

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL 2014

Screenings at 7 p.m. in the Sharwan Smith Center Theater, Room 161D.
Sponsored by the French Program. All films are free and open to the public.

DATE : February 4, 2014



POULET AUX PRUNES CHICKEN WITH PLUMS

As they did with *Persepolis* (2007), codirectors Marjane Satrapi and Vincent Perronaud once again magically **TRANSLATE** a graphic novel by the former to the big screen. Nasser-Ali Khan is a gifted but miserable violinist who is willing himself to die. As he takes to his bed to expire, the sources of his sorrows reveal themselves; an unhappy marriage, a distant relation with his children, the rupture of his first great love affair. As flesh-and-blood actors appear before wondrously hyper-stylized sets of Tehran in 1958, *Chicken with Plums* imbues the screen with the power of a beautiful parable.

DATE: February 11, 2014



LE TABLEAU THE PAINTING

One of the most inventive animated films in recent years, Jean-François Laguionie's *The Painting* examines bigotry through the social classification of subjects residing in a canvas: there are the tyrannical Allduns, who have been rendered in full, glorious color; the Halfies, only partially completed; and the Sketchies, simple charcoal stick figures considered pariahs. As a courageous Alldun and the Halfie he loves escape persecution by the Allduns by traveling between paintings, they hold one goal in mind: to meet their maker and ask him why he left them in an unfinished state.

DATE: February 18, 2014



LA FOLIE ALMAYER ALMAYER'S FOLLY

Opening with the extraordinary scene of a stabbing of a club performer lip-synching to Dean Martin's "Sway," *Almayer's Folly* is Chantal Akerman's loose adaptation of Joseph Conrad's first novel (published in 1895). European trader Almayer lives deep in the Malaysian jungle sometime during the 20th century, where he is slowly descending into madness as he obsesses over the welfare of his mixed-race daughter, Nina. *Almayer's Folly* unfolds as something of a hallucinatory nightmare, which Akerman astutely intimates, might be the best way to describe the enduring legacy of colonialism.

DATE: February 25, 2014



LE BONHEUR D'ELZA ELZA

The wondrous, highly personal directorial debut of Mariette Monpierre is the searing yet inspiring tale of Elza, a talented university graduate who breaks her mother's heart when, motivated by a desire to seek out her father whom she barely remembers, she decides to leave their Paris apartment to return to her birthplace of Guadeloupe. Posing as a baby-sitter for her unsuspecting father's six-year-old granddaughter, she confronts ugly truths about a past she is just beginning to understand.

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