

SISKEL

■■■ FILM CENTER

GAZETTE

Vol. 54 Issue 3

GAZETTE • MAY/JUNE 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

Experience six decades of Varda in our *Ages of Agnès* series.

The *Asian American Showcase* turns 29!

We mark 25 Years on State Street with a special anniversary series and celebration.

**SCHOOL OF
THE ART INSTITUTE
OF CHICAGO** SAIC

AGES OF AGNÉS PG. 6

ABOUT THE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 NORTH STATE STREET CHICAGO, IL 60601
SISKELFILMCENTER.ORG



The Gene Siskel Film Center strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage fully. For accessibility requests or inquiries, please contact filmcenter@saic.edu.

Validated parking is available at the InterPark Self-Park at 20 East Randolph Street for \$20. Please obtain a validation from our box office staff.

JOIN THE SISKEL FILM CENTER COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT US

Help sustain our more than 50-year legacy as Chicago's largest nonprofit cinema through a membership or donation. Your support powers our film series, festivals, filmmaker events, partnerships, and state-of-the-art projection and sound. Become a member to enjoy deep discounts and exclusive perks, or make a donation to help keep art house cinema thriving in the heart of Chicago.

siskelfilmcenter.org/membership

TICKETS

Unless otherwise noted:
Siskel Film Center Members and SAIC Staff: \$8.00
General Admission: \$14.00
Student/Senior: \$9.00*
SAIC Students: \$5.00

*Discount at box office only.
Valid ID required.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Marcel Muñoz (Chair), Kristin L. Anderson, Taylor Champion, Michelle Cucchiaro, Eliot Ephraim, David Hundley, Marlene Iglitzen, Ellen Kollar, Averill Leviton, Scott Manzler, Krista Weir.

OUR TEAM

Caroline Garske, Digital Communications Manager; jada-amina, Black Harvest Film Festival Curator; Lori Hile, Associate Director of Marketing and Communications; Nick Leffel, Black Harvest Film Festival Coordinator; Christy LeMaster, Associate Director of Programming; Emily Long, Executive Director; Brennan McMahon, Assistant Technical Coordinator; Holly Prindle, Office and Accounting Coordinator; Jack Richardson, Theater Operations Manager; Michael Wawzenek, Assistant Director of Media Technology; Projectionists: Esteban Alarcón, Ursula Rigberg Wagner, Bowman Simon, Ginger Anderson-Willis, Blair St George Wright.

Front of House Leads: Raphael Martinez, Chris Tamma, Nico Valdez, Austin Thomasson; SAIC Student Assistants: Manahel Al Mosleh, Omaymah Alkhateeb, Ana Dias, Eli Drake, Tony Harntaweessompone, Enye Kang, Emma McLain, Amin Pakparvar, Shravani Pawar, Magdalena Perez-Moore, Maaran Ramakrishnan, Hallie Riggott, Mehraneh Salimianrizi, Syd Wrigley, Eunice Yang, Mint Sadeghi, and Alyssa Seddon. Gazette designed by Kaitlin Martin.

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NEW RELEASES

Opening dates subject to change; additional titles may be added. siskelfilmcenter.org



OPENS MAY 1 BLUE HERON

2025, dir. Sophy Romvari, Canada, 90 min.

In English and Hungarian with English subtitles / Format: Digital

In the late 1990s, eight-year-old Sasha and her family relocate to a new home on Vancouver Island, but their fresh start is interrupted by increasingly dangerous behavior from the eldest son, Jeremy. At wit's end, their parents are presented with a shattering choice. **Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



OPENS MAY 1 AMERICAN DREAM

1990, dir. Barbara Kopple, USA, 98 min.

In English / Format: **4K digital restoration**

Winner of the 1991 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, Barbara Kopple's AMERICAN DREAM unflinchingly details the explosive 1985-86 labor strike against Hormel Foods in Austin, Minnesota, a city ripped apart in the tumult. **Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



OPENS MAY 1 HARLAN COUNTY USA

1976, dir. Barbara Kopple, USA, 103 min.

In English / Format: **4K digital restoration**

Barbara Kopple's Academy Award-winning HARLAN COUNTY USA unflinchingly documents a grueling coal miners' strike in a small Kentucky town. With unprecedented access, Kopple and her crew capture the miners' sometimes violent struggles with strikebreakers, local police, and company thugs. **Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



OPENS MAY 8 OUR LAND (NUESTRA TIERRA)

2025, dir. Lucrecia Martel, Argentina, USA, Mexico, France, Netherlands, Denmark, 122 min.

In Spanish with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Acclaimed Argentine filmmaker Lucrecia Martel takes a sweeping approach to this tragic true story, triangulating the murder trial of three men, the lives of activist Chocobar and his fellow Chuchagasta people, and the centuries-old, colonialist legacy of land and property theft across Latin America. **Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



OPENS MAY 15 TWO WOMEN

2025, dir. Chloé Robichaud, Canada, 100 min.

In French with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Winner of the Special Jury Prize at Sundance, TWO WOMEN is an irrepressible comedy about two mothers who refuse to settle for stagnant lives, and instead pursue the joy they need to feel alive and fulfilled. **Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



OPENS MAY 22
SILENT FRIEND

2025, dir. Idikó Enyedi, Germany, Hungary, France, 147 min.
In English, German, Cantonese with English subtitles / Format: Digital

At the heart of a German university grows a majestic ginkgo tree, its lifespan measured in centuries. Over time, it quietly bears witness to the private lives of those beneath its branches, connecting three generations of students and teachers across time and space. **Opens exclusively at the Siskel Film Center.**



OPENS MAY 22
MAD BILLS TO PAY (OR DESTINY, DILE QUE NO SOY MALO)

2025, dir. Joel Alfonso Vargas, USA, 101 min.
In English and Spanish with English subtitles / Format: Digital

In a tight-knit Dominican-American community in the Bronx, Rico hustles through the summer selling bootleg “nutcracker” cocktails and chasing girls without a care. But when his teenage girlfriend Destiny moves into his family’s cramped apartment, their messy young love collides with the sobering reality of growing up too fast. **Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



OPENS MAY 29
OMAHA

2026, dir. Cole Webley, USA, 83 min. In English / Format: Digital

A young girl and her brother are awakened by their father and loaded into the car early one morning in 2008. As their road trip across the American West, the girl discovers the truth about their seemingly spontaneous journey. **Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



OPENS JUNE 5
BLACK HARVEST PRESENTS: THE DEVIL QUEEN

1974, dir. Antônio Carlos de Fontoura, Brazil, 99 min.
In Portuguese with English subtitles / Format: **4K digital restoration**

In the underworld of 1970s Rio de Janeiro, the feared “Devil’s Queen” rules a drug cartel from a brothel back room. Draped in green eyeshadow and menace, her grip on power falters as rival factions turn on one another in a violent struggle for her throne.



OPENS JUNE 5
THE CURRENTS

2026, dir. Milagros Mumenthaler, Switzerland, Argentina, 104 min.
In Spanish with English subtitles / Format: Digital

While accepting an award in Switzerland, Argentine artist and designer Lina is seized by the urge to plunge into an icy lake. After surviving, she cannot readjust to her former life as something within her quietly shifts, unraveling a past she thought she had left behind. **Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



OPENS JUNE 12
RENOIR

2025, dir. Chie Hayakawa, Japan, France, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Qatar, 118 min.
In Japanese with English subtitles / Format: Digital

In late ’80s suburban Tokyo, imaginative 11-year-old Fuki faces the loss of her terminally ill father. Curious about the prospect of death and the occult, she encounters lonely, imperfect adults who gently guide her toward an emotional truth she isn’t yet ready to name. **Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



OPENS JUNE 12
AMORES PERROS

2000, dir. Alejandro González Iñárritu, Mexico, 153 min.
In Spanish with English subtitles / Format: **4K digital restoration**

A teenager risks everything to run away with his brother’s wife. A model loses all after moving in with her lover. A homeless man confronts ghosts of his past. As their stories unfold, human chaos, cruelty, and tenderness reveal unexpected connections. **Presented as part of 25 for 25. Read more on p. 9.**



OPENS JUNE 19
HONEYJOON

2025, dir. Lilian T. Mehrel, USA, Portugal, 80 min.
In English / Format: Digital

In this light-and-dark comedy about grief and family, American June and her Persian-Kurdish mother Lela travel to the Azores nearly a year after her father’s death. As the anniversary approaches, their contrasting ways of coping clash, especially after meeting attractive local tour guide João. **Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



OPENS JUNE 26
BOUCHRA

2025, dirs. Orian Barki, Meriem Bennani, Italy, Morocco, USA, 83 min.
In English, Arabic, and French with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Wrestling with writer’s block on her first film, Bouchra—a queer Moroccan coyote living in NYC—begins having difficult yet overdue phone calls with her mother in Casablanca that start to influence the project. **Presented as part of Bleak Week. Read more on p. 10. Siskel Film Center exclusive.**



THURSDAY, MAY 7, 8:15PM
OPENING NIGHT: FORGE

2025, dir. Jing Ai Ng, USA, 114 min.

In English and Cantonese with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Siblings Raymond (Brandon Soo Hoo) and Coco Zhang (Andie Ju) run a forgery ring. Coerced by a disgraced millionaire, they create counterfeit masterpieces for their family's collection. FBI agent Emily Lee (Kelly Marie Tran) investigates a new string of art forgeries.



FRIDAY, MAY 8, 5:45PM
KAPWA (SHARED IDENTITY): FILIPINO AMERICAN SHORTS

1936, 2025–2026, dirs. Various, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Philippines, 116 min.

In English and Tagalog with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Q & A

By exploring cultural preservation and identity, the immigrant experience, and diaspora resilience, these shorts preserve overlooked histories, strengthen intergenerational bonds, and highlight the emotional, often absurd, complexities of familial care and survival. **Dialogue: Select filmmakers in attendance.**

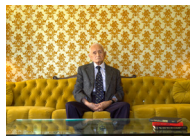


FRIDAY, MAY 8, 8:15PM
HOT WATER

2025, dir. Ramzi Bashour, USA, 97 min.

In English, Arabic, and French with English subtitles / Format: Digital

An expelled college student (Daniel Zolghadri) and his Lebanese professor mother (Lubna Azabal) head west together on a road trip, searching for his future and her past.



SATURDAY, MAY 9, 3:00PM
CORONER TO THE STARS

2025, dir. Ben Hethcoat and Keita Ideno, USA, 83 min. In English / Format: Digital

As Los Angeles County coroner, Dr. Thomas Noguchi gained notoriety for headline-making autopsies of celebrities including Marilyn Monroe, John Belushi, Janis Joplin, Natalie Wood, and Sharon Tate. His work brought forensic science into the spotlight amid backlash. Now 98, Noguchi finally tells his side of the story.



SATURDAY, MAY 9, 5:00PM
BEFORE THE MOON FALLS

2025, dir. Kimberlee Bassford, USA, 101 min. In English / Format: Digital

Eight years into the making of an intimate portrait of Samoan writer Sia Figiel tragedy struck. The film offers an in-depth and thought-provoking look at Sia's tumultuous journey leading to that traumatic moment, illuminating the complexities of inconsistently treated mental illness and the devastating toll it can exact on individuals, families, and entire communities.



SATURDAY, MAY 9, 8:00PM
ANOTHER VERSION OF ME: AAPI CHICAGO SHORTS

2024–2026, dirs. Various, USA, 116 min. In English, Arabic, Central Khmer, Indonesian, and Mandarin with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Q & A

When you're back here, you feel it. These shorts by AAPI filmmakers with a connection to Chicago explore how Asian American and Pacific Islanders reconcile where they are with who they are. **Dialogue: Select filmmakers in attendance.**



Q & A

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2:30PM
THE OTHER SIDE: AAPI SHORTS

2025–2026, dirs. Various, USA, 109 min.

In English, Mien, and Vietnamese with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Sometimes the grass is greener, and other times it isn't. These AAPI shorts feature leaps of faith, searches for stability, and examinations of the new and the eternally unknowable. **Dialogue: Select filmmakers in attendance.**



SUNDAY, MAY 10, 5:30PM
DISSONANCE: AAPI QUEER SHORTS

2025, dirs. Various, USA, Canada, 103 min.

In English, Hawaiian, Khmer, and Vietnamese with English subtitles / Format: Digital

We can work it out. These AAPI shorts depict LGBTQ+ individuals coming to terms with themselves and the society around them.



Q & A

MONDAY, MAY 11, 5:45PM
BREAKING OUT: AAPI SHORTS

2024–2025, dirs. Various, USA, 103 min.

In English and Farsi with English subtitles / Format: Digital

The key to progress can come from within oneself, or with help from others. In this collection of AAPI shorts, people in difficult predicaments find the tools to deal with their dilemmas. **Dialogue: Select filmmakers in attendance.**

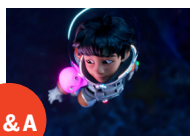


Q & A

MONDAY, MAY 11, 8:15PM
SEAT AT THE TABLE

2026, dirs. Sarita Khurana, Yoav Attias, USA, 90 min. In English / Format: Digital

SEAT AT THE TABLE follows South Asian political candidates during the 2024 election cycle, alongside a community energized by the first South Asian presidential campaign. Featuring Nabeela Syed's run for Illinois State Representative, the film captures a historic moment as more candidates seek office, offering a rare front-row view of power taking shape in America. **Dialogue: Co-director Sarita Khurana and Illinois State Representatives Nabeela Syed and Kevin Olickal in attendance.**



Q & A

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 5:45PM
SKETCHES IN MOTION: AAPI ANIMATED SHORTS

2024–2026, dirs. Various, USA, Canada, Denmark, India, 88 min.

In English, Tagalog, and Korean with English subtitles / Format: Digital

If you see it, you can be it. These shorts use the freedom of animation to illuminate the vast range and possibility of the AAPI experience. **Dialogue: Select filmmakers in attendance.**



Q & A

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 8:15PM
HOOP LIKE THIS

2025, dir. Shubhangi Shekhar, USA, 100 min. In English / Format: Digital

Twelve players come together to form the world's first professional Indian-origin basketball team, risking their careers, reputation, and identity to redefine who belongs in the game. **Dialogue: Director Shubhangi Shekar and producer Pulkit Datta in attendance.**



Ages of Agnès



In a career spanning seven decades, artist and filmmaker Agnès Varda crafted an unparalleled canon of formally innovative and poetic films. Considered a progenitor of the French New Wave, her shape-shifting films often employ a hybrid of documentary and fictional approaches and prioritize women's stories and perspectives. The six films in Ages of Agnès, each from a different decade, chart Varda's groundbreaking career and celebrate her compelling and charismatic style of filmmaking.

siskelfilmcenter.org/agnes

SAT., MAY 2, 12:00PM & MON., MAY 4, 8:00PM

LA POINTE COURTE

1955, dir. Agnès Varda, France, 80 min. In French with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Varda's film career began with this graceful, penetrating study of a marriage on the rocks, set against the backdrop of a small Mediterranean fishing village. The film's mix of stylized narrative story and documentary-like look at the daily struggles of the locals heralded the coming French New Wave.

SAT., MAY 9, 1:00PM & 6:30PM; FRI., MAY 15, 6:15PM; & MON., MAY 18, 6:00PM

LE BONHEUR

1965, dir. Agnès Varda, France, 80 min. In French with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Though married to the good-natured, beautiful Thérèse, young husband and father François finds himself falling into an affair with an attractive postal worker. Varda's provocative film employs a deceptively cheery palette to examine the fraught balance between selfishness and happiness.

SAT., MAY 16, 4:30PM; SUN., MAY 17, 2:00PM; WED., MAY 20, 6:00PM; & THURS., MAY 21, 8:30PM

ONE SINGS THE OTHER DOESN'T (L'UNE CHANTE, L'AUTRE PAS)

1977, dir. Agnès Varda, France, 121 min. In French with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Varda's unsung feminist anthem follows close friends Pauline and Suzanne over the course of more than a decade as each searches for her place in the world—encountering the dawning of the women's movement, dreamy boho musical numbers, and an Iranian adventure along the way.

SAT., MAY 16, 2:00PM; SUN., MAY 17, 5:00PM; WED., MAY 20, 8:30PM; & THUR., MAY 21, 6:00PM

VAGABOND (SANS TOIT NI LO)

1985, dir. Agnès Varda, France, 105 min. In French with English subtitles / Format: Digital

VAGABOND opens with the tragic discovery of an unknown woman frozen to death in a ditch. From that grim beginning, Varda pieces together the story of defiant young drifter Mona through flashbacks told by those who encountered her, producing a splintered portrait of an enigmatic woman.

FRI., MAY 22, 6:00PM; SAT., MAY 23, 5:30PM; SUN., MAY 24, 2:30PM; & TUE., MAY 26, 6:00PM

THE GLEANERS AND I (LES GLANEURS ET LA GLANEUSE)

2000, dir. Agnès Varda, France, 82 min. In French with English subtitles / Format: Digital

This wonderfully idiosyncratic, self-reflexive documentary explores the world of modern-day gleaners—those living on the margins who survive by foraging what society throws away. Embracing the intimacy of digital filmmaking, Varda reflects on as a gleaner of images and ideas.

FRI., MAY 22, 8:30PM; SUN., MAY 24, 11:30AM; TUES., MAY 26, 8:30PM; & WED., MAY 27, 8:00PM

VARDA BY AGNÈS (VARDA PAR AGNÈS)

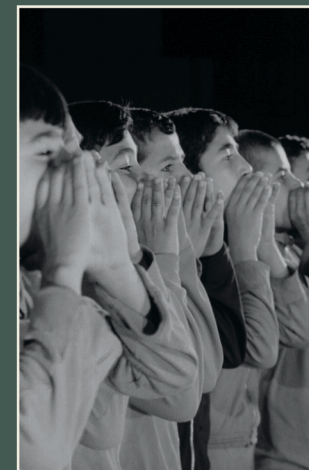
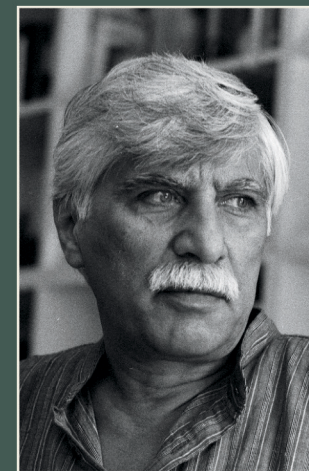
2019, dir. Agnès Varda, France, 119 min. In French with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Varda's final film is a characteristically playful, profound, and personal summation of the director's own brilliant career. At once impish and wise, she guides a free-associative tour through her six-decade artistic journey, shedding new light on her work while reflecting on filmmaking, feminism, and aging.

37TH FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN



Founded in 1989, this year's Festival of Films from Iran honors influential Iranian playwright, theater director, and filmmaker **Bahram Beyzaie** with a limited retrospective, alongside a showcase of the best recent work from Iranian filmmakers.



JUNE 5–11, 2026



siskelfilmcenter.org/iran

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS ON STATE STREET

25 Years on State Street—Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future!

Since opening in May 2001, our State Street home has hosted thousands of unforgettable screenings, filmmaker visits, and audience moments, as part of the Siskel Film Center's more than 50-year tradition of extraordinary cinema. We're deeply grateful to the generations of movie lovers who have made these 25 years so special.

From June through December, we celebrate 25 Years on State Street with a six-month series of landmark films and programs from our history, alongside opportunities to look ahead to what's next. Celebrate with screenings, commemorative poster sales, and shared audience memories. Here's to 25 years on State Street—that great street—and the next chapter of cinematic discovery!

25 For 25 Film Series:

When the Film Center moved to its State Street location, it was renamed in honor of beloved local movie critic Gene Siskel, marking a new chapter and significantly expanding its ability to bring the cinema of the world to Chicago.

As part of the celebration, our **25 for 25** film series revisits standout titles from our State Street history, spotlighting films that have lit up our screens since 2001 and reflecting on the Siskel Film Center's innovative programming legacy.

We kick off with three beloved local favorites—iconic Chicago stories spanning decades and neighborhoods—each featured in our inaugural State Street program, the legendary 24-hour Starring Chicago marathon of Chicago-made movies. siskelfilmcenter.org/statestreet

Take a Seat

A lot has changed in the 25 years since the Gene Siskel Film Center opened on State Street, growing into a two-screen home for the best in independent and international cinema.

Through 25 for 25 programming, commemorative poster sales, seat naming, and shared audience memories, we invite you to help sustain the Siskel Film Center as Chicago's home for great cinema.



**FRIDAY, MAY 29, 5:45PM; SATURDAY, MAY 30, 8:15PM;
& TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 6:00PM**
HIGH FIDELITY

2000, dir. Stephen Frears, UK, USA, 113 min. In English / Format: Digital

Rob Gordon (John Cusack) runs a semi-failing record store in late '90s Wicker Park with clerks Barry (Jack Black) and Dick. When longtime girlfriend Laura walks out, Rob is forced to examine his past failed romances the only way he knows how. **Screened as part of our 2001 Starring Chicago movie marathon.**



**SATURDAY, MAY 30, 4:15PM; SUNDAY, MAY 31, 12:00PM;
& WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 8:15PM**
CALL NORTHSIDE 777

1948, dir. Henry Hathaway, USA, 112 min. In English / Format: Digital

Inspired by a true story, the film noir CALL NORTHSIDE 777 is rumored to be the first Hollywood movie shot entirely on location in Chicago. Frank Wiecek is convicted of the mob-connected murder of a Chicago policeman. Years later, his mother Tillie takes out a classified ad asking for information about the crime. Skeptical reporter P.J. McNeal (James Stewart) investigates. **Screened as part of our 2001 Starring Chicago movie marathon.**



**SATURDAY, MAY 30, 4:15PM; MONDAY, JUNE 1, 6:00PM;
& TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 8:30PM**
COOLEY HIGH

1975, dir. Michael Schultz, USA, 107 min. In English / Format: Digital

COOLEY HIGH is a deeply felt recollection of adolescent life on Chicago's near North Side in 1964. Friends and high-school seniors Cochise (Lawrence Hilton-Jacobs) and Preach (Glynn Turman) deal with girl, school, and police troubles as they prepare for post-high-school life. **Screened as part of our 2001 Starring Chicago movie marathon.**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2:00PM; SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 4:15PM;
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 6:00PM; & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 8:30PM**
RUSSIAN ARK

2002, dir. Aleksandr Sokurov, Russia, 96 min.
In Russian with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Filmmaker Alexander Sokurov broke boundaries with his dreamlike vision of the Hermitage in St. Petersburg in the first feature-length narrative filmed in a single take. RUSSIAN ARK follows an unseen narrator exploring the vast museum and Russian history alongside a sarcastic 19th-century French Marquis. **Screened as part of our 2003 Another Russia series.**



OPENS JUNE 12
AMORES PERROS

2000, dir. Alejandro González Iñárritu, Mexico, 153 min.

In Spanish with English subtitles / Format: **4k digital restoration**

A teenager risks everything to run away with his brother's wife. A model loses all after moving in with her lover. A homeless man confronts ghosts of his past. As their stories unfold, human chaos, cruelty, and tenderness reveal unexpected connections. **Screened as part of our 2005 Contemporary Mexican Cinema series.**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2:00PM; SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 12:00PM;
MONDAY, JUNE 22, 6:00PM; & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 8:00PM**
BARKING DOGS NEVER BITE

2000, dir. Bong Joon-ho, South Korea, 110 min.

In Korean with English subtitles / **35mm**

In Bong Joon-ho's directorial debut, an unemployed graduate student with an expectant wife is driven to distraction by a yapping dog in his apartment complex. Determined to end his annoyance, he takes extreme action against his tormentor, which will come to haunt him. *35mm screenings generously supported by Mimi and Scott Manzler.* **Screened as part of our 2004 Korean Cinema: The Newest New Wave series.**



**FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 6:00PM; SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2:00PM;
SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 12:00PM; & WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 6:00PM**
BICYCLE THIEVES

1948, dir. Vittorio De Sica, Italy, 93 min.

In Italian with English subtitles / Format: Digital

In poverty-stricken postwar Rome, a man begins a new job that offers hope for his desperate family. When his bicycle, needed for work, is stolen, he sets off to track down the thief with his young son. BICYCLE THIEVES embodies Italian neorealism's emotional clarity, social rectitude, and brutal honesty. **Screened as part of our 2002 Kudos to Kino: 25 Years of Classic and Cutting-Edge Cinema series.**



bleak week :
cinema of despair (animated)

This June the Gene Siskel Film Center is thrilled to participate in Bleak Week: Cinema of Despair in partnership with the American Cinematheque. This weeklong festival spotlights leading filmmakers who wholly embrace a cinema of despair in pursuit of raw empathy and unsettling truths.

Given animation's limitless potential to inscribe the darkest of worlds, the Siskel's iteration of Bleak Week focuses on animated films. Join us for this very special showcase of six movies from around the globe featuring a broad range of animation techniques for a communal (and hopefully cathartic) movie-watching experience like no other.

And in the spirit of communal bleakness, Bleak Week screenings will take place both at the Gene Siskel Film Center and with our friends at the Music Box Theatre. Check out their unique slate of sadness at musicboxtheatre.com for showtimes siskelfilmcenter.org/bleakweek

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 6:00PM & SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 8:00PM
PRINCESS MONONOKE

1997, dir. Hayao Miyazaki, Japan, 133 min. In Japanese with English subtitles / Format: Digital

Inflicted with a deadly curse, young warrior Ashitaka heads west in search of a cure. There, he enters a conflict between Lady Eboshi and Iron Town, and Princess Mononoke—a girl raised by wolves—who fights to protect her forest home and its spirits from human destruction.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 8:45PM & WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 6:00PM
WATERSHIP DOWN

1978, dir. Martin Rosen, UK, USA, 92 min. In English / Format: Digital

With this passion project, screenwriter-producer-director Martin Rosen brilliantly achieved what had been thought nearly impossible: a faithful big-screen adaptation of Richard Adams's classic British dystopian novel about a community of rabbits under terrible threat from modern forces. WATERSHIP DOWN is an emotionally arresting, dark-toned allegory about freedom amid political turmoil.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 6:00PM & MONDAY, JUNE 15, 9:00PM
FELIDAE

1994, dir. Michael Schaack, Germany, 78 min. In German with English subtitles / Format: Digital

A combination of feline detective story, Gothic mystery, and occult horror, FELIDAE follows green-eyed protagonist Francis and his grizzled, one-eyed companion Blaubart as they unravel a series of unsolved murders among a group of domestic cats.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2:30PM
BOUCHRA - SNEAK PEEK!

2025, dir. Orian Barki and Meriem Bennani, Italy, Morocco, USA, 83 min.

In English, Arabic, and French with English subtitles / Format: Digital

See p. 3 for full description. **Dialogue: Director Orian Barki in attendance.**

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 6:00PM
CONSUMING SPIRITS - FREE MEMBERS-ONLY SCREENING

2012, dir. Chris Sullivan, USA, 136 min. In English / Format: Digital

CONSUMING SPIRITS follows three unhappy characters in the rustbelt town of Magguson as their lives unfold, revealing deeper connections and histories of social service intervention, foster care, romance, and hatred. **Dialogue: Director Chris Sullivan in attendance.**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 8:00PM
CRYPTOZOO

2021, dir. Dash Shaw, USA, 95 min. In English / Format: Digital

This vibrant and violent fantastical animated feature follows cryptozookeepers through a richly drawn hallucinatory world as they struggle to capture a baku (a legendary dream-eating hybrid creature).

SPECIAL EVENTS & PARTNER PROGRAMS

National Theatre Live



SATURDAY, MAY 23, 11:30AM & SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2:00PM
NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: ALL MY SONS

2026, dir. Ivo van Hove, UK, 135 min. In English / Format: Digital

One family, the heart of the American dream. When wartime delivers profits for Joe, it comes at a price when his partner is charged with criminal manufacturing deals, and his eldest son goes missing in action. Will peacetime bring peace of mind, or will he be confronted by the consequence of his actions?



SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 11:30AM & SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 5:00PM
NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD

2026, dir. Caitríona McLaughlin, UK, 150 min. In English / Format: Digital

Pegeen Flaherty's life is turned upside down when a young man walks into her pub claiming that he's killed his father. Instead of being shunned, the killer becomes a local hero and begins to win hearts, that is until a second man unexpectedly arrives on the scene...



Australian Consulate-General

Chicago, USA



SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2:00PM
AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE-GENERAL PRESENTS: KANGAROO

2025, dir. Kate Woods, Australia, 107 min. In English / Format: Digital

KANGAROO is a heartwarming family comedy about washed-up TV personality Chris Masterman, stranded in an Outback town near Alice Springs. He befriends 12-year-old Indigenous girl Charlie, and together they rescue orphaned joeys. Inspired by Chris "Brolga" Barns, their journey transforms both their lives in unexpected, meaningful ways. **Reception to follow in the lobby, generously sponsored by the Australian Consulate-General.**



SUNDAY, MAY 31, 6:00PM
CHICAGO FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS: FLY AWAY HOME

1996, dir. Carroll Ballard, USA, 107 min. In English / Format: **35mm**

Anna Paquin and Jeff Daniels star as an estranged daughter and father whose relationship is repaired while guiding a flock of young geese from Ontario to North Carolina in ultralight aircraft. FLY AWAY HOME is an impressive feat of animal filmmaking and aerial cinematography, and a moving portrait of humans and nature. (CFS) 35mm print from the Chicago Film Society collection.



MONDAY, JUNE 29, 6:00PM
OFF CENTER: BEAVER TRILOGY

2000, dir. Trent Harris, USA, 83 min. In English / Format: Digital

In 1979, filmmaker Trent Harris visits the small town of Beaver, Utah, to film a talent show. An Olivia Newton-John impersonator named Groovin' Gary leaves such an impression on him that Harris reenacts Gary's performance in 1981 with a young Sean Penn and again in 1985 with a young Crispin Glover.

MAY AND JUNE CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

★ denotes filmmaker(s) and/or special guests in attendance

denotes 35mm or 16mm

3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>BLUE HERON HARLAN COUNTY, USA</p> <p>★2:00 THE BADDEST SPEECHWRITER OF ALL, (Doc10)</p> <p>★4:15 CLOSURE, (Doc10)</p>	<p>BLUE HERON AMERICAN DREAM</p> <p>8:00 LA POINTE COURTE, (Agnès), p. 6</p>	<p>BLUE HERON AMERICAN DREAM HARLAN COUNTY, USA</p>	<p>BLUE HERON</p> <p>6:00 ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL, (Lecture)</p>	<p>BLUE HERON</p> <p>6:30 LA POINTE COURTE, (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>8:15 OPENING NIGHT: FORGE, (AAS), p. 4</p>	<p>OUR LAND OPENS</p> <p>BLUE HERON</p> <p>★5:45 FILIPINO AMERICAN SHORTS, (AAS), p. 4</p> <p>8:15 HOT WATER, (AAS), p. 4</p>	<p>OUR LAND</p> <p>BLUE HERON</p> <p>1:00 & 6:30 LE BONHEUR, (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>3:00 CORONOR TO THE STARS, (AAS), p. 4</p> <p>5:00 BEFORE THE MOON FALLS, (AAS), p. 4</p> <p>★8:00 AAPI CHICAGO SHORTS, (AAS), p. 4</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>OUR LAND</p> <p>BLUE HERON</p> <p>12:00 ON BECOMING A GUINEA FOWL, (Lecture)</p> <p>★2:30 THE OTHER SIDE: AAPI SHORTS, (AAS), p. 4</p> <p>5:30 AAPI QUEER SHORTS, (AAS), p. 5</p>	<p>OUR LAND</p> <p>BLUE HERON</p> <p>★5:45 BREAKING OUT: AAPI SHORTS, (AAS), p. 5</p> <p>★8:15 SEAT AT THE TABLE, (AAS), p. 5</p>	<p>OUR LAND</p> <p>BLUE HERON</p> <p>★5:45 AAPI ANIMATED SHORTS, (AAS), p. 5</p> <p>★8:15 HOOP LIKE THIS, (AAS), p. 5</p>	<p>OUR LAND</p> <p>BLUE HERON</p> <p>6:00 DAHOMÉY, (Lecture)</p>	<p>OUR LAND</p> <p>BLUE HERON</p> <p>6:00 SAIC Festival</p> <p>8:30 SAIC Festival</p>	<p>TWO WOMEN OPENS</p> <p>6:00 SAIC Festival</p> <p>6:15 LE BONHEUR, (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>8:00 SAIC Festival</p>	<p>TWO WOMEN</p> <p>11:00, 1:00 SAIC Festival</p> <p>2:00 VAGABOND, (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>3:30 SAIC Festival</p> <p>4:30 ONE SINGS..., (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>6:00, 8:30 SAIC Festival</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>TWO WOMEN</p> <p>12:00 DAHOMÉY</p> <p>2:00 ONE SINGS..., (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>5:00 VAGABOND, (Agnès), p. 6</p>	<p>TWO WOMEN</p> <p>6:00 LE BONHEUR, (Agnès), p. 6</p>	<p>TWO WOMEN</p>	<p>TWO WOMEN</p> <p>6:00 ONE SINGS..., (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>8:30 VAGABOND, (Agnès), p. 6</p>	<p>TWO WOMEN</p> <p>6:00 VAGABOND, (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>8:30 ONE SINGS..., (Agnès), p. 6</p>	<p>SILENT FRIEND OPENS</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY OPENS</p> <p>6:00 THE GLEANERS..., (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>8:30 VARDA BY AGNÈS, (Agnès), p. 6</p>	<p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p> <p>11:30 ALL MY SONS, (NTL), p. 11</p> <p>5:30 THE GLEANERS..., (Agnès), p. 6</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p> <p>11:30AM VARDA BY AGNÈS, (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>2:00 ALL MY SONS, (NTL), p. 11</p> <p>2:30 THE GLEANERS..., (Agnès), p. 6</p>	<p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p>	<p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p> <p>6:00 THE GLEANERS..., (Agnès), p. 6</p> <p>8:30 VARDA BY AGNÈS, (Agnès), p. 6</p>	<p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p> <p>8:00 VARDA BY AGNÈS, (Agnès), p. 6</p>	<p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p>	<p>OMAHA OPENS</p> <p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p> <p>5:45 HIGH FIDELITY, (25), p. 8</p>	<p>OMAHA</p> <p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p> <p>2:00 KANGAROO, p. 11</p> <p>4:15 ...NORTHSIDE 777, (25), p. 8</p> <p>6:45 COOLEY HIGH, (25), p. 9</p> <p>8:15 HIGH FIDELITY, (25), p. 8</p>

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

31	JUNE 1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>OMAHA</p> <p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p> <p>12:00 ...NORTHSIDE 777, (25), p. 8</p> <p>6:00 FLY AWAY HOME, (CFS), p. 11</p>	<p>OMAHA</p> <p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>6:00 COOLEY HIGH, (25), p. 9</p>	<p>OMAHA</p> <p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>6:00 HIGH FIDELITY, (25), p. 8</p> <p>8:30 COOLEY HIGH, (25), p. 9</p>	<p>OMAHA</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p> <p>8:15 ...NORTHSIDE 777, (25), p. 8</p>	<p>OMAHA</p> <p>SILENT FRIEND</p> <p>MAD BILLS TO PAY</p>	<p>THE DEVIL QUEEN OPENS</p> <p>THE CURRENTS OPENS</p> <p>FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN, p. 7</p>	<p>THE DEVIL QUEEN</p> <p>THE CURRENTS</p> <p>FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN, p. 7</p> <p>2:00 RUSSIAN ARK, (25), p. 9</p>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p>THE DEVIL QUEEN</p> <p>THE CURRENTS</p> <p>FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN, p. 7</p> <p>4:15 RUSSIAN ARK, (25), p. 9</p>	<p>THE DEVIL QUEEN</p> <p>THE CURRENTS</p> <p>FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN, p. 7</p> <p>6:00 RUSSIAN ARK, (25), p. 9</p>	<p>THE DEVIL QUEEN</p> <p>THE CURRENTS</p> <p>FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN, p. 7</p>	<p>THE CURRENTS</p> <p>FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN, p. 7</p> <p>8:30 RUSSIAN ARK, (25), p. 9</p>	<p>THE DEVIL QUEEN</p> <p>THE CURRENTS</p> <p>FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN, p. 7</p>	<p>RENOIR OPENS</p> <p>AMORES PERROS OPENS</p> <p>6:00 PRINCESS MONONOKE, (Bleak) p. 10</p> <p>8:45 WATERSHIP DOWN, (Bleak) p. 10</p>	<p>RENOIR</p> <p>AMORES PERROS</p> <p>11:30 THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD, (NTL), p. 11</p> <p>6:00 FELIDAE, (Bleak) p. 10</p> <p>8:00 PRINCESS MONONOKE, (Bleak) p. 10</p>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>RENOIR</p> <p>AMORES PERROS</p> <p>★2:30 BOUCHRA, (Bleak) p. 10</p> <p>5:00 THE PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD, (NTL), p. 11</p>	<p>RENOIR</p> <p>AMORES PERROS</p> <p>★6:00 CONSUMING SPIRITS, (Bleak) p. 10</p> <p>9:00 FELIDAE, (Bleak) p. 10</p>	<p>RENOIR</p> <p>AMORES PERROS</p>	<p>RENOIR</p> <p>AMORES PERROS</p> <p>6:00 WATERSHIP DOWN, (Bleak) p. 10</p> <p>8:00 CRYPTOZOO, (Bleak) p. 10</p>	<p>RENOIR</p> <p>AMORES PERROS</p>	<p>HONEYJOON OPENS</p>	<p>HONEYJOON</p> <p>2:00 BARKING DOGS..., (25), p. 9</p>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>HONEYJOON</p> <p>12:00 BARKING DOGS..., (25), p. 9</p>	<p>HONEYJOON</p> <p>6:00 BARKING DOGS..., (25), p. 9</p>	<p>HONEYJOON</p>	<p>HONEYJOON</p> <p>8:00 BARKING DOGS..., (25), p. 9</p>	<p>HONEYJOON</p>	<p>BOUCHRA OPENS</p> <p>6:00 BICYCLE THIEVES, (25), p. 9</p>	<p>BOUCHRA</p> <p>2:00 BICYCLE THIEVES, (25), p. 9</p>
28	29	30	JULY 1			
<p>BOUCHRA</p> <p>12:00 BICYCLE THIEVES, (25), p. 9</p>	<p>BOUCHRA</p> <p>6:00 BEAVER TRILOGY, (OFF CENTER) p. 11</p>	<p>BOUCHRA</p>	<p>6:00 BICYCLE THIEVES, (25), p. 9</p>			



Coming soon: Tsai Ming-liang's *THE HOLE* (1998) on 35mm.

SAVE THE DATE

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Our 25 for 25 series continues.

A spotlight on 20th century queer filmmakers.

AUGUST:

Rev your engines for our series of fast and furious car chases.

Chicago Film Society presents Technicolor Weekend.

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