



Auteur, Author: Film & Literature

A Screening and Conversation Series in Collaboration with
the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

Renowned writers, filmmakers, and other guests introduce the screenings, including
Phil Kaufman, Juan Carlos Rulfo, Geoff Dyer, Claude Jarman, Jr., Caroline Paul, and
David Thomson

May 31-June 4, 2017

Filmmakers have long drawn on literature for inspiration, and indeed often focus on writers as subjects. The Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) partners with the [Bay Area Book Festival](#) for the second year to present a series of films that celebrate, adapt, or creatively reinterpret the written word.

Highlights of this year's films, which will all take place at BAMPFA, include a publishing battle over the smut of avant-garde writers, such as **Anais Nin** and **Henry Miller** (*A Very British Pornographer: The Jack Kahane Story*); an homage to one of the country's last typewriter repair shops, which is right here in Berkeley, with interviews of **Tom Hanks**, **Sam Shepard**, **David McCullough**, and more (*California Typewriter*); and the director's cut of a phantasmagoric film on illustrious Japanese author **Yukio Mishima**, who died by ritual suicide during the height of his fame by having his cult followers decapitate him (*Mishima*, executive produced by **George Lucas** and **Francis Ford Coppola**).

The series opens with novel-to-film adaptation master **Phil Kaufman** presenting *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, in conversation with lauded historian and critic **David Thomson**. It ends with another adaptation, *Memories of Underdevelopment*, which uses documentary footage of revolutionary Cuba and fictive narrative to plumb consciousness itself.

Between these bookends is a world tour of writers and publishing: *Mishima* is introduced by National Book Award finalist **Rachel Kushner**; a portrait of **Juan Rulfo**, the Mexican father of magic realism, is presented by the filmmaker, his son; and **Robert Scheer** introduces profiles of **Jack Kahane**, whose Olympia Press in Paris published books too racy for puritanical Brits and Americans, and of **Barney Rosset**, founder of the legendary Grove Press, the first American publisher of **Samuel Beckett**, **Kenzaburo Oe**, **Tom Stoppard**, **Che Guevara**, **John Rechy**, and **Malcolm X**. Rosset went to the Supreme Court to break the obscenity ban on works of fiction such as *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *Tropic of Cancer*, and *Naked Lunch*.

In *Zona: A Book About a Film About a Journey to a Room*, **Geoff Dyer**'s exhilarating meditation on *Stalker* (one of the British Film Institute's "50 Greatest Films of All Time"), Dyer asserts that great cinema exists in order to bring us to "a place—a state—of heightened alertness to everything." Dyer, who introduces Tarkovsky's film, is one of many writers fascinated by the power of film.

Actor **Claude Jarman, Jr.** will appear in person to discuss the Faulkner adaptation *Intruder in the Dust*, one of the first films to break the Hollywood taboo on the subject of racism, set in Jim Crow America. And, a perfect respite for families is a Saturday matinee of *The Secret Garden*, based on the beloved classic about an adventurous girl, introduced by bestselling author **Caroline Paul** (*The Gutsy Girl*).

For other film descriptions, [see the schedule](#).

Tickets (\$7-\$12) must be purchased directly from BAMPFA at bampfa.org or their box office, 2155 Center Street, in downtown Berkeley. Please note that festival's General Admission Wristband does not allow admission.

Festival speakers are available for interviews by credentialed members of the press via email or Skype in advance of the festival, or in person over the weekend event. Outlet must be identified and assignment secured before the interview.

The festival logo and other images are [available here](#), and author photos are available by request. Please contact Anna Pulley, anna@bayboofest.org.