

FILM FORUM

PREMIERES

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Calendar Programmed by Karen Cooper and Mike Maggioro



MAY 13 - 19 1 WEEK



FORBIDDEN FILMS THE HIDDEN LEGACY OF NAZI FILM

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY FELIX MOELLER GERMANY 2014 94 MINS. IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ZEITGEIST FILMS

From filmmaker/film historian Felix Moeller (director of *HARLAN — IN THE SHADOW OF THE JEW SÜSS*) comes this thoughtful, provocative analysis of the 40 Nazi-produced movies still banned from broadcast or public screening in Germany (except in a scholarly context) because they are considered too inflammatory or offensive. The Third Reich's anti-Semitic films are well-known (among them *THE ETERNAL JEW*, *THE ROTHSCILDS*, *JEW SÜSS*), but less famed are their anti-British and anti-Polish dramas, featuring heroic young Germans, mercilessly bullied by greedy, deranged foreigners. Nearly 70 years after the demise of the Nazis, do Joseph Goebbels's notorious propaganda movies still pose a threat to civil society? See this galvanizing documentary and judge for yourself.

MON-THURS 12:30, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10 FRI-SUN 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10

Presented with generous support from the Ostrovsky Family Fund and the Joan S. Constantiner Fund for Jewish and Holocaust Films.

ALL TICKETS FREE OF CHARGE

MAY 20 - JUNE 2 2 WEEKS

GÜEROS

DIRECTED BY ALONSO RUIZ PALACIOS

MEXICO 2014 102 MINS. IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES KINO LORBER

The title of *GÜEROS*, a Mexican New Wave homage shot in black and white, references blond or light-skinned Mexicans. Two brothers, Tomás and Sombra (one lighter in complexion than the other) and their pal Santos, knock around Mexico City, dropping in and out of the student protest movement that's closed down the university, and visiting one of its leaders, Ana, a gamine beauty reminiscent of Jeanne Moreau in *JULES AND JIM* or Anna Karina in any number of Godard movies from the '60s. Whether quoting Rilke or Derrida or pursuing a mysterious musician "who made Bob Dylan cry," this foursome's droll, absurd adventures don't revisit the '60s so much as reinvent them for a new generation of Latino hipsters. Unsurprisingly, actor Gael Garcia Bernal was associate producer of the film.

12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50 SUN, MAY 24 ONLY: 1:00, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:05



JUNE 3 - 16 2 WEEKS



A PIGEON SAT ON A BRANCH REFLECTING ON EXISTENCE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ROY ANDERSSON SWEDEN 2014 100 MINS. IN SWEDISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES MAGNOLIA PICTURES

"Like a cross between a 'Where's Waldo' cartoon and a Gregory Crewdson photograph... A master class in comic timing." — Peter Debruge, *Variety*. Acclaimed Swedish filmmaker Roy Andersson completes his trilogy (joining *SONGS FROM THE SECOND FLOOR* and *YOU, THE LIVING*, both Film Forum premieres), with this meticulously crafted, dreamlike black comedy. Traveling novelty salesmen Sam and Jonathan ("a comedic duo who would be right at home in a Samuel Beckett or Tom Stoppard play" — *Variety*) take us on a kaleidoscopic tour of the human condition in reality and fantasy, unfolding in absurdist episodes: a sing-along at a 1940s beer hall, a randy flamenco teacher, a thirsty King Charles XII of Sweden en route to battle, and a diabolical metaphor for the horrors inflicted by European colonialism. With compositions inspired by the paintings of Otto Dix and Georg Scholz, Andersson underscores both the tragic and the trivial. Winner, Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival.

12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

JUNE 17 - 30 2 WEEKS

THE TRIBE

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MYROSLAV SLABOSHPYTSKIY

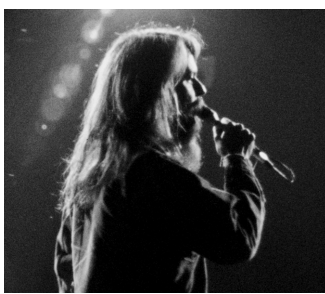
UKRAINE 2014 132 MINS. DRAFTHOUSE FILMS

Set in a Ukrainian school for the deaf, *THE TRIBE* is a bold and formally daring feature debut. A teenage gang initiates a new recruit, Sergey, into their schemes of robbery, bribery, and prostitution. As Sergey proves his mettle in this harsh environment, he breaks their code by falling for a prostitute — leading to a fierce, riveting chain of events. The film is in sign language only, with no need for subtitles or voice over, as the action unfolds visually and is comprehensible without words. "The language of gestures, facial expressions and even body posture becomes almost completely readable. The effect is akin to watching ballet...but with a lot more sex and violence." (Leslie Felperin, *The Hollywood Reporter*) Shocking without being exploitative, *THE TRIBE* has also been called "unprecedented" and "mesmerizing" (Eric Kohn, *Indiewire*) and "strange and oddly immersive" (Mark Adams, *Screen Daily*).

12:40, 3:40, 6:45, 9:30



JULY 1 - 14 2 WEEKS



A POEM IS A NAKED PERSON

FILMED AND EDITED BY LES BLANK EXECUTIVE PRODUCED BY HARROD BLANK PRODUCED BY DENNY CORDELL, LEON RUSSELL AND LES BLANK FILMS USA 1974 / 2015 90 MINS. JANUS FILMS

This is classic Les Blank. The music of blues-rocker Leon Russell, as recorded in his home and studio in Northeast Oklahoma, is a crazy-quilt of Americana: gospel, traditional bluegrass, Cajun culture, Native American rituals, and Hank Williams heartbreak — mixed together with Southern values and '60s counterculture. Russell's swamp music, Southern blues filtered through rock 'n' roll, features barrelhouse piano à la Jerry Lee Lewis. Blank captures him from 1972–1974. The silvery, shoulder-length-haired Russell, sporting his signature black top hat, is sometimes joined by fellow musicians George Jones and Willie Nelson. It's a time capsule that, amazingly, is only now being released and is not to be missed.

12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:15, 9:20

JULY 15 - 28 2 WEEKS

COURT

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY CHAITANYA TAMHANE

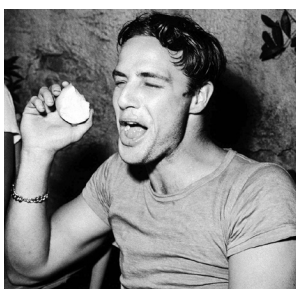
INDIA 2014 116 MINS. IN MARATHI, HINDI, ENGLISH AND GUJARATI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ZEITGEIST FILMS

Winner of top prizes at the Venice and Mumbai Film Festivals. *COURT*'s understated yet profoundly moving drama unfolds within the Indian legal system where issues of caste, patriarchy and feudalism are all specific to that culture. But at least as important are the more universal issues of bureaucratic idiocy, the apathy of the haves regarding the lives of the have-nots, and the still-Dickensian nature of most judicial processes. The film's director writes about the reality that inspired him: "The sheer lack of drama and the casualness with which life and death decisions were being made, was what sparked my imagination. Every face has a story of its own: the stenographer who disinterestedly types away all day, the peon who runs errands for a small bribe, the inarticulate lawyers reading out long, technical passages from outdated law books, the appellants who have probably spent years waiting for their case number to be called out."

1:00, 3:45, 7:00, 9:30



JULY 29 - AUGUST 11 2 WEEKS



LISTEN TO ME MARLON

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY STEVAN RILEY

UK 2015 100 MINS. SHOWTIME FILMS

Marlon Brando, a great star and an even greater mystery despite his enormous celebrity, strained for self-comprehension. Based on 200 hours of recently discovered recordings he made during his lifetime (some labeled "self-hypnosis"), Stevan Riley assembles a self-portrait of a deeply troubled man with insecurities ("I arrived in New York with holes in my socks and holes in my mind"), alliances (Stella Adler said, "Don't worry my boy; the world is going to hear from you"), creative genius to burn ("When the camera is close on you, your face becomes the stage"), and sexual magnetism ("A lot of your decisions are made by your penis, not your brain"). *LISTEN TO ME MARLON* is that rare film that plunges deep inside a complex and mercurial personality, a man more fascinating and compelling than Stanley Kowalski, Terry Malloy, and Vito Corleone combined.

12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

AUGUST 12 - 18 1 WEEK

HOW TO SMELL A ROSE A VISIT WITH RICKY LEACOCK IN NORMANDY

DIRECTED BY LES BLANK AND GINA LEIBRECHT USA 2014 65 MINS. IN ENGLISH LES BLANK FILMS

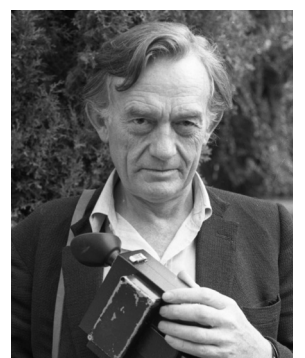
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

DIRECTED BY RICHARD LEACOCK AND JOYCE CHOPRA

USA 1963 26 MINS. PENNEBAKER HEGEDUS FILMS

Ricky Leacock, Al Maysles, Robert Gardner, Robert Drew, Les Blank: the generation that invented cinema verité and gave us a plethora of brilliant documentaries is passing away. In *HOW TO SMELL A ROSE*, directed by Blank and Gina Leibrecht, one legendary figure visits with another. Les Blank's warm and moving portrait of Leacock and partner Valerie Lalonde in France includes marvelous clips of Leacock's movies, including his earliest film, *CANARY BANANAS*, made at age 14 on his father's Canary Island plantation. Leacock is as charismatic recalling his cinematic triumphs (shooting Flaherty's *LOUISIANA STORY*, filming Leonard Bernstein in Israel), as he is explaining why he quit drinking or quoting Escoffier on the making of a perfect bouillon. Complemented by the Leacock-Joyce Chopra classic, *HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY*, on the 1963 birth of the Fischer quintuplets in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30



AUGUST 19 - SEPTEMBER 1 2 WEEKS



BELTRACCHI THE ART OF FORGERY

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY ARNE BIRKENSTOCK GERMANY 2014 93 MINS. IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES KIMSTIM

60 Minutes called Wolfgang Beltracchi a "con man of epic proportions" and dubbed him and his wife Helene, "the Bonnie and Clyde of the art world." For nearly 40 years the charming and effervescent Beltracchi produced hundreds of meticulous works of art, forgeries of early and mid-20th century artists, using old canvases and distressed frames scoured from flea markets and paints whose pigments he ground himself. Amazingly, he didn't reproduce known paintings, but, working in an artist's style, would create entirely new "masterpieces." A large Max Ernst that took him three days to produce could sell for \$5 million. Beltracchi was put on trial in 2011, but he readily admits that the handful of forgeries for which he was held accountable are just the tip of the iceberg. Many others sit in some of the world's greatest art museums and private collections. This documentary captures his unique personality: a bizarre mix of candor and cunning, insouciance and joie de vivre.

12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:15, 9:30

SEPTEMBER 2 - 15 2 WEEKS

THE BLACK PANTHERS VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION

DIRECTED BY STANLEY NELSON USA 2015 113 MINS. FIRELIGHT FILMS

The rise and fall of the Black Panther Party during the 1960s and beyond is a uniquely American story of a growing pride in black culture, and more militant demands for justice and racial equality, with a cast of larger-than-life personalities including: Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, Eldridge and Kathleen Cleaver, and Fred Hampton. Renowned documentarian Stanley Nelson masterfully assembles rare archival footage that contextualizes the history of the Panthers — begun in response to racism and police brutality. *THE BLACK PANTHERS* does not hesitate to critique its subject, nor does it shy away from judging the corrupt activities of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI or the countless shoot-outs, raids and arrests that were the response of local police. It is a history that needs to be told to understand today's incendiary racial landscape.

12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:40

