



Films in French (Subtitled in English)

POTICHE / FRANCE

2/10 7:30pm Newmark Theatre

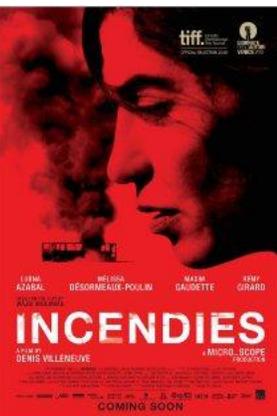
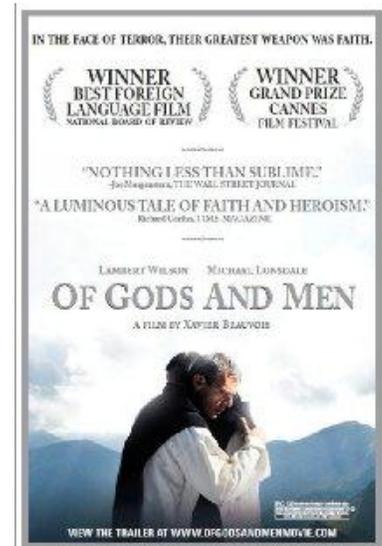


Updating a popular boulevard farce and employing a shrewd sense of its vintage camp elements, director François Ozon and his stellar cast poke fun at the foibles of French society and the war between the sexes. Set in the late 1970s in the provincial town of Sainte-Guenole, Suzanne Pujol (Catherine Deneuve) lives a bourgeois life dutifully waiting on her philandering husband Robert (Fabrice Luchini), who seems to be managing the family umbrella factory into bankruptcy. Everyone thinks that Madame Pujol is just “une potiche”—a trophy housewife—but when labor troubles break out at the factory and her husband has a heart attack, Madame has to take over the business. Aided by her Communist ex-lover Babin (Gérard Depardieu), she quickly proves that she’s more than mere decoration, setting in motion a suitably complicated power struggle for control of the business. (93 mins.) [CLICK HERE FOR THE TRAILER.](#)

DES HOMMES ET DES DIEUX / FRANCE OF GODS AND MEN

2/12 8:15pm Whitsell Auditorium

Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at Cannes, Xavier Beauvois’ film explores the mysteries and consequences of faith as it tells the harrowing true story of a brotherhood of French monks in North Africa who find themselves threatened by Islamic extremists during the Algerian Civil War of the 1990s. Given to providing medical care and support to their Muslim neighbors and tending their garden, their life of service is one of peace and harmony until armed insurgents arrive, and they find themselves faced with an impossible decision: to flee or to stand their ground and fulfill their spiritual mission. Fundamentalism meets fundamentalism. “Magnificently photographed by cinematographer Caroline Champetier in compositions that suggest Renaissance paintings, *Of Gods and Men* is a poetic, austere beautiful triumph.”—New York Film Festival. (122 mins.) [CLICK HERE FOR THE TRAILER.](#)



INCENDIES / CANADA (in French and some Arabic)

2/11 8:30pm Whitsell Auditorium

2/13 4:15pm Broadway Regal

By Director Denis Villeneuve -- Shifting between present-day Montreal and the Lebanese civil war of the 1970s, the story starts at the reading of twin brother and sister Simon and Jeanne’s mother’s will. It is revealed that they have a brother whom they never knew about and a father who is still alive. Their mother, Nawal, gives them the task of finding the two and delivering them her sealed letters. As the film cuts between the twins’ search and

flashbacks to Nawal's difficult past, Simon and Jeanne learn about their mother's heart-breaking story and discover surprises about themselves. Adapted from Wajdi Mouawad's acclaimed stage play, Villeneuve crafts an intricate and tragic cinematic epic that examines the roots of war, hatred, and enduring love. (130 mins.) [CLICK HERE FOR THE TRAILER.](#)



LA PRINCESSE DE MONTPENSIER / FRANCE

The Princess of Montpensier

2/17 8:30pm Whitsell Auditorium

2/18 8:15pm Whitsell Auditorium

By Director Bertrand Tavernier - When the ravishing Marie de Mézières (Mélanie Thierry) is betrothed to the Prince of Montpensier (Lambert Wilson), a fateful chain reaction commences. Whisked away to the Montpensiers' castle, she is entrusted to the Count of Chabannes, the prince's confidante and a tormented deserter, whose task is to educate her on everything from penmanship to astronomy. But as she struggles to adjust to her new life, she becomes ensnared in a passionate struggle of jealousies and desires between her husband's suspicions, the still-burning ardor of her beloved Duke of Guise, and the flirtations of the roguish Duke of Anjou. Set against the devastation of France's Catholic-Protestant Wars and shot on location amidst medieval chateaus and rustic hamlets, this lush,

unsentimental take on the historical romance takes a clear-eyed look at the intersection of duty, passion, and power in the 16th century. (139 mins.) [CLICK HERE FOR THE TRAILER.](#)

ILLEGAL / BELGIUM

2/ 17 7:00pm Regal Broadway

2/18 6:45pm Regal Broadway

2/19 7:15pm Regal Broadway

2/22 9:00pm CineMagic

By director Olivier Masset-Depasse: Tania (Anne Coesens), a Russian immigrant residing illegally in Belgium with her teenage son, lives in constant terror. Willing to do whatever it takes to survive and prevent their deportation, the fear of being caught becomes reality when she's stopped in a routine police check, arrested, and sent to a detention center. Unable to be with her still free son and witness to the persecutions of other illegals from many countries struggling to stay in Belgium, things soon spiral out of control when she claims a false name and finds herself in the limbo of complex deportation policies. This year's Belgian submission for the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar, *Illegal* focuses on the human rather than political, telling a universal experience faced by immigrants seeking a better life for their families throughout the world. (99 mins.) [CLICK HERE FOR THE TRAILER.](#)



HEARTBEATS / CANADA

Les amours imaginaires

2/11 8:15pm Broadway Regal
2/13 6pm Broadway Regal
2/15 6:45pm Broadway Regal
2/16 6:45pm Broadway Regal

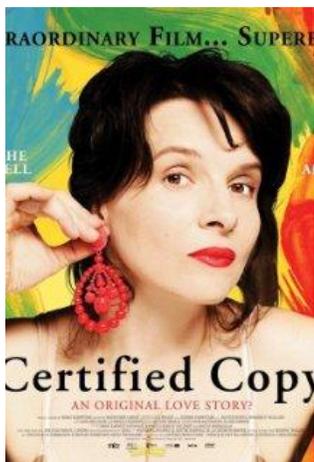
By Director Xavier Dolan -- Part quirky farce, part serious meditation on the insanity of unrequited love and desire, *Heartbeats* centers on best friends Francis (Xavier Dolan) and Marie (Monia Chokri). One evening they meet Nicolas (Niels Schneider), a striking young man from the country who has recently arrived in town. His boyish charm and classic good looks set off bells in both of them that neither can shut off. The threesome begins to spend more and more time together. But the closer the three seem to get, the more remote and unattainable Nico becomes—is he straight or gay, or just wanting to be friends?—sending Francis and Marie’s comic obsessions to frantic heights. And as their mutual desire for Nicolas’ affections grow, their own friendship shifts to rivalry. Twenty-one-year-old Dolan’s stylish, satiric follow-up to his widely praised *How I Killed My Mother* draws a bead on the complexities of love, sex, and power with entertaining understanding. (95 mins.) [CLICK HERE FOR THE TRAILER.](#)



Other French-Connected Films – but not in French

CERTIFIED COPY (in English, Italian, and some French)

2/12 3:00pm Whitsell Auditorium
2/14 8:45pm Whitsell Auditorium



By Abbas Kiarostami – This beguiling exploration of art and relationships, his first feature film made outside of Iran, sees Kiarostami producing his most accessible work to date. When an author (played by British opera singer William Shimell) comes to Tuscany to promote his book about the value of copied art, he encounters and spends a day with an antiques dealer (Juliette Binoche, Best Actress, Cannes Film Festival). As they walk, talk, and drive through the beautiful landscape, it at first appears as though they’ve never met. But as time progresses, mystery intrudes. Are they strangers playing the part of a couple, or are they merely pretending to be strangers in the hopes of rekindling their relationship? (106 mins.) [CLICK HERE FOR THE TRAILER.](#)

RUBBER (in English)

2/18 11:30pm Hollywood Theater (part of PIFF After Dark series)

By French Director Quentin Dupieux – “In the California desert, the adventures of a telepathic killer tire, mysteriously attracted by a very pretty girl, as witnessed by incredulous onlookers. Why? No reason. ‘No reason’ will never make more sense than after you have survived a screening of *Rubber*. Straddling art film and horror, it has the most outrageous premise of any film this year. (Or ever?) An audience gathers in the desert to watch a story unfold: a tire comes to life, rolls along, discovers it has the ability to make people’s heads explode, and so on. But it’s not just a film about a telekinetic tire on a killing spree, there is a frame around this story that adds another level of deconstructionist space to the film and another surrealistic layer to the experience. About as mind-blowing as a movie can be.”—AFI Film Festival. (85 mins.)

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR THE TRAILER.

