

Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania presents



Fall 2013 Program: Women in Film

Filmmakers, strong roles, and issues

Wednesdays | Food and Drink at 6:00pm. FILM at 7:00pm.

October 2 – Kick-off Event: [The Bling Ring \(2013\)](#) Crime/Drama

Sponsored by The Brockton Agency, Inc.

October 9 – [Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer \(2013\)](#) Documentary/Law

October 16 – [In A World... \(2013\)](#) Comedy

Sponsored by Erie Reader

- Edinboro University student short film: “Hey Diddle” with filmmaker, Alex Strasser

October 23 – [Zero Dark Thirty \(2012\)](#) Drama/Thriller

- Edinboro University student short film: “The Flight of the Valkyrie” with filmmaker, Karen Hall

October 30 – [The Descent \(2006\)](#) Adventure/Horror

November 6 – [Sun Don't Shine \(2013\)](#) and [When We Lived in Miami \(2013\)](#) Crime/Drama with
Writer/Director Amy Seimetz Q&A via Skype hosted by Erie Reader's Ben Speggen

Sponsored by Whole Foods Co-op

November 13 – [Fish Tank \(2010\)](#) Drama

Sponsored by Edinboro University

- Edinboro University student short film: “Rolling Scot” with filmmaker, Laura Sprunk

November 20 - [We Live In Public \(2009\)](#) Documentary/Internet

- Edinboro University student short films: “An Exploration of Skin and Other Textures” and “Concealing Imperfections” with filmmaker, Justine Danielle Lang

November 27 – [Middle of Nowhere \(2012\)](#) Drama

Sponsored by OB/GYN Associates of Erie

December 4 – [The Secret Life of Words \(2005\)](#) Drama/Romance

Sponsored by Whole Foods Co-op

December 11 – [After the Wedding \(2006\)](#) Drama

December 18 – To Be Announced

Single Admission: \$5.00

Film Society of Northwestern Pennsylvania presents



Fall 2013 Program: Women in Film Program Preview Guide

October 2 – Kick-off Event: [THE BLING RING](#) (2013)

Written and directed by Sofia Coppola

Sponsored by The Brockton Agency, Inc.



Inspired by actual events, a group of fame-obsessed teenagers use the internet to track celebrities' whereabouts in order to rob their homes. Oscar Winning filmmaker Sofia Coppola takes us inside the world of these teens, where their youthful naiveté and excitement is amplified by today's culture of celebrity and luxury brand obsession. The members of the Bling Ring introduce us to temptations that any teenager would find hard to resist. And what starts out as youthful fun spins out of control, revealing a sobering view of our modern culture.

Written and directed by Sofia Coppola. Starring Katie Chang, Israel Broussard, Emma Watson, Leslie Mann. Rated R. 90 minutes. English.

[View Trailer](#)

Wikipedia Biography: Sofia Coppola is an American screenwriter, director, producer and actress. In 2003, she received the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay for *Lost in Translation*, and became the third woman (and first American woman) to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Director. In 2010, with *Somewhere*, she became the first American woman (and fourth American filmmaker) to win the Golden Lion, the top prize at the Venice Film Festival.

October 9 – [PUSSY RIOT: A PUNK PRAYER](#) (2013)



Filmed over the course of 6 months, this documentary tells the incredible story of 3 young women: Nadia, Masha and Katia, who face seven years in a Russian prison for a satirical performance in a Moscow cathedral. But who is really on trial in a case that has gripped the nation and the world beyond. Three young artists or the society they live in? This documentary stands as an important examination of the deterioration of democracy.

Directed by Mike Lerner, Maxim Pozdorovkin. Not Rated. 88 minutes. Russian.

[View Trailer](#)

“[It's] captivating and profoundly dismaying. If nothing else, you'll run crying with relief into the arms of the U.S. Constitution.” – Washington Post

Naive they may be, but they have courage - certainly compared to the swaggering, hatchet-faced male bullies ranged against them. -- Guardian

“The women of Pussy Riot have an idea of what the new Russia should sound like; Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer shows just how hard it is to make that new world audible.” – Village Voice

RottenTomatoes Rating: 78 / IMDb Rating: 7.1

October 16 – [IN A WORLD...](#) (2013)

Written and Directed by Lake Bell

Sponsored by Erie Reader



An underachieving vocal coach is motivated by her father, the king of movie-trailer voice-overs, to pursue her aspirations of becoming a voiceover star. Amidst pride, sexism and family dysfunction, she sets out to change the voice of a generation. Written and directed by Bell, who won the Sundance 2013 Waldo Salt Screenwriting Award for the script. A funny, well-written screwball satire for film buffs, *In a World...* proves an auspicious beginning for writer, director, and star Lake Bell.

Written and Directed by Lake Bell. Starring Lake Bell, Jeff Garlin, Nick Offerman, Demetri Martin, and Eva Longoria. Rated R. 93 minutes. English.

[View Trailer](#)

Wikipedia Biography: Lake Bell is an American actress, writer and director. She has starred in the television series *Miss Match* (2003); *The Practice* (2004) and its spinoff *Boston Legal* (2004–2006) and *Childrens Hospital* (2008–present) and in the films *Over Her Dead Body*, *What Happens in Vegas* and *Pride and Glory* (2008); *It's Complicated* (2009); and *No Strings Attached*. She wrote and directed her own award-winning short film, *Worst Enemy*, which debuted at the Sundance Film Festival followed by her feature film debut *In a World...* in 2013. Bell has an automotive column in *The Hollywood Reporter* called *Test Drive* and is the magazine's automotive contributing editor.

“An indie comedy as surprisingly tender and wise as it is deftly wise-cracking.” – Denver Post

“This feature debut by writer/director Lake Bell, who also takes the lead role, finds a bastion of previously unexplored male chauvinism that makes for grand mirth.” – Toronto Star

RottenTomatoes Rating: 91 / IMDb Rating: 7.3

October 23 – [ZERO DARK THIRTY](#) (2012)

Directed by Kathryn Bigelow



Gripping, suspenseful, and brilliantly crafted, *Zero Dark Thirty* dramatizes the hunt for Osama bin Laden with intelligence and an eye for detail. Through the eyes of Maya, a young U.S. Central Intelligence Agency officer, who has spent her entire career since graduating from high school focused solely on gathering intelligence related to the al-Qaeda terrorist leader, the film is a chronicle of the decade-long manhunt after the September 2001 attacks.

Zero Dark Thirty received wide critical acclaim and was nominated for five Academy Awards at the 85th Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actress (Chastain) and Best Original Screenplay. The film won one, for Best Sound Editing. *Zero Dark Thirty* earned four Golden Globe Award nominations, including Best Picture – Drama, Best Director, and won one Best Actress – Drama for Chastain.

Directed by Kathryn Bigelow. Rated R. 157 minutes. English and Arabic.

[View Trailer](#)

Wikipedia Biography: Kathryn Bigelow is an American film director, film producer, screenwriter and television director. Her films include *Near Dark* (1987), *Point Break* (1991), *Strange Days* (1995), *The Weight of Water* (2000), *K-19: The Widowmaker* (2002), *The Hurt Locker* (2008), and *Zero Dark Thirty* (2012). *The Hurt Locker* won the 2009 Academy Award for Best Picture, won the BAFTA Award for Best Film, and was nominated for the 2009 Golden Globe Award for Best Drama.

With *The Hurt Locker*, Bigelow became the first woman to win the Academy Award for Best Director, the Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Directing, the BAFTA Award for Best Direction, and the Critics' Choice Award for Best Director. In April 2010, Bigelow was named to the *Time* 100 list of most influential people of the year.

October 30 – [THE DESCENT](#) (2006)



A caving expedition goes horribly wrong, as the explorers become trapped and ultimately pursued by a strange breed of predators. In this low-budget import from Scotland, director Neil Marshall has masterfully created a spelunking nightmare, which doubles as a compelling meditation on morality, vengeance, and the depths to which we might go for survival. Deft direction and strong performances from its all-female cast guide *The Descent*, a riveting, claustrophobic horror film.

Written and Directed by Neil Marshall. Starring Shauna Macdonald, Natalie Mendoza, Alex Reid, and MyAnna Buring. Rated R. 99 minutes. English.

[View Scene](#)

“Tense, gory and masterfully malevolent.” – TotalFilm

“Tight shots of women desperately wriggling through worm holes or teetering on a ledge overlooking an abyss create a claustrophobic effect, one that leaves the characters gasping for air and the audience breathing shallower.” – Seattle Times

RottenTomatoes Rating: 85 / IMDb Rating: 7.3

November 6 – [SUN DON'T SHINE \(2013\)](#) and short film [WHEN WE LIVED IN MIAMI \(2013\)](#)

Written and Directed by Amy Seimetz who will be joining us for a Skype Q&A

Sponsored by Whole Foods Co-op



Written and directed by actress/filmmaker Amy Seimetz (*Tiny Furniture*, *Upstream Color* and *Pit Stop*), *Sun Don't Shine* follows Crystal (Kate Lyn Sheil) and her boyfriend Leo (Kentucker Audley) on a tense and mysterious road trip through the desolate yet hauntingly beautiful landscape of central Florida. From the outset, the purpose of their journey is unclear, and the motivations behind their heated altercations and shady errands are hazy, but sporadic moments of tenderness illuminate the loving bond between the two that exists underneath their overt tensions. As the couple travels up the Gulf Coast past an endless panorama of mangrove fields, trailer parks, and cookie-cutter housing developments, the disturbing details of their excursion gradually begin to emerge, revealing Crystal's sinister past and the couple's troubling future. Filmed on location in the environs of Seimetz's hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida, *Sun Don't Shine* is a subtly cryptic story driven by the powerful performances of its lead actors and its eerily poetic setting. Named as *Indiewire's* #1 undistributed film in 2012.

Written and Directed by Amy Seimetz. Starring AJ Bowen, Kate Lyn Sheil, Kentucker Audley. Not Rated. 90 minutes. English.

[View Sun Don't Shine Trailer](#) [View When We Lived In Miami Trailer](#)

Biography: Amy Seimetz is an American writer, producer, director, editor and actress. Seimetz has been acting for a decade and has dozens of credits under her belt including several in the micro-budget "mumblecore" genre, like 2009's *Alexander the Last* and the 2010 Lena Dunham breakthrough *Tiny Furniture*. Her widely praised performance in the sci-fi thriller *Upstream Color* was just the beginning. She appeared on three episodes of Christopher Guest's HBO comedy series *Family Tree* and is a series regular on the third season of AMC's crime-drama *The Killing*, which debuted this summer.

RottenTomatoes Rating: 93 / IMDb Rating: 5.5

November 13 – [FISH TANK](#) (2010)
Written and Directed by Andrea Arnold
Sponsored by Edinboro University



Everything changes for 15-year-old Mia when her mum brings home a new boyfriend. Mia is a reckless and rebellious teenager who frequently argues with her mother and sister and has run afoul of the authorities at school, leading to her being suspended. With plenty of time on her hands, Mia spends her days drinking when she can find alcohol and partying in an empty flat near her apartment. Joanne is a single mother, and she's begun dating a new man, Connor (Michael Fassbender); when Joanne brings him home to meet the girls, Mia is immediately attracted to him, and it's soon clear Connor feels the same way about her. Cannes Jury Prize-winner *Fish Tank* is gritty British realism at its very best, with flawless performances from newcomer Kate Jarvis, and Michael Fassbender.

Written and directed by Andrea Arnold. Starring Katie Jarvis, Michael Fassbender, Kierston Wareing. Not Rated. 123 minutes. English.

[View Trailer](#)

Biography: Andrea Arnold, OBE is an Academy Award-winning English filmmaker and former actress, who made her feature film directorial debut in 2006 with *Red Road*. After years working in children's television, Andrea Arnold came relatively late to directing, but her films instantly made ripples internationally, attracting enormous acclaim. Hard to pin down but often centered on female, working-class characters and marked by simple, unsettling images and intricate editing, their surface harshness is shot through with complexity and compassion.

Arnold's adaptation of *Wuthering Heights* had its Pennsylvania premiere in our Summer 2012 program.

RottenTomatoes Rating: 90 / IMDb Rating: 7.3

November 20 – [WE LIVE IN PUBLIC](#) (2009)

Directed by Ondi Timoner



Focuses on the dot-com exploits and New York City art party escapades of Josh Harris, the man behind the legendary million-dollar millennium party "Quiet." The party, which took place at an abandoned loft manufacturing building on Lower Broadway, featured over 90 Japanese-hotel-style pods where artists lived, played, worked, and partied. With numerous mini-disco bars throughout and streaming cameras tucked in every corner, it was the ultimate multi-media bash. Harris' surveillance-as-art project exposes the problems of privacy in the internet age and asks provocative questions about the power of ego in a place where everything is on display.

Directed by Ondi Timoner. Not Rated. 90 minutes. English.

Wikipedia Biography: Ondi Timoner is an American film director, producer and editor. Timoner has won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival twice. The only filmmaker to do so. Born in Miami, Florida, Timoner graduated *cum laude* from Yale University, with a double major in American Studies (concentration in Film and Literature) and Theater Studies. Her 2004 Sundance-winning documentary *DIG!*, about the collision of art and commerce through the lives of two bands, and her 2009 top prize-winner *We Live in Public*, about internet visionary, Josh Harris, who showed by example how willingly privacy and even sanity are traded in the virtual age, were both acquired by the Museum of Modern Art in New York City for their permanent collection.

"This is a remarkable film about a strange and prophetic man. What does it tell us? Did living a virtual life destroy him?" – Roger Ebert

RottenTomatoes Rating: 83 / IMDb Rating: 7.1

November 27 – [MIDDLE OF NOWHERE](#) (2012)

Written and directed by Ava DuVernay

Sponsored by OB/GYN Associates of Erie



Winner of the Best Director Award at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, *Middle of Nowhere* follows Ruby, a bright medical student who sets aside her dreams and suspends her career when her husband is incarcerated. As the committed couple stares into the hollow end of an eight-year prison sentence, Ruby must learn to live another life, one marked by shame and separation. But through a chance encounter and a stunning betrayal that shakes her to her core, this steadfast wife is soon propelled in new and often shocking directions of self-discovery - caught between two worlds and two men in the search for herself.

Written and directed by Ava DuVernay. Starring Emayatzy Corinealdi, David Oyelowo, Lorraine Toussaint. Rated R. 97 minutes. English.

Wikipedia Biography: Ava DuVernay is an American filmmaker and distributor. At the 2012 Sundance Film Festival, DuVernay became the first African-American woman to win the Best Director Prize for her second feature film *Middle of Nowhere*. DuVernay formed The DuVernay Agency, later known as DVA Media + Marketing, in 1999. The award-winning marketing and publicity firm has provided strategy and execution for more than 100 film and television projects by directors such as Steven Spielberg, Clint Eastwood, and Michael Mann.

This year she became the inaugural recipient of the Tribeca Film Institute's Heineken Affinity Award receiving a \$20,000 prize and industry support for future projects. In June, DuVernay was invited to both the director's and writer's branches of AMPAS. DuVernay was only the second black woman, following Kasi Lemmons, to be invited to the director's branch.

Ava DuVernay is slated to take over the directing duties of the Martin Luther King Jr feature project "Selma," replacing Lee Daniels and produced by Plan B.

December 4 – [THE SECRET LIFE OF WORDS](#) (2005)

Written and directed by Isabel Coixet

Sponsored by Whole Foods Co-op



A hearing impaired factory worker gives up her first holiday in years and instead travels out to an oil rig, where she cares for a man suffering from severe burns. Hanna (Sarah Polley), a laconic, backward and introverted girl in her early '30s, is quietly drowning in her own isolation and partially deaf from working an untold number of hours in a loud factory. Her supervisors -- deeply concerned about the four years that have lapsed in Hanna's life without a break -- force her to go on holiday for a month, she hesitantly takes off for a coastal village in the north of Ireland where she overhears a conversation regarding an accident on a nearby oil rig which left a victim, Josef (Tim Robbins) in its wake. Hanna tells them she is a nurse, and is instantly flown to the rig to treat the man.

She encounters the structure's motley and eccentric band of workers and begins to foresee a new place for herself among these individuals, a relationship gradually develops between Hanna and Josef, who holds his new friend rapt with lyrical, evocative, magisterial tales from his past -- unknowingly drawing Hanna, one step at a time, toward inner joy, self-expression, and revelation of her own sad and complex story. *The Secret Life of Words* is a slow, mannered drama, but with a revelatory and powerful ending that rewards the patient viewer.

Written and Directed by Isabel Coixet. Starring Sarah Polley, Time Robbins. Not Rated. 115 minutes. English and Danish.

[View Trailer](#)

Wikipedia Biography: Isabel Coixet is a Spanish film director. Her films follow a departure from traditional national cinema of Spain, and help to “untangle films from their national context, ... clearing the path for thinking about national film from different perspectives.” The recurring themes of “emotions, feelings and existential conflict” coupled with her distinct visual style secure the “multifaceted (she directs, writes, produces and acts)” filmmaker's status as a “catalan auteur”.

December 11 – [AFTER THE WEDDING](#) (2006)

Directed and Co-written by Susanne Bier



A manager of an orphanage in India is sent to Denmark, where he discovers a life-altering family secret. Though born and raised in Denmark, Jacob Peterson (Mads Mikkelsen) has made a life for himself in India, where he runs an orphanage for homeless children. While Jacob cares little for money, he learns that Jørgan, a wealthy Danish businessman, is willing to donate four million dollars under the condition that he meet with him in person. Jacob grudgingly hops a flight back home where Jørgan insists Jacob attend the wedding of his daughter where he meets Jørgan's wife, Helene, whom he recognizes from years ago. As Jacob finds himself revisiting a past he would prefer to forget, he discovers Jørgan has an ulterior motive for bringing him to Denmark. The cast brings *After the Wedding's* script to life, creating a movie that is emotionally raw and satisfying.

Directed and Co-written by Susanne Bier. Starring Mads Mikkelsen, Sidse Babett Knudsen, Rolf Lassgård. Rated R. 120 minutes. Danish and Swedish.

[View Trailer](#)

Wikipedia Biography: Susanne Bier is a Danish film director best known for her feature films *Brothers*, *After the Wedding* and the Academy Award winning *In a Better World*. Bier studied at the Bezalel Academy of Arts & Design in Jerusalem and read architecture in London before enrolling for the film direction course at the National Film School of Denmark. Her film *Open Hearts* (2002) brought Bier's work to much wider international attention. Acutely observed and beautifully written by Bier and Anders Thomas Jensen, the film is a perceptive and painful exploration of broken lives and interconnected tragedies. Made under Dogme 95 regulations, the film also marked a move towards a more minimalist aesthetic. Since the completion of *Open Hearts*, Bier's reputation has continued to ascend with the harrowing *Brødre* (*Brothers*, 2004) and the emotional and engaging *Efter Brylluppet* (*After the Wedding*, 2006), which was nominated for Best Foreign Language film at the 2007 Academy Awards. After her first American film, *Things We Lost in the Fire* (2008) starring Benicio del Toro and Halle Berry, Bier went on to win the Oscar for Best Foreign Language film for *In a Better World* (2011).

December 18 – To Be Announced