28th Annual
Festival of Films from Iran

AZAR, Feb. 3, 4

Oscilloscope Laboratories, CATE returns!
CHICAGO PREMIERE!

2017, Etienne Comar, France, 117 min. With Reda Kateb, Cécile De France

This flavorful biopic of the great Gypsy jazz guitarist Django Reinhardt is set during the German Occupation of France, when the Roma people were being exterminated by the Nazis. Protected by highly placed German admirers, Django (Kateb) continues to perform at Paris clubs, but the plight of his people and the Nazis’ plans to use him as a propaganda tool cause him to flee to a French border town, where he awaits the chance for a risky crossing into Switzerland. In French, Roma, German, and English with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

February 2—8
Fri., 2/2 at 2 pm and 8 pm; Sat., 2/3 at 5:45 pm; Sun., 2/4 at 3 pm; Mon., 2/5 at 6 pm; Tue., 2/6 at 8:15 pm; Wed., 2/7 at 6 pm; Thu., 2/8 at 8 pm

THE ANIMATION SHOW OF SHOWS

2018, Various filmmakers and nations, 93 min.

Now in its nineteenth year, this ace of animation compilation shows presents 16 films from 8 nations, including Quentin Ballieux’s utopian fusion of horse racing and urban cool, CAN YOU DO IT; Disney veteran Glen Keane’s visualization of a heartfelt poem by retiring hoops star Kobe Bryant, DEAR BASKETBALL; Niki Lindroth von Bahr’s drolly morose musical MY BURDEN; and David O’Reilly’s cosmic dance of micro and macro, EVERYTHING. Visit our website for complete program information. In English, French, and Swedish with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

March 2—8
Fri., 3/2 at 8 pm; Sat., 3/3 at 6 pm and 8 pm; Mon., 3/5 at 6 pm; Tue., 3/6 at 8 pm; Wed., 3/7 at 6 pm; Thu., 3/8 at 8:15 pm

“An exceptional program that starts off strong and only gets better as it goes along.”
— John DeFore, Hollywood Reporter

“Django”
“A handsomely made affair with one of the best scores imaginable.”
— Jordan Mintzer, Hollywood Reporter

FEB 2018
164 North State Street. Tickets available at www.siskelfilmcenter.org. For more information, visit our website or call 312-846-2800.
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.

Monday, February 12, 6:00 pm


THURSDAY 1

6:00 42 GRAMS (Chang!), p. 14
6:00 THE BREADWINNER (Run)
8:00 HAVE A NICE DAY
8:15 GOD’S OWN COUNTRY (Run)

6:00 DIAMOND (Run), p. 2
6:30 UNDERGROUND (Special), p. 4
8:15 THE FLORIDA PROJECT (Run), p. 4

6:00 DIAMOND (Run), p. 2
6:30 DIAMOND (Run), p. 4
6:30 THE FLORIDA PROJECT (Run), p. 4

6:00 DIAMOND (Run), p. 2
6:30 THE FLORIDA PROJECT (Run), p. 4
6:30 THE 37TH PLATOON (Apocalypse), p. 14
8:00 DIAMOND (Run), p. 2
8:15 SAMASRA (Oscilloscope), p. 16

8:00 HAVE A NICE DAY
8:15 GOD’S OWN COUNTRY (Run)

FRIDAY 2

6:00 DIAMOND (Run), p. 2
6:00 THE FLORIDA PROJECT (Run), p. 4
6:30 THE FLORIDA PROJECT (Run), p. 4

8:00 HAVE A NICE DAY
8:15 GOD’S OWN COUNTRY (Run)

SATURDAY 3

2:00 YOUNG MARX (NT Live), p. 17
2:00 UNDERGROUND (Special), p. 4
4:00 DIAMOND (Run), p. 2
6:00 AZAR (Iran), p. 11
8:00 BLOCKAGE (Run), p. 11
8:00 THE FLORIDA PROJECT (Run), p. 4

SUNDAY 4

MOVIE CLUB:

See our website for descriptions of films playing Feb. 1.

DISCOUNT MATINEES FRIDAYS AT 2:00 PM!
$5 GENERAL, $5 MEMBERS/STUDENTS

24 FRAMES, Feb. 9-15
THE FLORIDA PROJECT

2017, Sean Bean, USA, 111 min.
With Brooklynn Prince, Bria Vinaite, Willem Dafoe

As he did for L.A. transgender hustlers in TANGERINE, director Bean captures a marginalized, often despised subculture with unruly, in-your-face vitality. This time it’s the hardscrabble world of low-income single-parent families perched on the edge of homelessness in cheap Orlando motels. Focusing on a group of anarchic children led by six-year-old Moonee (Prince), the film has also positioned Dafoe as a Best Supporting Actor Oscar frontrunner for his performance as the gruffly compassionate motel manager. DCP digital. (MR)

February 2—8
Fri., 2/2 at 2 pm and 6 pm; Sat., 2/3 at 8 pm; Sun., 2/4 at 5:15 pm; Mon., 2/5 at 8:15 pm; Tue., 2/6 at 6 pm; Wed., 2/7 at 8:15 pm; Thu., 2/8 at 6 pm and 8:15 pm

“A dazzling mosaic, alert to the ebb and flow of human resilience in the face of everyday crises.”
— Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune

UNDERGROUND

NEW RESTORATION!
1995, Emir Kusturica, France/Serbia, 170 min.
With Miki Manojlović, Lazar Ristovski, Mirjana Joković

Saturday, February 3, 2:30 pm
Monday, February 5, 6:30 pm
Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 pm

“Deliriously metaphorical, emotionally gut-wrenching and devastatingly funny...may be the most important film of the last 25 years.”
— Ed Gonzalez, Slant Magazine

Kusturica’s flamboyant, frenetic epic traces the inglorious history of Yugoslavia through the comic adventures of two boozing, brawling buddies, the naïve Blacky and the opportunistic Marko. During WWII, they go underground into a vast cellar packed with refugees whom Marko exploits to manufacture contraband. During the Cold War, Marko keeps Blacky and the rest slaving away in the cellar, duped into believing that World War II has never ended—an audacious metaphor for the isolation and stagnancy of Tito’s Yugoslavia. In Serbian with English subtitles. New 2K DCP digital restoration. (MR)
THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER

2017, Yorgos Lanthimos, UK/Ireland/USA, 121 min.
With Colin Farrell, Nicole Kidman, Alicia Silverstone

“Twisted and absurd...never hedges its bets and never takes its foot off the gas.”
—Richard Roeper, Chicago Sun-Times

Steven (Farrell), an uptight surgeon and family man, is forced to confront a misstep from his past, putting his picture-perfect suburban family, including teen son and daughter and blonde Barbie doll-like wife (Kidman), in line to pay the price. Director Lanthimos (THE LOBSTER) ups the ante for his trademark transgression of the rules of behavior, language, and custom in this taboo-breaking drama. Winner of Best Screenplay at the 2017 Cannes Film Festival. DCP digital. (BS)

February 9—15
Fri., 2/9 at 6 pm;
Sat., 2/10 at 7:45 pm;
Sun., 2/11 at 3 pm;
Mon., 2/12 at 6 pm;
Wed., 2/14 at 8:15 pm;
Thu., 2/15 at 8:30 pm

TALES OF MEXICO

(LA HABITACIÓN)
2016, Various directors, Mexico/Poland, 125 min.
With Irène Jacob, Kaori Momoi

In this omnibus film by eight leading Mexican directors (including Carlos Carrera of THE CRIME OF PADRE AMARO and Ernesto Contreras of I DREAM IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE), a room in a turn-of-the-century mansion gives up its ghosts in eight separate episodes unfolding over a hundred years. The room evolves with changing fortunes, tastes, and the course of history, witnessing the Revolution, decadence, crime, earthquake, and waves of immigration and persecution. In Spanish with English subtitles. DCP digital.

February 9—15
Fri., 2/9 at 8:15 pm;
Sat., 2/10 at 3 pm;
Sun., 2/11 at 5:15 pm;
Mon., 2/12 at 8:15 pm;
Tue., 2/13 at 6 pm;
Wed., 2/14 at 8:15 pm;
Thu., 2/15 at 6 pm
A CIAMBRA

2017, Jonas Carpignano, Italy, 118 min.  
With Pio Amato, Koudous Seihon

“A compelling and accomplished film. The world is so realized that I felt as if I was living alongside its characters.” —Martin Scorsese

Italy’s official Oscar submission, A CIAMBRA incorporates the gritty authenticity of neorealism, the kinetic energy of early Scorsese (who exec-produced the film), and the moral urgency of the Dardenne brothers into a distinctively personal vision of volatilely multicultural Europe. Director Carpignano returns to the Calabrian coastal town of his acclaimed first feature MEDITERRANEA, where 14-year-old Pio is following in his Roma family’s tradition of petty crime when his loyalties are tested by his growing involvement with the town’s African community. In Italian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

February 16—22  
Fri., 2/16 at 2 pm and 6 pm;  
Sat., 2/17 at 4:45 pm;  
Sun., 2/18 at 3 pm;  
Tue., 2/20 at 6 pm;  
Wed., 2/21 at 7:45 pm;  
Thu., 2/22 at 6 pm

2017, Johns Trengove, South Africa, 88 min. With Nakhane Touré, Niza Jay

Short-listed for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar, this powerful first feature from South Africa centers on a traditional manhood ritual for young men of the Xhosa ethnic group that involves circumcision and a wilderness retreat under the supervision of older caregivers. One of the caregivers uses the yearly ritual as a cover for his closeted (and, in his homophobic culture, potentially dangerous) relationship with another man, and the danger grows when his secret is discovered by his new, rebellious initiate. In Xhosa with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

February 16—22  
Fri., 2/16 at 6 pm;  
Sat., 2/17 at 7:45 pm;  
Mon., 2/19 at 6 pm;  
Wed., 2/21 at 6 pm;  
Thu., 2/22 at 8:15 pm

The Wound

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

“An extremely ethnographic thriller... nuanced and deeply probing.” —David Ehrlich, Indiewire

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

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

2017, Andrea Pallaoro, Italy/France/Belgium, 95 min.
With Charlotte Rampling, André Wilms

“This is indeed a director to watch…A bracing movie, with a volatile, superstar performance at its heart.”
—Michael Sicinski, Cinema Scope

Charlotte Rampling (45 YEARS) delivers a performance of mesmerizing subtlety in this haunting character study. Hannah (Rampling) is a bourgeois Brussels woman fighting a lonely battle to keep her life together in the wake of a devastating disruption. The nature of that disruption is gradually (but never completely) revealed as we follow Hannah through the routines—cathartic acting lessons, laps at the swimming pool, a humbling job as a housekeeper—that she doggedly clings to, even as they are progressively stripped away. In French and English with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

February 16—22
Fri., 2/16 at 8:15 pm;
Sat., 2/17 at 3 pm;
Sun., 2/18 at 5:15 pm;
Mon., 2/19 at 6 pm;
Tue., 2/20 at 8:15 pm;
Wed., 2/21 at 6 pm;
Thu., 2/22 at 8:15 pm

February 23—March 1
Fri., 2/23 at 8 pm;
Sat., 2/24 at 5 pm;
Sun., 2/25 at 3 pm;
Mon., 2/26 at 7:45 pm;
Tue., 2/27 at 6 pm;
Wed., 2/28 at 8 pm;
Thu., 3/1 at 6 pm

HAVE A NICE DAY

2017, Liu Jian, China, 75 min.

“A stunning, provocative work…It’s like no other Chinese film you’ve ever seen.”
—Jonathan Romney, Screen Daily

A seedy small city in Southern China is the site of this politically provocative, entertainingly cynical animated neo-noir. The pulp-fictional plot is set in motion when a low-ranking mob bagman swipes a satchel containing a million yuan in order to finance plastic surgery for his girlfriend. An assortment of hit men, opportunists, double-crossers, and smalltime dreamers follow the bag’s erratic, corpse-strewn trail across a sharply etched urban wasteland of cracked walls, peeling posters, and flickering neon. In Mandarin with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

February 16—22
Fri., 2/16 at 8:15 pm;
Sat., 2/17 at 3 pm;
Sun., 2/18 at 5:15 pm;
Mon., 2/19 at 6 pm;
Tue., 2/20 at 8:15 pm;
Wed., 2/21 at 6 pm;
Thu., 2/22 at 8:15 pm

February 23—March 1
Fri., 2/23 at 8 pm;
Sat., 2/24 at 5 pm;
Sun., 2/25 at 3 pm;
Mon., 2/26 at 7:45 pm;
Tue., 2/27 at 6 pm;
Wed., 2/28 at 8 pm;
Thu., 3/1 at 6 pm
**AMERICAN SOCIALIST:**

**THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EUGENE VICTOR DEBS**

2017, Yale Strom, USA, 98 min.

**CHICAGO PREMIERE!**

**YALE STROM IN PERSON!**

2017, Yale Strom, USA, 98 min.  
Narrated by Amy Madigan

Bernie Sanders was not the first American socialist to mount a substantial presidential bid. In 1920, Eugene V. Debs, in the last of his five campaigns for president, received nearly a million votes, even though he was serving a ten-year jail sentence for sedition. This engrossing documentary recounts the Indiana-born Debs’s remarkable life and heroic character, including his early years as a railroad worker, his rise as a labor organizer, his co-founding of the IWW (aka Wobblies), his outspoken pacifism during World War I, and his persecution by the government. DCP digital. (MR)

Director Yale Strom is scheduled to appear for audience discussion on Saturday.

**NEW RESTORATION!**

**Time Regained**

(LE TEMPS RETROUVÉ)  
(aka MARCEL PROUST’S TIME REGAINED)  
1999, Raúl Ruiz, France, 158 min.  
With Catherine Deneuve, John Malkovich

Concentrating on the final volume of the seven-part *Remembrance of Things Past* as a window into the characters’ pasts, Ruiz employs inventive manipulations of time and space to convey the multilayered fluidity of Proust’s vision. As the author lies on his death bed, he flips through his collection of photographs, launching a free-floating memory-voyage through his youthful past—a lost world, bridging the Belle Epoque and World War I, filled with elegant salons, glittering parties, dark secrets, and alluring, often unattainable men and women. In French with English subtitles. New 2K DCP digital restoration. (MR)

March 2—7  
Fri., 3/2 at 6:30 pm;  
Sat., 3/3 at 2 pm and 6 pm;  
Mon., 3/5 at 6:30 pm;  
Wed., 3/7 at 8 pm;  
Thur., 3/8 at 6 pm

March 2—8  
Fri., 3/2 at 2 pm and 6 pm;  
Sat., 3/3 at 3 pm;  
Tue., 3/6 at 6 pm;  
Wed., 3/7 at 8 pm;  
Thu., 3/8 at 6 pm

“Altogether triumphant... the most exhilarating movie-movie of the year.”  
—J. Hoberman, Village Voice
FIRST CHICAGO RUN!
MICHAEL GLOVER SMITH IN PERSON!

MERCURY IN RETROGRADE
2017, Michael Glover Smith, USA, 105 min.
With Najarra Townsend, Roxane Mesquida

Friday, February 16, 8:15 pm
Monday, February 19, 7:45 pm
Wednesday, February 21, 7:45 pm

Chicago-based film critic Smith improves upon his impressive first film COOL APOCALYPSE with more polished camerawork and acting (including Alana Arenas of Steppenwolf and French star Roxane Mesquida of FAT GIRL) in this supremely observant drama in which three Chicago couples reexamine their relationships during a weekend together at a woodsy Michigan cabin. DCP digital. (MR)

Director Michael Glover Smith is scheduled to appear for audience discussion at all screenings.

JACOB FEIRING IN PERSON!

SAMANTHA’S AMAZING ACROCATS
2016, Jacob Feiring, USA, 57 min.

Friday, February 9, 8:15 pm
Saturday, February 10, 3:00 pm

The American dream scampers in on frisky cat paws for Samantha Martin, raised in tiny Princeton, Illinois, when she finds her life’s mission training rescue cats for her own unique traveling cat circus. Director Feiring followed the circus for more than five years, chronicling Samantha’s unflagging struggle to maintain the show against formidable economic odds. ProRes digital. (BS)

Director Jacob Feiring is scheduled to appear for audience discussion at both screenings.

FIRST CHICAGO RUN!
KYLE HENRY IN PERSON!

ROGERS PARK
2017, Kyle Henry, USA, 87 min.
With Sara Sevigny, Jonny Mars

Friday, February 23, 8:00 pm
Saturday, February 24, 3:00 pm
Monday, February 26, 7:45 pm
Wednesday, February 28, 8:00 pm

In this third feature by Chicago-based director Henry (FOURPLAY), a couple’s tenth anniversary party is disrupted by the unexpected arrival of the wife’s troubled younger brother and his increasingly restless girlfriend. Daring no-holds-barred performances push this story into dangerous territory, as secrets and longtime grudges surface with devastating consequences. DCP digital. (BS)

Director Kyle Henry is scheduled to appear for audience discussion at all screenings.
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/

Latham Zearfoss in person!

Latham Zearfoss: Home Movies
2008-18, Latham Zearfoss, USA, ca. 70 min.

Thursday, February 15, 6:00 pm

The poetic and pop-infused videos of Chicago-based artist and organizer Latham Zearfoss unite themes of love, community, family, political legacy, personal agency, and collective action. Zearfoss presents a collection of videos spanning the last decade, including the premiere of two new works, GOTH PARTY and WHITE BALANCE, and he restages SOMETHING TO MOVE IN (2014) and LOVE IS A STRANGER (2012) as live, interactive performances. Multiple formats. (Amy Beste)

Ephraim Asili in person!

Ephraim Asili: The Diaspora Series
2011-17, Ephraim Asili, Various nations, ca. 92 min.

Thursday, February 22, 6:00 pm


Lee Anne Schmitt and Jeff Parker in person!

PURGE THIS LAND
2017, Lee Anne Schmitt, USA, 80 min.

Thursday, March 1, 6:00 pm

Just before his execution, white abolitionist John Brown wrote, “I am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood.” In PURGE THIS LAND, L.A.-based filmmaker Schmitt interweaves shots of rural back roads and urban centers throughout the country, memorializing the sites of Brown’s radicalization alongside those of race riots, police shootings, and other forms of white racial violence. The film is set to a score referencing the histories of black music by Jeff Parker. DCP digital. (Amy Beste)

Laura Huertas Millán in person!

Laura Huertas Millán: Ethnographic Fictions
2016-17, Laura Huertas Millán, Colombia/Mexico, ca. 72 min.

Thursday, March 8, 6:00 pm

Investigating the terrain between fiction and ethnography, French-Colombian filmmaker Laura Huertas Millán has created a multi-faceted body of work where political history and personal narrative meet. SOL NEGRO (2016) is a portrait of Antonia, a Colombian opera singer, her sister, and her niece. LA LIBERTAD (2017) explores the ties that bind labor and creativity by centering on the Navarros, a Mesoamerican matriarchal family that has mastered the art of weaving on the backstrap loom. DCP digital. (Ariel Clark-Semyck)
From February 3 through March 1, the Gene Siskel Film Center presents the 28th Annual Festival of Films from Iran, presenting Chicago premieres of eight new films by directors working within and outside of Iran. The festival incorporates two week-long runs: 24 FRAMES, the final work by Abbas Kiarostami; and the daring adult-themed animation TEHRAN TABOO.

Special thanks to: Mohammad Atebbai, Iranian Independents; Amir Esfandiari, Kamyar Mohsenin, and Mahsa Fariba, Farabi Cinema Foundation; Nick Newman, Grasshopper Films; Emily Woodbine, Janus Films; Graham Swindoll, Kino Lorber Films; and New Europe Film Sales.

The Festival of Films from Iran would not be possible without the generous support of many friends including: Mehrnaz Saeed-Vafa, Artistic Consultant; Amir Normandi, Community Affairs Consultant; Simin Hemmati-Rasmussen, Cultural Affairs Consultant; and Narimon Safavi, Pasfarda Arts & Cultural Exchange.

—Barbara Scharres

AZAR
2017, Mohammad Hamzei, Iran, 85 min.
With Niki Karimi, Hamidreza Azarang

Saturday, February 3, 6:00 pm
Sunday, February 4, 5:00 pm

A non-traditional wife and mother who runs a café with her liberal-minded husband, Azar (Karimi) is forced into the role of sacrificial victim by the combined pressures of a family dominated by misogynist uncle, a business loan with strings attached, a black sheep son with a hidden agenda, and a tragic accident. Karimi brings commanding gravity to Azar, whose exceptional qualities are the very factors that threaten the roles in life she holds most dear. In Persian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

BLOCKAGE
(SAD-E MABAR)
2017, Mohsen Gharraie, Iran, 82 min.
With Hamed Behdad, Baran Kosari

Saturday, February 3, 8:00 pm
Sunday, February 4, 3:00 pm

The rhythm of Tehran's crowded and chaotic shopping streets sets the pace for this story of the self-inflicted downfall of an ambitious low-level functionary, whose job is policing the city's hordes of unlicensed sidewalk vendors. Caught between his wife's goal of home ownership and his own plan to spend their savings on a used pickup truck, Qasem (Behdad) steps up ruthless and violent shakedowns of his quarries, until the day he picks the wrong man to fleece. In Persian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

AVA
2017, Sadaf Foroughi, Iran/Canada, 102 min.
With Mahour Jabbari, Vahid Aghapoor

Saturday, February 10, 6:00 pm
Sunday, February 11, 5:30 pm

AVA brings freshness of vision to the raw emotion inherent in a young girl's bitter recognition of her parents' double standards, and the hypocrisy inherent in her strict girls-only education, with its fixation on female chastity. Director Foroughi has a talent for portraying girlhood in both its giggly and sullen aspects, as precocious Ava (Jabbari) makes a bet involving a wished-for date that can't be fulfilled without serious consequences. In Persian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

Festival of Films from Iran continues on next page.
24 Frames

2017, Abbas Kiarostami, Iran/France, 114 min.

Saturday, February 10, 8:00 pm
Sunday, February 11, 3:00 pm

See description and additional show times on facing p. 13.

Disappearance

(NAPADID SHODAN)
2017, Ali Asgari, Iran, 89 min.
With Sadaf Asgari, Amir Reza Ranjbaran

Saturday, February 17, 6:00 pm
Sunday, February 18, 5:00 pm

A quest becomes a moral maze without an exit for a young couple in this tense drama. A young woman arrives at a hospital bleeding and faint. Her explanation of rape doesn’t add up to the staff. Her brother is called, but the nervous young man who arrives is not her brother. Trekking from one hospital to the next, the unmarried lovers are trapped by laws requiring that a woman must have her husband’s or father’s permission to receive treatment. In Persian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

Negar

2017, Rambod Javan, Iran, 100 min.
With Negar Javaherian, Mohammad Reza Forutan

Saturday, February 17, 8:00 pm
Sunday, February 18, 3:00 pm

Director Javan (NO ENTRY FOR MEN) pulls out all the stops in this genre-bending thriller-melodrama with an over-the-top sense of the surreal. A real estate magnate’s apparent suicide leaves his daughter Negar (Javaherian) both heartbroken and suspicious. The ghost of her father makes regular appearances with clues to his betrayal and murder, while hallucinations, dreams, special effects, and one rotten-to-the-core villain (Mani Haghighi) keep this edgy plot full of surprises. In Persian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

Tehran Taboo

2017, Ali Soozandeh, Austria/Germany, 90 min.

Saturday, February 24, 6:00 pm
Sunday, February 25, 3:00 pm

See description and additional show times on facing p. 13.

Waiting for Kiarostami

2017, Hossein Khandan, USA/China/Iran, 86 min.
With Homayoun Ershadi, Ana Bayat

Sunday, February 25, 5:00 pm

Chicago-based Khandan based this comedy-drama on his involvement in an unrealized film Abbas Kiarostami planned to make in China. WAITING FOR KIAROSTAMI is a fictionalized account of the talent search for a young China-based actress fluent in Persian, Mandarin, and English. Khandan, playing himself, discovers the seemingly perfect candidate, but her old-fashioned father (Ershadi of TASTE OF CHERRY) won’t hear of it, sparking a family feud. In Persian, English, Mandarin, and Italian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)
24 Frames

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

Completed posthumously, Kiarostami’s final film is a simple but profound work composed of twenty-four short film sequences based around his own photographs and one Bruegel painting. His love of snowy landscapes, the sea, and his fascination with the unsentimental drama of nature bring home the intelligence and patient vision of the artist behind the camera in a vibrant meditation on life in all of its mysterious forms and trajectories. In Persian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

February 9—15
Fri., 2/9 at 2 pm and 6 pm;
Sat., 2/10 at 8 pm;
Sun., 2/11 at 3 pm;
Mon., 2/12 at 6 pm;
Tue., 2/13 at 8:30 pm;
Wed., 2/14 at 6 pm;
Thu., 2/15 at 8:15 pm

TEHRAN TABOO

“A transgressive explosion…sets this film apart from all the known images about Iran.”
—Fabien Lemercier, Cineuropa

This boldly evocative adult animation dares to tell a story of Tehran’s darkest corners, where Pari, a middle-aged hooker with a young child, stoically plays the bad hand dealt to a woman of her station, even as fate ironically makes her a trusted player in the lives of others. The noisy streets of the city are alive in harsh colors and with forbidden nightlife in Soozandeh’s stark vision of a milieu in which the modern metropolis coexists with the ancient rules and systemic corruption that thwart dreams. In Persian with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

February 23—March 1
Fri., 2/23 at 6 pm;
Sat., 2/24 at 6 pm;
Sun., 2/25 at 3 pm;
Mon., 2/26 at 6 pm;
Tue., 2/27 at 8 pm;
Wed., 2/28 at 6 pm;
Thu., 3/1 at 8:15 pm
From Jan. 27 through May 8, we offer Apocalypse Then: The Vietnam War on Film, a series of fourteen programs with weekly Tuesday lectures by Nora Annesley Taylor, Aldsorf Professor of South and Southeast Asian Art 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 of the films on Fri. or Sat. do not include the lecture. Admission to all Apocalypse Then programs is $5 for Film Center members; usual prices for non-members.

—Martin Rubin

After the Vietnam War ended in 1975, Hollywood began to explore the trauma and legacy of the war on the American psyche. With the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive occurring in January 2018, and the recent broadcast of Ken Burns and Lynn Novick’s PBS documentary, these films, along with those made by Vietnamese and Cambodian filmmakers, deserve to be revisited. The series will take a close look at how the war and its legacy was imagined and represented in film, from the perspective of both Southeast Asian and international filmmakers.

—Nora Annesley Taylor

**The 317th Platoon**
1965, Pierre Schoendoerffer, France, 100 min.
With Jacques Perrin, Bruno Cremer

*Friday, February 2, 6:00 pm
Tuesday, February 6, 6:00 pm*

This pioneering portrait of the First Indochina War follows a French/Lao platoon caught behind enemy lines during the final days of the war, centering on the relationship between an idealistic, inexperienced French lieutenant (Perrin) and his battle-hardened German adjutant (Cremer). Director Schoendoerffer and cinematographer Raoul Coutard’s experience as army cameramen during the war contributed to the film’s documentary-like authenticity. In French and Vietnamese with English subtitles. New 2K DCP digital restoration. (MR)

**The Quiet American**
1958, Joseph L. Mankiewicz, USA, 120 min.
With Michael Redgrave, Audie Murphy

*Saturday, February 10, 5:30 pm
Tuesday, February 13, 6:00 pm*

Cahiers du Cinéma critics Jean-Luc Godard and Eric Rohmer both selected this adaptation of Graham Greene’s novel as the Best Film of 1958. A cynical British journalist (Redgrave) grapples with an American do-gooder (Murphy) in war-torn Indochina, their ideological conflict complicated by sexual rivalry over a Vietnamese girl. Although writer-director Mankiewicz toned down Greene’s critique of American imperialism, this is a stronger film than the 2002 remake with Michael Caine: more sharply written, more vividly dramatized, and notably tougher on the central character. 35mm. (MR)
APOCALYPSE NOW
1979, Francis Coppola, USA, 147 min.
With Marlon Brando, Martin Sheen, Robert Duval
Saturday, February 17, 3:00 pm
Tuesday, February 20, 6:00 pm
No disrespect to THE DEER HUNTER, PLATOON, and FULL METAL JACKET, but Coppola’s eccentric epic stands as the Vietnam War movie. Over time, its apparent flaws have come to seem integral to its semi-hallucinogenic form. Transposing Joseph Conrad’s jungle odyssey Heart of Darkness from the Congo to Vietnam, the plot centers on a black ops mission to locate and terminate a colonel who has gone rogue on the wrong side of the Cambodian border. 4K DCP digital restoration of the original-release version. (MR)

FULL METAL JACKET
1987, Stanley Kubrick, USA, 116 min.
With Matthew Modine, R. Lee Ermey
Saturday, February 24, 8:00 pm
Tuesday, February 27, 6:00 pm
In his next-to-last film, Kubrick trains his sights on the Vietnam War with a sardonic rigor that counterpoints the more romantic visions of Cimino, Coppola, and Stone. The film’s two-part structure takes the observer-hero Pvt. Joker (Modine) from the brutalizing regime of the Parris Island boot camp (with a legendary performance by Ermey as the mother of all drill sergeants) to the infernal carnival of the 1968 Tet Offensive, culminating in a harrowing showdown with a sniper amid the ruins of Hue. 35mm. (MR)

HEARTS AND MINDS
1974, Peter Davis, USA, 112 min.
Saturday, March 3, 5:30 pm
Tuesday, March 6, 6:00 pm
Before the arrival of major ‘Nam movies like THE DEER HUNTER and APOCALYPSE NOW, this Oscar-winning documentary filled the gap. The historical background is deftly sketched in, but the film’s core is an array of up-close-and-personal threads placed in resonantly dialectical opposition (veterans unswervingly pro-war and wracked by guilt; grieving parents of a fallen soldier and a prison-facing resister; administration officials unapologetic and repentant). In English, French, and Vietnamese with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)

UPCOMING FILMS IN APOCALYPSE THEN:
(Saturday dates are subject to change. Please check the relevant month’s Gazette and website.)

March 13 only
THE KILLING FIELDS
1984, Roland Joffé, USA, 141 min.

March 20 only
THE MISSING PICTURE
2013, Rithy Panh, Cambodia/France, 92 min.

April 3 only
FAR FROM VIETNAM
1967, Chris Marker et al., France, 120 min.

April 7 and 10
FORGETTING VIETNAM
2016, Trien T. Minh-ha, South Korea/ Vietnam/USA, 90 min.

April 14 and 17
DON’T THINK I’VE FORGOTTEN: CAMBODIA’S LOST ROCK & ROLL
2014, John Pirozzl, USA/Cambodia/ France, 105 min.

April 21 and 24
GOLDEN SLUMBERS
2011, Davy Chou, France/Cambodia, 96 min.

April 28 and May 1
DAUGHTER FROM DANANG
2002, Gail Dolgin and Vicente Franco, USA, 83 min.

May 5 and 8
CAMBODIAN SON
2014, Masahiro Sugano, USA/Cambodia, 90 min.
The film distribution company Oscilloscope Laboratories was founded in 2008 by Adam Yauch, a cinephile and filmmaker better known as MCA of the legendary hip hop group Beastie Boys, and David Fenkel, who would go on to co-found the production and distribution company A24. Since Yauch’s death in 2012, Oscilloscope has been headed by Dan Berger, the company’s only other original employee.

Although its name and logo evoke campy 1950s sci-fi, Oscilloscope soon became noted for its adventurous and wide-ranging selection of cutting-edge independent films. Oscilloscope releases shown at the Film Center include TREELESS MOUNTAIN, EXIT THROUGH THE GIFT SHOP, MEK’S CUTOFF, THE FITS, LOST IN PARIS, and many more. We are pleased to celebrate the company’s tenth anniversary with this series of five of our favorite O-Scope offerings.

—Martin Rubin

**SAMSARA**
2011, Ron Fricke, USA, 102 min.

Friday, February 2, 8:15 pm
Thursday, February 8, 6:00 pm

SAMSARA is an immersive sound-and-image experience in the vein of BARAKA, which Ron Fricke directed, and KOYAANISOQATSI, which he photographed. The title comes from a Sanskrit word meaning “the ever-turning wheel of life,” and the film whirls us through a torrent of stunning images, including sand-painters in Tibet, post-Katrina wreckage in New Orleans, mist-shrouded temples in Burma, transvestite dancers in Thailand, swirling pilgrims in Mecca, majestic waterfalls in Angola, and much, much more. 35mm. (MR)

**THE LOVE WITCH**
2016, Anna Biller, USA, 120 min.
With Elle Evans, Samantha Robinson

Friday, February 9, 2:00 pm
Monday, February 12, 8:15 pm
Wednesday, February 14, 6:00 pm

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 sexploitation delights of Roger Corman protégé Stephanie Rothman (THE VELVET VAMPIRE). 35mm. (BS)

**EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT**
(EL ABRAZO DE LA SERPIENTE)
2016, Ciro Guerra, Colombia, 125 min.
With Nilbio Torres, Antonio Bolivar

Friday, February 16, 2:00 pm
Monday, February 19, 7:45 pm

An Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Language Film, and Reader critic J.R. Jones’s pick as the best film of 2016, Guerra’s jungle odyssey intertwines two journeys, set thirty years apart and linked by the presence of Karamakate, shaman of a dying Amazonian tribe, who helps white explorers search for a rare plant with curative and hallucinogenic powers. Stunning widescreen b&w photography and a mind-blowing climax make this a big-screen must. In Spanish and tribal languages with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)
KEDI
2016, Ceyda Torun, USA/Turkey, 80 min.

Friday, February 23, 2:00 pm
Monday, February 26, 6:00 pm

Life is close to cushy for the cherished street cats of Istanbul, as seen in this marvelously cat-action-packed look at the purring mascots that have roamed the streets of the ancient capital for millennia, protected, admired, and honored for their beauty and their skill as mousers. Director Torun alternates stories of the people who love these independent street-dwellers with cat-eye views of life at ground level and an atmospheric portrait of Istanbul itself. In Turkish with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

WENDY AND LUCY
2008, Kelly Reichardt, USA, 80 min.
With Michelle Williams, Walter Dalton

Friday, March 2, 2:00 pm
Thursday, March 8, 8:15 pm

In indie giant Reichardt’s taut, bluesy third feature, Wendy (Williams), a taciturn loner accompanied by her dog Lucy, is headed to Alaska on the trail of a vague hope (“I hear they need people”). Her modern-day frontier odyssey stalls in a small Oregon town: her car breaks down, she is arrested for shoplifting, and Lucy goes missing. While waiting for the prognosis on her car, Wendy searches for Lucy, her options running out, her fate in the hands of strangers variously kind, callous, and terrifying. 35mm. (MR)

NT LIVE
YOUNG MARX
2017, Nicholas Hytner, UK, 162 min.
With Rory Kinnear, Oliver Chris

Saturday, February 3, 2:30 pm

A new comedy by Richard Bean and Clive Coleman of One Man, Two Guvnors. The year is 1850, and the 32-year-old revolutionary (Kinnear) is hiding in London’s Dean Street, broke, restless, and horny, his writing blocked, his marriage dying, his friend Engels (Chris) in despair at his wasted genius. (Description courtesy of NT Live)

SPECIAL PRICES: $14 GENERAL; $8 MEMBERS/STUDENTS

CHICAGO PREMIERE!
MARK SCHILLING IN PERSON!

CLOSE-KNIT
(KAERA GA HONKI DE AMU TOKAWA)
2017, Naoki Ogigami, Japan, 127 min.
With Toma Ikuta, Rinka Kakihara

Monday, March 5, 8:00 pm

In this gentle family drama, eleven-year-old Toma, sent to live with her uncle, is initially bewildered to learn that his nurturing, demurely feminine girlfriend was born a boy. Presented in cooperation with Asian Pop-Up Cinema Season VI soft opening presentation. In Japanese with English subtitles. DCP digital.

Close-Knit, critic for the Japan Times, will be present for an audience discussion moderated by Ron Falzone, Associate Professor, Columbia College Chicago.
The Gene Siskel Film Center’s 21st Chicago European Union Film Festival, presenting Chicago premieres of more than 60 films representing the 28 EU nations, will take place March 9-April 5.

With Bulgaria in the presidency of the EU, our festival will open with Stephan Komandarev’s zesty tragicomedy DIRECTIONS. Other films confirmed to date include Bruno Dumont’s unorthodox musical JEANNETTE: THE CHILDHOOD OF JOAN OF ARC; the German black-comic caper film BYE BYE GERMANY; the Hungarian blockbuster BET ON REVENGE; the tense Irish drama MAZE; the Belgian film SOUVENIR with Isabel Huppert; and the biopics GODARD MON AMOUR (formerly titled REDOUPTABLE) and NICO, 1988.

See all these and more in the March Gazette (available Feb. 15) and on our website.

For more information and to RSVP, call 312.846.2600 or visit siskelfilmcenter.org/hollywoodonstate2018
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PANORAMA LATINX

PANORAMA LATINX is an initiative at the Gene Siskel Film Center supported by a three-year grant from the Reva and David Logan Foundation. The goal of the initiative is to support audience development and to engage the Latino community through advocacy, programming, partnerships, and showcasing emerging local filmmakers. Latin America is experiencing a film renaissance right now. The Film Center is proud to be the year-round home for international screenings, including the important new work being made by Latino filmmakers. The Film Center strives to be welcoming and responsive to all communities.

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Bob Le Flambeur

1955, Jean-Pierre Melville, France, 98 min.
With Roger Duchesne, Isabelle Corey

Cult director Melville’s New Wave prototype turns the doom-laden fatalism of film noir into a playful, jazzlike riff where style is everything, whether it be the freewheeling camera work of Henri Decaë (JULES AND JIM), the Bogartesque cool of hero Bob Le Flambeur (“High Roller”), or the insouciant eroticism of the sex kitten (Corey) he gallantly shelters. The silver-haired, trench-coated Bob is a former thief turned gambler, but a long losing streak tempts him to take a crack at a fat safe in a seaside casino. In French with English subtitles. New 4K digital restoration. (MR)

February 23—March 1
Fri., 2/23 at 2 pm and 6 pm;
Sat., 2/24 at 3 pm and 7:45 pm;
Sun., 2/25 at 3 pm;
Wed., 2/28 at 6 pm;
Thu., 3/1 at 8:15 pm

“A wonderful movie with all the formal beauty, finesse and treacherous allure of green baize.”
—Chris Peachment, Time Out London

NEW 4K RESTORATION