

# UWM French and the Union Theatre present The 18th Annual Festival of Films in French

## February 6-15, 2015

The 18th annual Festival of Films in French at UWM brings ten days of heart-warming, thrilling, and thought-provoking films to Milwaukee. For the UWM Year of the Humanities, the French Program is offering seventeen films, almost all Milwaukee premieres, including two special events: director Jean-Pierre Thorn will travel to Milwaukee to present two of his documentaries on contemporary, multicultural France (*Pleasure to the People*, *93 Beautiful Rebel*) during a day-long event that includes hip-hop performances by Milwaukee dance companies. A second double-feature, focusing on cinema and politics in 1930s France, will present *Natan*, a documentary on the groundbreaking Pathé Studios producer, whose career was ended by rising anti-Semitism, and *Wooden Crosses*, the acclaimed anti-war film produced by Bernard Natan and directed by Raymond Bernard, which continues for a second year the Festival's commemoration of World War I. One afternoon will be dedicated to Claude Lanzmann's most recent documentary on the Shoah, *The Last of the Unjust*. The Festival continues its tradition of screening silent films with Jacques Feyder's moving *Mother*. This year's program will also include gripping dramas on environmental issues (*Land of Oblivion*) and on motherhood (*Our Children*), a coming of age story (*Sarah Prefers to Run*), a neo-noir cult classic from the 80s (*The Night is Young*), and a romantic comedy (*2 Autumns 3 Winters*) for Valentine's Day.

Prize winning films by young directors (*Tom at the Farm*, *Hold Back*) are paired with strong performances by Catherine Deneuve in *On My Way*, Josh Charles in *Bird People*, and Thierry Lhermitte in the comical *French Minister*. This year's selection for younger viewers is *Ernest & Celestine*, shown in conjunction with SWAAF's annual French Day, which continues to bring students from Milwaukee schools to UWM's campus year after year.

### ***Elle s'en va (On My Way)***

Friday, February 6, 7pm

Saturday, February 7, 5pm

Emmanuelle Bercot, 2013, France (French) 113 min



A delightful road movie written expressly for Catherine Deneuve, who has rarely appeared as loose and vibrant. Her exchanges with nonprofessional actors set in tiny French rural towns and with director Emmanuelle Bercot's son, who plays Deneuve's grandson, exude both energy and charm.

Presented as part of the Tournées Film Festival.

### ***Rengaine (Hold Back)***

Friday, February 6, 9:15pm

Saturday, February 7, 7:15pm

Rachid Djaïdani, 2012, France (French, 75 min)

Introduction and Talkback by Sarah Davies Cordova

In present-day Paris, Dorcy, a young black Christian, wants to marry Sabrina, a young North African. But Sabrina has forty brothers... This high-spirited tale crystallizes taboos still rooted in the mentalities of the two communities.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Africology and FICL.



### ***Ernest & Celestine***

Saturday, February 7, 1pm

Sunday, February 15, 1pm

S. Aubier, V. Patar and B. Renner, 2012, France

(French) 80 min

When the orphan mouse Celestine nearly ends up as breakfast for the ursine troubadour Ernest, the two form an unlikely bond and challenge the social codes of the worlds they come from, defending the principles of justice and tolerance, which resonate with the film's tender and colorful hand-drawn animation.

Presented as part of the Tournées Film Festival. Co-sponsored by SWAAF and DeWan Dental Wellness.



### ***Quai d'Orsay (The French Minister)***

Saturday, February 7, 2:30pm

Sunday, February 8, 9pm

Bertrand Tavernier, 2013, France (French), 113 min  
Doors slam and papers fly in this off-the-wall comedy about French politics, which zeroes in on a fictional Minister of Foreign Affairs (a tour-de-force comic performance by Thierry Lhermitte) and the hapless speechwriter who endures the eccentricities of his megalomaniacal boss and his sycophantic entourage. Presented as part of the Tournées Film Festival.



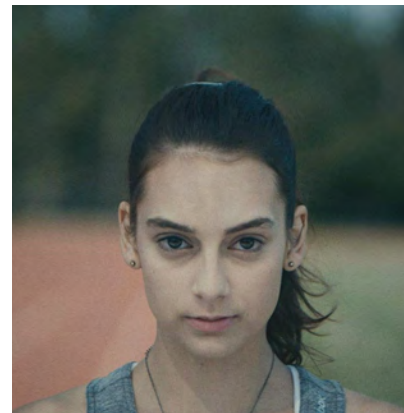
***Sarah préfère la course (Sarah Prefers to Run)***

Saturday, February 7, 9pm

Sunday, February 8, 7pm

Chloé Robichaud, 2013, Canada (Quebec French), 97 min

Sarah is a gifted young middle-distance runner, whose life changes when she's offered admission to Quebec's best university athletics program in Montreal. Her dream is beautiful and intoxicating but also destructive and selfish. Sarah learns, like many people her age, to make choices and live with the consequences.



***Le Dernier des injustes (The Last of the Unjust)***

Sunday, February 8, 2pm

Claude Lanzmann, 2013, France (French, German), 218 min

Introduction and Talkback by Shay Pilnik.

This documentary provides an unprecedented insight into the genesis of the Final Solution. Claude Lanzmann spent many hours in 1975 interviewing Benjamin Murmelstein, who was at the time the only surviving president of the Jewish Council in the Theresienstadt death camp during World War II. These conversations never made it into Shoah and are presented here for the first time. They introduce us to the extraordinary personality of Benjamin Murmelstein, reveal the true face of Eichmann, and expose without artifice the savage contradictions of the Jewish Councils.



Presented as part of the Tournées Film Festival.

Co-sponsored by the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center, and the Center for 21st Century Studies.

Double Feature with a Hip-Hop Dance Performance in the Union Concourse at 12:30pm.

Monday, February 9

***Faire kiffer les anges (Pleasure to the People)*** at 2pm

Jean-Pierre Thorn, 1997, France (French), 88 min, 35 mm

Round table featuring Jean-Pierre Thorn to follow screening.

This landmark documentary follows the emergence of the hip-hop dance culture in the 1980s and 90s in France as it moved from gritty urban settings and housing projects on the outskirts of Paris to the national stage. Looking at the dancers' dreams, experiences, and frustrations, it highlights how their performance and body language disrupted contemporary dance codes.



***93 La Belle Rebelle (93 Beautiful Rebel)*** at 7pm

Jean-Pierre Thorn, 2011, France (French), 73 min

Talkback with Jean-Pierre Thorn.

A fascinating socio-historical journey, which documents half a century of vibrant musical resistance moving from rock and punk to rap and spoken word, this documentary traces the musical influences and the richly creative counterculture of the marginalized “banlieues” youth from the northeastern suburbs of Paris.

Co-sponsored by the Union Sociocultural Programming, the Consulate General of France in Chicago, the Department of Dance, the NRC Language Project, Urban Studies, LACUSL, and CLACS. Part of the African-American Film Series.



Silent film evening with musical accompaniment by Renato Umali.

**Visages d'enfants (Mother)**

Tuesday February 10, 7pm

Jacques Feyder, 1925, France/Switzerland (French) 117 min

Introduction and talkback by Tami Williams.

An innovative masterpiece on childhood suffering and distress, *Mother* is one of the first feature films to give children substantive dramatic roles. While filmed nearly a century ago, its focus on the death of a parent and the tensions in “blended families” are at once timely and eternal.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Film, Video, Animation, and New Genres, and Film Studies.



### ***La Terre outragée (Land of Oblivion)***

Wednesday, February 11, 7pm

Michale Boganim, 2012, France (Russian, Ukranian, French), 108 min

April 26th, 1986. Anya and Piotr celebrate their marriage. Little Valery and his father Alexei, a physicist at the power station in Chernobyl, plant an apple tree. Nikolai, the forest warden, makes his rounds in the surrounding forests. Then, an accident occurs at the power station. Insidiously, radioactivity transforms nature.

Part of the Student Involvement’s Share the Earth Environmental Series.



Thursday, February 12

### ***Natan: The Untold Story of French Cinema’s Forgotten Genius*** at 7pm

P. Duane and D. Cairns, 2013, Ireland (English, French), 66 min

Classic Evening Double Feature

Introduction by Maggie Levantovskaya



As owner of Pathé studios, Bernard Natan made pioneering contributions in the 1920s and 30s that forever shaped the French film industry. How could his name have been erased from the history of cinema? A requiem for a forgotten genius, Natan pieces together the true story of this pivotal figure in early French film.

***Le Croix de bois (Wooden Crosses)*** at 8:30pm

Raymond Bernard, 1932, France (French), 113 min

Introduction and Talkback by Fabienne Bulot.

A pacifist work of enormous empathy and chilling despair, this cinematographic masterpiece is France's answer to *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Using a masterful and innovative arsenal of film techniques, it harrowingly depicts the pointlessness of war. An unforgettable technical and emotional powerhouse.

Co-sponsored by the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center, and the Department of Film, Video, Animation, and New Genres.



***2 automnes 3 hivers (2 Autumns 3 Winters)***

Friday, February 13, 7pm

Saturday, February 14, 2:30pm

Sébastien Betbeder, 2013, France (French) 93 min

A touching romantic comedy set in Paris, perfect for Valentine's Day. In an age when face-to-face connections are increasingly elusive, the film's characters repeatedly turn to the camera to reveal their memories, fears, and desires while struggling to navigate real life.

Presented as part of the Tournées Film Festival.



***Bird People***

Friday, February 13, 9pm

Sunday, February 15, 7pm

Pascale Ferran, 2014, France (English, French), 127 min



In an airport hotel on the outskirts of Paris, a Silicon Valley engineer (Josh Charles) abruptly ditches his job and breaks things off with his wife. As fate draws him and a young French maid together, an audacious second-act surprise suddenly transforms this dark fairy-tale into something more beguiling and utterly astonishing.

Co-sponsored by MALLT and FICL.

### ***À perdre la raison (Our Children)***

Saturday, February 14, 4:30pm

Sunday, February 15, 2:30pm

Joachim Lafosse, 2012, Belgium (French, Arabic), 111 min

Based on a true story, this psychological drama delivers subtle observations between the patriarchal society, colonialism, motherhood, and poverty. When Mounir and Murielle decide to marry and have children, the couple's financial dependence on an older man leads the family towards a tragic outcome.

Presented as part of the Tournées Film Festival. Co-sponsored by the Women Studies Program.



### ***Tom à la ferme (Tom at the Farm)***

Saturday, February 14, 7pm

Xavier Dolan, 2014, Canada (Quebec French), 102 min

In this psychological thriller, a young advertising copywriter travels to the country for a funeral. There, he's shocked to find out that no one knows who he is and to learn that the brother of the deceased has placed him at the center of a twisted game.

Presented with the generous support of the Quebec Government Office in Chicago. Co-sponsored by the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival.



### ***Mauvais sang (The Night is Young)***

Saturday, February 14, 9pm

Sunday, February 15, 5pm

Leos Carax, 1986, France (French), 105 min



This ebullient, endlessly romantic film, starring Michel Piccoli and a young Juliette Binoche captures ineffable states of being. Carax's neo-noir cult classic set in Paris in the near future is a salute to the cinema of the New Wave and the ferocious intensity of youth.

Presented as part of the Tournées Film Festival. Co-sponsored by the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival and Film Studies.

All films are in French and other languages w/English subtitles.

All films are **FREE** and open to the public!