

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **The 20th Annual Foreign Film Festival at the Carroll Arts Center**

The Film Lovers in Carroll County's (FLICC) present their 20th Annual Foreign Film Festival at the Carroll Arts Center this February with a slate of contemporary international films that expand audiences' cinematic horizons. This year's films immerse audiences in new cultures and locales, from a rehearsal room in Hiroshima, to an Israeli soundstage, to London's National Gallery, to a remote Himalayan village.

Friday, February 3

**"Drive My Car"** (Japan)

2021; 2 h 59 m; NR (several sexual situations, sexual dialogue, and brief nudity)

Two years after his wife's unexpected death, Yusuke Kafuku (Hidetoshi Nishijima), a renowned stage actor and director, receives an offer to direct a production of "Uncle Vanya" at a theater festival in Hiroshima. There, he meets Misaki Watari (Toko Miura), a taciturn young woman assigned to chauffeur him in his beloved red Saab 900. Forced to confront painful truths raised from his past, Yusuke begins – with the help of his driver – to face the haunting mysteries his wife left behind. Winner of Best International Film at the 2022 Academy Awards.

Friday, February 10

**"Tel Aviv on Fire"** (Israel)

2018; 1 h 37 m; NR (some violence and language)

Salam, a young Palestinian man, becomes a writer on a popular soap opera after a chance meeting with an Israeli soldier. As he solicits the soldier for ideas for the show, Salam's creative career is on the rise – until the soldier and the show's financial backers disagree about how the show should end. Thoughtful and well-acted, this comedy highlights the awful absurdity of war — and proves it's possible to find humor in the midst of cultural conflict.

Friday, February 17

**"The Duke"** (United Kingdom)

2020; 1 h 36 m; R for language and brief sexuality

In 1961, Kempton Bunton, a 60-year old taxi driver, stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. It was the first (and remains the only) theft in the Gallery's history. Kempton sent ransom notes saying that he would return the painting on

condition that the government agreed to provide television for free to the elderly. What happened next became the stuff of legend. Starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren.

Friday, February 24

“Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom” (Bhutan)

2019; 1 h 49 m; NR (some smoking)

A fast living, cynical London music executive heads to a remote Cornish village on a stag weekend where he’s pranked by his boss into trying to sign a group of shanty singing fishermen. He becomes the ultimate “fish out of water” as he struggles to gain the respect or enthusiasm of the unlikely boy band and their families who value friendship and community over fame and fortune. As he’s drawn deeper into their traditional way of life, he’s forced to reevaluate his own integrity and ultimately question what success really means.

There will be two screenings of each film at 1pm and 7:30pm. All screenings will be captioned. Assistive Listening Devices are always available.

Attendees must comply with the Carroll Arts Center’s audience health and safety policies. This includes patrons properly wearing a face mask at all times and providing either proof that they meet the CDC definition of being fully vaccinated or proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test completed within the last 72 hours of the day of the event. Read the Carroll Arts Center’s full health and safety protocols at [CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org/covid-19-policies](https://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org/covid-19-policies).

The series is sponsored by JeannieBird Baking Company. Tickets are \$7 for adults; \$6 for ages 25 & under and ages 60 & up. Series subscriptions are available for \$22. Subscriptions must be for either all the matinee or all the evening showings. CCAC Members get an additional 10% off. Tickets are available online or at the box office. The Carroll Arts Center is located at 91 West Main Street in downtown Westminster. For more information and tickets, call 410-848-7272 or go to [www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org](https://www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org).

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#### **PHOTOS:**

“The Man Who Sold His Skin” (Tunisia)

“Little Forest” (South Korea)

“Elevator to the Gallows” (France)

“Fisherman’s Friends” (United Kingdom)