

## wexner center for the arts

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### **A SUMMER ABROAD OFFERS TOUR OF WORLD CINEMA CLASSICS**

*FILMS SCREENED IN MERSHON AUDITORIUM; TICKET PACKAGES AVAILABLE*

The Wexner Center embarks on a cinematic world tour with **A Summer Abroad**, a film series in **July and August** featuring 15 classic films from around the globe. The series includes films by some of the world's most revered filmmakers, from Italy's Federico Fellini to Sweden's Ingmar Bergman to Japan's Akira Kurosawa. A Summer Abroad kicks off in high style on July 6 with French director Jacques Demy's transporting musical *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, followed by a reception. All screenings will take place in **Mershon Auditorium** (the Film/Video Theater is undergoing renovation this summer).



Catherine Deneuve in *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*. Image courtesy of Zeitgeist Films

Tickets to films and double features are \$6 for the general public, and \$4 for Wexner Center members, students, and senior citizens. **New this year: Ticket voucher packages are available: 10 films for \$40 (general public), \$30 (Wexner Center members)**, available at 614-292-3535 or at the Mershon Auditorium ticket office (single and package tickets available starting at 6 pm each night of A Summer Abroad).

The schedule follows:

#### **Wednesday, July 6**

##### **FRANCE**

**Jacques Demy's**

***The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (1964) / 7 pm**

**Reception follows screening**

A worldwide hit that made a star of Catherine Deneuve, *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (91 mins.) is the story of a young girl who falls in love with a gas station mechanic only to have their romance interrupted by the war in Algeria. The twist? Every line of dialogue is sung by the film's characters to the memorable score by Michel Legrand. A free public reception hosted by the Wexner Center's membership department follows the screening in the Mershon Auditorium lobby.

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**Wednesday, July 13**

**ENGLAND / double feature**

**Henry Cornelius's**

***Passport to Pimlico* (1949) / 7 pm**

**Alexander Mackendrick's**

***The Man in the White Suit* (1951) / 8:40 pm**

This double feature includes two of the most beloved comedies produced by London's fabled Ealing Studios. In *Passport to Pimlico* (85 mins.), a district of Cockney inhabitants secedes from London proper after discovering an ancient treaty that states the area is actually part of Burgundy. And the satiric *The Man in the White Suit* (84 mins.) stars Alec Guinness as the inventor of a fabric that repels dirt and can't be ripped. Fearing the loss of profits and jobs, capital and labor band together to keep Guinness from announcing his discovery to the press.

**Friday–Saturday, July 15–16**

**MEXICO**

**Luis Buñuel's**

***Los Olvidados* (1950) / 7 pm**

Inspired by real-life cases and the Spanish-exile director's impressions of his new country, *Los Olvidados* (85 mins.) is Buñuel's bleak account of Mexico City street kids who prey on those even less fortunate than themselves to survive. Denounced on its release by both the Mexican elite (for the film's depiction of the underclass) and reformers (because of the surrealistic flourishes), the film received grudging accolades after receiving the Best Director prize at the Cannes Film Festival. The alternate "happy" ending will be shown at the conclusion.

**Wednesday, July 20**

**GERMANY / double feature**

**G. W. Pabst's**

***Diary of a Lost Girl* (1929) / 7 pm  
featuring live music by Sue Harshe**

**Fritz Lang's**

***M* (1931) / 9:15 pm**

Sordid and shocking even today, *Diary of a Lost Girl* (116 mins.) is the second of two unforgettable collaborations between director G. W. Pabst and breathtaking silent star Louise Brooks. Brooks plays the naïve daughter of a successful pharmacist whose life is thrown into chaos when she is impregnated by her father's young assistant. Sue Harshe of Scrawl provides live musical accompaniment. The second film of the night is one of the most revered works in film history, *M* (99 mins.), starring Peter Lorre as a psychotic child murderer who faces the Berlin underground's justice for his crimes. Presented in a completely restored version from the Munich Film Archive.

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**Friday–Saturday, July 22–23**

**FRANCE**

**Jacques Demy's**

***Donkey Skin* (1970) / 7 pm**

Based on a 17th-century French fairy tale, *Donkey Skin* (90 mins.) tells an enchanting—and psychologically provocative—story. A widowed king (Jean Marais) searches for a beautiful woman to make his second wife, only to discover her in the exact image of his first wife: their daughter, played by Catherine Deneuve. Horrified, Deneuve disguises her beauty beneath a donkey skin, and flees to a village to escape her fate. At once melancholy and lyrical (with a Michel Legrand score), it has the delicacy and color of a classic children's storybook.

**Wednesday, July 27**

**JAPAN / double feature**

**Akira Kurosawa's**

***The Hidden Fortress* (1958) / 7 pm**

**Yasujiro Ozu's**

***Good Morning* (1959) / 9:30 pm**

The rousing *The Hidden Fortress* (139 mins.) is a spectacular period epic involving feudal warlords, innocent farmers, and an endangered princess. It's an often-acknowledged influence on films as diverse as *Star Wars* and the anime *Princess Mononoke*. Starring Toshiro Mifune. The second film, *Good Morning* (93 mins.), is a lightly satirical portrait of family life in consumerist Japan, focuses on two spoiled young boys who take a vow of silence when their parents refuse to buy them a new TV set.

**Friday–Saturday, July 29–30**

**ITALY**

**Federico Fellini's**

***I Vitelloni* (1953) / 7 pm**

*I Vitelloni* (105 mins.) established Federico Fellini as an auteur and a filmmaker of international stature. "Vitelloni" (literally, big calves) is Fellini's word to describe idle, perpetually adolescent young men without jobs or means of support. The film follows five wastrels in Rimini (Fellini's own hometown) as they stumble through life, mooching off of their parents and friends to get by. The *Chicago Tribune* called it "one of the screen's great portrayals of the hell-raising and malaise of young men in their 20s!"

**Wednesday, August 3**

**SWEDEN**

**Ingmar Bergman x 2**

***Smiles of a Summer Night* (1955) / 7 pm**

***Wild Strawberries* (1957) / 9 pm**

Ingmar Bergman's *Smiles of a Summer Night* (108 mins.) ranks high among the most charmingly bittersweet films ever made. The *New Yorker's* Pauline Kael called it "a nearly perfect work." Set in a turn-of-the-century country villa, the film follows a group of friends and lovers besotted by each other under the moonlight of a single summer night. It inspired the Stephen Sondheim musical *A Little Night Music*—and Woody Allen's *A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy*. The second film, *Wild Strawberries* (90 mins.), solidified Bergman's reputation as a

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towering figure of world cinema. Silent film director Victor Sjöström stars as an ailing professor traveling to receive an honorary degree and, via flashback, recalling the events of his long life.

**Wednesday, August 10**

**ITALY / double feature**

**Eilo Petri's**

***Investigation of a Citizen above Suspicion* (1970) / 7 pm**

**Vittorio de Sica's**

***Umberto D.* (1952) / 9:05 pm**

Winner of the Best Foreign Film Oscar, *Investigation of a Citizen above Suspicion* (112 mins.) is a riveting portrait of a macho, psychopathic police inspector who thinks he can literally get away with murder. Neorealist icon Vittorio de Sica's *Umberto D.* (89 mins.) is an emotionally wrenching portrait of a retired civil servant, attempting to live out his days with dignity on a rapidly dwindling income. His sole companion is his beloved little dog, Flag—one of world cinema's most endearing and memorable canine creations.

**Wednesday, August 17**

**RUSSIA**

**Andrei Tarkovsky's**

***Solaris* (1972) / 7 pm**

Based on sci-fi writer Stanislaw Lem's novel, Russian director Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris* (167 mins.) is often referred to as the filmmaker's response to Stanley Kubrick's *2001*. Although both are visually stunning, wide-screen stories involving futuristic space stations and troubled astronauts set on perilous missions, *Solaris* is ultimately about the protagonist's desperate search for lost love and his inability to prevent it from slipping away.

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**OTHER INTERNATIONAL FILMS THIS SUMMER**

In addition to A Summer Abroad, the Wexner Center will be screening other international films in Mershon Auditorium this summer. **Please note that these films are *not* included as part of the A Summer Abroad ticket packages:** Italian master Luchino Visconti's *The Leopard* (1963) will be screened June 17–18; Jean-Luc Godard's witty *Masculine-Feminine* from 1966 screens in a brand new 35mm print June 23–24; New Wave legend Jacques Rivette's *The Story of Marie and Julien* (2003) screens July 8–9 in a rare U.S. showing; and French director Agnès Varda's latest, *Cinevardaphoto*, screens August 12–13. Click to [www.wexarts.org/fv](http://www.wexarts.org/fv) for more information including screening times and in-depth descriptions.

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**SEASON SUPPORT**

The 2005-06 film/video season is presented with support from the Rohauer Collection Foundation and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

International films are presented with support from the Ohio Arts Council.

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