



New York  
Public  
Library

# Screening: THE BLACK MONK, inspired by Anton Chekhov

Sunday, October 7, 2018, 2:30 p.m.

**PROGRAM LOCATIONS:**

Jefferson Market Library, First Floor

ASL interpretation and real-time (CART) captioning available upon request. Please submit your request at least two weeks in advance by emailing [accessibility@nypl.org](mailto:accessibility@nypl.org).

*"Highly Recommended Movie: Beautifully shot, erudite, heartbreaking tale of misbegotten love... There is something undoubtedly romantic about having a whole museum or botanical garden to yourself, for a full day of intoxicating conversation, with the love of your life." ~Sam Weisberg, film critic, Hidden Films*

**THE BLACK MONK** fiction film, inspired by Anton Chekhov

by filmmakers Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno

Produced in Association with The Staten Island Museum



Image courtesy of and © Bongiorno Productions Inc.

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Post-screening Talkback with the filmmakers and Special Guests

Learn more and Read Chekhov's short story at: [www.BongiornoProductions.com](http://www.BongiornoProductions.com)

Emmy-nominated, award-winning, social justice, husband-and-wife filmmakers Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno will present their 105-minute *THE BLACK MONK* fiction film on Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm at the Jefferson Market Library. Talkback with the filmmakers and Special Guests immediately following.

The film was inspired by the eponymous short story by Anton Chekhov and depicts a filmmaker struggling with sanity who encounters a legendary monk and uncovers the meaning of life and a lost love.

Shot on Staten Island and featuring alumni of NYU Tisch Grad Acting.

**Starring:**

Jack Berenholtz

Drew Dix

Emily Gardner Hall

Tim Nicolai

Victoria Wallace

Charles Warburton

Rev. Augustine Curley, OSB

**Presented in the first floor Willa Cather Community Room. All events are free and open to the public.**

**Reviews:**

*"A wonderful film....exhilarating script...Chekhov's unusual story is not an easy work to construe cinematically, but filmmakers Marylou & Jerome Bongiorno succeed brilliantly in conveying its elusive spirit."* ~Rosamund Bartlett, Chekhov Scholar and Author

*"The filmmakers (also co-screenwriters) have managed to tap into some of Chekhov's quirkiness and wit, and the result is quite entertaining. They have also done a great service by providing a valuable tool for teaching about mental illness."* ~Guy Glass, MD, MFA, NYU School of Medicine LITMED

*"THE BLACK MONK is certainly not a reverentially literal adaptation of Anton Chekhov's eponymous story or a simplistic attempt at dressing Chekhov's narrative in contemporary garb. Rather, the film offers a thoughtful meditation on Chekhov's inquiry into what constitutes human goodness, as well as on the limits of one man's ability to affect universal change, in today's world."* ~Nadya Peterson, Russian and Slavic Studies Program, Hunter College & CUNY Graduate Center

*"THE BLACK MONK raises questions central to the spiritual life: how we want to live our lives in a safe garden but must venture out...how we must balance faith and science as believers...and how we must negotiate the joyful consolation of our relationships with God and others with the daily bumpiness when things don't go the way we want. This film is a modern riff on an ancient struggle to live for greater ideals in a messy world."* ~Christopher Bellitto, Professor of History, Kean University