

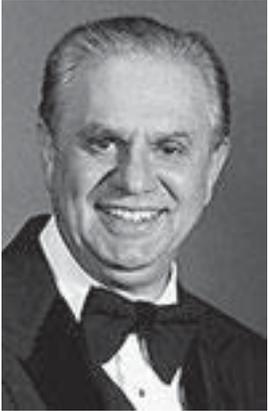
# UWM Union Theatre presents

## The 16th Annual Festival of Films in French

February 8-17, 2013



College of Letters & Science



### In memory of Dr. Sheldon Stone

All films are in French and other languages w/English subtitles. Talkbacks follow certain screenings. All films are **FREE** and open to the public!

The UWM 16th Annual Festival of Films in French celebrates the wide range of French-language cinema, with a spotlight on four films from multicultural Québec. The Festival's fourteen films, many of them milwaukee premieres, take audiences from Montreal to the northern provinces of Canada, from Cameroon (*La Banane*) to Paris (*intra* and *extramuros*), from New York (*Dancing Forever*) to the Middle East, and beyond. The Festival opens and closes with debut feature films by two up-and-coming directors: the introspective and moving *Roméo 11*, shot all across Montreal, and the edgy and engrossing 'guerilla' film *Donoma*, shot in and around Paris on a 150 euro budget (both milwaukee premieres). The Festival highlights strong performances by the inimitable and versatile Josiane Balasko, as the concierge in *The Hedgehog*, and by the gauche but lovable Fabrice Luchini in *Women on the 6th Floor*. This year's film offerings explore class and racial differences, family dramas (such as grown children seeking their birth parents in *Mesnak* and *Incendies*), stock characters with a twist (such as *Le Vendeur*), the environment, immigration issues, and tragic events in history. A double feature, co-sponsored by UWM's Jewish Studies Program, brings together the documentary *Moi, petite fille de 13 ans* and the feature film *Les Hommes libres*, both set in World War II occupied France (followed by talkbacks). As a *clin d'oeil* to Valentine's Day, our now annual classic film night selection is the stunningly beautiful and stirring love story *La Belle et la bête*. Michel Ocelot's *Contes de la nuit* is this year's selection for younger viewers and will also be shown in conjunction with SWAAF's annual French Day, which brings several hundred high school students to UWM's campus. Last but not least, the Festival continues its tradition of silent films with live musical accompaniment, celebrating Mardi Gras in style with the milwaukee premiere of Marcel L'Herbier's tantalizing 1921 film *El Dorado*.

This program is made possible with the generous support of the Québec Government Office in Chicago and Dr. Richard Stone. We are also grateful to our many UWM co-sponsors: the Jewish Studies Program, Union Programming, Union Sociocultural Programming, the Center for International Education (CIE), the Women's Studies Program, the Film Studies Program, the Film Department, the Department of Africology, the Department of Anthropology, the Department of Art History, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), the Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature (FICL), and the MA in Language, Literature and Translation (MALLT). We greatly appreciate the community co-sponsorship of the Alliance Française of Milwaukee and of SWAAF (Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French).

## Roméo 11

Friday, February 8, 7PM

Sunday, February 10, 9PM

### MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

**Synopsis:** Grbovic's introspective debut film takes place in the Lebanese Christian community of Montreal. It offers a sensitive and insightful portrayal of its 20-year-old physically handicapped protagonist who attempts to transcend the challenges of day-to-day life and find love through his online avatar "Romeo Eleven."

Presented with the generous support of the Québec Government Office in Chicago.

Ivan Grbovic, DVD, 100 min, Québec, 2011 (French/Arabic)



## Incendies (Scorched)

Friday, February 8, 9PM

Saturday, February 9, 4PM

**Synopsis:** *Incendies* is a brilliant screen adaptation of the searing play *La femme qui chante* by the Lebanese-Canadian playwright Wajdi Mouawad. A dying mother with a tortured past sends her twin children on a contemporary quest to uncover the mysteries surrounding their father and half-brother. Villeneuve's film delivers an unflinching indictment of the silences surrounding conflict. Academy Award Nominee, Best Foreign Language Film; Winner: Best Canadian Film, Toronto Film Festival; Best Feature Film, Adelaide Film Festival; Best Film, Venice Film Festival.

Presented with the generous support of the Québec Government Office in Chicago.

Denis Villeneuve, 35mm, 130 min, Québec, 2010 (French/Arabic/English)



## Moi petite fille de 13 ans (As a Young Girl of 13)

Saturday, February 9, 7PM

Sunday, February 10, 5PM

### MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

**Synopsis:** In this documentary we meet Simone Lagrange, who was only 13 when her family was involved in the Resistance. Her courage saved her life in Auschwitz, and her sharp memory helped bring brutal Nazi war criminal Klaus Barbie to justice years later. Talkbacks with Rachel Baum.

Co-sponsored by UWM's Jewish Studies Program.

Elisabeth Coronel, Florence Gaillard & Arnaud de Mezamat, DVD, 88 min, France, 2010 (French)



## Les Hommes libres (Free Men)

Saturday, February 9, 9PM

Sunday, February 10, 7PM

### MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

**Synopsis:** Younes agrees to serve as a spy for the police to avoid prison time for peddling on the black market. But when he enters the mosque where Muslim agents are providing North African Jews with false identification papers, he is inspired by those he meets and becomes a freedom fighter. Talkbacks with Ellen Amster and Hamid Ouali.

Co-sponsored by UWM's Jewish Studies Program.

Ismaël Ferroukhi, 35mm, 99 min, France, 2011 (French)





### **Donoma (The Day Has Come [Sioux])**

Sunday, February 10, 2PM

Sunday, February 17, 7PM

#### **MIDWEST PREMIERE**

**Synopsis:** Under difficult odds, the very independent Haitian filmmaker Djinn Carrénard manages to pull off this irreverent, sensual, and garrulous 'guerilla' film. Filmed on location in and around Paris, with a handheld camera and a 150 euro budget, *Donoma* showcases strong performances in a series of striking, trance-like vignettes. The stories of

Analia, a teacher at a technical lycée on the verge of a breakdown, Chris, a sexually inexperienced photographer who decides to proposition the first man she encounters in the metro, and Salma, an agnostic who encounters the supernatural, all intersect in this edgy yet strangely romantic film. The director Abdellatif Kechiche (*La Faute à Voltaire, L'Esquive, La Graine et le mulet*) has dubbed it a magnificently sensitive and intelligent film with a carefully orchestrated plot. Academy Award Nominee, Best Foreign Language Film; Winner: Best Canadian Film, Toronto Film Festival Official selection Acid, Cannes Festival 2012

Co-sponsored by the Department of Africology and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.  
Djinn Carrénard, DVD, 101 min, France, 2011 (French)



### **Fais danser la poussière (Dancing Forever)**

Monday, February 11, 7PM

#### **MILWAUKEE PREMIERE**

**Synopsis:** Based on Marie Dô's autobiographical novel, *Dancing Forever* focuses on Maya, a talented dancer, and her relationship with her unmarried Breton mother as they cope with the complexities of racism in the late 1960s in France. Accepted into the Alvin Ailey School, Maya moves to New York and experiences first-hand identity politics in the US. Faure's camera work lovingly captures Tatiana Seguin's performance as Maya and the dazzling dance sequences choreographed by Dô, as well as inspired improvisations during the rehearsal scenes.

Co-sponsored by Union Sociocultural Programming.  
Christian Faure, DVD, 90 min, France, 2009 (French)



### **El Dorado**

Silent Film Evening with Musical Accompaniment

Tuesday, February 12, 7PM

#### **MILWAUKEE PREMIERE**

**Synopsis:** "PASSION...it's Spain and the shivering voluptuousness of Grenada, inebriated with perfumes, insolent castanets, melancholic guitars, and the death rattle of a suffering mother, amongst gypsies and fools, on the trestles of El Dorado." Shot amidst the monumental architecture of the Spanish Alhambra, L'Herbier's modernist impressionist classic explores the internal struggle of a tormented

cabaret dancer (Eve Francis) through a multitude of intense, nuanced and rapidly interlaced visual notations, innovative technical effects, orthochromatic color, and an original score. Cineaste Louis Delluc calls the film a symphonic "music of light"!

Co-sponsored by the Film Studies Program, the Film Department, and the Department of Art History.  
Marcel L'Herbier, DVD, 98 min, 1921, France

## La Banane (The Big Banana)

Wednesday, February 13, 7PM

MILWAUKEE PREMIERE

**Synopsis:** Banned in Cameroon for highlighting the adverse impact of government support for high corporate profits, *The Big Banana* explores the devastating effects of land grabbing and other questionable tactics on communities, including poor working conditions, pollution, and health problems related to pesticides. Bieleu features local cooperatives working with fair trade organizations and makes us reconsider the sources of the fruit we buy. Shown in conjunction with Union Programming's Share the Earth Environmental Film Series. Franck Bieleu, DVD, 85 min, Cameroon, 2011 (French)



## La Belle et la bête (Beauty and the Beast)

Thursday, February 14, 7PM

Classic French Cinema Night (Valentine's Day) \*newly restored 35mm print\*

**Synopsis:** Well before Disney's animated film, Cocteau, with the eye of a poet, created a surreal and stunningly cinematic journey that is one of the most magical films ever made, even in our day of masterful digital effects. Beauty's father, returning home through the woods, leaves the path in search of a rose to give to his daughter and unwittingly enters the Beast's magical chateau. The next morning, he meets the fearsome Beast, who will only let him leave on condition that he sends one of his daughters to the chateau.

Jean Cocteau, 35mm, 96 min, France, 1946 (French)



## Les Femmes du 6ème étage (The Women on the 6th Floor)

Friday, February 15, 7PM

Saturday, February 16, 3PM

**Synopsis:** A lighthearted comedic pie with a socially conscious crust, this French take on "The Help" is set in Paris in the early 1960s and "involves a seemingly hopeless, staid bourgeois businessman (Luchini) whose entire existence - family, career, sense of purpose and patrimony - is overturned after he discovers another, happier world with a group of Spanish maids living in his family's building." (NY Times) 2011 César for best supporting actress, best production design, and best costumes.

Presented with the support of the Women's Studies Program.

Philippe Le Guay, 35mm, 106 min, France, 2011 (French/Spanish)





### **Le Hérisson (The Hedgehog)**

Friday, February 15, 9PM

Saturday, February 16, 5PM

**Synopsis:** Josiane Balasko delivers another memorable performance as a gruff concierge in this engaging, yet sophisticated film based on Muriel Barbery's New York Times bestseller *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*.

Through the lens of her father's camcorder, young Paloma (Garance Le Guillermic) captures the adult world she is hesitant to join.

Presented with the support of the Women's Studies Program.

Mona Achache, 35mm, 100 min, France, 2011 (French)



### **Mesnak (The Tortoise)**

Saturday, February 16, 7PM

Sunday, February 17, 5PM

#### **MILWAUKEE PREMIERE**

**Synopsis:** Dave, a young struggling actor in Montreal, returns to the desolate Inuit reserve village of Kinogamish in search of his birth mother. He is soon caught up in a modern day Shakespearean tragedy in

this intense and visually mesmerizing debut film.

Supported by the Québec Government Office in Chicago and co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology.

Yves Sioui Durand, DVD Blu-ray, 96 min, Québec, 2011 (French/Inuit/English)



### **Le Vendeur (The Salesman)**

Saturday, February 16, 9PM

Sunday, February 17, 3PM

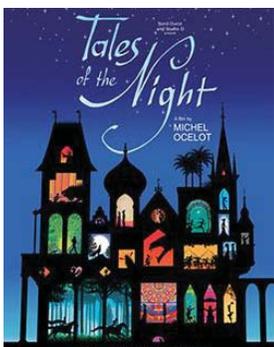
#### **MILWAUKEE PREMIERE**

**Synopsis:** Winter in Québec: snow, arctic sunshine, snowmobiles, car windshields in need of scraping, potlucks, polka, ice fishing, and of course, hockey. The oppressive monotony of small-town life is seen through the eyes of car salesman Marcel.

Sébastien Pilote, in his first feature film, succeeds in making us palpably aware of the vagaries of human existence and our reasons for living.

Presented with the generous support of the Québec Government Office in Chicago.

Sébastien Pilote, DVD Blu-ray, 107 min, Québec, 2011 (French)



### **Contes de la nuit (Tales of the Night)**

Sunday, February 17, 1PM (and French Day selection)

**Synopsis:** Ocelot's visually captivating animated feature skillfully weaves together six folk tales from around the world. He "invigorates them with lyricism: silhouettes evoke shadow plays, and often brilliant palettes reflect the cultures presented." (NY Times)

Co-sponsored by the Alliance Française de Milwaukee and SWAAF (Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French).

Michel Ocelot, DVD, 84 min, France, 2011 (French)