

## Belcourt Partnership

Vanderbilt has been a sponsor of The Belcourt Theatre's annual Oscar Party fundraiser since its inception in 2000. However, for the academic year 2007/2008, a partnership with the theatre has been developed that has proved mutually beneficial.

The Vanderbilt Film Studies Program and the Office of the Dean of Students have launched FLiCX: Faculty-Led, interactive Cinematic eXplorations, in which faculty facilitators accompany students to the Belcourt to see films in which the faculty members have some interest. The Office of the Dean of Students purchases the tickets for both faculty and student participants at the Belcourt's group sales' rate. The theatre also accommodates post screening discussions and film introductions.

"We are so fortunate to have the Belcourt as a resource," commented Lynn Ramey, Acting Director of Film Studies and Associate Professor of French. "For Film Studies students, the selection of cutting edge and historically relevant films is unparalleled. My French students have also benefited immensely from the Belcourt's commitment to bring foreign language films to a Nashville audience."

David Wood, Professor of Philosophy, an early participant in the program, noted that FLiCX encourages us to be "not just consumers of movies, but reflective viewers." Dean of Students Mark Bandas 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, and in fact, with people from the Nashville community at large."

Stephanie Silverman, Managing Director of the Belcourt emphasized Dean Bandas's point, "one of our missions is to 'stimulate dialogue' and the FLiCX program has provided us a model for how to make that happen. We also hope that the group sales arrangement that we have with the Dean of Students Office, may prove viable for other colleges and universities, and perhaps high schools as well."