



MFAH FILMS

JULY–AUGUST 2024

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*
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.

mfah.org/films



-  fb.com/mfahfilms
-  twitter.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

Hi everyone,

We've made it to another hot Texas summer! I hope our diverse selection of movies over the next two months lures you into the dark, cool environs of the Museum's theaters. It's a great time to become a member of Film Buffs, the Museum's loyalty group for movie lovers, and enjoy the significant benefits of membership while supporting the film department.

If you're wondering about the intriguing cover image for this issue: it's from Russian auteur Andrei Tarkovsky's mystical and melancholic *Nostalghia*. This cult favorite has been a repertory hit at art houses across the U.S. recently, and we're proud to bring it to Houston in a new digital restoration.

Japanese cinema is sampled in a selection ranging from the Oscar-winning Studio Ghibli anime feature *The Boy and the Heron* to Akira Kurosawa's iconic *Seven Samurai*, screening in a new digital restoration for its 70th anniversary. Kon Ichikawa's melodrama *The Makioka Sisters*, presented on 35mm, responds to the period addressed in the Museum's not-to-be-missed exhibition *Meiji Modern: Fifty Years of New Japan*, on view July 7-September 15, 2024.

Responding to our audience's appetite for shorts, we are bringing back the touring series *Best of the Ottawa International Animation Festival*. This bold and edgy compilation includes the award winners from the 2023 edition of one of the world's most respected animation fests.

The multitalented members of Jim Jarmusch's band Sqürl have composed a haunting soundtrack for *Man Ray: Return to Reason*, a compilation of experimental silent shorts shown in August by Surrealist artist Man Ray. "We feel very proud to be Man Ray's backup band," Jarmusch said in an interview. "I think ultimately what we're trying to do, and what Man Ray did, was create a place that exists in a little space between consciousness and unconsciousness, between dream and wakefulness, and between reality and the surreal world."



Marian Luntz
Curator, Film and Video

NOW PLAYING

On the cover: *Nostalghia*

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 Audrey Jones Beck Building or the Nancy and Rich Kinder 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.

Meiji Modern: 50 Years of New Japan is organized by the Japanese Art Society of America (JASA), with funds provided by JASA members, to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, in collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

In Houston, major support is provided by: Bobbie Nau

Additional generous support is provided by: Kathy and Glen Gondo, Frank and Michelle Hevrdejs, Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas), Anne and Albert Chao, Milton D. Rosenau, Jr. and Dr. Ellen R. Gritz, and Dr. Ritsuko Komaki.

The exhibition catalogue is made possible with funds provided by The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and The Mary Griggs Burke Center for Japanese Art, Columbia University.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>MEFA FILMS</p> <p><i>Pictured: The Boy and the Heron (Kimitachi wa dô ikiru ka)</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>Please note the location of each film: B Brown Auditorium Theater W Lynn Wyatt Theater</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema The Boy and the Heron (Kimitachi wa dô ikiru ka) B 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>6 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema The Boy and the Heron (Kimitachi wa dô ikiru ka) B 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>7 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema The Boy and the Heron (Kimitachi wa dô ikiru ka) B 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema The Boy and the Heron (Kimitachi wa dô ikiru ka) B 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 French Noir Classe tous risques B 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>14 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema Shôgun: A Director's Perspective Episode 8: The Abyss of Life B 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>French Noir Classe tous risques B 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Projectionist's Choice Divine Intervention (Yadon ilaheyya) B 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>20 French Noir Le samourai B 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>21 French Noir Le samourai B 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 New Releases Chicken for Linda! (Linda veut du poulet!) B 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>27 New Releases Chicken for Linda! (Linda veut du poulet!) B 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>28 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema The Makioka Sisters (Sasame-yuki) B 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			

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
<p>MEFA FILMS</p> <p><i>Pictured: Pictures of Ghosts (Retratos fantasmas)</i></p>	<p>1</p> <p>Please note the location of each film: B Brown Auditorium Theater W Lynn Wyatt Theater</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>1 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema Evil Does Not Exist (Aku wa sonzai shina) W 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>2 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema Evil Does Not Exist (Aku wa sonzai shina) W 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>3 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema Evil Does Not Exist (Aku wa sonzai shina) W 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>4 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema The Makioka Sisters (Sasame-yuki) B 5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 New Releases Pictures of Ghosts (Retratos fantasmas) B 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>10 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema Seven Samurai (Shichinin no samurai) B 5:00 p.m.</p>
<p>11 Spotlight on Japanese Cinema Seven Samurai (Shichinin no samurai) B 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 New Releases Man Ray: Return to Reason B 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>17 Special Presentations Aurora Picture Show Summer Camp World Premieres B 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>New Releases Man Ray: Return to Reason B 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>18 New Releases Green Border (Zielona granica) B 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Special Presentations Best of the 2023 Ottawa International Animation Festival B 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>24 Special Presentations Best of the 2023 Ottawa International Animation Festival B 7:00 p.m.</p>
<p>25 New Releases Green Border (Zielona granica) B 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Restorations & Revivals Nostalghia B 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>31 Restorations & Revivals Nostalghia B 7:00 p.m.</p>

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

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPANESE CINEMA

In conjunction with the exhibition *Meiji Modern: Fifty Years of New Japan*, on view at the Museum July 7–September 15, 2024, MFAH Films showcases a selection of new and classic Japanese films.



THE BOY AND THE HERON (KIMITACHI WA DŌ IKIRU KA)

Directed by Hayao Miyazaki
(Japan, 2023, 124 min., digital)
Friday–Saturday, July 5–6, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
(in Japanese with English subtitles)
Sunday, July 7, 2:00 p.m. BROWN
(dubbed in English)
Thursday, July 11, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
(in Japanese with English subtitles)
Not recommended for children

Winner of the 2024 Oscar for Best Animated Film and over a dozen international awards, this latest film from Studio Ghibli follows young Mahito, who moves to his family's countryside estate after losing his mother. There, mysterious events lead him to a secluded and ancient tower, home to a mischievous gray heron. When Mahito's new stepmother disappears, he follows the gray heron into the tower, and enters a fantastic world shared by the living and the dead. As he embarks on an epic journey with the heron as his guide, Mahito must uncover the secrets of this world, and the truth about himself.

SHŌGUN: A DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE EPISODE 8: THE ABYSS OF LIFE

Directed by Emmanuel Osei-Kuffour, Jr.
(USA, 2024, 60 min., in Japanese and English with English subtitles)
Sunday, July 14, 2:00 p.m. BROWN
Q&A with filmmaker Emmanuel Osei-Kuffour, Jr. moderated by filmmaker Bassam Tariq

Free tickets available at mfah.org/calendar/shogun.

The 2024 FX series *Shōgun* is based on the James Clavell novel. MFAH Films presents *Episode 8: The Abyss of Life*, directed by Houston Ghanaian-American filmmaker Emmanuel Osei-Kuffour, who introduces the screening and participates in a post-film Q&A moderated by filmmaker Bassam Tariq.

Emmanuel Osei-Kuffour, Jr. is a writer/director who worked for a decade in Japan. He made his feature debut writing and directing *Black Box* for Blumhouse and Amazon as part of the Welcome to the Blumhouse collection. Other credits include *The Midnight Club*, *The Recruit*, and *Star Trek Discovery*.

Community partners: *Japan-America Society of Houston and Ghanaian Urban Movement*

THE MAKIOKA SISTERS (SASAME-YUKI)

Directed by Kon Ichikawa
(Japan, 1983, 140 min., in Japanese with English subtitles, 35mm)
Sundays, July 28 & August 4, 5:00 p.m. BROWN

Adapted from the 1948 literary classic by Jun'ichirō Tanizaki, *The Makioka Sisters* follows the lives of four siblings who have taken on their family's kimono manufacturing business in the years leading up to the Pacific War. The two oldest have been married for some time, but according to tradition, the rebellious youngest sister cannot wed until the third (conservative and terribly shy) finds a husband. Film scholar James Quandt observed that veteran filmmaker Kon Ichikawa created "an exercise in traditionalism, intended to affirm Japanese identity at a time when Japan was reemerging as a major commercial and industrial power."

EVIL DOES NOT EXIST (AKU WA SONZAI SHINAI)

Directed by Ryūsuke Hamaguchi
(Japan, 2023, 106 min., in Japanese with English subtitles, digital)
Thursday–Saturday, August 1–3, 7:00 p.m. WYATT

Widower Takumi and his daughter Hana live in Mizubiki Village, a place of bucolic serenity near Tokyo that is threatened by urban developers planning a glamping site. Ryūsuke Hamaguchi's follow-up to his Oscar-winning *Drive My Car* is a foreboding fable on humanity's mysterious, mystical relationship with nature. As sinister gunshots echo from the forest, both the locals and representatives confront their life choices and the haunting consequences they have.



SEVEN SAMURAI (SHICHININ NO SAMURAI)

Directed by Akira Kurosawa
(Japan, 1954, 207 min., in Japanese with English subtitles, digital restoration)
Saturday, August 10, 5:00 p.m. BROWN
Sunday, August 11, 2:00 p.m. BROWN
70th Anniversary!

One of the most thrilling movie epics of all time, *Seven Samurai* tells the story of a 16th-century village whose desperate inhabitants hire the eponymous warriors to protect them from invading bandits. This adventure features legendary actors Toshiro Mifune and Takashi Shimura, and seamlessly weaves philosophy and entertainment, delicate human emotions, and relentless action into a rich, evocative, and unforgettable tale of courage and hope.

Community partner: *Friends of River Oaks Theatre*

FRENCH NOIR

Immerse yourself in a French spin on film noir with new digital restorations of two genre classics.



CLASSE TOUS RISQUES

Directed by Claude Sautet
(France, 1960, 109 min., in French with English subtitles, digital restoration)
Saturday, July 13, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
Sunday, July 14, 6:00 p.m. BROWN

Claude Sautet's first major feature stars Lino Ventura as Abel Davos, a wanted man in Italy, who stages a robbery in order to get money to relocate his family. As the losses mount and the noose tightens, Davos must decide when to call it quits. Also starring 26-year-old Jean-Paul Belmondo (straight from *Breathless*) and Sandra Milo. "A masterpiece of the French gangster genre . . . A tough and touching exploration of honor and friendship among thieves." — *The New York Times*



LE SAMOURAÏ

Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville
(France, 1967, 105 min., in French with English subtitles, digital restoration)
Saturday, July 20, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
Sunday, July 21, 5:00 p.m. BROWN

In a career-defining performance, Alain Delon plays a contract killer with samurai instincts. After carrying out a flawlessly planned hit, he finds himself caught between a persistent police investigator and a ruthless employer, and not even his armor of fedora and trench coat can protect him. An elegantly stylized masterpiece of cool by maverick director Jean-Pierre Melville, *Le samouraï* is a razor-sharp cocktail of 1940s American gangster cinema and 1960s French pop culture—with a liberal dose of Japanese lone-warrior mythology.

PROJECTIONIST'S CHOICE

This new film series features members of the Museum's projectionists team emerging from the booth to present a favorite film.



DIVINE INTERVENTION (YADON ILAHEYYA)

Directed by Elia Suleiman
(France/Morocco/Germany/Occupied Palestinian Territory, 2002, 92 min., in Arabic, English, and Hebrew with English subtitles, digital)
Friday, July 19, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
Introduced by Dr. Tish Stringer, MFAH lead projectionist

Writer/director Elia Suleiman stars in this collection of cinematic vignettes capturing the absurdity of everyday life under occupation. A dark comedy in the style of Jacques Tati or Buster Keaton, Suleiman pokes fun at tragic situations and encourages us to do the same in ironic, imaginative scenes about garbage, neighbors, and dating. The surreal logic highlighted in the film played out in real time during its release more than 20 years ago as *Divine Intervention* seemed poised to secure an Oscar nomination after winning the Grand Jury Prize at Cannes, but was rejected by the Motion Picture Academy because entries must be nominated by their nation of origin, and Palestine was not recognized as a nation. — *Dr. Tish Stringer*

NEW RELEASES



CHICKEN FOR LINDA! (LINDA VEUT DU POULET!)

Directed by Sébastien Laudenbach and Chiara Malta
(France, 2023, 73 min., in French with English subtitles, digital)

Friday–Saturday, July 26–27, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Paulette feels guilty after unjustly punishing her daughter Linda and would do anything to make it up to her. Linda immediately asks for a meal of chicken with peppers, which reminds her of her father. But with a general strike closing stores all across town, this innocent request quickly leads to an outrageous series of events that spirals out of control, as Paulette does everything she can to keep her promise! This very French animated feature is a unique visual marvel of hand-painted animation with bright, color-blocked characters and a story that is an intoxicating blend of slapstick comedy, musical, and family drama.



PICTURES OF GHOSTS (RETRATOS FANTASMAS)

Directed by Kleber Mendonça Filho
(Brazil, 2023, 93 min., in Portuguese with English subtitles, digital)

Friday, August 9, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN**

The latest from celebrated director Kleber Mendonça Filho (*Bacurau*) delves into the coastal city of Recife's historical and human fabric, focusing on its iconic movie theaters that once served as hubs of social interaction during the 20th century. The film reflects profound shifts in societal norms and practices through a blend of archival documentary, mystery, film excerpts, and personal recollections. *Pictures of Ghosts* crafts a compelling map of a city through the lens of cinema.



MAN RAY: RETURN TO REASON

Directed by Man Ray
(France, 1923–29, 70 min., digital)

Friday–Saturday, August 16–17, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Directed between 1923 and 1929, artist Man Ray's *Le Retour à la raison*, *Emak-Bakia*, *L'Étoile de mer*, and *Les Mystères du Château du Dé* represent a high watermark of early European avant-garde cinema, a seminal nexus of experimental technique, surrealist narrative, and playful abstraction suffused with dark eroticism. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of *Le Retour à la raison*, Sqür!, the Jim Jarmusch-Carter Logan combo, presents *Man Ray: Return to Reason*, with a newly recorded drone-rock soundtrack for all four films. The band's cosmic sounds complement Ray's work by conjuring the beautiful, ineffable, haunting, and sublime.



GREEN BORDER (ZIELONA GRANICA)

Directed by Agnieszka Holland
(Poland/USA/France/Czech Republic/Belgium/Germany/Turkey, 2023, 147 min., in Polish, Arabic, English, and French with English subtitles, digital)

Sundays, August 18 & 25, 2:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Along the treacherous forests ("green border") between Belarus and Poland, refugees from the Middle East and Africa are lured by government propaganda promising easy passage to the European Union. Instead, they find themselves trapped in an escalating geopolitical standoff. Polish filmmaker Agnieszka Holland indelibly captures the migrant crisis in stark black-and-white, from multiple perspectives: a Syrian family fleeing ISIS; young guards instructed to brutalize and reject the migrants; and activists who aid the refugees at great personal risk. Winner of the Special Jury Prize at the 2023 Venice Film Festival.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



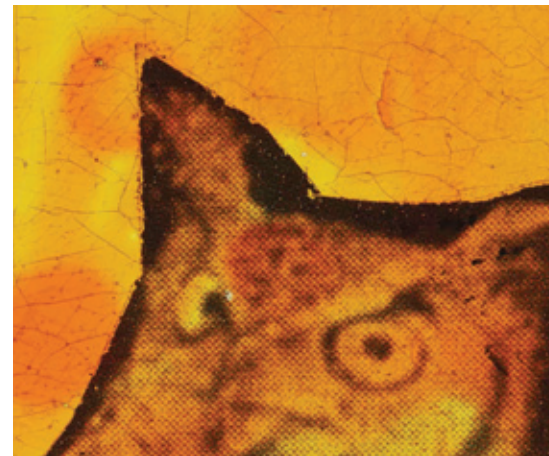
AURORA PICTURE SHOW SUMMER FILMMAKING CAMP WORLD PREMIERES

Various directors
(USA, 2024, approximately 100 min., digital)

Saturday, August 17, 1:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Free admission

Walk the red carpet for Aurora's annual Summer Filmmaking Camp World Premieres event, where young filmmakers' visions come to life on the screen! This free screening showcases a wide range of creative short films made by Houston kids and teens (ages 7–15) through Aurora's summer youth education program.



BEST OF THE 2023 OTTAWA INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FESTIVAL

Various directors
(Various countries, 2023, 71 min., in original languages with English subtitles, digital)

Friday–Saturday, August 23–24, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN**

For adult audiences

The annual Ottawa International Animation Festival curates a selection of short films, both award winners and audience favorites, for the touring Best of Ottawa Program. The lineup of 10 short films highlights cutting-edge achievements in the art of animation, representing the myriad styles, techniques, and perspectives that animation is uniquely capable of realizing. Visit mfah.org/film for the full list of shorts in the program.

RESTORATIONS & REVIVALS



NOSTALGHIA

Directed by Andrei Tarkovsky
(USSR/Italy, 1983, 126 min., in Italian and Russian with English subtitles, 4K digital restoration)

Friday–Saturday, August 30–31, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Andrei Tarkovsky (1932–1986) explained that in Russian the word *nostalghia* conveys "the love for your homeland and the melancholy that arises from being far away." Andrei, a Russian intellectual doing research in Italy, becomes obsessed with the Botticelli-like beauty of his translator, as well as with the apocalyptic ramblings of a self-destructive wanderer (Erland Josephson). Written with frequent Michelangelo Antonioni–collaborator Tonino Guerra (*L'Avventura*) and newly restored in 4K from the original camera negative, this cult favorite is a mystical and mysterious collision of East and West, shot with the tactile beauty that only Tarkovsky can provide. Film critic J. Hoberman observed that "*Nostalghia* is not so much a movie as a place to inhabit for two hours."

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON



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@mfa.org or call 713-639-7300.