

untried, and groundbreaking (literally).—  
Brent Marchant, Chicago

**The First Monday in May.** 92 min. Andrew Rossi, dist. by Magnolia Home Entertainment, [www.magnoliahome.com](http://www.magnoliahome.com). 2016. DVD UPC 876964009652. \$26.98. SDH subtitles.

**Rated:** PG-13. FASHION

This documentary takes a behind-the-scenes look at the yearlong preparation for the annual fundraiser for the Costume Institute of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. The 2015 show, "China: Through the Looking Glass," broke records and fulfilled museum curator Andrew Bolton's goal of outdoing his historic 2011 Alexander McQueen exhibit, a masterly blend of fashion and art. While Bolton negotiates the delicate balance of organizing the show in the midst of cultural and political sensitivities (the exhibit was a cross-cultural display of Western-influenced Chinese fashion), *Vogue* editor in chief Anna Wintour oversees plans for the ball and dinner. The film culminates with clips from the star-studded red carpet event and a brief follow-up of the reviews.

**VERDICT** Audiences fascinated by fashion and celebrity culture will be intoxicated by this glimpse into an exclusive microcosm.—Phillip Oliver, formerly with Univ. of North Alabama Lib., Florence

**Ray Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan.** color & b/w. 97 min. Gilles Penso, dist. by Arrow Films c/o MVDvisual, [www.mvdb2b.com](http://www.mvdb2b.com). 2016. DVD UPC 760137864998. \$14.95; Blu-ray UPC 760137864998. \$19.95.

**Closed-captioned.** FILM

Ranging from the rampaging one-eyed cyclops in *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* (1958) to an army of sword-wielding skeletons in *Jason and the Argonauts* (1963), the "stop-motion" special effects of Ray Harryhausen (1920–2013) thrilled generations of young moviegoers and inspired would-be filmmakers such as Steven Spielberg, James Cameron, and Peter Jackson. This wide-ranging tribute shows the late filmmaker describing how the classic 1933 *King Kong* set him on the path to his 50-year career. Harryhausen was famed for his creative "touches" that humanized such "charming monsters" as the giant ape in *Mighty Joe Young* (1949). Admirers and colleagues discuss the importance of music in his films, Harryhausen's preference for model-making over today's computer-generated effects, and his tradition of retaining creative control. Bonus extras include filmmaker commentary. **VERDICT** Even the most demanding Harryhausen fan will be pleased with this film, which boasts plenty of clips and lessons from the master. Highly recommended.—Stephen Rees, formerly with Levittown Lib., PA

**Finding Babel.** 88+ min. David Novack, Video Project, [www.videoproject.com](http://www.videoproject.com). 2016. DVD \$89; acad. libs. \$295; public performance/DSL \$395. Closed-captioned. LIT Author Isaac Babel (1894–1940) began publishing in the Soviet Union in the early 1920s, achieving some renown with *Red Cavalry* and *Odessa Stories*. He served as a cultural face of the USSR, until 1939 when he was arrested and executed and his work confiscated in one of Stalin's purges. This documentary chronicles Babel's grandson Andrei Malaev-Babel and a camera crew visiting significant sites in his grandfather's life in the hopes of locating some of those lost writings. The travel scenes are intercut with readings from Babel's work, voiced by actor Liev Schreiber. While beautifully shot, the film sometimes strains for significance as Malaev-Babel gazes at tombstones or buildings, trying to absorb meaning. It also glosses over just how messy Babel's life was, with one family in Paris and another in Moscow. **VERDICT** While the film garnered a handful of festival prizes, unless Babel has a strong readership in your library, you can likely skip this.—John Hiatt, formerly with Iowa City P.L.

**The Damned: Don't You Wish That You Were Dead.** color & b/w. 110+ min. Wes Orshoski & Jeanne Triolo, dist. by MVDvisual, [www.mvdb2b.com](http://www.mvdb2b.com). 2016. Blu-ray UPC 889466024481. \$24.95. MUSIC

Filmmaker Orshoski documents British first-wave punk pioneers the Damned's long and complicated career, shedding fascinating light on a band that never became as infamous as the Sex Pistols or as famous as the Clash but that boasts a rabid fan base and a story well worth relating. Orshoski tells this tale with a combination of recent interviews with past and current band members and archival live and television appearance footage. The film downplays the band's shifting sound and genre hopping as well as its important accomplishments, including being the first 1970s British punk band to release a single ("New Rose") and an album (*Damned, Damned, Damned*) and tour the United States as headliners. It instead emphasizes the group's often-tumultuous relationship with critics and record labels and the internal strife that led to a string of lineup changes and a lot of hurt feelings. DVD and Blu-ray extras include bonus live footage. **VERDICT** Informed punk fans and die-hard Damned followers will appreciate the classic footage and band member commentary. This will likely appeal to viewers who already know why the Damned matter.—Douglas King, Univ. of South Carolina Lib., Columbia

**Love Is a Verb.** 57+ min. Terry Spencer Hesser, dist. by MPI Home Video, [www.mpihomevideo.com](http://www.mpihomevideo.com). 2016. DVD UPC 030306723099. \$24.98; Blu-ray UPC 030306196596. \$29.98. REL

Fethullah Gulen is the Islamic cleric Turkish officials have accused of being behind the recent coup attempt. Now living in Pennsylvania, he is the inspiration for an Islamic movement that emphasizes interreligious dialog and service to others. His followers run a number of schools worldwide, including charter schools in the United States that educate boys and girls and emphasize science. They also run humanitarian aid organizations. Gulen's life and movement are seen here against the rise of modern secular Turkey and the tradition of Sufi Islam, the mystical sect that includes the poet Rumi and is perhaps most widely identified with the Whirling Dervishes. Emphasis is placed on the movement itself and the role Gulen's followers play in society. His rocky relationship with Turkey's leaders is also explored. **VERDICT** Given Gulen's recent notoriety and his promotion of a form of Islam that is far removed from the one usually seen as characteristic of that religion, this documentary is important for understanding a more moderate strain that has become influential.—Augustine J. Curley, Newark Abbey, NJ

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Heroes on Deck: World War II on Lake Michigan.** color & b/w. 57 min. John Davies, dist. by Midwest Tape, [www.midwesttapes.com](http://www.midwesttapes.com). 2016. DVD UPC 643526999283.

**\$19.95; public performance available.** HIST From 1942 to 1945, more than 15,000 naval aviators and over 40,000 aircraft carrier deck crews completed training aboard the *USS Wolverine* and the *USS Sable* on Lake Michigan. The carriers were highly modified Great Lakes passenger steamships used to qualify navy and marine fliers for carrier landings; more than 100 aircraft were lost in the lake during training. Though generally well preserved in the cold waters through 1989, these vintage aircraft are now subject to the additional stress of corrosion from the invasive quagga mussel. This video relates this aspect of the war on the Great Lakes through period film and contemporary interviews with former trainees. Recovery operations and restoration plans for three planes bring the video up-to-date. **VERDICT** This highly recommended video will be of great interest to history buffs.—Cliff Glaviano, formerly with Bowling Green State Univ. Libs., OH

**Love and Marriage in Kabul.** 52 min. Amin Palangi, dist. by Grasshopper Film, [www.grasshopperfilm.com](http://www.grasshopperfilm.com). 2016.