Friday, February 1
5:00-7:30 P.M., Knox 4
Tsotsi

Tsotsi is the street name used by a young Johannesburg delinquent who has taken to a life of crime in order to support himself. Coming from a blighted upbringing, he has developed a talent for violence borne of necessity and an ability to take pleasure in hurting other people. One evening, Tsotsi steals a woman’s car and later discovers her infant son in the back seat. intestine of what to do with the baby, Tsotsi takes the boy home and tries to care for him. With time, Tsotsi learns the basics of child care and the presence of the baby awakens a sense of humanity in him that life on the street had stripped away. SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Claude Welch, Department of Political Science, will introduce the film and lead a discussion following the screening.

Friday, March 1
5:00-7:30 P.M., Knox 4
Children of Heaven

All and Zahra are neighborhood orphans growing up in a poor neighborhood in Tehran. Ali is given the responsibility of picking up Zahra’s shoes from the repair shop, but makes the mistake of setting them down outside a market. When the bag containing the shoes is snatched, Ali and Zahra know their parents will be furious since they can’t afford a new pair of shoes. They then concoct an elaborate scheme to cover up the loss of the shoes. What ensues is a succession of coincidences and mishaps all linked to the family’s efforts to get the shoes back or buy new ones. Professor Walter Hakala, Department of English and Asian Studies Program, will introduce the film and lead a discussion following the screening.

Friday, March 29
5:00-7:30 P.M., Knox 4
Not One Less

In a village in China mired in poverty, Gao is the lone teacher in a school as poor that he must ration chalk to make sure he has enough for the day. The schoolchildren have been so starved for education that some of the children sleep in the schoolhouse because they have nowhere else to go, and many students have already dropped out and are now to help feed their families. Gao is forced to leave town for a month, and no one in the village is able to replace him except a 13-year-old girl, Wei Minzhi, who possesses a rudimentary education herself. Since she’s got a supposed to keep all students in school when Gao returns, she is determined that no one drop out on her watch. When one student disappears, she travels to the city to look for him. There thousands of children are working in the underground labor force or begging on the streets as she has little luck. Then, she persuades a TV station manager to let her make an announcement in the hopes that some people knows where the student has gone. Professor Roger Des Forges, Department of History, will introduce the film and lead a discussion following the screening.

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