



# #MFAHatHome Virtual Cinema May 2021

## OPENS MAY 7

Documentary

### BILL TRAYLOR: CHASING GHOSTS

Directed by Jeffrey Wolf  
(USA, 2020, 75 min.)

American artist Bill Traylor (1853–1949), born on a cotton plantation in Alabama, started to draw and paint in his 80s. He devised his own visual language that was powerful and culturally rooted. With surprising use of tap dance and evocative period music, this documentary balances archival photographs and footage, insightful perspectives from the artist's descendants, and Traylor's striking work to celebrate the spirit of his incomparable art.



## ONE NIGHT ONLY: MAY 10

Livestream Event

### SILENT MOVIE COMEDY NIGHT WITH BEN MODEL: HOT WATER STARRING HAROLD LLOYD

Free special presentation  
Livestream at 6:30 p.m.

Following his popular show in January, silent-film accompanist Ben Model returns! This exclusive livestream event features his delightful piano accompaniment to a silent comedy classic starring Harold Lloyd, *Hot Water* (1924). Model opens the night with engaging insights about the bespectacled silent clown and the movie, an underappreciated and truly hilarious must-see.



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Check out the Museum's virtual cinema lineup for May: Silent Movie Comedy Night with live accompaniment, dramas from KINO! Germany NOW!, and more exciting film options to watch from home.

Visit [mfah.org/virtualcinema](https://mfah.org/virtualcinema) to purchase tickets to view the following films. A portion of the admission price supports MFAH Films.

## KINO! GERMANY NOW! MAY 14–23

The Museum joins Goethe Pop Up Houston and Houston Cinema Arts Society on this series of four recent dramas focusing on the films' protagonists' struggles to assimilate into contemporary Germany.

*KINO! Germany NOW! 2021 Discover New Talent* is presented by the German Film Office, an initiative of the Goethe-Institut and German Films.

Special thanks to our promotional partner Houston Cinema Arts Society.

### EXILE (EXIL)

Directed by Visar Morina  
(Germany/Belgium/Kosovo, 2020, 121 min., in German and Albanian with English subtitles)

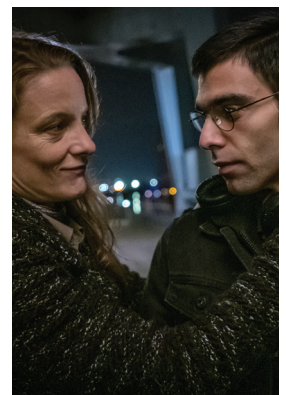
In this relentlessly taut drama, a chemical engineer from Kosovo increasingly feels he is being bullied at his German pharmaceutical job, straining his relationship with his wife (Sandra Hüller) and plunging him into an identity crisis. The intense filmmaking style has drawn comparisons to Michael Haneke.



### I WAS I AM I WILL BE (ES GILT DAS GESPROCHENE WORT)

Directed by Ilker Çatak  
(Germany/France, 2019, 120 min., in German, English, Turkish, and French with English subtitles)

Airline pilot Marion (Anne Ratte-Polle from German TV's *Dark*) meets Baran, a Kurdish ex-soldier turned gigolo, at a Turkish tourist resort. Viewers then learn the couple's history, which becomes a touching love story that challenges stereotypes about having the courage to face risks and accept challenges.



## OPENS MAY 19

Drama

**NINA WU**

Directed by Midi Z  
(Taiwan/Malaysia/Myanmar, 2019, 103 min., in Mandarin with English subtitles)

After toiling for years in bit parts, actress Nina Wu (Ke-Xi Wu, who also cowrote the script based on her own experiences) finally gets her big break: a leading role in a spy thriller. On the brink of professional triumph, Nina's psychological resolve begins to crack under the pressure, and she suspects that a mysterious woman is stalking her.



## OPENS MAY 28

Monthly Classic

**CENTER STAGE**

Directed by Stanley Kwan  
(Hong Kong, 1991, 154 min., in Mandarin and Cantonese with English subtitles)

International superstar Maggie Cheung (*In the Mood for Love*) embodies tragic screen siren Ruan Lingyu (1910–1935), known as the “Greta Garbo of China,” in this unconventional biopic by Hong Kong New Wave master Stanley Kwan (*Rouge*).



## OPENS MAY 21

Drama

**THERE IS NO EVIL****(SHEYTAN VOJUD NADARAD)**

Directed by Mohammad Rasoulof  
(Germany/Iran/Czech Republic, 2020, 151 min., in Farsi and German with English subtitles)

The winner of the Golden Bear at the 2020 Berlin International Film Festival, Iranian filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof's profoundly pragmatic film takes on the issue of capital punishment through four powerful vignettes dramatizing the social, psychological, and emotional toll of taking a human life.



Comedy/Drama

**THE COUNTY (HÉRADÍÐ)**

Directed by Grímur Hákonarson  
(Iceland/Denmark/Germany/France, 2019, 92 min., in Icelandic with English subtitles)

*Variety* calls the new film from the director of *Rams* “(an) audience-pleasing, humanist drama . . . full of feisty female energy and imagery, and sprinkled with rousing ‘you go girl!’ comic moments.” Inga (Arndís Hrönn Egilsdóttir), a middle-aged Icelandic dairy farmer challenges the powerful local cooperative, encouraging other farmers to join her to fight its corruption. Encountering resistance, Inga is forced to confront the community's dependence on an exploitative system and use her resourcefulness to break free of the co-op's grasp.

**ABOUT VIRTUAL CINEMA**

While the Brown Auditorium Theater is currently closed for films and lectures, the Museum is offering a virtual cinema series. Films are available online through ticketed streaming platforms. Please visit [mfah.org/virtualcinema](https://mfah.org/virtualcinema) and follow the instructions to find the page for the movie you'd like to watch. Ticket prices vary, and a portion of your ticket supports the film department.

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