SF 56 INTERNATIONAL FF

THE 56TH ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

APR 26 – MAY 9

@BAM/PFA

FRIDAY / 4.26.13

IN THE FOG

6:30

SERGEI LOZNITSA (GERMANY/LATVIA/RUSSIA/NETHERLANDS/BELARUS, 2012)

(*V Tumane*). During WWII, two partisans pick up a Belorussian railway worker suspected of Nazi sympathies and bring him into a nearby forest to conduct a covert execution. What actually ends up happening among the three men is a complicated story involving guilt, betrayal, and defiance. Director Sergei Loznitsa (*My Joy*) uses a beautifully muted palette of colors, silvery in night scenes, pale gold in daytime shots, and the absence of any musical soundtrack enhances the simplicity of his approach. Only voices and sounds—the bark of an order, the crackle of brush—punctuate this deceptively low-key film, winner of the FIRPRESCI prize at the Cannes Film Festival. **PAMELA TROY**

Written by Loznitsa. Photographed by Oleg Mutu. With Vladimir Svirski, Vladislav Abashin, Sergei Kolesov, Vlad Ivanov. (128 mins)

THE KILL TEAM

9:00

DAN KRAUSS (U.S., 2012)

In this chilling documentary, Bay Area–based Dan Krauss (*The Death of Kevin Carter: Casualty of the Bang Bang Club*) explores the story of U.S. soldiers stationed in Afghanistan in 2009 who were convicted of murdering innocent civilians. "It was impossible not to surrender to the insanity," one man admits, recalling how random acts of appalling violence became an accepted (and even expected) way to stave off boredom and frustration. More than just an examination of a horrific series of incidents, *The Kill Team* is a deeply disturbing look at modern military culture. **CHERYL EDDY**

Photographed by Krauss. (79 mins)

SATURDAY / 4.27.13

PENANCE

12:30

KIYOSHI KUROSAWA (JAPAN, 2012)

(*Shokuzai*). Kiyoshi Kurosawa brings his usual scrupulous gaze to notions of vengeance and guilt in his epic new work. Focusing on a mother whose daughter is killed, and the four childhood friends who perhaps bear some culpability for the crime, the film is told in multiple parts, each focusing on a particular character. Fifteen years after the tragedy, the mother tracks down each witness to try to find some answers. With mounting tension, subtle characterization, and moving performances, *Penance* justifies its expansive runtime. Shown with a ten-minute intermission. **ROD ARMSTRONG**

Written by Kurosawa. Photographed by Akiko Ashizawa. With Kyoko Koizumi, Teruyuki Kagawa, Yu Aoi, Eiko Koike. (300 mins)

THE MATTEI AFFAIR

6:15

FRANCESCO ROSI (ITALY, 1972)

(*Il caso Mattei*). "Oil makes governments fall, creates revolutions and determines world balance," declares the doomed protagonist of Rosi's crackling political thriller about Italy's legendary postwar energy czar Enrico Mattei, a film as revelatory now as it was in 1972. This incendiary, fractured, and seething fictionalized account, a *Citizen Kane* of the Enron world, is brought to life through an extraordinary performance by Gian-Maria Volonté as a man consumed—and possibly destroyed—by power. Restored by Cineteca di Bologna at L'Immagine Ritrovata in association with The Film Foundation, Paramount Pictures, and Museo Nazionale del Cinema di Torino. Restoration funded by Gucci, Eni, and The Film Foundation. **JASON SANDERS**

Written by Rosi, Tonino Guerra. Photographed by Pasqualino De Santis. With Gian Maria Volonté, Luigi Squarzina, Peter Baldwin. (116 mins)

SHORTS 5: EXPERIMENTAL: ARTIFACTS AND ARTIFICIAL ACTS

8:45

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH SAN FRANCISCO CINEMATHEQUE

IN PERSON James Sansing

Nine recent experimental films look at troubling facts and surprising moments with beauty and inventiveness. Decaying ledgers, an ancient Turkish site, and a petrified giant are among the artifacts excavated to reflect on our present times. A conversation between a president and an astronaut is unearthed, a disturbing speech is recreated, traces of a vanished culture are presented . . . or invented. **VANESSA O'NEILL, KATHY GERITZ**

THE NAME IS NOT THE THING NAMED Deborah Stratman, U.S., 2012, 11 mins, Color/B&W

ARTIFICIAL PERSONS Katherin McInnis, U.S., 2012, 5 mins, B&W

A FEW EXTRA COPIES Bobby Abate, U.S., 2012, 9 mins, Color

PIPE DREAMS Ali Cherri, Lebanon/France, 2012, 7 mins, Color, In Arabic with English subtitles

LIFE IS AN OPINION, FIRE A FACT Karen Yasinsky, U.S., 2012, 10 mins, Color/B&W

VERSES James Sansing, U.S., 2012, 4 mins, Color/B&W

THE INDESERIAN TABLETS Peter Rose, U.S., 2012, 16 mins, Color

VIEW FROM THE ACROPOLIS Lonnie von Brummelen, Siebren de Haan, Netherlands, 2012, 16 mins, B&W

BLOOM Scott Stark, 2012, 11 mins, Color/B&W

Total running time: 89 mins

SUNDAY / 4.28.13

MARKÉTA LAZAROVÁ

12:30

FRANTISEK VLÁCIL (CZECH REPUBLIC, 1966)

Filmed under treacherous conditions in the mountains of southern Bohemia, *Markéta Lazarová* recreates its medieval milieu with a dazzling visual sensibility and uncanny realism, both physical and psychological. The story is one of rivalry and revenge between a clan of brutal robbers and the family of a thieving squire; in the midst of the savagery, mysticism, and madness, a love affair develops. Vlácil creates a narrative that is more poetic than linear, like a dream of an ancient age. This rarely seen work—six years in the making—evokes Kurosawa or Mizoguchi: intense, poetic, and devastatingly cinematic. **JUDY BLOCH**

Written by Frantisek Pavlícek, Vlácil. Photographed by Bedrich Batka. With Josef Kemr, Magda Vásáryová, Jaroslav Moucka, Frantisek Veleck. (162 mins)

THE PIROGUE

3:45

MOUSSA TOURÉ (FRANCE/SENEGAL/GERMANY, 2012)

(*La pirogue*). Senegalese director Moussa Touré offers an unvarnished glimpse into a common but often deadly immigrant journey, taking us on a perilous sea voyage with thirty West African immigrants heading for Spain. In the brightly painted titular wooden boat, a mix of tribes, nationalities, and social classes cohabit, but tensions run high under stressful conditions, and their success is anything but guaranteed. *The Pirogue* is a tale of thirty, but it is also the tale of millions more, and it is told with the skill and sensitivity of a filmmaker who knows his subject all too well. **JOANNE PARSONT**

Written by Éric Névé, David Bouchet, Abasse Ndione. Photographed by Thomas Letellier. With Souleymane Seye Ndiaye, Laïty Fall, Balla Diarra. (87 mins)

KEY OF LIFE

6:10

KENJI UCHIDA (JAPAN, 2012)

(*Kagi dorobo no mesoddo*). What happens when a debt-ridden, suicidal actor accidentally switches his life with that of a meticulous and wealthy Yakuza assassin? Kenji Uchida answers that question in his wry, modern twist on classic Howard Hawks–era screwball comedies. After unemployed thespian Kimura inadvertently sends hit man Kondo to the hospital with a serious head injury and severe amnesia, the actor takes advantage of the situation by taking on the gangster's role, trading his own sad existence for one of perpetual thrills. Within the mad comic swirl of the action and the lunacy of ever-increasing plot twists, Uchida shrewdly explores themes of identity and anonymity. **GUSTAVUS KUNDAHL**

Written by Uchida. Photographed by Akira Sako. With Masato Sakai, Teruyuki Kagawa, Ryôko Hirosue. (128 mins)

ROSIE

9:00

MARCEL GISLER (SWITZERLAND, 2013)

"Love is nothing more than a deceptive Fata Morgana," drolly opines cynical gay novelist Lorenz at the start of the gently humorous *Rosie*. Returning home to provincial Switzerland to care for an ailing mother (a scene-stealing Sibylle Brunner) fueled by alcohol and fierce independence, Lorenz learns that matters of the heart are far more unpredictable than his increasingly fatalistic books. Enlivened by appealing performances, gorgeous shots of the majestic Alps, and snippets of classical music, Marcel Gisler's crowd-pleaser—nominated this year for six Swiss Film Awards—deftly disentangles the familial and romantic ties that bind. **STEVEN JENKINS**

Written by Gisler, Rudolf Nadler. Photographed by Sophie Maintigneux. With Sibylle Brunner, Judith Hofmann, Fabian Krüger, Sebastian Ledesma. (106 mins)

MONDAY / 4.29.13

A RIVER CHANGES COURSE

6:30

KALYANEE MAM (CAMBODIA/U.S., 2012)

(*Kbang tuk tonle*). A former child refugee from the Khmer Rouge's reign of terror in the 1970s, filmmaker Kalyanee Mam returns to her native land to create a vivid, compassionate, and moving picture of the vanishing world of rural Cambodian farmers and fishermen. Focusing on three families in vivid cinema-vérité style, Mam reveals how the encroaching modern world is destroying the rich and sustaining cultures of the past and forcing the young to seek work in factories or on plantations. This gentle and visceral film transcends the studies and statistics to present a deeply personal portrait of the cost of these changes. **GUSTAVUS KUNDAHL**

Photographed by Mam. (83 mins)

LEVIATHAN

8:45

LUCIEN CASTAING-TAYLOR, VERÉNA PARAVEL (FRANCE/U.K./U.S., 2012)

A thrilling adventure both on the high seas and in documentary storytelling, *Leviathan* immerses viewers in the waterlogged toil of fishermen off the coast of Massachusetts, the setting of Melville's *Moby Dick*. Utilizing a passel of portable video cameras that are handed off from filmmaker to fisherman, codirectors Lucien Castaing-Taylor (*Sweetgrass*) and Veréna Paravel (*Foreign Parts*) eschew standard doc aesthetics in favor of pure aquatic sensation. Remarkable sound design—a heavy-metal mix of clanging machinery, moaning pipes, indecipherable utterances, and the ceaseless swirl of stormy seas—further enhances this existential sojourn into the dead of night and the plight of labor. **STEVEN JENKINS**

Photographed by Castaing-Taylor, Paravel. (87 mins)

TUESDAY / 4.30.13

LA SIRGA

6:30

WILLIAM VEGA (COLOMBIA/FRANCE/MEXICO, 2012)

A shy teenage girl, cast out of her home by a fire that also destroyed her parents, seeks shelter on the shores of a mist-shrouded lagoon in this coming-of-age tale set in the lonely, enchanted landscapes of the high Andes. On the shores of a beautiful lake, La Cocha, a handful of people dream of a prosperity that is just around the corner, an escape from their daily lives. The magical atmosphere of La Cocha is made palpable in this elegantly elaborated fable with echoes of Tarkovsky, the smallest sounds and images contributing to a lush landscape of dreams. **MIGUEL PENDÁS**

Written by Vega. Photographed by Sofia Oggioni Hatty. With Joghis Seudin Arias, Julio César Roble, David Fernando Guacas, Floralba Achicanoy. (88 mins)

SOFIA'S LAST AMBULANCE

8:50

ILIAN METEV (GERMANY/BULGARIA/CROATIA, 2012)

(*Poslednata lineika na Sofia*). On the front lines of a degraded emergency-care system in Sofia, Bulgaria, an overextended, yet emphatically humane, paramedic crew hurtles frantically from one call to the next in a dilapidated ambulance. Filmed primarily through the lenses of three dashboard-mounted cameras, *Sofia's Last Ambulance* unfolds in a series of unflinching, real-time vignettes over the course of two years. Winner of Best Documentary at the 47th Karlovy Vary Film Festival, the film captures the quiet heroism and Sisyphean efforts of paramedics who form the thinnest possible white line in the combat against both systemic decay and human frailty. **NICOLE GLUCKSTERN**

Photographed by Ilian Metev. (75 mins)

WEDNESDAY / 5.1.13

MEMORIES LOOK AT ME

6:30

SONG FANG (CHINA, 2012)

(*Ji yi wang zhe wo*). In this strong feature debut, Song Fang directs and plays herself as she pays a visit to her parents at their home in Nanjing, China. During her brief stay, Fang and her parents reminisce about ancestors, family traditions, marriage, life, and death. The film is carried by leisurely conversations that invite the viewer to calmly settle into the daily rhythms of the family. Housekeeping and cooking rituals intertwine with the mother's inquiry into her daughter's marriage prospects. Slow, intimate, and contemplative, *Memories Look at Me* touches on the essence of family life with a mixture of sadness and serenity. **JULIA BARBOSA**

Photographed by Dong-Pei Guan, Weng-Cao Zhou. With Ye Yu-zhu, Song Di-jin, Song Fang, Song Yuan. (87 mins)

THEY'LL COME BACK

8:45

MARCELO LORDELLO (BRAZIL, 2012)

(*Eles voltam*). A potent exploration of class and adolescence, *They'll Come Back* tells the story of Cris, a privileged twelve-year-old who—after being left on the side of the road as punishment for her and her brother's constant bickering—embarks on a journey that will open her eyes to a world she never knew. Director Marcelo Lordello subtly touches on issues of race and social strata in a country where the upper classes can easily overlook economic disparities. As Cris awakens to a path of growth and self-discovery, she also gains the strength to face a reality she can no longer ignore. **JULIA BARBOSA**

Written by Lordello. Photographed by Ivo Lopes Araújo. With Maria Luiza Tavares, Georgio Kokkosi, Elayne de Moura, Mauricéia Conceição. (105 mins)

THURSDAY / 5.2.13

SOMETHING IN THE AIR

6:30

OLIVIER ASSAYAS (FRANCE, 2012)

(*Après mai*). The latest from French master Olivier Assayas (*Summer Hours*, *Irma Vep*) chronicles teenagers coming of age in France in the early 1970s, when the May 1968 protests still hover over the country and a new generation attempts to continue the revolution. Winner of Best Screenplay Awards at both the Venice and Cannes Film Festivals, this observant, scintillating work captures the confusion, idealism, hope, devotion, anger, and disappointment of a youth culture, one that has often been romanticized in cinema, but is rarely shown with the delicate complexity that Assayas brings to this film. **JOSEPH BOWMAN**

Written by Assayas. Photographed by Eric Gautier. With Clément Métayer, Lola Créton, Felix Armand, Carole Combes. (122 mins)

THE ACT OF KILLING

8:55

JOSHUA OPPENHEIMER (DENMARK/NORWAY/U.K., 2012)

"I have not seen a film as powerful, surreal, and frightening in at least a decade," says Werner Herzog of this flabbergasting documentary in which notorious death-squad chiefs—unrepentant psychopaths influenced by American gangster flicks—brazenly reenact heinous crimes they committed during the Indonesian genocide of the mid-1960s. Hoping to rewrite their corruption-riddled country's past while glorifying their own psychopathy, the men don costumes and star in flamboyant productions where fact and fantasy queasily merge. Oppenheimer and crew—many of whom must remain anonymous to ensure their safety—have created an astonishing work. **STEVEN JENKINS**

Photographed by Carlos Arango de Montis, Lars Skree. (116 mins)

FRIDAY / 5.3.13

JUST THE WIND

6:30

BENCE FLIEGAUF (HUNGARY/GERMANY/FRANCE, 2012)

(*Csak a szél*). As rumors of a right-wing death squad fill their community, a marginalized Hungarian Romany family goes about its daily routines in this powerful, intimate work, based on a terrifying real-life series of attacks and killings in Hungary, from the director of *Dealer* (2005), *Milky Way* (2007), and *Womb* (2010). The film's day-in-the-life structure, where every small moment counts, recalls the absorbing immediacy of recent works like *The Death of Mr. Lazarescu* or Gus Van Sant's *Elephant*, yet expands such aesthetics of realism into a riveting portrait of everyday Romany life, and a devastating critique of institutionalized bigotry and social inequality. **JASON SANDERS**

Written by Fliegauf. Photographed by Zoltán Lovasi. With Katalin Toldi, Gyöngyi Lendvai, Lajos Sárkány, György Toldi. (87 mins)

SHEPARD & DARK

8:40

TREVA WURMFELD (U.S., 2012)

In 2009, playwright/actor Sam Shepard embarked on a project to publish forty years of correspondence between himself and his close friend, archivist Johnny Dark. The two met in Greenwich Village in the late 1960s and later cohabited in Mill Valley, with Dark married to an older woman, Scarlett, and Shepard to her daughter, actress O-Lan Jones. For men with such an avowed commitment to solitude, the bond between Shepard and Dark remains curiously strong; their friendship has outlasted movements, marriages, and even memories. With warmth and candor, director Treva Wurmfeld probes the intimate dimensions of their relationship and documents their uneasy reunion. **JACKSON SCARLETT**

Photographed by Wurmfeld. (92 mins)

SATURDAY / 5.4.13

SALMA

2:00

KIM LONGINOTTO (U.K./INDIA, 2013)

Veteran British documentarian Kim Longinotto's latest work relates both tragedy and triumph in the remarkable story of Salma, a South Indian Muslim woman who endured a forced marriage and a twenty-five-year imprisonment by her own family and in-laws. During her confinement she began writing poems that were smuggled to the outside world; their publication created a sensation and made her the most famous female poet in the Tamil language. Years after gaining her freedom and achieving success, Salma returns to her village. Sadly, her visits with village girls reveal that things haven't improved: girls are still headed for early marriage and a life of hard labor. **FRAKO LODEN**

Photographed by Longinotto. (90 mins)

CHIMERAS

4:15

MIKA MATTILA (FINLAND, 2013)

This revelatory and visually striking documentary follows a pair of political pop artists—successful middle-aged painter and sculptor Wang Guangyi and gifted young photographer Liu Gang—as they grapple with their place and purpose in a new China of pervasive materialism and Western influence. Displaying an eye for the telling detail and an ear for the penetrating insight, director Mika Mattila takes us on a revealing tour of contemporary China. Wang and Liu's responses to their shared dilemma—the role of the artist in a country where imported desires and values trump longstanding customs and habits—prove ineffably touching. **MICHAEL FOX**

Photographed by Mattila. (86 mins)

NIGHT ACROSS THE STREET

6:30

RAÚL RUIZ (FRANCE/CHILE, 2012)

(*La noche de enfrente*). Cinema sadly lost Raúl Ruiz in 2011, but this posthumously released film, shot in his native Chile, brings back the elegance of his straight-faced surrealism in the story of a man nearing retirement and death who indulges his love for words and conjures up his childhood heroes, from Beethoven to Long John Silver. From the opening pan of Chile's marine desert—"a pale sky above a crumbling world"—to CGI-born backdrops that put space between time and reality, Ruiz's visual message from beyond is that death is just a word, and not to be feared. **JUDY BLOCH**

Written by Ruiz. Photographed by Inti Briones. With Sergio Hernández, Christian Vadim, Valentina Vargas, Chamila Rodriguez. (113 mins)

SPEND IT ALL

8:45

LES BLANK (U.S., 1971)

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that Les Blank has changed the ways in which we gather knowledge, understand movies, and even celebrate life itself. His focuses on music, food, art, and culture valorize people who appreciate the world. We present three newly restored 16mm films: the West Coast premiere of the restoration of *Spend It All*, a 1971 documentary celebrating Cajun food, music, and culture, and world premieres of the restorations of the rarely seen *Chicken Real* (1970) and *Christopher Tree* (a.k.a. *Spontaneous Sound*, 1972). All films restored by and presented in collaboration with the Academy Film Archive. **SEAN UYEHARA**

Photographed by Blank. (Total running time: 73 mins)

SUNDAY / 5.5.13

AFTER TILLER

1:00

MARTHA SHANE, LANA WILSON (U.S., 2013)

"I would prefer, personally, to have a challenging, stimulating, and emotionally and spiritually rewarding career that is short, rather than have a long one that is filled with mediocrity." The words of Dr. George Tiller, the abortion provider who was murdered four years ago, open this thought-provoking documentary. In the wake of Tiller's 2009 assassination, only four physicians willing to perform third-trimester abortions remain in the United States. This sometimes troubling documentary examines the personal and ethical imperatives that drive these physicians to continue in the face of often dangerous legal and personal harassment. **PAMELA TROY**

Photographed by Hillary Spera, Emily Topper. (85 mins)

DOWNPOUR

3:20

BAHRAM BEYZAIE (IRAN, 1971)

IN PERSON Bahram Beyzaie

(*Ragbar*). A teacher is transferred to a poor, conservative area—and becomes involved with a student's beautiful older sister—in this major work of pre-Revolutionary Iranian cinema, shot independently on the streets of Tehran in 1971. Long thought lost and painstakingly restored from the solitary remaining print by Martin Scorsese's World Cinema Foundation, this essential neorealist classic with a subversive, Kafkaesque feel offers a window into a time of great change in Iran, when religious tradition and cultural modernity met head-on. Over 1500 hours of work were necessary to complete the restoration, done at Fondazione Cineteca di Bologna/L'Immagine Ritrovata laboratory in 2011. **JASON SANDERS**

Written by Beyzaie. Photographed by Barbod Taheri . With Parviz Fanizadeh, Mohamad Ali Keshavarz, Jamshid Layegh, Parvaneh Massoumi. (128 mins)

GOOD OL' FREDA

6:30

RYAN WHITE (U.S./U.K., 2012)

Meet the Beatles as you've never met them before with Freda Kelly, the secretary who was with them for their whole ride, in this documentary that celebrates one woman's extraordinary dedication to one of the greatest rock 'n' roll bands in the world. In a film rich in archival footage and photos and filled with Beatles music, Freda—now nearly seventy—recalls her relationship with the lads. Through her eyes we watch Beatlemania transform from a Liverpudlian phenomenon to a worldwide sensation as the band rockets to superstardom before calling it quits as the 1960s came to a close. **PAM GRADY**

Photographed by Austin Hargrave. (86 mins)

BIG SUR

8:45

MICHAEL POLISH (U.S., 2012)

Jean-Marc Barr is a middle-aged, alcoholic Jack Kerouac trying to outrun his demons in Michael Polish's deft adaptation of the writer's 1962 novel. Five years after *On the Road* transformed the literary landscape and made Kerouac the reluctant face of the Beat Generation, he returns to San Francisco to reunite with old friends like Lawrence Ferlinghetti (Anthony Edwards), Michael McClure (Balthazar Getty), and Neal Cassady (Josh Lucas) and to attempt to get sober in an isolated Big Sur cabin. Only the third screen adaptation of a Kerouac book, *Big Sur* proves that the writer's dense, language-driven novels can, indeed, be gloriously cinematic. **PAM GRADY**

Written by Polish. Photographed by M. David Mullen. With Jean-Marc Barr, Kate Bosworth, Josh Lucas, Radha Mitchell. (90 mins)

MONDAY / 5.6.13

FATAL ASSISTANCE

6:30

RAOUL PECK (FRANCE/HAITI/U.S./BELGIUM, 2013)

Haiti's devastating 2010 earthquake had one supposed upside: within months, the world's powers had promised $11 billion in reconstruction aid. Yet today many quake victims are still mired in squalor while international agencies pull up stakes. Filmed over two years, Haitian-born Raoul Peck's powerful exposé examines the staggering failures, global and local, that have stranded a vulnerable nation. From the competing agendas of NGOs who distrust the locals, to the camera-ready proclamations of diplomats, to the dirty work of clearing rubble that nobody wants to fund, *Fatal Assistance* doesn't blink as it shows global politics colliding into a vulnerable population. **PETER STEIN**

Photographed by Antoine Struyf. (100 mins)

THE DAUGHTER

9:00

ALEXANDER KASATKIN, NATALYA NAZAROVA (RUSSIA, 2012)

(*Córka*). A serial killer is on the loose and targeting teenage girls in a parochial Russian village, where Orthodox beliefs and strict nationalist tradition prove to be just as dangerous for two possible victims, the sensitive, innocent Inna and the defiant, urbane Masha. Skillfully merging Inna's coming-of-age tale with whodunit suspense and a measured critique of traditional customs, codirectors Alexander Kasatkin and Natalia Nazarova imbue *The Daughter* with the slow-burn tension of New Romanian Cinema and a post-perestroika perspective on dashed hopes in the homeland. (Note: English subtitles are imperfect, though pose no problems in following the story.) **STEVEN JENKINS**

Written by Nazarova. Photographed by Andrey Naidenov. With Maria Smolnikova, Igor Mazepa, Yana Osipova, Oleg Tkachev. (111 mins)

TUESDAY / 5.7.13

RENT A FAMILY INC. 6:30

KASPAR ASTRUP SCHRÖDER (DENMARK, 2012)

(*Lej en familie A/S*). Filmmaker Kaspar Astrup Schröder's (*The Invention of Dr. Nakamats*) absorbing and offbeat documentary revolves around Ryuichi Ichinokawa, a Japanese family man who operates a professional stand-in business that rents out fake spouses, friends, and parents to a rapidly growing Japanese customer base "desperate to cover up a secret." "I'm like a handyman fixing people's social relationships," Ryuichi explains on camera, in what is not only a fascinating character study and incisive examination of a growing service industry in Japan, but also a poignant, touching, and ultimately sobering rumination on the challenges of dealing with societal pressures. **TIM SIKA**

Photographed by Kajita Akihiro, Schröder. (77 mins)

THE CLEANER 8:40

ADRIÁN SABA (PERU, 2012)

(*El limpiador*). As a mysterious epidemic eviscerates Lima's adult population—but spares its children—a solitary, middle-aged forensic worker (Victor Prada) discovers an orphaned boy at a cleanup site. Almost wordlessly, a bond develops and paternal instinct transforms a once comfortable isolation. Adrián Saba's debut feature, a gently haunting and affecting study of social alienation and redemption, employs its bizarrely unpeopled cityscape (captured with studied composure by cinematographer César Fe) as the operative metaphor for an inner barrenness—personified in Prada's subtle performance, but ultimately extending to a civilization that has abandoned its children in an unconscious retreat from reality. **ROBERT AVILA**

Written by Saba. Photographed by César Fe. With Victor Prada, Adrian Du Bois. (95 mins)

WEDNESDAY / 5.8.13

INORI 6:30

PEDRO GONZÁLEZ-RUBIO (JAPAN, 2012)

Inori doesn't just mean prayer in Japanese, it is one as well in Pedro González-Rubio's (*Alamar*) latest blending of documentary and narrative film. There are only five characters, poetically nameless, some of the few remaining citizens of a mountain town that has lost most of its inhabitants to death or migration. Surrounded by sublime landscapes and living according to rhythms dictated by nature, they're as close to God as humans on earth can be. With Thomas Gleeson's short *Home*, which ponders the question of what makes a house a home. **SARA VIZCARRONDO**

Written, photographed by González-Rubio. (Total running time: 83 mins)

MAI MORIRE 8:40

ENRIQUE RIVERO (MEXICO, 2012)

Highly attuned to the beauty and wonder of the natural world, *Mai Morire* is a haunting meditation on death as a part of life. In the ethereal, nearly pre-Columbian landscapes of the Mexican town of Xochimilco, a practical woman seemingly too busy with the difficult realities of everyday life to spend much time contemplating the grand mysteries of existence returns home to care for her ninety-nine-year-old mother. With an austere style and gentle touch, director Enrique Rivero plumbs powerful emotion from beneath the film's placid surface, resulting in a poetic evocation of death as a transformative event experienced by the living. **JESSE DUBUS**

Written by Rivero, Aleka Rivero. Photographed by Arnau Valls Colomer. With Margarita Saldaña, Amalia Salas, Juan Chirinos. (83 mins)

THURSDAY / 5.9.13

LET THE FIRE BURN 6:30

JASON OSDER (U.S., 2013)

Composed entirely of archival footage, this penetrating documentary reconstructs the decade-long conflict between the radical emancipatory group MOVE, founded in the early 1970s, and the police and city officials of Philadelphia. Racial tensions between the largely African American group and white law enforcement officers erupted into a spate of arrests, incidents of police brutality, and growing violence. Through careful accumulation of detail, *Let The Fire Burn* reveals how a volatile brew of revolutionary fervor, racial tension, and the breakdown of civil authority exploded into violence, culminating in a disastrous 1985 fire that claimed the lives of eleven people. **PAUL MEYERS**

(94 mins)

IL FUTURO 8:50

ALICIA SCHERSON (CHILE/GERMANY/ITALY/SPAIN, 2012)

Chilean filmmaker Alicia Scherson (*Play*) returns with her third feature, an adaptation of a novel by Chilean writer Roberto Bolaño. Through their relationship with a pair of bodybuilders, an orphaned brother and sister stumble upon an opportunity they can't refuse: seemingly easy money by way of "Maciste" (Rutger Hauer), a former Mr. Universe turned reclusive movie star. Framed as a crime drama, *Il futuro* is also an engrossing meditation on Italy's moviemaking past, a provocative exploration of the inevitably corrosive effects of time on the body, and a sensual, melancholic examination of a young woman's unpredictable journey into self-awareness and maturity. **MEL VALENTIN**

Written by Scherson. Photographed by Ricardo de Angelis. With Manuela Martelli, Rutger Hauer, Luigi Ciardo, Nicolas Vaporidis. (99 mins)

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IN PERSON at the BAM/PFA admissions desk (2626 Bancroft Way) Wed–Sun, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

IN PERSON at at the PFA Theater Box office (2575 Bancroft Way) beginning two hours before showtime.

PRICING

BAM/PFA members, San Francisco Film Society members, UC Berkeley students: $13
General admission: $15
Non-UC Berkeley students, seniors, and 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.

TICKET, PROGRAM, & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL INFORMATION **festival.sffs.org**

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1. *In the Fog*, 4.26.13
2. *The Kill Team*, 4.26.13
3. *Penance*, 4.27.13
4. *The Mattei Affair,* 4.27.13
5. SHORTS 5: *Experimental: Artifacts and Artificial Acts*, 4.27.13
6. *Markéta Lazarová*, 4.28.13
7. *The Pirogue*, 4.28.13
8. *Key of Life*, 4.28.13
9. *Rosie*, 4.28.13
10. *A River Changes Course*, 4.29.13
11. *Leviathan,* 4.29.13
12. *La Sirga,* 4.30.13
13. *Sofia's Last Ambulance,* 4.30.13
14. *Memories Look at Me*, 5.1.13
15. *They'll Come Back*, 5.1.13
16. *Something in the Air*, 5.2.13
17. *The Act of Killing,* 5.2.13
18. *Just the Wind*, 5.3.13
19. *Shepard & Dark*, 5.3.13
20. *Salma*, 5.4.13
21. *Chimeras*, 5.4.13
22. *Night Across the Street*, 5.4.13
23. *Spend It All*, 5.4.13
24. *After Tiller,* 5.5.13
25. *Downpour,* 5.5.13
26. *Good Ol' Freda,* 5.5.13
27. *Big Sur,* 5.5.13
28. *Fatal Assistance,* 5.6.13
29. *The Daughter,* 5.6.13
30. *Rent a Family Inc.*, 5.7.13
31. *The Cleaner,* 5.7.13
32. *Inori,* 5.8.13
33. *Mai Morire*, 5.8.13
34. *Let the Fire Burn*, 5.9.13
35. *Il futuro,* 5.9.13

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