



INTERNATIONAL FILMS

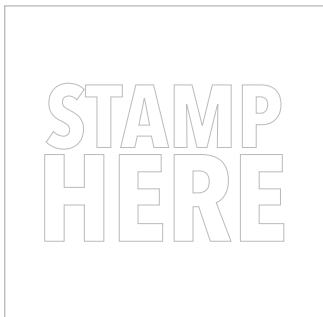
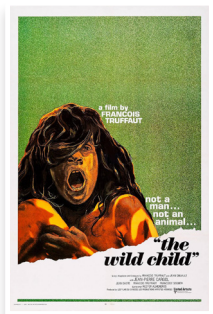
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MSSU FACULTY
share some of their favorite flicks



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.

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. 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, is the current coordinator.



THE WILD CHILD (FRANCE)

Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 | 7 p.m. | Bookhouse Cinema

(dir. Francois Truffaut; 1970; 85 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Bill Kumbier, emeritus faculty

In *The Wild Child*, even more than in his better known *The 400 Blows* or his later *Small Change*, Francois Truffaut conveys his tender, acute sympathy for how children experience – or are sometimes forced to experience – a world that can be at once brimming with wonder and hardened by hurt and injustice. This remarkable film dramatizes the true, astonishing discovery of a feral child in Aveyron, France, in the early 1800s and his introduction into the “civilized” world by Dr. Jean Itard, a specialist in the acquisition of language by the deaf. Truffaut himself portrays the humane doctor who dedicates himself to bringing the child, Victor, from his natural, “savage” state into society, perhaps without fully realizing all that is at stake in that transition.

Dr. Bill Kumbier: “There are many things I admire about Truffaut’s filmmaking: his deft touch, his intelligence, his subtle sense of humor, how he can use the elements of film to convey pathos with honesty and sentiment but without sentimentality. But perhaps what I value most in Truffaut, though it’s not present in all of his films, is how closely in touch he is with the world of childhood, a world that can be exhilarating and wonderful but can just as easily strike us suddenly with the most heartfelt sadness.”



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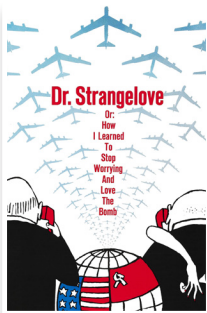
TAE GUK KI: THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE WAR
(SOUTH KOREA)

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall
(dir. Je-kyu Kang; 2004; 160 min. Rated R)

Introduction: Dr. Ildo Kim, assistant professor of communication

In the powerful tradition of *Saving Private Ryan* and *Band of Brothers* comes this box-office hit from South Korea. *Tae Guk Gi* follows two brothers – one uneducated and forceful, the other intellectual and reserved – who both are forced to join the army against their will. Torn away from home and family, Jin-tae vows to protect Jin-seok despite the dangers and the cost. In the searing crucible of battle, fate intervenes, forcing their bonds of faith, love and trust to be tested time and again in this suspense-filled, action-packed war drama.

Dr. Ildo Kim: "We've recently seen two wars break out. We sometimes forget how cruel the wars are. We forget how blessed it is to live a normal life. We are mad at our family members, close friends, and spouses with tiny little things. The wars destroy these things so easily. This movie will remind us of what wars can do to us."



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DR. STRANGELOVE OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE BOMB

(UNITED KINGDOM/UNITED STATES)

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024 | 7 p.m. | Bookhouse Cinema

(dir. Stanley Kubrick; 1964; 94 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Steve Smith, professor of international and political affairs

Stanley Kubrick's great black comedy stars Peter Sellers in three roles, including the memorably bizarre title character – a wheelchair-bound scientist plotting a nuclear attack on the Soviet Union. Regarded as one of the best comedies ever made and one of the greatest films of all time, *Dr. Strangelove* was filmed near London as Sellers was in the middle of a divorce at the time and unable to leave England.

Dr. Steve Smith: "*Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* continually ranks highly among films of the late 20th century. This film raises issues of nuclear proliferation and mutually assured destruction in a novel way, which is at times both jarring and comical, creating a conflicting and unsettling set of emotions for the viewer. The core issues presented in the film remain relevant to contemporary audiences concerned with current and future geopolitical tensions."



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CHUNGKING EXPRESS (VIETNAM)

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall
(dir. Wong Kar-wai; 1994; 102 min. Rated PG-13)

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

From supreme visual stylist Wong Kar-wai comes this stunning, dream-like valentine to youth and hopeless love. Kar-wai juxtaposes two quirky, offbeat stories with beautiful, mysterious women and colorful cops against a backdrop of a Chinese fast-food restaurant. An emotionally cool, post-modern romantic comedy.

Dr. Zak Watson: "This is a great Valentine's film for anyone who has ever been infatuated, alienated, or both. It captures the kinetic beauty of Hong Kong in the 1990s, with all the potential for human connection and disconnection that go with it. The narratives flirt with generic possibilities, but you can be sure you, too, will be California dreamin' tonight."



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ARGENTINA, 1985 (ARGENTINA)

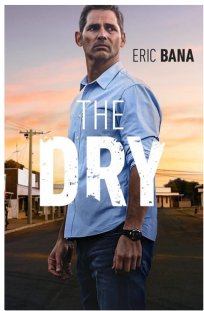
Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 | 7 p.m. | Bookhouse Cinema

(dir. Santiago Mitre; 2022; 140 min. Rated R)

Introduction: Dr. Bill Fischer, associate professor of history

Inspired by the true story of Julio Strassera, Luis Moreno Ocampo, and their young legal team of unlikely heroes in their David-vs.-Goliath battle to prosecute Argentina's bloodiest military dictatorship to bring justice to the victims of the Military Junta. Nominated for an Academy Award for Best International Feature Film.

Dr. Bill Fischer: "This movie is a gripping courtroom drama with some healthy doses of humor that tells the story of the prosecution of members of Argentina's military junta after that country's return to democracy. The lead performance by Ricardo Darín is very compelling, and it asks the audience to consider the extent of a society's responsibility to hold the powerful responsible for their crimes. The trial was an important moment in Argentina's history, and its legacy is still relevant to Argentina's politics today."



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THE DRY (AUSTRALIA)

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall
(dir. Robert Connolly; 2020; 117 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies

The Dry is the film adaptation of Jane Harper's 2016 international bestseller of the same name. After an absence of 20 years, an Australian federal agent returns to his drought-stricken hometown to investigate an apparent murder-suicide by his childhood friend. But when his investigation opens a decades-old wound – the unsolved death of his 16-year-old girlfriend – he struggles to prove not only his friend's innocence but his own.

Dr. Chad Stebbins: "I watched *The Dry* while flying from London to the U.S. and was quickly mesmerized by this whodunit with several subplots. I particularly enjoyed all the flashbacks from 25 years ago sprinkled throughout the film. There's a great cast of characters – or suspects – that makes you wonder whether you really can go home again."



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WITHNAIL AND I (UNITED KINGDOM)

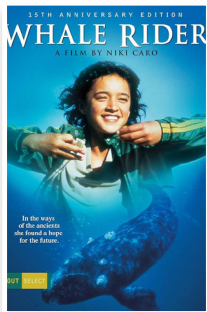
Wednesday, March 6, 2024 | 7 p.m. | Bookhouse Cinema

(dir. Bruce Robinson; 1987; 107 min.)

Introduction: Dr. Amy Gates, associate professor of English

Camden Town, London, 1969: When two out-of-work actors, Withnail (Richard E. Grant) and "I" (Paul McGann), decide they are "drifting into the arena of the unwell" and need to get out of their freezing and filthy flat for a bit of "harmony, fresh air, stuff like that," they persuade Withnail's Uncle Monty (Richard Griffiths) to lend them use of his holiday cottage in the Lake District. The holiday proves disastrous, but the characters' troubles offer comedic triumphs with a script that Nicholas Barber, writing for the BBC, notes "is often hailed as a work of comic genius."

Dr. Amy Gates: "I was looking for movies filmed in the Lake District, and I found *Withnail and I*. With its non-stop rain, eclectic collection of locals, ramshackle holiday cottage, and copious alcohol, this is not the version of the Lake District that Cumbria Tourism promotes. Although not a blockbuster hit when it came out, the film has nevertheless become a cult classic that continues to find its way onto critics' lists of best British films ever made and landed at No. 24 on the BBC's 2017 poll of the 100 greatest comedies of all time. Produced by Beatle George Harrison's Handmade Films, it is funny, edgy, dark, and surprisingly poignant at the end."



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WHALE RIDER (NEW ZEALAND)

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 | 7 p.m. | Cornell Auditorium in Plaster Hall
(dir. Niki Caro; 2002; 101 minutes)

Introduction: Dr. Michael Howarth, director of Honors Program

Whale Rider tells the story of Paikea "Pai" Apirana, a 12-year-old girl who lives in a small Maori village where a male heir is supposed to inherit the title of chief. Pai, however, is an aspiring leader who challenges tradition after her twin brother dies at birth. She embraces her Maori heritage but struggles to prove her worth because her grandfather is opposed to a woman being the rightful leader.

Dr. Michael Howarth: "Both dramatic and uplifting, *Whale Rider* is a celebration of courage and the power of embracing one's potential. It's also a testament to the human spirit, exploring triumph in the face of adversity. With its colorful cast of characters, the film showcases a heartfelt journey that transcends cultural boundaries to reveal themes and conflicts that resonate with our own lives, as well as the values we hold dear."



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The **10 students** who attend the most international films in Spring 2024 will receive either a Rick Steves travel bag or a personal day pack for travel abroad.

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 13**.

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