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Calendar Programmed by Karen Cooper and Mike Maggiore







BORN TO FLY: Elizabeth Streb vs. Gravity Directed by Catherine GUND

USA 2014 82 MINS.

Elizabeth Streb's Extreme Action Company is to American Ballet Theater as Spider-Man is to a National Geographic special on arachnids. Working out of an industrial building in Williamsburg, her troupe hones dangerous, mind-boggling feats: hybrids of dance, acrobatics, performance art, theater of cruelty, and maybe just plain cruelty. The spiky-haired Streb, outfitted in motorcycle boots and de rigueur black everything, is a surprisingly gamine woman whose charisma is as palpable as the affection and compassion she affords her dancers. Catherine Gund's exhilarating documentary records Streb's latest forays into gravity-defying actions as well as wonderful archival footage that records her early decades of work, leading up to the MacArthur "genius" grant she received in 1997. Two of many breathtaking spectacles that punctuate the movie: Streb dancers bungee-jumping off London's Millennium Bridge and dangling fearlessly from the London Eye. Streb earns her reputation as the Evel Knievel of dance. **1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:40, 9:40**

20,000 DAYS ON EARTH

SEPTEMBER 17 - 30 2 WEEKS

DIRECTED BY IAIN FORSYTH AND JANE POLLARD

UK 2014 97 MINS. DRAFTHOUSE FILMS

2 WEEKS

Rock musician and international cultural icon Nick Cave, "resembles nothing so much as a postmillennial hybrid of bookie and peer of the realm...(with) a face that has been described both as 'angelic' and 'hideous to the eye'" (John Wray, *The New York Times Magazine*). Since the late 1970s, Cave's bands The Birthday Party, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, and Grinderman have set the standard for literate post-punk virtuosity. 20,000 DAYS ON EARTH is no conventional profile or talking-head hagiography. Filmmakers/visual artists lain Forsyth and Jane Pollard frame the movie through one imagined day in his life — blending fact and fiction, songwriting, encounters with collaborators (Kylie Minogue, Ray Winstone, former and current bandmates Blixa Bargeld and Warren Ellis), therapy sessions, rehearsals, and other stimuli that feed his creative process — all capped off by a smoldering live performance. "The most sophisticated rock star biography ever. A remarkable film." — Nick James, *Sight and Sound*





OCT 1 - 14 2 WEEKS

THE DECENT ONE PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY VANESSA LAPA

ISRAEL / AUSTRIA / GERMANY 2014 94 MINS. IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES KINO LORBER

"We can have but one desire as to what is said about us: These German officers, these German soldiers — they were decent." — Heinrich Himmler. A recently discovered cache of hundreds of personal letters, diaries, and photographs belonging to the Nazi Gestapo chief seems to reveal a thoughtful, loving husband and devoted father to his daughter, Gudrun. The documents were hidden in Tel Aviv for decades and sold to the father of the Israeli documentary filmmaker, Vanessa Lapa. She has fashioned a fascinating case study: a portrait of the man responsible for some of the worst atrocities of the Second World War, who thought of himself in heroic terms. Psychologists, historians, and moralists have long debated how seemingly ordinary people can do monstrous things. The jaw-dropping discrepancies Lapa discovers between Himmler's self-image and his historical role cast a new, piercing light on the human capacity for self-delusion. 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:15

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

DIPLOMACY

DIRECTED BY VOLKER SCHLÖNDORFF

FRANCE 2014 88 MINS. IN FRENCH AND GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ZEITGEIST FILMS

OCTOBER 15 - 28

"Is Paris burning?" – Hitler asks General Dietrich von Choltitz on August 25, 1944. Volker Schlöndorff, Oscarwinning director of the THE TIN DRUM, dramatizes an all-night confrontation between the steely Nazi general (played by Niels Arestrup) and the wily Swedish consul-general, Raoul Nordling (played by André Dussollier). Ensconced in the legendary Hotel Meurice, on Rue de Rivoli, the two men (played with extraordinary intelligence and fervor by two of France's greatest actors), engage in an extended battle of wits, that – amazingly – leaves us breathless until the film's final moments. The script, by Schlöndorff and Cyril Gely, based on a play by the latter, keeps the odds shifting, so just when we think the consul has won over the general, the old soldier comes back with a riposte that a new law, *passed specifically for him*, means death for his wife and children if he disobeys orders. "An elegant, orchestrated pas de deux between formidable opponents – the man of words who knows when to flatter and when to gently insist, and the man of war who is every bit as quick with his mind as with his sword." – Scott Foundas, *Variety* **12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:15**





OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 4 1 WEEK REVENGE OF THE MEKONS

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY JOE ANGIO



"The Mekons are the most revolutionary group in the history of rock 'n' roll" — **rock critic Lester Bangs.** A genre-defying collective who emerged from the 1977 British punk scene, The Mekons progressed from socialist art students with no musical skills to the prolific, raucous progeny of Hank Williams. The film follows their improbable history — a surprising and influential embrace of folk and country music; forays into the art world (collaborations with Vito Acconci and Kathy Acker); and consistent bad luck with major record labels. Fans Jonathan Franzen, Luc Sante, Will Oldham, Mary Harron, Fred Armisen, and Greil Marcus testify to the power of their music and their artistic innovations. REVENGE OF THE MEKONS reveals how, four decades into an ever-evolving career, The Mekons continue to make bold, unpredictable music while staying true to the punk ethos. **12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30**

NOVEMBER 5 – 18 2 WEEKS

NATIONAL GALLERY

DIRECTED BY FREDERICK WISEMAN

USA / FRANCE 2014 181 MINS. ZIPPORAH FILMS

London's National Gallery, one of the world's foremost art institutions, is itself portrayed as a brilliant work of art, in this, Frederick Wiseman's 39th documentary and counting. Wiseman listens raptly as a panoply of docents decode the great canvases of Da Vinci, Rembrandt, and Turner; he visits with the museum's restorers as they use magnifying glasses, tiny eye-droppers, scalpels, and Q-tips to repair an infinitesimal chip; he attends administrative meetings in which senior executives do (polite) battle with younger ones who want the museum to become less stodgy and more welcoming to a larger cross-section of the public. But most of all, we experience the joy of spending time with the aforementioned masters as well as Vermeer and Caravaggio, Titian and Velázquez, Pissarro and Rubens, and listen to the connoisseurs who discourse upon the aesthetic, historical, religious and psychological underpinnings of these masterpieces. 12:30, 4:15, 7:50





NOVEMBER 19 - DECEMBER 2 2 WEEKS

BAD HAIR WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARIANA RONDÓN

VENEZUELA / PERU / ARGENTINA / GERMANY 2013 93 MINS. IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES CINEMA TROPICAL AND FIGA FILMS

A touching and humorous coming-of-gender story, BAD HAIR chronicles the life of nine-year-old Junior, living in a bustling Caracas tenement with his widowed mother. Junior fears he has *pelo malo* — bad hair. For his school photo, he wants to iron his stubbornly curly mane straight to resemble one of his pop star idols. His mother, unemployed and frazzled from the pressures of raising two children in an unforgiving city, has serious misgivings; she suspects her son is gay. Grandma is more accepting, teaching Junior to dance to one of her favorite '60s rock 'n' roll tunes. Writer-director Mariana Rondón grounds her film in the cultural realities of working-class Venezuela — and, by dint of two remarkable performances, finds warmth and humor between mother and son, even as the uncertainties of pre-adolescence threaten to pull them apart. Winner, Best Film, San Sebastian Film Festival, and winner of directing, acting, and screenwriting awards at numerous festivals throughout the world.

12:45, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30

DECEMBER 3 - 16 2 WEEKS

ZERO MOTIVATION

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY TALYA LAVIE

ISRAEL 2014 101 MINS. IN HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ZEITGEIST FILMS

PRIVATE BENJAMIN meets M*A*S*H, speaks Hebrew, and keeps kosher. Set in a remote desert military base, a platoon of young women soldiers, all Israeli conscripts, serve out their time playing computer games, singing pop songs, and conspiring to get transferred to Tel Aviv — while endlessly serving coffee to the men who run the show. Here's an Israeli film filled with funny, quick-witted, zany women who wield their staple guns like automatic weaponry. If there is a war going on, it's one against boredom, bad uniforms, dopey rules, and doing everything in triplicate. Debut filmmaker Talya Lavie is Israel's answer to Lena Dunham: ZERO MOTIVATION has had rave reviews and huge audiences. Winner of the top prize for narrative world cinema at the Tribeca Film Festival. **12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40**



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

DECEMBER 17 - 30 2 WEEKS



IF YOU DON'T, I WILL

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SOPHIE FILLIÈRES

FRANCE 2014 102 MINS. IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES FILM MOVEMENT

40-something-ish Pomme and Pierre, a longtime married couple, are played by two of the best and busiest actors working in France today, Emmanuelle Devos and Mathieu Amalric. They go to chic Paris art openings and share hikes in the woods. But do they still love each other? Amalric has been called "one of the most reliable – and also one of the least predictable – embodiments of Gallic intellectualism under duress" (A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*), and Devos "a gifted actress...who has always excelled at playing private, wounded women, perhaps because she refuses to conform to the movies' one-dimensional ideal of female beauty" (Scott Foundas, *Variety*). When Pomme decides not to leave the forest with her husband, and instead begins an extended meditation on where her life will go next, we're left wondering what love and commitment really mean and whether any relationship can successfully navigate decades of the same old same old. As Olivia Harrison (George Harrison's widow) once said: "What's the secret of a long-term marriage? You don't get divorced."

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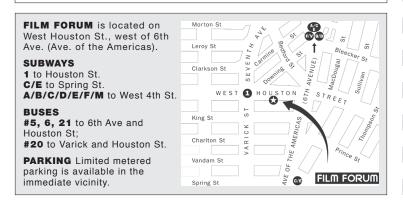
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For additional information, please contact Denyse Reed 212-627-2035 x225 or Denyse@filmforum.org

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\$7.50 tickets Monday-Friday only for films beginning before 5pm. Seniors may purchase a \$75 membership for \$50 (see below).

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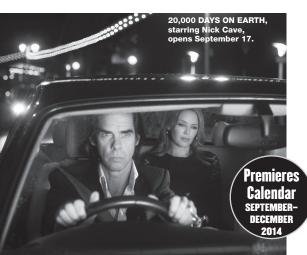
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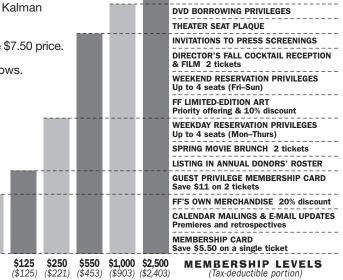
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