

UWM French and the Union Theatre present

The 17th Annual Festival of Films in French

February 7-16, 2014

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



College of Letters & Science

Paris-Manhattan

Friday, February 7, 7PM

Sunday, February 9, 9PM

In this romantic comedy, Alice, an idealistic pharmacist, is afflicted with a particularly French malady: an obsession with Woody Allen. She quotes lines from his films, engages in imaginary conversations, and even prescribes his classic works to help alleviate her customers' ailments, so it's little wonder she's still single in her thirties! Can the handsome gentleman chosen for her by her parents compete with the man of her dreams?

Sophie Lellouche, DVD, 77 min, France, 2012 (French)



L'Exercice de l'État (The Minister)

Friday, February 7, 9PM

Saturday, February 8, 5PM

From the opening scene of *The Minister*, we find ourselves immersed in the seductive and destructive force of political power. The ambitious and idealistic Bertrand Saint-Jean, a low-ranking cabinet member, finds himself unable to break free from the behind-the-scenes machinations of a political system that perpetuates itself through the sacrifice of its own members.

Pierre Schoeller, DVD, 115 min, France, 2011 (French)

Le Fils de l'autre (The Other Son)

Saturday, February 8, 7PM

Sunday, February 9, 5PM

Lévy's film is a moving and provocative tale – filmed in Israel and the West Bank - of two young men - one Israeli, the other Palestinian, who discover they were accidentally switched at birth, and the complex repercussions on themselves and their respective families. (Followed by a talkback)

Lorraine Lévy, 35mm, 105 min, France, 2012 (French/Arabic/Hebrew/English)



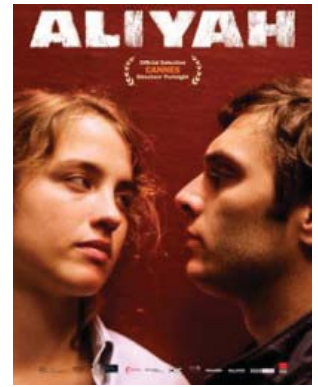
Aliyah

Saturday, February 8, 9PM

Sunday, February 9, 7PM

Alex, a young Parisian drug-dealer, who is continually stuck paying off his brother Isaac's debts, decides that moving to Israel might be the only way for him to leave his troubles behind him. But first he must raise enough money and accomplish his "aliyah" (the term for the immigration of Diaspora Jews to Israel) – which involves, among other things, Hebrew lessons and connecting to his Jewish roots. (Followed by a talkback)

Elie Wajeman, Blu-ray, 90 min, France, 2012 (French)



Le Chat du rabbin (The Rabbi's Cat)

Sunday, February 9, 1PM

Sunday, February 16, 1PM

Based on Joann Sfar's best-selling graphic novel, the Rabbi's Cat follows the adventures of a Rabbi and his talking cat, set against the mesmerizing backdrop of Mediterranean Africa and its rich array of colors, textures, flavors and music.

Antoine Delesvaux and Joann Sfar, Blu-ray, 100 min, France/Austria, 2011 (French)

Aujourd'hui (Tey)

Monday, February 10, 7PM

Returning from America to Senegal, the country of his birth, Satché (played by American actor-musician-poet Saul Williams) finds himself facing imminent death in an imaginary society where death comes looking for you. Informed that today is his last day, he wanders through the city he grew up in, encountering friends and family in this extended poetic meditation on life and death.

Alain Gomis, Blu-ray, 86 min, France and Senegal, 2012 (French and Wolof)

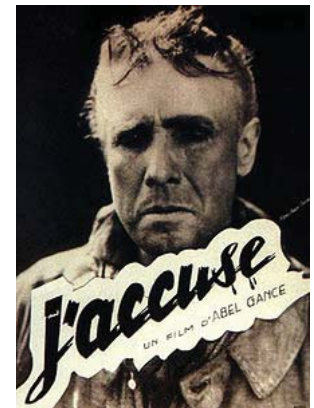


J'accuse

Tuesday, February 11, 7PM

Gance's scathing denouncement of World War I was filmed in part on actual battlefields and appeared in theaters only five months after the Armistice was signed. It was at the forefront of "a new breed of films that addressed war issues in a more sophisticated and realistic way" (Tami Williams, Germaine Dulac: A Cinema of Sensations).

Abel Gance, DVD, 166 min, France, 1918 (Silent)



Chercher le courant

Wednesday, February 12, 7PM

The wildlife and plants along the 500 kms of Quebec's Romaine River are lovingly documented on a canoe trip by the filmmakers who offer a compelling case against a hydroelectric dam project and in favor of renewable energy alternatives.

Nicolas Boisclair and Alexis de Gheldere, Blu-ray, 86 min, Quebec, 2011 (French and English)

Entr'acte

Thursday, February 13, 7PM

An avant-garde classic, made as an intermission piece for a Ballets Suédois dadaist play, Entr'acte features a musical score by Erik Satie and cameos by the director René Clair and artists Man Ray, Francis Picabia, and Marcel Duchamp.

René Clair, DVD, 22 min, France, 1924



La Grande Illusion

The first foreign film to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture, Renoir's recently restored masterpiece traces the fates of a cross-section of French prisoners in two German camps during World War I. "Because I am a pacifist, I made this film," Renoir stated explicitly and his humanism shines through every frame of this highly influential classic.

Jean Renoir, 35mm, 114 min, France, 1937 (French, German)

Les Bien-Aimés (Beloved)

Friday, February 14, 9PM

Sunday, February 16, 6PM

Honoré's tragic love comedy punctuated with songs is broad in scope, taking us from Paris in the 1960s to Prague, from London in the 90s to post 9/11 in Montreal, and then back again to France. It follows the tumultuous lives and impossible love interests of a mother and daughter, played by Catherine Deneuve and her real-life daughter Chiara Mastroianni.

Christophe Honoré, 35mm, 139 min, France/Czech Republic, 2011 (French, Czech)



French Immersion

Friday, February 14, 7PM

Saturday, February 15, 7PM

This over-the-top début feature film from the scriptwriter of "Bon Cop Bad Cop" follows the misadventures of a group of anglophones as they attempt to learn French in small-town Quebec, where everyone is named Tremblay. Language learning leads to hilarity through this combination of wacky plot twists and good-natured stereotypes.

Kevin Tierney, DVD, 98 min, Quebec, 2011 (French)

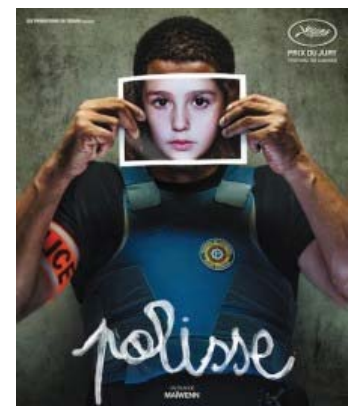
Polisse

Saturday, February 15, 9PM

Sunday, February 16, 3PM

This multiple award winning drama (including the Prix du Jury in Cannes) combines several true accounts of police officers in the Child Protection Unit. Maïwenn explores unflinchingly how they balance the tough realities they encounter on the job - dealing with pedophiles, abusive parents, and wayward adolescents - with their private lives and the strong camaraderie of their team members. A difficult yet touching human story.

Maïwenn, 35mm, 127 min, France, 2011 (French, Italian, Romanian, Arabic)



La Folie Almayer (Almayer's Folly)

Saturday, February 15, 4PM (Followed by a talkback)

Sunday, February 16, 9PM

Dubbed “hypnotic and fascinating” by the Village Voice, Chantal Akerman’s adaptation of Joseph Conrad’s first novel tells the story of Kasper Almayer, a Dutch trader in Malaysia. Set in a small village trading post on a wide and turbulent river, the conflict between Almayer and his mixed-race daughter plays out against a landscape indelibly marked by the remnants of European colonialism.

Chantal Akerman, Blu-ray, 127min, France, 2012 (French, English, Khmer)

