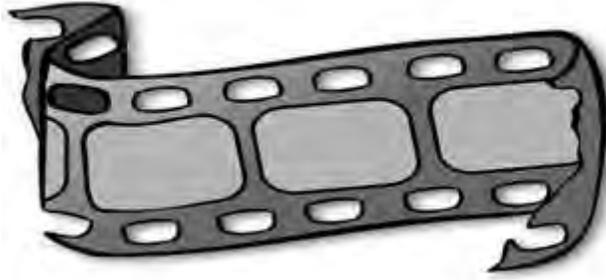


San Juan Community Theatre Summer Film Series



Fellow Film Buffs,

Summer has arrived and it is time to unveil the schedule for this year's film series, an eclectic mix of documentaries, dramas, and comedies. As they say you can't please everyone all the time but, hopefully, most of you will like most of our choices. For our foreign language buffs, there will exposure to Polish, French, German, Russian, Italian, Croatian, Pusto, Arabic, Japanese, Hebrew and Arabic. For the rest of us, all non-English films are subtitled. I also want to point out that several of this year's films are longer than usual but these films are definitely worth your time. To help you plan, I am including a short description of each movie as well as an attached file so that the compulsive among us can plan ahead. I will also send a reminder every weekend during the season with the next two films.

The Schedule

| Date | Title | Rating | (minutes) | Language |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| June 25 | Tea With The Dames | NR | 94 | English |
| July 2 | Cold War | R | 89 | Polish, French, German, Russian, Italian, and Croatian |
| July 9 | The Biggest Little Farm | PG | 91 | English |
| July 16 | Shoplifters | R | 102 | Japanese |
| July 23 | Angels Are Made Of Light | NR | 117 | Dari, Pusto, Arabic, and English |
| July 30 | Pick of the Litter | NR | 81 | English |
| August 6 | Stockholm | NR | 155 | Hebrew |
| August 13 | Capernaum | R | 126 | Arabic |
| August 20 | Amazing Grace | PG | 89 | English |
| August 27 | Gloria Bell | R | 122 | English |

Once again this year, no admission will be charged but we do ask that you consider making a donation to the Theatre in appreciation for showing these films. Also note that we have new and exciting flavors to add to our \$2 bottomless popcorn. Finally, if you know anyone whom you think might enjoy our films, have them send me at email sjctfilm@rockisland.com to receive these notes. The more friends who attend, the more enjoyable it is for everyone.

Larry Soll

Film Series Coordinator

San Juan Community Theatre

Tuesday July 25th 7:30 pm
Tea with the Dames



Documentary 94 minutes
Not Rated but PG

What happens when four legends of British stage and screen get together? Dame Maggie Smith, Dame Judi Dench, Dame Eileen Atkins, and Dame Joan Plowright are among the most celebrated actresses of our time, with scores of iconic performances, decades of wisdom, and innumerable Oscars, Tonys, Emmys, and BAFTAs between them. They are also longtime friends who hereby invite you to join them for a weekend in the country as they catch up with one another, reminisce, and share their candid, delightfully irreverent thoughts on everything from art to aging to love to a life lived in the spotlight. Bursting with devilish wit and whip-smart insights, *Tea with the Dames* is a remarkable opportunity to spend time in the company of four all-time greats--up close and unfiltered.

We thank Alice Acheson for suggesting this film.

Tuesday July 2nd, 7:30 pm
Cold War



Drama Rated R (for significant sexual content) 89 Minutes

Polish, French, German, Russian, Italian and Croatian (with subtitles)

Cold War is a passionate love story between a man and a woman who meet in the ruins of post-war Poland. With vastly different backgrounds and temperaments, they are fatefully mismatched and yet condemned to each other. Set against the background of the Cold War in 1950s Poland, Berlin, Yugoslavia and Paris, it's the tale of a couple separated by politics, character flaws and unfortunate twists of fate - an impossible love story in impossible times.

This a beautiful film. The story is interesting but the camera work, music and terrific work of its two main characters push it to the top of this year's list. It is reminiscent of Bogart films from the middle of the last century; done in black and white through a lens that adds a wispy overlay and a soundtrack that is unforgettable. Besides, when did you last see a film in Polish, French, German, Russian, Italian and Croatian? Not suitable for children.

Tuesday, July 9th at 7:30 pm

The Biggest Little Farm



Documentary Rated PG 91 minutes

John and Molly are a young married couple who want to live a meaningful life. He is a wildlife photographer — and also the director of this film — and she is a chef and foodie blogger. When they are evicted from their apartment (their rescue dog won't stop barking), they decide to turn a hazy dream of working a farm into immediate action.

They find investors — many of them friends and family — and buy an abandoned farm about 40 miles north of Los Angeles. The place is virtually dead, but for the weeds. The topsoil is unsuited for growing crops, thanks to previous owners' monofarming, a widely accepted agricultural method of planting the same crop each year that can lead to higher yields but eventually strips the soil of its nutrients.

As newbies, they need guidance and are led to a farm whisperer, Alan York, whose hiring proves to be their most important decision. His vision, which will take years of hard, complex work to implement, is to create an internal ecosystem. It will be painstaking at first but will (Alan says) become easy to run, "like surfing."

The Chesters blow through their first-year budget in six months. Among their first purchases are a pregnant pig, Emma, some cattle and goats. They begin producing manure crucial to reloading the soil with nutrients. Chickens producing organic eggs are some of their first best-sellers. But problems abound. Snails and gophers threaten their fruit yields; coyotes terrorize the chickens, killing many. Periods of drought prove formidable challenges. Solutions become "eureka" moments.

As John and Molly learn, we learn. Benefiting from exceptional wildlife photography and cinematography, "The Biggest Little Farm" is a layered and rich experience, full of life and renewal — and death. "Our farm is energized by the impermanence of life," John realizes.

A must see for anyone who gardens or fantasizes about growing their own food. Once of the best documentaries of the year.

Tuesday July 16th 7:30 pm

Shoplifters



Japanese (subtitled) 121 minutes

Drama Rated R (some sexual content and nudity)

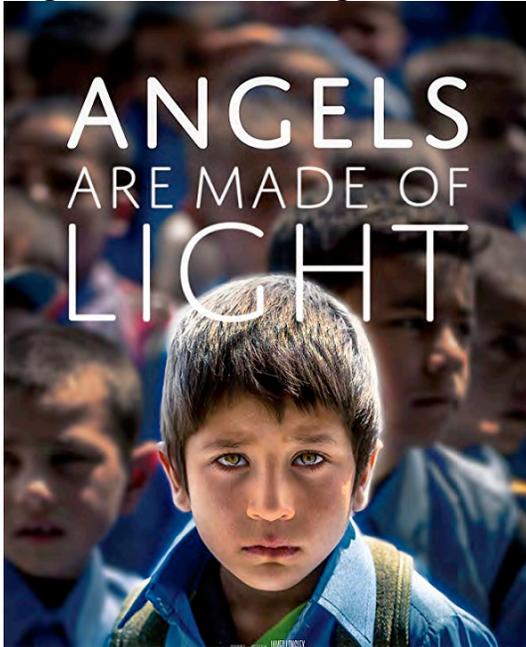
Winner of Palme D'Or at Cannes and nominated for an Oscar for Best Foreign film, *Shoplifters* depicts a Japanese family that survives by running petty scams, Director Hirokazu Kore-eda's modern day *Oliver Twist* story portrayal of the protagonists' rough-and-ready lifestyle demonstrate that people can find comfort even in the worst economic conditions. On the other hand continues his ongoing examination of what constitutes a family, and whether it can still provide cohesion in Japan's rapidly devolving society. At once charming and heart-wrenching, this exquisitely performed film will steal your heart.

It's beautifully done, and at a leisurely pace (please note 2 hour length). The joy of the movie lies mostly in watching fine actors build their beautifully flawed and lived-in characters. There isn't a single weak link in the cast, though the sheer, ridiculous adorability of the two kids almost seems like an unfair advantage.

But Kore-eda is working up to something else, steering the story he's built so carefully toward an utterly unexpected detour. As much of what we think we know unravels, the film becomes not just an enjoyable, intermittently poignant portrait of imperfect people but a profound meditation on the meaning of family. Suddenly, *Shoplifting* is the kind of sneaky beauty that makes you glad for the patience it's asked of you, and freshly thankful for the eye-opening gifts of international cinema. Highly recommended

Tuesday July 23rd 7:30 pm

Angels Are Made of Light



Dari, Pusto, Arabic, and English (subtitled)

Documentary Not Rated 117 minutes

This film by Friday Harbor's own James Longley arrives 12 years after his Oscar nominated "Iraq in Fragments". Filmed throughout three years (2011-2014), *Angels Are Made of Light* follows students and teachers at a school in an old neighborhood of Kabul that is slowly rebuilding from past conflicts. Interweaving the modern history of Afghanistan with present-day portraits, the film offers an intimate and nuanced vision of a society living in the shadow of war.

Through its spoken words, its sorrowful and understated score and its quietly devastating snapshots of people just trying to get by, all amid a pervasive sense of violence, "*Angels Are Made of Light*" serves as a lament for a prosperous past that can't be reclaimed, a volatile present that affords few prospects for joy or success, and a future that's terrifyingly uncertain. No matter its title, there are no heaven-sent saviors to be found here — only despondent children struggling, with the aid of a few noble adults, to take flight.

Thanks are due to Lee Sturdivant for suggesting this film and to James Longley for making this showing possible even before its national debut.

Tuesday July 30th 7:30 pm

Pick of the Litter

Training begins the
moment they're born.

PICK OF THE LITTER



A SERVICE DOG DOCUMENTARY

Not Rated (but OK for everyone)

"Dogumentary" 81 minutes

Pick of the Litter follows a litter of puppies from the moment they're born and begin their quest to become guide dogs for the blind. Cameras follow these pups through an intense two-year odyssey as they train to become dogs whose ultimate responsibility is to protect their blind partners from harm. Along the way, these remarkable animals rely on a community of dedicated individuals who train them to do amazing, life-changing things in the service of their human. The stakes are high and not every dog can make the cut. Only the best of the best. The pick of the litter.

This family friendly film is recommended for dog lovers of all ages as well as those interested in how guide dogs are trained.

Tuesday August 6th at 7:30

Stockholm



Not Rated (but OK for everyone)

Comedy Hebrew (subtitled) 155 minutes

When the dead body of a renowned economist is discovered in his apartment by his four closest friends, the quartet is faced with a difficult dilemma: what to do next. Stopping short of making funeral arrangements, it suddenly occurs to the group that their friend was on the cusp of winning the Nobel Prize. Determined to keep him in the running, they decide to hide the secret for a few days. They close the blinds, blast the air conditioning, and start taking shifts tending to the body, all in the name of keeping their friend "alive." Fluctuating between broad comedy and intelligent character drama, *Stockholm* is a hilarious and touching story of lifelong bonds and the secrets that have intertwined themselves inside of them.

Thanks to Judy Chovan for suggesting this film. Please note that it is 2½ long. (We may include a short break)

Tuesday August 13th 7:30

Capernaum



Drama Arabic (subtitled)

Rated R (language) 128 minutes

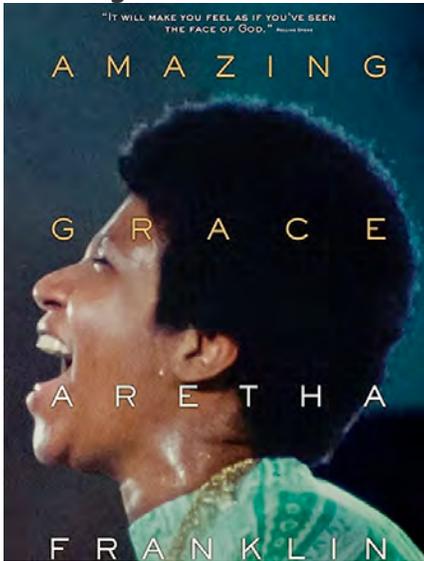
Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, Nadine Labaki's *Capernaum* ("Chaos") tells the story of Zain, a Lebanese boy who sues his parents for the "crime" of giving him life. *Capernaum* follows Zain, a gutsy streetwise child, as he flees his negligent parents, survives through his wits on the streets, takes care of Ethiopian refugee and her baby son, being jailed for a crime, and finally, seeks justice in a courtroom.

Capernaum was made with a cast of non-professionals playing characters whose lives closely parallel their own. Following her script, Labaki placed her performers in scenes and asked them to react spontaneously with their own words and gestures. When the non-actors' instincts diverged from the written script, Labaki adapted the screenplay to follow them. While steeped in the quiet routines of ordinary people, *Capernaum* is a film with an expansive palette: without warning it can ignite with emotional intensity, surprise with unexpected tenderness, and inspire with flashes of poetic imagery. Although it is set in the depths of a society's systematic inhumanity, *Capernaum* is ultimately a hopeful film that stirs the heart as deeply as it cries out for action. The performance by Zain al Rafeea will stay with you for a very long time.

Perhaps the most moving film of the season, it cannot be more highly recommended.

Tuesday, August 20th 7:30

Amazing Grace



Documentary Rated PG 89 minutes

Music annals tell us about legendary lost projects that got released long after the fact. The Beach Boys' "Smile." Bob Dylan's "Basement Tapes." Prince's "Black Album." Now comes the holy grail: "Amazing Grace," the movie of Aretha Franklin's storied gospel concerts in 1972. Having scored 11 consecutive No. 1 songs, the queen of soul was 29 and at the height of her powers. For two nights in a Baptist church in Los Angeles, she revisited her gospel roots. Six months later, a two-disc LP of the concerts was released, and it remains the biggest-selling live gospel album of all time.

What many didn't realize is that those concerts were also filmed. That footage was, as the song goes, lost but now is found. You don't need to be a churchgoer to find "Amazing Grace" a soul-stirring, foot-stomping, hand-raising experience. When you hear Franklin, with that most gloooo-ree-us voice, magnificently turn one syllable into five, you'll be moved to hand-clapping ecstasy just as Mick Jagger was when he joined the congregation on one of those nights.

Tuesday August 27th 7:30

Gloria Bell



Drama, Comedy

Rated R (for sexuality and nudity) 122 minutes

Three years ago, we showed "Marguerite" a film about an wealthy ,aspiring, but completely untalented Opera singer. Another film "Florence Foster Jenkins" (starring Meryl Streep), was made at the same time based on the same story. This provided the rare chance to compare two treatments of the same material. Now Chilean Oscar winning filmmaker Sebastian Lelio has remade his own film! The original "Gloria" was in Spanish and featured Pauline Garcia. "Gloria Bell", this year's remake stars Julianne Moore and is in English.. In both, not much happens— a middle-age divorcée quietly lives her life, making a few bad decisions along the way and always finding time for dancing. But you fall a little bit in love with the character, with the way she opens her arms to life, to love, to music's beat.

If you've seen the original, watching the new one is an odd experience; it's a very, very faithful remake, right down to Gloria's unflatteringly oversized glasses. Gloria's life is the ordinary, middling sort that we don't see on screen too often: She works for an insurance company; lives in an apartment that's neither lavish nor meager; and juggles her relationships with her grown children (Michael Cera, Caren Pistorius), her mother (Holland Taylor) and the sometimes-sweet, sometimes-borderline-creepy man (John Turturro,) she meets while out dancing. It is Moore's amazing performance that makes this film an undiscovered gem. An Oscar nomination is certainly deserved.