



Talk To Me (2007)

GEORGE
EASTMAN
MUSEUM

DRYDEN
THEATRE

IN SOLIDARITY: SPOTLIGHTING BLACK FILM ARTISTS

FREE film series
Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
July 7–Sept. 1, 2021

Dryden Theatre
at the Eastman Museum
900 East Ave

Sponsored by:



**Global Education and
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MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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OF GREATER ROCHESTER

In solidarity with the Black community—which continues to face pervasive discrimination, bigotry, and violence—the George Eastman Museum spotlights the contributions of Black film artists with this series of nine motion pictures from 1930 to the present.

A partnership of the George Eastman Museum and:

JUL 07 *A Soldier's Story*

(Norman Jewison, US 1984, 101 min., 35mm)

Based on Charles Fuller's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, this film looks at hatred within and beyond a US Army base in Louisiana in 1944. While a squad of Black soldiers are waiting to be deployed, their sergeant is murdered on his way back from the local watering hole. Captain Davenport (Howard E. Rollins Jr.) is sent to investigate and encouraged to wrap it up quickly. Determined to file an accurate report, Davenport follows the clues to a surprising conclusion. The cast features Robert Townsend, David Alan Grier, Art Evans, Patti LaBelle, Adolph Caesar, and Denzel Washington in a breakout, Oscar-nominated supporting role.

JUL 14 *Borderline*

(Kenneth Macpherson, UK 1930, 63 min., 35mm)

Paul Robeson dominates the screen in this silent drama of infidelity and interracial romance. Pete and Adah (Robeson and his wife Eslanda Robeson) move to a village in rural Switzerland. When Adah has an affair with a white man and the village finds out, the couple's seemingly idyllic existence is upended by submerged racism coming to the surface. Macpherson, a novelist, photographer, and critic, uses avant-garde techniques to great effect, and Robeson stands as a paragon of emotional pain. *Live piano accompaniment by Philip Carli.*

JUL 21 *She's Gotta Have It*

(Spike Lee, US 1986, 84 min., 35mm)

Nola Darling (Tracy Camilla Johns) is a Brooklyn-based graphic artist who relishes

her freedom, particularly to date liberally. She is seeing three men: the sweet Jamie (Tommy Redmond Hicks), strapping model Greer (John Canada Terrell), and fast-talking bike messenger Mars Blackmon (Spike Lee). The men become jealous, and Nola is asked to see only one exclusively. Now, she must make a choice—about her life and who she wants to be. Lee's black-and-white aesthetic, ingenious shot choice and editing, and fresh point of view make this one of the most stunning film debuts of all time.

JUL 28 *Cabin in the Sky*

(Vincente Minnelli, US 1943, 98 min., 35mm)

Presented in a gorgeous sepia-toned print, this film follows Petunia Jackson (Ethel Waters) as she tries to convince her husband, Joe (Eddie "Rochester" Anderson), to stop gambling and lead a good life. He complies but a relapse endangers his life, and he feels the forces of good and evil battling for his soul. This wonderful MGM musical features great jazz performers including Louis Armstrong and Lena Horne. Minnelli's hypnotic direction and Busby Berkeley's choreography underscore the use of dreams and hallucinations popular in 1940s Hollywood productions.

AUG 04 *Talk to Me*

(Kasi Lemmons, US 2007, 118 min., 35mm)

The importance of radio in the 1960s and '70s is explored in this biographical film about famous DC disc jockey Petey Greene (Don Cheadle). Recently released from prison, golden-tongued Petey schemes his way into a radio job with executive Dewey Hughes (Chiwetel Ejiofor). Petey's style is confrontational and crass, a far step from

the congenial DJs the station is used to, but he connects with the listeners and ratings start to rise. Following the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the radio-listening public turns to Petey for guidance through the ensuing riots. Yet even as his fame grows, and he turns to television and the stage, Petey has to question whose dream he is following—Dewey's or his own?

AUG 11 *The Story of a Three-Day Pass*

(*La Permission*, Melvin Van Peebles, France 1968, 87 min., DCP, English, French w/ subtitles)

Stationed in France, American soldier Turner (Harry Baird) is given a promotion and three-day pass, which he decides to spend in Paris. His wanderings lead him to a nightclub, where he meets Miriam (Nicole Berger), a white shop clerk, and a romance blossoms. As Turner's pass nears its end, tensions rise and the consequences of an interracial romance tear the couple apart. Melvin Van Peebles adapted his own novel for this film, using ingenious techniques to reveal Turner's inner dialogue, and collaborating on the score with Mickey Baker.

AUG 18 *This Is the Life*

(Ava DuVernay, US 2008, 97 min., DCP)

The Good Life Health Food Centre is not a name that would immediately inspire thoughts as fertile ground for a musical revolution, but their weekly hip-hop open mic nights are now the stuff of legend. Out of this supportive atmosphere were born new techniques and new movements that influenced West Coast hip-hop for years. Artists such as Freestyle Fellowship, Jurassic 5, Abstract Rude, and Aceyalone got their start at the Good Life before

they went on to recording contracts. This documentary, Ava DuVernay's first feature film, is a loving look back at a place and time that can never be duplicated.

AUG 25 *Shaft*

(Gordon Parks, US 1971, 100 min., 35mm)

Photographer, musician, and writer Gordon Parks turned to filmmaking in the late '60s, and his second film changed the landscape of cinema. Looking to cash in on the popular detective genre, Parks wanted to make a crowd-pleasing action film with a Black man as its hero. Shaft (Richard Roundtree) is a private detective drawn into a kidnapping case by Harlem gangster Bumpy Jonas (Moses Gunn). Shaft is wary of police involvement and ultimately gets involved in a turf war that requires him to take action. Parks's photographic eye captures the city without adornment, while Isaac Hayes's unforgettable, Oscar-winning score propels the on-screen action.

SEPT 01 *The Last Black Man in San Francisco*

(Joe Talbot, US 2019, 121 min., DCP)

Third-generation San Franciscan Jimmie (co-writer Jimmie Fails starring as a version of himself) lives with his friend Mont (Jonathan Majors) and works as a nurse at a senior care facility. On Sundays, Jimmie and Mont bus or skateboard to the house Jimmie's grandfather built—but that his family lost due to rising taxes. Jimmie fixes up the house when the current owners aren't around, with the dream of someday returning to his family's legacy. A story of gentrification and the idea of American legacy, this sensitive film deals with the terrible cost of displacement.



She's Gotta Have It (1986)



Cabin in the Sky (1943)



Borderline (1930)



A Soldier's Story (1984)



The Last Black Man in San Francisco (2019)



The Story of a Three-Day Pass (1968)



Shaft (1971)



This Is the Life (2008)