

Festival of Foreign Film & Philosophy

ForeignFilmandPhilosophy.weebly.com

Every Tuesday April 26th through May 24th, 2016

5:30- 8:00 pm

Monte Cristo 101

Please join Philosophy Instructor Mike VanQuickenborne for a trip around the world from the comfort of a seat in Monte Cristo 101 for five Tuesday nights beginning April 26th!

The Festival of Foreign Film & Philosophy is all about introducing you to new cultures, ideas, and values. Each night's screening of a recent film from outside the US will be followed by a presentation and moderated discussion of what we've just seen. Given that each of the films deals with a country or person who has very recently been in the news, each week's discussion should be a lively one!

April 26th: *The Boy and the World*

(Brazil, 2013, Directed by Alê Abreu)

In this academy award nominated animated film, a boy leaves his home in the Brazilian countryside to search for his father who has left for a distant city to work in a factory. Featuring a outstanding musical score (see a music video trailer for the film here: https://youtu.be/cpOb3db_Xuc), the film is a powerful commentary on the risks to human values in the face of global development.

May 3rd: *One Night*

(Cuba, 2012, Directed by Lucy Molloy)

In Havana, Raul dreams of escaping to Miami. Accused of assault, he appeals to Elio to help him reach the forbidden world 90 miles across the ocean. One night, full of hope, they face the biggest challenge of their lives. -http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2184331/?ref=fn_al_tt_1

May 10: *Two Days, One Night*

(Belgium, 2014, Directed by Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne)

Sandra, a young Belgian mother, discovers that her workmates have opted for a significant pay bonus, in exchange for her dismissal. She has only one weekend to convince her colleagues to give up their bonuses so that she can keep her job. -http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2737050/?ref=nv_sr_1

May 17: *The Red Chapel* (AKA *Kim Jong-Il's Comedy Club*)

(Denmark/North Korea, 2009, Directed by Mads Brügger)

Two Danish comedians join the director on a trip to North Korea, where they have been allowed access under the pretext of wanting to perform a vaudeville act. -http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1546653/?ref=nm_fimg_dr_2

May 24: *Talk to Her*

(Spain, 2002, Directed by Pedro Almodovar)

The Internet Movie Database entry (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0287467/?ref_=nv_sr_1) summarizes the film this way: “After a chance encounter at a theater, two men, Benigno and Marco, meet at a private clinic where Benigno works. Lydia, Marco's girlfriend and a bullfighter by profession, has been gored and is in a coma. It so happens that Benigno is looking after another woman in a coma, Alicia, a young ballet student. The lives of the four characters will flow in all directions, past, present and future, dragging all of them towards an unsuspected destiny.” (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0287467/?ref_=nv_sr_1) However, such an abbreviated description elides the fact that the film is somewhat notorious for offering a (somewhat) sympathetic portrayal of a (not explicitly depicted) sexual assault. At the same time, it gets its audience to think about our duties to one another, and about the nature of human dignity.

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