

INTERNATIONAL FILMS



LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Spring 2026 International Film Festival will feature four laugh out loud comedies from around the world.

WHEN: First Friday of every month at **5:45-8pm** | **WHERE:** Cornell Auditorium



SHAOLIN SOCCER (2001)

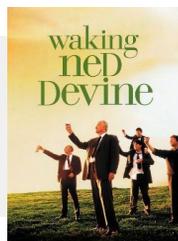
February 6th - Hong Kong

Getting excited about the 2026 World Cup? We are. Join us for this Hong Kong comedy about an unusual soccer team made up of kung fu masters.

WAKING NED DEVINE (1998)

March 6th - Ireland

When MSSU students, faculty, and staff were asked to send in their favorite international comedy, there was one clear winner: Waking Ned Devine. Get in the St. Patrick's Day spirit with this crowd pleaser.



HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE (2016)

April 7th - New Zealand

A hilarious and heartwarming story about a troubled orphan teen and his foster father who disappear into the wilderness. Come see why this is one of New Zealand's highest-grossing films.

I VITELLONI (1953)

May 1st - Italy

It's the last day of the spring semester, so let's head to the Italian coast! Join us for laughs, popcorn, Italian treats, and (weather permitting) a film on the lawn as we welcome the arrival of summer.



EXPLORE BOLDLY, CARE DEEPLY, IMPACT GLOBALLY

HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS AT MSSU



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, funding from the MSSU Institute of International Studies (now the Office of Global Education) 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, former director of the Institute of International Studies, coordinated the films from 2020 until his retirement in December 2024. The new Executive Director of Global Education, Dr. Becca Shriver, is working closely with our students and current MSSU employees to select films that will bring us together as a community to celebrate how certain themes and emotions are captured on the big screen in different parts of the world.