July - December 2019 movie listings

Featuring award winning international and independent movies at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library. Admission is free.

**The Sower**
Directed by Marine Francen (France)
In French with English subtitles (Romance - 98 minutes)
Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Winner of the prestigious New Director competition at the San Sebastian Film Festival, Marine Francen’s debut is a sensual, visually stunning historical romance. In 1851, France’s autocratic President Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte has ordered the arrest of all the men of a remote mountain farming village following a Republican uprising. The women spend years in total isolation, forced to tend the crops themselves. Some women have lost their husbands; others, like the shy but inwardly strong Violette, suddenly have no chance of experiencing physical love or motherhood. The women take an oath: if a man comes, they will share him as a lover. When a mysterious and handsome stranger arrives, he ignites passions and jealousies that threaten to destroy the tight-knit community.

**Rafiki**
Directed by Wanuri Kahiu (Kenya)
In English and Swahili with English subtitles (Drama - 83 minutes)
Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Bursting with the colorful street style and music of Nairobi’s vibrant youth culture, RAFIKI is a tender love story between two young women in a country that still criminalizes homosexuality. Keny and Ziki have been told that “good Kenyan girls become good Kenyan wives” - but they yearn for something more. Despite the political rivalry between their families, the girls encourage each other to pursue their dreams in a conservative society. When love blossoms between them, Keny and Ziki must choose between happiness and safety.

Initially banned in Kenya, RAFIKI won a landmark supreme court case which allowed the film’s release on May 21, 2018. Rafiki is a hip tale of first love “reminiscent of the early work of Spike Lee” (Screen Daily) that’s “impossible not to celebrate” (Variety).

**The Third Wife**
Directed by Ash Mayfair (Vietnam)
In Vietnamese with English subtitles (Drama - 96 minutes)
Tuesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m.

In 19th century rural Vietnam, 14-year-old May becomes the third wife of wealthy landowner Hung. Soon she learns that she can only gain status by asserting herself as a woman who can give birth to a male child. May’s hope to change her status turns into a real and tantalizing possibility when she gets pregnant. Faced with forbidden love and its devastating consequences, May finally comes to understand the brutal truth: the options available to her are few and far between.

**Antonio Lopez 1970:**
**Sex, Fashion & Disco**
Directed by James Crump (United States)
In English (Documentary - 95 minutes)
Tuesday, August 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Antonio Lopez 1970: Sex Fashion & Disco is a time capsule of Paris and New York between 1969 and 1973 as viewed through the eyes of Antonio Lopez (1943-1987), the dominant fashion illustrator of the time. A native of Puerto Rico and raised in The Bronx, Antonio was a seductive arbiter of style and glamour who brought urban street elements to a postwar fashion world desperate for change and diversity. Among Antonio’s discoveries—muses of the period—were iconic beauties such as Grace Jones, Jessica Lange, and Jerry Hall, as well as Warhol Superstars Donna Jordan, Jane Fonda and Peti D’Arbanville. Antonio’s inner circle was also comprised of his romantic and creative partner, Juan Ramos, makeup artist Corey Tippin, photographer Bill Cunningham, and rival designers Karl Lagerfeld and Yves Saint-Laurent. All these characters and more create a vivid portrait of Antonio Lopez and the revolutionary fashion world he helped create.

**The Charmer**
Directed by Milad Alami (Denmark, Sweden)
In Danish and Persian with English subtitles (Drama / Thriller / Romance - 102 minutes)
Tuesday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Esmail is a handsome young Iranian immigrant living in Denmark, who is desperately searching for a bride so he can become a citizen. Night after night he puts on the same suit and hits the Copenhagen bar scene hoping to turn the next woman he sees into his future spouse. But amidst a series of fleeting relationships and failed one night stands, Esmail meets Sara, a beautiful Danish-Iranian woman who makes him question everything about himself and what he is doing.

**Nina**
Directed by Olga Chajdas (Poland)
In Polish and French with English subtitles (Drama / Romance - 130 minutes)
Tuesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Nina and Wojtek are a married (but mismatched) couple; They’re eager to have a child, but Nina can’t conceive. When a chance encounter introduces them to Magda, Wojtek believes they may have found a suitable surrogate. But meeting the single-minded, fiercely independent, Magda awakens a repressed desire in Nina, causing events to spiral out of everyone’s control.

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