

Doc Fortnight 2016 Screening Schedule
February 19–29, 2016
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

OPENING NIGHT

And When I Die, I Won't Stay Dead

New York premiere

2015. USA/Portugal. Directed by Billy Woodberry. 89 min.

A contemporary of Allen Ginsberg and William S. Burroughs, Bob Kaufman is one of the Beat Generation's most overlooked artists. The African American surrealist poet led a life laced with tragedy, and here his story is given a focus worthy of his indescribable talent. Lovingly assembled from photo montages, laid-back interviews with those who knew him, and the cool, angered rhythms of Kaufman's poetry, celebrated filmmaker Billy Woodberry's return to the director's chair is a powerful work of biography that refuses to shy away from the darker periods of the poet's life—a decade spent under a vow of silence, battles with drug addiction, and the isolation that followed his abandonment of his familial responsibilities.

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION WITH BILLY WOODBERRY

FRI, FEB 19, 7:30 T1

Über du Jahre (Over the Years)

U.S. premiere

2015. Austria. Directed by Nikolaus Geyrhalter. 188 min.

Though he is known for the epic scope of such films as *Abendland* (a *Doc Fortnight 2012* standout about the domineering nature of technology), Geyrhalter's newest work examines the lives of an unassuming group of seven workers who lose their jobs when an old textile factory closes. Shot in the Waldviertel region of Lower Austria between 2004 and 2014, the film follows the end of the traditional industrial era and slowly reveals how people cope with change. The director's keen sense of storytelling, sensitive revelations about the protagonists' lives, and close working relationship with longtime editor Wolfgang Widerhofer make this span of 10 years seamlessly engaging. In German; English subtitles

SAT, FEB 20, 2:00 T1; TUE, FEB 23, 6:30 T1

Tiden går (Time Passes)

North American premiere

2015. Norway. Directed by Ane Hjort Guttu. 47 min.

In this complex work, a young art student joins a homeless Roma woman to beg on the street as part of a performance art project. Her attempts to draw attention to the social and economic plight of the homeless lead to a crisis of faith, identity, and the definition of art as she draws criticism from classmates and faculty. Guttu's film questions art's relationship with politics, and its power for real change. In Norwegian, Swedish; English subtitles. Preceded by *Utopia 1.0: Post-Neo-Futurist-Capitalism in 3D!*

Utopia 1.0: Post-Neo-Futurist-Capitalism in 3D!

New York premiere

2015. USA. Directed by Annie Berman. 20 min.

As the sun begins to set on the once-bustling online pseudo-reality *Second Life*, filmmaker Annie Berman sends her avatar in to investigate the decline of this utopian world.

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH ANE HJORT GUTTU AND ANNIE BERMAN

SAT, FEB 20, 2:30 T2; SUN, FEB 21, 5:00 T1

Chi (Mr. Zhang Believes)

U.S. premiere

2015. China. Directed by Qiu Jiongjiong. 135 min.

Zhang Xianchi's politics have always been at odds with the times. Born into a Chinese Nationalist family, he became an active Communist Party supporter, until the Communists came to power and he was jailed as a supposed rightist counterrevolutionary due to his family background. Blending historical narrative with experimental theater, director Qiu Jiongjiong lifts the veil on the oft-forgotten history of the early years of the People's Republic of China with insight and crafty wit. In Mandarin; English subtitles

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH QIU JIONGJIONG

SAT, FEB 20, 6:00 T2; SUN, FEB 21, 3:30 T2

Shorts Program: Untamed Nature**Neige**

World premiere

2016. Great Britain/Canada. Directed by Ashley Sabin, David Redmon. 5 min.

In this snowbound *ballet mécanique*, hills of snow are cleared from the lamplit streets of Montreal in noisy, rhythmic procession.

Herd

New York premiere

2015. Great Britain. Directed by Ashley Sabin, David Redmon. 12 min.

At first shy and softly braying, the stars of this delightful short are soon gamboling and returning the viewer's gaze. A gentle study of shared curiosity between man and nature.

Mountain Fire Personnel

New York premiere

2015. USA. Directed by Alex Tyson. 29 min.

Firemen and emergency-ready prison inmates battle a Southern California wildfire in this startling experimental short that interweaves on-the-ground reportage, amateur footage, satellite recordings, and an electronic score into its blazing chaos.

Les Bêtes sauvages (Wild Beasts)

U.S. premiere

2015. France/Belgium. Directed by Éléonore Saintagnan, Grégoire Motte. 37 min.

Society's impact on the animal kingdom and the animals' unique ways of adapting are revealed in three dramatized tales of the feral—wild animals descended from domesticated ones—each as original and playful as it is perverse. In French, Spanish, Kikongo, Dutch; English subtitles

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH ALEX TYSON AND ÉLÉONORE SAINTAGNAN AND GRÉGOIRE MOTTE

SAT, FEB 20, 7:30 T1; SUN, FEB 21, 1:30 T2

Coma

U.S. premiere

2015. Syria/Lebanon. Directed by Sara Fattahi. 97 min.

As an unending civil war slowly wages outside their Damascus apartment, three women, each from one generation of their family, strive for normalcy. The intimacy of confinement leads to various frustrations, while a fixation on the past and a present seen only through a television screen create the illusion of time at a standstill. *Coma* is a unique snapshot of life in the grip of war, seen through the eyes of women. In Arabic; English subtitles. Preceded by *My Aleppo*.

My Aleppo

New York premiere

2015. USA. Directed by Melissa Langer. 18 min.

In exile in South Africa, a distraught Syrian family follows the horror befalling their homeland in vivid detail via the Internet. In Arabic; English subtitles

SUN, FEB 21, 2:00 T1; MON, FEB 22, 4:30 T1

Modern Mondays

An Evening with Natalie Bookchin: *Long Story Short*

World premiere

Program 90 min.

Artist Natalie Bookchin presents her *Long Story Short* (2016), an exploration of poverty comprising hundreds of interviews with men and women in homeless and job-training centers in California. Bookchin also presents several earlier video installations created from an existing autobiographical archival resource: online vlogs. *Testament* (2009/2016) is a series made up of individual commentaries, edited into montages, on contemporary issues of employment, sexual identity, and medication use. *Mass Ornament* (2009) compiles scenes of men, women, and children freely dancing in front of their webcams. These works explore new potentials for self- and collective expression in a social media-saturated world.

MON, FEB 22, 7:00 T2

Sobytie (The Event)

U.S. premiere

2015. Netherlands. Directed by Sergei Loznitsa. 73 min.

Twenty-five years ago this August, an attempted putsch by staunch communists in Moscow against President Gorbachev set in motion the events that collapsed the USSR. In Leningrad, thousands upon thousands of Russians took to the streets in fervent support of the reformist Boris Yeltsin. Using powerful, pristine archival film of the event in Leningrad, shot by several cameramen, Sergei Loznitsa reinvestigates what was truly happening in Russia, while capturing the surging energy of a revolution whose tensions linger to this day. In Russian; English subtitles. Preceded by *La Révolution de l'alphabet*.

La Révolution de l'alphabet

U.S. premiere

2014. France. Directed by Érik Bulloet. 35 min.

A sly investigation of language and its links to cultural identity, Érik Bulloet's documentary looks at the repercussions of Turkey's rapid removal of the Ottoman Turkish alphabet in 1928. In French, Turkish; English subtitles

MON, FEB 22, 7:30 T1; WED, FEB 24, 4:30 T2

La France est notre patrie (France Is Our Mother Country)

North American premiere

2015. France/Cambodia. Directed by Rithy Panh. 75 min.

The most outspoken filmmaker to confront the nightmarish rule of the Khmer Rouge turns his ferocity to the legacy of French interference in Cambodia. With countless sources of archival footage in his satirical arsenal, Panh has edited together a triumphant rebuttal to his nation's former imperial masters. In the style of an early-20th-century silent travelogue, with a soundtrack that shifts dramatically in tone, the film takes patronizing, leering home movies and newsreels and repositions them as searing critique. In French; English subtitles. Preceded by *Out of Norway*.

Out of Norway

North American premiere

2014. Norway. Directed by Thomas Østbye. 43 min.

Østbye's *Imagining Emanuel* (featured in *Doc Fortnight 2012*) introduced us to Emanuel Agara, an undocumented Liberian immigrant in Norway. Here Emanuel's unusual tale of migration comes to a close, as he attempts to flee to Africa from Norway illegally. Offering free rein to shoot what he chooses, Østbye gives Emanuel control of his own story, and thereby his own destiny, in a one-of-a-kind video-selfie road movie. In Norwegian, English; English subtitles

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH THOMAS ØSTBYE

TUE, FEB 23, 4:30 T2; WED, FEB 24, 8:00 T1

Last Man in Dhaka Central (The Young Man Was, Part 3)

North American premiere

2015. Bangladesh. Directed by Naeem Mohaiemen. 82 min.

Mohaiemen's look at the failure of far-left idealism continues in the third part of his *The Young Man Was* series (part two, *Afsan's Long Day*, premiered at *Doc Fortnight 2014*). Through interviews, news clippings, and archival footage we meet Peter Custers, a Dutch journalist imprisoned in Bangladesh in 1975 for promoting Socialist ideals during a time of violent political unrest. Interviewed shortly before his death last year at age 66, Custers reflects positively on his youthful ambition, delving into both his Marxist crusade, inspired by Che Guevara, and the physical and psychological abuse he suffered for it. In English, Dutch, Bengali; English subtitles
POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH ASSOCIATE PRODUCER CHLOË BASS

TUE, FEB 23, 7:00 T2; SUN, FEB 28, 4:00 T2

Los reyes del pueblo que no existe (Kings of Nowhere)

New York premiere

2015. Mexico. Directed by Betzabé García. 83 min.

A once-prosperous village in Mexico, flooded by the careless construction of a new dam, is abandoned by all but three families who cling to their lives amid the rising waters. Interviews with the villagers and tours of passages through the waterways reveal a world brought back from the brink of extinction—until the hope found in the daylight is all but extinguished by unseen raiders in the treacherous night. A Doc Fortnight/Cinema Tropical collaboration. In Spanish; English subtitles
POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH BETZABÉ GARCÍA

WED, FEB 24, 7:00 T2; THU, FEB 25, 4:30 T2

Outfitumentary

North American premiere

2016. USA. Directed by K8 Hardy. 82 min.

Video, photography, and performance artist K8 Hardy makes her cinematic debut with this personal, joyful document of her shifting fashion tastes from 2001 to 2012. Her attempt to "make a record of the way a young lesbian feminist dressed in her coming of age" results in a work that is part video blog, part fashion exposé. Shot using the same "shitty" Mini-DV camera until the day it broke down, Hardy's film is not just a snapshot of her life, but a contemporary queer punk portrait.

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH K8 HARDY

THU, FEB 25, 7:00 T2; SUN, FEB 28, 2:00 T1

Nasser

U.S. premiere

2015. France/South Africa. Directed by Jihan El-Tahri. 97 min.

Beginning in 1952, with the resistance against the British Occupation, the film follows the rise to power of Egypt's iconic leader Gamal Abdul Nasser, capturing in captivating detail his struggle to make Egypt the secular leader of the Arab world. Using military connections, popular support, foresight, and cunning, Nasser became president, and in the end his repression of all opposition proved both his greatest strength and his downfall. This comprehensive documentary is jam-packed with interviews—of members of the Muslim Brotherhood, government officials, communists, military personnel, and foreign diplomats—interspersed with mainstream film clips and an explicit narration. A Doc Fortnight/African Film Festival, Inc. collaboration. In Arabic, English, Russian; English subtitles

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH JIHAN EL-TAHRI

THU, FEB 25, 7:30 T1; FRI, FEB 26, 4:30 T2

Ettrick

North American premiere

2015. France. Directed by Jacques Perconte. 57 min.

Filmmaker and Internet artist Perconte specializes in the manipulation and degradation of the digital image. Here, lush green landscapes in rural Scotland dissolve into chaotic, corrupted pixels, evoking the tweed patterns produced in local woolen mills. This mesmerizing visual experiment magically transforms nature into the avant-garde. Followed by *Scrumpled (Extended Version)*.

Scrumpled (Extended Version)

World premiere

2016. USA. Directed by Seoungho Cho. 30 min.

A study of meditation and ritual at a Buddhist temple in South Korea. The trance-inducing chanting underscores a harmonious union of man with nature—the cycle of death and rebirth—as the woods outside the temple and the Buddha statues within shift rapidly in and out of focus.

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH SEOUNGHO CHO AND JACQUES PERCONTE

FRI, FEB 26, 5:00 T1; MON, FEB 29, 4:00 T1

Call Her Applebroog

World premiere

2016. USA. Directed by Beth B. 70 min.

This deeply personal portrait of acclaimed New York-based artist Ida Applebroog was shot with mischievous reverence by her filmmaker daughter, Beth B. Born in the Bronx to Orthodox Jewish émigrés from Poland, Applebroog, now in her 80s, looks back at how she expressed herself through decades of drawings and paintings, as well as her private journals. With her daughter's encouragement, she investigates the stranger that is her former self, a woman who found psychological and sexual liberation through art. As Beth B finds a deeper understanding of her mother as a human being, Applebroog shares a newfound appreciation for her own provocative work.

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION WITH BETH B AND IDA APPLEBROOG

FRI, FEB 26, 7:00 T2

Wake (Subic)

North American premiere

2015. Philippines/USA. Directed by John Gianvito. 277 min. (10-minute intermission)

Concluding a conversation begun in his 2010 film *Vapor Trail (Clark)*, John Gianvito returns to the Philippines to further examine the hidden social and environmental

damage wrought by more than a century of American military presence on the island chain.

Focused on the U.S. naval base at Subic Bay, the film exposes the harrowing plight of families poisoned by military pollution, while unveiling a history of neocolonialism through revelatory archival photographs and political correspondence stemming from U.S. possession of the Philippines. In English, Tagalog; English subtitles

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION WITH JOHN GIANVITO

SAT, FEB 27, 1:30 T2

Kang Rinposhe (Paths of the Soul)

U.S. premiere

2015. China. Directed by Zhang Yang. 115 min.

A group of Tibetans of all ages and from different families join together to make a pilgrimage from their home village to Lhasa, a treacherous 2,000-kilometer trek at high elevations. Each makes the spiritual journey for their own reasons—one man, now elderly, may never have another opportunity, and a younger man seeks to change his fate. Over the course of an arduous journey that requires prostration after every few steps, they encounter many obstacles—a broken tractor, snow, exhaustion, sickness, a birth—but the ordeal never breaks their communal resolve. This unique blend of fiction and documentary was shot with nonprofessional actors over the course of a year. In Tibetan; English subtitles

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION WITH YING QIAN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, ON FEBRUARY 27.

FRI, FEB 26, 8:00 T1; SAT, FEB 27, 4:00 T1

Souvenirs de la Géhenne (Memories from Gehenna)

North American premiere

2015. France. Directed by Thomas Jenkoe. 56 min.

More than a decade after a local man gunned down a North African immigrant, director Jenkoe visits the suburban port of Grande-Synthe in Northern France and finds a town still deeply scarred. Jenkoe's camera tours the town but keeps a respectful distance, while a soundtrack of interviews with locals and police tapes of the murderer's interrogation creates a timely, shattering portrait of how fear and hate corrupt. In French; English subtitles. Preceded by *Sbitar*.

Sbitar

World premiere

2016. Morocco. Directed by Othmane Balafrej. 36 min.

Shot over the course of a year, Othmane Balafrej's filmmaking debut subtly observes the daily delays and frustrations that plague the patients of a hospital in Rabat. In Darija; English subtitles.

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH THOMAS JENKOE AND OTHMANE BALAFREJ

SAT, FEB 27, 7:00 T2; SUN, FEB 28, 1:30 T2

The Great Wall

North American premiere

2015. Ireland. Directed by Tadhg O'Sullivan. 71 min.

As the migrant crisis in Europe intensifies, this pertinent documentary investigates the barriers to entry erected by E.U. member states: concrete, wire, and electronic surveillance. Using as its narration Franz Kafka's short story "The Building of the Great Wall of China," the film flows from the Mediterranean coast inward to metropolitan seats of power, offering a searing critique through the juxtaposition of modern imperial authority and desperate migrant poverty. In German; English subtitles.

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSIONS WITH TADHG O'SULLIVAN

SAT, FEB 27, 7:30 T1; SUN, FEB 28, 4:30 T1

CLOSING NIGHT

INAATE/SE/ [it shines a certain way. to a certain place./it flies. falls./]

World premiere

2016. USA. Directed by Adam Khalil, Zack Khalil. 75 min.

History is written by the victors, but this film reminds us that the history of the oppressed can still be saved from being extinguished. Native American video artists Adam and Zack Khalil here reclaim the narrative of the Ojibway of Sault Ste. Marie, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, from the archives and museums that would confine it to the past. Using personal interviews, animated drawings, performance, and provocative intercutting, the Khalil brothers' feature debut makes a bold case for the Ojibway people to be their own storytellers—while seeking a cure for the damage inflicted by colonization—in a spiritual reconnection with tradition.

POST-SCREENING DISCUSSION WITH ADAM KHALIL AND ZACK KHALIL

MON, FEB 29, 7:30 T1

All prints courtesy of the filmmakers, unless noted here:

And When I Die, I Won't Stay Dead (Rosa Filmes), *Call Her Applebroog* (Zeitgeist Films), *The Event* (ATOMS & VOID), *France Is Our Mother Country* (Catherine Dussart Productions), *Kings of Nowhere* (Venado Films), *Memories from Gehenna* (Films de Force Majeure), *Mr. Zhang Believes* (All Ways Pictures), *Out of Norway* (Norwegian Film Institute), *Outfitumentary* (Picture Palace Pictures), *Over the Years* (Austrian Film Commission), *Paths of the Soul* (Icarus Films and KimStim), *La Révolution de l'alphabet* (Capricci), *Time Passes* (Norwegian Film Institute), and *Wild Beasts* (red shoes)