A Friday Night International Film & Discussion Series

All films are free and open to the public.

Friday, September 16th,
5:00-7:00 P.M., Knox Hall 4

El Norte

Mayan Indian peasants organizing in an effort to improve their lot in life are discovered by the Guatemalan army. After the army destroys their village and family, a teenage brother and sister who just barely escaped the massacre decide they must flee to the North. After receiving clandestine help and humorous advice on strategies for traveling through Mexico, they make their way by truck, bus and on foot to Los Angeles, where they try to make a new life as young, uneducated and illegal immigrants.

Friday, December 2nd,
5:00-7:00 P.M., Knox Hall 4

Pieces D’Identites

Mani Kongo, the venerable king of the Bakongo, sets out alone on a quest for his long-lost daughter, Mwana, whom he sent to Belgium to study medicine many years before. As soon as he leaves his village and enters the Westernized world, he finds his identity challenged. Young urban trend-setters mistake the king’s royal fetishes as the latest fashion statement while customs officials try to confiscate them as imported art objects. Eventually, robbed, homeless and penniless, he is tricked into pawning his royal regalia, literally his “pieces of identity.” While Mani Kongo has only temporarily lost his identity, the younger generation in the film is adrift in Europe without ever having had an identity. As the film closes, the colorful cast of characters is ingeniously tied together through a series of outlandish coincidences. These coincidences reflect an underlying moral force restoring the characters to their proper identities. This force is Africa, which draws the characters back to itself—and themselves—from the powerful centrifugal forces of the West.

Friday, October 28th,
5:00-7:00 P.M., Knox Hall 4

Bashu: The Little Stranger

During the Iran-Iraq War, Bashu, a young boy, loses his house and all his family. Scared, he sneaks into a truck that is leaving the area. He gets off the truck in the northern part of the country, where everything from landscape to language is different. He meets Haji who is trying to raise her two young children on a farm while her husband is away. Despite cultural differences and the fact that they do not speak the same language, Bashu and Haji slowly form a strong bond.

Sponsored by Undergraduate Academies & International Student and Scholar Services

More information at: academy.buffalo.edu
(716)645-8177
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