



TENTH ANNUAL ROBERT

# CLASSIC FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL

Presented by **TV5MONDE**

**March 2-25, 2018**

Sponsored by the Jane M. & Bruce P. Robert Charitable Foundation  
A co-production of Cinema St. Louis and Webster University Film Series

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### **Centre Francophone at Webster University**

An organization dedicated to promoting Francophone culture and helping French educators.

*Contact info: Lionel Cuillé, Ph.D., Jane and Bruce Robert Chair in French and Francophone Studies, Webster University, 314-246-8619, francophone@webster.edu, facebook.com/centrefrancophoneinstlouis, webster.edu/arts-and-sciences/affiliates-events/centre-francophone*



### **Alliance Française de St. Louis**

A member-supported nonprofit center engaging the St. Louis community in French language and culture.

*Contact info: 314-432-0734, bonjour@alliancestl.org, alliancestl.org*



### **American Association of Teachers of French**

The only professional association devoted exclusively to the needs of French teachers at all levels, with the mission of advancing the study of the French language and French-speaking literatures and cultures both in schools and in the general public.

*Contact info: Audra Merfeld-Langston, president, Greater St. Louis Chapter, audram@mst.edu, www.frenchteachers.org*



### **Les Amis ("The Friends")**

French Creole heritage preservationist group for the Mid-Mississippi River Valley. Promotes the Creole Corridor on both sides of the Mississippi River from Cahokia-Chester, IL, and Ste. Genevieve-St. Louis, MO. Parts of the Corridor are in the process of nomination for the designation of UNESCO World Heritage Site through Les Amis.

*Contact info: 314-454-3160, info@les-amis.org, les-amis.org*



The Jane M. &  
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Cinema St. Louis offers French programming at the annual Robert Classic French Film Festival and the Robert French and French-Language Focus at the Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival (Nov. 1-11, 2018).





The Tenth Annual Robert Classic French Film Festival—co-presented by Cinema St. Louis and the Webster University Film Series—celebrates St. Louis’ Gallic heritage and France’s cinematic legacy. The featured films span the decades from the 1920s through the 1990s, offering a revealing overview of French cinema.

This year’s fest kicks off with a screening of Bertrand Tavernier’s acclaimed documentary “My Journey Through French Cinema,” the director’s personal reflections on key films and filmmakers. Several of the works he highlights—such as Jacques Becker’s “Casque d’or” and Jean-Pierre Melville’s “Le Samourai”—are screened at this year’s fest.

The fest annually includes significant restorations, and this year features New Wave master Jacques Rivette’s visually sumptuous “La belle noiseuse.” The fest also provides one of the few opportunities available in St. Louis to see films projected the old-school, time-honored way, with Jean Renoir’s “Boudu Saved from Drowning” and Julien Duvivier’s “Pépé le moko” screening from 35mm prints. Even more traditional, we also offer silent films with live music: St. Louis’ own Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra will accompany two short features by Germaine Dulac, playing original scores created especially for the screening.

The schedule is rounded out by such celebrated and essential films as Robert Bresson’s “Pickpocket,” Jean-Luc Godard’s “Alphaville,” and Leos Carax’s “Lovers on the Bridge.”

Every program features introductions and discussions by film or French scholars and critics. The discussions will place the works in the contexts of both film and French history and provide close analyses.

All films are in French with English subtitles.

#### VENUE

Webster University’s Winifred Moore Auditorium  
470 E. Lockwood Ave.



#### ADMISSION

Except for the March 10 special-event screening, tickets are \$13 for general admission; \$10 for students and Cinema St. Louis members; and free for Webster U. students. Tickets for the March 10 double bill with live musical accompaniment are \$15, with no discounts allowed. Advance tickets can be purchased through Brown Paper Tickets at [brownpaper-tickets.com](http://brownpaper-tickets.com). In the “Find an Event” search box, type “Classic French.” A service charge will apply, and only full-price tickets are available in advance.

More info: 314-289-4150, [www.cinemastlouis.org](http://www.cinemastlouis.org)

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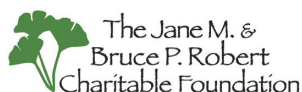
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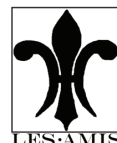
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FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 7 P.M.

## My Journey Through French Cinema/ Voyage à travers le cinéma français

*Bertrand Tavernier, 2016, 201 min., color and B&W, Blu-ray projection source*

Writer/director Bertrand Tavernier ("A Sunday in the Country," "Round Midnight") is truly one of the grand auteurs of the movies. His experience is vast, his knowledge is voluminous, his love is inexhaustible, and his perspective is matched only by that of Martin Scorsese. This magnificent, epic documentary has been a lifetime in the making. Tavernier knows his native cinema inside and out—from the giants like Renoir, Godard, and Melville (for whom he worked as an assistant) to now overlooked and forgotten figures like Edmund T. Gréville and Guy Gilles—and his observations and reminiscences are never less than penetrating and always deeply personal.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 7:30 P.M.

## Casque d'or

*Jacques Becker, 1952, 96 min., B&W, Blu-ray projection source*

Jacques Becker lovingly evokes the belle époque Parisian demimonde in this classic tale of the doomed romance—the French equivalent of the legend of Frankie and Johnny. When gangster's moll Marie (Simone Signoret) falls for reformed criminal Manda (Serge Reggiani), their passion incites an underworld rivalry that leads inexorably to treachery and tragedy. With poignant, nuanced performances and sensuous black-and-white photography, "Casque d'or" is Becker at the height of his cinematic powers—a romantic masterpiece.

*With an introduction and post-film discussion by Diane Carson, professor emerita of film at St. Louis Community College at Meramec and film critic for KDHX (88.1 FM).*

**Sponsored by Alliance Française de Saint Louis**



SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 7 P.M.

## The Cigarette/La Cigarette

*Germaine Dulac, 1919, 50 min., B&W, silent, Blu-ray projection source, new restoration*

## The Smiling Madame Beudet/La souriante Mme. Beudet

*Germaine Dulac, 1922, 43 min., B&W, silent, Blu-ray projection source, new restoration*

*With original scores and live accompaniment by the Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra*

This double bill of Germaine Dulac silents features live musical accompaniment and original scores by St. Louis' own Rats & People Motion Picture Orchestra. A pioneering filmmaker and feminist, Dulac toggled between commercial and avant-garde modes, with one of her most famous works, "The Seashell and the Clergyman" (1928), prefiguring surrealism. Dulac's earliest extant title, "The Cigarette" concerns a liberated young woman and her older husband who believes she is having an affair. With its understated acting and location shooting, Dulac fuses realistic tendencies with impressionistic visual association. Considered one of Dulac's most feminist films, "The Smiling Madame Beudet" is also a crucial step in her continuing de-emphasis of traditional narrative structures in favor of visual association. The film offers a bleak portrait of marriage and its constraining effects on the woman, while vividly externalizing her dreams of liberation.

*With an introduction and post-film discussion by Lionel Cuillé, the Jane and Bruce Robert professor of French and Francophone studies at Webster University.*

**Sponsored by Jane M. & Bruce P. Robert Charitable Foundation**



SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 7 P.M.

## Boudu Saved from Drowning/Boudu sauvé des eaux

*Jean Renoir, 1932, 85 min., B&W, 35mm projection source (courtesy of Institut Français)*

Michel Simon gives one of the most memorable performances in screen history as Boudu, a Parisian tramp who takes a suicidal plunge into the Seine and is rescued by a well-to-do bookseller, Edouard Lestingois (Charles Granval). The Lestingois family decides to take in the irrepressible bum, and he shows his gratitude by shaking the household to its foundations. With "Boudu Saved from Drowning," legendary director Jean Renoir ("The Rules of the Game," "Grand Illusion") takes advantage of a host of Parisian locations and the anarchic charms of his lead actor to create an effervescent satire of the bourgeoisie.

*With an introduction and post-film discussion by Jean-Louis Pautrot, professor of French and international studies at Saint Louis University.*

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FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 7:30 P.M.

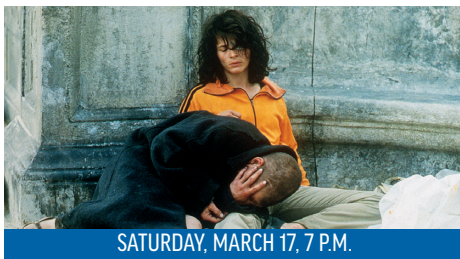
## Alphaville/Alphaville, une étrange aventure de Lemmy Caution

*Jean-Luc Godard, 1965, 99 min., DCP projection source*

A cockeyed fusion of science fiction, pulp characters, and surrealist poetry, Jean-Luc Godard's irreverent journey to the mysterious Alphaville remains one of the least conventional films of all time. Eddie Constantine stars as intergalactic hero Lemmy Caution, on a mission to eliminate Professor Von Braun, the creator of the malevolent Alpha 60, a computer that rules the city of Alphaville. Befriended by the scientist's beautiful daughter Natasha (Godard muse Anna Karina), Lemmy must unravel the mysteries of the strictly logical Alpha 60 and teach Natasha the meaning of the word "love."

*With an introduction and post-film discussion by Andrew Wyatt, film critic for Cinema St. Louis' The Lens and the Gateway Cinephile film blog.*





SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 7 P.M.

## The Lovers on the Bridge/Les amants du Pont-Neuf

**Leos Carax, 1991, 127 min., color, Blu-ray projection source**

Leos Carax's "The Lovers on the Bridge" is one of the most spectacularly romantic films of the 1990s, an exploration of the intense, convulsive relationship between one-eyed artist Michele (Juliette Binoche) and alcoholic street performer Alex (Carax's longtime collaborator Denis Lavant). Paris' oldest bridge, the Pont Neuf, is both their home and their stage as they break up and get back together in increasingly explosive reunions, with the detonations becoming quite literal during a jaw-dropping re-creation of the epic fireworks display that marked the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

*With an introduction and post-film discussion by Pier Marton, video artist and unlearning specialist at the School of No Media. Marton has lectured with his work at the Museum of Modern Art, the Carnegie Museum, and the Walker Art Center and has taught at several major U.S. universities.*

**Sponsored by Webster University's Centre Francophone**



SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 7 P.M.

## Pickpocket

**Robert Bresson, 1959, 76 min., B&W, Blu-ray projection source**

This incomparable story of crime and redemption from the French master Robert Bresson follows Michel, a young pickpocket who spends his days working the streets, subway cars, and train stations of Paris. As his compulsive pursuit of the thrill of stealing grows, however, so does his fear that his luck is about to run out. A cornerstone of the career of this most economical and profoundly spiritual of filmmakers, "Pickpocket" is an elegantly crafted, tautly choreographed study of humanity in all its mischief and grace, the work of a director at the height of his powers.

*With an introduction and post-film discussion by Calvin Wilson, film, jazz, art, and dance critic for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.*



FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 7:30 P.M.

## Le Samourai

**Jean-Pierre Melville, 1967, 107 min., color, Blu-ray projection source**

In a career-defining performance, Alain Delon plays Jef Costello, a contract killer with samurai instincts. After carrying out a flawlessly planned hit, Jef finds himself caught between a persistent police investigator and a ruthless employer, and not even his armor of fedora and trenchcoat can protect him. An elegantly stylized masterpiece of cool by maverick director Jean-Pierre Melville, "Le samourai" is a razor-sharp cocktail of 1940s American gangster cinema and 1960s French pop culture — with a liberal dose of Japanese lone-warrior mythology.

*With an introduction and post-film discussion by Kathy Corley, professor of film in the Electronic and Photographic Media Department at Webster University.*

**Sponsored by Ann Repetto**



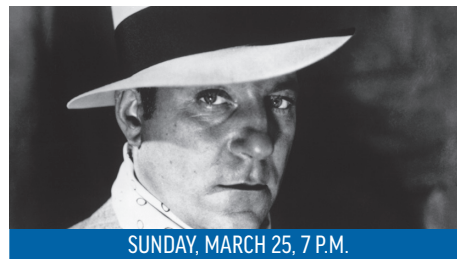
SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 6 P.M.

## La belle noiseuse

**Jacques Rivette, 1991, 238 min., color, DCP projection source, new restoration**

Winner of Cannes' Grand Prix in 1991, Jacques Rivette's "La belle noiseuse" is a free adaptation of Balzac's "The Unknown Masterpiece" infused with elements drawn from a trio of works by Henry James. In the film, the once-famous painter Édouard Frenhofer (Michel Piccoli) lives quietly with his wife, Liz (Jane Birkin), in a rambling countryside château in the rural Provence region of France. When young artist Nicolas (David Bursztein) visits him with his striking girlfriend, Marianne (Emmanuelle Béart), the aging and increasingly unproductive Frenhofer finds himself inspired to begin painting again in earnest. At the urging of his agent, he commences work on the painting "La belle noiseuse," a nude portrait that he left unfinished years earlier (and for which Liz had posed). Pressed by Nicolas, Marianne reluctantly agrees to serve as Frenhofer's new (and nude) model.

*With an introduction and post-film discussion by Robert Hunt, film critic for the Riverfront Times.*



SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 7 P.M.

## Pépé le moko

**Julien Duvivier, 1937, 94 min., B&W, 35mm projection source (courtesy of Institut Français)**

The notorious Pépé le moko (Jean Gabin, in a truly iconic performance) is a wanted man: Women long for him, rivals hope to destroy him, and the law is breathing down his neck at every turn. On the lam in the labyrinthine Casbah of Algiers, Pépé is safe from the clutches of the police—until a Parisian playgirl compels him to risk his life and leave its confines once and for all. Julien Duvivier's "Pépé le moko" is one of the most influential films of the 20th century and a landmark of French poetic realism.

*With an introduction and post-film discussion by Robert Garrick, attorney, board member of the French-preservation nonprofit Les Amis, and former contributor to the davekehr.com film blog.*

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Alliance Française de Saint Louis

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Grizzell & Co. is proud to be a sponsor of the tenth annual  
Cinema Saint Louis Robert Classic French Film Festival  
celebrating the heritage of Saint Louis as well as  
France's cinematic legacy.





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## Les Amis

Promoting Education, Preservation  
and Awareness of French Creole  
Heritage and Culture in the  
Mid-Mississippi River Valley

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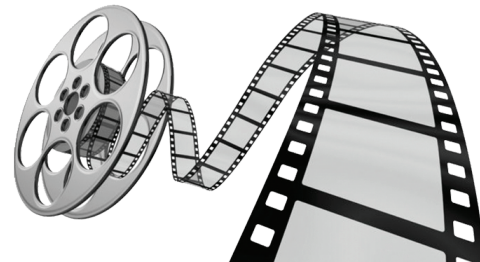


### UPCOMING EVENTS

★ **QFest**  
April 4-8

★ **48 Hour Film Project**  
Competition Weekend, June 1-3  
48 Hour Screenings, June 9  
Best of 48 Hour Award Screening, June 13

★ **St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase**  
July 13-15 & 20-22



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