HIRSCHFIELD
INTERNATIONAL FILM-VIDEO SERIES 2009–2010

All programs are presented twice on Saturdays, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and held in Middlebury College’s Dana Auditorium on College Street. Admission is Free. Films are projected in 35mm unless otherwise noted. Some of the Works in this series may be inappropriate for children; we regret that we are unable to preview the material.

Sept 19
Happy-Go-Lucky [UK, 2008, 118’]
(2002). “One of Kristin Scott Thomas’ most inspired perfor-
deftly sketches a sibling relationship complicated by obliga-
tion, guilt, mistrust, and, not least, an abiding love”—Scott
tobias, The Onion A.V. Club. Winner of a Jury Prize at the
Berlin International Film Festival and a BAFTA Award for
Sponsored by the Film and Media Culture Department and
Ernst Lubitsch’s American Comedy and Laughing
Scrambling: Modern Hollywood Horror and Comedy
Screaming: Modern Hollywood Horror and Comedy

Oct 3
I’ve Loved You So Long [France/Germany, 2008, 131’]
(1996). “There are
countless ways [Hawkins] could have stepped wrong but
she breezes in on her bicycle and engages our deepest
desire. Hawkins is Soderbergh’s most interesting fi-
and those close to him. “A thorough, understated and alto-
guede enriching documentary”—A.O. Scott, The New York
Times. Perfectly poised between artistry and audacity. It’s
beautiful”—Michael Phillips, The Chicago Tribune. Winner
of an Academy Award and an Independent Spirit Award for
Best Documentary. French with English subtitles.

Oct 17
Synecdoche, New York [USA, 2008, 124’]
The argument this movie makes—on behalf of eccentric,
vulnerable characters and against more ordinary kinds of cin-
era—is for the supreme value of idiosyncrasy.—“A.O. Scott,
The Chicago Sun Times. “Perfectly poised between artistry and audacity. It’s
beautiful”—Michael Phillips, The Chicago Tribune. Winner
of an Academy Award and an Independent Spirit Award for
Best Documentary. French with English subtitles.

Oct 24
The Toe Tactic [USA, 2008, 83’]
“Democracy is a bumble bee, filled with the sweetest
flower nectar and the sweetest honey, but it is a bumble bee.
It needs to fly; it needs to be free.”—Theo Angelopoulos
with an ambition this large, and achievement this impres-
sive, can be anything but exhilarating, a vital affirmation
of the creative process”—Richard Corliss, Time. Winner
of Independent Spirit Award for Best First Feature and
Outstanding Ensemble Cast.

Nov 7
Che: Part One [Spain/France/USA, 2008, 134’]
In 1956, Ernesto “Che” Guevara (Bencio Del Toro) and a
group of Cuban exiles led by Fidel Castro travel to Cuba from
Mexico. Over the next two years they build support and
mobilize an army to free Cuba from the corrupt dictator-
ship of Fulgencio Batista. Written by Pete Buchman, the
first half of Steven Soderbergh’s epic directional effort is also
known as The Argentine. “Mr. Soderbergh once again offers
a master class in filmmaking”—A.O. Scott, The New York
Times.

Nov 12
“New Directions in Romantic Comedy”
William Paul, Professor of Performing Arts at Washington
University in St. Louis, will speak on “New Directions in
Romantic Comedy” on Thursday, November 12th at 4:30 p.m. in 232 Axinn Center. Professor Paul, a lead-
ing authority on romantic comedy and film genres, is the
author of Ernst Lubitsch’s American Comedy and Laughing
Scrambling: Modern Hollywood Horror and Comedy.
Sponsored by the Film and Media Culture Department and
the First Year Seminar Program.

Nov 14
Che: Part Two [Spain/France/USA, 131’]
At the height of his fame and power, Che resigns from his
government post in Cuba and disappears into the jungles
of Bolivia. He recruits an army of guerilla fighters and sets
tout to spark revolutions throughout Latin America. Written
by Benjamin A. van de Veen and Peter Buchman, Soderbergh’s
second installment is also known as Guerilla. Spanish with
English subtitles. “Mr. Soderbergh once again offers
a master class in filmmaking”—A.O. Scott, The New York
Times.

Man on Wire [UK/USA, 2008, 94’]
In August 1974, French performer Philippe Petit strung a
wire between the two World Trade Center Towers in New
York City and balanced on it for nearly an hour. Director
James Marsh uses archival footage, contemporary interviews,
and recreations to explore Petit’s career, detail the complex
logistics of setting up the Trade Center wire, and reflect
upon the profound affects of the walk’s success upon Petit
and those close to him. “A thorough, understated and alto-
guede enriching documentary”—A.O. Scott, The New York
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a master class in filmmaking”—A.O. Scott, The New York
Times.
Waltz With Bashir [Israel, 2008, 90’]

Surprised and intrigued by his inability to remember his time in the Israeli Army, writer-director Ari Folman interviews friends and comrades around the world to discover the truth about that time of his life. Folman presents his extraordinary animation with the help of chief illustrator David Polonsky. “A memory, a history lesson, a combat picture, a piece of investigative journalism and an altogether amazing film”—A.O. Scott, The New York Times.

The Reader [USA/Germany, 2008, 124’]

After World War II, German teenager Michael Berg (David Kross) has a sexual love affair with an older woman named Kate Winslet, which comes to an abrupt end when and Hanna leaves without explanation. As a law student eight years later, he is shocked to see Hanna as a defendant at a Nazi war crime trial. Directed by Stephen Daldry, the Oscar-nominated director of The Hours (2002) and Billy Elliot (2000) — “An immaculately crafted, splendidly acted drama with a message at its core of forgiveness and humanity”—Marc Mohan, The New York Times.

The Class [France, 2008, 128’]

Francesca (Francesca marin) and the other teachers at a tough, inner-city high school by turns opulently white while coping with unruly and disinterested students. Despite Francesca’s best intentions, the challenging students eventually bring her to a breaking point. Directed by Mateo Garrone. “A frightening portrait of corruption, curiosity, inflation, greed and violence” — Steven Schneider, The Onion A.V. Club.

Trouble the Water [USA, 2008, 93’]

Directors Tia Lessin and Carl Deal craft a documentary around the home video footage of New Orleans musician Kimberly Rivera and her husband, Scott. With these stirring images from before, during, and after Hurricane Katrina, Lessin and Deal provide an alternative account of the storm that stands in stark contrast to popular media coverage, depicting the disaster of government and journalistic neglect of the underclass. “Incredibly moving”—David Edelstein, New York Magazine.

The Edge of Heaven [Germany/Turkey/Italy, 2007, 122’]

Neill, a young professor, becomes fascinated with his father’s fellow-countryman, Neely, and his daughter Ayten who is away at a university. When Neely dies, Neill travels to Istanbul looking for Ayten, but her political activism has forced her to flee to Germany, where she befriended a young woman named Lela. The interconnected stories of these characters from three families explore the often tumultuous interaction of German and Turkish culture. Written and directed by Fatih Akin, the actor and award-winning director of Head-On (2004), often referred to as “Ayten, together by not coming together”—David Edelstein, New York Magazine.

The Reader

Winner of a Gotham Award for Best Foreign Language Film. Japanese with English subtitles. Presented on DVD.

RIP: A Remix Manifesto [Canada, 2009, 80’]

Director Brett Gaylor explores the modern media landscape and the tension between copyright laws and remix culture in this experimental online video for viewers to remix. The film focuses on Girl Talk, a popular mash-up musician, and includes input from Creative Commons, the loose-knit coalition that stands in stark contrast to popular media coverage, depicting the disaster of government and journalistic neglect of the underclass. “Incredibly moving”—David Edelstein, New York Magazine.

Let the Right One In [Sweden, 2008, 115’]

Oskar is a timid 12-year-old boy, a frequent victim of bullies who longs for a friend. When a girl his age moves in next door and the two quickly bond, his wish seems to come true. But Olek, a strange girl and her violent boyfriend, coincides with a series of mysterious disappearances and murders. Their relationship is strained when Osek realizes Ell is a vampire. Directed by Tomas Alenov. “A costly bal-banced and utterly compelling examination of alienation and love”—Elena Ormano, The Village Voice. “A wildly awa-yish film that suggests the spirit that sustains us, the demons we hide from the world, and the monsters that prey upon us in the dark might all be variations on the same beast”—Maria Schneider, The Onion A.V. Club.

Wendy and Lucy [USA, 2008, 80’]

Wendy Williams, a young woman bound for Alaska with hopes for a lucrative fishing industry job, finds herself stranded in a dreary Oregon town when her car breaks down. She befriends a dog Lucy, who longs for a friend. When a girl his age moves in next door and the two quickly bond, his wish seems to come true. But Olek, a strange girl and her violent boyfriend, coincides with a series of mysterious disappearances and murders. Their relationship is strained when Osek realizes Ell is a vampire. Directed by Tomas Alenov. “A costly bal-banced and utterly compelling examination of alienation and love”—Elena Ormano, The Village Voice. “A wildly awa-yish film that suggests the spirit that sustains us, the demons we hide from the world, and the monsters that prey upon us in the dark might all be variations on the same beast”—Maria Schneider, The Onion A.V. Club.

Mar 6

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