February 26, 2011

Summer Hours
(Olivier Assayas, France—French with English subtitles)

The divergent paths of three forty-something siblings collide when their mother dies suddenly. Left to come to terms with themselves and their differences, the siblings confront the end of childhood, their shared memories, backgrounds and unique visions of the future. “Assayas crafts a near perfect blend of humor and heartbreak, a lyrical masterwork that measures loss in terms practical and evanescent” (Peter Travers, Rolling Stone). Winner of BSFC and NYFCC Awards for Best Foreign Film. Sponsored by the French Department.

March 12, 2011

Big Fan
(Robert Siegel, USA)

Paul Aufiero, a hardcore New York Giants football fan, struggles to deal with the consequences when he is beaten up by his favorite player with the consequences when he is beaten up by his favorite player. (Joaquin Phoenix), a charismatic but troubled young man, who moves back into his childhood home following a recent heartbreak. While recovering, Leonard meets two women in quick succession, forcing him to make an impossible decision between the importunities of desire and the comfort of love, or risk falling back into the darkness that nearly killed him. “The whole movie is so well-cast and performed that we love, or risk falling back into the darkness that nearly killed him...” (Koger Ebert, The Chicago Sun Times).

April 2, 2011

The White Ribbon
(Michael Haneke, Germany—German with English subtitles)

Crizi (Dragos Bucur) is a young undercover cop who undergoes a crisis of conscience when he is pressured to arrest a teenager who offers drugs to classmates, in this neo-noir thriller from the budding Romanian film scene. “So much in this meticulous and moving film is between the lines, and almost nothing is by the book” (A.O. Scott, New York Times). Winner of two prizes at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival and a nomination for Best Original Screenplay at the 2010 BAFTA Awards. Winner of the Critics’ Week Award for Best Film at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival.

April 9, 2011

The Beaches of Agnes
(Agnes Varda, France—French with English subtitles)

A reflection on art, life and the movies, Agnes Varda’s new film celebrates the farmers and the land they cultivate, as well as the memories through photographs, film clips, interviews, rerergments, and droll, playful contemporary scenes. Winner of the NSFC Award for Best Documentary. “For flaneurs determined to see cinema not just as mass entertainment but as an art form, The Beaches of Agnes arrives like an exhilarating call to arms” (Ann Hornaday, The Washington Post). Sponsored by the French Department.

April 16, 2011

Howl
(Rob Epstein & Jeffrey Friedman, USA)

Howl recounts a dark moment in American literature in three intertwined threads: the tumultuous life events of a young Allen Ginsberg finding his artistic voice, society’s reaction to the title poem’s obscenity trial, and mind-expanding animation that echoes the startling originality of the poems itself. All three coalesce in a genre-bending hybrid that brilliantly captures a pivotal moment in the birth of a counterculture. Nominated for the Sundance Film Festival’s Grand Jury Prize.
### September 11, 2010

**The Ghost Writer**

(Roger Ebert, USA)

Polanski’s (*Romany’s Baby, Chimpanzee*)

latest thriller chronicles a gifted author (Ewan McGregor) who is hired to ghostwrite the memoirs of a controversial former British Prime Minister and becomes a hunted man when he uncovers explosive secrets about the past.

“Smooth, calm, confident, it builds suspense instead of depending on shock and action” (Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun Times*).

### September 18, 2010

**35 Shots of Rum**

(Peter Debruge, USA)

Claire Denis’ intimate film focuses on Léonel (Alex Descas), a long-widowed African immigrant, and his beautiful daughter, Joséphine (Mati Diop). Their relationship with each other and their neighbors offers a subtle, tendered web of interconnectedness. “[An] embracing work, with a web of interconnectedness.” (Kevin Thomas, *Los Angeles Times*). Sponsored by the French Department.

### September 25, 2010

**Bright Star**

(Stuart K cube, USA)

Based on the three-year romance between 19th century poet John Keats and Fanny Brawne, *Bright Star* is the latest from Jane Campion (The Piano). “Ms. Campion, with her restless camera movements and off-center close-ups, films history in the present tense, and her wild vitality makes this movie romantic in every possible sense of the word.” (A.O. Scott, *New York Times*).

### October 2, 2010

**Troubled Water**

(Michael Moore, USA)

Moore’s (*Bowling for Columbine, Fahrenheit 9/11*) latest documentary examines the impact of corporate dominance on the everyday lives of Americans. With both humor and outrage, the film explores the question: What is the price that America pays for its love of capitalism? “Moore’s farewell of a movie could change your life.” (Gary Goldstein, *Los Angeles Times*).

### October 9, 2010

**Tibet in Song**

(Introduced by filmmaker Ngawang Choephel)

*Ngawang Choephel, Tibet—Tibetan with English subtitles*

Winner of the 2010 International Human Rights Award and the Sundance Film Festival’s Special Jury Prize, *Tibet in Song* is “a multimedia essay that […] begins with a celebration of music’s place in Tibetan culture.” (Peter Debruge, *Variety*). Choephel set out to make this documentary in 1995, but he was accused of being a spy and sent to prison by the Chinese Government for seven years. *Filmmaker Choephel will introduce the screenings and discuss his career, including his time as a Fulbright Scholar at Middlebury College.* He was awarded an honorary degree in 2002.

### October 11, 2010

**Broken Embraces**

(Almodovar, Spain—Spanish with English subtitles)

Notorious director Pedro Almodóvar’s (*Lorena, All About My Mother*) latest tells the story of Harry Caine (Lluís Homar), who lost his sight and the love of his life, Lena (Penélope Cruz), in a brutal car crash fourteen years ago. Through a series of flashbacks, he conveys a story of passion, guilt, and creativity. “A voluptuary of a film, drunk on primary colors” (Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun Times*).

### October 13, 2010

**The Headdless Woman**

(Stephen Holden, USA)

A mysterious tale of a woman (Maria V. Almeida) who may have killed someone or something while driving on a dirt road. Dazed and confused, she tries to piece together what happened, while her husband (Clair Bordon) systematically tries to erase her tracks.

Nominated for the Golden Palm at the Cannes Film Festival. “[A] brilli­ant, maddeningly enigmatic puzzle of a movie” (Stephen Holden, *New York Times*).

### October 13, 2010

**Harlan: In the Shadow of Jew Süss**

(Felix Moeller, Germany—German with English subtitles)

Notorious director Veit Harlan created the treacherous anti-Semitic propaganda film *Jud Süss*—required viewing for all SS members. This documentary is an eye-opening examination of German film history and a German family from the Third Reich to the present. “Moeller transforms what might have been mere cultural scholarship into something larger—a microcosm of postwar German guilt and redemption” (Peter Rainer, *The Christian Science Monitor*). Sponsored by the Holocaust Remembrance Film Fund.

### October 30, 2010

**Capitalism: A Love Story**

(Michael Moore, USA)

Against the tumultuous backdrop of Iran’s 1953 CIA-backed coup d’état, the destinies of four women converge in a beautiful orchard garden, where they find independence, solace and companionship. *Women Without Men* is an adaptation of Shahrnush Parsipour’s magic realist novel, and is Iranian artist Shirin Neshat’s first feature length film.

Winner of the Silver Lion and the UNICEF Award at the Venice Film Festival, the film “absorbs with its strong performances, stirring emotions and vivid imagery” (Gary Goldstein, *Los Angeles Times*).

### November 6, 2010

**Women Without Men**

(Shirin Neshat, Iran—Persian with English subtitles)

*Women Without Men* is an adaptation of Shahrnush Parsipour’s magic realist novel, and is Iranian artist Shirin Neshat’s first feature length film. Winner of the Silver Lion and the UNICEF Award at the Venice Film Festival, the film “absorbs with its strong performances, stirring emotions and vivid imagery” (Gary Goldstein, *Los Angeles Times*).

### December 4, 2010

**Hunger**

(Steve McQueen, UK)

*Hunger* follows life in the Irish Maze Prison with an interpretation of the highly emotive events surrounding the 1981 IRA Hunger Strike led by Bobby Sands. With an epic eye for detail, the film explores what happens when body and mind are pushed to the uttermost limit. Winner of The Golden Camera award at the Cannes Film Festival, *Hunger* “is a mesmerizing ninety-six minutes of cinema, one of the truly extraordinary filmmaking debuts of recent years” (Andrew O’Hehir, *Salon.com*).

### January 8, 2011

**Mother**

(Joon-ho Bong, South Korea—Korean with English subtitles)

In this dark thriller, a mother (Hye-ja Kim) must prove her son innocent of a brutal murder innocent or to leave him imprisoned. Winner of three Asian Film Awards (Best Actress, Best Screenwriter, and Best Film), *Mother* is “an alluring piece of work, an artful whodunit that melds shrewd plotting with resourceful camera work and sympathetic characters that are fascinatingly, morbidly off” (Amy Biancolli, *San Francisco Chronicle*).