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**Yerba Buena Center for the Arts announces  
our July 2017 film program:  
Global Sounds on Screen**



*A Life in Waves* (dir. Brett Whitcomb, 2017, 75 min, digital)

**YBCA Screening Room, 701 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103  
415.978.2787; [www.ybca.org](http://www.ybca.org)**

**July 6–August 13, 2017**

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**SAN FRANCISCO – (June 14, 2017)** This July, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) presents an exciting film series for the summer, [Global Sounds on Screen](#). This is not your typical concert movie series,

this is a globe-trotting survey of films on music, struggle, joy, and dissent. From the birth of the blues in West Africa with *Mali Blues* to unexpected techno in Iran showcased in *Raving Iran*, the cultural phenomenon of pop idols in Japan presented in the high-energy *Tokyo Idols*, and a portrait of Suzanne Ciani, the pioneering woman in synthesizers who will be here at YBCA for a **Q&A at the July 27th** screening of *A Life in Waves*, these films offer a broad and provocative depiction of music on-screen. [Click here for the screening schedule and ticket information.](#)

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## **MALI BLUES**

**By Lutz Gregor**

**Thursday, July 6, 7:30pm & Sunday, July 9, 2pm**

**Cost: Regular: \$10 / Student, Senior, Teacher: \$9 / YBCA or AIGA Member: \$8 / All Access: Free**

The West African country of Mali is a birthplace of the blues, a musical tradition later carried by the transatlantic slave trade to America's cotton fields. Yet today, the music and musicians of Mali are in grave danger. As fundamentalist Islam and sharia law become more widespread, dance and secular music are prohibited, musical instruments are destroyed, and musicians are forced to flee their homeland. The film follows four artists—Fatoumata “Fatou” Diawara, Bassekou Kouyaté, Master Soumy, and Ahmed Ag Kaedi—who are using their music to stand up to extremism and inspire tolerance and peace. (2016, 93 min, digital)

For tickets, visit: <https://ybca.org/whats-on/mali-blues>

## **QUEST**

**By Jonathan Olshefski**

**Thursday, July 13, 7:30pm & Sunday, July 16, 2pm**

**Cost: Regular: \$10 / Student, Senior, Teacher: \$9 / YBCA or AIGA Member: \$8 / All Access: Free**

Filmed over a decade with the intimacy of cinema vérité, *Quest* is an epic portrait of a family in north Philadelphia. Christopher “Quest” Rainey, along with his wife Christine’a, aka “Ma Quest,” open the door to their home music studio, which serves as a creative sanctuary from the strife that grips their neighborhood. Over the years, the family evolves as everyday life brings a mix of joy and unexpected crisis. Set against the backdrop (roughly mirroring the Obama presidency) of a country now in turmoil, *Quest* is an overwhelming testament to love, healing, and hope and one of the most important documentaries of the year. (2017, 105 min, digital)

For tickets, visit: <https://ybca.org/whats-on/quest>

## **EYE AND EAR CONTROL: ESP-DISK' ON FILM**

**Guest curated by Brian Belovarac**

**Thursday, July 20, 7:30pm & Sunday, July 23, 2pm**

**Cost: Regular: \$10 / Student, Senior, Teacher: \$9 / YBCA or AIGA Member: \$8 / All Access: Free**

A selection of short films on the evolution and formation of what came to be called free jazz through the form's earliest adopting record label, ESP-Disk'. Guest curator Brian Belovarac manages distribution at Janus Films/The Criterion Collection, and has presented programs at the George Eastman Museum, Anthology Film Archives, the Northwest Film Forum, and many other venues.

Atlantic Records introduced the wider marketplace to “free jazz” via Ornette Coleman, but it was the small,

New York–based ESP-Disk' label that documented the subsequent reshaping of the form as it developed throughout the 1960s. ESP released groundbreaking records by artists like Albert Ayler, Pharoah Sanders, Patty Waters, and Sun Ra before ceasing operations in the early 1970s. Revered by musical seekers across the globe—and resented by performers who typically received little to no royalties—ESP is now regarded as one of the most influential record labels of all time. Tonight's program brings together all of the ESP-associated films produced in the 1960s. To paraphrase the label's slogan: you've never seen such sounds in your life. —Brian Belovarac

**Program:**

***New York Eye and Ear Control*** (dir. Michael Snow, 1964, 34 min, 16mm)

***The Fugs*** (dir. Edward English, 1966, 13 min, 16mm)

***Giuseppi Logan*** (dir. Edward English, 1966, 5 min, 16mm)

***The Godz*** (dir. Jud Yalkut, 1966, 9 min, 16mm)

***Spaceways*** (dir. Edward English, 1968, 18 min, 16mm)

For tickets, visit: <https://ybca.org/whats-on/eye-and-ear-control>

**A LIFE IN WAVES**

**By Brett Whitcomb**

**Thursday, July 27, 7:30pm & Sunday, July 30, 2pm**

**Cost: Regular: \$10 / Student, Senior, Teacher: \$9 / YBCA or AIGA Member: \$8 / All Access: Free**

***Suzanne Ciani in person for Q&A at July 27 screening***

*A Life in Waves* explores the life and innovations of composer and electronic music pioneer Suzanne Ciani. If you watched television, went to the movies, or listened to the radio in the 1980s and 1990s, you've heard Ciani's work, whether you knew it or not. From her earliest days learning the piano, to her multimillion-dollar advertising ventures, to her recent reconnection with her beloved Buchla synthesizer, the film is a deep dive into the life and work of America's first female synth hero. (2017, 75 min, digital)

For tickets, visit: <https://ybca.org/whats-on/a-life-in-waves>

**RAVING IRAN**

**By Susanne Regina Meures**

**Thursday, August 3, 7:30pm & Sunday, August 6, 2pm**

**Cost: Regular: \$10 / Student, Senior, Teacher: \$9 / YBCA or AIGA Member: \$8 / All Access: Free**

*"Raving Iran* is as lean and tight as the dance music created by its protagonists . . . a black comedy of errors."

—*Evil Genius*

Anoosh and Arash are at the center of Tehran's underground techno scene. Tired of hiding from the police and frustrated with their stagnating careers, they organize one last manic techno rave under dangerous circumstances in the desert. Back in Tehran they try their luck selling their illegally printed records with minimal success. When Anoosh is arrested, there seems to be no hope left. But then they receive a phone call from the biggest techno festival in the world . . . (2016, 84 min, digital)

For tickets, visit: <https://ybca.org/whats-on/raving-iran>

**TOKYO IDOLS**

**By Kyoko Miyake**

**Thursday, August 10, 7:30pm & Sunday, August 13, 2pm**

**Cost: Regular: \$10 / Student, Senior, Teacher: \$9 / YBCA or AIGA Member: \$8 / All Access: Free**

Girl bands permeate Japanese life. This provocative film gets at the heart of a cultural phenomenon driven by obsession with young female sexuality and Internet popularity. The story is told through Rio, a bona-fide “Tokyo idol,” who takes us on her journey to fame. We meet her “brothers,” a group of adult male superfans who devote their lives to following her, even quitting their jobs to pursue their fixation full time. *Tokyo Idols* is a high-energy look at the Japanese pop music industry and its complex gender power dynamics. (2017, 88 min, digital)

For tickets, visit: <https://ybca.org/whats-on/tokyo-idols>

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### **About Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is one of the nation's most innovative contemporary arts centers. Founded in 1993, YBCA's mission is to generate culture that moves people. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, YBCA is committed to creating an inclusive culture that awakens personal and societal transformation. YBCA presents a wide variety of programming year-round, including performing arts, visual arts, film/video and civic engagement. YBCA venues include the Forum, Screening Room, Galleries and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787).

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