## **Movies**

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slavery in 1841. With undiminished dignity, Chiwetel Ejiofor ("Dirty Pretty Things," "Kinky Boots") plays Northup as he's led from plantation to plantation

plantation.

McQueen tells the story straightforwardly, often in long takes, submerging the audience in the world of slavery. Ejiofor says McQueen aimed to tell Northuy's story literally, without embellishment. "In doing that, it creates its own intensity," says the actor.

"I remember having conversations about if one can capture — even for a moment for an audience — what any of these things might have felt like, might have tasted like, might have really been like, then I think it's a really powerful piece of filmmaking," says Eijofor.

Even for a season known for prestigious biopics, there's a plethora of films based on true stories: Nicole Kidman plays Grace Kelly ("Grace of Monaco," Nov. 27); Benedict Cumberbatch plays WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange ("The Fifth Estate," Oct. 18); Idris Elba plays Nelson Mandela ("Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom," Nov. 29); and Matthew McConaughey plays an industrious HIV-infected man ("Dallas Buyers Club," Nov. 1).

There's also Hanks as Walt Disney ("Saving Mr. Banks," Dec. 20); Naomi Watts as Princess Diana ("Diana," Nov. 1); Ralph Fiennes as Charles Dickens ("The Invisible Woman," Dec. 25); Daniel Radcliffe as Allen Ginsburg ("Kill Your Darlings," Oct. 18); Hemsworth as Formula One driver James Hunt (Ron Howard's "Rush," Sept. 27); and Channing Tatum as Olympic wrestling champ Mark Schultz (Bennett Miller's "Foxcatcher," Dec. 20).

#### **CINEMA STARS**

Like McQueen, Alfonso Cuaron ("Children of Men," "Y Tu Mama Tambien") is known for his predilection for uninterrupted takes. He opens "Gravity" (Oct. 4) with an unbroken 17-minute shot, the kind that bravura craftsmanship cinephiles will drool over.

In the film, Sandra Bullock and Clooney play astronauts tethered together after they're left stranded in space. The film is, in part, a chamber piece between two characters, floating in the black abyss. It's also a playground for Cuaron and his cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki to experiment with 3-D effects and zero-gravity camera movement that

isn't beholden to up or down. To keep the audience adrift in space, Cuaron resisted cutting

ting.

"It's the idea of trying to create a moment of truthfulness in which the camera happens to be there just to witness, and respecting that moment in real time," says Cuaron. "In this film, we felt it was going to bring the added value of the immersive element."

Many other top-flight film-makers will be showing their craftsmanship this fall, including Martin Scorsese, who'll release his "The Wolf of Wall Street" (Nov. 15), a story of the decadence of modern finance starring Leonardo Di-Caprio that should rival that of the actor's last film, "The Great Gatsby."

The Coen brothers have

## **Arts**

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Friday, Sept. 6, from 5-7 p.m. Koch will give a gallery talk and a drawing demonstration starting at 5:30 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public.

Following Koch's exhibit and back by popular demand, a fall session of Artist Unleashed will be held at the gallery. "Fish, Flowers, Feathers, and Females" are the inspiration for the upcoming 'Paint and Sip" classes under the instruction of professional visual artist Cheryl Peterson-Halsey which will run Oct. 10-11 and 17-18. Painters of all ability levels are encouraged to unleash their inner artists and try this fun social art experience. Further class descriptions and registration details can be found online at www.YanktonAreaArts.org or by calling the YAA office at 605-665-9754.

Yankton Area Arts is a non-profit arts organization located at 508 Douglas Avenue in Yankton. The G.A.R. Hall Art Gallery is open to the public free of charge from 1-5 p.m. weekdays and from 1-3 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call the YAA office phone at (605) 665-9754 or email Executive Director Jackie Quinn at yaa@iw.net.

FAMILY FISSURES

To create a realistic impression of the Westons, the Oklahoma family of "August: Osage County," Wells congregated his cast — picked to feel like a family — at an old Osage County home.

"The cast lived in a complex of small town homes together throughout the shoot," says Wells, the producer of "ER" and "Shameless," making his second feature film following 2010's "The Company Men." 'It was a ways from town and from home. People didn't return to the trailers often. We were just in the house, living as a family and rehearsing."

The cast even started

adopting similar physical gestures and facial expressions to match their fictional parents, Wells says. Streep's three daughters (Roberts, Juliette Lewis and Julianne Nicholson) aped her mannerisms to lend a familial truth-

Other tales of family, albeit of very different sorts, this fall include "Prisoners" (Sept. 20) a thriller in which Hugh Jackman and Terrence Howard play fathers whose daughters go missing. In "Out of the Furnace," Christian Bale and Casey Affleck star as brothers separated when one is lured into a gang while in prison. In Jason Reitman's "Labor Day" (Dec. 25), Kate Winslet plays a mother who,

with her 13-year-old son, encounter an escaped convict.

#### AWARDS ATTENTION

Many of these films will naturally enter the awards circuit and the months-long handicapping leading up to the Oscars. It was only months ago that Russell went through that gauntlet with "Silver Linings Playbook," which received eight Academy Awards nominations, winning one for Lawrence

one for Lawrence.
An instinctive filmmaker
("There's an immediacy when
it comes from the gut," he
says), Russell escaped the
frenzy by jumping — quicker
than he ever had between
films — into "American Hustle" (Dec. 25). The film, which

stars Bale, Lawrence, Bradley Cooper and Amy Adams, is a stylish story about the FBI Abscam operation and a cast of corrupt characters operating in the '70s recession-era Northeast.

"It's about the world of these people who are jaw-dropping to me," says Russell. "You look at them, and you're like: Oh my God. Who are these people? ... They're messed up and human, but they're fighting to survive."

Russell can again expect the prestige of a release in the heart of awards season. But the aura of the season, he says, ultimately means little.

"The film has to prove itself," says Russell. "Let the proof be in the pudding."



"Inside Llewyn Davis," (Dec.

20), a film about a folk musi-

cian struggling in early 1960s

Scott will release "The Coun-

selor" (Oct. 25), a dark Mexican border thriller from a

script by Cormac McCarthy.

Alexander Payne's return to

his native Midwest, a black-

trip. Spike Lee has his remake

More fanciful will be Ben

and-white father-son road

of Chan-wook Park's "Old-

Stiller's "The Secret Life of

Walter Mitty" (Dec. 25), an

mance starring Joaquin

adaption of James Thurber's

short story; and Spike Jonze's "Her" (Dec. 18), a futuristic ro-

boy" (Nov. 27).

Phoenix.

"Nebraska" (Nov. 22) is

Greenwich Village. Ridley

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