SK1 (L'affaire SK1)

In this gripping period thriller, SK1 is French police jargon for "Serial Killer 1," the codename given in the 1990s to a rapist and murderer who preyed on young women in eastern Paris. The culprit was not the country's first serial killer, but he was the first to be caught via DNA analysis — even if cops had to overcome years of bureaucratic bungling and bad luck to finally get to him. The debonair Raphael Personnaz stars as an obsessive detective who finds his personal and professional lives upended by the case.

Director: ***Frédéric Tellier*** • France, 2014, 119 min.

Tokyo Fiancee

A Belgian free spirit recalls a winsome cross-cultural romance with her Japanese French-language student in this charming, free adaptation of one of prolific author Amélie Nothomb's semi-autobiographical novels. Working on multiple levels, Belgian director Stefan Liberski's film is also a coming-of-age story, a portrait of the artist as a young woman who grows to understand what she wants and what is most important. Mixing playfulness, intellect and contemporary events, the whimsical film "plays like ***Amélie*** meets ***Lost in Translation.***"—*The Hollywood Reporter*

Director: **Stefan Liberski** • Belgium/Canada/France, 2014, 100 min.

2015 FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Friday, July 31

6:00 Opening Reception in the Music Box Lounge
7:00 SK1
9:45 The King and the Mockingbird

Saturday, August 1

11:30 Forbidden Games
1:30 Blame it on Voltaire
4:30 SK1
7:00 Number One Fan
9:15 Tokyo Fiancee

Sunday, August 2

11:30 The King and the Mockingbird
1:30 Games of Love and Chance
4:00 The Chef's Wife
6:00 Breathe
8:00 Black Venus

Monday, August 3

5:30 Handmade with Love in France
7:00 Tokyo Fiancee
9:00 Number One Fan

Tuesday, August 4

5:00 The Chef's Wife
7:00 Henri, Henri
9:00 Breathe

Wednesday, August 5

5:15 Forbidden Games
7:15 Chubby
9:15 Handmade with Love in France

Thursday, August 6

5:30 Henri, Henri
7:30 My Friend Victoria
9:30 Chubby

TICKET INFORMATION

Individual tickets are $12 Opening Night $15 (includes reception)
$10/$13 for members of Alliance Francaise
See 5 films with the **Five Film Pass** for $45 (a savings of $18)
They're available at the theatre's website or at the Music Box Theatre box office
Music Box Theatre Discount Cards will not be accepted for this special presentation
More information and trailers from the films can be found at:

www.MusicBoxTheatre.com or
www.chicagofrenchfilmfestival.com

The 5th Annual Chicago French Film Festival

July 31 thru August 6, 2015

Celebrating the best in recent French cinema

a scene from "L'Affaire SK1"

With a tribute to director
Abdellatif Kechiche (*Blue is the Warmest Color*)

Co-presented byThe Music Box Theatre,
the Cultural Services at the Consulate General of France in Chicago
and the Institut Français in Paris

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Black Venus (Venus noire)

After winning five awards at the 2007 Venice festival with ***The Secret of the Grain***, Kechiche took on a period piece that illustrates racial science, abolitionism, public entertainments and sexuality in the early nineteenth century. He uses the remarkable story of Saartjie Baartman, the so-called Hottentot Venus, whose outsized features became a freak show attraction in London and Paris. The film is constructed as a series of vignettes that follow Baartman as she is put on display, but Kechiche insists on her inner dignity despite her constant, terrifying humiliation.

Director: ***Abdellatif Kechiche*** • France, 2010, 165 min.

Blame it on Voltaire (La faute à Voltaire)

In Kechiche's debut feature, an illegal immigrant from North Africa lands in France to try his luck. From encounter to encounter, hostel to social welfare group, he makes his way through a Paris of outcasts. Although failing to amass riches, he discovers and shares the mutual support of society's disenfranchised. With Sami Bouajila, Aure Atika, Elodie Bouchez. Best First Film, Young Audience Award, Venice Film Festival. "This is not in the sociological sense a movie about the condition of immigrants in France, but something much more strange and valuable." – *New York Times*

Director: ***Abdellatif Kechiche*** • France, 2000, 131 min.

Breathe (Respire)

An assured adaptation of the French young-adult novel Breathe, the second feature by actress-turned-director Mélanie Laurent (***Inglorious Basterds***, **Beginnings**) is a taut coming-of-age tale, starring talented newcomers Joséphine Japy and Lou De Laâge as two teens whose all-consuming friendship takes a dark and dangerous turn. Virginal 17-year-old Charlie is instantly attracted to wild new transfer student Sarah, who brings with her an air of boldness and danger. "Mélanie Laurent offers a compelling, superbly acted portrait of an adolescent friendship perched on the brink of obsession." — *Variety*

Director: ***Mélanie Laurent*** • France, 2014, 90 min.

The Chef's Wife (On a failli etre amies)

Food. . . love. . . friendship. . . betrayal. . . Emmanuelle Devos (Violette), and Karin Viard (Polisse), team up on-screen for the very first time and have terrific chemistry in this accomplished comedy-drama, as two women who want more out of life in the workplace and the bedroom but are unsure how to obtain it and tentatively bond over their desire for change, though the husband of one of them is a complicating factor. "Two terrific actresses and a nuanced screenplay deliver the goods."—*The Hollywood Reporter*

Director: ***Anne Ly Ny*** • France, 2014, 91 min.

Chubby (Bouboule)

Weighing 220 pounds, 12-year-old Kevin Bouboule's life is far from easy. Since his father died, he's been at the mercy of his domineering mother, arrogant sisters and neighborhood bullies. If Kevin doesn't make an effort to change his lifestyle soon, his outlook seems pretty bleak. Until, that is, he comes across Rocco, a German shepherd belonging to the burly guard Patrick, and befriends both the dog and its owner. With great affection and charm, debuting director Deville tells the story of an outsider you can't help but like.

Director: ***Bruno Deville*** • Switzerland – Belgium, 2014, 84 min.

Forbidden Games

A timeless evocation of childhood innocence corrupted, **Forbidden Games** tells the story of a young girl orphaned by WWII and the farm boy she joins in a fantastical world of macabre play. At once mythical and heartbreakingly real, this unique film features astonishing performances by its child stars and was honored with a foreign language film Academy Award in 1952. "Over the years, countless films have been made about war, its horrors and its devastations. Few, however have been as moving and heartfelt as **Forbidden Games**." – *David Ehrenstein*

Director: ***René Clément*** • France, 1952, 86 min.

Games of Love and Chance (L'esquive)

Kechiche's second feature is a spirited and insightful comedy of manners that connects France's classical literary heritage with its contemporary social reality. At a high school in the banlieue, shy, sweet 15-year-old Krimo takes on the male lead in a school production of a Marivaux play, hoping it might serve as the script to his own seduction of his leading lady, the diva-ish Lydia. The reversals and obstructions of Marivaux's comic plot filter through the confused mores and conflicting desires of various girls and boys. Winner, four César awards.

Director: ***Abdellatif Kechiche*** • France, 2003, 123 min.

Handmade With Love In France (Le Temps Suspendu)

A delightful look at a vanishing breed, this vibrant documentary affectionately celebrates the artisans who create fabulous haute-couture outfits for Dior, Chanel and Yves Saint Laurent: M. Gérard Lognon, a third-generation specialist in pleat-making; M. Bruno Legeron, a designer of perfect artificial flowers whose atelier opened in 1880; and M. Lorenzo Ré, one of three remaining sculptors of wooden forms for hat-making. It examines the challenges these ateliers face as couture and luxury evolves as a business, including the continuing rise of technology and its impact on handcrafted work.

Director: ***Julie Bernard*** • France, 2014, 70 min.

Henri, Henri

Raised in an orphanage run by nuns, Henri continued to live there after reaching adulthood, becoming responsible for the lighting around the property. Forced to leave his longtime home when the convent is sold to real estate developers, the young man lets himself be led by different signs of destiny to a job as a lamplighter. Through encounters with a bitter old businessman who earned and lost a fortune making pickles and a dreamy cashier at the local porn palace, Henri changes people's lives. Québec's enchanting answer to ***Amélie*** also bears flourishes of Jacques Tati.

Director: ***Martin Talbot*** • Canada, 2014, 100 min.

The King and the Mockingbird

"PERFECT FOR CHILDREN! PERFECT FOR ADULTS! Begun in 1948, completed in 1979 and adored by, among others, Studio Ghibli legend Hayao Miyazaki, Grimault's influential cartoon contains some of the most beautiful animation ever, melding the dreamy weirdness of a Giorgio de Chirico painting with folk-art sweetness. Jacques Prévert's witty script is equally eccentric. There are actually two kings. One exists in a painting but goes on to usurp the real, despotic ruler because he's fallen in love with another image — of a shepherdess." – *London Evening Standard*

Director: ***Paul Grimault*** • France, 1979, 87 min.

My Friend Victoria (Mon amie Victoria)

Adapted from a story by Doris Lessing, this complex, poignant portrait of two young black women in contemporary Paris follows them from childhood into adulthood, with the older Fanny narrating the story of her friend and adoptive sister. Aged eight, Victoria spends a night in the home of a wealthy white family; years later, she encounters them again and her life is changed forever. As Fanny and Victoria's destinies take them in separate directions, the drama offers a distinctly fresh take on racial identity in contemporary France – and on questions of class, privilege and blinkered liberal racism.

Director: ***Jean-Paul Civeyrac*** • France, 2014, 95 min.

Number One Fan (Elle l'adore)

When a pop singer accidently kills his girlfriend, he turns to his most devoted groupie to help clean up the mess in this exceptionally well-polished French thriller, which satisfyingly delves into the characters and the darkly satirical undercurrent that runs beneath the suspenseful scenario. Starring 2014 Cesar winner Sandrine Kiberlain (nominated again for this performance) as the not-all-there beautician who would do anything for her idol (played by Laurent Lafitte). "A clever example of mainstream French cinema from director Jeanne Herry, the daughter of Miou-Miou and Julien Clerc." – *Variety*

Director: ***Jeanne Herry*** • France, 2014, 105 min.