International Film Series

Fall 2013

Thursday evenings, 7:30 P.M.

Dorothy and Lillian Gish Film Theater, BGSU

19 September
_The Tiniest Place_ (El lugar más pequeño, 2011)
Mexico, 104 min
Director: Tatiana Huezo
This documentary is a story about mankind’s ability to arise, to rebuild and reinvent itself after surviving a tragedy. It is also a story about a people that have learned to live with their sorrow; of an annihilated town that reemerges through the strength and deep love of its inhabitants for the land and the people. A tiny place nestled in the mountains amidst the humid Salvadorian jungle.

26 September
_Where Do We Go Now?_ (Et maintenant on va où?, 2011)
Lebanon, 110 min
Director: Nadine Labaki
Set in a remote village where the church and the mosque stand side by side, _Where Do We Go Now?_ follows the antics of the town’s women to keep their blowhard men from starting a religious war. Women heartsick over sons, husbands and fathers lost to previous flare-ups unite to distract their men with clever ruses, from faking a miracle to hiring a troop of Ukrainian strippers.

3 October
_Russian Ark_ (дјііяэюдјіійковчег, 2002)
Russia, 99 min
Director: Alexander Sokurov
A visually hypnotizing cinematic feat, _Russian Ark_ is Alexander Sokurov’s spellbinding ode to St. Petersburg’s State Hermitage Museum in Russia. Shot in one fluid 90 minute take using High Definition video cameras, the photography floats and careens through the lavish corridors of the museum, examining its architectural details while following a dreamlike plot. A cast of 867 actors, thousands of
extras and three live orchestras supply the action of the film. Through the sheer determination of the director, or possibly a miracle, the first-ever single screen, single-take full-length feature was created.

17 October

*Kung Fu Hustle* (Kung fu, 2004)
Hong Kong, 99 min
Director: Stephen Chow

Amid the chaos of pre-revolutionary China, small time thief, Sing, aspires to be one of the sophisticated and ruthless Axe Gang whose underworld activities overshadow the city. Stumbling across a crowded apartment complex aptly known as “Pig Sty Alley,” Sing attempts to extort money from one of the ordinary locals, but the neighbors are not what they appear. Sing’s comical attempts at intimidation inadvertently attract the Axe Gang into the fray, setting off a chain of events that brings the two disparate worlds face-to-face. As the inhabitants of the Pig Sty fight for their lives, the ensuing the clash of kung fu titans unearths some legendary martial arts Masters. Sing, despite his futile attempts, lacks the soul of a killer, and must face his own mortality in order to discover the true nature of the kung fu master.

24 October

*Harakiri* (Seppuku, 1962)
Japan, 133 min
Director: Masaki Kobayashi

Following the collapse of his clan, an unemployed samurai arrives at the manor of Lord Iyi, begging to be allowed to commit ritual suicide on the property. Iyi’s clansmen, believing the desperate ronin is merely angling for a new position, try to force his hand and get him to eviscerate himself—but they have underestimated his beliefs and his personal brand of honor. Winner of the Cannes Film Festival’s Special Jury Prize, *Harakiri*, directed by Masaki Kobayashi is a fierce evocation of individual agency in the face of a corrupt and hypocritical system.

31 October

*Twilight Samurai* (Tasogare Seibei, 2002)
Japan, 129 min
Director: Yoji Yamada

Set in mid-19th century Japan, a few years before the Meiji Restoration, the film follows the life of Seibei Iguchi, a low-ranking samurai employed as a bureaucrat. Poor, but not destitute, he still manages to lead a content and happy life with his daughters and senile mother. Through an unfortunate turn of
events, the turbulent times conspire against him. Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 76th Academy Awards.

7 November

*The White Ribbon* (Das weiße band, 2009)
Germany, 144 min
Director: Michael Haneke
In a village in Protestant northern Germany, on the eve of World War I, the children of a church and school run by the village schoolteacher and their families experience a series of bizarre incidents that inexplicably assume the characteristics of a punishment ritual. Who could be responsible for such bizarre transgressions? Leonie Benesch, Josef Bierbichler, and Rainer Bock star in director Michael Haneke’s Palm d’Or-winning period drama.

14 November

*Amour* (2012)
France, 127 min
Director: Michael Haneke
An octogenarian couple find their love put to the ultimate test when one of them suffers a stroke, and the other must assume the role of the caretaker in this compassionate yet unsentimental drama from director Michael Haneke. Georges and Anne are retired classical-music teachers savoring their golden years in a comfortable apartment when Anne experiences a stroke that leaves her partially paralyzed. As devoted Georges struggles with the formidable task of becoming Anne’s full-time caretaker, a visit from their adult daughter Eva reaffirms just how secluded from society the highly educated couple have become since retiring.

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