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February at the Oriental Theatre Features Live Organ Accompaniment, Cult-rock Band Local H, National Theatre Live, and Collaboration with Boswell Books

Milwaukee Film's previously announced Black History Month screenings and ongoing Let's Dig In environmental film series to continue throughout the month

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MILWAUKEE – Thursday, January 23rd – Milwaukee Film's February programming has something for everyone: a silent film with accompaniment by our grand Wurlitzer organ, a visit from the lead member of cult-rock band Local H, a series of live theatre performances, podcaster Ira Madison III's debut book, and a staff screening turned tribute to the late David Lynch. And that's not even including February programs that were previously announced, like our <u>2025 Black History Month</u> film series and ongoing <u>Let's Dig In</u> environmental screenings. In chronological order, there's more detail below.

On Monday, February 3rd at the Oriental Theatre, Milwaukee Film and Boswell Book Company present <u>A Special Evening with Ira Madison III</u>. Cultural critic, TV writer, and Milwaukee native Ira Madison III, host of the beloved *Keep It* podcast, visits with his debut book, *Pure Innocent Fun*. Tickets for this event cost \$40 (\$35 for MKE Film members) and include admission to the event plus a signed copy of *Pure Innocent Fun*.

Milwaukee Film's artistic director Cara Ogburn chose to screen <u>Mulholland Drive</u> as her staff pick long before the news of visionary director David Lynch's passing, but the upcoming screening at the Oriental Theatre this Saturday, February 8th has taken on a new meaning, offering a space for fans of Lynch's work to come together and watch one of his most beloved films.

"When I selected *Mulholland Dr.* as my staff pick, I thought I'd be getting to see one of my favorite Lynch films on the big screen - a rare opportunity - and that the Club Silencio scene will be one of those quasi-spiritual moments in the Oriental Theatre where place and film are perfectly synched," she enthused. "But when news broke of Lynch's passing, I knew it became much more. All of that of course still but also a chance to honor and recognize his legacy in community with other fans," she concluded.

The first movie from cult-rock heroes LOCAL H will be screening at the Oriental Theatre on Wednesday, February 12th. Written, directed, and edited by the band's singer/guitarist Scott Lucas (and shot in real time during a blistering performance at venerable Chicago music venue the Metro)—*Lifers* depicts a night out at a Local H concert as an energetic, funny, and borderline psychedelic cinematic experience. This screening of *Lifers* is sponsored by <u>WMSE 91.7FM</u> and will feature a post-film Q&A with director Scott Lucas, guitarist, bassist, and lead vocalist for Local H.

Scott Lucas expressed, "Not quite a documentary—and not just a concert film—*Lifers* blends those elements with a fractured narrative to create something that's like a cross between Led Zeppelin's *The Song Remains the Same* and Richard Linklater's *Slacker*."

Another opportunity to hear the 1925 Wurlitzer pipe organ in all its glory is here! Since completing the installation of the historic instrument in late 2023, Milwaukee Film is thrilled to be screening yet another silent classic, this time 1928's <u>The Cameraman</u> starring Buster Keaton, featuring life organ accompaniment courtesy of <u>Dairyland Theatre Organ Society</u>. This screening will take place at the Oriental Theatre on Saturday, February 22nd. Tickets for this event cost \$30 (\$25 for MKE Film members).

Starting in February and running through the end of June, Milwaukee Film will be bringing <u>National Theatre Live</u> performances to the Oriental Theatre. For over 15 years, National Theatre Live has given audiences the best seat in the house. They film unmissable theatre live from Britain's most exciting stages and screen it in thousands of cinemas around the globe.

"We are so excited to bring the National Theatre Live series back to our cinemas for our audience," said Kerstin Larson, programming director at Milwaukee Film. "Celebrating these internationally significant performances on our screens right here in Milwaukee is such a privilege," she concluded.

See the full line-up of National Theatre Live films here (all screenings begin at noon):

- THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST 02/22 and 02/23
- PRIMA FACIE 03/08 and 03/09
- FLEABAG 03/22 and 03/23
- FRANKENSTEIN 04/05 and 04/06
- <u>NYE</u> 04/19 and 04/20
- VANYA 05/17 and 05/18
- DR. STRANGELOVE 05/31 and 06/01
- **HAMLET** 06/14 and 06/15
- PRESENT LAUGHTER 06/28 and 06/29

All Tickets and showtimes can be found online at <u>mkefilm.org/comingsoon</u>

About Milwaukee Film

Milwaukee Film is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to entertaining, educating, and engaging our community through cinematic experiences, with a vision to make Milwaukee a center for film culture. Milwaukee Film is committed to high-quality and accessible film programming through their operation of the magnificent Oriental Theatre, a historic cinema palace, and the iconic Downer Theatre, Milwaukee's oldest running cinema. The inaugural Dialogues Documentary Festival ran September 26-29, 2024. The 17th annual Milwaukee Film Festival will be held April 24 - May 8, 2025. For more information or to become a Member, visit mkefilm.org.

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