



MFAH FILMS

JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2023

MFAH *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*
P. O. Box 6826
Houston, Texas 77265-6826

MFAH STAFF

Gary Tinterow, *Director*,
The Margaret Alkek Williams Chair
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Marian Luntz, *Curator, Film*
Tracy Stephenson, *Coordinator and Assistant*
Programmer, Film
Ray Gomez, *Assistant for Community Outreach*
and Administration
Trey Ferguson, Kirston Otis, Tish Stringer, and
Joel Parker, *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.



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Brown Auditorium Theater **B**
5618 Main Street

Lynn Wyatt Theater **W**
5500 Main Street

WELCOME

Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy 2023! January brings two buzzy new releases to the Lynn Wyatt Theater. Tilda Swinton is featured in a dual role for *The Eternal Daughter*, an exquisite ghost story set on a Scottish estate. Directed by celebrated British artist/filmmaker Joanna Hogg, the cast also includes a memorable dog performance by Swinton's spaniel, Louis.

EO, Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski's inventive film, follows the travels of a nomadic donkey (with a nod to Robert Bresson's *Au hasard Balthazar*). The film is marked by absurdity and warmth in equal measure, all the while observing the follies and triumphs of humankind.

The 30th edition of the Houston **Festival of Films from Iran**, the Museum's longest-running festival, takes place at the Museum in Brown Auditorium Theater, as well as at the cofounding venue, Rice Cinema, and Asia Society Texas Center January 21–February 4. We open the festival with a special guest, actress Shohreh Aghdashloo. She is scheduled to join us to introduce her 1976 feature film debut, the atmospheric *Chess of the Wind*. Banned for years and recently restored, this film is considered one of Iran's most singular works of the prerevolutionary New Wave. Also in the festival lineup are Cannes winner *Holy Spider*, a true crime story, and *No Bears*, the latest film by Jafar Panahi, who manages to continue making films despite government sanctions.

Through the Lens of African American Women is a weekend film series in the Wyatt Theater opening in February. Programmed by Autumn Johnson, our summer 2022 intern and newly minted University of Houston grad, the series includes a selection of films she previewed during her internship. She looks forward to sharing and discussing them with our audiences.

It's that time again: the **Oscar Nominated Short Films** return to Brown Auditorium Theater on February 17. Buy your tickets early for one of our most popular annual offerings!



Marian Luntz
Curator, Film and Video

Special guest: actress
Shohreh Aghdashloo
(*Chess of the Wind*)



P.S. Confirmed at press time: February 11–12 we will screen Chantal Akerman's *Jeanne Dielman, 23 quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles* on 35mm. This film was just named #1 on *Sight and Sound* magazine's poll of the Greatest Films of All Time. For details, visit mfah.org/film.

NOW PLAYING

On the cover: *Alma's Rainbow*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please check the location for your movie!
Films are screened in Brown Auditorium Theater in the Caroline Wiess Law Building (use the 5618 Main Street entrance, near the corner of Bissonnet and Main) or the Lynn Wyatt Theater in the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building (5500 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 recommended, but not required to be worn 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.



mfah.org/films



SUPPORT

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

Generous funding is provided by The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea; Nina and Michael Zilkha; Franci Neely; Carrin Patman and Jim Derrick; Ms. Laurence Unger; L'Alliance Française de Houston; and ILEX Foundation.

Official media partner:



Gordon Parks: Stokely Carmichael and Black Power is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in collaboration with the Gordon Parks Foundation.

Generous support for the exhibition and opening celebration provided by:

Anne Levy Charitable Trust/Jean Karotkin
Dr. Ruth Simmons
Drs. Jakeen and Garfield Johnson
Simin and Gaurdie Banister
Drs. Annette and Anthony Brissett/
Nicholas Stuart and Zsavon Butler

DIR Inc./Drs. Russell H. and Rosalind C. Jackson
Wendy and Mavis Kelsey/Fan and Peter Morris
Karen and Ramon Manning
Merinda Watkins-Martin and Reginald Martin

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Restorations & Revivals The Draughtsman's Contract B 2:00 p.m. New Releases The Eternal Daughter W 5:00 p.m.	2 <div>Please note the location of each film: B Brown Auditorium Theater W Lynn Wyatt Theater</div>	3	4	5 Winter Break Family Flicks Kid Flicks 1 B 11:30 a.m. Kid Flicks 2 B 1:30 p.m. New Releases The Eternal Daughter W 7:00 p.m.	6 New Releases The Eternal Daughter W 7:00 p.m.	7 Restorations & Revivals The Conformist B 7:00 p.m.
8 Restorations & Revivals The Conformist B 2:00 p.m.	9	10	11	12 Restorations & Revivals Leadbelly B 7:00 p.m.	13 New Releases EO B 7:00 p.m.	14 New Releases EO B 7:00 p.m.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 30th Festival of Films from Iran Chess of the Wind B 7:00 p.m.
22 30th Festival of Films from Iran The Apple Day B 2:00 p.m. Holy Spider B 5:00 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27 30th Festival of Films from Iran No Bears B 7:00 p.m.	28 30th Festival of Films from Iran The Runner B 3:00 p.m. Holy Spider B 7:00 p.m.
29 30th Festival of Films from Iran Destiny B 2:00 p.m.	30	31				MFA H FILMS Pictured: <i>The Eternal Daughter</i>

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

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MFA H FILMS Pictured: <i>The African Desperate</i>	<div>Please note the location of each film: B Brown Auditorium Theater W Lynn Wyatt Theater</div>		1	2	3 Through the Lens of African American Women Alma's Rainbow W 7:00 p.m.	4 Through the Lens of African American Women The African Desperate W 3:00 p.m. The Watermelon Woman W 6:30 p.m.
5 Through the Lens of African American Women Compensation W 5:00 p.m.	6	7	8	9	10	11 Restorations & Revivals Jeanne Dielman, 23 quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles B 5:00 p.m.
12 Restorations & Revivals Jeanne Dielman, 23 quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles B 2:00 p.m.	13	14	15	16	17 Oscar Nominated Short Films Animation B 7:00 p.m.	18 Oscar Nominated Short Films Live Action B 7:00 p.m.
19 Oscar Nominated Short Films Documentary B 2:00 p.m.	20	21	22	23 Oscar Nominated Short Films Live Action B 6:00 p.m.	24 Oscar Nominated Short Films Animation B 7:00 p.m.	25 Movies Houstonians Love Dazed and Confused B 7:00 p.m.
26 Oscar Nominated Short Films Live Action B 5:00 p.m.	27	28				

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)
Follow us on Instagram: [@mfahouston](https://instagram.com/mfahouston)

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

WINTER BREAK FAMILY FLICKS



KID FLICKS

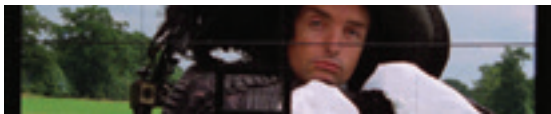
Various directors
(Various countries, 2022, in original languages with English subtitles, digital)
Free admission

KID FLICKS 1 (49 min.)
Thursdays, December 29 & January 5, 11:30 a.m. BROWN
Suitable for ages 5–10

KID FLICKS 2 (68 min.)
Thursdays, December 29 & January 5, 1:30 p.m. BROWN
Suitable for ages 8–13

Always a hit with the Museum's winter break visitors, this compilation features highlights from the New York International Children's Film Festival. Reflecting NYICFF's commitment to storytelling and diversity, both programs are designed to spark meaningful conversations.

RESTORATIONS & REVIVALS



THE DRAUGHTSMAN'S CONTRACT

Directed by Peter Greenaway
(UK, 1982, 108 min., in English, German, and Dutch with English subtitles, digital restoration)
Thursday–Friday, December 29–30, 6:00 p.m. BROWN
Sunday, January 1, 2:00 p.m. BROWN
40th-Anniversary Digital Restoration

Intricate wordplay, extravagant costumes, and opulent photography weave a labyrinthine mystery as an aristocratic wife commissions a young draughtsman to sketch her husband's estate while he is away—in exchange for a fee, room and board, and one sexual favor for each of the twelve drawings. As the artist becomes more entrenched in the devious scheming occurring in the country home, curious details emerge in his drawings that may reveal a murder.



THE CONFORMIST (*IL CONFORMISTA*)

Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci
(Italy, 1970, 111 min., in Italian with English subtitles, digital restoration)
Saturday, January 7, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
Sunday, January 8, 2:00 p.m. BROWN
New 4K digital restoration

Marcello Clerici (Jean-Louis Trintignant) is a member of the secret police in Mussolini's Fascist Italy. He and his new bride, Giulia (Stefania Sandrelli), travel to Paris for their honeymoon, where Marcello also plans to assassinate his former college professor Luca Quadri (Enzo Tarascio), an outspoken anti-Fascist living in exile. But when Marcello meets the professor's alluring young wife, Anna (Dominique Sanda), both his romantic and his political loyalties are tested. A commentary on fascism and beauty alike, Bernardo Bertolucci's masterpiece is acclaimed for its sumptuous visuals and extravagant, artful cinematography.



LEADBELLY

Directed by Gordon Parks
(USA, 1976, 126 min., 35mm)
Thursday, January 12, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
Presented by Flash Gordon Parks, ethnomusicologist

Complementing the exhibition *Gordon Parks: Stokely Carmichael and Black Power* (through January 16), Parks's riveting biopic explores the life of Huddie Ledbetter (1888–1949), the blues and folk singer known as Lead Belly. Featuring a standout lead performance by Roger E. Mosley, the film traces the musician's troubled life, his friendship with Blind Lemon Jefferson, and his brushes with the law in Louisiana and Texas. Parks revisits subjects he explored in earlier films, including the rural South, a true-life story, Black music, and the theme of survival.

NEW RELEASES



THE ETERNAL DAUGHTER

Directed by Joanna Hogg
(UK, 2022, 96 min., digital)
Sunday, January 1, 5:00 p.m. WYATT
Thursday–Friday, January 5–6, 7:00 p.m. WYATT

An artist and her elderly mother confront long-buried secrets when they return to a former family home, now a hotel haunted by its mysterious past. Featuring a towering, deeply moving performance by Tilda Swinton (in dual roles), acclaimed filmmaker Joanna Hogg's beguiling latest film is a brilliant and captivating exploration of parental relationships and the things we leave behind.



EO

Directed by Jerzy Skolimowski
(Poland/Italy, 2022, 86 min., in Polish, Italian, English, and French with English subtitles, digital)
Friday–Saturday, January 13–14, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

EO, a donkey with melancholic eyes and a curious spirit, begins life as a circus performer before escaping on a trek across the Polish and Italian countryside in a journey marked by absurdity and warmth. Legendary filmmaker Jerzy Skolimowski has made a free, visually inventive film, placing the viewer directly in the heart and mind of the four-legged protagonist. Winner of the Jury Prize and the Soundtrack Award at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival.

30TH FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN

The 30th edition of the Houston **Festival of Films from Iran** takes place January 21–29 at the Museum, with additional screenings at Asia Society Texas Center and Rice Cinema. This landmark edition includes a timely focus on the experiences of women in Iran, and a special guest appearance by the legendary actress Shohreh Aghdashloo, who appears with *Chess of the Wind*, her feature-film debut.

General admission is \$10. *Museum members, students with ID, and seniors (65+) receive \$2 discount.*

Generous support has been provided by the ILEX Foundation.

Special thanks to our community partners: Society of Iranian American Women for Education and Iranian Cultural Foundation-Houston.



CHESS OF THE WIND (*SHATRANJ-E BAAD*)

Directed by Mohammad Reza Aslani
(Iran, 1976, 93 min., in Persian with English subtitles, digital restoration)
Saturday, January 21, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
Presented by actress Shohreh Aghdashloo

Banned and then lost for decades, *Chess of the Wind* is one of the most singular works of Iran's prerevolution New Wave. The film unfolds in an ornate, candlelit mansion where a web of greed, violence, and betrayal consumes the heirs to a family fortune as they vie for control of their recently deceased matriarch's estate. Shohreh Aghdashloo made her feature debut as a sympathetic maidservant, and will discuss the film with the audience following the screening.

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.



THE APPLE DAY (*ROOZ-E SIB*)

Directed by Mahmoud Ghaffari
(Iran, 2022, 80 min., in Persian with English subtitles, digital)
Sunday, January 22, 2:00 p.m. BROWN

First-grader Mahdi's father is an apple seller in Tehran. Mahdi's schoolteacher asks each student to bring classmates objects beginning with each letter of the alphabet. Mahdi is assigned to bring 30 apples to school, but when his father's truck is stolen, the family is thrown into despair and circumstances require desperate measures. With almost documentary realism, the film succeeds in magically transforming such a particular story into one with universal symbolism.



HOLY SPIDER

Directed by Ali Abbasi
(Denmark/Germany/Sweden/France, 2022, 116 min., in Persian with English subtitles, digital)
Sunday, January 22, 5:00 p.m. BROWN
Saturday, January 28, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

Zar Amir-Ebrahimi won Best Actress at Cannes for her role as a journalist suffering the indignities of being a single, working woman in the holy city of Mashhad, where she arrives to investigate the serial killings of sex workers by the Spider Killer. While many in the city deem the murderer a hero for “cleaning the streets,” *Slant* explains “the film [based on real events] compellingly positions misogyny as an unending inherited nightmare, stretching far beyond the actions of one single man.”



NO BEARS (KHERS NIST)

Directed by Jafar Panahi
(Iran, 2022, 106 min., in Persian, Azerbaijani, and Turkish with English subtitles, digital)
Friday, January 27, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

Since 2009, Jafar Panahi has been making films about artistic, personal, and political freedom, working around stringent sanctions by the Iranian government. *No Bears* follows parallel love stories about two couples thwarted by traditional beliefs and society’s expectations. Panahi plays himself in the film, stationed in a village where he remotely directs a crew shooting a film just across the border in Turkey, and becomes involved in the drama.



THE RUNNER (DAVANDEH)

Directed by Amir Naderi
(Iran, 1984, 94 min., in Persian with English subtitles, digital restoration)
Saturday, January 28, 3:00 p.m. BROWN
Virtual Q&A with director Amir Naderi and actor Madjid Niroumand follows the film

Often lauded as the first movie to emerge from postrevolutionary Iran—and for having one of the best child performances of all time—Amir Naderi’s masterpiece is presented in a digital restoration. Amiro, an illiterate 11-year-old orphan living alone in an abandoned tanker in the Iranian port city of Abadan, survives by shining shoes, selling water, and diving for deposit bottles, while being bullied by both adults and competing older kids. But he finds solace by dreaming about departing cargo ships and airplanes, and by running.

DESTINY

Directed by Yaser Talebi
(Iran, 2022, 71 min., in Persian with English subtitles, digital)
Sunday, January 29, 2:00 p.m. BROWN

After the death of her mother, 18-year-old Sahar is left in charge of her poor, mentally challenged father in an isolated village in Iran. Sahar dreams of attending university and becoming a doctor, but extended family insist she play the role of caretaker unless her father remarries. This warm and intimate observational documentary captures a young woman caught between traditional gender roles and her desire for self-determination, volleyball, and Instagram.

THROUGH THE LENS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN

Autumn Johnson, a December 2022 graduate of the University of Houston who interned with the film department last summer, has guest-programmed a weekend of classic and contemporary films that consider the experiences of African American women. Johnson will introduce each screening.



ALMA’S RAINBOW

Directed by Ayoka Chenzira
(USA, 1994, 85 min., digital restoration)
Friday, February 3, 7:00 p.m. WYATT

Ayoka Chenzira’s feature film explores the life of teenager Rainbow Gold (Victoria Gabrielle Platt) who is entering womanhood and navigating standards of beauty, self-image, and the rights Black women have over their bodies. She lives with her straitlaced mother, Alma Gold (Kim Weston-Moran), who runs a hair salon in the parlor of their home. When Alma’s free-spirited sister Ruby (Mizan Kirby) arrives from Paris after a 10-year absence, the sisters clash over the direction of Rainbow’s life. *Alma’s Rainbow* highlights a multilayered, Black women’s world where the characters live, love, and wrestle with choices in life.

Restoration by the Academy Film Archive, Film Foundation, and Milestone Films. Restoration supervised by Mark Toscano. Funding provided by The Film Foundation and Hobson Lucas Family Foundation. Lab: Roundabout Entertainment and Audio Mechanics. With thanks to Vincent Pirozzi.

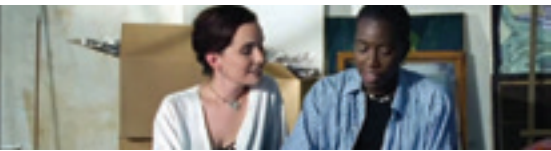
Preceded by *Hair Piece: A Film for Nappyheaded People* (directed by Ayoka Chenzira; USA, 1984, 10 min.)
A musical satire on a politically charged subject for African American women: hair.



THE AFRICAN DESPERATE

Directed by Martine Syms
(USA, 2022, 97 min., digital)
Saturday, February 4, 3:00 p.m. WYATT

Chaos reigns in the riotously funny debut feature from visual artist Martine Syms. With a breakthrough performance from Diamond Stingily, this fantastical day-in-the-life of a Black artist is a rollicking satire of art-world pretensions and a rowdy portrayal of sex and drugs in the Internet age. Journey with recent MFA grad Palace Bryant in her hazy, hilarious, and hallucinatory odyssey to get back home to Chicago from upstate New York, stumbling from academic critiques to backseat hookups.



THE WATERMELON WOMAN

Directed by Cheryl Dunye
(USA, 1996, 90 min., digital)
Saturday, February 4, 6:30 p.m. WYATT
Virtual Q&A with filmmaker follows the film

An investigation into film history that doubles as a romantic comedy, *The Watermelon Woman* is a dazzlingly inventive landmark of the New Queer Cinema and the first feature directed by Cheryl Dunye. A fledgling filmmaker, played by Dunye herself, sets out to make a documentary about Faith Richardson, a lost cinematic ancestor glimpsed in 1930s race films. Playfully switching between 16mm film and a grainy 90s videotape aesthetic, Dunye intertwines slices of everyday life with black-and-white archival bits about Richardson.



COMPENSATION

Directed by Zeinabu irene Davis
(USA, 1999, 95 min., digital)
Sunday, February 5, 5:00 p.m. WYATT

Zeinabu irene Davis’s (*Cycles; A Powerful Thang*) first feature presents parallel and unique African American love stories of a deaf woman and a hearing man living decades apart. Inspired by a poem written by African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, this moving narrative depicts their struggle to overcome racism, disability, and discrimination. Davis innovatively incorporates silent-film techniques to make the piece accessible to hearing and deaf viewers alike, embracing the vast world possibilities of language and communication.

OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS

View the 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 12! All screenings are in Brown Auditorium Theater. Visit mfah.org/film for the complete list of nominated short films following the nominations announcement on January 24, and for additional screenings.

ANIMATION BROWN

Friday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 4, 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 11, 12:00 noon

LIVE ACTION BROWN

Saturday, February 18, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 23, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 26, 5:00 p.m.
Friday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

DOCUMENTARY BROWN

Sunday, February 19, 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 2, 2:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 5, 5:00 p.m.

MOVIES HOUSTONIANS LOVE – SEASON 16



DAZED AND CONFUSED

Directed by Richard Linklater
(USA, 1993, 102 min., 35mm)
Saturday, February 25, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
Presented by Eric Berger, Space City Weather

It’s the last day of school in a Texas suburb. Bongs blaze, bell-bottoms ring, and rock and roll rocks. Among the best teen films ever made, Richard Linklater’s *Dazed and Confused* eavesdrops on a group of seniors-to-be and incoming freshmen. A launching pad for a number of future stars—notably Matthew McConaughey—Linklater’s first studio effort also features endlessly quotable dialogue and a blasting, stadium-ready soundtrack. —The Criterion Collection

Meteorologist Eric Berger has covered Houston weather for more than a decade, currently for Space City Weather. He is also the author of the book Liftoff: Elon Musk and the Desperate Early Days That Launched SpaceX (2021).

ACCESSIBILITY

The Museum’s theaters offer accessible seating and assisted listening devices when films feature closed captioning. If you have any questions about the Museum’s accessibility resources and programs, email accessibility@mfah.org or call 713-639-7300.