



SCREEN/SOCIETY

MARCH 2024



7

Eami | Thursday, March 7th, 7PM

(Paz Encina, 2022, 83 min, Paraguay, Spanish, Ayoreo, and Guaraní with English subtitles)

Weaving elements of documentary and Ayoreo-Totobiegosode mythology, Paz Encina continues her work of remembrance with an intimate and sensorial approach to the recent history of a region often overlooked and under-represented: Paraguayan Chaco. Eami not only shows the impacts of deforestation and ecological devastation on the Indigenous tribes who live in Chaco, but also indicates how the Ayoreo-Totobiegosode peoples are able to survive such changes. "Eami", meaning both "forest" and "world" in Ayoreo, is the name of the film's young protagonist, who navigates a landscape transformed by the violence of extraction.

Winner of the Tiger Award at the 51st International Film Festival Rotterdam



21

Black God, White Devil | New 4K Restoration! | Thursday, March 21st, 7PM

(Glauber Rocha, 1964, 120 min, Brazil, Portuguese with English subtitles, DCP)

A landmark work of militant cinema and a key film of the Cinema Novo movement, Glauber Rocha's sophomore feature begins in the 1940s as a ranch laborer named Manoel (Geraldo Del Ray) finds himself in conflict with his boss, who is trying to stiff him on payment; Manoel kills the boss and heads out on the lam with his wife (Yoná Magalhães). The two become self-styled outlaws, joining up with self-appointed saint Antonio das Mortes (Maurício de Valle), who preaches a gospel of meeting the violence of the world with still more violence. At once alluringly mystical and radically political, *Black God, White Devil* interweaves documentary elements and iconoclastic formal experimentation to yield one of world cinema's all-time great shots across the bow.



22

Drunken Master | Friday, March 22nd, 7PM

(Yuen Woo-ping, 1978, 111 min, Hong Kong, Cantonese with English subtitles, Digital)

"A rare chance to see Jackie Chan's original 1978 kung fu/comedy classic on the big screen where it belongs. The thin story finds Chan turning the legend of real-life folk hero Wong Fei Hung on its ear, playing the famous do-gooder as a rambunctious, bratty youngster always getting into fights. In an attempt to straighten him out, Jackie's father sends him to be disciplined by the titular drunken master, an old beggar who teaches Fei Hung the secrets of "drunken boxing," a fighting style based upon the staggering movements of drunkards. Yuen Woo Ping's direction is wildly energetic, and his fight choreography -- strongly assisted by Jackie, no doubt -- is nothing less than groundbreaking, shamelessly mixing slapstick from crude to clever, along with traditional martial arts stances and acrobatics." -- *Austin Chronicle*

-- Introduced by Prof. Eileen Cheng-yin Chow (Asian & Middle Eastern Studies)



23

Drunken Master II | Saturday, March 23rd, *2PM*

(Lau Kar-leung, 1994, 102 min, Hong Kong, Cantonese with English subtitles, DCP)

In turn-of-the-century China, a turbulent time between the collapse of the Manchu dynasty and the founding of the Republic of China, young Wong Fei-hung is trained in the obscure "drunken boxing" martial art. When he drinks alcohol, he untaps amazing strength and agility that allows him to fight dozens of men simultaneously. While en route to Canton with his father, the legendary martial artist finds himself embroiled in a plot by British imperialists and insidious locals to rob the country of its valuable cultural artifacts, including an imperial jade seal.

"One of the best martial-arts movies ever made." -- *Seattle Times*



28

No Rule Is Our Rule | Thursday, March 28th, 7PM

(Wen Hui and Eiko Otake, 2023, 73 min, China, USA, Chinese and English with English subtitles, Digital)

No Rule Is Our Rule is a collaborative documentary film about the friendship between two fiercely independent, interdisciplinary female dance artists: Eiko Otake and Wen Hui. After spending a month together in China in January 2020, the surge of COVID-19 postponed their physical collaboration. Eiko and Wen Hui continued to converse candidly over Zoom and co-edited the footage they filmed in China. The process has deepened their mutual understanding of their past works created and presented in different historical and social contexts.

-- Q&A to follow w/ artist-directors Wen Hui and Eiko Otake, moderated by Prof. Jingqiu Guan (Duke Dance Program)



29

2024 Cinematic Arts Student Film Awards Screening | Friday, March 29th, 7PM

A celebration of some of the finest moving image work produced in recent Duke Cinematic Arts courses. Special Film Awards to be voted on by audience members and Cinematic Arts Faculty following the screening.

The 50-minute program features films by Elliot Cadence, Tashia Ethridge, Parinay Gupta, Skylar Knight, Lucas Lin, Xinyan Lin, Angel Rocha-Aguilar, Huixiang Shi, Sarthak Soni, Braedin Tabler, and Jane Yoon.



30

Frantz Fanon, trajectoire d'un révolté | Saturday, March 30th, 7PM

(Mathieu Glissant and Audrey Marion, 2021, 53 min, France, French with English subtitles, Digital)

The Franklin Humanities Institute's Entanglement: Ecologies of Knowledges Lab presents a documentary on Frantz Fanon, whose life and work embodies all the issues of French colonial history. A Martinican resistance fighter, writer, doctor, and activist, Fanon brought together -- through his action and his history -- the anger of peoples crushed by centuries of colonial oppression. His incomparable body of work has made him one of the most studied French authors across the Atlantic.

-- Discussion to follow with director Mathieu Glissant, in conversation with Entanglement: Ecologies of Knowledges convener Felwine Sarr (Anne-Marie Bryan Distinguished Professor of French and Francophone Studies) and Fanon scholar Chloé Kaczmarek (PhD Candidate in Romance Studies)

All screenings are free and open to the public, and are coordinated and sponsored by Duke Cinematic Arts. Screenings take place in the Rubenstein Arts Center's film theater (2020 Campus Drive, Duke University, Durham, NC).
More info: <http://cinematicarts.duke.edu/screensociety>





SCREEN/SOCIETY

APRIL 2024



3

Feet in Water, Head on Fire | Duke Experimental Film Society | Wednesday, April 3rd, 7PM
(Terra Long, 2023, 90 min, United States, English, 16mm/DCP)

Terra Long's feature debut is a breathtaking portrait of California's Coachella Valley that is both anchored in the specifics of place and community, while freely exploring the limits of cinematic time and space. Shaped by seismic forces of the San Andreas Fault, the Coachella Valley is home to an agricultural community built around the date palm trees introduced to the region in the early 1900s. Today, the land and its people face combined threats from economic upheaval, US immigration policy and climate change. With an elliptical grace, Long's film spans vast expanses of geological time and sweeping desert landscapes into extreme close-ups of the region's plant and insect life, where microscopic views of cellular biology trace intimate stories of human connection. Beautifully shot on 16mm film and featuring hand-processing techniques that incorporate plants native to the Coachella Valley into the film, Long's documentary is grounded in place even on a material level.



11

About Dry Grasses | Thursday, April 11th, 7PM
(Nuri Bilge Ceylan, 2023, 197 min, Turkey, Turkish with English subtitles, DCP)

Samet, a teacher serving mandatory civil service in an isolated village in Anatolia, dreams of a new appointment to a post in Istanbul. But his hopes of reassignment are beginning to fade as he faces another unforgiving winter. His gloomy existence is thrown into further tumult when he's accused of acting inappropriately toward one of his young students. Feeling assailed from all sides, Samet turns to Nuray, a colleague from a neighboring village and fellow wayward soul.

Ceylan (winner of the 2014 Palme d'Or for *Winter Sleep*) covers this fierce psychological character study with a blanket of snow, backgrounding the proceedings with stunning landscape photography that highlights the harsh beauty and intense realities of Turkish provincial life. Featuring impeccable performances and labyrinthine dialogue, *About Dry Grasses* weaves an intricate web of desperation, hope, and longing.



12

Perfect Days | Friday, April 12th, 7PM
(Wim Wenders, 2023, 124 min, Japan, Germany, Japanese w/English subtitles, DCP)

"Radiating charm and embracing [Wenders'] best work, this unique mix of fiction and ordinary life finds an unusual, poetic angle to guide us: the architectural marvels of some of Tokyo's public toilets. Kôji Yakusho, in one of his best performances to date, plays Hirayama, a cleaner of these toilets. (He is named after the protagonist of Yasujiro Ozu's last film, *An Autumn Afternoon* — a tribute to the great master of Japanese cinema, beloved by Wenders.) Hirayama lives alone in a small house full of plants, his days going by according to quiet rhythms that never seem to change. Through Yakusho/Hirayama, Wenders captures the poetry of the everyday with intimacy and stunning simplicity." — Toronto International Film Festival

-- Winner of the Best Actor Award (Kôji Yakusho) at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival



13

First Nations Film & Video Festival: Short Films | Saturday, April 13th, *2PM*

A 90-minute program of eight short films curated by the organizers of the First Nations Film and Video Festival.

The mission of First Nations Film and Video Festival is to advocate for and celebrate the works of Native American filmmakers and new works and films that break racial stereotypes and promotes awareness of Native American issues. All films screened are directed by Indigenous/Native American filmmakers from the United States, Canada, Central and South America, and Mexico.

-- Q&A with festival co-director Samantha Garcia to follow screening.

Screening Program (TRT 90 min):

- Canoe Connections** (Reeva Billy [Squamish Nation (Canada, West Coast)], 2023)
- katatjanik utippalianinga (The Return of Throat Singing)** (Caroline Nochasak, Heather Angnatok, Jason Dicker, Jennifer Semigak, Joshua Jararuse, Matmatil Angnatok, Maxwell Saksagiak, Nancy Nochasak, Sarah Semigak Lidd, Jenn Brown, Troy Maher [Inuit], 2015)
- We Make Stories Out of Totem Poles** (Sean Stiller, Patricia Marcoccia [Shuswap (Secwepemc) Nation], 2015)
- JAAT SDIIHLY'LXA (Woman Who Returns)** (Heather Hatch [Haida Gwaii], 2016)
- Jane & the Wolf** (Directed by Nadine Arpin [Red River Michif], 2016)
- Light** (Directed by Sarah Hennigan [Cherokee], 2017)
- The Handsome Man** (Misty Shipman and Hope Shipman [Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe (both directors, sisters, are enrolled)], 2022)
- In Our Own Hands** (Jennifer Varenchik [Tohono O'odham], 2021)

Still from the film *katatjanik utippalianinga (The Return of Throat Singing)*.



18

These Blazing Starrs! – Films of Deborah Stratman | Thursday, April 18th, 7PM

Spanning the geologic and the cosmic, this program travels from the mineralogical depths of Dawson City to the outer reaches of the observable universe. The selected films showcase Stratman's ongoing investments in landscape and history, foregrounding her explorations of the extreme, inhospitable, alien, and unknown.

-- Filmmaker Deborah Stratman in attendance, Q&A to follow with Shambhavi Kaul

Screening Program (TRT: 87 min)

- Optimism** (2018, 14 min)
- From Hetty to Nancy** (1997, 44 min)
- Xenoi** (2016, 15 min)
- ...These Blazing Starrs!** (2011, 14 min)



19

Here | Friday, April 19th, 7PM
(Bas Devos, 2023, 82 min, Belgium, Dutch, French, Romanian, and Mandarin w/ English subtitles, DCP)

Stefan, a migrant construction worker living in Brussels, is planning a trip home to his mother in Romania. In preparing for his voyage, he reconnects with local family members over gifted bowls of homemade soup, interacts with strangers, and discovers a revivifying commune with nature. This all leads him to an unexpected connection with Shuxiu, a Chinese-Belgian bryologist, who's studying the local moss. The gradual cultivation of this friendship—beautifully performed by actors Stefan Gota and Liyo Gong—motivates this hushed, emotionally resonant film about the power of observation, of people often deemed socially invisible, and of the larger green world surrounding us. In his lovely and tranquil fourth feature, Belgian filmmaker Bas Devos has created a work that finds transcendence in the simplest human encounters and the most radiant of cinematic gestures.

Screen/Society is made possible by generous support from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation. Co-sponsors for March and April 2024 include the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, the Asian/Pacific Studies Institute, Duke Dance Program, the Franklin Humanities Institute Entanglement: Ecologies of Knowledges Lab, and Duke University Middle East Studies Center.

