ELABOR FILMFEST



May 1 - 30

Organized and presented by the Metropolitan Washington Council of the AFL-CIO, the Debs-Jones-Douglass Institute and the AFI Silver, the DC Labor FilmFest features a wide-ranging selection of films about work, workers and the wider issues affecting workers' lives.



SUPPORT THE GIRLS | Opening Night | Wed, May 1, 7:15 p.m.

"A winning, rambunctious comedy about work in America." – Danny King, The Village Voice. Lisa (Regina Hall) is the last person you'd expect to find in a highway-side "sports bar with curves," but as general manager at Double Whammies, she's come to love the place, and its customers. An instinctive den mother, she nurtures and protects her "girls" on the staff fiercely — but over the course of one trying day, her optimism is battered from every direction. Double Whammies sells a big, weird American fantasy, but what happens when reality pokes a bunch of holes in it? "While it is a very specific story in many ways, I hope that anyone who's ever worked for a living will relate," says director Andrew Bujalski. DIR/SCR Andrew Bujalski; PROD Houston King, Sam Slater. U.S., 2018, color, 93 min. RATED R

ON THE BASIS OF SEX | Mon, May 6, 7:00 p.m.

This is the compelling story of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's early years, as she crafts a national legal strategy for gender equality and fights to succeed in a profession notably hostile to women. The inspiring story details Ginsburg's rise through male-dominated law schools, her struggles for equal rights and how she overcame institutionalized sexism to become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. Working with the ACLU and her husband, Marty Ginsburg, she made the case for gender equality as a fundamental human right, culminating in a famous courtroom scene — the first time Ginsburg had ever argued in public, before three male judges. Starring Academy Award® nominee Felicity Jones, Armie Hammer, Justin Theroux, Sam Waterston and Kathy Bates. DIR Mimi Leder; SCR/PROD Daniel Stiepleman; PROD Robert W. Cort, Jonathan King, U.S., 2019, color, 120 min. RATED PG-13

COUNCILWOMAN | Wed, May 15, 7:15 p.m.

Carmen Castillo, who won a seat on the city council between shifts, built a name for herself in local politics as she fought to unionize and, unsuccessfully, to raise the minimum hourly wage to \$15 for all Providence, Rhode Island, hotel workers. She also infuriated her more corporate-minded constituents in Ward 9. COUNCILWOMAN tracks the story from her arrival in the U.S. from the Dominican Republic in the mid-1990s to her 2014 reelection bid, when she once again espouses a fiery progressive platform. Neither of her opponents proves shy about using her marginalized economic status and lack of formal higher education against her. Castillo battles personal setbacks and legacy notions of who is qualified to run for political office — all the while fiercely defending her vision of a society in which all people earn enough to support themselves and their families. DIR/PROD Marao Guernsey: PROD Patricia Benable. U.S., 2019. color, 71 min. NOT RATED

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU | Fri, May 17, 7:15 p.m.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU tells the story of Cassius Green (Lakeith Stanfield, ATLANTA, GET OUT), a thirtysomething telemarketer with self-esteem issues who discovers a magical selling power hidden within himself. Suddenly, he's rising up the ranks to the elite team of his company, which sells heinous products and services. The upswing in Cassius' career raises red flags with his brilliant girlfriend, Detroit (Tessa Thompson, CREED, DEAR WHITE PEOPLE), a sign-twirling gallery artist. But the unimaginable hits the fan when Cassius meets the company's cocaine-snorting, orgy-hosting, obnoxious and relentless CEO, Steve Lift (Armie Hammer, CALL ME BY YOUR NAME, THE SOCIAL NETWORK). SORRY TO BOTHER YOU is unlike anything you have ever seen. It is a searing social satire about greed, racial code-switching and capitalism in a universe not unlike our own. Prepare yourself for something outrageous and totally original. DIR/SCR Boots Riley; PROD Nina Yang Bongiovi, Jonathan Duffy, Charles D. King, George Rush, Forest Whitaker, Kelly Williams. U.S., 2018, color, 105 min. RATED R

AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center | 8633 Colesville Road, Downtown Silver Spring









LABOR FILMFEST

May 1 - 30



IDIOCRACY | Thu, May 9, 7:15 p.m.; Sat, May 11, 10:45 p.m.

Like his 1999 film OFFICE SPACE, Mike Judge's satirical comedy IDIOCRACY has become a bona fide cult classic since its original theatrical release. An army experiment places two exceedingly average test subjects — Army Corporal Luke Wilson and prostitute Maya Rudolph — in suspended animation. They awake 500 years in the future to discover that America has become exponentially dumber a dystopian world of commercial oppression, junk food diets, overflowing garbage and crass anti-intellectualism. They are now the two smartest people alive. Screenwriter Etan Cohen tweeted, "I never expected #idiocracy to become a documentary," and, "I thought the worst thing that would come true was everyone wearing Crocs." DIR/SCR/PROD Mike Judge; SCR

OFFICE SPACE | 20th Anniversary | Fri, May 10, 7:15 p.m.

Etan Cohen; PROD Elysa Koplovitz Dutton. U.S., 2006, color, 84 min. RATED R

"I could burn this place down." The perennial DC Labor FilmFest favorite OFFICE SPACE returns! The outrageously funny film will once again feature a raffle of OFFICE SPACE paraphernalia, including Milton's precious red Swingline stapler. Director Mike Judge's theatrical debut was largely ignored upon release, but has become a veritable ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW for cube-farmers everywhere. Starring Ron Livingston, Jennifer Aniston, Stephen Root, Gary Cole and John C. McGinley. DIR/SCR/PROD Mike Judge; PROD Daniel Rappaport, Michael Rotenberg. U.S., 1999, color, 89 min. RATED R

EXTRACT | 10th Anniversary | Fri, May 10, 9:30 p.m.

Mike Judge's EXTRACT parodies the same kind of workaday ennui that made his 1999 film OFFICE SPACE a sleeper hit. However, this time the setting shifts from the white-collar world of cubicle-land to the blue-collar factory floor of Reynold's flavoring extracts company. Jason Bateman, Mila Kunis, Ben Affleck, Kristen Wiig, Clifton Collins and J.K. Simmons star in Judge's comedy about a flower-extract plant owner contending with an ever-growing avalanche of personal and professional disasters. An employee at the factory has just suffered an unfortunate accident on the assembly line, but little does the put-upon owner realize that things are about to get much worse. As the injured employee threatens to sue and it begins to look like his company will be bought out, the frazzled owner attempts to catch the culprit responsible for stealing wallets from the coatroom and begins to suspect that his wife is sleeping with the gigolo he hired to seduce her.DIR/SCR Mike Judge; PROD John Altschuler, Michael Rotenberg. U.S., 2009, color, 92 min. RATED R



HIGH FLYING BIRD | Tue, May 28, 7:15 p.m.

"On a basketball court, 'give me the rock' means 'pass the ball.' In HIGH FLYING BIRD, an exhilarating and argumentative caper concerning a sports agent, his NBA-rookie client and other interested parties, the phrase takes on a slightly different connotation — something akin to 'the workers should seize control of the means of production."" This isn't a sports movie in any conventional sense. Directed by Steven Soderbergh from a screenplay by Tarell Alvin McCraney, it uses the charisma of athletes and the competitive energy of the game they play to catalyze a feisty, twisty fable of labor and capital in the 21 st century. "It leaves you with a lot to think about, in addition to race, class and basketball: what it means to love your work, and why it matters to be paid for it." – A.O. Scott, The New York Times. Starring André Holland (MOONLIGHT), Zazie Beetz (ATLANTA, DEADPOOL 2) and Melvin Gregg, DIR Steven Soderbergh; SCR Tarell Alvin McCraney; PROD Joseph Malloch. U.S., 2019, color, 90 min. NOT RATED

NORMA RAE | 40th Anniversary | Thu, May 30, 7:15 p.m.

Sally Field won a Best Actress Oscar® for her portrayal of Norma Rae, a Southern textile worker confronted with poor working conditions. Faced with challenges both personal and professional, she proves receptive to the message of a union organizer seeking to start a drive at her plant. The film is based on the real story of Crystal Lee Sutton and the ACTWU's drive to organize JP Stevens' plants in the South in the 1970s. NORMA RAE was selected for preservation at the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in 2011 for movies deemed "culturally, aesthetically or historically significant." DIR Martin Ritt; SCR Irving Ravetch, Harriet Frank Jr.; PROD Tamara Asseyev, Alexandra Rose. U.S., 1979, color, 114 min. RATED PG

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