

**GENE SISKEL
FILM
CENTER**

Chicago's Premier Movie Theater

a public program of the

SAIC

School of the Art Institute
of Chicago

AUG 2019

GAZETTE ■ Vol. 47, No. 8

**AMERICAN AS
BEAN PIE, Aug. 9, 10**

25TH ANNUAL

**BLACK
HARVEST
FILM
FESTIVAL**



ALSO:

**PANORAMA
LATINX**



164 N. State Street

www.siskelfilmcenter.org

Gene Siskel Film Center MOVIE CLUB

Everyone's in the club! Just by attending the monthly Movie Club film and participating in the conversation, you're in!

Join us for the Gene Siskel Film Center Movie Club, which will include a post-screening conversation and a complimentary beverage.



BESSIE COLEMAN, FIRST BLACK AVIATRIX

Tuesday, August 27,
6:00 pm

Bessie Coleman, First Black Aviatrix

Facilitated by Gigi Coleman Brooms (great-niece of Bessie Coleman) and other special guests. (See description on p. 12.)

AUG

★ indicates special guest appearance
[OC] indicates screening with open-captioned dialogue

164 North State Street

THURSDAY 1

6:00 BRINGING UP BAY (Screwball)
6:00 ROJO (Run)
8:00 THE WHITE CROW (Run)
8:15 CARMINE STREET GUITARS (Run)

See our website for descriptions of films playing August 1.

FRIDAY 2

2:00 SMALL ISLAND (NT Live), p. 15
2:00 THE FRESHMEN (Special), p. 15
4:00 BREWSTER McCLOUD (Fringe), p. 16
6:00 THE FRESHMEN (Special), p. 15
6:30 OUR TIME (Run), p. 14
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SATURDAY 3

3:00 SMALL ISLAND (NT Live), p. 15
3:15 OUR TIME (Run), p. 14
7:00 A Black Harvest Feast (Black), p. 5★

DISCOUNT MATINEES FRIDAYS UNTIL 5:00 PM! \$8 GENERAL, \$5 MEMBERS/STUDENTS

SUNDAY 4

2:00 THE FRESHMEN (Special), p. 15
2:30 A Feast of Firsts (Black), p. 6★
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5:15 DON'T BE NICE (Black), p. 6★

MONDAY 5

6:00 FATUMA (Black), p. 6
6:00 OUR TIME (Run), p. 14
7:45 DON'T BE NICE (Black), p. 6★

TUESDAY 6

6:00 IT MUST SCHWING! THE BLUE NOTE STORY (Black), p. 6
6:15 OUR TIME (Run), p. 14
8:15 FATUMA (Black), p. 6

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6:30 OUR TIME (Run), p. 14
8:15 Family Matters (Black), p. 7★

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2:00 PAVAROTTI (Run), p. 17 [OC]
2:00 THE CHAMBERMAID (Run), p. 14
4:00 JE T'AIME MOI NON PLUS (Run), p. 16
4:15 ALWAYS IN SEASON (Black), p. 7
6:00 PAVAROTTI (Run), p. 17
6:15 AMERICAN AS BEAN PIE (Black), p. 7★
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3:00 PAVAROTTI (Run), p. 17
3:15 JE T'AIME MOI NON PLUS (Run), p. 16
5:00 THE CHAMBERMAID (Run), p. 14
5:15 THE BLOOD IS AT THE DOORSTEP (Black), p. 8★
7:45 PAVAROTTI (Run), p. 17
8:15 AMERICAN AS BEAN PIE (Black), p. 7★

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3:00 THE BLOOD IS AT THE DOORSTEP (Black), p. 8★
3:00 THE CHAMBERMAID (Run), p. 14
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6:00 ALWAYS IN SEASON (Black), p. 7
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6:00 JEZEBEL (Black), p. 8★
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4:15 WHILE I BREATHE, I HOPE (Black), p. 9
6:00 Love African American Style (Black), p. 9★
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3:00 THE LAST BLACK MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO (Run), p. 13
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5:30 New Trends and Strategies in Filmmaking (Black), p. 9★
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6:00 IF THE DANCER DANCES (Run), p. 17
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6:00 WHILE I BREATHE, I HOPE (Black), p. 9★
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6:00 STRIVE (Black), p. 10★
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3:00 TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM (Run), p. 13
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5:15 BESSIE COLEMAN, FIRST BLACK AVIATRIX (Black), p. 12★
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3:00 SPRINTER (Black), p. 11
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5:15 Women of Color (Black), p. 11★

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6:00 TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM (Run), p. 13 [OC]
6:00 THREADS (Special), p. 18
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6:00 BESSIE COLEMAN, FIRST BLACK AVIATRIX (Black), p. 12★
6:00 MOVIE CLUB
6:00 FOR SAMA (Run), p. 18
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8:15 LAST NIGHT A DJ SAVED MY LIFE (Black), p. 12★

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6:00 LAST NIGHT A DJ SAVED MY LIFE (Black), p. 12★
6:00 TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM (Run), p. 13
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6:00 FOR SAMA (Run), p. 18
6:30 CROOKLYN (Black), p. 5★
8:00 TONI MORRISON: THE PIECES I AM (Run), p. 13

25TH ANNUAL

BLACK HARVEST FILM FESTIVAL



DON'T BE NICE, Aug. 4, 5

From August 3 through 29, the Gene Siskel Film Center welcomes you to the *25th Anniversary Black Harvest Film Festival*. Your support of films celebrating Black life, stories, and culture has brought us to this milestone year! Our anniversary festival presents a bountiful harvest of seventeen new feature films, forty-plus short films, and personal appearances by more than forty filmmakers.

Our very special opening night on Saturday, August 3, has been in preparation for almost two years. This *Black Harvest Feast* program features the world premieres of five just-completed short films by Midwestern directors. In honor of the anniversary, the Gene Siskel Film Center, with the support of The Joyce Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency, awarded production grants to five proposals vetted by an elite jury of filmmakers and critics. The opening-night audience will be the first to see these films, in a program hosted by NBC Chicago's LeeAnn Trotter, followed by a reception across the street at the Joffrey Tower.

On closing night, August 29, we present a 25th

anniversary screening of Spike Lee's vibrant family drama *CROOKLYN* (1994), screening in a 35mm print. Actor/co-screenwriter Joie Lee is tentatively scheduled to appear.

The festival's Chicago-made features include *LOST GURL*, Edward J. Wilson's drama of lost innocence and redemption, and *THEE DEBAUCHERY BALL*, David Weathersby's documentary look at Chicago's house music scene. Chicago-based country music star Liz Toussaint shines brightly in her autobiographical documentary *AMERICAN AS BEAN PIE*. A piece of Chicago history is examined in Olivier Sarrazin's *BESSIE COLEMAN*, *FIRST BLACK AVIATRIX*, with the pilot's great-niece Gigi Coleman Brooms and other special guests in person.

All festival films are eligible for the Audience Award, so be sure to pick up a ballot in our lobby for every film you see. All shorts are eligible for the Richard and Ellen Sandor Family *Black Harvest Film Festival Prize*, selected by a prestigious jury. Check our website regularly for updates on artist appearances and special events.

We invite you to view the art exhibit

R-E-S-P-E-C-T, a photo series by Scheherazade Tillet, in our Gallery/Café.

The Black Harvest Film Festival is supported by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; the Illinois Arts Council Agency; and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Special thanks to festival consultant Sergio Mims, our Black Harvest Community Council, and the many filmmakers who help make this festival possible.

—Barbara Scharres

FF indicates a family-friendly film.

Purchase a 6-film Black Harvest festival pass!

Passes are \$55 for the general public and \$30 for Film Center members. Includes a free small popcorn with each of the six films! Excludes Opening and Closing Nights.

BLACK HARVEST FILM FESTIVAL

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Special Thanks

Eleva Singleton
and Diane & Victor Hoskins

Richard and Ellen Sandor Family *Black Harvest Film Festival Prize.*

The prize is awarded annually to a director
of a *Black Harvest Film Festival* short film,
chosen by a prestigious jury.

Last year's winner was LALO'S HOUSE by Kelley Kali.



OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION

Join Master of Ceremonies LeeAnn Trotter of NBC 5 Chicago for the 25th Anniversary Black Harvest Film Festival opening-night celebration. Immediately following the show *A Black Harvest Feast*, the audience is invited to join our filmmaker guests for a reception sponsored by Chaz Ebert and the Roger & Chaz Ebert Foundation at Joffrey Tower (10 E. Randolph St.), home of the Joffrey Ballet Chicago.

Saturday, August 3, 7:00 pm



Roger & Chaz Ebert
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Chaz Ebert



love tap

OPENING NIGHT FILMS! FILMMAKERS IN PERSON!

A Black Harvest Feast

2019, Various directors, USA, 85 min.

Saturday, August 3, 7:00 pm

The festival kicks off with a feast of firsts—the world premieres of five new shorts commissioned by the Gene Siskel Film Center, thanks to funding from The Joyce Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, and the Illinois Arts Council Agency: Gian Smith's percussive look at love's possibilities in *love tap*; Derek Dow's coming-of-age drama *GROWING PAINS*; Daniel Williams's look at dads in playground conflict *PLAY DAY*; Zarinah Ali's sensual *SEX IS A GOD THING*; and Shahari Moore's poignant comedy *CHICAGO GUY*. (BS)

All filmmakers are scheduled to be present.

Special admission prices for this program (includes reception): General Admission \$50; Students and Members \$30. Proceeds benefit the educational programs of the Gene Siskel Film Center. No free passes, blue tickets, or Black Harvest festival passes will be valid for this screening.



CLOSING NIGHT FILM! JOIE LEE IN PERSON!

CROOKLYN

1994, Spike Lee, USA, 114 min.

With Alfre Woodard, Delroy Lindo, Zelda Harris

Thursday, August 29, 6:30 pm

CROOKLYN is Spike Lee's warmest, most purely entertaining film, set in an idyllic Brooklyn past of street games, vintage TV shows, and golden oldies. Co-written by sibs Joie, Spike, and Cinqué Lee, the episodic, autobiographical narrative centers on 9-year-old Troy (Harris), the only girl in a family of five children with an overworked, tough-love mom (Woodard) and an underemployed, indulgent dad (Lindo). 35mm. (MR)

Screenwriter/actor Joie Lee is tentatively scheduled to appear for audience discussion. After the show, all ticket-holders are invited to a reception sponsored by the Chicago Reader in our Gallery/Café. No free passes, blue tickets, or Black Harvest festival passes will be valid for this screening.

READER

BLACK HARVEST FILM FESTIVAL



Shorts Program: A Feast of Firsts

2019, Various directors, USA, 85 min.

Filmmakers in person!

Sunday, August 4, 2:30 pm

Enjoy the world premiere screenings of five provocative new shorts by Midwestern filmmakers, commissioned by the Gene Siskel Film Center in honor of the 25th anniversary of *Black Harvest: love tap* by Gian Smith; *GROWING PAINS* by Derek Dow; *PLAY DAY* by Daniel Williams; *SEX IS A GOD THING* by Zarinah Ali; and *CHICAGO GUY* by Shahari Moore.

Directors Smith, Dow, and Moore, and producer/actor Rashida Khan Bey Miller (LOVE IS A GOD THING) are scheduled to appear for audience discussion



DON'T BE NICE

2018, Max Powers, USA, 97 min.

**Producers Melina Brown
and Nikhil Melnechuk
in person at both screenings!**

**Sunday, August 4, 5:15 pm
Monday, August 5, 7:45 pm**

This compelling documentary follows the five-member Bowery Slam Poetry Team as they prepare for the slam poetry nationals in Atlanta. They are variously African American, Afro-Latinx, and queer, and their personal stories become the stuff of hard-hitting poetry pulled from the guts under the guidance of relentlessly driving coaches Lauren and Jon. "Don't be nice," cautions Lauren, demanding that they go beyond easy targets for the searing emotional connection that will make their performances sting. (BS)



FATUMA

2018, Jordan Riber, Tanzania, 80 min.
With Beatrice Taisamo, Cathryn Credo

**Monday, August 5, 6:00 pm
Tuesday, August 6, 8:15 pm**

In this colorful drama set in a striking Tanzanian landscape, a mother defies tradition to protect her daughter from being sold into an arranged marriage. Fatuma (Taisamo) raises the finest crop in the region through her own back-breaking labor, hoping that her girl Neema (Credo) will go to the university. Her wastrel husband spends his days in the bar owned by his mistress. When she puts the squeeze on him for cash, Fatuma's harvest and Neema's future are put at risk. In Swahili with English subtitles. (BS)



IT MUST SCHWING! THE BLUE NOTE STORY

2018, Eric Friedler, Germany, 114 min.

**Tuesday, August 6, 6:00 pm
Wednesday, August 7, 8:00 pm**

Blue Note Records was founded in 1939 by two young Jewish German refugees, Alfred Lion and Francis Wolff, whose shared love of jazz cemented a lifelong friendship and shaped a company motivated by passion rather than profit. This beautifully crafted documentary, executive-produced by Wim Wenders, is a feast for the eyes and ears, featuring enchanting photorealistic animated sequences and classic recordings by Bechet, Monk, Coltrane, Blakey, Rollins, and many more. (MR)



NO ME OLVIDARÉ DE TI

Shorts Program: Family Matters

2018-19, Various directors, Various nations, 78 min.

Filmmakers in person!

Thursday, August 8, 8:15 pm

Family changes, challenges, and secrets, stirred with love, characterize these five shorts: *NO ME OLVIDARÉ DE TI* by Laila Petrone; *BOBBY* by James Grisom; *BABA SIFON* by Laurent Pantaleon; *OUTDOORING* by Maxwell Addae; and *TWELFTH ROUND* by Nir Shelter. In English, Spanish, and Creole Réunionnais with English subtitles.

Directors Petrone and Grisom, and producer Nina Spensley (*NO ME OLVIDARÉ DE TI*) are tentatively scheduled to be present for audience discussion.



ALWAYS IN SEASON

2018, Jacqueline Olive, USA, 90 min.

Friday, August 9, 4:15 pm
Tuesday, August 13, 6:00 pm

A Black teenage football star is found hanging from a swing set near his home in Bladenboro, North Carolina, in 2014, and, after a cursory investigation, his death is ruled a suicide. The ongoing quest by his mother Claudia Lacy for justice for her son Lennon is the centerpiece of director Olive's larger inquiry into lynching in this Sundance award-winner. In a parallel history, Olive delves into the circumstances surrounding the 1946 Moore's Ford lynching of two Black couples, including a pregnant woman. (BS)



AMERICAN AS BEAN PIE

2019, Liz Toussaint, USA, 62 min.

Friday, August 9, 6:15 pm
Saturday, August 10, 8:15 pm

Director Liz Toussaint
in person at both
screenings!

Englewood-raised singer Liz Toussaint has wrestled with labels all her life. Born Muniefa Abdullah to Nation of Islam parents, she found herself ostracized after 9/11, prompting her to take her current name from her great-grandmother. Searching for a musical identity, Toussaint discovered a liberating authenticity in country music, but her convention-defying crossover encountered resistance from both sides of the line. This autobiographical first film is an impressively insightful account of her personal and musical evolution. (MR) **FF**



PREMATURE

2019, Rashaad Ernesto Green, USA, 90 min.
With Zora Howard, Joshua Boone

Special advance screening!

Friday, August 9, 8:30 pm

Acclaimed at Sundance, this bittersweet Harlem-set romance depicts a transformative summer for college-bound Ayanna (Howard) as she experiences love for the first time. The aspiring poet falls into an intensely erotic relationship with music producer Isaiah (Boone), until she faces the reality that her man has a past, and an unanticipated development may change everything. Special advance screening courtesy of IFC Films. (BS)

Black Harvest continues on next page

BLACK HARVEST FILM FESTIVAL



THE BLOOD IS AT THE DOORSTEP

2017, Erik Ljung, USA, 91 min.

Saturday, August 10, 5:15 pm
Sunday, August 11, 3:00 pm

Maria Hamilton and director Erik Ljung in person at both screenings!

On April 30, 2014, an unarmed Black man named Dontre Hamilton was rousted by a policeman for sleeping on the sidewalk in downtown Milwaukee. The ensuing scuffle left Hamilton dead, shot 14 times. This lucid, compelling documentary covers the repercussions of the tragic event from all sides, as Hamilton's mother Maria and brother Nate fight to obtain justice, the Black community rallies to their cause, the police department struggles with calls for reform, and the case drags through a series of agonizing delays. (MR)



THE SHINE

Shorts Program: Made in Chicago

2017-19, Various directors, USA, 84 min.

Sunday, August 11, 5:30 pm
Monday, August 12, 7:45 pm

Filmmakers in person!

Six films featuring Chicago talent: THE SHINE by Tristian Montgomery; IN HER WORDS by Latoya Hunter; LOYALTY by Ira Childs; IN THE PAINT by Tommy Sigmon; SHOOTER by Jan Johnson Goldberger; and A SISTERHOOD OF SIGNATURES by Okema "Seven" Gunn.

Directors Montgomery, Hunter, Childs (Sunday only), Sigmon, Goldberger, and Gunn are scheduled to appear for audience discussion at both screenings.



JEZEBEL

2019, Numa Perrier, USA, 86 min.
With Tiffany Tenille, Numa Perrier

Tuesday, August 13, 8:30 pm
Wednesday, August 14, 6:00 pm

Director/writer/actor Numa Perrier in person at both screenings!

First-time director Perrier smartly flips the script on this tale of an Internet sex worker. Living in a shabby Las Vegas motel room with her protective older sister (Perrier), Tiffany (Tenille) tremulously embarks on a new career as a "sex cam girl." Dressed in skimpy lingerie and simulating sex acts in a private chat room, she capitalizes on her innocence under the stage name Jezebel. Perrier brings a female gaze and a confidently alternative point of view to Tiffany's discovery of her own sexuality and her power over men. (BS)



DISPEL

Shorts Program: Fantastic Tales

2018-19, Various directors, USA, 85 min.

Wednesday, August 14, 8:30 pm
Thursday, August 15, 6:00 pm

Filmmakers in person!

Six excursions into the realms of horror, fantasy, and science fiction: CORPORATE COFFEE by Samuel Wofford; SATELLITE FLIGHT by Davis Northern; NIGHT DINER by Khaled Ridgeway; DISPEL by Kylie Eaton; SUICIDE BY SUNLIGHT by Nikyatu; and INVINCIBLE BOY by Julian Park.

Directors Wofford, Northern, Ridgeway, Park, producer Dan Marcus (INVINCIBLE BOY), and (tentative) director Eaton are scheduled to appear for audience discussion at both screenings.



WHILE I BREATHE, I HOPE

2018, Emily Harrold, USA, 72 min.

Director Emily Harrold via Skype on Aug. 20!

Friday, August 16, 4:15 pm
Tuesday, August 20, 6:00 pm

Currently known as a CNN analyst, Bakari Sellers has been a rising force in the Democratic Party since 2006, when, at age 22, he became the youngest-ever member of the South Carolina state legislature. This candid documentary centers on a behind-the-scenes view of Sellers's 2014 campaign for Lieutenant Governor, as the personable and idealistic candidate grapples with such challenges as exhaustion, charges of being too young for the job, and blowback from a 2012 drunk-driving incident. (MR) **FF**



Shorts Program: Love African American Style

2017-19, Various directors, USA/UK, 81 min.

Filmmakers in person!

Friday, August 16, 6:00 pm
Saturday, August 17, 8:15 pm

Love can be for better or for worse, and in these six shorts, sometimes it's worse before it's better: FINDING MR. RIGHT by David E. Bright; 'TIL DEATH by Asha Flowers; CATCH A GIRL by LeRon E. Lee; THE PECK SITUATION by Carmen Elly Wilkerson; F.A.M. by Anthony E. Williams; and love tap by Gian Smith.

Directors Bright, Lee, Williams, Smith, and, tentatively, Flowers, Wilkerson, and producer/actor Zohra (FINDING MR. RIGHT) are scheduled to appear for audience discussion at both screenings.



LOST GURL

2019, Edward J. Wilson, USA, 70 min.
With Kristin E. Ellis, Simeon Henderson

Director Edward J. Wilson and selected cast and crew members in person at both screenings!

Friday, August 16, 8:30 pm
Tuesday, August 20, 8:30 pm

Set on Chicago's South Side and featuring a superb cast of local actors, this tense urban drama centers on young Nola (Ellis), forced to care for her siblings while her single mom parties night after night. Rebellion puts Nola in the arms of suave older drug-dealer Jay (Henderson), a man who appears to be the caring protector she longs for. Caught in an abusive life of complicity in the drug trade and all its attendant violence, Nola becomes Jay's unwilling bargaining chip when a deal goes wrong. (BS)

Black Harvest continues on next page

Panel Discussion: New Trends and Strategies in Filmmaking

Free admission!

Saturday, August 17, 5:30 pm

Black Harvest consultant Sergio Mims and filmmaking experts discuss wide-ranging approaches available to independent filmmakers in this digital age. Panelists include director/producer Pamela Sherrod Anderson (THE CURATORS OF DIXON SCHOOL), director David Weathersby (THEE DEBAUCHERY BALL), and more TBA. Check for updates. *Free admission. Tickets available at the box office only. Seats available on a first come, first served basis.*

BLACK HARVEST FILM FESTIVAL



R.A.W. TUBA

Shorts Program: Color Me Creative

2018-19, Various directors, USA, 85 min.

Filmmakers in person!

Sunday, August 18, 3:00 pm

Five films celebrating creativity and the imagination: HIPIET: BECAUSE WE CAN by Addison Wright; T by Keisha Rae Witherspoon; BOOK OF DANIEL by Elodie Edjang; AS TOLD TO G/D THYSELF by The Ummah Chroma; and R.A.W. TUBA by David Larson and Darren Durlach.

Directors Edjang and Witherspoon are scheduled to appear for audience discussion.



BILL TRAYLOR: CHASING GHOSTS

2018, Jeffrey Wolf, USA, 76 min.

Director Jeffrey Wolf, producer Jeany Wolf, and former Intuit executive director Cleo Wilson in person at both screenings!

Sunday, August 18, 5:30 pm
Monday, August 19, 7:45 pm

This documentary captures the remarkable story of one of America's greatest self-taught artists. Born into slavery in Alabama in 1853, Traylor toiled as a sharecropper before taking up drawing at age 85. Camped on a Montgomery sidewalk, Traylor churned out colorful, semi-abstract works that serve as records of a lost post-Reconstruction world. (MR)

Black Harvest consultant Sergio Mims will be presented with the Gene Siskel Legacy Award at the Sunday screening, followed by a reception in our Gallery/Café.



STRIVE

2019, Robert Rippberger, USA, 82 min.
With Joi Campbell, Danny Glover

Cast and crew members TBA in person at both screenings!

Wednesday, August 21, 8:30 pm
Thursday, August 22, 6:00 pm

This highly charged story of a Harlem girl's dream to go to Yale is based on the experiences of co-screenwriter Sha-Risse Smith. Living in the projects with her overworked single mom, Kalani (Campbell) provides emotional support for older brother Jacob and little sister Bebe while attending an elite college-prep school. When Jacob begins dealing drugs, and 13-year-old Bebe loses her virginity to a local thug, Kalani discovers that loyalty to her family and her own plans for the future are on a collision course. (BS)



THE GERMAN KING

Shorts Program: Black History—Lost and Found

2017-19, Various directors, USA/Sierra Leone/Cameroon, 76 min.

Filmmakers in person!

Thursday, August 22, 8:30 pm

Four thought-provoking films with historical themes: A CIVIL WAR: FOR THE SOUL OF AMERICA by Khinmay Lwin van der Mee; THE GERMAN KING by Adetokunboh M'Cormack; GIVE by David de Rozas; and AN ACT OF TERROR by Ashley Paige Brim (note: contains graphic depiction of execution).

Directors van der Mee and Brim are both tentatively scheduled to appear for audience discussion.



SPRINTER

2018, Storm Saulter, USA/Jamaica, 114 min.
With Dale Elliott, David Alan Grier

Friday, August 23, 4:15 pm
Sunday, August 25, 3:00 pm

In this rousing sports drama from Jamaica, a youthful athlete's future is thrown off course by family dysfunction and a desire to please his absent mother. High school track runner Akeem (Elliott) tries unsuccessfully to match his older brother Germaine's record until his perceptive coach (Grier) urges him to become a sprinter. He shoots to stardom as the "Rasta Rocket," but jealous Germaine, now a scammer and drug dealer, dangles dangerous temptations before his naïve younger brother. (BS)



DEVIL'S PIE—D'ANGELO

2019, Carine Bijlsma, Netherlands, 84 min.

Friday, August 23, 6:30 pm
Saturday, August 24, 8:15 pm

In 2001, with two smash albums under his belt and a buff physique that sent female fans into a frenzy, neo-Soul singer/songwriter D'Angelo seemed poised for superstardom. But it would be twelve years before he performed in public again and fourteen before he released another album. Centered on the tour that accompanied the release of his acclaimed comeback album *Black Messiah*, this thoughtful documentary combines show-stopping performances with the singer's reflections on the reasons behind his extended hiatus. (MR)



THEE DEBAUCHERY BALL

2019, David Weathersby, USA, 71 min.

Friday, August 23, 8:30 pm
Wednesday, August 28, 8:30 pm

Chicago's thriving house music community is celebrated with flair in this new documentary by Weathersby (*THE COLOR OF ART*). The film extends over a period of one year, from Thee Debauchery Ball of 2017 to the ball of 2018, events that expanded the appreciation of house music with innovative fetish-themed, BDSM, and body-positive house parties. Sensual, lushly evocative coverage of the balls themselves speaks to the vibrant durability of a less recognized aspect of Chicago's Black culture. (BS)

Director David Weathersby in person at both screenings!



DEAR INNER CITY

Shorts Program: Women of Color

2017-19, Various directors, USA/Canada, 74 min.

Sunday, August 25, 5:15 pm
Monday, August 26, 8:15 pm

Heart, soul, and perseverance are a woman's essentials in these seven shorts: MAHALIA MELTS IN THE RAIN by Emilie Mannering and Carmine Pierre-Dufour; IT MUST BE PAPRIKA by Aissa Gueye; MONITA by Brianna Clearly; DEAR INNER CITY by Jazmin Bryant; THE PICTURE by Brandon Reese; ON MOTHER'S DAY by Ellie Wen; and THE NEW MOTHER by Eleva Singleton.

Directors Clearly, Bryant, Reese, Singleton, and (tentative) Gueye are scheduled to appear for audience discussion at both screenings.

Black Harvest continues on next page

Filmmakers in person!

BLACK HARVEST FILM FESTIVAL



BESSIE COLEMAN, FIRST BLACK AVIATRIX

2018, Olivier Sarrazin, France, 53 min.

Special guests in person!

Saturday, August 24, 5:15 pm
Tuesday, August 27, 6:00 pm

This classy French production uses excerpts from the pioneer aviatrix's journals and sweeping aerial views of the sites where she learned to fly to accompany commentary by experts centered in France and Chicago—the two most important venues in her flying career. In English and French with English subtitles. (MR) FF

Guest speakers include Coleman's great-niece Gigi Coleman Brooms; cinematographer Jean-Marc Giboux (Aug. 24 only); pilot and aviation consultant Tammera Holmes (Aug. 24 only); Dr. Christopher Reed, Resident Historian at the DuSable Museum; and Myiti Sengstacke-Rice, great-grand-niece of Chicago Defender founder Robert S. Abbott. The Tuesday screening is a Movie Club event (see p. 2).



LAST NIGHT A DJ SAVED MY LIFE

2017, Damon Jamal, USA, 71 min.
With Cisco Reyes, Jasmine Burke

Director Damon Jamal and
producer/actor Tangi Miller and
in person at both screenings
(tentative)!

Tuesday, August 27, 8:15 pm
Wednesday, August 28, 6:00 pm

In this rambunctious romantic dramedy, Atlanta radio DJ Tony Sinclair (Reyes) receives two consecutive call-ins. In the first, he offers advice to a desperate mystery woman; in the second, his gold-digger girlfriend publicly dumps him. As luck would have it, the humiliating breakup makes him a celebrity. When he reconnects with Robin (Burke), his first caller on that fateful night, it's love at first sight for both, but she is on the run from a dangerous past, and Tony's ex now wants to cash in on his fame. (BS)

Closing night film!

CROOKLYN

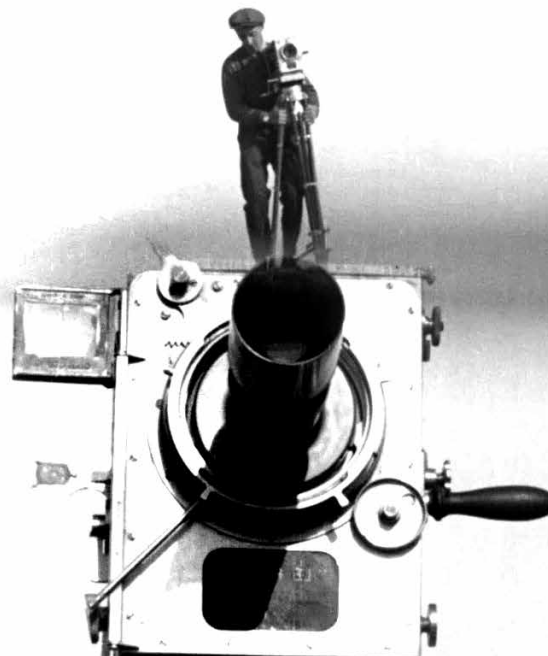
1994, Spike Lee, USA, 114 min.

Thursday, August 29, 6:30 pm
(See description on p. 5.)

COMING IN SEPTEMBER!

VIEWING POSITIONS

Watch for our next series, *Viewing Positions*, beginning September 3, with weekly Tuesday lectures by Fred Camper, artist and longtime art and film critic. This series will use a wide variety of films to demonstrate the different relationships that films establish with the viewer, from the classical Hollywood style of Howard Hawks to the self-aware voyeurism of Andy Warhol.



THE LAST BLACK MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO



2019, Joe Talbot, USA, 121 min.
With Jimmie Fails, Jonathan Majors,
Danny Glover

A fading but magnificent “painted lady” is the passion of Jimmie (Fails), a young Black man whose family lived in the Victorian house before the neighborhood turned white. Against all odds, Jimmie reclaims the home of his childhood and moves in with his best friend Mont (Majors), but their triumph is a precarious one. First-time director Talbot, winner of two Sundance Film Festival awards, creates a haunting, melancholy, and deeply affecting portrait of San Francisco and its disappearing underclass. DCP digital. (BS)

“Gorgeously shot ... one of the most authentic and touching and powerful relationships of any kind in any film this year.”

—Richard Roeper, *Chicago Sun-Times*

August 16—22

Fri., 8/16 at 2 pm (**Open-captioned**) and 7:45 pm;
Sat., 8/17 at 3 pm and 7:45 pm;
Sun., 8/18 at 5 pm;
Mon., 8/19 at 8 pm;
Tue., 8/20 at 6 pm (**Open-captioned**);
Wed., 8/21 at 6 pm;
Thu., 8/22 at 7:45 pm

Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am



“Moving and profound...Look for this one to be front and center in its category come Oscar time.”

—Gary Goldstein,
Los Angeles Times

2019, Timothy Greenfield-Sanders, USA, 119 min.

This documentary portrait of the great African American novelist is as rich and abundant as the extraordinary woman it depicts. At its heart is a meaty interview with Morrison, a warm but formidable presence as she recalls her remarkable life as a book-crazy girl in an Ohio steel town, a schoolteacher raising two children on her own, an influential editor at Random House, and an author who revolutionized writing about race in America en route to winning the Nobel Prize. DCP digital. (MR)

August 23—29

Fri., 8/23 at 2 pm (**Open-captioned**) and 8:15 pm;
Sat., 8/24 at 3 pm and 7:45 pm;
Sun., 8/25 at 5 pm;
Mon., 8/26 at 6 pm (**Open-captioned**);
Tue., 8/27 at 8 pm;
Wed., 8/28 at 6 pm;
Thu., 8/29 at 8 pm



OUR TIME

August 2—8
Fri., 8/2 at 6:30 pm;
Sat., 8/3 at 3:15 pm;
Sun., 8/4 at 4 pm;
Mon., 8/5 at 6 pm;
Tue., 8/6 at 6:15 pm;
Wed., 8/7 at 6:15 pm;
Thu., 8/8 at 6:30 pm

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

(*NUESTRO TIEMPO*)
2018, Carlos Reygadas, Mexico/France/
Germany, 177 min.
With Natalia López, Phil Burgers, Carlos
Reygadas

**“One of the year’s most
thought-provoking and
spellbinding releases.”**—
Carlos Aguilar, *The Wrap*

Eroticism, lust, and jealousy make for a volatile mix in this raw, visually all-encompassing chronicle of a disintegrating marriage. In emotionally risky casting, director Reygadas (*BATTLE IN HEAVEN*) plays Juan, a poet and prosperous bull-rancher in central Mexico, while his real-life wife López plays Juan’s filmmaker wife Esther. Their casually open relationship reaches a crisis when Esther atypically hides her new affair with Phil (Burgers), a genial American ranch hand. In Spanish with English subtitles.

PANORAMA
LATINX

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

The Chambermaid

(*LA CAMARISTA*)
2018, Lila Avilés, Mexico, 102 min. With Gabriela Cartol, Teresa Sánchez

**“Sublime...the moments of beauty, tenderness
and freedom that punctuate the drudgery
provide flickers of humanity that feel almost
miraculous.”**

—A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*

Inevitably compared to *ROMA*, Lina Avilés’s debut film is subtler, less spectacular, and more politically incisive. Eve (Cartol) is a 24-year-old employee in a Mexico City luxury hotel. Patiently, concisely, absorbingly, the film immerses us in her daily routine, as she caters to the whims of guests, interacts with supportive co-workers, and is strung along by her supervisors. As tension and frustration build, Eve edges closer to a resolution that might bring disaster or liberation. In Spanish with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

PANORAMA
LATINX

August 9—15

Fri., 8/9 at 2 pm and 8:15 pm;
Sat., 8/10 at 5 pm;
Sun., 8/11 at 3 pm;
Mon., 8/12 at 6 pm;
Tue., 8/13 at 8:15 pm;
Wed., 8/14 at 8:15 pm;
Thu., 8/15 at 6 pm

THE FRESHMEN



"Entertaining and analytical...a beautiful story of friendship."
—Fabien Lemerrier, *Cineuropa*

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

(PREMIÈRE ANNÉE)
2018, Thomas Lilti, France, 92 min.
With Vincent Lacoste, William Lebghil

**Friday, August 2,
2:00 pm and 6:00 pm**

Sunday, August 4, 2:00 pm

**Wednesday, August 7,
6:00 pm**

The latest in former doctor Lilti's series of acclaimed medical dramas, **THE FRESHMEN** centers on two first-year students navigating France's notoriously stringent medical-school system. Benjamin (Lebghil) is the son of a successful surgeon, while the less privileged, more intense Antoine (Lacoste) has already failed twice to advance. The two team up as study-buddies in the hope of beating the odds, but their friendship will be tested by jealousy, psychological pressure, and class difference. In French with English subtitles. DCP digital. (MR)

NT LIVE!

small island

2019, Rufus Norris, UK, 200 min.
With Leah Harvey, Gershwin Eustace Jr.

Friday, August 2, 2:00 pm
Saturday, August 3, 3:00 pm

"Momentous theater...paints an unforgettable picture."—Michael Billington, *The Guardian*

Timely and moving, **SMALL ISLAND** embarks on a journey from Jamaica to Britain, through the Second World War to 1948. Based on Andrea Levy's novel, this epic adaptation follows three connected stories. Hortense (Harvey) yearns for a new life away from rural Jamaica. Gilbert (Eustace) dreams of becoming a lawyer, and Queenie (Aisling Loftus) longs to escape her Lincolnshire roots. **Note:** Contains strong and racially offensive language, reflecting the play's historical accuracy. DCP digital. (Description courtesy of NT Live)

**SPECIAL PRICES: \$14 GENERAL;
\$8 MEMBERS/STUDENTS**
(**Note:** Matinee discounts do not apply to the August 2 screening.)



FRINGE BENEFITS

Brewster McCloud



We continue this mostly monthly series dedicated to provocative and outré films that have galvanized audiences and critics alike, incited passionate conversation, and inspired devoted cult followings among adventurous cinephiles.

1970, Robert Altman, USA, 105 min.
With Bud Cort, Sally Kellerman, Shelley Duvall

Friday, August 2, 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm
Thursday, August 8, 6:00 pm

Emboldened by the success of M*A*S*H, Altman followed up his biggest hit with this oddball comedy

about a young loner (Cort) who uses a secret lair inside the Houston Astrodome to build a bizarre flying machine, aided by a mysterious woman in a trench coat (Kellerman). As a series of strangulation deaths are connected to him, the celibate Brewster tries to deal with the affections of a kooky Astrodome tour guide (Duvall) and take flight before the law catches up with him. 35mm. (Cameron Worden)

NEW 4K RESTORATION!

JE T'AIME MOI NON PLUS



(I LOVE YOU, I DON'T)
1976, Serge Gainsbourg, France, 88 min.
With Jane Birkin, Joe Dallesandro, Hugues Quester

"Masterpiece of erotic tension...a brilliantly well-made film."—Rich Cline, *Shadows on the Wall*

This over-the-top cult classic plays like a version of LAST TANGO IN PARIS tailored for Southern drive-ins. In his directing debut, musical legend and sexual provocateur Gainsbourg casts his wife Jane Birkin as a waitress at a seedy roadside café who hooks up with a hunky garbage-truck driver (Warhol superstar Dallesandro), even though he has a jealous gay lover (Quester) and prefers sex through the proverbial back door. Note: Contains explicit sex and nudity. In French with English subtitles. New 4K DCP digital restoration. (MR)

August 9—15
Fri., 8/9 at 4 pm;
Sat., 8/10 at 3:15 pm;
Mon., 8/12 at 6 pm;
Thu., 8/15 at 8:30 pm

PAVAROTTI



2019, Ron Howard, UK/USA, 114 min.

Director Howard (APOLLO 13) wisely plays it straight, letting the images and voice of his larger-than-life subject prevail, in a chronology that takes the great Italian tenor from childhood to early first marriage, fatherhood, breakthrough success, and international superstardom. This is a film that delivers personality, warmth, and generous performance clips covering the breadth of Pavarotti's career, encompassing legendary operatic roles, concerts, and recordings including "The Three Tenors." DCP digital. (BS)

"Warm, emotional, and completely involving."
—Kenneth Turan,
Los Angeles Times

August 9—15

Fri., 8/9 at 2 pm
(Open-captioned) and 6 pm;
Sat., 8/10 at 3 pm and 7:45 pm;
Sun., 8/11 at 5 pm;
Mon., 8/12 at 8 pm;
Tue., 8/13 at 6 pm;
Wed., 8/14 at 6 pm
(Open-captioned);
Thu., 8/15 at 8 pm

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

August 16—22

Fri., 8/16 at 2:15 pm and 6 pm;
Sat., 8/17 at 5:15 pm;
Sun., 8/18 at 3:15 pm;
Mon., 8/19 at 6 pm;
Tue., 8/20 at 8:15 pm;
Wed., 8/21 at 8 pm;
Thu., 8/22 at 6 pm

If the Dancer Dances



"Lovingly crafted... a study in rigor, devotion and passion."
—Gary Goldstein, *Los Angeles Times*

2018, Maia Wechsler, USA, 87 min.

Following the death of his idol Merce Cunningham, choreographer Stephen Petronio decided to restage Cunningham's

1968 masterwork "RainForest." The challenges were considerable, involving not just the rigorous physical demands of Cunningham's choreography but also the ephemeral nature of dance itself, of which films and written

notations can offer only approximations. Wechsler's documentary offers a fascinating immersion in the creative process, as well as an exploration of general issues concerning artistic legacies and influences. DCP digital. (MR)

FOR SAMA



**"One of the most important films you will ever see in your life."
—Chuck Foster, *Film Threat***

CHICAGO PREMIERE!

2019, Waad Al-Khateab and Edward Watts, UK, 95 min.

It takes the intimate perspective of a filmmaker who is a wife and mother to make the horror and devastation of armed conflict real like no other previous documentary on the Syrian civil war. As an Aleppo university student in 2012, Waad Al-Khateab begins shooting a video diary. Over the course of four years, she marries a med student, gives birth to two children, lives amid rubble and death, and unflinchingly records their life, steeped in images of human suffering and grief. In Arabic and English with English subtitles. DCP digital. (BS)

August 23—29

Fri., 8/23 at 2 pm and 6:15 pm;
Sat., 8/24 at 5:30 pm;
Sun., 8/25 at 3 pm;
Mon., 8/26 at 8:15 pm;
Tue., 8/27 at 6 pm;
Wed., 8/28 at 8:15 pm;
Thu., 8/29 at 6 pm

THREADS



NEW RESTORATION!

1984, Mick Jackson, UK, 117 min.
With Karen Meagher, Reece Dinsdale

**Friday, August 23, 4:00 pm
Saturday, August 24, 3:00 pm
Monday, August 26, 6:00 pm**

"Dark masterpiece...The only film I have been really and truly scared and indeed horrified by."—Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*

First broadcast on BBC-TV, THREADS remains unsurpassed as an unnervingly convincing representation of nuclear devastation. Set in the industrial city of Sheffield, it begins with a back-seat seduction leading to pregnancy and marriage for young couple Jimmy (Dinsdale) and Ruth (Meagher). The latter's experiences provide a recurring reference point as an American/Soviet face-off over Iran leads to war, nuclear strikes leave millions dead, and the threads that hold civilization together quickly unravel. New 2K DCP digital restoration. (MR)

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PANORAMA LATINX

PANORAMA LATINX is an initiative of the Gene Siskel Film Center dedicated to year-round Latin American film programming. We engage the dynamic Latinx community of greater Chicago through showcasing the work of emerging and established Latinx filmmakers, educational screenings, and community partnerships.

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Ticket prices:
\$12 General Admission;
\$7 Students;
\$6 Members.
Unless otherwise noted.

NEW RESTORATION!

OLIVIA

(aka *THE PIT OF LONELINESS*)
1951, Jacqueline Audry, France, 96 min.
With Edwige Feuillère, Simone Simon

"A landmark of lesbian representation."
—Judith Mayne, *Framed: Lesbians, Feminists, and Media Culture*

This pioneer gay classic begins with teenager Olivia (Marie-Claire Olivia) arriving at a girls finishing school. The place is a hothouse of schoolgirl (and schoolmarm) crushes, many of them centered on the serenely beautiful headmistress Mlle. Julie (Feuillère). Olivia falls hard for Mlle. Julie, and one senses that the older woman would dearly like to reciprocate. Director Audry handles the then-daring material with breezy delicacy and a refreshing lack of shame-shaded heaviness. In French with English subtitles. New 2K DCP digital restoration. (MR)



August 16—21
Fri., 8/16 at 4 pm;
Sat., 8/17 at 3:15 pm;
Mon., 8/19 at 6 pm;
Wed., 8/21 at 6 pm