

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

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## MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE PRESENTS THE SCREENING SERIES “DO NOT DETONATE: IN THE ORBIT OF WES ANDERSON’S ‘ASTEROID CITY’”

June 2–16, 2023

Featuring a special members-only preview screening of *Asteroid City* with Wes Anderson in person on June 11



Astoria, New York, May 24, 2023 — In anticipation of Wes Anderson’s latest film, *Asteroid City*, Museum of the Moving Image will present the screening series **DO NOT DETONATE: In the Orbit of Wes Anderson’s *Asteroid City***, featuring a dozen films that evoke the historical, social, or fantastical milieu of the new film. The series runs June 2–16 and is presented in conjunction with the publication of the anthology *DO NOT DETONATE Without Presidential Approval, A Portfolio on the Subjects of Mid-century Cinema, the Broadway Stage and the American West* (2023, Pushkin Press), edited by Anderson and Jake Perlin, featuring newly commissioned essays and reprinted articles, plus a new interview with Anderson. This series was organized by Perlin, who programmed films that are also featured in the book. Copies of the book will be available in the Museum Shop starting June 2.

DO NOT DETONATE: In the Orbit of Wes Anderson’s *Asteroid City* includes nine features, many presented in 35mm, and a program of three shorts by the Maysles Brothers, with select screenings introduced by critics and contributors to the book. The series opens June 2 with ***Some Came Running*** (1958, 35mm), Vincente Minnelli’s masterpiece about rootlessness in post–World War II America starring Frank Sinatra,

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Shirley MacLaine, Dean Martin, and Arthur Kennedy—introduced by Perlin and *Reverse Shot* co-editor Michael Koresky, who wrote on the film for the new anthology.

The series continues over two weekends with classic American films featuring a desert setting and atmosphere, and stand-out performances: Martin Scorsese's ***Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*** (1974), starring Ellen Burstyn in an Oscar-winning role as a waitress waylaid in Phoenix, presented in an archival 35mm print and introduced by contributor Thora Siemsen (June 3); John Huston's ***The Misfits*** (1961)—introduced by Perlin—starring Marilyn Monroe in one of her finest roles, performing alongside an exquisite cast in the quintessential early sixties American drama about outcasts; ***Ace in the Hole*** (1951, 35mm), Billy Wilder's acid satire of the American media, starring Kirk Douglas; ***Bad Day at Black Rock*** (1955, 35mm), one of the great two-fisted thrillers of the 1950s, featuring Spencer Tracy and Robert Ryan in a face-off; Sam Shepard starring in the screen adaptation of his own play ***Fool for Love*** (1985, 35mm), directed by Robert Altman; Roy Ward Baker's sunbaked Technicolor potboiler ***Inferno*** (1953), presented in 3-D and introduced by Kent Jones; Steven Spielberg's emotionally stirring, visually jaw-dropping ***Close Encounters of the Third Kind*** (1977), which served as an influence on *Asteroid City*; and Elia Kazan's ***A Streetcar Named Desire*** (1951), featuring iconic performances by Marlon Brando and Vivien Leigh as Stanley Kowalski and Blanche DuBois.

Sunday, June 11 features a program of films by the Maysles Brothers that evoke the period or locations depicted in *Asteroid City*: ***Showman*** (1963), ***Meet Marlon Brando*** (1966), and ***A Visit with Truman Capote*** (1966). Anderson and Owen Wilson have been devoted fans of the filmmakers for their entire careers together.

*Asteroid City*, which had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, takes place in a fictional American desert town circa 1955. The itinerary of a Junior Stargazer/Space Cadet convention (organized to bring together students and parents from across the country for fellowship and scholarly competition) is spectacularly disrupted by world-changing events. The film features Jason Schwartzman, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hanks, Jeffrey Wright, Tilda Swinton, Bryan Cranston, Edward Norton, Adrien Brody, Liev Schreiber, Hope Davis, Stephen Park, Rupert Friend, Maya Hawke, Steve Carell, Matt Dillon, Hong Chau, Willem Dafoe, Margot Robbie, Tony Revolori, Jake Ryan, and Jeff Goldblum. A Focus Features release, *Asteroid City* opens in limited theaters in New York and L.A. on June 16 and expands nationwide June 23.

About the book: When organizing a new anthology of writing connected to *Asteroid City*, book editor Jake Perlin and Anderson took a different approach than in the volumes for his previous films *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and *The French Dispatch*. While those collections were built around specific references for those films, the new book *DO NOT DETONATE Without Presidential Approval, A Portfolio on the Subjects of Mid-century Cinema, the Broadway Stage and the American West* is, in Anderson's words, "more about the atmosphere" of the film. Set in a small western town in the

1950s, *Asteroid City* was inspired, directly or indirectly, by a variety of films, many of which are touched upon in either new essays or classic writing.

See the schedule below with additional speakers to be added. The full program description and schedule can be found online at [movingimage.us/series/do-not-detonate](https://movingimage.us/series/do-not-detonate) and as a [PDF here](#).

DO NOT DETONATE: IN THE ORBIT OF WES ANDERSON'S ASTEROID CITY  
JUNE 2–16, 2023 AT MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

All screenings take place in the Sumner M. Redstone Theater or the Bartos Screening Room at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, NY. Tickets: \$15 (with discounts for students, seniors, youth, and MoMI members). Advance tickets are available online at [movingimage.us](https://movingimage.us)

***Some Came Running***

**Introduced by Jake Perlin and Michael Koresky**

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 7:00 P.M.

Dir. Vincente Minnelli. 1958, 137 mins. 35mm from Park Circus. With Frank Sinatra, Shirley MacLaine, Dean Martin, Martha Hyer, Arthur Kennedy.

***The Misfits***

**Introduced by Jake Perlin**

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1:00 P.M.

Dir. John Huston. 1961, 125 mins. DCP. With Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable, Montgomery Clift, Thelma Ritter, Eli Wallach, Kevin McCarthy.

***A Streetcar Named Desire***

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 3:30 P.M.

Dir. Elia Kazan. 1951, 122 mins. DCP. With Marlon Brando, Vivien Leigh, Kim Hunter, Karl Malden.

***Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore***

**Introduced by Thora Siemsen**

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 6:00 P.M.

Dir. Martin Scorsese. 1974. 112 mins. Archival 35mm. With Ellen Burstyn, Kris Kristofferson, Harvey Keitel, Diane Ladd.

***Ace in the Hole***

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 12:30 P.M.

Dir. Billy Wilder. 1951, 111 mins. 35mm from Park Circus. With Kirk Douglas, Jan Sterling, Bob Arthur, Porter Hall.

***Fool for Love***

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1:00 P.M.

Dir. Robert Altman. 1985, 106 mins. 35mm from Park Circus. With Sam Shepard, Kim Basinger, Harry Dean Stanton, Randy Quaid.

***Bad Day at Black Rock***

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 3:15 P.M.

Dir. John Sturges. 1955, 81 mins. 35mm from Park Circus. With Spencer Tracy, Robert Ryan, Dean Jagger, Anne Francis, Ernest Borgnine, Lee Marvin, Walter Brennan.

***Close Encounters of the Third Kind***

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 5:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Steven Spielberg. 1977, 137 mins. 4K DCP. With Richard Dreyfuss, Teri Garr, Melinda Dillon, François Truffaut, Bob Balaban.

***Inferno (3-D)***

**Introduced by Kent Jones**

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1:00 P.M.

Dir. Roy Ward Baker. 1953, 83 mins. 3-D DCP. With Robert Ryan, Rhonda Fleming.

**Three Classics by the Maysles Brothers**

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 3:00 P.M.

This program features three Maysles films that evoke the period or locations depicted in *Asteroid City*. **Showman** (Dirs. Albert and David Maysles. 1963, 53 mins). **Meet Marlon Brando** (Dirs. Albert and David Maysles. 1966, 29 mins). **A Visit with Truman Capote** (Dirs. Albert Maysles, David Maysles, Charlotte Zwerin. 1966, 29 mins).

Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) is the only institution in the United States that deals comprehensively with the art, technology, enjoyment, and social impact of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facility in Astoria, New York, the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, and creative leaders; and education programs. It houses the nation's largest collection of moving image artifacts and screens over 500 films annually. Its exhibitions—including the core exhibition *Behind the Screen* and *The Jim Henson Exhibition*—are noted for their integration of material objects, interactive experiences, and audiovisual presentations. For more information about the MoMI, visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).

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**MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Hours: Thurs, 2:00–6:00 p.m. Fri, 2:00–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 12:00–6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$20 adults, \$12 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with

ID, \$10 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. General admission is free every Thursday, 2:00–6:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 students and seniors, \$9 youth (ages 3–17), free or discounted for Museum members (depending on level of membership). Advance purchase is available online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M or R to Steinway Street. N or W to 36 Ave or Broadway.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

Membership: [movingimage.us/join-and-support/become-a-member](http://movingimage.us/join-and-support/become-a-member) or 718 777 6877

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).