUKEE PREMIER

Synopsis: Journalist and documentarist Guirado's first feature-length film is a drama about homelessness. A gifted but down on his luck farmer, Jerome, travels to the city in order to find a paying job. He is eventually paired with van driver Lucien, who drives around the city picking up the homeless, the unemployed, and the indigent and evicting them from the town. Jerome eventually questions the morality of his actions, while also building a tentative relationship with his estranged sister. - Perry Seibert, *All Movie Guide Vivre Ensemble Series*.

Eric Guirado, France, 35.mm, 100mn, 2003.



**Wesh Wesh, qu'est-ce qui se passe?
(Wesh, Wesh, What's Going On?)**

Monday, February 12, 7:00 PM - FREE
Admission
MILWAUKEE PREMIER

Synopsis: Halfway between documentary and fiction, 'Wesh wesh' is a take on the everyday life of an immigrant family which is struggling to integrate into France or, rather into the "Cité des Bosquets," a low-income housing project in the Parisian suburbs. It is the story of a young Maghrebin returning home to the suburbs after a stint in prison. Taking the lead role, Ameer-Zaïmeche skilfully exposes the deprivation of the suburbs through his character's fresh gaze.

Berlin International Film Festival Léo Scheer
Award- 2001 ***Vivre Ensemble Series.***

TALKBACK FOLLOWS - Rabah Ameer-
Zaïmeche, France, 35mm, 83mn, 2005



Samia

Monday, February 11, 8:45 PM - FREE
Admission
MILWAUKEE PREMIER

Synopsis: Growing up in a ghetto outside Marseille, fifteen-year-old Samia is the "lowest of the low," and she knows it. At school, she's just another dumb Arab teenager preparing to be a housemaid. On the street, she's a target of distaste and harassment from some white French people. And then she gets home, where she's knocked around by her big, abusive brother Yacine for not being a good Islamic girl. The last amazing thing about "Samia" is that, like a growing number of hyper-realistic French films, it's made entirely with "non-actors." Joshua Tanzer, Offoffoff.com. ***Vivre Ensemble Series.***

TALKBACK FOLLOWS - Philippe Faucon,
France, 35mm, 73mn, 2001.

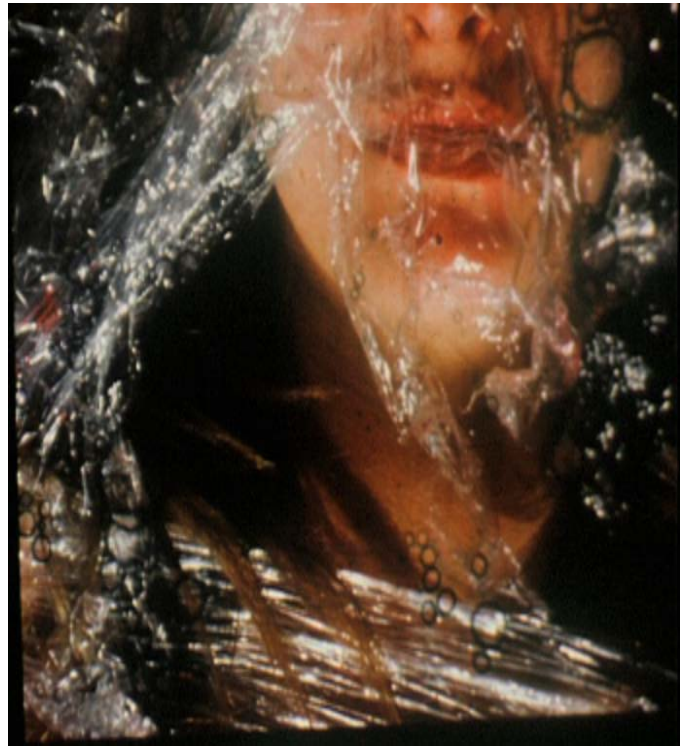


Corpora Luminum: The Body in New French Experimental Cinema

Tuesday, February 12. 7:00 PM - FREE Admission
MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

Synopsis: When phenomenologist Maurice Merleau-Ponty located the roots of consciousness in the body being in the world, the human body became a key site for critical inquiry and artistic expression, nowhere more so than in his native France. Drawing upon this unique critical atmosphere and upon 60's American and 70's French avant-garde cinema, these contemporary filmmakers - all members of the Parisian experimental cinema workshop l'ETNA - engage the body in a diverse range of roles, from moving sculpture to respiring gaze, while revealing the brilliant body of cinema itself - a length of celluloid frames. Artists to be featured: Delphine Lest, Philippe Cote, Xavier Baert, and Carole Arcega.

TALKBACK FOLLOWS - France, 16mm and miniDV, 57mn, 2007.



Pierrot le fou
Classic French Cinema Night

Wednesday, February 13, 2007, 7:00 PM - FREE Admission

Synopsis: A new print of one of the truly great revolutionary films of all times. Pierrot escapes his boring society and travels from Paris to the Mediterranean Sea with Marianne, a girl who is chased by hit-men from Algeria. They lead an unorthodox life, always on the run. "I saw Pierrot le fou by chance ... I decided to make movies the same night." - Chantal Akerman.

Jean-Luc Godard, France, 35mm, 110 mn 1965



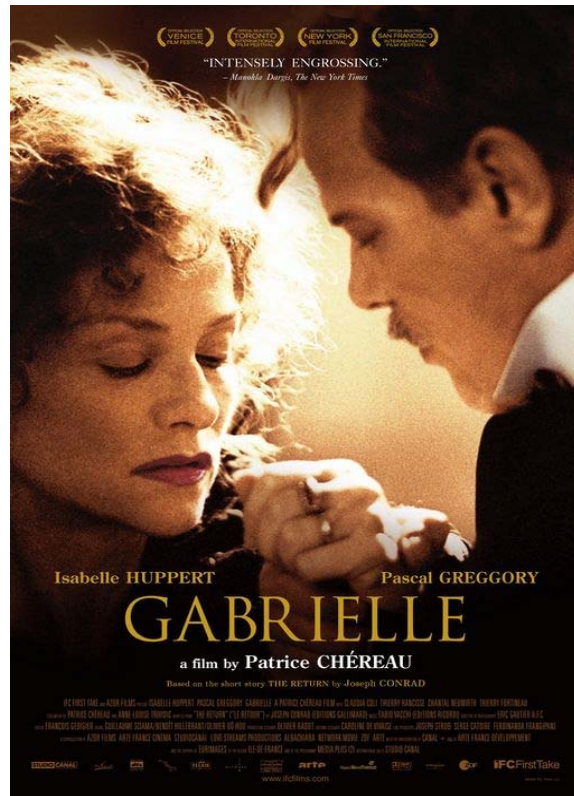
Gabrielle

Thursday, February 14, 2007, 7:00 PM - Fee Required
Friday, February 15, 9:00 PM - Fee Required
MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

Synopsis: Based on the novel *The Return* by Joseph Conrad, *Gabrielle* is one of the most fascinating stories of the stormy breakup of a loveless marriage. Since the original Conrad story was told entirely from the husband's point of view, Chéreau and Anne-Louise Trividic rewrote the story to create a dramatic equilibrium between husband and wife. Following his models Bergman and Visconti, Chéreau "gives us a chamber drama fitted to the radiant talents of his two great actors," a film of "theatrical brilliance and emotional ferocity." Michael Wilmington, *CHICAGO TRIBUNE*.

Best Actress (Isabelle Huppert), Lumière Awards (2006)
Presented as part of *The Tournées Festival*.

TALKBACK FOLLOWS - Patrice Chéreau, France, 35 mm, 90 mn, 2006



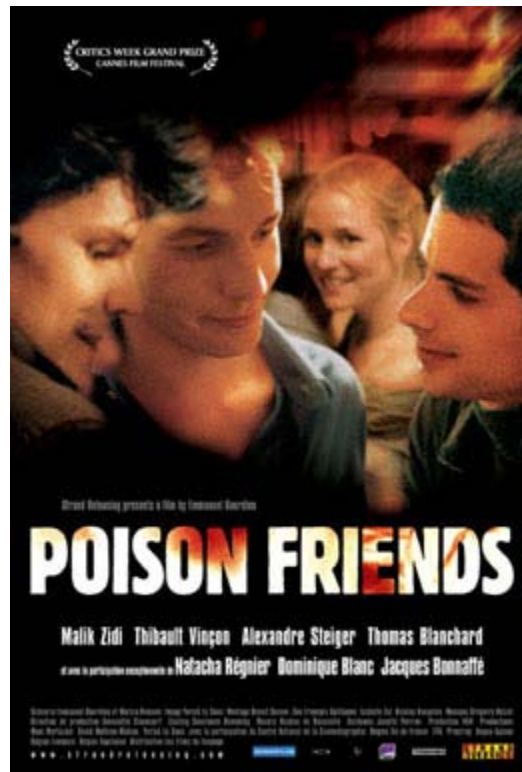
Les Amitiés maléfiques (Poison Friends)

Friday, February 15, 2007, 7:00 PM - Fee Required
Saturday, February 16, 2007, 2:30 PM - Fee Required
MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

Synopsis: A seemingly simple plot--a group of college students duped by a charming pathological liar--becomes an intellectual suspense thriller that never loses credibility. "Writer-director Emmanuel Bourdieu does his bit to fight the homogenization of world cinema in *Poison Friends*. Miraculously, pic explores the pretentiousness of the Paris-centric literary scene without pretension. One never knows who may end up as burnt toast as engaging tale of ambition, fabulation, romance and deceit goes through its well-played and nicely lensed paces." Lisa Nesselson, *Variety*. Grand Golden Rail and Critics Week Grand Prize, Cannes Film Festival (2006);

Most Promising Actor (Malik Zidi), César Awards (2007).
Presented as part of *The Tournées Festival*.

TALKBACK FOLLOWS - Emmanuel Bourdieu, France. 35 mm, 100mn, 2006.

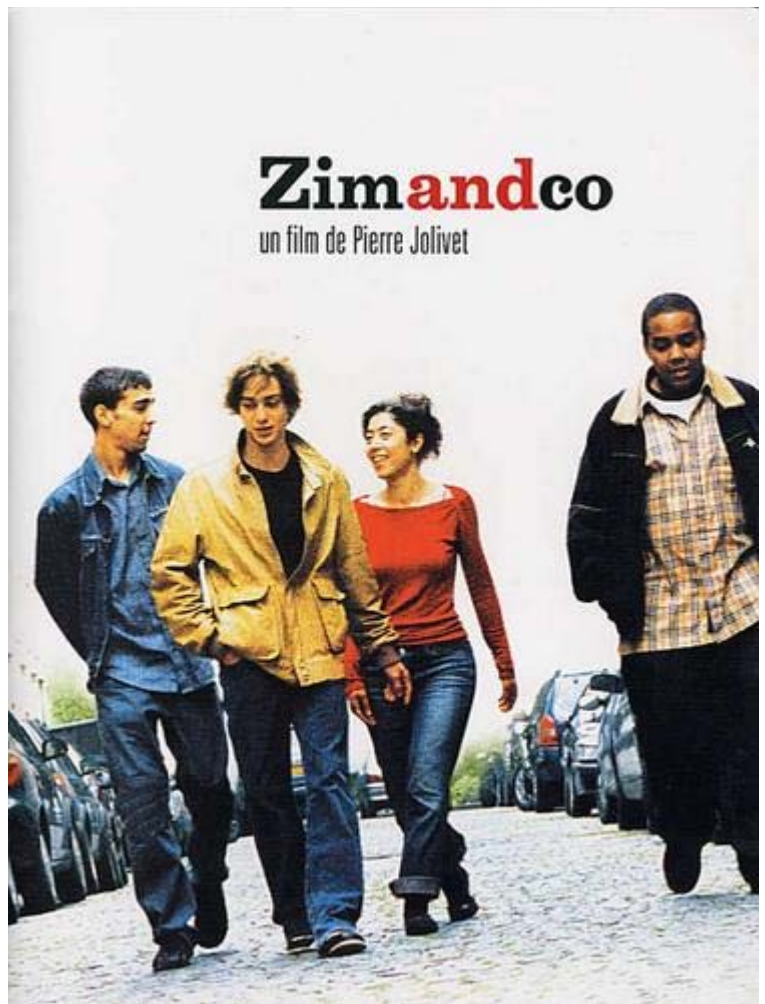


Zim and Co.

Saturday, February 16, 2007, 5:00 PM - FREE Admission
MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

Synopsis: An exhilarating comedy about difficult circumstances. After a minor motorbike accident, twenty-year-old Zim must find a proper job if he wants to avoid prison. Zim isn't a lazy guy and he scans newspaper ads looking for a job. But the only one he finds requires a car - and a driver's license. Of course, he doesn't have either. Fortunately Zim is good at inventing schemes. Even better, he's got a gang of great buddies who are ready to do anything or almost, to keep him out of jail. *Vivre Ensemble Series.*

Pierre Jolivet, France, 35mm, 90mn, 2005



Bamako

Saturday, February 16, 2007, 7:00 PM - FREE Admission
Sunday, February 17, 2007, 5:30 PM - FREE Admission

Synopsis: Over the course of a few days, a trial pitting African civil society against such international financial institutions as the World Bank and the IMF has set a stage in the courtyard of a home in Bamako, Mali. As numerous trial witnesses (schoolteachers, farmers, writers, etc) air bracing indictments against the multinational economic machinery that haunts them, life in the courtyard presses forward. Filled with warm colors and inspirational music, Bamako voices Africa's grievances in an original and profoundly moving way: educating, and at the same time, entertaining the audience.

Best Francophone Prize, Lumière Awards (2007).
Presented as part of *The Tournées Festival*.

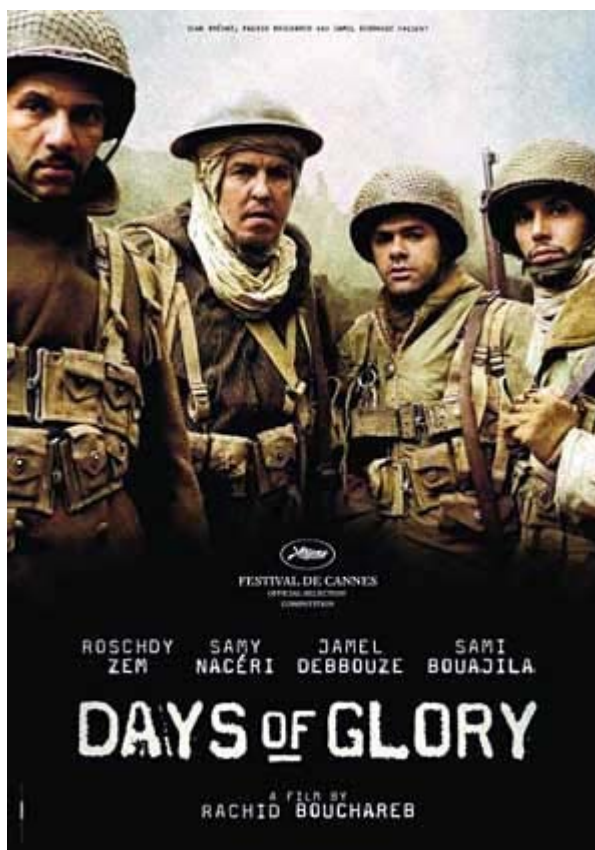
TALKBACK FOLLOWS - Abderrahmane Sissako, France, Mali, USA, 35mm, 115mn, 2006



Indigènes (Days of Glory)

Saturday, February 16, 2007, 9:30 PM - FREE Admission
Sunday, February 17, 2007, 3:00PM - FREE Admission

Synopsis: In World War II, the liberation of Italy, Provence, the Alps, the Rhone and Alsace was essential to Allied victory. These victories were largely due to the accomplishment of 150,000 forgotten recruits from Africa and North Africa, who fought to liberate France, a country they had never seen before. While fighting for freedom, these soldiers must face tremendous racism in the military, and in French society, forcing them to struggle for equality of treatment at every turn. The film prompted French President Jacques Chirac to announce that the pensions of foreign soldiers who fought in the French army were to be brought into line with those of French ones.



Voisins, voisines

Sunday, February 17, 2007 7:30 PM - FREE Admission

Best Actor (male ensemble cast), Cannes Film Festival (2006). **Presented as part of *The Tournées Festival*.**

Rachid Bouchareb, France, Morocco, Algeria, 35mm, 120mn, 2006

Synopsis: In a privatized housing project called "Cité Mozart," there is no classical music but a rap musician lacking inspiration. But what if his inspiration were right on his doorstep? The rapper observes, composes, writes and sings. The life of the whole building is dissected and transformed through his writing. The "Cité Mozart" metamorphoses into the stage for a hip hop fable. Discussions become poetry, situations are turned into tales, and every voice brings its own melody to a unique album. 'Voisins, Voisines' is a movie about how an artist's vision brings beauty and meaning to the lives of his entourage. ***Vivre Ensemble Series*.**



Malik Chibane, France, 35mm, 90mn, 2005.

Film Festival Fundraising Feast at Elliot's Bistro

Monday, February 18, 2007

Schedule

6:00 PM - Cocktails (Cash Bar)

7:00 PM - French Feast

For A Complete Dinner Menu and the Invitation, please see the [2008 Festival Fundraising Feast Invitation & Menu](#)

To RSVP, please submit the [2008 Festival Fundraising Feast Reply Form](#).

Location:

[Elliot's Bistro:](#)

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Milwaukee, WI 53211, US