

Great Directors: Akira Kurosawa

March 28 – May 8, 2008



Image courtesy Toho, Ltd.

April 4 – 10 Seven Samurai 1954 Drunken Angel 1948

Considered by many cinephiles to be the greatest movie ever made, Kurosawa's SEVEN SAMURAI practically defines "epic," a landmark film that demands to be experienced on the big screen. Made six years earlier, the director's film noir classic DRUNKEN ANGEL marked the first of 16 collaborations between Kurosawa and acting giant Toshiro Mifune. Japan; 207 min. / 98 min.

April 25 – May 1 Dersu Uzala 1975 Ikiru 1952

Inspired by the memoirs of a Russian explorer, Kurosawa adapted this story of a life-threatening trek through early 20th century Siberia into the Academy Award-winning DERSU UZALA. Among the director's most beloved films, IKIRU follows the inspirational reawakening of a government worker who suddenly realizes much of his life has been wasted. Soviet Union-Japan / Japan; 141 min. / 143 min.

March 28 – April 3 The Hidden Fortress 1958 Red Beard 1965

A long, long time before Luke, Leia, R2-D2, and C-3PO hit the big screen, there was THE HIDDEN FORTRESS, the story of a general and a princess (and their two bumbling servants) dodging a dark and powerful enemy in an attempt to save a royal treasure. With RED BEARD, Toshiro Mifune (in his final Kurosawa film) plays a compassionate mentor to an arrogant young doctor in 19th century Japan. Japan; 139 min. / 185 min.

April 12 – April 17 High and Low 1963 Yojimbo 1961

On one level, HIGH AND LOW, an adaptation of the novel "King's Ransom" by Ed McBain, is the story of a family caught by a ruthless kidnapper; on another, it's about the divide between haves and have-nots in 1960s Japan. Dark comedies are rarely as visually stunning as YOJIMBO, the Western-inspired story of a masterless samurai playing both sides of a war between enemy clans. Japan; 143 min. / 110 min.

April 18 – 24 Rashomon 1950 Throne of Blood 1957

Often imitated but never matched, RASHOMON remains the standard of comparison for any film employing unreliable narrators or shifting perspectives—in this case, the story of a murder and rape as explained by four contradictory witnesses. In THRONE OF BLOOD, Kurosawa sets Shakespeare's Macbeth in medieval Japan and Toshiro Mifune gives one of his fiercest and most memorable performances. Japan; 88 min. / 109 min.



Image courtesy Toho, Ltd.

Buy tickets and read more about the films in this series at filmstreams.org.

Programming and dates subject to change.

European 60s

May 9 – June 26, 2008



Image courtesy Janus Films.

May 16 – 22 La Dolce Vita 1960

Directed by Federico Fellini.

Icon's icon Marcello Mastroianni stars in this Italian masterpiece, a defining moment in cinema that found Fellini moving from the neorealism of his earlier films to the dreamy, visual grandeur of his later work. Italy; 180 min.

May 23 – 29 Loves of a Blonde 1965

Directed by Milos Forman.

Big emotions come from this simple story of a working-class girl who falls for a touring musician—at once a romance with political undertones and a comedy with piercing moments of sadness. Czechoslovakia; 88 min.

June 2 – 5 The Firemen's Ball 1967

Directed by Milos Forman.

A comedy of errors cast entirely with nonprofessional actors, Forman's brilliantly deadpan portrayal of a corrupted benefit gala was almost immediately banned in the director's native country. Czechoslovakia; 71 min.

June 6 – 8 Pierrot le fou 1965

Directed by Jean-Luc Godard.

Cool is Jean-Paul Belmondo and Anna Karina playing lovers on the run from themselves. Very cool is Godard painting them up in vibrant colors (literally at one point) and France in a convertible for two. France; 110 min.



Image courtesy Janus Films.

June 20 – 26 Performance 1970

Directed by Donald Cammell and Nicolas Roeg.

"Controversial" doesn't begin to explain the initial reaction to this cult favorite from Cammell and Roeg, a British gangster film (by way of Jorge Luis Borges) featuring Mick Jagger. UK; 105 min.

May 16 – 22 Peeping Tom 1960

Directed by Michael Powell.

Released the same year as Hitchcock's PSYCHO, British director Michael Powell did demented direction one crazier with his voyeuristic shocker about a murderous filmmaker. UK; 101 min.

May 30 – June 5 Jules and Jim 1962

Directed by Francois Truffaut.

The camera work, staggeringly inventive at the time and still referenced today, makes Truffaut's JULES AND JIM one of the most vital works of cinema ever made; the love story, adapted from the novel by Henri-Pierre Roché, makes it one of the most beloved. France; 105 min.

June 6 – 12 A Hard Day's Night 1964

Directed by Richard Lester.

At the height of Beatlemania came this stylish and groundbreaking comedy about a day in the life of the world's most famous foursome, starring John, Paul, George, and Ringo themselves. UK; 87 min.

June 9 – 12 Au hasard Balthazar 1966

Directed by Robert Bresson.

Widely considered to be one of cinema's most spiritually transcendent films, Bresson's masterpiece follows the parallel lives of a donkey, Balthazar, and the young woman who first cared for him as a child. France; 95 min.

June 13 – 15 Persona 1966

Directed by Ingmar Bergman.

Twenty years into his directorial career, Bergman's PERSONA is a landmark of the unconventional, at once a seemingly straight-forward narrative about a nurse and her patient, and an artistic voyage that breaks the fourth wall as few other films have. Sweden; 83 min.

June 20 – 22 The Battle of Algiers 1966

Directed by Gillo Pontecorvo.

If anything, THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS, Pontecorvo's landmark, documentary-style account of the Algerian uprising against French occupation, has only increased in relevance in the decades since its release. Italy/Algeria; 121 min.

May 9 – 15 The 400 Blows 1959

Directed by Francois Truffaut.

Truffaut's THE 400 BLOWS—about a 13-year-old boy cast out of his home and onto the streets of Paris—is arguably the best coming-of-age movie ever made. France; 99 min.

May 23 – 29 Blow-Up 1966

Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni.

Swinging London is at the center of this highly stylized classic and controversial Antonioni mystery about a fashion photographer who unintentionally captures evidence to a murder. UK/Italy; 111 min.

May 30 – June 1 Cleo from 5 to 7 1962

Directed by Agnès Varda.

With a couple hours to wait for her biopsy results, a pop singer strolls around Paris, meeting old friends and new characters, while contemplating the young life she's led so far. France; 90 min.



Image courtesy Janus Films.

June 13 – 19 Knife in the Water 1962

Directed by Roman Polanski.

An astonishing feature-length debut, Polanski's KNIFE IN THE WATER explores the mounting tension that arises when a wealthy couple on a weekend sailing trip pick up a young hitchhiker. Poland; 94 min.

June 16 – 19 Play Time 1967

Directed by Jacques Tati.

Tati literally recreated Paris in order to make this long-lost masterpiece, a charmingly eccentric comic ballet about a man struggling to adjust with the times. France; 120 min.

June 23 – 26 Z 1969

Directed by Costa-Gavras.

The first film ever to receive Oscar nominations for both Best Foreign Film and Best Picture, Z—based largely on the 1963 assassination of a Greek politician—set a standard for political thrillers. France/Algeria; 127 min.

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Programing and dates subject to change.

Omaha Premieres at Film Streams

March 28 – April 3 Taxi to the Dark Side 2007

Directed by Alex Gibney.

An inquiry into the suspicious death of an Afghan cab driver, Alex Gibney's Oscar-winning documentary combines the cool detachment of a forensic investigation with the heated indignation of a proud American who holds his country to a high standard. USA; 106 min.

April 18 – 24 Chicago 10 2008

Directed by Brett Morgen.

The story of the Chicago Conspiracy trial (following the 1968 Democratic convention) told through a mixture of archival footage, 3D-animated reenactments, and a blazing soundtrack ranging from Black Sabbath and Steppenwolf to the Beastie Boys and Eminem. USA; 110 min.



April 25 – May 1 Beaufort 2007

Directed by Joseph Cedar.

Set against Israel's evacuation of Lebanon in 2000, Joseph Cedar's Oscar-nominated BEAUFORT is a powerful film, not of war but of retreat. It is a story with no enemy, only an amorphous entity that drops bombs from the skies while terrified young soldiers must find a way to carry out their mission into its final moments. Israel; 125 min.

May 2 – 8 The Duchess of Langeais 2008

Directed by Jacques Rivette.

"Rivette is teasing his way, thinking afresh, playing a game but tweaking its rules, telling a story, but only sort of—making, in short, not simply a movie, but that ineffable magic called cinema." (Village Voice). France/Italy; 137 mins.

May 9 – 15 Chop Shop 2008

Directed by Ramin Bahrani.

"Sometimes in a smaller theater, away from the searchlights... you find an independent film that is miraculous. Such a film is CHOP SHOP, by Ramin Bahrani, the Iran-born American director whose MAN PUSH CART made such a stir three years ago." (Roger Ebert). USA; 84 min.

Buy tickets and read more about the films in this series at filmstreams.org.

Programing and dates subject to change.

Introducing: David Gordon Green

Film Streams is proud to present two earlier works by this important contemporary filmmaker, coinciding with our premiere of his newest film, SNOW ANGELS.



April 4 – 17 Snow Angels 2008

Directed by David Gordon Green.

A heartrending story about love lost and found in a small town in which a terrible event shakes the entire community and reveals the precarious nature of life. Featuring Sam Rockwell, Kate Beckinsale, Griffin Dunne, Amy Sedaris, and Olivia Thirlby. USA; 106 min.

April 11 – 13 George Washington 2000

"A work of startling originality that will haunt you for a good, long time." (Rolling Stone). USA; 89 min.

April 11 – 13 All the Real Girls 2003

"Damned near perfect." (Washington Post). USA; 108 min.

Buy tickets and read more about the films in this series at filmstreams.org.

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