



For Immediate Release

**MONTCLAIR FILM ANNOUNCES
CINEMA505 PROGRAM FOR AUGUST 2017**

*Hayao Miyazaki retrospective **The Mastery Of Miyazaki** announced, along with first run premieres, special appearances, and the continuation of **Filmmakers Local 505***

July 20, 2017, MONTCLAIR, NJ - Montclair Film today announced the complete August 2017 film lineup for Cinema505, the organization's screening space located in the Investors Bank Film & Media Center at 505 Bloomfield in Montclair, NJ. August sees the launch of *The Mastery of Miyazaki*, which will feature the Japanese animation legend's films, with **PRINCESS MONONOKE** and **MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO** initiating series. August will also see runs of the critically acclaimed new releases **THE LAST LAUGH**, with director Ferne Pearlstein in attendance, Dustin Guy Defa's Montclair Film Festival hit **PERSON TO PERSON**, Frédéric Mermoud's tense French thriller **MOKA**, and Kirsten Tan's delightful, moving Thai sensation **POP AYE**. **SOUR GRAPES** by Reuben Atlas and Jerry Rothwell marks the continuation of the ongoing series *Filmmakers Local 505*, an initiative partnering with local filmmakers to showcase films by Montclair and other New Jersey artists.

The Films

August 2 & 3 **THE LAST LAUGH**, directed by Ferne Pearlstein (in attendance for Q&A)

August 4-6 **PERSON TO PERSON**, directed by Dustin Guy Defa

August 9 & 10 **SOUR GRAPES**, directed by Reuben Atlas and Jerry Rothwell (in attendance for Q&A)

August 11-13 **MOKA**, directed by Frédéric Mermoud

August 16, 17, 19 & 20 **POP AYE**, directed by Kirsten Tan

August 24-27 **PRINCESS MONONOKE**, directed by Hayao Miyazaki (dubbed in English)

August 26 & 27 **MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO**, directed by Hayao Miyazaki (dubbed in English)

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Classics

The Mastery Of Miyazaki

Legendary Japanese filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki's unique storytelling and visual style has established him as one of the greatest artists in the history of the movies. With his team of collaborators at Studio Ghibli, Miyazaki has created unforgettable tales of wonder and delight, thrilling audiences around the world. Join us at Cinema505 and experience these beautiful films on the big screen!

The Mastery Of Miyazaki launches with the fantasy masterpiece PRINCESS MONONOKE and the beloved family classic MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO. The monthly schedule is below.

AUGUST 2017

PRINCESS MONONOKE (1997)

Director: Hayao Miyazaki

Cast: Claire Danes (voice), Billy Crudup (voice), Minnie Driver (voice), Billy Bob Thornton (voice).

Runtime: 134 Min

Universally acclaimed by critics, PRINCESS MONONOKE is a landmark of animation and a film of unsurpassed power and beauty. An epic story of conflict between humans, gods, and nature. Defending his village from a demonic boar-god, the young warrior Ashitaka becomes afflicted with a curse that grants him super-human power in battle but will eventually take his life. Traveling west to find a cure or meet his destiny, he journeys deep into sacred depths of the Great Forest where he meets San (Princess Mononoke), a girl raised by wolf-gods who is waging battle against the human outpost of Iron Town, on the edge of the forest. The girl Mononoke is a force of nature – with blood smeared lips, riding bareback on a great white wolf, doing battle with both gods and humans, she is as iconic a figure as any from film, literature, or opera.

MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO (1988)

Director: Hayao Miyazaki

Runtime: 86 Min

One of the most endearing and internationally renowned films of all time, a film that Roger Ebert called "one of the five best movies" ever made for children, **MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO** is a deceptively simple tale of two girls, Satsuki and Mei, who move

MONTCLAIR FILM

with their father to a new house in the countryside. They soon discover that the surrounding forests are home to a family of Totoros, gentle but powerful creatures who live in a huge and ancient camphor tree and are seen only by children. Based on Miyazaki's own childhood imaginings, Totoros look like oversized pandas with bunny ears and they take the girls on spinning-top rides through the tree tops and introduce them to a furry, multi-pawed Catbus — a nod to Lewis Carroll's Cheshire Cat. But beneath the film's playfulness and narrative simplicity lie depths of wisdom. As with much of Miyazaki's work, at its core *My Neighbor Totoro* is about human-kind's relationship to the Earth. The film is infused with an almost spiritual reverence for the power of nature (a philosophy tied to the ancient Shinto belief that every object in nature has a soul). Everything that surrounds us, from light-dappled tree groves, to the marvelous clouds, echoes the density and lushness of life. Protected by the Totoros, we know no harm will come to our two heroines in the forest's sunlit glades and mysterious shadows. The girls may be awed by the power and majesty around them but they understand instinctively that nature has no malice. The viewer is left with a sense of wonder at the beauty, mystery and preciousness of the world all around us.

SEPTEMBER 2017

KIKI'S DELIVERY SERVICE (1989)

Director: Hayao Miyazaki

Runtime: 102 Min

KIKI'S DELIVERY SERVICE is the beloved story of a resourceful young witch who uses her broom to create a delivery service, only to lose her gift of flight in a moment of self-doubt. It is tradition for all young witches to leave their families on the night of a full moon and set out into the wide world to learn their craft. When that night comes for Kiki, she embarks on her life journey with her chatty black cat, Jiji, landing the next morning in a sea-side village, where a bakery owner hires her to make deliveries. Rarely has the animator's art been so brilliantly rendered as in this delightfully imaginative film – a beautiful and timeless story of a young girl finding her way in the world.

CASTLE IN THE SKY (1986)

Director: Hayao Miyazaki

Runtime: 124 Min

A young girl with a mysterious crystal pendant falls out of the sky and into the arms and life of young Pazu. Together they search for a floating island in the sky, site of a long-dead civilization promising enormous wealth and power to those who can unlock its secrets. CASTLE IN THE SKY is an early masterpiece of storytelling and filmmaking

MONTCLAIR FILM

whose imaginative and ornately detailed vision remains a transformative cinematic experience.

OCTOBER 2017

PONYO (2008)

Director: Hayao Miyazaki

Runtime: 101 Min

Perfect for audiences of all ages, PONYO centers on the friendship between five-year-old Sosuke and a magical goldfish named Ponyo, the young daughter of a sorcerer father and a sea-goddess mother. After a chance encounter, Ponyo yearns to become a human so she can be with Sosuke. As to be expected with Miyazaki, the film is awash in pure unbridled imagination and visual wonder — but it is the tender love, humor, and devotion exhibited by Ponyo and Sosuke that form the emotional heart of the film.

NOVEMBER 2017

NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND (1984)

Director: Hayao Miyazaki

Runtime: 116 Min

The debut film from Hayao Miyazaki, NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND is considered by many to be his masterwork — and there are few films, animated or otherwise, of such sweeping scope and grandeur. Set in a devastated future world decimated by atmospheric poisons and swarming with gigantic insects, NAUSICAA is the story of a young princess, both brave and innocent, whose love for all living things and passionate determination to understand the processes of nature lead her into terrible danger, sacrifice, and eventual triumph. Like most Studio Ghibli films, there is neither good nor evil, but conflicting viewpoints, weaknesses, and power struggles. Throughout the film, Miyazaki's animation is awe-inspiring; the depiction of the poisoned forest in particular is a thing of transcendent beauty. Once the hallucinogenic strangeness of shape and color has been accepted, there is light, growth and life everywhere. Huge dragonfly-like creatures are accompanied by wonderful, evocative sounds of flight and movement. The lethal fungus plants glow, shimmer and shed spores like silent gleaming snowfalls. This is a film not to be missed.

DECEMBER 2017

MONTCLAIR FILM

SPIRITED AWAY (2001)

Director: Hayao Miyazaki

Runtime: 125 Min

Hayao Miyazaki's Academy Award®-winning masterpiece **SPIRITED AWAY** was the biggest box office hit of all time in Japan and a film that helped redefine the possibilities of animation for American audiences and a generation of new filmmakers. Wandering through an abandoned carnival site, ten-year-old Chichiro is separated from her parents and stumbles into a dream-like spirit world where she is put to work in a bathhouse for the gods, a place where all kinds of nonhuman beings come to refresh, relax and re-charge. Here she encounters a vast menagerie of impossibly inventive characters — shape-shifting phantoms and spirits, some friendly, some less so — and must find the inner strength to outsmart her captors and return to her family. Combining Japanese mythology with *Through the Looking Glass*-type whimsy, **SPIRITED AWAY** cemented Miyazaki's reputation as an icon of inspired animation and wondrous, lyrical storytelling.

JANUARY 2018

HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE (2004)

Director: Hayao Miyazaki

Runtime: 14 Min

Sophie, an average teenage girl working in a hat shop, finds her life thrown into turmoil when she is literally swept off her feet by a handsome but mysterious wizard named Howl. But after this chance meeting, the vain and conniving Witch of the Waste turns Sophie into a 90-year old woman. Embarking on an incredible adventure to lift the curse, she finds refuge in Howl's magical moving castle. As the true power of Howl's wizardry is revealed, and his relationship with Sophie deepens, our young grey heroine finds herself fighting to protect them both from a dangerous war of sorcery that threatens their world. **HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE** as the second Studio Ghibli film to be nominated for Best Animated Feature at the Academy Awards.

Premieres

First-run theatrical films receiving their Montclair premiere at Cinema505

THE LAST LAUGH

Director: Ferne Pearlstein

Cast: Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, Sarah Silverman, Gilbert Gottfried, Harry Shearer, Jeffrey Ross, Judy Gold, Susie Essman, Larry Charles

Runtime: 88 Min

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Are we allowed to make jokes about the Holocaust? In this outrageously funny and thought-provoking film, filmmaker Ferne Pearlstein offers fresh insights into the Holocaust, our own psyches, and what else—9/11, AIDS, racism— is or isn't off-limits in a society that prizes freedom of speech. In the process, *The Last Laugh* also disproves the idea that there is nothing left to say about the Holocaust, and opens a fresh avenue for approaching this epochal tragedy. Star-studded, provocative and thoroughly entertaining, *The Last Laugh* dares to ask uncomfortable questions about just how free speech can really be, with unexpected and hilarious results that will leave you both laughing and appreciating the importance of humor even in the face of events that make you want to cry.

Director Ferne Pearlstein in attendance for Q&A

PERSON TO PERSON

Director: Dustin Guy Defa

Cast: Michael Cera, Tavi Gevinson, Abbi Jacobson

Runtime: 84 Min

PERSON TO PERSON, Dustin Guy Defa's ode to a rapidly evaporating New York City, an analog metropolis where every desk has a landline, wristwatches are fixed by expert hands, and neighbors and friends look out for one another's well-being. It is also a place filled with unmet expectations, hustlers, and humiliations, where connections can lead to unexpected trouble. Following three intertwined stories—a murder mystery, a high school friendship on the ropes, and a conflict over a vinyl album—*PERSON TO PERSON* revels in the delights of its terrific characters, their dreams and desires, and all the obstacles that stand in their way.

MOKA

Director: Frédéric Mermoud

Cast: Emmanuelle Devos, Nathalie Baye, David Clavel, Diane Rouxel

Runtime: 89 Min

Diane Kramer (Emmanuelle Devos, in an unforgettable performance) is led by one obsession: to find the driver of the mocha color Mercedes that hit her son and devastated her life. With a few belongings, some money and a gun, she goes to on a quest to uncover the truth.

POP AYE

Director: Kirsten Tan

Cast: Thaneth Warakulnukroh, Penpak Sirikul, Bong The Elephant

Runtime: 104 Min

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A successful Bangkok architect in the midst of a midlife crisis is reunited with an elephant he knew growing up. The two embark on a road trip to the man's childhood home in the idyllic Thai countryside. Along the way, they meet a colorful cast of characters that includes a pair of nonplussed local police officers, a forlorn transgender sex worker, and a mysteriously wise drifter. As the encounters mount and the bond between man and elephant deepens, filmmaker Kirsten Tan weaves a strikingly universal tale in this feature debut that won prizes (and hearts) at the Sundance and Rotterdam Film Festivals.

Filmmakers Local 505

The Filmmakers Local 505 initiative offers local filmmakers the opportunity to not only share new films with local audiences, but also offers a revenue sharing opportunity, with a percentage of all ticket revenue given to the filmmakers. This program is open for submissions on an ongoing basis by contacting programming@montclairfilm.org with inquiries.

SOUR GRAPES

Directors: Reuben Atlas, Jerry Rothwell

Runtime: 85 Min

Rudy Kurniawan was, it was rumored, a wine savant, had an expert memory for taste, a generous host, offering rare wines from his huge cellar, who in 2006 made 35 million dollars in two wine auctions from the sale of his wine. Then in 2008 a French wine producer, Laurent Ponsot, realised that wine from his family's domain was being sold from a year they hadn't produced it. That day, he says, he took the first plane to New York, and thus begun his crusade. Set in the super-fast, super-rich world of LA and New York during the finance boom of the early 2000s, and featuring the obsessive collectors, outraged wine producers, suspect auction houses, and specialist FBI sleuths, SOUR GRAPES is an *Emperor's New Clothes* fable for the modern age.

Director Reuben Atlas in attendance for Q&A

The complete lineup, including showtimes and ticketing information, is now available at montclairfilm.org

Images for all films available for download at <http://bit.ly/MontclairFilmAugust17>

ABOUT MONTCLAIR FILM

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Montclair Film, a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, nurtures and showcases the talents of filmmakers from around the region and world. Montclair Film unites, empowers, educates, and celebrates our region's diverse cultural heritage and robust artistic community by presenting engaging programs and events all year long. The seventh annual Montclair Film Festival will take place from April 27 through May 6, 2018. Montclair Film's year-round and festival programming is made possible through generous support from Investors Bank; Audible; Hackensack Meridian Health; the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey; Ashenfelter, Slous, McDonough, Golia & Trevenen, LLP; Chubb; Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage; and William H. Connolly & Co., and others. Our programs are made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism and New Jersey State Council on the Arts. For information about Montclair Film, visit www.montclairfilm.org

For more information, please contact

FRANK PR:

Phone: 646-861-0843

Lina Plath
lina@frankpublicity.com

Clare Anne Darragh
clareanne@frankpublicity.com