

UWM'S Twelfth Annual FESTIVAL OF FILMS IN FRENCH  
February 6-15, 2009

In memory of Dr. Sheldon Stone

The twelfth annual Festival of Films in French celebrates the diversity of French-language cinema, featuring films set in Sénégal, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Martinique and Québec as well as France. The festival opens with the stunning musical road show, *Youssou N'Dour: Return to Gorée*. Directors include veterans of the silent films era (Epstein), the *film noir* (Melville), the New Wave (Chabrol, Godard, Rohmer) as well as contemporary dramas (Julie Gavras and Zabou Breitman). Several films, such as Denys Arcand's *L'âge des ténèbres*, have not been released theatrically in the United States. Nine of the twelve films are *free screenings*. All films are in French and other languages with English Subtitles. Certain screenings will be followed by facilitated discussion.

This program is made possible with the generous 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, Délégation du Québec à Chicago, and Dr. Richard Stone. We are also grateful for the cosponsorship of UWM Union Programming, UWM Sociocultural Programming, the Center for International Education, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the LGBT Film Festival, Community Media Project, the UWM Cinema and Media Studies Program, the Department of Africology, the Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature, the Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French and the Alliance Française of Milwaukee.

All films are free unless otherwise noted.



**Youssou N'Dour: Retour à Gorée  
(Youssou N'Dour : Return to  
Gorée)**

Friday, February 6, 2009 - 7:00 PM - Free Admission

Saturday, February 7, 2009 - 9:00 PM - Free Admission

Monday, February 7, 2009 - 7:00 PM - Free Admission

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

**Synopsis:** The musical road movie tells of Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour's

historical journey following the trail left by slaves and by the jazz music they invented. Youssou N'Dour's challenge is to bring back to Africa a jazz repertoire and to sing those tunes in Gorée, the island that today symbolizes the slave trade and stands to honor its victims. From Atlanta to New Orleans, from New York to Bordeaux and Luxembourg, the songs are transformed, immersed in jazz and gospel. Transcending cultural divisions and rehearsing with some of the world's most exceptional musicians, Youssou N'Dour is preparing to return to Africa for the final concert... --© Official Site

Pierre-Yves Borgeaud, Switzerland/Luxembourg, 35 mm, 108 mn, 2007

### **Frantz Fanon: Sa vie, son combat, son travail (Frantz Fanon : His Life, His Struggle, His Work)**

Friday, February 6, 2009 - 9:00 PM - Free Admission  
Sunday, February 8, 2009 - 3:00 PM - Free Admission

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



**Synopsis:** Frantz Fanon, a psychiatrist from Martinique, became a radical spokesman for the Algerian revolution against French colonialism. Embittered by his experience with racism in the French Army, he

gravitated to radical politics, existentialism and the philosophy of black consciousness known as negritude. His books *Black Skins, White Masks*, *The Wretched of the Earth* probe the psychopathology of colonization and the trauma of decolonization, inspiring liberation movements for more than four decades. As a doctor in Algeria, Fanon cared for victims and perpetrators alike, producing case notes on the psychic traumas of colonial war. Expelled from Algeria, Fanon wrote for a rebel newspaper in Tunisia and founded Africa's first psychiatric clinic. The film traces the short and intense life of one of the great thinkers of the 20th century. Presented as part of The Tournées Festival.

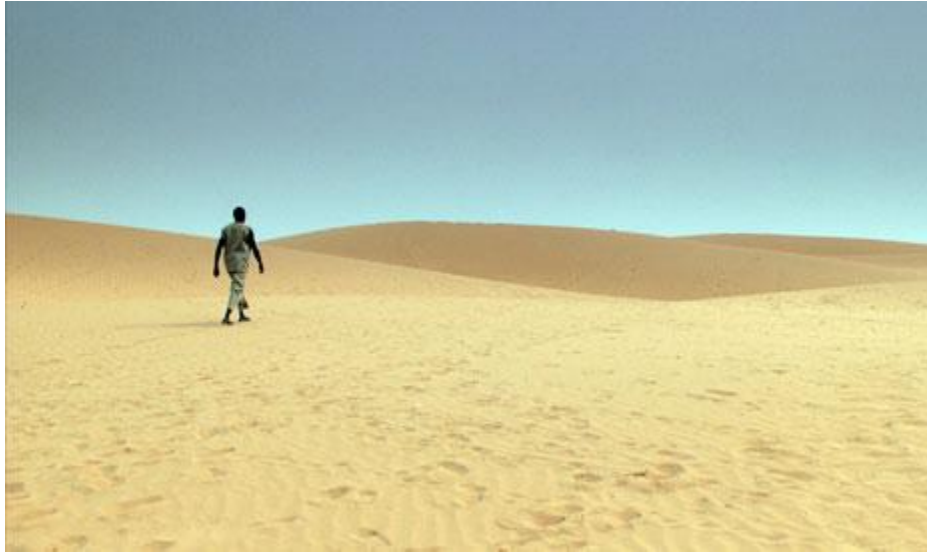
Cheikh Djemal, Martinique/France/Algeria/Tunisia, DVD, 88 mn, 2004

## Rêves de poussière (Dreams of Dust)

Saturday, February 7, 2009 - 5:00 PM - Free Admission

Sunday, February 8, 2009 - 7:00 PM - Free Admission

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



### Synopsis:

Mocktar, a Nigerien peasant, comes looking for work in Essakane, a dusty gold mine in Northeast Burkina Faso, Africa, where he hopes to forget the past that haunts him. He discovers that the gold rush ended twenty years before, and

the inhabitants of this wasteland manage to exist simply from force of habit. The beautiful Coumba, however, is still courageously struggling to raise her daughter after the death of her family. "...hypnotic widescreen photography ...Salgues' screenplay is perfectly crafted..." --Deborah Young, Variety. Presented as part of The Tournées Festival.

Laurent Salgues, France/Canada/Burkina Faso, DVD, 86 mn, 2006

## La Faute à Fidel (Blame It on Fidel)

Saturday, February 7, 2009 - 7:00 PM - Free Admission

Sunday, February 8, 2009 - 5:00 PM - Free Admission



MILWAUKEE  
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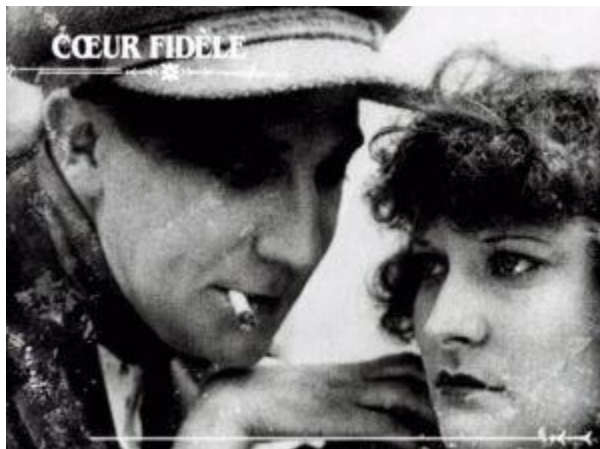
**Synopsis:** How do our experiences shape us, and how is political consciousness formed? Blame It

on Fidel uses a light, charming touch to shed light on these questions. At the film's epicenter is whip-smart Anna, a feisty nine-year-old Parisian girl forced to assimilate cataclysmic changes when her parents decide to devote themselves full time to radical activism in 1970. "One of those rare films that maintain unwavering fidelity to a child's view of the world... It's not [merely] a snapshot of the revolutionary politics of 1970-71; it's about the upheavals of childhood, which are timeless and universal." Tom Beer, Time Out New York Presented as part of The Tournées Festival.

Julie Gavras, France/Italy, 35mm, 99 min, 2006

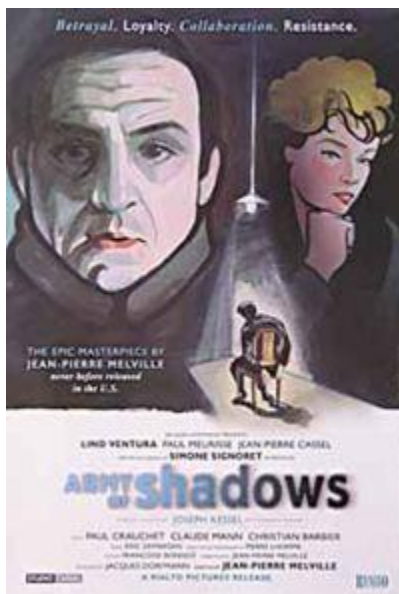
**Coeur fidèle (The Faithful Heart) Tuesday, February 10, 2009 - 7:00 PM - Free Admission**

Silent Film Night  
MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



**Synopsis:** This newly restored masterpiece of 1920s French Impressionist cinema by filmmaker and theorist Jean Epstein uses symbolist touches to relate the story of a violent love triangle between an orphaned waitress Marie (Gina Manès), a thug named Petit-Paul (Edmond van Daële), and her true love Jean (Léon Mathot), a dockworker. In this exquisite expression of Epstein's theories of photogénie, the film's audacious combination of working-class characters and starkly realist settings

(rough bar-rooms, colorful cafés and abandoned quays) and a stunning visual lyricism—expressed through adventurous technical experiments, entrancing camera movement and rapid editing?make it one of the most provocative precursors of France's 'Golden Age' of 1930s Poetic Realism. Sponsored by the UWM Cinema and Media Studies Program.



**Jean Epstein, France, Silent with live musical accompaniment, 87 min., 1923**

L'armée des ombres (Army of Shadows) Wednesday, February 11, 2009 - 7:00 PM - Free Admission

Classic French Cinema Night  
MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

**Synopsis:** France, 1942, during the occupation. Philippe Gerbier, a civil engineer, is one of the French

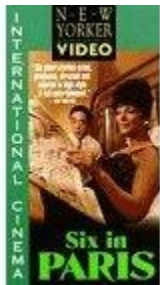
Resistance's chiefs. Given away by a traitor, he is interned in a camp. He manages to escape, and joins his network at Marseilles, where he makes the traitor be executed... This non-spectacular movie shows us rigorously and austere the everyday of the French résistants: their solitude, their fears, their relationships, the arrests, the forwarding of orders and their carrying out... Both writer Joseph Kessel and co-writer and director Jean-Pierre Melville belonged to this "Army in the Shadows" Newly restored print of a film never before released in the U.S. Best Foreign Film, New York Film Critics circle.

Jean-Pierre Melville, France/Italy, 35 mm, 145 mn., 1969

## Paris vu par? (Six in Paris)

Thursday, February 12, 2009 - 7:00 PM - Free Admission

Classic French Cinema Night  
MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



**Synopsis:** This extraordinary omnibus collection features six major French New Wave directors working at the top of their collective game to create a beautiful record of Paris in the '60s. Each filmmaker took a different neighborhood and composed a short film about it-the results are fascinatingly varied and rich in character and story. St. Germain des Pres (Douchet), Gare du Nord (Rouch), Rue St. Denis (Pollet), and Montparnasse et

Levallois (Godard) are stories of love, flirtation and prostitution; Place d'Etoile (Rohmer) concerns a haberdasher and his umbrella; and La Muette (Chabrol), a bourgeois family and earplugs.

Claude Chabrol, Jean Douchet, Jean-Luc Godard, Jean-Daniel Pollet, Eric Rohmer, Jean Rouch, France, 35 mm, 95 min, 1965

## Dans Paris (Inside Paris)

Friday, February 13, 2009 - 7:00 PM - Fee Required



Saturday, February 14,  
2009 - 3:00PM - Fee  
Required

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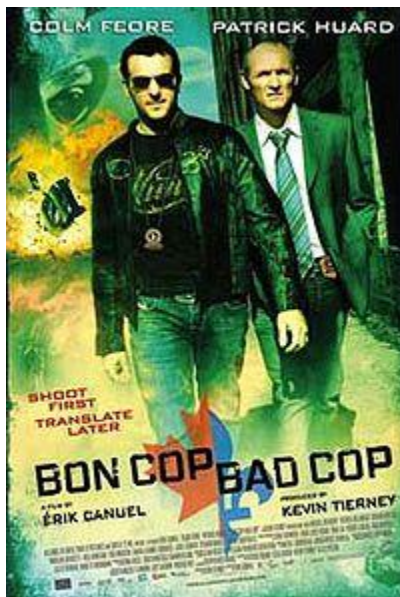
**Synopsis:** Paul,  
depressed from his  
recent break-up with

Anna, returns home to Paris and moves back in with his divorced father and amorous younger brother, Jonathan. While his carefree sibling and doting father try in vain to cheer him up, a visit from his mother seems to be the only thing that brings him joy. When Paul is then left in the house to brood and talk to one of his brother's girlfriends, he begins to realize that while things haven't gone according to plan, one can always find something to live for. --© IFC Films " 'Inside Paris' is that rarity, a genuinely honest, unpretentious and delightful, small film, alternately sober and effervescent, steering clear of either heavy-going philosophizing or dreaded whimsy." Jay Weissberg, Variety Presented as part of The Tournées Festival.

Christophe Honoré, France, 35 mm, 93mn, 2006

## Bon Cop, Bad Cop

Friday, February 13, 2009 - 9:00 PM - Free Admission  
 Saturday, February 14, 2009 - 5:00PM - Free Admission  
 MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



**Synopsis:** A comedy-thriller buddy cop film about English Canadian and Québécois police officers. When a dead body is found hanging on top of the sign demarcating the Ontario-Quebec border, police officers from both Canadian provinces must join forces to solve the murder. David Bouchard is a rule-bending, francophone detective for the Sûreté du Québec, while Martin Ward is a by-the-book anglophone Ontario Provincial Police detective. Although both detectives are bilingual, they must resolve their professional and cultural differences as well as their bigotry and prejudices. Genie Awards, Best Motion Picture, 2007.

Eric Canuel, Québec, Canada, 35 mm, 116 min, 2006.

## L'âge des ténèbres (Days of Darkness)



Saturday, February 14, 2009 - 7:00 PM - Fee Required  
 Sunday, February 15, 2009 - 5:00 PM - Fee Required

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

**Synopsis:** A new comic approach to middle age by the director of The Decline of the American Empire and Barbarian Invasions . In his dreams, Jean-Marc Leblanc



is a knight in shining armor, a star of stage and screen and a successful author who has woman fallen at his feet and into his bed. In reality, Jean-Marc is a nobody civil servant, insignificant husband, failed father, and closet smoker. Will Jean-Marc be able to resist the temptations of his dreamland or will he decide to carve out a life of his own? Nominated for best Foreign Language film, Academy Awards, 2008.

Denys Arcand, Québec, Canada, 35 mm, 115 min, 2007

## **L'homme de sa vie (The Man of My Life)**

Saturday, February 14, 2009 - 9:00 PM - Fee Required  
Sunday, February 15, 2009 - 7:00 PM - Fee Required

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



### **Synopsis:**

Frédéric and his wife, Frédérique, go back to the verdant countryside of Provence where they will spend the summer in their family house. They bring along their children and some friends. One evening, Frédéric invites Hugo, their

neighbor, a solitary and self-possessed gay man. Their relationship will wreck havoc in both men's hearts, as well as in Frédéric's family life. L'Homme de sa vie is a story of life, love and family relationships, it is full of emotions and without any moral judgement. Presented as part of The Tournées Festival.

Zabou Brietman, France, 35 mm, 114 mn, 2006

## Persepolis

Sunday, February 15, 2009 - 3:00 PM - Free Admission

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



### Synopsis:

Persepolis is the poignant and beautifully animated story of Marjane, an inquisitive and outspoken young girl, coming-of-age during the Islamic Revolution. Outwitting the prying questions and suspicious looks of the new

social and moral guardians, Marjane delights in the discovery of punk, ABBA and Iron Maiden. Concerned over her growing boldness, Marjane is sent to study in Austria by her parents where the typical ordeals of being a teenager are endured along with the challenge of adapting to Western culture. Presented as part of The Tournées Festival.

Marjane Satrapi with Vincent Paronnaud, France, in French, Persian, German and English w Eng st..95 min., 35mm, 2008