

Presented by the Department
of Languages, Linguistics
and Comparative Literature
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THE TOURNÉES FESTIVAL

NEW FRENCH FILMS ON CAMPUS



MARCH – APRIL, 2010

Performing Arts Building, PA 101

Wednesdays, 6 – 9 p.m. | Free and open to the public

FAU Boca Raton



PERSEPOLIS / PERSEPOLIS, March 16, 6 p.m.

Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi (2007 / 95 min.)

Introduction by Dr. Farshad Araghi, Chair (Sociology). Discussion will follow screening.

Persepolis is the poignant story of a young girl coming of age in Iran during the Islamic Revolution. It is through the eyes of this precocious nine year old, Marjane, that we see a people's hopes dashed as fundamentalists take power. Clever and fearless, she outsmarts the "social guardians". But fear of the new regime runs deep, and she is sent to school in Vienna. She returns to Iran to be close to her family, only to leave again at 24. Although she loves her country she realizes that she cannot live there and she moves to France.



WELCOME / WELCOME, March 23, 6 p.m.

Philippe Lioret (2008 / 110 min.)

Introduction by Dr. Mehmet Gurses (Political Science). Discussion will follow screening.

Both a study of a budding friendship and a compassionate look at the perils faced by illegal immigrants, Philippe Lioret's *Welcome* centers on Bilal, a 17-year-old Iraqi Kurd who is stuck in Calais, in Northern France, and Simon, a recently divorced swimming teacher. Desperate to join his girlfriend in London, Bilal vows to swim across the English Channel if he has to, setting the stage for his meeting with Simon. Unmistakably a condemnation of xenophobia in France, *Welcome* also features richly drawn, fully fleshed-out lead characters.



ENTRE LES MURS / THE CLASS, March 30, 6 p.m.

Laurent Cantet (2008 / 128 min.)

Introduction by Dr. Karen Leader (Visual Arts and Art History). Discussion will follow screening.

The winner of the 2008 *Palme d'Or* at Cannes, the film follows a class at a diverse Parisian public junior high school. In an unusual example of art imitating life, the film was based on the best-selling book by real-life teacher François Bégaudeau, who also wrote the screenplay and plays himself in the film. As François attempts to teach the French language to his multi-ethnic students, he offers both the opportunity and the threat of modern cultural assimilation. No one is above reproach in this difficult and important film.



LE SILENCE DE LORNA / THE SILENCE OF LORNA, April 6, 6 p.m.

Jean-Pierre Dardenne & Luc Dardenne (2007 / 105 min.)

Introduction by Dr. Chris Robé (Communication). Discussion will follow screening.

The films of the Dardenne brothers are unrivaled in their realist, deeply humane focus on how those who exist on the margins of society face enormous moral decisions in their struggle for more stable lives in a global economy. *Lorna*, an Albanian immigrant living in Liege, lives with a heroin addict named Claudy. They have a sham marriage and Lorna dreams of opening up a café with her boyfriend. One day, she decides to execute the gruesome plans of the mobster who arranged their marriage... Lorna, like all of the Dardenne's protagonists, isn't a one-dimensional emblem of suffering, but a multifaceted character.



AZUR ET ASMAR / AZUR AND ASMARDATE, April 12, 6 p.m.

Michel Ocelot (2006 / 90 min.)

Introduction by Dr. Frédéric Conrod (Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature).

Discussion will follow screening.

Ocelot's fourth animated feature tells the story of two boys, the white, blue-eyed prince Azur and the dark-skinned Asmar, both of whom are being raised by Asmar's mother. Deftly yet subtly addressing racism, intolerance, and superstition, *Azur and Asmar* also dazzles with its sheer beauty. As a primer on cultural understanding, few animated films compare with *Azur and Asmar*, either in storytelling method or visual beauty.

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