

Cultural Newsletter

July 2009



Consulate General of France in San Francisco

CINEMA



Jean Epstein's *The Fall of the House of Usher* at the San Francisco Silent Film Festival Sunday, July 12, at 6:15pm

Directed by Jean Epstein (France, 1928, 60 min.)

Luis Bunuel, fresh from his collaboration with Salvador Dali on *Un chien andalou*, served as French surrealist Jean Epstein's assistant on this haunted adaptation of the famous Poe story.

The tale of the psychologically deranged Roderick Usher (Jean Debucourt) and his unsettlingly compliant wife Madeleine (Marguerite Gance, wife of director Abel) is a triumph of atmosphere and dread. Exquisitely beautiful, the viewer is embraced with the logic of a nightmare.

Presented with French intertitles accompanied by a live English translation by Steven Jenkins, San Francisco Film Society. Preceded by short *The Barber's Queer Customer* (1900). Live piano accompaniment by Stephen Horne.

Location: Castro Theatre, 429 castro street, San Francisco

<http://www.silentfilm.org/>

Supported by the Cultural Services of the French Consulate



Jewish Film Festival July 23 – August 10, 2009

Karin Albou's *Wedding Song* (France/Tunisia/USA, 2008) will close the Festival on Thursday, July 30 at 8:30pm at the Castro Theatre, and will be screened again on Saturday, August 1 at 9:30pm at the Roda Theatre in Berkeley. Karin Albou (*La Petite Jerusalem*, SFJFF 2006) explores Jewish and Arab culture and female sexuality in her bold and exquisite second feature.

Director Karin Albou expected to attend.

Also at the SFJFF:

Hello Goodbye directed by Graham Guit (France/Israel/USA, 2008): an entertaining French comedy about a middle-aged Jewish couple living in Paris whose son's marriage to a non-Jewish girl brings on new challenges. They pack their things and move to Tel Aviv. Starring Gérard Depardieu and Fanny Ardant.

<http://fest.sfjff.org/>



Vardian Vision at the Northwest Film Center July 10 – August 9, 2009

"In my films, I always wanted to make people see deeply. I don't want to show things, but to give people the desire to see." This ten-film selection features some of the seminal works of **Agnes Varda**, an artist *New Yorker* critic Pauline Kael termed "A full-fledged visual filmmaker...[who] sustains an unsentimental yet subjective tone that is almost unique in the history of movies." The series include the following films: *Cleo from 5 to 7*, *Lions Love*, *Murs Murs*, *Documenteur (an*

Emotional Picture), *Vagabond*, *Kung Fu Master*, *Jacquot de Nantes*, *The Gleaners and I*, and *The Beaches of Agnes*.

Venue: Whitsell Auditorium, 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR

<http://www.nwfilm.org/>

Supported by the Cultural Services of the French Consulate



Jean-Luc Godard's *Made in USA* at Seattle's Northwest Film Forum July 3 – July 9, 2009

Hailed as one of Godard's greatest works, *Made in U.S.A.* is the director's modernist, pop-culture infused treatment of a film noir, with his soon-to-be-ex wife and muse Anna Karina as the trench coat and high-heel wearing heroine. A tribute to the famously labyrinthine Howard Hawks film *The Big Sleep*, the story begins when Paula goes to a fictionalized Atlantic City to look for her boyfriend, who turns up dead. Bodies start piling up and there's no end to the sinister characters she encounters. (Jean-Luc Godard, France, 1966, 35mm, 90 min)

Seattle Premiere, New 35mm print!

Location: Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Ave (at Pike), Seattle, WA

<http://www.nwfilmforum.org/>



Bouli Lanners' *Eldorado* at SFFS Screen July 3-9, 2009

Two loners share an absurdist journey through the surreal backwoods of Belgium in this eccentric, melancholy road movie. (Belgium/France 2008, 82min.)

Location: SFFS Screen at Sundance Kabuki cinemas, 1881 Post street (at

Fillmore), San Francisco, CA

<http://sffs.org/>



Eric Zonca's *Julia* at SFFS Screen July 10-16, 2009

Julia (France/USA/Mexico/Belgium 2006), Erick Zonca's take on John Cassavetes' *Gloria*, featuring a riveting performance by **Tilda Swinton**, will open on SFFS Screen at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas Friday, July 10.

Tilda Swinton doesn't merely act the title role in Erick Zonca's *Julia* -- she devours it, spits it back up, dances giddily upon it, twirls it in the air. Directing

his first theatrical feature in the decade since *The Dreamlife of Angels*, Zonca tips his hat to the entire John Cassavetes oeuvre while crafting a messy, nervy and frequently exhilarating thriller that operates on instinct rather than plot and features richly pulpy dialogue by Zonca and coscreenwriter Aude Py. -- Scott Foundas, *Village Voice*

Location: SFFS Screen at Sundance Kabuki cinemas, 1881 Post street (at Fillmore), San Francisco, CA

<http://sffs.org/>



Piaf - Her Story... Her Songs at the Rafael Film Center **Sunday, July 12, 6:30pm**

French jazz singer **Raquel Bitton** returns to the Rafael to present and discuss a rare 35mm screening of her beloved concert-documentary, featuring her internationally acclaimed performance tribute to legendary French singer **Edith Piaf**. In the film Bitton performs Piaf's most famous songs and takes us on a moving and emotional journey through the great artist's tempestuous life. Woven into the filmed concert is a

luncheon in Paris, hosted by Bitton, in which many of Piaf's associates, friends and family share their memories of the "Little Sparrow," who died tragically more than 40 years ago (US/Canada/France, 2003, 94 min.).

Location: Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center, 1118 Fourth Street, San Rafael CA 94901

<http://www.cafilm.org/>



Seraphine opens in the Bay Area **July 17**

The winner of seven French **Césars**, including Best Film, Best Actress and Best Original Screenplay, this beautiful biographical drama stars **Yolande Moreau** as Séraphine Louis (1864-1942), better known as Séraphine de Senlis, the self-taught "naïve" painter of extraordinary floral patterns, whose beautifully-colored canvases now adorn museums and galleries worldwide. Moreau delivers a terrifically physical performance as the downtrodden servant who is also a fragile egotist, and filmmaker **Martin Provost** vividly

depicts Séraphine's relationship with the natural world, which was her closest and truest friend. (France, 2008, 125 min.)

Venues: **The Smith Rafael Film Center** in San Rafael, the **Shattuck Cinemas** in Berkeley, **The Clay Theatre** in San Francisco, and the **Rialto Lakeside** in Santa Rosa

<http://seraphinemovie.com/>



Jeanne Dielman, 23 Quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles by **Chantal Akerman** at **YBCA**

Saturday, August 1, 7:00pm & Sunday, August 2, 2:00pm

This year marks the first time that the film has been screened in the U.S. in the 35mm print in which it was intended to be seen, revealing a breathtaking muted pastel palette designed with total precision. (1975, 201 min, new 35mm print)

Location: YBCA screening room, 701 Mission Street, San Francisco

<http://www.ybca.org/film/>

MUSIC

Emilie Simon on tour

Emilie Simon first made her mark on the U.S. in the fall of 2006 with her debut U.S. release, *The Flower Book*. Her lush, artful soundscapes had already yielded her significant praise and awards in her French homeland, as well as acclaim across the rest of Europe and Japan. Singing in both French and English, Emilie allows her music to flow naturally, rewarding her with devoted fans worldwide.



Doug Fir Lounge, Portland

June 29, 8:00pm

Location: 830 E Burnside, Portland, OR

<http://www.dougfirlounge.com/>

The Crocodile, Seattle

June 30, 8:00pm

Location: 2200 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA

<http://thecrocodile.com/index.html>

Café du Nord, San Francisco

July 2, 8:00pm

Location: Café du Nord, 2170 Market Street, San Francisco, CA

<http://cafedunord.com/>



**Sergent Garcia at Stern Grove Festival
Sunday, July 19, 2:00pm**

Salsamuffin, Bruno “Sergent” Garcia’s innovative blending of hip-hop, reggae, and salsa, has spawned a “big town” sound that incorporates elements from urban music scenes worldwide. The former punk rock guitarist pushes the boundaries of cultural divides with body moving beats and a fresh perspective.

Location: Sigmund Stern Grove, 19th Ave. & Sloat, San Francisco



Amadou & Mariam (world music)

Cover band of Coldplay

July 10 at The Amphiteater at Clark County, (20 min. north of Portland)

Location: The Amphiteater at Clark County, Ridgefield, Washington

<http://www.amphiteateratclarkcounty.com/>

July 11 at the Gorge Amphiteater, George, WA

Location: 754 Silica Road NW, George, WA

July 13 at the Shoreline Amphiteatre at Mountain View

Location: One Amphiteater Parkway, Mountain View, CA

Other concerts:

Watcha Clan

July 15 at the Rickshaw Stop, San Francisco

+ DJs Senor Oz & Pleasuremaker (Afrolicious)

Location: 155 Fell street, San Francisco, CA

<http://www.rickshawstop.com/>

Eric John Kaiser

July 16, 9:00pm at the Union Room, San Francisco

Location: 401. Mason St., San Francisco, CA

<http://www.theunionroom.com/>

Elodie O at San Jose Jazz

Saturday, August 8, 2009

<http://jazzfest.sanjosejazz.org/>

ART



***Summertime; or, Close-ups on Places We've (Never) Been* at San Francisco Art Institute**
June 27 – September 12, 2009

Tuesdays–Saturdays, 11:00am–6:00pm

Free and open to the public

Focusing on new video art, *Summertime; or, Close-ups on Places We've (Never) Been* presents both extended cinematic works and installations of new videos by artists who work in time-based media

such as **Knut Åsdam, Chen Shaoxiong, Jimmie Durham, Nina Fischer & Maroan el Sani, Cyprien Gaillard, Marine Hugonnier, Emre Hüner, Aleksander Komarov, Mark Lewis, and Sam Samore**. The exhibition also utilizes the SFAI campus as the “other place” of the multiplex movie house. In lieu of countless many seats and two aisles for exit, the Walter and McBean Galleries will be maintained as a thoroughgoing and parallaxic network of aisles— aisles that contain but one solitary and extraordinary setting for taking one’s seat, *Small Casestudy House (Sunset House) (2009)*, a work designed and created by Atelier Bow-Wow.

Curated by Hou Hanru, SFAI’s director of Exhibitions and Public Programs

Location: San Francisco Institute, The Walter and McBean Galleries, 800 Chestnut street campus, San Francisco

<http://www.sfai.edu/>

BOOKS



2nd San Francisco International Poetry Festival
July 23-26, 2009

Twenty-six poets from 21 countries will journey to the Festival, reading together with the leaders of San Francisco’s own highly regarded literary community. The truly international group of poets,

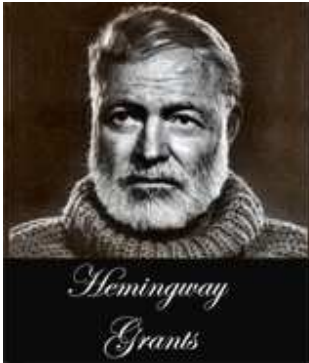
from countries including Bangladesh, China, France, Greece, Haiti, Iraq, Israel and Sudan, represent a wide spectrum in the world of poetry, from recognized masters to emerging new talents, who are redefining the art in our evolving times.

French and francophone poets **Maram al-Massri** and **Francis Combes** are scheduled to attend.

For a complete schedule, please visit:

http://www.friendssfpl.org/?SF_Intl_Poetry_Fest

Grants



Hemingway Grant

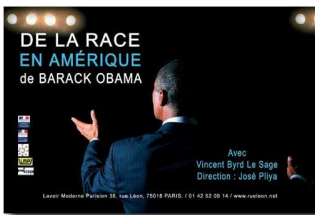
The "Hemingway Grants" assistance program for publishers registered in the U.S. was launched by the "Sous-direction du Livre" of the French Foreign Ministry, and is now administered by the Book Office at the French Embassy in the United States. It assists projects, which are not already supported by the Centre National du Livre, and allows publishers whose applications have met our selection criteria to receive financial help through funds granted by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the U.S. The grant awarded for each work varies from \$1,000 to \$6,000

Deadlines: 3rd Monday of February and 3rd Monday of July of any given year

Contact: books@frenchculture.org

Link: www.frenchbooknews.com

PERFORMING ARTS



"De la race en Amérique"

July 14, 8:30pm

In French

Directly inspired by Barack Obama's speech given in Philadelphia on March 18, 2008, "De la Race en Amérique" has been translated to French and adapted by Director José Pliya. Interpreted by Vincent Byrd Le Sage.

Location: Mills College Concert Hall, Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, CA

<http://www.mills.edu/index.php>

Supported by Culturesfrance

OTHER EVENTS



Bastille day!

Here is a summary of events celebrating Bastille Day:

San Francisco

• Flag raising

Tuesday July 14, 10:30am

Location: City Hall

In presence of Consul General Pierre-François Mourier

• **The restaurants at Belden Place** (Café Bastille, Plouf, ...) will celebrate Bastille Day all day Tuesday, July 14

• **Bastille Day at Ruby Skye**

Organized by French Tuesdays

Complimentary stationed hors d'oeuvres graciously

offered by San Francisco top French restaurants along with French Wine tasting

Live Band and Special performances

Music by DJ Frenchy le Freak & Pheeko Dubfunk

Tickets: \$10-\$30

Tuesday, July 14, starting at 8:00pm-2:00am

Location: Ruby Skye, 420 Mason street (Between Post St & Geary St), San Francisco

<http://frenchtuesdays.com/>

• **Bal populaire**

Saturday, July 11, 6:00pm

Location: Centre culturel basque, 599 railroad avenue

<http://france-sfo.org/>

San Jose, CA

Pique-nique organized by the *Alliance Française de San Jose/Santa Clara Valley*

Sunday, July 12, 12:00pm

Location: Sanborn Park

Reno, NV

Barbecue at Kings Beach, Tahoe

July 14, starting at 4:00pm

Portland, OR

Portland's Bastille Festival in the Pearl

Saturday July 11, 12:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Jamison Square Park, Portland

<http://afportland.org/bastillepdx/index.html>

Seattle, WA

Bal des Pompiers in Seattle

Saturday, July 11, 6:00pm-12:00am

Location: Fisher pavilion

<http://seattle-bastille.org/>

Boise, ID

Bastille Day Celebration and potluck organized by the *Alliance Française de Boise*.

Saturday, July 11, 12:00pm-2:00pm

Location: Paramount Clubhouse, 5695 N. Fox Run Way Meridian, ID.



Bank of the West Classic

July 27 – August 2, 2009

French tennis player Marion Bartoli will participate to this tournament held at Stanford University, among many other world class tennis players like the William sisters Maria Sharapova and Elena Dementieva. The tournament offers a special 20% discount to our readers on tickets from session 1 to session 8 Monday July 27th to Thursday July 30th. Use code "France 2009" to take advantage of this discount.

Location: Taube Family Tennis Stadium, campus of Stanford University

<http://www.bankofthewestclassic.com/site4.aspx>



Painter and sculptor Patrick Isnard at the *Alliance Française de San Francisco*

July 10 – 30, 2009

Reception Friday, July 10, 6-8pm & Artist's talk at 7:00pm (in French)

Art inspired by French Polynesia, Tahiti, and Americana.

Dr. Isnard is former professor of cartoon and design at the *École des Beaux Arts* in Geneva (Switzerland), film animator for TV Suisse Romande, TV A2, and artistic director for theater. Dr. Isnard currently lives and works in Nimes (France) and French Polynesia.

Location: Alliance Française de San Francisco, 1345 Bush street, San Francisco

<http://www.afsf.com/index.shtml>

Our websites:

Official website of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy: <http://www.frenchculture.org/spip.php?rubrique8>

Official website of the Consulate General of France in San Francisco: <http://www.consulfrance-sanfrancisco.org/>

Official website of the French-American Cultural Society: <http://www.facs-sf.org/>

Official website for Teachers of French: <http://professeurs.wordpress.org>

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