

FILM FORUM

209 WEST HOUSTON ST. NEW YORK, NY 10014

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filmforum.org

INDEPENDENT PREMIERES & CLASSICS

AUG/SEPT 2023



OPENS AUGUST 4

OUR BODY DIRECTED BY CLAIRE SIMON

Cinema is no stranger to exposing women's bodies. But rarely do we experience their corporeal reality, through sickness and health, aging and change. With access to the examination rooms of a gynecology clinic in Paris, Claire Simon trains her compassionate eye and ear to doctor-patient interactions, both intimate and epic: a young girl candidly divulges an unwanted pregnancy; a trans woman reveals the physiological and emotional challenges of transition; a couple shares their long struggle with infertility; a doctor holds a patient's hand while breaking the news of terminal illness. Unexpectedly, the filmmaker herself becomes a patient, plunging this omnibus of emotionally engaging stories into even more personal depths. "Ebullient. A realistic celebration...[that] never shies away from the contradictions and complexities of what it means to be alive." — Slant

168 MIN. FRANCE IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
CINEMA GUILD

With support from the Richard Brick, Geri Ashur, and Sara Bershtel Fund for Social Justice Documentaries

AUGUST 4 - 10
ONE WEEK

"REIMAGINES THE BUDDY FILM WITH FRESHNESS AND VIGOR."
— The New York Times



RIDLEY SCOTT'S THELMA AND LOUISE

Starring
SUSAN SARANDON and GEENA DAVIS

NEW 4K RESTORATION

(1991) 128 MIN. USA PARK CIRCUS



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Council on the Arts

NYC Cultural Affairs



AUGUST 11 - 24 TWO WEEKS

“BURSTING WITH A CRAZY VITALITY ALL ITS OWN.” — *The New York Times*

QUENTIN TARANTINO presents

WINTER KILLS

Starring JEFF BRIDGES and JOHN HUSTON

NEW 35mm PRINT

(1979) Jeff Bridges, half-brother of a murdered American president and son of one of the country’s richest men (John Huston, “the real delight of the film” — *The New York Times*), sets out to find the assassination conspirators. “The ability to create and sustain a not always disciplined fantasy — a tale that effectively bypasses logic with a reality all its own — is a rare talent... Such a tale is WINTER KILLS, William Richert’s furiously funny, visually slick adaptation of the novel by Richard Condon (*The Manchurian Candidate*)... Almost everyone in [it] is larger, meaner or more lunatic than life.” — Vincent Canby, *Times*. With guest appearances by everyone from Elizabeth Taylor to Toshiro Mifune! New 35mm print, the first struck in over 40 years.

97 MIN. USA RIALTO PICTURES

With support from the Ada Katz Fund for Literature in Film

OPENS AUGUST 18

MUTT

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY VUK LUNGULOV-KLOTZ

Tender, funny, and poignant, the debut drama **MUTT** follows Feña, a recently transitioned trans man (trans actor Lío Mehiel in a star-making, Sundance prize-winning performance). Says Leslie Felperin in *The Hollywood Reporter*: “An eventful New York City day in the life of Feña is depicted with honesty, tenderness and wit... Drawing on his own background as a child of Chilean and Serbian parents and his own experience of transition, Lungulov-Klotz adeptly distills a lot of complex thematic material around gender identity, queer lifestyles and ethnic intersectionality... Lío Mehiel’s performance in particular is so grounding, expressive and compelling to watch.” **MUTT** combines romance with family drama, centering lived experiences so infrequently represented in the cinema; vivid in its specificity and universal in its humanity.

87 MIN. USA IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

STRAND RELEASING

Presented with support from the Robert E. Appel Fund for Spanish and Portuguese Language Films and the R.G. Rifkind Foundation Endowment for Queer Cinema



OPENS AUGUST 25

BLUE BOX

DIRECTED BY MICHAL WEITS

Israel’s complicated, controversial history as perceived by a filmmaker whose great-grandfather, Joseph Weits (“the Father of Israel’s Forests”), purchased Arab lands pre-WWII from absentee landlords with funds collected from the Jewish diaspora in a slotted “little blue box.” Quarters and nickels turned a “land without a people” into a verdant home for a “people without a land” — or so the story went. But Weits is remembered more darkly as “The Architect of Transfer,” a man whose 5,000 pages of diary entries reveal his profound moral qualms about displacing Arab families from farms and homes they inhabited for generations. Michal Weits blends archival footage of pioneering Israelis with edgy contemporary interviews with family members who prefer the myth of a benevolent ancestor to the disturbing reality of decades of Arab displacement that define Israel today.

82 MIN. ISRAEL / CANADA / BELGIUM IN HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES CINEPHIL

With support from the Joan S. Constantiner Fund for Jewish and Holocaust Films and the Richard Brick, Geri Ashur, and Sara Bershtel Fund for Social Justice Documentaries



AUGUST 25 – SEPTEMBER 7 TWO WEEKS

**“A JEWEL FOUND IN THE GRIME OF NEW YORK CITY...
A FELLINESQUE COMEDY OF JEWISH DESPAIR.”**

— A.S. Hamrah, *Screen Slate*

MICHAEL ROEMER’S

THE PLOT AGAINST HARRY

NEW 35mm PRINT

(NEW 4K RESTORATION AT SELECTED SCREENINGS)

(1969) Deadpan, small-time *Kosher Nostra* member and ex-con Harry Plotnick (Martin Priest) goes *meshugga* when he gets into the catering biz with his ex-brother-in-law (Ben Lang). Shelved by writer/director Roemer following a laugh-less preview, HARRY emerged two decades later as a bona fide comedy classic, with a triumphant 1989 premiere at the New York Film Festival. “A classic of Jewish humor, albeit of a particular sort: its looming forebear is Kafka, but its existential absurdity is coated with calculatedly rancid schmaltz.” — Richard Brody, *The New Yorker*

81 MIN. USA **THE FILM DESK**

With support from the Joan S. Constantiner Fund for Jewish and Holocaust Films



OPENS SEPTEMBER 8

HELLO DANKNESS

DIRECTED BY SODA JERK

The Australian-born, Brooklyn-based siblings, Soda Jerk, repurpose and collage classic films. They describe their hilariously warped narrative feature, HELLO DANKNESS, as a “political fable that bears witness to the psychotropic spectacle of American politics from 2016 to 2021.” Sampling 300+ clips from movies, television, commercials, memes, and news footage, the film situates our political fissures within a suburban neighborhood inhabited by characters from popular comedies and horror films. Players and trolls from the 2016 election (Clinton, Sanders, Trump, Putin, Zuckerberg, MAGA and QAnon followers) are ingeniously grafted into these scenes to eerily send up the absurdities of American politics today. “A gleeful satire of our strange political times.” — Patrick Brzeski, *The Hollywood Reporter*

AUSTRALIA 70 MIN.

OPENS SEPTEMBER 15

INVISIBLE BEAUTY

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY FRÉDÉRIC TCHENG AND BETHANN HARDISON

Naomi Campbell, Kimora Lee Simmons, Tyra Banks, Tyson Beckford were dazzling, barrier-breaking supermodels of color in the '90s. But two decades earlier, Bethann Hardison burst onto French and American runways with a defiant strut and *sui generis* personality. The first Black woman to own a modeling agency, Hardison called out Prada, Calvin Klein, and Ralph Lauren for instigating “heroin-chic” (think Kate Moss) and for exclusionary casting calls (“No Blacks, no ethnics”), while profiting from Black consumers. Co-written/co-directed by Hardison and Frédéric Tcheng (DIOR AND I), the film is part memoir, warts and all (with candid accounts from her son, actor Kadeem Hardison from *A Different World*), and part paean to an unsung hero.

USA 115 MIN.

With support from the Richard Brick, Geri Ashur, and Sara Bershtel Fund for Social Justice Documentaries





SEPTEMBER 8 – 21 TWO WEEKS

SEMBÈNE

COMMEMORATING THE DIRECTOR'S CENTENNIAL YEAR

Including **BLACK GIRL** (1966), **MANDABI** (1968), **MOOLAADÉ** (2004)

and new restorations of **EMITAÏ** (1971), **XALA** (1975) and **CEDDO** (1977)

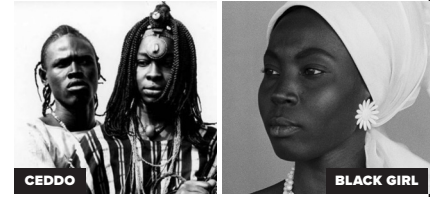
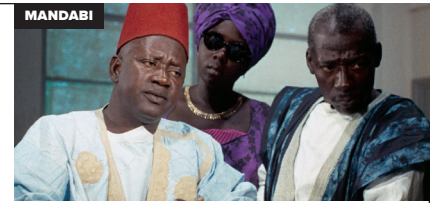
“If Africans do not tell their own stories, Africa will soon disappear.” — Ousmane Sembène

Senegalese auteur **Ousmane Sembène** (1923-2007) not only directed the first African feature film, but also the continent’s first color movie and the first in an indigenous language (his own: Wolof). A former soldier, railroad worker, and union activist, he became recognized as a major African novelist in his early 30s. But, pushing 40, he turned to film, with his efforts winning festival awards and bringing international attention to sub-Saharan cinema. Sembène was not only a sharp critic of the internal problems of modern Africa, but also a passionate advocate of African pride and autonomy. “Sembène’s films unflinchingly — yet playfully — examine the reality of contemporary Africa.” — Béatrice Reynaud, *The New York Times*

THE FILMS OF OUSMANE SEMBÈNE ARE DISTRIBUTED BY **JANUS FILMS**.

IN FRENCH AND/OR WOLOF WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

With support from the *Ada Katz Fund for Literature in Film*



OPENS SEPTEMBER 22

THE TRIAL (EL JUICIO)

DIRECTED BY ULISES DE LA ORDEN

The Oscar-nominated feature **ARGENTINA, 1985** rekindled interest in **Argentina’s murderous military dictatorship (1976–1983)**. **THE TRIAL**, based on never-before-seen courtroom footage, is a shocking record of the first major war crimes tribunal since Nuremberg. Facing a group of nine former military officers — including the infamous Jorge Videla, onetime President of Argentina — survivors and parents of the disappeared (*los desaparecidos*) recount harassment, property theft, kidnapping (high school students abducted during the “Night of the Pencils”), the theft of newborn babies, torture, rape, and mass killings. The defense testifies that their “dirty war” was a response to subversives and leftist terror. The chief prosecutor legendarily ends his closing argument: “¡Nunca mas!”

177 MIN. ARGENTINA IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

With support from the *Richard Brick, Geri Ashur, and Sara Bershtel Fund for Social Justice Documentaries* and the *Robert E. Appel Fund for Spanish and Portuguese Language Films*



SEPTEMBER 22 – OCTOBER 5 TWO WEEKS

“VISUALLY SPECTACULAR... SUMPTUOUS IN EVERY RESPECT... INTELLIGENT, ENTHRALLING, RHAPSODIC.” — Geoff Andrew, *Time Out*

KAIGE CHEN’S FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE

Starring **LESLIE CHEUNG, FENGYI ZHANG, and GONG LI**

30th ANNIVERSARY NEW 4K RESTORATION OF THE COMPLETE, UN CUT VERSION

(1993) “An unhurried journey on the great tide of modern Chinese history, this gorgeous, intoxicating epic is confident enough of its visual and narrative power not to rush the telling. Traces the complex emotional relationship between its three protagonists (Leslie Cheung, Fengyi Zhang and Gong Li), shaped and reshaped in response to both political events and the demands of their own hearts. But here **CONCUBINE** throws in something of a twist. Rather than the usual romantic triangle, it has both a man and a woman passionately in love with the same man... **CONCUBINE** not only covers a lot of territory, its sense of visual pageantry brings all of it vividly to life.” — Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times*

170 MIN. IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

CHINA / HONG KONG

FILM MOVEMENT

With support from the *Ada Katz Fund for Literature in Film*