MFAH Films features award-winning films, curated for discerning audiences. The Lynn Wyatt Theater debuts in December with screenings in the elegant new space. Other highlights this month: the Korean Film Days festival, films inspired by the exhibition Afro-Atlantic Histories, and three acclaimed new releases from Japan.

Please note theater location: Brown Auditorium Theater ® or Lynn Wyatt Theater ®.

AFRO-ATLANTIC HISTORIES: BRAZILIAN CINEMA SPOTLIGHT

This film series is inspired by the exhibition Afro-Atlantic Histories, on view at the Museum through January 17, 2022. Additional films screen in January.

Presented in conjunction with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston’s exhibition Afro-Atlantic Histories, this film series has been generously underwritten by the Consulate General of Brazil.

DOUTOR GAMA
Directed by Jefferon De (Digital, Brazil, 2021, 80 min., in Portuguese with English subtitles) Thursday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.
This dramatic historical biopic chronicles the life of Luiz Gama (1820–1882), a formerly enslaved man who became a journalist, poet, judge, and an important abolitionist in Brazilian history.

BLACK ORPHEUS (ORFEU NEGRO) Directed by Marcel Camus (35mm, Brazil/France/Italy, 1959, 100 min., in Portuguese with English subtitles) Friday–Saturday, December 17–18, 7:00 p.m.
One of the best-known Brazilian films internationally, Black Orpheus brings the ancient Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice to the exuberance of Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, featuring a memorable soundtrack by Brazilian composers Luiz Bonfá and Antônio Carlos Jobim.

RESTORATIONS & REVIVALS

LAURA
Directed by Otto Preminger (35mm, USA, 1944, 88 min.)
Saturday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 5, 5:00 p.m.
A wealthy journalist (Clifton Webb) becomes entranced with a beautiful career woman, Laura (Gene Tierney). Shortly before her wedding to a dashing playboy (Vincent Price), she is found murdered. The detective (Dana Andrews) assigned to her case finds himself falling under Laura’s spell. This thriller takes twists and turns with unexpected revelations.

REAR WINDOW
Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (35mm, USA, 1954, 112 min.)
Saturday–Sunday, December 18–19, 2:00 p.m.
In this Hitchcock classic, a wheelchair-bound photographer (Jimmy Stewart) spies on neighbors from his apartment window. He becomes convinced one of them (Raymond Burr) has committed murder, despite the skepticism of his fashion-model girlfriend (Grace Kelly). The cast includes Thelma Ritter in one of her most memorable roles.

Please note theater location: Brown Auditorium Theater ® or Lynn Wyatt Theater ®.

KOREAN FILM DAYS

December 10–12

This popular festival resumes in-person screenings, spotlighting recent arthouse and genre selections from Korea’s robust film industry. An Oscar winner, the latest from prolific filmmaker Hong Sang-soo, and Korea’s Academy Award submission for Best International Feature will screen. Visit mfah.org/film for film descriptions. All films in Korean with English subtitles, unless noted.

Festival admission is $10. MFAH members, seniors (65+), and students receive $2 discount.

Generous support has been provided by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Houston.

Clockwise from top left: Minari, Escape from Mogadishu (Mogadosyu), Introduction, Aloners.
NEW JAPANESE CINEMA

WHEEL OF FORTUNE & FANTASY
(GÛZEN TO SÔZÔ)
Directed by Ryûsuke Hamaguchi
(Digital, Japan, 2021, 121 min., in Japanese with English subtitles)
Sunday, December 19, 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 23, 2:00 p.m.
Told in three movements—an unexpected love triangle, a failed seduction trap, and a misunderstanding that leads to an encounter—this drama depicts three female characters and traces the trajectories between their choices and regrets.

DRIVE MY CAR
Directed by Ryûsuke Hamaguchi
(Japan, 2021, 179 min., in Japanese with English subtitles)
Sundays, December 26 & January 2, 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 30, 2:00 p.m.
Based on a short story by Haruki Murakami, the story centers on a happily married stage actor whose playwright wife mysteriously disappears. This haunting road movie travels a path of love, loss, acceptance, and peace. Winner of three awards at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival.

LABYRINTH OF CINEMA
Directed by Nobuhiko Ôbayashi
(Digital, Japan, 2019, 179 min., in Japanese with English subtitles)
Friday, December 31, 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 1, 3:00 p.m.
A Japanese cinema sets an all-night war-movie marathon before closing its doors for good. When lightning strikes, three young men from the audience are propelled into the action on screen. This epic time-traveling fantasy with a pacifist message was the final masterpiece from the director of the cult favorite House (Hausu).

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

KID FLICKS FROM THE NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S FILM FESTIVAL
Various directors
(Various countries, 2019–2020, 68 min.)
Thursdays, December 23 & 30, 11:30 a.m.
Free admission
Jump start your little ones’ love of cinema with Kid Flicks, curated to charm all ages and especially introduce our youngest viewers, ages 3+, to their first big-screen experiences.

BRITISH ARROWS
Various directors
(UK, 2021, 75 min.)
Thursdays, December 23 & 30, 6:00 p.m.
Enjoy the return of this perennially popular compilation of British advertising! This year’s program includes award winners from 2020 and highlights from the added “Made in Lockdown” category.

ADMISSION
The MFAH is located at the 1001 Bissonnet between Main and Montrose. Please check the location for your movie! Films are screened in Brown Auditorium Theater or in the Caroline Wiess Law Building (1001 Bissonnet) or the Lynn Wyatt Theater in the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building (5500 Main Street).

Films are screened in Brown Auditorium Theater inside the Caroline Wiess Law Building. Film admission is $9; Museum members, students with ID, and seniors (65+) receive $2 discount. Tickets available online at mfah.org/film, in the Beck and Kinder building lobbies during business hours, or at the auditorium box office prior to show time. Film information: 713-639-7515.

Masks are required to be worn during films and programs inside MFAH auditoriums. Films and programs in the auditoriums are operating at reduced capacities. A risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public setting. In the interest of your personal safety and community health, please observe all the precautions set forth by the Museum. Go to mfah.org for more visit details. Doors open 30 minutes before start. No late entry.