

## **World Film Forum Fall 2017 – Community at the Crossroads**

The Fall 2017 World Film Forum brings you films on the topic of “community at the crossroads” from the Brazil, Japan, and France. The presentations are held free of charge at the West Lafayette Public Library (208 West Columbia Street, West Lafayette) on Tuesdays, September 12, 19, and 26, starting at 7:30 p.m.

A brief introduction to each film will be given before the screening; further discussion will follow the film. All films are shown with English subtitles.

### **Tuesday, September 12 - Central Station**, directed by Walter Salles

Presenter : Dr. Paul Dixon, School of Languages and Cultures

Dora, a former teacher, now earns a living by writing letters for illiterate clients at Rio de Janeiro's main train station. She witnesses a fatal accident, in which a woman unwittingly steps in front of a speeding bus, and reluctantly takes the woman's young son, Josué, under her wing. Although he has never met his father, Josué is convinced that he should try to find him in Brazil's remote northeastern region. Dora and Josué embark on an adventurous road trip, in which contradictory realities of a Brazil in the process of modernization are revealed. The search for the boy's father is more challenging than expected, and prompts the question of whether the man is really worth finding. But intermediate steps provide valuable lessons, and the means are revealed to be more important than the ends.

A Brazilian-French co-production, the film was critically acclaimed, and was nominated for the Oscar for Best Foreign-Language Film. Like many Brazilian films, **Central Station** expertly shows how intense personal narratives are inseparable from broader social and political realities.

### **Tuesday, September 19 – Hafu: The Mixed-Race Experience in Japan**, directed by Megumi Nishikura and Lara Perez Takagi

(2013), Japan, 1h 30min | Documentary, Biography

Presenter: Nagi Fujie, Graduate Student of Japanese Linguistics, School of Languages and Cultures at Purdue

“Hafu” is a Japanese term for someone who is half-Japanese, and half- “other.” This documentary movie takes a look at the lives of five Hafu individuals and families who came from a wide variety of backgrounds, one as close as South Korea and another as far as Ghana. The movie shows the changing demographics of Japan, especially the reality of increasing populations of people of non-Japanese ancestry or origin living in Japan. Japan's often insular culture makes it hard for some of these Hafu to adapt, or feel secure in their own identity. Although it focuses on Japanese society, Hafu contains broader insights into acceptance, societal perception and sense of self.

### **Tuesday, September 26 – *Nous trois ou rien***, directed by Kheiron

2015, French, comedy-drama, 102 minutes, director and screenwriter Kheiron.

Presenter: Riham Ismail, PhD Candidate, Comparative Literature

What is a persecuted Iranian to do? – Fleeing from the political persecution of two successive political regimes (the Shah and Khomeini) Hibat, a young Iranian, finds himself forced to flee his country out of fear for his and his family's life. *Étranger* and *immigré* in France, Hibat and his wife Fereshteh eventually settle in the rough *banlieue* of Pierrefitte-sur-Seine, along with a large alienated, impoverished immigrant community on the outskirts of Paris. Unequivocally, Hibat's story echoes the story of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers. A particularly vulnerable class of people who, in so many cases, have no other option except to escape their country to seek refuge from persecution and violence. In an inspiring, hilarious, yet honest portrayal, director and standup comedian Kheiron narrates his family's journey from the political unrest of late 70s Iran, to a disadvantaged and excluded suburb of Paris. The movie won several awards including the Special Jury Prize at the Tokyo International Film Festival in 2015, and the Audience Award at the Munich Film Festival in 2016.