APRIL / MAY 2016

A BIGGER SPLASH
From the director of "I Am Love"
COMING IN MAY
Dear Bellingham,

This calendar edition contains the Pickford Film Center Annual Report for 2015 from which I would like to point out a couple of numbers. In 2014, PFC hosted 390 films in 365 days. In 2015, PFC hosted 433 films in 365 days. For those of you who are math averse, that is a difference of 43 films. Forty three films is just nine short of an extra film a week for every week of the year. The number of screenings expanded by 254. That too, as scientists would say, is a lot. Is your head spinning?

My point? Sometimes things get lost, one time screenings, performances or films aimed at niche audiences. With over 400 films, you don’t always have the ability to keep up. Since I have this soapbox, I’m going to highlight some things you might not want to miss.

Did you ever have a truly life changing artistic experience where you walked in the theater as one person and left as another? This happened for me at the age of 16 when I saw Alvin Alley American Dance Theater for the first time. I am so happy that Pickford Film Center is presenting the debut of this undeniable dance company on the big screen with Lincoln Center at the Movies: Great American Dance at the Limelight on April 6. If you haven’t seen the Ailey classic, Revelations, you owe it to yourself to go.

Busy week! On April 9, Lori Goldston is going to come to Bellingham and play a live score of her own making to the Carl Theodore Dreyer silent film classic The Passion of Joan of Arc. This is music in direct response to the film, emotional and sublime, and promises to be one of those rewarding artistic experiences, ephemera, that underscores why places like PFC exist. She has presented this score to acclaim, most recently in New Orleans but also in Germany, Belgium, France, New York, Chicago, and Portland. So proud to add Bellingham to the list.

On Record Store Day, April 16, we will present the pivotal 1976 Outlaw country music film Heartworn Highways to coincide with a special limited edition boxed set of the soundtrack by Light In The Attic, one of my favorite record labels. Record Store Day stands for the same values that keep PFC a viable organization. It celebrates a curated, locally sensitive experience, filled with space to explore and the exchange of information that makes life more interesting and dizzying.

There is a new series beginning on May 22nd. Indigenous Showcase is a program created by Longhouse Media to showcase emerging talents in indigenous communities. We begin with Following Kina, a Peruvian documentary about two female boxers in a sport that is still dominated by men.

Stay local, stay sensitive,

Susie Purves
Executive Director

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Following Kina
With special appearance by filmmaker Sonia Goldberg
Presented as part of Indigenous Showcase, a new series celebrating Native film.
**COMING IN APRIL**

**Eye in the Sky**  
**Dir:** Gavin Hood  
**Cast:** Helen Mirren, Alan Rickman, Aaron Paul  
In Nairobi, a terrorist cell meets while, thanks to some incredibly cool and deeply scary drone technology, a British intelligence officer (Helen Mirren, flintier and more focused than ever) watches from a bunker in the UK. Then, a suicide vest is donned by one of the terrorists, and Mirren’s mission goes from “capture” to “kill”—until a little girl wanders into the kill zone, and suddenly a straightforward operation becomes impossibly complicated, exposing the ethical and diplomatic issues unique to our era of modern drone warfare. Alan Rickman, in a great final performance, is Mirren’s wry, world-weary commanding officer. A taut, timely, thought-provoking thriller. 2016. United Kingdom. In English. 102 min. R.

**Knight of Cups**  
**Dir:** Terrence Malick  
**Cast:** Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Natalie Portman  
Terrence Malick is one of those directors who, when all of his big ideas and grand vision coalesce, creates films that are transportive and timeless (Tree of Life, The Thin Red Line, Days of Heaven). Even when the pieces don’t quite come together, Malick’s movies remain achingly beautiful and terrifically ambitious. This time, we travel to Los Angeles and Las Vegas, in all their wave-tossed and sun-baked splendor as a man (Christian Bale) tries to leave his empty life of mansions, clubs and the hedonism that lies within behind in favor of finding self and love. Along the way, he encounters Cate Blanchett, Natalie Portman, Imogen Poots, and myriad other familiar Hollywood faces. 2016. United States. In English. 118 min. R.

**Miles Ahead**  
**Dir:** Don Cheadle  
**Cast:** Don Cheadle, Emayatzy Corinealdi, Ewan McGregor  
Nothing says “passion project” quite like a film someone writes, directs and also stars in, so it’s safe to say this movie is a deep labor of love for Don Cheadle. Undeniable genius—and undeniably difficult—jazz great Miles Davis has a life story too big for a standard biopic. So Cheadle instead gives us an impressionistic picture of this mercurial artist, focusing on a late-’70s “lost period” of Davis’ life, and a mysterious session tape the musician is trying to recover from an unscrupulous producer. Cheadle wisely fleshes out the story with flashbacks that also allow him to weave Davis’ groundbreaking music throughout the movie. Drugs, guns and Davis’ unique ability to shatter relationships also figure prominently, because as Cheadle-as-Davis says, “If you’re going to tell a story, come with some attitude.” 2016. United States. In English. 100 min. R.

**The Dark Horse**  
**Dir:** James Napier Robertson  
**Cast:** Cliff Curtis, James Rolleston, Kirk Torrance  
Movies about inspiring teachers and troubled students are nothing new, and even the account of a chess prodigy struggling with madness has been done before. But thanks to a mesmerizing performance by Cliff Curtis (The Whale Rider, Once Were Warriors), this isn’t the same old story. He plays Genesis Potini, a Maori speed-chess champion who suffers from bipolar disorder. When we first meet him, he’s fresh out of an institution, fresh out of options and seeking a fresh start. He finds it in a ragtag teen chess club that he hopes to coach to a national championship. With its raw tone, poignant realism and authentic depiction of Maori culture, this is no by-the-numbers tale of triumph over adversity. But it is proof that redemption comes in many forms. 2015. New Zealand. In English. 124 min. R.
Everybody Wants Some!!

Dir: Richard Linklater
Cast: Blake Jenner, Tyler Hoechlin, Ryan Guzman

Nearly 25 years ago, Richard Linklater cast a bunch of unknown actors in a slacker comedy called Dazed and Confused, which, among other things, introduced Matthew McConaughey’s catchphrase “alright, alright, alright” into our lexicon. Now he’s back with this film, which may not be a proper sequel to Dazed and Confused, but is certainly its spiritual successor. This time, the era is the ‘80s and the setting is a college campus, where Linklater’s lens follows a team of baseball players wasting a long weekend before the start of classes. True to form, pot is smoked, beer is chugged and girls are chased—not necessarily in that order. But don’t let the movie’s plentiful comedy fool you: Few filmmakers embrace the youthful and bittersweet joys of living in the moment quite like Linklater.

2016. United States. In English. 116 min. R.

APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

4.6 Great American Dance: Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre
Captured before a live audience during Ailey’s recent Lincoln Center season, the performance includes four audience favorites – Wayne McGregor’s Chroma, Ronald K. Brown’s Grace, Robert Battle’s Takademe, and Mr. Ailey’s masterpiece, Revelations – as well as a look behind-the-scenes and exclusive interviews with the artists. 101 min. Unrated.

4.7 They Will Have to Kill Us First
In 2012, Islamic extremists staged a jihadist takeover of Mali, outlawing music. But music is a proud and important cultural tradition in Mali, and its musicians will not be silenced, no matter what the cost. 105 min. Unrated.

4.16 Heartworn Highways
Presented by Light in the Attic Records
In conjunction with Record Store Day comes this showing of the excellent 1981 documentary that captures such legends of outlaw country as Guy Clark, Charlie Daniels, Steve Earle, and the best songwriter you’ve probably never heard of, Townes Van Zandt. 92 min. Unrated.

4.18 + 4.25 Trapped
Presented by Planned Parenthood
As laws are passed and court challenges are presented that limit a woman’s right to choose, this documentary follows those clinic workers and lawyers on the frontlines of protecting women’s health. 90 min. Unrated.

4.21 Love Thy Nature
Just in time for Earth Day, this documentary, narrated by Liam Neeson, is a cinematic immersion into the beauty and intimacy of our relationship with the natural world, a relationship that holds the key to solving our current environmental crisis. 76 min. Unrated.

4.28 Elvis Costello: Detour
Live at the Liverpool Philharmonic
Whether you’ll miss him onstage at the Mount Baker Theatre or just want a double dose of the Grammy-winning musician, this is your chance to see Elvis Costello’s “Detour” tour - recorded in the very town he hails from! - up close and with premium Dolby digital surround sound. 100 min. Unrated.
**OUR MISSION:** Pickford Film Center provides a forum and resource for independent cinema, strengthening community through education, dialogue, and the celebration of film.

**From the Director**

Education became key for Pickford Film Center in 2015. Doc-ED, the program that screens new documentaries to middle school students in our cinemas, was embraced by the community. One-hundred-eighth-eight individual donors joined with The Mary Redman Foundation to give support. The result was that all Bellingham Public Schools 2,400 middle school students had the chance to attend a film for free. PFC picked up the tab for transportation as well. We also began offering free Media Literacy workshops in public schools paid for by Humanities Washington, reaching twelve classrooms. Watch for more in 2016.

First run independent films continue to be the motor that makes PFC run, and over 80,000 tickets were sold in 2015. But any day of the week you are almost guaranteed to bump into something more. Repertory film series, live dance, theater and opera grace our screens along with rooftop events, live music, filmmaker visits, and expert panels.

Docubox, our month-long curated documentary film festival has grown to be the largest such festival in the Northwest, attracting 5,800 patrons from 65 different cities around the nation (and some neighbors from the North as well.) Bellingham Children’s Film Festival has grown featuring a program that would be hard to find anywhere else.

PFC is able to offer a cornucopia of programs because it has the support of volunteers, donors and members. Every time you visit our cinemas you benefit from their support.

**2015 Pickford Film Center Board Members**

James Willson, President · Brian Sibley, Vice President
Meg Weber, Treasurer · Helen Morgan Parmett, Secretary
Angela Anderson · Michelle Bouma · Dawn Dietrich
Christina Koblish · Christine Park · Heather Pavlosky
Becca Shew · Scott Felton · Nate Sawtelle, WWU Student Rep

**Film Exhibition**

- **Tickets Sold:**
  - 2013: 66,184
  - 2014: 83,768
  - 2015: 81,043

- **Number of Films Booked:**
  - 2014: 390
  - 2015: 433

- **Number of Screenings:**
  - 2014: 3,600
  - 2015: 3,854

- **2,955 lbs of popcorn popped in 2015 using 642 lbs of coconut oil and 1,000 lbs of real butter**

**Top Ten Films of 2015**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Imitation Game</td>
<td>8,514</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mr. Holmes</td>
<td>3,699</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>3,048</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Spotlight</td>
<td>3,009</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Meru</td>
<td>2,339</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Grandma</td>
<td>2,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Far From the Madding Crowd</td>
<td>2,237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The Theory of Everything</td>
<td>1,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Song of the Sea</td>
<td>1,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>What We Do in the Shadows</td>
<td>1,546</td>
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**December** finished its 7th year with 60 new documentaries in 35 days plus encores for popular films in November Bellingham Children’s Film Festival included 3 features, 2 shorts programs, school screenings, & an ice cream social!
COMING IN MAY

A Bigger Splash
Dir: Luca Guadagnino
Cast: Dakota Johnson, Ralph Fiennes, Tilda Swinton
Director Luca Guadagnino returns with another study of complicated relationships and the tangled map of human emotion. Bowie-esque rock star Marianne Lane (the inimitable Tilda Swinton) is recovering from throat surgery with her boyfriend Paul (Matthias Schoenaerts) on a sun-soaked Sicilian island when her ex, Harry (a gleefully unhinged Ralph Fiennes), and his newly discovered daughter (Dakota Johnson) drop in ostensibly to pay a visit. Harry’s motives regarding Marianne are not so pure, however, and neither, it seems, are the intentions of his modern-day Lolita daughter. Sex, sun and temptation combine to create a volatile situation—and it’s only a matter of time before something explodes. 2016. Italy/France. In English & Italian w/ English subtitles. 124 min. R.

The Meddler
Dir: Lorene Scafaria
Cast: Rose Byrne, Susan Sarandon, J.K. Simmons
Writer/director Lorene Scafaria wrote this movie as a valentine to her own mother—but you could be forgiven for thinking it was a role created specifically for Susan Sarandon. Newly widowed and in possession of a comfortable inheritance, Marnie (Sarandon) moves to Los Angeles to be close to her daughter (Rose Byrne). When her desire to be overly involved forces her daughter to put up boundaries, geographic and otherwise, Marnie tries her smother-mother routine on other unsuspecting souls she encounters. A romantic subplot (featuring the ever-loveable J.K. Simmons) forces Marnie to deal with her feelings about widowhood, giving the film emotional depth and heft, while her blend of guileless naiveté and instinctive generosity are enough to win over even the most jaded cynic. 2016. United States. In English. 100 min. PG-13.

Sunset Song
Dir: Terence Davies
Cast: Peter Mullan, Agyness Deyn, Kevin Guthrie
Davies adapts Lewis Grassic Gibbons’ epic Scottish novel about an independent young farm girl in the run-up to World War I—and doesn’t feel the urge to modernize the content or accelerate the story’s contemplative pacing. Instead, he finely and beautifully fashions a poetic look at Scottish peasantry, a world that seems unchangeable until it is brutally upended by war. Chris Guthrie works the land while dreaming of being a schoolteacher and attempting to avoid the wrath of her sadistic father. A romance with a neighbor enlivens her existence, but her greatest love affair is with the land itself—and it’s that relationship which sustains her when the outside world attempts to intrude. 2016. UK/Luxembourg. In English. 135 min. Unrated.

MAY SPECIAL EVENTS

5.9 The Pearl Button
The ocean contains the history of all humanity. Chile, with its 2,670 miles of coastline and the largest archipelago in the world, presents a supernatural landscape. In it are volcanoes, mountains and glaciers, and the voices of the Patagonian Indigenous people, the first English sailors and also those of its political prisoners. Some say that water has memory. This film shows that it also has a voice. 88 min. Unrated.

5.19 CineShift Selects
All proceeds from the evening will go to Pickford Film Center’s education fund!
In 2015, the first annual Cineshift Festival in Anacortes received over 3,500 submissions from 108 countries. See 15 select films for a special encore screening. With dramas & comedies, animations & live action shorts, these films from Iran, France, Bulgaria, & beyond have a bit of everything. 90 min. Unrated.

5.25 The Mountain Runners
The incredible true story of America’s first mountain adventure race, by auto, steam train, and foot to the top of Mount Baker, a 10,781 foot volcanic, glacial peak. Many would start...few would finish. 90 min. Unrated.

5.26 Seve: The Movie
Despite being blocked at almost every turn in pursuit of the sport he loved, Seve Ballesteros fought against adversity to become the most spectacular and charismatic golfer to ever play the game. 124 min. Unrated.
**FILM SERIES**  
Expand your mind, discover a new genre, dive into our curated series

**Rocket Sci-Fi Matinees**  
Presented by Rocket Donuts featuring intros by PFC’s Steve Meyers. This season features all titles from 1951. Saturdays at Noon - Only $3 Admission.  
4.16  **The Man from Planet X**  
5.21  **Five**

**Masters of Japanese Cinema**
The best in Japanese cinema, curated by WWU’s Jeff Purdue, featuring introductions by local film adacemics.  
4.12  **A Hen in the Wind**  
5.3  **Whisper of the Heart**

**Indigenous Showcase**  
A bi-monthly series of original films created by native filmmakers, curated by Long-house Media.  
5.22  **Following Kina**  
with special appearance by filmmaker Sonia Goldberg

**Cinema Thyme: Dinner and a Movie with Ciao Thyme**
A unique merging of fine culinary presentation and film  
4.14  **Julie and Julia**  
6.23  **Chef**
*Due to popular demand, tickets for these events are made available by means of a lottery. The lottery for Chef will be open May 8-23.*

**BBC Shakespeare**  
Celebrate the Bard’s 400th anniversary with this free series from BBC Worldwide!  
4.2  **As You Like It (1963)**  
4.9  **Midsummer Night’s Dream (1971)**  
4.16  **King Lear (1998)**  
4.23  **The Taming of the Shrew (2005)**  
4.30  **Simon Schama’s Shakespeare and Us (2012)**

**The Queens’ Vernacular**  
A monthly queer film series curated by Greg Youmans and Chris Vargas. Wednesdays at 6:00 - Free.  
4.20  **Queer Documentaries from Vancouver**  
5.17  **My Treaty is with the Queen: Short Videos by Kent Monkman**

**All’Opera**  
Italian Opera season, straight from the temples of Il Bel Canto.  
All shows at PFC, Wednesdays at 5:30  
4.27  **The Barber of Seville**

**National Theatre Live**
Each performance is filmed in front of a live audience in the London stage, with carefully positioned cameras to ensure that cinema audiences get the best seat in the house. All shows at PFC, Sundays at 11:00am and Wednesdays at 6:30  
4.10 + 4.13  **Les Liaisons Dangereuses**  
5.15 + 5.18  **Hangmen**

**Bolshoi Ballet**  
Combining classic, brand-new, and never-before-seen productions.  
All shows at PFC, Sundays at 11:00am  
5.8  **Don Quixote**

**Royal Opera House**
Presented by Mount Bakery, with complimentary sweet treats at the Sunday matinées! All shows at the Limelight, Sundays at 11:00am and Wednesdays at 6:30  
4.17 + 4.20  **Opera: Boris Godunov**  
5.1 + 5.4  **Ballet: Giselle**  
5.22 + 5.25  **Opera: Lucia di Lammermoor**  
*Tickets: $16 PFC Members / $20 General Admission / $10 Students*
MUSIC-INSPIRED FILMS + LIVE MUSIC

APR 1–3, 2016

BELLINGHAM MUSIC FILM FESTIVAL

LIVE MUSIC
- Scarlet Locomotive
- Momo Grace
- Thomas Agora
- Bar Tabac
- and more TBA

MAKE.SHIFT + PICKFORD

bellinghammusicfilmfestival.com

FEATURE FILMS
- Desert Age
- Big Gold Dream
- What Would Beethoven Do?
- Beach Town
- Congo Beat The Drum

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 - 5:00 - PICKFORD FILM CENTER
$15 General / $12 PFC Members / $10 Students | www.pickfordfilmcenter.org

YOU’RE INVITED!

Pickford Birthday Party and Annual Meeting

Monday, April 11
6:00 - Our Annual Meeting Begins
Arrive early for cupcakes and coffee, and join us as we toast to the achievements of the past year, and share with you our new programs, fresh ideas, and goals for 2016.

6:30 - Free Screening of a Mary Pickford Movie
Stay tuned for more details on our spring membership drive, starting in May!

Moonrise Kingdom
Preceded by: What is it about climate change?
A presentation by Brad Johnson, Associate Dean
College of Science and Engineering
Tuesday, April 26 - 6:00 - Pickford Film Center

Enjoy a scientific presentation followed by a screening of Wes Anderson's film. Free Admission. Claim your tickets in advance at the Pickford Film Center box office.

About the Presentation // Few words inspire discourse and controversy more than 'climate change' or 'global warming.' In this talk, we will discuss the basic physical principles that underlie the science of the ocean-atmosphere systems on earth. The purpose is to lay the groundwork for examining the current scientific data, conclusions, and observations about Earth’s climate system. We will discover some fundamentals, such as the relationships between temperature and heat, weather and climate, and also the basic workings of important molecules like carbon dioxide and methane, and the components that make up a climate model.

Presented as part of Science on Screen