



Battelle Film Club

Fall 2002-Winter 2003

October 4 – 8PM In the Mood for Love (Hua yang nian hua)

China, 2000, Color, 98 min., Rated PG, Mandarin with English subtitles. Director: Kar-Wai Wong

Cast: Tony Lueng Chui Wai, Maggie Chueng, Ping Lam Siu, Lai Chen

Longing - it is one of the great motivators of the human experience. It has driven poets to write sonnets, painters to create artwork, and composers to fashion music to wrench the soul. It is a feeling that almost everyone has been touched by, whether through the sting of unrequited love or the pinch of emotions that cannot be expressed. Hong Kong filmmaker Wong Kar-wai, whose previous efforts include *Chungking Express* and *Happy Together*, understands longing and his latest motion picture, the sublime *In the Mood for Love*, brings it to life on the screen.

October 18 – 8PM Brazil

UK, 1985, Color, 131 min., Rated R, English. Director: Terry Gilliam

Cast: Jonathan Pryce, Robert De Niro, Katherine Helmond, Ian Holm, Bob Hoskins, Michael Palin, Ian Richardson

Terry Gilliam has a warped mind. We all knew he was a tad bizarre when we saw his eccentric animation on *Monty Python's Flying Circus* and other British shows in the 1960's, but this is the film that separated him from the *Python* pack and established him as not only one of the greatest directors of our times, but as an intellectual, cryptic and bizarre individual. *Brazil* is a black comedy set in an alternate reality or a future (the film cryptically says in the beginning 'Somewhere in the 20th century') probably in England. The world is ruled by 'The Ministry', which serves as a place where everything is ultra-organized and super efficient. But everyone seems to be happy because everything is convenient. Every room has little televisions and behind the walls are tons of tubes and wires. But things keep breaking and can't be fixed because you need a billion forms to even walk out of the office to go and fix it up.

November 1 – 8PM Monsoon Wedding

India, 2001, 114 min., Rated R, English/Hindi/Punjabi with English Subtitles. Director: Mira Nair

Cast: Naseeruddin Shah, Lillete Dubey, Shefali Shetty, Vijay Raaz

An exuberant family drama set in Mira Nair's beloved Punjabi culture, where ancient tradition and dot-com modernity combine in unique and perfect harmony. As the romantic monsoon rains loom, the extended Verma family reunites from around the globe for a last minute arranged marriage in New Delhi. *Monsoon Wedding* traces five intersecting stories, each navigating different aspects of love as they cross boundaries of class, continent and morality. The film celebrates a contemporary India never before seen on screen. *Monsoon Wedding* is a celebration of the sensual pleasures of cinema, of love at any age, anytime, and of the importance of family. It also pays affectionate tribute to a city where weighty tradition collides daily with global culture and the dot-com age, yielding an unusual and melodious harmony.

November 15 – 8PM Dangerous Beauty

USA, 1998, Color, 111 min., Rated R, English. Director: Marshall Herskovitz

Cast: Catherine McCormack, Rufus Sewell, Oliver Platt, Moira Kelly, Naomi Watts, Fred Ward, Jacqueline Bisset

The time of *Dangerous Beauty* is the era in which Shakespeare lived and thrived, and the region of the world in which this story transpires was one of the Bard's favorite locales. As in many of Shakespeare's plays, the filmmakers have elected to have English-speaking actors play Italian characters. What's more, there are no silly accents. And, although the dialogue sounds more contemporary than archaic, the costumes, set design, and attitudes of the characters serve as powerful reminders that this is an historical tale. Against the backdrop of Veronica and Marco's tumultuous relationship, director Marshall Herskovitz explores the injustices visited upon women at a time when they were universally viewed as inferior to men. The obedient wives are presented as timid, uncertain creatures who dream of a better lot for their daughters while secretly envying Veronica's freedom. For her part, although Veronica uses every weapon at her disposal to hold her own in power struggles with men, she would give all that she has away for a life with Marco.

December 6 – 8PM Chunhyang

South Korea, 2000, 120 min., Rated R, Korean with English Subtitles. Director: Kwong-taek Im

Cast: Hyo-jeong Lee, Seung-woo Cho, Sung-nyu Kim, Jung-hun Lee

Although it's the most elaborate production in the history of Korean cinema, Kwong-taek Im's *Chunhyang* is controlled, exquisite filmmaking, a neatly miniaturized epic that unfolds in subtle gestures rather than grand flourishes. The story it tells is familiar -- a governor's son finds love with the beautiful daughter of a courtesan -- but the film is nevertheless rich in discoveries, which come largely in the form of wondrous, almost tactile, images.

January 3 – 8PM Paris is Burning

USA, 1990, Color, 71 min., Rated R, Documentary, English. Director: Jennie Livingston

Paris Is Burning is a poignant and profound, unsentimental and non-exploitative examination of a subculture that is invisible to most Americans. Built around elaborately staged mock fashion balls, this alternative world of black and Latin gay men has its own elaborate jargon, its own intricate social structure, and a self-protective hierarchy of "houses." These substitute extended families (or "gay street gangs," as one participant puts it) knock themselves out to imitate a society that, ironically, will not have them.

January 17 – 8PM Read My Lips (Sur mes levres)

France, 2001, Color, 115 min., Not Rated, French with English Subtitles. Director: Jacques Audiard

Cast: Vincent Cassel, Emmanuelle Devos, Olivier Gourmet, Olivier Perrier, Olivia Bonamy

Read My Lips is about two people who don't have a prayer on their own but together they form a powerful alliance. Carla -- played by Emmanuelle Devos, who's brilliant -- is working herself to exhaustion, so her boss suggests that she hire an office assistant. She chooses to hire someone ridiculous, a totally rough-trade parolee named Paul (Vincent Cassel) who can't file or type and is all thumbs around a copy machine. No matter. Carla soon finds other ways Paul can be of assistance.

All films shown at the Battelle Auditorium. Tickets: \$3.00, Free refreshments after the show!
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