

## Peter Larsen

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In the late 1970s, when punk rock still seemed dangerous – no, it’s true, kids, you can ask your mom and dad – the venerable old Ukrainian Culture Center in East Hollywood was one of the few places in Los Angeles willing to host shows for bands such as Black Flag and Bad Brains, the Minutemen and the Circle Jerks.

These days it’s home to tamer events like the centennial of the late great Ukrainian-American actor Volodymyr Palahniuk – you may know him as Oscar-winning actor Jack Palance – or the annual Psyanka Festival celebrating Ukrainian-style Easter egg decorating.

But music returns to the UCC for a few weeks this month when the Red Bull Music Festival holds its Center Channel film series there, screening movies that make use of genres from rock and jazz to instrumental and dance, including an opening day tribute to the punk bands that once rattled its gilded art deco rafters.

From Friday, Feb. 8 through Wednesday, Feb. 20, some 20 films will screen, many of them with guests from the productions either on screen or behind the scenes.

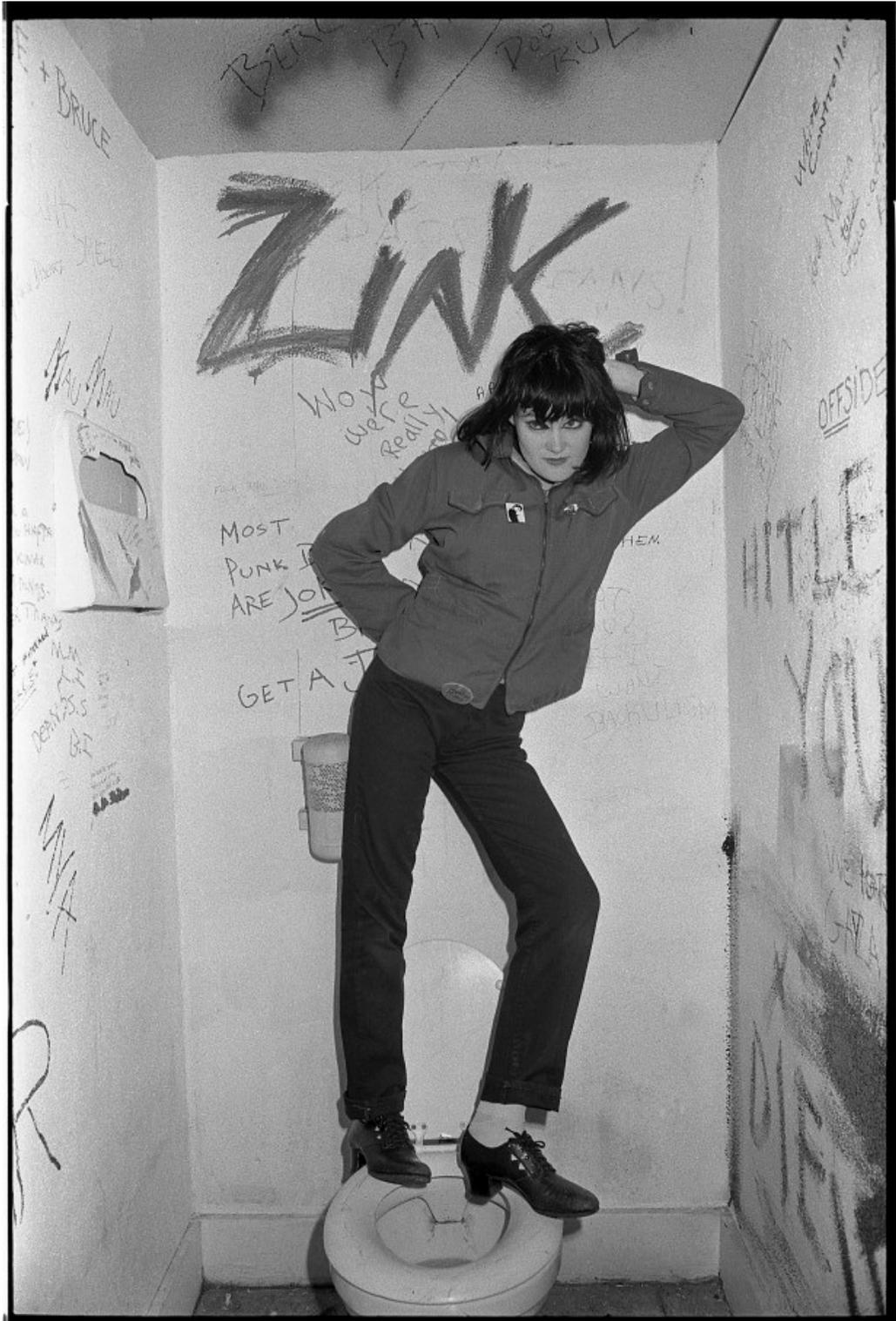
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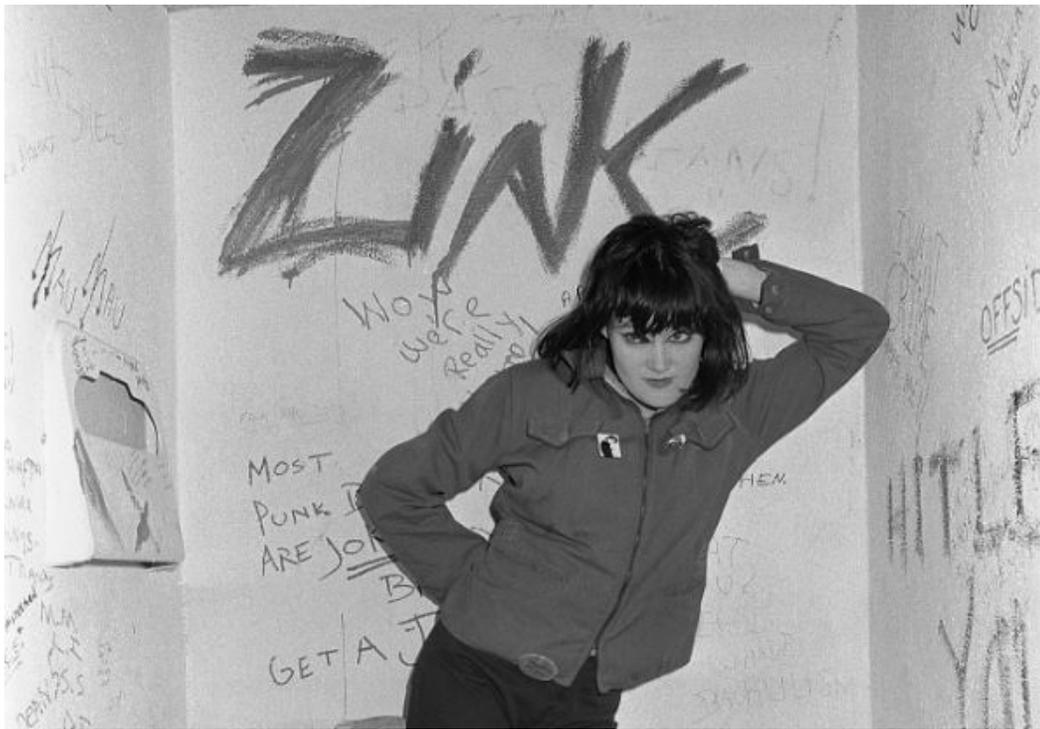
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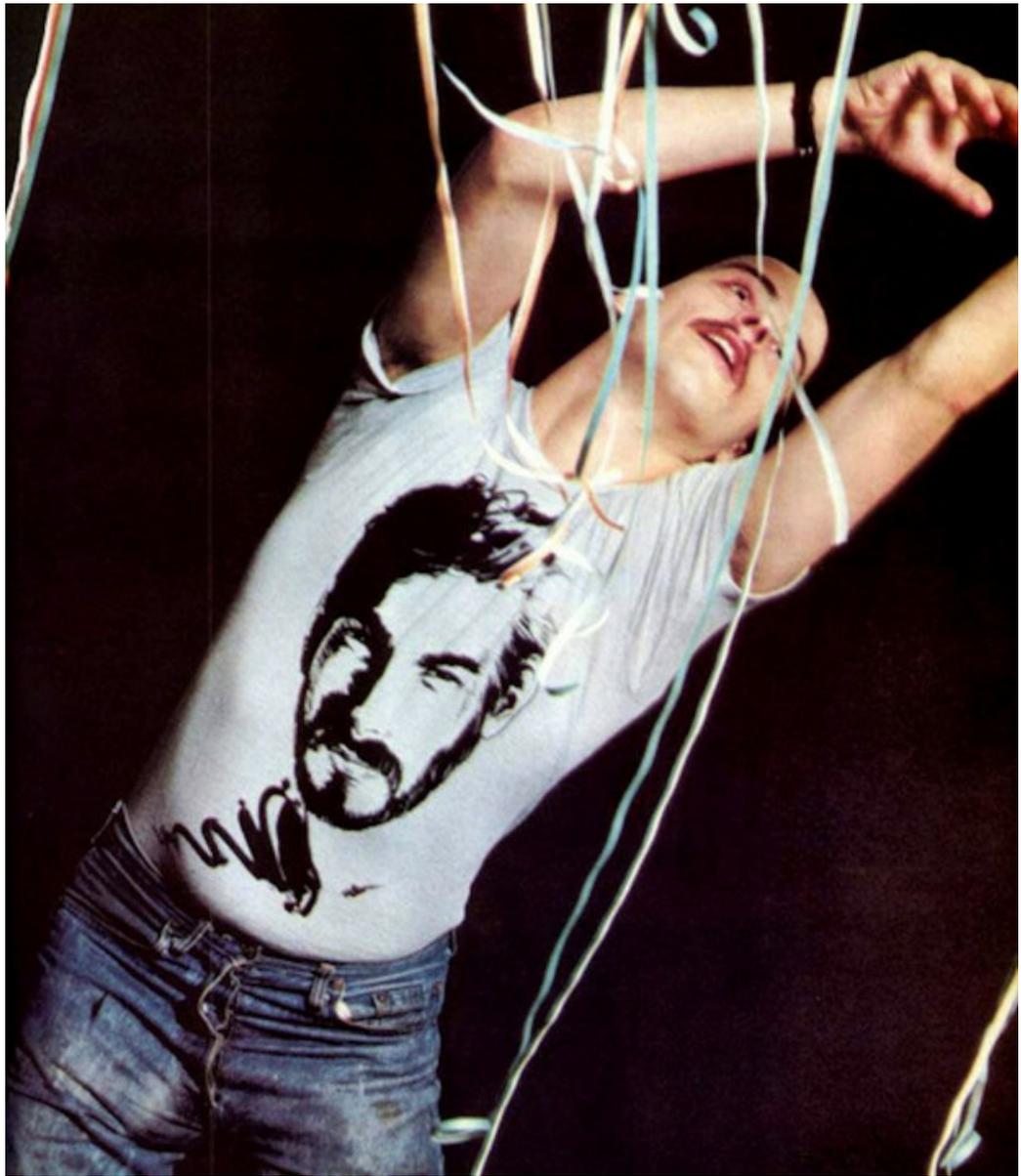
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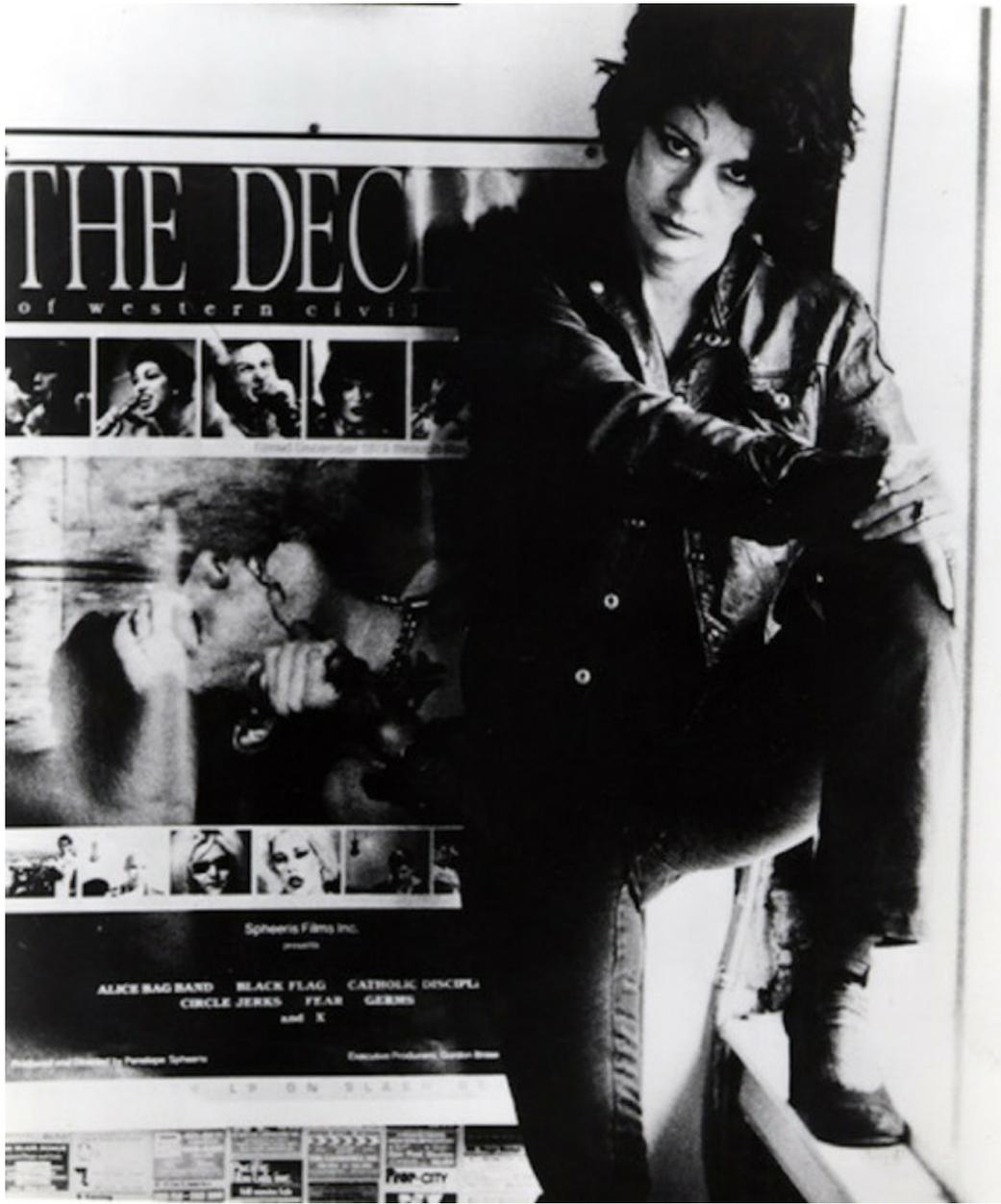
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New age composer lasos will perform with special visuals during the Red Bull Music Festival LA's Center Channel film series in Los Angeles in February 2019. (Photo by Erial Ali)

What follows is your chronological guide to the films, guests and events of Center Channel 2019. Go to [Redbull.com/us-en/music/event-series/center-channel](https://www.redbull.com/us-en/music/event-series/center-channel) for details on showtimes, ticket prices and instructions for how to reserve your spot in the audience.

**Friday, Feb. 8:** Take the day off work or skip school and get to the Ukrainian Culture Center at noon for the start of an all-day marathon of classic punk rock: documentaries, concert films, narratives, some of them surely including bands that once graced – hmm, maybe that’s not the right word? – this very stage. At 7 p.m. the punks get sent home and the 1997 bio-pic “Selena,” which starred Jennifer Lopez as the late Tejano music star Selena Quintanilla-Perez, will screen along with a Q-and-A with actors Edward James Olmos and Jacob Vargas who played Selena’s father and brother respectively.

**Saturday, Feb. 9:** “The Mountain” is set in the 1950s with Jeff Goldblum as a traveling lobotomist and Tye Sheridan as his brooding young assistant and son, as it happens, of one of Goldblum’s ice-picked patients. And no, despite the presence of Goldblum, it’s definitely not a comedy. Director Rick Alverson and composer Robert Donnell will host a post-screening discussion.

**Sunday, Feb. 10:** “The Grateful Dead Movie” is the 1977 film that revolves around a series of concerts the band performed at Winterland in San Francisco in 1974. It’s directed by Jerry Garcia, the Grateful Dead’s actually dead guitarist and singer. Also screening Sunday is “Wigstock: The Movie,” the 1995 documentary that portrays the annual Wigstock drag queen competition in New York City. Drag legend Lady Bunny will be there to tell tales and show some rare footage and shorts not included in the film.

**Monday, Feb. 11:** The 1972 Stax festival at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum commemorated the 7th anniversary of the Watts riots, featured stars such as Isaac Hayes, the Staples Singers, Albert King and Richard Pryor, and produced the concert film “Wattstax.” Special guests are promised but not yet specified.

**Tuesday, Feb. 12:** Before director Ava Duvernay broke out with 2014’s “Selma,” she made her feature debut with the 2008 documentary “This Is The Life,” which told the story of the hip-hop scene in L.A. in the ‘90s that centered around the open-mic nights at the Good Life Cafe.

**Wednesday, Feb. 13:** ComposeLA 2019 is one of the more unusual Center Channel programs. A Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs program to showcase contemporary music and thought, composer Bapari and filmmaker Alima Lee will collaborate, create and perform a new film score on the spot that will be fueled by conversation at the event. Patrisse Cullors, an artist and

co-founder of Black Lives Matter, will also participate. Later the 1971 blaxploitation-inspiring film "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song," which features an Earth, Wind and Fire soundtrack, will screen.

**Thursday, Feb. 14:** "Heatstroke: the Adult Soundtracks of Man Parrish" features the electro-funk composer in conversation about his life and career, and in particular, his lesser-known soundtracks for gay adult movies in the 1980s.

**Friday, Feb. 15:** Elisabeth Moss is the star of the forthcoming "Her Smell," the story of a talented, troubled frontwoman of a '90s rock band. It also stars Cara Delevigne, Dan Stevens, Amber Heard and Eric Stoltz. After the screening writer-director Alex Ross Perry and composer Keegan DeWitt will discuss, um, "Her Smell." The late show is 1980's "Foxes," director Adrian Lyne's debut, a story of teens in L.A. cruising through the city, checking out rock shows. Cherie Currie, frontwoman of the Runaways, stars alongside Jodie Foster, Scott Baio and Randy Quaid.

**Saturday, Feb. 16:** "Our Latin Thing" is a 1972 documentary about the rise of salsa music in the United States, combining performances with other vintage footage. "The Decline of Western Civilization" is the classic punk rock documentary, set in Los Angeles. Director Penelope Spheeris and unnamed guests will host a Q-and-A before it. The day closes out with "Desperate Teenage Lovedolls," a 1984 low-budget flick about a Runaways-like girl group.

**Sunday, Feb. 17:** "Evolutions of the Afro-Sonic" is part of the touring program of shorts that explore various new media, video art and experimental film. Each filmmaker focuses on stories of the African diaspora. Conversation between some of the creators will follow the films, and then a dance performance and party. Like you've got anything better to do than dance on a Sunday night?

**Monday, Feb. 18:** Underground drone metal band Earth – actually is it even possible for drone metal to be above ground? – will perform a custom live score to the 1922 Scandinavian silent film "Haxan!"

**Tuesday, Feb. 19:** New age composer Iasos performs for the February full moon tonight. It's "an audio-visual journey of hypnotic aural effects and otherworldly projected video," according to the program. His music has been used by NASA and laser light shows alike. I can feel my chakras activating just writing this paragraph.

**Wednesday, Feb. 20:** "Rhythm Frequencies" looks at the intersection of "black thought, sound and movement," especially as used by "femme and gender nonconforming filmmakers." That program will be followed by "Space Is The

Place," the late Sun Ra's Afrofuturist sci-film that features his free jazz soundtrack. This final event will get a live score by Sun Ra's Arkestra led by 94-year-old bandleader Marshall Allen.