

**UWM French and
the Union Theatre present
The 21st Annual Festival of Films in French**

February 16-25, 2018

Pop the champagne! The UWM Annual Festival of Films in French turns 21 this year, inviting you to travel far and wide: to Tunis with *As I Open My Eyes*, to a Kisangani classroom in the Congo (*National Diploma*), to snowy *Montréal la blanche*, and to the far reaches of scientific research on climate in Antarctica's *Ice and Sky*, before bringing us the *Latest News from the Cosmos*. The selection of 14 films opens with two road movies *Visages Villages* and *Tour de France* that look at France through the lens of a camera, the strokes of a paintbrush, and the paired gazes of younger and older artists, a muralist and Agnès Varda, and a rapper and a retired bricklayer/amateur painter (Gérard Depardieu). Our travels across France and across time continue, in Epstein's 1929 silent film which takes us to the "end of the earth" to view the lives of fishermen on the western tip of Brittany, in the animated adventures of April navigating a dystopic world still under Napoleonic rule, and in Duvivier's classic film noir *Panique* set in post-World War II Paris. With her feature film debut, Leyla Bouzid joins three of our festival's long-time favorite women directors Germaine Dulac, Agnès Varda, and Julie Bertuccelli, each of whom offers her distinctive take on the cinematographic essay: lighting up the movement of form (*Arabesques*); relating faces to places with inimitable panache; and pushing past the limits of language. Our 21st anniversary also celebrates the exquisitely times Third Cinema works of Haitian film director Raoul Peck, whose films have been screened multiple times at our festival. His feature film *Le Jeune Karl Marx* joins the Midwest premiere of *Je ne suis pas votre nègre*, with voiceover in French by NTM rapper and actor JoeyStarr reading James Baldwin's words. The original Oscar-nominated English version of the documentary follows, brought back to campus by popular demand after Peck's riveting conversations on race, civil rights, history, and *la condition humaine* during his October 2017 visit.

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, the UWM Humanities Grant, 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.

Visages Villages (Faces Places)

Friday, February 16, 7PM

Sunday, February 18, 5PM

Agnès Varda, Blu-ray, 90 min, France, 2017 (French)

The incomparable Varda returns to our festival (teaming up with French photographer and muralist JR) to bring us this enchanting documentary/road movie that looks at France through a camera lens and paintbrush. More than 50 years apart in age, they are kindred spirits who share a passion for how images are created, displayed and shared.

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



Tour de France

Friday February 16, 9PM

Saturday February 17, 5PM

Rachid Djaidani, DCP, 95 min, France, 2016 (French, Russian, Basque)

Rapper Far'Hook is in a jam and needs to get out of Paris. He agrees to act as the driver for his producer's father (Gérard Depardieu), a bricklayer and amateur artist. This unlikely pair follows in the footsteps of classic painter Claude Joseph Vernet, taking us on a tour of French ports.

Co-sponsored by the Alliance française de Milwaukee



Montréal la Blanche (Montreal, White City)

Saturday February 17, 7PM

Saturday February 18, 3PM

Bachir Bensaddek, Blu-ray, 87 mins, Québec, 2016
(French, Arabic)

The lives of two Algerians with troubled pasts intersect on a snowy Christmas eve. This debut feature film by documentary filmmaker Bensaddek is based on his play that drew upon the real-life experiences of Algerian immigrants to Canada.

Co-sponsored by the Québec Government Office in Chicago



Le jeune Karl Marx (The Young Karl Marx)

Saturday February 17, 9PM

Sunday February 18, 7PM

Raoul Peck, DVD, 118 mins, France/Germany, 2017
(French, German, English)

This “sinewy and intensely focused, uncompromisingly cerebral period drama” (Guardian) recounts the early years of the friendship and budding collaboration between Marx and Engels in Paris, Brussels and London in the 1840s.

Co-sponsored by the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies



Avril et le monde truqué (April and the Extraordinary World)

Sunday February 18, 1pm

Sunday February 25, 1pm

Christian Desmares & Franck Ekinci, Blu-ray, 103 mins,
France/Canada/Belgium, 2015 (French)

This one-of-a-kind animated adventure film ushers the viewer into an alternate reality in which the Bonapartes still rule France. April must call upon her abundant ingenuity and grit to navigate this dystopic steampunk landscape.

Presented as part of Tournées Film Festival, co-sponsored by Milwaukee French Immersion School



Je ne suis pas votre nègre (I Am Not Your Negro)

Monday February 19, 7PM (French) and 9pm (English)

Raoul Peck, DVD, 95 mins, France/United States/Switzerland/Belgium, 2016 (French and English)

Tonight, back to back, we screen two versions of the Oscar-nominated documentary on James Baldwin, first in French, then in English, with rapper/actor Joey Starr and actor Samuel Jackson reading Peck's powerful script, culled entirely from Baldwin's published and unpublished works.

Co-sponsored by UWM Sociocultural Programming



Arabesques, Finis Terrae

Tuesday February 20, 7pm

Arabesque – Germaine Dulac, DVD, 9 min, France, 1929 (Silent)

Finis Terrae – Jean Epstein, DVD, 82 min, France, 1929 (Silent)

Our silent film evening, with piano accompaniment by Renato Umali, features two pioneers of cinematic impressionism: Dulac's abstract 'pure film' adaptation of Debussy's "Two Arabesques," followed by Epstein's precursor to poetic realism, shot off the coast of Brittany using real fishermen.



La Glace et le Ciel (Antarctica: Ice and Sky)

Wednesday February 21, 7PM

Luc Jacquet, DVD, 89 min, France, 2015 (French, English)

This documentary on climate change, by the director of "March of the Penguins," offers "a cogent, accessible cinematic delineation of an increasingly crucial problem." (NY Times)

Co-sponsored by UWM Student Involvement



Panique (Panic)

Thursday February 22, 7PM

Julien Duvivier, DVD, 91 min, France, 1947 (French)



Based on a Georges Simenon crime novel, this long overlooked treasure of French film noir features iconic performances and a gripping plot while also providing insight into the pessimistic worldview that existed in the immediate aftermath of World War II.

Presented as part of Tournées Film Festival

Fatima

Friday February 23, 7PM

Saturday February 24, 9PM

Philippe Faucon, Blu-ray, 79 min, France, 2016 (French, Arabic)

Loosely based on a true story and featuring a superbly crafted, stoic performance by real-life cleaning lady Soria Zeroual, Faucon's economical, layered portrait was awarded France's two highest distinctions, the Prix Louis Delluc and the César for best film.

Presented as part of the Tournées Film Festival



À peine j'ouvre les yeux (As I Open My Eyes)

Friday February 23, 9PM

Sunday February 25, 7PM

Leyla Bouzid, Blu-ray, 102 min, Belgium/France/Tunisia, 2015 (French, Arabic)

Set in Tunis in 2010, Bouzid's powerful debut is not only a striking portrait of a young woman on the cusp of adulthood, but a deeply insightful look at life under a repressive political regime with its corrosive effects on personal relationships.

Presented as part of the Tournées Film Festival



Examen d'Etat (National Diploma)

Saturday February 24, 5PM

Sunday February 25, 3PM

Dieudo Hamadi, Blu-ray, 92 min, Congo/France, 2014 (French)



In classic cinema vérité style, this documentary follows a group of students as they prepare for the high-stakes national baccalaureate exam, providing an indelible portrait of the role of education in Congolese society.

Presented as part of Tournées Film Festival

Dernières nouvelles du cosmos (Latest News from the Cosmos)

Saturday February 24, 7PM

Sunday February 25, 5PM

Julie Bertuccelli, Blu-ray, 105 min, France, 2016 (French)

Bertuccelli (“School of Babel”) returns with this intimate documentary about Héléne Nicolas, an extraordinarily gifted writer who is severely autistic, composing startlingly original, lucid poetic texts with a set of cardboard letters provided by her mother.

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

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