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## From Academy Award Nominees To Timeless Classics, The 2015 Tournées French Film Festival Returns To Roger Williams University

*Third Annual Program held in collaboration with Flickers: Rhode Island International film Festival to feature Six Feature Films and French Shorts; free to the General Public*

**WHAT:** The **Third Annual RWU Tournées French Film Festival** at Roger Williams University

**WHEN:** April 7-11, 2015

**WHERE:** Roger Williams University, 1 Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI, [www.RWU.edu](http://www.RWU.edu)

**WHO:** Roger Williams University in collaboration with FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**THIS YEAR'S THEME:** Connecting Through Storytelling

**WHY:** To Celebrate France and the Francophone World.

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**BRISTOL, RI** (March 9, 2015): **Roger Williams University (RWU)** and the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** are proud to collaborate in the presentation of the **Third Annual RWU Tournées French Film Festival**. The theme for this year's Festival is "**Connecting through Storytelling**." The Festival will take place over a five-day period, **April 7-11, 2015** and will be free to the general public and campus community. The RWU Tournées French Film Festival was made possible by a \$2,200 grant from the French American Cultural Exchange, a New York-based nonprofit that promotes French culture through grants and special projects in arts and education.

The **RWU Tournées French Film Festival** will present six new and classic French feature films, (all with English subtitles); along with a selection of shorts films that **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival** will premiere through its partnership with **UNIFRANCE** that will precede each feature.

The Bristol, RI campus of Roger Williams University will serve as the host location for the Festival, with screenings to take place at the **Mary Tefft White Cultural Center** in the Campus Library and the **Global Heritage Hall**, GHH01.

For the past few decades, an array of contemporary French filmmakers have sought to use film as a means to wrest us from the illusions provided by the narrative of global connectivity. Often focusing on protagonists who exist outside dominant culture, or who feel detached from it, these filmmakers have tried to illuminate the realities of social oppression, isolation and alienation,

while simultaneously foregrounding the powerful human desire for acceptance, intimacy and belonging.

The **Third Annual RWU Tournées French Film Festival** offers films that continue on in this vein. Each film centers on characters struggling to make social connections in a world that is often constructed to keep them apart.

Aesthetically, these films eschew Hollywood's affinity for vibrant imagery, hyper-kinetic editing, broad characterizations and closed endings. Long-takes, hand-held-cameras, natural dialogue, complex characters and ambiguous narratives are used to create cinematic experiences that feel like life-as-it-is-lived; these are all films that invite the audience to engage with the world, rather than escape from it.

This year's Festival selections and screening can be found below or at the following URL:  
<http://www.film-festival.org/TourneesFilm.php>

The **Third Annual RWU Tournées French Film Festival** is made possible with the support of the *Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée (CNC), the Franco-American Cultural Fund (FACF), The Florence Gould Foundation, Campus France USA, and highbrow entertainment.* The Festival is presented in collaboration with the *Office of the Dean of Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences; the Department of Communications; the Department of Theatre; Hillel; the Spiritual Life Program, the RWU Film Production Club and the Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival.*

The Program Directors for the Third Annual RWU Tournées French Film Festival are **Dr. Roberta Adams**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; **Dr. Jeffrey Martin**, Professor of Theatre and Chair, Department of Performing Arts; and **George T. Marshall**, Executive Director, FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival. The RWU Film Production Club has provided event technical support. For more information, please go to [www.RWU.edu](http://www.RWU.edu) or [www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org).

## **TOURNEES FILM FESTIVAL 2015 SCREENING SCHEDULE:**

### **THE FRENCH MINISTER (QUAI D'ORSAY)**

**Date and Time:** **TUESDAY, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

**Location:** Mary Tefft White Cultural Center, RWU Library, Bristol, RI

**Director:** Bertrand Tavernier

**Screenplay:** Bertrand Tavernier, Christophe Blain, and Antonin Baudry. From the graphic novel by Christophe Blain and Abel Lanzac

**Cast:** Alexandre Taillard de Vorms: Thierry Lhermitte, Arthur Vlaminck: Raphaël Personnaz, Claude Maupas: Niels Arestrup, Stéphane Cahut: Bruno Raffaelli, Valérie Dumontheil: Julie Gayet, Marina: Anaïs Demoustier

**Running time:** 113' Production: France, 2013 Rating: Not Rated

**AWARDS:** Best Supporting Actor, Niels Arestrup – César Awards (2014); Official Selection – Toronto International Film Festival (2013)

Directed by Bertrand Tavernier, this razor-sharp satire of politics—both those enacted on the world stage and within the corridors of workplaces—originated in first-hand experience: The film is adapted from graphic novels written by Antonin Baudry, who worked as a speechwriter for Dominique de Villepin, the French foreign minister during the lead-up to the 2003 war in Iraq. (Baudry co-wrote the screenplay with Tavernier and Christophe Blain, who illustrated the books.) As the Baudry surrogate, Raphaël Personnaz plays Arthur, recently hired by the imperiously named, high-ranking diplomat Alexandre Taillard de Worms (Thierry Lhermitte), a man who speaks in orotund outbursts. These thickets of words grow more hilarious and nonsensical as the film progresses, combining egregious clichés, lofty quotations from the sages of ancient Greece, and impenetrable bureaucrat-speak. As Arthur scrambles to figure out just what, exactly, his highly capricious boss wants from him, the crisis in “Lousdemistan” (clearly a stand-in for Iraq)

deepens. The new hire must also contend with the petty office squabbling of his territorial colleagues and their bids for power; meanwhile, the overweening Alexandre quite literally creates chaos wherever he goes.

- See more at: <http://face-foundation.org/tournees-film-festival/quai-dorsay-the-french-minister/#sthash.LcHa9JPZ.dpuf>

**GRAND ILLUSION** (LA GRANDE ILLUSION)

**Date and Time:** WEDNESDAY, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Global Heritage Hall, Room 01, RWU, Bristol, RI

**Director:** Jean Renoir

**Screenplay:** Jean Renoir, Charles Spaak

**Cast:** Lt. Maréchal: Jean Gabin; Capitaine de Boeldieu: Pierre Fresnay; Lt. Rosenthal: Marcel Dalio; Cdt. Von Rauffenstein: Erich von Stroheim; Elsa: Dita Parlo

**Running Time:** 114 min, PRODUCTION: France, 1938, RATING: Unrated

**AWARDS:** Best Foreign Film – *New York Film Critics Circle Awards* (1938); Best Artistic Ensemble – *Venice Film Festival* (1937), Official Selection – *Academy Awards* (1938)

Set during World War I, this masterwork by Jean Renoir, once hailed by Orson Welles as the “greatest of all directors,” was shot just three years before the beginning of World War II. Renoir, who himself had flown reconnaissance missions during WWI, examines the relationships that form among a group of French officers held in a German prisoner-of-war camp. Within this detention center, class, religious, and national divisions increasingly cease to matter: An indestructible fraternity forms among the Breton working-class Lieutenant Maréchal (Jean Gabin, a Renoir regular); the aristocratic Captain de Boeldieu (Pierre Fresnay), never without his white gloves; and the Jewish Lieutenant Rosenthal (Marcel Dalio). Even the man responsible for their imprisonment, the German Captain von Rauffenstein (Erich von Stroheim), invites Maréchal and de Boeldieu to lunch. As the film historian Peter Cowie once astutely noted, “Grand Illusion escapes the confines of the war movie genre. Scarcely a gun is fired in anger. The trenches are nowhere in sight. Yet through some alchemy, Renoir imbues the film with his passionate belief in man’s humanity to man... The accident of war brings out the fundamentally decent nature of people who in peacetime would be unbending strangers to one another.

- See more at: <http://face-foundation.org/tournees-film-festival/la-grande-illusion/#sthash.6mSiJq48.dpuf>

**COUSIN JULES** (LE COUSIN JULES)

**Date:** THURSDAY, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mary Tefft White Cultural Center, RWU Library, Bristol, RI

**Director:** Dominique Benicheti

**Screenplay:** Dominique Benicheti

**Cast:** Jules Guitteaux and Félicie Guitteaux

**Running Time:** 91 min, PRODUCTION: France, 1973 & 2013, RATING: Unrated

**AWARDS:** Jury Prize – *Locarno Film Festival* (1973)

After winning a prize at the Locarno Film Festival in 1973, Dominique Benicheti’s magnificent documentary about the quotidian rhythms of an elderly couple in rural Burgundy unjustly remained without US distribution for 40 years. Filmed over a five-year period—and shot in CinemaScope and recorded in stereo—this immersive portrait follows Jules Guitteaux (a distant relative of the director’s) and his wife, Félicie, as they go about their formidable tasks. Jules, a blacksmith, is shown hammering out hinges and other implements as his wife tends to their vegetable garden and prepares meals and midmorning coffee. Benicheti, working with cinematographers Pierre William Glenn and Paul Launay, patiently observes these labor-intensive chores, daily rituals that are attended to with utmost precision and grace—and that are never less than transfixing to watch. Although Jules and Félicie, both born in 1891, rarely speak in the film, their silence conveys the deep intimacy of spouses who have spent six

decades together. Without Félicie, who died while the project was still being assembled, the second half of *Cousin Jules* becomes a testament to the title character's quiet, noble resilience.

- See more at: <http://face-foundation.org/tournees-film-festival/le-cousin-jules-cousin-jules/#sthash.GiBAmhe7.dpuf>

**DANS LA MAISON** (IN THE HOUSE)

**Date:** FRIDAY, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Mary Tefft White Cultural Center, RWU Library, Bristol, RI

**Director:** François Ozon

**Screenplay:** Juan Mayorga, François Ozon, adapted from Juan Mayorga's play "The Boy in the Last Row"

**Cast:** Germain: Fabrice Luchini, Caude: Ernst Umhauer, Jeanne: Kristin Scott Thomas, Esther: Emmanuelle Seigner, Rapha: Bastien Ughetto

**Running time:** 105' Production: France, 2012 Rating: R

**AWARDS:** International Critics' Prize – Toronto International Film Festival (2012); Critics Special Mention – City of Lights, City of Angels (COLCOA) French Film Festival (2013)

Liberally adapted from Juan Mayorga's play *The Boy in the Last Row*, François Ozon's piquant and playful *In the House* marks a return to the anarchic adolescent protagonists of the director's early films, such as *Criminal Lovers* (1999), whose uncontrollable desires are inextricably linked with destruction and mayhem. Sixteen-year-old Claude (Ernst Umhauer) stirs the interest of his literature teacher, Germain (Fabrice Luchini), who's perilously close to pedagogical burnout, with a well-crafted essay for a prosaic assignment about "My Last Weekend." Claude details a Saturday spent helping a classmate with his math homework at his pal's home; the budding wordsmith is intrigued by his friend's close-knit family, particularly his mother (Emmanuelle Seigner). Germain, a failed writer whose sole novel was published twenty years ago, begins meeting with Claude after class, critiquing the boy's further chapters about his infiltration of his schoolmate's snug fortress. These ongoing installments Germain eagerly shares with his gallerist wife, Jeanne (Kristin Scott Thomas). In this sharp inquiry into the power of narrative, Ozon brings up a number of fascinating topics: what it means to be an artist and, perhaps more important, what it means to be an audience.

- See more at: <http://face-foundation.org/tournees-film-festival/inconnu-du-lac/#sthash.AkLIUcW0.dpuf>

**SATURDAY MATINEE PROGRAMMING:**

**ERNEST & CELESTINE**

**Date:** SATURDAY, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Global Heritage Hall, Room 01, RWU, Bristol, RI

**Director:** Stéphane Aubier, Vincent Patar, Benjamin Renner

**Screenplay:** Daniel Pennac

**Cast:** English-language voice cast: Forest Whitaker, Mackenzie Foy, Lauren Bacall, Paul Giamatti, William H. Macy, Megan Mullally, Nick Offerman, Jeffrey Wright.

**Running time:** 80' Production: France, 2012 Rating: PG-13

**AWARDS:** Best Animated Film – César Awards (2013); Official Selection – Academy Awards (2014)

This utterly charming animated film about interspecies friendship, directed by Stéphane Aubier, Vincent Patar, and Benjamin Renner, is based on a series of children's books by the Belgian author-illustrator Gabrielle Vincent (1929–2000). In an unnamed French city, two different realms of sworn enemies exist: Above ground live bears; below it reside mice. Celestine, a wee mouse orphan who is being trained for a career in dentistry but dreams of being an artist instead, meets a kindred spirit in adult Ernest, an ursine musician whom she convinces not to eat her. They seal their bond by breaking into a candy store together and soon find themselves on the lam from those who are appalled by their amity. These unlikely friends set up their own home in the woods, delighting in both their similarities and differences. The detailed, warm, hand-drawn

animation emphasizes the tender companionship between a mouse who loves to sketch and a bear who is happiest when playing a violin.

- See more at: <http://face-foundation.org/tournees-film-festival/ernest-celestine/#sthash.RJslFFa4.dpuf>

### **VENUS IN FUR** (LA VENUS A LA FOURRURE)

**Date:** SATURDAY, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Global Heritage Hall, Room 01, RWU, Bristol, RI

Director: Roman Polanski

Screenplay: Roman Polanski, David Ives, from the play by David Ives

Cast: Vanda: Emmanuelle Seigner and Thomas: Mathieu Amalric

Running Time: 96 min, PRODUCTION: France, 2013 RATING: Unrated

**AWARDS:** Best Director – César Awards (2014); Official Selection – Cannes Film Festival (2013), Tribeca Film Festival and City of Lights, City of Angels (COLCOA) French Film Festival (2014)

After his nimble adaptations of the plays *Death and the Maiden* (1994) and *Carnage* (2011), Roman Polanski continues his success in bringing the stage to the screen with *Venus in Fur*, which originally premiered off-Broadway in 2010. (David Ives, the playwright, co-wrote the film's script with Polanski.) In this constantly surprising, multilayered two-hander, stage writer-director Thomas (Mathieu Amalric), all alone in a Parisian theater, despairs of ever finding the right actress for his adaptation of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch's infamous 1870 novella *Venus in Furs*. Just as he's about to leave for the day, in walks Vanda (Emmanuelle Seigner, Polanski's wife), a blowsy performer who insists that she has an audition scheduled—and who just happens to have the same name as the character she's trying out for. Highly dubious, Thomas relents, convinced that this coarse woman will never be right for the part. Yet as the two begin to rehearse, he is astounded to discover not only that Vanda has memorized the entire play but also that she is capable of complete transformation, becoming the character right before his eyes. While reality and illusion become blurred, so, too, do the roles of seducer and seduced.

- See more at: <http://face-foundation.org/tournees-film-festival/la-venus-a-la-fourrure-venus-in-fur/#sthash.084nwVqY.dpuf>

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### **ABOUT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY:**

Roger Williams University, located on the coast of Bristol, R.I., is a forward-thinking private university with 45 undergraduate majors spanning the liberal arts and the professions, where students become community-minded citizens through project-based, experiential learning. With small classes, direct access to faculty and boundless opportunity for real-world projects, RWU students develop the ability to think critically while simultaneously building the practical skills that today's employers demand. In the two years since launching its signature Affordable Excellence initiative, the University has established itself as a leader in American higher education by confronting the most pressing issues facing students and families – increasing costs that limit access to college, rising debt and the job readiness of graduates. In addition to its 4,000 undergraduates, RWU is home to more than a dozen graduate programs, a thriving School of Continuing Studies based in Providence as well as Rhode Island's only law school.

### **ABOUT FLICKERS:**

The **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top-10 festivals in the United States, RIIFF is one of **19 festivals worldwide** that is a qualifying festival for the Academy Awards® in both short film and documentary short film through its partnership with the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences®

For more information about the **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **Aug. 4-9, 2015** at the Providence Performing Arts Center (PPAC) and The Vets (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit [www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org) or call **401.861.4445**.

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