

# FILM FOCUS: NOVEMBER 2021

MFAH Films welcomes audiences back to Brown Auditorium Theater with award-winning feature films curated for discerning audiences! The month opens with the final selections in **Fellini 100** and concludes with the late Jean-Paul Belmondo in his most iconic role. Plus, don't miss premieres and a new series inspired by the exhibition *Afro-Atlantic Histories* (on view October 24, 2021–January 17, 2022).

## FELLINI 100



The Museum's tribute to one of cinema's great modern directors concludes with a rarely screened late film selected by Professor Alessandro Carrera, and an autobiographical movie that was Fellini's personal favorite.

*The Federico Fellini 100 Tour*, a series of centennial tributes to Federico Fellini (1920–1993), travels to major museums and film institutions worldwide, coordinated by Paola Ruggiero and Camilla

Cormanni of Luce Cinecittà. All films (unless noted) have been digitally restored by Luce Cinecittà, Cineteca di Bologna and Cineteca Nazionale.

Generous support has been provided by the Vaughn Foundation and Consulate General of Italy in Houston.

Special thanks to our cultural partner Italian Cultural Institute in Los Angeles.

Comedy/Drama

### GINGER & FRED

(Italy/France/West Germany, 1986, 125 min., in English and Italian with English subtitles)  
Saturday, November 6, 2:00 p.m.

Introduced by Alessandro Carrera, professor, University of Houston

A onetime celebrity song-and-dance team who re-created all the dance routines of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Amelia (Giulietta Masina in her last performance for husband Fellini) and Pippo (Marcello Mastroianni) reunite decades later to perform on a TV variety show.



Comedy/Drama

### AMARCORD

(Italy, 1974, 123 min., in Italian with English subtitles)  
Sunday, November 7, 2:00 p.m.

Fellini's most personal film satirizes the director's youth in fascist Rimini, and turns daily life into a circus of social rituals, adolescent desires, male fantasies, and political subterfuge. "Amarcord is like a long dance number, interrupted by dialogue, public events, and meals. It is constructed like a guided tour through a year in the life of the town."—Roger Ebert



## NEW RELEASES

Documentary

### THE VELVET UNDERGROUND

Directed by Todd Haynes  
(USA, 2021, 110 min.)

Thursday, November 4, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 6, 5:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 7, 5:00 p.m.

Using a vivid style that nods to his roots as an experimental filmmaker, Todd Haynes (*Carol*, *Far from Heaven*, *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story*) captures the spirit of the seminal band The Velvet Underground in his first documentary. This film shows how the New York group became a cultural touchstone representing a range of contradictions, rooted in high art and street culture. Featuring interviews with surviving band members John Cale, Moe Tucker, Mary Woronov; never-before-seen performances; a rich collection of recordings; and Warhol Factory film excerpts, Haynes creates a truly immersive homage. "It is as much about New York of the '60s and '70s as it is about the rise and fall of a group that has been called as influential as the Beatles."—*New York Film Festival*



Drama

### HIVE

Directed by Blerta Basholli  
(Kosovo/Switzerland/Macedonia/Albania, 2021, 84 min., in Albanian with English subtitles)

Sunday, November 21, 2:00 & 5:00 p.m.

Winner of three awards at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival, *Hive* is a compelling drama set amidst the backdrop of Eastern Europe's civil unrest. Fahrije, like many women in her small village, has lived with the anguish of her husband not returning from the war in Kosovo. To provide for her struggling family, she enlists other widows to launch an entrepreneurial business. However, this initiative is met with strong resistance from the men who still adhere to patriarchal attitudes. Undaunted, Fahrije takes the lead in empowering the village women to change their lives. This impactful debut feature by writer-director Blerta Basholli introduces audiences to a talented filmmaker. "Reminiscent of films from other notable naturalistic filmmakers such as Ken Loach and Andrea Arnold, Basholli's direction is an impressive exercise in social realism."—*Filmhounds*



## HOUSTON CINEMA ARTS FESTIVAL

The 13th annual **Houston Cinema Arts Festival** takes place November 11–22 virtually and in person across Houston. The Museum hosts screenings in Brown Auditorium Theater November 11–15. The festival features more than 40 films, shorts programs, DJ sets, live performances, and more. This year's theme, *The Third Coast*, will provide a lens through which to celebrate and explore the Gulf Coast region. **HCAF 2021** also sees the return of CineSpace, the annual short film competition with NASA, and the return of the Borders I No Borders regional short film competition. Visit [cinemahtx.org](http://cinemahtx.org) for the full lineup and tickets.

## AFRO-ATLANTIC HISTORIES

This screening opens a film series inspired by the exhibition *Afro-Atlantic Histories*, on view at the Museum October 24, 2021–January 17, 2022. Additional films will be shown in December and January.

*Presented in conjunction with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston's exhibition Afro-Atlantic Histories, this film series has been generously underwritten by the Consulate General of Brazil.*

## Documentary

**UMBANDA: OFFERINGS OF FAITH**

Directed by Elisa Herrmann  
(2021, 98 min., in Portuguese with English subtitles)

Friday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 20, 2:00 p.m.

*In person: Filmmaker Elisa Herrmann World Premiere!*

This new documentary examines the history of this syncretic religion, founded in Rio de Janeiro in 1908 by Zélio Fernandino de Moraes. The film features interviews with followers of Umbanda, scenes of their practices and rituals, and historical exposition of the roots of the faith, making connections to the influences of African, European, and Indigenous beliefs. In addition to Umbanda priests, priestesses, and initiates, the film includes interviews with scholars in the fields of anthropology, sociology, and languages whose research focuses on mythology and religions of African origin.

*Elisa Herrmann is a Brazilian filmmaker and associate professor of mass communication and coordinator of the BA in Film at Sam Houston State University.*



## RESTORATIONS &amp; REVIVALS

## Crime/Drama

**BREATHLESS  
(À BOUT DE SOUFFLE)**

Directed by Jean-Luc Godard  
(France, 1960, 90 min., in French with English subtitles)

Friday–Saturday, November 26–27, 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 28, 5:00 p.m.  
*60th-Anniversary Restoration!*

Jean-Luc Godard's first feature is credited with launching the French New Wave, along with François Truffaut's *The 400 Blows*. The late Jean-Paul Belmondo plays Michel, a small-time crook on the run who romances Patricia (Jean Seberg), a journalism student living in Paris, inciting her to go on the lam with him. Inspired by B movies and credited with introducing the jump-cut to cinema, the film is stylish, frenetic, and audacious—a must-see on the big screen! Full of cinematic and literary references, *Breathless* captures the zeitgeist of postwar Europe when a young generation of artists challenged social, cultural, and artistic sanctions.



## ADMISSION

The MFAH is located at the 1001 Bissonnet between Main and Montrose. Films are screened in Brown Auditorium Theater inside the Caroline Wiess Law Building. Film admission is \$9; *Museum members, students with ID, and seniors (65+) receive \$2 discount.* Tickets available online at [mfah.org/film](http://mfah.org/film), in the Beck and Kinder building lobbies during business hours, or at the auditorium box office prior to show time. Film information: (713) 639-7515.

*Masks are required to be worn during films and programs inside MFAH auditoriums. Films and programs in the auditoriums are operating at reduced capacities. A risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public setting. In the interest of your personal safety and community health, please observe all the precautions set forth by the Museum. Go to [mfah.org](http://mfah.org) for more visit details. Doors open 30 minutes before start. No late entry.*

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