

MFA H 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 Albert Rodriguez, Administrative and Production Coordinator, Film Tish Stringer, Lead Projectionist Kirston Otis, Baird Campbell, Rob Arcos, and Joel Parker, Projectionists
- Ayla Davis, 2023-24 Camfield Fellow, Rice University

**RECORDED FILM INFORMATION LINE** 713-639-7515

**MFAH CALL CENTER** 713-639-7771

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



twitter.com/mfahfilms

fb.com/mfahfilms

instagram.com/mfahouston





Brown Auditorium Theater B Lynn Wyatt Theater W Use the 5500 Main Street entrance or the MFAH parking garages to access tunnels to both theaters.



# WELCOME

Happy New Year! Our **New Releases** slate showcases films that have been on the festival circuit in recent months. We have one more screening of Fred Wiseman's epic French foodie documentary, *Menus-Plaisirs – Les Troisgros*, as a Saturday matinee on January 6. The performative *Orlando, My Political Biography* uses Virginia Woolf's novel *Orlando* as the inspiration for testimonials about gender fluidity. *Monster*, from Japanese filmmaker Kore-eda Hirokazu (*Shoplifters; Broker*), is a mystery told from multiple perspectives, and features the final film score by the legendary Ryuichi Sakamoto, who died in March.

MFAH Films is collaborating with organizations from Houston's dynamic cultural community to premiere three new documentaries about iconic women. We are grateful to Nameless Sound, DACAMERA, the Houston Museum of African American Culture, and the fashion design and merchandising department at Houston Community College for joining us to celebrate the legacies of musicians Pauline Oliveros, Fanny Mendelssohn, and model/activist Bethann Hardison.

The **31st Festival of Films from Iran** opens with *A Revolution on Canvas*, an award-winning film about artist Nicky Nodjoumi codirected by his daughter Sara Nodjoumi and Till Schauder. Timely new films round out the festival's selections, with screenings at the MFAH, Asia Society Texas Center, and Rice Cinema.

Our colleague Autumn Johnson has programmed a new edition of her film series, **Through the Lens of Black Women: Beauty and Expectations**, following last year's success. Save the dates (February 2–4) for a weekend of films that will definitely inspire and challenge us. As always, please check mfah.org/film for updates on guest appearances, schedule changes, and parking tips. We send best wishes to all for a 2024 full of memorable cinematic experiences.

Marian Luntz Curator, Film and Video



**NOW PLAYING** On the cover: *The Persian Version* 

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Please check the location for your movie! Films are screened in Brown Auditorium Theater in the Caroline Wiess Law Building or the Lynn Wyatt Theater in the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building. Use the 5500 Main Street entrance or the MFAH parking garages to access tunnels to both theaters. See map on back cover. For after-hours films in Brown Auditorium Theater, filmgoers may use the Main Street entrance to the Law Building.

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, film tickets are \$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, The June Leaf and Robert Frank Foundation, and the Vaughn Foundation.

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

JANUARY 2024										
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
MFA <b>H FILMS</b> Pictured: Orlando, My Biography (Orlando, ma biographie politique)	1 Please note the locat Brown Auditorium Uynn Wyatt Theat	Theater	3	4 Winter Break Kid Flicks 1 11:30 a.m. Kid Flicks 2 1:00 p.m.	5 New Releases Orlando, My Political Biography (Orlando, ma biographie politique) 7:00 p.m.	6 New Releases Menus-Plaisirs – Les Troisgros (3) 2:00 p.m.				
7 New Releases Orlando, My Political Biography (Orlando, ma biographie politique) () 5:00 p.m.	8	9	10	11	12 New Releases Monster (Kaibutsu) () 7:00 p.m.	13 Movies Houstonians Love O Brother, Where Art Thou?				
14 New Releases Monster (Kaibutsu) 3 5:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18	19 Festival of Films from Iran A Revolution on Canvas () 7:00 p.m.	20 Festival of Films from Iran The Persian Version 3 7:00 p.m.				
21 Festival of Films from Iran Roxana () 5:00 p.m.	22		24	25	26 Festival of Films from Iran Terrestrial Verses (Ayeh haye zamini) () 7:00 p.m.	27 Festival of Films from Iran A Revolution on Canvas 5:00 p.m. Orca 7:30 p.m.				
28 New Releases Deep Listening: The Story of Pauline Oliveros 3 5:00 p.m.	29	30	31							

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MFA H FILMS Pictured: Fanny: The Other Mendelssohn	Please note the loca Brown Auditorium Lynn Wyatt Thea	n Theater			2 Through the Lens of Black Women: Beauty and Expectations Mountains () 7:00 p.m.	3 Through the Lens of Black Women: Beauty and Expectations All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt () 4.00 p.m. Invisible Beauty () 7.00 p.m.
4 Through the Lens of Black Women: Beauty and Expectations Naked Acts 5:00 p.m.	5	6	7	8 New Releases Inside the Yellow Coccon Shell ( <i>Bên trong</i> <i>vo kên vâng</i> ) (W 7:00 p.m.	9 New Releases Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell (Bên trong vo kén vàng) (P 7:00 p.m.	10 New Releases Inside the Yellow Cocoon Shell (Bên trong vo kén vàng) (W 2:00 p.m. Restorations & Revivals I Went to the Dance (J'ai été au ban) () 7:00 p.m.
11 Restorations & Revivals I Went to the Dance (J'ai été au bal) (3 5:00 p.m.	12	13	14	15 B	16 Oscar Nominated Short Films Animation @ 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	17 Oscar Nominated Short Films Documentary () 2:00 p.m. Animation () 7:00 p.m.
18 Oscar Nominated Short Films Live Action : 5:00 p.m.	19	20	21	22 Oscar Nominated Short Films Animation 3 2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	23 New Releases Fanny: The Other Mendelssohn 3 7:00 p.m.	24 Oscar Nominated Short Films Documentary W 2:00 p.m. Live Action B 7:00 p.m.
25 Oscar Nominated Short Films Animation 3 5:00 p.m.	26	27	28	29		

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 Follow us on Instagram: @mfahouston

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

## WINTER BREAK FAMILY FILMS

#### **KID FLICKS**

Various directors (Various countries, 2023, in original languages with English subtitles, digital) *Thursday, January 4 Kid Flicks 1: 11:30 a.m. (63 min., suitable for ages 5–10)* **BROWN** *Kid Flicks 2: 1:00 p.m. (82 min., suitable for ages 8 and up)* **BROWN** *Free with Museum admission* 

Celebrate winter break at the Museum with these family-friendly film offerings from the touring edition of the New York International Children's Film Festival! See the full lineup at mfah.org/film.

## NEW RELEASES

## ORLANDO, MY POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY (ORLANDO, MA BIOGRAPHIE POLITIQUE)

Directed by Paul B. Preciado (France, 2023, 98 min., in French with English subtitles, digital) *Friday, January 5, 7:00 p.m.* **BROWN** *Sunday, January 7, 5:00 p.m.* **BROWN** 

Virginia Woolf's 1928 novel *Orlando: A Biography* was prescient in its consideration of gender fluidity across physical and spiritual metamorphoses. This awardwinning documentary is a personal essay, historical analysis, and social manifesto. Paul B. Preciado's bold stylistic approach features a cross section of trans and nonbinary individuals who interpret scenes from the novel, weaving their own stories into Woolf's narrative.

Community partner: Big Queer Picture Show

#### **MENUS-PLAISIRS – LES TROISGROS**

Directed by Frederick Wiseman (France/USA, 2023, 240 min., in English and French with English subtitles, digital) *Saturday, January 6, 2:00 p.m.* **BROWN** 

Ninety-three-year-old documentarian Frederick Wiseman's 46th film centers on the Troisgros family, owners of three celebrated restaurants in central France. The film's observational approach follows the preparation, creation, and presentation of mouthwatering meals, and the process of passing the torch to the next generation.



MONSTER (*KAIBUTSU*) Directed by Kore-eda Hirokazu (Japan, 2023, 126 min., in Japanese with English subtitles, digital) *Friday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.* **BROWN** *Sunday, January 14, 5:00 p.m.* **BROWN** 

After a mother (Ando Sakura) discovers that a teacher's bullying is behind her young son's sudden strange behavior, she storms into his school demanding an explanation. Continually left without satisfactory answers—and with an increasingly distressed child—she furiously escalates her concerns to the school board and the media. As the story unfolds through the multilayered perspectives of mother, teacher, and child, the truth gradually emerges. This complex drama was awarded Best Screenplay and the Queer Palm at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival.



# DEEP LISTENING: THE STORY OF PAULINE OLIVEROS

Directed by Daniel Weintraub (USA, 2023, 117 min., digital) Sunday, January 28, 5:00 p.m. **BROWN** Post-film discussion with filmmaker Daniel Weintraub; David Dove, founding director of Nameless Sound; and other participants

Houston native Pauline Oliveros (1932–2016) was one of the most important musical minds of her time. She was a pioneer of electric music, accessibility to music making, and most importantly Deep Listening (a philosophy and practice that encompasses all of her work). Through these efforts, her influence on music, the experimental arts, and creative communities continues to be felt worldwide. This documentary combines rare archival footage, live performances, and unreleased music with appearances by Laurie Anderson, Anna Halprin, Ione, Alvin Lucier, Thurston Moore, Terry Riley, Morton Subotnik, and many more groundbreaking artists. Copresented with Nameless Sound.



## INSIDE THE YELLOW COCOON SHELL (BÊN TRONG VO KÉN VÀNG)

Directed by Pham Thien An (Vietnam, 2024, 178 min., in Vietnamese with English subtitles, digital) *Thursday–Friday, February 8–9, 7:00 p.m.* **WYATT** *Saturday, February 10, 2:00 p.m.* **WYATT** *Filmmaker Pham Thien An will participate in a Q&A after one of the screenings. Visit mfah.org/film for details.* 

Winner of the 2023 Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, this hypnotic debut feature is written, directed, and edited by Vietnamese filmmaker Pham Thien An (who lives part-time in Houston). After a car accident claims the life of his sister-in-law, Thien (Le Phong Vu) is tasked with transporting his young nephew from Saigon to their rural hometown. On the road, Thien is drawn into a search for his long-missing older brother while experiencing sublime dreams that reignite suppressed memories, forbidden desires, and specters of his own youth. His journey home becomes a pilgrimage, marked by visual splendor and mystical overtones.



#### FANNY: THE OTHER MENDELSSOHN

Directed by Sheila Hayman (UK, 2023, 101 min., digital) *Friday, February 23, 7:00 p.m.* **BROWN** *A panel discussion with filmmaker Sheila Hayman, DACAMERA's artistic director Sarah Rothenberg, and musicologist Marcia Citron follows the film.* 

This fascinating documentary illuminates the life and talent of a remarkable composer, Fanny Mendelssohn. Born in 1800s Berlin, hindered by societal constraints on women, and overshadowed by her brother Felix, her accomplishments were little known until feminist scholars discovered her. This new film–directed by the composer's great-great-great granddaughter, BAFTA-winning filmmaker Sheila Hayman–paints a vivid portrait of Fanny's musical legacy.

Copresented by DACAMERA, whose current season presents pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason making her Houston debut on February 24 in a recital featuring Fanny Mendelssohn's "Easter" Sonata. Visit dacamera.com for details.

## **RESTORATIONS & REVIVALS**



I WENT TO THE DANCE (J'AI ÉTÉ AU BAL) Directed by Les Blank and Chris Strachwitz (USA, 1989/2021, 84 min., digital restoration) Saturday, February 10, 7:00 p.m. BROWN Sunday, February 11, 5:00 p.m. BROWN

Get in the Mardi Gras spirit with the definitive film on the history of the toe-tapping, foot-stomping music of French Southwest Louisiana, directed by the legendary Les Blank with Chris Strachwitz. The film includes many Cajun and Zydeco greats, featuring Michael Doucet and BeauSoleil, Clifton Chenier, Marc and Ann Savoy, D. L. Menard, and many others. The film was remastered to 5K by Blank's son, filmmaker Harrod Blank, and Anthony Matt.

## MOVIES HOUSTONIANS LOVE



#### O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU? Directed by Joel and Ethan Coen (USA, 2000, 107 min., digital) Saturday, January 13, 7:00 p.m. BROWN Introduced by Maureen Herzog and Dave Walker, Foundation for Independent Media Arts

Three escaped convicts search for hidden treasure in 1930s Mississippi. Loosely based on Homer's *Odyssey*, Ulysses Everett McGill (George Clooney) and his fugitive companions (John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson) try to recover the buried money from a bank heist, while a relentless lawman pursues them. Filmed in wide screen by Roger Deakins, this Coen Brothers favorite is full of colorful characters and hilarity, punctuated by a memorable T Bone Burnett soundtrack.

Maureen Herzog and Dave Walker have long been involved with the Texas film industry. Publishers of the magazine Indie Slate for many years, they established the Foundation for Independent Media Arts to continue their support of the independent film community in Houston.

## 31ST FESTIVAL OF FILMS FROM IRAN

The 31st edition of the Houston Festival of Films from Iran takes place January 19–27 at the Museum, with additional screenings on January 25 at Asia Society Texas Center (asiasociety.org/texas) and February 2–3 at Rice Cinema (art.rice.edu/rice-cinema). Special thanks to Tom Vick (Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art) and Katherine Irving and Kristen Hoskins (MFA Boston). Film festival tickets are \$10. Museum members, students with ID, and seniors (65+) receive a \$2 discount.

Generous support has been provided by the ILEX Foundation.

Community partners: Society of Iranian-American Women for Education and the Iranian Cultural Foundation-Houston



## A REVOLUTION ON CANVAS

Directed by Sara Nodjoumi and Till Schauder (USA, 2023, 95 min., in English and Persian with English subtitles, digital)

\*Friday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN** Saturday, January 27, 5:00 p.m. **BROWN** 

In their award-winning documentary Sara Nodjoumi and Till Schauder delve into the mystery surrounding the disappearance of more than 100 paintings by Sara's father, seminal Iranian modern artist and activist Nicky Nodjoumi. In 1980, he fled Iran following the protest of his solo exhibition, *Report on the Revolution*, and its subsequent shutdown at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art. The film follows efforts by the renowned artist and his daughter to recover the missing paintings while also exploring their complicated family history.

\***Preceded by** the animated short film *Anita, Lost in the News* (directed by Behzad Nalbandi, Iran, 2023, 15 min., in Persian with English subtitles, digital), based on a poignant true story.



**THE PERSIAN VERSION** Directed by Maryam Keshavarz (USA, 2023, 107 min., in English and Persian with English subtitles, digital) *Saturday, January 20, 7:00 p.m.* **BROWN** 

When a large Iranian-American family gathers, a secret is uncovered that catapults the estranged mother and daughter into an exploration of the past, leading them to discover they are more alike than they know. Winner of the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival. "[The] family is well worth the time the film spends on them, and it's impossible to leave the theater without a smile." – *Screen Rant* 



# ROXANA

Directed by Parviz Shahbazi (Iran, 2023, 118 min., in Persian with English subtitles, digital) *Sunday, January 21, 5:00 p.m.* **BROWN** 

A gambler (Yasna Mirtahmasb, who won best actor at the 2023 Tokyo International Film Festival) finds an unexpected romance with a talented female videographer. Determined to turn his life around, he strives to become a better, more useful person by taking responsibility for a crime he did not commit. The filmmaker says, "I make films depicting how young people live right now. Sometimes they're happy and sometimes their lives are difficult. That's just the way it is."



**TERRESTRIAL VERSES (AYEH HAYE ZAMINI)** Directed by Ali Asgari and Alireza Khatami (Iran, 2023, 77 min., in Persian with English subtitles, digital) *Friday, January 26, 7:00 p.m.* **BROWN** *Post-film Zoom Q&A with Alireza Khatami* 

The filmmakers "thread [several] icepick-precise vignettes about the petty bureaucracies of working-class life in Iran." – *IndieWire*. The drama follows everyday people as they navigate the cultural, religious, and institutional constraints imposed on them by various social authorities in Tehran. These stirring vignettes capture the spirit of people amidst adversity, offering a nuanced portrait of a complex society.



ORCA Directed by Sahar Mosayebi (Iran, 2021, 107 min., in Persian with English subtitles, digital) Saturday, January 27, 7:30 p.m. BROWN

This drama follows a woman who survives a horrific attack by her estranged husband and finds solace as an endurance swimmer. She eventually overcomes political and religious hurdles in a bid to swim further than anyone has done before—with her hands bound. This visually arresting film is powered by a gripping performance from Taraneh Alidoosti (*The Salesman, About Elly*).

## THROUGH THE LENS OF BLACK WOMEN

Autumn Johnson, University of Houston graduate and former intern with the MFAH Film Department, guest programs a weekend of classic and contemporary films that consider the experiences of African American women.

Autumn Johnson is the communications coordinator at Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH) and social media coordinator at Houston Cinema Arts Society (HCAS). She received a bachelor of arts degree in media production and English literature from the University of Houston in 2022.



MOUNTAINS Directed by Monica Sorelle (USA, 2023, 95 mins., digital) *Friday, February 2, 7:00 p.m.* WYATT

Monica Sorelle's debut feature follows a Haitian father and his family as their local Miami neighborhood faces the effects of rapidly increasing patterns of gentrification. Dream and desire, honor and hatred, and love and lust all contrast in this journey to find where one belongs in the middle of socioeconomic change.

## ALL DIRT ROADS TASTE OF SALT

Directed by Raven Jackson (USA, 2023, 92 min., digital) *Saturday, February 3, 4:00 p.m.* WYATT

A lyrical, decades-spanning exploration across a woman's life in Mississippi, the feature debut from award-winning poet, photographer, and filmmaker Raven Jackson presents a visually poetic portrait that serves as a beautiful ode to the culture and people that shape us.



INVISIBLE BEAUTY Directed by Bethann Hardison and Frédéric Tcheng (USA, 2023, 115 min., digital) Saturday, February 3, 7:00 p.m. BROWN Followed by a panel discussion

The essential memoir of fashion pioneer Bethann Hardison, *Invisible Beauty* shines a spotlight on one of the fashion industry's most influential icons who, as a Black model, agent, and entrepreneur, has pushed the boundaries of fashion culture and has been at the forefront of progress throughout her career. In her lifetime, the singular and unapologetic Hardison has seen the pendulum swing toward and away from the Black model. Visit mfah.org/film for panel discussion details. Community partners: Houston Museum of African American Culture and Houston Community College, Fashion Design and Fashion Merchandising

## NAKED ACTS

Directed by Bridgett M. Davis (USA, 1996, 107 min., digital 4K restoration) *Sunday, February 4, 5:00 p.m.* **WYATT** 

*Naked Acts* depicts the exhausting conflicts surrounding the expectations of bodies in intimate settings on screen, in real life, and in the mind. Writer/ director Bridgett M. Davis sets out to examine the impact on self-image of "the dominant film portrayals of Black women in this country's cinematic history." Celebrated as a key film in the canon of independent cinema by African Americans in the 1990s, the film was included in the seminal anthology *The 50 Most Influential Black Films* by S. Torriano Berry.

# OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS

View the nominated short films in the categories of Animation, Live Action, and Documentary from this year's Academy Awards, and see if your favorite wins when the Oscars are presented on March 10! Visit mfah.org/film for the complete list of nominated short films following the nominations announcement on January 23.



## ANIMATION

Friday, February 16, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m. WYATT Saturday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. BROWN Thursday, February 22, 2:00 & 7:00 p.m. BROWN Sunday, February 25, 5:00 p.m. BROWN

## DOCUMENTARY

Saturday, February 17, 2:00 p.m. BROWN Saturday, February 24, 2:00 p.m. WYATT

## LIVE ACTION

Sunday, February 18, 5:00 p.m. **BROWN** Saturday, February 24, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN** 

Visit mfah.org/film for additional screenings in March.

## 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.