Through the Lens of Black Women: Beauty and Expectations

A Revolution on Canvas opens with iconic women. We are grateful to Nameless Sound, DACAMERA, the Houston Museum of African American Culture, and the fashion design and

Museum auditoriums. Advance Visit mfah.org/visit/parking for all parking options. Viewers. Call 713-639-7531 with questions. and may not be appropriate for younger Wiseman's epic French foodie documentary, slate showcases films that have been on the festival circuit in recent months. We have one more screening of Fred Center, and Rice Cinema. MFAH Films is collaborating with organizations from Houston's dynamic cultural community to premiere three new documentaries about

Shoplifters uses Virginia Woolf's novel Orlando as the inspiration for testimonials about gender fluidity. Uses Virginia Woolf's novel Orlando as the inspiration for testimonials about gender fluidity.

Museum hours, or at the theater box office prior you younger viewers. No late entry. If you once the film begins. Many films are unrated

Festival of Films from Iran

Other Mendelssohn

5:00 p.m.

Black Women: Beauty

3:00 p.m.

Festival of Films from Iran

Festival of Films from Iran

Festival of Films from Iran

3:00 p.m.

Festival of Films from Iran

Festival of Films from Iran

Museum members, students with ID, and seniors (65+) receive a $2 discount.

ReCORDED FILM INFORMATION LINE
713-639-7515. Visit mfah.org/film for program changes and more detailed film descriptions.

fb.com/mfahfilms
twitter.com/mfahfilms
instagram.com/mfahouston

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

MFAH CALL CENTER
713-639-7771

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

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Brown Auditorium Theater
Lynn Wyatt Theater

Use the 5500 Main Street entrance or the MFAH parking garages to access tunnels to both theaters.
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-edo 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 Francaise de Houston; and ILEX Foundation.
### JANUARY 2024

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<td><strong>MFAH FILMS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pictured: Orlando, My Political Biography (Orlando, ma biographie politique)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>New Releases</strong></td>
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Film Information Line: 713-639-7515. Visit mfah.org/film for program changes and more detailed film descriptions.

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td><strong>MFAH FILMS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pictured: Fanny: The Other Mendelssohn</strong></td>
<td>Please note the location of each film:</td>
<td><strong>Brown Auditorium Theater</strong></td>
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<td><strong>New Releases</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Through the Lens of Black Women: Beauty and Expectations</strong></td>
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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 FICKS**
Various directors
(Various countries, 2023, in original languages with English subtitles, digital)

- **Thursday, January 4**
  Kid Ficks 1: 11:30 a.m. (63 min., suitable for ages 5–10) BROWN
  Kid Ficks 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 award-winning 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 documentary 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.

**MONTEREY CANNERY DEATHS: 1976**
Directed by Thomas G. Haden Church
(France/USA, 2023, 99 min., in French with English subtitles, digital)

- **Friday, January 12, 7:00 p.m.** BROWN
- **Sunday, January 14, 5:00 p.m.** BROWN

The Menzies family—four generations of cannery workers—were plunged into poverty after a fire destroyed their livelihood. Through the family’s fight for justice, the film explores the social and economic impact of the disaster.

**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

This documentary shines a spotlight on one of the fashion industry’s most influential icons who, as a Black model, has done before—with her hands bound. This visually unapologetic Hardison has seen the pendulum swing sometimes their lives are difficult. That’s just the way it is.”

Directed by Bethann Hardison and Frédéric Tcheng

In Invisible Beauty, three-time Olympic medalist Florence Griffith-Joyner contemplates her legendary career as she gives up the world of competitive running to become an inspiration for others with physical disabilities.

**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-granddaughter, BAPTA-winning filmmaker Sheila Hayman—paints a vivid portrait of Fanny’s musical legacy.

Copresented with 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.

**INSIDE THE YELLOW COCONUT SHELL (BỀN 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**

Film maker 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.

**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 Tom 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).

**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**

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**

**ORLANDO, MY POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY (ORLANDO, MA BIOGRAPHIE POLITIQUE)**
Directed by Paul B. Preciado
(France, 2023, 98 min., in French with English subtitles, digital)

- **Friday, February 16, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.** BROWN
- **Saturday, February 10, 2:00 p.m.** WYATT

Directed by Bethann Hardison and Frédéric Tcheng

In Invisible Beauty, three-time Olympic medalist Florence Griffith-Joyner contemplates her legendary career as she gives up the world of competitive running to become an inspiration for others with physical disabilities.

Directed by Parviz Shahbazi

A gambler (Yasna Mirtahmasb, who won best actor for panel discussion details.

Directed by Monica Sorelle

A documentary about the life and career of Tina Modotti, a model, artist, and photographer who traveled across the globe, capturing the countercultural revolution of the 1920s and 30s.

Directed by S. Torriano Berry.

A documentary exploring the life and work of Beryl Washington, a photographer and activist who documented the civil rights movement.

Directed by isata Kanneh-Mason making her Houston debut on February 24 in a recital featuring Fanny Mendelssohn’s “Easter” Sonata. Visit dacamera.com for details.

Copresented with 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.

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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 Niki 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, 7:00 P.M.* BROWN

A gambler (Yasna Mirahmash, 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 camepique-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.

MOUNTAINS
Directed by Monica Sorelle
(USA, 2023, 92 min., 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.

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.

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.

Naked Acts depicting 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.