

MFA H FILMS

MAY-JUNE 2023

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
Ray Gomez, *Assistant for Community Outreach*
and Administration
Trey Ferguson, *Lead Projectionist*
Kirston Otis, Tish Stringer, and
Joel Parker, *Projectionists*

RECORDED FILM INFORMATION LINE
713-639-7515

MFAH CALL CENTER
713-639-7771

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

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



Brown Auditorium Theater  Lynn Wyatt Theater 

Use the 5500 Main Street entrance or the MFAH
parking garages to access tunnels to both theaters.

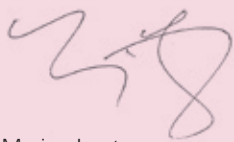
WELCOME

This calendar opens with *Joyland*, a timely and affecting debut feature from Pakistan that has stayed with me since I saw it at Cannes, where it won the Queer Palm and the Jury Prize in the Un Certain Regard section. We partner with the Big Queer Picture Show, a nomadic programming initiative, to present the Houston premiere, May 5–7.

Five Funny French Films (May 12–14) opens with the U.S. premiere of *Oh My Goodness!*, an energetic romp that pits nuns from rival convents against each other in a cycling race. Saturday's centerpiece is *The Innocent*, a caper directed by and starring the always-watchable Louis Garrel. Sunday's closing selection is quite the treat: we host a filmmaker for the first time in **FFFF** history. Join us in welcoming writer/director Sophie Letourneur, who presents her award-winning feature *Enormous*, followed by a Q&A.

Moving on to June: **Houston Palestine Film Festival** returns to the Museum, with screenings June 2–3. At press time the schedule was not finalized, so please check mfah.org/film and hpff.org for full details and ticketing information.

Our deeply knowledgeable guest programmer Peter Lucas has planned another immersive **Jazz on Film** (June 8–24). Bookended by the premiere of *Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes*, a new documentary about the legendary jazz drummer, composer, bandleader, and activist, this film series celebrates the talents of numerous legendary musicians. The program includes special 35mm screenings of two 1960s classics with great jazz scores: Shirley Clarke's *The Cool World* and Leo Penn's *A Man Called Adam*.



Marian Luntz
Curator, Film and Video



Special guest: writer/director
Sophie Letourneur (*Enormous*)

P.S. With the temporary closure of the Main Street entrance to the Caroline Wiess Law Building, filmgoers may use the Bissonnet Street entrance when attending an after-hours film in Brown Auditorium Theater. We recommend parking in the MFAH garages (see map on back) and making your way to either theater through our astonishing tunnels. Join Film Buffs to receive discounted parking in the Museum's garages, along with discounts on your movie tickets!

NOW PLAYING

On the cover: *The Innocent*

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 Bissonnet 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, general admission is \$9. *Museum members, students with ID, and seniors (65+) receive a \$2 discount.* No other discounts apply. Children 5 and under are admitted free—please check suitability of films for younger viewers.

Purchase tickets in advance at mfah.org/film, at membership desks in the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building or Audrey Jones Beck Building during Museum hours, or at the theater box office prior to show time. Credit cards and cash are accepted in person.

FILM BUFFS

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

SUPPORT

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

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

Official media partner:



mfah.org/films



MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MFA FILMS Pictured: <i>Nam June Paik: Moon Is the Oldest TV</i>	1 Please note the location of each film: B Brown Auditorium Theater W Lynn Wyatt Theater	2	3	4	5 New Releases Joyland B 7:00 p.m.	6 New Releases Joyland B 7:00 p.m.
7 New Releases Joyland B 5:00 p.m.	8	9	10	11	12 Five Funny French Films Oh My Goodness! B 7:00 p.m. Happy 50 B 9:00 p.m.	13 Five Funny French Films Freestyle B 5:00 p.m. The Innocent B 7:00 p.m.
14 Five Funny French Films Enormous B 5:00 p.m.	15	16	17	18	19 New Releases Nam June Paik: Moon Is the Oldest TV W 7:00 p.m.	20 New Releases Nam June Paik: Moon Is the Oldest TV W 7:00 p.m.
21 New Releases Nam June Paik: Moon Is the Oldest TV W 5:00 p.m.	22	23	24	25	26	27 Restorations & Revivals Chocolat B 7:00 p.m.
28 Restorations & Revivals Chocolat B 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.

JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MFA FILMS Pictured: <i>The Texas Tenor</i>	1 Please note the location of each film: B Brown Auditorium Theater W Lynn Wyatt Theater			1 Restorations & Revivals Chocolat B 7:00 p.m.	2 Houston Palestine Film Festival W	3 Houston Palestine Film Festival W
4 New Releases Dancing the Twist in Bamako W 5:00 p.m.	5	6	7	8	9 Jazz on Film Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes B 7:00 p.m.	10 Jazz on Film The Cool World B 7:00 p.m.
11 New Releases Dancing the Twist in Bamako W 5:00 p.m.	12	13	14	15	16 Jazz on Film A Man Called Adam B 7:00 p.m.	17 Jazz on Film Imagine the Sound B 7:00 p.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23 Jazz on Film The Texas Tenor : The Illinois Jacquet Story B 7:00 p.m.	24 Jazz on Film Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes B 7:00 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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

NEW RELEASES



JOYLAND

Directed by Saim Sadiq
(Pakistan, 2022, 126 min., in Punjabi and Urdu with English subtitles, digital)
Friday–Saturday, May 5–6, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
Sunday, May 7, 5:00 p.m. BROWN

Joyland—named Best International Feature at the 2023 Film Independent Spirit Awards—is set in Pakistan’s patriarchal society. Haider, the youngest son in a traditional family, secretly becomes a backup dancer in a Bollywood-style burlesque. He falls for the lead performer, who is transgender. Once discovered, their relationship has a profound effect on Haider’s family. Since premiering at Cannes, this groundbreaking film has earned multiple honors at international film festivals.

Community partner: Big Queer Picture Show



NAM JUNE PAIK: MOON IS THE OLDEST TV

Directed by Amanda Kim
(USA, 2023, 107 min., in English, German, and Korean with English subtitles, digital)
Friday–Saturday, May 19–20, 7:00 p.m. WYATT
**Sunday, May 21, 5:00 p.m. WYATT*
**Introduced by Salome Kokoladze, curator, Aurora Picture Show*

This fascinating documentary chronicles the life and career of Nam June Paik, the “father of video art.” Born in Japan-occupied Korea, Paik studied as a classical musician before moving to Germany in the 1950s, where he became a member of the influential experimental art movement Fluxus. Relocating to the United States, he became fully engaged with television and video, revolutionizing the use of technology. Narrated by actor Steven Yeun (*Minari*, *Burning*), Paik’s story is told with archival footage and clips from the artist’s work, tracing his collaborations with Laurie Anderson, Joseph Beuys, David Bowie, Merce Cunningham, Allen Ginsberg, Charlotte Moorman (the topless cellist), and his mentor, John Cage.



DANCING THE TWIST IN BAMAKO

Directed by Robert Guédiguian
(France/Canada/Senegal/Mali, 2021, 129 min., in French with English subtitles, digital)
Sundays, June 4 & 11, 5:00 p.m. WYATT

Mali, 1962. The youth of Bamako dance the twist to rock-and-roll music (newly imported from the West) and dream of political renewal. Samba, a young socialist, falls for spirited Lara during one of his missions to the bush. To escape her forced marriage, she secretly flees with him to the city. But Lara’s husband won’t let them be and a revolution soon brings painful disillusiones as they dream of a future together. The filmmakers took inspiration from the photography of Malick Sidibé, well represented in the Museum’s permanent collection.

FIVE FUNNY FRENCH FILMS

Join us in Brown Auditorium Theater to once again see the latest new French comedies that are best enjoyed when we laugh together in a darkened theater, watching the films on the big screen. All films are presented digitally in French with English subtitles.

Generous support has been received from the Alliance Française de Houston.

Additional support has been received from Franci Neely, Nina and Michael Zilkha, and Melanie Gray and Mark Wawro.

Film festival ticket prices apply:

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



OH MY GOODNESS! (JUSTE CIEL!)

Directed by Laurent Tirard
(France, 2022, 86 min., in French with English subtitles)
Friday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. BROWN
U.S. premiere!

Five nuns set their sights on winning the cash prize in a cycling race to raise money to renovate a dilapidated hospice. However, none of them can ride a bicycle! The competition grows fierce with a team from a rival convent and the incentive of a trip to the Vatican for the winner. U.S. premiere of the latest film by director Laurent Tirard (*Return of the Hero*).



HAPPY 50 (PLANCHA)

Directed by Eric Lavaine
(France, 2022, 100 min., in French with English subtitles)
Friday, May 12, 9:00 p.m. BROWN

For Yves’s (Guillaume de Tonquédec) 50th birthday, his pals plan a holiday to Greece. When their trip is suddenly canceled they reroute to Yves’s family estate in Brittany. The region’s customary rains keep them indoors, where strong personalities collide and one of the gifts to Yves—a DNA ancestry test—has unforeseen results. The ensemble cast includes Franck Dubosc, Jérôme Commandeur, and Lambert Wilson.



*FREESTYLE (EN ROUE LIBRE)

Directed by Didier Barcelo
(France, 2022, 89 min., in French with English subtitles)
Saturday, May 13, 5:00 p.m. BROWN

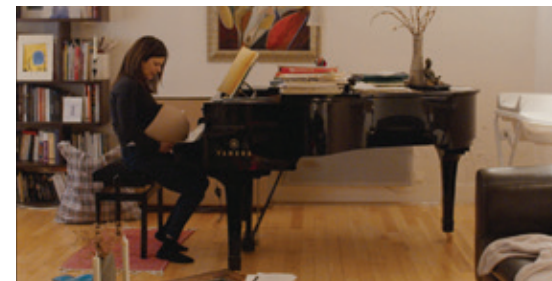
Louise (Marina Foïs) finds herself trapped in her car, overcome by a panic attack. Enter Paul (Benjamin Voisin), who ends up kidnapping her while stealing her car. He thinks she is crazy and she thinks he is a jerk, but the exceptional duo embarks on a hilarious road trip.

**Young French Cinema was made possible with the support of UniFrance Films and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.*

THE INNOCENT (L'INNOCENT)

Directed by Louis Garrel
(France, 2022, 99 min., in French with English subtitles)
Saturday, May 13, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

Abel (Louis Garrel) freaks out when he learns that his mother is about to marry a man in prison. With the help of his best friend (Noémie Merlant), he will do whatever it takes to protect her. But meeting his new stepfather offers a new perspective and unexpected adventures surrounding a caviar caper.



ENORMOUS (ÉNORME)

Directed by Sophie Letourneur
(France, 2019, 98 min., in French with English subtitles)
Sunday, May 14, 5:00 p.m. BROWN
Presented by director Sophie Letourneur with a Q&A

Claire (Marina Foïs), an acclaimed concert pianist, is a distracted dreamer who leaves all practical details to her husband, Fred (César-nominated Jonathan Cohen). They have postponed parenthood, but with his meddlesome mother’s encouragement, Fred pulls a trick and Claire gets pregnant . . . and becomes enormous!

About the guest: Screenwriter and filmmaker Sophie Letourneur studied at Duperré School of Applied Arts and then at the EnsAD (French National School of Decorative Arts), majoring in film. Letourneur earned the Prix Jean Vigo for *Énorme*. Her latest film is *Voyages en Italie* (2023).

Sophie Letourneur appears courtesy of Villa Albertine, in partnership with the French Embassy in the United States.

RESTORATIONS & REVIVALS



CHOCOLAT

Directed by Claire Denis
(France/West Germany/Cameroon, 1988, 105 min.,
in French, English, and Hausa with English subtitles,
digital restoration)

Saturday, May 27, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

Sunday, May 28, 5:00 p.m. BROWN

Thursday, June 1, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

Celebrated filmmaker Claire Denis drew on her childhood experiences in 1960s French colonial Africa in this absorbing feature-film debut that introduced themes she revisits throughout the course of her career. After many years living in France, a white woman (Mireille Perrier) returns to her hometown in Cameroon and reflects on her relationship with Protée (Isaach De Bankolé), a black servant with whom she formed a friendship while not fully grasping the racial divides that governed their worlds. A new 4K digital restoration allows audiences to truly savor Denis’s evocative drama.

HOUSTON PALESTINE FILM FESTIVAL

June 2–3 WYATT

The Museum hosts the opening weekend of the 16th **Houston Palestine Film Festival** with a lively selection of new movies that explore Palestinian identity and culture through the art of film. Confirmed at press time are *Mediterranean Fever*, a dark comedy that was Palestine’s submission for Best International Feature at the 2023 Academy Awards, and *Alam*, a riveting coming-of-age drama that earned the Best Film and Audience awards at the Cairo International Film Festival. For program updates, please visit hpff.org.

JAZZ ON FILM

Organized by guest curator Peter Lucas, this year’s series features the Houston premiere of *Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes*, as well as documentaries on legendary Houston saxophonist Illinois Jacquet and free-jazz musicians Paul Bley, Bill Dixon, Archie Shepp, and Cecil Taylor. The program includes special 35mm screenings of two 1960s movies featuring great jazz scores: Shirley Clarke’s *The Cool World* and Leo Penn’s *A Man Called Adam*, as well as short films by D. A. Pennebaker and Stan VanDerBeek that are driven by their jazz soundtracks.

Jazz on Film founder and curator Peter Lucas has organized exhibitions, film series, and public programs in association with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Contemporary Arts Museum Houston; the Menil Collection; Seattle International Film Festival; Northwest Film Forum; the Museum of Pop Culture; and Aurora Picture Show. Lucas is also a writer, podcaster, and multidisciplinary artist.



MAX ROACH: THE DRUM ALSO WALTZES

Directed by Samuel Pollard and Ben Shapiro
(USA, 2023, 82 min., digital)

Friday, June 9, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

Saturday, June 24, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

This new documentary is a profound and expansive portrait of the legendary jazz drummer, composer, bandleader, and activist Max Roach. The film traces the musical innovations, personal struggles, and reinventions over Roach’s remarkably diverse seven-decade career. His story is told through a wealth of performance footage, photographs, interviews with Roach himself, and contributions from Abdullah Ibrahim, Quincy Jones, Abbey Lincoln, Sonny Rollins, Greg Tate, Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, and others.



THE COOL WORLD

Directed by Shirley Clarke
(USA, 1964, 104 min., 35mm)

Saturday, June 10, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

This landmark independent film directed by Shirley Clarke reflects the harsh realities of Harlem street life through the story of 15-year-old Duke and his gang. The young cast’s naturalness and the style of the film’s photography place its story within a cinematic document of unflinching realism. The score was composed by jazz pianist Mal Waldron and performed by a quintet led by Dizzy Gillespie. Unavailable on any video format or streaming platform, we are presenting a 35mm film restoration of *The Cool World* for this special 60th-anniversary screening. **Preceded by** *Daybreak Express* from D. A. Pennebaker—a colorful montage of New York’s elevated trains set to music by Duke Ellington.



A MAN CALLED ADAM

Directed by Leo Penn
(USA, 1966, 102 min., 35mm)

Friday, June 16, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

This sharp-edged allegory stars Sammy Davis Jr. as a mercurial jazz musician who struggles with racial prejudice, a troubling past, and alcoholism. The cast also includes Ossie Davis as his friend and Cicely Tyson as a civil-rights activist with whom he strikes up a relationship. The film features music composed by Benny Carter with Nat Adderley ghosting Davis’s cornet, and appearances by Louis Armstrong and Mel Tormé. Shown on a new 35mm film print, *A Man Called Adam* is notable for its prominence of African Americans both in front of and behind the camera, and for its depiction of issues seldom touched by Hollywood at the time.



IMAGINE THE SOUND

Directed by Ron Mann
(USA, 1981/2007, 90 min., digital restoration)

Saturday, June 17, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

Hailed by critic Jonathan Rosenbaum as “the best documentary on free jazz,” Ron Mann’s directorial debut is a unique portrait of some of creative music’s greatest protagonists. *Imagine the Sound* reveals the creative approaches and philosophies of pianists Paul Bley and Cecil Taylor, trumpeter Bill Dixon, and tenor saxophonist Archie Shepp through performances and candid interviews. The film is attentive to the visual impact of the music (Taylor’s piano playing virtually qualifies as dance), and to the diverse biographical, musical, and ideological underpinnings of avant-garde jazz experimentation. **Preceded by** *Moirage*—a late-1960s experiment in patterns with music by drummer Paul Motian.



TEXAS TENOR: THE ILLINOIS JACQUET STORY

Directed by Arthur Elgort
(USA, 1992, 81 min., digital)

Friday, June 23, 7:00 p.m. BROWN

Born in Louisiana and raised in Houston, saxophonist Illinois Jacquet first came to prominence when his solo on Lionel Hampton’s 1942 recording of “Flying Home” innovated the sound of jazz tenor and ushered in rhythm and blues. Filmed in stylish black-and-white between 1988 and 1990, *Texas Tenor* is an affectionate cinematic portrait of the legendary musician that blends performances, behind-the-scenes footage, archival material, and interviews with Jacquet, Arnett Cobb, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton, Sonny Rollins, Buddy Tate, and others. Most importantly, the charismatic showman is seen performing with astonishing feeling and musical inventiveness. Join us for this celebration of a hometown jazz hero.

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



Give the gift of cinema to the movie lover in your life! Film Buffs memberships begin at \$85 and include 10 free admissions to MFAH Films. Visit mfaah.org/filmbuffs or call 713-639-7550 for details.