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Film Studies, Dean of Students Launch “FLiCX”

The Vanderbilt Film Studies Program and the Office of the Dean of Students, in partnership with the historic Belcourt Theatre in Hillsboro Village, have developed an initiative to promote faculty-student conversations centered on foreign and independent films: FLiCX, or Faculty-Led interactive Cinematic eXplorations. “We are so fortunate to have the Belcourt as a resource,” said Lynn Ramey, acting director of the Film Studies Program. “I’m looking forward not only to films that have significance for students in film studies, but also to those that my French students should see.” Dean of Students Mark Bandas noted that “we anticipate that this program will enable a host of opportunities for faculty-student interaction across a broad range academic departments, disciplines, and interests.”

Lisa Weiss, Lecturer in French and Assistant Director of the W.T. Bandy Center for Baudelaire and Modern French Studies, has been named faculty coordinator of the program. “I love the Belcourt and its film program. It seems to offer a range that compares favorably to film offerings in art houses in major cities, not just in the US, but abroad as well. I am eager to work with other faculty members to make students aware of the richness of the offerings, and to expose them to cinematic experiences they could get in very few other places.”

David Wood, Professor of Philosophy, who took a group of students to see *The 11th Hour* even before the program began, noted that FLiCX encourages us to be “not just consumers of movies, but reflective viewers.” During the initial phase of the program in September, which enabled the organizers to work through processes and resolve administrative issues, nearly 100 participants viewed a total of eight screenings of seven different films. F. Clark Williams, one of the principal organizers of FLiCX for the Office of the Dean of Students, observed that “One of the happy benefits of the post screening conversations is the interaction of undergraduates not only with faculty, but also with graduate students and other undergrads from a variety of schools and disciplines.”

The Office of the Dean of Students has purchased ticket vouchers in bulk, at a discounted rate, from the Belcourt Theatre. The faculty program coordinator recruits faculty to participate, and also responds to queries of interested faculty. Once a FLiCX screening has been set up, the participating faculty member asks students who wish to attend to complete an online registration form. The faculty member meets the students at the Belcourt (or in some cases, meets them on campus and walks over with the group), and distributes vouchers to the students who redeem them at the Belcourt box office for tickets. Following the film screening, the faculty member encourages the students to articulate their thoughts about what they have seen, and contributes his or her own perspective as well.

Faculty interested in a particular film may write to flicx@vanderbilt.edu. (Note that the initiative is in partnership with the Belcourt Theatre, so screenings are limited to films playing there.) The Belcourt’s Website is www.belcourt.org, and FLiCX can be found at www.vanderbilt.edu/flicx.