The Institute of World Languages
2015 IWL Film Series
Co-organized by the Department of Media Studies
All Films are Free and Subtitled in English
125 Minor Hall
6:30pm – 9:00pm, Wednesdays

January 21
Panel Discussion
Panelists: Aynne Kokas (Assistant Professor, Department of Media Studies); Eli Carter (Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese); Hector Amaya (Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of Media Studies)

Movie Title: When Film Travels: Three Principles for Understanding the Globe
Description: When we travel, we often think of exotic places and cultures. We imagine encounters, new ways of looking at things, and new horizons. Yet, travel is also a rite of passage that is full of anxiety, difficulties, and potential dangers. This panel engages three types of filmic encounters – aesthetic, commercial, and ideological – and explores them in relation to their intrinsic promises and difficulties. Each of the encounters is set in a different nation: Brazil, China, and Mexico.

February 4
English as a Second Language
Discussion Leader: Janay Crabtree (Lead Instructor for CAELC and the Director for English for Academic Purposes Program)

Movie Title: Choking Man (2006)
Description: The social anxiety of a morbidly shy Ecuadorian dishwasher working in a Queens diner provides the psychological engine that powers this intense blend of drama and magical realism from famed music video director Steve Barron. The boy with no name: a traditional hand-drawn animation, which mixes the macabre and innocent to tell the story of a young boy who feels lost and alone in a world he doesn't belong in.

February 11
Spanish
Discussion Leader: David Gies (Commonwealth Professor of Spanish, Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese)

Movie Title: Soldados de Salamina [Soldiers of Salamina] (2003)
Description: Based on the runaway best-selling Spanish novel by Javier Cercas (2001)—tries to resolve a mystery: who was the 18-year-old soldier who surprisingly refused to shoot an escaped captive (and Fascist enemy) at the end of Spain's bloody Civil War (1936-1939)? Did he know that he was saving the life of one of the major theorists of Franco's Fascism? Mixing historical fact and fiction, the journalist Lola Sánchez struggles to piece together information that will lead her to a now elderly (possibly deceased?) hero. The film weaves together a sexy love story with
memories of the Civil War, the Transition to Democracy, and Spain’s modern struggle to remember (or forget) its terrible past.

February 18
Polish
Discussion Leader: Dariusz Tołczyk (Associate Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures)

Movie Title: Amator [Camera Buff] (1979)
Description: Made in the Communist Poland just before the 1980 Solidarity revolution, Camera Buff is Krzysztof Kieślowski’s most autobiographical film. It follows Filip (Jerzy Stuhr), a factory worker who has recently acquired an 8mm camera which he uses to film his newborn daughter. After Filip films some celebrations at the factory, as requested by his boss, he begins to see how his hobby can be turned into art, and perhaps change his life. Filming a reality that we struggle to fully understand, the protagonist gets in trouble with the authorities, complicates his personal relationships, and records his own life in an attempt to understand.

February 25
Persian
Discussion Leader: Arileza Korangy (Assistant Professor & Persian Language Program Coordinator, Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures)

Movie Title: Bashu, gharibeh kouchak [Bashu, the little Stranger] (1990)
Description: Little Bashu is a young boy from South of Iran who loses his home and family in a bombing raid and instinctively flees to a region far away from the battlefront. In this alien environment everything seems strange to the boy. Nai, a woman whose husband has gone on a journey, finds Bashu in her farm and gives him shelter. After Bashu tells her of his past life, Nai accepts him as a son and tries to initiate him to the ways of life in the region. Despite cultural differences, and the fact that they do not speak the same language, Bashu and Nai slowly form a strong bond; and Nai continues to keep the boy in spite of numerous difficulties and the objections of relatives and neighbors. Ultimately, Nai’s husband returns and agrees with his wife that Bashu does indeed have a place in their little family.

March 25
French
Discussion Leader: Ari Blatt (Associate Professor & Chair of the Department of French)

Movie Title: Né quelque part [Homeland] (2013)
Description: Because his 60 years old father is sick and is about to lose his house in Algeria, Fahrdi must travel for the 1st time in his life to Algeria, the country where his parents were born. He speaks few Arab and doesn’t know much about them or about their history. Fahrdi considers himself as a Frenchman and discovers an entire new world just across the
Mediterranean Sea thanks to his cousin. Unfortunately, his cousin steals his passport from him and eventually leaves the country with it. Fahrid must then deal with the local and French bureaucracy when his cousin starts behaving badly in France.

April 1
Indian
Discussion Leader: Shilpa Dave (Assistant Professor, Department of Media Studies)

Movie Title: *English Vinglish* (2012)
Description: The story of a quiet, sweet tempered housewife who endures small slights from her well educated husband and daughter everyday because of her inability to speak and understand English. She is resourceful and open-minded but somehow these traits don't get noticed by them. Then one day on a trip to visit her sister in Manhattan she decides to enroll in an English Learners class and meets a host of new people who teach her to value herself beyond the narrow perspective of her family.

April 8
Korean
Discussion Leader: Yoon Hwa Choi (Lecturer, Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures and Cultures)

Movie Title: *Geonchukhak gaeron [Architecture 101]* (2012)
Description: Seung-Min Lee, a 35 year old architect, is visited at his company by Seo-Yeon Yang, his college crush. Seo-Yeon asks Seung-Min to design a new house for her old place on Jeju Island. Seo-Yeon and Seung-Min decide to renovate the current house, and they spend a time together in Jeju Island. Seung-Min remembers that first time he met her at college in the early 1990s. Fifteen years ago, Seung-Min was an innocent college student studying architecture when he first met Seo-Yeon in his Architecture 101 class. They came like each other while working together on their project for the class. However, mutual misunderstanding led to their estrangement and eventual break-up. In the present day, even though Seo-Yeon and Seung-Min finally dispel their misunderstandings, Seung-Min leaves with his fiancé because of the bitter and painful memory of his first love.