



INTERNATIONAL FILMS

S P R I N G 2 0 2 5

MSSU FACULTY
share some of their favorite flicks



The International Film Society was founded in 1962 by Alma Doan, Harrison Kash, Arthur Boles, and Philip Jones as an activity of the Ozark Artists Guild. It has been supported by a combination of ticket sales, contributions, over three decades of Missouri Arts Council funding, and funding from the MSSU Institute of International Studies and the Harrison and June Kash International Film Society.

Dozens of unpaid volunteers worked over the years to prepare brochures, program notes, apply for assistance, create posters, and distribute publicity materials to the media. **Harrison Kash**, an assistant professor of chemistry at Joplin Junior College and MSSU from 1958 until his retirement in 1997, was the person most closely affiliated with the International Film Society. It was renamed in his honor in 2014.

Mr. Kash, who passed away on Oct. 27, 2020, helped select the films shown until as recently as 2016. **Dr. Bill Kumbier**, a professor of English and philosophy who retired in 2020, also coordinated the films for several years. **Dr. Chad Stebbins**, director of the Institute of International Studies, coordinated the films from 2020 until his retirement in December 2024. This is the final series planned by Dr. Stebbins.



STAMP
HERE

COLD WAR (POLISH)

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium

(dir. Pawel Pawlikowski, 2018; 88 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Bill Fischer, associate professor of history

This sweeping, delirious romance begins in the Polish countryside, where Wiktor (Tomasz Kot), a musician on a state-sponsored mission to collect folk songs, discovers a captivating young singer named Zula (Joanna Kulig, in a performance for the ages). Over the next 15 years, their turbulent relationship will play out in stolen moments between the jazz clubs of decadent bohemian Paris, to which he escapes, and the corrupt, repressive Communist Bloc, where she remains – universes bridged by their passion for music and for each other. Photographed in luscious monochrome and suffused with the melancholy of the simple folk song that provides a motif for the couple's fateful affair, Pawlikowski's timeless story – inspired by that of his own parents – is a heart-stoppingly grand vision of star-crossed love caught up in the tide of history. Rated R.

Dr. Bill Fischer: "This film manages to tell an epic story about love, music, politics, and political repression that spans decades and several countries – all in a tight 88 minutes. After viewing it you'll have had an experience as rich as classic epics of old Hollywood despite the short run time. The movie is particularly impressive for how it uses different genres of music to comment on different political attitudes on both sides of the Iron Curtain. The central performances by Joanna Kulig and Tomasz Kot are some of the most memorable of the last decade."



STAMP
HERE

ORLANDO (BRITISH)

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium

(dir. Sally Potter, 1992; 94 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Amy Gates, associate professor of English

In 1600, Queen Elizabeth I (Quentin Crisp) confers the family estate upon young nobleman Orlando (Tilda Swinton) with the command, "Do not fade. Do not wither. Do not grow old." And so, Orlando doesn't. The film, loosely adapted from Virginia Woolf's 1928 novel, follows the title character through four centuries, various relationships and careers, and two genders, as Orlando remains the "Same person. No difference at all... just a different sex." Rated PG-13.

Dr. Amy Gates: "This award-winning film is absolutely gorgeous, with sumptuous costumes and stunning sets. Students find Woolf's original novel funny and fascinating, and this streamlined adaptation captures the essence of Woolf's – and Orlando's – bemused take on both the formation of English national identity and an individual's sense of self in a film that is by turns touching, satiric, sly, and always a delight."



STAMP
HERE

THE THIRD MAN (BRITISH)

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium

(dir. Carol Reed, 1949; 93 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Steve Wagner, professor of history

Set in post-World War II Allied-occupied Vienna, an American writer arrives in the city and learns that the friend he has come to see has died. He stays in Vienna to investigate the death and becomes infatuated with his friend's girlfriend. In 1999, the British Film Institute voted *The Third Man* the greatest British film of all time. Starring Joseph Cotton, Alida Valli, Orsen Wells, and Trevor Howard. Not Rated.

Dr. Steve Wagner: "I'm a big fan of film noir and a historian of the mid-20th century, so this film checks all the boxes for me. With a compelling story by Graham Greene, beautiful on-location cinematography, brilliant acting by some of the biggest stars of the day, and a perfectly matched soundtrack, this film will stay with you long after watching it!"



STAMP
HERE

AMÉLIE (FRENCH)

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium

(dir. Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001; 122 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Michael Howarth, director of Honors Program

Jean-Pierre Jeunet creates a world of color, movement, romance, and whimsy in a film that became a sensation in France and charmed audiences around the world. Audrey Tautou is delightful as a spirited waitress determined to help those around her find love and happiness, although her own romantic adventure proves to be a challenging one. Actor-director Mathieu Kassovitz co-stars as Amélie's love interest. A Cesar Award-winner for Best Film, Director, Music and Production Design. Rated R.

Dr. Michael Howarth: "Amélie is my favorite kind of romantic comedy, realistic enough to be relevant and quirky enough to be interesting. It's a beautiful-looking film, a dazzling blend of charm and whimsy, and as funny as it is dramatic. Set in Paris, Amélie is a celebration of life and love, a film that, as critic Roger Ebert once said, "You see it, and later when you think about it, you smile."



STAMP
HERE

THE CASTLE (AUSTRALIAN)

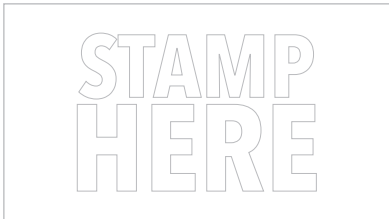
Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium

(dir. Rob Sitch, 1997; 85 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Karen Kostan, professor of psychology

A working-class family from Melbourne lives right next to an airport; in fact, jumbo jets land right outside to their back fence. But one day they are told they must move as the government and airport near their land want it for expansion. The family decides to fight for their home, their way of live, their memories – their castle. Rated R.

Dr. Karen Kostan: "It's a simple comedy that has a lot to offer if one wants more. Although it was a relatively low-budget fictional comedy, it is the only film to have an entry in the Oxford Companion to the High Court of Australia. Although filled with silly quotable lines about pool rooms and vibes, it also serves as a jumping-off-point for discussions around the Mabo and Native Title Acts – at the time, these were relatively new and contentious pieces of high court legislature. And although it's 28 years old, it still pops up on Australians' lists of most the beloved Australian films and films that best represent Australian cultural values of fairness and the dream of home ownership. Since it can be viewed as a slice-of-life comedy, an exploration of family love, a David vs. Goliath takedown of government overreach, or a portrayal of Australian life, I think there's something appealing for everyone in *The Castle*."



SHADOWLANDS (BRITISH)

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium

(dir. Richard Attenborough, 1993; 131 min.)

Introduction: Brenda Jackson, retired theatre faculty

In the 1950s, the reserved, middle-aged bachelor C.S. Lewis is an Oxford University academic and author of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series of children's books. He meets the married American poet Joy Davidman Gresham and her young son Douglas on their visit to England. The movie traces the circumstances that challenge and change them both and give them each a new world view.

Brenda Jackson: "Anthony Hopkins has long been my favorite actor, but it probably all started with this movie in 1993. *Shadowlands* is a true story about T.S. Eliot, an author many of us know and love from reading *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Eliot lived in Oxford and was a friend of J.R.R. Tolkien. They regularly met in a pub in Oxford called The Eagle and Child, where they discussed their current writing projects. I've been lucky enough to visit that pub and sit at their table. I've driven through the Golden Valley, which is featured in the movie. The movie deals with universal human struggles, discoveries, and doubts. As an English major and an Anglophile, this movie checks all the boxes for me!"



STAMP
HERE

MICMACS (FRENCH)

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium

(dir. Jean-Pierre Jeunet ;2009; 105 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Zak Watson, chair of Language & Literature Department

A surreal revenge comedy set in a fanciful version of modern Paris. Our hero, Bazil (Dany Boon), is a video store clerk whose father was killed by a landmine. When Bazil himself is struck by a stray bullet, he survives, but loses his job, becomes homeless, and vows revenge against the arms manufacturers responsible for two generations of randomized harm. That's where the Micmacs – a group of junkyard dwellers and steam-punk engineers – come in, gladly agreeing to help Bazil mount his offensive. Rated R.

Dr. Zak Watson: "*Micmacs* builds on the ingenious mechanical fantasies of *City of Lost Children* to a more frenetic and humorous end. This is the slapstick crime comedy about a gang of junkyard dealers taking revenge on weapons manufactures that we all need right now. Come see Bazil, our Snow White for the evening, and his chosen family of seven dwarfs use their strange and wonderful talents to set the world a little more right."



STAMP
HERE

RANG DE BASANTI (INDIAN)

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium

(dir. Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, 2006; 157 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Jody Jensen, assistant director of Honors Program

A young, London based filmmaker chances upon the diaries of her grandfather, who served in the British police force in India during the freedom struggle. Excited about these memoirs, she makes plans to shoot a film on the Indian revolutionaries mentioned in the diaries. She comes to Delhi and casts a group of five friends to play the pivotal roles of these revolutionaries.

However, products of modern India, the five youth initially refuse to be part of the project, as they don't identify with these characters from the past. To them, issues like patriotism and giving one's life for one's beliefs is the stuff textbooks are made of. They would rather party than be patriots. In the film both the 1930s British India and the India today run parallel and intersect with each other at crucial points. As the film reaches its resolution, the line between past and present blurs, as they become one in spirit. Not Rated.

Dr. Jody Jensen: "*Rang De Basanti* is a timely film as it highlights the power of youth activism and the importance of standing up against corruption and injustice. In our current time, where many countries face political and social upheaval, the film's message about the impact of collective action and the need for systemic change resonates deeply. It also underscores the significance of remembering and learning from history to address contemporary issues."



RICK STEVES

America's leading authority on European travel

The **10 students** who attend the most international films in Spring 2025 will receive either a Rick Steves' \$50 gift card or a Rick Steves' travel shoulder bag.

Get your passport stamped every time you attend a film, and then turn it in to the Institute of International Studies in Webster Hall 337 after **March 12**.

INTERNATIONAL FILMS

S P R I N G 2 0 2 5



MISSOURI
SOUTHERN
STATE UNIVERSITY.