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NATIONAL EVENING OF SCIENCE ON SCREEN BRINGS SCIENCE TO CINEMAS ACROSS THE U.S.

*28 film organizations from California to Massachusetts feature science speakers
at movie screenings on March 26*

Brookline, Massachusetts (March 25, 2024) — The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Coolidge Corner Theatre announce the 2024 National Evening of Science on Screen®, coming to cinemas across the nation on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. That evening, participating organizations will use one of the nation’s favorite pastimes—going to the movies—to promote public understanding of science.

To date, 28 Science on Screen grantees in 21 states, all art-house cinemas or museums with film programs, have confirmed participation in this event. The National Evening of Science on Screen is the annual showcase event of the nationwide Science on Screen grant initiative, which is funded by the Sloan Foundation and administered by the Coolidge. Over the past decade, Sloan has awarded the Coolidge over \$4 million to develop and administer Science on Screen programs around the US through partnerships with other nonprofits. The Coolidge has in turn awarded 393 grants totaling over \$2.5 million to 119 film and science-focused organizations in 44 states (plus Washington, DC) across the country.

A full listing of events can be viewed at:

<https://scienceonscreen.org/national-evening/2024-national-evening-of-science-on-screen>

“We’re delighted to join with the Coolidge Corner Theatre in celebrating the National Evening of Science on Screen in theaters across America,” said Doron Weber, Vice President and Program Director at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. “Science on Screen, which pairs expert speakers with popular titles such as Sloan-winning films *Hidden Figures*, *Don’t Look Up*, and Christopher Nolan’s Oscar-winning *Oppenheimer*, based on the Sloan book *American Prometheus* by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin, demonstrate that science can illuminate films just as films can illuminate

science. We're especially proud to add to our rich and growing catalogue several new Sloan-awarded films such as Sam & Andy Zuchero's *Love Me*, Matt Johnson's *BlackBerry*, Christopher Zalla's *Radical*, and Tania Hermida's *Invention of Species*."

Science on Screen grantee theaters run three or more Science on Screen events per year, creatively pairing screenings of classic, cult, science fiction, and documentary films with presentations by notable experts from the world of science and technology. Each film serves as a jumping-off point for the speaker to introduce current research or technological advances in a way that engages general audiences. The grant is funded by the Sloan Foundation's Program for Public Understanding of Science, Technology & Economics and administered by the Coolidge Corner Theatre, the celebrated Massachusetts art house cinema that launched the Science on Screen format in 2005.

The 28 cinemas participating in the 2024 National Evening of Science on Screen to date are:

- **American Cinematheque**, Los Angeles, CA
- **Aspen Film**, Aspen, CO
- **Austin Film Society**, Austin, TX
- **Avalon Theatre**, Washington, DC
- **Belcourt Theatre**, Nashville, TN
- **Buskirk-Chumley Theater**, Bloomington, IN
- **California Film Institute**, San Rafael, CA
- **Cameo Cinema**, St. Helena, CA
- **Cinema Arts Centre**, Huntington, NY
- **Coolidge Corner Theatre**, Brookline, MA
- **Cornell Cinema**, Ithaca, NY
- **Enzian Theater**, Maitland, FL
- **FilmScene**, Iowa City, IA
- **Film Streams**, Omaha, NE
- **Heartland Film**, Indianapolis, IN
- **Images Cinema**, Williamstown, MA
- **Kenworthy Performing Arts Center**, Moscow, ID
- **Lawrence Arts Center**, Lawrence, KS
- **Maine Film Center**, Waterville, ME
- **Martha's Vineyard Film Society**, Vineyard Haven, MA
- **Milwaukee Film**, Milwaukee, WI
- **Montclair Film**, Montclair, NJ
- **Museum of Discovery and Science**, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- **New Orleans Film Society**, New Orleans, LA
- **The Nightlight**, Akron, OH
- **Real Art Ways**, Hartford, CT
- **Taos Center for the Arts**, Taos, NM
- **Varsity Cinema**, Des Moines, IA

For more information about the Science on Screen grant initiative, visit the Science on Screen website at scienceonscreen.org.

About the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is a New York-based, philanthropic, not-for-profit institution that makes grants in three areas: research in science, technology, and economics; quality and diversity of scientific institutions; and public engagement with science. Sloan's program in Public Understanding of Science and Technology, directed by Doron Weber, supports books, radio, film, television, theater, and new media to reach a wide, non-specialized audience and to bridge the two cultures of science and the humanities.

Sloan's Film Program encourages filmmakers to create more realistic and compelling stories about science and technology and to challenge existing stereotypes about scientists and engineers in the popular imagination. Over the past two decades, Sloan has partnered with top film schools in the country – including AFI, Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, NYU, UCLA, and USC, plus six public film schools – and established annual awards in screenwriting and film production, along with an annual best-of-the-best Student Grand Jury Prize. The Foundation also supports screenplay development programs with the Sundance Institute, SFFILM, the Black List, the Athena Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, and Film Independent. The Foundation has supported over 800 film projects and has helped develop over 30 feature films including Michael Almereyda's *Tesla*, Lydia Dean Pilcher and Ginny Mohler's *Radium Girls*, Thor Klein's *Adventures of a Mathematician*, Jessica Oreck's *One Man Dies a Million Times*, Michael Tyburski's *The Sound of Silence*, Shawn Snyder's *To Dust*, Logan Kibens and Sharon Greene's *Operator*, Morten Tyldum's *The Imitation Game*, and Matthew Brown's *The Man Who Knew Infinity*. The Foundation has supported feature documentaries such as Werner Herzog's *Theater of Thought*, David France's *How to Survive a Pandemic*, Sharon Shattuck and Ian Cheney's *Picture a Scientist*, Shalini Kantayya's *Coded Bias*, Noah Hutton's *In Silico*, Ric Burns' *Oliver Sacks: His Own Life*, Mark Levison's *The Bit Player*, Alexandra Dean's *Bombshell: The Hedy Lamarr Story*, Mark Levinson's *Particle Fever*, and Jacques Perrin's *Oceans*. It has also given early award recognition to stand out films such as *Oppenheimer*, *Love Me*, *BlackBerry*, *Don't Look Up*, *Linoleum*, *Ammonite*, *The Aeronauts*, *The Martian*, *First Man* and *Hidden Figures*.

The Foundation has an active theater program and commissions about 20 science plays each year from the Ensemble Studio Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, and the National Theatre in London, while supporting select productions across the country and abroad. Recent grants from Sloan's Theater Program have supported Mark Rylance's *Dr. Semmelweis*, Anchuli Felicia King's *Golden Shield*, Sam Chanse's *what you are now*, Charly Evon Simpson's *Behind the Sheet*, Lucy Kirkwood's *Mosquitoes*, Chiara Atik's *Bump*, Nick Payne's *Constellations*, Lucas Hnath's *Isaac's Eye*, Anna Ziegler's *Photograph 51*, David Auburn's *Proof*, Leigh Fondakowski's *Spill*, and Bess Wohl's *Continuity*. The Foundation's book program includes early support for *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped*

Win the Space Race, the best-selling book that became the highest grossing Oscar-nominated film of 2017, and Kai Bird & Martin Sherwin's Pulitzer Prize-winning *American Prometheus*, adapted for the screen in Christopher Nolan's Oscar-winning film *Oppenheimer*.

For more information about the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, please visit www.sloan.org or follow the Foundation at @SloanPublic on X and Facebook.

About the Coolidge Corner Theatre

The nonprofit Coolidge Corner Theatre is a premier American independent cinema renowned for its curated feature film programming and innovative signature educational, cultural, and entertainment programs. A beloved movie house, the Coolidge welcomes over 225,000 patrons per year and has been pleasing audiences with the best in cinematic entertainment since 1933.

In addition to showcasing the best in contemporary independent cinema, the Coolidge has developed a wide range of programming to reach all sectors of the community, including: Big Screen Classics, After Midnight, Senior Matinees, Talk Cinema, Science on Screen®, Cinema Jukebox, PANORAMA, The Sounds of Silents®, Kids' Shows, Rewind!, Box Office Babies, and adult education film classes. The Coolidge hosts several prominent film festivals and has welcomed film luminaries such as Meryl Streep, Steven Soderbergh, Ruth E. Carter, Werner Herzog, Jane Fonda, Liv Ullmann, Ethan Hawke, Julianne Moore, Michael Douglas, Viggo Mortensen, and more. For more information, visit coolidge.org.

NATIONAL EVENING OF SCIENCE ON SCREEN — Tuesday, March 26, 2024 PROGRAMS BY CINEMA

Showtimes vary; for a complete list, please visit:

<https://scienceonscreen.org/national-evening/2024-national-evening-of-science-on-screen>

ROBOT & FRANK / Let Me Tell You About My Robot Best Friend: A.I. Companionship and Relationships Onscreen

American Cinematheque • Los Angeles, CA americancinematheque.com

Set in the near future, an ex-jewel thief (Frank Langella) receives a gift from his son: a robot butler programmed to look after him. But soon the two companions try their luck as a heist team. Speaker TBA.

HIDDEN FIGURES / Women in the Equation

Aspen Film • Aspen, CO aspenfilm.org

Civil rights, space travel, "human computers" — March is Women's History month, and what better way to celebrate women in the history of science than to watch Theodore Melfi's Academy Award-nominated film, *Hidden Figures*? Learn about the challenges and opportunities for girls and women in STEM, then and now. Our short film for the evening is *Girls Who Code*,

created by Aspen Film summer filmmaking camp participants. Guest lecturer from the Aspen Center for Physics (TBA).

THE BIRDS / Analyzing avian behavior and evolution

Austin Film Society • Austin, TX austinfilm.org

The birds in Alfred Hitchcock's horror classic are famous for their unexplained, almost anthropomorphically vengeful behavior toward the residents of the quaint Bodega Bay. The University of Texas's **Dr. Carlos Botero** and **Dr. Lucas Legendre** will share some of the recent science about avian evolution and behavior to bring further context and insight into Hitchcock's enigmatic story.

A COMPASSIONATE SPY / Science, secrecy, and ethics in the Nuclear Age

Avalon Theatre • Washington, DC theavalon.org

The incredible story of Manhattan Project scientist Ted Hall, who shared classified nuclear secrets with Russia. This post-film discussion—featuring George Washington University historian of nuclear technologies **Dr. Anthony Eames** and *CQ Roll-Call* Editor-in-Chief **Jason Dick**—focuses on important issues about idealism, ownership of scientific progress, ethics, secrecy, and national security and politics in a dangerous world. The consequences of Hall's actions continue to resonate today, and are as contentious and unanswerable as they were during the Cold War.

LAST THINGS / A forgotten world: the lives of the ancestors of African mammals

Belcourt Theatre • Nashville, TN belcourt.org

Who done it? Paleontology can tell us much more than simply which animals were carnivores; new tools are always developing that can tell us more specifically what, where, and how animals were eating. Put the pieces back together to solve the mystery of an ancient crime scene.

THE MARTIAN / From cosmic dust to Martian must

The Buskirk-Chumley Theater • Bloomington, IN buskirkchumley.org

A total solar eclipse will be visible in Bloomington in April 2024, and much like the collective suspense experienced during a total solar eclipse, *The Martian* captivates with its elements of human determination and teamwork against the backdrop of the vast cosmos. Before the film, Indiana University Professor of Astronomy and self-proclaimed “Interstellar Dust Nerd” **Dr. Caleb Choban** will challenge our terrestrial perspective by discussing the life cycle and evolution of interstellar dust grains. Then **Dr. Luke Nikolov**, an Assistant Professor of Biology at IU, will talk about the real possibilities of growing potatoes on Mars!

TWISTER / Is the weather trying to kill us?

California Film Institute • San Rafael, CA cafilm.org

Local reporter **Amanda Bartlett** has written extensively about weather phenomena in California, from earthquakes to atmospheric rivers. Join us as she leads a discussion about chasing the science of climate change.

BLACKBERRY / Why do corporations decline?

Cameo Cinema • St. Helena, CA cameocinema.com

How and why do corporations decline? *BlackBerry* offers a tragicomic portrait of decline in Earth's foremost business smartphone maker, 1999-2016. UC Berkeley researcher **Dr. Don Moore** illuminates the psychological challenges that face all businesses and, in fact, virtually all human relations.

ARRIVAL / The mysteries of language and communication

Cinema Arts Centre • Huntington, NY cinemaartscentre.org

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory neuroscientist **Dr. Arkarup Banerjee** delves into the mysteries of language and communication as they relate to the brain. Dr. Banerjee's work explores the theme of decoding messages and touches on the fundamental assumptions of reality which are unpacked in the film. This discussion will include a live Q&A with the audience. Discover how every species and culture's unique symbols and codes shape our understanding of the world around us, and uncover the intriguing ways in which our brains navigate the limits and possibilities of language.

THEATRE OF THOUGHT / Unlocking the mysteries of the human brain

Coolidge Corner Theatre • Brookline, MA coolidge.org

Legendary filmmaker Werner Herzog sets his sights on yet another mysterious landscape — the human brain — for clues as to why a hunk of tissue can produce profound thoughts and feelings while considering the philosophical, ethical, and social implications of fast-advancing neural technology. Introduced by neural engineer and MIT professor **Dr. Polina Anakeeva**, who is featured in the film. Dr. Anakeeva works at the intersection of materials science, electronics, and neurobiology to improve our understanding of disorders of the nervous system.

BABETTE'S FEAST / The science of taste

Cornell Cinema • Ithaca, NY cinema.cornell.edu

Using the lavish, 12-course meal that Babette prepares in the film as a jumping off point for exploring the science of taste, Cornell University Professors **Chris Loss** and **Terry Acree** (CALs) and PhD student Hetvi Doshi (Human Ecology) will share research perspectives on the complex factors that impact flavor perception and the enjoyment that surrounds our experience of food. Cornell seniors Maria Le and Sarah Langelben will then focus on three dishes from *Babette's Feast* and share research on the food chemistry behind and culinary techniques used to create them. The presentation will also feature a special food tasting inspired by the film!

BUG / Neurobiology of psychosis

Enzian Theater • Maitland, FL enzian.org

Dr. Benjamin Fry, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Central Florida, uses the film's themes to explore schizophrenia. As an expert in the field, Dr. Fry approaches the topic with the sensitivity and respect it deserves whilst educating and creating an understanding of what this condition is.

THE MARTIAN / Life on Mars?

FilmScene • Iowa City, IA icfilmscene.org

Dr. Matthew Dannenberg, expert in plants and climate, and **Dr. Valerie Payré**, expert in Mars' geology—both Assistant Professors at the University of Iowa—dive deep into what the film gets right and (of course) wrong, from how realistic the Martian environment depicted in the movie is, to the possibilities of developing an agriculture on the Red Planet.

THE TRUMAN SHOW / You're being watched: Surveillance and beyond

Film Streams • Omaha, NE filmstreams.org

Guests discuss the predictive quality Peter Weir's film had in terms of surveillance in America and the psychological fascination of watching people vis a vis reality television and live-streaming.

THE MARTIAN / Intergalactic world building

Heartland Film • Indianapolis, IN heartlandfilm.org

Science fiction author **Maurice Broaddus** talks about what it means to create a realistic fictional world. World building is the process by which we create an imaginary world or build a fictional universe. Let's look at what goes into the world building for an imaginary or realistic setting so that we can see how well the world building of *The Martian* holds up.

AMMONITE / Women pioneers in STEM

Images Cinema • Williamstown, MA imagescinema.org

The Sloan Award-winning film *Ammonite* is loosely based on the life of acclaimed paleontologist and fossil collector Mary Anning. Anning, a working class "amateur" paleontologist whose discoveries were often displayed in museums with no mention of her contributions, is something of a folk hero for women paleontologists today. In this talk, Williams College Geosciences Professor **Dr. Phoebe Cohen** reviews what we actually know about Anning, discusses how the movie portrays her life and work, and talks more broadly about the role that women played in the evolution of the field of paleontology over the last two centuries.

DAZED AND CONFUSED / High school high

Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre • Moscow, ID kenworthy.org

Dr. Carrie Cuttler, Associate Professor in the WSU Department of Psychology, and **Dr. Ryan J McLaughlin**, Associate Professor in the Department of Integrative Physiology and Neuroscience, will discuss teenage cannabis use and its effects. They will explore the impact of cannabis use on mental health, physical health, stress, and cognition, and examine whether the movie portrays these effects.

THEATRE OF THOUGHT / Big plans for brains

Lawrence Arts Center • Lawrence, KS lawrenceartscenter.org

Technological advancements have brought a new era for Alzheimer's Disease diagnostics and treatment. Explore innovative new research in the memory centers of the human brain, including how exercise, nutrition and metabolism relate to dementia, in this pre-show presentation by neuroscientist **Dr. Jeffrey Burns**, co-founder of the Kansas University Alzheimer's Disease Center.

THE ADVENTURES OF BARON MUNCHAUSEN / Umwelt: The sensory and sensational adventures of Baron Munchausen and other species

Maine Film Center • Waterville, ME watervillecreates.org/mainefilmcenter

Embark on a journey with science communicator **Serena Sanborn** as she delves into the concept of "umwelt"—the unique sensory world experienced by each organism. While humans navigate the world through our limited senses, we will invite you to ponder the intriguing perspective of creatures like owls or bats. What insights can we gain by contemplating how other beings perceive their surroundings? Join us in exploring the implications of our human perception on the world around us and how we might imagine the experiences of other species that inhabit our planet.

ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND / Why we forget and how to remember better

Martha's Vineyard Film Society • Vineyard Haven, MA mvfilmsociety.com

Prior to the film, Boston University Neurologist **Dr. Andrew E. Budson** will give a presentation on memory inspired in part by the film, and afterwards Dr. Budson will be signing copies of his new book: *Why We Forget and How to Remember Better: The Science Behind Memory*.

LAST THINGS / Minerals write the fossil record

Milwaukee Film • Milwaukee, WI mkefilm.org

Much of what we know about evolution and extinction is recorded by minerals—specifically, the minerals that replace the original organic material of plants and animals and turn them into fossils. Paleontologist **Victoria McCoy** (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) will explain the process of fossilization and explore how the selective nature of this process influences the story the fossil record tells us about the history of life on Earth.

BABY DRIVER / The overlooked battle: Struggles with understanding speech despite intact hearing

Montclair Film • Montclair, NJ montclairfilm.org

How do perception and cognition impact our understanding of speech and language? **Ilse Wambacq**, Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at MSU, leads a pre-screening talk that explores these issues and provide insights into how they are expressed in the character of "Baby," the protagonist of Edgar Wright's *BABY DRIVER*.

FIRST MAN / The formation and evolution of galaxies

Museum of Discovery and Science • Fort Lauderdale, FL mods.org

Dive into the world of science through the magic of film! Celebrate the National Evening of Science on Screen at MODS during this free IMAX event featuring an exciting talk by renowned astrophysicist **Dr. Ata Sarajedini** as he discusses The Formation and Evolution of Galaxies. See breathtaking photos of the universe's beautiful galaxies on the six-story high IMAX screen and learn about what makes each galaxy, including our own Milky Way, unique!

KANAVAL / The implications of secondary trauma [VIRTUAL EVENT]

New Orleans Film Society • New Orleans, LA neworleansfilmsociety.org

In this insightful discussion with **Monica Cazes**, a Licensed Professional Counselor based in New Orleans, she explores the concept of “secondary trauma,” which arises from indirect exposure to traumatic events. Drawing from her extensive experience working with individuals dealing with addiction recovery, relationship issues, and trauma, Monica discusses how traumatic stress can lead to lasting changes within certain brain areas. Additionally, she sheds light on the effects of secondary trauma and its impact on individuals’ mental and emotional well-being.

SNAKES ON A PLANE / Sneaky snakes and slithering snakebots

The Nightlight • Akron, OH nightlightcinema.com

Snakes have a unique talent for getting into tiny spaces and through cluttered environments. Join us for this special Science on Screen presentation of Snakes on a Plane featuring a post-screening discussion with **Dr. Henry Astley**, Associate Professor in the Biomimicry Research & Innovation Center at the University of Akron. Learn how snakes perform these amazing feats without feet and how real snakes are helping us learn to make better robotic snakes.

LAST BREATH / Humanity’s relationship to oxygen

Real Art Ways • Hartford, CT realartways.org

A commercial diver is stranded on the seabed with 5 minutes of oxygen, but no chance of rescue for more than 30 minutes. With access to an amazing archive, this is the true story of one man’s impossible fight for survival. Before the film, Trinity College Biology Professor **Dr. Heather Bennett** will give a talk on humanity’s relationship to its most indispensable element: oxygen. She will delve into the way oxygen allows life to thrive and how our nervous system responds to environmental changes and stress.

THE TASTE OF THINGS / Feeding curiosity: The science of taste and flavor

Taos Center for the Arts • Taos, NM tcataos.org

Explore the intricate science behind how we experience taste and flavor by uncovering the role of taste buds, taste receptors, and the five fundamental tastes. Delve into the discovery of umami, the fifth basic taste, and its flavor-enhancing properties. Gain a deeper understanding of how taste, smell, and texture shape our perception of flavor. Looking forward to sparking engaging discussions on the science of taste and flavor!

BLACKBERRY / Don't silence your phones

Varsity Cinema • Des Moines, IA varsitydesmoines.com

How did our smartphones go from email obsessed devices to powerful movie-making tools that fit in our pocket? This presentation from Drake University Professor **Chris Snider** will discuss the evolution of smartphones, which are now used to film major motion pictures. Snider will also share some tips for all of us to unleash our movie-making abilities.

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