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For immediate release:

**MSP FILM SOCIETY ANNOUNCES  
FIRST FILM TITLES FOR THE  
41<sup>ST</sup> MINNEAPOLIS St. PAUL INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
MAY 5 – 19, 2022**

**March 24, 2022** — MSP Film Society presents the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF41) from **Thursday, May 5 through Thursday, May 19, 2022**. The MSPIFF41 theme, **SHINE THROUGH**, invites us all to resume gathering in person to enjoy more than **200 films from around the world** and a full array of **exciting parties, panels and filmmaker networking events and discussions**. Many MSPIFF41 films will also be available to screen virtually, in keeping with MSP Film Society's mission to increase audience access to these wonderful films.

MSPIFF41 also celebrates the **Grand Opening of our newly renovated 5-screen cinema, MSP Film at The Main**, located on the historic Mississippi waterfront at 115 Main Street SE in Minneapolis, and **MSP Film Society's takeover of operations and year-round programming** at the former St. Anthony Main Theatre.

The complete MSPIFF41 lineup and schedule will be announced on **April 14, 2022**, but some of the exciting titles we are able to share now include:

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPEN - MSPIFF41 Opening Presentation**

**Directed by Craig Roberts; United Kingdom; 2021; Fiction**

Mark Rylance, Sally Hawkins, and Rhys Ifan star in the heartwarming comedy-drama inspired by the true story of Maurice Flitcroft, whose unrelenting optimism gained him entry into the 1976 British Open—despite never having played a round of golf. [TRAILER](#)

**PAULIE GO! - MSPIFF41 Closing Presentation and World Premiere!**

**Directed by Andrew Nackman; United States; 2022; Fiction; Minnesota Made**

A coming-of-age comedy about an anti-social robotics prodigy who pairs up with a headstrong young angler to track down a reclusive genius in the mazy lake country of northern Minnesota.



### **MSP IFF LUMINARY TRIBUTE TO GORDON PARKS**

**The MSP IFF Luminary Tribute** recognizes filmmakers who have made significant contributions to the medium of feature filmmaking in either fiction or non-fiction and whose artistic talents have been instrumental in promoting a higher regard for the art of film internationally.

The **MSP IFF41 Luminary Tribute to Gordon Parks** is co-presented with **The CHOICE Cinema Series: In the Footsteps of Gordon Parks** in partnership with **SoulTouch Productions** and **Landmark Center**, and includes screenings followed by conversations with special guests from the Black community of filmmakers reflecting on the process, challenges, and themes in the films of Gordon Parks. Full details of the conversations and the screenings schedules will be available on April 14, 2022 when the full MSP IFF41 lineup and schedule goes live at [MSPfilm.org](http://MSPfilm.org)

#### **THE LEARNING TREE**

**Directed by Gordon Parks, USA, 1969, Fiction**

Based on Gordon Parks' 1963 semi-autobiographical novel, this coming of age story stars **Kyle Johnson** as a young Black man in 1920s Kansas as he overcomes tragic events. **THE LEARNING TREE** was the first major studio film to be directed by an African American filmmaker, and was one of the first 25 films selected for preservation in the National Film Registry for being "culturally historically, or aesthetically significant."

[TRAILER](#)

#### **LEADBELLY**

**Directed by Gordon Parks, USA, 1976, Fiction**

**Roger Mosely** stars as folk singer Huddie Ledbetter, better known as the musician Lead Belly, in this chronicle of his life from his troubled youth in the segregated South, to his time in prison and his efforts to use his music to gain release.

#### **SHAFT**

**Directed by Gordon Parks, USA, 1971, Fiction**

This groundbreaking blockbuster follows the escapades of the ultimate suave detective John Shaft. Starring **Richard Roundtree** and featuring the **Academy-award winning "Theme from Shaft" by Isaac Hayes and score by Gordon Parks**, **SHAFT** ushered in the Blaxploitation genre and was also selected for preservation in the National Film Registry for being "culturally historically, or aesthetically significant." [TRAILER](#)

#### **HALF PAST AUTUMN**

**Directed by Craig Laurence Rice, Produced by Robin Hickman-Winfield, USA, 2000, Fiction**

This insightful documentary takes a deep and insightful look into the life and works of Gordon Parks, from his beginnings as a photographer in St. Paul, to his groundbreaking work in LIFE magazine, bestselling author, trailblazing filmmaker, award winning composer and musician, and accomplished painter.



### **BOTH SIDES OF THE BLADE**

**Directed by Claire Denis, France, 2022, Fiction**

Sara (**Juliette Binoche**) and her husband, Jean (**Vincent Lindon**), are deeply in love well into their 50s. But Jean, a retired rugby player with a prison record, can't hold a job nor have custody of his son. Enter François (**Grégoire Colin**), a friend to both, a potential suitor to Sara, and a potential threat. [TRAILER](#)

### **CHA CHA REAL SMOOTH**

**Directed by Cooper Raiff, USA, 2022, Fiction**

Hot off a World Premiere at **Sundance** where it won the **U.S. Dramatic Audience Award**, Writer/Director Cooper Raiff stars as a bar/bat mitzvah party starter who strikes up a unique friendship with a young mom (**Producer Dakota Johnson**) and her teenage daughter.

### **GABBY GIFFORDS WON'T BACK DOWN**

**Directed by Julie Cohen & Betsy West, USA, 2022, Documentary**

By the directors of **RBG**, this is the extraordinary story of former Arizona Congresswoman Gabby Giffords in her relentless fight to recover following an assassination attempt in 2011, and her new life as one of the most effective activists in the battle against gun violence.

### **KLONDIKE**

**Directed by Maryna Er Gorbach, Ukraine, 2022, Fiction**

A family from the village of Hrabove in Ukraine finds itself near the center of the Malaysia Airways Flight 17 crash catastrophe and facing dawning uncertainty about life in a warzone in this meaningful, empathetic ode to resilience. **Maryna Er Gorbach won the Sundance Film Festival Directing Award: World Cinema Dramatic.**

### **MARCEL THE SHELL WITH SHOES ON**

**Directed by Dean Fleischer-Camp, USA, 2022, Fiction**

Based on the adorable viral video by Dean Fleischer-Camp and **Jenny Slate**. Dean is a filmmaker who rents an Airbnb with a permanent guest: Marcel the Shell (voiced by Slate), who wears shoes and lives there with his Grandmother. What can Dean do but make a documentary? Will fame change Marcel?

### **WE FEED PEOPLE**

**Directed by Ron Howard, USA, 2022, Documentary**

**José Andrés** is one of the world's most renowned chefs and a famous TV personality. But he is most proud of his work as the founder of World Central Kitchen (WCK), whose goal is to provide meals in the wake of natural and manmade disasters. Most recently, he has led WCK's heroic efforts to feed over 1 million Ukrainians.

**MSPIFF ALL ACCESS PASSES** are on sale now at [MSPfilm.org](https://mspfilm.org) and include entry to the Opening and Closing Night Films and Parties, all Premium screenings, all Regular screenings, all Virtual screenings, all Best of Fest screenings, Priority Status in ticket holder lines, and access to all festival parties, events, and panel discussions. **MSPIFF All Access Passes** are \$400 for MSP Film Society Members and



\$500 for General Public. **Early bird prices of 15% off are valid through March 31, 2022**, so you can join or renew your MSP Film Society Membership *and* purchase a MSPIFF All Access Member Pass for less than the price of a General All Access Pass.

**Tickets to individual MSPIFF41 films go on sale April 14, 2022**, when the complete lineup and schedule is announced, and cost \$10 for MSP Film Society Members, \$15 for the General Public, and \$8 for Students.

**MSPIFF is Minnesota’s largest film festival and one of the longest-running film festivals in the country.** MSPIFF41 is generously supported by many sponsors including: Star Tribune, KNOCK Inc., Cedarwoods Foundation, Best Buy, McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis Foundation, MN State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, our Masters and Auteurs Member Circles, the 3,000+ Members and Donors of MSP Film Society, numerous locally owned and based businesses, consulates from around the world,...and more to come!

**The CHOICE Cinema Series: In the Footsteps of Gordon Parks** is supported by the Saint Paul Cultural STAR Program, and is presented by SoulTouch Productions and Landmark Center in partnership with MSP Film Society.

**MSPIFF is presented by the MSP Film Society, a dynamic 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to fostering an appreciation of the art of international independent cinema and its power to unite, inform and transform individuals and communities.**

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