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Adrienne Papp RUNS a platform that releases latest news in entertainment and about people with extraordinary stories.

**About the Author of all Spotlight Articles:** Dame Adrienne Papp is a recognized journalist, economist and feature writer who has written for many publications including [Savoir](#), [Beverly Hills 90210](#), [Malibu Beach](#), [Santa Monica Sun](#), [The Beverly Hills Times](#), [Brentwood News](#), [Bel-Air View](#), [Celebrity Society](#), [Celeb Staff](#), [It Magazine](#), [Chic Today](#), [LA2DAY](#), [West Side Today](#) among many others. She is the President and CEO of Los Angeles / New York-based publicity company, [Atlantic Publicity](#) and publishing house, [Atlantic Publisher](#). Adrienne writes about world trends, [Quantum Physics](#), entertainment and interviews celebrities, world leaders, inventors, philanthropists and entrepreneurs. She also owns [Atlantic United Films](#) that produces and finances true stories made for theatrical release or the silver screen. [Spotlight News Magazine](#) is owned by [Atlantic United, Inc.](#) Dame Adrienne Papp is a member of the [International Press Academy](#).

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# The American Cinematheque Presents Jazz on Film, By Adrienne Papp

SPOTLIGHT MEDIA PRODUCTIONS



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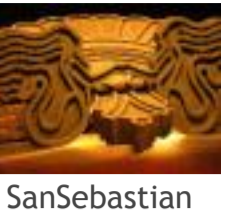
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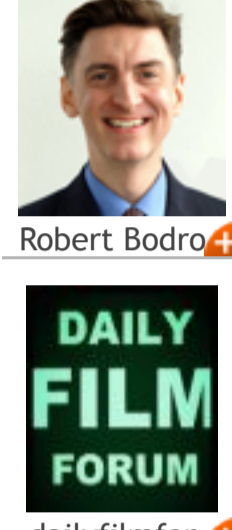
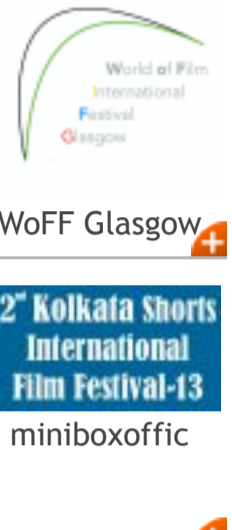
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**Jazz On Film**

Sponsored by Sony Legacy Recordings and Amoeba Music



Thur., August 20 - Sun., August 23, 2015

Aero Theatre · 1328 Montana Ave

Santa Monica, CA · 90403

[Series Info](#) · [Buy Tickets](#)



Jazz and motion pictures have been inseparable since the pioneering 1927 talkie *THE JAZZ SINGER*. Our weekend survey of jazz on film goes way beyond Al Jolson, with fine and mellow balladry, jumpin' and jivin' rhythms, cool crime scores and hot Latin music turning the Aero into the hippest nightclub in town. Join us as we salute some of the greatest jazz vocalists and instrumentalists to ever grace the big screen!

Short subjects were usually part of a night at the movies in the 1930s, and occasionally consisted of musical numbers; legends including **Duke Ellington**, **Louis Armstrong**, **Bessie Smith** and **Cab Calloway** perform their hits in our night of restored jazz shorts. Classic musical *STORMY WEATHER* features fine singing from **Lena Horne**, **Fats Waller** and Calloway, as well as fancy footwork from **Bill "Bojangles" Robinson** and the **Nicholas Brothers**.

Narrative films drew from the power of jazz, sometimes for plotlines. Biopics have dramatized the lives of musicians from Glenn Miller and Red Nichols to Charlie Parker; **Diana Ross**' electrifying performance as **Billie Holiday** in *LADY SINGS THE BLUES* shows how powerful the right combination of star and role can be. More often, jazz supplied the soundtrack, and its edgy energy was perfect for film noir. **Duke Ellington**'s score for *ANATOMY OF A MURDER* and Modern Jazz Quartet pianist **John Lewis**' music for *ODDS AGAINST TOMORROW* are superb examples of "crime jazz."

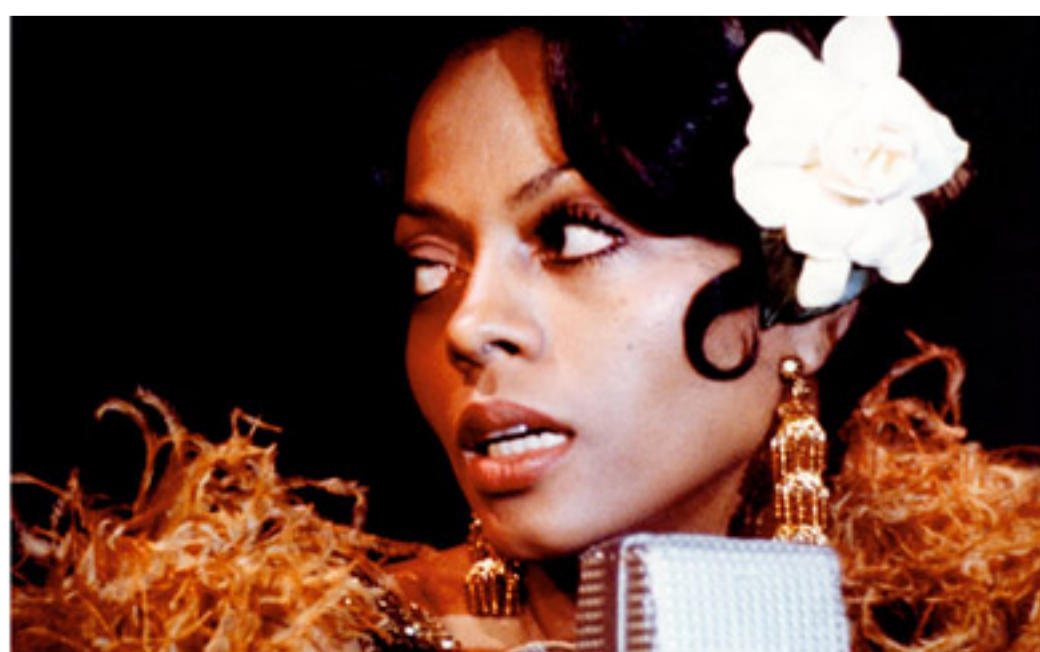
Nonfiction films also have put the spotlight on styles of jazz further off the beaten path. **Andy Garcia**'s portrait of the original mambo king, *CACHAO ... COMO SU RITMO NO HAY DOS* helped to put the vibrant music of Cuba on the jazz map. And *CALLE 54* offers a solid introduction to the Latin jazz of such virtuosos as **Tito Puente**, **Gato Barbieri** and **Chucho Valdes**.

*We're thrilled to welcome in-person guests for this series including Andy Garcia, jazz musician Corky Hale (who accompanied Billie Holiday in 1956) and tap dancer/choreographer Rusty Frank!*

Thursday, August 20 - 7:30 PM

*All ticket buyers will be eligible to win a Billie Holiday CD courtesy of Sony Legacy Recordings.*

Introduction by jazz musician **Corky Hale**, who accompanied Billie Holiday in 1956. A talented pianist, harpist and vocalist in her own right, Corky has also performed with Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett and Barbra Streisand, among many others.



**LADY SINGS THE BLUES**

1972, Paramount, 144 min, USA, Dir: Sidney J. Furie

*Rare Archival Print!* **Diana Ross** earned an Oscar nomination for her feature debut as **Billie Holiday** in this loose adaptation of the legendary jazz singer's autobiography. As she rises from Harlem brothel worker to Carnegie Hall headliner, Lady Day struggles with racism and drugs; **Billy Dee Williams** and **Richard Pryor**, respectively, play the angel and the devil on her shoulders. Nominated for four other Oscars including Best Screenplay, Best Production Design, Best Costume Design and Best Score. Diana Ross performs some of Holiday's classic songs, including "God Bless the Child," "All of Me," "Them There Eyes" and "Strange Fruit."

Friday, August 21 - 7:30 PM

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All ticket buyers will be eligible to win a jazz CD courtesy of Sony Legacy Recordings.

Introduction by tap dancer and choreographer **Rusty Frank**, who will put into context some of the dancing seen in the shorts, and talk about her relationship with the Nicholas Brothers, who appear in **STORMY WEATHER**. She will also sign her book, [TAP! The Greatest Tap Dance Stars and Their Stories 1900-1955](#), in the lobby at 6:30 PM.



**"Jazz on a Spring Day"**  
100 min.  
*West Coast Premiere!*

See performances by some of jazz's greatest artists in these vintage shorts, digitally restored by the Cohen Film Collection from the best existing 35mm elements! Films include: "Symphony in Black: A Rhapsody of Negro Life" with Duke Ellington and Billie Holiday; "A Rhapsody in Black and Blue" with Louis Armstrong; "St. Louis Blues" with Bessie Smith; "Cab Calloway's Hi-De-Ho"; "A Bundle of Blues" with Duke Ellington; "(Paramount Presents)Hoagy Carmichael"; "Artie Shaw's Class in Swing"; "Jazz à la Cuba" with The Don Aspiazu Orchestra; and "Black and Tan Fantasy" with Duke Ellington.

Saturday, August 22 - 7:30 PM [More Info](#) | [Buy Tickets](#)

All ticket buyers will be eligible to win a Duke Ellington CD courtesy of Sony Legacy Recordings.



**STORMY WEATHER**  
1943, 20th Century Fox, 78 min, USA, Dir: Andrew L. Stone

The life of Bill "Bojangles" Robinson provided loose inspiration for this classic musical, and he stars as a WWI vet who hopes to make it big as a dancer and win the heart of singer Selina Rogers (**Lena Horne**). Selected for preservation in the Library of Congress' National Film Registry, this dazzling revue was among the first major studio features with a predominantly African-American cast, and showcases iconic performances by such stars as Cab Calloway, Fats Waller and the Nicholas Brothers, whose "Jumpin' Jive" sequence was once described by Fred Astaire as the greatest movie musical number he had ever seen.



**ANATOMY OF A MURDER**  
1959, Sony Repertory, 160 min, USA, Dir: Otto Preminger

The finest courtroom drama ever made, a masterpiece of ambiguity in which the audience is the ultimate juror. **James Stewart** (in what is arguably his richest performance) is a small-town lawyer who defends an arrogant soldier (**Ben Gazzara**) for the murder of his sexy wife's supposed rapist. Superb performances from **Eve Arden**, **Arthur O'Connell** and **George C. Scott**, and enhanced by a jazz score from **Duke Ellington**, who makes a surprise cameo appearance performing at the neighborhood juke joint.

Sunday, August 23 - 7:30 PM

All ticket buyers will be eligible to win a prize pack courtesy of Amoeba Music, including a gift certificate, t-shirt and tote bag.

Discussion between films with CACHAO director Andy Garcia (schedule permitting).



**CACHAO ...**  
**COMO SU RITMO NO HAY DOS**



**ODDS AGAINST TOMORROW**  
1959, Park Circus/MGM, 96 min, USA, Dir: Robert Wise

Bigoted ex-convict **Robert Ryan**'s mistrust of partner **Harry Belafonte** undermines the heist plans of their ex-cop leader (**Ed Begley**) in this searing, underrated crime drama - the first film noir to feature a black protagonist. Great on-location New York ambiance fills every exterior shot. With **Shelley Winters** and **Gloria Grahame**, and featuring an atmospheric score by **Modern Jazz Quartet** pianist **John Lewis**.



**CALLE 54**  
2000, Park Circus/Miramax, 105 min, Dir: Fernando Trueba

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1993, CineSon, 112 min, USA, Dir: Andy Garcia

Bassist and composer **Israel López** - better known as **Cachao** - helped introduce jazz improvisation to **Cuba**, giving birth to the mambo. This vibrant concert film of the master and his band at work in Miami in 1992 was perhaps the first to spotlight Cuban music, predating **BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB** by several years. "*Clearly reverential, CACHAO illuminates its subject in a way most documentaries don't: By letting the music speak for itself, it's eloquent beyond language.*" - Richard Harrington, [The Washington Post](#).

Acclaimed Spanish director **Fernando Trueba** (BELLE EPOQUE) brought Latin jazz greats from all over the world to a recording studio on 54th Street in New York City for a musical summit meeting. **Tito Puente, Chano Dominguez, Chucho Valdes, Gato Barbieri, Cachao** and others are in top form in this magical performance film. "*CALLE 54 is closer in spirit to THE LAST WALTZ in that it mounts a respectful staging of the songs by its performers with an ease and classiness not lavished on jazz since the black-and-white jazz shorts of the 1930s and '40s.*" - Elvis Mitchell, [The New York Times](#).

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