

# Norton Simon Museum **For Immediate Release**

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## The Norton Simon Museum Presents the Film Series

### ***The Female Gaze: French Women Directors Shine a Light on Their World***

Presented in conjunction with the exhibition *The Sweetness of Life: Three 18th-Century French Paintings from The Frick Collection*, film critic Peter Rainer organizes a quartet of female-centric films by iconic French women directors. The films encompass a wide range of stories and styles, celebrating the strength of French women in the arts and their achievements. Each film begins with a 10-minute introduction by Rainer at 5:50 p.m.



***Le Bonheur* (1965), NR**

**Directed by Agnès Varda**

**Friday, July 12, 5:50–7:30 p.m.**

In suburban Paris, young François (Jean-Claude Drouot) appears to live a happy, contented existence with his wife, Thérèse (Claire Drouot), and their two small children. Despite his apparent satisfaction, François takes a mistress named Emilie (Marie-France Boyer) and, remarkably, doesn't feel the least bit of remorse for his philandering. While he is able to justify loving both women, François's infidelity results in tragic consequences for both him and his family.



***Chocolat* (1988), PG-13**

**Directed by Claire Denis**

**Friday, July 19, 5:50–7:50 p.m.**

An affluent white woman named France (Mireille Perrier) returns to her childhood home in Cameroon after many years of living in France. While there, she reflects on her youth. When she was growing up in the former French colony in the 1950s, her life was one of privilege, escape and

ignorance. She bonded with an African servant named Protée (Isaach De Bankolé), even though she was unaware of the larger racial and social tensions stirring all around her.



***Things to Come* (2016), PG-13**

**Directed by Mia Hansen-Løve**

**Friday, July 26, 5:50–7:45 p.m.**

Nathalie (Isabelle Huppert) is a philosophy teacher with a seemingly settled existence, juggling a rich life of the mind with the day-to-day demands of career and family. But beginning with the bombshell revelation that her husband of 25 years is leaving her, one by one the pillars of Nathalie's life start to crumble. For the first time in ages, she finds herself adrift, but with a newfound sense of liberation. With nothing to hold her back, Nathalie sets out to define this new phase of her life and to rediscover herself.



***Vagabond* (1985), NR**

**Directed by Agnès Varda**

**Friday, August 2, 5:50–7:45 p.m.**

Mona Bergeron (Sandrine Bonnaire) is dead, her frozen body found in a ditch in the French countryside. From this, the film flashes back to the weeks leading up to her death. Through these flashbacks, Mona gradually declines as she travels from place to place, taking odd jobs and staying with whomever will offer her a place to sleep. Mona is fiercely independent, craving freedom over comfort, but it is this desire to be free that will eventually lead to her demise.

**ADMISSION:** All screenings are free with Museum admission. Admission is \$15.00 for adults; \$12.00 for seniors; and free for Museum members, students with I.D., and everyone age 18 and under. Admission on August 2<sup>nd</sup> is free from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. as part of the Museum's Free First Friday program. For more information, call (626) 449-6840 or visit [www.nortonsimon.org](http://www.nortonsimon.org).

**WHERE:** Norton Simon Museum | 411 West Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena; located on the corner of Colorado and Orange Grove Boulevards at the intersection of the 210 and 134 freeways | Parking at the Norton Simon Museum is free.