



For Immediate Release

## MEDIA ALERT

### Montclair Film Celebrates The 10th Anniversary of The MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL With Screening Series

#### Montclair Improv Comedy To Perform Monthly, Featuring THE MOVIE at Montclair Film

June 26, 2019, MONTCLAIR, NJ - In celebration of JAZZ HOUSE KIDS' 10th Annual MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL, kicking off July 26 and culminating on August 10, Montclair Film today announced it will partner with JAZZ HOUSE KIDS to feature four classic films that showcase some of the greatest jazz music ever created for the big screen. From Duke Ellington's legendary score for **ANATOMY OF A MURDER**, to Miles Davis' transformative score for **ELEVATOR TO THE GALLOWS**, to Sonny Rollins' character-defining music for **ALFIE**, to the brilliant live performances captured in the classic **'ROUND MIDNIGHT**, the music in these films epitomize the beauty of jazz. Each screening will feature a live, pre-screening performance by some of the most accomplished JAZZ HOUSE KIDS ensembles, beginning 30 minutes prior to the designated screening time. JAZZ HOUSE KIDS has gained a reputation as one of the nation's preeminent arts education and performance organizations and audiences are invited to come early for the music and stay for the film as the organizations come together to celebrate the MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL presented by The Bravitas Group/Silver Family Foundation.

Montclair Film also announced a continuation of their ongoing partnership with Montclair Improv Comedy, Montclair's leading improvisational performance company. After the success of their performance of THE MOVIE at the 2019 Montclair Film Festival, Montclair Improv Comedy will host a monthly performance at Montclair Film, improvising a never-before-seen film, inspired by YOU and your suggestions, in real time, right before your eyes! Performed by a group of veteran improvisers—and now NJ natives—the group will create a movie with ravishing special effects, inventive camera angles, real-time direction, and improvised action. Heroic heroes, villainous villains, quirky support characters and a lot of laughs from opening scene to the final frame. The evening includes more than just an improvised feature film with the creation of original trailers and behind-the-scenes characters. Each show is based upon suggestions from the audience, so no two performances of THE MOVIE are ever the same.

[JAZZ HOUSE CLASSICS: CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTCLAIR JAZZ FESTIVAL](#)

# MONTCLAIR FILM

**Sunday, July 28**

**7:30 PM / Cinema505**

**ELEVATOR TO THE GALLOWS (1958)**

**Director: Louis Malle**

**Cast: Jeanne Moreau, Maurice Ronet, Georges Poujouly**

**France/ 91 Min**

Florence (Jeanne Moreau) is married to the wealthy arms dealer Simon Carala (Jean Wall), but is carrying on a torrid affair with one of her husband's employees, Julien (Maurice Ronet). Julien daringly climbs into Simon's office on a rope, kills him and leaves unnoticed. However, Julien accidentally leaves the rope at the crime scene and realizes he must retrieve it. On his way out, he becomes stuck in the building's elevator. But he soon finds that his bad luck is just beginning.

Composer Miles Davis assembled a group featuring French jazz session musicians (Barney Wilen on tenor saxophone, René Urtreger on piano, and Pierre Michelot on bass) along with expatriate drummer Kenny Clarke at Le Poste Parisien Studio. The sequences of the film needing underscoring were projected in front of the band and they improvised music to the scenes based on the harmonic outlines Davis provided. The resulting music contrasts significantly, if not drastically, from the material Davis had been developing up to that point, and it has become one of the seminal works of jazz on film.

**Friday, August 2**

**7:30 PM / Cinema505**

**ANATOMY OF A MURDER (1959)**

**Director: Otto Preminger**

**Cast: James Stewart, Lee Remick, Ben Gazzara, Arthur O'Connell**

**USA/ 161 Min**

Semi-retired Michigan lawyer Paul Biegler (James Stewart) takes the case of Army Lt. Manion (Ben Gazzara), who murdered a local innkeeper after his wife (Lee Remick) claimed that he raped her. Over the course of an extensive trial, Biegler parries with District Attorney Lodwick (Brooks West) and out-of-town prosecutor Claude Dancer (George C. Scott) to set his client free, but his case rests on the victim's mysterious business partner (Kathryn Grant), who's hiding a dark secret.

ANATOMY OF A MURDER is noteworthy for being one of the first films to extensively feature jazz in the musical score – the entire musical soundtrack was composed by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn and played by Ellington's orchestra. Several of the Ellington band's sidemen, notably Johnny Hodges, Paul Gonsalves, Harry Carney, Russell Procope, and William "Cat" Anderson, are heard prominently throughout the film, and Ellington himself appears briefly as "Pie-Eye," the owner of a roadhouse where Paul Biegler (Stewart) and Laura Manion (Remick) have a confrontation. Despite being heard "in bits and pieces" the score "contains some of his most evocative and eloquent music... and beckons with the alluring scent of a femme fatale." Including small pieces by Billy Strayhorn, film historians recognize it "as a landmark — the first significant Hollywood film music by African Americans comprising non-diegetic music, that is, music whose source is not visible or implied by action in the film, like an on-screen band."

**Sunday, August 4**

**7:30 PM/ Cinema505**

**ALFIE (1966)**

**Director: Lewis Gilbert**

# MONTCLAIR FILM

**Cast: Michael Caine, Shelley Winters, Millicent Martin**

**USA/ 114 Min**

Set in postwar London, "Alfie" features Michael Caine as a chauffeur bent on promiscuity. After impregnating his girlfriend he takes off on vacation. He continues his life of womanizing, but he can't hide forever. A misfortune strikes and Alfie is forced to face the product of his ways.

As [UDISCOVERMUSIC.COM](http://UDISCOVERMUSIC.COM) writes "In the 1966 British romantic comedy ALFIE, it is Sonny Rollins' score that steals the leading role!" Recorded at Twickenham Film Studios the soundtrack features, saxophonist Sonny Rollins along with some of Britain's finest jazz musicians, Keith Christie on trombone, Tubby Hayes and Ronnie Scott on tenor sax, pianist and arranger Stan Tracey, Dave Goldberg plays guitar and Phil Seaman on drums.

**Friday, August 9**

**7:30 PM / Cinema505**

**'ROUND MIDNIGHT (1986)**

**Director: Bertrand Tavernier**

**Cast: Dexter Gordon, François Cluzet, Sandra Reaves-Phillips**

**USA/ 133 Min**

In the 1950s, Dale Turner (Dexter Gordon, who was nominated for an Academy Award for his performance in the film), a gifted black saxophonist with a drinking problem, leaves behind New York and his estranged family and relocates to Paris. There he plays for a progressive, jazz-loving audience without being judged by his race, and ages quietly in peace. Not intending to turn away from his vices, Dale nonetheless becomes the project of a French fan (François Cluzet) who tries to help him fight his alcoholism, ultimately inspiring both Dale and his music.

One of the great jazz scores of all time, the film's music was recorded live to camera, with players like Ron Carter, Herbie Hancock, Bill Higgins, Bobby Hutcherson, John McLaughlin, and Wayne Shorter joining Dexter Gordon on classic tunes. The spontaneity of their performances is preserved, creating a beautiful homage to the ex-pat experience of jazz musicians seeking to find freedom in the City of Lights.

**MONTCLAIR IMPROV COMEDY PRESENTS: THE MOVIE!**

**Saturday, June 29**

**8:00 PM/ Cinema505**

Montclair Improv Comedy is Making a Movie... in real time, right before your eyes! MIC will celebrate the Montclair Film Festival by improvising a never-before-seen film, inspired by YOU and your suggestions. Performed by a group of veteran improvisers—and now NJ natives—come see us live on stage at Montclair Film as we create a movie with ravishing special effects, inventive camera angles, real-time direction, and improvised action. Heroic heroes, villainous villains, quirky support characters and a lot of laughs from opening scene to the final frame!

Future Dates:

**July 27, 8:00 PM**

**August 24, 8:00 PM**

**September 28, 8:00 PM**



#### **ABOUT MONTCLAIR FILM**

Montclair Film is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization that engages, entertains, and educates through the power of visual storytelling. The ninth annual Montclair Film Festival will take place from May 1-10, 2020. Montclair Film's year-round and festival programming is made possible through generous support from Investors Bank; Audible; Hackensack Meridian Health, Mountainside Medical Center; the Horizon Foundation for New Jersey; The Bravitas Group; Ashenfelter, Slous, Trembulak, McDonough, Golia & Trevenen, LLP; Chubb; Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage; William H. Connolly & Co.; The Nature Conservancy, RBC Wealth Management, and others. Our programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism, as well as the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information about Montclair Film, visit [www.montclairfilm.org](http://www.montclairfilm.org)

#### **ABOUT JAZZ HOUSE KIDS**

JAZZ HOUSE **KIDS** has been swinging doors open for 16 years, and our emerging musicians are soloing and singing their way to greatness. Our year-round programs help young people from all backgrounds gain an artistic edge through music, mentoring, education and apprenticeship. Through pre-professional musical training along with community engagement and education programs, we use jazz as an effective teaching tool to enhance academic achievement, dedication, and teamwork and cultivate tomorrow's global citizens. For more information, visit [jazzhousekids.org](http://jazzhousekids.org).

**For more information, please contact**

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