

# FILM FORUM

PREMIERES

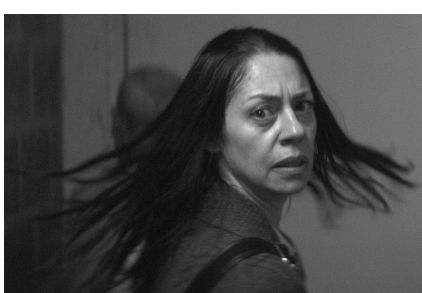
A NON-PROFIT CINEMA SINCE 1970 209 WEST HOUSTON ST. NEW YORK, NY 10014 BOX OFFICE: (212) 727-8110

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RECEIVE OUR E-NEWSLETTER WEEKLY: [filmforum.org](http://filmforum.org)

Calendar Programmed by Karen Cooper and Mike Maggiore

MAY 11 - 24 2 WEEKS



## A MONSTER WITH A THOUSAND HEADS

DIRECTED BY RODRIGO PLÁ MEXICO 2015 75 MINS. IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES MUSIC BOX FILMS

**The monster in question is feared and loathed in Mexico, as it is everywhere: the medical insurance industry.** Sonia's critically ill husband requires an expensive medication their insurance company refuses to approve. So we can't help but admire her for taking matters into her own hands. What begins as a frustrating call to a bureaucratic phone tree, escalates into a grimly comic confrontation with her husband's doctor as he luxuriates in a steam bath, and finally a violent hostage-taking standoff. Sonia does battle with all 1000 heads of the insurance industry: its brilliant ability to hide behind obfuscation and pettiness, its callous disregard for human suffering and, ultimately, its corruption. No matter your position on the Affordable Care Act — this film is for you. **12:30, 2:15, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40**

MAY 25 - JUNE 7 2 WEEKS

## UNLOCKING THE CAGE

DIRECTED BY CHRIS HEGEDUS AND D.A. PENNEBAKER  
USA / UK / FRANCE 2016 91 MINS. FIRST RUN FEATURES / HBO DOCUMENTARY FILMS

**"They used to bark at me when I walked into the courtroom,"** says animal rights attorney Steven Wise, founder of the Nonhuman Rights Project. It's Wise's unorthodox position that cognitively complex animals (e.g. chimpanzees, whales, dolphins, elephants) should be granted personhood rights that would protect them from abuse. The world-renowned documentary team of Chris Hegedus and D.A. Pennebaker (DONT LOOK BACK, THE WAR ROOM, STARTUP.COM) captures Wise's progress: from the halls of academia to animal sanctuaries and zoos, and finally into the courtrooms where he makes a compelling case for clients Merlin, Kiko, Hercules, Leo, and Tommy. This is a touching, funny and legally provocative movie: Given that the Supreme Court has ruled that corporations are people, why not chimps? **12:30, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15**

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



JUNE 8 - 21 2 WEEKS



## FROM AFAR

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY LORENZO VIGAS

VENEZUELA 2015 90 MINS. IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES STRAND RELEASING

**An intense and mysterious everyman, Chilean actor Alfredo Castro** has become the compelling face of South American art-house cinema, starring in NO, POST MORTEM, TONY MANERO, and, most recently, THE CLUB. Last summer, a provocative debut feature from Venezuela, FROM AFAR, won the Golden Lion for Best Film at the Venice Film Festival. Writes Guy Lodge in *Variety*: "Looking, not touching, is the act of choice for a sexually wary gay man in FROM AFAR, and his hands-off approach is shared by the expert storytelling in (this) pristinely poised but deeply felt debut feature... This (is a) smart, unsensationalized examination of the slow-blossoming relationship between a middle-aged loner and a young street tough. Star Alfredo Castro gives a veritable master class in fine-point anguish. (The film) marks out Lorenzo Vigas as one of Latin American cinema's more auspicious arrivals of recent years." **12:30, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:15**

JUNE 22 - JULY 5 2 WEEKS

## NUTS!

DIRECTED BY PENNY LANE USA 2016 79 MINS CARTUNA

**In 1917, J.R. Brinkley, a country doctor practicing in Milford, Kansas, begins treating his male patients for impotence by surgically implanting them with goat glands,** a treatment that is so successful that Brinkley starts raising his own goats to meet an increasing demand. Over the years he builds the country's 4th most powerful radio station (the better to sell his medical miracle), runs for governor of Kansas, and amasses a fortune with which he lives in sumptuous splendor. Filmmaker Penny Lane writes: "Like my previous feature-length film OUR NIXON, NUTS! is structured as classical tragedy with a complicated and deeply hubristic protagonist, rendered with equal parts comedy and pathos." NUTS! draws upon a fascinating trove of archival materials and integrates charming animated sequences that, together, bring to life a man who saw himself as more Albert Schweitzer than P.T. Barnum, but who ultimately turns out to be an unholy mix of Bernie Madoff and Donald Trump. **12:30, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:00, 9:50**



JULY 6 - 12 1 WEEK ONLY



## UNDER THE SUN

DIRECTED BY VITALY MANSKY

RUSSIA / LATVIA / GERMANY / CZECH REPUBLIC / NORTH KOREA 2015 106 MINS. IN KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES ICARUS FILMS

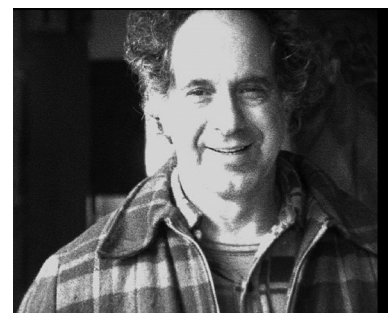
**A rare glimpse of everyday life in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang:** Zin-Mi is an adorable 8-year-old girl, who, as she prepares to join the prestigious Children's Union, participates in colorful, joyous patriotic school pageants, eats delicious evening meals at her family's well-appointed apartment, and is doted on by her attractive parents who work in model factories that regularly exceed their production targets. Sounds too good to be true? Of course it is. Russian director Vitaly Mansky reveals the fraud behind the "documentary." Government handlers script the family's conversations (are they even her parents? could this possibly be their home?), constantly demanding re-takes infused with greater joy and patriotic zeal. This jaw-dropping peek at North Korea has been described as "surreal and sinister... a real-life version of THE TRUMAN SHOW" — Stephen Dalton, *The Hollywood Reporter*. **12:30, 2:45, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50**

JULY 13 - 26 2 WEEKS

## DON'T BLINK - ROBERT FRANK

DIRECTED BY LAURA ISRAEL USA 2015 82 MINS. GRASSHOPPER FILM

**Robert Frank, now 91 years old, is among the most influential artists of the last half-century.** His seminal volume, *The Americans*, published in 1958, records the Swiss-born photographer's candid reactions to peculiarly American versions of poverty and racism. Today it is a classic work that helped define the off-the-cuff, idiosyncratic elegance that are hallmarks of Frank's artistry. Director Laura Israel (Frank's longtime film editor) and producer Melinda Shopsin were given unprecedented access to the notably irascible artist. The assembled portrait is not unlike Frank's own movies — rough around the edges and brimming with surprises and insights — calling to mind Frank's quintessential underground movie, the 1959 Beat short, PULL MY DAISY (co-directed by Alfred Leslie). DON'T BLINK includes clips from Frank's rarely seen movies, among them ME AND MY BROTHER and COCKSUCKER BLUES. The soundtrack includes Lou Reed, Bob Dylan, Yo La Tengo, and Tom Waits. **12:30, 2:20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:00, 9:50**



JULY 27 - AUGUST 9 2 WEEKS



## HIERONYMUS BOSCH: TOUCHED BY THE DEVIL

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY PIETER VAN HUUSTEE

THE NETHERLANDS 2015 89 MINS IN ENGLISH AND DUTCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES KINO LORBER

**2016 marks the 500th anniversary of the death of Dutch master Hieronymus Bosch.** Whether you know it or not, his wildly bizarre imaginings of hell are permanently etched upon your psyche. Pieter van Huystee tracks down his 25 or so surviving paintings, recording the meticulous work of archivists to definitively attribute the work to the artist (10 family members painted) as well as the snarky jousting by Dutch and Spanish curators over granting access to the masterpieces. (*The Garden of Earthly Delights*, the Prado's *Mona Lisa*, has not left Spain in 400 years and it's not about to anytime soon.) Bosch's vivid imagination spawned precise, grotesque, salacious juxtapositions: "a bird-headed monster wearing a cooking pot as a helmet while devouring a man whose backside emits fire, smoke and a flock of blackbirds." — Tom Rachman, *The New York Times*. Tantalizing, repulsive, hilarious, and sexually perverse: his hell is *our* hell, even after 500 years. **12:30, 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:10**

AUGUST 10 - 16 1 WEEK ONLY

## AN ART THAT NATURE MAKES: THE WORK OF ROSAMOND PURCELL

DIRECTED BY MOLLY BERNSTEIN USA 2016 75 MINS. BOND 360

**Molly Bernstein, whose superb portrait of sleight of hand magician Ricky Jay we premiered, here embraces another type of conjurer. Artist Rosamond Purcell** creates collages of natural objects (bones, feathers, leaves, fossils) and found objects (distressed books, industrial scrap, cast-off objects of all stripes) and imbues them with life through her photography. Among her many books are three with scientist Stephen Jay Gould, in which her visuals and his words complement one another. Documentary filmmaker Errol Morris, one of Purcell's admirers, extolls her ability to reveal "the hidden history of the world" and to "find art in really strange places." Bernstein's portrait reveals an artist whose work defies our basest materialist impulses and celebrates the beauty of decay, the poetry of destruction, and the ineffable effects of time — on everything. **12:30, 2:15, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40**



AUGUST 17 - 30 2 WEEKS



## WHEN TWO WORLDS COLLIDE

DIRECTED BY HEIDI BRANDENBURG SIERRALTA AND MATHEW ORZEL

UK / PERU 2016 103 MINS. IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES FIRST RUN FEATURES

**Alberto Pizango, indigenous leader of Peru's Amazonian people, vs. Alan Garcia, President of Peru (2006-2011), backed by the multinational corporations** intent on exploiting the Amazon's rich natural resources. It is a David and Goliath battle currently being fought in one of the world's most lush and magnificent rainforests. Pizango, reminiscent of Cesar Chavez in his charisma and implacability, organizes people who have called the rainforest home for a millennia, to oppose the illegal and violent takeover of their land. "Frankly, they're savages," intones the Minister of the Interior on Peruvian TV. We recently played the Oscar-nominated EMBRACE OF THE SERPENT, a drama of Amazonian intrigue and Western corruption. Here is a documentary that updates that story with aplomb. **12:45, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50**

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

AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 13 2 WEEKS

## THE SEASONS IN QUINCY: FOUR PORTRAITS OF JOHN BERGER

DIRECTED BY COLIN MACCABE, CHRISTOPHER ROTH, BARTEK DZIADOSZ, AND TILDA SWINTON UK / US 2015 90 MINS. ICARUS FILMS

**John Berger calls himself "a storyteller" and longtime friend Tilda Swinton calls him "a radical humanist."** The soft-spoken Berger is, in fact, a brilliant polymath: a painter, art critic/historian (*The Success and Failure of Picasso*), Booker Prize-winning novelist (*G*), BBC television host (*Ways of Seeing*), screenwriter (LA SALAMANDRE), essayist (A SEVENTH MAN), poet, Marxist, philosopher, and self-styled peasant. These four ruminative essays — produced by London's Derek Jarman Lab — are set in the French Alps where Berger has lived for several decades. As Swinton peels apples and Berger draws her portrait, they consider the effect of their fathers' war experiences on their childhoods. The film is punctuated with excerpts from Berger's television appearances — but it is this seemingly casual talk in and around his rustic kitchen that allows us to be guests in his home and on intimate terms with his intellect. **12:45, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20**

