

GENE SISKEL
**FILM
CENTER**

Chicago's Premier Movie Theater

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School of the Art Institute
of Chicago

OCT 2014

GAZETTE ■ Vol. 42, No. 10

NAGISA OSHIMA

His Will on Film

IN THE REALM
OF THE SENSES,
Oct. 3, 4

Complete
schedule
on page 3

A L S O : H A M B U R G

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**FIRST CHICAGO RUN!
FILMMAKERS AND ARTISTS IN PERSON!**

HAIRY WHO & THE CHICAGO IMAGISTS

2013, Leslie Buchbinder, USA, 109 min.

The audacious work of the Hairy Who, aka the Chicago Imagists, put the spotlight on a ragtag group of young artists nurtured by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Lurid renderings of neon-tinged wrestlers, sideshow freaks, cartoon creatures, and giant genitalia shocked, then won over snooty art critics and the public. Director Buchbinder connects all the dots in this thoroughly affectionate profile. DCP digital. (BS)

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

Friday: Director Leslie Buchbinder, producer Brian Ashby, editor Ben Kolak.

Sunday: Artists Jim Falconer, Art Green, Gladys Nilsson, Jim Nutt, Suellen Rocca, Karl Wirsum.

Thursday: Screenwriter/music advisor John Corbett, sound designer/engineer Alex Ingilizian, producer/music supervisor Brian Ashby.

October 3—9

Fri. at 8:15 pm;
Sat. at 3:00 pm;
Sun. at 5:30 pm;
Mon. and Tue. at 6:00 pm;
Wed. and Thu. at 8:15 pm

**CHICAGO PREMIERE!
TOM DOLBY IN PERSON!**

LAST WEEKEND

2014, Tom Dolby and Tom Williams, USA, 94 min.
With Patricia Clarkson, Zachary Booth

Vicarious sampling of the have-it-all lifestyle of a nouveau riche family is key to this poignant comedy of manners, as the Green clan gathers at their swanky Lake Tahoe vacation home for a holiday weekend. New Age matriarch Celia (Clarkson of *HIGH ART*) lords it over immediate family and their drop-in friends and lovers. She's clueless to the snob factor plaguing her gay son's love life and to the financial scandal facing her eldest, but all covers are blown in the wake of a life-threatening crisis with the live-in help. DCP digital. (BS)

Co-director Tom Dolby will be present for audience discussion on Saturday.

October 3—9

Fri. at 6:00 pm;
Sat. at 8:00 pm;
Sun. at 3:15 pm;
Mon. and Tue. at 8:15 pm;
Wed. at 6:15 pm;
Thu. at 8:00 pm



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GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER MOVIE CLUB

Everyone likes to talk about movies, so let's keep the conversation going!

The Gene Siskel Film Center will get everyone talking with monthly film conversations. Every month, audiences will be invited to informal conversations led by—but not monopolized by—a carefully selected facilitator.



GSFC Movie Club

Wednesday, October 8, 8:30 pm

VENUS IN FUR

(see description on page 10).

Facilitated by Joanie Schultz, theater director, who recently directed the Goodman Theatre production of David Ives's *Venus in Fur*.



Neighborhood Night!

On Monday, October 6, we present *Neighborhood Night*, an evening of quality cinema and community. On *Neighborhood Night*, everyone is a Film Center member paying only \$6 per film; if you are already a member, the price is only \$5.

OCT

★ indicates special guest appearance
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WEDNESDAY 1

5:30 **IN SEARCH OF CHOPIN** (Run), p. 11
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7:45 **IN SEARCH OF CHOPIN** (Run), p. 11
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BOYHOOD, Oct. 17-22



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FIRST CHICAGO RUN! EXPEDITION TO THE END OF THE WORLD

(EKSPEDITIONEN TIL VERDENS ENDE) 2013, Daniel Dencik, Denmark, 90 min.



"Something wild and new."

—David Ehrlich, *The A.V. Club*

"Gorgeous, surprising, meditative."

—Alan Scherstuhl, *Village Voice*

This metaphysical adventure documentary is spooky, spellbinding, and laced with dry Scandinavian wit. When global warming opens up ice-bound fjords in Northeast Greenland, a three-masted schooner manned by assorted scientists and artists sails into lands unseen by human eyes since the Stone Age. Amid landscapes forbidding and sublime, the explorers watch icebergs collapse, discover strange new species, encounter predators natural (polar bears) and civilized (big oil), and go a little crazy. In Danish and English with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

October 17—23
Fri. and Thu. at 6:00 pm;
Sat. at 7:45 pm;
Sun. at 5:00 pm;
Mon. and Tue. at 8:00 pm

Alexandra Palmer in person!

Dior + Couture

Wednesday, October 15, 6:00 pm



The SAIC's Fashion Resource Center presents the 2014 Behind the Seams lecture, *Dior + Couture*, featuring Alexandra Palmer, Senior Curator of Textiles and Costumes at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Palmer discusses the iconic work of Christian Dior and presents the ROM-commissioned documentary *PASSAGE #5: CHRISTIAN DIOR SPRING/SUMMER 2011* (2011, France, 51 min.). (BS)



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! RICHARD STEELE IN PERSON!

LORD THING

1970, DeWitt Beall, USA, 52 min.

Friday, October 17, 8:00 pm

Thursday, October 23, 8:15 pm

Chicago Film Archives has restored two remarkable "lost" films that shed new light on the role of gangs in West Side neighborhoods in the 1950s-1960s, especially the organization known as the Vice Lords. *LORD THING* in particular qualifies as a major rediscovery, not only for its eye-opening subject matter, but also for its dynamic style. Preceded by *THE CORNER* (1963, Robert Ford, 26 min.). Both in 16mm. (MR)

WBEZ91.5 media personality Richard Steele will introduce both screenings.

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boyhood

2014, Richard Linklater, USA, 163 min.

With Ellar Coltrane, Ethan Hawke, Patricia Arquette, Lorelei Linklater

"I love BOYHOOD."

—Michael Phillips,
Chicago Tribune

"One of the most extraordinary movies of the 21st century."

—A.O. Scott,
The New York Times

"A movie I know I'll be listing as one of my all-time favorites for the rest of my days."

—Richard Roeper,
Chicago Sun-Times

"BOYHOOD isn't just a masterpiece. It's a miracle."

—Ann Hornaday,
Washington Post

Rarely has a fictional film rendered real life with such compelling veracity as this acclaimed tale of a Texas boy's early years. Shot piecemeal over a period of twelve years as the actors aged along with their characters, BOYHOOD begins with Mason (Coltrane) as a six-year-old staring up at the clouds and ends with him as a teenager entering college. In between come fads, friends, moves, bullies, ball games, girls, divorces, stepdads, and much more, but none of the clichés of coming-of-age movies, which Linklater vigilantly avoids. DCP digital. (MR)

October 17—22

Fri. at 6:00 pm;
Sat. at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm;
Sun. at 2:30 pm;
Mon. and Wed. at 6:30 pm

TWO-FILM DISCOUNT!

Buy a ticket at our regular prices for either BOYHOOD or DOUBLE PLAY, and get a ticket for any show of the other film at this discount rate with proof of your original purchase: General Admission \$7; Students \$5; Members \$4. (This discount rate applies to the second film only.)



FIRST CHICAGO ENGAGEMENT!
GABE KLINGER IN PERSON!

DOUBLE PLAY: JAMES BENNING AND RICHARD LINKLATER

2014, Gabe Klinger, USA, 70 min.

Saturday, October 18, 5:30 pm;

Sunday, October 19, 5:30 pm;

Tuesday, October 21, 6:00 pm

"A lapidary documentary."—Nicolas Rapold, *The New York Times*

Chicago-based cinéaste and critic Klinger makes his directing debut with this award-winning dual-portrait that uses a series of Austin-set conversations between longtime friends Benning and Linklater as the springboard for an illuminating examination of their maverick filmmaking careers (including a discussion of the making of BOYHOOD). DCP digital. (MR)

Director Gabe Klinger will be present for audience discussion at all screenings.



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CHICAGO PREMIERE!

BJÖRK: BIOPHILIA LIVE

2014, Peter Strickland and Nick Fenton, UK, 97 min.

"A captivating record of an artist in full command of her idiosyncratic powers."

—Guy Lodge, *Variety*

This remarkable performance film was recorded at the climactic concert of Björk's recent worldwide tour, based on her groundbreaking 2011 album *Biophilia*. Topped by a humongous wig, accompanied by an array of outlandish instruments, surrounded by a choir of dulcet-voiced Scandi-maidens, and augmented with mind-expanding imagery, the Icelandic icon is in prime form, from the crackling curtain-raiser "Thunderbolt" to the anthemic finale "Declare Independence." DCP digital. (MR)

October 10—16

Fri. and Mon.-Thu. at 8:15 pm;

Sat. at 5:15 pm and 8:15 pm;

Sun. at 5:15 pm



CHICAGO PREMIERE!

Levitated Mass

2013, Doug Pray, USA, 88 min.

"Highly entertaining."

—Ronnie Scheib, *Variety*

"Hilarious and insightful."

—Katie Walsh, *Indiewire*



Filmmaker Pray follows the thrilling, contentious, and awe-inspiring creation of conceptual artist Michael Heizer's controversial monolithic sculpture, as the eponymous 340-ton boulder makes a grand tour through twenty-two California cities on a

football-field-sized truck en route to installation at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Legions of gawkers cheer the progress of the monster hunk of granite, while detractors decry the \$10 million price tag. A rock star or just a rock? You decide. DCP digital. (BS)

October 24—30

Fri. at 8:00 pm; Sat. at 7:45 pm;

Sun. at 3:00 pm; Mon. and Wed. at 6:00 pm;

Tue. and Thu. at 7:30 pm

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CONVERSATIONS AT THE EDGE



An Evening with John Smith, Oct. 16

Conversations at the Edge is a dynamic weekly series of screenings, artist talks, and performances by some of the most compelling media artists of yesterday and today.

CATE is organized by the Department of Film, Video, New Media, and Animation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in collaboration with the Video Data Bank and the Gene Siskel Film Center.

Visit CATE's blog! <http://blogs.saic.edu/cate/>

Carlos Motta in person!

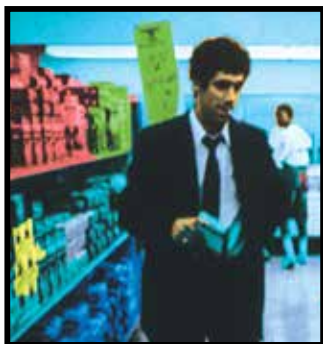
Carlos Motta:

The Nefandus Trilogy

2012-13, Carlos Motta, Various nations, ca. 60 min.

Thursday, October 2, 6:00 pm

Carlos Motta's practice draws upon various political histories to articulate counter-narratives that recognize suppressed histories, communities, and identities. His 2013 "Nefandus Trilogy" is a haunting examination of pre-Hispanic homoeroticism and its brutal stigmatization during Europe's colonization of the Americas. Motta also presents excerpts from his ongoing "Democracy Cycle." In English, Spanish, Kogi, Norwegian, and Korean with English subtitles. Various formats. (Carlos Motta, George William Price)



Andrew Lampert: Tables Turned, Oct. 9

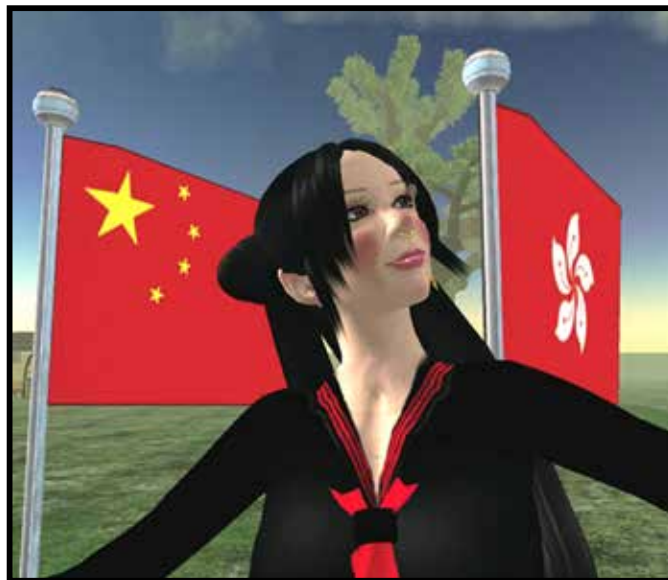
Andrew Lampert in person!

Andrew Lampert:
Tables Turned

2013-14, Andrew Lampert, USA, ca. 70 min.

Thursday, October 9, 6:00 pm

Artist, archivist, and curator Andrew Lampert is known for his live media performances and hilarious short films and videos, many of which cheekily turn "cinema" on its head. Lampert uses improvisation, unusual projector placement, and sets of game-like instructions to explore (and exploit) the dynamic relationships between projector, projectionist, audience, and screen. For CATE, Lampert creates a site-specific performance and shows a series of shorts. Various formats. (Amy Beste)



Cao Fei: Haze and Fog, Oct. 23

John Smith in person!

An Evening with John Smith

1976-2014, John Smith, UK/Cyprus/Switzerland, ca. 76 min.

Thursday, October 16, 6:00 pm

The 2013 Jarman Award winner presents a selection from across his 40-year career, including the seminal *THE GIRL CHEWING GUM* (1976), an absurdist fantasy set on a busy London street; *THROWING STONES* (2004); and the Chicago premiere of *DARK LIGHT* (2014), among others. Presented in collaboration with the Video Data Bank, Northwestern University's Department of Art Theory and Practice, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, and the University of Chicago's Film Studies Center. Various formats. (Amy Beste)

Cao Fei in person!

Cao Fei:

Haze and Fog

2007-13, Cao Fei, China, ca. 80 min.

Thursday, October 23, 6:00 pm

Chinese artist Cao Fei mixes fantasy, documentary, and virtual reality to reflect on the ways China's rapidly changing economy has transformed the everyday lives and imaginations of its citizens. Her latest film, *HAZE AND FOG* (2013), is a darkly humorous reinterpretation of the zombie film, set in Beijing, where

the undead are real estate agents, nouveau riche businessmen, security guards, manicurists, and sex workers. Also: Fei's 2007 short *i.MIRROR*. In Mandarin with English subtitles. Various formats. (Amy Beste)

Anda Korsts's Video Metropolis

1972-82, Anda Korsts, USA, ca. 60 min.

Thursday, October 30, 6:00 pm

In the 1970s, Chicago journalist and artist Anda Korsts pioneered video as a radical tool for art and activism. She worked on media exposés for the collective Top Value Television (TVTV) and produced hundreds of tapes. Filmmaker Judy Hoffman, Media Burn Archive founder Tom Weinberg, and Executive Director Sara Chapman present an overview of Korsts's work and discuss her legacy in a roundtable. Presented in collaboration with Media Burn Independent Video Archive. Various formats. (Amy Beste)

Upcoming in CATE:

November 6
The X-Ray of Civilization:
Films by Tom Rubnitz, David Wojnarowicz, and Tommy Turner

November 13
Mati Diop:
A Thousand Suns

NAGISA OSHIMA

His Will on Film

"By far the most important Japanese filmmaker of his generation." —Noël Burch

From October 3 through 29, the Gene Siskel Film Center presents *Nagisa Oshima: His Will on Film*, a series of eight films by the late Japanese filmmaker (1932-2013). All eight films will be shown in 35mm, five in newly struck prints.

Best known in the West for his erotic masterpiece *IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES* and his David Bowie vehicle *MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. LAWRENCE*, Nagisa Oshima is widely considered the most important figure in Japanese cinema since the classical era of Mizoguchi, Ozu, and Kurosawa. Often compared to the French New Wave and to Godard in particular, Oshima in fact moved parallel to (and was often ahead of) European trends more than he followed them. Complex and audacious, perennially iconoclastic, vigorously mixing violence, eroticism, politics, and self-reflexivity, Oshima's films represent a crucial link between modernism and non-western modes of representation.

Special thanks to Brian Belovarac of Janus Films.

—Martin Rubin

IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES

(*AI NO CORRIDA*)

1972, Nagisa Oshima, France/Japan, 95 min.

With Eiko Matsuda, Tatsuya Fuji

Friday, October 3, 6:00 pm
Saturday, October 4, 5:30 pm

Oshima's most famous film is based on a true story that captured the imagination of Japan in 1936, as the country was sinking deeper into its militaristic adventure. A maid and a restaurant-owner hole up in a brothel and play out their passion to the devastating end. Brilliantly acted and designed, no other movie has made explicit sex such an essential part of its drama. In Japanese with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)

DIARY OF A SHINJUKU THIEF

(*SHINJUKU DOROBŌ NIKKI*)

1968, Nagisa Oshima, Japan, 94 min.

With Tadanori Yokoo, Rie Yokoyama

Saturday, October 4, 3:30 pm
Monday, October 6, 8:00 pm

Made in and very much of the epochal year 1968, *DIARY* situates a raunchy, romantic affair between two disaffected young people within a larger context of worldwide student revolt. Cultural icons such as Henry Miller, Muhammad Ali, and Jean Genet are added ingredients in a freewheeling collage that veers from handheld verité to overt theatricality. In Japanese with English subtitles. New 35mm print. (MR)



IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES, Oct. 3, 4



DIARY OF A SHINJUKU THIEF, Oct. 4, 6

SATURDAY DOUBLE-BILL DISCOUNT!

Buy a ticket at our regular prices for the first Oshima film on any Saturday in October, and get a ticket for the second Oshima film that day at the discounted rate with proof of your original purchase: General Admission \$7; Students \$5; Members \$4.
(This discount rate applies to the second feature only.)

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MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. LAWRENCE, Oct. 10,11



BOY, Oct. 11, 15



THE CEREMONY, Oct. 18, 22



THE MAN WHO LEFT HIS WILL ON FILM, Oct. 18, 23

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. LAWRENCE

(*SENJO NO MERI KURISUMASU*)
1983, Nagisa Oshima, UK/Japan, 122 min.
With David Bowie, Tom Conti

Friday, October 10, 6:00 pm
Saturday, October 11, 5:00 pm

This offbeat variation on *THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI* is set in a Japanese P.O.W. camp in Java during World War II. Two honor-bound fanatics—a charismatic prisoner (Bowie) and the camp commandant (Ryuichi Sakamoto)—are contrasted with two realists, a pragmatic British translator (Conti) and a brutal Japanese sergeant (Takeshi Kitano). In English and Japanese with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)

BOY

(*SHONEN*)
1969, Nagisa Oshima, Japan, 105 min.
With Tetsuo Abe, Fumio Watanabe

Saturday, October 11, 3:00 pm
Wednesday, October 15, 8:00 pm

Considered Oshima's most accessible film, *BOY* centers on a 10-year-old boy trained by his parents to fake being hit by autos in order to extort money from the guilt-ridden drivers. *BOY* is a scathing indictment of the Japanese nation/family system, tempered by the boy's escapes into fantasy and growing assumption of moral responsibility. In Japanese with English subtitles. New 35mm print; widescreen. (MR)

THE CEREMONY

(*GISHIKI*)
1971, Nagisa Oshima, Japan, 122 min.
With Kenzo Kawarazaki, Atsuko Kaku

Saturday, October 18, 3:00 pm
Wednesday, October 22, 7:45 pm

This ambitious film covers the history of postwar Japan as it is embodied by the powerful Sakurada family. Through the eyes of the family's Manchurian-born heir apparent, we move through a dense, flashback-punctuated procession of weddings and funerals that escalates into a vertiginous indictment of the madness of contemporary Japan. In Japanese with English subtitles. New 35mm print; widescreen. (MR)

THE MAN WHO LEFT HIS WILL ON FILM

(*TOKYO SENSO SENGO HIWA*)
1970, Nagisa Oshima, Japan, 94 min.
With Kazuo Goto, Eimiko Iwasaki

Saturday, October 18, 5:30 pm
Thursday, October 23, 7:45 pm

This intriguing statement on filmmaking and politics begins with a young leftist finding the movie camera left behind by another, now dead radical. The apparently random footage in the camera obsesses the hero, leading him to retrace the political and erotic past of the late filmmaker, perhaps to the fatal end. In Japanese with English subtitles. New 35mm print. (MR)

Nagisa Oshima continues on next page

NAGISA OSHIMA

CONTINUED



EMPIRE OF PASSION, Oct. 24, 25

EMPIRE OF PASSION

(AI NO BOREI)

1978, Nagisa Oshima, France/Japan, 106 min.

With Tatsuya Fuji, Kazuko Yoshiyuki

Friday, October 24, 6:00 pm

Saturday, October 25, 3:00 pm

A companion piece to *IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES*, this Cannes

Best Director winner is broadly similar in subject but strikingly different in treatment. Employing an ethereally beautiful visual style that evokes *UGETSU* and *KWAIDAN*, this turn-of-the-century tale centers on murderous lovers haunted by their victim's ghost and hounded by the forces of justice. In Japanese with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)



DEATH BY HANGING, Oct. 25, 29

DEATH BY HANGING

(KOSHIKEI)

1968, Nagisa Oshima, Japan, 117 min.

With Yun-do Yun, Kei Sato

Saturday, October 25, 5:00 pm

Wednesday, October 29, 7:45 pm

Called "Oshima's angriest and most moving film" (Tony Rayns), this is also one of his funniest—a surreal

farce that evokes Kafka, Brecht, and Dr. Strangelove. The execution of a Korean murderer is derailed when the condemned man inexplicably refuses to die. He now remembers nothing of his crimes, so the officials grotesquely attempt a reenactment. In Japanese with English subtitles. New 35mm print. (MR)



(LA VÉNUS À LA FOURRURE)

2013, Roman Polanski, France/Poland, 96 min.

With Emmanuelle Seigner, Mathieu Amalric

"Polanski's most graceful work in years...witty, elegant, and resourceful."

—Anthony Lane, *The New Yorker*

The realm of perverse mind games is prime territory for Polanski, who brings humor of the darkest sort to this adaptation of David Ives's Tony-nominated play. A slutty-looking actress (Seigner) sweeps into an empty theater and rudely demands to audition for the harried director (Amalric). The balance of power shifts dramatically as the mysterious supplicant soon has the surprised man groveling in the palm of her hand. In French with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

The Wednesday, October 8, screening is a Movie Club event (see p. 3).



October 3—9

Fri. at 8:00 pm;

Sat. at 8:15 pm;

Sun. at 5:15 pm;

Mon. and Thu. at 6:00 pm;

Wed. at 8:30 pm

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BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! ANNIE O'NEIL IN PERSON!

Walking the Camino

SIX WAYS TO SANTIAGO

2013, Lydia Smith, USA/Spain, 84 min.

The Camino de Santiago is a 500-mile route across northern Spain that has attracted pilgrims since the Middle Ages. The trek is arduous and humbling, but, as many participants will tell you, it is the inner journey that is more challenging. Balancing beautiful scenery with moving personal dramas, this documentary follows six pilgrims, including an overly goal-oriented American, a Canadian widower honoring his wife's memory, and a young brasileira whose life has hit rock-bottom. In English, Spanish, and French with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

Featured pilgrim and co-producer Annie O'Neil will be present for audience discussion at all shows on Friday and Saturday and at the 3:00 show on Sunday.

"Soulful, spiritual, invigorating, accepting, and so damn pretty!"
—Bernard Boo, *Way Too Indie*

October 10—16

Fri. at 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm;
Sat. at 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm;
Sun. at 3:00 pm and 5:15 pm;
Mon. at 6:15 pm and 8:00 pm;
Tue. at 6:30 pm;
Wed. at 6:15 pm;
Thu. at 6:30 pm and 8:15 pm

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

AWAKE

THE LIFE OF YOGANANDA

2014, Paola di Florio and Lisa Leeman, USA, 87 min.

Saturday, October 25, 7:45 pm; Wednesday, October 29, 7:30 pm

The widespread passion for the practice of yoga in North America can be traced back to one man: the Hindu mystic Parahamansa Yogananda (1893-1952), who came to the U.S. in 1920 and remained until his death, teaching meditation and yoga and writing *Autobiography of a Yogi* (the only book Steve Jobs kept on his iPad). Filmed over three years, this unconventional biography explores the life and influence of the spiritual master. DCP digital. (BS)

CONTINUING OCTOBER



IN SEARCH OF CHOPIN, Sept. 19-Oct. 2

U.S. premiere!

IN SEARCH OF CHOPIN

2014, Phil Grabsky, UK, 112 min.

In-depth portrait of the Polish-born Romantic composer. DCP digital.

TWO-WEEK RUN!

September 19—25

Fri. at 6:30 pm; Sat. at 2:00 pm, 4:45 pm, and 7:30 pm; Sun. at 2:00 pm and 4:45 pm; Mon. at 5:30 pm; Tue. and Thu. at 6:00 pm; Wed. at 5:30 pm and 7:45 pm

September 26—October 2

Fri. at 5:45 pm; Sat. at 2:30 pm, 4:45 pm, and 7:30 pm; Sun. at 2:30 pm and 4:45 pm; Mon. and Wed. at 5:30 pm and 7:45 pm; Tue. at 6:00 pm; Thu. at 6:00 pm and 8:15 pm

Chicago premiere!

ROCKS IN MY POCKETS

2014, Signe Baumann, USA, 88 min.

Baumann's animated chronicle of her family's history of depression. DCP digital.

Director/producer Signe Baumann and co-producer Sturgis Warner will be present for audience discussion on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

September 26—October 2

Fri. at 7:45 pm; Sat. at 7:45 pm; Sun. at 5:30 pm; Mon. and Wed. at 6:00 pm and 7:45 pm; Tue. and Thu. at 8:15 pm

CITY IN TRANSIT: HAMBURG ON FILM

From October 4 through 27, the Gene Siskel Film Center, in partnership with Goethe-Institut Chicago, presents *City in Transit: Hamburg on Film*. The four-film series celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the sister city relationship between Chicago and Hamburg. All films are scheduled to be shown in 35mm prints.

Located seventy miles inland on the River Elbe, Hamburg is Germany's second largest city and Europe's second largest port. The city was largely rebuilt after being devastated by Allied bombers in World War II. Its Reeperbahn neighborhood is renowned as a red-light district (now greatly reduced) and as the proving ground for the Beatles. With the move of the main dockland downriver, the old harbor front has become the site of HafenCity, Europe's largest urban development project.

As always, the factual city and the cinematic city overlap but are not quite the same. With gulls wheeling across the sky, a tang of North Sea in the breeze, and massive cranes towering over the harbor (which rarely seems more than a stone's throw away from the action), Hamburg is German cinema's signifier of flux. It is a city in transit and transition. It is a place of departures—whether by bulky container ship or sleek bullet train. Even more so, it is a place of arrivals, often by foreigners and outsiders—soulful Greek restaurateurs, seductive Italian chefs, mysterious Americans in cowboy hats—who come to imperil and invigorate the regime of German tradition and orderliness.

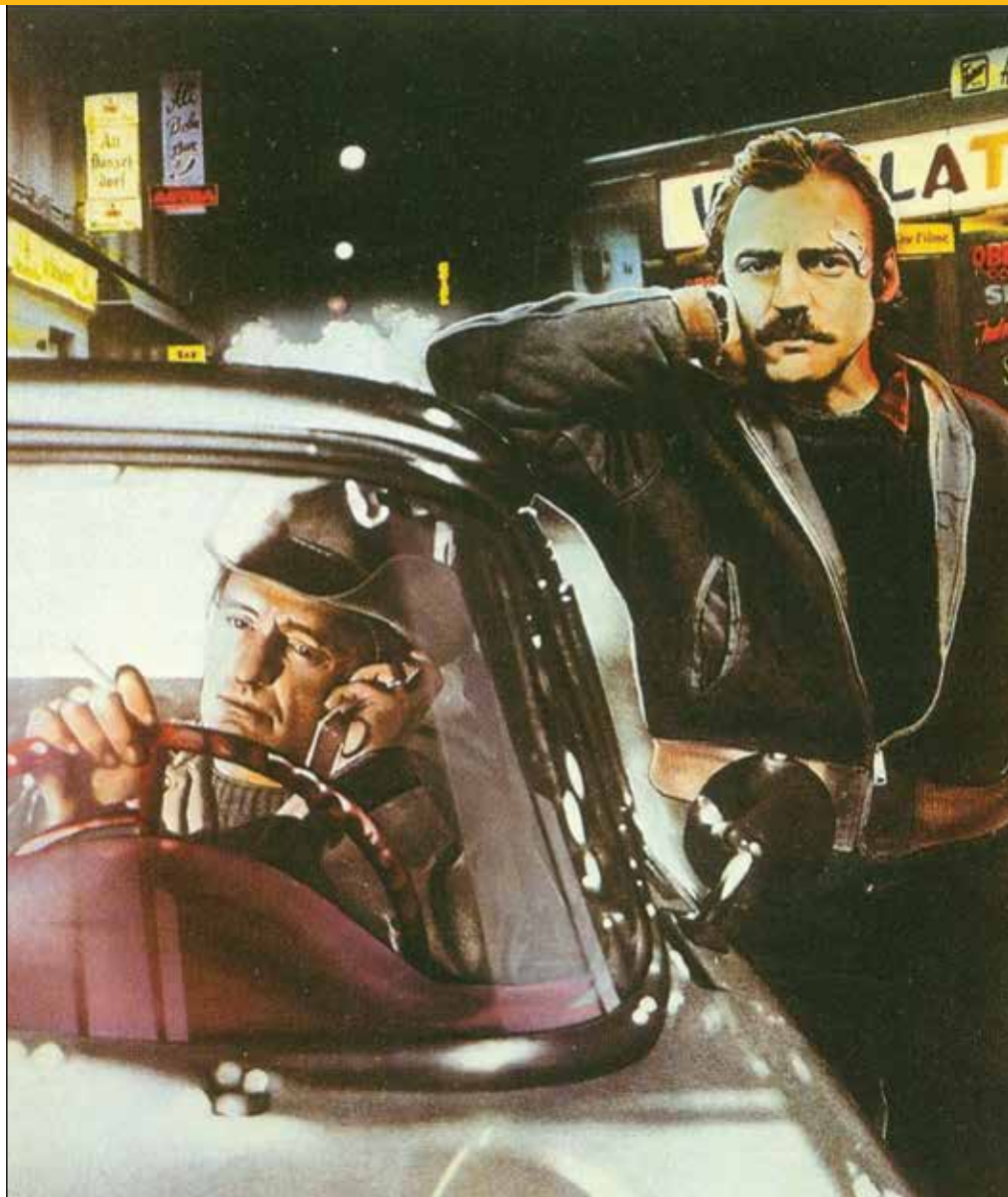
Special thanks to Werner Ott and Irmu Maunu-Kocian of Goethe-Institut Chicago; Judy Nicaud of Paramount Pictures; Frank Heller of HFC-Clark; Justin Di Pietro of IFC Films; and Richard I. Suchenski of the Center for Moving Image Arts, Bard College.

—Martin Rubin



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THE AMERICAN FRIEND, Oct. 5, 8

Archival print!

THE AMERICAN FRIEND

(DER AMERIKANISCHE FREUND)

1977, Wim Wenders, Germany, 126 min.

With Bruno Ganz, Dennis Hopper

Sunday, October 5, 3:00 pm

Wednesday, October 8, 6:00 pm

Inventively adapted from Patricia Highsmith's classic thriller *Ripley's Game*, this complex thriller centers on a Hamburg family man (Ganz) who is manipulated by a mysterious American (Hopper) into becoming a mob hit man. THE AMERICAN FRIEND has long

been out of circulation in the U.S.; this imported archival print, courtesy of Goethe-Institut, offers a rare opportunity to see Robby Müller's legendarily rich color cinematography in its original 35mm format. In German, French, and English with English subtitles. (MR)

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MOSTLY MARTHA, Oct. 12, 13

MOSTLY MARTHA

(BELLA MARTHA)

2001, Sandra Nettelbeck, Germany, 109 min.
With Martina Gedeck, Sergio Castellitto

Sunday, October 12, 3:00 pm

Monday, October 13, 6:00 pm

Gedeck (*THE LIVES OF OTHERS*) plays a talented but uptight Hamburg chef whose sister's sudden death brings two disruptive forces into her well-ordered life: a morose eight-year-old niece and an easygoing Italian co-chef (Castellitto). This sleeper hit starts off in a low, wintry key and lets the humor and warmth grow out of careful character development. In German and Italian with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)



SOUL KITCHEN, Oct. 19, 20

SOUL KITCHEN

2009, Fatih Akin, Germany, 99 min.

With Adam Bousdoukos, Moritz Bleibtreu

Sunday, October 19, 3:00 pm

Monday, October 20, 6:00 pm

This freewheeling comedy by cross-cultural auteur (and Hamburg native) Akin centers on a funky Greek eatery operated by Zinos (Bousdoukos), whose life is sent into frantic overdrive by tax collectors, health inspectors, a conniving real-estate speculator, a prima-donna chef, a herniated back, a girlfriend who takes off to China, and a jailbird brother (Bleibtreu). In German and Greek with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)



ABSOLUTE GIGANTEN, Oct. 26, 27

Archival print!

ABSOLUTE GIGANTEN

1999, Sebastian Schipper, Germany, 80 min.

With Frank Giering, Florian Lukas

Sunday, October 26, 4:45 pm

Monday, October 27, 7:45 pm

In this grungy riposte to *AMERICAN GRAFFITI*-style nostalgia, three buddies spend a last night together before their leader (Giering) departs on a freighter. They cruise the shabbier sections of the city in search of an experience suitably memorable...extraordinary...*gigantic* to mark the occasion. In German with English subtitles. Archival 35mm print courtesy of Goethe-Institut. (MR)



CHICAGO PREMIERE! SETH MCCLELLAN IN PERSON!

CREATIVE WRITING

2014, Seth McClellan, USA, 67 min. With Michael Davis, Stephen Styles

Friday, October 24, 8:00 pm

Sunday, October 26, 5:30 pm

Thursday, October 30, 8:15 pm

A community college class in creative writing becomes a seething cauldron of resentment, fear, and half-baked racism in this startling drama. All the actors play fictionalized versions of themselves, including Chicago director McClellan, portraying the teacher confronted by personal failure while facing a diverse clutch of students whose wan efforts stand in stark contrast to the potentially powerful material of their daily lives. DCP digital. (BS)

Director Seth McClellan and selected members of the cast and crew will be present for audience discussion at all screenings.

The Unquiet American

TRANSGRESSIVE COMEDIES FROM THE U.S.

Lecturer: Jonathan Rosenbaum

From August 29 through December 9, we present a series of fourteen programs entitled *The Unquiet American: Transgressive Comedies from the U.S.*, with weekly Tuesday lectures by internationally renowned film critic Jonathan Rosenbaum. The series is presented in cooperation with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Department of Art History, Theory, and Criticism and the Department of Film, Video, New Media, and Animation. Additional screenings of the films on Friday or Saturday do not include Jonathan Rosenbaum's lecture. Admission to all *Unquiet American* programs is \$5 for Film Center members; usual admission prices apply for non-members.

—Martin Rubin

This series explores the American *zeitgeist* from the 1930s to the early 2000s as seen through diverse forms of comedy and satire. The notion of *The Unquiet American* is derived, somewhat ironically, from Graham Greene's anti-American novel *The Quiet American* (1955), referring to a well-intentioned American idealist who perpetrates a certain amount of deadly mischief in Vietnam. Part of the premise of this eclectic survey is that Americans, regardless of their intentions, are not always prone to be "quiet," and that diverse forms of excess tend to be inseparable from what keeps the American cinema transgressive. All films are scheduled to be shown in 35mm.

—Jonathan Rosenbaum



AVANTI!, Oct. 4, 7

AVANTI!

1972, Billy Wilder, USA, 140 min.
With Jack Lemmon, Juliet Mills

Saturday, October 4, 5:30 pm
Tuesday, October 7, 6:00 pm

In this lovely romantic comedy, Lemmon, playing against his nice-guy image, portrays a pushy American plutocrat who goes to pick up his father's body on the idyllic isle of Ischia. There he crosses paths with a plump British lass (Mills) whose mother perished in the same auto accident. 35mm. (MR)



HOT TIMES, Oct. 14

HOT TIMES

1974, Jim McBride, USA, 80 min.
With Henry Cory, Gail Lorber

Tuesday, October 14, 6:00 pm

A haplessly horny high-schooler suffers a series of misadventures as he struggles to get laid. This soft-core porn satire was first appreciated by Jonathan Rosenbaum in a 1976 review that compared it to Preston Sturges and R. Crumb. Archival 35mm print courtesy of Moving Image Archives, University of North Carolina School of the Arts. (MR)



RICHARD PRYOR: LIVE IN CONCERT, Oct. 17, 21

RICHARD PRYOR: LIVE IN CONCERT

1979, Jeff Margolis, USA, 78 min.

Friday, October 17, 9:00 pm
Tuesday, October 21, 6:00 pm

Pryor's first stand-up movie presents his ferocious talent at its most uninhibited. On a bare stage, he summons up multitudes with acute empathy and razor-sharp observation: ruthless cops, orgasming women, his switch-wielding grandmother, a frightened deer, a horny monkey, and that peculiar species, white people. 35mm. (MR)

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1941

1979, Steven Spielberg, USA,
118 min.
With John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd

**Saturday, October 25,
5:00 pm
Tuesday, October 28,
6:00 pm**

Spielberg indulged his inner demons in this iconoclastic farce that both John Wayne and Charlton Heston turned down as "anti-American." In the jittery days just after Pearl Harbor, Los Angeles is gripped by an invasion scare that triggers a citywide orgy of libidinous energy and trigger-happy destruction. 35mm widescreen. (MR)



1941, Oct. 25, 28

Upcoming in *The Unquiet American:*

October 31 and November 4
MODERN ROMANCE
1981, Albert Brooks, USA, 93 min.

November 7 and 11
THE KING OF COMEDY
1982, Martin Scorsese, USA, 109 min.

November 14 and 18
MATINEE
1993, Joe Dante, USA, 99 min.

November 21 and 25
DOWN WITH LOVE
2003, Peyton Reed, USA, 101 min.

December 5 and 9
IDIOCRACY
2006, Mike Judge, USA, 84 min.

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- 1) Purchase online at www.siskefilmcenter.org (click on "Membership")
- 2) Visit the box office during theater hours, 5:00-8:30 pm, Monday-Friday; 2:00-8:30 pm, Saturday; 2:00-5:30 pm, Sunday.
- 3) Visit our main office 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.
- 4) Call 312-846-2600 during business hours, 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday-Friday.

All memberships last for one year from date of purchase. A Senior Citizen (65 years or older) or Art Institute of Chicago member discount of \$5. Double discounts do not apply. Proof of discount status required.

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- 3) Sign up through our Web site, www.siskefilmcenter.org.

Please note: The Gene Siskel Film Center does not sell or share its email list with other organizations; its sole purpose is to inform Film Center patrons.

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c/o 37 S. Wabash Avenue
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Tickets:

\$11 General Admission; \$7 Students; \$6 Members. Go to our website for on-line ticket purchasing information.

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

ADVANCED STYLE

2014, Lina Plioplyte, USA, 72 min.

*“Inspirational, touching
and absolutely fabulous.”*

—Allan Hunter, *Daily Express*

Inspired by the popular blog “Advanced Style” by Ari Seth Cohen, this sassy documentary showcases the unique life-and-style philosophies of seven Manhattan fashionistas, aged 60 to 90. It’s a virtual cornucopia of cutting-edge street fashion, with attitude to spare. Fashion is elevated to an idiosyncratic art as these glamorous ladies strut their stuff with joie de vivre. DCP digital. (BS)

October 24—30

Fri. and Mon. at 6:00 pm;
Sat. at 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm;
Sun. at 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm;
Tue. and Thu. at 10:30 am, 4:00 pm,
and 6:00 pm;
Wed. at 1:30 pm and 6:00 pm



Advanced Styler Discount!

\$7 per ticket for patrons 65 and over!
Available in person at the box office only.

Free small popcorn at these shows!

Tue. 10:30 am; Wed. 1:30 pm; Thu. 10:30 am.