

Films for 2018 Foreign Film Series at Chevy Chase Library

January 6: “Eagle Huntress”, Kazakhstan, 2017. Follows Aisholpan, a 13-year-old girl, as she trains to become the first female in twelve generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter, and rises to the pinnacle of a tradition that has been typically handed down from father to son for centuries.

February 3: “Queen of Katwe”, Uganda, 2016 PG; for thematic elements, an accident scene and some suggestive material. Based on the vibrant true story of a young girl from the streets of rural Uganda whose world rapidly changes when she is introduced to the game of chess, and, as a result of the support she receives from her family and community, is instilled with the confidence and determination she needs to pursue her dream of becoming an international chess champion.

March 3: “Moliere” France, 2007, (R). Moliere is a down-and-out actor and playwright who is up to his ears in debt. The wealthy Jourdain offers to cover that debt so that Molière's theatrical talents might help Jourdain win the heart of a certain widowed marquise. Disguised as a priest, Molière becomes a guest in Jourdain's palace on the subtext of teaching Jourdain the craft of the stage, all this to the annoyance of Jourdain's wife, Elmire. But, soon after, the confrontation between Elmire and Molière turns seductive. Jourdain enlists the aid of a well-connected and scheming acquaintance to help him pursue the widowed marquise.

April 7: “Wild Tales”, Argentina 2014. (R; for violence, language and brief sexuality.) Vulnerable in the face of a reality that shifts and suddenly turns unpredictable, the characters cross the thin line that divides civilization and barbarism. A lover's betrayal, a return to the repressed past and the violence woven into everyday encounters drive the characters to madness as they cede to the undeniable pleasure of losing control.

May 5: “Testament of Youth”, UK, 2015 (PG-13; for thematic material including bloody and disturbing war related images.) A powerful story of love, war and remembrance, based on the First World War memoir by Vera Brittain, which has become the classic testimony of that war from a woman's point of view. A searing journey from youthful hopes and dreams to the edge of despair and back again, a film about young love, the futility of war and how to make sense of the darkest times.

June 2: “The Class”, France, 2008, (unrated). François and his fellow teachers prepare for a new year at a high school in a tough neighborhood. Armed with the best intentions, they brace themselves to not let discouragement stop them from trying to give the best education to their students. Cultures and attitudes often clash in the classroom, a microcosm of contemporary France. As amusing and inspiring as the teenaged students can be, their difficult behavior can still jeopardize any teacher's enthusiasm for the low-paying job. François insists on an atmosphere of respect and diligence. Neither stuffy nor severe, his extravagant frankness often takes the students by surprise. But his classroom ethics are put to the test when his students begin to challenge his methods.

July 7: “ Julieta”, Spain 2017. (R; for some sexuality and nudity). Julieta lives in Madrid with her daughter Antia. They both suffer in silence over the loss of Xoan, Antia's father and Julieta's husband. At times, grief doesn't bring people closer, it drives them apart. Alice Munro film adaptation. Almodovar director.

August 4: “Lorna’s Silence”, Albania 2007, (R; for brief sexuality, nudity, and language.) Lorna is a young Albanian women who dreams of opening up a snack bar with her boyfriend. Without the money, she finds herself entwined in a vicious plan devised by mobster Fabio. A false marriage between Lorna and Claudy will allow her to get her Belgian citizenship. She is then expected to marry a Russian Mafioso who is anxious to get his hands on the Belgian identity papers, after Fabio kills Claudy to speed up the second marriage. But can Lorna keep quiet?

September 1: “Anna Karenina” (Russia), 2012, R for some sexuality and violence. Set in late 19th century Russia high-society, the aristocrat Anna Karenina enters into a life-changing affair with the affluent Count Vronsky.

October 6: Son of Saul, Hungary, 2015, (R; for disturbing violent content, and some graphic nudity.) October 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau. Saul Ausländer is a Hungarian member of the Sonderkommando, the group of Jewish prisoners isolated from the camp and forced to assist the Nazis in the machinery of large-scale extermination. While working in one of the crematoriums, Saul discovers the body of a boy he takes for his son. As the Sonderkommando plans a rebellion, Saul decides to carry out an impossible task: save the child's body from the flames, find a rabbi to recite the mourner's Kaddish.

November 3: “Up and Down”, Czech. 2004. (R; for language, sexual content and brief violence.) A dysfunctional family, including a college professor, his long-estranged son and the lover they both shared are reunited. Two petty pickpockets attempt to rob a black belt in karate. A dimwitted soccer hooligan's wife buys a baby in a pawnshop. These are just a few of the unconnected strangers who find a common connection.

December 1: Incendies, Canada 2011, (R) After the death of their mother, a set of twins make a life-altering discovery. The pair travels to the Middle East on a mission to uncover the truth about the father they thought was dead who is still very much alive, and the brother they never knew existed. Along the way they will piece together the story of the woman who brought them into the world, discovering a tragic fate as well as the courage of an exceptional woman.