

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FILM PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Envisioning 2001: Stanley Kubrick's Space Odyssey*, on view January 18–July 19, 2020.

SCREENING SERIES

See It Big! Outer Space

FEBRUARY 7–APRIL 26, 2020

Cinema is all about space and time. This is why movies about outer space—where time does not have the same meaning as it does here on Earth—make for particularly cinematic voyages. The development of special photographic effects have made depictions of our mysterious galaxy all the more vivid and authentic as the years have passed, but even the most rudimentary representations of outer space, which have existed since the form's beginnings, have always inspired awe. No cinematic images of the mysteries of our solar system have ever been more mind-expanding than Stanley Kubrick's groundbreaking 1968 masterpiece *2001: A Space Odyssey*, perhaps the most awesome film ever made—a scientifically accurate yet utterly abstract journey into the far reaches of human consciousness. Yet there have been countless other films about outer space that deserve to be seen—and to be seen big. This edition of the Museum's signature screening series *See It Big!* will feature some of the century's greatest depictions of outer space, from documentaries to sci-fi spectacles to camp satires.

Organized by Curator of Film Eric Hynes and Assistant Curator of Film Edo Choi in collaboration with Reverse Shot editors Michael Koresky and Jeff Reichert.

This program is posted online at www.movingimage.us/seeitbig-outerspace

Ad Astra

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. James Gray. 2019, 124 mins. DCP. With Brad Pitt, Tommy Lee Jones, Ruth Negga, Liv Tyler, Donald Sutherland. In this meditative, lovingly crafted, and quite unusual Hollywood sci-fi, Brad Pitt gives a magnetically internalized performance as Major Roy McBride, summoned by U.S. Space Command to go on a complicated mission to Neptune in search of his long-missing father, who may be responsible for dangerous power surges that are threatening life back on Earth. Mysterious, quietly spectacular, and always very human, *Ad Astra* is an emotional film in which the bonds of family transcends space and time.

Solaris

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 6:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 5:30 P.M.

Dir. Andrei Tarkovsky. 1972, 166 mins. 35mm. In Russian and German with English subtitles. With Donatas Banionis, Natalya Bondarchuk, Jüri Järvet, Vladislav Dvorzhetsky, Anatoly Solonitsyn. In contrast to the technotopian sci-fi productions of the 1950s and 1960s, Tarkovsky's *Solaris* offered to early-1970s audiences a completely fresh take on a future world of interstellar travel. Within the genre, the film is uncharacteristically somber and understated in its preference for familiar, "human" imagery of nature and sixteenth century Flemish painting over the exotically new. Tarkovsky's lack of reverence for technological marvels, special effects, or any kind of futuristic aesthetic allows space for an extremely nuanced psychological portrayal of people affected by enigmatic, haunting phenomena that unravel on the distant planet Solaris. This is only underlined by the no-nonsense, lived-in clothes in an earthy color palette, in which costume designer Nelli Fomina dressed the characters.

Barbarella

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Roger Vadim. 1968, 98 mins. 35mm. With Jane Fonda, John Phillip Law, Anita Pallenberg, Milo O'Shea, Marcel Marceau, David Hemmings, Ugo Tognazzi. *Barbarella* testifies to a time in which a profound fascination with technological possibilities of the future had permeated mass culture. Based on Jean-Claude Forest's racy comic serial, Vadim's film details the adventures of a beautiful, kinky "cosmic queen" in the distant future of the year 40,000. Barbarella's camp, liberated sexuality, and her penchant for flaunting her body in skimpy leotards, tight suits, and titillating plastic bodices is one reason the film has secured cult status.

Space Is the Place

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. John Coney. 1974, 85 mins. Restored DCP. With Barbara Deloney, Sun Ra, Raymond Johnson, Marshall Allen. *Space Is the Place* is a rare, unmissable trash-culture, science-fiction classic. Starring the Afrofuturism jazz star Sun Ra, this loosely based biopic offers the uninitiated a tantalizing glimpse into his fantastical world. Born in 1914 as Herman Poole Blount, Sun Ra had a vision in his 30s that he had somehow originated from Saturn and promptly changed his name to Le Sony'r Ra, shortened to Sun Ra. Dressed from then on in elaborate Egyptian-inspired papal robes, and arriving in a music powered spaceship, he spent the next half-century on a mission to enlighten the world with his unique experimental music, and save the black race from social injustice by starting an all-black colony in the sky.

Aelita, Queen of Mars

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 3:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 4:30 P.M.

Dir. Yakov Protazanov. 1924, 111 mins. DCP. With Nikolai Tseretelli, Valentina Kuindzhi, Yuliya Solntseva. In this poetic, early Soviet science fiction, a youthful man builds a spaceship to find the woman of his dreams and lead a socialist uprising against the Martian Elders. A masterpiece of mid-1920s production design and a precursor to the later UFA films of Fritz Lang and the Universal Flash Gordon serial, *Aelita* features costumes and sets conceived by the great Constructivist Aleksandra Ekster and originally played to music by Dimitri Shostakovich.

Flash Gordon

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Mike Hodges. 1980, 114 mins. 35mm. With Sam J. Jones, Melody Anderson, Ornella Muti, Max von Sydow, Topol, Timothy Dalton. This glam update of *Flash Gordon* from high kitsch impresario Dino De Laurentiis is nonetheless quite faithful to Alex Raymond's original comic strip. With production design from the great Danilo Donati (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Fellini's Casanova*), a luxurious score from Queen, and Max Von Sydow doing his best Karloff as Ming the Merciless.

Alien

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 5:00 P.M.

Dir. Ridley Scott. 1979, 117 mins. 35mm. With Sigourney Weaver, Tom Skerritt, Veronica Cartwright, Harry Dean Stanton, John Hurt, Ian Holm, Yaphet Kotto. Ridley Scott's elegant creep-show, a gut-wrenching, atmospheric blend of horror and sci-fi, transported the haunted-house genre to outer space. After a particularly nasty foreign agent smuggles itself—in famously gruesome fashion—onto a mining ship, the crew is picked off one by one. A gothic for the ages, thanks to the pitch-black widescreen compositions, Carlo Rambaldi's iconic creature design, and Weaver's star-making performance as Ripley.

Dark Star

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 3:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 6:30 P.M.

Dir. John Carpenter. 1974, 83 mins. 35mm (faded). With Dan O'Bannon, Brian Narelle, Cal Kuniholm. Armed with "thermostellar triggering devices," sentient bombs that speak their mind, a team of astronauts aboard the spaceship the Dark Star travels the cosmos to destroy "unstable" planets that impede the progress of future space colonization. When Bomb #20 threatens to blow itself and the whole ship to pieces, the crew must find a way to survive their suicide trap. This anarchic space parody from then USC student John Carpenter, starring, co-written, and edited by his classmate Dan O'Bannon (*Alien*), manages simultaneously to embody, as O'Bannon put it, "the world's most impressive student film and... the world's least impressive professional film."

Gravity

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 4:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 6:30 P.M.

Dir. Alfonso Cuarón. 2013, 91 mins. DCP. With Sandra Bullock, George Clooney. Cuarón's astonishing big-screen adventure, which earned the director an Academy Award, is an uncanny visual experience. A survival story told from the perspective of an astronaut, played by a committed Sandra Bullock, after a technical malfunction leaves her stranded in space. With its dexterous extended tracking shots, *Gravity* moves and feels like no other film before or since, and stands as a reflection of Cuarón's mammoth, boundless ambitions.

Star Trek: The Motion Picture

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 7:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Robert Wise. 1979, 132 mins. DCP. With William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley, James Doohan, George Takei, Majel Barrett, Walter Koenig, Nichelle Nichols, Persis Khambatta, Stephen Collins. Ripe for reassessment, the much maligned first feature film in the *Star Trek* franchise was a marquee project for Paramount Pictures designed to capitalize on the resurgence of popularity for science-fiction films in the wake of *Star Wars* by elevating the beloved television serial to a new level of grandeur. The result proved a commercial disappointment for the studio, but seen from today's vantage point, with its marvelous special effects courtesy Douglas Trumbull and a script that is long on hokey speculative themes and short on action, this film constitutes a refreshingly authentic *Star Trek* experience.

Wall-E

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 3:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 5:00 P.M.

Dir. Andrew Stanton. 2008, 97 mins. DCP. With its wide-set E.T.-like eyes and tiny, motorized R2D2 body, trash compactor Wall-E is one of Pixar's most poignant creations. Left all alone on a patch of a now uninhabitable Earth, the lonely little robot has no friends other than an old VHS of *Hello, Dolly!* Wall-E's routine is disrupted by the appearance of a sleek newer-model robot, the beginning of a mission that will take them both to the spaceship that is the final outpost for a possibly doomed humanity. Vivid animation and superb character effects make for a remarkably textured journey that also functions as a trenchant social satire.

Spaceballs

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 8:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Mel Brooks. 1987, 96 mins. 35mm. Mel Brooks, John Candy, Rick Moranis, Bill Pullman, Daphne Zuniga. "May the Schwarz be with you." Mel Brooks unleashed a *Star Wars* parody for the ages just four years after the release of *Return of the Jedi*, affectionately tearing down George Lucas's sacred cow with a serious of head-slapping

one-liners and goofy, see-what-slap-sticks. The film's villains include Rick Moranis's penile Dark Helmet and a heap of grotesque latex known as Pizza the Hut, which should give you a pretty good idea of the film's wondrously indifferent maturity level. Other highlights include Joan Rivers as the voice of the film's sassy C3PO surrogate Dot Matrix, and John Candy as a Chewbacca-like dog-man named—wait for it—Barf.

The Right Stuff

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 6:00 P.M.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Philip Kaufman. 1983, 193 mins. 35mm. With Dennis Quaid, Ed Harris, Fred Ward, Scott Glenn, Barbara Hershey, Sam Shepard. Kaufman's mammoth adaptation of Tom Wolfe's bestseller about the selection and lift-off of NASA's first astronauts, known as the Mercury Seven, is a singular Hollywood epic. Part satire of American gung-ho machismo, part reverent dramatization of the mission that would change the world, *The Right Stuff* is a dazzlingly mounted production that effortlessly mixes broad comedy and stirring drama. Nominated for eight Academy Awards (including Best Picture) and winner of four, *The Right Stuff* helped launch the careers of Ed Harris, Fred Ward, and Scott Glenn, but the real standout is Sam Shepard's supporting turn as sound-barrier breaker and proto-astronaut Chuck Yeager. Perfectly cast and with big screen charisma to spare, he plays the legendary test pilot as a stoic cowboy, as comfortable on horseback as he is in the cockpit, doggedly pursuing neither glory nor celebrity but quiet, elusive transcendence, pushing the envelope and chasing demons in the sky.

For All Mankind

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 3:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Al Reinert. 1989, 80 mins. DCP. Ten years in the making, journalist-turned-filmmaker Al Reinert's classic documentary tells the story of the 24 astronauts who traveled to the moon exclusively through the 16mm images they captured themselves, and accompanied by their own words and voices. Set to an indelible, ambient score by Brian Eno, this memorialization of the achievements of the NASA Apollo program eschews facts and statistics in favor of a poetic pastiche of first-hand impressions and nostalgic reflections presented in pure sound and image.

Apollo 11

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 5:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 1:00 P.M.

Dir. Todd Douglas Miller. 2019, 93 mins. DCP. Todd Douglas Miller's fascinating, breathless, minute-to-minute chronicle of the 1969 Apollo 11 landing represents a unique nonfiction experience: a documentary outer space thriller. As three intrepid astronauts barrel through the void en route to the first ever lunar landing, symphonic editing and pulsing electronic scoring (made using solely vintage instruments) place viewers in the thick of the historical moment. Miller's imagery is drawn from a trove of

previously unreleased 65mm footage of the launch making this documentary a big-screen must-see.

Interstellar

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Christopher Nolan. 2014, 169 mins. 70mm. With Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain, Bill Irwin, Ellen Burstyn, Michael Caine. Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar* is a stunningly realized science-fiction epic set in a near future where environmental problems have rendered the Earth uninhabitable, and scientists are planning to transport the population to a new planet via a wormhole. With philosophical, cinematic, and narrative ambition reminiscent of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *Interstellar* is an immersive and exhilarating film experience that captures Nolan's love for large-format celluloid film.

Tickets:

Unless noted, tickets (required for each program) are \$15 (\$11 seniors and students / \$9 youth ages 3–17 / free or discounted for Museum members).

Combination exhibition +screening tickets: Combination tickets that include access to the exhibition *Envisioning 2001: Stanley Kubrick's Space Odyssey* and a screening are available for \$25 (excludes 70mm *2001* screenings; discounted for seniors, students, youth / free or discounted for Museum members). This includes general Museum admission.

Tickets for the exhibition alone are \$20 adults (\$16 seniors and students / \$14 youth ages 3–17 / Free or discounted (\$5) for Museum members). This includes general Museum admission.

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Press contact: Tomoko Kawamoto, tkawamoto@movingimage.us / 718 777 6830