

Fall 2009

WORLD CIVILIZATION FILM SERIES



In conjunction with the College of Arts & Letters' celebration of the "World of Words," this semester's film series explores the authorial voice of four film directors from four continents. Each set of three films is a study of storytelling, history, and memory.

OUSMANE SEBENE (AFRICA)

August 26th: *Mandabi* (Senegal, 1968) Tale of a down-and-out Senegalese man whose financial windfall turns into bureaucratic chaos.

September 2nd: *Xala* (Senegal, 1975) Satire about race, power, marriage and sexuality in West Africa.

September 16th: *Moolaadé* (Senegal, 2004) Impassioned argument against the oppression of women.

AKIRA KUROSAWA (ASIA)

September 23rd: *Rashomon* (Japan, 1950) Four witnesses to a rape provide a window into memory and truth in Kurosawa's groundbreaking film.

September 30th: *The Hidden Fortress* (Japan, 1958) Adventure set in Japan about a general who must smuggle a princess and the royal treasury to safety. Inspired George Lucas' *Star Wars*.

October 14th: *Ran* (Japan, 1985) Historical drama modeled after *King Lear*—except with samurais.

MIKE LEIGH (EUROPE)

October 21st: *Naked* (Great Britain, 1993) Dark, thought-provoking examination of working-class London. Rated NC-17.

October 28th: *Secret and Lies* (Great Britain, 1996) *Palme d'Or* winner that explores race and family.

November 4th: *Happy-Go-Lucky* (Great Britain, 2008) "In the factory-farmed blandness of the movies, *Happy-Go-Lucky* has a strong, real taste." Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*

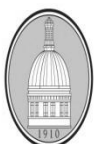
BILLY WILDER (NORTH AMERICA)

November 11th: *Sunset Boulevard* (United States, 1950) Tragic exploration of Hollywood, stardom, and American life set in the 1940s. "All right, Mr. DeMille, I'm ready for my close-up."

November 18th: *Ace in the Hole* (United States, 1951) Cynical examination of journalism and the media circus that surrounds an effort to rescue a trapped miner.

December 2nd: *The Apartment* (United States, 1960) Smart and subtle social commentary about life, love, and work in 1960s America.

All films are Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in LAB 108.



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History

Films are part of the World Civilization course curriculum. For more information, email WCFS coordinator Wes French at frencwt@gmail.com, or contact Andrew Haley at 601-336-0708 or andrew.haley@usm.edu.