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58 INTERNATIONAL

58TH SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

APR 24 – MAY 7

BAM/PFA

PFA THEATER
2575 Bancroft Way at Bowditch
Berkeley, CA 94720

TICKETING
Tickets go on sale on Friday, April 3

BAM/PFA members have been sent a promo code for discounted tickets and access to an early ticket-buying window, March 31 to April 2.

Contact the Member Hotline at (510) 642-5186 or bampfamember@berkeley.edu with questions.

TICKETS

- bampfa.berkeley.edu
- (510) 642-5249
- PFA Theater box office beginning two hours before first showtime of the day

PRICING

BAM/PFA members, San Francisco Film Society members, UC Berkeley students: **$13**
General admission: **$15**
Non-UC Berkeley students, 65+, disabled persons: **$14**

Please note that our second-feature discount does not apply to these programs. Tickets are nonrefundable, and may not be exchanged. CineVouchers may not be redeemed in person at the PFA Theater.

BAM/PFA INFORMATION

(510) 642-0808 / bampfa.berkeley.edu

San Francisco International Film Festival information festival.sffs.org

1. *How to Smell a Rose: A Visit with Ricky Leacock in Normandy,* 4.24.15
2. *A German Youth,* 4.25.15
3. *Black Coal, Thin Ice,* 4.25.15
4. *Theory of Obscurity: a film about The Residents,* 4.25.15
5. *H.,* 4.26.15
6. *Jauja,* 4.26.15
7. *The Postman's White Nights,* 4.26.15
8. *The Look of Silence,* 4.26.15
9. *Listen to Me Marlon,* 4.27.15
10. *Red Amnesia,* 4.28.15
11. *Two Shots Fired,* 4.28.15
12. *The Wonders,* 4.29.15
13. *Maidan,* 4.29.15
14. *NN,* 4.30.15
15. *A Borrowed Identity,* 4.30.15
16. *All of Me,* 5.1.15
17. *Vincent,* 5.1.15
18. *Democrats,* 5.2.15
19. *Western,* 5.2.15
20. *The Iron Ministry,* 4.25.15
21. *Murder in Pacot,* 5.2.15
22. *Romeo Is Bleeding,* 5.3.15
23. *Very Semi-Serious,* 5.3.15
24. *The Hummingbird Wars* (Nothing But a Dream), 5.3.15
25. *layover (*Nothing But a Dream), 5.3.15
26. *Binocular Menagerie* (Nothing But a Dream), 5.3.15
27. *Beats of the Antonov,* 5.4.15
28. *Sworn Virgin,* 5.4.15
29. *Sunday Ball,* 5.5.15
30. *Of Men and War,* 5.5.15
31. *Court,* 5.6.15
32. *Meru,* 5.6.15
33. *El Cordero,* 5.3.15
34. *T-Rex,* 5.7.15
35. *Run,* 5.7.15

BAM/PFA

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APR 24 – MAY 7

BAM/PFA

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FRIDAY / 4.24.15

HOW TO SMELL A ROSE: A VISIT WITH RICKY LEACOCK IN NORMANDY

7:30

LES BLANK, GINA LEIBRECHT (US, 2014)

Filmmakers Les Blank and Richard Leacock were stubborn iconoclasts and kindred spirits. This disarming portrait captures Leacock's wisdom and wit through conversations in the kitchen of his Normandy farmhouse and honors an intuitive, artful approach to nonfiction filmmaking. With short *Ed and Pauline* (Christian Bruno, Natalija Vekic, US, 2014). (84 mins)

SATURDAY / 4.25.15

A GERMAN YOUTH

2:00

JEAN-GABRIEL PÉRIOT (FRANCE/GERMANY/SWITZERLAND, 2015)

Using only found and archival footage, director Jean-Gabriel Périot recounts the increasing radicalism of the Baader-Meinhof Gang, the most lethal offshoot of West Germany's fervent youth movement of the 1960s and 1970s. (92 mins)

THE IRON MINISTRY

4:00

J.P. SNIADECKI (CHINA/US, 2014)

A thrillingly expansive portrait of China as observed in the cramped compartments of its trains, J.P. Sniadecki's *The Iron Ministry* is simultaneously a vivid social document and a bold aesthetic experiment. Shot over three years and dozens of rides, the film seamlessly unfolds as a single voyage, Sniadecki's indefatigable camera instigating several conversations along the way that may surprise audiences for their political candor. (83 mins)

BLACK COAL, THIN ICE

6:30

DIAO YINAN (CHINA/HONG KONG, 2014)

Both tense whodunit and layered character study, Diao Yinan's Berlin Golden Bear–winner spans five years in the life of a troubled cop who can't shake his experiences working a particularly gruesome serial-killer case. A carefully plotted film noir packed with twists and offbeat moments, *Black Coal, Thin Ice* boasts a scorching breakout lead performance by Liao Fan. (106 mins)

THEORY OF OBSCURITY: A FILM ABOUT THE RESIDENTS

8:45

DON HARDY (US, 2015)

Covering the origin, history, and philosophy of the world's most famous anonymous band—and maybe, but probably not, the identities of its members—*Theory of Obscurity* weaves together wonderful archival artifacts, recordings of live shows, and interviews with those influenced by The Residents, including Matt Groening, Les Claypool, and Penn Jillette. The perfect primer for the curious and a must for fans. (87 mins)

SUNDAY / 4.26.15

H.

1:15

RANIA ATTIEH, DANIEL GARCIA (US/ARGENTINA, 2015)

Challenging our ideas about connected story lines, *H.* envisions a world thrown out of balance by a possible paranormal event. When something falls from the sky and explodes over Troy, New York, there follows a rash of strange effects. People are reported missing throughout the city. Weird weather is witnessed. And the fates of two women, unknown to each other and both named Helen, become entwined. (97 mins)

SUNDAY / 4.26.15

JAUJA

3:45

LISANDRO ALONSO (DENMARK/US/ARGENTINA/MEXICO/NETHERLANDS/GERMANY/FRANCE, 2014)

Winner of a FIPRESCI Prize at Cannes, Lisandro Alonso's much-anticipated follow-up to his Lonely Man Trilogy (*La Libertad, Los Muertos, Liverpool*) is a sublime fantasy standing at the intersection of fairy tale and landscape art. Viggo Mortensen plays a Danish military engineer enlisted to pacify the natives of Patagonia in 1870s Argentina. As he sets out to find his missing daughter, time slows and period trappings melt away to reveal a luminous vision quest. (108 mins)

THE POSTMAN'S WHITE NIGHTS

6:00

ANDREI KONCHALOVSKY (RUSSIA, 2014)

SILVER LION FOR BEST DIRECTOR, VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Globetrotting veteran director Konchalovsky returns to his home turf for this humorous, rueful, and occasionally surreal slice of rural life. Taking place over a few summer days, the film follows Lyokha, a postman who serves an aging community of island dwellers in a remote corner of northwestern Russia. *The Postman's White Nights* is a leisurely yet eventful tale filled with ravishing imagery and the natural appeal of mostly nonprofessional actors. (101 mins)

THE LOOK OF SILENCE

8:30

JOSHUA OPPENHEIMER (DENMARK/INDONESIA/NORWAY/FINLAND/UK, 2014)

GRAND JURY PRIZE, VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

In this companion to *The Act of Killing* (SFIFF 2013), Joshua Oppenheimer widens his groundbreaking examination of the political violence that roiled Indonesia in 1965. The film follows a gentle optometrist as he confronts perpetrators with their crimes—among them, the vicious murder of his brother. A startling and grave work sure to be discussed for years to come, *The Look of Silence* bears complex witness to the intolerable absence of truth and reconciliation. (99 mins)

MONDAY / 4.27.15

LISTEN TO ME MARLON

7:30

STEVAN RILEY (UK, 2015)

A treasure trove of audiotapes yields a mesmerizing portrait of one of America's great artists, Marlon Brando. Augmented by home movies, film clips, and other archival materials, the recordings reveal a frank, self-aware man, by turns funny, poignant, self-lacerating, and beset by demons both inherited and of his own making. (102 mins)

TUESDAY / 4.28.15

RED AMNESIA

6:30

WANG XIAOSHUAI (CHINA, 2014)

In this unsettling thriller set in contemporary China, mysterious phone calls and other strange occurrences disrupt the daily routine of the widow Deng, leading her to wonder who—if anyone—might be coming after her. Wang Xiaoshuai explores the political and personal consequences of memory, and traces the blurred lines between those who remember their past, and those who choose to forget. (110 mins)

TUESDAY / 4.28.15

TWO SHOTS FIRED

8:40

MARTÍN REJTMAN (ARGENTINA/CHILE/GERMANY/NETHERLANDS, 2014)

Argentine filmmaker and short-story writer Martín Rejtman's first narrative feature in ten years is a slyly funny low-key existential comedy for fans of films like *Stranger Than Paradise* and *Slacker*. Following an intersecting group of teenage and adult characters, the film upends expectations about the significance of individual events, offering instead careful, amused observations of how we all get through life. (104 mins)

WEDNESDAY / 4.29.15

THE WONDERS

6:30

ALICE ROHRWACHER (ITALY/SWITZERLAND/GERMANY, 2014)

GRAND PRIX, 2014 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Alice Rohrwacher's second feature deftly weaves humor, conflict, and the familiar pangs of early adolescence into this slice of rural Italian life. Just as the wife and four young daughters of a hard-driving beekeeper begin to chafe against their arduous, isolated life, a glitzy national TV show announces a contest for local farmers. (110 mins)

MAIDAN

8:40

SERGEI LOZNITSA (UKRAINE/NETHERLANDS, 2014)

Structured solely through extended fixed shots filmed over a period of three months, this account of the riots in Kiev's Maidan Square, which led to the ouster of Ukraine's pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovych , tracks with formalist rigor the trajectory from peacefu protest to violent confrontation. By placing the viewer in the midst of the masses, *Maidan* provides an immersive experience and a bracing, timeless portrait of protest and revolution. (133 mins)

THURSDAY / 4.30.15

NN

6:30

HÉCTOR GÁLVEZ (PERU/COLOMBIA/GERMANY/FRANCE, 2014)

In this engrossing, expertly paced drama, a team of forensic investigators in the Peruvian countryside digs up the remains of those murdered during the brutal Fujimori era of the 1980s and 1990s. The process of identifying one particular set of bones becomes an agonizing experience for the woman who claims they belong to her husband and for the investigator who has to go by the facts. Suffering, injustice, and peace of mind are pitted against scientific truth, with no easy answers. (95 mins)

A BORROWED IDENTITY

8:30

ERAN RIKLIS (ISRAEL/GERMANY/FRANCE, 2014)

As the first Arab to attend a prestigious Jewish boarding school in Jerusalem, young Eyad struggles to secure his own identity and purpose. Along the way he encounters cultural prejudice, personal compromise, first love, and true friendship. This beautifully realized story—adapted from Israeli-Arab author Sayed Kashua's semiautobiographical novel—traces the complicated journey from childhood to adulthood in an era of intense conflict. (104 mins)

FRIDAY / 5.1.15

ALL OF ME

6:30

ARTURO GONZÁLEZ VILLASEÑOR (MEXICO, 2014)

Since 1995, a group of women in southern Mexico known as Las Patronas has handed out food and water to men and boys speeding from Central America to the US border on a train known as The Beast. This deeply moving documentary allows the women to tell their stories, reluctantly at first, then eloquently and with enormous heart. (90 mins)

FRIDAY / 5.1.15

VINCENT
8:30

THOMAS SALVADOR (FRANCE, 2014)

In this charming slice of magic realism, a quiet drifter named Vincent (played by director Thomas Salvador) finds a construction job in a small town and meets a friendly woman. He finally feels the urge to settle down, but his newfound life is thrown into jeopardy when his unique power is revealed. (76 mins)

SATURDAY / 5.2.15

DEMOCRATS
3:15

CAMILLA NIELSSON (DENMARK, 2014)

The fraught transition to democratic rule in Zimbabwe, while its decades-long dictator is still in power, makes for riveting, stranger-than-fiction drama. This exceptional documentary focuses on two leaders tasked with drafting a new constitution for the country, a process rendered surreal at times by the secret police, false arrests, and other intimidation tactics still in place from President Mugabe's regime. (100 mins)

WESTERN
5:40

TURNER ROSS, BILL ROSS IV (US, 2015)

This intimate, observational documentary about the US–Mexico border focuses on two Eagle Pass, Texas, residents—cattleman Martin Wall and Mayor Chad Foster—and follows the strains in the border town's relationship to its Mexican sister city, Piedras Negras. As drug cartel violence moves into the region and threatens to spin out of control, US federal policies made a thousand miles away shut down commerce and further test an already delicate balance. (93 mins)

MURDER IN PACOT
8:00

RAOUL PECK (HAITI/FRANCE/NORWAY, 2014)

In this tense and provocative film from acclaimed director Raoul Peck, a formerly well-to-do couple rent their crumbling house in a tony Port-au-Prince neighborhood to a European aid worker in the aftermath of Haiti's devastating 2010 earthquake. When his brash young Haitian girlfriend shows up, an emotionally fraught game of sexual intrigue and class warfare ensues. (130 mins)

SUNDAY / 5.3.15

ROMEO IS BLEEDING
2:00

JASON ZELDES (US, 2015)

Bay Area poet Donté Clark's efforts to heal a community reeling from violence form the core of this inspiring documentary. With the help of teacher/mentor Molly Raynor, Clark collaborates with African American teenagers from the RAW (Richmond Art Wave) Talent project to adapt Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* to modern-day Richmond, California, a community with a long and stubborn history of gang violence. (93 mins)

SUNDAY / 5.3.15

VERY SEMI-SERIOUS
4:15

LEAH WOLCHOK (US, 2015)

San Francisco–based filmmaker Leah Wolchok's highly entertaining behind-the-scenes look at the world of the *New Yorker*'s cartoons and cartoonists brings to vivid life a beloved part of the magazine. Featuring insightful interviews with many of its most popular contributors (including Roz Chast and Bruce Eric Kaplan) and the department's sagacious editor, Bob Mankoff, as well as meditations on humor and life, it's unmissable for fans of the *New Yorker* and its sophisticated irreverence. (86 mins)

SUNDAY / 5.3.15

NOTHING BUT A DREAM: EXPERIMENTAL SHORTS
6:30

In the impossible spaces and eerie places of these nine experimental films, birds fill the sky and then disappear, a parrot barks, people and animals are transformed. Color leaps from the frame—the glow of an ancient forest, the spectacle of fireworks, the dazzling play of abstraction. Is it nothing but a dream? Featuring work by Zachary Epcar, Janie Geiser, Mike Gibisser, Shambhavi Kaul, T. Marie, Ryan Marino, Jennifer Reeves, Vanessa Renwick, and Leslie Thornton. (75 mins)

EL CORDERO
8:30

JUAN FRANCISCO OLEA (CHILE, 2014)

Domingo is a devoted family man and Christian missionary gliding through a dutifully modest if unexceptional life. When he accidentally kills someone, he experiences a moral crisis—not because of the fatal shooting, but because he feels no guilt for it. Shot through with subtle, sardonic humor and beautifully acted, this exceptional feature debut is an engrossing dramatic thriller reverberating with deeper questions about our innermost natures and our ties to one another. (90 mins)

MONDAY / 5.4.15

BEATS OF THE ANTONOV
6:30

HAJOOJ KUKA (SUDAN/SOUTH AFRICA, 2014)

Filmed in the civil war–ravaged region between South and North Sudan, *Beats of the Antonov* paints an inspiring portrait of the Blue Nile and Nuba Mountain refugee communities. It focuses on music both as a healing force in the face of devastating loss and displacement and as a way to keep cultural heritage alive. (68 mins)

SWORN VIRGIN
8:30

LAURA BISPURI (ITALY/SWITZERLAND/GERMANY/ALBANIA/KOSOVO, 2015)

A young Albanian woman, chafing against her culture's strictures on women's behavior, makes the decision to follow the local tradition of living as a man. Years later, questioning her choice, she leaves her remote village to join her sister in Italy. Stunningly shot and acted, this moving debut film carefully and precisely delineates its protagonist's determination to discover who she really is. (84 mins)

TUESDAY / 5.5.15

SUNDAY BALL
6:30

ERYK ROCHA (BRAZIL, 2014)

This mesmerizing film captures the spirit of a championship soccer game between rival teams from Rio de Janeiro's impoverished Sampaio neighborhood. More like a work of poetry than a traditional sports documentary, the film uses footage from various games to create an intimate portrait of favela football culture. With luminous cinematography and exquisite sound design, the film takes us inside the match along with the players, and we experience something more like a deep spiritual quest than a game. (70 mins)

FOR COMPLETE PROGRAM NOTES AND THE LATEST UPDATES ON SCREENINGS AND GUESTS, VISIT **bampfa.berkeley.edu**.

TUESDAY / 5.5.15

OF MEN AND WAR
8:20

LAURENT BÉCUE-RENARD (FRANCE/SWITZERLAND, 2014)

WINNER OF THE 2014 IDFA AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE DOCUMENTARY

Of Men and War is a multiyear account of residents of The Pathway Home, an innovative treatment center in Yountville, California, for PTSD and related war traumas. This quietly intense film bears witness to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars as they revisit the brutalities of combat, process the traumatic memories that haunt them, and search for meaning in the psychological wreckage of war. (142 mins)

WEDNESDAY / 5.6.15

COURT
6:30

CHAITANYA TAMHANE (INDIA, 2014)

Chaitanya Tamhane's gorgeously recorded debut unfolds almost in slow motion. A prizewinner at the Venice International Film Festival, the film follows a criminal case in Mumbai's lower court, tracing the private and professional lives of lawyers, defendants, and judges. A patient examination of a less-than-functional and sometimes even Kafkaesque justice system, *Court* succeeds as a human drama, raising questions about social structures while vividly portraying the individuals who must navigate them. (116 mins)

MERU
8:50

JIMMY CHIN, E. CHAI VASARHELYI (US, 2015)

This Sundance Documentary Award winner presents a thrilling look at three professional climbers and their attempt to ascend the 21,000-foot Himalayan peak Mount Meru, one of the world's most dangerous and technically difficult climbs. *Meru* combines beautiful cinematography with riveting nonfictional storytelling. (89 mins)

THURSDAY / 5.7.15

T-REX
6:30

DREA COOPER, ZACKARY CANEPARI (US, 2015)

In the new Olympic sport of women's boxing, seventeen-year-old Claressa Shields burst out from the total obscurity of a small Flint, Michigan, gym to compete for a gold medal. *T-Rex* beautifully captures her rapid ascent, her battle to overcome a damaged home life, the culturally ingrained bias against women's boxing, the spellbinding thrill of her bouts, and the indomitable willpower that shows, in its purest and most powerful sense, the meaning of warrior spirit. (87 mins)

RUN
8:40

PHILIPPE LACÔTE (IVORY COAST/FRANCE, 2014)

Masterfully blending enchanting magic realism with piercing sociological insights, Philippe Lacôte's fleetly paced drama charts the unusual circumstances that set the seemingly directionless Run (Abdoul Karim Konate) on the path to becoming an assassin. The rich folklore and fractious politics of the Ivory Coast factor heavily in this picaresque fable that surprises at every turn. Lacôte is rightfully hailed as one of the most exciting new talents in African cinema. (102 mins)

All films are in their original language with English subtitles. Notes are adapted from SFIFF.

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