

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee  
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29TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL  
OF FILMS IN FRENCH  
FEBRUARY 13-15 & 20-22, 2026



UWM Union Cinema presents

THE 29TH ANNUAL

FESTIVAL of  
FILMS in  
FRENCH



Colors of Time | February 13 • 6pm

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Join us for the 29th Annual Festival of Films in French which showcases stories of resistance, artistic expression, justice, and freedom. This year’s festival will take us from Paris to the Jura, Strasbourg, Ukraine, Quebec, Cambodia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In *“Terrorists” in Retirement*, surviving members of the French Resistance recount and reenact their operations undertaken during the Nazi occupation of Paris, challenging persistent myths and the erasure of their legacy. In *Kyiv Theater, an Island of Hope*, Ariane Mouchkine uses theater as a bold act of cultural defiance, bringing together hundreds of Ukrainian actors. *Of Mud and Blood* follows miners and local communities in rural DRC as they fight for environmental and social justice, while *Ghost Trail* traces the path of a Syrian refugee navigating the fine line between justice and revenge. For Jean-Luc Godard (*Godard Cinema*), resistance takes the form of pushing artistic and political boundaries through film. And in *Meeting with Pol Pot*, journalists pursue truth in the face of the Khmer Rouge’s propaganda and intimidation. Other films highlight the evolution of French artistic innovation, from Impressionism and the avant-garde in the 19th century (*Colors of Time*), to the intertwining of the arts in the 1920s silent film era (*Princess Mandane*), to the Nouvelle Vague (*Godard Cinema*), and French theater (*Kyiv Theater*). Together, these works illuminate the cultural figures and movements that have shaped France’s artistic landscape. This year’s selection also features stories of young characters discovering the importance of tradition, culture, and family. Dounia reconnects with her Syrian heritage while embracing her friends’ French-Canadian and Indigenous cultures in *Dounia, The Great White North*, and Totone seeks to preserve his family’s way of life by learning the craft of cheesemaking in *Holy Cow*. Come in from the cold for six days of thought-provoking films, and travel across space and time to witness stories of resilience, freedom, creativity and friendship.

Friday, February 13  
• 6pm | **La venue de l’avenir** (*Colors of Time*)

Saturday, February 14  
• 2pm | **Aux bords de la guerre, Ariane Mnouchkine et le Théâtre du Soleil à Kyiv** (*Kyiv Theater, an Island of Hope*)  
• 4:30pm | **Godard, seul le cinéma** (*Godard Cinema*)

Sunday, February 15  
• 1pm | **Les fantômes** (*Ghost Trail*)  
• 3:30pm | **Des “terroristes” à la retraite** (*“Terrorists” in Retirement*)

Friday, February 20  
• 6pm | **Vingt Dieux** (*Holy Cow*)

Saturday, February 21  
• 2pm | **Rendez-vous avec Pol Pot** (*Meeting With Pol Pot*)  
• 4:30pm | **Le sang et la boue** (*Of Mud and Blood*)

Sunday, February 22  
• 1pm | **Dounia, le grand pays blanc** (*Dounia, the Great White North*)  
• 2:30pm | **La princesse Mandane** (*Princess Mandane*)

Kyiv Theater, an Island of Hope | February 14 • 2pm



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FESTIVAL  
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FEBRUARY 13-15 & 20-22, 2026





Friday February 13 • 6pm

**La venue de l'avenir** (*Colors of Time*)  
Cédric Klapisch, DCP, 126 min, France, 2025 (French)

Brought together by the unexpected inheritance of a house in Normandy, four cousins discover they share a mysterious family history. In 1895, their ancestor Adèle had left her hometown for Paris and discovered a city in the midst of an industrial and cultural revolution, bustling with new-found avant-garde creativity, with the rise of photography and Impressionism in painting and music. As her descendants retrace her steps, they unravel Adèle’s surprising past. The two timelines, one set in 1895, the other in 2024, intertwine and collide, leaving everyone’s future forever changed.

Co-sponsored by the Music Department & the Alliance française de Milwaukee



Saturday February 14 • 2pm

**Aux bords de la guerre, Ariane Mnouchkine et le Théâtre du Soleil à Kyiv** (*Kyiv Theater, an Island of Hope*)

Duccio Bellugi-Vannuccini / Thomas Briat, DCP, 59 min, France / Ukraine, 2024 (French, English, Ukrainian)

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 brought back dark memories of 1930s Europe for Ariane Mnouchkine, the 84-year-old theater director and founder of the prestigious Théâtre du Soleil in Paris. Against this backdrop and in solidarity with Ukrainian resistance, Mnouchkine puts together a theater workshop in Kyiv, Ukraine. The film is an essential and timely exploration of what it means to create art in times of war.

Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & co-sponsored by the Lynden Sculpture Garden



Saturday February 14 • 4:30pm

**Godard, seul le cinéma** (*Godard Cinema*)

Cyril Leuthy, MP4, 100 min, France, 2023 (French)

Jean-Luc Godard is synonymous with cinema. With the release of *Breathless* in 1960, he established himself overnight as a cinematic rebel and a symbol for the era’s progressive and anti-war youth. One of the founders of the French New Wave, a political agitator, revolutionary misanthrope, and film theorist and critic with a career spanning 62 years and 140 films, Godard is among the most renowned artists of all time. This documentary offers an opportunity for film lovers to look back at his career and the themes that obsessed him.

Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & co-sponsored by the Alliance française de Milwaukee



Sunday February 15 • 1pm

**Les fantômes** (*Ghost Trail*)  
Jonathan Millet, DCP, 108 min, France, 2024 (Arabic, French, English, Turkish)

Justice knows no borders for Hamid, who has taken refuge in France after being detained and tortured by the Assad regime in Syria. Exiled and undercover, the mild-mannered literature professor now works as part of a secret group pursuing Assad’s enforcers, who have fled Syria and have assumed new identities in Europe. One of these men is the guard responsible for the unspeakable abuse Hamid endured. Tactfully reckoning with recent history, the filmmaker delivers a tense espionage thriller that explores the opaque relationship between justice and revenge.

Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & co-sponsored by the Department of World Languages and Cultures & MALLT



Sunday February 15 • 3:30pm

**Des “terroristes” à la retraite** (*“Terrorists” in Retirement*)

Mosco Levi Boucault, DCP, 71 min, France, 1983 (French)

Too controversial to be shown on French TV when first released, the film follows seven surviving comrades of the executed members, found guilty of “terrorism”, from the immigrant section of the French Resistance during World War II. The documentary provoked unsettling debates about how the group was captured, and about why the French establishment (and history books) never fully embraced the immigrant and Jewish fighters who were the backbone of armed resistance in Paris. The film provides a powerful corrective to myths concerning the French Resistance.

Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & co-sponsored by the Sam and Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies & the Department of History



Friday February 20 • 6pm

**Vingt Dieux** (*Holy Cow*)  
Louise Courvoisier, MP4, 90 min, France, 2024 (French)

After the tragic death of his father, 18 year-old Totone finds himself with daunting new responsibilities, looking after his younger sister and their failing family farm in the Jura region of France. He takes on yet another challenge when he enters a competition for the best Comté cheese made in this western part of the French Alps. A “verité” look at the hardscrabble life of French agriculture, it is simultaneously a moving love story and above all an ode to the love of cheese.

Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & co-sponsored by Women’s and Gender Studies



Saturday February 21 • 2pm

**Rendez-vous avec Pol Pot** (*Meeting With Pol Pot*)

Rithy Panh, Blu-ray, 112 min, France / Cambodia, 2024 (French, Cambodian)

Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) – 1978. Three journalists are invited by the Khmer Rouge to conduct an exclusive interview with the regime’s leader, Pol Pot. The country seems idyllic, but behind the Potemkin village presented to the journalists, the Khmer Rouge regime is in decline and the war with Vietnam looms at the border. The regime is looking for culprits, secretly carrying out a large-scale genocide. Under the eyes of the journalists, the beautiful picture cracks, revealing the horror. Their journey progressively turns into a nightmare.

Presented as part of the Albertine Cinémathèque program & co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science & the Department of History



Saturday February 21 • 4:30pm

**Le sang et la boue** (*Of Mud and Blood*)  
Jean-Gabriel Leynaud, H264, 90 min, France / Congo (DRC), 2025 (French, Swahili, English)

Numbi, a village in the Democratic Republic of Congo mountains, lies at the heart of our modern world. Here, workers mine the coltan that will find its way, legally or not, into much of our technology. For decades this grey gold has been the cause of bitter conflicts and exploitation. Every inhabitant lives with the illusory hope of enjoying for themselves the riches of the Congo. Shocking and deeply moving, the film reveals the hardships and trials of a story from which we must not look away.

Co-sponsored by UWM Student Involvement, the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies & the Office of Sustainability



Sunday February 22 • 1pm

**Dounia, le grand pays blanc** (*Dounia, the Great White North*)

Marya Zarif / André Kadi, MP4, 51 min, Québec, 2025 (French)

Now settled in Canada after fleeing Syria in *Dounia and the Princess of Aleppo* (FFF2024), Dounia and her grandparents slowly get to know the new home that has welcomed them: its intense seasons, its special foods, its languages. Dounia’s grandparents keep their Syrian traditions alive at home, while her new friends share traditions of their own, like Rosalie’s French-Canadian lifestyle or Miguizou’s vast indigenous folklore, which help her connect in unique ways with her father who remained in Aleppo.

Co-sponsored by the Lynden Sculpture Garden, the Alliance française de Milwaukee & the Québec Government Office in Chicago



Sunday February 22 • 2:30pm

**La princesse Mandane** (*Princess Mandane*)

Germaine Dulac, DCP, 74 min, France, 1928 (Silent)

Étienne is engaged to Annette, a secretary in the factory where he works. Fantasizing about daring adventures, he decides to leave everything behind to go to a foreign land, Mingrelia. The country is governed by Princess Mandane who has been made a prisoner in her own palace. Étienne sees an opportunity to prove himself by rescuing the damsel in distress, but Germaine Dulac has other plans for them.

Co-sponsored by the Film Studies program

The UWM French Program thanks the Albertine Cinémathèque, a program of Albertine Foundation & Villa Albertine, with support from the CNC (Centre National du Cinéma), and SACEM/Fonds Culturel Franco-Américain. We are grateful for the generosity and continued support of the Québec Government Office in Chicago.

We thank our many UWM co-sponsors especially: Student Involvement, Union Cinema, the Sam & Helen Stahl Center for Jewish Studies, the Department of World Languages and Cultures and the Program in French, the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, the Music Department, the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, the Department of Political Science, the Department of History, the Film Studies Program, the MA in Language, Literature and Translation, and the College of Letters and Science.

We greatly appreciate the community sponsorship of the Alliance française de Milwaukee, the Milwaukee French Immersion School, SWAAF (Southeast Wisconsin Academic Alliance in French), and the Lynden Sculpture Garden.

All films are in French and other languages with English subtitles. All projections are in person, free and open to the public, at the UWM Union Cinema. Talkbacks follow selected screenings.

Union Cinema • cinema.uwm.edu  
2<sup>nd</sup> Level • Kenwood Blvd. & Maryland Ave

