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**WISCONSIN FILM FESTIVAL GENERAL WEBSITE:** [wifilmfest.org](http://wifilmfest.org)

**2017 SPECIFIC WEBSITE:** [2017.wifilmfest.org](http://2017.wifilmfest.org) (available on March 9)

*Please use the **2017.wifilmfest.org** for any materials printed March 9 or later. This specific website includes the links to all of the 2017 films and events.*

## **From the Oscars to Madison: 2017 Academy Award Winners and Nominees to be screened at this year's Wisconsin Film Festival**

**Madison, Wis.** – The University of Wisconsin–Madison's Wisconsin Film Festival ("Festival/WFF") features 2017 Academy Award related films "The Salesman" (Winner - Best Foreign Language Film) and "My Life as a Zucchini" (nominated for Best Animated Feature Film) as well as the film "Things to Come" which features Isabelle Huppert (nominated for Best Actress in a Leading Role for "Elle"). This year's Festival is March 30-April 6, 2017.

Details on screening dates and times are available in the film guide on March 9.

**"The Salesman/Forushande"** | Directed by Asghar Farhadi | 2016 | 125 minutes | Farsi with English Subtitles  
Madison Premiere  
[Trailer: "The Salesman"](#)



"The Salesman" is a powerful, suspenseful and troubling look at how a mysterious act of violence leads to a growing atmosphere of distrust and tension between a husband and wife. While in rehearsal for a theater production of Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman," married actors Emad (Shahab Hosseini) and Rana (Taraneh Alidoosti) first have their lives upended when their Tehran apartment building almost collapses and they are forced to move to shabbier dwellings. While Emad is away, the arrival of an unknown intruder leaves Rana injured, shaken, and left with conflicting memories of the events. Emad, confused, angry and increasingly obsessed with what happened, independently begins to investigate the identity of the criminal. Meanwhile, the fracturing of the artistic couple's relationship seems to provide added resonance to their portrayals of Willy and Linda Loman.

Internationally celebrated writer/director Asghar Farhadi once again employs the masterful storytelling techniques he put to use in his other unnerving tales of domestic disruption like "Fireworks Wednesday," "About Elly" and his first Oscar winner, "A Separation." Farhadi knows precisely where to put a camera and his innate sense of knowing what to show us and what not to show us keeps us on the edge of our seats. Winner, Best Screenplay & Best Actor, 2016 Cannes Film Festival.

**"My Life as a Zucchini/Ma vie de Courgette"**

Directed by Claude Barras | 2016 | 70 minutes | Two versions will be shown - French with English Subtitles and English | Madison Premiere

[Trailer: "My Life as a Zucchini"](#)



This tender, funny and refreshing movie uses stop-motion techniques to explore the emotional tumult of childhood and pre-adolescence. After a tragic accident leaves him motherless, Young Icare finds himself placed in a group foster home with other neglected, abandoned or orphaned kids and pre-teens. Icare, given the not-so-endearing nickname of "Courgette" (or "Zucchini") by his late mother, faces some expected difficulties in transitioning to his new world. Soon, however, he finds the love, friendship and support he never knew before in his relationships with the group home staff, a kind-hearted policeman, and, above all, his fellow children.

Avoiding cuteness and whimsy at every turn, director Claude Barras yields astounding emotional depths from his cast of wide-eyed figures with tiny frames and oversized heads. Barras' deft balancing act reveals a number of sometimes painful, sometimes liberating universal insights about the need to love and be loved and the solidarity of youth. The César Award-winning screenplay, an adaptation of a novel by Gilles Paris, is by accomplished filmmaker Celine Sciamma, who has already moved WFF audiences with her own tales of adolescence like "Tomboy" (WFF 2012) and "Girlhood" (WFF 2015). "My Life as a Zucchini" will screen both in its original French language version and in an English language version that features the voices of Nick Offerman, Will Forte, Ellen Page and Amy Sedaris. 2016 Cannes & Toronto Film Festivals; 2017 Sundance Film Festival.

**"Things to Come/L'Avenir"** | Directed by Mia Hansen-Løve | 2016 | 102 minutes | French with English subtitles  
Madison Premiere

[Trailer: "Things to Come"](#)



Academy Award nominee Isabelle Huppert could just as easily have been nominated for her superlative performance as Nathalie, a strong-willed philosophy professor whose husband suddenly leaves her for another woman. Starting over in late middle age, she gravitates towards the radical politics of her youth, as embodied by one of her protégés. As in "Elle," Huppert inhabits her character with matchless autonomy and elegance. Among its many rewards, "Things to Come" is a chance to witness one of the world's greatest actresses at the top of her game.

Writer/director Mia Hansen-Løve ("Goodbye First Love," WFF 2012) is fast becoming one of cinema's great intuitive poets of time and memory, crafting extraordinarily lifelike films that are rich with novelistic detail. Named one of the year's ten best films by *New York Times* chief film critic A.O. Scott, and ranked on countless more Best of 2016 lists, including *Film Comment*, *Village Voice*, *LA Times* and *Sight & Sound*. Winner, Best Director, 2016 Berlin Film Festival.

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The Wisconsin Film Festival is presented by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arts Institute in association with the Department of Communication Arts and is the largest



university-managed film festival in the nation showing an average of 150 films over eight days with an average attendance of 25,000-30,000.

The Festival is known for its diverse film offerings including American independent, international cinema, documentaries, experimental and avant-garde, restored classics, the Wisconsin's Own Competition (selections featuring filmmakers/cast, themes or settings that have Wisconsin connections) and Children's Cinema: Big Screens, Little Folks and features a variety of shorts in addition to feature-length films. Further information can be found at [wifilmfest.org](http://wifilmfest.org).

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