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National Gallery of Art 2017 Fall Film Season Incorporates Early Soviet Masterworks, Restorations from Czech National Film Archive, John Akomfrah Retrospective, Classic Ciné-Concerts, Agnès Varda's Latest Film, Washington Premieres, Filmmaker Discussions, and a Collaboration with American Film Institute in the Screening of *Wings* with Original Musical Score



Image from *The Stuart Hall Project* to be shown at the National Gallery of Art on Saturday, November 18, 4:00 p.m. as part of the film series *Lateral Time: John Akomfrah and Smoking Dogs Films*. Image courtesy of Lisson Gallery, London.

Washington, DC—The National Gallery of Art 2017 fall film program, which runs from October through December 2017, celebrates the art of the cinema with several new film series: *The Flaherty Seminar* (October 1–7), the longest-running film exhibition forum in the United States, brings together academics, artists, students, and curators for critical viewing, study and debate in an annual gathering in rural upstate New York and encourages a guest curator to select a theme; the Gallery presents six films with the respective themes of "play" and "future remains." *Revolutionary Rising: Soviet Film Vanguard* (October 13–November 12) highlights the artistic significance of early Soviet filmmakers, whose films, although made for Soviet audiences, were exhibited internationally. 2017 marks a century since the 1917 October Revolution, an event that shook the world politically and empowered revolutionary art and artists; *From Vault to Screen: Czech National Film Achieve* (October 21–29) highlights five restorations of ground-breaking works from the early sound period, including recent rediscoveries. Also included is a new digital restoration of *Black Peter*, Miloš Forman's early New Wave masterwork of the 1960s.

The series *Lateral Time: John Akomfrah and Smoking Dogs Films* (November 5–December 10) surveys the Ghanaian British filmmaker's works for screen and television with 16 single-channel films from the influential Black Audio Film Collective (BAFC) to newer works by the present iteration of the collective known as Smoking Dogs Films. *The Warrior, the Reader, the Writer: Fantasy Figures in French Period Film* (November 25–December 1) presents three French films set in the 18th-century in honor of the exhibition *Fragonard: The Fantasy Figures*, on view in the West Building through December 3, 2017.

Other highlights include the Washington premiere *Immortality for All: A Trilogy on Russian Cosmism* (November 19, 4:00), introduced by Anton Vidokle with special guests artist Amy Halpern, film historian Aboubakar Sanogo, and scholar Kelley Conway, who is delivering this year's annual Rajiv Vaidya Memorial Lecture (December 3, 2:00) on the career of Agnès Varda, followed by a screening of Varda's most recent work *Visages Villages*. Shown in conjunction with the exhibition *Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting: Inspiration and Rivalry*, the film *Vermeer, Beyond Time* (December 20–23 and 27–30 at 12:00 and December 31 at 2:00) focuses on the artist's family life, his artistic contemporaries, his conversion to Catholicism, and the wider world of the 17th-century Dutch Golden Age. The filmmakers explore specific paintings searching for what has become known as the Vermeer style.

Ciné-concerts include performances by the Alloy Orchestra; silent film accompanists Andrew Simpson, Stephen Horne, and Dennis James; and film score composers Donald Sosin, pianist and Joanna Seaton, vocalist. Special appearances are scheduled for Peter Rollberg (October 21), Michael Bregant (October 28 and 29), Aboubakar Sanogo (November 18), Anton Vidokle (November 19), Reece Auguiste (December 2), Kelley Conway (December 3), and Peter and Harriett Getzels (December 16). The National Gallery of Art collaborates with the American Film Institute in a special Veterans Day presentation of *Wings* (1927, William Wellman) on Saturday, November 11, 2017, 3:40 pm., at the Silver Theater in Silver Spring, MD. Christine Niehaus, pianist, performs the original score.

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The National Gallery of Art's film program provides many opportunities throughout the year to view classic and contemporary cinema from around the world. Through screenings, scholarly notes, filmmaker discussions, and unique introductions by critics and academics, the program encourages viewers to learn more about the history of the cinema and the role of media in society. Programs are free of charge, but seating is on a first-come, first-seated basis. Films are screened in original formats in the East Building auditorium unless noted otherwise. Doors open approximately 30 minutes before each show. Programs are subject to change.

## **Film Schedule**

### **[The Flaherty Seminar](#)**

October 1 – 7

#### [The Human Surge preceded by La Libertad](#)

October 1 at 4:00

#### [Death and Devil preceded by Compositions](#)

October 7 at 1:30

#### [Fish Tail preceded by Katatsumori](#)

October 7 at 3:30

## **[Special Events and Appearances](#)**

### [Havarie](#)

October 8 at 4:00

Philip Scheffner in person

### [Falling Lessons](#)

October 14 at 12:00

Amy Halpern in person

### [Capitaine Thomas Sankara](#)

October 15 at 4:00

Washington premiere

Introduced by Sally Shafto

### [Immortality for All: A Film Trilogy on Russian Cosmism](#)

November 19 at 4:00

Introduced by Anton Vidokle

### [Ciné-Concert: The Crowd](#)

November 24 at 2:30

Stephen Horne, pianist

### [Ciné-Concert: Blue Jeans](#)

November 25 at 1:00

Donald Sosin, pianist, and Joanna Seaton, vocalist

### [Rajiv Vaidya Memorial Lecture: Agnès Varda and the Art of the Documentary](#)

December 3 at 2:00

Lecture by Kelley Conway

### [Visage Villages](#)

December 3 at 4:00

Recent work by Agnès Varda

### [Zuzana: Music Is Life](#)

December 16 at 12:00

Peter Getzels and Harriet Gordon Getzels in person

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[Ciné-Concert: The Student Prince](#)

December 16 at 3:30

Dennis James, organ

[My Journey through French Cinema](#)

December 17 at 4:00

December 23 at 2:30

[Vermeer, Beyond Time](#)

December 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, and 30 at 12:00

December 31 at 2:00

[\*\*Revolutionary Rising: Soviet Film Vanguard\*\*](#)

October 13–November 12

The year 2017 marks a century since the 1917 October Revolution, an event that not only shook the world politically but also empowered revolutionary art and artists and spawned a synthesis within the arts urging sociopolitical change. Large-scale, state-sponsored experimental filmmaking—at a time when commercial imperatives were already dominant—was one of the results of this revolutionary rising. Made for Soviet audiences, many of these films were nonetheless exhibited internationally. This series, revisiting a few of these landmarks, recognizes their pioneering aesthetic. According to Lenin, "Of all the arts, for us the cinema is the most important." With special thanks to Alla Verlotsky, the series is a co-presentation of the National Gallery of Art and the American Film Institute Silver Theatre.

[The Fall of the Romanov Dynasty](#)

October 13 at 2:30

[Ciné-Concert: Man with a Movie Camera](#)

October 14 at 4:00

Alloy Orchestra in performance

[Ciné-Concert: Mother](#)

October 21 at 4:00

Andrew Simpson, pianist

Introduction by Peter Rollberg

[Ciné-Concert: Old and New \(The General Line\)](#)

November 4 at 2:30

Andrew Simpson, pianist

[Ciné-Concert: Fragment of an Empire followed by Earth](#)

November 12 at 4:00

Andrew Simpson, pianist

[\*\*From Vault to Screen: Czech National Film Archive\*\*](#)

October 21–29

Five restorations of groundbreaking Czech modernist works from the early sound period (including recent rediscoveries), in addition to a new digital restoration of *Black Peter*, Miloš Forman's early New Wave masterwork of the 1960s, are presented in partnership with Národní Filmový/National Film Archive, Prague. With special thanks to the Czech Embassy, Washington, and to Michal Bregant, executive director of the National Film Archive of the Czech Republic.

[On the Sunny Side followed by Such Is Life](#)

October 21 at 1:30

[Ecstasy](#) (featuring Hedy Lamar)

October 22 at 4:00

[Tonka of the Gallows](#)

October 28 at 2:30

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[Black Peter](#)

October 28 at 4:30

Introduction by Michal Bregant

[From Saturday to Sunday](#)

October 29 at 4:30

Introduction by Michal Bregant

[Lateral Time: John Akomfrah and Smoking Dogs Films](#)

November 5–December 10

Ghanaian British filmmaker John Akomfrah's work asks audiences to engage with colonialism and the African diaspora through memory and montage, creating meaning by connecting history with lived experience. Across exhibition contexts, in gallery settings through immersive multichannel installations, and also in the cinema space, Akomfrah is a leading voice in contemporary time-based media art. This series surveys Akomfrah's works for screen and television with sixteen single-channel films from the influential Black Audio Film Collective (BAFC) to newer works by the present iteration of the collective, known as Smoking Dogs Films. With thanks to John Akomfrah, Lina Gopaul, David Lawson, Emma Gifford-Mead, and Lisson Gallery, London. Film historian Aboubakar Sanogo, Carleton University, Ottawa, and BAFC cofounder Reece Auguiste, University of Colorado Boulder, introduce selected screenings.

[The Nine Muses](#)

November 5 at 4:30

[The Genome Chronicles and Other Shorts](#)

November 11 at 2:00

[Tropikos preceded by Peripeteia](#)

November 18 at 2:30

Introduced by Aboubakar Sanogo, Carleton University, Ottawa

[The Stuart Hall Project](#)

November 18 at 4:00

Introduced by Aboubakar Sanogo, Carleton University, Ottawa

[Urban Soul followed by Oil Spill: The Exxon Valdez Disaster](#)

December 2 at 12:30

[Handsworth Songs followed by Twilight City](#)

December 2 at 3:30

Introduced by Reece Auguiste, University of Colorado Boulder, cofounder of Black Audio Film Collective

[Testament preceded by The Last Angel of History](#)

December 9 at 2:30

[The March preceded by Seven Songs for Malcolm X](#)

December 10 at 4:00

[The Warrior, the Reader, the Writer: Fantasy Figures in French Period Film](#)

November 25–December 1

To complement the exhibition *Fragonard: The Fantasy Figures*, this series presents three French films set in the eighteenth-century. Character types as much as portraits, fantasy figures (in painting and film) offer viewpoints into different walks of life. Three of the most compelling paintings, including the Gallery's own *Young Girl Reading*, provide the point of departure into this cinematic exploration of professional life in eighteenth-century France.

[Fanfan la Tulipe](#)

November 25 at 3:30

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[Farewell, My Queen](#)

November 26 at 4:00

[Beaumarchais, l'insolent](#)

December 1 at 2:30

**Press Contact:**

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**General Information**

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets at Constitution Avenue NW, and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. For information call (202) 737-4215 or visit the Gallery's Web site at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov). Follow the Gallery on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt), Twitter at [www.twitter.com/ngadc](http://www.twitter.com/ngadc), and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/ngadc>.

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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[\*\*Film Programs\*\*](#)

[\*\*Fall 2017 Film Calendar\*\*](#)

October-December (738KB)

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