

WINNIPEG  GROUP's

CINEMATHEQUE

November / December 2015



CANADIAN & INTERNATIONAL FEATURES

Testament of Youth

NEW WORLD DOCUMENTARIES

Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine

SPECIAL EVENTS

Cultural Encounters with Iran



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November/December Staff Picks



← Left to right: Dave Barber, Jaimz Asmundson, Heidi Phillips, Kristy Muckosky, Cecilia Araneda and Eric Peterson. Photo by Leif Norman.

I prefer to walk, run or bus it through the city as much as possible. Aside from the personal health benefits, it also opens up the city experience to one that is more community-focused in contrast to the rather isolating experience of traveling in a car. For this reason, while I don't ride a bicycle, the Swedish documentary **Bikes vs Cars** (Nov 20–29) immediately stood out for me. The topic of what a city's circulation priority should be is definitely a fascinating subject worthy of cinematic attention and discussion. One of the greatest strengths of cinema as an art is its power to bring far away worlds and experiences right to us, to promote greater understanding. The special program **Cultural Encounters with Iran** (Dec 5) promises to provide a unique experience focused on the work NY-based Iranian filmmaker Hamid Rahmanian and his collaborator Melissa Hibbard. — CECILIA ARANEDA, Executive Director

As an electronic musician, I spend a lot of my spare time noodling around with synthesizers so I'm quite excited to see **Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey** (Nov 28 & 29). I love the sound of the theremin but this machine, much like its sound, seems like it comes from another planet! It will be illuminating to see this film and learn more about its inventor and his bizarre life. Also, if you haven't come by yet—upstairs on the 3rd floor in our Black Lodge studio we have been running a new event every first Friday of the month called **Secret Cinema** (Nov 6 & Dec 4). We've invited

a stellar line-up of filmmakers, film critics and scholars to guest curate a (secret) package of classic 16mm films from our own vault. It's a fun, informal atmosphere to hang out and discuss film with fellow cinephiles—please join us! — JAIMZ ASMUNDSON, Cinematheque Programming Director

I was terrified of learning to drive and didn't take lessons until my late 20's. On my first day on the road (Joe's Driving School) it was snowing and slippery. I was coming off the Disraeli Bridge when a car came out of nowhere. I jammed on my breaks and slid into the side of a parked car. Down at Autopac the agent glared at me and muttered "I have driven across that bridge and have NEVER had an accident!" You weren't LEARNING TO DRIVE, I muttered back. My pick in the new program, **Learning to Drive**, is a touching and very funny story about a woman who, like me, was hesitant to learn but forced herself to overcome her fears. **Al Purdy Was Here** is a fantastic portrait packed with great stories of Canadian writing legend, poet Al Purdy, a contemporary of writers such as Leonard Cohen and Margaret Atwood. I saw it at the Toronto Film Festival where it went over like gangbusters with audiences. We are among the first theaters in Canada to screen the film outside of film festivals. — DAVE BARBER, Cinematheque Programming Coordinator

Joan of Arc! **The Reflektor Tapes** is coming! (Nov 1–7) I love that album and can't wait to see the making of it! I am still kicking

myself for not going to see them so I'll pretend that I was there while watching the concert footage. In keeping with those lovin' good vibrations, I am also very excited to see **Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey**. After creating the electronic synthesizer instrument, Leon Theremin is kidnapped to work on inventions and surveillance technology. During his absence, the theremin becomes a popular instrument in film scores and with the Beach Boys. **Cultural Encounters with Iran** will be an interesting event to attend. **Shahrbanoo** will give us a look into a friendship that transcends stereotypes in spite of vast cultural differences. It will also be interesting to see what Shahrbanoo has to say about a woman's place in society. The filmmaker will be in house! Lastly, don't forget about our holiday sale. Passes and merch, cheap like borscht. — KRISTY MUCKOSKY, Cinematheque Operations Manager

It's hard not to be biased with my picks this month, as I am a huge Arcade Fire fan. Kahlil Joseph goes beyond capturing the bands passionate on stage presence in **The Reflektor Tapes** and documents Arcade Fire's artistic process in the recording studio. This film is sure to be entertaining while highlighting one of Canada's most popular bands. Another obvious pick is Fredrik Gertten's film **Bikes vs Cars** as I use my bike as my sole mode of transportation. While our mode of transportation may seem like a practical decision, Gertten reveals in his polarizing documentary that these everyday choices go far beyond quantity of wheels. — HEIDI PHILLIPS, Cinematheque Head Projectionist

When Alex Gibney's film **Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief** played in August at Cinematheque, it was a smash hit. We will be screening his other film from this year **Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine** (Nov 12–19). Unlike the other documentaries, this one looks past the image of Steve that we are so used to receiving and reveals a darker, more manipulative side of the man so highly praised as a genius and innovator. — ERIC PETERSON, Cinematheque Box Office

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Canadian & International Features



Testament of Youth

Directed by James Kent
2015, UK, 129 min

Sunday, November 1 / 3 pm

Thursday & Friday, November 5 & 6 / 7 pm

Saturday & Sunday, November 7 & 8 / 3 pm & 7 pm

Thursday & Friday/ November 12 & 13 / 7 pm

Saturday, November 14 / 7 pm

"Anchored by an extraordinary performance from actress Alicia Vikander, the film bears comparison to many other superbly mounted costume dramas but this one has a special distinction: it chronicles the horrors that World War I inflicted on a generation of young English people from a woman's perspective." — GODFREY CHESHIRE, ROGEREBERT.COM

"Stunningly good... desperately moving." — *THE EVENING STANDARD*

Adapted by screenwriter Juliette Towhidi (*Calendar Girls*), *Testament of Youth* is an epic story of love, war and remembrance told from a woman's point of view. Beautifully crafted and photographed, the film concerns the story of Vera—irrepressible, intelligent and free-minded—who overcomes the prejudices of her family and hometown to win a scholarship to Oxford. With everything to live for, she falls in love with her brother's brilliant friend Roland as they go to university to pursue their literary dreams. But World War I is looming, and as the boys leave for the front, Vera realizes she cannot sit idly by as her peers fight for their country so she volunteers as a nurse and sets off for France. Her experience in ministering to the wounded on the battlefield transforms her views on war, thus becoming a lifelong pacifist and wrote the now famous 1933 autobiography *Testament of Youth*.



Learning to Drive

Directed by Isabel Coixet
2014, USA, 90 min

Thursday & Friday, December 10 & 11 / 7 pm

Saturday & Sunday, December 12 & 13 / 3 pm & 7 pm

"A smart and wonderfully uplifting movie experience! Ben Kingsley and Patricia Clarkson are perfection together. A must-see!"

— PETE HAMMOND

Academy Award nominee Patricia Clarkson and Academy Award winner Ben Kingsley star in this feel-good, coming of (middle) age comedy about a mismatched pair who help each other overcome life's road blocks.

Wendy is a fiery Manhattan author whose husband has just left her for a younger woman; Darwan is a soft-spoken taxi driver from India on the verge of an arranged marriage. As Wendy sets out to reclaim her independence, she runs into a barrier common to many lifelong New Yorkers: she's never learned to drive. When Wendy hires Darwan to teach her, her unraveling life and his calm restraint seem like an awkward fit. But as he shows her how to take control of the wheel, and she coaches him on how to impress a woman, their unlikely friendship awakens them to the joy, humor, and love in starting life anew.

New World Documentaries



The Reflektor Tapes

Directed by Kahlil Joseph
2015, UK, 75 min

Sunday, November 1 / 7 pm

Wednesday, November 4 / 7 pm

Thursday – Saturday, November 5–7 / 9:30 pm

“A fantastic fever dream montage of outtakes, studio footage, concert clips, intimate interviews, fan portraits and mesmeric hallucinations. As singer Régine Chassagne says, music should be ‘like a diamond with a million cuts in it’, and this film is the world put through the magnificent prism of Arcade Fire.” — *GIG WISE*

A fascinating insight into the making of Arcade Fire’s international #1 album *Reflektor*. The film recontextualizes the album experience, transporting the viewer into a kaleidoscopic sonic and visual landscape. It charts the band’s creative journey as they lay foundations for the album in Jamaica, record in Montreal and play an impromptu gig at a Haitian hotel on the first night of Carnival, before bringing their breath-taking live show to packed arenas in Los Angeles and London. *The Reflektor Tapes* blends never before seen personal interviews and moments captured by the band to dazzling effect, and features 15 minutes of exclusive unseen footage, filmed only for cinema audiences.



Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine

Directed by Alex Gibney
2015, USA, 128 min

Thursday & Friday, November 12 & 13 / 9:30 pm

Saturday, November 14 / 3 pm & 9:30 pm

Sunday, November 15 / 7 pm

Wednesday, November 18 / 7 pm

Thursday, November 19 / 9 pm

“You may never look at that iPhone in your hand the same way again!”
— *KAREN D’SOUZA, SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS*

“Exhilarating. As mysterious as it is thrilling. A definitive portrait of a man of contradictions.” — *INDIEWIRE*

Oscar-winning filmmaker Alex Gibney (director of *Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief*) has created a riveting look at Apple legend Steve Jobs. Packed with great stories and exhaustively researched, the film explores his childhood years to his pioneering days with Apple creating the iPhone and iPod. Brilliant and ruthless, the documentary reveals his manipulative nature whether cutting out partner Steve Wozniak from a fair share of money over a collaborative Atari invention to his bullying of staff. Staff speak in awe of his inventions and ingenuity while revealing many horror stories and the cost to their personal lives of working under his direction. Featuring interviews with many important people in Jobs’ life including the mother of Jobs’ first child and many of his colleagues. This is no corporate sanctioned hagiography and was made without Apple’s cooperation or that of Jobs’ immediate family.

New World Documentaries



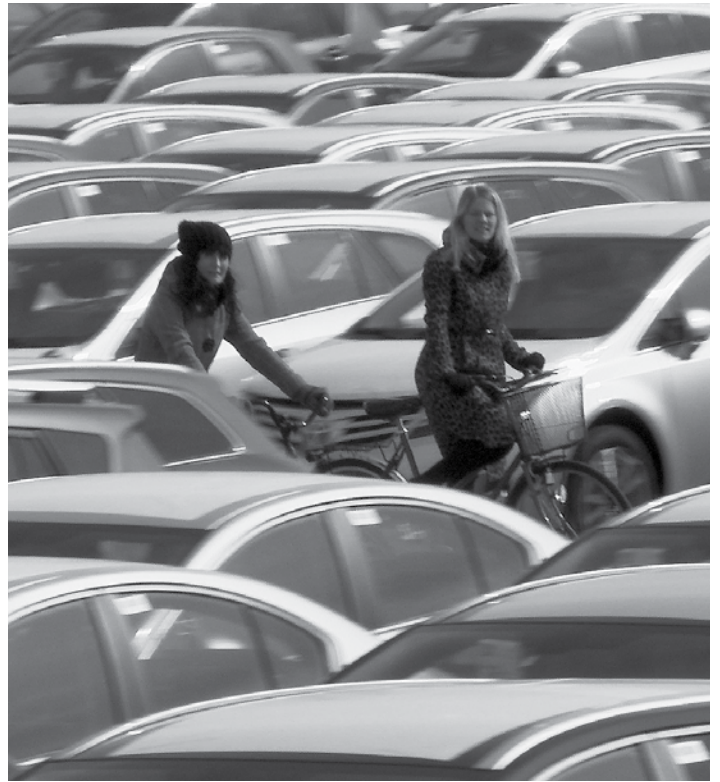
Mavis!

Directed by Jessica Edwards
2015, USA, 80 min

Thursday, November 19 / 7 pm
Friday & Saturday, November 20 & 21 / 7 pm
Sunday, November 22 / 3 pm
Wednesday, November 25 / 7 pm
Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27 / 9 pm
Saturday, November 28 / 3 pm

"Wildly compelling and gregarious with a voice that booms like thunder. *Mavis!* is without a doubt, the living, breathing, heart-pumping definition of an exclamation point, radiating a charisma and earnestness so vivid and loud that it nearly knocks you out of your chair." — REEL GEORGIA

Gospel/soul music legend and civil rights activist Mavis Staples began her career singing in the Southern gospel circuit in the 1950s and worked with the legendary band The Staple Singers. *Mavis!* is a terrific documentary which explores her roots growing up on Chicago's south side starting out as a singer in local Chicago churches and then going on with the band to record chart topping hits "I'll Take You There", "If You're Ready (Come Go With Me)" and "Respect Yourself". With rare archival footage from TV performances and live concerts the film also features interviews with the late Julian Bond, Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, Jeff Tweedy and country artist/music historian Marty Stuart. Through a 60-year career crossing music genres and societal shifts, Mavis has managed to transform herself as she goes, yet never alter. She occupies a singular place in American music: a soldier of love and peace whose fight continues. At 75, she's making the most vital music of her career, and her message of equality is needed now more than ever.



Bikes vs Cars

Directed by Fredrik Gertten
2015, Sweden, 90 min

Friday, November 20 / 9 pm
Saturday, November 21 / 3 pm & 9 pm
Sunday, November 22 / 7 pm
Thursday, November 26 / 7 pm
Saturday, November 28 / 9 pm
Sunday, November 29 / 7 pm

Discussion to follow the 3pm screening on Nov 21st. For panellist info, visit winnipegcinematheque.com.

"A terrific new picture infused with activist cinema...brilliantly draws you in...a compelling tale." — GREG KLYMKIW

This timely new film follows several individuals around the world as they fight to create change for the biking community. We meet Aline at Sao Paulo's Ciclofaxia, the weekly Sunday ride where one lane of Paulista Avenue is opened for bikes only. Aline is an inspirational person in the city's bicycle movement, but that can be difficult in a city where one bicyclist is killed every four days. And in Toronto, where Mayor Rob Ford once stripped away the city's bike lanes in his battle to win the "war on cars," we watch as members of the Urban Repair Squad infiltrate the streets at night, using spray paint and stencils to replace them. From bike activists in Sao Paulo and Los Angeles, fighting for safe bike lanes, to the City of Copenhagen, where 40% commute by bike daily, *Bikes vs Cars* looks at both the struggle for bicyclists in a society dominated by cars, and the revolutionary changes that could take place if more cities moved away from car-centric models.

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Al Purdy Was Here

Directed by Brian D. Johnson
2015, Canada, 90 min

Wednesday – Friday, December 2–4 / 7 pm
Saturday & Sunday, December 5 & 6 / 3 pm
Wednesday, December 9 / 7 pm

Dec 2: Introduction with David Arnason, Professor in the Faculty of Arts, English, Film and Theatre at the University of Manitoba

“Four stars. Excellent. Although his subject died in 2000, he comes fully alive through archival interviews and recollections by his editor, poet friends (Margaret Atwood even plays pool at the Pilot) and Purdy’s widow, Eurithe.” —NOW WEEKLY

A portrait of an artist driven to become a great Canadian poet at a time when the category barely existed. Twice winner of the Governor General’s Award, Al Purdy is a charismatic tower of contradictions: a “sensitive man” who whips out a poem in a bar fight; a factory worker who finds grace in an Arctic flower; a mentor to young writers who remained a stranger to sons. Born in Wooler, Ontario Al was a high-school dropout during the Great Depression and lived all over the country. After two decades of writing what he admits was bad poetry, he and his wife built an A-frame cabin on Roblin Lake in Ontario’s Prince Edward County which now offers a writer’s residency. The A-frame became a mecca for the early pioneers of Canadian literature—Margaret Laurence, Dennis Lee, Margaret Atwood and Michael Ondaatje. The film features interviews with literary giants and performances by artists Leonard Cohen, Bruce Cockburn, Gord Downie, Sarah Harmer, Tanya Tagaq and Joseph Boyden.

Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead: The Story of The National Lampoon

Directed by Douglas Tirola
2015, USA, 98 min

Thursday & Friday, December 3 & 4 / 9 pm
Saturday, December 5 / 10 pm
Sunday, December 6 / 7 pm
Thursday – Saturday, December 10–12 / 9 pm

“An endless parade of some of the funniest writing and creativity you’ll likely ever be exposed to and if you don’t spend most of the time watching it laughing your backside off, you’re probably allergic to smiling.” —AIN’T IT COOL NEWS

Amid the seismic cultural shift of the 1970s, American comedy got a sharper edge when a newly minted magazine named National Lampoon stuck its middle finger up at the establishment. Bound by a passion for the absurd and a mistrust of authority, Lampoon’s irreverence spanned nearly every available social taboo from weak-kneed politics to heated racial tensions. This unique cocktail of high satire and gallows humor exploded onto America’s cultural consciousness attracting visionary talents such as Saturday Night Live alumni Gilda Radner, John Belushi, Bill Murray and Chevy Chase, whose comedic force helped expand the magazine’s spirit to stage and film. Director Douglas Tirola unearths never-before-seen archival footage and brilliantly weaves it together with the magazine’s beautiful and often shocking art, reliving National Lampoon’s meteoric rise from go-to magazine of the counterculture to a brand synonymous with Hollywood’s biggest comedies. Energetic, revolutionary, gently perverted, and often hilarious, this film elevates nostalgia to a roof-raising experience.




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Gray Matters

Directed by Marco Orsini
2014, USA, 72 min

Friday, November 27 / 7 pm

Exploring the long, fascinating life and complicated career of architect and designer Eileen Gray, whose uncompromising vision defined and defied the practice of modernism in decoration, design and architecture. Making a reputation with her traditional lacquer work in the first decade of the 20th Century, she became a critically acclaimed and sought after designer and decorator in the next before reinventing herself as an architect, a field in which she laboured largely in obscurity. Apart from the accolades that greeted her first building—persistently and perversely credited to her mentor—her pioneering work was done quietly, privately and to her own specifications. But she lived long enough (98) to be re-discovered and acclaimed. Today, with her work commanding extraordinary prices and attention, her legacy, like its creator, remains elusive, contested and compelling.

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WINNIPEG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL PREVIEW

A special screening for the upcoming Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's New Music Festival (Jan 23–29, 2016). *Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey* marks the upcoming performance of *Icarus* (which incorporates a theremin) by Russian/American female composer Lera Auerbach who will be performing on Wednesday January 27, 2016 at the New Music Festival.



Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey

Directed by Steven M. Martin
1994, USA, 83 min

Saturday, November 28 / 7 pm

Sunday, November 29 / 3 pm

You've heard the instrument, even if you don't know its name. The theremin—the first electronic instrument—makes that spooky sound you've heard in 1950s horror and sci-fi films (*The Day the Earth Stood Still*) and in The Beach Boys' "Good Vibrations". Astoundingly, the otherworldly cry is created not by touching the theremin (essentially a black box of tubes with two antennae), but by manipulating the magnetic field in the air around the instrument. The film offers an account of the instrument and its creator, Leon Theremin, a Russian inventor who immigrated early in the century and started the electronic music age in 1920 with the instrument that bears his name. It follows his life, including being imprisoned in a Soviet gulag, and the influence of his instrument, which came to define the sound of eerie in 20th Century movies, and influenced popular music as it searched for and celebrated electronic music in the 1960s.

PLAYS WITH **The Highwater Trilogy** / Dir. Bill Morrison, 2006, USA, 31 min / *Examining our relationship to the threat of natural disaster by combining rare archival footage from the 1920s of icebergs, hurricanes, and footage of flooded cities. The devastating imagery is accompanied by David Lang's haunting soundtrack (who will be composer-in-residence with several of his works being performed at the Winnipeg New Music Festival in 2016).*

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The Winnipeg Film Group's Members' Premiere

Sunday, November 28 / 5 pm at Cinematheque

A screening of new works by WFG members followed by an end of year members party in the Black Lodge at 6:30 pm. Our annual screening and party, is designed to celebrate and recognize our membership. Come down to support the filmmakers and eat, drink and watch films with us.

WINNIPEG  GROUP

Holiday Sale

Visit winnipegcinematheque.com to purchase
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Sale runs from December 1 to January 4



CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS WITH IRAN

Saturday, December 5 / 7 pm

Admission by donation

In conjunction with the *Lines of Identity: Middle Eastern Diasporas in North America* workshop at the University of Manitoba (organized by the History and Political Science departments), we are honoured to co-present a special film screening and public discussion with Iranian filmmaker Hamid Rahmanian, his collaborator Melissa Hibbard and host Hamid Naficy. For more info, visit www.jarislowkskychairmidwest.com

Hamid Rahmanian is a critically acclaimed Iranian filmmaker and graphic designer who collaborates with his partner, filmmaker and photographer Melissa Hibbard, in creating films for their company Fictionville Studios based in New York. They have collaborated on many prestigious films that have won acclaim worldwide.

Hamid Naficy is a leading authority in cultural studies of Iranian and Middle Eastern cinemas. He has published nearly a dozen books and has lectured nationally and internationally at major international film festivals. He also initiated annual Iranian film festivals in Los Angeles and Houston.

Shahrbanoo

Directed by Hamid Rahmanian & Melissa Hibbard
2002, Iran/USA, 57 min

The encounter of an American woman with a super-conservative Iranian family living in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Tehran was surely not an accident waiting to happen. But this is not a movie about politics. It is a heart-warming, alternatively hilarious, harrowing and heartrending testimony to the hidden ties that connect us across vast cultural gulfs. The centerpiece of the story is Melissa who was visiting her new husband's family in Tehran. She was befriended by Shahrbanoo who has been moonlighting as her mother-in-law's housekeeper for more than a quarter of a century without the knowledge of her own family.

PLAYS WITH **Sir Alfred of Charles de Gaulle Airport** / Dir. Hamid Rahmanian & Melissa Hibbard, 2001, Iran/USA, 29 min / *See the real story that inspired The Terminal by Steven Spielberg. Mehran Karemi Nasseri has been living in the Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, France. For the past 12 years he has been waiting for the document that would allow him to leave.*

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November 2015

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1 Testament of Youth / 3pm The Reflektor Tapes / 7pm
4 The Reflektor Tapes / 7pm	5 Testament of Youth / 7pm The Reflektor Tapes / 9:30pm	6 Testament of Youth / 7pm The Reflektor Tapes / 9:30pm	7 Testament of Youth / 3pm & 7pm The Reflektor Tapes / 9:30pm	8 Testament of Youth / 3pm & 7pm
11 Closed for Remembrance Day	12 Testament of Youth / 7pm Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine / 9:30pm	13 Testament of Youth / 7pm Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine / 9:30pm	14 Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine / 3pm & 9:30pm Testament of Youth / 7pm	15 Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine / 7pm
18 Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine / 7pm	19 Mavis! / 7pm Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine / 9pm	20 Mavis! / 7pm Bikes vs Cars / 9pm	21 Bikes vs Cars / 3pm & 9pm Mavis! / 7pm	22 Mavis! / 3pm Bikes vs Cars / 7pm
25 Mavis! / 7pm	26 Bikes vs Cars / 7pm Mavis! / 9pm	27 ARCHITECTURE + FILM: Gray Matters / 7pm Mavis! / 9pm	28 Mavis! / 3pm WFG Members' Screening / 5pm Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey / 7pm Bikes vs Cars / 9pm	29 Theremin: An Electronic Odyssey / 3pm Bikes vs Cars / 7pm

December 2015

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
2 Al Purdy Was Here / 7pm	3 Al Purdy Was Here / 7pm Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead: The Story of the National Lampoon / 9pm	4 Al Purdy Was Here / 7pm Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead: The Story of the National Lampoon / 9pm	5 Al Purdy Was Here / 3pm Cultural Encounters with Iran / 7pm Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead: The Story of the National Lampoon / 10pm	6 Al Purdy Was Here / 3pm Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead: The Story of the National Lampoon / 7pm
9 Al Purdy Was Here / 7pm	10 Learning to Drive / 7pm Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead: The Story of the National Lampoon / 9pm	11 Learning to Drive / 7pm Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead: The Story of the National Lampoon / 9pm	12 Learning to Drive / 3pm & 7pm Drunk Stoned Brilliant Dead: The Story of the National Lampoon / 9pm	13 Learning to Drive / 3pm & 7pm
16 <i>Check our website for film listings, we may be bringing back the most popular films of November/December!</i>	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

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