

Tuesday , April 10, 2007

The Bandit - Eskiya (Turkey, 1996)

(action-drama)

Directed by: Yavuz Turgul

Starring: Sener Sen, Ugur Yucel, Ozkan Ugur, Yesim Salkim

The plot: The epic adventures of the legendary Baran the Bandit following his release from prison. After serving 35 years, it is no surprise that the world has changed dramatically. Still, Baran can't help but be shocked to discover that his home village is now underwater thanks to the construction of a new dam. He then heads for Istanbul to get revenge upon his former best friend, the man who snitched on him and stole his lover Keje. Along the way, Baran teams up with Cumali, a tough young punk who finds the thief's old-fashioned ways rather quaint. When Cumali gets into deep trouble with a crime boss, Baran adds another vengeful task to his roster.

2 awards: Bogey Awards, Germany

Festróia - Tróia International Film Festival

Wednesday , April 19, 2007

The Heart of the Beast - I kardia tou ktinous (Greece, 2005)

(comedy)

Directed by Renos Haralambidis

Starring: Renos Haralambidis, Yorgos Voulzatis, Manos Vakoussis, Alkis Panayotidis, Tzina Thliveri

The plot:

Studying philosophy at university has made Stefanos treat everyone else as his inferior. When he finishes his military service he thinks he owns the world. In reality, all he owns are the debts amassed by his mother who has just passed away and the rejection of his previously devoted girlfriend. Tsakiris, a friend from school who hasn't seen Stefanos since then and who has, meanwhile, done pretty well for himself in a life of crime, suggests they rob the bank where Aris --the model social revolutionary of their youth and Stefanos's Pygmalion--- works as a cashier and will act as their man on the inside.

Our hero will embark on a coming-of-age journey complete with the ferocity and magic of real life.

Wednesday , April 26, 2007

Filantropica - Philanthropy, (Romania, 2002)

Genre: Comedy (Black humour)

Plot outline: Ovidiu, a high-school teacher looking for an extra buck, finds an unexpected way to earn easy money.

Wednesday , May 2, 2007

Zir-e poost-e shahr Under the skin of the city (Iran, 2001)

Director:Rakhshan Bani Etemad

Writers:Rakhshan Bani Etemad, Farid Mostafavi

About the movie (from Amazon.com)

Tuba, a mother of four, is a hard-working factory worker who is faced with unexpected challenges that threaten her family and way of life. Her oldest son, Abbas works to obtain a foreign work visa, which he hopes will allow him the opportunity to provide more for his family, and win the affections of a pretty office girl. To make his final payment, he sells the family home, but when his travel plans fall apart, Tuba is forced to take drastic measures to save her house and her son. Widely regarded as the "First Lady of Iranian Cinema," Rakhshan Bani-Etemad's first U.S. release is a stirring and powerful family drama that provides a fresh and provocative vision of Iranian urban society.

Awards:

- * Special Jury Prize - Moscow International Film Festival
- * Netpac Award - Karlovy Vary International Film Festival
- * Audience Award - Torino International Festival of Young Cinema
- * CinemAvvenire Award - Torino International Festival of Young Cinema
- * Holden Award for the Best Script - Torino International Festival of Young Cinema

Wednesday , May 9, 2007

One song is not enough - Ena tragoudi de ftanei (Greece, 2004)

(drama)

Directed by Elissavet Chronopoulou

Starring: Gogo Brebou, Yannis Kokiasmenos, Alexandra Karoni, Fenia Papadodima, Anna Koutsaftiki

The plot:

In winter of 1972, 28-year-old Erene is arrested by the military regime as belonging to a dissident group and is sent to prison. She leaves behind her daughter Olga, her lover Manolis, and her best friend Vassia. Olga feels her mother's imprisonment as her personal abandonment. Manolis has to take care of his daughter, Olga, for the first time. Bassia, gradually, takes the place of Erene, and when amnesty is given to Erene in August 1973, nothing will be the same.

Tuesday , May 22, 2007 (Assembly Room)

Dondurmam Gaymak – Icecream I Scream (Turkey, 2006)

(comedy)

Directed by: Yuksel Aksu

Starring: Turan Ozdemir, ‘people of Mugla ’

The plot:

Filmed with a cast of mostly non-professional locals in the Aegean city of Mugla, Ice Cream, I Scream (Dondurmam Gaymak) begins as independent, every-jubilant ice cream peddler Ali is having a nightmare. His efforts to make a television ad that will allow him to survive the cutthroat competition from multinational ice cream brands are being sabotaged. How can he go on? But he buys a brand-new yellow motorbike and peddles his sweets through town, forever chased by local boys who want free ice cream. The final straw comes when his bike is stolen. Ali accuses his competitors of the theft and begins relentlessly questioning them. All the while the troublemaking boys are having a grand time – and tummy aches. Ice Cream, I Scream is an entertaining commentary on how hard it is for the independent businessman to survive in the Wal-Mart world.

Awards:

HBO/U.S. Comedy Arts Festival: Best Foreign Language Film (March 2007)

Palm Springs International Film Festival 2007

Queens Film Festival, New York (Best Director, Best Comedy) 2006

Istanbul Film Festival (Special Jury Prize) 2006

Turkey's Official Submission for the 79th Academy Awards 2006

Submission from Turkey for Golden Globes 2006

Golden Cocoon Film Festival, Adana (Special Jury Prize, People's Jury Special Prize, Best Actor) 2006
Golden Orange Film Festival (Special Screening) 2006

Wednesday , May 30, 2007

Nea Marin Miliardar - Nea Marin, the millionaire (Romania, 1979)

Genre: Comedy

Plot outline: A peasant (Nea Marin) is mistaken for a millionaire (Mr. Juvett) to whom he looks exactly like.

Wednesday , June 6, 2007

Booye kafoor, atre yas - Smell of Camphor, Fragrance of Jasmine (Iran, 2000)

Director: Bahman Farmanara

Writer: Bahman Farmanara

Movie Description (from Amazon.com)

In this audacious black comedy, Bahman Farjami, a filmmaker who has not directed for twenty years due to censorship, experiences a strange set of coincidences that convince him the Angel of Death must be near. As a means of confronting his fears, he decides to make a film about his own funeral. As he researches the funeral rites of his country and culture, Farjami glimpses a side of Iranian society which he was not aware of. In the midst of this, his view is shaded by his own mounting family problems. Through a series of fiascos leading to comic and cathartic vision of his own disastrous funeral, he goes on an emotional roller-coaster ride that culminates in a Fellini-esque dream so intense that it may lead to his actual death.

Awards:

*Special Grand Prize of the Jury - Montréal World Film Festival

*Netpac Berlin International Film Festival

*FIPRESCI Prize - Istanbul International Film Festival