

# FILM FORUM

209 WEST HOUSTON ST. NEW YORK, NY 10014

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filmforum.org

INDEPENDENT PREMIERES & CLASSICS

**FEB / MARCH 2024**



**FEBRUARY 2 – 13 12 DAYS**

## SAPPH-O-RAMA

**SAPPHIC CLASSICS AND DISCOVERIES**

*Including* **MÄDCHEN IN UNIFORM | BORN IN FLAMES  
DESERT HEARTS | THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE  
CAGED | THE WATERMELON WOMAN | PARIAH  
MADAME X: AN ABSOLUTE RULER | SHAKEDOWN  
and much more**

A broad look at the eccentric, enduring, and genre-encompassing history of the Lesbian image in cinema through the last century — from the silent era to the present day — featuring lovestruck school girls, merciless matrons, bike-riding dykes, drug-addled nuns, roller-skating swashbucklers, and daring utopia-seekers. With films by Dorothy Arzner, Chantal Akerman, Ulrike Ottinger, Cheryl Dunye, Lizzie Borden, Yvonne Rainer, Nouchka van Brakel, Céline Sciamma, John Waters, Pedro Almodóvar, and many others.

*Special thanks to Michael Sayers, Melissa Anderson, and  
Désirée Yael Vester (Lesbian Herstory Archives).*

*Presented with support from the R.G. Rifkind Foundation Endowment for Queer Cinema  
and the Ada Katz Fund for Literature in Film*

**OPENS FEBRUARY 9**

## ENNIO

DIRECTED BY GIUSEPPE TORNATORE

"If any film composer demands such an epic doc, it's this one" (John DeFore, *The Hollywood Reporter*). Ennio Morricone's soundtrack scores — for Sergio Leone's "Dollars Trilogy", Bertolucci's 1900, *THE MISSION* — are well known, but this comprehensive portrait takes the full measure of his extraordinary career (over 400 scores for movies and television), including his early work arranging Italian pop songs in the late '50s and early '60s. Filming just before Morricone's passing in 2020, longtime collaborator Tornatore (*CINEMA PARADISO*) weaves together six decades of film clips with Morricone's ideas on creative process (including his use of nontraditional sounds) and interviews with Clint Eastwood, Quentin Tarantino, John Williams, Hans Zimmer, Dario Argento, Joan Baez, Wong Kar-Wai, and others. "A fantastically entertaining deep dive." — Leslie Felperin, *The Guardian* (UK)

156 MIN. ITALY IN ITALIAN, ENGLISH, FRENCH, PORTUGUESE, AND CHINESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES **MUSIC BOX FILMS**

*With support from the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation Fund*



FILM FORUM IS PUBLISHED 6 TIMES A YEAR.

FEBRUARY 2024 VOL. 4 NO. 1 ©2023

FILM FORUM, 209 WEST HOUSTON ST

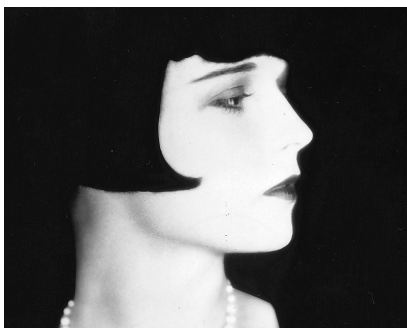
NEW YORK, NY 10014

Programming is made possible, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.



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**FEBRUARY 14 – 20 ONE WEEK**
**G.W. PABST'S PANDORA'S BOX** Starring LOUISE BROOKS

(1929) Sex in the City — Weimar Berlin: in the wake of Louise Brooks' patent leather-bobbed Lulu, men set up sleek Deco love nests, ruin themselves gambling, and commit both murder and suicide, as she moves from kept woman, showgirl, Lesbian love interest, widow, convicted criminal, fugitive, and possible sex slave; amid a bustling backdrop of life in post-war, pre-Hitler Germany. Pabst's adaptation of the Wedekind plays plucked Brooks from a waning

career as Hollywood flapper to European art film goddess. One of the last masterpieces of the cinema's most exciting era — with Brooks' Lulu taking her place as one of the screen's most enduring creations. Orchestral musical score composed by Peer Raben.

APPROX. 141 MIN. GERMANY JANUS FILMS

With support from the R.G. Rifkind Foundation Endowment for Queer Cinema

*Restored from the best surviving 35mm elements at Haghefilm Conservation under the supervision of the Deutsche Kinemathek, with the cooperation of George Eastman Museum, and the collaboration of the Cinématique Française, Cineteca di Bologna, Czech Film Archive, and Gosfilmofond.*

**FEBRUARY 21 – 29 9 DAYS**

"Tarkovsky is for me the greatest, the one who invented a new language." — Ingmar Bergman

**NEW 4K  
RESTORATION**
**ANDREI TARKOVSKY'S NOSTALGHIA**

(1983) In Tarkovsky's first film made outside the USSR, a Russian expatriate wanders wintry Italian landscapes while returning in memory to his homeland, as an inspired madman finds the fate of the world hanging on a candle's flight across a dry pool (one of cinema's most agonizingly suspenseful sequences). A wide range of themes and obsessions all come together in an overwhelming final shot that is upon you before you realize it. "Not much happens, and everything does, all in Tarkovsky's stately, long-take style, where each shot gives the shadows time to spread and deepen... There are visions, memories, riddles, curious encounters, and a slow crescendo of spiritual longing. There's much sublimity and shocking acts that rupture the stillness, and then one of cinema's great endings." — Alan Scherstuhl, *Village Voice*

 APPROX. 125 MIN. RUSSIA/ITALY IN ITALIAN AND RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
KINO LORBER


*Restored in 4K in by CSC — Cineteca Nazionale, in collaboration with RAI Cinema at Augustus Color laboratory, from the original negatives and soundtrack preserved at RAI Cinema.*


**OPENS FEBRUARY 23**
**ABOUT DRY GRASSES**

DIRECTED BY NURI BILGE CEYLAN

In his ninth feature, Turkish auteur Nuri Bilge Ceylan (DISTANT, WINTER SLEEP) plumbs his signature themes of moral ambiguity, desire, and discontent through the life of an 8th-grade art teacher stationed in a remote Anatolian village. Samet is his own worst enemy — at once romantic and cynical, idealistic and underachieving, intellectually ravenous and indolent. An investigation into alleged misconduct, a philosophical face-off with a female colleague (Merve Dizdar — winner of the Best Actress Award at Cannes), and the betrayal of a friend converge to expose the most passionate and thorny layers of human nature. "Novelistic in a most nourishing way." — Guy Lodge, *Variety*. "A masterpiece." — Tomris Laffly, *The Wrap*

 197 MIN. TURKEY IN TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
SIDESHOW/JANUS FILMS





MARCH 1 – 14 TWO WEEKS

# JAPANESE HORROR

OVER 25 FILMS, INCLUDING **ONIBABA** | **KWAIDAN** | **HOUSE** | **RINGU**  
**KURONEKO** | **AUDITION** | **UGETSU** | **FACE OF ANOTHER** | **CURE**  
**THRONE OF BLOOD** | **DEMON POND** | **GODZILLA** and much more



Select titles with support from the  
 Ada Katz Fund for Literature in Film

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JAPAN FOUNDATION 



OPENS MARCH 1

## SHAYDA

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY NOORA NIASARI

From executive producer Cate Blanchett, the feature debut by Australian-Iranian director Niasari — inspired by her own childhood — and an Audience Award winner at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival. Vibrant young mother Shayda (Zar Amir Ebrahimi of *HOLY SPIDER*) seeks protection from her unhinged husband in a women's shelter, with her 6-year-old daughter, Mona. As she restarts her immigrant life in Australia amidst Persian New Year celebrations, Mona's father is granted "unsupervised access," and Shayda must contend with his rage and revenge. "Niasari's drama slowly builds into a thriller, and Ebrahimi's enthralling performance coaxes us to lean in." — Alissa Wilkinson, Vox

117 MIN. AUSTRALIA  
 IN ENGLISH AND PERSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
 SONY PICTURES CLASSICS



MARCH 15 – 21 ONE WEEK

"A masterpiece of the French gangster drama...  
 a tough and touching exploration of honor and  
 friendship among thieves." — A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*

"Powerful and timeless." — John Woo

NEW 4K  
 RESTORATION

CLAUDE SAUTET'S

## CLASSE TOUS RISQUES

Starring  
 LINO VENTURA  
 JEAN-PAUL BELMONDO



(1960) Neo-realism meets Film Noir, as gangster Lino Ventura, returning to France (where he's been sentenced to death *in absentia*) after holing up in Italy for nearly a decade, pulls off a payroll heist on crowded Milan streets in broad daylight — then makes a lightning-paced getaway via car, motorcycle, bus (!), speedboat, and ambulance. First teaming of two great icons: erstwhile wrestling champ-turned-scene-stealing crime film stalwart Ventura and New Wave *wunderkind* Belmondo, fresh from *Breathless*: the duo's cross-generational bonding gives *Classe* its climactic poignancy. A penetrating study of the underworld tough guy at the end of his rope, drawn from screenwriter José Giovanni's first-hand knowledge of the post-war French underworld.

APPROX. 103 MIN. FRANCE IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES  
 RIALTO PICTURES

Restored in 4K from the original camera and sound negatives by TF1 Studio.  
 Funding provided by CNC, Coin de Mire Cinéma and OCS.

With support from the George Fasel Memorial Fund for Classic French Cinema



OPENS MARCH 15

## MUCH ADO ABOUT DYING

DIRECTED BY SIMON CHAMBERS

"Pulls off a remarkable feat...simultaneously touching, endearing and often riotously funny" (Matthew Carey, *Deadline*). When the filmmaker receives an email from his elderly gay uncle — "I think I may be dying" — he takes it as a summons. As it turns out, eccentric Uncle David, a retired actor living alone in a cluttered, mouse-infested London house, is being dramatic, sort

of: For the next five years, Chambers both cares for and documents him, through all his performative exuberance (acting out passages of Shakespeare), anarchic charisma (swinging from boisterous humor to short temper), and physical/mental challenges. Coping with hospital visits, a house fire, and a cancer diagnosis, the younger man (also single and queer) reflects with aching honesty on what may await him in the years to come. Best Directing Award, International Competition, IDFA 2022

U.K. 84 MIN. **FIRST RUN FEATURES**

With support from the R.G. Rifkind Foundation Endowment for Queer Cinema

MARCH 22 – 28 ONE WEEK

"A REVOLUTIONARY MUSICAL IN BOTH SENSES OF THE WORD."

— *The New York Times*

**NEW 4K  
RESTORATION**

## MED HONDO'S WEST INDIES

(1979) French-Mauritanian filmmaker Hondo tells the story of French imperialism as a musical extravaganza (at \$1.3 million, the biggest-budget African production ever), adapted from *Les Négriers (The Slavers)* by Martinican playwright Daniel Boukman. Guadeloupe-born writer Maryse Condé saw it as proof that "militant cinema can be beautiful and rich." "This witty, scathing Mauritanian-Algerian co-production offers an angry view of West Indian history, using imaginative staging and a fluid visual style. The film's single set is an enormous slave ship (built in an unused Citroën factory in Paris)... Mobile camerawork and frequent narrative shifts take the actors through various vignettes about French colonialists invading the Indies, Caribbean natives lured to Paris, the process by which the islands were first settled and a lot more... Mr. Hondo leads the film through a long series of well-connected tableaux, culminating in an almost joyous call to arms." — Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*.

APPROX. 110 MIN. ALGERIA/MAURITANIA/France IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES **JANUS FILMS**

ANTHOLOGY FILM ARCHIVES WILL HOST A MED HONDO RETROSPECTIVE BEGINNING MARCH 22.

Restored by the Harvard Film Archive and Ciné-Archives using the original 35mm picture negative and magnetic track.  
Financial support provided by the McMillan-Stewart Foundation and film services by Blackhawk Films and Lumières Numériques.



OPENS MARCH 22

## LIMBO

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY IVAN SEN

From multifaceted Indigenous filmmaker Ivan Sen (who writes, directs, scores, shoots, and edits), *LIMBO* stars Simon Baker (*The Mentalist*, *MARGIN CALL*) as Travis, a taciturn, troubled detective investigating the cold case murder of an Indigenous girl 20 years earlier. At first met with skepticism by the locals in a remote mining town — whose landscapes and cave-like dwellings are rendered otherworldly by the crisp, widescreen black-and-white photography — he gradually uncovers new details that reveal racist treatment of Indigenous people by the Australian police. "A starkly atmospheric outback noir — oblique, secretive and as hard boiled as the ground is hard-baked... A craggy, buzz-cut Simon Baker [is] initially near-unrecognizable and never better." — Guy Lodge, *Variety*

104 MIN. AUSTRALIA IN ENGLISH **BRAINSTORM MEDIA / MUSIC BOX FILMS**

