

BACK IN PERSON

Wisconsin Film Festival



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April 7-14

TICKET SALES BEGIN MARCH 12 AT NOON



TICKET SALES BEGIN MARCH 12 AT NOON

General Admission

\$12 PER TICKET

All-Festival Pass

\$325

How to

Purchase Tickets

EASIEST, FASTEST

Order Online

Set up your account at WIFILMFEST.EVENTIVE.ORG

If you've already purchased a Festival pass or Holiday 10-pack, or watched a film at the 2021 online Festival at Eventive, you already have an account.

Make sure you can sign in and have a working password.

All-Festival passholders can acquire tickets for individual screenings beginning noon central time on **Friday, March 11**.

Passholders can acquire one ticket for any and all individual screenings, as long as screenings do not overlap.

Instructions on how to use your pass will be posted at wifilmfest.eventive.org.

Tickets to **individual screenings** will be on sale to the general public beginning **Saturday, March 12** at noon CST and available for purchase 24/7 through the end of the Festival.

Holiday 10-packs can be redeemed at this time.

Tickets ordered online will be sent directly to your email. Just show the QR code on your phone at the theater, or print your tickets at home.

LIMITED HOURS

In Person

Wisconsin Film Festival will have an in-person box office on opening day of ticket sales. There are no cost savings for in-person ticket purchases, and if possible, we recommend purchasing/acquiring tickets online.

Please note our in-person box office hours will be:

Saturday, March 12, Noon-5PM*

Mitchell Theater Lobby 821 University Avenue, Madison WI Access from East Campus Mall

** Sign up for our Wisconsin Film Festival Newsreel at wifilmfest.org for information about other possible in-person box office dates.*

AT SHOWTIME

During the Fest

Tickets will be available during the Festival at all Festival venues for same-day ticket purchases and Rush Tickets

Free Day-Of Screening Tickets for UW Madison Students.

Subject to Availability

Every current UW-Madison student with a valid WisCard is eligible for one free ticket to every screening at every Festival venue all Festival long—a chance to see any of our 150 films FOR FREE! Just arrive at a screening with your WisCard and if we have a seat available, it's yours, free!

Learn more at wifilmfest.org

Theaters

All Film Festival venues are accessible by bike, bus, and car. For details on transportation and accessibility, visit wifilmfest.org/venues

SHANNON HALL

Memorial Union
800 Langdon St.
union.wisc.edu

CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

750 University Ave.
chazen.wisc.edu

UW CINEMATHEQUE

Room 4070, Vilas Hall
821 University Ave.
cinema.wisc.edu

THE MARQUEE

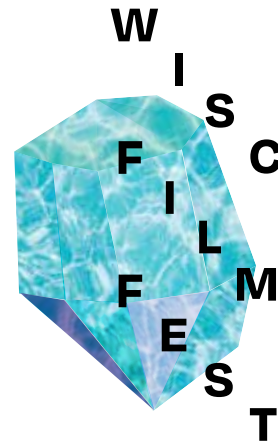
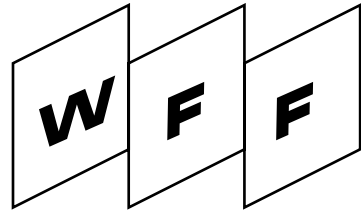
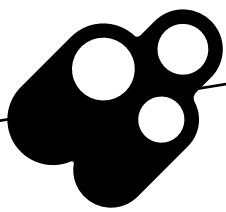
2nd Floor, Union South
1308 Dayton St.
union.wisc.edu

AMC MADISON 6

430 N. Midvale Boulevard
amctheatres.com

The Wisconsin Film Festival will abide by Dane County and UW-Madison orders regarding COVID-19 that are in place for the period of April 7-14, 2022.

CHECK WIFILMFEST.ORG FOR NEWS AND UPDATES. FESTIVAL SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



Welcome Back

It's been three long, weird years since the last in-person Wisconsin Film Festival. And though less significant than many more pressing matters in the interim, an inarguable side effect of our recent era has been a great diminishing in the scale of art in our lives. Across disciplines, our encounters with art have been reduced to squint-sized pixels, too often half-watched in isolation at 1.5x speed. As we reemerge from our collective cocoons, let's take the opportunity to restore art of all kinds to its rightful dimensions: to walk around a sculpture and explore it from every vantage point, to examine the physical texture of a painting's brushstrokes, to feel live music reverberate in your bones. For us, this of course means experiencing great cinema on the biggest screen possible, with surround sound and a room full of friends and strangers—to provide art with a stage worthy of its vision, where it can be something we sit in awe of rather than swipe past. Rediscover the pleasure of turning off your notifications and submitting to the grand spectacle of theatrical experience, of showing up at an appointed hour, of watching a single screen you can't pause, of sharing a precise moment in time and space with others, of simply *going out*.

This guide comprises a celebration of the entire ecosystem of cinema, from screenwriter to projectionist, from across the globe and the past century. Indeed, among their many more immediate pleasures, films from decades ago are reassurances that humanity has survived plenty of dark times with its humor and empathy intact. Let's not forget that the word cinema does not only refer to films—it is also what we call the spaces in which we gather to see them, too. Because we're not the only ones back where we belong, in theaters—you're back, too.

Inside

Ticket Information

PAGE 2

Theaters

PAGE 2

Film Descriptions

PAGE 5

Daily Schedule at a Glance

PAGE 16

FEST STAFF

- Professor Kelley Conway | Director
- Mike King | Artistic Director
- Ben Reiser | Director of Operations, Wisconsin's Own Programming
- Jim Healy | Consulting Programmer
- Terry Kerr | Big Screens, Little Folks Programming, Educational Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator
- Pauline Lampert | Wisconsin's Own Programmer, Print Traffic Coordinator
- Brody Coning | Wisconsin's Own Programmer
- Karin Kolb | Big Screens, Little Folks Senior Programmer
- Kyra Hunting | Big Screens, Little Folks Programmer
- Kathleen Ricci | Community, Corporate and Business Sponsorships
- Emilie Schada | Grants and Campus Partnerships
- Christina King | Art Director
- Karen Cross Durham | Marketing and PR
- Jane Schroeder | Events Coordinator
- Justin Dean | Technical Director
- Michaela Holzhter | Digital Communications

FILM PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

- Jim Healy (JH)
- Mike King (MK)
- Ben Reiser (BR)
- Terry Kerr (TK)
- Brody Coning (BC)
- Karin Kolb (KK)
- Pauline Lampert (PL)
- Kelley Conway (KC)
- Kyra Hunting (KH)
- Zachary Zahos (ZZ)

PROJECTIONISTS

- Julian Antos, Olivia Babler, Travis Bird, Mia Fiunefreddo, Alex Fountain, Becca Hall

SUPPORT STAFF

- Boyd Hillestad, Pete Sengstock, James Runde, Lynn Malone, Vickie Groth, Clara Schanck

TRAILER

- Justin Dean

About the Festival

First launched in 1999, the Wisconsin Film Festival curates, promotes, and exhibits programs that showcase the art and history of world cinema. A non-profit annual event supported by the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the Festival advances the teaching, research, and public service mission of the University by exposing the campus and the greater community to films and filmmakers from Wisconsin and beyond. The Wisconsin Film Festival is firmly grounded in the belief that cinema is an essential art form that enriches human experience and enhances our knowledge of diverse cultures. As such, we seek to create a strong sense of community by creating a diverse program of films for viewers of all ages presented with state-of-the-art projection. The Wisconsin Film Festival is the Wisconsin Idea in action.

Contact

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@wifilmfest



Opening Night Sponsors



UW-Madison Gender & Sexuality Campus Center



The Wisconsin Film Festival is presented by the University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Communication Arts.

April 7, 2022 at Memorial Union

Join us for our Opening Night Celebration and Reception Thursday

April 7, 2022 at Memorial Union

\$25

5:30 PM
MEMORIAL UNION
MAIN LOUNGE
Reception

\$12

7:00 PM
SHANNON HALL
ANAÏS IN LOVE

JOIN US
**OPENING
NIGHT**

APR
7

PURCHASE RECEPTION AND FILM TICKETS AT WIFILMFEST.EVENTIVE.ORG



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SHORT FILM INDEX

A 25 Cent Condom...	15	Devour	18	The Little Bang	23	Room Rodeo	26	Wali and Zuri	18
Ad meliora	18	Ditat Deus Donuts	18	Little Blood	26	Rosso	19	Wall Piano	26
Added Years	29	Dqlápð is Fine	19	Look Then Below	7	Sawyer County, 2020	24	What You Left Behind	20
Amber the Acrobat	19	The Driver	15	Married to the Bag	19	Sign Up!	23	The Wind That Held...	18
Be Big	23	A Due Remembrance...	18	Mila	26	The Small Hours	19	Written By	8
Bellysaurus	23	earhearthearth	7	Mitch Match #9	23	Speed Bumps	29	You've Never Been...	10
Bitchfest	24	Eat It	15	More Than Just a ...	15	Star Bound	23	Zog and the Flying...	23
Bodies, Borders...	8	Elevate	22	Mover	19	A Stone in the Shoe	26		
Cat and Bird	26	Food In Your Belly	8	Mum is Pouring Rain	25	Stranger Than Rotterdam...	24		
Connection	18	For Whom the Eagle...	15, 24	The Newest Olds	7	Summer Letter	18		
Conquistador	23	Garland	19	A Nice Jew	15	Thursday Friday...	15		
Cordialités	26	Hunters	29	Nigerian Letter	15	A Tiny Tale	26		
Craigslist Roommate	15	In Pursuit of Joy	19	Other Tidal Effects	18	Transaster	11		
Creature Features	8	Ink	23	Preschool Poets: Me	23	Umbrellas	25		
Dairyland	24	It Rains in My Heart	26	A Random Walk ...	18	Ursa: The Song...	23		
Dakota Farms	29	January	29	Report Card	18	Vancouver	8		
Deerwoods Deathtrap	25	Last Race	24	Respect Your Tenants	15	Vanille	25		



107 Mothers

Cenzorka

FRI, APRIL 8 • 5:30 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

SAT, APRIL 9 • 1:15 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic • 2021 • Ukrainian, Russian with English subtitles • **90 MIN**

Director: Peter Kerekes Cast: Maryna Klimova, Iryna Kiryazeva, Lyubov Vasylyna

A women's prison in Odessa is the setting for this unique and fascinating docudrama about young motherhood. From the moment she gives birth, Leysa knows she has three years to spend with her newborn. After that point, the terms of her sentence dictate that she must either surrender her child to an orphanage or find a guardian to take custody, forcing this new mom to repair her fraught relationship with her own mother. Faced with this deadline, Leysa develops a complicated bond with the watchful prison warden Iryna, a sympathetic loner with deep-seated mother issues of her own. Previously a director of documentaries, Peter Kerekes adopts a hybrid approach for his first feature, drawing extensively on interviews with real-life inmates, nearly all of whom portray themselves. "Unusual and rewarding. Though the subject matter is solemn, its treatment here is streaked with wry, even faintly absurd humor, as well as a climactic hint of uplift that feels as fully earned as it is unexpected. Kerekes's novel, briskly beautiful film finds pragmatic rewards in community, and the allies that you're forced to make in desperate, confined circumstances" (*Variety*). Best Screenplay, 2021 Venice Film Festival. Best Director, 2021 Chicago Film Festival. (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison German, Nordic & Slavic Studies and Center for Russia, East Europe and Central Asia (CREECA)



Ahed's Knee

Ha'berech

SUN, APRIL 10 • 4:30 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

MON, APRIL 11 • 6 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

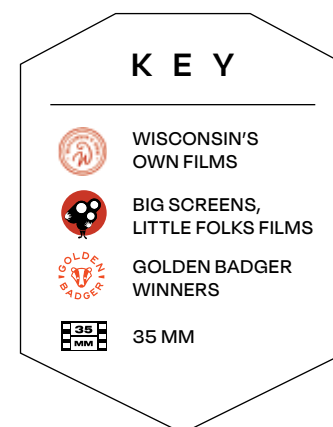
Narrative • Israel, France, Germany • 2021 • Hebrew with English subtitles • **109 MIN**

Director: Nadav Lapid Cast: Avshalom Pollak, Nur Fibak, Yoram Honig

Celebrated Israeli filmmaker Y has come to a remote town in the Arava desert to screen one of his movies at a local library. His host is Yahalom, a flirtatious young librarian who's also a big fan. In her position in the Ministry of Culture, Yahalom just needs Y to sign an agreement that restricts his Q&A to a preordained list of culturally safe topics—and he's having none of it. His rage may be justified, but Y is also as boorish and self-aggrandizing as Yahalom is as cour-

teous and well-intentioned. The best film yet from essential Israeli auteur Nadav Lapid (*Synonyms*, *The Kindergarten Teacher*), *Ahed's Knee* is both a blistering critique of state-run censorship and a blazing display of cinematic prowess. "Pay attention to the style," Y advises about his own film, and *Ahed's Knee* itself is told with the electric kinetic energy of its many brilliantly deployed whip-pans. Fearlessly biting the hand that feeds, Lapid based his film on an experience he had presenting *Policeman* (WFF 2012) in Arava. "Astonishing, startling, intellectually bruising... quite possibly brilliant" (*Variety*). "Cuts to the heart of Lapid's visceral genius. Lapid is Israel's most vital auteur" (*Indiewire*). 2021 Cannes, New York Film Festivals. (MK)

Presented with support of Hillel Foundation at the University of Wisconsin





Ali & Ava

THU, APRIL 14 • 6 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

THU, APRIL 14 • 8:30 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

Narrative • UK • 2021 • 95 MIN

Director: Clio Barnard Cast: Adeel Akhtar, Claire Rushbrook, Natalie Gavin

Ali (Adeel Akhtar) is a working class British Pakistani landlord who is on friendly terms with his tenants. Irish-born Ava (Claire Rushbrook) is one of those tenants, as well as a mother of five, and teacher's assistant. One rainy day, Ali offers Ava a ride home from school, and through their shared love of music, they form an instant bond. Over the course of this warmly affecting mid-life love story, that bond is tested – Ava's adult son, Callum, still in pain over the death of his father, is having none of this inter-racial romance, and Ali's soon-to-be-ex-wife, Runa, is still a presence in his life and home, and a source of jealousy for Ava – but the most delightful thing about this earnest, exceedingly lowkey gem is how diligently it avoids melodrama and pathos, opting instead for gentle optimism and well-earned laughs with it's occasional tears. Imagine Mike Leigh directing an episode of *Ted Lasso* and you'll begin to get a sense of the tone and timbre of this uniquely radiant charmer. If you're looking to end your Wisconsin Film Festival on a note of joyful, lived-in bliss. *Ali & Ava* is your ticket. (BR)

Presented with support from Hilldale Madison



All Eyes Off Me

Mishehu Yohav Mishehu

FRI, APRIL 8 • 5:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

SAT, APRIL 9 • 12:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

Narrative • Israel • 2021 • Hebrew with English subtitles • 88 MIN

Director: Hadas ben Aroya Cast: Elisheva Weil, Leib Levin, Yoav Hayt

An up-to-the-minute snapshot of sex and intimacy in Tel Aviv, this edgy indie kicks off at a crowded house party. A young woman, her face strewn with glitter, is roaming from room to room in pursuit of her boyfriend, but keeps getting pulled aside to do drugs, make out, or both. By the time she tells him she's pregnant, he's already moved on to his new flame, Avishang. In a postcoital afterglow, these two new lovers reveal their inner selves to one another: he recounts a recent bisexual encounter, while Avishang requests that their sex get rougher. The couple goes for it in an intense, single graphic take, but it isn't until a drunken night of dog-sitting that Avishang makes a true connection. Writer/director Hadas Ben Aroya has crafted a fearless depiction of lost youth that is at once provocative and compassionate, without ever dipping into either sensationalism or sentimentality. Star Elisheva Weil is utterly captivating, giving a daring, totally alive performance that earned her the Best Actress prize at the Jerusalem Film Festival. "Electrifies with its raw, razor-sharp honesty. Like a gayer, spunkier Linklater, Ben Aroya weaves together tales of encounters and connections with erotically charged naturalism" (*Awards Daily*). Viewer discretion advised. (MK)

Presented with support of Hillel Foundation at the University of Wisconsin and the UW-Madison Gender & Sexuality Campus Center



Aloners

Hon-ja-sa-neun Sa-ram-deul

SAT, APRIL 9 • 8:15 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

SUN, APRIL 10 • 4:15 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • South Korea • 2021 • Korean with English subtitles • 91 MIN

Director: Hong Sung-eun Cast: Gong Seung-yeon, Jeong Da-eun, Seo Hyun-woo

If it wasn't for her job at a call center, Jina might never speak to anyone. Commuting directly to and from work with her earbuds screwed in and her phone shielding her face, Jina's routine is primed for a maximum of efficiency and minimum of interactions. Her strong social armor begins to crack when she's asked to train a new employee at work, and when her next-door neighbor, a fellow loner, dies without her even noticing. In her solitude, Jina is hardly alone—up to a third of Seoul's households consist of people choosing to live by themselves. Hong Sung-eun's perceptive debut addresses this newfound societal phenomenon with a gentle touch that is empathetic rather than hectoring, anchored by a superb performance by Gong Seung-yeon, who won Best Actress awards at the Torino and Jeonju Film Festivals. Though filmed before the pandemic, *Aloners* has only become more globally resonant after years of social distancing. "A truly poignant experience... wholly emotional and relatable, especially now. Featuring a powerful central performance, it marks a stellar directorial debut from Hong Sung-eun" (*Film Inquiry*). (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Asian American Studies



Amira

SAT, APRIL 9 • 7:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

TUE, APRIL 12 • 3:15 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

Narrative • Egypt, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia • 2021 • Arabic, Hebrew with English subtitles • 98 MIN

Director: Mohamed Diab Cast: Saba Mubarak, Tara Abboud, Ali Suleiman, Ziad Bakri

Amira, a 17-year-old Palestinian, was conceived through artificial insemination with the smuggled sperm of her father, Nawar, who has been in prison since before she was born. Although their relationship since birth has been restricted to prison visits, Amira considers Nawar a hero and martyr for the cause of Palestinian independence. His absence in her life is overcompensated with love and affection from her mother and other family surrounding her. But when a failed attempt to conceive another child reveals Nawar's infertility, Amira learns the truth about her parents. An emotional and tragic melodrama, *Amira* is the latest feature from the imaginative Egyptian filmmaker Mohammed Diab, director of *Clash* (WFF 2017) and the upcoming Marvel series *Moon Knight*. Working from the very real premise that more than a hundred babies have been conceived through artificial insemination between men in prisons and their wives in the outside world, Diab finds a provocative and compelling way to explore what it means to grow up in the very eye of the storm of contemporary Israeli-Palestinian relations, and in a family where women and girls are subjugated as second class citizens. Winner, Interfilm Award, Laterna Magica Award, 2021 Venice International Film Festival. (JH)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Middle Eastern Studies

WISCONSIN FILM FESTIVAL

MERCH



MERCH

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OPENING
NIGHT
Selection

Anaïs in Love *Les amours d'Anaïs*

THU, APRIL 7 • 7 PM SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION

Narrative • France • 2021 • French with English subtitles • 98 MIN

Director: Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet Cast: Anaïs Demoustier, Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Denis Podalydès, Jean-Charles Clichet

A young free spirit has a fling with a married man, but falls hard for his wife in this breezy delight. As charmingly carefree in matters of the heart as she is charmingly careless about the actual details of her life, Anaïs is forever running late for something (even the camera seems to be racing to keep up with her). After breaking up with her boyfriend, she casually hooks up with a much older man, who is naturally much more taken with her than she with him. Truth is, she's totally smitten with his wife, a celebrated novelist and essayist who Anaïs secretly trails to a writers' retreat along the sun-streaked Brittany coast, in hopes of finding a moment alone to act on her infatuation. Writer/director Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet's sexy, witty, and refreshingly adult debut boasts an ebullient star turn from Anaïs

Demoustier, who you'll fall for as readily as the rest of the characters. "As light and airy as a summer breeze... a film that feels like the holiday none of us can take at present. Demoustier lights up the screen with her boundless energy and beaming charm" (*Screen Daily*). "Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet displays perfect mastery of her subject. Emotional and sincere, full of energy and freedom, occasionally sensual, very often funny and boasting superb photography, *Anaïs in Love* is a wonderful demonstration of the wide range of talents enjoyed by this young filmmaker" (*Cineuropa*). (MK)

Presented with support of UW-Madison Gender & Sexuality Campus Center and the Department of French and Italian

Anonymous Club

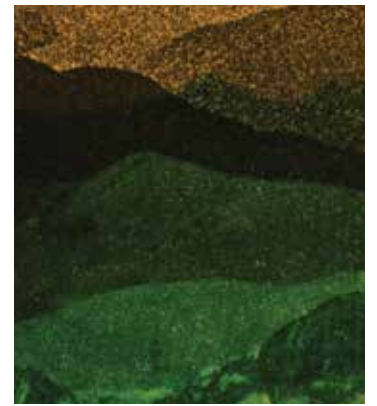
FRI, APRIL 8 • 6:30 PM

THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

Documentary • Australia • 2021 • 83 MIN

Director: Danny Cohen Cast: Courtney Barnett

Anonymous Club is a feature length portrait of Courtney Barnett, the Australian singer, songwriter, and musician. Barnett is known for her deadpan singing style and witty, rambling lyrics, and she has amassed a loyal fanbase around the world. If you are a part of this fanbase, then you already know: *Anonymous Club* is for you. But here's the thing: if you are not a member of the Courtney Barnett fanbase, *Anonymous Club* is still for you. In many ways the antithesis of a rock documentary, *Anonymous*, filmed in glorious 16mm over a three-year period, is Barnett, captured in a series of private moments by her friend, director Danny Cohen. At Cohen's urging, Barnett supplied him with an audio diary, which serves as the narration for the film. The diary reveals an artist at war with herself, depressed, reticent, and displaying a profound lack of confidence which both cripples and propels her through the rigors of an album release and solo tour, as she forces herself into the spotlight that, at first, feels anything but comforting. The power of *Anonymous* lies in just how engaging and welcoming it is in its portrait of an artist simultaneously in disarray and at the height of her powers, and in how little Barnett knowledge one needs to appreciate the cinematic storytelling craft on display by Cohen. 2022 SXSW Film Festival. (BR)



Avant Landscapes

FRI, APRIL 8 • 8:15 PM

UW CINEMATHEQUE

66 MIN

Embark on a far-out vision quest with this mesmerizing avant-garde program. These three short films transform far-flung earthly landscapes into mind-melting psychedelic trips that make full use of the undiluted power of theatrical sound and image. (MK)

Look Then Below

Experimental • UK • 2019 • 22 MIN

Director: Ben Rivers

Blending digital effects with 16mm footage he shot in the depths of the Wookey Hole Caves in Somerset, UK, leading avant-garde filmmaker Ben Rivers (*Two Years at Sea*, WFF 2012, *A Spell to Ward Off the Darkness*, WFF 2014) conjures an iridescent, subterranean netherworld. (MK)

The Newest Olds

Experimental • Argentina • 2022 • 14 MIN

Director: Pablo Mazzolo

The skyscrapers of Detroit quiver and quake in Argentine filmmaker Pablo Mazzolo's warped cityscape, created with alchemical, in-camera, and optical printing techniques. (MK)

earthearthearth

35mm • Experimental • Canada • 2021 • 30 MIN

Director: Daichi Saito

Presented on 35mm, Daichi Saito's stunner uses strictly analog techniques to transform footage filmed in the Andes mountain range into an otherworldly experience, set to a transcendent score by saxophonist Jason Sharp. "A multifaceted gem, shimmering with each light-encrusted frame. Like a constantly metamorphosing series of paintings, the film astonishes with its shifts of pigment, texture, and composition. Through his oneiric combination of sound and image, Saito catapults us into the realm of the heavens" (*Artforum*). (MK)



The Best Years of Our Lives

FRI, APRIL 8 • 1:30 PM
UW CINEMATHEQUE


SCHEDULED TO ATTEND:
MICHAEL POGORZELSKI

Narrative • USA • 1946 • **168 MIN**

Director: William Wyler Cast: Myrna Loy, Fredric March, Dana Andrews, Teresa Wright, Harold Russell, Virginia Mayo, Hoagy Carmichael

Three American servicemen (Fredric March, Dana Andrews, Harold Russell) return to their hometown and struggle with the myriad challenges of post-war life in this epic drama from director William Wyler, which was the biggest box-office hit of its year as well as a Best Picture winner. Powerfully poignant and emotional, Wyler's vision is brought to stirring life through the score by Hugo Friedhofer and the deep focus cinematography of the great Gregg Toland. But Wyler's greatest achievement is assembling the magnificent ensemble cast, which also includes great performances from Myrna Loy, Virginia Mayo, and Teresa Wright. UW Madison alum March earned his second Best Actor Academy Award and disabled veteran Russell won a Supporting Actor Oscar. This special screening of a new restoration of *The Best Years of Our Lives* from the Academy Film Archive will be introduced by Mike Pogorzelski, UW Madison Alum and Director of the Academy Film Archive at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Restored by The Academy Film Archive, The Library of Congress and The Film Foundation. Restoration funding provided by the Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation. (JH)



 Wisconsin's Own Shorts

Bodies, Borders, and Belonging

SUN, APRIL 10 • 6:45 PM
THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH
82 MIN

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

Join us for five Wisconsin's Own shorts that shine a light on the human condition, even when those humans are fictional characters (*Written By*) or portrayed by puppets (*Vancouver*).

Food In Your Belly

Documentary • USA • 2021 • **15 MIN**
Director: Lukas Chin and Gabi Medrano Cast: Aster Wells-Byers

Food in Your Belly is an intimate portrait of one woman overcoming an eating disorder by hiking 1400 miles of the Appalachian Trail while snacking for sustenance. Come for the gorgeous views and tasty treats, stay for the sensitive story of recovery. (BC)

Written By

Wisconsin's Own, Narrative
• USA • 2021 • **15 MIN**

Director: Callie Bloem and Christopher Ewing
Cast: Jaz Sinclair, Sara Paxton, Katie Asleton

What do fictional characters do with the rest of their lives, once their stories have been told? This charmingly offbeat, deadpan fantasy by the writing-directing team of Callie Bloem and Chris Ewing (*Thru* WFF '10) attempts to answer that question. (BR)

Creature Features

Narrative, experimental,
documentary • 2022 • **7 MIN**

Director: Matthew Sanborn
Cast: Matthew Sanborn

Medical maladies magically transform into compelling characters in Matthew Sanborn's hybrid short. (BR)

Bodies, Borders, and Belonging

Dance, experimental • USA • 2021 • **12 MIN**

Director: Litza Bixler Cast: Jackson Neal, Tye Trondson, Lauren Lynch, Veda Manly, Caylin McGlynn

Renowned choreographer Litza Bixler, who is best known for her work in films such as *Shaun of the*

Dead and The World's End, brings her singular vision to bear in this collaboration with UW - Madison students about the relationship between geography and identity. (PL)

Vancouver

Narrative, puppetry • USA • 2021 • **33 MIN**

Director: Ralph B. Peña Cast: Shannon Tyo, Daniel K. Isaac, James Yaegashi, Cindy Cheung

A mixed race couple living in Vancouver contemplates a move back to Japan, the husband's native country. This sometimes tender, sometimes bracingly raw family drama is brought to life through intricate marionettes and carefully orchestrated camerawork. While the characters may be played by puppets, the emotional resonance is recognizably human. (PL)

This program is presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin



The Box

La Caja

FRI, APRIL 8 • 6 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

SUN, APRIL 10 • 4 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Narrative • Mexico, USA • 2021 • Spanish with English subtitles • **92 MIN**

Director: Lorenzo Vigas Cast: Hernán Mendoza, Hatzín Navarrete

All alone on a bus in a Chihuahuan desert town, 13-year-old Hatzín spots his recently deceased dad out the window. Scrambling off the bus, he runs up to the man, who claims the boy is mistaken. Undeterred, Hatzín keeps pushing until Mario takes pity on the kid and reluctantly takes him under his wing. As a labor recruiter, Mario travels across the region rounding up cheap labor for sweatshops, a shady business for which the kid proves to be a remarkably adept apprentice. The more Mario starts treating Hatzín like the son he still insists he isn't, the deeper he brings the boy into his hard-boiled underworld—will Hatzín finally get a father figure at the cost of becoming a criminal? Mixing elements of film noir and family drama, director Lorenzo Vigas keeps his story's mysteries tantalizingly alive, drawing us in along with riveting performances from Hernán Mendoza and Hatzín

Navarrete. The drama plays out against the evocative backdrop of the rural Chihuahua landscape, captured on painterly 35mm by frequent Pablo Larraín collaborator Sergio Armstrong. "Superb. This is only notionally a small film, with much weighing on its mind" (*Variety*). "Extraordinary. Mesmerizing... right till the film's final, powerfully resonant close-up" (*Screen*). 2021 Venice, San Sebastian Film Festivals. (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Department of Portuguese & Spanish



Brother's Keeper

Okul Tirasi

SAT, APRIL 9 • 11:15 AM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

MON, APRIL 11 • 1:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • Turkey • 2021 • Turkish, Kurdish with English subtitles • **85 MIN**

Director: Ferit Karahan Cast: Samet Yıldız, Nurullah Alaca, Ekin Koc, Mahir Ipek

Pre-teens Yusuf and his best friend Memo are pupils at a boarding school for Kurdish boys, remotely secluded in the mountainous Eastern Anatolia region of Turkey. When Memo falls mysteriously ill, Yusuf is forced to struggle through the bureaucratic obstacles put up by the school's repressive authorities to try to help his friend. But by the time the adults in charge finally understand the seriousness of Memo's condition and try to get him to the hospital, the school has been buried under a sudden, heavy snowfall. As time threatens to run out, teachers and pupils engage in a blame game where grudges, feelings of guilt, and hidden secrets emerge...Told with all the suspense, and twists of a well-oiled thriller, *Brother's Keeper* nevertheless is much, much more than a machine of a movie. The third feature from co-writer/director Ferit Karahan draws upon his own education in an atmosphere of fear at a boarding school to give the movie its specific and authentic flavor. Winner of prizes at the 2021 Berlin and Chicago International Film Festivals, *Brother's Keeper* pointedly explores one system built on

lies, revealing that its victims and perpetrators are often one and the same. "There's a crystalline precision and angularity to the plotting, which grows more compelling with each layer of culpability that is unpeeled" (*Wendy Ide, Screen International*). (JH)



Il Buco

FRI, APRIL 8 • 3:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

SAT, APRIL 9 • 1:30 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Narrative • Italy, France, Germany • 2021 • Italian with English subtitles • **93 MIN**

Director: Michelangelo Frammartino
Cast: Paolo Cossi, Jacopo Eia, Denise Trombin, Nicola Lanza

In 1961, a group of young speleologists descended into a fairly unassuming hole in the Italian countryside, and got to the bottom of one of the planet's deepest known caves. Nearly 700 meters down, the Bifurto Abyss is an otherworldly landscape the likes of which few living creatures have ever seen, and visionary director Michelangelo Frammartino's long-awaited follow-up to *The Four Times* (WFF 2011) reenacts its mapping with awestruck wonder. By the light of torches and helmet lamps, the team of spelunkers rappel down caverns, squeeze through crevices, and even raft across underground pools in pursuit of a floor that seems to never come. Frammartino treats the cave with the hushed reverence of a cathedral, while simultaneously pulling off one incomprehensibly difficult shot after another. An eye-opening tribute to the supreme majesty of the natural world, *Il Buco* is a welcome reminder that there are frontiers to explore in every direction, even beneath us. "A quiet, intense, almost overwhelmingly beautiful meditation on life, death, human curiosity and the unfathomable power of nature" (A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*). Special Jury Prize, 2021 Venice Film Festival. (MK)



The Cathedral

SAT, APRIL 9 • 6 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

SUN, APRIL 10 • 1:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5
Narrative • USA • 2021 • **87 MIN**

Director: Ricky D'Ambrose Cast: Monica Barbaro, Brian d'Arcy James, Geraldine Singer

A boy comes of age while his family unravels in this vividly rendered portrait of middle-class American life in the 1980s and 90s. An only child in the New York suburbs, Jesse witnesses his parents' professional and familial successes and failures as he grows from preschool to college. The story is archetypal, but the telling is enveloping in its specificity. Writer/director Ricky D'Ambrose communicates his autobiographical tale with a metonymic attention to detail, lavishing attention on the everyday objects and rooms that make up our memories. The period-precise catalog of vintage toys, Corningware, and Pepsi cans, all lovingly photographed, are sure to trigger shivers of recognition in anyone who lived through the era, as will the clips from TV news and commercials that are used as signposts throughout the film. At once a clear-eyed reflection on America's recent history and a warmly nostalgic madeleine about growing up within it, *The Cathedral* is "a quietly stunning jewel box of a film" (Alissa Wilkinson, *Vox*). "With *The Cathedral*, D'Ambrose vaults to a major voice in filmmaking" (Glenn Kenney, *rogerebert.com*). 2022 Sundance, Rotterdam Film Festivals. (MK)



Charm Circle

TUE, APRIL 12 • 5:30 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1
WED, APRIL 13 • 12:30 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: NIRA BURSTEIN

Documentary • USA • 2021 • **79 MIN** | Director: Nira Burstein

Nira Burstein was born and raised on Charm Circle, a quaint Queens cul-de-sac that feels slightly removed from the bustle of the neighborhood. But behind the front door, the apartment she grew up in has devolved into a chaotic shambles to rival *Grey Gardens*. Her parents' mental health is deteriorating along with their living space—their constant bickering is amusing one moment and barbed the next. After upbringings regularly interrupted by psychiatric stays, the family's long-running squabbles reach a boiling point when Nira's cantankerous dad can't bring himself to attend her sister's polyamorous wedding. Deftly weaving contemporary footage with home movies covering her whole life, documentarian Nira Burstein examines her fractured family from the inside out, and sees if it can be pieced back together. Funny and tragic—frequently in the same moment—this tough-love family portrait is never less than unflinchingly honest, and all the more moving for it. "Intimate, humorous and offbeat. *Charm Circle* is an enthralling and distinctly personal study into the nature of family" (*Backseat Mafia*). "A joyous, often piercingly beautiful work of non-fiction. Burstein's film showed that, even among dysfunction, trauma, and seemingly intractable bouts of pain, there is still space for love, for dignity, and most importantly for healing" (*Filmmaker Magazine*). Audience Award, 2021 Sheffield DocFest. (MK)

Presented with support from George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies



Claydream

SAT, APRIL 9 • 8:15 PM
UW CINEMATHEQUE

WED, APRIL 13 • 3 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Documentary • USA • 2021 • **96 MIN**

Director: Marq Evans

A self-styled, modern-day Walt Disney, Will Vinton picked up a ball of clay and saw a world of potential. Known as the "Father of Claymation," Vinton revolutionized the animation business during the 1970s, '80s, and '90s, first with his Oscar-winning and Oscar-nominated stop-motion short films,

maintained a stubborn and frequently uncommunicative leader. The artist's complicated nature is revealed in the deposition footage from his lawsuit against Knight, who was later instrumental in transforming Will Vinton Studios into Laika Entertainment, producers of a string of critical and audience hits including *Coraline* and *Kubo and the Two Strings*. (JH)



Cocktail Hour

SUN, APRIL 10 • 4:30 PM
UW CINEMATHEQUE

Narrative • USA • 1933 • **74 MIN**

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: RITA BELDA

Director: Victor Schertzinger Cast: Bebe Daniels, Randolph Scott, Sidney Blackmer

The vivacious Bebe Daniels stars as Cynthia, an artist who prizes her freedom and has no shortage of male admirers. Chief among her suitors is her primary patron, Randy (Randolph Scott), who really wants to marry Cynthia, although he has a funny way of showing it. Leaving for Europe on board a luxury liner, Cynthia makes pals with Olga (the hilarious Muriel Kirkland), a faux Russian from Topeka, and becomes intrigued with the wealthy William Lawton (Sidney Blackmer, 35 years before portraying Roman Castevet in *Rosemary's Baby*). Cynthia's romantic entanglements become even less likely to be straightened out once she reaches the shores of London and Paris. Filmed entirely on sets at Columbia Pictures, *Cocktail Hour* is quintessential entertainment from Hollywood's pre-code era. This romantic comedy features some light melodramatic flourishes, plenty of fast-talking characters, and lots of alcohol consumption. The movie also has time to fit in a few songs, including one terrific ditty performed by Bebe Daniels and written by director (and former concert pianist) Victor Schertzinger. This new 4K version of *Cocktail Hour*, supervised by Sony Pictures Entertainment's Vice President Rita Belda, restores one racy comic sequence that was excised from releases after the enforcement of the censorious Production Code. (JH)



Commitment Hasan

Baglilik Hasan

SAT, APRIL 9 • 2:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

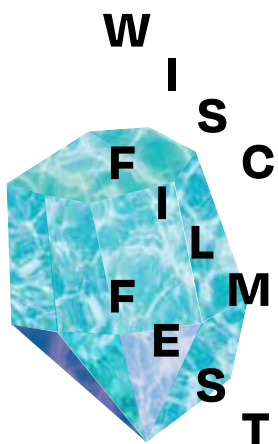
MON, APRIL 11 • 2:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Narrative • Turkey • 2021 • Turkish

with English subtitles • **147 MIN**

Director: Semih Kaplanoglu Cast: Umut Karadag, Filiz Bozok, Gökhan Azlag, Ayşe Günyüz Demirci, Mahir Günşiray

As engrossing as a thick novel, *Commitment Hasan* is a sharp examination of money and corruption in rural Turkey. Hasan has been carefully tending to his farm in the beautiful and fertile Turkish countryside ever since inheriting it from his father. But when government officials reveal their plans to plant an enormous pylon smack dab in the middle of his land, it loosens something within him, revealing an instinct for self-preservation at all costs. At the same time, Hasan and his wife have finally received approval to make a long-awaited pilgrimage to Mecca. This happy news unexpectedly dredges up more soul-searching, as preparation for the trip requires a spiritual cleanse in which travelers must receive forgiveness from everyone they have ever wronged, forcing Hasan to reopen chapters from his past that he'd rather leave closed. Shot in impossibly lush 6K, *Commitment Hasan* sets its complex moral dilemmas against images of such fine-grained detail that it feels as though you could reach out and touch them. "Strikingly beautiful. Combines an enveloping sense of place with a pleasingly textured portrait of an imperfect man" (*Screen*). 2021 Cannes Film Festival. Best International Film, 2021 Mostra Film Festival, São Paulo. (MK)





The Conversation

FRI, APRIL 8 • 11 AM

UW CINEMATHEQUE

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: DAVID KOEPP

35mm • Narrative • USA • 1974 • 113 MIN

Director: Francis Ford Coppola Cast: Gene Hackman, John Cazale, Allen Garfield, Cindy Williams, Frederic Forrest, Harrison Ford, Robert Duvall, Teri Garr

In perhaps his finest performance, Gene Hackman plays surveillance expert Harry Caul, an extremely private man with a haunted past and a deep sense of personal guilt. Hired by a mysterious corporation (represented by Harrison Ford) to secretly record a conversation between a frightened young pair of lovers (Cindy Williams & Frederic Forrest), Harry finds his life violently invaded when his eavesdropping leads him too close to the truth. Made between the first and second *Godfather* films, Francis Ford Coppola's intelligent, suspenseful, and personal character piece stands as one of the great films of the 1970s, and a showcase for its great supporting cast, which also includes John Cazale, Allen Garfield, Teri Garr, and Robert Duvall. Coppola once said that "Sound is 50% of the whole cinema experience. It is your best friend because it works on the audience secretly!" This newly struck 35mm print of *The Conversation* features a new, multi-channel soundtrack, the remix of which was overseen by legendary Sound Designer and frequent Coppola collaborator, Walter Murch. Along with Antonioni's *Blowup*, *The Conversation* is part of the cinematic connective tissue that led to Brian DePalma's *Blow Out* and Steven Soderbergh's *KIMI* (also showing at this year's WFF). David Koepp, *KIMI*'s screenwriter, will introduce this screening. (JH)



COW

SAT, APRIL 9 • 6:15 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

TUE, APRIL 12 • 1:45 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Documentary • United Kingdom • 2021 • 93 MIN • Director: Andrea Arnold

The fiction films of Andrea Arnold, the British director celebrated for *Fish Tank* (2009), are notable for their single mothers, minimal dialogue, and intimate camerawork. Her largely wordless documentary, *Cow*, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2021, is no different. But this time, her protagonist is a cow named Luma, whose perspective and experiences Arnold captures through close framing and long takes. Arnold spent four years chronicling the life of a dairy cow and the result is a riveting account of motherhood and the daily rhythms of life on a farm. This absorbing documentary borrows the observational strategies of a Frederick Wiseman film, creating extraordinary intimacy, emotion, and surprise. "... [O]ne of the most beautifully crafted and tender portraits of a life you are likely to see" (Simon Hattenstone, *The Guardian*). (KC)



Death Becomes Her

SAT, APRIL 9 • 5:45 PM

CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: DAVID KOEPP

35mm • Narrative • USA • 1992 • 104 MIN

Director: Robert Zemeckis Cast: Meryl Streep, Bruce Willis, Goldie Hawn

The dream of eternal youth is at the shriveled heart of this riotous supernatural comedy. Meryl Streep and Goldie Hawn square off as life-long Beverly Hills rivals, obsessed with one-upping each other at any cost, up to and including stealing each other's nebbishy boyfriend (Bruce Willis). The ultimate trump card comes in the form of a magic potion promising eternal youth peddled by a supersexy septuagenarian (Isabella Rossellini), which is eagerly gulped down by both would-be glamour queens. And indeed, the women are restored to their youthful beauty... and also become unkillable vixens. The ensuing showdown is a spectacular fusion of outlandish slapstick comedy and still-impressive, Academy-Award winning special effects. Concocted between his *Back to the Future* trilogy and *Forrest Gump*, Robert Zemeckis's macabre treat is a hilarious and pointed sendup of Hollywood's obsession with youth and beauty—or, as Streep recently observed, "it's sort of a documentary on aging in Los Angeles now." Our screening will be followed by a discussion with co-screenwriter David Koepp, who envisioned the film as "*Night of the Living Dead*, if George Cukor had directed it." "Deliciously deranged. That *Death Becomes Her* was made at all feels like a miracle" (*Vanity Fair*). "Frankly, a masterpiece" (*Screen Slate*). (MK)



Death Game

MON, APRIL 11 • 8 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

You've Never Been Completely Honest

Experimental • USA • 2022 • 11 MIN

Director: Joey Izzo Cast: Phil Burgers, Pat Healy, Max Baumgarten, Bill O'Neill, Ian Bratschie, DeMorge Brown

Animation, documentary audio, and dramatic re-enactments are combined in this innovative short film that tells the disturbing true story of a secretive "leadership seminar" in the early 1970s.

Death Game

Narrative • USA • 1977 • 87 MIN

Director: Peter S. Traynor Cast: Sonda Locke, Colleen Camp, Seymour Cassel

Average loving husband George (Seymour Cassel, veteran of several John Cassavetes and Wes Anderson movies) has his California house to himself for a weekend, while his wife goes to visit family out of town. On his first rainy evening alone, George is visited by two soaked and seemingly lost young women (Sonda Locke and Colleen Camp) whom he invites in to dry off from the rain. After an evening of sexual bliss with the comely lasses, George soon finds himself a prisoner in his own home, and bound and tortured by the not-so-innocent ladies, who also make a point of trashing the house and throwing around a lot of food. But in the moral universe of this movie, the guilty must be punished, and *everyone* is guilty. Remade in 2015 as *Knock Knock*, directed by Eli Roth and starring Keanu Reeves, *Death Game* is a truly odd and authentically nightmarish American thriller. Conceived as a serious, independent project, the movie ran into several production problems, including a dispute between director Peter Traynor and leading man Cassel, whose every line is dubbed by cinematographer and editor David Worth as a result! Finally released several years after it was shot, the exploitation distributors who put the film in theaters and drive-ins on its original release never gave the movie much of a chance to find an appreciative audience. Available for decades only in vastly inferior pan-and-scan

video versions (usually titled *The Seducers*), this new 4K digital version from Grindhouse Releasing has been restored from the original widescreen Panavision camera negative. (JH)



Dolls

SAT, APRIL 9 • 8:30 PM

CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

35mm • Narrative • USA, Italy • 1987 • 77 MIN

Director: Stuart Gordon Cast: Guy Rolfe, Ian Patrick Williams, Carolyn Purdy-Gordon, Carrie Lorraine

"When I was going to the University of Wisconsin, there was a doll museum on the top floor of this historical society, and I always knew that under no circumstances would I want to be trapped there when the lights went out" (Stuart Gordon, 1993). Before Chucky, there was Stuart Gordon's *Dolls!*: Gordon's second feature and follow-up to *Re-Animator* is an affectionate throwback to 1930s horror classics like *The Old Dark House* and *The Devil Doll*, with a mild dollop of 1980s gore and mayhem added. The story follows a half dozen tourists who all wind up at a remote mansion occupied by elderly doll maker Gabriel (the elegant Guy Rolfe, who played the title character in one of Gordon's favorite movies, William Castle's *Mr. Sardonicus*). Soon, several of Gabriel's (mostly unlikeable) guests fall prey to his small army of creepy and violent toy creations, who come to life in order to carry out something much more menacing than simple murder. Featuring some ingenious and economical animatronic and stop-motion effects, *Dolls* was filmed in Europe between Gordon's Lovecraft adaptations *Re-Animator* and *From Beyond* (though *From Beyond* was released before *Dolls*). Gordon here captures the darkly humorous tone of another of his favorite authors, the aptly named Roald Dahl. *Dolls'* screenplay is by Ed Naha, Gordon's collaborator on the script for *Teenie Weenies*, the movie that would become *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*. *The 35mm print that will be shown is from the Stuart Gordon Collection at the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research, part of the Wisconsin Historical Society.* (JH)



Big Screens Little Folks / Ages 10+

Dreams Are Like Wild Tigers

FRI, APRIL 8 • 2 PM
THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

Transaster

Narrative • USA • 2021 • 14 MIN
Director: Dana Pellebon Cast: Daniel Ratliff, Laetitia Howard, Elaina Katzke

Rayna and Nora are teammates on a high school volleyball team, but will Rayna's intolerance over Nora's friendship with Cole, who is trans, cost them a championship? (BR)

This film is presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

Dreams Are Like Wild Tigers

Träume sind wie wilde Tiger

Narrative • Germany • 2021 • German with English subtitles • 93 MIN

Director: Lars Montag Cast: Shan Robitzky, Annis Krischke, Claude Heinrich, Murali Perumal, Sushila Sara Mai, Simon Schwarz, Irshad Panjatan, Terence Lewis

12-year-old Ranji loves his vibrant home in Mumbai and Bollywood. He dreams of being a star like his idol, Amir. When he learns of auditions for a boy to appear in the next Amir feature, he is sure his dream is about to come true. But Ranji's parents dream of a better life in Germany, and take him there just as the audition videos are due. Ranji must navigate the struggles of immigration, school bullies, new friends, music videos, and his return to India to realize his wild dream. Full of color, music, and fantasy, *Dreams Are Like Wild Tigers* is a roller coaster ride through self-doubt, obstacles, the kindness of others, and belief in oneself. (TK)

Presented with support of UW-Madison German, Nordic & Slavic Studies



Duvidha

SUN, APRIL 10 • 1 PM UW CINEMATHEQUE
SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: LOUBNA RÉGRAGUI

Duvidha

Narrative • India • 1973 • Hindi with English subtitles • 78 MIN
Director: Mani Kaul Cast: Ravi Menon, Raisa Padamsee, Hardan

In this mesmerizing cinematic retelling of a supernatural folk tale from India's Rajasthani region, a newly married couple traveling by oxcart are watched by a shape-shifting ghost who inhabits a tree and lusts after the bride. The ambitious and money-consuming groom shocks his bride by telling her he's leaving for five years to make his fortune, without consummating the marriage. The ghost, seeing his opportunity, takes the form of the groom. What transpires next is a surprising tale that explores the true meaning of love and honor. Nuanced and contemplative, *Duvidha* was the first color feature from Mani Kaul, a major artist in the Indian New Wave of the 1960s and 1970s. Here, working with considerable imagination on an extremely low budget, Kaul reveals several radical techniques in cinematography, editing, and the marriage of sound and image, particularly in his spare use of dialogue and innovative deployment of narration. A masterpiece of highly inflected gestures and brief close-ups of faces that express what cannot be said in a dozen pages of dialogue, *Duvidha* is a pure cinematic experience. A recent restoration from the archive of India's National Film Development Corporation will be shown. "A metaphysical love story that, in Kaul's hands, yields a quietly accusatory political fury...Kaul's stylistic flourishes warn viewers not to mistake a bowed head for submission, silence for consent, and socially acceptable appearances for lack of the power and will to revolt" (Richard Brody, *The New Yorker*). (JH)

The Nine Lakh Stars

Documentary • France • 2022 • French, Hindi with English subtitles • 67 MIN

Director: Loubna Régragui

Filmmaker and film preservationist Loubna Régragui sets out to uncover the mysteries behind the making of Mani Kaul's *Duvidha*, and its lasting impact on her as a viewer. Régragui contends that *Duvidha* marked the beginning of a body of work that would express the essence of the New Indian Cinema of the early 1970s. Before his death in 1971, Kaul entrusted Régragui with the restoration of his celebrated masterpiece, and this thoughtful documentary includes interviews with many individuals involved with *Duvidha*'s production and release, most notably Raissa Padamsee, who plays the central figure of the young bride in Kaul's film. Loubna Régragui will join us in person to discuss *Duvidha* and *The Nine Lakh Stars* following the program. 2022 Rotterdam Film Festival. (JH)



Emily the Criminal

THU, APRIL 14 • 8:15 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • USA • 2022 • 95 MIN

Director: John Patton Ford Cast: Aubrey Plaza, Theo Rossi, Gina Gershon

Aubrey Plaza gives her best performance yet as a millennial who turns to a life of crime to pay off her student loans. Frozen out of the already bleak white-collar job market because of a minor criminal record, Emily barely scrapes together enough in the gig economy to cover the interest on her \$70K debt. An opportunity for easy money lands in her lap when a friend introduces her to a credit card fraud ring. Emily catches on fast, and quickly becomes a full-time scammer—after years of worrying about her bank balance,

it's like she's won the lottery. But the deeper she gets, the harder it is to keep her crimes victimless, and some of her new gangster colleagues might be even worse than her old bosses back in the straight world. Writer/director John Patton Ford's excellent debut feature proceeds with the sharp-edged, matter-of-fact under-world morality of a vintage crime paperback. In a world where crime pays and internships don't, *Emily the Criminal* identifies most with those who are left on the outside of capitalism. "A terrific underdog crime thriller with bite. Aubrey Plaza is great in a role that lets her badass side out for a rampage... might just be a punch-the-air moment for about a billion twentysomethings" (*Time Out*). 2022 Sundance Film Festival. (MK)



Fire

Avec amour et acharnement

THU, APRIL 14 • 3:15 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

THU, APRIL 14 • 5:45 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • France • 2022 • French with English subtitles • 116 MIN

Director: Claire Denis Cast: Juliette Binoche, Vincent Lindon, Grégoire Colin, Bulle Ogier, Issa Perica, Mati Diop, Lola Creton

Juliette Binoche stars as a woman torn between past and present lovers in this steamy melodrama from master auteur Claire Denis (*Beau Travail*). First glimpsed entwined a rapturous embrace in the sea, Sara and Jean (*Titane*'s Vincent Lindon) appear to have the lusty infatuation of young lovers. But when Sara's ex François offers Jean a job, his peripheral reentrance into her life reignites a spark that she thought she had finally extinguished. This passionate love triangle is a frank exploration of the ways in which certain people are helplessly drawn towards one another, whether they want to be or not. Following *Let the Sunshine In* (WFF 2018) and *High Life* (UW Cinematheque 2019), Binoche's third straight film with Denis features her best performance yet for the director. "A rich, nuanced exploration of female desire. Even a customary peck on the cheek is a loaded erotic act here, woozily amplified and made electric by another enveloping, sandpaper-on-velvet art-rock score by Denis favorites Tindersticks. In this simultaneously small and cavernous love story, even a whisper echoes for days" (*Variety*). Best Director, 2022 Berlin Film Festival. (MK)



Fortune Favors Lady Nikuko

Gyokou no Nikuko-chan

SAT, APRIL 9 • 3:15 PM SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION

Narrative • Japan • 2021 • Japanese with English subtitles • **96 MIN**

Director: Ayumu Watanabe Cast: Shinobu Otake, Cocomi, Natsuki Hanae

Kikuko is tired of moving from town to town, but she has no choice. Kikuko lives alone with her mother, Nikuko, who keeps uprooting her daughter, either to avoid debts or to run from a broken heart. Despite her transitory tendencies, Nikuko remains unstopably positive and upbeat, luxuriating in simple pleasures, especially good food. When Kikuko finally starts settling into their new home in a small fishing village and her mother appears to be falling for another man, the threat of moving appears again, and the relationship between Kikuko and Nikuko reaches a breaking point. One of the most beautiful and moving Japanese anime features since the golden era of Studio Ghibli, *Fortune Favors Lady Nikuko* is also a visual feast for foodies and maybe the first animated movie since *Ratatouille* that will make your mouth water. "Balancing between heartfelt drama and vibrant whimsy, it strikes that equilibrium with a cool effectiveness. Packed to the brim with delicious food, engaging animation, and a powerful relationship that's fully nourished, it's a delightful drama that never ceases to tug on the heartstrings" (Christopher Cross, *Tilt Magazine*). (JH)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Center for East Asian Studies (Taiwan, China, North/South Korea, Japan)



The Girl and the Spider

Das Mädchen und die Spinne

FRI, APRIL 8 • 8 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

WED, APRIL 13 • 2:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

Narrative • Switzerland • 2021 • German with English subtitles • **99 MIN**

Directors: Ramon Zürcher, Silvan Zürcher
Cast: Henriette Confurius, Liliane Amuat, Ursina Lardi, Flurin Giger, André M. Hennicke, Ivan Georgiev, Dagna Litzenberger Vinet, Lea Draeger, Sabine Timoteo, Birte Schnöink

How much intrigue, commotion, and sexual tension can you cram into a one-bedroom apartment? Ramon and Silvan Zürcher try to find out in this singular, almost surreal study of human (and non-human) behavior. Lisa is moving

into a new flat, and her now-former roommate Mara hovers amidst all the unpacking and repainting like a poltergeist, defiantly not helping. Is Mara the jilted girlfriend of Lisa? Her intense gaze and bizarre etiquette around Lisa's mother suggest so, though as soon as one relationship comes into view, the film shifts attention to another. We see the mother flirt with the rugged handyman; his apprentice hook up with not one but two of Lisa's friends; a neighbor unhurriedly converse with Mara while her baby screams down the hall; and Mara retreat into flights of fancy and paranoia. Animals also command a magnetic pull on the characters, from sweet tabbies and terriers to the titular, observant spider and a horned owl that appears during an unexpectedly dread-inducing thunderstorm. The consistently tight blocking and framing grant up-close-and-personal access to this suite of inscrutable, beautiful creatures. "Builds into a symphony of separation and solitude ... could strike a particular chord in a Covid-19 era of isolation, lockdown and the absence of human contact" (*Screen Daily*). (ZZ)



Hit the Road

Jadde Khaki

FRI, APRIL 8 • 3 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

SUN, APRIL 10 • 2 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • Iran • 2021 • Persian with English subtitles • **93 MIN**

Director: Panah Panahi Cast: Pantea Panahiha, Hasan Majuni, Rayan Sarlak, Amin Simiar

A middle-aged husband and wife, along with a pet dog and their two sons – one a quiet young adult and the other a rambunctious six-year-old – drive a car through the Iranian countryside towards a mysterious destination in the mountains. Along the way, they have encounters with other motorists and a somewhat scary motorcyclist. With bursts of comedy, serious drama, fantasy, and even music, the family's motivations and complex relationships with one another are slowly, and sometimes only partially, revealed. Using naturalistic performances, enigmatic and self-reflexive storytelling techniques, and raw emotional power, Panah Panahi's feature film debut follows the traditions of the great movies of the Iranian New Wave. Indeed, Panahi is the son of the celebrated filmmaker Jafar Panahi (*This is Not a Film*, *The Circle*, *Crimson Gold*), a former collaborator with Abbas Kiarostami who has faced house arrest and a twenty-year ban on making movies in Iran. One of the most enthusiastically reviewed films on the recent Festival circuit, *Hit the Road* also won Best Film honors in the official competitions at the 2021 London and Mar del Plata Film Festivals. "Its 93 minutes whip by so airily, it's possible not to realize how much you've learned to love the family whose road trip you've shared in, until the credits roll and you immediately start to miss them" (Jessica Kiang, *Variety*). "[Panah Panahi] moves beyond his father's oeuvre to discover a distinct new voice, in a movie that's very much about a son cutting ties with his family so he can find his own way" (Jordan Mintzer, *The Hollywood Reporter*). (JH)



Holy Emy

Agia Emi

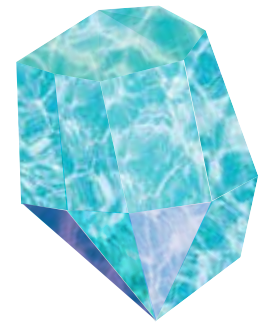
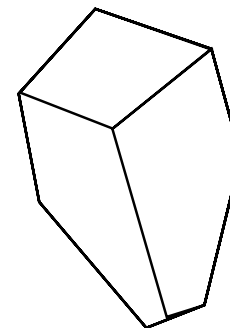
WED, APRIL 13 • 5:15 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND:
ARACELI LEMOS

Narrative • Greece, France, USA • 2021 • Greek, English, Tagalog with English subtitles • **111 MIN**

Director: Araceli Lemos
Cast: Abigael Loma, Hasmine Killip, Irene Inglesi

Emy and Teresa are Filipina sisters living alone in Athens, Greece after their mother is forced to return to the Philippines under somewhat mysterious circumstances. After a fling with a Greek fishmonger, Teresa finds herself pregnant, while Emy is lured into the home of Mrs. Christina, their mother's former boss. Mrs. Christina is interested in exploiting the healing powers Emy seems to share with her exiled mother. Emy also has a tendency to cry tears of blood. As Emy and Teresa get pulled in different directions, Emy struggles to maintain her independence and establish her own identity, and Teresa desperately tries to keep the younger Emy out of harm's way, while plunging into adulthood herself. A remarkably self-assured and confident feature directorial debut by Araceli Lemos, *Holy Emy* deftly navigates its way through a variety of genres and sub-genres—family drama, body horror, socio-economic parable, religious drama, coming-of-age story – with subtle, organic allusions to everything from *Don't Look Now* to *Carrie* to *Resurrection*, all while maintaining its own uniquely original stance. (BR)



I Didn't See You There

FRI, APRIL 8 • 4 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

SAT, APRIL 9 • 11 AM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

Documentary • USA • 2022 • **72 MIN**

Director: Reid Davenport

As a visibly disabled person, filmmaker Reid Davenport constantly has to put up with being gawked at or ignored. Rejecting these myriad forms of day-to-day condescension and objectification, he points his camera exclusively outward, presenting the world as he sees it from his wheelchair. The result is one of the most sensorially thrilling documentaries in recent memory, as Davenport transforms the raw materials of his Oakland neighborhood into abstract rushes of pattern and color as he whizzes by. As a circus tent goes up near his apartment, Davenport considers the legacy of the freak show as the ultimate expression of ableism—scenes which should cause local viewers to scrutinize how these dubious traditions are celebrated just forty miles up the road at Baraboo's Circus World. As vehemently as it critiques ableist society, this is neither another coddly, heartwarming tale designed to comfort audiences who are not living with disabilities. A radical, overdue corrective to decades of dehumanizing media portrayals (no matter how well-intentioned), *I Didn't See You There* is a self-portrait encompassing the spectrum of one man's lived experiences—the howls of pain and rage, the smirking humor, the hypnotic trance of watching the colors of the city blend through a subway window. Best Director, 2022 Sundance Film Festival. (MK)



Immersion *Inmersión*

SUN, APRIL 10 • 5:15 PM SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION

Narrative • Chile, Mexico • 2021 • Spanish with English subtitles • 87 MIN

Director: Nicolás Postiglione Cast: Alfredo Castro, Consuelo Carreno, Michael Silva, Mariela Mignot

A masterclass of taut, edge-of-your-seat suspense, *Immersion* puts two groups of suspicious strangers on a small yacht and lets us place bets on who'll make it out alive. Out on a serene Chilean lake with his two grown daughters, Roberto sees something alarming in the distance: a rowboat, carrying three local fishermen, appears to be sinking. But rather than help, he indefensibly guns it in the opposite direction. Guilted by his appalled daughters to return and save the men, they discover that one of them has gone missing, having never returned after swimming in pursuit of their yacht. As the remaining fishermen climb onboard, Roberto is consumed with racist paranoia, and resolves to protect his daughters from any threat, real or imagined. "A gripping, complex psychological thriller" (*Screen*), *Immersion's* many virtues include a characteristically fantastic star turn from the great Alfredo Castro (best known for his numerous collaborations with Pablo Larraín), and a first-rate score by Paulo Gallo. "Nerve-jangling tension... a lean psychological thriller crackling with class, race and generational conflict, *Immersion* makes a big statement with slender means. *Immersion* does not let anybody off the hook, including the viewer" (*The Film Verdict*). (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Department of Portuguese & Spanish



In the Court of the Crimson King

MON, APRIL 11 • 8:30 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Documentary • United Kingdom / Italy • 2022 • 86 MIN • Director: Tobey Amies

The supreme icons of prog rock, King Crimson have been blowing out eardrums on-and-off for 50+ years—and have blown through 20+ members in that timeframe. The sole constant is guitar wizard Robert Fripp, a smartly dressed, witty, uncompromising perfectionist who inspires cultish devotion in his fans and intense intimidation within his band. Filmmaker Toby Amies embedded himself within the group for nearly four years, and brilliantly captures its unique dynamic. In career-spanning interviews with longtime collaborators, jilted ex-members, and young players who grew up idolizing the band they are now in, a common thread emerges: keep up with the technical mastery demanded by Fripp, or he'll find someone else. As the man himself puts it, "this is the first King Crimson where there's not at least one member in the band that actively resents my presence." Far deeper than the typical cut-and-paste rockumentary, *In the Court of the Crimson King* is astonishingly moving as it probes intangible concepts like pursuit of perfection and the very meaning of music itself—playing it, listening to it, and aging with it. Our screening will be introduced by Madison's own Biff Blumfurngagne, who has been Robert Fripp's guitar tech since 2005, and is one of the very first people to appear onscreen in the documentary! 2022 SXSW Film Festival. (MK)



Inland Empire

THU, APRIL 14 • 7 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Narrative • USA • 2006 • 180 MIN

Director: David Lynch Cast: Laura Dern, Jeremy Irons, Justin Theroux, Harry Dean Stanton, Julia Ormond

In David Lynch's most recently completed feature to date, the director is reunited with Laura Dern, star of *Blue Velvet* and *Wild at Heart*. Dern plays fading movie actress Nikki Grace, who is delighted to be cast in a lurid melodrama titled *On High in Blue Tomorrows*, to be directed by Kingsley Stewart (Jeremy Irons). Nikki's character, Susan Blue, soon begins to consume Nikki's personality, even when she's not in front of the camera. Meanwhile, giant rabbits appear in a weird variation of a TV sitcom and another strange plot unfolds involving Polish characters. Defiantly avoiding traditional narrative techniques and shooting a feature film on digital video for the first time, Lynch takes several bold steps forward as a storyteller and as an artist with *Inland Empire*. This is a major, must-see work that serves as the bridge between Lynch's previous feature, *Mulholland Dr.* and the acclaimed third season of *Twin Peaks*. Dern is remarkable as several characters, including a prostitute and a battered housewife, who may, or may not, be the same person. "David Lynch's extraordinary, savagely uncompromised new film is as cracked as *Mad* magazine, though generally more difficult to parse" (Manohla Dargis, *The New York Times*). This DCP screening of *Inland Empire* features newly remastered sound and image, personally supervised by David Lynch. (JH)



Întregalde

MON, APRIL 11 • 8:15 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

TUE, APRIL 12 • 1 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

Narrative • Romania • 2021 • Romanian with English subtitles • 104 MIN

Director: Radu Muntean Cast: Maria Popistasu, Iona Brezoiianu, Alex Bogdan, Luca Sabin

Deep in the Transylvania woods, a trio of aid workers pick up a strange hitchhiker. The babbling old man steers them off the muddy path, where their SUV gets hopelessly stuck in the muck. As the sun falls and the temperature drops, the stranded humanitarians begin to lose their cool. It may sound like the opening of a supernatural horror movie, but director Radu Muntean (*Tuesday, After Christmas*, WFF 2011) turns his film in a richer direction, subverting its spooky setup to sharply satirize performative philanthropy. Lost in the woods, the band of city-slicker do-gooders forget their best intentions and go into survival mode. And faced with a freezing night in the middle of nowhere, would you act any differently? Yet *Întregalde* is no preachy, holier-than-thou harangue—Muntean crafted the story after going on similar relief missions himself, and transformed his experiences into a gripping thriller populated with identifiable characters, while simultaneously dissecting the condescension behind his own well-meaning charity. Caustic, complex, and wickedly clever, this tale of virtue signaling gone wrong has earned critical comparisons to Samuel Beckett. "Riveting... at once darkly comic, tense and humanizing" (*Sight & Sound*). "Subtle, Superb. Fantastic. A mordantly witty, keen-eyed, expertly performed delight" (*Variety*). 2021 Cannes, New York Film Festivals. (MK)



Islands

SAT, APRIL 9 • 6 PM

UW CINEMATHEQUE

MON, APRIL 11 • 1:15 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

Narrative • Canada • 2021 • Tagalog, English with English subtitles • 94 MIN

Director: Martin Edralin Cast: Rogelio Balagtas, Sheila Lotuaco, Esteban, Comilanglt

Now middle-aged, the shy but dutiful Joshua (Rogelio Balagatas) has lived with his mother and father in their Toronto home since the whole family emigrated from The Philippines. When his mother dies, Joshua quits his job to look after his ailing father full time. Lacking the experience to take care of anyone, including himself, Joshua receives help when his cousin Marisol (Sheila Lotuaco) arrives, restoring comfort in the home, and stirring confused emotions in Joshua. Touchingly and realistically performed by the two leads, *Islands*, which won prizes at the 2021 SXSW and Vancouver Film Festivals, is an exciting debut feature for writer and director Martin Edralin. With a precise sense of framing and camera placement, Edralin allows Joshua's story to sensitively unfold without caricatures or sloppy sentimentality. The filmmaker's offbeat story of filial duty also explores the Filipino diaspora experience with a droll sense of humor and an understanding of how it's never too late to change an un-lived life. "A stunning feat of lived-in filmmaking, with shot compositions and confident pacing as organized as furniture in a living room" (Nick Allen, *Rogerebert.com*). "A lonelyheart drama as honest as it is touching" (Owen Gleiberman, *Variety*). (JH)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Asian American Studies



2022 Sneak Peeks

Watch trailers and get the lowdown from Festival staff.

<p>March 19 3PM Central Library</p>	<p>March 21 6PM Hawthorne Library</p>	<p>March 25 6PM Lakeview Library</p>
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KIMI

SAT, APRIL 9 • 1 PM
UW CINEMATHEQUE

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND:
DAVID KOEPP

Narrative • USA • 2022 • 89 MIN

Director: Steven Soderbergh Cast: Zoë Kravitz, Byron Bowers, Jaime Camil

Angela Childs (Zoë Kravitz) works for a company that has a product named KIMI, a virtually voiced assistant that functions a lot like Alexa or Siri. Listening for and correcting errors made by the new technology, Angela makes a disturbing discovery when she hears screaming and struggling happening in the home of another KIMI owner. Though Angela has been rendered agoraphobic by the pandemic and another past trauma, she is still stubbornly driven to solve the mystery, even when it puts her own life in peril. With nods to classics like Hitchcock's *Rear Window* and *Sorry, Wrong Number* (also playing at this year's WFF), the first hour of this terrific new thriller cleverly builds suspense within the single location of Angela's Seattle loft apartment. Then, in homage to the great paranoid thrillers of the 1970s like *Three Days of the Condor* and *The Parallax View*, the action breaks out to the city streets and tech offices, leading to a literally riveting finale! The first collaboration between the prolific director Steven Soderbergh (who, using pseudonyms, also served as editor and cinematographer) and celebrated screenwriter/co-producer David Koepp, is a superb and brilliantly efficient entertainment, anchored by a deeply felt lead performance from Zoë Kravitz. Wisconsin native David Koepp's writing credits include multiple collaborations with Steven Spielberg (*Jurassic Park*) and Brian De Palma (*Carlito's Way*) and he is also a distinguished director in his own right (*Premium Rush*, *Ghost Town*). Mr. Koepp will join us in person to introduce *KIMI* and answer questions following the screening. (JH)



Klondike

WED, APRIL 13 • 7:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

THU, APRIL 14 • 1 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • Ukraine, Turkey • 2022 • Ukrainian, Russian, Chechen, Dutch with English subtitles • 100 MIN

Director: Maryna Er Gorbach Cast: Oxana Cherkashyna, Sergiy Shadrin, Oleg Scherbina, Oleg Shevchuk, Artur Aramyan

As vital as cinema can get, this riveting depiction of a family living out the dawn of the Donbas war won a Best Director prize at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. It's July 2014 on the Ukrainian side of the Russian border, and expectant parents Irka and Tolik's rural home is suddenly rocked by an explosion. Very pregnant and tough as nails, Irka is somewhat unfazed by the gaping hole where her wall used to be, remaining focused on more practical matters, like if their stroller got damaged in the rubble. With his village captured and a child on the way, Tolik is torn in different directions—his friends encourage him to join the separatists, while his brother-in-law becomes irate that they would consider betraying Ukraine. Meanwhile, Irka refuses to give in to war at all—she passes up evacuation and instead tries to mend fences between the men in her life by having them repair the house together. Beautifully performed and photographed in virtuoso extended takes (including some 360-degree knockouts), *Klondike* powerfully encompasses the contradictions of life in a war zone—at times harrowing, at others finding the gallows humor in the absurdity of it all, and through everything, resilient. 2022 Sundance, Berlin Film Festivals. (MK)



The Lady in the Car with Glasses and a Gun

MON, APRIL 11 • 5:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

TUE, APRIL 12 • 3:30 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND:
RITA BELDA

Narrative • USA, France • 1970 • 101 MIN

Director: Anatole Litvak Cast: Samantha Eggar, Oliver Reed, Stéphane Audran, John McEnery, Bernard Fresson, Marcel Bozzuffi

Samantha Eggar stars as the title character, Dany, a secretary at a Parisian ad agency owned by Michael Caldwell (Oliver Reed). After Dany drops off her boss at the airport, she takes on the extra duty of returning his car to the city but decides on a whim to detour the vehicle for her first trip to the French Riviera. Once in the South, she meets several locals she's never seen before, but who all seem to recognize her! Suffice to say that things start to get seriously dangerous for the increasingly frightened and confused Dany. The title of this clever suspense mystery, which knowingly references the tropes of pulp fiction paperbacks, comes from the novel by Sébastien Japrisot, who co-wrote the screenplay for this adaptation along with Eleanor Perry (*The Swimmer*) and director Anatole Litvak. With a career in cinema that spanned 40 years and began and ended in Europe, the Russian-born Litvak spent over a decade in Hollywood and made some of the best films of the 1940s, including *Sorry, Wrong Number*, also playing at this year's WFF. Litvak wrapped up his filmography with *The Lady in the Car*, but this is no old man's movie. Quentin Tarantino, an enormous fan, has even suggested that, along with Dario Argento's *The Bird with the Crystal Plumage*, Litvak's film helped invent the popular "giallo" sub-genre of 70s Euro thrillers. Featuring gorgeous images of the South of France lensed by the estimable Claude Renoir, a jazzy, energizing score by Michel

Legrand, and a theme sung by Petula Clark, *The Lady in the Car with Glasses and a Gun* is first rate entertainment. "There's nothing old about it at all. It's so fresh and so fun!" (Quentin Tarantino). This screening will be introduced by Sony Pictures Entertainment's Vice President of asset management, film restoration, and digital mastering Rita Belda, who supervised the 4K restoration. (JH)



Lingui, The Sacred Bonds

Lingui

FRI, APRIL 8 • 8:15 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

SAT, APRIL 9 • 3:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Narrative • Chad, France, Germany, Belgium • 2021 • Arabic, French with English subtitles • 87 MIN

Director: Mahamat-Saleh Haroun Cast: Achouackh Abakar Souleymane, Rihane Khalil Alio, Youssouf Djaoro

As the premier auteur of Chad's young film industry, Mahamat-Saleh Haroun specializes in fleet, gripping tales of resistance against systems of violence and oppression. In Haroun's latest memorable work, Amina struggles to procure a safe abortion for her pregnant 15-year-old daughter Maria. This quest cuts against not only Amina's Muslim faith but also the grain of Chadian society, where the practice is verboten and many women die from amateur terminations. As a shunned single mother, Amina determines to spare Maria the same shame, suspecting quickly from her daughter's shell shock a recent sexual assault. Amina and Maria encounter swindlers, police raids, and eagle-eyed local leaders as they navigate the markets, alleys, and marshes of N'Djamena. Their only hope is "lingui," a Chadian Arabic term denoting the "sacred bond" between community members, serviced through sacrifice and mutual aid. "Divine and triumphant ... Haroun has a gift for distilling volumes of meaning in his direct, lucid, balanced visuals" (Manohla Dargis, *The New York Times*). (ZZ)

Presented with support from
UW-Madison African Cultural Studies



Lost Illusions

Illusions perdues

SUN, APRIL 10 • 2 PM
SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION

Narrative • France • 2021 • French with English subtitles • 149 MIN

Director: Xavier Giannoli Cast: Benjamin Voisin, Cécile de France, Vincent Lacoste, Xavier Dolan, Jeanne Balibar, Gérard Depardieu

The three volumes of Honoré de Balzac's masterful novel, part of his "La Comédie Humaine" cycle, have been brilliantly condensed in this riveting feature-length adaptation from co-screenwriter and director Xavier Giannoli (*Marguerite*, WFF 2016). The action is set in a post-revolution 1821 when, as the narration informs us, "Money was the new royalty, and no one wanted to cut off its head." Balzac's protagonist, the handsome, provincial Lucien de Rubempré (Benjamin Voisin, star of Ozon's *Summer of 85*), arrives in Paris seeking fame as a writer. Taking a shortcut to the top, Lucien finds great success writing scandalous – and often untrue – gossip items for newspapers and journals. Lucien's descent into the corrupt media world also includes accepting favors for writing positive reviews. Though he gains the love of the sweet and talented actress Coralie, Lucien trades in his integrity to satisfy his taste for life's finer things and he must pay the price. Taking on a potentially unwieldy source novel, Giannoli wisely focuses on Balzac's condemning portrayal of his journalistic contemporaries in early 19th century France. Not surprisingly, this moral tale describing an early purveyor of "fake news" has a great deal of modern-day resonance. Never stuffy or dull, Giannoli's movie belongs to the classic tradition of period dramas with bite, like *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Barry Lyndon*. "With its stellar performances, dramatic orchestral score and rich costume and set design, *Illusions Perdues* is a worthwhile, sweeping narrative of love, lust and literary ambition" (*The Hollywood Reporter*). (JH)

Presented with support from UW-Madison French & Italian Department

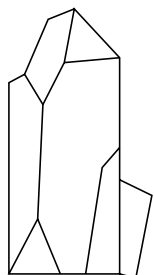


Mad God

SUN, APRIL 10 • 7:30 PM SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION

Narrative • USA • 2021 • 83 MIN • Director: Phil Tippett Cast: Alex Cox, Niketa Roman, Satish Ratakonda

This truly visionary dark masterpiece comes from the mind and hands of legendary visual effects and stop-motion craftsman Phil Tippett, who animated and designed special effects sequences from *Robocop*, *Jurassic Park*, and the original *Star Wars* trilogy, among many others. Tippett originally embarked on designing *Mad God* in 1987, working solo while fabricating and animating a darkly surreal world in which the creatures and nightmares of his imagination could roam free. Decades later, Tippett worked weekends with a crew of 60 artists from his Tippett Studio to turn the project into a complete feature. The story? In the way that *Eraserhead* was synopsisized by David Lynch as simply "a dream of dark and troubling things," it is best just to say that *Mad God* is set in a Dante-esque world of monsters, mad scientists, and war pigs. Tippett's masterpiece is an almost overwhelmingly visual experience, especially when viewed on the big screen where the miniature characters and sets are magnificently brought to larger-than-life size. A milestone in animation and personal filmmaking, *Mad God* is hand-crafted, independent, and created from the heart. Sometimes that heart is bursting with love for the craft, while other times it's macabre, punctured, and bleeding. (JH)



Big Screens Little Folks / Ages 8+

Maika

SAT, APRIL 9 • 11:45 AM THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: HAM TRAN

Narrative • Vietnam • 2022 • Vietnamese with English subtitles • 105 MIN • Director: Ham Tran Cast: Phu Truong Lai, Diep Anh Chu, Tin Tin, Ngoc Tuong, Kim Nha

Hung, an 8-year-old boy, lives in Vietnam and loves technology and science. He is struggling with some big problems. He is mourning his mother who died a year ago. His father cannot make ends meet and they may lose their apartment. His best friend is moving to Saigon. Hung loves to watch the night sky, and, one night, sees a falling star that seems to come down in a nearby field. When he investigates the next day, he meets an alien girl with amazing powers. He knows he must do all he can to help her. Hung and his new friends find friendship, support and wonder. Recently featured at the 2022 Sundance Festival, this Vietnamese sci-fi film was written and directed by Sundance Alumnus Ham Tran. *Maika* is inspired by a 1970's Czechoslovakian children's TV show, and features charismatic young performers and occasional bursts of crude humor. (TK)



Marcel the Shell with Shoes On

SUN, APRIL 10 • 2:15 PM THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

Narrative • USA • 2021 • 89 MIN • Director: Dean Fleischer-Camp Cast: Jenny Slate, Isabella Rossellini, Dean Fleischer-Camp

For the millions of people who loved those animated shorts about a talking seashell that went viral starting in 2010, there's good news: Marcel the Shell is back. Voiced by Jenny Slate, Marcel's breathy, child-like chatter is irresistible. How could this mollusk with one googly eye wearing pink sneakers capture our hearts so thoroughly? This film might just be the most charming thing you'll see in 2022. Marcel is a vulnerable, yet resourceful and optimistic creature living on his own now that most of his family members have inexplicably vanished. When a documentary filmmaker rents the house in which Marcel lives, a friendship develops. Talking nonstop, Marcel introduces the filmmaker to his wonderful world, in which ordinary household objects are rendered strange and mystery abounds. What happened to Marcel's family? What happened to the human couple that used to live in the house? Will Marcel's grandmother, Connie (voiced by Isabella Rossellini), help Marcel muster the necessary courage to move forward? Animation by the Chiodo Brothers, who created the stop-motion *Large Marge* sequence in *Pee-Wee's Big Adventure* and the puppetry on *Team America: World Police*. (KC)



Wisconsin's Own Shorts

Marquee Madness—Wisconsin's Own Gone Wild

FRI, APRIL 8 • 8:30 PM THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

69 MIN

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

Leave your inhibitions at the door and join us for an uncensored look through the eyes of some up-and-coming Wisconsin filmmakers. Here is a shorts program for those who like their humor laced with equal parts raunch and intellect. Come for the late night vibes and stay for Arielle Bordow's 2021 Golden Badger Award winning, *Craiglist Roommate*.

More Than Just A University

Narrative • USA • 2021 • 4 MIN • Director: Grace Van Zeeland, James Kovaleski, Rachel Getrue, Halle Brown

A send up of university promotional videos, showing a side of campus that students truly experience. (BC)

A Nice Jew

Narrative • USA • 2021 • 21 MIN • Director: Sam Syrett Cast: Trevor Lowm, Celina Bernstein

Gen-Z poster boy, Caleb, has issues in this darkly comic coming-of-age tale of woe/whoa. (BR)

Eat It

Narrative Short • USA • 2021 • 5 MIN • Director: Jennavieve Growel • Cast: Carter Thomas Krebs, Jennavieve Growel

A fuzzy lo-fi silent film with cartoonish comedic appeal, complete with Tex Avery-style heart eyes and "bang" guns. (BC)

Respect Your Tenants

Narrative • USA • 2021 • 1 MIN • Director: Toby Hoyer Cast: Bardia Honary, Toby Hoyer

Dear Landlords, It's all in the title. Respectfully, Your Tenants. (BC)

Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Narrative • USA • 2022 • 13 MIN • Director: Bulat Schamiloglu Cast: Ché Emilio, Eli Tedesco, Max Johnson

A PhD student spends a quiet summer weekend on campus, seemingly desperate for connection, or not. (BC)

A 25 Cent Condom from the Gas Station Restroom

Experimental • USA • 2021 • 5 MIN

Director: Griffin Sauter Cast: Parker Kuehl, Frank Holmes, John Meyers

A strange pregnancy turns cultish in this silent film/sludge-metal hybrid. (BC)

Craiglist Roommate

Narrative • USA • 2021 • 12 MIN • Director: Arielle Bordow Cast: Aliya Moore, Max Gomez, Toulouse/Eddie the Cat

A callback to the mumblecore hangout films of yesteryear, *Craiglist Roommate* explores the relationship dynamics between a young couple and their new roommate. A raunchy comic treat from Arielle Bordow (*140 N Hancock WFF '19*). (BC) Presented by UW-Madison Gender & Sexuality Campus Center

The Driver

Narrative • 2021 • 3 MIN • Director: Jon Gollner Cast: Jon Silver, Colt Cabana

There are big, tough, impossibly fit action stars built to save humanity from dastardly villains, and then there's everyone else. *The Driver* is a paean to all the pencil-pushing schlubs on their way to work, while the superheroes make a mess of the morning commute. (PL)

Nigerian Letter

Narrative • USA • 2022 • 3 MIN • Director: Preston Moss Cast: Jodie Moss, Macdonald Nkemda, Robert Moss

Colorful, comic portrayal of an overworked mother contemplating a new life. All she has to do is sell off her valuables, and she will be among royalty. (BC)

For Whom The Eagle Caws

Experimental • USA • 2021 • 3 MIN • Director: Patrick Fliess Cast: Mitchell Reed, Derek Dziengel, Kiersten Hoff, Patricia Drogotta

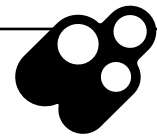
A Trump supporter summons the fiery wrath of America's national bird to harass an innocent bystander. With its stunning black and white 16mm cinematography and thoughtful homages to silent cinema, this short is as beautiful as it is funny. (PL)

This program is presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

@wifilmfest



FILM GUIDE AT A GLANCE



Wisconsin Film Festival

April 7-14

Thursday, April 7

5 PM 6 PM 7 PM 8 PM 9 PM 10 PM

OPENING NIGHT					
Shannon Hall - Memorial Union		Opening Night Reception 5:30 PM • 90 MIN MAIN LOUNGE	Anais in Love & Golden Badger Awards Presentation 7 PM • 113 MIN		

- Wisconsin's Own Films
- Big Screens, Little Folks Films
- Q&A/Panel
- 35mm Film

Total running time does NOT include 30 minute Q&A at most screenings that film guests are scheduled to appear

Friday, April 8

10 AM 11 AM NOON 1 PM 2 PM 3 PM 4 PM 5 PM 6 PM 7 PM 8 PM 9 PM 10 PM

CAMPUS UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON											
Shannon Hall - Memorial Union									Stay Prayed Up 6 PM • 73 MIN	+	No Looking Back 8:30 PM • 98 MIN
Chazen Museum of Art									Retrograde 6:15 PM • 74 MIN		Re-Animator 8:30 PM • 86 MIN
UW Cinematheque		The Conversation 11 AM • 113 MIN		The Best Years of Our Lives 1:30 PM • 168 MIN				Mr. Klein 5:15 PM • 123 MIN			Avant Lands... 8:15 PM • 66 MIN
The Marquee, Union South				Dreams Are Like Wild Tigers 2 PM • 107 MIN		My Dad is a Sausage 4:15 PM • 95 MIN			Anonymous Club 6:30 PM • 83 MIN		Marquee Madness 8:30 PM • 69 MIN
AMC MADISON 6											
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 1						I Didn't See You There 4 PM • 72 MIN		All Eyes Off Me 5:45 PM • 88 MIN			The Girl and the Spider 8 PM • 99 MIN
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 5						Il Buco 3:45 PM • 93 MIN		The Box 6 PM • 93 MIN			Lingu, The Sacred Bonds 8:15 PM • 87 MIN
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 6						Hit the Road 3 PM • 93 MIN		107 Mothers 5:30 PM • 90 MIN			Vortex 7:30 PM • 148 MIN

Saturday, April 9

10 AM 11 AM NOON 1 PM 2 PM 3 PM 4 PM 5 PM 6 PM 7 PM 8 PM 9 PM 10 PM

CAMPUS UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON											
Shannon Hall - Memorial Union			To the End 12:30 PM • 103 MIN			Fortune Favors Lady Nikuko 3:15 PM • 96 MIN		A Tale of Love and Desire 5:30 PM • 103 MIN			The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent 8 PM • 105 MIN
Chazen Museum of Art	Memories of the Future 11 AM • 64 MIN		Only I Can Hear 1:15 PM • 72 MIN			Shared Resources 3:30 PM • 98 MIN		Death Becomes Her 5:45 PM • 104 MIN		Dolls 8:30 PM • 77 MIN	
UW Cinematheque	Sorry, Wrong Number 11 AM • 89 MIN		Kimi 1 PM • 89 MIN			Symphony for a Massacre 3:30 PM • 119 MIN		Islands 6 PM • 94 MIN			Clay Dream 8:15 PM • 96 MIN
The Marquee, Union South	Small but Mighty! 10 AM • 67 MIN		Maika 11:45 AM • 105 MIN		State of the State 2:45 PM • 78 MIN		Movers and Shakers 5:15 PM • 78 MIN				Neptune Frost 8 PM • 105 MIN
AMC MADISON 6											
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 1		I Didn't See You There 11 AM • 72 MIN		All Eyes Off Me 12:45 PM • 88 MIN		Commitment Hasan 2:45 PM • 147 MIN		Mija 5:45 PM • 85 MIN			Amira 7:45 PM • 98 MIN
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 5		Small Body 11:30 AM • 89 MIN		Il Buco 1:30 PM • 93 MIN		Lingu, The Sacred Bonds 3:45 PM • 87 MIN		The Cathedral 6 PM • 87 MIN			A Night of Knowing Nothing 8 PM • 96 MIN
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 6		Brother's Keeper 11:15 AM • 85 MIN		107 Mothers 1:15 PM • 90 MIN		The Mole 3:30 PM • 126 MIN		Cow 6:15 PM • 93 MIN			Aloners 8:15 PM • 91 MIN

Sunday, April 10

	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM
CAMPUS UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MADISON													
Shannon Hall - Memorial Union			We Feed People 11:30 AM • 89 MIN		Lost Illusions 2 PM • 149 MIN			Immersion 5:15 PM • 87 MIN		Mad God 7:30 PM • 83 MIN			
Chazen Museum of Art		The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit 11 AM • 77 MIN		The Turkey 1 PM • 84 MIN		Take Heart 3:30 PM • 68 MIN		Vampire's Kiss 5:15 PM • 103 MIN					
UW Cinematheque		Robust 11 AM • 95 MIN		Duvidha + The Nine Lakh Stars 1 PM • 145 MIN		Cocktail Hour 4:30 PM • 74 MIN		Talking the Pictures 6:15 PM • 126 MIN					
The Marquee, Union South	Troubles and Triumphs 10 AM • 78 MIN		Mission Ulja Funk 12 PM • 100 MIN		Marcel the Shell With Shoes On 2:15 PM • 89 MIN		Hunters and Gatherers 4:15 PM • 90 MIN		Bodies, Borders, and Belonging 6:45 PM • 82 MIN				
AMC MADISON 6													
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 1		Private Desert 11 AM • 121 MIN		Petrov's Flu 1:30 PM • 146 MIN		Ahed's Knee 4:30 PM • 109 MIN		Mija 7 PM • 85 MIN					
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 5		A Night of Knowing Nothing 11:30 AM • 96 MIN		The Cathedral 1:45 PM • 87 MIN		The Box 4 PM • 92 MIN		Small Body 6:30 PM • 89 MIN					
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 6		The Mole 11:15 AM • 126 MIN		Hit the Road 2 PM • 93 MIN		Aloners 4:15 PM • 91 MIN		Seven Days 6:15 PM • 115 MIN					

Monday, April 11

	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM
AMC MADISON 6													
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 1				Islands 1:15 PM • 94 MIN		Private Desert 3:30 PM • 121 MIN		Ahed's Knee 6 PM • 109 MIN		Intregalde 8:15 PM • 104 MIN			
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 5				Commitment Hasan 2:45 PM • 147 MIN		The Lady in the Car with Glasses and a Gun 5:45 PM • 101 MIN		Death Game 8 PM • 98 MIN					
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 6				Brother's Keeper 1:45 PM • 85 MIN		Talking the Pictures 3:45 PM • 126 MIN		Queen of Glory 6:30 PM • 78 MIN		In the Court of the Crimson King 8:30 PM • 86 MIN			

Tuesday, April 12

	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM
AMC MADISON 6													
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 1				Intregalde 1 PM • 104 MIN		Amira 3:15 PM • 98 MIN		Charm Circle 5:30 PM • 79 MIN		Petrov's Flu 8 PM • 146 MIN			
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 5				The Lady in the Car with Glasses and a Gun 3:30 PM • 101 MIN		Top Secret! 5:45 PM • 90 MIN		The Servant 8:15 PM • 116 MIN					
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 6				Cow 1:45 PM • 93 MIN		Queen of Glory 4 PM • 78 MIN		Sambizanga 6:30 PM • 96 MIN		The Timekeepers of Eternity 8:30 PM • 71 MIN			


Wednesday, April 13

	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM
AMC MADISON 6													
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 1				Charm Circle 12:30 PM • 79 MIN		The Girl and the Spider 2:45 PM • 99 MIN		Unidentified 5 PM • 123 MIN		Miracle 8 PM • 118 MIN			
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 5				Symphony for a Massacre 12:15 PM • 110 MIN		Claydream 3 PM • 96 MIN		Holy Emy 5:15 PM • 111 MIN		Vive l'Amour 8:15 PM • 118 MIN			
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 6				Sambizanga 3:30 PM • 96 MIN		Robust 5:45 PM • 95 MIN		Klondike 7:45 PM • 100 MIN					

Thursday, April 14

	10 AM	11 AM	NOON	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM
AMC MADISON 6													
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 1				Unidentified 12 PM • 123 MIN		Miracle 3 PM • 118 MIN		Ali & Ava 6 PM • 95 MIN		Ali & Ava 8:30 PM • 95 MIN			
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 5				Mr. Klein 2 PM • 123 MIN		The Servant 4:30 PM • 116 MIN		Inland Empire 7 PM • 180 MIN					
AMC Madison 6 Cinema 6				Klondike 1 PM • 100 MIN		Fire 3:15 PM • 116 MIN		Fire 5:45 PM • 116 MIN		Emily the Criminal 8:15 PM • 95 MIN			



 Wisconsin's Own Shorts

Memories of the Future

SAT, APRIL 9 • 11 AM
CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART
64 MIN

Each year we get a wonderful assortment of experimental shorts submitted to the Wisconsin's Own section of the festival, but this year's crop was the strongest in recent memory, resulting in a truly mind blowing collection of films that push the boundaries of what is possible within the medium. From the jaw-dropping computer generated imagery of *A Random Walk Through the Latent Space* to the 2021 Golden Badger Award winning *Ad meliora*, we guarantee this program is as engaging and entertaining as anything else at this year's festival.

A Random Walk Through the Latent Space

Experimental • USA • 2021 • **6 MIN**
• Director: David Witzling

Self-described "mad computer scientist," David Witzling presents a hybrid artform in which human compositions are interpolated by a machine. The results are images of space and time, as seen through the eyes of an algorithm. (PL)

The Wind That Held Us Here

EXPERIMENTAL • USA • 2021 • **6 MIN**
• DIRECTOR: JACK CRONIN

Stunning monochromatic imagery and evocatively poetic text combine to tell the tale of Monarch butterflies' stopover at Point Pelee National Park on during their yearly migration to Mexico in this powerful experimental short from Jack Cronin (*Pictured Rocks WFF '19*, *Mirage WFF '20*). (BR)

Other Tidal Effects

Experimental • USA • 2021 • **7 MIN**
• Director: Sofia Theodore-Pierce

A kaleidoscopic experimental film that mixes narration, lullabies, and conversation, all captured on lovely, grainy film. (BC)

Connection

Narrative • USA • 2021 • **8 MIN** • Director: James Runde
Cast: Ralph Connors, James Runde

James Runde experiences a close encounter of the *La Jetée* kind in this tantalizingly spooky short. (BR)

Report Card

Experimental • USA • 2021 • **5 MIN**
• Director: Bill Bedford

Another transfixing combination of color, movement, sound and texture from Wisconsin's own Bill Bedford. (BR)

Devour

Experimental • USA • 2021 • **3 MIN**
• Director: Kate Raney

An experimental animation that meditates on the circle-of-life for various flora and fauna, and considers the role of consumption within this enclosed environment. (PL)

A Due Remembrance of Wolves

Experimental • USA • 2022 • **7 MIN** • Director: David Boffa
Cast: Lupo and Coda

Images of beautiful animals clash with a cavalcade of unkind words written about them in this hypnotic and meditative piece. (BR)

Ditat Deus Donuts

Experimental • USA • 2021 • **13 MIN**
• Director: Renato Umali

Machine meets cinema in this animated journey through the desolate highways of the Arizona desert. This surreal tour through towns that time forgot not only offers a meditation on the ephemerality of human existence, it also celebrates the simple pleasure of a delicious pastry. (PL)

Summer Letter

Experimental • USA • 2021 • **6 MIN** • Director: Louis Heilbronn
Cast: Louise Parker

A summer vacation cabin hang-out with a young family and their newborn child, rendered as visual poetry. (BC)

Ad meliora

Experimental • USA • 2021 • **3 MIN**
• Director: Kate Balsley

A filmic collage that combines familiar shapes and textures of the natural world with the artifice of animation, enveloping the viewer in a beautiful melange of sound and color. *Winner of a 2021 Golden Badger Award*. (PL)

This program is presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin



Mija

SAT, APRIL 9 • 5:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

SUN, APRIL 10 • 7 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1
Documentary • USA • 2022 • English,
Spanish with English subtitles • **85 MIN**
• Director: Isabel Castro

Aspiring music manager Doris struck gold right out of the gate when she discovered Cuco, a teen-aged phenom who quickly racked up tens of millions of streams. Out to prove that she's not a one-hit wonder, Doris zeroes in on Jacks Haupt, a talented singer/song-writer who lives with her parents in Dallas. The duo head out to Los Angeles to make a go of it, entering a dreamy whirlwind of photo shoots and convertibles, hoping to translate social media likes into dollars. Beyond their mutual love of music, Doris and Jacks share a deeper bond, as both are American daughters of undocumented Mexican immigrants. Their citizenship means that these young women are under the intense pressure that comes with being the link to their parents' green card applications, the results of which mean all the difference for their families. Brimming with life and music, *Mija* is a fresh, revelatory, and incredibly moving take on the American immigration experience. "Incandescent... transforms the immigration tale. Castro's debut feature deals with heartache and vulnerability but also shimmers with joy and genuine insight" (*Variety*). "Dazzling, heartrending. *Mija* beams with the knowledge that in its specificity it speaks to millions" (*Indiewire*). 2022 Sundance Film Festival. (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Department of Portuguese & Spanish



Miracle *Miracol*

WED, APRIL 13 • 8 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

THU, APRIL 14 • 3 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: BOGDAN GEORGE APETRI

Narrative • Romania, Latvia, Czech Republic • 2021 • Romanian with English subtitles • **118 MIN**

Director: Bogdan George Apetri
Cast: Ioana Bugarin, Emanuel Pârvu, Cezar Antal, Valentin Popescu, Olimpia Mălai, Vasile Muraru

Young nun Cristina (Ioana Bugarin) sneaks out of her isolated monastery to attend to an urgent matter. Her enigmatic journey takes her around town, but she is seemingly unable to solve her problem and find the man she is looking for. Out of options, she returns in the evening only to meet an unexpected fate on her way back to the convent. Later, Marius Preda (Emanuel Pârvu), a determined police detective, retraces Cristina's journey through all the places she visited. Preda's investigation uncovers clues and revelations leading not only to the unfathomable truth behind Cristina's mysterious actions, but possibly, to an actual miracle as well. After *Unidentified* (also screening in this year's WFF), *Miracle* is the second feature in a planned trilogy of movies set in the same small city and featuring interconnected characters, like Pârvu's Preda, who also appears in *Unidentified*. Divided into two halves itself, *Miracle* utilizes a clever, mirrored story structure, and a rigorous visual plan that employs only forty-two sequence shots, including a stunning 16-minute long take near the end of the film. Bogdan George Apetri will be with us in person to discuss the first two thirds of his trilogy. "*Miracle* is staged with an inexorable skill that tugs you along like a Patricia Highsmith novel. It's a tale of mystery, of scalded innocence, and of the staggering evil that ordinary men can do" (Owen Gleiberman, *Variety*). (JH)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA)



Mission Ulja Funk

Narrative • Germany • 2021 • **92 MIN**

Director: Barbara Kronenberg
Cast: Romy Lou Janinoff, Hildegard Schroedter, Jonas Oebel, Luc Feit, Anja Schneider, Ivan Shvedoff, Janina Elkin

Twelve-year old aspiring astronomer Ulja has made an important discovery: an asteroid is going to hit the earth in Belarus. The adults around her just aren't interested, or don't believe her, and her grandmother tries to banish all science from Ulja's life. But she is in communication with a scientist who takes her seriously and will be at the impact site. Ulja commandeers a hearse, persuades classmate Henk to drive, and takes off on a wild and delightful road romp through Germany, Poland, and Belarus. Pursued by concerned family and by a local pastor, Ulja and Henk race the clock in a desperate bid to avert disaster. Eclectic characters and improbable adventures will challenge preconceptions about family, friendship, and the pursuit of knowledge. Contains occasional foul words and gestures. (TK)



Big Screens Little Folks / Ages 10+

Mission Ulja Funk

SUN, APRIL 10 • 12 PM
THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

Wali and Zuri

Narrative • USA • 2020 • **8 MIN**

Director: Derrick Woodyard
Cast: Meliki Hurd, Veronica James

Wali just wants to play basketball with his new friends. When his little sister Zuri tags along, he has to make some difficult choices. Some fighting and brief foul words. (TK)



The Mole

Muldvarpen

SAT, APRIL 9 • 3:30 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

SUN, APRIL 10 • 11:15 AM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Documentary • Denmark, Norway • 2021 • English, Danish, Korean with English subtitles • **126 MIN**

Director: Mads Brügger

Armed with little more than his wits and a wire, an ordinary Danish man infiltrates the highest ranks of the North Korean regime in the latest jaw-dropper from documentary daredevil Mads Brügger (*Cold Case Hammarskjöld*, WFF 2019). A middle-aged family man living on government benefits in the Copenhagen suburbs, Ulrich Larsen is not exactly someone you'd peg for death-defying espionage. But it's precisely that unassuming quality—combined with a supernatural reserve of bravery and apparently ample free time—that makes him the perfect person for the job. Larsen spent a full ten years working his way up the ladder of the bizarre global DPRK-advocacy group known as the Korean Friendship Association, building up bogus credibility. Along the way, he teamed up with Brügger, a filmmaker who first achieved notoriety with his previous North Korean expose *Red Chapel* (WFF 2011). Acting as field man and puppet master, the pair hoodwink DPRK officials into thinking Larsen has recruited a billionaire buyer for their illegal weapons and drugs—actually an actor doing an absurd jet-setting playboy schtick. Larsen's hidden camera footage takes us far behind the North Korean curtain, where he uncovers staggering levels of corruption and criminality at great personal risk. As is always the case with Brügger's films, you truly won't believe how far the conspiracy goes. (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison German, Nordic & Slavic Studies



Wisconsin's Own Shorts

Movers and Shakers

SAT, APRIL 9 • 5:15 PM
THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH
64 MIN

FILMMAKERS TO ATTEND

Seven shorts from the Wisconsin's Own section of the Festival guaranteed to move and shake you, from the otherworldly gamesmanship between two brothers in *Garland* to the booty shaking love vibrations of *In Pursuit of Joy: A Screendance BBQ*, get your Saturday night off to a great start with this collection of cinematic treats.

Garland

Narrative • USA • 2021 • **13 MIN**
Director: Alec Huggins Cast: Jake Anderson, Dominik Schwartz, R. Scott Purdy, Jennifer Peterson-Vehrs

Set in an ambiguous society and time period, *Garland* pits two brothers against each other in a series of contests to determine which one is superior. (BC)

Rosso

Narrative • USA • 2021 • **5 MIN**
Director: Zach Staads Cast: Asiah Doyle, Lionel Lee

Gorgeous cinematography highlights this dark, mysterious tale of an early morning fishing trip. (BR)

Amber the Acrobat

Narrative • USA • 2021 • **15 MIN**
Director: Abigail Kruger Cast: Leslie Basham, Gail Cronauer, Audrey Faye Lutz, Andronicus ClownthaDancer Scott

A middle-aged former burlesque dancer embarks on a new career as a nightclub owner. On opening night she is plagued with self-doubt, manifesting as visions of her past and future self. (PL)

The Small Hours

Narrative • USA • 2021 • **12 MIN**
Director: Melissa Pinsky Cast: Sigi Ravet, Brandon Ravet

Cravings, restlessness, midnight anxiety and morning sickness all await a newly pregnant woman. (BC)

Mover

Dance • USA • 2021 • **10 MIN**
Director: Jackson Jarvis Eagan
Cast: Tilly Evans-Krueger

Equal parts ghost story and dance film, *Mover* explores the emotional turmoil that accompanies a life altering decision, and the freedom that comes with moving on. (PL)

Married to the Bag

Narrative • USA • 2021 • **14 MIN**
Director: Zane Bhansali Cast: Molly Brown, Miranda Volpe, Nadja Hoyer-Booth

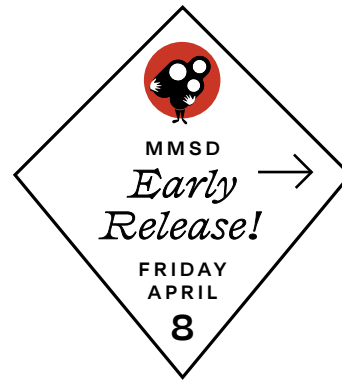
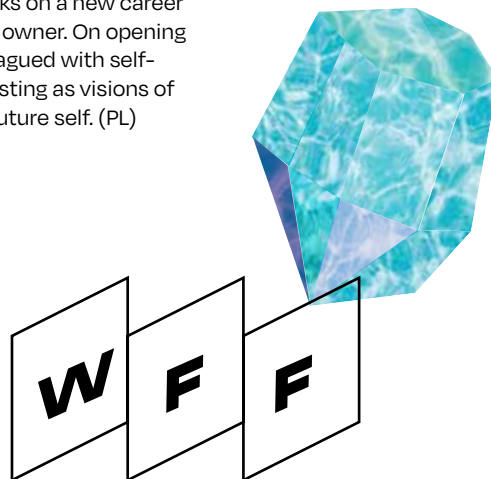
A young woman returns home to comfort her alcoholic mother after her parents' messy divorce. (PL)

In Pursuit of Joy: A Screendance BBQ

Dance • United Kingdom • 2021 • **9 MIN**
Director: Omari 'Motion' Carter Cast: Greta Gauhe, Silva Cherneva, Alina Sakko, Gerard Udeagbala, Lauren Jenkins

In Omari 'Motion' Carter's screendance, a backyard party generates the kind of love vibrations that compete with the sun for soul-nourishing warmth. (BR)

This program is presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin



Mr. Klein

Monsieur Klein

FRI, APRIL 8 • 5:15 PM
UW CINEMATHEQUE

THU, APRIL 14 • 2 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Narrative • France, Italy • 1976 • French with English subtitles • **123 MIN**

Director: Joseph Losey Cast: Alain Delon, Jeanne Moreau, Francine Bergé

Legendary leading man Alain Delon is the title character, an art dealer in Nazi-occupied Paris of 1942. The Gentile Mr. Klein is mistaken by the police for another man who bears his name, a Jewish activist who may be engaged in a plot against the Gestapo. Mr. Klein is compelled to clear himself both by attempting to prove his "racial purity" and by trying to locate the "guilty" other Mr. Klein. As he searches for his elusive namesake, the art dealer loses his possessions, his mistress, and his prominent social status. Recalling great works of Kafka, Dostoevsky, and Conrad, *Mr. Klein* is one of the most haunting and enigmatic of all cinematic doppelgänger stories, and the most significant film from the final decade in the career of Wisconsin born-and-raised director Joseph Losey. A victim of the McCarthy era Hollywood blacklist, Losey was naturally fascinated by this tale of a man whose obsessive quest forces him to become involved in the hideous and pervasive repercussions of the prevailing power. As in Losey's *The Servant*, also showing at this year's WFF, *Mr. Klein* "is concerned with the shifting relationship of victim and oppressor, and the theme is drawn with tremendous care and subtlety" (Dave Kehr, *Chicago Reader*). A new 4K restoration from Rialto Pictures will be shown. (JH)



Big Screens Little Folks / Ages 10+

My Dad is a Sausage

FRI, APRIL 8 • 4:15 PM
THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

Dolápò is Fine

Narrative • UK • 2021 • **15 MIN**

Director: Ethosheia Hylton Cast: Doyin Ajiboye, Katie Friedli Walton, Joan Iyiola, Luke Gasper, Thanmilvani Umanipalan

Dolápò, a Nigerian teenager tries to land a job in London's financial world. Will she follow her advisor's suggestions to change her name and her hairstyle to blend in? Ethosheia Hylton's poignant short film is about self-image and how much one needs to adapt in order to be considered. (KK)

My Dad is a Sausage

Mijn vader is een saucisje

Narrative • Belgium/Netherlands • 2021 • Dutch with English subtitles • **80 MIN**

Director: Anouk Fortunier Cast: Johan Heijdenbergh, Savannah Vandendriessche, Hilde De Baerdemaeker, Jade De Ridder, Ferre Vuyse, Camilia Blereau

Anouk Fortunier's feature debut is a quirky family comedy based on a children's book by Agnès de Lestrade, celebrating the relationship between a father and daughter as they search for their true calling. Zoë's family leads a busy, conventional life until her father unexpectedly quits his predictable banking job. Once free, he realizes he can pursue his first passion – the theater. He will become an actor! His wife, an executive in the family candy business, his oldest daughter, and his son are appalled! Only Zoë supports her dad as he struggles to reinvent himself. "Striking too are the beautiful animated sequences, which echo Zoë's interior life, her questions about the balance between our creative and rational parts, our right and left brains, and which poetically and intelligently punctuate the story" (Aurore Engelen, *Cineuropa*). Inspired by Dad's lead, each family member realizes that they too have choices. (TK)



Neptune Frost

SAT, APRIL 9 • 8 PM

THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

Narrative • Rwanda, USA • 2021 • English, French, Kinyarwanda, Swahili with English subtitles • **105 MIN**

Director: Saul Williams, Anisia Uzeyman Cast: Cheryl Ishjeja, Bertrand Ninteretse, Eliane Umuhire

This cosmic Afrofuturist wonder comes from acclaimed musician Saul Williams and Anisia Uzeyman. Set in Burundi, the story concerns a group of miners who form a hacktivist collective bent on overthrowing an exploitative regime, but “no synopsis could entirely account for the beguiling lyricism and visual plenty of this strange and wonderful film” (*Screen Slate*). As visionary as a divination, *Neptune Frost* boasts an eye-and-ear popping cyberpunk aesthetic, from the neon rainbow of its costumes and sets to Williams’s stellar soundtrack. As it blurs temporal, sexual, and political boundaries with fearless imagination, *Neptune Frost* is thematically and visually rich. “The future of Black cinema. *Neptune Frost* utilizes everything the medium of film has to offer—visually, sonically, and emotionally. Gorgeously photographed, the Rwanda-set film requires the largest screen possible—watching it at home is not enough. Nourishment for the soul” (*The Hollywood Reporter*). “Astounding. A future cult classic in the making” (*Screen Anarchy*). 2021 Cannes, New York, 2022 Sundance, Rotterdam Film Festivals. (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison African Cultural Studies



A Night of Knowing Nothing

SAT, APRIL 9 • 8 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

SUN, APRIL 10 • 11:30 AM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5
Documentary • India, France • 2021 • Hindi with English subtitles • **96 MIN** • Director: Payal Kapadia

Winner of the Best Documentary prize at the Cannes Film Festival and named the #1 film of the year by the *Chicago Tribune*, *A Night of Knowing Nothing* is a transfixing portrait of love and activism on a college campus in India. It begins with the discovery of a stash of intimate love letters between two students at the Film & Television Institute of India. In the manner of Chris Marker’s masterpiece *Sans Soleil*, the text of these letters are read as the film’s narration. The correspondence begins in a mood of youthful, cross-caste infatuation that transitions into political awakening as the university is seized by protests against India’s nationalist turn. Director Payal Kapadia sets this epistolary romance against evocative, black-and-white documentary images both idyllic and turbulent, but her impressionistic masterstroke is that while the footage we see is real, the letters are not. In creating a uniquely fictional reflection on actual events, Kapadia uses the language of both narrative and documentary cinema to reach revelations that can’t be captured by either alone. “A gorgeous act of poetic resistance. The movie expresses so much, so delicately, about precarious young hearts, the storm clouds of nationalist politics and, most of all, the possibility and necessity of artistic freedom. Don’t sleep on it” (*Chicago Tribune*). (MK)



No Looking Back

Otorvi i vybros

FRI, APRIL 8 • 8:30 PM

SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION

Narrative • Russia • 2021 • Russian with English subtitles • **98 MIN**

Director: Kirill Sokolov Cast: Victoria Korotkova, Anna Mikhalkova, Sofia Krugova

A slam-bang blast from front to back, this rollicking action comedy will put a grin on your face—even after knocking a couple teeth out. Fresh out of jail, Olga heads straight to her mom’s house to get her 10-year-old daughter back. But her domineering mother isn’t about to let the kid go without a fight—and what a fight it is. A freewheeling, three-generation chase across the Russian countryside ensues, packed to the gills with slapstick showdowns, bone-crunching brawls, and big laughs. Exuberantly directed by Kirill Sokolov, this impeccably stylish rampage stages its melee with a cartoonish glee that will have you simultaneously cracking up and wincing. Sokolov erupted on the scene with his aptly named debut *Why Don’t You Just Die?* (a title that could just as easily be applied to this film), and it’s only a matter of time before Hollywood hands him the keys to a franchise. Not for the faint of heart or humor, *No Looking Back* is the definition of a bloody good time. 2022 SXSW Film Festival. Best Actress, 2021 Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA)



Wisconsin’s Own

Only I Can Hear

SAT, APRIL 9 • 1:15 PM

CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

72 MIN

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE



What You Left Behind

Documentary • USA • 2020 • **18 MIN**

Director: Jayce Kolinski Cast: Jayce Kolinski, Suzanne Kolinski, Jeffrey Kolinski

Deftly mixing VHS home movie footage, 16mm footage, and modern digital footage, this documentary builds a complex portrait of

a family grieving the loss of their paternal loved one. *Winner of a 2021 Golden Badger Award* (BC)

Only I Can Hear

Documentary • USA, Japan • 2021 • **54 MIN**

Director: Matsui Itaru Cast: Nyla Robert, Jessica Weis, McKenzie Edwards, Ashley Ryan

“It’s hard for me, because I’ve always wanted to be deaf” 15-year-old Nyla says at the start of the near-feature length documentary, *Only I Can Hear*. Nyla is the only hearing child of deaf parents, and this wide-ranging yet intimate documentary shines an illuminating spotlight on her and other young CODAs (children of deaf adults). Life isn’t easy for these young people, they tend to feel as out of place among their deaf family members as they do among their hearing classmates, friends and teachers. Trying to explain their dilemma to either side isn’t easy, which is why a yearly sojourn to a CODA camp in Poynette, Wisconsin is such a welcome relief. There, among other CODAs, these kids can finally be fully themselves, playing, singing, laughing and crying with others who deal with the same daily struggle to find their

Opening Night Reception

THU, APRIL 7 • 5:30 PM
MAIN LOUNGE, MEMORIAL UNION
90 MIN • TICKETS \$25

Join us for our Opening Night Celebration at 5:30pm in the Main Lounge. We will have hors d’oeuvres, drinks and cake, a toast, some speeches, and general merriment. At 7pm come downstairs to Shannon Hall for our Opening Night Film: *Anaïs in Love* preceded by our Golden Badger Awards presentation and Festival welcome.








Petrov's Flu

Petrov v grippe

SUN, APRIL 10 • 1:30 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

TUE, APRIL 12 • 8 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

Narrative • Russia, France • 2021 • Russian with English subtitles • **146 MIN**

Director: Kirill Serebrennikov Cast: Semyon Serzin, Chulpan Khamatova, Yulia Peresild, Yuri Kolokolnikov, Yuriy Borisov, Ivan Dorn, Aleksandr Ilyin, Sergey Dreyden, Olga Voronina, Timofey Tribuntsev, Semyon Steinberg, Georgiy Kudrenko

A literal fever dream of a film, *Petrov's Flu* is a surreal ride through contemporary Russia that lovers of adventurous cinema won't want to miss. There's some kind of illness going around the city of Yekaterinburg, and Petrov can't stop coughing. Flouting synopsis, the film adopts Petrov's delirious mind-set, thrillingly careening from one hypnotic set piece to the next and straying to follow peripheral characters at will. Its dark, theatrical world-view is punctuated by occasional bursts of violence, moments all the more shocking for their suddenness. A virtuoso piece of filmmaking all around, *Petrov's Flu* wends its way through flashbacks, dreams, hallucinations, and memories with the same mesmerizing fluidity of its labyrinthine Steadicam shots. Outspoken dissident writer/director Kirill Serebrennikov was placed under 20 months of house arrest while completing his previous film, *Leto* (WFF 2019), and shot *Petrov's Flu* at night while appearing in court during the day. "A rowdy, exhilarating return to top form. This is a work driven by swollen, all-encompassing, sometimes hilarious fury at a general place and way of living, one its director is currently legally forbidden from leaving. *Petrov's Flu* is cinema to the breathless last, riding the camera like a bucking horse as single shots carry us between locations, eras and states of mind—the thrilling, messy work of a man released" (*Variety*). (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA)



Private Desert

Deserto Particular

SUN, APRIL 10 • 11 AM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

MON, APRIL 11 • 3:30 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

Narrative • Brazil • 2021 • Portuguese with English subtitles • **121 MIN**

Director: Aly Muritiba Cast: Antonio Saboia, Pedro Fasanaro, Thomas Aquino

Daniel is in love. In fact, his relationship with Sara is the only thing keeping him going these days, even though they live on opposite sides of Brazil. Stuck home caring for his elderly dad after being placed on disciplinary leave from the police department, Daniel clings to his phone, pouring what's left of his hopes and dreams into texting with Sara. Until one day, she inexplicably ghosts him. Emotionally stranded and desperate for a second chance, or at least some answers, Daniel drives 1,500 miles across Brazil to find her, with nothing more to go on than a cell phone photo and the name of the town where she lives. When they finally have a fleeting encounter at the film's halfway point, writer/director Aly Muritiba brilliantly turns the tables, following Sara rather than Daniel, giving us an entirely new perspective on both the scenario and the elusive woman at its center. Faced with a flesh-and-blood person rather than a fantasy held in their phones, Daniel and Sara both must come to terms with allowing someone into their real lives. Muritiba's tender, richly drawn diptych is "achingly beautiful—and incredibly erotic" (*Variety*). 2021 Venice Film Festival. (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Department of Portuguese & Spanish



Queen of Glory

MON, APRIL 11 • 6:30 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

TUE, APRIL 12 • 4 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • USA • 2021 • **78 MIN**

Director: Nana Mensah Cast: Nana Mensah, Meeko Gattuso, Oberon K.A. Adjepong

"A sly, seriocomic delight that keeps its many charms coming" (*The Moveable Feast*), this winning dramedy is "precisely the type of under-the-radar gem that festivals were made to spotlight" (*Variety*). Columbia PhD student Sarah is just about to follow her married boyfriend's move to Ohio when she abruptly inherits her family's Christian bookstore in the Bronx. Suddenly finding herself behind the shop counter during the day and dealing with her long-absent Ghanian dad at night, Sarah is forced to reevaluate everything about her life and come to terms with her heritage. Drawing on her own background, writer/director/star Nana Menash depicts New York's Ghanian-American community with warm humor and street-level authenticity. *Queen of Glory* is nominated for Best First Feature and Best Supporting Actor at the 2022 Independent Spirit Awards, and has already won numerous festival awards, including Best Director prizes at Tribeca and Hamptons, and both Best Narrative Feature and the Audience Award at Indie Memphis. "Mensah's tightly conceived, witty and compassionate dark comedy is a love letter to children of Ghanaian immigrants and to the Bronx" (*The Hollywood Reporter*). (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison African Cultural Studies Department



Re-Animator

FRI, APRIL 8 • 8:30 PM
CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

35mm • Narrative • USA • 1985 • **86 MIN**

Director: Stuart Gordon Cast: Jeffrey Combs, Barbara Crampton, Bruce Abbott, Carolyn Purdy-Gordon

After his experiments in bringing the dead back to life gets him quietly shuttled out of a Swiss institute, medical student and

champion wacko Dr. Herbert West (Jeffrey Combs) finds himself at Arkham, MA's Miskatonic University, where he immediately produces more of his green glowing reagent for creating zombies. Soon, Miskatonic's medical school runs riot with a frothing-at-the-mouth dean, a walking headless professor, a nasty little re-animated cat, and more mayhem. Originally released in 1985, *Re-Animator* marks one of the most fully realized feature debuts in the history of horror and science-fiction movies for director and co-screenwriter Stuart Gordon (1947-2020). Thanks to more than 15 years' experience producing elaborate but economical theatrical productions first in Madison, Wisconsin, and then at Chicago's Organic Theater Company, which he co-founded, Gordon was able to develop a witty, politically-charged, and highly efficient working style that he applied to *Re-Animator*. Still one of the best-loved of Gordon's filmography, the movie is also the first of several Gordon adaptations of author H.P. Lovecraft, one of the director's favorite authors. Gore-filled and overflowing with visual and verbal puns, *Re-Animator* is performed to deadpan perfection by a game cast, especially Combs and David Gale as the professor who remains foully lecherous, even when decapitated. A 35mm print, courtesy of the Stuart Gordon Collection at the Wisconsin Center for Film & Theater Research, will be screened. (JH)



Retrograde

FRI, APRIL 8 • 6:15 PM
CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: ADRIAN MURRAY

Narrative • Canada • 2022 • **74 MIN**

Director: Adrian Murray Cast: Molly Reisman, Sofia Banzhaf, Bessie Cheng, Meelad Moaphi, Erik Anderson, Adrian Murray, Dean Tardioli, Meredith Heinrich, Peter Frangella, Joanne Steven

A traffic ticket kicks off a Sisyphian quest into the far reaches of truth, fate, and traffic court in this dryly comic indie gem. When Molly gets pulled over while helping her new roommate move in, she's sure it's just a mixup over a lane change gone wrong. Nevertheless, she ends up with a citation for reckless driving, and if the cop isn't budging, neither is Molly. Increasingly convinced she is in the right, Molly vents to anyone in earshot and takes precious days off work to trudge to city hall and fight her meager fine. Her principled-yet-pointless stand further alienates Molly from her astrology-obsessed roommates, who wish she would just drop it and leave it to the stars. But what is she supposed to do, give in? Perfectly encapsulating the pain and humor of being needlessly screwed over by bureaucrats, *Retrograde* is Kafka in miniature. Writer/director Adrian Murray impressively stages every scene in a single, elegant shot, with a precision that recalls the masters of the Romanian New Wave. (MK)



Robust

Robuste

SUN, APRIL 10 • 11 AM
UW CINEMATHEQUE

WED, APRIL 13 • 5:45 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • France, Belgium • 2021 • French with English subtitles • **95 MIN**

Director: Constance Meyer Cast: Gérard Depardieu, Déborah Lukumuena, Lucas Mortier

Georges (G rard Depardieu) is a famous-but-aging actor past his prime, prone to entitled outbursts, and with a growing reputation for being difficult to work with. When his regular assistant and body-guard needs to take some time off, Georges finds temporary help in preparing for his latest role from the no-nonsense but kind Aïssa (D borah Lukumuena), part-time security guard and a wrestler-in-training. Soon, the odd couple develops an increasingly warm and supportive relationship; Georges realizes how disconnected he has become, while Aïssa's respect for her new employer grows as they reveal their separate vulnerabilities. Told with a decidedly unsentimental attitude and abundant humor, especially when showing the growing friendship at the story's center, but also in the depiction of the current French film industry, *Robust* is an exciting debut from first-time feature writer-director Constance Meyer. Depardieu is remarkable in his most sensitive portrayal in years and Lukumuena renders loneliness, toughness, and compassion in fresh and honest ways that make it clear that a star is born. "Meyer, co-writing and directing her debut film, avoids the genre pitfalls of obvious big gestures and grand reversals, and instead tracks a relationship that deepens each participant's sense of themselves without itself necessarily changing that much." (Jessica Kiang, *Variety*). 2021 Cannes Film Festival Critics Week Opening Film. (JH)

Presented with support from UW-Madison French & Italian Department



Sambizanga

TUE, APRIL 12 • 6:30 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

WED, APRIL 13 • 3:30 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • Angola, France • 1973 • Lingala, Portuguese with English subtitles • **96 MIN**
Director: Sarah Maldoror Cast: Domingos de Oliveira, Elisa Andrade, Jean M'Vono

This unforgettable, history-making movie is set in war-torn Angola in 1961, when the activist Domingos (Domingos De Oliveira) is spirited away by colonialist troops and placed in a prison where torture is the order of the day. Domingos' apolitical wife, Maria (Elisa Andrade,) travels from prison to prison searching for her husband, experiencing a radical awakening as she learns what is happening to Domingos and other prisoners. Directed by the French-born feminist Sarah Maldoror, *Sambizanga* is one of the rare African films of its era directed by a woman. Maldoror's husband and co-screenwriter, M rio de Andrade, was himself an activist who spent much of the 1960s and 1970s in hiding from Interpol, and he later became President of both the MPLA (the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola) and the CONCP (Conferences of Nationalist Organizations of the Portuguese Colonies). All of the authentic and most memorable sequences in *Sambizanga* come from Maldoror's and de Andrade's personal experience: a politically-charged sewing lesson; the relaying of messages in prison; the recruitment of children to identify Domingos; and a meeting held in the middle of a dance. This restoration of *Sambizanga* is part of the African Film Heritage Project, an initiative created by The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project, the FEPACI and UNESCO – in collaboration with Cineteca di Bologna – to help locate, restore and disseminate African cinema. (JH)

Presented with support from UW-Madison African Cultural Studies



The Servant

TUE, APRIL 12 • 8:15 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

THU, APRIL 14 • 4:30 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Narrative • United Kingdom • 1963 • 116 MIN
Director: Joseph Losey Cast: Dirk Bogarde, James Fox, Sarah Miles

Tony (James Fox), a wealthy bachelor just released from military duty, purchases a posh London townhouse, and, at the same time, hires a personal manservant, Barrett (Dirk Bogarde). The tensions that Barrett initiates between Tony and his fianc e Susan (Wendy Craig) are only exacerbated when the butler introduces his sister Vera (Sarah Miles) to Tony. In time, the sinister Barrett has fully corrupted the traditional relationship between a servant and his master. Loosely adapting an autobiographical novel by Robin Maugham, Nobel laureate Harold Pinter made his debut as a screenwriter with this chilling study of class struggle and perversion. Pinter's signature dialogue – enigmatic and elliptical – is brought to vivid life by an extraordinary cast under the lean direction by La Crosse, Wisconsin native Joseph Losey (whose *Mr. Klein* is also showing at this year's WFF in a new restoration). Losey's deliberately jarring transitions between sequences, along with the striking black-and-white visuals of genius cinematographer Douglas Slocombe (*Freud, Raiders of the Lost Ark*), combine with the jazzy John Dankworth score and haunting Cleo Laine theme song for an unforgettable movie experience. Controversial and critically acclaimed as one of the best British productions of its era, the influence of *The Servant* can be tracked internationally over the decades in films ranging from *Performance* and *The Remains of the Day* (both featuring James Fox in variations on his *Servant* performance) to David Cronenberg's *Dead Ringers* and Bong Joon Ho's *Parasite*. A new 4K DCP restoration of *The Servant* will be screened. (JH)



Seven Days

SUN, APRIL 10 • 6:15 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Elevate

Narrative • 2021 • **15 MIN**

Director: Dylan Boom Cast: Tracie Thoms, Jason Butler Harner, Rickey Eugene Brown

Working the graveyard shift as a security guard at a high rise building has its ups and downs as Tiffany (Tracie Thoms of *Deathproof*) is about to find out. (BR)

Seven Days

Narrative • USA • 2021 • **100 MIN**

Director: Corey Kupfer Cast: Elynn Jameson

Seven Days is an anthology of seven short films; seven character studies, all starring the same actress, Elynn Jameson. Director Corey Kupfer and Jameson bring us an impressive collection of young women, each at a turning point – sometimes big, sometimes small – in their lives. Jameson embodies each character with care and attention. At times frightening, at times heartwarming, each of the seven short films gives us the time and space to see the humanity behind each character. Jameson gives not one, but seven tour-de-force performances: a homeless teacher living out of her car, a wealthy housewife combating boredom with the art of flirtation, a single mother with her hands full, a social activist exploring the bounds of social media, a polyamorist on the prowl, a sex worker in over her head, and a same-sex partner bringing her girlfriend home to meet the parents. Here are seven portraits in miniature, full of small details all adding up to one humanist, empathetic picture. (BC)

This program is presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin



Shared Resources

SAT, APRIL 9 • 3:30 PM
CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

Documentary • USA • 2021 • **98 MIN**
Director: Jordan Lord

A profound inquiry into the black hole of debt, Jordan Lord's very personal documentary dives into tough questions about what we all owe one another. Nobody likes hearing from a debt collector, but in his decades in the profession, Albert Lord was careful to act honorably, and treat debtors with respect and dignity. But after a series of major setbacks, Albert finds himself declaring bankruptcy at retirement age. Now on the other side of the equation in an era with more ruthless methods of collection, Albert is still playing by the old rules, defending his creditors on principle even as they rob him of his veteran's benefits. Over the course of five years, Jordan Lord documents their parents' battle with bankruptcy, peeling back the interconnected layers of financial and filial debt. In kitchen-table debates on issues ranging from personal responsibility to documentary ethics, *Shared Resources* maintains a gratifyingly refreshing capacity to hear out competing perspectives and accommodate generational and philosophical differences. To provide the widest possible access, the entire film is presented with onscreen open captions and simultaneous descriptive audio, the latter sometimes delivered by the subjects themselves. As the people within the film reflect on their onscreen actions in real time, Lord's daring formal strategy yields moving revelations that no interview ever could. (MK)



Small Body

Piccolo Corpo

SAT, APRIL 9 • 11:30 AM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

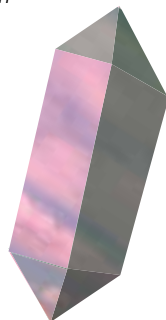
SUN, APRIL 10 • 6:30 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Narrative • Italy, France, Slovenia • 2021 • Italian with English subtitles • **89 MIN**

Director: Laura Samani Cast: Celeste Cescutti, Ondina Quadri

As spellbinding as a classic fairy tale, *Small Body* follows a young woman on a religious odyssey to save her child's soul in 1900 Italy. In order to save her stillborn baby from an eternity in limbo, Agata leaves her island village in search of a remote mountain church. There, legend has it, brief resurrections can be performed, enabling Agata to baptize her child and ensure its place in heaven. While traversing the beautiful and treacherous countryside, she encounters Lynx, a mysterious feral child who offers to show her the way. As we witness the lengths Agata is willing to go for a child she was never able to raise, *Small Body* reveals itself as a transcendent depiction of maternal devotion. First-time director Laura Samani imbues her folktale with mythical resonance, convincing us that in this world, miracles like the one Agata is pursuing might actually be possible. Since premiering in Cannes, *Small Body* has gone on to win prizes at film festivals the world over, including London, Thessaloniki, and Cairo. "Strikingly lovely... combines a vividly realized sense of place with a hint of enchantment" (*Screen*). (MK)

Presented with support from UW-Madison French & Italian Department



2022 VENUES

AMC MADISON 6
430 N. Midvale Blvd
amtheatres.com

**CHAZEN
MUSEUM OF ART**
750 University Ave.
chazen.wisc.edu

THE MARQUEE
2nd Floor, Union South
1308 Dayton St.
union.wisc.edu

SHANNON HALL
Memorial Union
800 Langdon St.
union.wisc.edu

UW CINEMATHEQUE
Room 4070, Vilas Hall
821 University Ave.
cinema.wisc.edu



Big Screens Little Folks / Ages 5-8

Small But Mighty!

SAT, APRIL 9 • 10 AM
THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH
67 MIN

The small among us can make a big difference!

Be Big

Animation • Republic of Korea • 2019 • No dialogue • **4 MIN**

Director: Da-young Jeon, Min-gyung Kim, Seo-a Han

A little monster struggles to be seen in a classroom full of very big monsters. (TK)

Ursa: The Song of the Northern Lights

Nordlysets sang

Animation • Norway • 2021 • No dialogue • **10 MIN**

Director: Natalia Malykhina

A young polar bear travels alone through the Arctic tundra in this Norwegian animation. Beneath the Northern Lights, he finds both friends and dangers on his journey to be reunited with his mother. (KH)

Bellysaurus

Animation • Australia • 2022 • **7 MIN**

Director: Philip Watts Cast: Berri Schachter, Gila Belfer, Aizik Schachter, Eli Szwiecwicz

A playful little dinosaur loves to play at being big. But when the unexpected happens, she discovers that size is relative. This colorful romp through the prehistoric explores what's possible when you look from a different point of view. (KH)

Preschool Poets: Me

Animation • USA • 2021 • **1 MIN**

Director: Daniel Bruson Cast: Ja'Lantea

Ja'Lantea wants to play with his older brother and his friends. Will his new impressive name "J-Money" achieve this goal? Daniel Bruson's dynamic watercolor interpretation deeply connects with RJD2's music in this poem of a 5 year old preschooler. (KK)

Mitch Match #9

Animation • Hungary • 2021 • No dialogue • **3 MIN**

Director: Géza M. Tóth

A whimsical moment in the everyday life of a little blue-headed matchstick! (TK)

Star Bound

Animation • USA • 2021 • **3 MIN**

Director: Richard O'Connor
Cast: Jerry Morrison, Joey Jefferson

Six-year-old Jerry loves to talk about space with his uncle Joey, a NASA Mission Operations Engineer. This animated short from StoryCorp explores their relationship and their thoughts about the future. (TK)

Conquistador - Collection Verlaïne

(Fresh Out of School)

Animation • France • 2021 • French w/ English subtitles • **3 MIN**

Director: Jérémie Cousin Cast: Gaël Giraudeau

Animated in moody primary colors to a Paul Verlaine poem, a little mouse undergoes an epic night time journey across seas of blankets on behalf of the little girl he loves. This short is part of a series, *Fresh out of School*, that combines the work of noted French Poets and the voices of fresh new directors who recently graduated from animation schools. (KH)

The Little Bang

Animation • USA • 2020 • **7 MIN**

Director: Jihyeon Bae (Jae Bae)

In this charming story about friendship and determination, a lonely little yellow star finds a kindred spirit in a blue star just out of reach. The two stars confront the vastness of space to try to close the distance and be together. (KH)

Ink Ink

Animation • Netherlands • 2020 • **2 MIN**

Director: Joost van der Bosch, Erik Verkerk

A fastidious octopus tries to call the aquarium cleaner's attention to a smudge on his tank, but human-octopus communication is difficult! (TK)

Sign up!

Animation • Australia • 2021 • **2 MIN**

Director: Philip Watts

This imaginative short follows a group of cute and funny monsters as their day unfolds in unexpected ways as they follow the signs they find outside their doors. (KH)

Zog and the Flying Doctors

Animation • UK • 2020 • **25 MIN**

Director: Sean Mullen Cast: Lucian Msamati, Rob Brydon, Patsy Ferran, Sir Lenny Henry, Daniel Ings, Alexandra Loach, Mark Bonnar, Hugh Skinner

Princess Pearl takes to the sky with Zog the dragon and Gadabout to fulfill her dream of being a doctor. But when she is captured by her uncle, the king, she must consider what being a doctor really is about. This exciting tale is adapted from the work of classic children's book author Julia Donaldson and illustrator Axel Scheffler. (KH)



Sorry, Wrong Number

SAT, APRIL 9 • 11 AM
UW CINEMATHEQUE


SCHEDULED TO ATTEND:
DAVID KOEPP

35mm • Narrative • USA • 1948 • **89 MIN**

Director: Anatole Litvak Cast: Barbara Stanwyck, Burt Lancaster, Ann Richards

Isolated and bedridden with a number of psychosomatic ailments, Leona (Barbara Stanwyck) is increasingly driven to hysteria after she hears the plans for her impending murder over the phone. *Sorry, Wrong Number* is an ideal example of a short, single location play, (in this case, a 30 minute one written for radio broadcast!), that brilliantly and compellingly extends the drama to the length of a feature film. Screenwriter Lucille Fletcher, adapting her own oft-produced play, and accomplished director Anatole Litvak (whose final feature, *The Lady in the Car with Glasses and a Gun*, is also screening at this year's WFF) combined forces to imaginatively create complex backstories for both Leona and her ambitious, duplicitous husband, Henry (Burt Lancaster, appearing here only two years after making his movie debut in *The Killers*). In the typical fashion of classic 1940s movies, Litvak and Fletcher render the backstories through superbly planned flashbacks, which, according to David Bordwell in *Reinventing Hollywood*, "puts Leona at the center of converging passions and deceptions. Playing roles of victim, witness, and investigator, she uncovers a pattern bringing together characters rich and poor, honest and crooked." *Sorry, Wrong Number* has been selected for inclusion in our Festival by David Koepp, who cites the movie as a particular influence on his screenplay for Steven Soderbergh's thriller *KIMI*, also screening at this year's WFF. David Koepp will introduce this screening of a 35mm print of *Sorry, Wrong Number*, courtesy of the Library of Congress. (JH)



 Wisconsin's Own Docs

State of the State

SAT, APRIL 9 • 2:45 PM
THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

What the heck is going on around here these days? Three documentaries and two bits of DIY punditry from this year's Wisconsin's Own section of the festival attempt to answer that question.

Sawyer County, 2020

Documentary • USA • 2021 • **25 MIN**

Director: Nick Libbey & Zach Tomasovic

This survey of a cross section of Sawyer County, Wisconsin residents in the immediate runup to the 2020 presidential election reveals a lot about the state of the state and the ever-increasing divide between neighbors. (BR)

Bitchfest

Wisconsin's Own, animation • USA • 2021 • **1 MIN**

Director: Graham Hartlaub Cast: Graham Hartlaub

Waaaaaaah (PL)

Dairyland

Wisconsin's Own, Documentary Short • USA • 2021 • **30 MIN**

Director: Taylor Pipes Cast:

In this sobering documentary, a fourth-generation dairy farmer in Wisconsin strives to keep his farm open while the state sees record family farm bankruptcies, closures, and rising suicide rates amongst agricultural workers. (BR)

For Whom The Eagle Caws

Wisconsin's Own, experimental • USA • 2021 • **3 MIN**

Director: Patrick Fliess Cast: Mitchell Reed, Derek Dziengel, Kiersten Hoff, Patricia Drogotta

A Trump supporter summons the fiery wrath of America's national bird to harass an innocent bystander. With its stunning black and white 16mm cinematography and thoughtful homages to silent cinema, this short is as beautiful as it is funny. (PL)

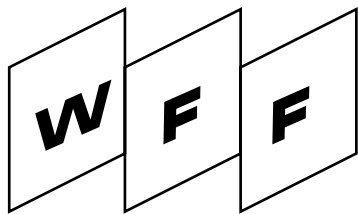
Last Race

Wisconsin's Own, Documentary Short • USA • 2021 • **19 MIN**

Director: John Haley Cast: Emily Siegrist, Lindsey Vang

The Last Race follows Emily Siegrist in the weeks leading up to 2020 election day as she campaigns for Wisconsin State Assembly while navigating her personal relationship. (BC)

This program is presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and UW-Madison Gender & Sexuality Campus Center



STAY FOR A
Live
MUSICAL
PERFORMANCE!

 Wisconsin's Own

Stay Prayed Up

FRI, APRIL 8 • 6 PM • SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

Documentary • USA • 2021 • **73 MIN** • Director: D.L. Anderson, Matt Durning

The first thing you'll notice about Lena Mae Perry, the subject of the documentary *Stay Prayed Up*, is her electrifying voice and commanding presence. Steadfast bandleader of The Branchettes, "Mother" Perry leads her group, which includes pianist Wilbur Tharpe and Wisconsin-born musician Phil Cook, through the recording of their first live gospel album at Long Branch Disciples of Christ Church in Newton Grove, NC. Through archival footage, musical performance, and meandering conversations, a moving portrait of Mother Perry emerges. She is a pillar of Black gospel, a devoted mother and businesswoman, and above all, as the poignant conclusion reveals, the glue that holds her community together. *Stay Prayed Up* premiered at the Telluride Film Festival in September 2021 and will have its theatrical release later this spring. Following the screening at the WFF, Mother Perry and the Branchettes will bring their rousing gospel energy to the Memorial Union stage for a live concert you won't want to miss! (KC)

Thanks to George and Pamela Hamel for their sponsorship of this screening and concert. This program is presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin



Symphony for a Massacre

SAT, APRIL 9 • 3:30 PM
UW CINEMATHEQUE

WED, APRIL 13 • 12:15 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Stranger Than Rotterdam with Sara Driver

Documentary • USA • 2021 • **9 MIN**

Director: Lewie Kloster, Noah Kloster Cast: Sara Driver

Filmmaker Sara Driver narrates this hilarious cinematic odyssey that is visually represented by paper dolls and puppets. Hoping to raise completion funds for what would become the masterful American

comedy *Stranger Than Paradise*, Driver and her partner Jim Jarmusch embark on a mission to bring a controversial Robert Frank movie to the Rotterdam Film Festival.

Symphony for a Massacre

Symphonie pour un massacre

Narrative • France, Italy • 1963 • French with English subtitles • **110 MIN**

Director: Jacques Deray Cast: Jean Rochefort, Charles Vanel, Claude Dauphin, Daniela Rocca, José Giovanni, Michèle Mercier

In Paris, five "businessmen," each with ties to the criminal underworld and looking to enter the drug trade, pool their resources to buy a half million dollars-worth of illegal narcotics from an even bigger network of traffickers. Unbeknownst to the other four, a classic double cross is being carried out by slick gang member Jabeke (Jean Rochefort). His convoluted plan, which involves phony mustaches, wigs, and Brussels hotel rooms, is carried out to perfection...almost. One of the most entertaining movies you are likely to discover at this year's

WFF, *Symphonie pour un massacre* (originally released in the U.S. as *The Corrupt*) is as classy and as thrilling as they come. Director Jacques Deray (*La Piscine, Bor-salino*), who specialized in these sorts of noirish stories, is working at the peak of his talents on what was only his third feature. Deray co-wrote the script with two other crime movie specialists, Claude Sautet (*Classes tous risques, Max and the Junkmen*), and real-life exonerated ex-con and novelist José Giovanni (*Le Trou*), who also plays the pivotal role of gang member Moreau. Led by the marvelous character actor and leading man Rochefort, and featuring mainstays of French cinema Claude Dauphin and Charles Vanel (star of *The Wages of Fear*), the cast is uniformly excellent. A new 4K restoration will be screened. (JH)

Presented with support from the UW-Madison French & Italian Department.

Image courtesy Cohen Film Collection.



Big Screens Little Folks / Ages 8+

Take Heart

SUN, APRIL 10 • 3:30 PM
CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART • 68 MIN

Animated stories of problem-solving, thoughtfulness and fun!

Umbrellas

Animation • France/Spain • 2020 • 12 MIN
Director: Jose Prats, Álvaro Robles

A beautifully animated fantasy contemplating the most basic human emotions, this story follows a child whose fear of the rain must be faced to find her beloved dog. Set against a living watercolor landscape, this short celebrates the possibilities of love. (KH)

Mum is Pouring Rain

Maman pleut des cordes

Animation • France • 2021 • French, English • 27 MIN
Director: Hugo de Faucompret
Cast: Yolande Moreau, Arthur H

Young Jane must confront the upending of her family and her life as her mother struggles with mental illness in this moving story set against exquisite handprinted backgrounds. When Jane is sent to stay with her onion-loving grandmother she discovers that there is magic, friendship, and hope where she least expects it. With a style that gestures both to Studio Ghibli and French animation history, the world Jane enters allows her to truly see herself and her family. (KH)

Vanille

Animation • France • 2020 • French with English subtitles • 29 MIN
Director: Guillaume Lorin
Cast: Macéo Carole, Tricia Eyy, Hippomène Léauva, Marie-Éva Phaen

Vanille, a young Parisian girl, would rather stay in France than be sent to Guadelupe to spend time with her Aunt and connect with her mother's culture. But when she discovers a Soukounian threatening the women of her Aunt's community, Vanille is drawn into an exciting adventure. Expressive character animation is paired with lush live action backgrounds for a unique and immersive look in this animation about the power that comes from celebrating and accepting oneself and one's heritage. (KH)

This program is presented with support from UW-Madison French & Italian Department



A Tale of Love and Desire

Une histoire d'amour et de désir

SAT, APRIL 9 • 5:30 PM • SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION
Narrative • France, Tunisia • 2021 • French, Arabic with English subtitles • 103 MIN

Director: Leyla Bouzid | Cast: Sami Outalballi, Zbeida Belhajamor, Diong-Kéba Tacu, Aurélia Petit
18-year-old Ahmed (Sami Outalballi), a French-Algerian living in Paris and a new student at the Sorbonne, is smart, curious, reserved, and a virgin. When Ahmed meets the well-read and much more outwardly expressive Farah (Zbeida Belhajamor), a fellow student from Tunisia, the lightning bolt of love strikes hard. But Ahmed finds it difficult to speak to Farah, and, influenced by the classical Arabic literature he and Farah are discovering, he decides to resist his desire, even when he becomes completely overwhelmed by it. Swooningly romantic and sexy, *A Tale of Love and Desire* achieves a suspense movie level of tension thanks to the visually sensuous sensibilities of Leyla Bouzid, screenwriter and director. Bouzid has also made a film that treasures the intellect and sees the love of books as one of the most attractive aspects for both halves of the couple at the center of the story. "It's easy to capture the frenzy of a new fling or the seductive meeting of two bodies; what's more difficult, and what *A Tale of Love and Desire* does quite well, is study the inner tensions that accompany early sexual experiences — when the heart, mind and body refuse to be in sync — without becoming overly cerebral" (Lovia Gyarkye, *The Hollywood Reporter*). 2022 Cannes, London, and Busan Film Festivals. (JH)



Talking the Pictures

SUN, APRIL 10 • 6:15 PM UW CINEMATHEQUE
MON, APRIL 11 • 3:45 PM AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6
Narrative • Japan • 2019 • Japanese with English subtitles • 126 MIN
Director: Masayuki Suo Cast: Ryo Narita, Yuina Kuroshima, Masatoshi Nagase

The latest film from the prize-winning director of *Shall We Dance?* is a comic and affectionate romp through the silent era of Japanese film history that will delight all varieties of movie lovers. As children in the 1920s, Umeko and Shuntaro become friends after stumbling onto the location set of a samurai drama and sneaking into a local cinema. There, Shuntaro is dazzled by the area's best benshi, whose narration proves as big a draw as the films themselves. Ten years later, Shuntaro has become involved with bandits who have him do his own knockout benshi act while they rob the houses of villagers who are at the cinema. Umeko, meanwhile, is an aspiring actress dating another, self-involved benshi, who has promised to help Umeko break into movies. Soon, the two childhood friends are reunited and wrapped up in a caper involving gangsters, a failing movie house, a suitcase full of money, and a basket of nitrate film excerpts. (JH)

Presented with support from UW-Madison Center for East Asian Studies (Taiwan, China, North/ South Korea, Japan)



The Timekeepers of Eternity

TUE, APRIL 12 • 8:30 PM • AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Deerwoods Deathtrap

Documentary • USA • 2022 • 9 MIN • Director: James P. Gannon

Married couple Jack and Betty each offer different versions recalling the evening 50 years ago when their lives were altered forever by an encounter with a speeding locomotive. Strikingly shot on Super 8 color film, *Deerwoods Deathtrap* is haunting and frequently humorous, a new kind of investigative documentary. (JH)

The Timekeepers of Eternity

Animation • Greece, UK • 2021 • 62 MIN • Director: Aristotelis Maragkos

Stephen King's works have been adapted to the screen more than any other living author, with a fidelity ranging from too-faithful to fast-and-loose, and yielding results that run the gamut from spot-on to embarrassing. Just when you thought there was nowhere left to take King's oeuvre, along comes *The Timekeepers of Eternity*. This wild wonder was born when animator Aristotelis Maragkos printed every frame of the damned 1995 ABC miniseries version of *The Langoliers* to black-and-white paper, then reshaped it into a cut-and-paste phantasmagoria. Maragkos mercifully shreds the original's running time from three hours to one, but the *Twilight Zone*-esque story remains intact: ten strangers awaken on a red-eye flight to find that the rest of the passengers and crew have mysteriously vanished. The cast includes the great Dean Stockwell (RIP), a cameo from King himself, and a truly unforgettable Bronson Pinchot, whose unhinged, off-the-wall mannerisms would make Nicolas Cage blush—but the real star is Maragkos. Throughout, the animator rips, folds, crumples, and collages the paper image in ways that heighten and improve the original, creating a one-of-a-kind remix that easily transcends its source material. 2021 Fantastic Fest. (MK)



To the End

SAT, APRIL 9 • 12:30 PM
SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: RACHEL LEARS

Documentary • USA • 2022 • **103 MIN** • Director: Rachel Lears

Anything seemed possible in the euphoric afterglow of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's underdog win at the climax of *Knock Down the House* (WFF 2019 Audience Award winner). But the question of what exactly this rookie representative would actually be able to accomplish in the bitterly divided House was very much an open one. After giving us a front row seat to AOC's public coronation, director Rachel Lears takes us behind the scenes of her first signature proposal: the Green New Deal. As splashy as it is long overdue, this ambitious bill has the power to fundamentally course correct a century of reckless industrial pollution. As in *Knock Down the House*, Lears takes us straight to the grassroots level, introducing an inspirational batch of young women who are on the ground, trying to turn their vision for a better world into reality. As anyone following the news can tell you, it's been an uphill battle, and Lears frankly captures the pain of these idealists' clash with corruption and contrarianism. But the indefatigable drive of its young activists ensures that *To The End* is first and foremost a galvanizing call to arms. And refreshingly, here at last is an environmental documentary that takes climate change as a given rather than something we need to be convinced of, and asks point blank what we are going to do about it. 2022 Sundance Film Festival. (MK)



Top Secret!

TUE, APRIL 12 • 5:45 PM • AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: DAVID ZUCKER

Narrative • USA • 1984 • **90 MIN** • Directors: Jerry Zucker, Jim Abrahams, David Zucker Cast: Val Kilmer, Lucy Gutteridge, Peter Cushing

Top Secret! is the second feature from the ingenious comedy team of David Zucker, Jim Abrahams, and Jerry Zucker, following-up the blockbuster success of their directorial debut, *Airplane!* and their introduction of Leslie Nielsen's Det. Frank Drebin in the six original television episodes of *Police Squad!* This zany mashup continues the ZAZ team's most identifiable traditions, like *MAD* magazine-style non-stop gags, and including an exclamation point in the title. Instead of cop shows and airborne disaster movies, *Top Secret!* sets its sights on two ever-interchangeable genres: the Cold War spy thriller and Elvis musicals. The story begins when the popular American singer and "Skeet Surfing" phenom Nick Rivers (Val

Kilmer, brilliantly deadpan in his big screen debut) is invited to East Germany for a music festival. When he loses his heart to the gorgeous Hillary Flammond, Nick finds himself caught up in an underground resistance plan to free Hillary's scientist father. But does the story really matter? It's all about the jokes, folks, and a few of the countless ZAZ targets include Olympic athlete steroid use, marital aids, Pac Man, and even Mel Tormé. Born and raised in Milwaukee and educated at UW Madison, David Zucker will join us in person to discuss this hilarious cult favorite after the screening. (JH)



 Big Screens Little Folks / Ages 8+

Troubles and Triumphs

SUN, APRIL 10 • 10 AM
THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

78 MIN

Tales of challenges and celebrations!

A Tiny Tale

Latitude du Printemp

Animation • France • 2020 • **8 MIN**

Director: Chloé Bourdic, Théophile Coursimault, Sylvain Cuvillier, Noémie Halberstam, Maylis Mosny, Zijjing Ye Cast: Ariane Roy

The story of an abandoned dog and the people who rescue him is brought to the screen in vibrant colors and innovative split screens that suggest an interactive comic book. (KK)

Cordialités - Collection Verlaïne (Fresh Out of School)

Animation • France • 2021 • French • **3 MIN**

Director: Nathanaël Perron Cast: Gaël Giraudeau

A stressful ride on the crowded Paris metro inspires a boy to find joy in human interaction. This short is part of a series, *Fresh out of School*, that combines the work of noted French poets and the voices of fresh new directors who recently graduated from animation schools. (TK)

Room Rodeo

Narrative/Documentary • USA • 2021 • **14 MIN**

Director: Daniel Kayamba

Cast: D'Andre Davis, Latjuan Wells, Tyre Evans, Zada Eshun

Jamil has a fifth grade history project due, and he wants to write about his great grandfather, legendary rodeo star, Billie Pickett. His best friend doubts the whole story, and Jamil has to learn more to confirm the legend. This hybrid narrative/documentary celebrates the history of Black cowboys and cowgirls. (TK)

Cat and Bird

Saka sy Vorona

Animation • Germany • 2021 • **8 MIN**

Director: Franka Sachse

Franka Sachse's artistic short about a white bird living in a black world and a black cat living in a white world will keep everyone engaged. The orderly world is gone in seconds once backgrounds collide and the fun begins in this playful silhouette animation. (KK)

It Rains in My Heart

Il pleure dans mon coeur

Animation • France • 2021 • French • **3 MIN**

Director: Ariane Teillet Cast: Gaël Giraudeau

While you can't stop the continuous rain outside, sympathetic friends can lighten your day. Ariane Teillet's adaptation of Paul Verlaine's poem, "Il pleure dans mon coeur," is yet another stunning example of the *Fresh out of School* poem project. (KK)

Little Blood

Animation • USA • 2021 • **8 MIN**

Director: Crestwood Elementary 4th & 5th Graders

Cast: Jocelyn P, Sawyer S, Jahmir W, Winni S

The fourth and fifth graders of Crestwood Elementary School in Madison, Wisconsin retell the grisly Mayan creation myth. Little Blood lives in Xibalba (Shee-bal-ba), the evil underworld, and encounters the head of a traitor placed in a tree. Her life takes a new path that leads to the creation of the sun and moon. (TK)

Presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

A Stone in the Shoe

Un caillou dans la chaussure

Animation • France, Switzerland • 2020 • **11 MIN**

Director: Eric Montchaud Cast: Loïc Burkhardt

Eric Montchaud's Annecy award-winning stop animation centers around the new kid on the block, a frog who finds himself unable to communicate with his rabbit classmates. The help of a kind classmate helps him overcome his fears. (KK)

Presented with support from ARTS For ALL Wisconsin

Wall Piano

Experimental • State of Palestine • 2020 • Arabic, English • **3 MIN**

Director: Asma Ghanem, Christopher Marianetti, Alexia Webster

Cast: Nada, Rama

12-year-old Nada reimagines the graffitied panels of the powerful separation wall near her refugee camp in Ramallah, Palestine. She and her friend transform the intimidating barrier into their playful, joyful instrument. (TK)

Mila

Animation • USA • 2020 • **20 MIN**

Director: Cinzia Angelini

Young Mila survives the bombing of her city in Italy in 1943, and is rescued by a young woman who becomes her new family. They cope with loss and build a new life as World War II comes to an end. (TK)





Wisconsin's Own

The Turkey

SUN, APRIL 10 • 1 PM
CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

Narrative • USA • 2021 • 84 MIN
Director: Liz Kaar Cast: Mary Jesse Price, Billie Bullock, Judy Lea Steele, Jesse Kendall, Sonal Aggarwal

Given the yearly barrage of media that seems to greet every American holiday, there are relatively few movies that give Thanksgiving its due. At long last, Turkey Day celebrants will get their fill with this feature comedy debut from director, Liz Kaar. The story follows a young couple, Rita and Marty (Mary Jesse Price and Billie Bullock), as they ready their apartment for an epic Friendsgiving gathering. Or rather we watch Marty painstakingly prepare for the big meal, while Rita guilt trips about not going to her family's for the holiday. As it happens, her family shows up at her doorstep unannounced, throwing all of her and Marty's big party plans into disarray. Things go further awry when a surprise blizzard forces everyone to hunker down in their small apartment for the night. While the concept is pure farce, at its heart *The Turkey* is a loving portrait of the evolving dynamics between friends and family. Relationships are put to the test; some emerge stronger than ever, others disintegrate beyond repair. Kaar's script keeps the laughs and the horrors coming as resentments rise and inhibitions fall away. The wacky fun of the premise and the frenetic energy of the camerawork are anchored by terrific performances from the cast who ground their characters with real emotional heft. This feature is a must watch for anyone who loves their comedy with a generous helping of cringe and a healthy pour of tenderness. (PL)

Presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin



The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent

SAT, APRIL 9 • 8 PM
SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION

Narrative • USA • 2022 • 105 MIN

Director: Tom Gormican Cast: Nicolas Cage, Pedro Pascal, Sharon Horgan, Ike Barinholtz, Alessandra Mastronardi, Jacob Scipio, Lily Sheen, Neil Patrick Harris, Tiffany Haddish

He's played vampires, Elvis fanatics, bad lieutenants, Ghost Riders, reclusive chefs, one-handed romantic leads, ex-con action heroes, both Charlie Kaufman and his twin, and swapped faces with John Travolta. But now, after forty-plus years in movies, Nicolas Cage takes on what may be his wildest part yet: himself. This Nick Cage is a broke actor who accepts a million-dollar paycheck to appear at the birthday party of a mysterious superfan in Spain. Along the way, he's recruited by a secret agent (Tiffany Haddish) to prove that he can be just as big a hero offscreen as on. It may be his ultimate role, but the man himself says this is one movie he can't fully wrap his head around watching: "it's just too much of a whacked-out trip for me to go to a movie theater and watch me play [director] Tom Gormican's highly-neurotic, anxiety-ridden version of me... that's not really me. I'm really [made of] quiet, meditative, thoughtful moments." Sure. Together with our 35mm screening of *Vampire's Kiss* at this year's fest, this very meta action-comedy is the ideal kickoff to our upcoming *Age of Cage* series at the UW Cinematheque, which will feature 35mm prints of *Valley Girl*, *Raising Arizona*, and *Wild at Heart*. 2022 SXSW Film Festival. (MK)



Unidentified

Neidentificat

WED, APRIL 13 • 5 PM THU, APRIL 14 • 12 PM
AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1 AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 1

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: BOGDAN GEORGE APETRI

Narrative • Romania • 2020 • Romanian with English subtitles • 123 MIN

Director: Bogdan George Apetri Cast: Bogdan Farcas, Dragos Dumitru, Olimpia Mălai, Emanuel Părvu, Vasile Muraru

In a small city in Northern Romania, police detective Florin is determined to solve the case of two hotel fires that resulted in several deaths. Florin turns up a possible suspect who denies everything. Faced with his Chief's lack of support, the mistrust of his colleagues, and a troubled personal life that include a dissolving marriage, the cop is forced to take extraordinary measures in order to close the file on the crimes. A story of the abuse of power that is redolent of the films of Sidney Lumet, this tightly woven procedural has a stinger in its tail. Writer/director Bogdan George Apetri also weaves in themes of sexism, masculinity, and racial prejudice for this first chapter of what promises to be a three-film trilogy set in the same town, with interconnecting characters. The second feature in the trilogy is *Miracle*, also showing in this year's WFF, and Bogdan George Apetri will be with us in person to discuss his work. "A grimly efficient character study of a flawed and damaged man... Apetri deftly balances the ugliness of his central character...with moments of striking beauty elsewhere" (Wendy Ide, *Screen International*). (JH)
Presented with support from UW-Madison Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA)



Vampire's Kiss

SUN, APRIL 10 • 5:15 PM
CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

SCHEDULED TO ATTEND: KEITH PHIPPS

35mm • Narrative • USA • 1988 • 103 MIN

Director: Robert Bierman Cast: Nicolas Cage, María Conchita Alonso, Jennifer Beals

The *ne plus ultra* of gonzo Nicolas Cage movies, *Vampire's Kiss* truly must be seen (and re-seen) to be believed. Cage stars as Peter Loew, a yuppie jerk who loses his grip on reality after suspecting his latest one-night stand may have been a vampire. Increasingly convinced that he, too, has become one of the undead, Loew dons a pair of dark shades and plastic fangs, and goes haywire. Taking out his rage on his secretary and anyone else who crosses his path, Loew is only too eager to leave his shred of a soul behind. This outré satire of 80s amorality and misogyny is a veritable highlight reel of Cage's expressionistic powers: contorting his face, body, and voice to become a white collar nosferatu, Cage can turn even a recitation of the alphabet into an unhinged spectacle. In conjunction with the release of his superb Nic Cage survey *Age of Cage*, our screening of *Vampire's Kiss* will be followed by a conversation with UW-Madison alum Keith Phipps, former editor of two crucial film publications, *The AV Club* and *The Dissolve*, and current publisher of *The Reveal*. "The font from which all future Cage weirdness sprung. It's sometimes hard to shake the sense, especially in later moments of untamed exuberance, that he would have been perfectly happy making variations of this movie for the rest of his career" (Keith Phipps, *Age of Cage*). (MK)

AGE of CAGE

4/22
VALLEY GIRL

4/29
RAISING ARIZONA

5/6
WILD AT HEART

UW CINEMATHEQUE
ALL ON 35MM / 7 PM / FREE
4070 VILAS HALL / CINEMA.WISC.EDU



Vive L'Amour

WED, APRIL 13 • 8:15 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 5

Narrative • Taiwan • 1995 • Mandarin with English subtitles • **118 MIN**

Director: Tsai Ming-liang Cast: Lee Kang-sheng, Yang Kuei-Mei, Chen Chao-jung

Winner of the Golden Lion at the 1994 Venice International Film Festival, *Vive L'Amour* cemented Tsai Ming-liang's reputation as one of Taiwan's most talented and provocative moving-image artists. Set in Taipei, the premise could be pitched as a sitcom: three lonely souls—real estate agent May Lin; her one-night-stand Ah-jung, and Hsiao-kang, a depressed funerary salesman—unknowingly share the same apartment. In between showings, May Lin uses the empty, upscale apartment for trysts, unaware that Hsiao-kang and eventually Ah-jung are squatting there, too. There are indeed several episodes of awkward, tip-toeing comedy interspersed throughout, but the pervading mood is one of alienation and bone-deep longing. May Lin and Hsiao-kang both desire the handsome, somewhat daft Ah-jung, forming a phantom love triangle of peeping voyeurs and slow-boiling eroticism. As is usual for Tsai, detailed yet slightly abstract production design and performance take precedence over dialogue: Hsiao-kang's intense, er, interest in a watermelon typifies the aesthetic and behavioral surprises in store. "With a feeling for both modern architecture and contemporary urban despair that often recalls Michelangelo Antonioni, it gathers force slowly but builds to a powerful and devastating finale" (Jonathan Rosenbaum, *Chicago Reader*). (ZZ)



Vortex

FRI, APRIL 8 • 7:30 PM

AMC MADISON 6, CINEMA 6

Narrative • France, Belgium, Monaco • 2021 • French with English subtitles • **148 MIN**

Director: Gaspar Noé Cast: Françoise Lebrun, Dario Argento, Alex Lutz

In one of the most undeniably cinematic movies in recent memory, an unnamed elderly couple play out their final days together in the Paris apartment they have called home for decades. Françoise Lebrun, star of Jean Eustache's *The Mother and the Whore*, plays a retired therapist living with dementia that makes her forget where she is and the identities of the people around her. Her husband, a film critic and author who has his own set of ailments, is played in a revelatory turn by master horror filmmaker Dario Argento. He is increasingly helpless in his efforts to keep his wife from wandering out into the street, while their son, (Alex Lutz), dealing with his own substance abuse issues, visits and urges his parents to move to an assisted living facility. Winner of prizes at the 2021 San Sebastián and Hamburg Film Festivals, *Vortex* is the latest from the immersive cinema expert Gaspar Noé. Not the typical provocation we've come to expect from Noé, it is also his most mature and affecting feature to date. Noé allows this story of bifurcated lives to play out almost entirely in split screen images; sometimes we watch Lebrun and Argento, each with their own panel, in entirely separate locations, and sometimes we are provided two different viewpoints of the same room. Largely improvised by the actors, the movie has a fascinating pull as we watch our protagonists go through their daily routines that are sometimes punctuated with sudden crises and emergencies. "The movie exists in a fascinating state of uncertainty, allowing its viewers to settle into its naturalistic circumstances. However, the dueling frames maintain a baseline of anxiety that begins to reflect the emotional undercurrent afflicting its characters" (Eric Kohn, *Indiewire*). (JH)



statement from the jury GOLDEN BADGER

We the members of the Golden Badger Jury were especially impressed by the breadth of talent and expression in the Wisconsin's Own program this year. The following three Golden Badger Award winners—*Ad meliora*, *Craigslist Roommate*, and *What You Left Behind*—respectively represent the vitality and promise of the experimental, narrative, and documentary filmmaking scenes in Wisconsin. We certainly hope you enjoy these inspiring selections as much as we did.

2022 Golden Badger Jury

Zachary Zahos *UW-Madison PhD candidate, former WFF programmer*

Nora Stone *University of Alabama film professor and filmmaker, UW-Madison PhD '18*
Jason Fuhrman *Cinephile, freelance writer, and Wisconsin Film Festival fanatic*

Ad meliora

(screens as part of *Memories of the Future* 4/9 11am Chazen Museum)
An ebullient, kaleidoscopic burst of sound and vision, this collagelike experimental short film seamlessly weaves together hundreds of gorgeous images to generate what filmmaker Kate Balsley describes as a "deep meditation on being, creativity and nature; a mandala of forms that becomes highly symbolic of life, death, yesterday, now, and the next moment." As luminescent, otherworldly flowers and plants flash across the screen, *Ad meliora* (or "towards better things") washes over the viewer with its lush textures and entrancing rhythms. This complex, delicately balanced work of fleeting beauty feels like a direct transmission from mother earth to the soul. — *Jason Fuhrman*

Craigslist Roommate

(screens as part of *Marquee Madness-Wisconsin's Own Gone Wild* 4/8 8:30pm Marquee)
Craigslist Roommate is a compelling narrative short set in Madison. Shot on film, the dreamy cinematography captures cozy scenes in a typical Isthmus apartment, at a poetry reading, and around James Madison Park. Young woman Xena and her attentive boyfriend Lake welcome a new roommate to town, Addie (writer/director Arielle Bordow). Addie quickly knits herself into their scruffy existence with an inventive seduction technique, but how long can their domestic bliss last? With strong performances and delicately handled drama, *Craigslist Roommate* beautifully portrays how a newcomer's arrival can reshape one's life. It's a perennial story in a town marked by transient students, scholars, and wanderers. — *Nora Stone*

What You Left Behind

(screens with *Only I Can Hear* 4/9 1:15pm Chazen)
In this heartrending documentary short, Milwaukee-based filmmaker Jayce Kolinski reflects on their father's death from drug abuse. Conceived with great intelligence and emotional complexity, *What You Left Behind* charts the story of one man's decline and legacy, offering us glimpses of old home video, legal summonses, empty pill bottles, and folded sweaters gathering dust. Kolinski powerfully brings home the ravages of the opioid epidemic through varied representations of their suburban family home—once picture perfect, now spiritually hollowed. This superlative film expresses the toll time takes on the bereaved most profoundly, documenting the process by which loved ones dispel into the mists of memory. — *Zachary Zahos*

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

A Random Walk Through the Latent Space

Milwaukee-based artist David Witzling created this singularly mind-melting experimental short with two competing artificial intelligences.

January

Director Nathan Deming's gently absurdist narrative short observes a day in the life of an elderly church wedding coordinator who could almost be a peripheral character in a David Lynch film.

Ditat Deus Donuts

Renato Umali amusingly and incisively reflects on a range of topics, from the colonization of the American West to the pleasures of roadside dining, within stark, computer-generated landscapes.

Only I Can Hear

Matsui Itaru's terrific, poignant documentary about three children of deaf adults growing up in the Midwest is a model of documentary ethics.



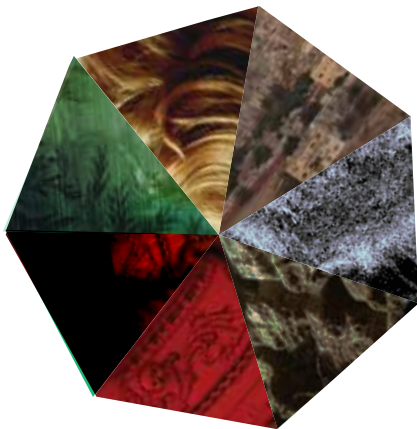
We Feed People


SUN, APRIL 10 • 11:30 AM • SHANNON HALL, MEMORIAL UNION

Documentary • USA • 2022 • 89 MIN

Director: Ron Howard

We Feed People spotlights renowned celebrity chef José Andrés and his nonprofit World Central Kitchen's incredible mission and evolution over 12 years from being a scrappy group of grassroots volunteers to becoming one of the most highly regarded humanitarian aid organizations in the disaster relief sector. A famed Washington D.C. restaurateur and cookbook author, Andrés immigrated to the U.S. in 1991 after he learned the culinary arts in Spain. He established World Central Kitchen in 2010 as a means for feeding the many – using culinary training programs to empower communities and strengthen economies as well as food disaster relief in the wake of emergencies around the globe. The latest in a series of compelling documentaries from Oscar-winning Hollywood filmmaker Ron Howard, *We Feed People* takes us behind-the-scenes on the front lines of crisis zones: earthquakes in Haiti and Indonesia; the Nashville tornados; health care workers in the face of COVID-19, D.C. police officers during the January 6, 2021 siege; and many others. Howard takes us into the kitchens and backrooms where local chefs work to feed affected people and first responders. The film really highlights the profound impact of restoring hope to those most affected, through food. "Serving people a plate of fresh food after a disaster is more than just about calories to fill them up. A hot meal is comfort, dignity, hope — a sign that someone cares and that tomorrow will be better" (José Andrés). 2022 SXSW Film Festival. (JH).



 Wisconsin's Own Shorts

Wisconsin's Own Hunters and Gatherers

SUN, APRIL 10 • 4:15 PM
THE MARQUEE, UNION SOUTH

90 MIN

FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE

Five short films from the Wisconsin's Own section of this year's festival, exploring our relationship with nature and with ourselves. From the camaraderie of the hunt to the power of community – even in the worst of times – we give you some Wisconsin hunters and gatherers.

Dakota Farms

Documentary • USA • 2021 • 14 MIN

Director: Samuel Karow Cast: Vincent Thomalla

A group of pheasant hunters reflect on their time spent together and the traditions passed down to them through the generations. (BR)

Hunters

Narrative • USA • 2022 • 26 MIN

Director: Rebecca Weaver Cast: Chris Irwin, Doug Mancheski, Amy Ensign, Eva Nimmer

Writer-director Rebecca Weaver (*June Falling Down* WFF '16) returns to our festival with this snow-blindingly bright, pitch-black comic noir/supernatural mashup about two hunters who find themselves not quite safe and sound in a Wisconsin winter wonderland. (BR)



Added Years: A Film Essay

Documentary • United States • 2021 • 9 MIN

Director: Dave Garcia Cast: Wayne Hammermeister, with Syd, Gus, Jax and Boomer

This serene documentary shows the relationship between a senior farmer and the aging horses that he adopts. (BC)

Speed Bumps

Narrative • United States • 2022 • 18 MIN

Director: Joe Schwaba Cast: Joe Schwaba, Dhrtvan Sherman, Will Corgan, Seamus Schwaba

Slackers Thomas and Marty have a cush summertime gig patrolling a quiet lakeside community until someone steals the neighborhood speed bumps and they find themselves in over their heads. This is an endearingly low-key comedy from WFF alum Joe Schwaba (*Dormball* WFF '20). (BR)

January

Narrative • United States • 2022 • 23 MIN

Director: Nathan Deming Cast: Becky Brown, Rene Leech, Phil Bartolf, Beverly Crain

Writer-director Nathan Deming (*Dog Days* WFF '15) is back at our Festival with this slyly observational, slightly acidic slice-of-small-town-Wisconsin life during the time of Covid. (BR)

This program is presented with support from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin



The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit

SUN, APRIL 10 • 11 AM
CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART

35mm • Narrative • USA • 1998 • 77 MIN

Director: Stuart Gordon Cast: Edward James Olmos, Joe Mantegna, Esai Morales, Clifton Collins, Jr. (Clifton Gonzales Gonzales), Gregory Sierra, Sid Caesar, Howard Morris

In a Los Angeles Latino neighborhood, five men pool their funds to purchase a white suit that they sense will help make their dreams a reality. After bargaining with two clothiers (*Your Show of Shows* veterans Sid Caesar and Howard Morris), the five men acquire the luminous suit and agree, for the first night, that each of them will try out the duds for one hour. While dressed in the glowing garment, Dominguez (Esai Morales) is transformed into a Pied Piper-style troubadour, leading a chorus line of ladies into the L.A. streets for a full-on musical number; Villanazul (Gregory Sierra) finds his voice as a community leader and activist; Martinez (Clifton Collins, Jr.) finally attracts the attention of the beautiful girl next door whom he loves; Gomez (Joe Mantegna) is moved to a personal act of friendship and generosity; and the decidedly unkempt Vamanos (Edward James Olmos) miraculously keeps the suit in one piece after squaring off with the cartoonishly villainous Toro (Mike Moroff). Unlike most of director Stuart Gordon's horror and science-fiction movies, *The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit* is a delightfully lighthearted fantasy-fable without any punishing morals. Gordon worked closely with legendary sci-fi writer Ray Bradbury in adapting his short story, first for the Organic Theater Company in a 1974 Chicago production where Joe Mantegna created the role of Gomez. Nearly a quarter century later, Bradbury himself wrote the screenplay for Gordon's highly stylized big screen version, which the writer said was the best movie ever derived from his fiction. Print Courtesy Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research. (JH)



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