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For Immediate Release

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## **Northwest Film Forum's 69 Series Continues With Films From Godard, Truffaut, Hitchcock and More**

Northwest Film Forum's exciting yearlong exploration of the films of 1969 continues with a new slate of fifteen films including classics, oddities, rarities and special screenings that explore how cinema was capturing the uncertainty of an era. Forty years later, as we close out the first decade of the 21st Century, 1969 can be seen as a reflection of the kinds of complex issues and dilemmas that we face today in our lives, our world and our cinema.

This quarter NWFF unearths unappreciated masterpieces like Alfred Hitchcock's thrilling spy tale *Topaz*, which takes the audience behind the scenes of Cold War politics and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Slated with *Topaz* is a different kind of spy movie, the James Bond adventure *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*.

Also playing is Radley Metzger's *Camille 2000*, in which the director's experimental impulses emerge in a Mediterranean burlesque that examines the philosophy of hedonism. *Camille* is paired with the film credited with inspiring Robert Redford to build his Sundance-empire, *Downhill Racer*. Directed by Michael Ritchie and starring Redford, *Downhill Racer* is a satire of the American Dream dressed as quasi-documentary.

Truffaut and Godard go head to head with two films made before their real life friendship evaporated; Truffaut's *Mississippi Mermaid* is programmed with Godard's *Le Gai Savoir*. *Mermaid* draws on themes and conventions from American noir, peppered with eclectic allusions to film and literature. *Savoir* represents Godard's metamorphosis into a militant filmmaker focused on the political implications of the cinema.

Rarities this quarter include *The Gay Deceivers*; one of the first films to openly tackle the topic of homosexuality (1969 was also the year of the Stonewall riots, a defining event in the gay rights movement). The summer line-up also

includes a re-broadcast of 1969's most watched media event, the moon landing (to be held on July 20, thirty years to the day of the original historic achievement). Northwest Film Forum's screening will include a live remixing of footage from the moon landing combined with previous images of NASA's attempts to conquer the final frontier, assembled by collage and sound artist Joe Milutis.

Co-curator Sekuler comments, "The summer's 69 program closely mirrors many of the dramatic political and social events of 1969, as well presenting some of the year's underappreciated films from heralded masters. The spy thrillers *Topaz* and *Her Majesty's Secret Service* have plotlines that characterize the post-Bay of Pigs, post-Kennedy sentiment. In different ways, the "lovestests" in *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice* and *My Night At Maud's* and the comedic yet political *The Gay Deceivers* also represent the dramatic and uneasy mood of the summer of 69."

The full schedule is available online at [www.nwfilmforum.org](http://www.nwfilmforum.org).

A series pass for all remaining films in the "69" program is available for \$69 at [www.nwfilmforum.org](http://www.nwfilmforum.org).

Individual films are \$6/NWFF members, \$6.50/children and seniors, and \$9/general. All tickets are half-price every Monday.

Images for the films in the series and a program press kit are available at [www.nwfilmforum.org/press](http://www.nwfilmforum.org/press).

### **About Northwest Film Forum**

Northwest Film Forum is Seattle's premiere film arts organization, screening over 200 independently made and classic films annually, offering a year-round schedule of filmmaking classes for all ages, and supporting filmmakers at all stages of their careers. NWFF brings together a community of individuals dedicated to great film in Seattle and beyond. You can learn more at <http://www.nwfilmforum.org/>