

THE BMA PRESENTS FREE SURREALIST FILMS ON MAY 4 & MAY 18

BALTIMORE, MD (April 26, 2019)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) is screening two days of Surrealist films presented in conjunction with *Monsters & Myths: Surrealism and War in the 1930s and 1940s*. Ten films are shown in thematic pairs and range from Man Ray's 1928 short *L'Etoile de Mer* to Guillermo Del Toro's 2006 masterpiece *Pan's Labyrinth*. Admission is free for every film.

Monsters & Myths Surrealist Film Screening

Saturday, May 4

3:00–4:30 p.m.

L'Etoile de Mer, 1928. Man Ray.

The Blood of a Poet, 1932. Jean Cocteau.

5:00–7:00 p.m.

Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome, 1954. Kenneth Anger. (image)

Twilight of the Ice Nymphs, 1997. Guy Maddin.

7:30–9:45 p.m.

Rabbits, 2002. David Lynch.

The Exterminating Angel, 1962. Luis Buñuel.



Monsters & Myths Surrealist Film Screening

Saturday, May 18

5:00–7:00 p.m.

Street of Crocodiles, 1986. Brothers Quay.

Faust, 1994. Jan Svankmajer.

7:00–9:35 p.m.

Destino, 1946 and 2003. Salvador Dalí and Walt Disney.

Pan's Labyrinth, 2006. Guillermo del Toro. (image)



Monsters & Myths is the first major exhibition to examine how 20th-century European and American Surrealist artists used monsters and mythic figures to depict their experiences of war, violence, and exile. On view through May 26, 2019, the exhibition includes 90 works by Salvador Dalí, Max Ernst, André Masson, Pablo Picasso, Dorothea Tanning, and others who were affected by the political turmoil of the Spanish Civil War and World War II. This ticketed exhibition is co-organized by the BMA and the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art.

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Saturday, May 4

Origins and Echoes | 3:00–4:30 p.m.

***L'Etoile de Mer*, 1928.** Directed by Man Ray. 30 min.

Directed by Man Ray, *L'Etoile de Mer* is based on a short poem and longer scenario written by Robert Desnos. The film depicts a couple (played by Alice Prin, a.k.a. "Kiki", and André de la Rivière) acting through scenes that are shot out of focus, featuring Desnos himself as the second man in the final scene.

***The Blood of a Poet*, 1932.** Directed by Jean Cocteau. 55 min.

“Poets ... shed not only the red blood of their hearts but the white blood of their souls,” proclaimed Jean Cocteau of his groundbreaking first film—an exploration of the plight of the artist, the power of metaphor, and the relationship between art and dreams. One of cinema’s great experiments, this first installment of the *Orphic Trilogy* stretches the medium to its limits to capture the poet’s obsession with the struggle between the forces of life and death.

Myths and Rituals | 5:00–7:00 p.m.

***Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome*, 1954.** Directed by Kenneth Anger. 38 min.

Directed by famed underground filmmaker Kenneth Anger, *Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome* is considered a key work of American experimental film. According to Anger, the film takes the phrase “pleasure dome” from Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s atmospheric poem *Kubla Khan*. Anger was inspired to make the film after attending a Halloween party called “Come as Your Madness.”

***Twilight of the Ice Nymphs*, 1997.** Directed by Guy Maddin. 1 hr. 31 min.

Guy Maddin’s most elaborate and surreal fantasia is set in the mystical land of Mandragora. A motley crew is drawn into the lusty delirium of Maddin’s sensual dream world, which pulses with ethereal, vibrating colors and bizarre flourishes of art direction. This *Midsummer Night’s Dream*-on-acid dares us to lay bare our most deeply guarded secret passions, fears, and imaginings.

Domestic Commentary | 7:30–9:45 p.m.

***Rabbits*, 2002.** Directed by David Lynch. 42 min.

Rabbits is a 2002 series of short horror web films written and directed by David Lynch, although Lynch refers to it as a sitcom. It depicts three humanoid rabbits played by Scott Coffey, Laura Elena Harring, and Naomi Watts whose disjointed conversations are interrupted by a laugh track. *Rabbits* is presented with the tagline “In a nameless city deluged by a continuous rain ... three rabbits live with a fearful mystery.”

***The Exterminating Angel (El ángel exterminador)*, 1962.** Directed by Luis Buñuel. 1 hr. 36 min.

A group of high-society friends are invited to a mansion for dinner and find themselves inexplicably unable to leave in this daring masterpiece by Luis Buñuel. Made just one year after the director’s international sensation *Viridiana*, the film is full of eerie comic absurdity and continues Buñuel’s wicked takedown of the rituals and dependencies of the frivolous upper classes.

Saturday, May 18

Minatory Worlds | 5:00–7:00 p.m.

***Street of Crocodiles*, 1986.** Directed by the Brothers Quay. 21 mins.

The Quays’ masterpiece is adapted from a short story by Polish writer Bruno Schulz and was their first film shot originally on 35mm. A museum keeper spits into the eyepiece of an ancient peep show and sets the musty machine in motion, plunging the viewer into a nightmarish netherworld of bizarre puppet rituals among the dirt and grime.

***Faust*, 1994.** Directed by Jan Svankmajer. 1 hour, 37 mins.

Jan Svankmajer’s follow-up to his acclaimed film *Alice* is an equally astounding version of the myth of Dr. Faustus. Merging live action with stop-motion and Claymation animation, Svankmajer has created an unsettling universe presided over by diabolic, life-sized marionettes and haunted by skulking human messengers from hell.

Hollywood Surrealism | 7:30–9:35 p.m.

***Destino*, 1946 and 2003.** Directed by Salvador Dalí and Walt Disney. 7 mins.

Salvador Dalí and Walt Disney collaborated on this animated short that began in 1946, but remained unreleased until 2003. It follows the story of Chronos and his ill-fated love for a mortal woman named Dahlia as she dances through surreal scenery inspired by Dalí’s paintings. While there is no dialogue, Dalí’s style and themes are clearly recognizable

as we see a face melting, ants turning into Frenchmen on bicycles, and melting clocks. The soundtrack includes music by the Mexican composer Armando Dominguez.

***Pan's Labyrinth*, 2006.** Directed by Guillermo del Toro. 1 hour, 58 mins.

An Academy Award-winning dark fable set five years after the end of the Spanish Civil War, *Pan's Labyrinth* encapsulates the rich visual style and genre-defying craft of Guillermo del Toro. Eleven-year-old Ofelia comes face-to-face with the horrors of Fascism when she and her pregnant mother are uprooted to the countryside with her new stepfather, a sadistic captain in General Francisco Franco's army. She meets a faun in a decaying labyrinth and is set on a strange, mythic journey. Del Toro creates a vivid depiction of the monstrosities of war infiltrating a child's imagination and threatening the innocence of youth.