

Paris 36 (DVD-foreign-FRE-P)

Christophe Barratier, Director, France/French, 2008, 120 min.

When Pigoil's adulterous wife leaves with his beloved son, he gambles everything to get him back. As the previous manager of the now closed Chansonnia Theatre, he makes a deal with the new owner to give him one month to turn the theater around and make a profit.

Persepolis (DVD-foreign-FRE-P)

Vincent Paronnaud, Marjane Satrapi, Directors, France/French, 2007, 95 min.

Based on her autobiographical graphic novels, this black-and-white animated film is about a free-spirited Iranian girl who is sent to live in Austria during the Islamic Revolution. In Vienna, she discovers punk rock and boys, as well as moral codes that ultimately conflict with her upbringing. Homesick, she returns to an Iran she barely recognizes.

The Princess of Montpensier (DVD-foreign-FRE-P)

Bertrand Tavernier, Director, France, 2010, 140 min.

In this vivid film, Princess Montpensier is the object of desire of four powerful men; the young prince who married her but is driven more by jealousy than lust, the battle-scarred beauty who must have her no matter what, the powerful Duc d'Anjou, and her personal tutor, the only one who truly loves her.

Queen to Play (DVD-foreign-FRE-Q)

Caroline Bottaro, Director, France, 2011, 97 min.

Middle-aged chambermaid H el ene's newfound obsession with the game of chess leads her to seek the tutelage of a reclusive American expat, transforming both of their ho-hum lives in the process.

A Secret (DVD-foreign-FRE-S)

Claude Miller, Director, France/French, 2007, 110 min.

A Secret follows the saga of a Jewish family in post-World War II Paris. Francois, a solitary, imaginative child, invents for himself a brother as well as the story of his parents past. But on his fifteenth

birthday, he discovers a dark family secret that ties his family's history to the Holocaust and shatters his illusions forever.

Tell No One (DVD-foreign-FRE-T)

Guillaume Canet, Director, France/French, 2006, 125 min.

Eight years after the heinous murder of his wife, pediatrician Alex still grieves for his wife, Margot. When two bodies are uncovered near where Margot's body was found, the police reopen the case and Alex becomes a suspect again. The mystery deepens when Alex gets a tip that Margot is still alive.

35 Shots of Rum (35 Rhums) (DVD-foreign-FRE-T)

Clair Denis, Director, France/French, 2009, 102 min.

Claire Denis' sublime 35 Shots of Rum is the moving story of a father and daughter whose close-knit, tender relationship is disrupted by a handsome young suitor. 35 Shots of Rum casts a lovely spell unlike any other movie you've seen.

Vampires (DVD-foreign-FRE-V)

Vincent Lannoo, Director, France, 2010, 88 min.

A clan of vampires trying to hold their family together and get along with the neighbors. Dad seems to be channelling Bela Lugosi, Mom's a little bit off. Throw a rebellious son and a daughter pining for her lost mortality into the mix and it's a recipe for family discord.

La Vie En Rose (DVD-foreign-FRE-V)

Olivier Dahan, Director, France/French, 2007, 141 min.

Based on the story of internationally known singer Edith Piaf, and her struggles throughout her life.

Water Lilies (DVD-foreign-FRE-W)

C el ine Sciamma, Director, France/French, 2007, 86 min.

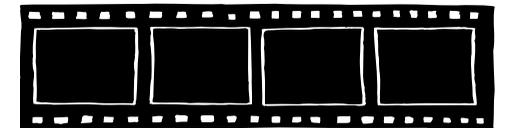
Director C el ine Sciamma's feature debut, *Water Lilies*, recalls the intimacy of teenage friendship as it tells the story of three girls grappling with their newly formed sexual identities in suburban Paris.

Common Ground: International Film Festival is made possible by a grant from the Middletown Commission on the Arts, donations from The Friends of the Russell Library, and individual donors. Co-sponsored by Middlesex Community College, Russell Library, and Wesleyan University.



Russell Library
123 Broad Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457
(860) 347-2528
www.russelllibrary.org

COMMON GROUND IV:



Recent Award Winning French Films

Russell Library
Middletown, Connecticut

Belle Toujours (DVD-foreign-FRE-B)

Manoel de Oliveira, Director, France/French, 2008, 70 min.

Thirty-eight years after their last encounter, Henri thinks he sees Severine. He blackmails her into seeing him by threatening to tell her dark secret, and slowly gets revenge on her. A sequel to the 1967 classic *Belle De Jour*.

Beyond Hatred (DVD-foreign-FRE-B)

Olivier Meyrou, Director, France/French, 2008, 86 min.

This documentary follows the Chenu family as they fight for justice on behalf of their son François, who was killed by skinheads for being gay.

Certified Copy (DVD-foreign-FRE-C)

Abbas Kiarostami, Director, France, 2010, 106 min.

In Tuscany to promote his latest book, a middle-aged British writer meets a French woman who leads him to the village of Lucignano. While there, a chance question reveals something deeper.

A Christmas Tale (DVD-foreign-FRE-C)

Arnaud Desplechin, Director, France/French, 2008, 152 min.

A family scarred by past tragedies comes together at Christmas only to face a new challenge when the matriarch discovers she needs a bone marrow transplant from a blood relative.

The Class (Entre les Murs) (DVD-foreign-FRE-C)

Laurent Cantet, Director, France/French, 2008, 128 min.

Teacher and novelist François Bégaudeau plays a version of himself as he negotiates a year with his racially mixed students from a tough Parisian neighborhood.

Coco Before Chanel (DVD-foreign-FRE-C)

Anne Fontaine, Director, France/French, 2009, 110 min.

Audrey Tautou, shines in this intriguing portrait of the early life of Gabrielle Bonheur Chanel, the orphan who would build a fashion empire and be known universally by her nickname, Coco.

Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky (DVD-foreign-FRE-C)

Jan Kounen, Director, France, 2009, 119 min.

By the 1920s, Chanel has established herself in the world of fashion. After a disastrous reaction to a production of his *Rite of Spring*, Stravinsky is penniless and living in exile. The two are introduced, the attraction is immediate. They embark on a passionate affair, which results in a period of great achievement for both artists.

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly

(DVD-foreign-FRE-D)

Julian Schnabel, Director, France/French, 2007, 112 min

Dramatizes the story of Elle France editor Jean-Dominique Bauby, who, at the age of 43, suffered a stroke that paralyzed his entire body except his left eye, which he used to blink out his memoir.

Gainsbourg: a Heroic Life(DVD-foreign-FRE-G)

Joann Sfar, Director, France, 2010, 130 min.

A glimpse at the life of French singer Serge Gainsbourg, from growing up in 1940s Nazi-occupied Paris through his successful song-writing years in the 1960s to his death in 1991 at the age of 62.

The Grocer's Son (DVD-foreign-FRE-G)

Eric Guarado, Director, France, 2007, 96 min.

Antoine at 30 is forced to leave the city to return home to Provence. His father is sick, so he must assume the lifestyle he thought he had shed driving the family cart, delivering supplies to the few remaining inhabitants. Ultimately, this surprise French box-office hit is about the coming-of-age of a man re-discovering life and love in the countryside.

Her Name is Sabine (DVD-foreign-FRE-H)

Sandrine Bonnaire, Director, France, 2007, 85 min.

An intelligent, moving and beautiful portrait of Sabine, a 38-year-old autistic woman, filmed by her sister, the famous French actress Sandrine Bonnaire.

I've Loved You So Long (DVD-foreign-FRE-I)

Philippe Claudel, Director, France/French, 2008, 117min.

After serving fifteen years for murdering her young son, Juliette is released from prison and reunited with her sister, beginning a long journey to forgiveness.

Joyeux Noel (Merry Christmas)

(DVD-foreign-FRE-J)

Christian Carion, Director, France/French, 2005, 116 min.

Loosely based on true episodes, this film tells the story of German, French, and Scottish soldiers in the bloody trenches of World War I and the miraculous Christmas Eve truce they unexpectedly forge. Music and the spirit of Christmas create bonds between enemies.

Korkoro (DVD-foreign-FRE-K)

Tony Gatlif, Director, France, 2009, 111 min.

In this passionate WWII drama, a tightly-knit family of Gypsies journeys through occupied France, trying to avoid the violent Vichy patrols. Directed with wit and vigor by Tony Gatlif, *Korkoro* unearths the hidden story of the Romany people's joys and struggles during the war.

La France (DVD-foreign-FRE-F)

Serge Bozon, Director, France/French, 2007, 102 min.

Searching for her husband during the First World War, a young woman disguises herself as a teenage boy and joins the army.

Love Crime (DVD-foreign-FRE-L)

Alain Corneau, Director, France, 2010, 106 min.

Within the office of a powerful multinational corporation, two women come to a face-off. Isabelle is a young executive under the orders of Christine, a powerful woman she absolutely idolizes. Confident of her control over Isabelle, Christine leads her into a confusing, perverse game of seduction and domination.

Mammuth (DVD-foreign-FRE-M)

Benoit Delepine & Gustave Kevern, Directors, France, 2010, 92 min.

Turning 60, a working-class man retires and is ready to reap his pension. He runs into a bureaucratic wall, discovering his former employers neglected to declare his earnings. To gain benefits, he needs to go back and gather old paperwork. Encouraged by his wife, he sets off on his motorcycle to recover lost wages and old memories.

My Piece of the Pie (DVD-foreign-FRE-M)

Cedric Klapisch, Director, France, 2011, 109 min.

After losing her job at a local factory, a single mother enrolls in a housekeeper training program, soon landing work cleaning the Paris apartment of handsome but cocky power broker.

One Day You'll Understand (Plus Tard)

(DVD-foreign-FRE-O)

Amos Gitai, Director, France/French, 2008, 90 min.

A French businessman becomes preoccupied with his family history when he uncovers a secret document written by his late father during World War II.

The Page Turner (DVD-foreign-FRE-P)

Denis Dercourt, Director, France/French, 2007, 85 min.

A talented young pianist plots her revenge when she becomes the page turner for the woman who caused her to fail her conservatory entrance exam.

Paris (DVD-foreign-FRE-P)

Cedric Klapisch, Director, France/French, 2008, 129 min.

When a dancer learns he must wait for a heart transplant that could save his life, he reconnects with his sister and her family and discovers the beauty of life and love while observing the city from his apartment window.