

filmfestdc

Washington, DC International Film Festival



APRIL 20 - 30, 2017 • FILMFESTDC.ORG

WELCOME TO FILMFEST DC 2017!

Welcome to the 31st annual Washington, DC International Film Festival.
Come see great movies!

80 films • 45 countries • 11 days • 1 exciting festival

For over 30 years, Filmfest DC has sought to keep pace with global cultural and social activities. Today we find ourselves in a conundrum of opposing beliefs and shifting governmental policies, which have often divided citizens and forged a culture of “us vs. them.” As a reflection of our times, this year’s festival has taken on a special focus on issues ripped from today’s headlines in hopes of increasing clarity and civil discourse.

Our Opening Night feature, *This Is Our Land*, looks at what can happen when a community faced with new immigrants and threatened job security becomes the target of right-wing operatives. The *Justice Matters* section of social issues films has been expanded and this year we have added *Division & Debate*, a new section exploring timely contentious issues.

The *Lighter Side* section of international comedies, *Trust No One*, our thriller and espionage section and the *Global Rhythms* music series continue to be festival staples, along with *World View*, the core of the festival’s international program.

Filmfest DC would not be possible without the support of our Board of Directors, sponsors, staff, and hundreds of volunteers. Many people have generously shared their time and talent with us, and we want to deeply thank them.

Good movies make the world a better place. Please join us for debut works by gifted directors, and a broad array of award-winning films from around the globe. We invite you to our annual adventure. We are very pleased to bid you welcome.

Tony Gittens



Founder and Director
Washington, DC International Film Festival



Photo: Chad Evans-Wyatt

Tony Gittens, Festival Director, and Shirin Ghareeb, Deputy Director

TICKET INFORMATION

General admission at the theater is \$14 unless otherwise noted.

ADVANCE SALES

General admission via advance sales are \$13 and are subject to a \$1.75 per ticket convenience fee. No online, phone, or outlet sales the day of the show.

Online: filmfestdc.org

Phone: 410-982-0799, available Monday – Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

DAY-OF SALES

Tickets can only be purchased at the theater on the day of the show for \$14. Box office opens one hour before the venue’s first screening of the day. Cash, check, or credit card sales only.

DISCOUNT PACKAGES

Packages offered through advance sales only unless otherwise noted. Packages include \$13 screenings.

Director’s Package:

10 tickets for \$100 (\$130 value) plus \$5.00 convenience fee.

Weekday Package:

4 tickets for \$45 (\$52 value) plus \$3.00 convenience fee. Valid for screenings Monday through Thursday.

Student Discount:

1 ticket for \$10 (\$14 value) available day of showing only at festival box office. Valid with proper student ID.

MISSIONTIX

Theatre Locations

AMC Mazza Gallerie

5300 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20015

Take Metro Red Line to Friendship Heights.
\$2 for 3 hours or \$5 for 5 hours of
reduced-rate parking available in garage
with validation.

Landmark’s E Street Cinema

555 11th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Take Metro Red, Orange, or Blue Line to Metro
Center. Theatre entrance is on E Street between
10th and 11th Streets. Three hours of
reduced-rate parking available in adjacent
garage with validation Monday – Friday after
6 p.m. and anytime on weekends.

Other Locations

Embassy of France

4101 Reservoir Road, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

Street parking available.

National Gallery of Art

East Building Auditorium
4th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20565

Take Metro Green or Yellow Line to National
Archives/Navy Memorial.

filmfestdc

Washington, DC International Film Festival

Information: filmfestdc.org 202-234-FILM @filmfestDC

OPENING NIGHT

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

THIS IS OUR LAND

Lucas Belvaux

France/Belgium, 2016, 114 minutes

A timely and sharp study, *This Is Our Land* shows the voices and sentiments hidden by the flag of populism, and that thinking in terms of enemies is becoming increasingly commonplace. In Northern France, inhabitants of the old mining area around Calais have seen the world change too rapidly and feel neglected by the state. Pauline, a beloved and devoted nurse, is offered the candidacy for mayorship by a far-right political party that resembles France's Front National led by Marine Le Pen. The political campaign will test her will and personal life as it soon becomes clear she's merely a puppet candidate. For old fascists, the party's respectable appearance is only a change in strategy; The aim is still a white fatherland. Despite the party's respectable suits and smiles, violence is never far away, as Pauline discovers.

Filmmaker Lucas Belvaux's political drama serves as an insightful reflection on recent shifts in Western politics. *This Is Our Land* stirs discussion across audiences regarding the intersection of national values, progress, and identity as well as the dangerous appeal of reactionary populism. How does a far-right political party gain working-class support? What are the dangers of the growing popularity of far-right politics? And finally, what role do nationalism and isolationism play in this increasingly interconnected and globalized world?—*Various sources*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

AMC Mazza Gallerie, followed by a reception, \$45.00



CLOSING NIGHT



"I'm only 88." Escaping frozen Canada for the city of romance, gawky, gangling Fiona arrives too late: Martha's apartment is empty. Worse, she loses her passport and her money, and takes an unintended dip in the Seine. As one mishap leads to another, she becomes entangled with a fleet-footed homeless man (Abel) in a world of Tati-esque deadpan sight gags, class commentary, and brightly colored sets. A lovingly crafted cinematic confection, *Lost in Paris* is just as effortlessly charming and romantic as the City of Light itself.—*Various sources*

IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 30, 3:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Embassy of France, reception 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., \$25.00

For security reasons, film tickets at the Embassy of France must be purchased in advance.

LOST IN PARIS

Fiona Gordon, Dominique Abel

France, 2016, 84 minutes

Brussels-based husband-and-wife duo Fiona Gordon and Dominique Abel (*Rumba; The Fairy*) take inspiration from Jacques Tati, Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and Laurel and Hardy in this whimsical slapstick comedy. Gordon and Abel masterfully concoct a perilous but ultimately benign world in which a mischievous fate seems to want to have fun at the expense of the protagonists in one perfectly executed pratfall after another.

In the film, Fiona (Gordon) embarks on a mission to save her dotty aunt Martha, played by French screen legend and Academy Award® nominee Emmanuelle Riva (*Amour*), from a nursing home after receiving the frantic plea. "Dear Fiona, help! After 48 years living in Paris they want me to move to an old people's home. Ridiculous!

**Sponsored by the Embassy of France and
the Office of Cable Television, Film,
Music & Entertainment**



THE LIGHTER SIDE

Politics Isn't the Only Funny Thing in Washington!

A good laugh is a universal pastime and Filmfest DC is continuing its popular series of international comedies. Comedies do more than just entertain; they also offer important insights into the central workings of a given culture, from its oldest customs to its most taboo subjects. Humor varies from one culture to the next, and it is impossible to characterize international comedies under one umbrella. Thus, in this series, we explore how international cinema has used humor to better understand the human condition as well as to make fun of our foibles. If the language of cinema is universal, then laughter is our common vocabulary.

Films selected for this year's *The Lighter Side* series include:

- **The African Doctor** (France)
- **Family Life** (Chile)
- **The Hippopotamus** (UK)
- **Solitaire** (Lebanon/Jordan)
- **The Wedding Party** (Nigeria)



TRUST NO ONE

Espionage, Crime, and Thrillers

Good guys vs. bad guys (or girls)... Will she escape? ... Who done it?... The heist... Mystery... Suspense... Conspiracy... Betrayal. It's probably best to trust no one. Unlike the traditional Hollywood fare driven by loud explosions and endless sequels, our *Trust No One* focus offers engaging plots in atmospheric locations with fascinating characters who fuel the excitement in Filmfest DC's selection of international thrillers and crime dramas. This is edge-of-your-seat movie fun.

Films selected for this year's *Trust No One* series include:

- **All of a Sudden** (Germany/Netherlands)
- **At the End of the Tunnel** (Argentina/Spain)
- **Fast Convoy** (France)
- **Goldstone** (Australia)
- **The Oath** (Iceland)
- **Searchers** (Canada)
- **Train to Busan** (South Korea)



DIVISION & DEBATE

More than any time in recent history, citizens have drawn deep markers between "us and them." Hardened differences separate us along social, political and economic lines. Disagreements fueled by globalization and immigration, government policies and racial tension dominate news headlines and are difficult to avoid in everyday social discourse. Films selected for the *Division & Debate* series seek to explore these issues.

- **All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception, and the Spirit of I.F. Stone** (Canada) — The need for a free and independent press.
- **Backpack Full of Cash** (USA) — Charter schools vs. support for public education.
- **The Good Postman** (Finland/Bulgaria) — The challenges of immigration.
- **This Is Our Land** (France/Belgium) — How those effected by immigration and threats to job security can be manipulated.



RHYTHMS ON & OFF THE SCREEN

Films on Music

The collaboration of music and film often serves to illuminate both art forms' distinct beauty. Filmfest DC focuses on this dynamic combination by highlighting a number of international films that feature music accompanied by live pre-screening performances by some of D.C.'s most talented musicians and dancers!

Films selected for this year's *Rhythms On & Off the Screen* series include:

- **The Dancer** (France)
- **Footnotes** (France)
- **J: Beyond Flamenco** (Spain)
- **Patti Cake\$** (USA)

Global Blues

- **I Am the Blues** (USA/Canada)
- **Mali Blues** (Germany)
- **Two Trains Runnin'** (USA)

Media Sponsors:



JUSTICE MATTERS

When an individual or group has experienced an injustice, filmmakers use their talents and craft to make us aware and, hence, call us to take action. The *Justice Matters* focus within Filmfest DC highlights this tradition of using film to expand our awareness and understanding of social justice issues around the globe.

We want to thank the CrossCurrents Foundation for their support in helping to make this series possible.

Films selected for this year's *Justice Matters* series include:

- **150 Milligrams** (France)
- **All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception, and the Spirit of I.F. Stone** (Canada)
- **Backpack Full of Cash** (USA)
- **The Good Postman** (Finland/Bulgaria)
- **The House on Coco Road** (USA/Grenada)
- **Last Men in Aleppo** (Denmark/Syria)
- **Tomorrow** (France)
- **Two Trains Runnin'** (USA)



The award jury consists of:

Conrad Martin

Executive Director, Stewart R. Mott Foundation and Executive Director of the Fund for Constitutional Government

Montré Aza Missouri

Founder and Director, Howard Film Culture

Kathryn Washington

Director of Diversity and Innovation, Corporation for Public Broadcasting



IMPACT PROJECT

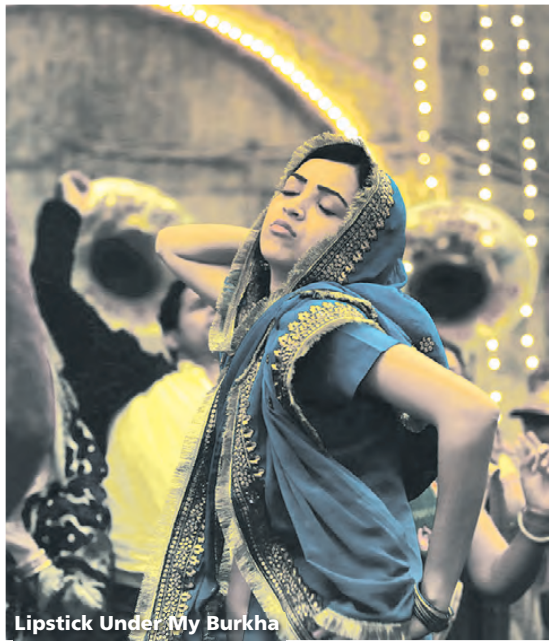
Many independent filmmakers passionately focus on telling stories that spotlight issues of social justice. In recognition of their creators' commitment to share these important themes with the broadest possible segment of the public, the social justice films in Filmfest DC will be the focus of a special initiative to bring these works to a wider audience in our area.

In addition to the films' festival screenings, the project includes a series of programs and presentations designed for students and community groups. The Filmfest DC website offers thought-provoking resources about the films and the issues they explore.

This project is conceived and directed by Linda Blackaby, Filmfest DC's senior programming consultant, and is supported by a grant from the Wyncote Foundation.



HIGHLIGHTS



Lipstick Under My Burkha

CIRCLE AWARD

The Circle Award is a juried competition of selected films that deserve increased recognition. The winner will be determined by a jury of accomplished film professionals.

The Circle Award is named in honor of Ted and Jim Pedas, founders of Washington's Circle Theatres, which set the standard for innovative quality film programming in Washington, D.C.

Films selected for this year's competition include:

- **At the End of the Tunnel** (Argentina/Spain)
- **The Hippopotamus** (UK)
- **I Am the Blues** (USA/Canada)
- **Lipstick Under My Burkha** (India)
- **The Preacher** (Egypt)
- **A Window to Rosália** (Brazil)

The award jury consists of:

- Susan Barocas**
Competition Coordinator
Writer/Producer
- Albert Casciero**
Former Dean, Learning Resources Division, UDC
- Manjula Kumar**
President/Executive Director
Global Performing Arts
- Gregory McGruder**
National Geographic Society
- Peggy Parsons**
Head, Department of Film, National Gallery of Art

FILMFEST DC AUDIENCE AWARD

Filmfest DC will present two audience awards: one to the feature film and one to the documentary voted the most popular by our audience. Ballots will be available after each screening. All award winners will be announced on Closing Night.

FIRST FEATURE AWARD

One of the most important purposes of a film festival is to introduce new filmmakers to the world and to cultivate, showcase, and encourage these new talents. Filmfest DC is pleased to present the First Feature Award for the best first films in the festival. The winner will be selected by a jury of experts and a cash prize will be awarded.

Films selected for this year's competition include:

- **Behind the Clouds** (Belgium)
- **The Dancer** (France)
- **A Good Wife** (Serbia/Bosnia/Croatia)
- **Mali Blues** (Germany)
- **Solitaire** (Lebanon/Jordan)
- **To Keep the Light** (USA)

The award jury consists of:

- Felix Angel**
Former Curator, Inter-American Development Bank
- Judy Dwan Hallet**
Documentary Filmmaker
- Kerric Harvey**
Chair, Department of Film Studies, George Washington University



Behind the Clouds

SIGNIS AWARD

The SIGNIS jury will present an award to the film judged by its jury to best illuminate and celebrate what it means to be human in a diverse and challenging world.

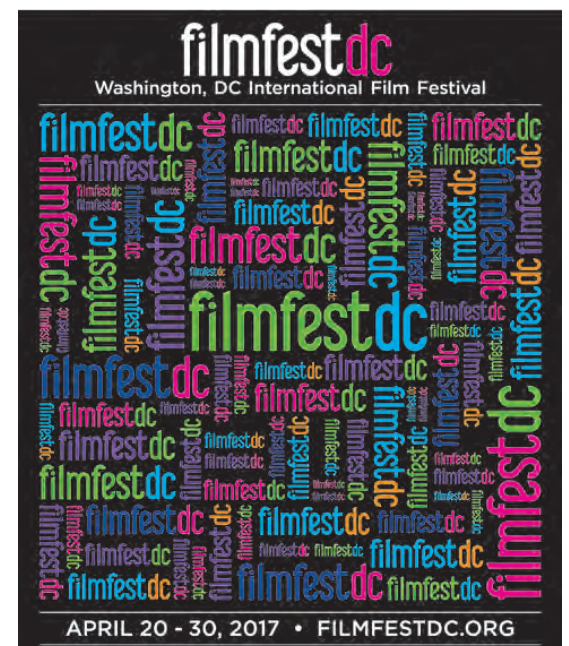


BE A PART OF THE MOVIE BUZZ



Join the Washington, DC Film Society!

Go to dcfilmsociety.org for more information



APRIL 20 - 30, 2017 • FILMFESTDC.ORG

Catalog cover by Alexis Thornlow

JUSTICE MATTERS
150 MILLIGRAMS

Emmanuelle Bercot

France, 2016, 128 minutes

Acclaimed director, screenwriter, and actor Emmanuelle Bercot adapts Irène Frachon's bestselling memoir *Médiator 150mg* for this story of a dedicated doctor whose investigation into recent patient deaths leads to a crusade against a powerful drug company. *150 Milligrams* is set in Brittany and revolves around Irène (Sidse Babett Knudsen), a hospital lung specialist who begins to suspect a connection between recent patient deaths and medications being prescribed. After she turns to the hospital's head of research, Antoine (Benoît Magimel), for help, Irène's investigation leads her to a powerful drug company. Of course, that's when things start to get ugly. Antoine's research unit is suddenly threatened with funding cuts, and Irène's colleagues begin to view her derisively as a meddling crusader. As this eye-opening and inspiring work illustrates, Frachon simply never gave up, until—well, see the film to find out what happened.—*Toronto International Film Festival*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 8:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Monday, April 24, 6:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



ACROSS THE WATERS

Nicolo Donato

Denmark, 2016, 95 minutes

Enjoying the nightlife of 1943 Copenhagen, guitarist Arne Itkin (David Dencik) is seemingly immune to the hardships of war as the Danish government opts for a compliant relationship with Nazi Germany. He is initially skeptical when his terrified wife, Miriam (Danica Curcic), hears rumors of the round-up and deportation of Danish Jews. An overnight raid, however, forces the couple to flee their home with 5-year-old son Jakob (Anton Dalgård Guleryüz). Aided by a church pastor and underground resistance, they set out on a journey for the fishing village of Gilleleje, where refugees await passage to Sweden by boat. Amidst lurking danger from the Gestapo and their collaborators, the family puts its fate in the hands of strangers. Based on true events, *Across the Waters* is directed and co-written by Nicolo Donato, whose own grandfather was among the courageous Danish fisherman to ferry war refugees to safety.—*Atlanta Jewish Film Festival*

IN DANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Monday, April 24, 9:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Wednesday, April 26, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE LIGHTER SIDE
THE AFRICAN DOCTOR

Julien Rambaldi

France, 2016, 94 minutes

Thanks to charming performances by Mark Zinga and Aïssa Maïga, *The African Doctor* is an endearing and beautifully crafted feel-good film about exclusion, resilience, and perseverance. In 1975, the mayor of Marly-Gomont wants to be re-elected and needs to find a doctor for the small French village. He decides on Seyolo Zantoko (Zinga), a highly skilled, recently graduated doctor of Congolese descent. Zantoko seizes the opportunity with both hands and leaves for Marly-Gomont with his wife (Maïga) and two children. When they arrive at the village, the locals are scared out of their minds; They have never before seen black people and don't want anything to do with them. Although he struggles with his family to integrate in the rural village, Zantoko is nonetheless determined to win the residents' trust—and ultimately becomes one of the most respected doctors in the area.—*World Cinema Amsterdam*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Friday, April 28, 8:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



AFTER LOVE

Joachim Lafosse

France/Belgium, 2016, 100 minutes

Marie and Boris seem to have it all—a modern home; sparkling, loving twin girls; good looks—but this is all they have. We enter the marriage mid-crisis, and thanks to a camera that never wavers from its domestic witness, we see it through to the end in this beautifully crafted and delicately acted chamber piece. Boris (Cédric Kahn) is a loving father who has become an unwelcome stranger in his own home, a bull in an all-girl china shop. Marie (Bérénice Bejo) wishes he would stick to his own days and ultimately move out. The family man routine becomes a joust, the children are subtly, inexorably weaponized, and still we as viewers are locked in the frame of a home we've by now inhabited. The film's French title, *L'économie du couple*, exactly captures the tension between capital and labor in marriage, an equation of give and take.—*Judy Bloch*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Friday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

DIVISION & DEBATE
JUSTICE MATTERS

ALL GOVERNMENTS LIE: TRUTH, DECEPTION, AND THE SPIRIT OF I.F. STONE

Fred Peabody

Canada, 2016, 91 minutes

Long before our American president dubbed a free press "fake news" and the enemy of the people there was *I. F. Stone's Weekly* (1953–71). I.F. Stone (Izzy to his large family of admirers) was read by dissidents and pols alike; the man's unflinching wit, immediate prose, and cherubic smile reflected the joy he found in pursuing the truth free from the constraints of the corporate media. Stone's brilliant opposition research often involved closely reading government documents. Today's investigative reporters can face more treacherous paths to where the bodies are buried. This timely documentary wisely, even presciently, focuses less on Stone and more on those who are inspired by his idea of journalism as a sanctuary of dissent: We meet Jeremy Scahill, Matt Taibbi, John Carlos Frey, Amy Goodman, and other intrepid stone turners. Izzy Stone knew that "all governments lie." Goodman reminds us, "lies take lives."—*Judy Bloch*

Sunday, April 23, 3:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Tuesday, April 25, 6:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



TRUST NO ONE

ALL OF A SUDDEN

Asli Özge

Germany/Netherlands, 2016, 112 minutes

A mysterious woman dies after a party at the apartment of young Karsten (Sebastian Hülk), the privileged son of a powerful family in a small northern German town. Adding to the confusion is Karsten's curious split-second decision and action as the strange woman lies gasping on his kitchen floor. As details slowly emerge about the woman and the evening, the mystery only deepens. More questions are raised than answered as the increasingly desperate young man tries to keep his life and career from imploding. Everyone's motivations and agendas are second-guessed and relationships between Karsten, his family, friends, and especially his girlfriend, Laura (Julia Jentsch), slowly unravel. The tense drama plays against the backdrop of picturesque mountain countryside, often in cloudy grey tones, a perfect match for the moral ambiguity bedeviling the characters.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

IN GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Friday, April 28, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema





CIRCLE AWARD
TRUST NO ONE
AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

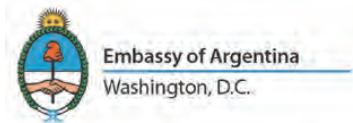
Rodrigo Grande
Argentina/Spain, 2016, 120 minutes

Alone in a sprawling, ramshackle house and confined to a wheelchair, Joaquín (Leonardo Sbaraglia) passes his days in the dank basement, chain-smoking and puttering with old computers that seem as useless as he appears. When a vibrant young woman, Berta (Clara Lago), and her mute daughter, Betty (Uma Salduende), arrive in response to an ad for a renter, Joaquín's old routine is upset and the new one grows increasingly upsetting. While the dilapidated house turns almost sunny with Berta's attention, events turn darker. Hearing noises through the wall, Joaquín discovers a low-tech crime in progress, with criminals digging a tunnel to a nearby bank. Soon, a surprisingly resourceful Joaquín springs into

action. As the plot repeatedly twists and turns, we're not sure who is on the good side, or why. Writer-director Rodrigo Grande has crafted a tense, atmospheric update on the heist movie that thrills to the very end.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Co-presented with



Saturday, April 22, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie, followed by reception sponsored by the Embassy of Argentina
Thursday, April 27, 8:45 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



CHECK IT
Dana Flor, Toby Oppenheimer
USA, 2016, 91 minutes

Directors Dana Flor and Toby Oppenheimer, creators of the HBO documentary *The Nine Lives of Marion Barry*, shine their empathetic light on an overlooked aspect of D.C. life: gay and transgendered kids struggling to find a place for themselves. Tired of being bullied, several teens and young adults formed their own gang, *Check It*, to literally fight back. Now more than 200 LGBT youths claim membership. The film follows a lively subset of the group as they overcome considerable odds, including their own anger. "I just want to relax," says Tray, who has both "boy" and "girl" Instagram accounts. The real heroes are Ron Moten, a gang counselor whose dedication to creating better lives for these kids is beyond inspiring, and boxer Duke Buchanan, whose own struggles mirror those of the kids he mentors. The filmmakers' camera often captures unsettling violence, but ultimately the message is one of hope.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

Sunday, April 23, 5:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Tuesday, April 25, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



DIVISION & DEBATE
JUSTICE MATTERS
BACKPACK FULL OF CASH

Sarah Mondale
USA, 2017, 95 minutes

Before the 2016 U.S. presidential election, Sarah Mondale couldn't have known how aptly her documentary would function as a follow-up to Congressional hearings for Education Secretary, with their discussion of charter schools, vouchers, and the general trend toward the privatization of public education in our country. *Backpack Full of Cash* lays out the case for public education being the civil rights issue of our time. The rucksack of the title is what charter investors say lucky children in failing systems will carry to their school of "choice"; it's stuffed with public moneys drained out of school systems, ensuring the schools' failure for the vast majority of students. The film focuses on Philadelphia schools and some genuine heroes, including the principals and teachers who carry on with less and less, activist parents, and most heartening, students on the barricades of the fight for their own education.—*Judy Bloch*

Thursday, April 27, 6:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

FIRST FEATURE AWARD
BEHIND THE CLOUDS

Cecilia Verheyden
Belgium, 2016, 108 minutes

A huge hit in Belgium, this romantic drama was co-produced by the Dardenne brothers (*Rosetta*; *L'Enfant*) and marks the narrative feature debut for 31-year-old Cecilia Verheyden, who is less than half the age of her old romantics here. In this later-in-life story, two people meet again after more than 50 years apart. Once they were a couple, but their lives took them along different paths. She married his best friend, and he married another woman. Now they are both single again and reconnect. Is it possible to rekindle a love left behind so long ago? *Behind the Clouds* is a masterfully crafted story of a wonderful last love affair that is relived with the intensity of a first, breathless romance.

—*Palm Springs International Film Festival*

IN DUTCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Monday, April 24, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



CLASH
Mohamed Diab

Egypt, 2016, 98 minutes

Clash is set in Cairo in 2013, two years after the Egyptian revolution. In the wake of the ouster of Islamist president Morsi, a police truck full of detained demonstrators of divergent political, social, and religious backgrounds roams through violent protests. Can the detainees overcome their differences to stand a chance of survival? Mohamed Diab poignantly explores his country's divided, post-revolution society in a non-judgmental way by highlighting all the characters' common humanity. The film unfolds largely within the confines of the truck packed with arrested activists, journalists, and mere bystanders. It's a vivid microcosm of Egypt's splintered nation. Diab can boast Hollywood supporters such as Tom Hanks, who tweeted from the Croisette during the Cannes Film Festival, "If there's any way you can see *Clash* by Egyptian director Mohamed Diab, you must. You simply must. The film will break your heart, but will enlighten all."—*Various sources*

IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Tuesday, April 25, 8:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



THE COMMUNE

Thomas Vinterberg

Denmark, 2016, 111 minutes

Loosely inspired by Thomas Vinterberg's own childhood experiences, this is his finest film since *The Celebration*. Set in the 1970s, it finds architect Erik, his TV presenter wife, Anna, and their teenage daughter, Freja, setting up a commune in the rambling family home Erik inherited. Crucial to this eminently enjoyable movie is that Vinterberg never patronizes commune ideals as misguided or doomed to failure; for the most part, the mood is kept light. Even when things darken, focusing on the tensions between freedom, self-determination, and shared responsibility, Vinterberg favors engrossing, psychologically astute drama over social comment. The performances are excellent, with Trine Dyrholm and Ulrich Thomsen especially impressive as Anna and Erik. Dyrholm has the more dramatically complex role, and Thomsen provides a supremely subtle, often funny study of a man trapped in a constant state of quiet and barely concealed confusion.—*Palm Springs International Film Festival*

IN DANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Saturday, April 29, 9:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



FIRST FEATURE AWARD RHYTHMS ON & OFF THE SCREEN THE DANCER

Stéphanie Di Giusto

France, 2016, 108 minutes

Nothing in her background destined Loie Fuller (the mononymous Soko) from the American Midwest to become a Belle Époque icon, much less a dancer at the Paris Opera. Even at the risk of destroying her back and damaging her eyes from the stage lights, she never falters in the quest to perfect her art. *The Dancer* chronicles Fuller's voyage from her humble origins to her position as celebrated innovator in the decadent world of Belle Époque Paris. Drawn there by the allure of a city seemingly kinder to artists, Fuller initially struggles to find recognition for her avant-garde and very progressive choreography. Her innovation and persistence eventually pay off and she becomes a key figure among a generation of artists and performers, paving the way for those who followed. But her meeting with Isadora Duncan (Lily-Rose Depp), a young prodigy hungry for glory, will lead her astray.—*Various sources*

IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 8:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Wednesday, April 26, 8:15 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

DEATH IN SARAJEVO

Danis Tanovic

Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2016, 85 minutes

Winner of the Jury Grand Prix and the International Film Critics Award at last year's Berlin International Film Festival, *Death in Sarajevo* is a timely drama from acclaimed Bosnian filmmaker Danis Tanovic (FFDC 2015's *Tigers*, the 2001 Foreign Language Oscar®-winning *No Man's Land*). At Sarajevo's Hotel Europe, preparations are under way to host the European Union's centenary commemorating the assassination of Franz Ferdinand by Gavrilo Princip that triggered World War I, a French actor is in the Presidential Suite rehearsing the Bernard-Henri Lévy play from which the hotel got its name, and a TV crew is filming local scholars discussing regional history. Manager Omer is dealing with a cash flow problem and a looming strike by workers while his assistant, Lamija, tries to keep things organized in the face of growing discord. What could possibly go wrong in the course of this highly charged history lesson?—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN BOSNIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 4:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Wednesday, April 26, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE LIGHTER SIDE

FAMILY LIFE

Alicia Scherson, Cristián Jiménez

Chile, 2017, 81 minutes

House-sitting for his distant cousin, Bruno, and his family, Martín (Jorge Becker) first does everything you worry about. He opens all the drawers, moves things around, and, of course, the cat runs off. Dutifully, he goes in search of it and meets single mother Paz (Gabriela Arancibia). She invites herself into Martín's house and discovers photographs of Bruno's wife and child. "Yeah, I just got divorced," Martín lies facetiously. "No visitation rights. It's a tragedy." The new relationship blossoms, but how long can Martín keep the story going? In the meantime, after several months, Bruno's return is imminent. *Family Life* is a convincing co-directorship from Chilean film veterans Alicia Scherson (*Il Futuro*) and Cristián Jiménez (*Bonsái*). They share their unconventional humor and style, putting viewers on the wrong foot (for a while) in this fabulously acted, wry comedy.—*International Film Festival Rotterdam*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



TRUST NO ONE

FAST CONVOY

Frédéric Schoendoerffer

France, 2016, 102 minutes

Imagine seven people, four cars, and one day to get from Málaga to Paris with a serious load of drugs. When a shoot-out with Spanish cops turns ugly and a French tourist is taken hostage, things get out of hand. In Europe, a "go-fast" is a drug run done by way of car convoy. In this film, the term has little to do with squeaking tires and burning rubber as the drug runners obey the speed limits and try to blend in with the rest of the traffic. Caution is the name of the game. From some point in his story on, Frédéric Schoendoerffer does give the term go-fast a pleasantly literal interpretation: *Fast Convoy* is as much an existentialist paranoia noir as it is a lean and mean exercise in action at its sleekest, chrome silkiest.—*International Film Festival Rotterdam*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Wednesday, April 26, 9:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



EAST COAST PREMIERE

RHYTHMS ON & OFF THE SCREEN

FOOTNOTES

Paul Calori, Kostia Testut

France, 2016, 83 minutes

La La Land isn't the only retro movie musical worth making a song and dance about. To be sure, the continentals do things slightly differently. After last year's well-received *Belgian Rhapsody*, here is another romantic musical comedy that addresses social issues. Inspired by the films of Jacques Demy and Stanley Donen, the whimsical *Footnotes* centers on Julie, a practical young woman whose dreams of financial stability are threatened when the luxury shoe factory where she has recently started working will be sold and the business moved offshore. Julie joins an intrepid group of female co-workers who decide to put their best foot forward and protest the proposed sale. In a fantastical song-and-dance number, they raid the factory archives and discover an old and elegant shoe model that they decide to revive to save the renowned brand and keep it in la belle France.—*Palm Springs International Film Festival*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Friday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

**TRUST NO ONE
GOLDSTONE**

Ivan Sen
Australia, 2016, 110 minutes

Winner of four prizes at the Film Critics Circle of Australia—including Best Picture, Director, and Screenplay—the sun-bleached film noir *Goldstone* is the powerful standalone sequel to writer-director-cinematographer-editor-composer Ivan Sen's 2013 breakthrough film *Mystery Road*. The action revolves around determined yet damaged Aboriginal cop Jay Swan (Aaron Pedersen), who arrives in the eponymous Queensland frontier mining town to investigate a missing Chinese woman. In short order, he uncovers a web of power, corruption, and lies that threatens his life. Along with young local cop and unlikely ally Josh Waters (Alex Russell), Swan forces a kinetic showdown that wins the battle—but maybe not the war. The great David Gulpilil (*Walkabout*, the 2003 FFDC entry *Ten Canoes*), Jacki Weaver (*Animal Kingdom*, *Silver Linings Playbook*), and David Wenham (*The Bank*, FFDC 2002) are pungent in support. Deftly mixing genre thrills with hot-button social issues, *Goldstone* is an atmospheric triumph.—*Eddie Cockrell*

Co-presented with



Thursday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie,
followed by reception sponsored by the Embassy of Australia
Saturday, April 29, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



**DIVISION & DEBATE
JUSTICE MATTERS
THE GOOD POSTMAN**

Tonislav Hristov
Finland/Bulgaria, 2016, 80 minutes

A tiny village on the eastern edge of Bulgaria has been resisting foreign invaders since the days of the Ottoman Empire. Now its electorate of 38 Bulgarians is facing a tough decision. "The Great Gate," as the village has been nicknamed for centuries, is in the middle of a European crisis: every night, Syrian refugees cross the border into Turkey. Ivan, the local postman, runs for mayor to bring the dying village back to life by welcoming refugees. His opponents want to shut the border, however. This quietly cinematic film exposes seismic divisions over immigration and what it means to be European in an age of global displacement and shifting political systems. With dry humor and remarkable sensitivity toward its beguiling ensemble of characters, Tonislav Hristov's documentary plays like a scripted narrative, with the postman as the film's grounding hero.—*Various sources*

IN BULGARIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 4:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



**FIRST FEATURE AWARD
A GOOD WIFE**

Mirjana Karanović
Serbia/Bosnia/Croatia, 2016, 94 minutes

In her directorial debut, actress Mirjana Karanović brings us a drama about a wife's courage, a husband's secret, and a nation's past. She plays Milena, a middle-aged Serbian suburbanite. Her daughter, Natasha (Hristina Popović), is a successful human rights worker and although Vlada (Boris Isaković) isn't necessarily the catch of the century, he's more or less a decent husband. It doesn't take long, however, for things to go downhill when Milena unearths an old VHS cassette from her husband's days as a wartime paramilitary leader. What she sees on that tape will change her life. As both director and actor, Karanović shows a steady hand in outlining the shift in her heroine's position from obedient wife to something stronger and more dangerous. It's a journey of small transitions, each spelled out beautifully. Searing, courageous, and very moving, this is a film that will take hold of you.—*Vancouver International Film Festival*

IN SERBIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 7:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Friday, April 28, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



HANG IN THERE, KIDS!

Laha Mebow
Taiwan, 2016, 90 minutes

Hang in There, Kids! is a moving narrative about a trio of young, Taiwanese aboriginal boys, Watan, Chen Hao, and Lin Shan, as they navigate their daily activities: hunting, selling peaches, chatting up tourists, and going to class and after-school programs (or sometimes ditching them), all while dealing with rough household troubles. Miss Lawa (Albee Huang), their teacher, runs an afterschool class for the kids in the tribe. She has the most beautiful voice but no longer sings—until one day Watan discovers an old demo tape Miss Lawa recorded years ago. With charming performances, stunning scenery, a bouncy score, and poignant songs, it's no wonder this feature has already captured the hearts of many. This spirited tale about youth and overcoming difficult circumstances will touch its audience long after the final fadeout.—*Various sources*

IN MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Co-presented with



Saturday, April 22, 4:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 4:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

**CIRCLE AWARD
THE LIGHTER SIDE
THE HIPPOPOTAMUS**

John Jencks
UK, 2017, 89 minutes

Based on the novel by acclaimed British polymath Stephen Fry, this witty comedy follows a once-admired poet, Ted Wallace (Roger Allam, *The Queen*, TV's *Endeavour*), now in the waning days of a career as a theatre critic. Wallace uses his withering wit against any and all who dare come close. When Wallace's goddaughter hires him to investigate alleged miracles at the estate of the poet's onetime friend, Lord Logan (Matthew Modine), Wallace pockets her money, grabs a bottle, and heads out on an unexpected adventure. At the estate, he meets Lord Logan's young son, David (Tommy Knight), who seems to have miraculous talents. Colorful characters seeking David's "cure" soon arrive. These guests include Wallace's ex, who cuts him to the quick. The increasingly desperate Wallace gradually reconsiders his many poor choices, although his razor-sharp tongue will not go quietly, in keeping with the film's refreshingly no-holds-barred outlook.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

Sunday, April 23, 6:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie
Saturday, April 29, 9:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



**JUSTICE MATTERS
THE HOUSE ON COCO ROAD**

Damani Baker
USA/Grenada, 2016, 79 minutes

On the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, California, you won't find a more intimate and revealing history of that momentous period than Damani Baker's *The House on Coco Road*, a portrait of the filmmaker's mother, Fanny Haughton. A student and compatriot of Angela Davis, Haughton was a specialist in early childhood education and had her own place in the movement. During the Reagan presidency, when Oakland became overrun with drugs, Haughton made a bold move: She took her own kids, including Damani, to Grenada, to live in a truly revolutionary society. Then the United States invaded the island nation. With seeming ease, Baker coaxes out of the eloquent Ms. Haughton the thread that runs from her southern sharecropper ancestors to a life in California and, despite all, a view to utopia. The film's score is by Meshell Ndegeocello.—*Judy Bloch*

Saturday, April 22, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



FILMFEST DC 2017

OPENING NIGHT



This Is Our Land

AMC Mazza Gallerie
THURSDAY, April 20 • 7:00 p.m.
Followed by a reception

- 6:30 p.m. **Zoology**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:45 p.m. **Santa and Andres**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 7:00 p.m. **A Good Wife**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **Clash**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **The House on Coco Road**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **The African Doctor**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 9:00 p.m. **Fast Convoy**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 9:00 p.m. **Patti Cake\$**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:15 p.m. **Train to Busan**
Landmark's E Street Cinema



Train to Busan

SUNDAY, April 23

- 2:00 p.m. **Lunafest**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 2:15 p.m. **Sieranevada**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 3:00 p.m. **Strangers on the Earth**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 3:30 p.m. **All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception, and the Spirit of I.F. Stone**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 3:30 p.m. **The Messengers**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 3:45 p.m. **Mali Blues**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 4:00 p.m. **The Magic Mountain**
National Gallery of Art, East Building Auditorium, FREE
- 5:00 p.m. **Lunafest**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 5:00 p.m. **The Preacher**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 5:30 p.m. **A Wedding**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 5:45 p.m. **Check It**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:00 p.m. **The Hippopotamus**
AMC Mazza Gallerie

- 6:15 p.m. **Inversion**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 7:30 p.m. **The Stuff of Dreams**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 7:30 p.m. **Family Life**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:00 p.m. **The Dancer**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 8:00 p.m. **The Outsider**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:00 p.m. **Last Men in Aleppo**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:15 p.m. **The Net**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

MONDAY, April 24

- 6:15 p.m. **150 Milligrams**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **The King's Choice**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **The Stuff of Dreams**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **Human**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **The Teacher**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **Behind the Clouds**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **Mali Blues**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **Across the Waters**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 9:00 p.m. **Zoology**
AMC Mazza Gallerie



Human

FRIDAY, April 21

- 6:30 p.m. **After Love**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **Marie Curie, The Courage of Knowledge**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **The Teacher**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Behind the Clouds**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Strangers on the Earth**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **150 Milligrams**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 8:30 p.m. **A Quiet Passion**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 8:30 p.m. **Searchers (Maliglutit)**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **The Wedding Party**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **All of a Sudden**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

SATURDAY, April 22

- 4:00 p.m. **Lipstick Under My Burkha**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 4:00 p.m. **I Am the Blues**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 4:30 p.m. **Death in Sarajevo**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 4:30 p.m. **Hang in There, Kids!**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 4:30 p.m. **Obit**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 4:30 p.m. **The Patriarch**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **At the End of the Tunnel**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **The Commune**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **The Oath**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



TUESDAY, April 25

- 6:15 p.m. **All Governments Lie: Truth, Deception, and the Spirit of I.F. Stone**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:15 p.m. **Tomorrow**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **The African Doctor**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **Footnotes**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **The Net**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **The House on Coco Road**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **Clash**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 8:30 p.m. **The Patriarch**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 8:45 p.m. **I Am the Blues**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **Last Men in Aleppo**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **The Oath**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **Check It**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

WEDNESDAY, April 26

- 6:15 p.m. **Short Cuts 2**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **J: Beyond Flamenco**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **The Preacher**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **Obit**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Santa and Andres**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Searchers (Maliglutit)**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:15 p.m. **The Dancer**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 8:30 p.m. **Death in Sarajevo**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **Strangers on the Earth**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **Across the Waters**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

- 8:45 p.m. **To Keep the Light**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **Fast Convoy**
AMC Mazza Gallerie

THURSDAY, April 27

- 6:15 p.m. **A Wedding**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:15 p.m. **Backpack Full of Cash**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:15 p.m. **To Keep the Light**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Goldstone**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **Two Trains Runnin'**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **A Window to Rosalia**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **Marie Curie, the Courage of Knowledge**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **Short Cuts 1**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **At the End of the Tunnel**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 8:45 p.m. **Tomorrow**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:45 p.m. **The Wedding Party**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **Solitaire**
AMC Mazza Gallerie



FRIDAY, April 28

- 6:30 p.m. **Footnotes**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **Solitaire**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **After Love**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **The Good Postman**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Play the Devil**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Two Trains Runnin'**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **The African Doctor**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 8:30 p.m. **The Outsider**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 8:30 p.m. **A Good Wife**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 8:30 p.m. **A Quiet Passion**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

- 9:00 p.m. **All of a Sudden**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **A Window to Rosalia**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

SATURDAY, April 29

- 3:00 p.m. **Sieranevada**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 3:30 p.m. **Short Cuts 1**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 4:00 p.m. **The Good Postman**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 4:30 p.m. **Inversion**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 4:30 p.m. **Hang in There, Kids!**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 4:45 p.m. **Lipstick Under My Burkha**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:15 p.m. **Short Cuts 2**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Marie Curie, the Courage of Knowledge**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 6:30 p.m. **Backpack Full of Cash**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Human**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 6:30 p.m. **Play the Devil**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 7:15 p.m. **J: Beyond Flamenco**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 8:30 p.m. **Goldstone**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **The Hippopotamus**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 9:00 p.m. **The King's Choice**
AMC Mazza Gallerie
- 9:00 p.m. **Family Life**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:00 p.m. **Train to Busan**
Landmark's E Street Cinema
- 9:30 p.m. **The Commune**
Landmark's E Street Cinema

CLOSING NIGHT



Lost in Paris
Embassy of France
SUNDAY, April 30
3:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Reception from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

HUMAN

Yann Arthus-Bertrand

France, 2016, 143 minutes

Breathtaking in its scope, this documentary touches on love, murder, sexuality, mortality, and much, much more. It also shows us our planet as only movies shown on the big screen can: vast, beautiful landscapes, the world as seen from on high with mankind dwarfed within it. Director and acclaimed photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand spans the globe to document the land and its peoples—and what amazing stories they have to tell. From confessions of slaughter to poignant tales of love, we get it all. The movie alternates between testimonials and aerial shots of the land. What we hear is sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes uplifting, and always riveting. The aerial shots are staggering; the film is mind-blowing in its visual splendor and radically humane in its concerns. Very few works of art are this ambitious, this spectacular, this *big*. Prepare to be swept off your feet.—*Vancouver International Film Festival*

IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Monday, April 24, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



CIRCLE AWARD

RHYTHMS ON & OFF THE SCREEN

I AM THE BLUES

Daniel Cross

Canada/USA, 2015, 116 minutes

Canadian filmmaker Daniel Cross has trained his cameras on some of the last living blues musicians who toured the legendary Chitlin' Circuit and are still playing around Mississippi and Louisiana. On porches and in back rooms, and especially in one-room cinderblock roadhouses with names like Blue Front Cafe and Poor Monkey Lounge, we are treated to authentic, unadorned blues from the likes of 81-year-old Bobby Rush and his contemporaries Barbara Lynn, Lazy Lester, Jimmy "Duck" Holmes, and many more. Says Lil Buck Sinegal, "There's all kinds of music, but the blues touches the heart. There's always a story behind it." We hear many of those stories from the people who lived their first-hand. "This guitar is a Bible," says one front porch denizen, after telling Howling Wolf stories. All a viewer can say is, "Preach and teach, brother, preach and teach."—*Dave Nuttycombe*

Saturday, April 22, 4:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Tuesday, April 25, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



INVERSION

Behnam Behzadi

Iran, 2016, 84 minutes

Tehran's all-engulfing smog is both plot point and metaphor in this absorbing drama of a woman's struggle for independence. Niloofar (Sahar Dowlatshahi) runs a small but thriving tailor shop inherited from her father. Unaccountably single (well, she's beautiful, open, generous, a bit willful, and maybe that accounts for it), she is still the little sister who lives happily enough with her mother in the family apartment. When the mother, diagnosed with chronic pulmonary disease, must move out of the city, Niloofar's siblings assume she will pick up her life and move with her. The family machinations—like something out of a Douglas Sirk melodrama, or what *Variety* called "the clandestine suspense of the everyday"—take the most ordinary, insidious turns until Niloofar herself is gasping for breathing space. With a marvelous performance by Dowlatshahi, Behnam Behzadi's third feature screened at Cannes in the prestigious Un Certain Regard section.—*Judy Bloch*

IN FARSI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 6:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 4:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



RHYTHMS ON & OFF THE SCREEN

J: BEYOND FLAMENCO

Carlos Saura

Spain, 2016, 87 minutes

In his latest film, prolific filmmaker Carlos Saura captures the vivacity and charisma of the traditional Spanish jota, a waltz-like castanet dance. *J: Beyond Flamenco* begins with a dance class showing young performers, from diverse walks of contemporary Spanish life, kicking and jumping with highly coordinated agility. Saura then guides us through the many variations of the jota, placing dancers, musicians, and singers amid simply constructed sets and screens. Highlights include an elderly couple who move with energy and grace, introductions to modern versions of the jota, and a town fair. The fair is an annual tradition in every Spanish village; here, young and old gather to dance, and we are witness to the jota as a living and breathing tradition. Saura's cinematic efforts are both an expression of cultural beauty as well as an act of cultural preservation.—*Toronto International Film Festival*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Saturday, April 29, 7:15 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

THE KING'S CHOICE

Erik Poppe

Norway, 2016, 133 minutes

Shortlisted for this year's Oscars® for Best Foreign Language Picture, Erik Poppe's perfectly realized World War II drama looks at a seminal moment in modern Norwegian history: the days in 1940 when King Haakon VII (Jesper Christensen, perhaps best known to North American audiences for playing the shadowy Mr. White in three recent Bond films) faced the momentous decision about whether to cooperate with the invading German army. Threatening to abdicate if the government chose cooperation, he advocated all-out resistance, placing himself and his family in great danger and guaranteeing his place in the annals of Norwegian history. Poppe's impressive historical epic is part chamber piece and part battle painting. It is also an anthem to those who exhibit dignity and courage in the face of oppressive political circumstances. In this expertly crafted film, Poppe captures a story for the ages with clarity and impressive attention to detail.—*Various sources*

IN NORWEGIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Monday, April 24, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



JUSTICE MATTERS

LAST MEN IN ALEPPO

Feras Fayyad, co-director Steen Johannessen

Denmark/Syria, 2017, 104 minutes

The siege of Aleppo has been compared to that of Stalingrad, which is ironic under the circumstances. "Are those Russian planes flying overhead?" wonders one of the heroes of this urgent documentary. It's not an idle question; as a member of the volunteer Syria Civil Defense, his job is to rescue victims should these particular planes unload bombs on the city. The film follows two rescuers, Khaled and Mahmoud, in their work over the course of a year. For them and for us, the action is existential, exhilarating, and deflating. Extracting children alive from rubble, only to find that their mother has died, is both a reality and a metaphor; Aleppo, the city they love, is dying. Though exquisitely realized, this film cannot have a happy ending. The humanity of its protagonists makes it essential viewing. It won a Grand Jury Prize in the Documentary section at this year's Sundance Film Festival.—*Judy Bloch*

IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 8:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Tuesday, April 25, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema





CIRCLE AWARD
LIPSTICK UNDER MY BURKHA

Alankrita Shrivastava
India, 2016, 116 minutes

India's Central Board of Film Certification has banned this film, even as it plays to acclaim worldwide. Writer-director Alankrita Shrivastava is fighting the decision. Laughing can be the most satisfying form of expression, as this engaging, eye-popping, overtly feminist satire on gender relations in India attests. The setting is a rural town that, despite boasting a small-city vibe and even a university, behind doors is inherently unchanged by modern mores. Here, four women experiment with desire through surreptitious and overt acts of rebellion. A college student hides more than lipstick under her burkha, a beautician is sexually active despite being engaged to a proper prig, a housewife and mother secretly excels in door-to-door sales, and a middle-aged "auntie" finds expression in lurid paperbacks. Their lives intertwine as the patriarchy cruelly closes in on even these small bids for freedom.—*Judy Bloch*

IN HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 4:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie
Saturday, April 29, 4:45 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN
Anca Damian

Romania/Poland/France, 2015, 95 minutes
Introduction by film historian Marcin Giżycki

Romanian artist Anca Damian's elegant animated feature, constructed as a storytelling session between a father and daughter, is a docu-drama traversing a half century of history. As Anca describes it, "The character Adam Jacek Winkler is a Polish refugee in Paris, an artist, a mountain climber, and a romantic who lived a boundless life and envisioned himself a knight of the twentieth century, leaving France to fight with the mujahideen in Afghanistan against the Soviets." Described as "A work of overwhelming artistry" by *Variety*, the images—derived from Winkler's own paintings, motifs from film history, and from Afghan art and photography—are offset by Alexander Balanescu's poignant score. "Incorporating a dazzling blend of various animation techniques, collages, photographs, paintings by Winkler, and found footage, *The Magic Mountain* is a hallucinatory essay on the meaning of heroism."—*Brooklyn Academy of Music*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 4:00 p.m., National Gallery of Art, East Building Auditorium, FREE

MARIE CURIE, THE COURAGE OF KNOWLEDGE

Marie Noëlle
Germany/France/Poland, 2016, 95 minutes

Polish actress Karolina Gruszka stars in this sweeping biography of the legendary Nobel Prize-winning physicist and chemist, who courted controversy with both her challenge of France's male-dominated academic establishment and her unconventional romantic life. *Marie Curie, the Courage of Knowledge* depicts the blissful union between Marie Curie (Gruszka) and her husband Pierre (Charles Berling), the father of her children, her partner in research, and co-winner of that first Nobel. When Pierre perishes in a tragic accident, it's up to Marie to continue their work. But, as a woman and a foreigner, she's met with doubly fierce resistance. And though she perseveres, she's nearly undone by revelations regarding her relationship with a married colleague. Gruszka's performance, alternately stoic and vulnerable, never lets us forget that this visionary woman was also very much a complicated and fascinating human being.—*Toronto International Film Festival*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Co-presented with



Friday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie
Thursday, April 27, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

FIRST FEATURE AWARD
RHYTHMS ON & OFF THE SCREEN
MALI BLUES

Lutz Gregor
Germany, 2016, 92 minutes

Although this documentary features many lively performances, the story is heartbreaking. Lutz Gregor follows a quartet of Mali musicians—Fatoumata Diawara, Bassekou Kouyaté, rapper Master Soumy, and Ahmed Ag Kaedi—now exiled from the political instability in the north, where Islamist extremists have banned music and threaten to cut off musicians' fingers. "I cannot imagine a life without music," says Tuareg guitarist Ag Kaedi. Declaring that "we sing for peace," the musicians forge ahead. The hypnotic Diawara strings her Fender Stratocaster and teaches her son to feel the rhythm as they play together. Kouyaté defies tradition by amplifying his ngoni, an ancestor of the banjo. Soumy is perhaps most compelling as he uses his griot skills, demanding that the radicals "explain your Islam." The constant pressure makes the concert at the Niger River Festival at the end of the film all the more triumphant.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

IN FRENCH, ENGLISH, BAMBARA, AND TAMASHEQ WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 3:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Monday, April 24, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE MESSENGERS
Lucian Perkins

USA, 2016, 52 minutes

Arriving on his birthday, Elijah came to Joseph's House to die. There was a cake waiting for him that day; 8 months later, he was still sharing the love. People like Elijah can almost forget to die at D.C.'s welcoming hospice for homeless HIV/AIDS patients. But die they will, and assuring that their death means something, both to the patient and the caregivers, is what Joseph's House is all about. The big, slightly funky old home on a residential side street employs nurses and other providers, but *The Messengers* focuses on Joseph's House's rotating crew of fresh-faced yearlong interns. Young enough to have their hearts opened, then broken, by their newfound family, they share the profound experience in a film that gives full human measure to the question "Who rescued whom?" To die among friends is the least we can ask, and the most we can give.—*Judy Bloch*

Sunday, April 23, 3:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

THE NET

Kim Ki-duk

South Korea, 2016, 114 minutes

A highly original rumination on the question of what it means to be a Korean national today and on the suffering caused by the peninsula's political division, *The Net* is the thought-provoking latest film by the bad boy of Korean cinema, Kim Ki-duk (*Pieta*). Nam Chul-woo (Ryoo Seung-bum) is a poor fisherman living a simple but happy life with his family in North Korea. After inadvertently drifting into South Korea, Nam is immediately seized by South Korean border police and thrust into a brutal investigation. As his ordeal intensifies, it becomes apparent that, even should he manage to return home, his life in North Korea will never be the same. Ryoo Seung-bum's charismatic portrayal of Nam gives human weight to a film that is ultimately about the invisible prisons that ideology creates around people.—*Toronto International Film Festival*

IN KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 8:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Tuesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



EAST COAST PREMIERE

TRUST NO ONE

THE OATH

Baltasar Kormákur

Iceland, 2016, 110 minutes

Acclaimed filmmaker Baltasar Kormákur (whose work includes big-budget fare such as *Everest*, *Contraband*, and *2 Guns*) both directs and stars in this gritty Nordic thriller, a blend of domestic drama and *Taken*-style action. The accomplished Finnur always has things under control. Whether under the lights of the operating table or at home with his family, things remain in order. When his oldest daughter, Anna (Hera Hilmar), begins to show signs of excessive drug abuse and potential physical abuse, Finnur methodically starts plotting a way to dispose of her threatening, drug dealer boyfriend. Against the backdrop of chilly Iceland, the surgeon and loving father goes to drastic lengths to protect his daughter in this complex, taut psychological thriller.—*Various sources*

IN ICELANDIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Tuesday, April 25, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



OBIT

Vanessa Gould

USA, 2016, 93 minutes

"We look for people who changed the way we live," explains William McDonald, obituaries editor at *The New York Times*, in Vanessa Gould's bright look at the paper's obituary desk. Modern obits concern next to nothing about death and "everything to do with life," says an obit writer. Gould has crafted a celebration of the tradition of memorializing our fellow humans. The film intercuts interviews with the reporters with scenes of them crafting the day's stories, calling recent widows and family members. Notable obits are brought to life through historical films and photos. A particularly good example of Gould's wit and skill is the obit for perhaps the last typewriter repairman. The film cuts to footage of Liberace sitting down at a typewriter and playing composer Leroy Anderson's whimsical song "The Typewriter." *Obit* is also a tribute to good old-fashioned journalism, currently defying its own premature obituary.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

Saturday, April 22, 4:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE OUTSIDER

Christophe Barratier

France, 2016, 117 minutes

We're still dealing with many ramifications of 2008's global financial meltdown. Writer-director Christophe Barratier seeks to put a face to that event and get inside the mind of a man who could, literally, gamble with millions—and billions—of other people's money. *The Outsider* pulls us behind the headlines for the true tale of Jérôme Kerviel (Arthur Dupont), who rose to become one of the top traders at France's large Société Générale bank. As Kerviel navigates the split-second demands of the markets, we witness the brutal bonhomie of the male traders, the growing attitude that winning is everything and rules are for losers. A clever feint in the stylish opening scenes leads the viewer astray, but when that truth is revealed, it sets off another cat-and-mouse scramble to avoid a disaster we know is coming but cannot look away from.—*Dave Nuttycombe*

IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 8:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Friday, April 28, 8:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

THE PATRIARCH

Lee Tamahori

New Zealand, 2016, 103 minutes

After more than 20 years of directing big-budget Hollywood action films and thrillers, Maori director Lee Tamahori returns home with *The Patriarch*, a family saga set in rural New Zealand during the 1960s. Based on a novel by *Whale Rider* author Witi Ihimaera, the film tells the story of 14-year-old Simeon Mahana's journey into adulthood. Simeon's family is ruled by his grandfather, Tamihana (Temuera Morrison), an iron-willed tyrant who refuses to give his children ownership of the land they work. When Simeon is caught kissing the daughter of a man with whom Tamihana is feuding, Simeon and his parents are banished to make their own way in the world. *The Patriarch* is an essential film about the Maori experience and a powerful story about the beauty and pain to be discovered within every family.—*Seattle International Film Festival*

Saturday, April 22, 4:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Tuesday, April 25, 8:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



RHYTHMS ON & OFF THE SCREEN

PATTI CAKE\$

Jeremy Jasper

USA, 2016, 108 minutes

Patricia "Killa P" Dombrowski drafts rhymes behind the bar at a dingy dive, trying to pay off her coarse but beloved Nana's medical bills and support her hard-drinking mom, whose own musical aspirations failed long ago. Patti and her rap partner/best friend Jheri share dreams of fame, fortune, and escaping New Jersey for good, but they haven't found a producer with the "fire beats" they need. Unbroken by the taunts of local goons, Patti unexpectedly gravitates to a reclusive goth-metal musician named Basterd, a newcomer who just might be able to help her achieve hip-hop superstardom. The spectacularly talented Danielle MacDonald portrays Patricia with an intoxicating mixture of swagger, vulnerability, and inner strength. First-time feature director Jeremy Jasper unleashes a film as full of infectious energy and enthusiasm as its protagonist, daring us not to fall in love with a force of nature like Patti Cake\$.—*Sundance Film Festival*

Saturday, April 22, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema





PLAY THE DEVIL
Maria Govan

Trinidad and Tobago/The Bahamas/USA, 2016, 90 minutes

Bursting with style and vision against the lush landscape of Trinidad and Tobago's Carnival, Bahamian writer-director Maria Govan's sophomore feature complicates notions of masculinity, privilege, and sexuality in a nuanced coming-of-age portrait that deftly thwarts any easy moral judgments of its characters' actions and desires. Gregory, a gifted student from a working class family, is favorably positioned to win a coveted medical scholarship and yet is secretly cultivating a desire to become a photographer. James, an established businessman, uses his wealth and access to pique the young man's latent artistic inclinations. When James cannot accept Gregory's boundaries, the relationship spirals into a fateful, carnal dance during the "Jab" (devil) play on Carnival's Monday night.—*Los Angeles Film Festival*

Friday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



AMERICAN PREMIERE
CIRCLE AWARD
THE PREACHER

Magdy Ahmed Ali

Egypt, 2016, 120 minutes

A celebrity imam? Why not, as the first few rat-a-tat minutes of writer-director Magdy Ahmed Ali's provocative new Egyptian drama *The Preacher* (adapted from Ibrahim Eissa's best-selling novel) charts the mercurial rise of charismatic moderate Sheikh Hatem (Amr Saad), who parlays his slick yet committed message into a loving family, lavish lifestyle, and popular television program. When his young son goes into a coma and the government takes an interest in his growing influence by attempting to manipulate his teachings, the Muslim preacher finds his faith sorely tested. Glossy and propulsive on a technical level, the film nevertheless succeeds primarily as a showcase for the exuberant yet finely calibrated performance of its lead actor and his forceful articulation of the often byzantine issues separating Sunni from Shia. This is a strategically commercial take on urgent issues of religion versus power.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 5:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

A QUIET PASSION

Terence Davies

UK/Belgium, 2016, 126 minutes

A new film by Terence Davies is always something to celebrate. The great British director of *Distant Voices*, *Still Lives*, and *The House of Mirth* is himself a poet of human emotions, so when he takes on a biography of Emily Dickinson, the results are enthralling, but quietly so. The Dickinson household of Amherst, under a stern but loving patriarch who intones "don't be banal, Emily" and a melancholic mother, is nevertheless a home for humor and even gender debates among three whip-smart grown children who never want to move out and never do. Using the anonymity of night, Emily writes her poetry. In Davies's signature slow pans and ethereal window shots time doesn't march so much as spread, and with time and tragedy and neglect, the poet thrives, the soul withers. Posterity, Emily knows, is as comfortless as God. Cynthia Nixon embodies Dickinson, supported by a marvelous cast.—*Judy Bloch*

Friday, April 21, 8:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie
Friday, April 28, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



SANTA & ANDRES

Carlos Lechuga

Cuba, 2016, 105 minutes

It's 1983 in a small village in the east of Cuba. One-time novelist Andrés (Eduardo Martínez) looks out his window and sees a young countrywoman, Santa (Lola Amores), approaching his hut, chair in hand. She's prepared to watch over him for the next 3 days. The revolutionary government has already ostracized Andres, and banned him from writing, for his "ideological problems" and his homosexuality. Now it has decreed that he be kept under close scrutiny during an upcoming political event to ensure that he doesn't declare his dissident views in front of the international press and delegates. Their prolonged proximity allows Santa and Andres to discover that they have a lot more in common than either would have imagined. *Santa & Andres* is at once intimate and expansive, a chamber drama whose central action is a dialogue between two souls on either side of a profound cultural divide.—*Various sources*

IN SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 6:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



TRUST NO ONE
SEARCHERS (MALIGLUTIT)

Zacharias Kunuk

Canada, 2016, 94 minutes

Taking John Ford's classic western as a touchstone, filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk (*Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*) forges a spectacular revenge saga set in the arctic shortly before World War I. When an Inuk man, Kuanana, returns from a hunt, he discovers that a rival has raided his igloo, kidnapped his wife and daughter, and slaughtered the rest of his family. Kuanana sets off in pursuit, guided by the spirit loon. Kunuk fashions a film that draws from both classic Hollywood and Inuk storytelling traditions; it's ethnographic and mythic, dazzling and spiritual. There are exciting action sequences here—the vivid icy exteriors are as stunning as Ford's Monument Valley—but also low-light sequences inside igloos that are thrillingly strange and mysterious. With a tale as timeless as the landscape in which it is set, Canada's foremost Inuk filmmaker has provided us with another classic.—*Various sources*

IN INUKTITUT WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



SIERANEVADA

Cristi Puiu

Romania, 2016, 173 minutes

A dozen years after revitalizing the contemporary Romanian cinema with *The Death of Mr. Lazarescu*, writer-director Cristi Puiu is back with a precisely choreographed, supremely audacious family dance in the shadow of tragedy and societal unease. Three days after the *Charlie Hebdo* attack in Paris, neurologist Lary (Mimi Branescu) and his wife, Laura (Catalina Moga), attend his mother, Nusa (Dana Dogaru), in her Bucharest flat to mourn the recent passing of his father—as do more than a dozen extended family members. As they wait for the priest, who is late, the often cruel shorthand of family grievances, grudges, and contemporary international gossip come to the fore. Consummately blocked and paced, the cumulative effect of *Sieranevada* (the odd title of which is never even referred to, much less explained) is that the average viewer is bound to think "Gee, maybe my family's not so intolerable after all." Guaranteed.—*Eddie Cockrell*

IN ROMANIAN AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 2:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 3:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

SHORTS

LUNAFEST: SHORTS BY, FOR, ABOUT WOMEN

Total running time: 79 minutes

This season's program of nine selected films will compel discussion, make you laugh, tug at your heartstrings, and motivate you to make a difference in your community. Incredibly diverse in style and content, LUNAFEST is united by a common thread of exceptional storytelling by, for, and about women.



ANOTHER KIND OF GIRL

Khaldiya Jibawi

Jordan, 10 minutes

A 17-year-old girl meditates on how her refugee camp has opened up new horizons and given her a sense of courage that she lacked in Syria.

FAMILY TALE

Dr. Patricia Beckmann-Wells

USA, 8 minutes

Through love, loss, and determination, the definition of family is rewritten.

FREE TO LAUGH

Lara Everly

USA, 8 minutes

This documentary explores the power of comedy after prison.

JOIN THE CLUB

Eva Vives

USA, 5 minutes

A writer's dilemma about whether to join a networking club unfolds during a therapy session.



The Honeys and the Bears

NIÑERA

Diane Weipert

USA, 13 minutes

Many nannies face a bitter irony: raising the children of strangers for a living while their own children are virtually left to raise themselves.

NKOSI COIFFURE

Frederike Migom

Belgium, 15 minutes

After a fight with her boyfriend in the street, a woman escapes into a hair salon in Brussels.

PARTNERS

Joey Ally

USA, 6 minutes

Professional and life partners must confront how intertwined their lives have become.

THE HONEYS AND THE BEARS

Veena Rao

USA, 4 minutes

Members of a synchronized swim team for seniors describe the freedom of the water.

THE THIRD DAD

Theresa Moerman Ib

Scotland, 10 minutes

Ten years after breaking all ties with her father, a daughter sets out to find his grave—and redemption.

Sunday, April 23, 2:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie
Complimentary reception between shows, 3:45 to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 23, 5:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

SHORT CUTS 1

Total running time: 106 minutes

THE GENEVA CONVENTION

Benoît Martin *France 15 minutes, 2016, narrative*

At a bus stop after school, one group of teens unwillingly confronts another with unusual results.

THE LAW OF AVERAGES

Elizabeth Rose *Canada/USA, 14 minutes, 2016, narrative*

Death waits for no woman: a dark comedy about mother—daughter relationships.

LOVE

Réka Bucsi *Hungary/ France, 15 minutes, 2016, animation*

In a three-part symphony of animation, love takes on interstellar dimensions.

ONCE UPON A LINE

Alicja Jasina *USA, 7 minutes, 2016, animation*

When he falls in love, a man's marriage to his humdrum routines goes on the rocks.

TOMATO

Hanna Maylett *Finland, 8 minutes, 2016, narrative*

Even in a slow stretch, what professional actor dreams of playing a tomato?

TWINSBURG

Joe Garrity *USA, 16 minutes, 2016, narrative*

Identical brothers reconnect at the world's largest annual gathering of twins.

VICTOR AND ISOLINA

William Caballero *USA, 6 minutes, 2016, animation*

An elderly Latino couple talks about their long, complex, and arduous relationship in this poignant and funny he said/she said love story.

VISIONS OF AN ISLAND

Sky Hopinka *USA, 15 minutes, 2016, documentary*

On a remote Alaskan island, an Unangam Tunuu elder introduces the landscape in the indigenous language. The story of human habitation melds with the natural world; the temporal and the timeless merge in this poetic visual journey.

YOU CAN GO

Christine Turner *USA, 9 minutes, 2016, narrative*

A high-school administrator talks down a troubled student.



Twinsburg

Thursday, April 27, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 3:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

SHORT CUTS 2

Total running time: 107 minutes

BALCONY

David Dell'edera *Hungary, 6 minutes, 2015, animation*

In this heat, everyone does what they want. The people in this movie are not sure what they want to do quite yet.

BAYARD AND ME

Matt Wolf *USA, 2017, 16 minutes, documentary*

Walter Naegle shares memories of his life with civil rights leader Bayard Rustin. In the 1980s when gay marriage was inconceivable, Bayard adopted Walter to obtain legal protections for their relationship and themselves.

GARDEN PARTY

Florian Babikian, Vincent Bayoux, Victor Caire, Théophile Dufresne, Gabriel Grapperon, Lucas Navarro *France, 7 Minutes, 2016, animation*

In a lavish deserted house, a couple of amphibians explore their surroundings and follow their primal instincts

ILSE

Leah Varjacques, Katherine Nagasawa *USA, 14 minutes, 2016, documentary*

The daily realities of her situation come sharply into focus when Ilse, an undocumented teenager in Chicago, tries to apply to college.

LAPS

Charlotte Wells *USA, 6 minutes, 2016, narrative*

On a routine morning, a woman on a crowded New York City subway is sexually assaulted in plain sight.

LUCIA, BEFORE AND AFTER

Anu Valia *USA, 14 minutes, 2016, narrative*

After a very long drive, a young woman in Texas uneasily waits out her unanticipated 24 hours mandated by the state before her abortion can proceed.

NUTAG - HOMETLAND

Alisi Telengut *Canada, 6 minutes, 2016, animation*

This hand-painted visual poem is a requiem for the Kalmyk people, who suffered mass deportations during World War II.

THE ROBBERY

Jim Cummings *USA, 10 minutes, 2016, narrative*

Crystal robs a liquor store—with surprising results.

TEN METER TOWER

Maximilien Van Aertryck, Axel Danielson *Sweden, 16 minutes, 2016, documentary*

People up on a 10-meter diving tower for their first time ponder the prospect of how to get down.

TOYS

Amanda Quaid *USA, 2 minutes, 2016, animation*

Still wishing he'd had a son, a father gives his daughter toys intended for boys.

WAITING FOR HASSANA

Ifunanya Maduka *Nigeria, 10 minutes, 2016, documentary*

In 2014, Boko Haram abducted 276 schoolgirls in Nigeria. One of the few girls able to escape keeps the memory of her lost friend alive.

Wednesday, April 26, 6:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema
Saturday, April 29, 6:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
FIRST FEATURE AWARD
THE LIGHTER SIDE
SOLITAIRE

Sophie Boutros

Jordan/Lebanon/Egypt, 2016, 92 minutes

Lebanese writer-director Sophie Boutros and Jordanian writer-producer Nadia Eliewat have taken up the challenge of capturing Lebanon and Syria's checkered history of conflict and heartache with an added element of comedy. There is the wife of a mayor of a small village in Lebanon. The highly anticipated visit of her daughter's suitor's family causes much excitement in her life. There's brother, who was killed during fighting with Syrian troops 20 years ago, still features heavily in the family's home and looms large through photographs all around the house. There's shares her happiness with her deceased brother—through his photographs—until she discovers that her long-awaited guests are from Syria. When There's cannot contain her personal prejudices, the film turns increasingly farcical as she makes outlandish attempts to thwart the union. With charming performances, this film successfully balances warm-hearted laughs with timely social insight.

—Various sources

IN ARABIC WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, April 27, 9:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Friday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



STRANGERS ON THE EARTH

Tristan Cook

USA/Spain, 2016, 96 minutes

One of Europe's most popular pilgrimages, the Camino de Santiago attracts wayfarers of all stripes to walk its ancient paths in search of meaning. One such pilgrim is Dane Johansen, an American cellist who in 2014 ventured to walk the Camino, a nearly 600-mile journey, with his instrument on his back, performing music for his fellow pilgrims along the way. Using a combination of interviews with these travelers—who come from all over the world to walk the hallowed paths—and intimate scenes from the road, the documentary explores thorny philosophical matters and muses on the psychological dividends of the 30-day hike. Johansen's mellifluous cello playing serves as a backdrop for the film. *Strangers on the Earth* is an evocative examination of the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of the concept of "journey" and the vital role it plays in the human experience.—Various sources

IN ENGLISH, GERMAN, AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Sunday, April 23, 3:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Wednesday, April 26, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



THE STUFF OF DREAMS

Gianfranco Cabiddu

Italy, 2016, 103 minutes

This fanciful reimagining of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* transports the action to a Mediterranean island prison, where a shipwreck strands a traveling theater troupe and a gang of criminals. The prison's governor must determine who is the actor and who is the convict. Theater impresario Oreste demands to put on a show, *The Tempest*, to prove his actors' talents, but gang leader Don Vincenzo threatens Oreste against exposing him and his two nephews. When the uncultured thugs botch their lines, Don slyly notes that Shakespeare "won't be offended if we change a few things" and works at trimming the story. The comedy of teaching gangsters to emote theatrically plays against the drama of the governor's daughter romancing the Don's son. Soon the play, the players, and the story of the play intermingle hauntingly. As Oreste tells the governor, "Theater puts wings on one's heart and on one's reason." —Dave Nuttycombe

IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Co-presented with



Sunday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie

Monday, April 24, 6:30 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



THE TEACHER

Jan Hřebejk

Slovak Republic/Czech Republic, 2016, 103 minutes

A new film from Jan Hřebejk, the director of the 2013 FFDC favorite *4Some* (as well as the Oscar®-nominated 2000 drama *Divided We Fall*), *The Teacher* showcases veteran Zuzana Maurery as a ruthless teacher who uses her students to manipulate their parents in the waning days of communism. At a middle school in the Slovak capital Bratislava, a tense meeting of outraged but suspicious parents is intercut with Comrade Drazdechova's crafty, amoral strategies to make her life easier in a repressive society—no matter the human toll on adults or their children. Kind of a cross between *12 Angry Men* and a more malevolent *Monsieur Lazhar* (FFDC 2012 Audience Award winner), *The Teacher* finds Hřebejk and his long-time screenwriting partner, Petr Jarkovsky, once again demonstrating that they're among the most prolific, perceptive, and best filmmaking teams working anywhere today.

—Eddie Cockrell

IN SLOVAK WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Friday, April 21, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Monday, April 24, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

FIRST FEATURE AWARD
TO KEEP THE LIGHT

Erica Fae

USA, 2015, 88 minutes

Movies and lighthouses share qualities of projected light and incipient drama alternating with meditative stillness. Those factors produce a kind of synchronic beauty in *To Keep the Light*, a film written by, directed by, and starring Erica Fae. Set in 1876, it is the story of a Maine lighthouse keeper's wife, Abbie, who, unbeknownst to the authorities, is the real lighthouse keeper while her husband fades into alcoholism and illness. When a Swedish sailor (Antti Reini) washes up in a storm, she rescues him, and when he stays, she must confront the reality of her situation. Fae based Abbie on history's mostly hidden women lighthouse keepers. An actress who has garnered praise for her bodywork in theater, she portrays Abbie through precise dialogue and physical language, the camera taking her cues. The prestigious Fipresci International Critics' Prize called the film "from start to finish...a work by a visionary artist." —Judy Bloch

Wednesday, April 26, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Thursday, April 27, 6:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



JUSTICE MATTERS

TOMORROW

Cyril Dion, Mélanie Laurent

France, 2016, 120 minutes

If the terms "global warming" and "sixth extinction event" make you hide your brain under a cat video, you need a dose of *Tomorrow*. Winner of the 2016 César (the French Oscars®) for best documentary, this is a brilliant exploration of possibility in the face of terrifying probability. French actress Mélanie Laurent joined activist and writer Cyril Dion and a handful of resourceful friends to see not only what should be done, but what is being done right now, to save the earth. Traveling to 10 countries, they visit urban gardens feeding Detroit's poor and village-wide "propaganda" plots in England, permaculture farms in Normandy and India, and whole Scandinavian cities gone carbon neutral. They talk to scientists, economists, and philosophers. Without being politically naïve—the statistics are still scary—they portray the joy in people uniting to put their brains and hearts to the most vital task at hand.—Judy Bloch

IN ENGLISH AND FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Tuesday, April 25, 6:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Thursday, April 27, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



TRUST NO ONE
TRAIN TO BUSAN

Yeon Sang-ho

South Korea, 2016, 118 minutes

Apocalypse is imminent when passengers on a high-speed train from Seoul to Busan find out a zombie virus is sweeping across the nation, and in no time flat the menacing zombie hordes are infiltrating from left and right. As always, human nature reveals itself in times of desperation; some passengers are willing to help others flee, but there are also those who are only concerned with self-preservation. At the center of it all is Seok-woo, a divorced fund manager riding on the train with his young daughter. Who will survive the mayhem? This adrenaline-filled zombie thriller is animator Yeon Sang-ho's live-action debut. An English-language remake is in the works, but this original will certainly stand the test of time. Since *Train to Busan's* premiere at the Cannes Film Festival's Midnight Screenings section, a zombie craze has gone viral around the globe. —*Museum of Modern Art*

IN KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 9:15 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Saturday, April 29, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



JUSTICE MATTERS
RHYTHMS ON & OFF THE SCREEN
TWO TRAINS RUNNIN'

Sam Pollard

USA, 2016, 82 minutes

Narrated by award-winning performer Common, this lively documentary fills the screen with music as it investigates two tracks of American history and culture that came together in the benighted towns of Mississippi during the 1964 "Freedom Summer." In that charged season, thousands of college students descended on America's most segregated state to help register black voters. Three activists would die, drawing much needed international attention to the Civil Rights movement. At the same time, four young devotees of Delta blues, including guitarist John Fahey and future producer Phil Spiral, also headed to Mississippi that summer to find their heroes Skip James and Son House, long hidden from the public as musical relics of the Depression. What they found is what local Civil Rights activists already knew: the very reason for the Delta blues' existence. The two trains come together here in thoughtful commentary and contemporary and vintage musical footage.—*Various sources*

Co-presented with



the SNCC Legacy Project

Thursday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Friday, April 28, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



A WEDDING

Stephan Streker

Belgium/France/Luxembourg/Pakistan, 2016, 98 minutes

Wearing a hijab with style is the least of Belgian college student Zahira's challenges. Pregnant by her fellow-Muslim boyfriend, she must consider an abortion. The first surprise in this film that takes no attitudes for granted is how Zahira's Pakistani immigrant parents receive the news. The second is what they have planned for her following the procedure: a new role for social media, marriage by Skype. Zahira is having none of it, but she risks losing everything. *A Wedding* explores the conflicts between tradition and possibility with rare understanding for all concerned. Newcomer Lina El Arabi, as Zahira, more than holds her own alongside veteran Iranian actor Babak Karimi (*The Salesman*), who portrays with deceptive ease the contradictions her father contains, until he no longer can, and against the intensity of Sébastien Houbani, as her brother Amir, who made the headlines this film is based on. —*Judy Bloch*

IN FRENCH AND URDU WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Sunday, April 23, 5:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Thursday, April 27, 6:15 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



THE LIGHTER SIDE
THE WEDDING PARTY

Kemi Adetiba

Nigeria, 2016, 110 minutes

Love, laughs, family, intrigue, and a big wedding. Romantic comedies offer particular pleasures, and no one does them like Nollywood: Brighter, more colorful, and often more outrageous than its Hollywood counterparts, this Nigerian romantic comedy is something to behold. Art gallery owner Danni (Adesua Etomi) is the cherished daughter of Bamidele Coker (Atunyota Akpobome) and his wife, Tunuade (Sola Sobowale). When Danni and her fiancée, Dozie (Banky Wellington), decide to marry, the Cokers plan to throw the wedding of the century. Although Dozie's parents, Felix (Richard Mofe-Damijo) and Obianuju Onwuka (Ireti Doyle), believe their son is marrying beneath him, for the sake of tradition they leave the big day to the bride's parents. Barely. As the groom faces the return of an ex-girlfriend, the bride confronts wild embarrassments, and village guests topple the parents' carefully laid plans, the wedding party escalates into pure Lagosian chaos. —*Toronto International Film Festival*

IN ENGLISH

Friday, April 21, 8:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Thursday, April 27, 8:45 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

CIRCLE AWARD

A WINDOW TO ROSÁLIA

Caroline Leone

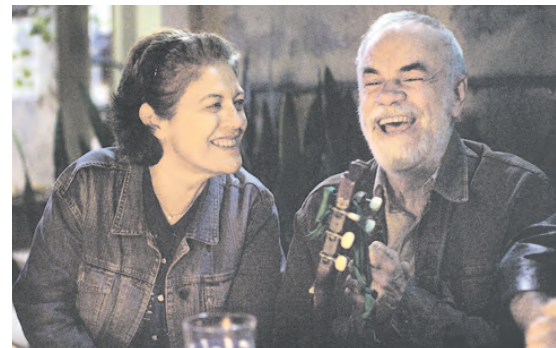
Brazil/Argentina, 2017, 85 minutes

Sixty-three-year-old Rosália spends her days in silence as a production manager in an electronics factory. After a merger, her services are no longer required and her world collapses. In desperation she turns to her brother, José, who is about to drive a luxury car from São Paulo to bustling Buenos Aires for his boss's daughter. José sees only one solution: Rosália will have to accompany him on the 2,200-kilometer journey. Reluctant and peevish, she is not ideal company, but as she takes in the spectacular panoramas and meets lively people along the way, Rosália gradually manages to relax, smile, and find surprising new inner strength. The first feature from director Caroline Leone, *A Window to Rosália* is a sensitive, heart-warming film about a journey undertaken by siblings and the discoveries they make among stunning landscapes and within their spirits.—*International Film Festival Rotterdam*

IN PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Thursday, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Friday, April 28, 9:00 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema



ZOOLOGY

Ivan I. Tverdovskiy

Russia/France/Germany, 2016, 87 minutes

Winner of the special jury prize at the 2016 Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, *Zoology* tells a tall tale of individual transformation. On the shores of Russia's Black Sea, middle-aged zoo administrator Natasha (Natalia Pavlenkova) endures bitchy co-workers and lives a modest life with her religious mother and sickly cat. Complaining of lower back pain, she visits a doctor, who gives the area a cursory inspection before referring her to an attractive young x-ray technician, Peter (Dmitri Groshev), who becomes the second person to see that Natasha has grown a fleshy, twitchy tail. He takes it all in stride, however, and the two begin dating. Natalia soon blossoms into a confident, attractive woman who dares to be different. The world being what it is, however, even such a uniquely prompted good thing can't last. Director Ivan I. Tverdovskiy's odd parable defies easy categorization and isn't soon forgotten. —*Eddie Cockrell*

IN RUSSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Saturday, April 22, 6:30 p.m., Landmark's E Street Cinema

Monday, April 24, 9:00 p.m., AMC Mazza Gallerie



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