Rediscovering Alain Tanner

LA SALAMANDRE, June 9, 14

MORE FRIDAY MATINEES!
OPEN-CAPTIONED SCREENINGS!

ALSO:
Trnka, Inoue, Gunn, Clouzot

www.siskelfilmcenter.org
FIVE SEASONS
THE GARDENS OF PIET OUDOLF

2017, Thomas Piper, USA, 75 min.

“A pleasure on multiple fronts: sensorially, conceptually, narratively.”—Jennifer Reut, Landscape Architecture Magazine

Five seasons in the gardens and career of Dutch garden designer Piet Oudolf, creator of Chicago’s acclaimed Lurie Garden in Millennium Park, are traced in this lush documentary that blooms with details of Oudolf’s other high-profile projects including Manhattan’s High Line and the waterfront Battery Gardens. Beginning with an autumn walk through the designer’s own sprawling but intricately planted garden in the Dutch village of Hummelo, the film conveys his deep and thoughtful appreciation for botanical life in all its seasons. DCP digital. (BS)

Director Thomas Piper will be present for audience discussion on Friday at 7:45 pm.

The 7:45 pm screening on Fri., June 15, is a Movie Club event (see p. 3).

June 15—21
Fri., 6/15 at 2:15 pm, 6 pm, and 7:45 pm; Sat., 6/16 at 6:15 pm; Sun., 6/17 at 2 pm; Mon., 6/18 at 6 pm; Tue., 6/19 at 8:15 pm; Wed., 6/20 at 6 pm; Thu., 6/21 at 8:30 pm

CHICAGO PREMIERE! THOMAS PIPER IN PERSON!

BOOM FOR REAL:
THE LATE TEENAGE YEARS OF JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

2017, Sara Driver, USA, 78 min.

“Vivid and beautifully meditative memory piece on the downtown New York art and music scene of the late 1970s and early ’80s.”
—Chris Barsanti, The Playlist

Director Driver captures the wild, raw spirit of the young unknown Jean-Michel Basquiat through the memories and tales of friends and occasional lovers, who knew him not as the lionized art luminary on par with Andy Warhol, but as the eccentric homeless teenager struggling alongside them to eke out an existence on the desolate streets of lower Manhattan in the late 1970s. Interviews include former Basquiat roommate and collector extraordinaire Alexis Adler, hip hop pioneer Fab 5 Freddy, graffiti artist Lee Quiñones, and filmmakers Driver, James Nare, and Jim Jarmusch. DCP digital. (BS)

June 22—28
Fri., 6/22 at 4:15 pm and 6:15 pm; Sat., 6/23 at 7:45 pm; Sun., 6/24 at 5 pm; Mon., 6/25 at 6 pm; Tue., 6/26 at 8 pm; Wed., 6/27 at 8 pm; Thu., 6/28 at 8:15 pm

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’s in the club! Just by attending the monthly Movie Club film and participating in the conversation, you’re in!

Join us for the Gene Siskel Film Center Movie Club, which will include a post-screening conversation and a complimentary beverage.

FUTURE SEASONS, June 15-21

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164 North State Street
OH LUCY!

“An against-the-odds charmer...by turns tender, plaintive, heartfelt and joyful.”

MARY SHELLEY

“This fictionalized account of three pivotal years in the life of Frankenstein author Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (Fanning) is given a bold feminist slant by director Al-Mansour (WADJDA). Teenage Mary, daughter of radicals, is swept off her feet by the notorious poet Percy Shelley (Booth), only to find him an adulterous cad, and the ultimate rival for control of her work. The couple’s escape from convention leads to a downward spiral of revelry, poverty, and libidinous living, culminating at the dissolute Lord Byron’s villa, where Mary rises to the challenge to write a ghost story. DCP digital. (BS)"

June 1—7
Fri., 6/1 at 2 pm and 8:15 pm; Sat., 6/2 at 3 pm; Sun., 6/3 at 5:15 pm; Mon., 6/4 at 6 pm; Tue., 6/5 at 8 pm; Wed., 6/6 at 6 pm; Thu., 6/7 at 8:15 pm
A story with roots in the Holocaust comes satisfyingly full circle in a film that is both sobering and whimsical. 88-year-old Argentinian Abraham Burszteinstein (Ángel Solá), on the eve of being shuffled off to a nursing home, makes his escape: destination Poland, via Spain and Germany. This foxy grandpa guilt-trips a young hipster into doing his bidding and bargains a discount with a Madrid hotel owner (maturely lovely Molina). As he boards a train to Germany, the story shifts gears into gentle pathos for a series of encounters that begin the healing. In Spanish, Yiddish, German, and Polish with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

Director Pablo Solarz will be present for audience discussion on Friday (8:00 pm only) and Saturday.

June 8—14
Fri., 6/8 at 2 pm and 8 pm; Sat., 6/9 at 7:45 pm; Sun., 6/10 at 2 pm; Mon., 6/11 at 6 pm; Tue., 6/12 at 8:15 pm; Wed., 6/13 at 6 pm; Thu., 6/14 at 8:15 pm

Revisiting the racial battlefield of classic westerns, SWEET COUNTRY is a riveting, fact-based drama of injustice framed against starkly beautiful widescreen landscapes. Based on real events of the 1920s, the story centers on the pursuit and trial of an Aboriginal farmer who kills a white man in self-defense. Indigenous director Thornton draws a non-simplistic but damning spectrum of a racist society, from the virulent World War I veteran who attacks the accused man to an enlightened but ultimately ineffectual preacher (Neill), with many darker shades of gray in between. In English and Arrernte with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

June 8—14
Fri., 6/8 at 3:45 pm and 8 pm; Sat., 6/9 at 3 pm; Sun., 6/10 at 5:15 pm; Mon., 6/11 at 7:45 pm; Tue., 6/12 at 6 pm; Wed., 6/13 at 7:45 pm; Thu., 6/14 at 6 pm

"Thornton wrings from this fable of rough frontier justice a statement from the heart. Australia now has its HIGH NOON."
—Nick Dent, Time Out New York
CHICAGO PREMIERE!

THE DOCTOR FROM INDIA

2018, Jeremy Frindel, USA, 89 min.

The healing wisdom of the east meets the high-tech world of western medicine in the person of Dr. Vasant Lad, the Indian doctor who first brought the practice of Ayurveda to North America in the 1970s. Director Frindel focuses on the story of Lad himself, an unassuming doctor once regarded as a pariah in medical school for refusing to reject ancient diagnostic methods and holistic remedies with a proven effectiveness going back thousands of years. Interviews include Deepak Chopra. In English and Marathi with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

RODIN

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

2017, Jacques Doillon, France/Belgium/USA, 119 min.
With Vincent Lindon, Izïa Higelin

“French cinema’s crowded gallery of artist biopics has a serious-minded new addition.”—Allan Hunter, Screen Daily

Actor Vincent Lindon (MEASURE OF A MAN) brings gravelly-voiced gravity and impressive physical veracity to the role of Auguste Rodin, in a film that focuses on the sculptor’s conflicted amorous relationship with promising protégé Camille Claudel (Higelin) during the controversy-fraught years surrounding the creation of his sculpture of the writer Balzac. Director Doillon (PONETTE, RAJA) gives love second place, saving the greater sensuality for a meticulous recreation of Rodin’s studio and works in progress. Note: Contains nudity and sexual activity. In French with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

June 15—21
Fri., 6/15 at 3:45 pm and 6:15 pm; Sat., 6/16 at 7:45 pm; Sun., 6/17 at 3:30 pm; Mon., 6/18 at 7:30 pm; Tue., 6/19 at 6 pm; Wed., 6/20 at 7:30 pm; Thu., 6/21 at 6 pm

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You Were Never Really Here
2017, Lynne Ramsay, UK/France/USA, 90 min.
With Joaquin Phoenix, Judith Roberts

Director Ramsay invades the traditionally male domain of the violent action thriller with a dark unsettling film that turns the genre on its head. Joe (Phoenix), a childhood-abuse victim and Afghanistan vet, makes a cash-only living at the kind of odd jobs that involve killing people. His latest commission involves the rescue of the kidnapped pre-teen daughter of a state senator. Note: Contains extreme violence. DCP digital. (BS)

June 1—7
Fri., 6/1 at 2 pm and 6 pm; Sat., 6/2 at 7:45 pm; Sun., 6/3 at 5:15 pm; Mon., 6/4 at 8 pm; Tue., 6/5 at 6 pm; Wed., 6/6 at 8 pm; Thu., 6/7 at 8:15

GRACE JONES: Bloodlight and Bami
2017, Sophie Fiennes, Ireland/UK, 115 min.

“...a sumptuous sensory treat...Jones gives great diva for the camera.”—Stephen Dalton, Hollywood Reporter

This immersive portrait of the ageless diva of androgynous glam was filmed and edited over a period of twelve years. A visit to her family in Jamaica is interwoven with round-the-world glimpses of Jones recording, relaxing, negotiating, battling with producers and hotel managers, and performing electrifying live versions of such legendary favorites as “La Vie en Rose,” “Pull Up to the Bumper,” and “Slave to the Rhythm.” DCP digital. (MR)

June 15—21
Fri., 6/15 at 4 pm and 8:30 pm; Sat., 6/16 at 8 pm; Sun., 6/17 at 5:45 pm; Mon., 6/18 at 7:45 pm; Tue., 6/19 at 6 pm; Wed., 6/20 at 7:45 pm; Thu., 6/21 at 8:15 pm
LARGER THAN LIFE
THE KEVIN AUCOIN STORY

2017, Tiffany Bartok, USA, 103 min.

This documentary portrait of iconic makeup artist Kevyn Aucoin explores the triumph of his meteoric career and the tragedy of his untimely death. Following a painful, bullied youth in rural Louisiana, Aucoin fled to New York at the age of twenty. An early activist who refused to hide his gay identity, he quickly rose to fame as a brilliant innovator who transformed a behind-the-scenes profession into a recognized art form. Director Bartok brings warmth to this story told in part by the supermodels and stars who knew him, including Christy Turlington Burns, Naomi Campbell, Isabella Rossellini, Cindy Crawford, and more. DCP digital. (BS)

June 29—July 5
Fri., 6/29 at 2 pm and 6 pm; Sat., 6/30 at 8:15 pm; Sun., 7/1 at 3 pm; Mon., 7/2 at 6 pm; Tue., 7/3 at 7:45 pm; Wed., 7/4 at 7:45 pm; Thu., 7/5 at 6 pm

FIRST CHICAGO RUN!

THE YOUNG KARL MARX

2017, Raoul Peck, Germany/France, 114 min.
With August Diehl, Stefan Konarske

“Both intellectually serious and engagingly free-spirited...The great virtue of THE YOUNG KARL MARX is its clarity.”

In his latest film, Peck (I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO) takes on one of the most influential figures in modern history. The film begins in 1843 with Europe on the brink of political revolution. Marx (Diehl) is an impoverished journalist struggling to support his family while his inflammatory writings keep them on the move, from Prussia to Paris to Brussels to London. His path crosses that of wealthy mill-owner’s son Friedrich Engels, and they join forces to shape a theoretical foundation for the political ferment that is boiling over in Europe. In German, French, and English with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

June 22—28
Fri., 6/22 at 2 pm and 6 pm; Sat., 6/23 at 3 pm and 7:30 pm; Sun., 6/24 at 5 pm; Mon., 6/25 at 7:45 pm; Wed., 6/27 at 7:45 pm; Thu., 6/28 at 6 pm

June 29—July 5
Fri., 6/29 at 2 pm and 6 pm; Sat., 6/30 at 8:15 pm; Sun., 7/1 at 3 pm; Mon., 7/2 at 6 pm; Tue., 7/3 at 7:45 pm; Wed., 7/4 at 7:45 pm; Thu., 7/5 at 6 pm

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

2017, Chloé Zhao, USA, 104 min.  
With Brady Jandreau, Tim Jandreau, Lilly Jandreau

“Subtle, elemental and powerfully beautiful...the most enveloping film experience I’ve had this year.”—Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune

Chloé Zhao’s remarkable fusion of documentary-like immediacy and visual poetry casts charismatic Brady Jandreau as a lightly fictionalized version of himself: a 22-year-old Lakota Sioux horse trainer and rodeo performer sidelined by a serious head injury. As Brady struggles to deal with the loss of what had defined his young life, Zhao immerses us deeply in his relationships with his family, with his friends, and, most grippingly, with horses. DCP digital. (MR)

**CHICAGO PREMIERE!**

**Mrs. Hyde**

(MADAME HYDE)  
2017, Serge Bozon, France, 95 min. With Isabelle Huppert, Romain Duris

Friday, June 22, 4:00 pm  
Saturday, June 23, 5:15 pm  
Tuesday, June 26, 6:00 pm

“Beautifully crafted...a socially bellicose, darkly humorous farce.”  
—Rory O’Connor, The Film Stage

In this freewheeling mash-up of Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic horror tale and the teacher-tames-the-rough-classroom genre, Huppert plays a meek high school science teacher mocked by her multiethnic students. Then a massive jolt of lab-enhanced lightning unleashes her dormant Mrs. Hyde—a glowing, instant-justice-dispensing wraith by night; a newly confident, innovative teacher by day. In French with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

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**MACBETH**

2017, Rufus Norris, UK, 210 min.  
With Rory Kinneer, Anne-Marie Duff

Saturday, June 16, 2:30 pm

The ruined aftermath of a bloody civil war. Ruthlessly fighting to survive, the Macbeths are propelled towards the crown by forces of elemental darkness. Shakespeare’s most intense and terrifying tragedy, directed by Rufus Norris (London Road), sees Rory Kinneer (Young Marx) and Anne-Marie Duff (Suffragette) play Macbeth and Lady Macbeth. Note: Contains scenes of a violent nature. DCP digital. (Description courtesy of NT Live)

SPECIAL PRICES: $14 GENERAL; $8 MEMBERS/STUDENTS
CHICAGO PREMIERE!

ANGELS WEAR WHITE

2017, Vivian Qu, China, 107 min.
With Wen Qi, Zhou Meijun

“A daylight noir of complex moral dilemmas.”—Michael Leader, Sight and Sound

This hard-hitting neo-noir rips the lid off systemic corruption in a Chinese resort town after a motel maid spies on a local official who checks in with two inebriated 12-year-old schoolgirls. Undocumented immigrant Mia (Wen) becomes the reluctant center of a skewed investigation when her illicit cellphone footage of the damning evidence becomes the hot property sought by all parties. Irony rules in the film’s dark view of pervasive misogyny, of which the town’s tawdry monument, a reproduction of the 26-foot “Forever Marilyn” sculpture with skirt flying aloft, is a telling symbol. In Mandarin with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

June 29—July 5
Fri., 6/29 at 4 pm and 8 pm; Sat., 6/30 at 2:45 pm; Sun., 7/1 at 5:15 pm; Wed., 7/4 at 4:45 pm; Thu., 7/5 at 8 pm

LIQUID SKY

1982, Slava Tsukerman, USA, 112 min.
With Anne Carlisle, Paula E. Sheppard

“The funniest, craziest, dirtiest, most perversionely beautiful science-fiction movie ever made.”—David Denby, New York Magazine

After decades of unavailability, this neon-colored cult classic is back in a dazzling new 4K restoration. A space junkie, roughly the size of a jumbo shrimp, roams the cosmos in a dish-sized UFO, searching for heroin or a chemical surrogate produced in the human brain during orgasm. He/she/they finds a mother lode of both substances at the downtown Manhattan rooftop apartment of Margaret, a model who is both witness and victim to a wide variety of perverse and degrading acts. In a legendary performance, Anne Carlisle plays both the female and male leads with ferocious conviction. New 4K DCP digital restoration. (MR)

June 29—July 5
Fri., 6/29 at 8 pm; Sat., 6/30 at 8:15 pm; Sun., 7/1 at 5:15 pm; Mon., 7/2 at 8 pm; Wed., 7/4 at 8 pm; Thu., 7/5 at 8 pm

NEW 4K RESTORATION!
TWO BY CLOUZOT

New 4K restorations of two classic thrillers by the master of suspense and film noir often referred to as “the French Hitchcock.”

NEW 4K RESTORATION!

LE CORBEAU

(THE RAVEN)
1943, Henri-Georges Clouzot, France, 92 min.
With Pierre Fresnay, Micheline Francey

“Unforgettable...A hellbrew that has not lost a fraction of its flavor.”—Anthony Lane, The New Yorker

A milestone of French noir, LE CORBEAU exposed the rancid underside of Occupied France more bitingly than any other movie. A country town is disrupted by a series of poison-pen letters signed by “The Raven.” Exposing the dirty secrets of the town’s most respected citizens, the malicious missives spread havoc, while suspicions run wild regarding the identity of their author.

In French with English subtitles. New 4K DCP digital restoration. (MR)

June 29—July 4
Fri., 6/29 at 2 pm; Sat., 6/30 at 3 pm; Mon., 7/2 at 7:45 pm; Wed., 7/4 at 3 pm

NEW 4K RESTORATION!

QUAI DES ORFÈVRES

(aka JENNY LAMOUR)
1947, Henri-Georges Clouzot, France, 106 min.
With Louis Jouvet, Suzy Delair


Many critics rate this richly perverse thriller an even finer work than Clouzot’s famous hits THE WAGES OF FEAR and DIABOLIQUE. When a lecherous producer is bludgeoned to death with a champagne bottle, a rumpled police detective (the great Jouvet) from the Quai des Orfèvres (Paris’s Scotland Yard) investigates. Suspicion falls on a music-hall floozy (Delair), her jealous husband, and her lesbian admirer. In French with English subtitles. New 4K DCP digital restoration. (MR)

June 29—July 5
Fri., 6/29 at 4 pm; Sat., 6/30 at 5 pm; Wed., 7/4 at 5 pm; Thu., 7/5 at 6 pm

TWO-FILM DISCOUNT!

Buy a ticket at our regular prices for either LE CORBEAU or QUAI DES ORFÈVRES, and get a ticket for any show of the other film at this discount rate with proof of your original purchase: General Admission $7; Students $5; Members $4. (This discount price applies to the second film only. Discount available in person at the box office only.)
Rediscovering Alain Tanner

From June 1 through June 28, the Gene Siskel Film Center, in partnership with Swiss Films, presents Rediscovering Alain Tanner, a series of seven long-unavailable films by the acclaimed Swiss director whose films combine politics and rich characterizations, all in 35mm prints provided by the Swiss Cinematheque.

--Martin Rubin

SATURDAY DOUBLE-BILL DISCOUNT! Buy a ticket at our regular prices for the first Tanner film on any applicable Saturday this month, and get a ticket for the second Tanner 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.)

CHARLES, DEAD OR ALIVE
(Charles Mort Ou Vif)
1969, Alain Tanner, Switzerland, 93 min.
With François Simon, Marcel Robert

Friday, June 1, 7:45 pm
Saturday, June 2, 5:15 pm

Tanner’s nimble, lucid, witty first feature centers on Charles De, an aging conformist who suddenly drops deep out of life and emerges a madman—in other words, a man “mad” enough to accept the world only on his own uncompromising terms. Dodging detectives, he joins a miniature anarchist community in the country; by the time the authorities get their man, it no longer matters. François Simon as Charles delivers an acerbic, drily humorous performance that steers clear of saintliness. In French with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)

JONAH WHO WILL BE 25 IN THE YEAR 2000
(Jonas Qui Aura 25 Ans En L’an 2000)
1976, Alain Tanner, Switzerland, 116 min.
With Myriam Boyer, Jean-Luc Bideau, Miou-Miou

Saturday, June 2, 3:00 pm
Thursday, June 7, 6:00 pm

Tanner describes his funny, uplifting, freewheeling masterpiece as “a dramatic tragi-comedy in political science fiction.” This rich concoction of color, b&w, songs, skits, economics, dreams, and sexual experimentation tells the story of eight “minor prophets”—veterans of 1968, stranded between revolution and accommodation, whose paths cross briefly in their search for a common purpose. Survivors of the 1960s might find themselves deeply moved by JONAH; it speaks for a generation. In French with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)

LA SALAMANDRE
(The Salamander)
1971, Alain Tanner, Switzerland/France, 125 min.
With Bulle Ogier, Jean-Luc Bideau

Saturday, June 9, 3:00 pm
Thursday, June 14, 6:00 pm

The first of Tanner’s three features co-written with noted author John Berger (the others being JONAH and THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD), this high-spirited film concerns the efforts of two young male writers to construct a TV script around a purported murder attempt by a young working woman who doesn’t get along too well with the world. Ogier is magnificent as the spacey, kinkily defiant heroine who proves much more multifaceted and unpredictable than her would-be chroniclers bargained for. In French with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)
LIGHT YEARS AWAY
(LES ANNÉES LUMIÈRE)
1981, Alain Tanner, Switzerland/France, 105 min.
With Trevor Howard, Mick Ford

Saturday, June 9, 5:30 pm
Tuesday, June 12, 8:00 pm

It is the year 2000, and Jonas (Ford), age 25, is a rootless boy who comes under the wing of Poliakoff (Howard), a reclusive sage living at the end of the world, where he lords it over a kingdom of rusting auto hulks and pursues a mysterious project intended to take him “light years away...beyond the galaxies.” Set in spectacularly desolate landscapes, Tanner’s first fiction film in English is a unique blend of absurdist science-fiction fairy tale—part Beckett, part Bradbury, part Brothers Grimm. In English. 35mm. (MR)

THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD
(LE MILIEU DU MONDE)
1974, Alain Tanner, Switzerland, 115 min.
With Olimpia Carlisi, Philippe Leotard, Juliet Berto

Saturday, June 16, 3:00 pm
Tuesday, June 19, 8:15 pm

THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD describes a love affair between Paul, a Swiss engineer running for political office, and Adriana, an Italian immigrant working as a waitress. Paul offers to leave his wife and marry Adriana; she walks out on him. Why? Tanner takes the materials of a classic femme fatale tragedy and refashions them into an invigorating tale of the growth of a woman’s consciousness. This highly erotic, teasingly ambiguous film is punctuated with landscapes of startling beauty. In French with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)

MESSIDOR
1979, Alain Tanner, France/Switzerland, 123 min.
With Clémentine Amouroux, Catherine Rétrouvé

Saturday, June 16, 5:15 pm
Thursday, June 21, 6:00 pm

Anticipating THELMA & LOUISE by a dozen years, this bracing mixture of experimentation and crime drama recounts the exhilarating, terrifying odyssey of two female hitchhikers, children of Swiss security and plenty, into a world of accident, crime, and flight. Departing from the more literary approach of his earlier films, Tanner tells a compelling story while creating his most cinematic work, a “landscape of signs” in which images are charged with extraordinary immediacy. In French and German with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)

IN THE WHITE CITY
(DANS LA VILLE BLANCHE)
1983, Alain Tanner, Switzerland, 108 min.
With Bruno Ganz, Teresa Madruga

Saturday, June 23, 3:00 pm
Thursday, June 28, 6:00 pm

This haunting mood-piece tells of a disconnected sailor who jumps ship in Lisbon. Ganz (WINGS OF DESIRE) is mesmerizing as Paul, the outsider becalmed in a strange land by a mysterious ennui. As he wanders through the steep streets and alleys of the ghostly “white city,” Paul shoots 8mm movies whose blurry images combine with Jean-Luc Barbier’s jazz score to chronicle his descent into an existential borderland where annihilation and enlightenment merge. In English, German, Portuguese, and French with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)
Umetsugu Inoue

JAPAN’S MUSIC MAN

From June 1 through July 3, the Gene Siskel Film Center presents Umetsugu Inoue: Japan’s Music Man, a series of four films by the Japanese filmmaker. Writer and/or director of more than one hundred films over the course of his long career, Inoue (1923-2010) was especially known for musicals that colorfully evoke the brash spirit of Japan’s postwar pop culture. Three of the four films in our series feature Yujiro Ishihara, a young actor/singer who has been called “the Japanese Elvis” for his smoldering, swaggering persona.

This traveling retrospective was organized by Tom Vick, curator of film, Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution.  

--Barbara Scharres

THE STORMY MAN

(ARASHI O YOBU OTOKO)
1957, Umetsugu Inoue, Japan, 101 min.
With Yujiro Ishihara, Kyoji Aoyama

Friday, June 1, 4:00 pm  
Tuesday, June 5, 6:00 pm

This lurid story’s triangular plot involves tough but beauteous band manager Miyako, crooked music critic Toru, and talented punk Shoichi (Ishihara), whom Miyako grooms as her new drummer. Shoichi’s rising star is shadowed by a heartless mother who favors his brother, an aspiring classical composer. Sex, rivalry, and a mother’s rejection bring things to a head in the aftermath of a raucous competition of dueling drummers and the contrasting spectacle of a symphonic jazz concert. In Japanese with English subtitles. In color. DCP digital. (BS)

THE EAGLE AND THE HAWK

(WASHI TO TAKA)
1957, Umetsugu Inoue, Japan, 115 min.
With Yujiro Ishihara, Rentaro Mikuni

Friday, June 8, 4:00 pm  
Saturday, June 9, 5:15 pm

Trouble comes in pairs on a Hong Kong-bound cargo ship, when two men come aboard, each claiming to be the replacement for a dead crew member. Not long out of port, two female stowaways are discovered, one the captain’s pampered daughter. Director Inoue keeps the plot edgy, swinging between the humor of escalating male horseplay and the sinister heat of lust for the women. A monster storm (shot during an actual typhoon) puts a new twist in the plot’s underlying murder mystery. In Japanese with English subtitles. In color. DCP digital. (BS)

THE WINNER

(SHORI-SHA)
1957, Umetsugu Inoue, Japan, 98 min.
With Yujiro Ishihara, Mie Kitahara

Friday, June 15, 2:00 pm  
Sunday, June 17, 5:15 pm

Nightclub manager and former boxer Eikichi aspires to achieve his dream by plucking the reckless thug Shuntaro (Ishihara) from a barroom floor to mold into the fighter who will succeed where he failed. A tangled web of love is laid bare when Shuntaro faces the critical match and Eikichi’s dancing protégé Mari becomes a prima ballerina. Inoue’s jazzy visual stylization reaches its peak in the final number, a colorful and gloriously campy mash-up of Swan Lake and ON THE TOWN. In Japanese with English subtitles. In color. DCP digital. (BS)
THE GREEN MUSIC BOX
(MIDORI HARUKANI)
1955, Umetsugu Inoue, Japan, 90 min.
With Ruriko Asaoka, Frankie Sakai

Friday, June 29, 6:15 pm
Tuesday, July 3, 6:00 pm

THE GREEN MUSIC BOX was the first feature shot in Japan’s vivid three-strip
Konicolor process. This restored 35mm print shows off director Inoue’s flamboyant
use of color in a children’s musical fantasy based on the novel by Makoto Hojo. A
child’s music box becomes the hiding place for a secret formula sought by spies, in
a road movie adventure that launches when the girl Ruriko (Asaoka) goes in search
of her kidnapped parents, accompanied by three young boys she meets along the
way. In Japanese with English subtitles. In color. 35mm. (BS)

NEW 4K RESTORATION!

GANJA AND HESS
1973, Bill Gunn, USA, 112 min.
With Duane Jones, Marlene Clark

Friday, June 22, 8:15 pm
Tuesday, June 26, 8:00 pm

“Certainly the most original and intellectually ambitious of all
blaxploitation films of the 70s.”—Jonathan Rosenbaum, Chicago
Reader

This blaxploitation/vampire/art-film hybrid was acclaimed at Cannes,
then butchered and badly distributed before emerging as a cult
classic. Anthropology prof Dr. Hess Green (Jones) is infected with
a blood-hunger curse by his assistant (Gunn), who soon commits
suicide. The assistant’s wife Ganja (Clark) shows up, initiates a
passionate affair with Hess, and joins him in blood-drinking bliss until
his religious awakening comes between them. New 4K DCP digital
restoration. (MR)

CHICAGO PREMIERE! NEW RESTORATION!

PERSONAL PROBLEMS
1980, Bill Gunn, USA, 165 min.
With Vertamae Grosvenor, Walter Cotton

Saturday, June 30, 5:00 pm
Tuesday, July 3, 6:15 pm

“An unexpected aesthetic marvel and a major rediscovery.”—Howard
Hampton, Film Comment

Conceived by author Ishmael Reed (Mumbo Jumbo), this long-lost,
newly restored “experimental soap opera” has been acclaimed by
critics as a landmark work of black independent cinema. The story
centers loosely on Johnnie Mae Brown, a Harlem emergency-room
nurse involved in an adulterous affair, but director Gunn’s wide-
ranging style enlarges her story into a rich mosaic of African American
New York. Note: There will be a 15-minute intermission. New 2K DCP
digital restoration. (MR)
THE PUPPET MASTER
THE COMPLETE JIŘÍ TRNKA

From June 3 through July 4, we present The Puppet Master: The Complete Jiří Trnka, the Comeback Company’s touring program of the first complete American retrospective of Czech animation master Jiří Trnka.

The touring retrospective is produced by Comeback Company. Organized by Irena Kovarova with Florence Almazini and Tyler Wilson. Films provided by the Czech National Film Archive.

SUNDAY DOUBLE-BILL DISCOUNT! Buy a ticket at our regular prices for the first Trnka program on any applicable Sunday this month, and get a ticket for the second Trnka program 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.)

Trnka Shorts Program I, 1945-49
Jiří Trnka, Czechoslovakia, 79 min.
Sunday, June 3, 2:00 pm
Monday, June 4, 6:00 pm
Colorful folk tales, an anti-Nazi lampoon, a foray into abstraction, and a ghost story announce Trnka as a rival to Disney in this family-friendly program of early shorts. Includes: GRANDPA PLANTED A BEET (1945, 10 min.); THE ANIMALS AND THE BRIGANDS (1946, 8 min.); SPRINGMAN AND THE SS (1946, 13 min.); THE GIFT (1946, 15 min.); ROMANCE WITH DOUBLE BASS (1949, 13 min.); THE DEVIL’S MILL (1949, 20 min.). In Czech with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

THE CZECH YEAR
(ŠPALÍČEK)
1947, Jiří Trnka, Czechoslovakia, 76 min.
Sunday, June 3, 3:45 pm
Wednesday, June 6, 6:00 pm
The folk tales, myths, pageants, and customs of a Czech village flow from director Trnka’s imagination in his first animated feature. Made up of six seamless parts with choral narration, the film opens with a joyous musical as an impromptu orchestra revels in the pre-Lenten spirit of “Shrovetide.” Nature runs riot while villagers cavort in “Spring,” and “Bethlehem” provides a fitting sequence of Christmas customs centering on the Nativity. In Czech with English subtitles. New DCP digital restoration. (BS)

Trnka Shorts Program II, 1949-53
Jiří Trnka, Czechoslovakia, 74 min.
Sunday, June 10, 2:15 pm
Monday, June 11, 6:00 pm
Hand-drawn, cut-paper, and stop-motion puppet animation techniques enliven this captivating family-friendly program with themes ranging from circuses to trains and folk tales. Includes: SONG OF THE PRAIRIE (1949, 20 min.); MERRY CIRCUS (1951, 12 min.); THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE (1951, 18 min.); THE GOLDEN FISH (1951, 15 min.); HOW THE OLD MAN TRADED IT ALL AWAY (1953, 9 min.). In Czech with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)
THE EMPEROR’S NIGHTINGALE
(CÍSAŘŮV SLAVÍK)
1948, Jiří Trnka and Miloš Makovec, Czechoslovakia, 72 min.

Sunday, June 10, 3:45 pm
Wednesday, June 13, 6:00 pm

One of Trnka’s sublime achievements, this adaptation of the Hans Christian Anderson story is a poignant and exquisitely animated tale in which the toys, dolls, and Chinese curios in a lonely child’s bedroom come to life in his dream. Puppet animation portrays the lavish world of an ancient Chinese court, where the song of a nightingale charms the emperor with its pure song, until he comes under the spell of the simulated bird calls of a music box. No dialogue. 35mm. (BS)

OLD CZECH LEGENDS
(STARÉ POUĚSTI ČESKÉ)
1952, Jiří Trnka, Czechoslovakia, 84 min.

Sunday, June 17, 2:00 pm
Monday, June 18, 6:00 pm

The mythic birth of the Czech people in their own promised land is related through seven animated Bohemian legends. Biblical parallels mark the opening tale, when a wise chieftain ascends a peak to view the new fruitful land where he will lead his exiled people. A ruling princess is dethroned and the women revolt. The rule of men holds sway, and millennia pass, marked by epic battles, leaders wise and foolish, and a lust for gold that almost sinks an empire. In Czech with English subtitles. New DCP digital restoration. (BS)

BAYAYA
(BAJAJA)
1950, Jiří Trnka, Czechoslovakia, 75 min.

Sunday, June 17, 3:45 pm
Wednesday, June 20, 6:00 pm

This medieval tale centers on a peasant lad whose dead mother appears to him as a white horse. She takes him to the castle of a king with three daughters; he falls in love with the youngest and battles to release them from the spell of a hydra-like dragon whose heads proliferate faster than the brave youth can lop them off. Highlights include a beautifully staged jousting tournament, and a court-jester character whose casual mistreatment darkens the fairy-tale atmosphere. In Czech with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

Trnka Shorts Program III, 1954-60
Jiří Trnka, Czechoslovakia, 76 min.

Sunday, June 24, 2:00 pm
Monday, June 25, 6:00 pm

All ages will delight in this program that encompasses a sleeping puppet, a wintry tale, a plea for international brotherhood commissioned by UNESCO, and a story of the Christmas eve meeting of two trains. Includes: KUTÁSEK AND KUTILKA (1954, 18 min.); THE TWO FROSTS (1954, 12 min.); CIRCUS HURVÍNEK (1955, 23 min.); WHY UNESCO? (1958, 10 min., 35mm); THE MIDNIGHT ADVENTURE (1960, 13 min.). In Czech with English subtitles. DCP digital and 35mm. (BS)

Jiří Trnka continues on next page.
THE GOOD SOLDIER ŠVEJK
(OSUDY DOBREHO VOJAKA ŠVEJKA, I-III)
1954, Jiří Trnka, Czechoslovakia, 74 min.

Sunday, June 24, 3:30 pm
Wednesday, June 27, 6:00 pm

This adaptation of Jaroslav Hašek’s 1930 satirical antiwar novel (which inspired Joseph Heller’s Catch-22) represents a move away from Trnka’s usual folkloric/fairy-tale world toward more contemporary subjects and more explicit social commentary. With visuals patterned after Josef Lada’s famed illustrations for the book, Trnka condenses Hašek’s picaresque epic to three episodes, each centered on the eponymous infantryman whose apparent idiocy overpowers his exasperated superiors. In Czech with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

Trnka Shorts Program IV, 1962-65
Jiří Trnka, Czechoslovakia, 84 min.

Sunday, July 1, 2:00 pm
Monday, July 2, 6:00 pm

These late-career shorts reveal the animation master working with darker and more serious themes expressed with satire and surrealism. His final and most personal work THE HAND is an allegorical protest against state censorship. Includes: PASSION (1962, 9 min.); CYBERNETIC GRANDMA (1962, 28 min.); ARCHANGEL GABRIEL AND MISTRESS GOOSE (1964, 29 min.); THE HAND (1965, 18 min.). In Czech with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM
(SEN NOCI SVATOÁNSKÉ)
1959, Jiří Trnka, Czechoslovakia, 72 min.

Sunday, July 1, 3:45 pm
Wednesday, July 4, 3:15 pm

Trnka continued to expand his range with this richly colored and thoroughly delightful adaptation of Shakespeare’s enchanted comedy of mismatched lovers, meddling fairies, and maladroit actors. The animation is more fluid than ever before, the settings (given a Mediterranean flavor) deeper and more expansive. The Bard’s language is entirely absent (a narrator summarizes the action), its expressivity taken up by Trnka’s mastery of gesture, balletic movement, and facial detail. In Czech with English subtitles. 35mm. (MR)
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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 in film programming 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.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST at siskelfilmcenter.org to receive our weekly schedule & more!

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BENEFITS: Pay $6 admission to each screening ($5 to each spring and autumn screening/lecture series program); receive our monthly schedule, the Gazette, in the mail; $10 discount on an Art Institute of Chicago membership; four free popcorns; sneak preview passes to major motion pictures and other special offers.
The Gene Siskel Film Center is a public program of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is located at 164 North State Street. Main Office: 312-846-2600.

Location: 164 North State Street. Tickets: Visit our website for online ticket purchasing information. For showtimes: visit www.siskelfilmcenter.org or call 312-846-2800.

Discount Parking for Film Center Patrons!
Park at the InterPark Self-Park at 20 E. Randolph St. and pay only $19 for 24 hours with a rebate ticket obtained from the Film Center box office.

Take the CTA!
The Gene Siskel Film Center is located one-half block south of the State/Lake L (brown, green, orange, pink, and purple lines), and just outside of the Lake red line subway stop. We are also located on a number of State Street buslines.

Ticket prices:
$11 General Admission;
$7 Students;
$6 Members.
Unless otherwise noted.

Ethan Hawke
Gene Siskel Film Center Renaissance Honoree
June 7, 2018
The Ritz-Carlton Chicago

Join us for an intimate conversation with Ethan Hawke. Proceeds benefit the Gene Siskel Film Center film programs and educational initiatives.

Tickets start at $500, tables at $10,000.

For more information: call (312) 846-2072 or email dsmith16@saic.edu