



ELEVENTH ANNUAL ROBERT

CLASSIC FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

Presented by **TV5MONDE**

March 8-24, 2019

Sponsored by the Jane M. & Bruce P. Robert Charitable Foundation

Produced by Cinema St. Louis

WE THANK ALL OUR FRENCH-AMERICAN GROUPS WHO SUPPORT CINEMA ST. LOUIS

WANT TO SPEAK FRENCH? REFRESH YOUR FRENCH CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE? CONTACT US!

This page sponsored by the Jane M. & Bruce P. Robert Charitable Foundation.



Centre Francophone at Webster University

An organization dedicated to promoting Francophone culture and helping French educators.

Contact info: Lionel Cuillé, Ph.D., Jane and Bruce Robert Chair in French and Francophone Studies, Webster University, 314-246-8619, francophone@webster.edu, facebook.com/centrefrancophoneinstlouis, webster.edu/arts-and-sciences/affiliates-events/centre-francophone



Alliance Française de St. Louis

A member-supported nonprofit center engaging the St. Louis community in French language and culture.

Contact info: 314-432-0734, bonjour@alliancestl.org, alliancestl.org



American Association of Teachers of French

The only professional association devoted exclusively to the needs of French teachers at all levels, with the mission of advancing the study of the French language and French-speaking literatures and cultures both in schools and in the general public.

Contact info: Audra Merfeld-Langston, president, Greater St. Louis Chapter, audram@mst.edu, www.frenchteachers.org



Les Amis ("The Friends")

French Creole heritage preservationist group for the Mid-Mississippi River Valley. Promotes the Creole Corridor on both sides of the Mississippi River from Cahokia-Chester, IL, and Ste. Genevieve-St. Louis, MO. Parts of the Corridor are in the process of nomination for the designation of UNESCO World Heritage Site through Les Amis.

Contact info: 660-882-5946, info@les-amis.org, les-amis.org



The Jane M. &
Bruce P. Robert
Charitable Foundation

Cinema St. Louis offers French programming at the annual Robert Classic French Film Festival and the Robert French and French-Language Focus at the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival (Nov. 7-17, 2019).



The 11th Annual Robert Classic French Film Festival — presented by TV5MONDE and produced by Cinema St. Louis — celebrates St. Louis’ Gallic heritage and France’s cinematic legacy. The featured films span the decades from the 1930s through the 1990s, offering a revealing overview of French cinema.

The fest annually includes significant restorations, and this year features seven such works: Pierre Schoendoerffer “The 317th Platoon,” Marcel Pagnol’s “The Baker’s Wife,” Olivier Assayas’ “Cold Water,” Jacques Becker’s “The Hole,” Jacques Rivette’s “The Nun,” Agnès Varda’s “One Sings, the Other Doesn’t,” and Diane Kurys’ “Peppermint Soda.”

The schedule is rounded out by Robert Bresson’s final film, “L’argent,” and two 1969 films celebrating their 50th anniversaries: Luis Buñuel’s “The Milky Way” and Eric Rohmer’s “My Night at Maud’s.”

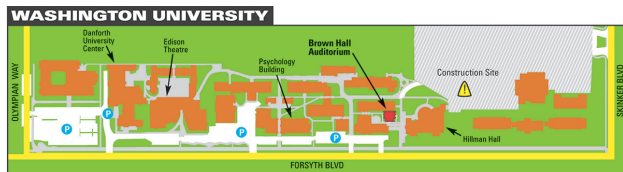
Every program features introductions and discussions by film or French scholars and critics. The discussions will place the works in the contexts of both film and French history and provide close analyses.

All films are in French with English subtitles.

VENUE

Washington University’s Brown Hall Auditorium, Forsyth Boulevard (two blocks west of Skinker Boulevard)

Free parking is available on the street and in the yellow-zone sections of lots along Forsyth Boulevard and in the Danforth University Center garage; no permits are required on weekends.



ADMISSION

Tickets are \$13 for general admission; \$10 for students and Cinema St. Louis members.

Advance tickets can be purchased through Brown Paper Tickets at brownpapertickets.com. In the “Find an Event” search box, type “Classic French.” A service charge will apply, and only full-price tickets are available in advance.

More Info: 314-289-4150, www.cinemastlouis.org

CINEMA ST. LOUIS BOARD

J. Kim Tucci - Chair, Jilanne Barnes - Vice Chair, Roy H. Kramer - Treasurer, Delcia Corlew - Secretary

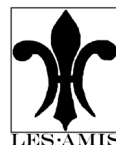
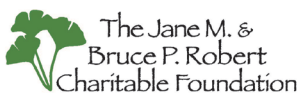
Executive Committee - David Houille, David Johnson, Andrew Leonard, Jon Mendelson, Joni Tackette, Sharon Tucci, Vince Volpe

Board Members - Barry Albrecht, Srikant Chellappa, Kathy Corley, Robyn Henry, Greg Hoeltzel, William McMahon, April Powell, Paul Randolph, Linda Brown Reed, Jane Robert, Wilmetta Toliver-Diallo

CINEMA ST. LOUIS STAFF

Cliff Froehlich - Executive Director, Chris Clark - Artistic Director,
Brian Spath - Operations Supervisor, Bree Maniscalco - Development Director

SPONSORS





FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 7:30 P.M.

The 317th Platoon/La 317ème section

Pierre Schoendoerffer, 1965, 100 min., B&W, new restoration, DCP projection source

In Pierre Schoendoerffer's film adaptation of his own well-regarded novel — shot by the great Raoul Coutard — a platoon of French soldiers and Laotian allies fight their way through enemy territory and dense jungle to meet up with their compatriots as the Indochina War grinds to a halt. The New York Times hails "The 317th Platoon" as "a genuinely revelatory war movie," describing it as "a staggeringly engrossing and effective movie, its settings both beautiful and oppressive, its incidents tense and eye-opening." No less of an authority than Oliver Stone asserts that "The 317th Platoon" and Schoendoerffer's documentary "The Anderson Platoon" remain the only films that "seem to me to give a realistic image of the war in Indochina."

With an introduction and post-film discussion by Joshua Ray, film critic for Cinema St. Louis' The Lens.

Sponsored by Ann Repetto



SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 7:30 P.M.

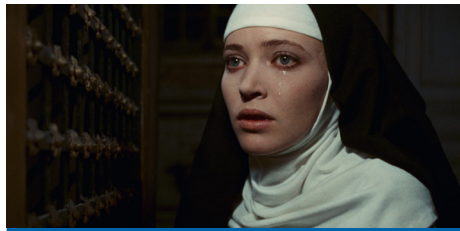
The Milky Way/La voie lactée

Luis Buñuel, 1969, 101 min., color, Blu-ray projection source

The first of what Luis Buñuel later proclaimed a trilogy (along with "The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie" and "The Phantom of Liberty") about "the search for truth," "The Milky Way" daringly deconstructs contemporary and traditional views on Catholicism with ribald, rambunctious surreality. Two French beggars (Michel Piccoli and Paul Frankeur), present-day pilgrims en route to Spain's holy city of Santiago de Compostela, serve as Buñuel's narrators for an anticlerical history of heresy, told with absurdity and filled with images that rank among Buñuel's most memorable (stigmatic children, crucified nuns) and hilarious (Jesus considering a good shave). Co-starring Delphine Seyrig, the film is co-written by Buñuel with frequent collaborator Jean-Claude Carrière.

With an introduction and post-film discussion by Pier Marton, video artist and unlearning specialist at the School of No Media. Marton has lectured with his work at the Museum of Modern Art, the Carnegie Museum, and the Walker Art Center.

Sponsored by American Association of Teachers of French



SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 7 P.M.

The Nun/La religieuse

Jacques Rivette, 1966, 140 min., color, new restoration, DCP projection source

In 18th-century France, novice Suzanne (a luminous Anna Karina) is compelled by her family to take her vows and become a nun. Doing what she can to resist, Suzanne is shuttled between convents with widely different Mothers Superior, ranging from maternal to sadistic to amorous. Based on the novel by Denis Diderot, Jacques Rivette's film was banned on its initial release and its fate became a long-running scandal. New York Times critic J. Hoberman writes: "A writer for the right-wing weekly Carrefour declared: 'If, in the name of freedom, we let this film be shown, we might just as well throw open the doors of France to all the dirty hairy beatniks of the earth.'"

With an introduction and post-film discussion by Pete Timmermann, interim director of the Webster U. Film Series and adjunct film professor at Webster U.



FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 7:30 P.M.

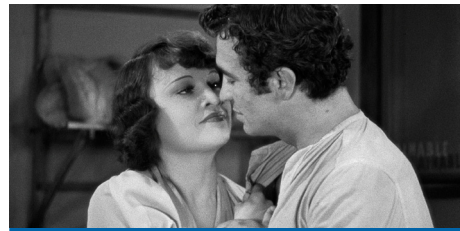
The Hole/Le trou

Jacques Becker, 1960, 132 min., B&W, new restoration, DCP projection source

Four men in La Santé Prison, staring down the barrel at hard time, decide to execute a prison break and are forced to bring on a fifth member, Claude Gaspard (Marc Michel), when he is assigned to their cell. The particulars of the escape are rendered in painstaking detail as the five men dream of freedom. Director Jacques Becker (whose "Casque d'or" played at the 2018 Classic French Film Festival) cast the film largely with nonprofessionals, among them the actual "king of escapes," Roland Barbat, on whose story the film is based. In Cahiers du Cinéma, director Jean-Pierre Melville said of "Le trou": "How many pages would it take to enumerate the wonders of this masterpiece, of this film that I consider — and here I weigh my words carefully — as the greatest French film of all time?"

With an introduction and post-film discussion by Andrew Wyatt, editor of and film critic for Cinema St. Louis' The Lens and the Gateway Cinephile film blog.

Sponsored by Alliance Française de Saint Louis



SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 7:30 P.M.

The Baker's Wife/La femme du boulanger

Marcel Pagnol, 1938, 133 min., B&W, new restoration, DCP projection source

The warmth and wit of celebrated playwright-turned-auteur Marcel Pagnol ("The Marseille Trilogy" of "Marius," "Fanny," and "César") shines through in this enchanting slice-of-life comedy. Returning once again to the Provençal countryside he knew intimately, Pagnol draws a vivid portrait of a close-knit village where the marital woes of a sweetly deluded baker (the inimitable Raimu) snowball into a scandal that engulfs the entire town. Marrying the director's abiding concern for the experiences of ordinary people with an understated but superbly judged visual style, "The Baker's Wife" is at once wonderfully droll and piercingly perceptive in its nuanced treatment of the complexities of human relationships.

With an introduction and post-film discussion by Lionel Cuillé, the Jane and Bruce Robert professor of French and Francophone studies at Webster University.

Sponsored by Centre Francophone



SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 7 P.M.

One Sings, the Other Doesn't/L'une chante l'autre pas

Agnès Varda, 1977, 120 min., color, new restoration, DCP projection source

Agnès Varda's unsung feminist anthem is both a buoyant chronicle of a transformative friendship and an empowering vision of universal sisterhood. When 17-year-old Pauline (Valérie Mairesse) helps struggling mother of two Suzanne (Thérèse Liotard) procure the money for an abortion, a deep bond forms between the two, one that endures over the course of more than a decade as each searches for her place in the world — encountering the dawning of the women's movement, dreamy boho musical numbers, and an Iranian adventure along the way. Initially divisive for its sunny, idealized view of female liberation, "One Sings, the Other Doesn't" now seems all the more radical for its unabashedly utopian spirit.

With an introduction and post-film discussion by Cait Lore, film critic for Cinema St. Louis' The Lens.



FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 7:30 P.M.

L'argent

Robert Bresson, 1984, 84 min., color, DCP projection source

In his ruthlessly clear-eyed final film, French master Robert Bresson pushed his unique blend of spiritual rumination and formal rigor to a new level of astringency. Transposing a Tolstoy novella to contemporary Paris, "L'argent" follows a counterfeit bill as it originates as a prop in a schoolboy prank, then circulates like a virus among the corrupt and the virtuous alike before landing with a young truck driver and leading him to incarceration and violence. With brutal economy, Bresson constructs his unforgiving vision of original sin out of starkly perceived details, rooting his characters in a dehumanizing material world that withholds any hope of transcendence.

With an introduction and post-film discussion by Colin Burnett, interim chair and associate professor of Film & Media Studies at Washington U. and author of "The Invention of Robert Bresson: The Auteur and His Market."

Sponsored by Jane M. & Bruce P. Robert Charitable Foundation



SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 5 P.M.

Peppermint Soda/Diabolos menthe

Diane Kurys, 1977, 101 min., color, new restoration, DCP projection source

In the vein of such classic coming-of-age classics as François Truffaut's "The 400 Blows," Diane Kurys' "Peppermint Soda" captures a particular moment in the tumultuous life and development of young people. Anne (Éléonore Klarwein) and Frédérique (Odile Michel) are sisters entering their teen years in 1963 France, torn between divorced parents and struggling with the confines of their strict school. Along the way, they undergo an awakening both political and romantic. Kurys' celebrated film revels in the comedy and tragedy of the seemingly mundane, weaving a complex tapestry of everyday existence that also touches on the universal.

With an introduction and post-film discussion by Jean-Louis Pautrot, professor of French and international studies at Saint Louis University.

Sponsored by Jane M. & Bruce P. Robert Charitable Foundation



SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 7:30 P.M.

Cold Water/L'eau froide

Olivier Assayas, 1994, 94 min., color, new restoration, DCP projection source

An acclaimed early work by Olivier Assayas that has long remained unavailable, the deeply felt coming-of-age drama "Cold Water" at long last makes its way to U.S. theaters. Drawing from his own youthful experiences, Assayas revisits the outskirts of Paris in the early 1970s, telling the story of teenage lovers Gilles (Cyprien Fouquet) and Christine (Virginie Ledoyen), whose open rebellion against family and society threatens to tear them apart, as Christine is sent to an institution by her parents and Gilles faces an uncertain future after running into trouble at school. With a rock soundtrack that vividly evokes the period — and provides the backdrop for one of the most memorable party sequences ever committed to film — "Cold Water" is a heartbreaking immersion into the emotional tumult of adolescence.

With an introduction and post-film discussion by Diane Carson, professor emerita of film at St. Louis Community College at Meramec and film critic for KDHX (88.1 FM).



SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 7 P.M.

My Night at Maud's/Ma nuit chez Maud

Eric Rohmer, 1969, 111 min. B&W, DCP projection source

In the brilliantly accomplished centerpiece of Eric Rohmer's "Moral Tales" series, Jean-Louis Trintignant plays Jean-Louis, one of the great conflicted figures of '60s cinema. A pious Catholic engineer in his early 30s, he lives by a strict moral code in order to rationalize his world, drowning himself in mathematics and the philosophy of Pascal. After spotting the delicate, blond Françoise at Mass, he vows to make her his wife, although when he unwittingly spends the night at the apartment of the bold, brunette divorcée Maud, his rigid ethical standards are challenged. A breakout hit in the United States, "My Night at Maud's" was one of the most influential and talked-about films of the decade.

With an introduction and post-film discussion by Robert Garrick, attorney, board member of the French-preservation nonprofit Les Amis, and former contributor to the davekehr.com film blog.

Sponsored by Les Amis



2019 Calendar of Events

QFest

April 28-May 2
Tivoli Theatre



48 Hour Film Project

June 8-9 & 19
WashU/Brown Hall



Whitaker St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase

July 12-14 & 19-21
WashU/Brown Hall



Golden Anniversaries: Films of 1969

Aug. 31-Sept. 1,
Sept. 7-8 & 14-15
St. Louis Public Library



28th Annual Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival

Nov. 7-17
Multiple Locations

**For more details, visit
cinemastlouis.org**



American Association of Teachers of French

*The only professional organization
devoted exclusively to the needs of
French teachers at all levels.*

www.frenchteachers.org



Alliance Française de Saint Louis

Learn French Speak French Live French



A NONPROFIT TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

930 N. McKnight Rd. | St. Louis, MO 63132
314-432-0734 | bonjour@alliancestl.org | alliancestl.org


Washington
University in St. Louis

MASTER'S DEGREE IN FILM & MEDIA STUDIES

This post-baccalaureate degree emphasizes multiple approaches to historical and contemporary film and media while offering an extraordinary level of faculty attention and the opportunity to explore curating, research, teaching, creative production, and other professional and scholarly activities.

For more information visit: fms.artsci.wustl.edu/masters



Film & Media Studies
Washington University in St. Louis | fms@wustl.edu



Beauvais-Amoreaux House



Les Amis

Promoting Education, Preservation
and Awareness of French Creole
Heritage and Culture in the
Mid-Mississippi River Valley

www.les-amis.org

St.LouisPublicRadio | n p r

Award-winning, in-depth
news coverage at

STLPUBLICRADIO.ORG

90.7 FM KWMU | A service of The University of Missouri-St. Louis



*If you want to be the first to know about all
Francophone events in St Louis, join us on
Facebook: Centre Francophone in St Louis*





Discover a world of
French language cinema!

Now Playing

TV5MONDE is your ticket to the largest selection
of award-winning films and series subtitled in English.

With a subscription to TV5MONDE, the global
French language entertainment network,
receive three channels for only \$6.99 a month!

Visit tv5mondeusa.com to learn more.

TV5MONDE



TV5MONDE
INFO

Spectrum▶