# FORU

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Calendar Programmed by Karen Cooper and Mike Maggiore

SEPTEMBER 14 - 27 2 WEEKS

# COMMAND AND CONTROL

DIRECTED BY ROBERT KENNER USA 2016 92 MINS. AMERICAN EXPERIENCE FILMS / PBS

A chilling, Strangelovian nightmare plays out at a Titan II missile complex in Arkansas in September 1980. A deadly accident — from a falling socket puncturing the fuel tank of an intercontinental ballistic missile carrying the most powerful nuclear warhead ever built by the United States - leads Air Force personnel, weapon designers, and first responders to work feverishly to prevent a calamitous explosion. Directed by Robert Kenner (FOOD, INC.) and based on the critically-acclaimed book by Eric Schlosser (Fast Food Nation), COMMAND AND CONTROL is a minute-by-minute account of this long-hidden story much of it based on recently declassified documents that expose other freak accidents and near-misses. How do you manage weapons of mass destruction without being destroyed by them? "Riveting...equal parts history lesson, cautionary tale and nerve-rattling thriller." - Nick Schager, Variety

12:30, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15

### SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 11 2 WEEKS

# SAND STORM

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ELITE ZEXER

ISRAEL 2016 87 MINS. IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES KINO LORBER

A debut feature that heralds a strong new iconoclastic voice in Israeli cinema. Elite Zexer's drama of a mother and daughter, both in rebellion against the traditional strictures of Bedouin life, melds an ethnographer's commitment to authenticity and a dramatist's sensitivity to emotional nuance. Jalila is charged with making a wedding celebration for her husband's second, much younger (much-resented)  $\hbox{new bride} -\hbox{in the midst of which her daughter Layla's surreptitious romance with a university student}\\$ comes to light. Both women are caught in a tangled web of familial obligations and sexual humiliation - a reactionary framework that continues to defy even rudimentary notions of Western individuality and freedom. Set in the vast, often gorgeous Negev Desert in southern Israel, SAND STORM may be the first movie in which cell phones share the screen with polygamous nomads. 12:30, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15





2 WEEKS

# TOWER

DIRECTED BY KEITH MAITLAND USA 2016 82 MINS. KINO LORBER

The morning of August 1, 1966, was bright and sunny at the University of Texas at Austin. Students chatted, strolled to class, and sipped coffee at the student union; a paperboy made his rounds on a bicycle with a pal on the handlebars. But then a sniper rode the elevator to the top of the UT Tower and opened fire. He held the campus hostage for 96 long, horrific minutes, and when the gunshots were finally silenced, the toll was 16 dead, three dozen wounded, and a nation traumatized by the first mass school shooting in history. Combining archival footage, hypnotic rotoscopic animation, and contemporary interviews with witnesses, TOWER vividly recreates the terrifying event and reveals untold stories of unlikely heroes and victims. All too familiar today, this massacre was unthinkable in mid-1960s America. Winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Documentary at the 2016 South by Southwest Festival. "Gripping. A tense, reflective and uniquely cinematic reconstruction." — Justin Chang, Variety 12:30, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:00, 9:50



# PORTRAIT OF A GARDEN

WRITTEN, PRODUCED, AND DIRECTED BY ROSIE STAPEL THE NETHERLANDS 2015 98 MINS. IN DUTCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES GRASSHOPPER FILM

The oldest and most beautiful "kitchen garden" in the Netherlands belongs to an estate that dates backs to 1630. Today it is owned by Daan van der Have, who cares for it meticulously, with 85-year-old pruning master Jan Freriks. Rosie Stapel's debut feature records their passionate oversight of the innumerable vegetables and flowering trees to which they are devoted. The two are marvelous company, whether shaping a black mulberry espalier (the rules for which date back to King Louis XIV), debating the proper care for bear's garlic, fennel, spring green cabbage, beetroot or Japanese wine berry, or contemplating their 15-year wait for the pear trees on both sides of an arbor to grow into a perfect semi-circle. They console themselves that "banking will diminish due to automation, but thinning our plums is here to stay." Their connoisseurship, depth of knowledge (extending back generations), and exacting care, bear beautiful fruit — and an elegant, meditative film. 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:10, 9:25



# NOVEMBER 2 - 15 2 WEEKS

# DON'T CALL ME SON

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ANNA MUYLAERT

BRAZIL 2016 82 MINS. IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ZEITGEIST FILMS

**Tall, dark, androgynously handsome,** Pierre wears eyeliner and a black lace g-string, while having sex with both boys and girls. The confusion only goes deeper when the teenager's single, working-class mom is arrested for having stolen him (and his "sister") at birth. Thanks to the wonders of DNA, he's returned to his biological parents: bourgeois, straight-laced and thrilled to have him back — at least until he shows up in a zebra-print mini dress. The turmoil of adolescence is plumbed with wit and compassion by writer/ director Anna Muylaert, whose previous film, THE SECOND MOTHER, also dealt with familial loyalty and class tensions. Actress Dani Nefussi gives completely believable knock-out performances as both mothers, and newcomer Naomi Nero defies expectations as a broodingly intense, potentially volcanic six-footer in stiletto heels. 12:30, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:00, 9:50

NOVEMBER 16 - 29

# **NOTES ON BLINDNESS**

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PETER MIDDLETON AND JAMES SPINNEY

UK / FRANCE 2016 90 MINS. IN ENGLISH

Oliver Sacks, the great neurologist, wrote that John Hull's memoir, On Sight and Insight: A Journey into the World of Blindness is "the most extraordinary, precise, deep and beautiful account of blindness I have ever read." When theologian John Hull (1935–2015) lost his sight at age 48, he embarked upon an audio diary, recording the physical and emotional transformations he experienced, as well as his brilliant, sophisticated philosophical observations on this life-changing event. Middleton and Spinney dramatize Hull's life and words: "I am concerned to understand blindness, to seek its meaning, to retain the fullness of my humanity." He becomes aware of what he can experience, perhaps with even greater intensity: listening to music or the sound of rain falling onto different surfaces, dancing with his wife, feeling sunlight on his face, dreams, and memories. Intimate and immersive, the film embraces one man's successful struggle to employ his intellectual and sensual resources to navigate this great trauma. 12:30, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10



NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 13 2 WEEKS

# **BOBBY SANDS: 66 DAYS**

DIRECTED BY BRENDAN J. BYRNE

IRELAND 2016 105 MINS. CONTENT MEDIA

In 1981, Bobby Sands is a 27-year-old member of the IRA, doing a 14-year sentence for weapons possession in Northern Ireland's Maze Prison, when he leads fellow prisoners on a hunger strike demanding that they be treated as political prisoners. Byrne's rigorous, thoughtful documentary takes us through Sands's 66-day ordeal, with expository sequences that give a crucial understanding of his childhood during the Northern Ireland "Troubles" ("I became angry. My whole little world crumbled around me. Belfast was in flames"). Northern Ireland's long history of opposition to British rule, the words of its poets and religious zealots, all give rise to the creation of a political martyr who gains iconic stature through his act. Steve McQueen's 2008 film, HUNGER, starring Michael Fassbender, powerfully renders Bobby Sands's story. It is a considerable achievement that Byrne's documentary is an even more searing portrait of a man and a movement. 12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45

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

### DECEMBER 14 - 27 2 WEEKS

# GHOSTLAND

PRODUCED, DIRECTED, AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY SIMON STADLER GERMANY 2016 84 MINS IN ENGLISH AND JU/'HOAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES CARGO FILM & RELEASING

Ever since de Tocqueville travelled through the US in the 19th century and described it with fresh eyes,

outsiders continue to surprise with their bold insights - and the Bushmen do not disappoint. These ancient nomads, living in Namibia's vast Kalahari desert, were hunter-gatherers until killing animals became illegal in 1990. Still living in huts with thatch roofs, they now survive by entertaining Western tourists and selling them trinkets. When a German anthropologist shows up and offers to accompany a small group to Europe, the tables are turned in fascinating ways. They are immediately struck by the impersonal nature of great cities, the shock of poverty among so much affluence, the abundance of both food and water, and the fact that "the Germans are so big and loud." For the most part, they remain non-judgmental, even sympathetic to what they see as Western people's failings: "Sometimes the white people are crazy. They want too much and work too much, and it seems they never sleep." Simon Stadler's GHOSTLAND says both funny and sad things about the West. But most of all, it speaks to those characteristics of human nature that defy geography, time, and culture. 12:30, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:00, 9:45



# STARTS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MAREN ADE GERMANY 2016 162 MINS IN ENGLISH AND GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

TONI ERDMANN had audiences rolling in the aisles in Cannes. "This tender German comedy is a moving, often hilarious portrait of an unusual father-daughter relationship... Many of the concerns...are as old as the hills or deadly serious: the growing gulf between parents and their adult kids; the conflict between work and family; the alienating, dehumanizing nature of the modern workplace; the role of women in corporate culture... But the way in which Ade decides to tackle all these things is startlingly original, frequently hilarious and completely surprising at every turn. It's a rare film that makes you think deeply about the world while also making you laugh hard at scenes of nudity or a grown man walking down the street in an oversized bear costume... Just brilliant." - Dave Calhoun, Time Out (London) DEC 25-27: 12:30, 3:50, 7:15 DEC 28-JAN 10: 12:30,1:15, 3:50, 4:40, 7:15, 8:00 STARTING JAN 11: 12:30, 3:50, 7:15



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

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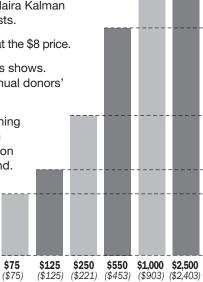
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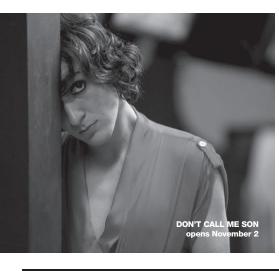
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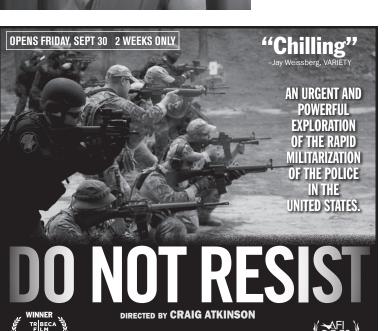
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