



#MFAHatHome Virtual Cinema April 2021

April's not-to-miss virtual cinema includes Oscar Nominated Short Films, thought-provoking documentaries, and more! Please note that film titles stream for one month, unless otherwise noted.

Visit mfah.org/virtualcinema to purchase tickets to view the following films. A portion of the admission price supports MFAH Films.

OPENS APRIL 2

Documentary

WOJNAROWICZ

Directed by Chris McKim
(USA, 2021, 105 min.)

This fiery documentary portrait delves into the life of David Wojnarowicz, New York City artist, writer, photographer, and activist. As New York became the epicenter of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, Wojnarowicz weaponized his work and waged war against the establishment's indifference, up to his death in 1992 at the age of 37. The producers behind *RuPaul's Drag Race* had exclusive access to the artist's extensive archive, alongside recollections from Nan Goldin, Peter Hujar, Fran Lebowitz, and Gracie Mansion.



Shorts Program

2021 OSCAR NOMINATED SHORT FILMS: ANIMATION, LIVE ACTION, AND DOCUMENTARY

Various directors
(Various countries, 2020)
April 2–May 2

Offered in three separate programs (Animated, Live Action, and Documentary), audiences can view the 2021 Oscar Nominated Short Films in each category, predict the winners, and have an edge ahead of the Oscar telecast on April 25! A perennial hit with MFAH audiences, this year's virtual edition can be watched from home. Visit mfah.org/virtualcinema for the nominees.



OPENS APRIL 9

Monthly Classic

IKARIE XB 1

Directed by Jindřich Polák
(Czechoslovakia, 1963, 86 min., B/W, in Czech with English subtitles)
Through April 29

A visionary work of Eastern Bloc science fiction, this mesmerizing adaptation of Stanisław Lem's novel melds Cold War ideology and utopian futurism into a tour de force of space-age modernism, and served as a model for Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*. In 2163, astronauts embark on a perilous 15-year voyage deep into outer space, in hopes of discovering life in another galaxy. During the journey, they confront the wreckage of the 20th century, the chilling vastness of the cosmos, and their own mortality.



OPENS APRIL 14

Drama

THE MAN WHO SOLD HIS SKIN

Directed by Kaouther Ben Hania
(Tunisia/France/Belgium/Germany/Sweden/Turkey, 2020, 104 min., in Arabic, English, French, and Flemish with English subtitles)

Nominated for the 2020 Best International Feature Film Oscar, *The Man Who Sold His Skin* follows Sam Ali, a young, sensitive, and impulsive Syrian who left his country for Lebanon to escape the war. In order to travel to Europe and live with the love of his life, he accepts money to have his back tattooed by one of the world's most controversial contemporary artists. Turning his own body into a prestigious piece of art, Sam will come to realize that his decision might actually mean anything but freedom.



OPENS APRIL 16

Crime Drama/Fantasy

BETTER DAYS (SHAONIAN DE NI)

Directed by Kwok Cheung Tsang
(China/Hong Kong, 2019, 135 min., in Mandarin and English with English subtitles)

In this dramatic crime thriller nominated for the 2020 Best International Feature Film Oscar, Nian (Dongyu Zhou) finds her life at a standstill when faced by relentless bullying from her peers as she prepares for her college entrance exam. Fate brings her together with small-time criminal Bei (Jackson Yee), but before they can retreat into a world of their own, both are dragged into the middle of a murder investigation that will change their lives forever.



Drama

HOPE (HÅP)

Directed by Maria Sødahl
(Norway, 2019, 125 min., in Norwegian with English subtitles)

Norway's submission for the International Feature Academy Award is a powerful drama about love and illness, based on writer-director Maria Sødahl's own experiences. Anja (Andrea Bræin Hovig) lives with Tomas (Stellan Skarsgård) in a bustling blended household. When Anja receives a terminal cancer diagnosis, the couple must reconnect and commit to their relationship to guide their family through the difficult times ahead. Sødahl hopes audiences will "be given a golden opportunity to reflect on choices they make in their own lives."



OPENS APRIL 23

Comedy/Drama

MY WONDERFUL WANDA (WANDA, MEIN WUNDER)

Directed by Bettina Oberli
(Switzerland, 2020, 111 min., in German with English subtitles)

Winner of Audience Awards at Tribeca and Vancouver, *My Wonderful Wanda* is a satire set against the backdrop of a gorgeous Swiss lakeside villa. Wanda has left her children in Poland to take a job as caregiver for the patriarch of a wealthy dynasty as he recovers from a stroke. Wanda navigates tricky family dynamics between the two immature adult children and the elegant, controlling matriarch (the amazing Marthe Keller). But an unexpected turn of events turns everything upside down.



OPENS APRIL 30

Documentary

MAĻNI – TOWARDS THE OCEAN, TOWARDS THE SHORE

Directed by Sky Hopinka
(USA, 2020, 80 min., in Chinuk Wawa with English subtitles)

A poetic, experimental debut feature about the origins of the death myth from the Chinook peoples in the Pacific Northwest. Posing probing questions about humanity's place on earth and beyond, Sky Hopinka's hypnotic film, with its evocative score and stunning visuals, encourages viewers to join in a journey of self-discovery. "Hopinka inverts the tropes of the ethnographic documentary to depict indigenous life from an indigenous perspective." – *Cinema Scope*

**ABOUT VIRTUAL CINEMA**

While the Brown Auditorium Theater is currently closed for films and lectures, the Museum is offering a virtual cinema series. Films are available online through ticketed streaming platforms. Please visit mfah.org/virtualcinema and follow the instructions to find the page for the movie you'd like to watch. Ticket prices vary, and a portion of your ticket supports the film department.

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