FILM FOCUS: OCTOBER 2021

MFAH Films welcomes audiences back in person with award-winning feature films curated for discerning audiences! This month we feature the rescheduled Fellini centennial tour with several of his masterpieces October 7–November 7.

NEW RELEASES

Documentary
FREE COLOR
Directed by Alberto Arvelo (USA/France/Venezuela, 2020, 70 min., in Spanish, English, and French with English subtitles)
*Sunday, October 3, 5:00 p.m.
*Introduced by Mari Carmen Ramirez, the Wortham Curator of Latin American Art, MFAH

Franco-Venezuelan artist Carlos Cruz-Diez (1923–2019) is one of the 20th century’s seminal thinkers in the field of color. This film traces his vision and artistic evolution with archival footage and interviews. The artist’s Chromosaturation MFAH (1965/2017, installed 2020) is in the Cherie and Jim Flores Tunnel in the Nancy and Rich Kinder Building.

Drama
MOGUL MOWGLI
Directed by Bassam Tariq (UK, 2020, 90 min.)
Thursday, October 21, 7:00 p.m.
Post-film virtual Q&A with filmmaker Bassam Tariq

The debut feature from award-winning Sugar Land filmmaker Bassam Tariq follows a British Pakistani rapper (Riz Ahmed) who, on the cusp of his first world tour, is struck down by an illness that forces him to face his past, his family, and the uncertainty of his legacy.

Drama
LUZZU
Directed by Alex Camilleri (Malta, 2021, 96 min., in Maltese with English subtitles)
Friday, October 22, 7:00 p.m.

A Maltese fisherman faces an agonizing choice between repairing his boat to continue earning a meager living, or selling it to join a lucrative black-market operation that decimates the livelihoods of local families.

NEW RELEASES

Thriller
KNOCKING (KNACKNINGAR)
Directed by Frida Kempff (Sweden, 2021, 78 min., in Swedish with English subtitles)
Saturday, October 30, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 31, 5:00 p.m.

After Molly (Cecilia Milocco) is released from the psychiatric ward, she soon hears knocking in her apartment, convincing her that someone needs help. No one believes her, and first-time feature filmmaker Frida Kempff says, “It reminded me of the MeToo movement in that [you are not seen as] a trustworthy person, and what can be scarier than no one believing you?”

FELLINI 100: OCTOBER 7–NOVEMBER 7

One of cinema’s great modern directors, this larger-than-life maestro created an inimitable cinematic style combining surreal carnival with incisive social critique. The series celebrates Fellini’s centenary and that of his wife, Giulietta Masina, who memorably stars in four movies coming up in this survey.

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 Corman 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.

Musical Drama
VARIETY LIGHTS (LUCI DEL VARIETÀ)
Directed by Federico Fellini and Alberto Lattuada (Italy, 1950, 97 min., in Italian with English subtitles)
Thursday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.

Federico Fellini’s directorial debut follows a traveling vaudeville troupe whose quixotic impresario is tempted away from his faithful mistress (Giulietta Masina) by an ambitious young dancer.
Drama

8 1/2 (OTTO E MEZZO)
(Italy/France, 1963, 138 min., in Italian, English, French, and German with English subtitles)
Saturday, October 23, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 24, 5:00 p.m.

Torn between mistress (Sandra Milo) and wife (Anouk Aimée), and lacking inspiration for his next picture, a filmmaker (Marcello Mastroianni) escapes into childhood memories and sexual fantasies. The interweaving of reality, memory, and dreams has influenced generations of moviemakers.

Comedy/Drama

JULIET OF THE SPIRITS (GIULIETTA DEGLI SPIRITI)
(Italy/France, 1965, 137 min., in Italian, English, French, and Spanish with English subtitles)
Friday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.

Fellini’s first color feature stars Giulietta Masina as a betrayed wife whose inability to accept reality leads her on a hallucinatory journey of self-discovery.

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.

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

Two icons—Giulietta Masina and Marcello Mastroianni—play a celebrity song-and-dance team who reunite decades later to perform on a TV variety show.

Drama

LA DOLCE VITA
(Italy/France, 1960, 174 min., in Italian, English, French, and German with English subtitles)
*Saturday, October 16, 7:00 p.m.
*Sunday, October 17, 5:00 p.m.
*Introduced by Alessandro Carrera, professor, University of Houston

This epic follows a tabloid journalist (Marcello Mastroianni) as the excesses of modern Roman life go on around him. Anita Ekberg costars as a Hollywood star whose splash in the Trevi Fountain is one of cinema’s most indelible scenes.

Comedy/Drama

I VITELLONI
(Italy/France, 1953, 104 min., in Italian with English subtitles)
Friday, October 8, 7:00 p.m.

A favorite of directors from Stanley Kubrick to Martin Scorsese, I vitelloni follows a group of male friends drifting through the last scraps of their youth in an Italian coastal city. The film includes one of Nino Rota’s most affecting scores; the composer became one of Fellini’s closest collaborators.

Drama

NIGHTS OF CABIRIA (LE NOTTI DE CABIRIA)
(Italy/France, 1957, 110 min., in Italian with English subtitles)
Friday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.

One of the most indelible characters in all of cinema, Cabiria (Giulietta Masina) is an irrepressible, fiercely independent sex worker who, through adversity and heartbreak, relies on her indomitable spirit to stay positive.

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