

International Film Series, Fall 2016

Sept 7 *The Lesson* (Bulgaria, 2014)

In a small Bulgarian town, Nade is an honest, hard-working elementary school teacher and devoted mother, struggling to keep her life together. Her unemployed, alcoholic husband has secretly spent their mortgage payments on booze, and a thief in her class has stolen the last of her money out of her purse. With few options left, Nade turns to a local loan shark for help, but with the repossession of her home looming, she finds herself with little hope. Resorting to measures her former self would have found depraved, Nade attempts one last desperate act to get the money she needs.

Asier and I (Spain, 2013)

Asier and I tells the story of the friendship between Aitor and Asier from their time growing up together in the conflictaffected and politicized 80s of the Basque Country. Besides exploring the nature of friendship, the film raises universal questions: can we justify blood crimes on the name of an ideal? Can friendship transcend ideology and political extremism?

Oct 5 *Ilo Ilo* (Singapore, 2013)

Set in Singapore during the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Ilo Ilo chronicles the day-to-day drama of the Lim family troublesome grade-schooler Jiale and his overstressed parents, Heck and Leng. Comfortably middleclass and with another baby on the way, they hire Teresa, a Filipino immigrant, as a live-in maid and nanny. Teresa initially struggles to manage Jiale's antics and find her footing in her new community. The two eventually form a unique bond, but just as Teresa becomes an unspoken part of the family, unforeseen circumstances in an uncertain economy will challenge the new normal yet again.

Wondrous Boccacchio (Italy, 2015)

From acclaimed filmmakers Paolo and Vittorio Taviani comes this retelling of Boccacchio's *Decamerone*. Set against the backdrop of a 14th century, black plague-stricken Florence, ten young men and women escape to a country estate where they spend their days telling stories of love, fate, and resurrection. Wondrous Boccaccio is a visual and poetic tribute to the stories that emerged from one of the darkest periods in Italian history, and the imaginations that quietly fueled them.

Theeb (Jordan, 2014)

In 1916, while war rages in the Ottoman Empire, Hussein raises his younger brother *Theeb* ("Wolf") in a traditional Bedouin community that is isolated by the vast, unforgiving desert. The brothers' quiet existence is suddenly interrupted when a British Army officer and his guide ask Hussein to escort them to a water well located along the old pilgrimage route to Mecca. So as not to dishonor his recently deceased father, Hussein agrees to lead them on the long and treacherous journey. Nominated for the 2016 Academy Award.

La Strada (Italy, 1945)

A second look at this classic of Italian neorealist cinema, one of Federico Fellini's early films starring the late, great Giulietta Masina. A traveling showman purchases a young girl from a poor widow to be his wife and partner. They join a circus where she meets a high-wire artist who causes her to question her choices. Co-sponsored by Italo-Americano Club of Green Bay.

Frame by Frame (USA, 2015)

When the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, taking a photo was a crime. After the regime fell from power in 2001, a fledgling free press emerged and a photography revolution was born. Set in a modern Afghanistan bursting with color and character, Frame by Frame follows four Afghan photojournalists as they navigate an emerging and dangerous media landscape reframing Afghanistan for the world, and for themselves.

Safety Last (USA, 1923)

Safety Last celebrates the comic genius of Harold Lloyd. In this silent film from the early 20s, Lloyd plays a small-town bumpkin trying to make it in the big city, who finds employment as a lowly department-store clerk. He comes up with a wild publicity stunt to draw attention to the store, resulting in an incredible feat of daring on his part that gets him started on the road to success.

Screenings begin at 7:00pm in the auditorium of the Neville Public Museum. All films are free and open to the public and are unrated but intended for a mature audience.







