

# WESLEYAN FILM SERIES

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JAN  
FEB  
'16



**Presented in  
The Goldsmith Family Cinema  
Center for Film Studies**

## Special Attractions

**WEDNESDAY 8PM \$5**

**THURSDAY 8PM FREE**

**FRIDAY 8PM \$5**

**SATURDAY 8PM FREE**

### WAITING FOR GUFFMAN



### JANUARY 20 WAITING FOR GUFFMAN

1997. USA. Dir: Christopher Guest. With Guest, Eugene Levy. 84 min. **35mm print.**

An eccentric community theater director with Broadway dreams leads a ragtag cast of amateurs in rehearsing a musical chronicling the history of their small Missouri town. When a real theatrical producer promises to attend opening night, emotions (and ambitions) run high. Guest's cult classic mockumentary skewers small-town hubris.

### JANUARY 27 THE FORBIDDEN ROOM

2015. Canada. Dir: Guy Maddin, Evan Johnson. With Roy Dupuis. 130 min.

From the warped depths of Maddin's psyche emerges a series of psychedelic, cinephilic visions embedded like Russian nesting dolls: squid thieves sacrificed to volcanos, the nightmare of a dead man's moustache, woodsmen trapped on a submarine forced to suck the air from flapjacks to survive, and more.

### FEBRUARY 3 CHI-RAQ

2015. USA. Dir: Spike Lee. With Teyonah Paris, Nick Cannon. 127 min.

LYSISTRATA comes to Chicago's South Side, as the local women refuse sex in protest against the growing gang violence that plagues their community. Lee's welcome return to form is bold and dynamic, packed with music, humor, and a who's-who cast (including Samuel L. Jackson as a one-man Greek chorus) to declare a still-urgent social message. **Part of the CFILM Awareness Series.**

### FEBRUARY 10 LOVE & BASKETBALL

2000. USA. Dir: Gina Prince-Bythewood. With Sanaa Lathan, Omar Epps. 124 min.

*"Aw man, he is a girl!"* Young basketball virtuoso Monica won't let social convention get in the way of donning Magic Johnson's #32 – let alone a clash with the brash neighborhood boys. Subjecting fragile first love to the exuberant fray of basketball, Prince-Bythewood side-steps potential sopppiness with credible attitude and deeply felt female empathy.

### FEBRUARY 17 RAISING ARIZONA

1987. USA. Dir: Joel & Ethan Coen. With Nicolas Cage, Holly Hunter. 94 min.

Unable to have children of their own, an ex-con and his police officer wife scheme to nab one of the quintuplets recently born to a wealthy furniture magnate. Madcap madness plays out across the Arizona desert as the Coens' trademark wry comedy balances with a surprising amount of heart.

### FEBRUARY 24 2016 Oscar Nominated Animated Shorts

Animation is the imagination's playground, and a sense of boundless creativity unifies these shorts from across the globe. Get the inside track on your Oscar pool this year, or simply enjoy the sheer breadth of talent of these visionary artists.

### JANUARY 21 NEW YORK

2009. India. Dir: Kabir Khan. With John Abraham, Irrfan Khan. 153 min.

Three Muslim buddies spend their care-free college days in the Big Apple... until the Towers fall on 9/11 and they face detainment and interrogation from paranoid American authorities. Part suspense thriller, part love triangle with hijinks and songs, this smash hit of Hindi cinema finds the human story amidst the overzealousness and racism of the War on Terror. **Sponsored by Shakti.**

### JANUARY 28 APPLES FROM THE DESERT

2014. Israel. Dir: Matti Harari, Arik Lubetsky. With Moran Rosenblatt. 96 min.

An Orthodox teen feels the pull of secularism away from her strict father and towards a cute college boy. Her escape isn't a carefree, easy liberation but a hesitant and heartfelt act of self-definition by a woman who wants the best of both worlds: finding a new life while maintaining vital connection to faith and family.

### FEBRUARY 4 GETT: THE TRIAL OF VIVIANE AMSALEM

2014. Israel/France. Dir: Ronit & Shlomi Elkabetz. With Ronit Elkabetz. 115 min.

Trapped in an unhappy marriage, Viviane petitions a rabbinic court for divorce, which can only be granted with her husband's permission. Guided by a sharp, darkly comic script, what begins as a tense courtroom drama becomes an interrogation of gender roles in the Jewish Orthodoxy.

### FEBRUARY 11 PRESENT CONTINUOUS

2012. Israel. Dir: Aner Preminger. With Hagit Dasberg, Alma Dishit. 104 min.

Enraged by the constant violence of the Second Intifada, an Israeli mother decides to barricade her house from the outside world – much to the surprise and fury of her husband and children, who are locked inside. **Director Preminger, currently Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Center for Jewish Studies, will present and discuss his work.**

### FEBRUARY 18 ZERO MOTIVATION

2014. Israel. Dir: Talya Lavie. With Dana Ivgy, Nelly Tagar. 97 min.

It's been called ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK meets M\*A\*S\*H: A group of young women while away their mandatory army time as secretaries on a remote military base, where dying of boredom poses a larger threat than dying in combat. Writer-director Lavie paints a biting portrait of office tedium both humorous and macabre.

### FEBRUARY 25 THE FAREWELL PARTY

2014. Israel. Dir: Tal Granit, Sharon Maymon. With Ze'ev Revach. 95 min.

In this darkly comic look at euthanasia, a group of seniors design a device to allow an ailing friend to end his own life. Word gets around, and soon they are met with an ethical dilemma as they receive a flood of requests to use the machine. Anchored by roundly superb performances from its ensemble, the film explores a difficult subject deftly with wit and humanity.

### JANUARY 22 THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE TWO TOWERS

2002. USA/New Zealand. Dir: Peter Jackson. With Elijah Wood. 179 min.

In the second installation of Tolkein's saga, the Fellowship has disbanded but the quest to destroy the One Ring continues. There are talking trees (ahem, *ents*), bad boys on horses (ahem, *Riders of Rohan*), and a lot of CG'ed Andy Serkis (ahem, *Gollum* – no wait, *Smeagol!*), but none of that holds a candle to one of the great battles in film history: Helm's Deep.

### JANUARY 29 SICARIO

2015. USA. Dir: Denis Villeneuve. With Emily Blunt, Benicio del Toro. 121 min.

An idealistic FBI go-getter is recruited to decapitate a big-league Mexican drug cartel, but all literally goes south as she uncovers the true workings of US operations at the border. Villeneuve (PRISONERS) keeps everyone and everything – including your forward-inching tush – on the edge in this morally complex, gorgeously moody exercise in hypertension.

### FEBRUARY 5 MEAN GIRLS

2004. USA. Dir: Mark Waters. With Lindsay Lohan, Rachel McAdams. 97 min.

A naïve teen must navigate high school cliques, crushes, and the draconian rules of Girl World after a lifetime of home schooling abruptly comes to an end. An immensely quotable script by Tina Fey and a hilarious supporting cast make for one of the most essential teen movies in recent memory – it's so fetch.

### FEBRUARY 12 AKIRA

1988. Japan. Dir: Katsuhiro Otomo. Animated. 124 min.

*"Neo Tokyo is about to explode..."* When an insidious energy source grants psychic powers to a lowly member of a biker gang, he's promptly made subject to army experiments. Unable to be contained, he seeks revenge on the society that doubted him. Equal parts THE WARRIORS and BLADE RUNNER, this anime landmark saved the Japanese film industry.

### FEBRUARY 19 CREED

2015. USA. Dir: Ryan Coogler. With Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone. 133 min.

The Rocky-verse comes full circle when the son of the Italian Stallion's greatest rival returns to Philly intent on learning from the aged Balboa. Coogler (FRUITVALE STATION) pulls the heavy-hitting series out of retirement for a seventh bout fit for old fans and newcomers alike.

### FEBRUARY 26 YAKUZA APOCALYPSE

2015. Japan. Dir: Takashi Miike. With Hayato Ichihara. 115 min.

Prolific madman Miike's (ICHI THE KILLER, AUDITION) chaotic gangster-horror-action-satire follows a yakuza who turns vampire when bitten by his decapitated boss. He faces increasingly bizarre foes, including an assassin in a cotton frog costume who seems to be the harbinger of the entire world's doom. Don't think too hard about all this; just watch and enjoy.

### JANUARY 23 BARRY LYNDON

1975. UK/USA/Ireland. Dir: Stanley Kubrick. With Ryan O'Neal. 184 min.

In Kubrick's staggeringly picturesque picaresque, pampered Irishman Redmond Barry falls head over heels for his cousin, Nora. But when Nora instead opts for a priggish redcoat, Redmond's heedless response sees him embark on an epic, multinational getaway that progressively chips away at his boyish naiveté.

### JANUARY 30 DUCK SOUP

1933. USA. Dir: Leo McCarey. With the Marx Brothers. 68 min. **35mm print.**

Groucho, Harpo, and company are up to their usual shenanigans, this time entangled in a farcical political battle for control of the bankrupt country of Freedonia. Widely regarded as the comedy troupe's finest movie, DUCK SOUP is perhaps most memorable for its iconic "mirror" bit, which inspired countless awkward talent show imitations to come.

### FEBRUARY 6 BLACK ORPHEUS (Orfeu Negro)

1959. Brazil/France/Italy. Dir: Marcel Camus. With Breno Mello, Marpessa Dawn. 107 min. **35mm print.**

Eurydice is on the run, hiding from a strange man; Orfeu is in love with her, but engaged to another. Come celebrate Carnival with one of cinema's biggest parties, as the streets pulse with energized bodies, swirls of vibrant color, and bossa nova beats. **Sponsored by the Dept. of Romance Languages & Literatures.**

### FEBRUARY 13 BRIEF ENCOUNTER

1945. UK. Dir: David Lean. With Celia Johnson, Trevor Howard. 86 min.

When Laura and Alec, both married, meet by chance at a train station, they embark on a friendship that threatens to upset their comfortable domestic lives. Wafting fog, dreamy voice-over, and a Rachmaninoff score make this abbreviated tryst a perfect prelude to Valentine's Day, whether you're a hopeless romantic or firmly in the "love is doomed" camp.

### FEBRUARY 20 RED RIVER

1948. USA. Dir: Howard Hawks. With John Wayne, Walter Brennan. 133 min.

Texas rancher Wayne puts his entire empire on the line with one big cattle drive to Kansas, only to provoke mutiny through his tyrannical domination of his hired hands. With his right-hand man (and adopted son) seizing control, will the herd make it to market? Will rustlers, natives, and hard country doom the drive? Will revenge destroy Wayne's soul?

### FEBRUARY 27 JACKRABBIT

2015. USA. Dir: Carleton Ranney. With Reed Birney, Josh Caras. 101 min.

When a friend's suicide leaves behind a mysterious computer drive, a fringe hacker and a computer tech join together to decipher the message left in his wake. This throwback sci-fi piece premiered at the 2015 TriBeCa Film Festival. **Panel to follow with alumni filmmakers including Destin Douglas '09 (writer) and Joe Stankus '08 (producer/editor).**

### THE NINTH ANNUAL RING FAMILY ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL

*Sponsored by the Ring family and the Center for Jewish Studies. Co-sponsored by the College of Film and the Moving Image.*



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All events Thursdays at 8pm, free of charge.

#### JAN 28 • APPLES FROM THE DESERT

Speaker: Eran Polishuk, Director of Film and Media, Office of Cultural Affairs, Consulate General of Israel in New York

#### FEB 4 • GETT: THE TRIAL OF VIVIANE AMSALEM

Speaker: Marc Longenecker, College of Film and the Moving Image, Wesleyan

#### FEB 11 • PRESENT CONTINUOUS

Speaker: Aner Preminger, film director and Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Center for Jewish Studies, Wesleyan

#### FEB 18 • ZERO MOTIVATION

Speaker: Aner Preminger, film director and Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Center for Jewish Studies, Wesleyan

#### FEB 25 • THE FAREWELL PARTY

Speaker: Laura Blum, film critic

#### MARCH 3 • FAUDA

The hit TV series "Fauda" (Arabic for 'chaos') follows the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from both sides, in the spirit of "The Wire." 106 min.

Speaker: Isaac Zablocki, Director of JCC Manhattan Film Programs



### Black History Month

We kick off February with a pair of Ancient Greek stories adapted to modern black culture (CHI-RAQ, BLACK ORPHEUS), then follow with two crowd-pleasing major releases set in the sports world (LOVE & BASKETBALL, CREED) by black directors.



#### The Film Board

Joseph Eusebio, Nate Gardner, Jonah Lipton, Hanna Moody, Pierre Plantevin, Ian Rice, Regen Routman, Mara Woods-Robinson, Bryce Zurcher

Advisors: Jeanine Basinger, Marc Longenecker

#### ALL SHOWS START ON TIME!

Recording of films is prohibited.

The Film Series is funded and run by Wesleyan students for the Wesleyan community. We would like to thank all the booking agents who helped us afford the program. Thanks also to the Wesleyan Student Assembly, whose appropriations made it possible. And special thanks to Lea Carlson, Logan Ludwig, Joan Miller, Scott Higgins, Sarah Chrystler, Ana Pérez-Gironés, and Dalit Katz.