SSI & The Contemporary Issues Subcommittee of the Student Activities Council Presents

Film for Thought

A film series highlighting contemporary social issues

January 22 - Dear White People: This film follows the lives of four black students at an Ivy League College as a campus culture war between blacks and whites comes to a head when the staff of a humor magazine stages an offensive Halloween party. This film screened in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

January 29 - The Waiting Room: 24 hours. 241 patients. One Stretched ER. This film chronicles events at a public hospital’s emergency room, where the overworked staff and many uninsured patients must cope with disease, injury, bureaucracy and hard choices.

February 19 - Fed Up: This is the movie the food industry doesn’t want you to see. Fed Up blows the lid off everything we thought we knew about food and weight loss, revealing a 30-year campaign by the food industry, aided by the U.S. government, to mislead and confuse the American public resulting in one of the largest health epidemics in history. This film will change the way you eat forever.

February 26 - Ararat: Veteran Armenian filmmaker, Edward Saroyan is in Toronto shooting a film about the Siege of Van, in which invading Ottoman armies forced the evacuation of Armenian communities in 1915, leading to the genocide of over a million Armenian people at the hands of Turkish troops. When part of his film crew attempts to re-enter Canada with film shot in Turkey, they are detained by a suspicious customs official who has his own tenuous link to Saroyan’s film. This film co-sponsored by Department of History.

March 5 - Saving Face: Every year in Pakistan, many people – the majority of them women – are known to be victimized by brutal acid attacks. With little or no access to reconstructive surgery, survivors are physically and emotionally scarred. Many reported assailants, often a husband or someone else known by the victim, receive minimal punishment from the state. Saving Face is an intimate look inside Pakistani society, illuminating each woman’s personal journey while showing how reformers are tackling this horrific problem.

March 26 - Rosewater: In June 2009, BBC journalist Maziar Bahari, an Iranian-born Canadian citizen, returned to his native country to interview Mir-Hossein Mousavi, the prime challenger to incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. When Mousavi’s supporters protested Ahmadinejad’s declaration of victory, Bahari smuggled footage of the riots to the BBC. He was soon arrested by the Revolutionary Guard and -- led by a man known only as "Rosewater" -- was interrogated and tortured for 118 days.

April 9 - Headgames: The Global Concussion Crisis: This revealing documentary will serve as a wake-up call for those who think that the devastating, chronic effects of repetitive head trauma are only an American football injury. Head Games will expose a problem that has become a silent epidemic on a global scale. Internationally respected medical experts and professional athletes will offer eye-opening insights on head trauma that will demand that athlete’s health and safety is of top priority. This film co-sponsored by Department of Kinesiology.

April 23 - Blue Gold: Wars of the future will be fought over water as they are over oil today, as the source of human survival enters the global marketplace and political arena. Corporate giants, private investors, and corrupt governments vie for control of our dwindling supply, prompting protests, lawsuits, and revolutions from citizens fighting for the right to survive. Past civilizations have collapsed from poor water management. Can the human race survive? This film screened in honor of Earth Day.

April 30 - Endless Abilities: In the spring of 2012, four best friends drove across the country in search of adaptive sports for individuals with physical disabilities. From rehabilitation patients to Paralympic athletes, their cameras captured the reality of broken boundaries and common goals among all who are active. Follow along as they rock climb with the blind, play soccer with quadriplegics, and swim with those with muscular dystrophy. Through their journey, we learn that sports really are the great equalizer, unifying people of all abilities on a level playing field. This film co-sponsored by the College of Health Sciences.

All movies show in the Sykes Theater and start at 7:30pm.

Free to students, faculty, and staff with valid WCU ID. $2 cash to the public.

Sponsored by the SSI in conjunctions with the Student Activities Council Contemporary Issues Subcommittee

All films subject to change.