

Coldwater Cosmopolitan Film Screenings 2024

October 5- **The Criminal Life of Archibaldo de La Cruz (1955)** directed by Luis Bunuel
The great Spanish director Luis Bunuel had to flee fascist Spain for Mexico in the 1940s and found himself working inside the commercial Mexican film industry. Here he managed to make several surreal masterpieces that manage to be both accessible for mass audiences, formally experimental and narratively daring. This film is about a man who as a little boy becomes infatuated with the idea that his vocation in life is to become a notorious serial killer. Adapted from the novel Rehearsal for a Crime by the great Mexican writer Rodolfo Usigli, the film is brilliant dark comedy dealing with twisted desire, toxic masculinity, and the individual's alienation from contemporary society.

October 12- **Vampyr (1932)** directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer
Danish director Carl Theodor Dreyer brought his highly expressionistic style to this gothic horror film about Allan Gray a young man who gets trapped in a village cursed by a powerful vampire. This was Dreyer's first sound film, and he dubbed versions in English, French and German. Although the film was not deemed successful upon its release in 1932, it has over the years come to be critically considered one of the greatest films of all time. Appearing at #146 on the 2022 Sight and Sound ranked critics list, #50 in Time Out's greatest horror films of all time, and #187 on the They Shoot Pictures Don't They list of the 1,000 greatest films of all time. Vampyr will be screened in German with English subtitles.

October 19- **El Norte (1983)** directed by Gregory Nava
Rosa and Enrique, Guatemalan siblings, flee the political violence that has attacked their village and travel north through Mexico and into the United States in a quest for a safe life. This award-winning film was a landmark in terms of representation of migrant experience. El Norte will be screened in Spanish with English subtitles.

October 26- **The Bigamist (1953)** directed by Ida Lupino
Finding Christa (1991) directed by Camille Billops
A double feature exploring people living non-traditional lives, directed by groundbreaking American women filmmakers. Ida Lupino's film is about a businessman (Edmund O'Brien) who finds himself married to two women (Joan Fontaine and Ida Lupino) at the same time. Camille Billops' short documentary is an autobiographical exploration of her own decision, as an African American artist, to give up her daughter for adoption to pursue her artistic career. The Bigamist and Finding Christa will be screened in English with Spanish subtitles.

November 2- **The White Balloon (1995)** directed by Jafar Panahi
This masterpiece of contemporary Iranian cinema was written by the great Abbas Kiarostami and directed by Jafar Panahi. It tells the deceptively simple story of a seven-year-old girl who desperately wants a goldfish for New Year's Eve ceremonies. Told entirely through the eyes of this little girl, the film allows us to reconsider social relations and to appreciate the beautiful cosmopolitan reality of Tehran. One of the greatest humanist films of all time, the film won many international awards including the Prix de la Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

November 9- **No Blood Relation** (1932) directed by Mikio Naruse

The Good Mother (1988) directed by Leonard Nimoy

Naruse's silent drama is about a woman who has become a successful actress in Hollywood and returns to Tokyo to reclaim the daughter she had abandoned years before. Leonard Nimoy's U.S. melodrama is about a woman who becomes sexually liberated after getting divorced from her more traditional husband only to find that her new lifestyle and her new lover have put her ability to retain custody of her young daughter at risk.

The Good Mother will be screened in English with Spanish subtitles.

November 16- **Biutiful** (2010) directed by Alejandro G. Inarritu

Inarritu's film is focused on Uxbal, a loving father who has been forced into a life of criminal associations, who learns of his diagnosis with terminal prostate cancer and seeks to attempt to make amends before he dies. At the center of the film is a brilliant central performance by Javier Bardem which became the first performance entirely in the Spanish language to be nominated for best leading actor by the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

November 23- **Yes** (2004) directed by Sally Potter

A remarkable accomplishment by British feminist filmmaker Sally Potter which she began as a direct response to the trauma of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001 in NYC that brought down the Twin Towers. Potter concerned by a rise in xenophobia, Islamophobia, and overall social conservatism occasioned by the attack crafted a beautiful love story between an Irish American microbiologist (Joan Allen) and a Lebanese Muslim man working as a chef in London who had been a celebrated surgeon when he lived in Beirut. The two begin an adulterous affair that becomes complicated because of the political and cultural realities related to their identities. The dialogue of the film is constructed in iambic pentameter, and the story is framed and narrated by working-class characters poetically analyzing the two protagonist's actions.

The Coldwater Cosmopolitan Cinema program's purpose is to use film to create a dynamic space for dialogue and group learning about issues and ideas that are complicated, difficult, and transformative. During the seven weeks we will explore themes related to human migration, war, gender, sexuality, adoption, marriage, crime, economic justice, psychology, and political violence. The program will be structured as an adult learning community which will be open to anyone 16 years or older, free of charge. Each session will begin with an introduction to the film by the series curator. After the film has finished screening, there will be a facilitated discussion of the learning community's responses to it. Participants are welcome to attend all seven sessions, but this is not a requirement/expectation. All films not screened in English will have English subtitles. Whenever possible, films screened in English will have Spanish subtitles.

The curator of the series, Craig Harshaw, is a 1983 graduate of Coldwater High School who has taught in a variety of community-based and higher education settings including The School of Art Institute of Chicago, Columbia College Chicago, The Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, and The Evanston Arts Center. Craig produces and hosts

DIVISIVE, a bi-monthly radio show on Lumpen Radio Chicago @WLPN 105.5 FM which explores the interactivity between cultural work and politics. Craig has curated visual art, film screenings, and performance series throughout the nation. He is a performance artist and founding member of The End of the Ladder ensemble in Chicago. He has directed and acted in theater productions and films. His writing about film and visual arts has appeared in a wide range of publications including The American Psychoanalyst, The Public Eye, P-Form and Underground Philosophy. Craig holds an MFA in Performance from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.