

EXHIBITIONS FILM WEEKEND ARTS

ARTS GUIDE

Antalya Province,
Turkey

ASPENDOS FESTIVAL | Aspendos Amphitheater. Sept. 5-24.

This festival brings opera, music and dance every year to a grand ancient amphitheater on Turkey's southern coast. This year, the Korea National Opera will preform "Soul Mate" — a new production about wedding traditions in Korea. The rest of the festival includes a mix of opera and dance, with performances by Turkish companies like the Ankara State Opera and Ballet. aspendosfestival.gov.tr

London

BARBARA HEPWORTH: SCULPTURE FOR A MODERN WORLD | Tate Britain. Through Oct. 25.

The sculptor Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975) pioneered a sleek minimalist aesthetic that defined British midcentury sculpture. This exhibition includes the famed wood and bronze artworks she made throughout the course of her career, exploring how her practice evolved throughout her life. It runs alongside "IK Prize 2015: Tate Sensorium," an exhibition that places several works from the museum's collection in environments with pungent smells and loud sounds, exploring the ways in which the five senses can enrich visual experiences (through Sept. 20). tate.org.uk

Amsterdam

RCO OPENING NIGHT | Royal Concertgebouw. Sept. 10.

The orchestra's incoming chief conductor, Daniele Gatti, below, will open the fall season with a new tradition this year: RCO Opening Night, a black-tie affair that kicks



MUSÉE D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE

the festival will also have a lineup of television shows, including "Trapped," an Icelandic murder mystery, and "Heroes Reborn," a sequel to the popular fantasy show "Heroes." tiff.net

Geneva

PEINTURES ITALIENNES ET ESPAGNOLES | Musée d'Art et d'Histoire. Through Dec. 31.

The exhibition centers on the museum's large collection of Italian and Spanish paintings — which includes close to 300 works by widely admired but lesser-known artists from both countries. Those on display include Mattia Preti, Allegretto Nuzi and Giulio Romano. Above, Innocenzo Francucci's circa 1520 fresco "Allegory of Hope," which is showing alongside the artist's "Allegory of Faith." institutions.ville-geneve.ch

Moscow

RNO GRAND FESTIVAL | Tchaikovsky Concert Hall; Great Hall, Moscow Conservatory. Sept. 7-30.

This six-concert series opens the Russian National Orchestra's autumn season. It begins on Sept. 7 with a concert performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's opera "Kashchei the Immortal" and Stravinsky's "The Firebird" led by Mikhail Pletnev, the orchestra's founder and artistic director. Other performances include work by Alexander Scriabin, conducted by Hobart Earle, and a performance of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony led by Alan Rurikovich.



CLAY ENOS/SCREEN MEDIA FILMS



ALLISON ROSA/IFC FILMS

Left, Jennifer Connelly and Anthony Mackie in "Shelter," directed by Paul Bettany, Ms. Connelly's husband.

Above, Richard Gere in "Time Out of My Mind" by Oren Moverman. The filmmakers are more intent on exploring character and aesthetics than in political messages.

In line at cinema's soup kitchen

Two new films attempt to render experience of homelessness in America

BY NICOLAS RAPOLD

It's a curious fact that one of the most popular characters in motion-picture history is homeless: Charlie Chaplin's Little Tramp. Although Chaplin's creation took on a life of his own, he set the tone for the complex interplay between art and authenticity in the depiction of homelessness. In the decades since, the portrayals have been a decidedly mixed bag (or bindle).

A frequent subject in the years after the Depression, hoboes were depicted with sympathy in films like "Wild Boys of the Road," about homeless children.

For "Shelter," Ms. Connelly and Mr. Mackie also throw themselves into characters in the lower depths. Her Hannah is a heroin addict; his Tahir, an African immigrant, opens the film bloody from a beating in police custody. Their developing bond vies with their need to eat, get a fix and find a place to sleep, with dialogue gleaned from interviews with homeless people.

"I was looking for how they got to where they were, and the nuts and bolts of it: how things work, and how you survive, and how you make your money, how much money you make, how your days go and how you make choices," Ms. Connelly said.

But if the film depicts their hardships — including trading sexual favors for lodging — it also embraces the beauty of their romance.

"I didn't want to make a film that

or drug addiction being bad," said Mr. Bettany, also the screenwriter and Ms. Connelly's husband. "I can't bear those films that take you to a dark place and just dump you in a dark place and you think, Why am I in this dark place?"

The Coalition for the Homeless vetted the script for Mr. Bettany, and the "Time Out of Mind" team also worked with the organization — a preparation reflecting an urge to get things right. But what "right" means is another question.

Charles Lane's "Sidewalk Stories," a 1989 update of Chaplin shot without dialogue in New York, offers an example in portraying the homeless experience faithfully and creatively.

Mr. Lane stars as an indigent street artist who falls into taking care of a little girl. For the filmmaker, there is no "cor-

"From 'Boudu Saved From Drowning' to 'Oliver Twist' to 'Down and Out in Beverly Hills' to 'What About Bob?' to 'The Pursuit of Happyness,' these films did not get the homeless issue right nor did they get them wrong," Mr. Lane said in an email. "Mainly because individualistically, these motion pictures were not about the homeless issue." Rather, each premise was in the service of a greater, entertaining story.

That, Mr. Lane suggested, is not a problem, since "one should never assume a position to attempt to legislate Art." But "Sidewalk Stories" complicates its portrayal with a surprising ending: The speech of homeless characters in a park is suddenly heard on the soundtrack.

It's an eloquent expression of what "Time Out of Mind," "Shelter" and many films before them try to do: give a



ROBIN VAN LONKHUIJSEN/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

off the season with classical music hits. The concert is to include excerpts from "The Nutcracker" and "The Firebird," as well as Shostakovich's first cello concerto, played by Yo Yo Ma, the guest of honor. The cellist has not appeared with the orchestra in 20 years. concertgebouwworkest.nl

Buenos Aires

LA PARADOJA EN EL CENTRO | Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires. Through August 2016.

This major exhibition draws from the museum's collection and includes around 130 works by artists from Argentina. It focuses on artwork from the 1960s, exploring the decade as a period of transition — when contemporary artists established an aesthetic distinct from the modern art movement. Prominent artists like Antonio Berni and Jorge de la Vega are on view alongside lesser-known names. museodeartemoderno.buenos-aires.gob.ar

Istanbul

ISTANBUL BIENNIAL | Various venues. Sept. 5–Nov. 1.

Istanbul Modern, the novelist Orhan Pamuk's Museum of Innocence and the Trotsky House — where the revolutionary leader once lived — will host sections of this sprawling art show. A number of big-name contemporary artists developed new works specifically for the biennial, including Theaster Gates. The artist Anna Boghigian will show a new work that recreates a shipwreck in the lobby of a former school. Francis Alÿs will present a work he made with Armenian schoolchildren, whom he recorded performing a song he composed. 14b.iksv.org

Toronto

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL | TIFF Bell Lightbox. Sept. 10–20.

The Toronto gathering signals the unofficial start to the Oscar season. This year's festival includes the usual slate of anticipated new movies, like the Boston mafia-themed "Black Mass" starring Johnny Depp; the new documentary on Janis Joplin, "Janis: Little Girl Blue"; and the latest project from the "Being John Malkovich" creator Charlie Kaufman, "Anomalisa." This year, for the first time,

russiannationalorchestra.org

Shanghai

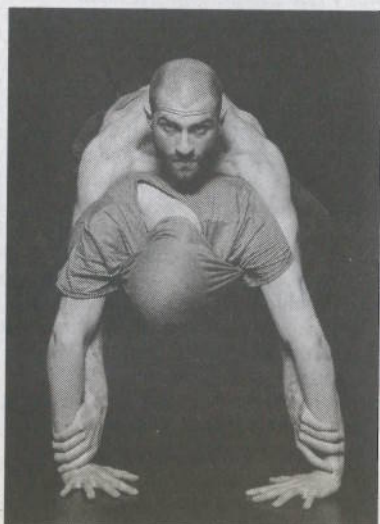
TWIN TRACKS: YANG FUDONG SOLO EXHIBITION | Yuz Museum. Through Nov. 15.

The Chinese artist Yang Fudong's elegant movies have the look and pace of French New Wave cinema, but focus on China's rapid-fire transition from an agrarian society to a highly developed urban economy. This solo exhibition offers up five works the artist has created in the past decade, including "East of Que Village," a six-channel video that juxtaposes images of foraging dogs with clips of Chinese villagers, and "The Colored Sky: New Women II," which shows young women frolicking on a beach that looks like a soundstage. yuzmshanghai.org

Paris

FESTIVAL D'AUTOMNE À PARIS | Various venues. Sept. 9–Dec. 31.

This festival takes place over four months in venues across the French capital. Its major aim is to add a more international flavor to Paris's autumn performance season. The program includes several concerts by the South Korean composer Unsuk Chin, and myriad dance works by leading choreo-



KRIS ROZENTAL

graphers like Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker and Maguy Marin. Above, an image from the choreographer Lloyd Newson's "John," a theater piece based on dozens of interviews conducted with men who frequent sex saunas. The work will appear in December at the Grande halle de la Villette. festival-automne.com

COMPILED BY CHRISTOPHER D. SHEA

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After World War II in Italy, the Neorealists shot on location in urban ruins where displaced characters struggled to make ends meet, as in Vittorio De Sica's Academy Award winner, "Shoeshine."

Romantic portrayals of wanderers returned in the 1970s with films like "Scarecrow," with Al Pacino and Gene Hackman. But in the Reagan years, the homeless were just as likely to be a punch line, from the sharp satire of "Trading Places" to the derivative humor of "Down and Out in Beverly Hills" — an update of Jean Renoir's 1932 "Boudu Saved from Drowning." The 1990s fantasy worlds of "Curly Sue" or "With Honors" — with Joe Pesci as a sassy bum holding a Harvard student's thesis hostage — offered little improvement.

That approach persists, as "Trainwreck" recently demonstrated by casting the comedian Dave Attell as a, yes, sassy bum. That was preceded by "The

"I didn't want to make a film that was just about homelessness being bad or drug addiction being bad."

Pursuit of Happiness" and "The Soloist," which, while based on real events, used homeless characters as convenient figures of inspiration and tragedy. But this season, two dramas make fresh attempts to render the visceral experience of homelessness.

Oren Moverman's "Time Out of Mind" stars Richard Gere as George, a middle-aged man new to the streets and battling a fraying mind. "Shelter," the directorial debut of the actor Paul Bettany, features Jennifer Connelly and Anthony Mackie as Hannah and Tahir, two survivors who give each other the support the streets deny.

Both films are set in New York City, where homelessness hit a high last winter. But the filmmakers are more intent on exploring character and aesthetics than in simply conveying political messages.

In "Time Out of Mind," George is an utterly ignored figure in a bustling, noisy New York. Long-distance shots use special lenses to convey his sense of isolation. He's constantly viewed through windows or left for us to pick out of a larger picture. Actual pedestrians, not extras, pass right by, unaware of the cameras or George.

"It couldn't feel like a TV movie, that's for sure," Mr. Gere said in an interview. "It had to be played like some kind of a neorealist film."

The film's cinematographer, Bobby Bukowski, grew up in the East Village, where many scenes were shot. Hidden in a tent, he shot Mr. Gere from afar.

"You're required by law to put up a sign that if you enter this area, you are liable to appear on camera," Mr. Bukowski said by phone. "We would put those signs up around the area where Richard was, but if you looked 360 degrees around you, you still wouldn't be able to discern where the camera was. So the city was really represented as it is."

was just about homelessness being bad

rect" way to portray the homeless.

voice to those without a home.

53 AVENUE MONTAIGNE PARIS

