



#MFAHatHome Virtual Cinema

June 2021

OPENS JUNE 2

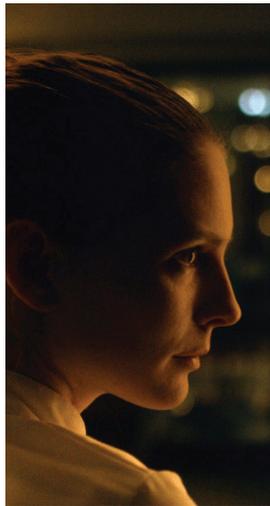
Short Film Compilation

NEW FRENCH SHORTS 2021

Various directors
(France, 2021, 135 min., in French with English subtitles)
For mature audiences

Showcasing talented new cinematic voices, **Young French Cinema** celebrates the art of the short film. This edition of seven new films includes the Oscar-nominated animated *Genius Loci* alongside César Award winners and favorites from the international festival circuit. From the heart of Paris to the beaches of North Africa, this lively selection touches on life's many moments and includes innovative shorts that are romantic, funny, sexy, enigmatic, provocative, and tender.

New French Shorts 2021 is made available through Young French Cinema, a program of UniFrance and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.



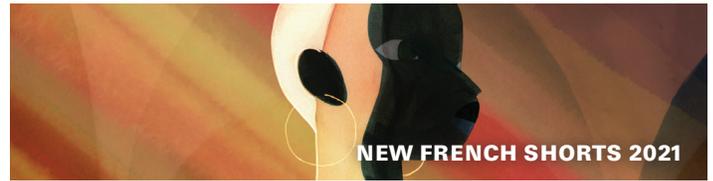
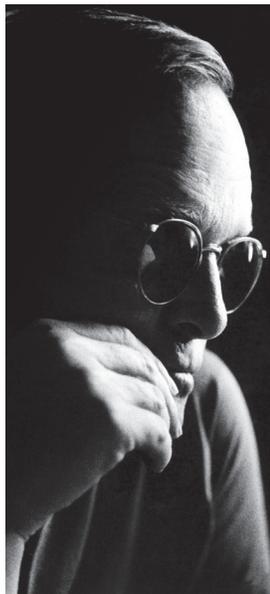
OPENS JUNE 18

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 artistic achievements 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 informed their world-renowned artistic achievements and relationships with family, friends, and each other.



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 JUNE 25

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 of conflict and struggle 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.

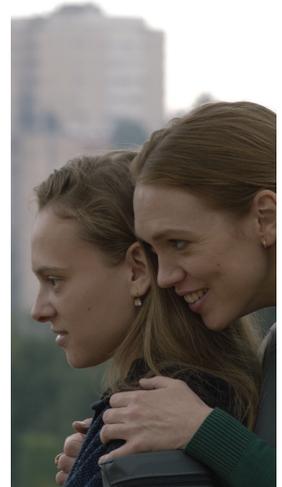


Drama

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.



STILL STREAMING

Documentary

BILL TRAYLOR: CHASING GHOSTS

Directed by Jeffrey Wolf
(USA, 2020, 75 min.)

Born into slavery on a cotton plantation in Alabama, artist Bill Traylor (1853–1949) only started to create art in his 80s. He devised his own powerful and culturally rooted visual language. With surprising use of tap dance and evocative period music, this documentary balances archival photographs and footage, insightful perspectives from his descendants, and Traylor's striking work to celebrate the spirit of his incomparable art.

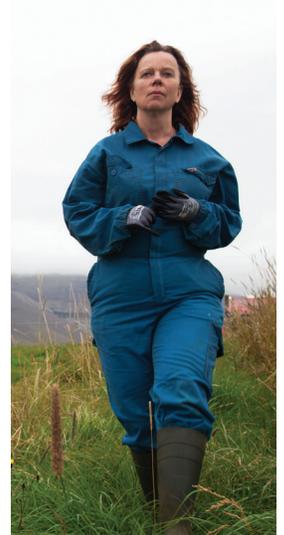


Comedy/Drama

THE COUNTY (HÉRAÐIÐ)

Directed by Grímur Hákonarson
(Iceland/Denmark/Germany/France, 2019, 92 min., in Icelandic with English subtitles)

Inga (Arndís Hrönn Egilsdóttir) is a middle-aged Icelandic dairy farmer who, following a tragedy, challenges the powerful local cooperative, encouraging other farmers to join her and fight its corruption. Encountering great resistance, Inga is forced to confront the community's dependence on an exploitative system and use her resourcefulness to break free of the co-op's grasp.



Monthly Classic

CENTER STAGE (RUAN LINGYU)

Directed by Stanley Kwan
(Hong Kong, 1991, 154 min., in Mandarin and Cantonese with English subtitles)

International superstar Maggie Cheung embodies tragic screen siren Ruan Lingyu (1910–1935), known as the "Greta Garbo of China," in this unconventional biopic by Hong Kong New Wave master Stanley Kwan. Praised for her moving and emotive onscreen presence, Ruan's private life, which was frequent fodder for the vicious Shanghai tabloids, began to mirror the melodramas that brought her fame, culminating in her suicide at age 24. Ruan's legacy is vividly detailed in this intimate portrait of the ill-fated actress that deftly blends lush period drama with archival footage.



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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