

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 Jiayi Chen, Lead Projectionist Kirston Otis, Baird Campbell, Rob Arcos, 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.



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

I'm writing this letter from the Cannes Film Festival! It is such a privilege to be here attending screenings, meeting colleagues who share our passion for watching films together in theaters, and finding inspiration from topical debates and panel discussions. And yes, the glamour and buzz are abundant. It will be some time before the films debuting at this year's festival reach Houston screens, but we've shown many I saw here a year ago, and there's one more coming up this fall. I look forward to sharing highlights of my time at the festival with everyone.

Our summer selections are guaranteed to lure you into the cool confines of our theaters to escape the heat! July opens with Stanley Kubrick's *Barry Lyndon*, screening on 35mm to celebrate its 50th anniversary, followed by an 80th-anniversary engagement of the iconic melodrama *Mildred Pierce*. Perhaps less well known but well worth discovering or revisiting is the 1996 Japanese movie *Shall We Dance?*, a delightful and poignant character study set in the world of competitive ballroom dancing.

Film Team Favorites is the renamed continuation of our **Projectionist's Choice** series from last year. Please support our colleagues and enjoy the movies chosen by projectionist Baird Campbell (*The People's Joker*, August 8) and my curatorial Film colleagues Tracy Stephenson (*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, August 2) and Albert Rodriguez (*Hook*, August 23). In the fall we will feature selections by lead projectionist Jiayi Chen and projectionist Joel Reed Parker.

Also not to be missed: **Akira Kurosawa: The Eternal Master**, a nationally touring selection of brand-new 4K restorations from the great Japanese director's canon. Our selections include *High and Low*, the inspiration for Spike Lee's latest movie, *Highest 2 Lowest*. These movies will look and sound amazing onscreen in Brown Auditorium, and each is playing just once, so please get your tickets early for our screenings in August.

228

Marian Luntz Curator, Film and Video

NOW PLAYING

On the cover: Barry Lyndon

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. Grab a meal at Cafe Leonelli before the Friday-night films when the Museum is open until 9:00 p.m. 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 are accepted in person.

FILM BUFFS

Film Buffs is the Museum's membership group for movie lovers. Call 713-639-7550 or visit mfah.org/filmbuffs for more information. Dues start at \$85 and benefits include discounted admission to MFAH Films, discounted garage parking, and free passes to sneak preview screenings of new films! Museum members are eligible for a discount on the annual dues.



SUPPORT

Underwriting for the Film Department is provided by Tenaris and American Friends of Fundacion Proa Inc., The June Leaf and Robert Frank Foundation, and the Vaughn Foundation.

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

Inquiries about supporting the Film Department can be directed to Ashley Powell, apowell@mfah.org or (713) 639-7594.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AFA H FILMS		1	2	3	4	5 Restorations & Revivals Barry Lyndon B 5:00 p.m.
ictured: <i>Mildred Pierce</i>		e location of each film: torium Theater Theater				
estorations & Revivals arry Lyndon 3 :00 p.m.	7	8	9	10	11 Restorations & Revivals Shall We Dance? 7:00 p.m.	12 Restorations & Revivals Shall We Dance? 7:00 p.m.
3 lestorations & Revivals Shall We Dance? 3 5:00 p.m.	14	15	16	17	18 Restorations & Revivals Mildred Pierce (3) 7:00 p.m.	19 Restorations & Revivals Mildred Pierce (3) 7:00 p.m.
eo lew Releases Marlee Mattin: Not Alone nymore B ::00 p.m.	21	22	23	24 New Releases Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore 3 7:00 p.m.	25 New Releases Georgia O'Keeffe: The Brightness of Light (3) 7:00 p.m.	26 Restorations & Revivals Compensation (3) 7:00 p.m.
7 ew Releases eorgia O'Keeffe: he Brightness of Light 3 :00 p.m.	28	29	30	31		

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

AUGUST 2025										
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY				
MFA H FILMS Pictured: Stray Dog	Please note the locat Brown Auditorium Lynn Wyatt Theat	Theater		1	1 Akira Kurosawa: The Eternal Master Stray Dog 1 7:00 p.m.	2 Film Team Favorites The Unbearable Lightness of Being 5:00 p.m.				
3 Akira Kurosawa: The Eternal Master <i>Ikiru</i> [©] 5:00 ρ.m.	4	5	6	7	8 Film Team Favorites The People's Joker 7:00 p.m.	9 Akira Kurosawa: The Eternal Master The Hidden Fortress [] 7:00 p.m.				
l 0 Akira Kurosawa: The Eternal Master /ojimbo (3 5:00 p.m.	11	12	13	14	15 New Releases Portrait of a Postman (V) 7:00 p.m.	16 Special Presentations Aurora Picture Show Summer Camp World Premieres (1:00 p.m. New Releases Portrait of a Postman (W) 7:00 p.m.				
17 New Releases Portrait of a Postman W 2:00 ρ.m.	18	19	20	21	22 Akira Kurosawa: The Eternal Master Sanjuro (3 7:00 p.m.	23 Film Team Favorites Hook (3) 5:00 p.m.				
Akira Kurosawa: The Eternal Master High and Low 5:00 p.m. New Releases Sundance Shorts 2025 0 5:00 p.m.		26	27	28	29 New Releases Sundance Shorts 2025 W 7:00 ρ.m.	30 New Releases Sundance Shorts 2025 7:00 ρ.m.				

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 Instagram: @mfahouston

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

RESTORATIONS & REVIVALS



BARRY LYNDON

Directed by Stanley Kubrick (UK, 1975, 184 min., 35mm) Saturday, July 5, 5:00 p.m. BROWN Sunday, July 6, 2:00 p.m. BROWN 50th-anniversary screening!

Ryan O'Neal and Marisa Berenson star in Stanley Kubrick's lavish, Oscar-winning adaptation of William Makepeace Thackeray's classic 18th-century novel about the rise and fall of a sensitive and dashing rogue. Forced to leave Ireland after killing an English officer in a duel, handsome young Redmond Barry (O'Neal) seeks his fortune as a soldier in Prussia, as a spy, and then as a gambler living among the elite of Europe. He changes his name and marries an aristocrat (Berenson) for her wealth, but will he finally gain the acceptance he seeks?



SHALL WE DANCE? (SHALL WE DANSU?)

Directed by Masayuki Suô (Japan, 1996, 136 min., digital restoration) Friday–Saturday, July 11–12, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN** Sunday, July 13, 5:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Shohei Sugiyama (Koji Yakusho) has a high-paying job, an exquisite home, and a caring wife and daughter he loves dearly. However, he feels something is missing in his life. One day while commuting on the train he spots a beautiful woman staring wistfully out a window and eventually decides to find her. His search leads him headfirst into the world of competitive ballroom dancing. An "infinitely touching" (*The Washington Post*) box-office sensation upon its initial release, *Shall We Dance?* is presented in a new 4K restoration of the original film, available uncut for the first time in North America.

Community partner: Japan-American Society of Houston



MILDRED PIERCE

Directed by Michael Curtiz (USA, 1945, 111 min., 35mm) Friday—Saturday, July 18–19, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN** 80th-anniversary screening!

A landmark film noir exploring complex themes of female ambition and the societal expectations of women in the post-World War II era, *Mildred Pierce* stars Joan Crawford as a hard-working woman raising two daughters on her own. Despite her mother's financial success as a restaurateur, Mildred's oldest daughter, Veda (16-year-old Ann Blyth), a femme fatale in bobby socks—manipulative, deceitful, selfish, and cold-blooded—resents her mother for degrading their social status. In the midst of a police investigation after the death of her second husband, Mildred must evaluate her own freedom and her complicated relationship with her daughter.



COMPENSATION

Directed by Zeinabu irene Davis (USA, 1999, 95 min., 4K digital rejuvenation) Saturday, July 26, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Post-film discussion with filmmaker Zeinabu irene Davis and producer Nicoletta Vangelisti moderated by Autumn Johnson, film programmer and cultural worker

A milestone of independent cinema, Zeinabu irene Davis's first feature (presented in a 4K rejuvenation) presents parallel African American love stories between a deaf woman and a hearing man decades apart in age. Inspired by a poem by legendary African American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, this moving narrative depicts the couple's 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 of possibilities of language and communication.

Zeinabu irene Davis graduated from the MFA program in film and video at UCLA and has since produced numerous award-winning projects. Focusing on the depiction of African American women, her interests include altering and diversifying the terrains of mass media, film history, world cinema, and folklore. Among her films are Cycles (1989), A Powerful Thang (1991), Mother of the River (1995), and Spirits of Rebellion (2011). She currently serves as a professor of communications at the University of California San Diego.

NEW RELEASES



MARLEE MATLIN: NOT ALONE ANYMORE

Directed by Shoshannah Stern (USA, 2025, 98 min., digital) Sunday, July 20, 5:00 p.m. **BROWN** *Thursday, July 24, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN** – Art House Theater Day!

Marlee Matlin shattered expectations as the first deaf actor to win an Academy Award for her groundbreaking performance in *Children of a Lesser God* (1987). Catapulted into the spotlight, 21-year-old Matlin challenged an industry unprepared for her immense talent, emerging as a trailblazer not only as a performer but also as an author and activist. She discusses her personal and professional struggles—including her meteoric rise to fame in a predominantly hearing industry, a tumultuous high-profile relationship, struggles with sobriety, and years of being overlooked by Hollywood. Through split-screen interviews with both deaf and hearing contributors, the film weaves a poignant narrative of Matlin's career, highlighting her tireless fight for inclusion.

*Community partner: Joan and Stanford Alexander Jewish Family Service



GEORGIA O'KEEFFE: THE BRIGHTNESS OF LIGHT

Directed by Paul Wagner (USA, 2024, 118 min., digital) Friday, July 25, 7:00 p.m. BROWN Sunday, July 27, 5:00 p.m. BROWN

One of the most significant artists of the 20th century, Georgia O'Keeffe is renowned for her contribution to modern art. The filmmakers were inspired "after learning that in 1908, 20-year-old O'Keeffe gave up her dream of becoming an artist, and did not pick up a paint brush for nearly four years. But as a student at the University of Virginia, in 1912, she discovered Arthur Wesley Dow's philosophy which transformed her thinking, her art, and her life." Showcasing O'Keeffe's vibrant art, observations by curators and scholars, and excerpts from 20,000 pages of letters between the artist and her husband, photographer Alfred Stieglitz, the life of this remarkable artist is finely detailed. Claire Danes voices Georgia O'Keeffe.



PORTRAIT OF A POSTMAN

Directed by Christopher Charles Scott (USA, 2025, 97 min., digital)

Friday—Saturday, August 15–16, 7:00 p.m. WYATT

Sunday, August 17, 2:00 p.m. WYATT

Discussions with filmmaker Christopher Charles Scott and guests follow each screening

This fascinating new documentary—winner of the Grand Jury Prize for Best Texas Feature at the 2025 Dallas International Film Festival—profiles Texas artist Kermit Oliver (born 1943 in Refugio). An alumnus of Texas Southern University who was mentored by professor and muralist Dr. John Biggers, Oliver created a remarkable body of work that includes paintings, works on paper, designs for Hermès silk scarves, and commissions. Oliver's art is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, and other institutions. Filmmaker Christopher Charles Scott vividly chronicles the artist's journey, featuring comments by Oliver's family, colleagues including art historian Dr. Alvia J. Wardlaw and artist Earlie Hudnall, art collector Tina Knowles, and many others. The story also takes a riveting "true crime" detour, covering a personal tragedy that profoundly affected Oliver and his late career creative output.

Christopher Charles Scott III is an award-winning filmmaker and distinguished voice in contemporary documentary storytelling. A graduate of Baylor University, his filmography includes collaborations with Oprah Winfrey and Michael Jordan. His acclaimed documentary The Five Priests has earned over 20 international awards.



SUNDANCE SHORTS 2025

Various directors (Various countries, 2025, 100 min., digital) Friday—Saturday, August 29–30, 7:00 p.m. WYATT Sunday, August 31, 5:00 p.m. WYATT

For mature audiences

The 2025 Sundance Film Festival Short Film Tour features new short films from this year's festival. Driven by innovation and experimentation, the festival's short film program has long been established as a place to discover original new voices in independent film, such as Andrea Arnold, Lake Bell, Damien Chazelle, the Duplass brothers, and Taika Waititi.

AKIRA KUROSAWA: THE ETERNAL MASTER

Explore the canon of Japan's legendary filmmaker Akira Kurosawa with new 4K digital restorations of classics including historical dramas, gripping thrillers, and of course, samurai action. All films presented digitally in Japanese with English subtitles.

Community partner: Japan-American Society of Houston



STRAY DOG (NORU INU)

(Japan, 1949, 122 min.) Friday, August 1, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Stray Dog goes beyond a crime thriller, probing the squalid world of postwar Japan and the nature of the criminal mind. Rookie detective Murakami (Toshiro Mifune) has his gun stolen on a hot, crowded bus. Desperate to right the wrong, he goes undercover, scavenging Tokyo's sweltering streets for the pickpocket whose desperation has led to a life of crime. The cop's and criminal's lives become more intertwined, and the investigation becomes an examination of Murakami's own dark side.



IKIRU

(Japan, 1952, 143 min.) Sunday, August 3, 5:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Ikiru shows the director at his most compassionate—affirming life through an exploration of death. Takashi Shimura beautifully portrays an aging bureaucrat with stomach cancer who is impelled to find meaning in his final days. Presented in a radically conceived two-part structure and shot with a perceptive, humanistic clarity of vision, Ikiru is a multifaceted look at what it means to be alive.



THE HIDDEN FORTRESS (KAKUSHI-TORIDE NO SAN-AKUNIN)

(Japan, 1958, 139 min.) Saturday, August 9, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Toshiro Mifune is a general charged with guarding his defeated clan's princess as the two smuggle royal treasure across hostile territory. Accompanying them are a pair of bumbling, conniving peasants who may or may not be their friends. This rip-roaring ride is among the director's most beloved films and was a primary influence on George Lucas's *Star Wars*. *The Hidden Fortress* delivers Kurosawa's trademark deft blend of wry humor, breathtaking action, and compassionate humanity.



YOJIMBO (YÔJINBÔ)

(Japan, 1961, 110 min.) Sunday, August 10, 5:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Toshiro Mifune again stars in the visually stunning and darkly comic *Yojimbo*. To rid a terror-stricken village of corruption, wily, masterless samurai Sanjuro (Mifune) turns a range war between two evil clans to his own advantage. Remade twice, by Sergio Leone and Walter Hill, this exhilarating genre twister remains one of the most influential and entertaining films of all time.



SANJURO (TSUBAKI SANJÛRÔ)

(Japan, 1962, 95 min.) *Friday, August 22, 7:00 p.m.* **BROWN**

In this sly companion piece to *Yojimbo*, jaded samurai Sanjuro (Toshiro Mifune) helps an idealistic group of young warriors weed out their clan's evil influences, and in the process turns their image of a "proper" samurai on its ear. Less brazen in tone than its predecessor but equally entertaining, this classic character's return is a masterpiece in its own right.



HIGH AND LOW (TENGOKU TO JIGOKU)

(Japan, 1963, 143 min.) Sunday, August 24, 5:00 p.m. **BROWN**

Toshiro Mifune is a wealthy industrialist whose family becomes the target of a cold-blooded kidnapper in Kurosawa's highly influential domestic drama and police procedural. Adapting Ed McBain's detective novel *King's Ransom*, the film moves effortlessly from compelling race-against-time thriller to exacting social commentary, creating a diabolical treatise

on contemporary Japanese society. Spike Lee's upcoming film *Highest 2 Lowest* is a reinterpretation of *High and Low*, set in the music industry and starring Denzel Washington and A\$AP Rocky.

FILM TEAM FAVORITES

Following last year's **Projectionist's Choice** series, enjoy hearing from members of the film and audiovisual team about why these movies speak to them.



THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING

Directed by Philip Kaufman (USA, 1988, 171 min., digital) Saturday, August 2, 5:00 p.m. **BROWN** Introduced by Tracy Stephenson, Assistant Programmer and Coordinator, MFAH Films

In translating Milan Kundera's supposedly "unfilmable" novel to the big screen, Philip Kaufman (*The Right Stuff*) achieves a delicate, erotic balance by focusing on three central characters. A womanizing surgeon (Daniel Day-Lewis) struggles with his free-spirited mistress (Lena Olin) and his childlike wife (Juliette Binoche) as they navigate the political and social upheavals of life in Europe in the late 1960s. The film encompasses such turbulent events as the Prague Spring and the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and charts the frontiers of relationships with wit, emotion, and devastating honesty. –*Tracy Stephenson*

Restored by the Academy Film Archive and The Film Foundation, with funding provided by the George Lucas Family Foundation. Print courtesy of The Academy Film Archive.



THE PEOPLE'S JOKER

Directed by Vera Drew (USA, 2022, 92 min., 35mm) Friday, August 8, 7:00 p.m. **BROWN** Introduced by Baird Campbell, MFAH Films Projectionist For mature audiences

A hilarious reimagining of the classic coming-of-age story follows an unconfident, closeted trans girl as she moves to Gotham City to make it big by joining the cast of a government-sanctioned, late-night sketch show in a world where comedy has been outlawed. As mainstream success eludes her, she unites with a team of misfits on a collision course with the city's fascist caped crusader. Vats of feminizing chemicals, sexy cartoon interludes, scarecrow psychiatrists, and

psychedelic gender dysphoria all play supporting roles. Helmed by writer/director/editor/star Vera Drew using her own life experiences as a basis for the film, *The People's Joker* is a deeply personal journey that is as much documentary as it is parody.

Community partner: Big Queer Picture Show



HOOK

Directed by Steven Spielberg (USA, 1991, 142 min., digital) Saturday, August 23, 5:00 p.m. BROWN Introduced by Albert Rodriguez, Administrative and Production Coordinator, MFAH Films

What if Peter Pan grew up? Grab your happy thoughts and fly to Neverland in Steven Spielberg's fantasy classic *Hook*. Boasting an incredible cast led by the late, great Robin Williams as workaholic lawyer Peter Banning. Captain Hook (Dustin Hoffman), Mr. Smee (Bob Hoskins), and an elderly Wendy (Maggie Smith) beckon Peter to return to Neverland after his children are kidnapped. With the help of Tinkerbell (Julia Roberts) and the Lost Boys, Peter finds his inner Pan to save his kids and liberate the child in all of us. Featuring one of the best John Williams's scores of all time! BANGARANG! —Albert Rodriguez

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS



AURORA PICTURE SHOW SUMMER CAMP WORLD PREMIERES

Various directors (USA, 2023, approximately 100 min., digital) Saturday, August 16, 1:00 p.m. **BROWN** Free admission

Walk the red carpet into Aurora's annual Summer Filmmaking Camp World Premieres event, where young filmmakers' visions come to life onscreen! 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.

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.