



Presented by
The Department of French and Italian and The Film Studies Program
Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
University of Pittsburgh

February 23 – 25, 2012

Alumni Hall Auditorium, 7th Floor, Free admission

<http://www.frenchanditalian.pitt.edu>

Presented in collaboration with the University Honors College and the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies.

Thursday, February 23rd at 7:30pm



WELCOME
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Philippe Lioret
2008 / 110 min.

Both a study of a budding friendship and a compassionate look at the perils faced by illegal immigrants, Philippe Lioret's *Welcome* centers on Bilal, a 17-year-old Iraqi Kurd who is stuck in Calais, in Northern France, and Simon, a recently divorced swimming teacher. Desperate to join his girlfriend in London, Bilal vows to swim across the English Channel if he has to, setting the stage for his meeting with Simon. Unmistakably a condemnation of xenophobia in France, *Welcome* also features richly drawn, fully fleshed-out lead characters.

Friday, February 24th at 6:00pm



LA BELLE ENDORMIE
THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Catherine Breillat
2010 / 82 min.

The Sleeping Beauty provocatively deconstructs a classic fairytale, upending conventional ideas about sex and gender. In this retelling, six year-old Anastasia, cursed to sleep for 100 years, visits far-off lands in her slumber and renounces "the world of little girls." She wakes up a teenager a century later and discovers carnal pleasures with both a man and a woman—as well as crushing heartbreak.

Friday, February 24th at 8:00pm



BOARDING GATE
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Olivier Assayas
2007 / 106 min.

Director Olivier Assayas has remarked that, with *Boarding Gate*, he was hoping to make a B movie in English. Far more than an exercise in genre tinkering, *Boarding Gate* shows Assayas's unwavering commitment to the feral talents of his lead actress, Asia Argento. Like his 2002 film, *Demonlover*, *Boarding Gate* unspools as a high-energy international thriller.

Saturday, February 25th at 7:00pm



35 RHUMS
35 SHOTS OF RUM

Claire Denis
2008 / 100 min.

Films about families and their complications all too often pierce eardrums with shrieks of dysfunction. Amid the din, Claire Denis's sublime *35 Shots of Rum* stands out all the more for its soothing quiet, conveying the easy, frequently nonverbal intimacy between a widowed father and his university-student daughter.

Saturday, February 25th at 9:15pm



HADEWIJCH
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Bruno Dumont
2009 / 105 min.

20-year-old Céline is expelled from a nunnery for her over-zealous faith and returns to the secular world where she meets rebellious teenager Yassine and his older brother, Nassir, whose religious fervour mirror's Céline's own. *Hadewijch* explores the relentless pursuit of faith in both Christianity and Islam—and what drives certain believers to acts of extreme violence.

Opening Reception to follow *Welcome* in the Alumni Hall Auditorium Lobby

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