



MFAH *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*
1001 Bissonnet Street
Houston, Texas 77005

MFAH STAFF

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The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
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Tracy Stephenson, *Coordinator and Assistant*
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Projectionists

RECORDED FILM INFORMATION LINE
713-639-7515

MFAH CALL CENTER
713-639-7771

Go to mfah.org/film for updated schedules
and additional details.



fb.com/mfahfilms



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Brown Auditorium Theater (B) Lynn Wyatt Theater (W)

WELCOME

Happy 2022 to everyone! It is a pleasure to resume the Museum's film calendar with this issue.

Back in September, we returned to in-person films in Brown Auditorium Theater, with health and safety protocols in place. We were grateful to welcome audiences throughout the fall, and thrilled to open the elegant Lynn Wyatt Theater in December. The Museum now has two incredible venues that are equipped for 35mm film and state-of-the-art digital projection. It is a privilege to share our winter schedule with you.

Our new releases include award-winning features and documentaries from Brazil, India, Japan, and Nigeria. The 29th edition of our **Festival of Films from Iran** will be at the MFAH as well as at Rice Cinema and the Asia Society Texas Center. In February we salute the iconoclastic Melvin Van Peebles, and also present the local theatrical premiere of the new documentary *Truly Texas Mexican*, executive-produced by chef/author/filmmaker Adán Medrano. In addition, the Oscar Nominated Shorts program returns for a long run, beginning in late February.

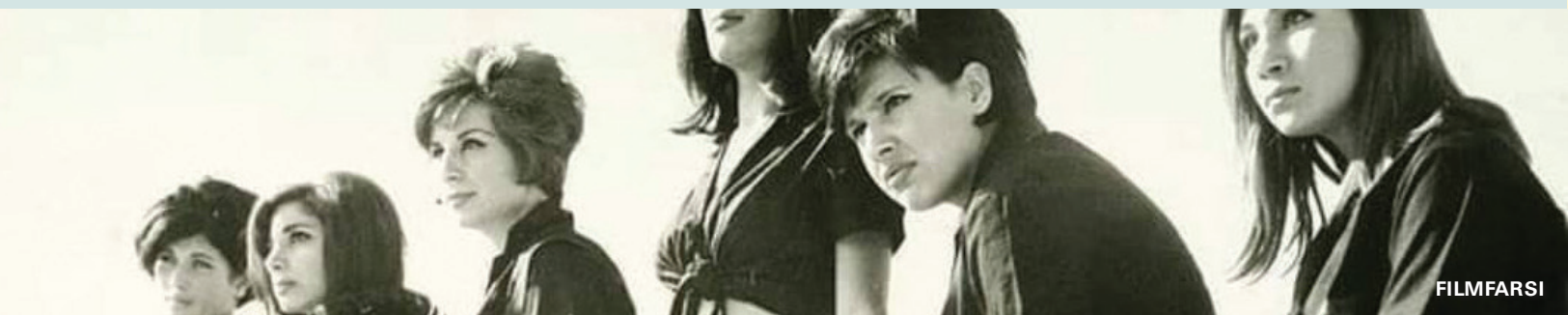
We are alternating between the Brown **B** and the Wyatt **W**, so please note the location before coming. I encourage you to take advantage of the expanded parking options in our three garages.

As a reminder, a membership in Film Buffs is the most affordable way to see our films and support the department. I send a special thanks to our loyal members. Information about joining can be found on the website: mfah.org/filmbuffs.

The arthouse film world to which we belong continues to reinvent itself, but there's no doubt the experience of watching films together on the big screen, in a darkened theater, is unique and memorable. We look forward to seeing you soon!



Marian Luntz
Curator, Film and Video



NOW PLAYING

On the cover: *Labyrinth of Cinema*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please check the location for your movie!

Films are screened in Brown Auditorium Theater **B** in the Caroline Wiess Law Building (1001 Bissonnet) or the Lynn Wyatt Theater **W** in the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building (5500 Main Street).

For Brown Auditorium Theater, please enter the Caroline Wiess Law Building from Main Street (see map on back cover). Refreshments are not permitted in the theaters. Audience members are kindly requested to silence all electronic devices once the film begins. Many films are unrated and may not be appropriate for younger viewers. Call 713-639-7531 with questions.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Visit mfah.org/visit/parking for all parking options. Masks are required to be worn

during films and programs inside Museum auditoriums. Advance tickets are recommended. Doors open 30 minutes before the screening starts. No late entry. If you have questions about accessibility resources in the Museum's auditoriums, please email accessibility@mfah.org or call 713-639-7300.

ADMISSION

Except where otherwise indicated, general admission is \$9. *Museum members, students with ID, and seniors (65+) receive a \$2 discount.* No other discounts apply. Children 5 and under are admitted free—please check suitability of films for younger viewers.

Purchase tickets in advance at mfah.org/film, at membership desks in the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building or Audrey Jones Beck Building during Museum hours, or at the theater box office prior to show time. Credit cards and cash are accepted in person.

FILM BUFFS

Film Buffs is the Museum's membership group for movie lovers. Call 713-639-7550 or visit

mfah.org/filmbuffs for more information. Dues start at \$85 and benefits include discounted admission to MFAH Films, discounted garage parking, and free passes to sneak preview screenings of new films! Museum members are eligible for a discount on the annual dues.

SUPPORT

Underwriting for the Film Department is provided by Tenaris and the Vaughn Foundation.

Generous funding is provided by Nina and Michael Zilkha; The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea; Consulate General of Italy in Houston; Franci Neely; Italian Cultural Institute in Los Angeles; Carrin Patman and Jim Derrick; Consulate General of Brazil in Houston; Lois Chiles Foundation; ILEX Foundation; and L'Alliance Française de Houston.

Official media partner:

Houston Public Media
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JANUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MFA FILMS Pictured: <i>Hit the Road</i>	Please note the location of each film: Brown Auditorium Theater ® Lynn Wyatt Theatre ®					1 New Japanese Cinema Labyrinth of Cinema ® 3:00 p.m.
2 New Japanese Cinema Drive My Car ® 2:00 p.m.	3	4	5	6	7 Restorations & Revivals Corn's A-Poppin' ® 7:00 p.m.	8 Afro-Atlantic Histories: Brazilian Cinema Spotlight Rio, 40 Degrees ® 7:00 p.m.
9 Afro-Atlantic Histories: Brazilian Cinema Spotlight Chico Rei Entre Nós ® 2:00 p.m.	10	11	12	13	14 New Releases Eyimofe (This Is My Desire) ® 7:00 p.m.	15 New Releases Eyimofe (This Is My Desire) ® 7:00 p.m.
16 New Releases Eyimofe (This Is My Desire) ® 5:00 p.m.	17	18	19	20	21 Festival of Films from Iran Hit the Road ® 7:00 p.m.	22 Festival of Films from Iran No Choice ® 4:30 p.m. Chess of the Wind ® 7:00 p.m.
23 Festival of Films from Iran Filmfarsi ® 5:00 p.m. Festival of Films from Iran Hit the Road ® 5:00 p.m.	24 30	25 31	26	27	28 New Releases Writing with Fire ® 7:00 p.m.	29 New Releases Writing with Fire ® 7:00 p.m.

Film Information Line: 713-639-7515. Visit mfah.org/film for program changes and more detailed film descriptions.

FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Please note the location of each film: Brown Auditorium Theater ® Lynn Wyatt Theatre ®		1	2	3	4 Restorations & Revivals Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song ® 7:00 p.m.	5 Restorations & Revivals The Story of a Three-Day Pass ® 2:00 p.m.
6 Restorations & Revivals The Story of a Three-Day Pass ® 2:00 p.m. Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song ® 5:00 p.m.	7	8	9	10	11 TBA	12 TBA
13 TBA	14	15	16	17	18 TBA	19 New Releases Truly Texas Mexican ® 7:00 p.m.
20 New Releases Truly Texas Mexican ® 2:00 p.m.	21	22	23	24	25 Oscar Nominated Shorts Animation ® 7:00 p.m.	26 Oscar Nominated Shorts Live Action ® 7:00 p.m.
27 Oscar Nominated Shorts Documentary ® 2:00 p.m.	28					MFA FILMS Pictured: <i>Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song</i>

Film Information Line: 713-639-7515. Visit mfah.org/film for program changes and more detailed film descriptions.

FILM INFORMATION

The screening schedule is subject to change. Please follow MFAH Films on social media. All films are presented in their original languages with English subtitles, except where noted.

Information line: 713-639-7515
Museum Call Center: 713-639-7771
Updates: mfah.org/film
Like us on Facebook: fb.com/MFAHfilms
Follow us on Twitter: [@mfahfilms](https://twitter.com/mfahfilms)

Please note the location of each film:
Brown Auditorium Theater ⓘ
Lynn Wyatt Theater ⓘ

NEW JAPANESE CINEMA



LABYRINTH OF CINEMA

Directed by Nobuhiko Ôbayashi
(Japan, 2019, 179 min., in Japanese with English subtitles, digital)
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 is the final masterpiece from the late director of cult favorite *House (Hausu)*.



DRIVE MY CAR

Directed by Ryûsuke Hamaguchi
(Japan, 2021, 179 min., in Japanese with English subtitles, digital)
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 plot 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.

RESTORATIONS & REVIVALS



CORN'S-A-POPPIN'

Directed by Robert Woodburn
(USA, 1955, 58 min., 35mm)
Friday, January 7, 7:00 p.m.

This quirky featurette was made by independent filmmakers in Kansas City (including a screenplay by Robert Altman). Marketed as a family-friendly musical comedy, it evokes 1950s Midwest Americana. The entertaining story follows a range of characters, interspersed with musical numbers from performers like western swing band Hobie Shepp and the Cowtown Wranglers. *Corn's-A-Poppin'* also serves as an unofficial tribute to Charles T. Manley, who promoted the electric popper that led to a concessions empire. Preceded by a reel of popcorn advertisements!

Preserved by the Chicago Film Society with funding from the National Film Preservation Foundation.



SWEET SWEETBACK'S BAADASSSSS SONG

Directed by Melvin Van Peebles
(USA, 1971, 97 min., digital restoration)
**Friday, February 4, 7:00 p.m.*
Sunday, February 6, 2:00 p.m.

****Introduced by John Guess Jr., CEO, Houston Museum of African American Culture***

Multihyphenate creative revolutionary Melvin Van Peebles (1932–2021) jolted American independent cinema to new life with his explosive stylistic energy and unfiltered expression of Black consciousness. With this film—a landmark of American independent cinema—Van Peebles, acting as producer, director, writer, composer, editor, and star, created the prototype for what Hollywood would eventually co-opt and turn into the blaxploitation hero.



THE STORY OF A THREE-DAY PASS

Directed by Melvin Van Peebles
(France, 1967, 87 min., digital restoration)
Saturday, February 5, 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 6, 5:00 p.m.

Unable to break into a segregated Hollywood, Van Peebles traveled to France and wrote books in French, one of which, *La permission*, became his innovative feature debut. An African American soldier (Harry Baird) stationed in France is granted a three-day leave by his casually racist commanding officer. He finds whirlwind romance with a white woman (Nicole Berger), and the film becomes an exploration of an interracial relationship and a commentary on France's contradictory attitudes about race.

AFRO-ATLANTIC HISTORIES: BRAZILIAN CINEMA SPOTLIGHT

This film series complements the exhibition *Afro-Atlantic Histories*, on view at the Museum through January 17, 2022. Films are in Portuguese with English subtitles.

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



RIO, 40 DEGREES (RIO, 40 GRAUS)

Directed by Nelson Pereira dos Santos
(Brazil, 1955, 100 min., digital restoration)
Saturday, January 8, 7:00 p.m.

This landmark film ushered in the wave of *Cinema Novo* in Brazil. The debut feature by the influential Nelson Pereira dos Santos follows five peanut vendors from Rio de Janeiro's *favelas*, weaving together their stories as they sell their wares over one hot Sunday. Noted for using professional and nonprofessional actors, with a vibrant musical Afro-Brazilian soundtrack, it was groundbreaking for its consideration of race, poverty, and class.



CHICO REI ENTRE NÓS

Directed by Joyce Prado
(Brazil, 2020, 95 min., digital)
Sunday, January 9, 2:00 p.m.

Virtual post-film discussion with director Joyce Prado

Chico Rei was an enslaved Congolese king who was sold and arrived in Brazil in the 18th century. He famously freed himself and his subjects while working in the Minas Gerais gold mines. His legend is the starting point for this award-winning documentary exploring the concerns of contemporary Afro-Brazilians, and how the legacy of Chico Rei motivates their ongoing activism for social justice.

NEW RELEASES



EYIMOFÉ (THIS IS MY DESIRE)

Directed by Arie Esiri and Chuko Esiri
(Nigeria, 2020, 116 min., 35mm)
Friday–Saturday, January 14–15, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 16, 5:00 p.m.

The acclaimed debut feature from twin brothers Arie and Chuko Esiri is a heartrending and hopeful portrait of everyday human endurance in Lagos, Nigeria. *Eyimofé (This Is My Desire)* traces the journeys of an electrician (Jude Akuwudike) dealing with the fallout of a family tragedy, and a hairdresser (Temi Ami-Williams) supporting her pregnant sister—as they pursue their dreams of starting new lives in Europe. From these intimate stories emerges a vivid snapshot of life in Lagos, captured in all its vibrancy and complexity.



WRITING WITH FIRE

Directed by Sushmit Ghosh and Rintu Thomas (India, 2021, 92 min., in Hindi with English subtitles, digital) **B**
Friday–Saturday, January 28–29, 7:00 p.m.

Khabar Lahariya is a unique, women-only news collective located in rural northern India. Winner of 23 international awards, *Writing with Fire* follows the Dalit investigative journalists as they transition from print to digital, filming stories on mobile phones and using their YouTube channel as a platform. Chief reporter Meera and her colleagues don't shy away from India's biggest issues; despite entrenched gender bias and frequent threats, they persist, seeking truth and justice through their reporting.



TRULY TEXAS MEXICAN

Directed by Aníbal Capoano (Mexico, 2021, 84 min., in English and Spanish with English subtitles, digital) **W**
Saturday, February 19, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 20, 2:00 p.m.
Q&A with members of the filmmaking team follows each screening

Over time and during conquest, *comida casera* (home cooking of Texas Mexican families) sustained Indigenous identity and memory. Cooking deer, cactus, and tortillas, women led the cultural resistance against colonization. Author/chef Adán Medrano weaves through Texas cities, meeting chefs and eating their amazing meals. He joins experts to discuss the racism that affected the telling of Native American culinary traditions. The film celebrates a new type of encounter, one with a table where all are welcome.

FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN

The 29th edition of the Houston **Festival of Films from Iran** takes place in person January 21–February 5 at the MFAH, Asia Society Texas Center, and Rice Cinema. Selections allow viewers to discover emerging talent, catch up on new films by well-known directors, and explore Iran's cinematic history. All films are made in Iran and presented in Farsi (Persian) with English subtitles.

Film festival ticket prices apply: General admission is \$10. *Museum members, students with ID, and seniors (65+) receive \$2 discount.*

Generous support has been provided by the ILEX Foundation.



HIT THE ROAD

Directed by Panah Panahi (2021, 93 min., digital) **B**
Friday, January 21, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 30, 5:00 p.m.

Panah Panahi, son and collaborator of Iranian master Jafar Panahi, makes a striking feature debut with this charming, sharp-witted, and deeply moving comic drama. *Hit the Road* follows a family of four as they drive across the Iranian countryside. They bond over memories, grapple with the unknown, and fuss over their sick dog. The result is a humanist drama that offers an authentic, raw, and at times funny observation of a family preparing to part with one of their own.



NO CHOICE (MAJBOORIM)

Directed by Reza Dormishian (2020, 106 min., digital) **B**
Saturday, January 22, 4:30 p.m.

A contemporary legal thriller about three women—a homeless girl, a human-rights lawyer, and a gynecologist—whose lives intersect in Tehran. When it is revealed that the doctor performed an unscheduled operation on the girl following a miscarriage, the attorney comes to the girl's defense, building a case against the doctor. *Variety* critic Deborah Young observes that “the moral compass swings back and forth between the lawyer and the doctor . . . it's up to the viewer to decide who's right.”



CHESS OF THE WIND (SHATRANJ-E BAAD)

Directed by Mohammad Reza Aslani (1976, 93 min., digital restoration) **B**
Saturday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

Banned and then lost for decades, this rediscovered jewel of Iranian cinema takes its place as one of the most astonishing works of the country's pre-revolution New Wave. A hypnotically stylized murder mystery awash in period atmosphere, the film unfolds in a candlelit mansion where a web of greed, violence, and betrayal ensnares the heirs to a family fortune as they vie for control of their matriarch's estate. An exquisitely controlled mood piece erupts in a subversive final act.

Restored by The Film Foundation's World Cinema Project and Cineteca di Bologna at L'image retrouvée laboratory (Paris) in collaboration with Mohammad Reza Aslani and Gita Aslani Shahrestani. Restoration funding provided by the Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation.



FILMFARSI

Directed by Ehsan Khoshbakht (Iran/UK, 2019, 84 min., digital) **B**
Sunday, January 23, 5:00 p.m.

Sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll—Iranian style! A personal journey through the history of Iranian popular cinema before the revolution and the world of *filmfarsi*, a term referring to the rowdy, melodramatic genre films from the early 1950s to 1979. Featuring clips from 100+ films, this fascinating archaeology uncovers a cinema of titillation, action, and big emotions as Iran struggled to reconcile its religious traditions with the turbulence of modernity and the influences of the West.

OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS



View the 15 nominated short films in the categories of Animation, Live Action, and Documentaries from this year's Academy Awards, and see if your favorite wins when the Oscars are presented on March 27! All screenings are in Brown Auditorium Theater and continue in March. Visit mfah.org/film for the complete list of nominated short films following the nominations' announcement on February 8. Multiple screenings continue in March!

Friday, February 25, 7:00 p.m.—Animation **B**
Saturday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.—Live Action **B**
Sunday, February 27, 2:00 p.m.—Documentary **B**

ACCESSIBILITY

The Museum's theaters offer accessible seating and assistive listening devices. If you have any questions about the Museum's accessibility resources and programs, email accessibility@mfah.org or call 713-639-7300.

TO BE ANNOUNCED . . .

More films to be confirmed! If you note TBA on the calendar, please check the website to discover that night's movie!

Special thanks to our community partners Houston Cinema Arts Society; Houston Latino Film Festival; Houston Museum of African American Culture; Iranian Cultural Foundation-Houston; Nigerian American Multicultural Council of Houston; and Society of Iranian American Women for Education



Give the gift of cinema to the movie lover in your life! Film Buffs memberships begin at \$85 and include 10 free admissions to MFAH Films. Visit mfah.org/filmbuffs or call 713-639-7550 for details.