February 16
Jane Eyre
(Cary Fukunaga, UK/USA, 2011, 120 minutes)
Mia Wasikowska newly incarnates the plain governess who falls in love with her thorny employer (Michael Fassbender), only to find her happiness jeopardized by a Gothic secret. Cary Fukunaga crafts a smoldering, meticulously paced version of Brontë’s classic that “respects the book lavishly without following it blindly”—The Telegraph.

February 23
The Intouchables
(Olivier Nakache and Eric Toledano, France, 2011, 112 minutes)
Philippe Pozzo di Borgo is a white, wealthy entrepreneur left quadriplegic following a devastating accident. Driss is a young, undereducated, pot-smoking, black man living in the projects. In this comedy-laced, domestic drama, their friendship to the test. U.S. film; sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series.

March 2
Tuesday, After Christmas
(Radu Muntean, Romania, 2010, 99 minutes)
After beginning an affair with his daughter’s dentist, a middle-aged man must choose between breaking his family apart or abandoning his new love—by Christmas. This domestic drama reinvents a common premise to offer “a marvelously shaped thesis that’s both disquieting and humbling”—Slant Magazine. In Spanish with English subtitles. Sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series.

March 9
Nostalgia for the Light
(Patricio Guzmán, France/Germany/Chile/Spain/USA, 2010, 90 minutes)
The stark, stunning landscape of the Atacama Desert serves as the convergence point for celestial glory, archaeological investigations, and banned memories of political violence. In this meditation on the past overlapping with the present, Chilean filmmaker Patricio Guzmán sculpts a “rare documentary that’s as thrilling as art as it is as reportage, a marvelously shaped thesis that’s both disquieting and humbling”—Slant Magazine. In Spanish with English subtitles. Sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series.

March 16
Little Birds
Discussion with coproducer Stefan Nowicki ’02
(Egin James, USA, 2011, 94 minutes)
An official Sundance Selection, Little Birds centers on the relationship between two 15-year-old girls, Lily and Allison, who leave their sheltered towns and run away to Los Angeles in pursuit of a gang of skateboarders. While Lily craves escape, Allison longs for security. The dangers of their flight put their friendship to the test. U.S. film; sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series.

March 20
Boxing Gym
(Frederick Wiseman, USA, 2010, 91 minutes)
From documentary master Frederick Wiseman (Central Park, Ballet), Boxing Gym explores the rich anonymity of diverse boxers at Lord’s Gym in Austin, Texas. There, gritty textures mix with the graceful rhythms of athletes’ bodies, regardless of age, color, or gender. “Wiseman simply brings the audience along as he bears witness to the individuals who regularly gather at this scruffy, mirrored mecca”—Washington Post. U.S. film; sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series.

April 6
In Darkness
(Agnieszka Holland, Poland/Germany/Canada, 2011, 145 minutes)
In German-occupied Ukraine, a blunt, opportunistische sewer worker takes bribes to help Jews evade capture in a network of subterranean tunnels, but eventually grows committed to saving their lives. Even amidst the obscure, harrowing architecture of the underground world, Polish director Agnieszka Holland portrays the continuing life cycles of despair and renewal among the hidden. Sponsored by the Holocaust Film Fund.

April 13
I Wish
(Hirokazu Koreeda, Japan, 2011, 128 minutes)
Two young brothers separated by divorce embark on an odyssey to reunite their family by wishing on the energy of a new bullet-train line. Brimming with a sense of magical time and overflowing with charming subplots, this Japanese film offers more than an update of The Parent Trap. Director Hirokazu Koreeda of Nobody Knows captures the fragile details that render the experience of childhood so evocative and universal. In Japanese with English subtitles. Sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series and Japanese Studies Program.

April 20
Le Havre
(Aki Kaurismäki, Finland/Germany, 2011, 93 minutes)
An underdog shoeshine man chances upon an illegal African immigrant and tries to shield the boy from intensifying police pressures. Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki expands his style to encompass a social awareness that results in a film worthy of the best tradition of French cinema’s lyrical, unblinking humanity. In French with English subtitles. Sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series.
Thursday, October 18

A Dynamic Frame: Camera Movement in Hollywood Cinema
4:30 pm, Axinn Center, Room 232
Lecture by Patrick Keating, assistant professor at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas. Keating is the author of the award-winning book Hollywood Lighting: From the Silent Era to Film Noir. He received his PhD in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MFA in film production from the University of Southern California. Sponsored by the Department of Film and Media Culture.

Tuesday, October 9

Handmade Multiculturalism: Remixing Mass Media
7:30 pm, Sundrauder 110
Lecture and multimedia presentation by Francesca Coppa, professor of English and the founding director of film studies at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania. Coppa is also a founding member of the Organization for Transformative Works, a nonprofit group that advocates for fan works and fan culture. Sponsored by the Department of Film and Media Culture.

Thursday, November 15

I Love a Mystery: Narrative Innovation in 1940s Hollywood Cinema
4:30 pm, McCardell Bicentennial Hall, Room 216
Lecture by David Bordwell, one of the world’s most prolific, prominent, and influential film scholars. He is the Jacques Ledoux Professor Emeritus of Film Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and author of over a dozen books on topics ranging from narrative theory to Hong Kong cinema. Recently he has emerged as an innovator in digital publishing, with accessible essays and eBooks. Sponsored by the Department of Film and Media Culture.

September 22

The Kid with a Bike
(Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne, Belgium/France/Italy, 2011, 87 minutes)
A young boy, abandoned by his father, bonds with the town hairdresser, who agrees to foster him on weekends. The latest picture by the acclaimed Dardennes brothers and winner of the 2011 Cannes Grand Jury Prize. Sponsored by the Department of French.

September 29

Pina
(Wim Wenders; Germany/France/UK, 2011, 103 minutes)
Few choreographers have had more influence in the world of modern dance than the late German artist Pina Bausch. This incendiary documentary film by Wim Wender explores Bausch’s life and work while we see her company perform her most notable creations, where basic things like water, dirt, and even gravity take on otherworldly qualities. Pina “should be read less as a polite memorial than as a palpitating act of resurrection”—The New Yorker. A Clifford Symposium Presentation.

October 6

Take Shelter
(Jeff Nichols, USA, 2011, 120 minutes)
Jeff Nichols’s second film revolves around a man, haunted by apocalyptic visions, who resolves to build an elaborate storm shelter—a decision that threatens the fabric of his family and his sanity. Roger Ebert lauded this work as “a frightening thriller based not on special effects gimmicks but on a dread that seems quietly spreading…. This is masterful filmmaking.” U.S. film, sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series.

October 20

A Screaming Man
(Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, France/Belgium/Chad, 2010, 92 minutes)
In civil-strife-nibbled Chad, former swimming star Adam works at a posh hotel as a pool attendant. When Adam loses his job to his son, the father’s loss of status sparks a bitter division between the two men. Winner of the 2010 Cannes Jury Prize, Mahamat-Saleh Haroun’s examination of cloaked hostility catapulted Chad’s budding cinema to international prominence. Sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series and the African Studies Program.

October 27

Oxhide II
Discussion with director/writer Liu Jiayin
(Liu Jiayin, China, 2009, 132 minutes)
Shot in real time, this Chinese film follows a family of three as they eat a dinner of dumpplings and discuss everyday problems. Beneath this simple premise, Oxhide II “rides high on process, on the pleasure one takes in seeing things assembled, made, slowly come to together”—Notebook. Presented in conjunction with the exhibition China Modern: Designing 20th-Century Popular Culture. Sponsored by the Department of Chinese, East Asian Studies Program, Rohatyn Center for International Affairs, and Committee on the Arts.

November 3

A Separation
(Afsghar Farhadi, Iran, 2011, 123 minutes)
In this 2012 Academy Award-winning film, an Iranian husband and wife clash when forced to decide whether to leave their home country. Dragged into a courtroom, their conflict bleeds into moral mundaneness. “With great power and subtlety, Farhadi transforms this family quarrel into a contemporary tragedy”—The Guardian. In Persian with English subtitles. Sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series and Middle East Studies Program.

November 10

Habemus Papam
(Nanni Moretti, Italy/France, 2011, 102 minutes)
The Vatican has a problem: an unlikely new pope companies and wants to bail out. Enter an unconventional psychologist, instructed to cure the patient “in front of the entire conclave,” as the Hollywood Reporter explains, “just don’t mention sex, mother, fantasies, desires or dreams.” Nanni Moretti’s gently sardonic film delves into the challenges of an unassuming individual buckling under the weight of infallibility. Sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series and Department of Italian.

November 17

Margaret
(Kenneth Lonergan, USA, 2011, 150 minutes)
A tempestuous Manhattan teenager copes with remorse after witnessing an accident that she may have caused. Delayed for several years due to studio contentions, director Kenneth Lonergan’s film offers a mesmerizing, messy look into the consequences of self-absorption and delivers “a phoenix of a film, risen from the ashes of what looked alarmingly like failure…. It needs to be seen”—The Telegraph. Starring Anna Paquin, Matt Damon, and Mark Ruffalo. Sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series.

December 1

Footnote
(Joseph Cedar, Israel, 2011, 103 minutes)
In this surprisingly lively peek into the pettiness of academic rivalry, a professor of Talmudic studies must confront his jealousy when his scholarly son beats him out for a coveted prize. “Joseph Cedar shifts sympathies back and forth as frequently as he changes tone from jokey to bitter, skewering ivory tower blindness with some wit and, just occasionally, emotion”—Variety. Israeli film; in Hebrew with English subtitles. Sponsored by the Hirschfield International Film Series.