



cinemania!

CINEMANIA VOL. 2, ISSUE NO. 1

SPRING 2025

FREE

EXCITING FILM & VIDEO HAPPENINGS IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN



A Note From the Editor

Welcome to the new volume and issue of *CINEMANIA!* We have been a bit erratic in getting these things out in the world, and have retooled the idea of the gazette in order to not be so tied to month-end deadlines. The new plan is to issue a quarterly poster with features that don't expire so quickly. There will be a more modest monthly insert with movie listings, which are also available at **CINEMANIA.WEBSITE** on the classic world wide web. It has a weird domain suffix, but we like it because it reminds people that it is a website. It feels like we are dealing with antiquated formats both in the print gazette and web listings as more and more content moves to algorithm-based and AI platforms. We are committed to content curated and designed by humans, and hope to reinvigorate these media with our efforts.

The overall purpose of *CINEMANIA!* is to encourage participation in cinematic experiences, specifically repertory screenings of classic films in southeast Michigan. To this end, we compile the listings of several local purveyors of classic cinema, both independent theaters and more DIY endeavors. There is a lot of local activity around cinema in its various forms, but it feels a bit scattered and disconnected among the various efforts. We hope to provide a connective service between DIY cinema screenings such as 8 Ball Movie Night and Detroit Slimeball Cinerama at the Outer Limits Lounge, as well as encouraging more similar efforts in the area.

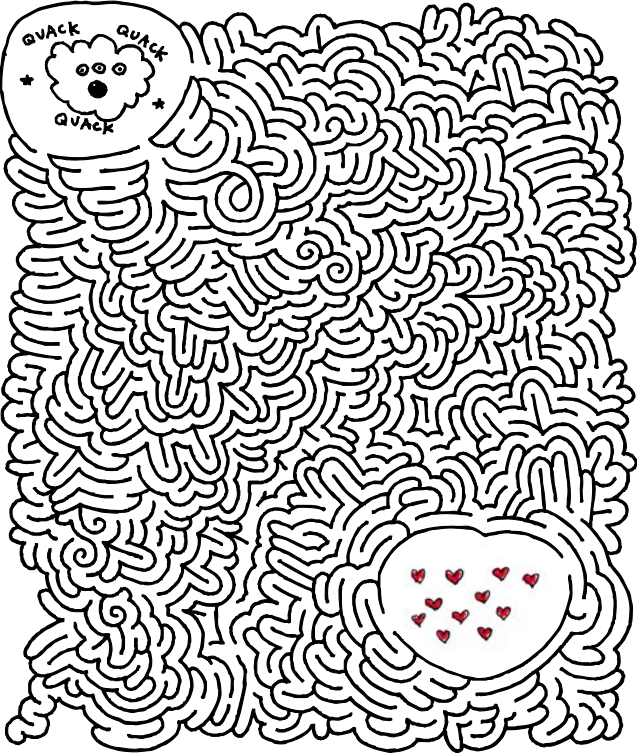
As I write this, we are kicking off the area's film festival season with the Ann Arbor Festival March 25-30, The Capital City Film Festival April 2-12 and the Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti (IFFY) April 17-19. Lots of work from a lot of people goes into making these events happen and they are important local traditions, old and new. This marathon of cinematic activity has a lot of energy and excitement about cinema in its various forms. We hope to help keep this spirit of celebration alive throughout the year.

Admittedly, we are kinda making this up as we go along, and fitting *CINEMANIA!* into pretty busy schedules. We are producing the gazette without any intention of profit because we think it is a good addition to the local cinema community. Our hope is just to break even on material costs in order to sustainably produce the publication in a meaningful quantity without compromising quality. We rely on ads for this, and they are offered at very reasonable rates. Please get in touch if you are interested in advertising, or if you have suggestions for improving *CINEMANIA!*, or just to say you appreciate it existing:

jason.adam.voss@gmail.com.

— Jason Adam Voss

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Cinema in This Time of Decline

In the face of all this decadence and grotesquerie — of civilization fraying at its edges and trembling at its core as it slips toward ugliness and worse — it's natural to look around for means of starting fresh, and for templates into which we can pick up and plug the pieces worth saving. If our institutions are rotting from the top down, the best place to look is on the ground and in the field, amongst the practices and everyday rituals which have always been the bedrock of human cohesion. The greeting with a smile, perhaps a handshake or a hug: these little rituals of interaction cannot be taken for granted anymore.

Cinema is one such template. A set of practices with a relatively young yet rich tradition, it enfolds us in deep solidarity with those who came before us while inviting us to expand our sensitivity in a wider sweep beyond the porous boundaries of personality and self-interest. Filmmaking is not world creation, but rather world discovery. The composition which emerges from staging, shooting, and editing is an act of guided exploration. Like every practice — always a skilled practice to varying degrees — filmmaking is an education of attention, with every frame showing us what's worth noticing. It's an embodied education, presenting and bestowing not only ideas but, more fundamentally, the close coupling of perception and movement. From the savanna to the cineplex, we will always be curious hominids scrutinizing spaces, objects, and each other. This is bedrock stuff which will outlive sea changes in national temperament or the rise and fall of any vulgarian regime.

As for the screening ritual, here we have community at its most basic: a shared focus of attention accompanied by shared emotion. Usually these communities are ephemeral aggregates of strangers who disperse once the ritual's over, but sometimes the ritual takes hold of the audience and perpetuates itself in cycles regular or irregular, short or long. From the loose group of moviegoing friends to the cinephile collective, from microcinema screenings to film festivals — whether spontaneous, formal, or something in between — all of these gatherings are embryonic societies which revolve around shared experiences, and which converge on shared points of reference and even shared values. No matter how debased the mainstream theatrical experience has become in this age of streaming overabundance and digital distraction, the movie screen retains at least a glimmer of its old aura, as it presides over the shadowy hush of seated devotees like a sacred membrane between worlds.

Cinema is a robust being-together which will both ground and inspire us during this time of decline. Like other art forms, it serves as a basic vessel for sustaining and nurturing a sense of what's most vital: a sense of continuity with our past, a sense of solidarity with friends and strangers alike, and a sense of openness and curiosity toward the fathomless creative process of the world itself.

—Jonathan Moodie

cinemania!

CINEMANIA! (SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN) is a publication produced in Washtenaw County by **MAFU GANG**, a group of local citizens concerned about the future of cinema in the region. To share events or express concerns, reach out via email: hi@cinemania.website.

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For current rates, contact HI@CINEMANIA.WEBSITE

8BALL

Movie Night

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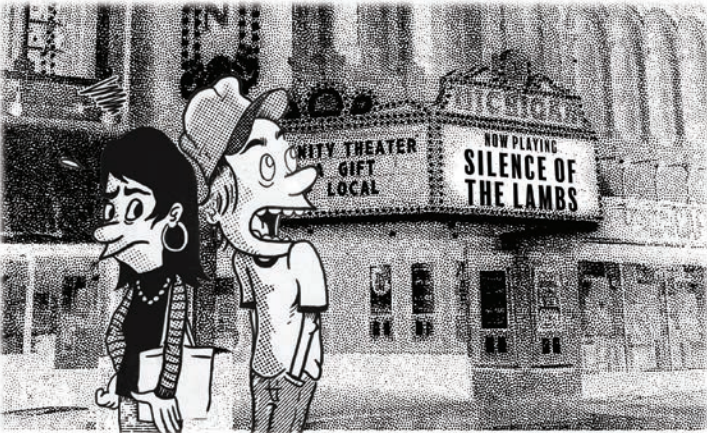
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"I know it's a classic, but I just found some parts hard to swallow."