The Magnificent Mifune

Panorama Latinx
IXCANUL (Jan. 6-12), ME AND THE ALIEN (Jan. 13-19)
CHICAGO PREMIERE!

ANTARCTICA: ICE & SKY

January 27—February 2
Fri., 1/27 at 2 pm and 6 pm;
Sat., 1/28 at 3 pm and 7:45 pm;
Sun., 1/29 at 5:15 pm;
Mon., 1/30 at 6 pm;
Tue., 1/31 at 7:45 pm;
Wed., 2/1 at 6 pm and 7:45 pm;
Thu., 2/2 at 6 pm

(LA GLACE ET LE CIEL)
2015, Luc Jacquet, France, 89 min.
Narrated by Michel Papineschi

“The granddad of climate-change science gets his moment in the spotlight.”
—Boyd van Hoeij, Variety

The director of MARCH OF THE PENGUINS returns to the Antarctic to follow 83-year-old French glaciologist Claude Lorius, whose studies have accurately predicted global warming. Lorius’s passion for the Frozen South is evident in his illuminating commentary, but the film’s ace in the hole is his fifty-year trove of film footage, in which towering glaciers of the past give way to valleys filled with rocky rubble and filthy snow. In French with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

MAYA ANGELOU: AND STILL I RISE

January 13—19
Fri., 1/13 at 2 pm and 8 pm;
Sat., 1/14 at 3 pm and 7:45 pm;
Sun., 1/15 at 5 pm;
Mon., 1/16 at 7:45 pm;
Tue., 1/17 at 6 pm;
Wed., 1/18 at 7:45 pm;
Thu., 1/19 at 6 pm

2016, Bob Hercules and Rita Coburn Whack, USA, 114 min.

“The African-American icon’s richly textured and often traumatic story is unpacked in this near-definitive documentary.”—Ed Gibbs, Little White Lies

The remarkable, daring, and iconic life of poet, writer, and activist Maya Angelou unfolds in this in-depth portrait, which includes a substantial element of storytelling by the artist herself. Angelou brings the resonant cadences of poetry to narrating an entrancing chronicle of a youth shaped by family upheaval, the racism of a small Arkansas town, and early motherhood, as eventually detailed in her first book I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. DCP digital. (BS)
Gene Siskel Film Center

MOVIE CLUB

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

Join us for the Gene Siskel Film Center Movie Club, which will include a post-screening conversation and a complimentary beverage in the Gene Siskel Film Center’s Gallery/Café (movie ticket required).

Wednesday, January 11, 6:00 pm

IXCANUL, Jan. 6-12

(See description on p. 5.)
Facilitator TBD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY 1</th>
<th>MONDAY 2</th>
<th>TUESDAY 3</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 4</th>
<th>THURSDAY 5</th>
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<td>3:00</td>
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<td>5:00</td>
<td>KING COBRA</td>
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<td>3:00</td>
<td>THE EAGLE HUNTRESS (Run), p. 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>IXCANUL (Run), p. 5</td>
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<td>4:45</td>
<td>6:00 MPHUNE: THE LAST SAMURAI (Miliane/Stranger), p. 11</td>
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<td>6:00</td>
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<td>MAYA ANGELOU: AND STILL I RISE (Run), p. 2</td>
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| 164 North State Street

To check for updates or to sign up for our email list, visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org or call 312-846-2800
The Eagle Huntress

2016, Otto Bell, UK/Mongolia, 87 min. With Aisholpan Nurgaiv

“Genuinely exciting.”—Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune

Among the Kazakh nomads who roam the mighty Altai Mountains of western Mongolia, the favored sport is eagle hunting, a difficult skill handed down through generations...by men only. A sensation at the Sundance and Telluride Film Festivals, this rousing documentary following the quest of a 13-year-old girl (Nurgaiv) to defy tradition and earn the title of eagle huntress. In English (narration by Daisy Ridley) and Kazakh with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

January 6—12
Fri., 1/6 at 2 pm and 6 pm;
Sat., 1/7 at 3 pm;
Sun., 1/8 at 4:45 pm;
Mon., 1/9 at 6 pm;
Tue., 1/10 at 8 pm;
Wed., 1/11 at 6 pm;
Thu., 1/12 at 8:15 pm

A Street Cat Named Bob

2016, Roger Spottiswoode,
UK, 103 min.
Luke Treadaway, Bob the Cat,
Joanne Froggatt

“A slyly subversive film
with a social point.”
—Fionnuala Halligan,
Screen Daily

This adaptation of James Bowen’s best-selling memoir delivers the goods in terms of feline performance but has a heart for humans, too. Bowen (Treadaway), a London street musician and heroin addict, gets his life turned around when his seedy flat is invaded by a hungry, injured tomcat. It’s a rocky road to recovery for both, but Bob is soon perched on the musician’s shoulder in the streets of Covent Garden, where his winning personality opens doors. DCP digital. (BS)

January 20—26
Fri., 1/20 at 2 pm and 6 pm;
Sat., 1/21 at 2 pm;
Sun., 1/22 at 3 pm;
Mon., 1/23 at 6 pm;
Tue., 1/24 at 6 pm;
Wed., 1/25 at 7:45 pm;
Thu., 1/26 at 6 pm
“A transporting, hypnotically beautiful debut feature.”
—Scott Foundas, Variety

IXCANTUL

Guatemala’s first-ever Oscar submission is a powerfully visualized narrative centered on a 17-year-old Mayan peasant girl whose parents have arranged an advantageous marriage to the plantation overseer. She prefers a young worker whom she hopes will take her to the U.S., but an unplanned pregnancy traps her between ancient superstitions and the deceptions of the modern world. In Kaqchikel and Spanish with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

The 6:00 pm screening on Wednesday, January 11, is a Movie Club event (see p. 3).

January 6—12
Fri., 1/6 at 6 pm;
Sat., 1/7 at 7:45 pm;
Sun., 1/8 at 5:15 pm;
Mon., 1/9 at 7:45 pm;
Tue., 1/10 at 6 pm;
Wed., 1/11 at 6 pm;
Thu., 1/12 at 8:15 pm

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

IXCANTUL

(aka VOLCANO)
2015, Jayro Bustamante, Guatemala, 93 min.
With Maria Mercedes Coroy, Maria Telon

U.S. PREMIERE! FILMMAKERS IN PERSON!

In this crowd-pleasing comedy/love story with a cast made in heaven, a unique take on diversity, and the year’s best comeuppance plot, a struggling punk band gets more than they bargained for when they hire Pepe (de la Fuente), a Down syndrome keyboardist. Snarkily nicknamed The Alien by the preening lead singer (Campa), Pepe’s out-of-this world tunes are the key to fame and a crafty top-notch manager. In Spanish with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

Director Jesús Magaña Vázquez and actor Juan Ugarte will be present for audience discussion on Friday and Saturday.

January 13—19
Fri., 1/13 at 8 pm;
Sat., 1/14 at 8 pm;
Sun., 1/15 at 5 pm;
Mon., 1/16 at 6 pm;
Tue., 1/17 at 8:15 pm;
Wed., 1/18 at 6 pm;
Thu., 1/19 at 8:15 pm

164 North State Street. Tickets available at www.siskelfilmlcenter.org. For more information, visit our website or call 312-846-2800.
CHICAGO PREMIERE!

PETER AND THE FARM
2016, Tony Stone, USA, 91 min.

“Documentary portraits live or die on the subject at hand—and PETER AND THE FARM has a hell of a character to keep you engaged.”
—Nigel M. Smith, The Guardian

Meet Peter Dunning: ex-Marine, ex-hippie, ex-husband, and ex-artist; a self-taught farmer and irascible raconteur who has poured his blood, sweat, and tears into the land, and, in the process, sacrificed the love of two wives and four children. Filmmaker Stone follows the changing seasons and the farm’s pitiless cycles of birth, death, and regeneration to make this remarkable figure of raging Shakespearean proportions the star of his own story. DCP digital. (BS)

January 20—26
Fri., 1/20 at 2 pm and 7:45 pm; Sat., 1/21 at 5 pm; Sun., 1/22 at 3 pm; Mon., 1/23 at 6 pm; Tue., 1/24 at 8 pm; Wed., 1/25 at 6 pm; Thu., 1/26 at 8 pm

FIRST CHICAGO RUN!

King Cobra
2016, Justin Kelly, USA, 91 min. With Christian Slater, James Franco

“Movies don’t get much juicier, funnier, creepier, sadder, or smarter.”
—Dan Callahan, The Wrap

The pre-YouTube world of adult films comes to life in this fact-based chronicle that delivers pathos, pratfalls, and arch comedy as two rival entrepreneurs vie for a boyish hot property. Deeply closeted producer Stephen (Slater) grooms fresh-faced Sean (Garrett Clayton) for stardom in his King Cobra videos. Across town, sleaze-meister Joe (Franco) plots to lure the new star into his Viper Boyz fold, but Stephen stands in the way. Note: Contains sex and nudity. DCP digital. (BS)

January 20—26
Fri., 1/20 at 8 pm; Sat., 1/21 at 8 pm; Sun., 1/22 at 5 pm; Mon., 1/23 at 8 pm; Tue., 1/24 at 8:15 pm; Wed., 1/25 at 6 pm; Thu., 1/26 at 8:30 pm
From January 6 through February 2, the Gene Siskel Film Center celebrates the art of the documentary in the fourteenth edition of our annual series Stranger Than Fiction: Documentary Premieres. This selection of ten Chicago premieres includes films made from a highly personal point of view, as well as those that delve into issues, personalities, or evolving communities through personal interaction.

Director appearances include Seth McClellan with LITTLE WOUND’S WARRIORS; Kevin Mukherji with WE ARE ONE; and Susan Morgan Cooper with TO THE MOON AND BACK. Check our web site at www.siskelfilmcenter.org for guest appearance updates.

MIFUNE: THE LAST SAMURAI, Steven Okazaki’s portrait of the legendary Japanese star Toshiro Mifune, inspired us to mount a retrospective of his best-known films this month. See p. 11 for all the details.

—Barbara Scharres

HOMO SAPIENS
2016, Nikolaus Geyrhalter, Austria, 94 min.
Friday, January 6, 7:45 pm
Tuesday, January 10, 8:15 pm
The earth abandoned by humans is the singular vision conveyed by renowned director Geyrhalter (OUR DAILY BREAD) in an ironically titled serial portrait of lonely decaying architectural sites around the world: shopping malls, train stations, churches, homes, monuments, and more. No dialogue. DCP digital. (BS)

KEDI, Jan. 8
2016, Ceyda Torun, USA/Turkey, 80 min.
Sunday, January 8, 3:00 pm
KEDI is a marvelous look at the cherished street cats of Istanbul, who have roamed the streets of the ancient capital for millennia—protected and honored for their beauty and their skill as mousers. In Turkish with English subtitles. DCP digital. Special advance screening courtesy of Oscilloscope Laboratories. (BS)

MIFUNE: THE LAST SAMURAI
2015, Steven Okazaki, USA, 80 min.
Saturday, January 7, 3:00 pm
Monday, January 9, 6:00 pm
See p. 11 for details.
Sneak preview!

Sunday, January 8, 3:00 pm
KEDI is a marvelous look at the cherished street cats of Istanbul, who have roamed the streets of the ancient capital for millennia—protected and honored for their beauty and their skill as mousers. In Turkish with English subtitles. DCP digital. Special advance screening courtesy of Oscilloscope Laboratories. (BS)

 Stranger Than Fiction continues on next page
BEST WORST THING THAT EVER COULD HAVE HAPPENED…
2016, Lonny Price, USA, 95 min.
Friday, January 13, 6:00 pm
Sunday, January 15, 3:00 pm
Thursday, January 19, 8:00 pm
In this behind-the-scenes tale of one of Broadway’s legendary flops, director/actor Price chronicles the experience of being cast in 1981 as a lead in Stephen Sondheim’s Merrily We Roll Along. DCP digital. (BS)

THEO WHO LIVED
2016, David Schisgall, USA/Israel, 86 min.
Saturday, January 14, 5:15 pm
Tuesday, January 17, 8:00 pm
A supremely gifted storyteller, American journalist Theo Padnos reenacts his 2012 capture by Al-Qaeda and two-year imprisonment in Syria with self-deprecating humor and compassionate insights into the psychology of his captors. In English and Arabic with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

THEY CALL US MONSTERS
2016, Benjamin Lear, USA, 82 min.
Friday, January 20, 6:00 pm
Wednesday, January 25, 7:45 pm
Three California teens charged as adults for offenses including first-degree murder await sentences of up to 200 years each in this provocative documentary that brings the dilemma surrounding juvenile perpetrators of heinous crimes into the light in all its complexity. DCP digital. (BS)

LITTLE WOUND’S WARRIORS
2016, Seth McClellan, USA, 57 min.
Saturday, January 21, 7:45 pm
Native American high school students on South Dakota’s Pine Ridge Reservation are the focus of this complex and hopeful portrait by Chicago filmmaker McClellan. In English and Lakota with English translation. DCP digital. (BS)
Director Seth McClellan will be present for audience discussion.
TO THE MOON AND BACK, Jan. 22, 23

Filmmakers in person!

TO THE MOON AND BACK
2016, Susan Morgan Cooper, USA, 85 min.

Sunday, January 22, 5:00 pm
Monday, January 23, 7:45 pm

The political murder of a Moscow lawyer and the cancellation of 259 pending American adoptions of Russian orphans are found to have a deep and insidious connection in this emotional exposé. In English and Russian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

Director Cooper and protagonists Jessica Long and Miles Harrison will be present for audience discussion at both screenings.

WE ARE ONE, Jan. 27, Feb. 1

Filmmakers in person!

WE ARE ONE
(aka I AM YOU)
2016, Kevin Mukherji, USA, 86 min.
Narrated by Forest Whitaker

Friday, January 27, 7:45 pm
Wednesday, February 1, 7:45 pm

In this very personal documentary by former Chicagoan Mukherji, an in-depth look at the issue of animal cruelty expands into an examination of the basic relationship between humans, all other living beings, and the environment. DCP digital. (BS)

Director Mukherji and Madeline Bernstein, president of the Los Angeles SPCA, will be present for discussion on Fri. Mukherji will tentatively be present on Wed.

MIDSUMMER IN NEWTOWN, Jan. 29, Feb. 2

MIDSUMMER IN NEWTOWN
2016, Lloyd Kramer, USA, 81 min.

Sunday, January 29, 4:45 pm
Thursday, February 2, 7:45 pm

The power of art to assist in healing even the most profound grief unfolds in tentative and ultimately joyful steps as a troupe of Broadway artists come to Newtown, CT, to stage the pop musical A Rockin' Midsummer Night's Dream, cast largely with children who survived the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. DCP digital. (BS)

NO MAN’S LAND
2016, Sean Mathias, UK, 178 min.

Sunday, January 29, 2:00 pm

“Perfect Pinter…a true masterpiece.”
—Christopher Hart, Sunday Times

Following their hit run on Broadway, McKellen and Stewart return to the West End stage in Harold Pinter’s comic classic. One summer’s evening, as two aging writers become increasingly inebriated, the conversation turns into a revealing power game, complicated by the arrival of two sinister younger men. DCP digital. (Description courtesy of NT Live)

Special prices: $14 General; $8 Members/Students

164 North State Street. Tickets available at www.siskelfilmcenter.org. For more information, visit our website or call 312-846-2800.
Lecturer: Melika Bass

From Jan. 27 through May 9, we offer New Sensory Cinema, a series of fourteen programs with weekly Tuesday lectures by filmmaker and installation artist Melika Bass, Asst. Professor of Film, Video, New Media and Animation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The series is presented in cooperation with the SAIC Dept. of Art History, Theory, and Criticism. Additional screenings on Fri., Sat., or Sun. do not include the lecture. Admission to all New Sensory Cinema programs is $5 for Film Center members; usual admission prices for non-members.

—Martin Rubin

This series explores fourteen films, all made in the last thirty years, in which the body acts as a territory of desire, a vessel of transformation, a site of return, and a mode of resistance to cinematic capture. Each movie offers a provocation of the senses in which the filmmaker pushes against the boundaries of genre to propose new cinematic forms. Films planned for inclusion include Yorgos Lanthimos's DOGTOOTH, Guy Maddin’s THE FORBIDDEN ROOM, Carlos Reygadas's POST TENEBRAS LUX, and Kelly Reichardt’s RIVER OF GRASS. 

—Melika Bass

UNDER THE SKIN, Jan. 27, 31

UNDER THE SKIN
2013, Jonathan Glazer, UK/USA, 108 min.
With Scarlett Johansson

Friday, January 27, 7:45 pm
Tuesday, January 31, 6:00 pm

Glazer’s first film since BIRTH (2004) is an unnervingly original mix of visionary sci-fi, erotic tension, and observational realism, with Johansson as an alien who alights in Glasgow and prowls the roads in a Ford van, trawling for solitary men whom she lures to a black pool of oblivion. DCP digital. (MR)

The remainder of the New Sensory Cinema schedule will appear in the February Gazette.

Sponsored by HBO
From January 7 through February 2, the Gene Siskel Film Center presents The Magnificent Mifune, a seven-film tribute to the legendary Japanese actor who was instrumental in defining the modern action hero and raising awareness of Asian cinema in the west.

Toshiro Mifune (1920-1997) appeared in over 170 films, but he is best remembered for the sixteen he made with director Akira Kurosawa, many of them revered classics. Theirs was likely the greatest actor-director collaboration in movie history.

The series begins with the Chicago premiere of the acclaimed documentary portrait MIFUNE: THE LAST SAMURAI. Featured are Mifune's signature roles for Kurosawa: the rapacious bandit in RASHOMON, the peasant desperate to be a samurai in SEVEN SAMURAI, the Macbeth-derived warlord in THRONE OF BLOOD, and the supercool swordslinger in YOJIMBO. Also included are Mifune's key supporting role in Mizoguchi's THE LIFE OF OHARU, and his conflicted samurai in the best of the films made by his own production company, SAMURAI REBELLION.

— Martin Rubin

MIFUNE: THE LAST SAMURAI
2015, Steven Okazaki, USA, 80 min.
Narrated by Keanu Reeves

Saturday, January 7, 3:00 pm
Monday, January 9, 6:00 pm

Oscar-winning director Okazaki provides a wide-ranging yet compact portrait of the legendary actor, concentrating on Mifune’s collaborations with Kurosawa. Steven Spielberg and Martin Scorsese provide insight on Mifune’s international importance, but the heart of the film is the interviews with those who worked closely with him. In English and Japanese with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

SATURDAY DOUBLE-BILL DISCOUNT!
Buy a ticket at our regular prices for the first Mifune film on any applicable Saturday in January, and get a ticket for the second Mifune 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. Discount available in person at the box office only.)
THRONE OF BLOOD, Jan. 7, 12

YOJIMBO, Jan. 21, 24

SEVEN SAMURAI, Jan. 14, 16, 18

SAMURAI REBELLION, Jan. 21, 26

THRON OF BLOOD
(KUMONOSU-JÔ)
1957, Akira Kurosawa, Japan, 105 min.
With Toshirô Mifune, Isuzu Yamada

Saturday, January 7, 4:45 pm
Thursday, January 12, 6:00 pm

One of the most celebrated cultural crossovers in cinema history, THRONE OF BLOOD ingeniously adapts Shakespeare's Macbeth to the dynamic sensationalism of the samurai film and the hypnotic rhythms of Japan's classical Noh theater. In Japanese with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)

SEVEN SAMURAI
(SHICHININ NO SAMURAI)
1954, Akira Kurosawa, Japan, 207 min.
With Toshirô Mifune, Takashi Shimura

Saturday, January 14, 3:00 pm
Monday, January 16, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, January 18, 6:30 pm

Bandit-plagued villagers hire a group of unemployed samurai in this classic blend of expert storytelling, exhilarating action, and vivid characterization. In Japanese with English subtitles. Note: 10-minute intermission. 35mm. (MR)

YOJIMBO
(YÔJINBÔ)
1961, Akira Kurosawa, Japan, 110 min.
With Toshirô Mifune, Tatsuya Nakadai

Saturday, January 21, 3:00 pm
Tuesday, January 24, 6:00 pm

A lone swordsman turns up in a village torn by a violent feud and sells himself to both sides, becoming the catalyst for mayhem. Kurosawa's elegant and cynical twist on the Hollywood western inspired A FISTFUL OF DOLLARS. In Japanese with English subtitles. 35mm. (BS)

SAMURAI REBELLION
(JÔI-UCHI: HAIRYÔ TSUMA SHIMATSU)
1967, Masaki Kobayashi, Japan, 128 min.
With Toshirô Mifune, Tatsuya Nakadai

Saturday, January 21, 5:15 pm
Thursday, January 26, 6:00 pm

Mifune's own company produced this tense, explosive drama of the code-bound Shogunate era. He plays a brilliant swordsman constrained by feudal obligations, until an injustice against his family rouses him to defiance. In Japanese with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)
RASHOMON, Jan. 28, 30

RASHOMON
(RASHÔMON)
1950, Akira Kurosawa, Japan, 88 min.
With Toshiro Mifune, Machiko Kyô
Saturday, January 28, 3:00 pm
Monday, January 30, 6:00 pm

RASHOMON was the film that opened Western eyes to Asian cinema. Set in medieval Japan, it presents an apparent rape and murder from four different points of view, all of which contradict each other. In Japanese with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

THE LIFE OF OHARU, Jan. 28, Feb. 2

THE LIFE OF OHARU
(SAIKAKU ICHIDAI ONNA)
1952, Kenji Mizoguchi, Japan, 136 min.
With Kinuyo Tanaka, Toshiro Mifune
Saturday, January 28, 4:45 pm
Thursday, February 2, 6:00 pm

In Mizoguchi’s sublime chronicle of the many stages of one woman’s life, Mifune has an indelible supporting role as a lowly court page whose forbidden love for the higher-born heroine has disastrous consequences. In Japanese with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)

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**January 6—12**

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**NEW RESTORATION!**

**THE WANDERERS**

1979, Philip Kaufman, USA, 117 min.
With Ken Wahl, Karen Allen

Saturday, January 7, 7:45 pm
Wednesday, January 11, 7:45 pm

Presented in a new digital restoration, this cult classic takes a highly stylized, mythic approach to novelist Richard Price’s tale of teenage life and love in the Bronx ca. 1963, with ethnic strife and gang violence choreographed to a soundtrack of wall-to-wall oldies. DCP digital. (MR)

**MICHELE MITCHELL IN PERSON!**

**THE UNCONDEMNED**

2015, Nick Louvel and Michele Mitchell, USA/Congo/Netherlands, 87 min.

Saturday, January 28, 7:45 pm
Monday, January 30, 7:45 pm

This thrilling documentary recounts an epic 1997 human rights trial that pits underdog lawyers and traumatized Rwandan rape victims against a system that had never acknowledged rape as a genocidal crime. In English, French, and Kinyarwanda with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

Co-director Michele Mitchell will be present for audience discussion at both screenings.

**2016, Anna Biller, USA, 120 min.**

With Elle Evans, Samantha Robinson

“Destined to be a cult classic… offers as much for the mind as the eye, and that’s saying something.”—Frank Scheck, Hollywood Reporter

By means of sorcery, a newly arrived witchy temptress (Evans) hilariously has her fatal way with a succession of square-jawed hunks in a quiet Northern California town. Director Biller (VIVA) pulls off an astonishing tour de force filmed in sumptuous 35mm, for an over-the-top retro experience that harks back to the heyday of the Italian giallo genre and the feminist exploitation delights of Roger Corman protégé Stephanie Rothman (THE VELVET VAMPIRE). 35mm. (BS)

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**OCEAN WAVES**

(UMI GA KIKOERU) 1993, Tomomi Mochizuki, Japan, 72 min.

“A hidden treasure… a unique gem that fans of the studio really should see.”

—MovieVortex.com

The last remaining Studio Ghibli film that has not had a U.S. release, OCEAN WAVES is presented in a new 4K digital restoration. En route to his class reunion, twenty-something Taku muses on the love triangle that introduced him to adolescent heartbreak when he vied with his best friend for the elusive affections of the school’s pretty but heartlessly manipulative new girl. Preceded by GHIBLIES: EPISODE 2 (2002, Yoshiyuki Momose, 25 min.). In Japanese with English subtitles. (BS)

**January 13—19**
Fri., 1/13 at 2 pm and 6 pm; Sun., 1/15 at 3 pm;
Tue., 1/17 at 6 pm; Thu., 1/19 at 6 pm