

FILM FORUM

PREMIERES

A NON-PROFIT CINEMA SINCE 1970

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Calendar Programmed by Karen Cooper and Mike Maggiore

AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 13 2 WEEKS



GAINSBOURG: A HEROIC LIFE

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY JOANN SFAR

FRANCE / USA 2010 122 MINS. IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES MUSIC BOX FILMS

Comic book artist Joann Sfar interprets the life of '60s pop star Serge Gainsbourg (née Lucien Ginsburg to Russian-Jewish parents), 1921–1991, beginning with his childhood years in Nazi-occupied Paris, through his early years as a painter and jazz musician (brushing shoulders with Boris Vian), to his life as a wildly popular singer-songwriter, notorious bon vivant, and lover of some of the world's most glamorous women. Gainsbourg's two-sided personality (narcissistic and self-loathing) and his over-the-top antics with Brigitte Bardot (Laetitia Casta), Jane Birkin (Lucy Gordon), and beatnik icon Juliette Gréco (Anna Mouglalis) share the screen with a giant puppet alter-ego: a scary, libidinous bad-boy who personifies all of Gainsbourg's worst proclivities. Featuring many of the musician's greatest hits, with Eric Elmosnino as Gainsbourg and, in a cameo, Claude Chabrol as his record producer. Never have so many Gauloises been smoked to such great effect.

1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15

SEPTEMBER 14 – 27 2 WEEKS

THE MILL AND THE CROSS

PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY LECH MAJEWSKI

POLAND / SWEDEN 2010 91 MINS. IN ENGLISH KINO LORBER

What would it be like to step inside a great work of art, have it come alive around you, and even observe the artist as he sketches the very reality you are experiencing? Lech Majewski brings to life Pieter Bruegel's masterpiece *The Way to Calvary*, the story of the crucifixion, setting it in 16th century Flanders under brutal Spanish occupation. Rutger Hauer plays the artist, Michael York his patron, and Charlotte Rampling the Virgin Mary. As epic events unfold, bawdy country living continues unabated: couples entwine, musicians play wind instruments, soldiers torment their enemies mercilessly, and children scurry about. Using sophisticated computer technology, the filmmaker creates a brilliantly complex and fascinating multi-layered dreamscape that melds iconic moments in art, history, and religion with the quotidian lives of ordinary people.

1:15, 3:15, 6, 8, 10



SEPTEMBER 28 – OCTOBER 4 1 WEEK



YOU DON'T LIKE THE TRUTH: 4 DAYS INSIDE GUANTÁNAMO

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY LUC CÔTÉ & PATRICIO HENRIQUEZ CANADA 2010 99 MINS. IN ENGLISH FILMS TRANSIT

Canadian Omar Khadr was 15 years old, a child soldier, when he was sent by his militant father to work with the Taliban in Afghanistan, assembling mines in an Al Qaeda compound. In 2002, he was captured by U.S. forces during a raid in which he was severely wounded and an American soldier was killed by a hand grenade. Omar was sent to Guantánamo and given the choice of pleading guilty to this murder and accepting an 8-year sentence, or contesting the charge and facing the possibility of life imprisonment. YOU DON'T LIKE THE TRUTH was culled from seven hours of surveillance material, taken of Omar's questioning, recently declassified by the Canadians. It is the only interrogation footage from inside Gitmo that has ever been released. The legal, political, and psychological implications of this prisoner's ordeal are manifold. The film forces us to take responsibility for the strange form of justice that is being meted out in the name of homeland security.

1, 3, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10

OCTOBER 5 – 18 2 WEEKS

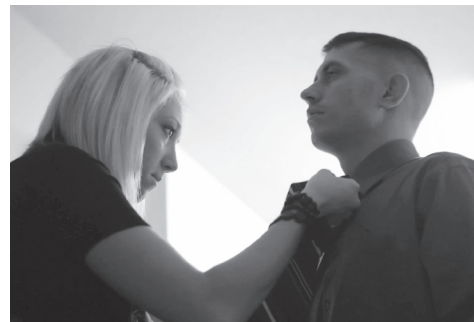
HELL AND BACK AGAIN

DIRECTED & PHOTOGRAPHED BY DANFUNG DENNIS

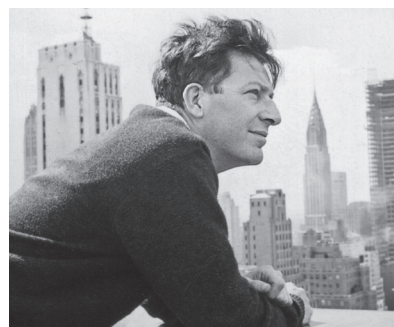
USA / UK 2010 88 MINS. IN ENGLISH AND PASHTU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES DOCURAMA FILMS

Winner of two prizes at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. Acclaimed photojournalist Danfung Dennis follows 25-year-old Marine Sgt. Nathan Harris on his most difficult mission: coming home after being seriously wounded in Afghanistan. Embedded with Harris's unit during their assault on a Taliban stronghold, Dennis brilliantly toggles between the intense experience of war (stunningly photographed by the director himself) and the challenges of re-adjusting to civilian life in small town North Carolina. HELL AND BACK AGAIN brings the war home in ways that make gun-toting soldiering look like a day at the beach compared to the physical and psychic scars that manifest upon returning home. "The images...are painterly and expressive, both exceptionally real in their photojournalistic quality and physically vivid as cinema." — Robert Koehler, *Variety*

1:15, 3:15, 6, 8, 10



OCTOBER 19 – NOVEMBER 1 2 WEEKS



PAUL GOODMAN CHANGED MY LIFE

DIRECTED BY JONATHAN LEE PRODUCED BY JONATHAN LEE & KIMBERLY REED USA 2011 89 MINS. ZEITGEIST FILMS

Paul Goodman's 1960 best-seller, *Growing Up Absurd*, became a cornerstone of countercultural thinking, alongside books like *The Medium Is The Message*, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, and *The Feminine Mystique*. Goodman (1911–1972) was a polymath: a poet, essayist, playwright, and psychotherapist. He was candid about his bisexuality while maintaining a marriage and raising two children. Jonathan Lee weaves together old and new footage of those who extol Goodman's virtues, as well as his adamant detractors (often one and the same), including Grace Paley, Ned Rorem, Deborah Meier, William F. Buckley, Susan Sontag, and Judith Malina. An abrasive and contradictory figure, Goodman's influence was nonetheless immense. Today, much of what passes as common knowledge in the fields of education, politics, psychology, urban planning, civil rights, and sexual politics was first posited by him nearly half a century ago.

1, 2:50, 4:40, 6:30, 8:20, 10:10

NOVEMBER 2 – 15 1 WEEK

THE OTHER F WORD

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY ANDREA BLAUGRUND NEVINS

USA 2011 99 MINS. OSCILLOSCOPE LABORATORIES

Punk rock dad: an oxymoron? THE OTHER F WORD, with charm and wit, explores the bizarre transformation of punk rockers (featuring Pennywise's Jim Lindberg, whose anthem is "F--- Authority") into soccer dads. The L.A. punk scene's leading men — among them Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers), Ron Reyes (Black Flag), Mark Hoppus (Blink 182), Tim McIlrath (Rise Against), and Fat Mike (NOFX) — open up about their troubled childhoods and how, today, they balance profane rage with being conscientious parents. "Raucous, eye-opening...and unexpectedly wise. Watching foul-mouthed, colorfully inked musicians attempt to fit themselves into Ward Cleaver's smoking jacket provides for some consistently hilarious situational comedy... Resonant with anyone (punk or not) who's stumbled head-first into family life." — Andrew Barker, *Variety*

1, 3, 6:10, 8:10, 10:10



NOVEMBER 16 – 29 2 WEEKS



TOMBOY

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY CÉLINE SCIAMMA

FRANCE 2011 82 MINS. IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ROCKET RELEASING

A French family with two daughters, 10-year-old Laure and 6-year-old Jeanne, moves to a new neighborhood during the summer holidays. With her Jean Seberg haircut and tomboy ways, Laure is immediately mistaken for a boy by the local kids and passes herself off as Michael. Filmmaker Céline Sciamma brings a light and charming touch to this drama of childhood gender confusion. Zoe Heran as Laure/Michael and Malonn Levanna as Jeanne are nothing less than brilliant. "Heran gets it just right. Not only is she/he piercingly photogenic, but she affects the self-conscious swagger of a boy with striking authenticity. Levanna is another natural, oozing wit and wisdom beyond her six years." — Mike Goodridge, *Screen Daily*. This is a relationship movie: relationships between children, and the even more complicated one between one's heart and body.

1, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8, 10

NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 13 2 WEEKS

KHODORKOVSKY

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY CYRIL TUSCHI

GERMANY 2010 111 MINS. IN RUSSIAN, GERMAN & ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES KINO LORBER FILMS

Mikhail Khodorkovsky was once the richest man in Russia. Today, he's one of the world's most famous political prisoners. A story of Shakespearean proportions, *The New York Times* has reported on Khodorkovsky in both its news and op-ed pages. Joe Nocera (June 4, 2011) writes: "Over the past six months, I've written three columns about Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the former Russian oligarch who has been in prison since 2003, charged, tried, convicted — and recently reconvicted — on transparently bogus tax and embezzlement charges... His real crime, after all, was challenging Vladimir Putin, the Russian strongman. More importantly, Khodorkovsky's fate stands as a powerful illustration of Russia's biggest problem: the contempt the country's corrupt rulers have for the rule of law." Fascinating interviews with Khodorkovsky (sometimes sitting in a glass box in the courtroom), members of his family, and others portray a country transformed from its moribund Communist past to one in which power-hungry politicians are abetted by a corrupt, drunken and cynical younger generation. Stark black and white animated sequences help tell an amazing back-story that plays like a political thriller.

1, 3:15, 5:40, 7:50, 10



DECEMBER 14 – 27 2 WEEKS



ADDICTION INCORPORATED

PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY CHARLES EVANS JR. USA 2011 102 MINS.

In 1994, scientist Victor DeNoble becomes the first whistle-blower to reveal the tobacco industry's efforts to manufacture "a maximally addictive" product. Charles Evans Jr. tells the riveting story of DeNoble's journey from research scientist working for Philip Morris (where employees signed secrecy agreements) to star informant — before Congressional committees, the FDA and Al Gore's Tobacco Settlement Committee — and peripatetic anti-smoking advocate extraordinaire. Evans marshals classic footage: the CEOs of the seven leading tobacco companies who testify under oath that they do not believe that nicotine is addictive; Rep. Thomas J. Bliley, Jr. (R-VA) likening the government's treatment of the tobacco industry to McCarthyism; the \$10 billion lawsuit filed by Philip Morris against ABC. Today, the story continues to unfold: the FDA is requiring that cigarette packages include graphic labels of rotting teeth and blackened lungs, by fall 2012. The tobacco companies are threatening legal action — again.

1, 3:15, 5:40, 7:50, 10

DECEMBER 28 – JANUARY 3 1 WEEK

EL SICARIO, ROOM 164

DIRECTED BY GIANFRANCO ROSI ORIGINAL STORY BY CHARLES BOWDEN

USA / FRANCE 2010 84 MINS. IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ICARUS FILMS

An extraordinary documentary, essentially a one-man show, based on the *Harper's* magazine article — "The Sicario: A Juárez Hit Man Speaks" — by Charles Bowden. "Gianfranco Rosi's remarkable EL SICARIO, ROOM 164 is a concerted effort to reveal the significance of a nonentity, a hooded anonymous ex-sicario or hit man (with a \$250,000 contract on his head) for the Mexican drug cartels interviewed in an eerily drab motel room near the border... The sicario's unadorned mixture of boastfulness, self-flagellation, and willingness to underline Mexican and U.S. bureaucracy's complicity with the bloodthirsty agenda of the 'narcos' (i.e., drug traffickers) possesses a raw power that needs no embellishment... (It's an) emotional roller-coaster ride that the sicario takes the audience on — from gruesome reenactments of torture to a weepy conversion experience." — Richard Porton, *Cineaste*

1, 2:45, 4:30, 6:15, 8, 10

