

October 17 – 27, 2011

Photonics 206 (8 St Mary's St, Boston MA)

Free admission, donations suggested

Presented in collaboration with the office of Study Abroad and the French Graduate Student Association.

FEATURES LIST

Monday, October 17th, 7 pm



POTICHE

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François Ozon
2010 / 103 min.

Potiche (which translates as “trophy wife”) stunningly recreates the world of the 1970s in telling the story of *potiche* Suzanne’s transformation from submissive housewife to intrepid leader. As Suzanne – wonderfully played by the reigning queen of French film Catherine Deneuve – breaks free of her coddled life, she realizes, just like many other women who discovered feminism in the 1970s, that the personal really is political.

Wednesday, October 19th, 7 pm



WHITE MATERIAL

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Claire Denis
2009 / 102 min.

Set in an unnamed African country during an unspecified time, *White Material* centers on Maria Vial, a coffee-plantation owner who is blindly determined to continue her business while civil war rages on around her. *White Material* unfolds as a fever dream, casting a haunting, enigmatic look at the horrors of colonialism’s legacy in chronicling Maria’s obstinate stance as chaos engulfs the nation.

Friday, October 21st, 7 pm



UN PROPHÈTE

A PROPHET

Jacques Audiard
2009 / 149 min.

Malik, a 19-year-old French-Arab, enters prison as an uneducated naïf and is thrust into rigidly defined social system rife with corruption, cronyism, and racism. Director Audiard’s intricate study of the bloody rules and rituals behind bars never once glorifies the shocking violence that becomes a rite of passage for Malik. *Prophet* instead offers a clear-eyed examination of the ambiguous figure Malik cuts in maneuvering the laws and loyalties of the violent prison world.

Tuesday, October 25th, 7 pm



L'ILLUSIONNISTE

THE ILLUSIONIST

Sylvain Chomet
2010 / 80 min.

Chomet’s follow-up to 2003’s *The Triplets of Belleville* is another exquisitely animated film, based on an unproduced script by the French comic genius Jacques Tati, in which a struggling magician befriends Alice, a poor cleaning girl who follows him to Edinburgh. Although neither the magician nor his young charge speak each other’s language, *The Illusionist* beautifully shows the ways people understand each other nonverbally.

Thursday, October 27th, 7 pm



DES HOMMES ET DES DIEUX

OF GODS AND MEN

Xavier Beauvois
2010 / 120 min.

A sublime tale of faith and doubt based on a real incident, *Of Gods and Men* chronicles the story of eight French Trappist monks living in an impoverished Algerian village. When faced with threats of violence from fundamentalist terrorists and the Algerian military, the monks must decide whether to seek safety or risk their lives and stay with the local villagers who have come to trust them and rely on their aid.