

November 30, 2007

Dear Vanderbilt Colleague,

As an advocate for foreign film, we are extending an invitation to you and your department to be a participant in a new foreign film initiative. ***International Lens***, a weekly film series with a global perspective, debuts on January 23, 2008. The program, hosted by the Office of the Dean of Students, is coordinated by International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) and the Office of Arts & Creative Engagement (ACE).

Vanderbilt's academic campus community provides a wide array of programs that offer multiple perspectives on world events. Our goal is to harness our collective talents and promote cross-cultural understanding through film. We believe that through the lens of the filmmaker, cinema becomes a universal medium that transcends geographic, religious and political boundaries. Film provokes and serves as a catalyst to stimulate dialogue and conversation within our diverse community.

Spring semester we have reserved Sarratt Cinema every Wednesday night for a 7 p.m. film showing. The plan is to have various campus departments sponsor one or two films of their choosing and coordinate programs to accompany the films. Departments could use their film screening to cross promote upcoming lectures, symposiums or programs. Faculty could explore timing a film selection to coincide with a specific course syllabus. Each weekly screening shines the spotlight on a different department or program. By combining our efforts we provide greater exposure for all of our programs. Through the ***International Lens*** collaborative project we can reach a wider audience to ensure success for our events.

The Dean of Students coordinating offices (ACE and ISSS) will bear the bulk of the responsibility for planning and promoting the film series. Sponsor departments or faculty would only be responsible for their film screenings. Have we piqued your curiosity and interest? If so please read over the attached documents that provide additional information. We ask that program participants keep in mind that our goal is to present a well-balanced diverse selection of significant films. So that we do not end up with films from only one country or all in the same genre, we are requesting you propose a minimum of 3 and maximum of 5 film selections. We are also giving you the opportunity to select screening dates. Submit the *Request Form* by Wednesday, December 19th. On December 28, you will be notified as to the films selected to give you adequate time to make arrangements for any events you wish to plan in conjunction with the screening such as film introductions or discussions.

We recognize this is a tight timeline and apologize for requesting such a quick turnaround. This is a new initiative and our goal is to continue the program in 2008-09. We ask for your patience with this initial phase of the project. We will begin planning the Fall 2008 schedule in late spring. If you have any questions, comments or recommendations please contact us.

Thank you for your support. We are very excited to be coordinating the ***International Lens*** series.

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