

“The Right to Hospitality: Migration, Accommodation, Globalization”

A Symposium of Film and Philosophy

The Department of Philosophy and the Department of English at Michigan State University announce a film series and symposium on the conditions, dilemmas, and experience of “outsiders” and on the questions about our response to visitors, immigrants (legal and illegal), and “guest workers.”

Do we owe hospitality to the outsider? If so, why and what does that involve? If not, how should we think about visitors, immigrants, wanderers, the stateless, even the tourist? Is there a distinctive hospitality that we should cultivate if we are committed to a cosmopolitan perspective in an age in which traditional notions of boundaries and nations are in question? It is impossible to disengage these questions from those raised by global inequality, resource conflicts, and eroding political structures.

These are subjects sensitively explored in important films in recent years and are themes that have attracted the attention of major thinkers in the modern philosophical tradition. We will view and discuss a series of films after an initial session on the conceptual and moral complexity of hospitality as understood by Immanuel Kant and Jacques Derrida. We will end the series with a panel of short papers and a roundtable discussion culminating with a party – in other words, a symposium. The films will be introduced and briefly discussed by College of Arts and Letters faculty.

This series has been organized by faculty in the Department of Philosophy and the Department of English. As part of the College of Arts and Letters’ contribution to MSU’s Year of the Arts and Culture, this series is also timed to figure in discussion around the visit of Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk on Monday, Oct 1.

Schedule

All film screenings will be on DVD/video and will begin at 7:30 p.m.
The October 19 symposium will begin at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, September 17

“Philosophical Perspectives on Hospitality”

Presented by Fred Rauscher and Christian Lotz, Department of Philosophy
402 Computer Center

Wednesday, September 19

Head-On (directed by Fatih Akin, Germany/Turkey, 2004)

Presented by Richard Peterson, Department of Philosophy
B102 Wells Hall

Monday, September 24

Ali—Fear Eats the Soul (directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Germany, 1974)

Presented by Karl Schoonover, Department of English
101 North Kedzie

Wednesday, September 26

Cabeza de Vaca (directed by Nicolás Echevarría, Mexico/ Spain/ USA, 1991)

Presented by Sandra Logan, Department of English
107 South Kedzie

Friday, September 28

4:00–5:00 p.m., 303-5 International Center

Lecture by Leslie A. Adelson, professor of German Studies and director of the Institute for German Cultural Studies at Cornell University, on the work of Turkish novelist and Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk; reception following

Monday, October 1

College of Arts and Letters Signature Lecture by Orhan Pamuk, winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Literature

Pasant Theatre, Wharton Center for Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.
For ticket information, visit www.cal.msu.edu/SignatureLecture.php.

Wednesday, October 3

The Host (directed by Joon-ho Bong, South Korea, 2006)

Presented by Tim Deines and Jennifer Fay, Department of English
107 South Kedzie

Monday, October 8

Brother From Another Planet (directed by John Sayles, USA, 1984)

Presented by Ellen McCallum and Jeff Wray, Department of English
101 North Kedzie

Wednesday, October 10

Distant (directed by Nuri Bilge Ceylan, Turkey, 2002)

Presented by Jyotsna Singh, Department of English
107 South Kedzie

Monday, October 15

Frontières (directed by Mostefa Djadjam, Algeria/France, 2001)

Presented by Ken Harrow, Department of English
101 North Kedzie

Wednesday, October 17

La Promesse (directed by Jean-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne, Belgium/France, 1996)

Presented by Scott Juengel, Department of English
B102 Wells Hall

Friday, October 19

3:00-5:00 p.m., 105 South Kedzie

Symposium: papers, roundtable discussion, reception