LE CERCLE ROUGE / THE RED CIRCLE (140min)
1970 France Jean-Pierre Melville, director
Monday evening, March 27 - 7:30 pm

This influential New Wave gangster classic is a cool-headed tribute to American film noir. When Casey (Delon) escapes from prison in Marseille, he learns how to pull off a high-stakes jewelry theft in Paris. At first alone in his quest, fate brings together two other partners: Volonte as a fellow prisoner, and Montand as a night club owner. While the diamonds may be within reach, they must still battle the police and the vengeance of the mob. Though their conversations are few and options limited, the three friends film a situation in following episode of honor to end. “I will never forget the emotional depths of Alain (Delon)’s blue eyes. One could see not only his exterior but his interior, his emotions and his past...” director John Woo. Discussion following the film.

LINGUL LES LIENS SACRÉS / LINGUL THE SACRED BONDS (87min)
(2022 France/Chad Mahamat Saleh Haoua, director)
Tuesday evening, March 28 - 7:30 pm

When a 15-year-old girl is pregnant but not yet ready to become a mother, is it a matter for herself, her mother, her religion or the state to decide when and if she can terminate her pregnancy? This not-unfamiliar question plays out in outskirts of N’Djamena in Chad, with Maria and her compassionate mother Amina believing it should be a private matter. Although Amina has been shunned for her earlier transgressions, she looks to the women in her village to find support. “Shines a light on Chad’s strict patriarchal laws, but also the powerful connections women form to help each other survive” — Mary E. Gates, RogerEbert.com. Join us for a discussion after the film with Doyle Calhoun, Language and Culture Studies, Trinity College.

HAPPENING / L’ÉVÉNEMENT (140 min.R)
2014 France Audrey Diwan, director
based on the memoir by author Annie Ernaux
Wednesday evening, March 29 - 7:30 pm

“It suits them to think I’m a slut,” says gifted literature student Anne (Anamaria Vartolomei, in a star-making performance) of the puritanical bourgeois girls in her Angoulême college dorm. In 1963, Anne finds little help from other students or doctors on helping her end a pregnancy that would crush her dream of surpassing her working class background. Disturbing, (mostly) beautiful to look at, and above all real, this film is based on the memoir of Annie Ernaux, Nobel Prize winner in Literature. “Diwan shows yet again what life, risks becoming a criminal and dares to be free.” — Manohla Dargis, New York Times. Discussion following the film with Blase Provotila, Program in Women, Gender, and Sexuality and Language and Culture Studies, Trinity College

FRANCE (133min. NR) 2021 Bruno Dumont, director
Friday evening, March 31 - 7:30 pm

Hartford premiere of a delightfully provocative satire. Writer/director Bruno Dumont’s new film finds both comedy and drama in the tension between our private and public lives. France stars Léa Seydoux, whose films include No Time to Die, The Grand Budapest Hotel and Blue is the Warmest Color, which won her the Best Actress Palme d’Or at Cannes. She perfectly inhabits her role as a celebrity TV journalist, who “lives for her fans.” But after causing an accident she goes silent, trying to find the suppressed reality of her true self. “Amid the film’s riotous satire, Dumont plants a melancholy identity crisis: the television star and the nation are equally isolated in the distorting mirrors of their own fabricated images.” — Richard Brody, The New Yorker. Discussion following the film with Sara Kippur, Language and Culture Studies, Trinity College

AND THE BIRDS RAINED DOWN / IL PLEUVAIT DES OISEAUX (127min. NR)
2019 Canada Louise Archambault, director
Saturday afternoon, April 2 - 1:00 pm closing reception

Celebrate April in Paris and join our final night reception at 7 pm, followed by the 8 pm screening of a brilliant and haunting Canadian film shot in Quebec’s awe-inspiring Mont Tremblant Forest. Based on the novel by Jocelyne Saucier, it opens in the aftermath of a destructive wildfire, which sent three elderly men off the grid as near-hermits. But change is inevitable, as Ted (one of the fire survivors) and the private life of the survivors is transformed by the arrival of two women. The first (played by acclaimed actress Andréa Lachapelle in her final role) is a fugitive who has spent her life confined in a psychiatric hospital. The other is a young photographer looking for Ted’s hidden paintings of the wildfire. But the recluses’ deep connection with nature isn’t threatened by death, love, or aging, but by the ongoing human damage to the Earth. “Without politics or judgment, the film asks us to cherish life in all its simple pleasures and wonders.” — Pat Mullen, Toronto International Film Festival review.
Bienvenue! This spring April in Paris and CineStudios go beyond the face we show to the world, to explore different aspects of our private lives. The eight films, from 1927 to the present, open our eyes to the ways that the intimate art of cinema deepens our understanding of personal ethics, sexuality, creative expression, aging, and of course, love.

Please join us for a discussion after each screening.

— Festival Director, Karen Humphreys

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Program in Film Studies, Trinity College
Department of Language and Culture Studies, Trinity College
Nancy and Jerry Lemega

Sunday matinée, March 26 - 1:30 pm, note early start time. Casanova, Alexandre Volkoff, starring Ivan Mosjoukine (1927) 160 min. Silent, with piano accompaniment by Patrick Miller of the Hartt School. Fifteen minute intermission. Opening reception following the performance sponsored by the Alliance Française of Hartford.

Sunday evening, March 26 – 7:30 pm, Josep, Aurel (2020) 74 min. Discussion following the film.

Monday, March 27 – 7:30 pm, Le cercle rouge, Jean-Pierre Melville (1970) 140 min. Discussion afterwards.

Tuesday, March 28 – 7:30 pm, Les liens sacrés, Mahamat Saleh Haroun (2021) 87 min. Discussion after the film with Doyle Calhoun, Language and Culture Studies, Trinity College.

Wednesday, March 29 – 7:30 pm, Happening (L’Evénement), Audrey Diwan (2021) 140 min. Discussion following the film led by Blase Povilota- Program in Women, Gender, and Sexuality and Language and Culture Studies, Trinity College.

Thursday, March 30 – 7:30 pm, A Taste of Love and Desire (Une histoire d’amour et de désir), Leyla Bouzid (2021) 102 min. Discussion following the film led by Karen Humphreys, Language and Culture Studies, Trinity College.

Friday, March 31 – 7:30 pm, France, Bruno Dumont (2021) 133 min. Discussion following the film with Sara Kippur, Language and Culture Studies, Trinity College.

Saturday finale, April 1 – 7:00- 8:00 pm, Join us for the closing reception for the 8:00 pm showing of award-winning Canadian film And the Birds Rained Down (Il pleuvait des oiseaux), Louise Archambault (2019) 127 min.