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Unique Screenings and Special Guests Coming to the Oriental Theatre This Winter

Milwaukee Film welcomes back monthly *Stop Making Sense* screenings, the cast and crew of the 2023 Milwaukee Film Festival fan-favorite *Hundreds of Beavers*, a showcase of films produced by local teens, and more!

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MILWAUKEE – Wednesday, January 24th – Milwaukee Film’s 2024 winter programming is chock full of unique screenings and events. From the first monthly screening of A24’s newly-remastered *Stop Making Sense* residency, to the grand return of MFF 2023 alumnus *Hundreds of Beavers*, and a selection of films created by local participants of our Take 1: Teen Filmmaking Lab, the Oriental Theatre has something for everyone.

[*Stop Making Sense* - 1/27/24](#)

Showing *Stop Making Sense* at the Oriental Theatre is a time-honored Milwaukee tradition that we’re thrilled to bring back! Starting this January, the final Saturday of every month will feature a screening of A24’s newly restored 1984 Talking Heads concert film *Stop Making Sense* in honor of the film’s 40th anniversary. These Oriental Theatre screenings are renowned for becoming full-fledged dance parties. A24 representatives will be on-site at the cinema with a special collection of merchandise that will be sold exclusively in select theaters around the country.

“We are honored to be amongst the cinemas nationwide invited to participate in this ‘residency’ for the film,” noted Cara Ogburn, artistic director at Milwaukee Film. “Our audiences know well that *Stop Making Sense* is not only the best concert documentary of all time but also the best opportunity to let loose and dance in a cinema.”

[City of God](#) - 1/30/24

The critically acclaimed 2002 film *City of God* is a Portuguese-language film from Brazil that is widely considered to be [one of the best, most impactful films of the 21st century](#). Milwaukee Film will screen *City of God* as a part of a hometown fundraiser to help Milwaukee Film staff member Philippe Melo renew his visa and return to Milwaukee. Philippe is a Brazilian filmmaker, a recent graduate from UW-Milwaukee with a BFA in Film, and has spent the past year working at the Oriental Theatre as an Assistant Theatre Manager. Help us bring Philippe home!

[Details about the fundraiser can be found here.](#)

"Milwaukee Film has been so kind to show *City of God*, by my favorite Brazilian director, Fernando Meirelles, a movie that not only has shown me the power of photography and film in changing somebody's lives but also is a mark of the Brazilian cinema and the world," Philippe enthused about the film. "Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund created a piece that shows the power of photography and sticking to what you believe. *City of God* is a groundbreaking movie not only for Brazil but for the world."

[Hundreds of Beavers](#) w/ post-film Q&A with cast and crew - 1/31/24

A fan-favorite at the 2023 Milwaukee Film Festival, the cast and crew of this surreal slapstick winter comedy are returning to the Oriental Theatre to kick off a national road tour of the film. In this 19th-century supernatural winter epic, a drunken applejack salesman must go from zero to hero and become the greatest fur trapper by defeating literally *hundreds* of beavers. In the film, all animals are played by puppets or mascot costumes, resulting in a bizarre concoction that's part Funniest Home Videos, part Buster Keaton, and part Looney Tunes. Director Mike Cheslik and star Ryland Brickson Cole Tews will be in attendance with all of their furry friends for an entertaining film and Q&A experience you won't want to miss!

"We're so excited to bring the film home. Milwaukee Film has supported our filmmaking from the very beginning. It's because of their screening of our first movie, *Lake Michigan Monster*, that we met some of the producers for *Hundreds of Beavers*," said the film's producer, Kurt Ravenwood. "Everyone in the community shares in the success of the film! This is your movie, Milwaukee!"

[Take 1 Showcase](#) - 2/4/24

[Take 1: Teen Filmmaking Lab](#) is Milwaukee Film's instructional and collaborative program where high schoolers in the Milwaukee area can come together and learn more about filmmaking. For the semester, students learn about each stage of the filmmaking process from start to finish, preparing an original work to premiere at the *Take 1 Showcase*. This special event is a community-wide celebration of their hard work and an opportunity to see the unique and powerful perspectives of today's teens on the big screen—from trans joy, to two sisters exploring different ways to express their art, to mysterious doppelgängers, and a 50-year high school reunion.

“Every semester, we encourage our teens to dig into what's happening in their lives and their communities, showing their audiences their unique perspective as a high schooler in Milwaukee. This semester certainly didn't disappoint with films that will make you laugh, cry, think, and maybe even get a little scared,” said Ian Cessna, Teen Filmmaking Lab Instructor. “We can't wait for Milwaukee audiences to see these students' amazing work.”

All Tickets and showtimes can be found online at orientaltheatremke.com.

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About Milwaukee Film

Milwaukee Film is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to entertaining, educating, and engaging our community through cinematic experiences, with a vision to make Milwaukee a center for film culture. Milwaukee Film operates the magnificent Oriental Theatre, a historic cinema palace committed to high-quality and accessible film and education programming. The 16th annual Milwaukee Film Festival will be held April 11 - 25, 2024. For more information or to become a Member, visit mkefilm.org.

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