

In memory of Dr. Sheldon Stone

February 5-14, 2010

The thirteenth festival celebrates the diversity of French-language cinema, contemporary and classic, and France's multicultural society. Nine of the thirteen films are Milwaukee Premieres. The Festival opens with *Dialogue avec mon jardinier*, a beautiful ode to nature and friendship never released commercially in the U.S. The festival also highlights films by three women--the U.S. premiere of Germaine Dulac's 1927 surrealist masterpiece, an Agnès Varda classic and her latest film, and a dark comedy by contemporary filmmaker Anne Fontaine. Two films explore the complex history of France's Jewish communities, and another one presents the challenges faced by North African immigrants today. Milwaukee audiences will also view for the first time a rediscovered masterwork of the New Wave, as well as a just-released film on the Organic Revolution in France.

All films are in French and other languages w/English Subtitles. Talkbacks follow certain screenings. All films are free unless otherwise noted.

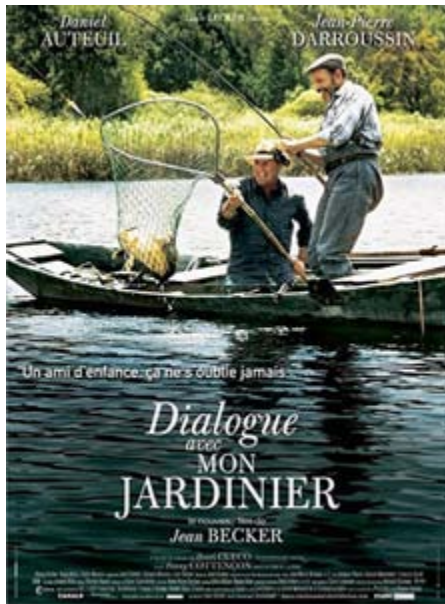
This program is made possible with the generous support of French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Centre National de la Cinématographie, the Grand Marnier Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation, highbrow entertainment, and the Franco-American Cultural Fund (Directors Guild of America, Motion Picture Association, SACEM & Writers Guild of America) for the Tournées Festival films and Dr. Richard Stone. We are also grateful for the co-sponsorship of UWM Union Programming, Center for International Education, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Jewish Studies Program, Women's Studies Program, UWM Cinema and Media Studies Program, Film Department, Department of Art History, Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature, Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French and the Alliance Française of Milwaukee.

Dialogue avec mon jardinier (Conversations with my Gardener)

Friday, February 5, 8PM

Saturday, February 6, 9PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



Synopsis: Never released commercially in the U.S., *Dialogue* is a simple and elegant masterpiece about the love shared by two friends, with two outstanding performances and a marvelously written dialogue. Dauber (Daniel Auteuil) is a successful Parisian artist who returned to his family's rundown manor following the deaths of his parents three years before. Now, facing divorce and a malaise in his work he hires a gardener (Jean-Pierre Darroussin) to restore his beloved mother's overgrown old garden. The man who applies for the job turns out to be the artist's boyhood school chum and the painter will have some remarkable "Conversations with My Gardener." As they begin to see everything through each other's eyes, they find a beauty they have never seen before.

\$6 general; \$5 faculty; \$4 students

Jean Becker, France, DVD, 106 min, 2007

Un Secret (A Secret)

Saturday, February 6, 5PM

Sunday, February 7, 7PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



Synopsis:

A Secret follows the life of a Jewish family in post-World War II Paris, featuring an all-star cast. François, the son of Maxime (Patrick Bruel) and Tania (Cécile de France), is a solitary and imaginative child who invents for

himself a brother and the story of his parents' past. When the Nazis invaded France, their Jewish families and friends were deeply divided on what action to take and how they should live their religion and cultural heritage as Jews. One day, François (Mathieu Almaric, *The Diving Ball* and *the Butterfly*) discovers a dark family secret that forces the family to revisit their difficult past.

"What is most impressive about "A Secret" is the way Mr. Miller artfully and gently gestures toward such enormous themes without spelling them out. Nearly every melodramatic impulse has been suppressed in favor of a calm precision that serves both to intensify and delay the emotional impact of the film's climactic disclosures." A. O. Scott, New York Times

Cosponsored by the Jewish Studies Program.

Presented as part of *The Tournées Festival*.

\$ 6 general; \$5 faculty; FREE for students with I.D.

Claude Miller, France, 35mm. 110 min, 2007

La Fille de Monaco (The Girl from Monaco)

Saturday, February 6, 7PM

Sunday, February 7, 1PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



Synopsis:

Bertrand, a brilliant and neurotic attorney (played by great comedic actor Fabrice Luchini) arrives in Monaco to defend a 70-year old woman (legendary Stephane Audran) accused of murder. But his life is turned

upside down when he meets Audrey (stunning newcomer Louise Bourgoïn) an ambitious, cheeky and sexy weather girl from the local channel.. It is his assigned bodyguard, Christophe (Roschdy Zem), a taciturn hunk, who will guide him, taking control over Bertrand's sentimental life. As in other Anne Fontaine's films (*Coco before Chanel*) location plays a central role in this darkly comic thriller. Bertrand's rigid and neurotic personality stands in sharp contrast to the Mediterranean city known for its exuberance.

"...a dark comedy that Billy Wilder would not have disavowed, featuring a confused lawyer, a ditsy blonde, sexuality in abundance and an emotional triangle that culminates in murder. ...the film will appeal to movie-goers who appreciate story, character and crisp dialogue." Bernard Besserglik, Hollywood Reporter

Presented as part of *The Tournées Festival*.

Anne Fontaine, France, 35mm, 95 min, 2008

Comme un juif en France (Being Jewish in France) Part I

Sunday, February 7, 3 PM

Sunday, February 14, 3 PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



The National Center for Jewish Film

Synopsis:

Yves Jeuland's sweeping documentary explores the rich history of Jews in France - the first country to grant Jews citizenship. The film investigates the complex relationship that French Jews have had with the French Republic and the multiple ways in which French society has dealt with its Jewish population over the course of history. Beginning with Revolutionary cries of Vive la France in Yiddish, the film explores well-known events (the Dreyfus Affair and Vichy's murderous betrayal during WWII), as well as those that have received less attention, such as the

absorption into French society of Sephardic Jews from Arab countries in the 1960s. The film boldly continues into the 21st century, discussing charges of rising anti-Semitism and the country's complex attitudes toward Israel. It includes interviews with leading French politicians, intellectuals and artists, who speak extensively of their own and their family's experience as in France. At a time when France is often portrayed as one of the most anti-Semitic nations in Europe, *Being Jewish in France* represents a unique opportunity to better understand the history of Jews in that country.

"An impressive feat of scholarship, full of fascinating interviews, rare news footage and photos, film clips and colorful graphics." Andrea Gronvall, World Jewish Digest

Cosponsored by the Jewish Studies Program.

Presented as part of *The Tournées Festival*.

\$6 general; \$5 faculty; FREE for students with I.D.

Yves Jeuland, France, DVD, 73 min, 2007

Comme un juif en France (Being Jewish in France) Part II

Sunday, February 7, 5PM

Sunday, February 14, 5PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



The National Center
for Jewish Film

Synopsis:

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Yves Jeuland, France, DVD, 112 min, 2007

Jacques Roumain: La Passion d'un pays (Jacques Roumain, A Passion for a Country)

Monday, February 8, 7PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



Synopsis:

This exploration of Haitian society of the late 19th and early 20th centuries focuses on the tormented life of one of Haiti's most important authors and prominent political figures, Jacques Roumain, who died at a much too young age of thirty seven in 1944. Although hardly known in the English-speaking world, Roumain is well known in Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America and his writings continue to influence and reshape the Haitian culture and the pan-African world of today. Some of Roumain's best writings were translated by the legendary African-American poet Langston Hughes. The question is raised: what legacy has Jacques Roumain left for the future of Haitian youth?

WINNER Paul Robeson Award FESPACO 2009. Official selection, African Diaspora Film Festival 2008.

Cosponsored by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Union Sociocultural Programming.

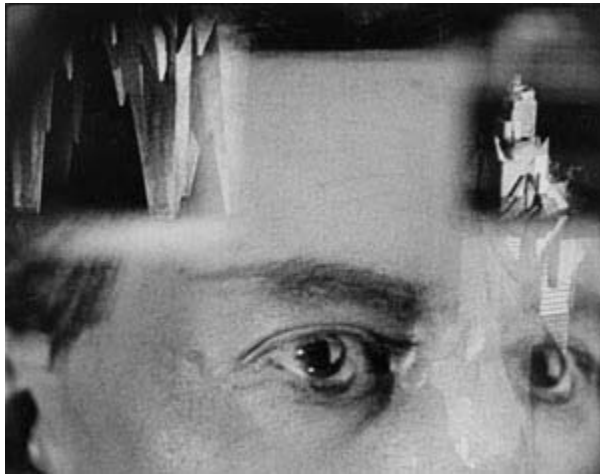
Presented as part of *The Tournées Festival*.

Arnold Antonin, Haiti, DVD, 111min, 2008

La Coquille et le clergyman (The Seashell and the Clergyman)

Tuesday, February 9, 7PM
Silent Film Night

U.S. PREMIERE



Synopsis:

Directed in 1927 by feminist and pioneer of the French avant-garde Germaine Dulac, and based on a script by surrealist poet Antonin Artaud, *The Seashell and the Clergyman* is considered to be the first surrealist film, even if at its premiere, the Surrealist group provoked an uproar that would become one of the most notorious "scandals" of film history. Dulac writes "My entire effort has been to

search, in the action of Antonin Artaud's script, for harmonic points, and to link them through well thought out and composed rhythms. I can say that not one image of the Clergyman was delivered by chance." For Artaud, "It's a film of pure images. *The Seashell and the Clergyman* does not tell a story but develops a series of mental states, which are deduced from each other as thought is from thought." This US premiere of the stunning, newly restored print of the original version is presented on the anniversary of the film's scandal 83 years ago.

Surimpressions, 33 min, B&W, 2009 Four commentators take a multi-faceted look at *The Seashell and the Clergyman*

reflecting on its genesis, aesthetics, feminism and place in the history of cinema."

Participants: Sandy Flitterman-Lewis, Prosper Hillairet, Alain Virmaux, Tami Williams

Tumulte aux Ursulines (Turmoil at the Ursulines) 15 min, color, 2008

Revisits the disturbances during the film's premiere at the Studio des Ursulines on February 9, 1928. Narrated by Alain Virmaux. Interview by Prosper Hillairet.

Sponsored by the UWM Cinema and Media Studies Program, the English Department, the Film Department, the Department of Art History, the Women's Studies Program, and CIE.

Germaine Dulac, France, 35mm, B&W, 40 min, 1927
Live Musical Accompaniment

Nos enfants nous accuseront (Food Beware: The French Organic Revolution)

Wednesday, February 10, 7PM

Saturday, February 13, 7PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



Synopsis:

Food Beware begins with a visit to a small village in France, where the town's mayor has decided to make the school lunch menu organic and locally grown. It then talks to a wide variety of

people with differing perspectives to find common ground - children, parents, teachers, health care workers, farmers, elected officials, scientists, researchers and the victims of illnesses themselves. Revealed in these moving and often surprising conversations are the abuses of the food industry, the competing interests of agribusiness and public health, the challenges and rewards of safe food production, and the practical solutions that we can all take part in. Food Beware is food for thought - and a blueprint for a growing revolution.

Shown in conjunction with Union Programming's Share the Earth Environmental Film Series.

Jean-Paul Jaud, France, 35mm, 112 min, 2009

Le combat dans l'île (Fire and Ice)

Thursday, February 11, 7PM
Classic French Cinema Night

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



Synopsis:

A rediscovered masterwork of the French New Wave, starring three icons of the era, is a gripping political thriller and a romantic triangle set in a France divided by the Algerian War. Clement (Jean-Louis Trintignant) is a member of a right-wing terrorist organization who becomes involved in a political assassination attempt. A member of his gang betrays him and he hides out with his wife Anne (Romy Schneider) in the country home of a childhood friend, Paul (Henri Serre). Clement defines macho with his surly incommunicativeness and sudden outbursts of violence, with Anne often its recipient. Paul, by contrast, is a gentle pacifist, and as affection grows between him and Anne, the emotional as well as political tension mounts.

"FASCINATING! The movie's main source of energy lies in the electromagnetic forces of desire, jealousy, violence and cinema itself. The plot wanders with a marvelous, slightly demented freedom from Paris to the countryside, from political thriller to romantic melodrama." - A. O. Scott, The New York Times

Alain Cavalier, France, B&W, 35mm, 104 min, 1962

Les plages d'Agnès (The Beaches of Agnes)

Friday, February 12, 7PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



Synopsis:

On the eve of her 80th birthday, Agnès Varda, often referred to as "the godmother of the French New Wave," decided to make the autobiographical *The Beaches of Agnes*, guiding us through her

extraordinary 55-year career and poignantly reminiscing about her husband, the filmmaker Jacques Demy (best known for *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*), who died of AIDS in 1990—information that Varda makes public here for the first time. As Varda explains how a relatively shy, awkward young woman from Brussels first taught herself how to be a photographer and then a filmmaker, we marvel at her drive, determination, and endless curiosity about the world. Richly illustrating her documentary with clips from her (and Demy's) films, Varda remains a constant, lively presence, remarking of her on-screen persona, "I'm playing the role of a little old lady, plump and talkative."

Best Documentary, César Awards, 2009.
Presented as part of *The Tournées Festival*.

Agnès Varda, France, 35mm, 110min, 2008

Sans toit ni loi (Vagabond)

Friday, February 12, 9PM
Classic French Cinema



Synopsis:

One of Agnès Varda's greatest films, *Sans toit ni loi* (literally, "Without Roof or Rule") is an unusual road movie about an enigmatic female vagabond. A study in time, memory and compassion, it opens with the death of its main character, the perpetual drifter Mona. Her story is told in a series of flashbacks and

semi-documentary style "interviews" with the people who have known Mona during the last few weeks of her life. But her true nature remains a puzzle, both to those who thought they knew her, and to the audience. Sandrine Bonnaire is excellent as Mona, making an unappealing and cold character captivating in her nihilism. The objective viewpoint of the director's camera seems to raise questions about the unlimited freedoms of modern culture and the romantic ideal of a free spirit.

César Award, Best Actress, 1985; Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival, 1986; LAFCFA, Best Foreign Film and Best Actress, 1986.

Agnès Varda, France/ U.K., 35mm, 105 min, 1985

La Graine et le mulet (The Secret of the Grain)

Saturday, February 13, 4PM

Sunday, February 14, 7PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE



Synopsis:

This stunning film takes place in the Southern French city of Sète where Slimane, the patriarch of a large and vivacious North African family, is an elderly dockworker. When his job of many years is suddenly no

longer secure, he decides to restore an old boat in the harbor, and turn it into a floating couscous restaurant. It's a wildly ambitious project, and the increasingly ailing Slimane will need the help of all of his family members in order to pull it off—from his ex-wife and their children, to his mistress and her daughter. Will this immigrant family's energy and verve be enough to overturn the opposition of the powerful white townspeople? Writer and director Abdel Kechiche is a master at communicating the finest aspects of his colorful brood of characters. Vibrant cinematography and dynamic editing make this personal story all the more engrossing; each individual character is amazingly distinct, while their interpersonal dynamics are rendered with startling clarity and familiarity.

"An entire family chronicle, along with four decades of French social and economic history, is recapitulated as a lavish, hectic dinner, complete with music and belly dancing. It will leave you stunned and sated, having savored an intimate and sumptuous epic of elation and defeat, jealousy and tenderness, life and death, grain and fish". A. O. Scott, The New York Times

Best Director, Best Film, César Awards (2008); Special Jury Prize, Venice Film Festival (2008)

Presented as part of The Tournées Festival.

AAbdellatif Kechiche, France, 35mm, 151 min, 2007

Séraphine

Saturday, February 13, 9PM



Synopsis:

Séraphine is a deceptively subtle tale based on the true story of the life and art of a simple, devout cleaning woman discovered by a German art critic in the French town of Senlis in the north of France on the eve of the First World War. Movingly portrayed by Yvonne Moreau, *Séraphine* toils as a housekeeper while she secretly paints swirling canvases depicting fruits and flowers. She used animal blood and candle oil to augment the small amount of paint she was able to afford. The film raises the question of the value of work and where our judgments on its price come from. Will talent always be rewarded? Can the art world make room for a woman who matches none of its entry criteria?

"Martin Provost's life of the painter Séraphine de Senlis is a study in subtlety worthy of Flaubert." Jason Solomons, The Guardian.

César Awards, Best Film, Best Actress, 2009. Cairo International Film Festival, Lumière Awards, Newport Beach Film Festival, Best Actress. 2009.

Martin Provost, France/Belgium, 35 mm, 121 min, 2008

Azur et Asmar

Sunday, February 14, 1PM



Synopsis:

Michel Ocelot, best known for 1998's *Kirikou and the Sorceress*, is one of the most gifted fabulists working in film today.

Combining cut-out and CGI animation,

his fourth animated feature tells the story of two boys, the white, blue-eyed prince Azur, and the dark-skinned Asmar, both of whom are being raised by Asmar's mother. Separated by Azur's father, the boys meet up again several years later in an unidentified Arab country-where Azur's blue eyes terrify the locals, leading him to feign blindness-in order to free a magical fairy. Deftly yet subtly addressing racism, intolerance, and superstition, *Azur et Asmar* also dazzles with its sheer beauty that incorporates visual elements and techniques inspired by medieval illuminations and Arabic art.

Presented as part of The Tournées Festival

Michel Ocelot, France/Italy/ Belgium/Spain, DVD, 90 min, 2006