

**UWM French and
the Union Theatre present
The 20th Annual Festival of Films in French**

February 17-26, 2017

To mark the occasion of the **20th anniversary** of the Festival of Films in French, the UWM French program is proud to screen a special selection of 20 films. Tributes to cinema open and close the festival (*Voyage à travers le cinéma français*, a wide-ranging, very personal documentary by veteran director Bertrand Tavernier and *Arrête ton cinéma*, a comedic insider's view of the film-making business by Diane Kurys). Journeys through time and space comprise the central theme of this festival, obeying the Baudelairian injunction of Germaine Dulac's impressionist silent film *L'invitation au voyage*. Films showcase stories from far-flung places, ranging from Senegal (*Touki Bouki*) to Haiti (*L'homme sur les quais*) to Cambodia (*Le sommeil d'or*) to Quebec (*Corbo* and *Mommy*) to the Indian Ocean (*L'opéra du bout du monde*) to Morocco (*L'orchestre de minuit*) and to Iran (*Poulet aux prunes*). Questions of migration and immigration, of integration, friendship and acceptance, are explored in *La cour de Babel*, *D'une pierre deux coups*, *Dans la cour* and *Mon amie Victoria* among others. Two films portray how treacherous travel can become in times of political upheaval (World War II in *Belle et Sébastien II* and the Algerian War of Independence in *Loin des hommes*). In this year's classic film *Lola*, New Wave director Jacques Demy shows how, although distance makes the heart grow fonder, the reuniting of lovers is always subject to the vagaries of fate. Finally, our planet itself is the star of the documentary *Demain*, which offers a hopeful horizon for its survival.

The UWM French Program thanks the FACE Foundation and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy for the Tournées Film Festival grant, and is grateful for the generosity of Dr. Richard Stone and the continued support of the Québec Government Office in Chicago. We thank our many UWM co-sponsors, past and present: the College of Letters and Sciences, Student Involvement, the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, the Community Media Project, the Department of Film, Video, Animation, and New Genres, the Middle Eastern North African Studies Certificate Program, the Institute of World Affairs, the Milwaukee

LGBT Film/Video Festival, the Department of Dance, the Department of Africology, the MA in Language, Literature, and Translation Program (MALLT), and the Department of French, Italian, and Comparative Literature. We greatly appreciate the community sponsorship of the Alliance Française of Milwaukee and of SWAAF (Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French). We extend a special note of gratitude to our colleague Professor Emerita Gabrielle Verdier for her vision in establishing the UWM Festival of Films in French 20 years ago.

Voyage à travers le cinéma français (Journey through French Cinema)

Friday February 17, 7PM

Bertrand Tavernier, Blu-ray, 190 min, France, 2016 (French)

Acclaimed director Tavernier pays homage to French cinema in this passionate documentary told through portraits of key creative figures and personal reflections on his influences.

Co-sponsored by the Alliance française de Milwaukee



La cour de Babel (School of Babel)

Saturday February 18, 5PM

Julie Bertuccelli, DVD, 89 min, France, 2013 (French)

Using a surprisingly intimate fly-on-the-wall style, this documentary gives us unforgettable glimpses into the lives of tweens and teens who have recently immigrated to France.

Presented as part of Tournées Film Festival

Co-sponsored by the UWM Department of Women's and Gender studies



Dans la cour (In the Courtyard)

Saturday February 18, 7PM

Pierre Salvadori, DVD, 97 min, France, 2014 (French)

Catherine Deneuve delivers a delicate and humorous performance in this gently meandering study of two troubled souls who form a cross generational bond (NY Times).

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Mommy

Saturday February 18, 9PM

Xavier Dolan, Blu-ray, 138 min, Quebec, 2014 (French)

Xavier Dolan's award-winning film features a widowed single mother, raising her violent son alone, who finds new hope when a mysterious neighbor inserts herself into their household.

Co-sponsored by the Québec Government Office in Chicago



Belle et Sébastien, L'aventure continue (Belle and Sebastien: The Adventure Continues)

Sunday February 19, 1PM

Sunday February 26, 1PM

Christian Duguay, DCP, 97 min, France, 2015 (French)

This sequel, set at the end of World War II, follows the adventures of Sebastien and his faithful dog Belle. The courageous duo set out to rescue César's daughter Angelina, whose plane crashes when she returns home after having fought in the Resistance.



Poulet aux prunes (Chicken with Plums)

Sunday February 19, 3PM

Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi, DVD, 93 min, France/Germany/Belgium, 2011 (French, English)

As with Persepolis, co-directors Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Parranaud magically translate a graphic novel by the former to the big screen. This mostly live action film, set in 1958 Tehran, unfolds with the power of a parable.

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L'opéra du bout du monde (An Opera from the Indian Ocean)

Sunday February 19, 5PM

Marie Clémence & César Paes, DVD, 96 min, France/Madagascar, 2012 (French, Malagasy)



This musical road movie traces the cast's journey to southern Madagascar where they stage an opera about the long colonial history of the Indian Ocean for an audience that has never before seen an opera.

Le sommeil d'or (Golden Slumbers)

Sunday February 19, 7PM

Davy Chou, DVD, 96 min, France/Cambodia, 2011 (French, Khmer)

Chou explores the 1960-1975 heyday of Cambodian cinema in this mournful testament to a vibrant piece of global film history almost entirely wiped out of existence by war (The Hollywood Reporter).

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L'homme sur les quais (Man by the Shore)

Monday February 20, 7PM

Raoul Peck, DVD, 106 min, France/Canada/Haiti/Germany, 1993 (French, Kreyol)

Set in 1960s Haiti, during the dictatorship of "Papa Doc" Duvalier, this highly symbolic tale of Haiti's hopes and desires is told by a woman who is haunted by a man in her nightmares.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies



La souriante Mme Beudet (Smiling Mme Beudet)

DVD, 38 min, France, 1922 (Silent)

L'invitation au voyage (Invitation to a Journey)

DVD, 36 min, France, 1927 (Silent)

Tuesday February 21, 7PM

Two early feminist short films by Germaine Dulac, depicting women trapped in unhappy marriages, are presented with live piano accompaniment by Renato Umali.



Demain (Tomorrow)

Wednesday February 22, 7PM



Cyril Dion & Mélanie Laurent, DCP, 118 min, France, 2015
(French, Finnish, Hindi, English)

This documentary spans the globe, providing “a comprehensive look at ways in which activists, organizers, and everyday citizens are trying to make the world a better, greener, more sustainable place” (The Hollywood Reporter).

Co-sponsored by UWM Student Involvement

Lola

Thursday February 23, 7PM

Jacques Demy, Blu-ray, 88 min, France, 1961 (French)

Anouk Aimée stars in this debut film by Jacques Demy that has been restored by his widow, French director Agnes Varda. A tribute to director Max Ophüls, this New Wave classic follows Roland (a character that will appear in Demy’s *Umbrellas of Cherbourg*) as he attempts to win the heart of cabaret singer Lola.



D'une pierre deux coups (Two Birds, One Stone)

Friday February 24, 7PM

Fejria Deliba, Blu-ray, 85 min, France, 2016 (French)

Fejria Deliba uses drama and humor to portray the sibling dynamics of a first generational Algerian-French family who is tested when their 75-year-old mother goes on an unexpected journey. US Premiere.

Cosponsored by the Middle Eastern and North African Studies Certificate at UWM



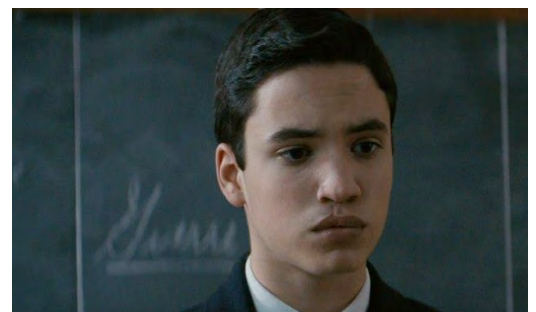
Insoumis (Corbo)

Friday February 24, 9PM

Mathieu Denis, Blu-ray, 119 min, Quebec, 2014 (French, Italian)

In 1966 Montreal, the youngest son of a wealthy family becomes radicalized and joins a student cell of the Quebec Liberation Front, where he rises through the ranks.

Co-sponsored by the Québec Government Office in Chicago



Touki Bouki

Saturday February 25, 5PM

Djibril Diop Mambéty, DCP, 85 min, Senegal, 1973 (French, Wolof, Arabic)

Considered one of the most important African films, Djibril Diop Mambéty's first full-length feature portrays two young lovers who long to leave Dakar for the glamour and comforts of France, but whose escape plan is beset by complications both concrete and mystical.

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



Mon amie Victoria (My Friend Victoria)

Saturday February 25, 7PM

Jean-Paul Civeyrac, Blu-ray, 95 min, France/Belgium, 2014 (French)

Adopted from a Doris Lessing story, this poignant film shifts the setting from London to contemporary Paris, offering a probing and intimate look at the politics of race and class identity.

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L'orchestre de minuit (Midnight Orchestra)

Saturday February 25, 9PM

Jérôme Cohen-Olivar, Blu-ray, 114 min, Morocco, 2016 (French, Arabic, English)

This film explores Moroccan-Jewish life and generational divides as it recounts the story of the estranged son of a once famous musician who is unexpectedly transformed after returning to his homeland.

Cosponsored by the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies



Loin des hommes (Far from Men)

Sunday February 26, 3PM

David Oelhoffen, DVD, 101 min, France, 2015 (French, Arabic, Spanish)

Freely adopted from Albert Camus' short story *The Guest*, this film takes place at the outset of Algeria's war of independence and provides a gripping meditation on the fate of individuals tossed to and fro by sociopolitical forces beyond their control.

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Arrête ton cinéma (Vive le cinéma)

Sunday February 26, 5PM

Diane Kurys, DCP, 90 min, France, 2016 (French)

In this comedic battle of wits, Sybille (Sylvie Testud), a well-known actress, is intent on succeeding in her first screen writing project, loosely based on her life. But she is driven to distraction by her producers (Josaine Balasko and Zabou Breitman) who insist on an unending series of rewrites.



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

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