Free and open to the public. All films shown at the Smith Center for the Arts.

THE Tournées FESTIVAL 2015

New French Films on Campus

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.

L’IMAGE MANQUANTE / The Missing Picture
(Rithy Panh, France/Cambodia, 2013, 96 minutes, documentary) In French with English subtitles.

In this autobiographical documentary, which won the “Un Certain Regard” prize at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival, Rithy Panh ingeniously uses carved and painted figures to represent himself, his family, and the many others who had to flee Phnom Penh for agricultural labor camps on April 17, 1975, the day the Khmer Rouge seized Cambodia’s capital city. The film will be followed by a discussion and Q&A with Professors Jennifer Cazenave, Michael Dobkowski and Richard Salter.

Thursday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.

QUAI D’ORSAY / The French Minister
(Bertrand Tavernier, France, 2013, 113 minutes, comedy) In French with English subtitles.

In this razor-sharp satire of French politics, Arthur (Raphaël Personnaz) is hired as a speechwriter for Minister of Foreign Affairs Alexandre Taillard de Worms (Thierry Lhermitte), a man who speaks in orotund outbursts. These thickets of words, which grow more hilarious and nonsensical as the film progresses, combine egregious clichés, lofty quotations from the sages of ancient Greece, and impenetrable bureaucrat-speak. *This film is also sponsored by the French and Francophone Club.

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.

LE JOLI MAI
(Chris Marker, France, 1963, 165 minutes, documentary) In French with English subtitles and a voice-over narration in English by Simone Signoret.

Le joli mai is a portrait of Paris and Parisians shot during the month of May 1962, in the aftermath of France’s colonial war with Algeria. Divided into two parts - “A Prayer from the Eiffel Tower” and “The Return of Fantomas”, Chris Marker’s legendary documentary interweaves sweeping views of Paris and an investigation of the political, cultural, and social life of the French capital.

Thursday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.

GRIGRIS
(Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, Chad/France, 2013, 103 minutes, drama) In French and Arabic with English subtitles.

At a disco in N’Djamena, the capital of Chad, Souleymane (Souleymane Deme)—nicknamed “Grigris”—dazzles the crowd with his spectacular dance moves. His adoring fans do not seem to mind this lithe man’s paralyzed leg, particularly Mimi (Anais Monory), a prostitute who recognizes a kindred soul in this exuberant but marginalized dancer.

Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.

L’INCONNU DU LAC / Stranger by the Lake
(Alain Guiraudie, France, 2013, 97 minutes, drama) In French with English subtitles.

In this thriller confined to a cruising spot for gay men in the south of France, handsome lake regular Franck (Pierre Deladonchamps) falls in love with Michel (Christophe Paou). This attraction remains undiminished even after Franck sees Michel drown his lover in the lake. *This film is co-presented and sponsored by the LGBTQ Studies Department and will be presented by Visiting Instructor Tallie Ben Daniel. Film contains nudity and sexual content.

Thursday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.

VENUS À LA FOURRURE / Venus in Fur
(Roman Polanski, 2013, 96 minutes, drama-comedy) In French with English subtitles.

Stage writer-director Thomas (Mathieu Amalric), all alone in a Parisian theater, desairs of ever finding the right actress for his adaptation of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch’s infamous 1870 novella Venus in Fur. Just as he is about to leave for the day, in walks Vanda (Emmanuelle Seigner), a blowsy performer who insists that she has an audition scheduled and who just happens to have the same name as the character he’s trying out for.