FILM CALENDAR

JULY 26 - OCTOBER 3, 2019

ONCE UPON A TIME...
IN HOLLYWOOD
*ON 70MM*
OPENS JULY 26

JENNIFER KENT’S
THE NIGHTINGALE
OPENS AUGUST 16

NOIR CITY
CHICAGO
SEPTEMBER 6-12

GIVE ME LIBERTY
A MUSIC BOX FILMS RELEASE
OPENS SEPTEMBER 13

DORIS DAY
WEEKEND MATINEES
SEPTEMBER 15-29

Music Box Theatre
90th Anniversary Celebration
August 22 - 29
Welcome
TO THE MUSIC BOX THEATRE!

FEATURE FILMS
5 ONCE UPON A TIME... IN HOLLYWOOD
7 LUZ
7 HONEYLAND
8 THE NIGHTINGALE
9 AQUARELA
9 GIVE ME LIBERTY
12 MONOS

MUSIC BOX 90TH ANNIVERSARY
16 INNOCENTS OF PARIS
17 THE FUGITIVE
18 WORLD CITY IN ITS TEENS
18 DOLLY PARTON 9 TO 5ER
19 MARY POPPINS SING-A-LONG
19 INDIE HORROR: SOCIETY
20 MUSIC BOX FILMS DOUBLE FEATURE
21 AUDIENCE CHOICE DOUBLE FEATURE
22 70MM: BACK TO THE FUTURE II
24 THE HISTORY OF THE MUSIC BOX

SERIES
28 BETTE DAVIS MATINEES
30 DORIS DAY MATINEES
30 SILENT CINEMA
32 CHICAGO FILM SOCIETY
34 MIDNIGHTS

SPECIAL EVENTS
6 GALLAGHER WAY MOVIE SERIES
6 DISCOVER THE HORROR
8 RUSH: CINEMA STRANGIATO
10 NOIR CITY
11 SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY
11 REELING FILM FESTIVAL OPENING
12 48 HOUR FILM PROJECT
13 SAVAGE LOVE LIVE
13 HOLY TRINITY
14 NAOMI KLEIN, "ON FIRE"
14 THE MUSIC BOX OF HORRORS

Music Box Theatre    3733 North Southport    musicboxtheatre.com
773-871-6604 showtimes; 773-871-6607 office
DIRECTED BY: Quentin Tarantino
STARRING: Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Al Pacino, Kurt Russell
2019, 165 mins, 70mm

Quentin Tarantino’s ONCE UPON A TIME... IN HOLLYWOOD visits 1969 Los Angeles, where everything is changing, as TV star Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his longtime stunt double Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt) make their way around an industry they hardly recognize anymore.

The ninth film from the writer-director features a large ensemble cast and multiple storylines in a tribute to the final moments of Hollywood’s golden age. The Music Box is proud to be one of only five theatres nationwide that will be screening ONCE UPON A TIME... IN HOLLYWOOD on 70mm!
**Luz**

**Directed by:** Tilman Singer  
**Starring:** Johannes Benecke, Jan Bluthardt, Lilli Lorenz  
**Year:** 2019, 70 mins, DCP, In German & Spanish with English subtitles

In this slick and disturbing horror film, Luz is a young cab driver fleeing from the grasp of a possessed woman, whose confession could endanger the lives of everyone who crosses her path.

“A refreshing take on demonic possession in which the usual fright-flick cliches are nowhere to be found.”  
— The Hollywood Reporter

“Unapologetically strange and utterly fearless.”  
— The AV Club

**Honeyland**

**Directed by:** Ljubomir Stefanov, Tamara Kotevska  
**Year:** 2019, 85 mins, DCP, In Macedonian & Turkish with English subtitles

Hatidze lives with her ailing mother in the mountains of Macedonia, making a living cultivating honey using ancient beekeeping traditions. When an unruly family moves in next door, what at first seems like a balm for her solitude becomes a source of tension as they, too, want to practice beekeeping, while disregarding her advice. The most awarded film out of this year’s Sundance Film Festival, HONEYLAND is an epic, visually stunning portrait of the delicate balance between nature and humanity that has something sweet for everyone.

“A tender story about the chaos of abandoning the common good.”  
— Indiewire

“An unforgettable vérité character study and an intimate look at an endangered tradition.”  
— The Hollywood Reporter

---

**Music Box Theatre Movies at Gallagher Way**

**Every Other Wednesday, May 15 - September 25 at 7:30pm**

Come enjoy Gallagher Way’s free summer movie series with friends and family, brought to you by Chicago’s premier venue for independent and classic films, the Music Box Theatre.

Running every other Wednesday through September, join us as we screen classic films including 10 Things I Hate About You, High Fidelity, Jurassic Park and more. All screenings take place at Gallagher Way, located at 3637 N. Clark Street, Chicago. Visit GallagherWay.com for more information and events.

There is no cost for Music Box Theatre Movies at the Gallagher Way, join us for free!

---

**Discover the Horror**

**Book Release with Author Jon Kitley and THE GIANT CLAW**  
**Saturday July 27 at 4:45pm**

For over five decades, Jon Kitley has been on a never-ending quest to explore as much of the horror film genre as possible, from the early days of terror television to movie theaters and drive-ins. Now, fans of Kitley’s Krypt can read how it all started (and continues to this day) as Jon shares his personal “tales from the road” experiences, in his new book “Discover The Horror.”

Discover plenty of tips on how YOU can get the most out of your own journey into Monsters, Maniacs, and the Meaning of it All.

Plus, after the book discussion, Jon hosts a screening of the 1957 alien creature feature THE GIANT CLAW!

---

**Winner - Sundance Film Festival - World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Documentary**

“Honeyland”
THE NIGHTINGALE

DIRECTED BY: Jennifer Kent
STARRING: Aisling Franciosi, Sam Claflin, Baykali Ganambarr
2019, 136 mins, DCP

Set during the colonization of Australia in 1825, THE NIGHTINGALE follows Clare, a 21-year-old Irish convict. Having served her 7-year sentence, she is desperate to be free of the abusive Lieutenant Hawkins, who refuses to release her from his charge. When Clare’s husband retaliates, she becomes the victim of a harrowing crime at the hands of the lieutenant and his cronies. Since British authorities fail to deliver justice, Clare decides to pursue Hawkins herself. She is forced to enlist the help of a young Aboriginal tracker Billy, who grudgingly takes her through the rugged wilderness. Both suffering their own traumas and mutual distrust, Clare and Billy must learn to find empathy for one another, while weighing the true cost of revenge.

“Kent’s elemental revenge tale attains a near-mythic grandeur over the course of its arduous, ravishing trek.”
–Variety

“Both a canny fulfillment and a skillful subversion of the conventions of the revenge thriller.”
–Los Angeles Times

AQUARELA

DIRECTED BY: Victor Kossakovsky
2019, 90 mins, DCP

AQUARELA takes audiences on a deeply cinematic journey through the transformative beauty and raw power of water. Captured at a rare 96 frames-per-second, the film is a visceral wake-up call that humans are no match for the sheer force and capricious will of Earth’s most precious element.

From the precarious frozen waters of Russia’s Lake Baikal to Miami in the throes of Hurricane Irma to Venezuela’s mighty Angel Falls, water is AQUARELA’s main character, with director Victor Kossakovsky capturing her many personalities in startling cinematic clarity.

“An experience that can truly be described as immersive.”
–The Hollywood Reporter

“One of the most frightening and persuasive movies I’ve ever seen about the destruction created by climate change.”
–RogerEbert.com

GIVE ME LIBERTY

DIRECTED BY: Kirill Mikhanovsky
STARRING: Chris Galust, Lauren “Lolo” Spencer, Max Stoianov
2019, 111 mins, DCP

Medical transport driver Vic is late, but it’s not his fault. Roads are closed for a protest, and no one else can shuttle his Russian grandfather and émigré friends to a funeral. The new route uproots his scheduled clients, particularly Tracy (Lauren “Lolo” Spencer in a breakout performance), a vibrant young woman with ALS. As the day goes from hectic to off-the-rails, their collective ride becomes a hilarious, compassionate, and intersectional portrait of American dreams and disenchantment.

“Completely, delightfully unpredictable from scene to scene, GIVE ME LIBERTY draws you in with its moving performances and blasts of broad comedy.”
–The New York Times

“The debut of a fresh vision of the all-American crowd-pleaser.”
–RogerEbert.com

RUSH: CINEMA STRANGIATO 2019

Wednesday August 21 at 7pm

The Holy Trinity of Rock returns to the big screen, when the first “Annual Exercise in Fan Indulgence” CINEMA STRANGIATO brings Rush fans together in movie theatres worldwide.

Featuring R40+, this film will give audiences a special look into some of the best performances from R40 LIVE, including songs such as “Closer to the Heart,” “Subdivisions,” “Tom Sawyer,” and more, as well as unreleased backstage moments. Also featuring interviews with Tom Morello, Billy Corgan, Taylor Hawkins, violinist Jonathan Dinklage and more. Plus, fans will get a glimpse into the madness and passion that went into the making of Geddy Lee’s new book, including a brand-new interview from the man himself.

“An experience that can truly be described as immersive.”
–The Hollywood Reporter

“One of the most frightening and persuasive movies I’ve ever seen about the destruction created by climate change.”
–RogerEbert.com

A Music Box Films Release!
Features and Special Events

SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY

DIRECTED BY: George Nierenberg
1982, 100 mins, DCP

One of the most acclaimed music documentaries of all time, SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY is a joyous, funny, deeply emotional celebration of African American culture, featuring the father of Gospel, Thomas A. Dorsey (“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”); its matron, Mother Willie Mae Ford Smith; and earth-shaking performances by the Barrett Sisters and the O’Neal Twins. When it was first released, the film received an overwhelming critical response, garnering rave reviews around the world.

Unseen in cinemas for nearly thirty years, SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY has been gorgeously restored in 4K by Milestone Films with support from the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Academy Film Archive.

“One of the best musicals and one of the most interesting documentaries. And it’s also a terrific good time.”
—Roger Ebert

“The film’s mood is never less than marvelously infectious.”
—Time

SEPTEMBER 14 & 15

Director
George
Nierenberg
and
special guests
in person!

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Music Box Theatre July-October 2019

Music Box Theatre July-October 2019

SAY AMEN, SOMEBODY

FEATURES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

REELING2019
THE 37TH CHICAGO LGBTQ+ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
September 19-29

REELINGFILMFESTIVAL.ORG

Join us for Opening Night at The Music Box Theatre!
MONOS

DIRECTED BY: Alejandro Landes
STARRING: Moisés Arias, Julianne Nicholson, Sofía Buenaventura
2019, 102 mins, DCP, In English & Spanish with English subtitles

In a remote mountaintop setting somewhere in Latin America, a rebel group of teenage commandos bearing noms de guerre like Rambo, Smurf, Bigfoot, Wolf and Boom-Boom perform military training exercises while watching over a prisoner (Julianne Nicholson) and a conscripted milk cow for a shadowy force known only as The Organization. After an ambush drives the squadron into the jungle, fracturing their intricate bond, the mission begins to collapse.

Director Alejandro Landes examines the chaos and fog of war from the unique perspective of adolescence, banding together a diverse young cast of seasoned professionals and untrained neophytes thrust into an unforgiving, irrational and often surreal environment where anything can happen — even peace.

“...A monumentally cinematic experience of lush wilderness and raw emotions.”
—RogerEbert.com

HOLY TRINITY

DIRECTED BY: Molly Hewitt
STARRING: Molly Hewitt, Theo Germaine, Imp Queen, Heather Lynn
2019, 104 mins, DCP

Trinity is a sex-positive millennial working as a Dominatrix in Chicago. After an incident huffing her drug of choice—a mysterious aerosol can from the ubiquitous Glamhag brand—she finds herself with a newfound gift for speaking to the dead. Confused and more than a little curious about this strange turn of events, Trinity seeks the counsel of a colorful cast of characters, all of whom teach her their unique spiritual practices. Trinity is tossed between hallucination and reality, developing a growing confidence in her new ability and learning to harness it in surprising ways. Soon Trinity has to decide what’s more important: her community and personal relationships or the allure of influence and fame.

Cast & Crew in Attendance

Features and Special Events
**FEATURES AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

**OCTOBER 2**

**NAOMI KLEIN**

Presented by Volumes Bookcafe

**Wednesday October 2 at 7pm**


For over a decade, Naomi Klein has documented the movement of the climate crisis from future threat to a burning emergency. In our era of rising seas and rising hate, she argues that only this kind of bold, roots-up action has a chance of rousing us to fight for our lives while there is still time.

Klein delves into the clash between ecological time and our culture of “perpetual now”; rising white supremacy and fortressed borders as a form of “climate barbarism” and more. A rousing call to transformation—and a dire warning about what awaits if we fail to act.

**OCTOBER 19**

**THE MUSIC BOX OF HORRORS**

**Saturday, October 19 at Noon**

Once again, the chilling air of October signals the return of THE MUSIC BOX OF HORRORS, our annual 24-hour frightfest of the most terrifying, pulse-pounding movies you’ll ever see.

This year’s lineup includes:

- Paul Leni’s spine-tingling silent film THE MAN WHO LAUGHS, featuring a live score from The False Gods Trio, returning to the Box of Horrors after accompanying Alfred Hitchcock’s THE LODGER in 2018.
- The 1992 original incarnation of Joss Whedon’s teenaged Chosen One, BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER, co-starring Paul Reubens in a bloodthirsty supporting role.
- BLOODY MUSCLE BODY BUILDER IN HELL, Shinji Nishimura’s long-lost, gore-filled flick of haunted house hijinks, playing on the big screen in Chicago for the first time!

Additional Films, Special Guests, and more will be announced at a later date, so keep an eye on MusicBoxTheatre.com.
THE MUSIC BOX 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Music Box Theatre first opened its doors to Chicago on August 22, 1929. To commemorate our 90th Anniversary, we’ve put together a weeklong celebration of special screenings. Highlighting some of the unique and eclectic programming you can find on any given day, we hope this small selection gives you an idea why the Music Box has been called “Chicago’s Year-Round Film Festival.”

INNOCENTS OF PARIS

Thursday August 22 at 7pm
(Richard Wallace, 1929, 78 mins, 35mm)

When the Music Box Theatre opened in 1929, it was the city’s first dedicated talkie house. For audiences, talking pictures represented not just a new way of seeing movies, but a new idea of what a movie could be, with an expanded horizon of stars and subjects never exploited on the silent screen. Broadway and vaudeville talent could enunciate before the camera and international performers could command American audiences from sea to shining sea. Maurice Chevalier, a performer whose magnetism practically justified the talkies all by itself, made his American debut in 1929 with INNOCENTS OF PARIS. Chevalier plays a singing junkman whose ascent to a fancy music hall threatens his romance with Louise (Sylvia Beecher). As Paramount’s exhibitor pitch put it, “They’ll HEAR him sing ‘Louise’—especially written for Chevalier and already a popular song hit. And four other big hit song numbers. They’ll HEAR him make love and talk—in English. They’ll SEE him dance.”

In honor of our opening on August 22, 1929, we’ll screen INNOCENTS OF PARIS, along with a program of selected short subjects that encompass the full range of sights and sounds theater-goers enjoyed ninety years ago.

35mm print courtesy of Universal

THE FUGITIVE

with director Andrew Davis in person!

Friday August 23 at 7pm
(Andrew Davis, 1993, 130 mins, DCP)

Born just two blocks away from the Music Box, Chicago-native Andrew Davis returned to the Windy City to film his 1993 thriller, THE FUGITIVE. Harrison Ford is on the run from the law and on the trail of the conspiracy that framed him for the murder of his wife. A hit with critics and audiences alike, THE FUGITIVE was one of the biggest films of 1993, and received multiple Oscar nominations, including Best Picture, and winning one for Tommy Lee Jones’ iconic performance. More significantly, THE FUGITIVE is an intelligent, tense, character-driven action film, taking you through Chicago’s back alleys, across its bridges, on its trains, and in the middle of its St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Over the years, the Music Box has hosted hundreds of special guests, giving our audiences the opportunity to share experiences with filmmakers, actors, screenwriters, singers, comedians, authors, activists and political figures, among others. We’re pleased to welcome director Andrew Davis to the Music Box, to screen one of the all-time great Chicago films.
**World City in Its Teens: A Report on Chicago**

Saturday August 24 at 2:30pm — (Heinrich Hauser, 1931, 74 mins, 35mm)

*Featuring live musical accompaniment by Dennis Scott, Music Box House Organist.*

Co-presented by Chicago Film Society

Since 2011, the Music Box has offered a monthly silent cinema showcase that presents these treasures the way they were meant to be seen, with rare 35mm and 16mm prints projected at the proper frame rate, with live musical accompaniment.

An exemplar of the “city symphony” documentary genre, WELTSTADT IN FLEGLAJAHREN: EIN BERICHT ÜBER CHICAGO offers almost as many perspectives on the Windy City as its mouthful of a title has inspired variant English translations, which also includes A WORLD CITY STRETCHES ITS WINGS and METROPOLIS AT AN AWKWARD AGE. Heinrich Hauser, a nomadic German writer and photographer, visited Chicago in 1931 and recorded a civic portrait both dazzling and bleak, sterling and sobering, praised by the Berliner Borsen-Zeitung for its vision of “America stripped of illusions.”

*Print courtesy of EYE Filmmuseum*

---

**Dolly Parton 9 to 5er**

Saturday August 24 — 9pm to 5am

What’s a 90th celebration without a sleepover celebrating one of the greatest pop culture icons of our time? We’re delighted to present an overnight 8-hour tribute to none other than Dolly Parton! We’ll be showcasing four of her greatest cinematic performances, with fabulous hosts and rare ephemera preceding every film. We’ll kick off with the feminist classic, 9 TO 5, followed by the salaciously delicious THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS, then roll right into the wondrous spectacle of Sly Stallone and Dolly heating up the screen in the proto-SHE’S ALL THAT, rags-to-riches tale that is RHINESTONE, then finishing the festivities with Dolly’s magnificent turn as a Chicago radio host, in STRAIGHT TALK.

Trust us, it will be a night to remember.

---

**Mary Poppins Sing-a-Long!**

Sunday August 25 at Noon — (Robert Stevenson, 1965, 139 mins, DCP)

One of the most beloved programs at the Music Box, our interactive screenings let the audience join in on the movie magic! Over the years, we’ve had packed houses playing along with presentations of WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, GREASE, LABYRINTH, THE PRINCESS BRIDE, HOCUS POCUS, and our annual Thanksgiving shows of THE SOUND OF MUSIC.

For our 90th Anniversary, you’re invited to a movie that’s practically perfect in every way, with our MARY POPPINS SING-A-LONG. Put on your best cockney accent for the classic Disney musical, complete with onscreen lyrics. It’s guaranteed to bring out the kid in you!

---

**Celebrating Indie Horror**

**Society** with director Brian Yuzna in person!

Sunday August 25 at 7pm — (Brian Yuzna, 1989, 99 mins, 35mm)

Over the last 90 years, the Music Box Theatre has been a home for independent horror films, and over time grew to create the craziest celebration of horror imaginable, our annual 24-hour horror movie marathon: THE MUSIC BOX OF HORRORS (See page 14 for info on our 15th edition!)

To celebrate our love of indie horror, and to give the fans of our marathon one of their most requested titles, we are presenting SOCIETY with director Brian Yuzna in person, and screening his personal 35mm print! Brian Yuzna’s body-horror-filled critique of upper crust society is as appropriate today as it was at the end of the Reagan era.
Growing organically out of the Music Box Theatre’s world-class programming, our sister company Music Box Films began distributing international films in 2007. With over a hundred theatrical releases over the last decade, including such notable films as TELL NO ONE, THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO, A MAN CALLED OVE, TRANSIT, and the upcoming BY THE GRACE OF GOD, Music Box Films has carved out a unique niche as a source of memorable and thought-provoking cinema. We celebrate its success with 35mm revivals of two of our favorite Music Box Films releases.

**IDA**

7pm — (Paweł Pawlikowski, 2013, 80 mins, 35mm)

When 18-year-old novitiate Anna learns her true identity as a Polish Jew named Ida from her aunt Wanda, the revelation triggers a heart-wrenching journey into the countryside, to the family house and into the secrets of the repressed past, evoking the haunting legacy of the Holocaust and the realities of postwar Communism. This beautifully constructed black-and-white tone poem won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2015.

**THE DEEP BLUE SEA**

8:45pm — (Terence Davies, 2011, 98 mins, 35mm)

Freely adapted from Terence Rattigan’s landmark play, Terence Davies brings his own distinctive stamp to this heart-breaking story of life in post-War London. Rachel Weisz plays Hester Collyer, the wife of an upper-class judge and a free spirit trapped in a passionless marriage. Her encounter with Freddie Page (Tom Hiddleston), a troubled former Royal Air Force pilot, throws her life in turmoil, as their erotic relationship leaves her emotionally stranded and physically isolated.

**THE TERMINATOR**

7pm — (James Cameron, 1984, 107 mins, 35mm)

When the Music Box reopened in 1983 under new management, the majority of programming was dedicated to daily Double Features. From 1983-1988, the Music Box offered unique pairings of classic and contemporary (at the time) double bills, ranging from the popular to the obscure, the expected to the surprising, covering all manner of genres and filmmakers.

After combing through our archives, we selected 20 of our favorite Double Features that screened between 1983-1988, and asked our loyal Music Box fans to pick the pair they’d like to see back on the big screen. Thousands cast their votes, with choices including classic and quirky comedies, Oscar-winning dramas, influential indies, revered world cinema, and more.

All the votes were tallied, and a winning duo was crowned. On August 28, our first ever AUDIENCE CHOICE DOUBLE FEATURE takes you on an action-packed, ’80s sci-fi adventure, with James Cameron’s gripping, unstoppable THE TERMINATOR and Paul Verhoeven’s slyly satirical allegory ROBOCOP!
BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II
Thursday August 29 at 7pm — (Robert Zemeckis, 1989, 108 mins, 70mm)

The Music Box keeps it “reel,” as one of the only movie theatres in America that is still capable of screening movies on 70mm film. 70mm film offers images of unequaled clarity, with as much as four times the resolution of 35mm and digital projection. The whites are brighter, the blacks are deeper, the light is more intense, and colors are richer than anything possible with digital projection.

Even though 70mm prints are extremely rare nowadays, the Music Box has been fortunate to screen dozens of films (and thousands of feet of celluloid) at our 70MM FILM FESTIVAL. To close out our 90th Anniversary festivities, Marty and Doc Brown take you to the far-off year of 2015 in BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II, playing in 70mm for the first time at the Music Box! And make sure you put some money on the Cubbies.
A House of Social Harmony

The Music Box Theatre and Its 90-Year History

By Bill Stamets

The 90th anniversary of the Music Box Theatre offers a prism on its past as a neighborhood movie palace.

From its namesake musical device to 70mm spectacles, the Music Box embraces a gamut of film genres, along with guest appearances and sing-a-longs. Its narrative frames the bigger picture of cinema in Chicagoland.

The Music Box Theatre opened on August 22, 1929. M. J. Schmidt, automobile dealer and president of the Blaine Building Corporation, was the builder; the architects were Louis I. Simon and Edward Steinborn; and the first owner-operator was Jacob Lasker, who would later run six other movie houses with his two sons.

Opening weekend aligned with the fourth annual Southport Business Men’s Association festival. “There will be a parade…and dancing every night at M. J. Schmidt auto salesroom, 3722 Southport,” promises a local notice. Ballyhoo included six appearances by Miss Chicago of 1929. The 17-year-old fireman’s daughter went on to represent Illinois at International Pageant of Pulchritude.

“Present tendencies in theatre construction make a new theatre in Chicago, the Music Box, one of the most interesting to be found,” reports Exhibitors Herald-World. “It is to a large degree representative of a whole class of motion picture theatre buildings which is growing larger and larger and which we may expect will be the dominant one in the United States within a relatively very short time…The house was especially designed for sound.”

Possibly the first movie theater built in Chicago to only present sound films, the Music Box was built with a north side 748-seater did not compete for first-run features. Our north side 748-seater did not compete for first-run features, the Music Box was built with a base in the floor for a theater organ. None was in place until 1984, though. Flanking the proscenium are two more vestiges of the silent-era: chambers for organ pipes that were never installed.

The Music Box did not book live acts to accompany its screen fare, as did other exhibitors in the transition to talkies. Exceptions include “Added Attraction—Chief Red Fox and His Oklahoma Indians in Person” on April 2, 1933. The feature was “Hello, Everybody” starring Kate Smith.

This neighborhood-scale palace is “atmospheric” in design. Chicago Tribune architecture critic Paul Gapp once called it “an eclectic melange of Italian, Spanish and Pardon-My-Fantasy.” The ceiling sports twinkling star-like lights and passing cloud effects, touches found in some other theaters of the era.

“Mother’s Boy,” starring an “all-talking, all-singing” Morton Downey, was the first picture to pass through the Simplex projectors and Western Electric sound system. “A Story of Romance and Sentiment Totefully Told,” plugs Pathé. Two months earlier the Chicago Tribune critic gave that feature just one star when it played at the State-Lake in the Loop. When that 2,649-seat theater opened in 1919 it advertised “Continuous Double Value Vaudeville and Photoplays at Single Prices.”


The Tribune also ran display ads for Special Showings that name the Music Box alongside other places presenting the same film. “The Blue Max” opened at the Music Box and at 17 city and suburban theaters in January 1967. “The Christmas That Almost Wasn’t” screened there and at 27 other venues in December 1967.

In 1977 and 1978 “1st-run Chicagoland” ads list the Music Box with assorted city, suburban and Indiana theaters and drive-ins all showing “Avalanche;” “Black Sunday,” “Count Blacula and his Vampire Bride,” “Dogs” (“They’re Here”). “Jaws II,” “Orca, the Killer Whale,” “Piranha,” “Rabid” (“You can’t trust your mother…your best friend…the neighbor next door”). “Ratcliff’s” and “Warlords of Atlantis.”

The last such Tribune ad for a film at the Music Box ran on July 16, 1978. That was for “Damien Omen II.” Until the theater’s renaissance five years later, there is no trace in local newspaper archives of what was publicized. Spanish-language films apparently screened there; the owner in the early 1980s was from Colombia. A student at St. Rita High School at the time, Tim O’Neill recalls seeing flyers for Arabic-language films at the Music Box. He later worked there as a projectionist.

“Classic American Films in Chicago’s only restored neighborhood Movie Palace” announces the ad when the Music Box reopened on August 5, 1983. Few of those screen gems likely graced its screen when released. Debut retro series were “Hollywood Looks at Hollywood!” and “The Legendary Leading Ladies.” Leasing the theater for the next 20 years, partners Christopher Carlo and Robert Chaney diversified the calendar with revival, repertory, art house and independent fare.

First-run foreign films increase. The kind that owner William Schopf relished as a Kenilworth kid tuning in to “Cinema 9,” WGN-TV’s Sunday 10:15 p.m. film series, and patronizing his local Teatro del Lago cinema. In 1986 this commercial litigator bought the Music Box property, which includes 34 apartments and 8 stores.

Schopf restored the vintage marquee, installed a 75-seat theater, and added a lounge next to the lobby that serves Music Box Matinee Red and Music Box Office Blush from Schopf’s vineyard in Baroda, Michigan. The line-up of events in the space—decorated with shelves of film books—includes a book-signing by Chicago film critic J.R. Jones, author of “The Lives of Robert Ryan” (Wesleyan University Press). Recurring monthly events include the flamboyant, film-centric Music Box Bingo and the interactive Music Box Drink-A-Long.

Seasonal sing-a-longs—a throwback to community sings once popular in variety and movie houses—include the Christmas double-feature Sing-a-Long, a holiday tradition dating from 1983. For Thanksgiving there’s “The Sound of Music” with lyrics projected onscreen, an update on illustrated song slides. Midnight screenings of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” are an audience-active Halloween tradition that evokes the midnight spook shows from the late thirties.

Different styles of dark turn up at Cinepocalypse, a week-long horror fest, and Noir City Chicago, a yearly
COMMENTARY

series co-presented by the Film Noir Foundation Film in San Francisco.

Silent films—the likes of which never screened at the original Music Box—are now a fixture, co-presented by The Chicago Film Society and accompanied by house organist Dennis Scott. This Silent Cinema Series often accesses prints from film archives.

The Music Box bills itself as “Chicago’s year-round festival.” Besides hosting the Chicago Critics Film Festival, it has served as one of the venues for both the Chicago Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and the Chicago International Film Festival.

Nowadays the stage accommodates appearances from special guests, ranging from filmmakers and performers, to the worlds of music, television, politics, and other notable figures. The roster includes Wes Anderson, Tippi Hedron, David Lynch, Eva Marie Saint, Werner Herzog, Paul Schrader, Agnes Varda, Haskell Wexler, Kristin Wig, Elizabeth Warren, Nick Offerman, Edgar Wright, Norman Lear, Patti Smith, Sally Field, Harry Belafonte, Brian Wilson, Crispin Glover, and Jon Stewart, to name a few.

The signature event for the theatre’s brand would be the 70MM Film Festival for projection connoisseurs. Even as we over-watch on our personal screens, devolving to the single-viewership of the Kinetoscope, circa 1894.

Trending with digital delivery, Schopf’s launched a subscription streaming service labeled Music Box Direct in April 2019. Back in 2007 he created Music Box Films to serve “the viewing interests of sophisticated US movie audiences,” to quote its Facebook page.

August 1929 audiences viewed movies with interests unlike our own. On the screen at 3733 North Southport they read neither intertitles nor subtitles, let alone reviews on the internet.

On its 90th anniversary this neighborhood playhouse—there are rentals for movie-themed kids parties—revives a film society ethos. An epicenter for cineastes devoted to the big-screen experience.

“The neighborhood theater... should be the ideal meeting house of intelligent people, their club, their house of social harmony,” urges Louis Reeves Harrison in Moving Picture World in 1918.

“The building of neighborhood houses in residential districts started in Chicago and Los Angeles and soon spread over the country,” records Benjamin Hampton in “A History of the Movies,” published in 1931 during the Depression, two years after the original Music Box opened.

Industry insider Hampton ends brightly: “…the American people—and large sections of the public in other lands—have learned to enjoy theaters more than any other form of amusement, entertainment, or mental recreation. They like to be part of a crowd at a theater. As long as our present form of civilization continues these desires and habits will endure.”
THE INDESTRUCTIBLE BETTE DAVIS

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

The Music Box Theatre is proud to present THE INDESTRUCTIBLE BETTE DAVIS; a celebration spanning Davis’ astonishingly varied career of unforgettable performances, indomitable spirit, demand for respect, and bottomless passion for her work and equal treatment in Hollywood.

August 3 & 4 at 11:30am

ALL ABOUT EVE (Joseph L. Mankiewicz, 1950, 138 mins, 35mm)
“Fasten your seatbelts—it’s going to be a bumpy night.” Jealousy, manipulation, and betrayal unfold in this tour de force drama of an ambitious wannabe (Anne Baxter) who sets her sights on stealing the spotlight from legendary stage actor Margo Channing (Bette Davis). Insecurities and designer gowns abound as Margo desperately tries to hold onto her friends and career. Nominated for an unprecedented fourteen Academy Awards (to date, one of only three films to hold this record), ALL ABOUT EVE immortalized Davis’ screen persona. George Sanders, Celeste Holm and Marilyn Monroe costar.

August 10 at 11 am

OLD ACQUAINTANCE (Vincent Sharman, 1943, 110 mins, 35mm)
Childhood frenemies reunite when author Kit Marlowe (Bette Davis) forges a homecoming on her book tour, where housewife Millie Drake (Miriam Hopkins) lives a simple existence. Inspired by her friend’s newfound fame—and likely driven by jealousy—Millie embarks on her own writing career, finding overnight success with a series of pulpy romances. Unfolding over 20 years at breakneck speed through multiple histrionic episodes, OLD ACQUAINTANCE lends new meaning to the phrase “high-maintenance friend.”

Print courtesy of UCLA Film & Television Archive

August 17 & 18 at 11 am

DEAD RINGER (Paul Henreid, 1964, 116 mins, 35mm)
What happened to Bette Davis after WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE? Her career was reborn. Warner Bros. encored it with another vehicle filled with Baby Jane-like bite and menace: DEAD RINGER, stylishly directed by Davis’ NOW, VOYAGER costar Paul Henreid. Davis plays estranged identical twins. Unmarried Edith has no money, no future. Widow Margaret has fabulous wealth—all because of marriage to the man she stole from Edith years ago. Out of long-festering revenge, Edith kills Margaret and takes her place. But new friends and surroundings, a snoopy cop (Karl Malden), who was Edith’s beau, and the arrival of Margaret’s secret lover (Peter Lawford) may expose her masquerade.

Print courtesy of UCLA Film & Television Archive

August 17 & 18 at 11 am

DEAD RINGER (Paul Henreid, 1964, 116 mins, 35mm)
What happened to Bette Davis after WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE? Her career was reborn. Warner Bros. encored it with another vehicle filled with Baby Jane-like bite and menace: DEAD RINGER, stylishly directed by Davis’ NOW, VOYAGER costar Paul Henreid. Davis plays estranged identical twins. Unmarried Edith has no money, no future. Widow Margaret has fabulous wealth—all because of marriage to the man she stole from Edith years ago. Out of long-festering revenge, Edith kills Margaret and takes her place. But new friends and surroundings, a snoopy cop (Karl Malden), who was Edith’s beau, and the arrival of Margaret’s secret lover (Peter Lawford) may expose her masquerade.

Print courtesy of UCLA Film & Television Archive

August 31 & September 1 at 11:30am

DARK VICTORY (Edmund Goulding, 1939, 104 mins, 35mm)
DARK VICTORY is a highly emotional, unforgiving piece about the choices one might make when learning of imminent death. Bette Davis stars in one of her most sensitive and magnetic roles, for which she was again nominated for an Academy Award—a regular occurrence by 1939. As Judith, Davis plays a young socialite who suddenly receives a very serious diagnosis by a brain researcher Dr. Frederick Steele (George Brent). When Judith learns the truth—following her engagement to Steele—she realizes that she must try to enjoy life before it’s unceremoniously taken from her. DARK VICTORY, a gut-wrenching yet crucial film from Hollywood’s most storied year, is, “even by the standards of a typical Bette Davis melodrama...an embarrassment of riches.” (Slant Magazine). Co-starring Humphrey Bogart as the stablemaster who has long pined for Judith.

Print courtesy of UCLA Film & Television Archive

September 7 & 8 at 11:30am

A STOLEN LIFE (Curtis Bernhardt, 1946, 109 mins, 35mm)
A STOLEN LIFE was the first movie produced by Bette Davis’ production company B.D. Productions. Bette Davis plays twin sisters Kate and Patricia Bosworth. In a picturesque New England town Kate meets handsome lighthouse inspector Bill Emerson (Glenn Ford). Their chemistry is instantaneous and electric! The next day he meets the more glamorous Pat and mistakes her for a “dressed up” Kate. Once the identities of the sisters is sorted out, Bill finds himself caught between the warring siblings. One of Bette’s greatest—but not only—dual-performances as embittered twin sisters battling for their heart’s desires.
On May 13, 2019, Doris Day passed away. A fixture of popular films of the 1950s and '60s, Day would light up the screen with her (seemingly) effortless charm and tremendous talent as an actress and singer. Consistently ranked as one of the top box office draws in America, she had a Girl Next Door warmth, with a light comedic touch and fierce emotional honesty, showcased in musicals, comedies, thrillers and dramas from some of the industry’s top directors, and often alongside the biggest leading men of the day.

At the time of her death, Doris Day had been retired from acting for nearly 50 years in order to focus on animal welfare causes. However, her work lives on, and the Music Box will showcase a handful of her indelible screen performances with a special Matinee series.

**CONTINUING SERIES**

**THE INIMITABLE DORIS DAY**

**SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS AT 11:30am**

On May 13, 2019, Doris Day passed away. A fixture of popular films of the 1950s and '60s, Day would light up the screen with her (seemingly) effortless charm and tremendous talent as an actress and singer. Consistently ranked as one of the top box office draws in America, she had a Girl Next Door warmth, with a light comedic touch and fierce emotional honesty, showcased in musicals, comedies, thrillers and dramas from some of the industry’s top directors, and often alongside the biggest leading men of the day.

At the time of her death, Doris Day had been retired from acting for nearly 50 years in order to focus on animal welfare causes. However, her work lives on, and the Music Box will showcase a handful of her indelible screen performances with a special Matinee series.

**September 15**

**CALAMITY JANE**

*(David Butler, 1953, 101 mins, 35mm)*

**September 21**

**LOVE ME OR LEAVE ME**

*(Charles Vidor, 1955, 122 mins, 35mm)*

**September 28 & 29**

**THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH**

*(Alfred Hitchcock, 1956, 120 mins, 35mm)*

**SILENT CINEMA**

Rare and classic silent films, the way they were meant to be seen! Featuring live musical accompaniment on the famous Music Box organ by Dennis Scott, Music Box House Organist. Programmed and co-presented by the Chicago Film Society.

**FOR HEAVEN’S SAKE**

*(Sam Taylor, 1926, 57 mins, 35mm)*

**Saturday, September 14 at 11:30am**

Harold Lloyd’s iconic screen persona—the earnest innocent next door, forever striving to make good in a boisterous and vulgar world—gets a hilarious but impolitic update in **FOR HEAVEN’S SAKE**. The first of Lloyd’s features to be distributed under a lucrative deal with Paramount, **FOR HEAVEN’S SAKE** casually flaunts the comedian’s plenty in the caricatured form of J. Harold Manners, a stuffed-shirt scion who thinks nothing of dropping cash on a new car to match his trousers nor of walking away from the heap within ten minutes. But soon “the man with a mansion” meets “the miss with a mission,” tossing Jobyna Ralston some scratch after destroying her foursquare father’s coffee cart and inadvertently providing the seed money for a new parish.
Becoming a member at the Music Box is a great way to support the quality programming at the independently owned and operated historic movie theatre, lounge and garden. This includes our holiday classics, talkbacks, film festivals, visits from directors, producers, and actors, as well as our regular midnight, matinee, and feature presentations.

OLD BOYFRIENDS
(Joan Tewkesbury, 1979, 103 mins, 35mm)
Monday August 26 at 7pm
Dianne Cruise (Talia Shire) can’t make heads or tails of life after her divorce. A nervous breakdown and a collision with a concrete wall catapult her into self-reflection and like any sensible, recently dumped person, she takes her current troubles as a sign that she should track down some of her old flames (Richard Jordan, John Belushi, et al). So begins the sole theatrical feature directed by NASHVILLE screenwriter Joan Tewkesbury, a cracked, soapy psychodrama that continually threatens to break into being a romantic comedy (or vice versa). With a script from Paul and Leonard Schrader, OLD BOYFRIENDS indulges in a plethora of dead ends and weird digressions that a more conventional romantic melodrama would streamline out of existence, fully wallowing in the gooey pleasures and abject horrors of looking for true love.

New 35mm print courtesy of Rialto Pictures.

MIRACLE MILE
(Steve De Jarnatt, 1988, 87 mins, 35mm)
Monday September 30 at 7pm
Harry (Anthony Edwards) and Julie (Mare Winningham) meet cute at the La Brea Tar Pits, liberate a tank of lobsters, and plan a date later that night. Alas, Harry oversleeps and misses their date, but arrives at Johnnie’s Coffee Shop just in time to pick up a ringing pay phone. Wrong number—a panicked man in a missile silo trying to warn his father of an imminent nuclear exchange. Now Harry has 70 minutes to find Julie, hire a freelance helicopter pilot, and escape to Antarctica. This propulsive, real-time journey through nocturnal Los Angeles glows like an atomic Lite-Brite and gambols to the ambient drone of Tangerine Dream. When MIRACLE MILE finally detonated in theaters in 1989 after a decade in development, it became the last fallout of Cold War cinema.
MIDNIGHTS
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS AT MIDNIGHT

Music Box Midnights are sponsored in part by ALTER.
ALTER is a horror brand that explores the human condition through warped and uncanny perspectives featuring horror short films, movies, series, and more.

**MIDNIGHTS**

**Music Box Theatre**

**Fridays & Saturdays at Midnight**

**JULY 12 & 13**

**DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN**
(Susan Seidelman, 1985, 104 mins, 35mm)
Pre-show DJ set by Gaudy God

**JULY 19 & 20**

**TOURIST TRAP**
(David Schmoeller, 1979, 90 mins, 35mm)
Co-presented by Creepy Co.

**JULY 26 & 27**

**THE ROOM**
(Tommy Wiseau, 2003, 99 mins, 35mm)
Presented with Metal Movie Nights

**AUGUST 23 & 24**

**GAGS THE CLOWN**
(Adam Krause, 2019, 100 mins, DCP)

**SEPTEMBER 6 & 7**

**DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN**
(Susan Seidelman, 1985, 104 mins, 35mm)
Pre-show DJ set by Gaudy God

**SEPTEMBER 13 & 14**

**TOURIST TRAP**
(David Schmoeller, 1979, 90 mins, 35mm)
Co-presented by Creepy Co.

**SEPTEMBER 20**

**THE ROOM**
(Tommy Wiseau, 2003, 99 mins, 35mm)
Presented with Metal Movie Nights

**SEPTEMBER 27 & 28**

**IN THE MOUTH OF MADNESS**
(John Carpenter, 1995, 95 mins, 35mm)
Presented with Metal Movie Nights

**DICK**
(Andrew Fleming, 1999, 94 mins, DCP)

Since 1999, we’ve learned the true identity of Deep Throat and elected a president who makes Tricky Dick look like a mildly unscrupulous jaywalker by comparison, but DICK remains the definitive teen comedy farce of the Nixon era. Peacenik high schoolers and Watergate residents Kirsten Dunst and Michelle Williams are history’s unknown agents, parlaying a White House dog-walking gig into a secret stint as Nixon’s most trusted advisors. Together they end the Vietnam War and bring down a presidency. With Dan Hedaya as Dick Nixon, Will Ferrell as Bob Woodward, Dave Foley as Bob Haldeman, and Harry Shearer as G. Gordon Liddy.

**TOURIST TRAP**
(David Schmoeller, 1979, 90 mins, 35mm)
Co-presented by Creepy Co.

An eerie, deserted wax museum, Slausen’s Lost Oasis, is the site for terror where four young travelers are lured into a deadly...TOURIST TRAP! Mr. Slausen is the reclusive and bizarre owner of this attraction, which is more like a macabre chamber of horrors. The grotesque and frightening mannequins in this sordid side-show are only the beginning of the murderous mayhem, from which there is no escape.

**45th Anniversary of Nixon’s Resignation!**

**October 23, 2019 • 7:00PM**
Celebrating 100 Years of Cinema | cinemacentennial.com

**Use Code MUSICBOXCAL for $2.00 OFF!**