

CALIFORNIA TYPEWRITER

Filmmaker Doug Nichol in Person!

Friday, January 26 at 7:00 and Sunday, January 28 at 4:30



Sonoma County Premiere! “In this magnificent filmic essay, director-photographer-editor Doug Nichol explores the mythology attached to the endangered typewriter... Nichol includes testimony from David McCullough, Tom Hanks and John Mayer, who rely on typewriters for their creative work, as well as cultural historians, collectors and various obsessives who celebrate the physicality of the typewriter both as object and as a means of concretizing the creative process. “You can see the ink flying onto the surface of the paper,” says Sam Shepard (who also prefers horses to cars). Can anything keep typewriters from drifting toward obsolescence? Can we imagine the cult of typewriter-users growing in number and importance? Nichol’s fascinating combination of history and aesthetic analysis plunges us into the mysterious, bittersweet moment in which a beloved technology faces extinction.” - *Telluride Film Festival* (2016, 103 min.)

Director Doug Nichol will be present to introduce the film and answer questions after the Friday screening.

BLESS THEIR LITTLE HEARTS

Friday, February 2 at 7:00 and Sunday, February 4 at 4:30

New Restoration Print! “BLESS THEIR LITTLE HEARTS represents the closure and pinnacle of a neorealist strand within the L.A. Rebellion. Billy Woodberry’s film chronicles the devastating effects of underemployment on a family. Nate Hardman and Kaycee Moore deliver gut-wrenching performances as the couple whose family is torn apart by events beyond their control. If salvation remains, it’s in the sensitive depiction of everyday life, which persists throughout. The film remains an unforgettable landmark in American cinema.” - *Ross Lipman* Written and photographed by Charles Burnett, who is receiving an Honorary Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement this year. (1984, 84 min.) Preceded by THE POCKETBOOK, Billy Woodberry’s 1980 short from a Langston Hughes story. (13 min.)

FACES/PLACES (VISAGES/VILLAGES)

Friday, February 9 at 7:00 and Sunday, February 11 at 4:30



“The 88-year-old Agnès Varda teamed up with the 33-year-old visual artist JR for this tour of rural France that follows in the footsteps of Varda’s groundbreaking documentary THE GLEANERS AND I as it celebrates artisanal production, workers’ solidarity, and the photographic arts in the face of mortality. Varda and JR wielded cameras themselves, but they were also documented in their travels by multiple image and sound recordists. Out of this often spontaneous jumble, Varda and her editor Maxime Pozzi-Garcia created an unassuming masterpiece (the winner of this year’s L’Oeil d’or at Cannes) that is vivid, lyrical, and inspiringly humanistic.” - *New York Film Festival* Agnès Varda is receiving an Honorary Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement this year. (2017, 89 min., in French w/English subtitles)

THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE (Toivon tuolla puolen)

Friday, February 16 at 7:00 and Sunday, February 18 at 4:30

Sonoma County Premiere! Winner of the Silver Bear for Best Director at the Berlin International Film Festival. “Leave it to Aki Kaurismäki, peerless master of humanist tragicomedy, to make the first great fiction film about the 21st century migrant crisis. Having escaped bombed-out Aleppo, Syrian refugee Khaled (Sherwan Haji) seeks asylum in Finland, only to get lost in a maze of functionaries and bureaucracies. Meanwhile, shirt salesman Wikström (Sakari Kuosmanen) leaves his wife, wins big in a poker game, and takes over a restaurant whose deadpan staff he also inherits. These parallel stories dovetail to gently comic and enormously moving effect in Kaurismäki’s politically urgent fable, an object lesson on the value of compassion and hope that remains grounded in a tangible social reality.” - *Film Society of Lincoln Center* “It’s a deeply humane film, as well as a quietly hilarious one.” - *Dave Calhoun, Time Out* (2017, 100 min., in Finnish, English and Arabic w/English subtitles)

IN A LONELY PLACE

Friday, February 23 at 7:00 and Sunday, February 25 at 4:30



With the recent release of the Gloria Grahame bio-pic FILM STARS DON’T DIE IN LIVERPOOL, starring Annette Bening, we thought it might be a good time to take another look at this unique and formidable actress. Grahame stars with Humphrey Bogart in Nicholas Ray’s tale of mistrustful lovers based on Dorothy B. Hughes pathological novel. Dix Steele (Bogart) is a faltering Hollywood scriptwriter with anger management problems who falls in love with his neighbor (Grahame). (1950, 94 min.)

In Celebration of Women’s History Month Filmmaker Connie Field in Person!

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ROSIE THE RIVETER

Friday, March 2 at 7:00



Bay Area Filmmaker Connie Field’s critically acclaimed documentary on the wartime experiences of women workers. Juxtaposing old photographs and newsreel footage with reminiscences of five former Rosies, the film forms a bittersweet statement about American attitudes and hypocritical doctrines. “These were no tap-dancing girls swaying rhythmically at Lockheed, as Hollywood imaged them, but earnest individuals who had their dreams of economic survival, who really did praise the Lord and pass the ammunition.” - *Albert Johnson* Selected by the Library of Congress to be preserved in the United States National Film Registry. (1980, 65 min.)

Director Connie Field will be present to introduce the film and answer questions after the screening.

Spring 2018

Warren Auditorium/Ives Hall

Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park

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FREE ADMISSION. Suggested donation \$5.

There is a \$5 parking fee in all Sonoma State University lots.

SFI is supported in part by Instructionally Related Activity Funds



Director Alexandre Philippe in Person!

Friday, March 9 at 7:00 and Sunday, March 11 at 4:30



Sonoma County Premiere! The screeching strings, the plunging knife, the slow zoom out from a lifeless eyeball: in 1960, Alfred Hitchcock’s *Psycho* changed film history forever with its taboo-shattering shower scene. With 78 camera set-ups and 52 edits over the course of 3 minutes, *Psycho* redefined screen violence, set the stage for decades of slasher films to come, and introduced a new element of danger to the moviegoing experience. Aided by a roster of filmmakers, critics, and fans—including Guillermo del Toro, Bret Easton Ellis, Jamie Lee Curtis, Eli Roth, and Peter Bogdanovich—director Alexandre O. Philippe pulls back the curtain on the making and influence of this cinematic game changer, breaking it down frame by frame and unpacking Hitchcock’s dense web of allusions and double meanings. The result is an enthralling piece of cinematic detective work that’s nirvana for film buffs. (2017, 91 min.)

Director Alexandre Philippe will introduce the film and answer questions after the Friday screening.

LOST IN PARIS

Friday, March 16 at 7:00 and Sunday, March 18 at 4:30



North Bay Premiere! “Fiona (Fiona Gordon), a shy and nerdy librarian, visits Paris for the first time to assist her myopic octogenarian Aunt Martha (Emmanuelle Riva). All manner of comic catastrophes ensue, mainly involving Dom (Dominique Abel), a gently anarchic homeless man who has yet to have an emotion or thought he was afraid of expressing, or an appetite he hasn’t tried to immediately satisfy. Gordon and Abel, the writer-directors of cult classics *L’ICEBERG* and *THE FAIRY*, and contemporary heirs apparent to Keaton and Tati, again construct a quietly dizzying succession of chance meetings, mistaken identities, impossible coincidences and elaborate stunts and gags. In their eccentric alternate universe, a backpack, old photos and some stray bottles of champagne somehow become magical erotic talismans. And you won’t want to miss the film’s main theme song, written by Loudon Wainwright III and sung by Kate and Anna McGarrigle.” - *Telluride Film Festival*. (2016, 85 min., in French w/English subtitles)

Closed March 19 – April 5

THE KILLING

Friday, April 6 at 7:00 and Sunday, April 8 at 4:30

Stanley Kubrick’s all-time great caper film is a taut, fast paced thriller with a wonderfully seedy cast (Elisha Cook, Jr., Marie Windsor and Vince Edwards). Lucien Ballard’s fluid camerawork uses the tiny sets to best advantage, creating a claustrophobic, low-budget masterpiece. Sterling Hayden is the stoic race-track heist mastermind “finally dismayed by the dollar bills winnowed in aircraft slipstream.” – *David Thomson* (1956, 83 min.)

MISS KIET’S CHILDREN

Friday, April 13 at 7:00 and Sunday, April 15 at 4:30

North Bay Premiere! The international press calls *MISS KIET’S CHILDREN*: “a jewel,” “subtle but powerful,” and “tender and shrewdly observed.” In the Dutch countryside, a gaggle of refugee children, mostly from Syria, are students in Miss Kiet’s classroom. Smart, compassionate, keenly aware of the problems they’ve already lived through – she teaches them to speak Dutch, to talk the talk -- but more importantly, to walk the walk. Trust, patience, compassion, and humor are part of the lesson plan. For a refugee child anywhere in the world, Miss Kiet’s class must be the closest thing to dying and going to heaven. The movie is a revelation to anyone who reads the headlines but has no idea how delightful, confounding, and thoroughly surprising “refugees” can be. Directed by Petra Lataster-Czisch and Peter Lataster. (2016, 114 min., in Dutch and Arabic w/English subtitles)

ELEVATOR TO THE GALLOWS

Friday, April 20 at 7:00 and Sunday, April 22 at 4:30

The late, great Jeanne Moreau was vaulted to cinematic stardom in Louis Malle’s first feature, an elegant Hitchcockian thriller that was made when the director was just 24. The improvised score is by Miles Davis. “Maurice Ronet and Moreau star as an ex-paratrooper and his lover who plot to murder her industrialist husband. Things do not go exactly as planned.... Adroitly bringing in the wider issues of the Indochina war, industry, and runaway machinery, Malle creates a milieu for his frantic, frustrated lovers.” - *Pacific Film Archive* (1958, 92 min., in French w/English subtitles)

LOVER FOR A DAY

Friday, April 27 at 7:00 and Sunday, April 29 at 4:30

North Bay Premiere! *LOVER FOR A DAY* is an exquisite meditation on love and fidelity that recalls Philippe Garrel’s previous films, *JEALOUSY* (SFI 2014) and *IN THE SHADOW OF WOMEN* (SFI 2016). After a painful breakup, heartbroken Jeanne (Esther Garrel) moves back in with her university professor father, Gilles (Eric Caravaca), to discover that he lives with optimistic, life-loving student Ariane (newcomer Louise Chevillotte), who is the same age as Jeanne. An unusual triangular relationship emerges as both girls seek the favor of Gilles, as daughter or lover, while developing their own friendship, and finding common ground despite their differences. Gorgeously shot in grainy black and white by Renato Berta (*AU REVOIR LES ENFANTS*), *LOVER FOR A DAY* perfectly illustrates Garrel’s poetic exploration of relationships and desire. (2017, 76 min., in French w/English subtitles)

TWO FOR THE ROAD

Friday, May 4 at 7:00

“Welcome to one of the funniest, saddest, most brittle and brutal American comedies ever made about the long, long road of wedded ambivalence, with Albert Finney and Audrey Hepburn as your unassailably glamorous guides. Stanley Donen’s *TWO FOR THE ROAD*, an alternately sweet and wrenching set of scenes from a marriage was one of the first unsuitable-for-children movies ever to play at Radio City Music Hall. The film was not taken as the act of *épater-la-bourgeoisie* rebellion that many of 1967’s more famous movies were felt to embody, but the sting of Frederic Raphael’s Oscar-nominated screenplay is as acute as any movie of the era, and the sophistication of its structure remains remarkable.” - *Mark Harris, Film Comment* (1967, 111 min.)

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