



#MFAHatHome Virtual Cinema

July 2021

OPENS JULY 2

Drama

SUN CHILDREN (*KHORSHID*)

Directed by Majid Majidi
(Iran, 2020, 99 min., in Farsi with English subtitles)

Sun Children, a timely social drama with touches of adventure, considers the human rights of children. Twelve-year-old Ali and his friends are resourceful at surviving on Tehran's streets. The boys are hired by a dangerous criminal to find buried treasure hidden under the maintenance tunnel of the Sun School, a facility for homeless and immigrant youth. The intrepid friends manipulate the teacher to enroll them in the school, and some of them thrive in the new environment. The young nonprofessional actors featured in the lead roles give authentic performances that are endearing and memorable. In an interview, Oscar-nominated writer-director Majid Majidi dedicated his film to raising awareness of the plight of children like his protagonists.



OPENS JULY 9

Drama

THE STORY OF A THREE-DAY PASS

Directed by Melvin Van Peebles
(France, 1968, 87 min., in English and French with English subtitles)

Exuberant, inventive, and poignant, this film brilliantly balances French New Wave style with profound social critique and psychological substance. Melvin Van Peebles adapted the film from his novel *La permission*, written in French after he traded Hollywood's racist roadblocks for opportunity in Paris. Turner (Harry Baird), an African American soldier stationed in France, is granted a promotion and a three-day leave from base. He goes to Paris and begins a whirlwind romance with a white woman (Nicole Berger). Van Peebles creates an exploration of the psychology of an interracial relationship, as well as a commentary on France's contradictory attitudes about race. The film is playful, sarcastic, and stinging subversive by turns, and lays the foundation for the cinematic revolution Van Peebles unleashes in 1971 with *Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song*.



SUN CHILDREN (*KHORSHID*)

The Museum's virtual cinema offers an exciting selection of award-winning features and topical documentaries to watch from home.

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

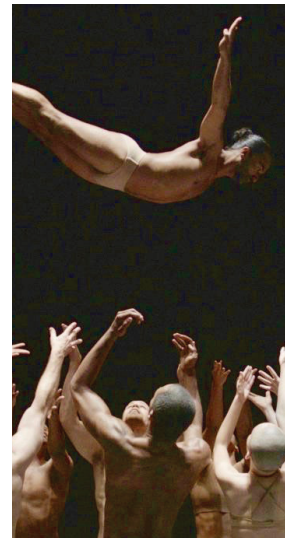
OPENS JULY 16

Documentary

CAN YOU BRING IT: BILL T. JONES AND D-MAN IN THE WATERS

Directed by Rosalyn LeBlanc and Tom Hurwitz
(USA, 2020, 90 min.)

Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones and D-Man in the Waters brings to life the creative process that culminated in choreographer-dancer-director Bill T. Jones's tour de force ballet *D-Man in the Waters*. Life and creative partners Jones and Arnie Zane choreographed *D-Man in the Waters* as a dance that was a physical manifestation of the emotions prompted by the AIDS epidemic. When it debuted in 1989, its impact was cathartic, serving as an homage to the many performers in New York's arts community who had passed away. Three decades later, Jones guides a group of young dancers to reconstruct the work, encouraging them to explore what is at stake in their own personal lives in order to commit and perform it effectively. Their process is punctuated by an extraordinary collage of interviews, archival material, and uniquely powerful cinematography.



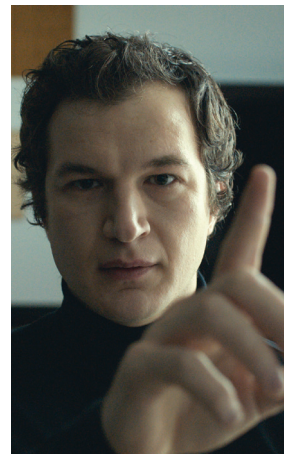
OPENS JULY 30

Comedy/Drama

NEVER GONNA SNOW AGAIN (*SNIEGU JUZ NIGDY NIE BEDZIE*)

Directed by Malgorzata Szumowska and Michal Englert
(Poland/Germany, 2020, 113 min., in Polish, Russian, French, and Vietnamese with English subtitles)

A handsome Russian masseur Zhenia (Alec Utgoff, *Stranger Things*) arrives in a Polish city, obtains a residence permit, and begins booking massage appointments with the wealthy residents of a gated community. Zhenia's popularity soars with his hypnotic presence and quasi-magical abilities. Rivalries among neighbors rise to the surface, as word spreads about the transformative impact of his healing hands. Yet Zhenia has his own worries: why are two men looking for him? Poland's submission for the 2021 Oscars, *Never Gonna Snow Again* is a meditation on class, immigration, and global warming, with a stylistic nod to David Lynch and otherworldly moments of ethereal beauty and unexpected humor.



STILL STREAMING

Documentary

AGAINST THE CURRENT

Directed by Óskar Páll Sveinsson
(Iceland, 2020, 87 min., in Icelandic with English subtitles)

Veiga Grétarsdóttir is the first person in the world to attempt to kayak more than 1,200 miles around Iceland, counterclockwise and "against the current." Veiga's personal journey is no less remarkable: she was born as a boy 44 years ago in an Icelandic fishing village. Veigar had a wife and family but decided at the age of 38 to undergo gender reassignment. The inner struggle was a journey as difficult, if not more so, than the solo expedition she undertakes. These two stories are intertwined as the film documents her 103-day journey around Iceland, with the magical coastline of the country a backdrop to the story of Veiga's transition.

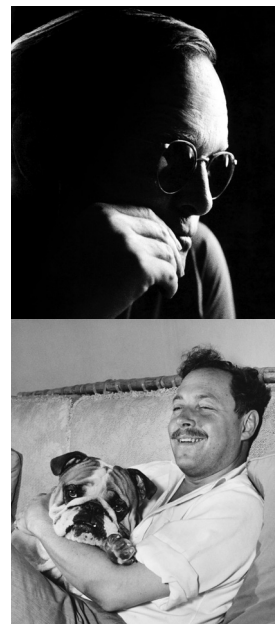


Documentary

TRUMAN & TENNESSEE: AN INTIMATE CONVERSATION

Directed by Lisa Immordino Vreeland
(USA, 2020, 81 min.)

The work lives and personal journeys of two iconic American writers, Truman Capote and Tennessee Williams, coalesce in this innovative dual-portrait documentary. Lisa Immordino Vreeland (*Love, Cecil*) distills the loves, fears, and accomplishments of these masters via an array of archival materials, film clips, and vibrant voiceover work from Jim Parsons and Zachary Quinto. The film celebrates the sometimes tumultuous friendship of the writers through the ages, while honoring the way their queer identity and southern upbringing informed their world-renowned artistic achievements and relationships with family, friends, and each other.



Drama

ASIA

Directed by Ruthy Pribar
(Israel, 2020, 85 min., in Hebrew and Russian with English subtitles)

Winner of nine Israeli Academy Awards, Ruthy Pribar's debut feature film follows Asia (Alena Yiv) and her daughter Vika (Shira Haas from Netflix's *Unorthodox*), who are more like sisters than parent and child. Young mom Asia hides nothing about her work-hard, play-hard lifestyle, and expects the same openness from teenage Vika. When Vika's health deteriorates, Asia finds herself in new territory as she must achieve a balance between asserting her authority and respecting her daughter's point of view.

**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.

Special thanks to our promotional partner Houston Cinema Arts Society.

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