



FACFF at the U.W.
French and Francophone Film Festival
May 10-23, 2008

Festival Description

This film series has been structured to explore several key issues surrounding ethnicity, multiculturalism and identity in the postcolonial francophone world. The diegesis of the films selected work through issues of generational and cultural divide (*Le Grand Voyage*), national identity (*10th District Court*), immigration and immigration policy in Europe (*Hop*), suburban culture and the use of language in identity constructs (*L'esquive*), ethnic and religious tolerance (*La Petite Jerusalem*) and institutionalized racism in the workplace (*The Glass Ceiling*).

While the films raise questions surrounding national identity and integration, they do so by focusing primarily on second and third generation immigrants in France. Due to the influx in extra-European migratory flows over the last thirty years, the social and political landscape of France and Europe has been drastically altered. In France in particular, the arrival of immigrants of North African descent during the three decades of economic growth following WWII was a catalyst to major social and ideological change. French by birth, these young French of North African descent find themselves marginalized on a socio-economic, political and geographic level. The struggles that the first generation of immigrants have faced are very different from the obstacles which their children face in society today. The six films in this series look at the inherent tensions in a multicultural society that does not recognize itself as such.

Film selections

L'ESQUIVE (2003) : Saturday, May 10 HUB Auditorium 7:00 pm

GAMES OF LOVE AND CHANCE: Set in a Parisian suburban housing unit, this 'banlieue' film reveals much about France's multiethnic youth culture and the use of the French language as it is juxtaposed between the teenagers' multi-ethnic slang and the polished rhetoric of the 18th century. **Abdellatif Kechiche** (35mm / 117min)

LE PLAFOND DE VERRE (2004): Tuesday, May 13 HUB Auditorium 7:00 pm

THE GLASS CEILING : Yamina Benguigui examines the integration of immigrants and French of Magrebian descent in the workplace through testimony by experts in the field as well as those who have been subjected to racial, ethnic and class discrimination. (DVD / 52min)

HOP (2002): Friday, May 16 HUB Auditorium 7:00 pm

THE HOP: In *The Hop*, Dominique Standaert treats the subject of childhood and immigrant life with great humor, alternating tragic situations with comic details. What could have been a dramatically somber social film criticizing the current state of immigration politics in Europe, turns out to be an uplifting and morally rich tale. (DVD / 104min)

LE GRAND VOYAGE (2004): **Saturday, May 17 NW Film Forum 1:00 pm**

GRAND VOYAGE: The film's premise involves a devout elderly patriarch forcing his reluctant teenage son to drive them from their home in France to Saudi Arabia on a once-in-a-lifetime religious pilgrimage. In this road-movie, director Ismaël Ferroukhi handles cultural and generational differences with skill, while challenging preconceived notions about Islam. (35mm / 108min)

10EME CHAMBRE-INSTANTS D'AUDIENCE (2004): **Saturday, May 17 HUB Auditorium 7:00 pm**

THE 10TH DISTRICT COURT: MOMENTS OF TRIAL: From May to July 2003, Raymond Depardon was granted special permission to film the proceedings of a Paris misdemeanor court's hearings. This unique documentary provides a rare glimpse at the inner workings of the French judicial system and raises questions about what makes something 'French' that can then be extrapolated to larger questions of national identity. (35mm / 105min)

LA PETITE JERUSALEM (2005): **Friday, May 23 HUB Auditorium 7:00 pm**

LITTLE JERUSALEM: In her first feature film, Karin Albou delicately depicts the intimate lives of two women while raising questions of religious interpretation, sexuality and family relationships. Set in a predominately Jewish neighborhood in suburban Paris, the film follows the path of a passionate young philosophy student as she attempts to reconcile her beliefs with her faith and that of her family. (35mm / 96min)

Contacts

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