

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



'The Japanese Dog,' from Romania tells the story of an elderly man in the countryside whose recent loss brings him back in touch with an estranged son who returns home for a visit with his Japanese wife and small son. It's scheduled for three screenings at the Portland International Film Festival.

Savoring Cultures and Perspectives

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the older of two key roles (having built her career on the younger character); "The Tribe," a Ukrainian film that won prizes at the Cannes Film Festival and is presented only in sign language with no translation; "Hotel Nueva Isla," a documentary about a formerly luxurious old Havana hotel that now houses people living on the fringes of Cuban society; "Underdog," about a young Swedish immigrant working as a domestic in Norway; "Phoenix," a German film about a concentration camp survivor returning to Berlin to find the husband she still loves who may have betrayed her to the Nazis; and "The Duke of Burgundy," an erotic melodrama from the United Kingdom.

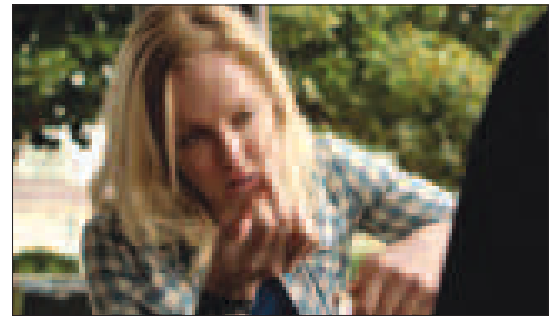
I've got an ambitious goal of seeing about 50 feature-length films this year; who knows if I'll make that goal but there is no doubt I'll savor the opportunity to sample so many different cultures and perspectives. Many of the PIFF films, even some of the best, never get a theatrical release. So it pays to take a risk and find an evening or two (or 10) to stretch beyond the usual multiplex fare.

Films will play all over the city and you can buy advance tickets on the festival's website, festivals.nwfilm.org/piiff38, by phone at 503-276-4310 or at the box office at the Mark Building, Portland Art Museum, 1119 S.W. Park Ave. Paper copies of the schedule are also available all over the city. I advise arriving 30 minutes ahead of each film, as many films screen to full houses and they will only hold seats until 10 minutes before the film begins. The festival website has

links to previews of most of the films to help you choose, and I'll be posting reviews of upcoming films next week.

Darleen Ortega is a judge on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the

first woman of color to serve in that capacity. Her movie review column *Opinionated Judge* appears regularly in *The Portland Observer*. You can find her movie blog at opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com.



Portland's Storm Large stars in 'The Punishing Business,' one of the 'Short Cuts 2: Made in Oregon' selections which will screen Sunday, Feb. 8 at the Portland International Film Festival.

Made in Oregon Short Cuts

The Northwest Film Center's commitment to highlighting cinematic works produced in the Northwest is explicitly expressed in this year's Portland International Film Festival's "Short Cuts 2: Made in Oregon" short program.

Oregon-based filmmakers, including films by festival favorites like Joanna Priestley and Vanessa Renwick, but also work by emerging talents like Austin

Will, Jessica Baclesse, and Lara Gallagher, will be featured. Also showing is the latest work by Portland-based director Heather Harlow, *The Punishing Business*, starring Portland's own Storm Large.

Short Cuts 2: Made in Oregon will run Sunday, Feb. 8 at 1 p.m. at the Northwest Film Center, located at 934 S.W. Salmon St. For tickets or more information, visit festivals.nwfilm.org/piiff38.

