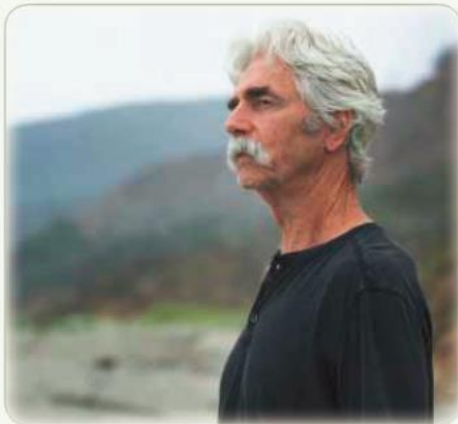


Greater Detroit's Original Cultural Events Weekly • Thursday, May 25, 2017

DOWNTOWN MONITOR

6th Annual Cinetopia Film Festival



Spanning 10 days, the *Cinetopia Film Festival* brings more than 60 films to Greater Detroit area venues, including those in Dearborn and Ann Arbor. The films represent a variety of different genres, including feature-length dramas, comedies and documentaries culled from a number of the world's most prestigious film festivals, including Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, SXSW and Tribeca. The festival will take place beginning on Thursday, June 1 at Ann Arbor's historic Michigan Theatre and will run through Sunday, June 11, ending in Downtown Detroit. This year's lineup features 24 Michigan premieres, as well as three U.S. premieres.

The festival begins at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 1 at Ann Arbor's Michigan Theatre. The University of Michigan's Lorch Hall and Zingerman's Cornman Farms in Dexter, are also hosting screenings. The festival also has screenings scheduled in Dearborn, where the Arab American National Museum presents the Arab Film Festival, (see related story on Page 2), as well as The Henry Ford and their Giant Screen Experience.

The festival will wrap up in Detroit, with screenings scheduled at the Detroit Film Theatre inside of the DIA, at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, the College for Creative Studies, Cinema Detroit and in West Bloomfield at the Maple Theatre.

Of particular interest in Downtown Detroit, cinefiles will be very interested in the DIA's Detroit Film Theatre's presentation of *Il Cinema Ritrovato* (2017 poster, pictured in center). Exclusively at the DFT, four days will be dedicated to rarely seen, international cinema classics newly restored at the legendary Immagine Ritrovata Laboratories of the Cineteca Bologna in Italy.

In its first five years, the festival attracted around 100,000 total admissions, with between 20,000 to 25,000 attending last year. Organizers are hoping for between 30,000 and 35,000 attendees for this year's festival.

For a complete screening schedule, see cinetopiafestival.org.

Just a few of the highlights of this year's Festival are listed, as follows:

The Michigan Premiere of *The Hero*: A has-been western star (Sam Elliott, pictured, left) has one last chance for his fallen star to glitter. *The Hero* is the opening film of this year's Cinetopia Festival and shows at Ann Arbor's Michigan Theatre on June 1, and again at the massive Henry Ford Giant Screen Experience on the Festival's closing day of Sunday, June 11, at 4:45 p.m.

12th and Clairmount: The Opening Night film of the Freep Film Festival last March is a real-life compilation of Greater Detroiters' vintage home movie footage of the 1967 Detroit riot.

Band Aid: An unhappily married couple (writer-director Zoe Lister-Jones and Adam Pally) decide to turn their dissatisfaction with each other into something more fun and productive: a rock band, with their neighbor, *Weird Dave* (Fred Armisen) on drums.

Once Upon a Time in America: The epic 255-minute Extended Director's Cut of Sergio Leone's fabled 1984 gangster movie. Director Leone's original cinematic masterpiece showing four decades in the lives of a group of New York gangsters was edited by studio executives leaving it a tragically flawed commercial flop. Fortunately, it's been re-assembled using the original 35mm camera negative to create a frame-by-frame, 4K digital restoration with full color correction. Featuring James Woods and Robert De Niro (both pictured, upper right), Tuesday Weld, Joe Pesci and Elizabeth McGovern, with film score by Ennio Morricone.

Look & See: Told through the lens of writer, environmentalist and farmer Wendell Berry, this film challenges how people think about land and explores the ideological struggle between the deeply ingrained values of local farmers and the growth of industrial agriculture.

Tickets to individual films are \$12 for the general public and are on sale now, while members of the Arab American National Museum, Cinema Detroit, DIA, Charles H. Wright Museum, The Henry Ford, and Michigan Theatre can purchase tickets for \$9. All tickets and festival passes can be purchased at cinetopiafestival.org.