

# Turkish Film Festival 2009

A Fundraiser in aid of Philosophy in the Aegean  
Admission \$3 each, OR \$10 for all 5 films

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 AND SUNDAY MARCH 29  
Location: IB 1015

For more info contact Dr. Geoff Bowe: [gbowe@tru.ca](mailto:gbowe@tru.ca)  
All films are in Turkish with English subtitles.  
This years films:



## Bliss, Mutluluk 2007

When a young woman named Meryem (Özgülü Namal) is raped, her village custom requires that she be killed in order for the dishonour to be expunged from her family. A young man named Cemal (Murat Han), the son of the village leader, is given the task but at the last moment he has doubts. The pair go on the run, followed close behind by local thugs intent on killing the girl. Luckily enough, Cemal and Meryem meet up with a charismatic man named Irfan, an ex-university professor who is embarking on a sailing trip, and needs a crew. Seems Irfan is running away too--in his case from a dead marriage and an empty life. Together this unlikely trio set forth on a voyage that will change all of their lives.

Adapted from Zülfü Livaneli's international best-selling novel, director Abdullah Oğuz's drama is filled with intensity, vivid cultural clash, fine music and some absolutely stunning scenery (the film was shot on the Sea of Marmara). But ultimately it is the figure of Meryem, a young woman struggling to live in a culture that condones the practice of female honour killings, that gives the film its heart. Meryem's decision to live, and ultimately, to enjoy her life is the quiet revolution that ignites the entire story.

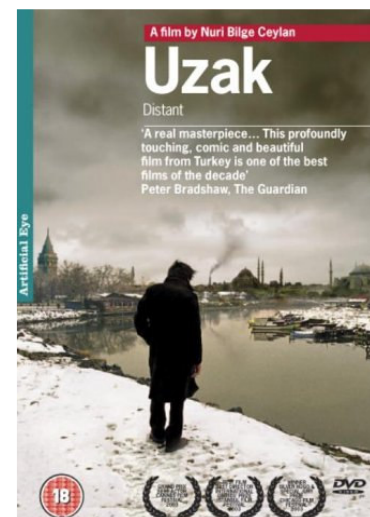


SATURDAY MARCH 28 5:00 PM

## Uzak (Distant) 2002

- Grand Jury Prize, and Best Actor Award, Cannes Film Festival

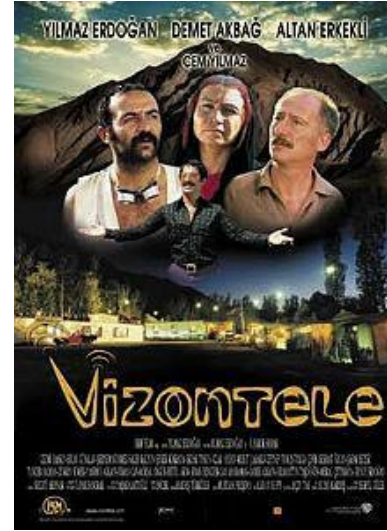
Yusef (Mehmet Emin Toprak) leaves his small town and travels across barren snowy lands and roads to the port city of Istanbul to seek employment and stay with his cousin Mahmut (Muzaffer Özdemir). Yusef spends many snowy days seeking work on a shipping line to discover that a hiring freeze is activated, but is bolstered by a sense of hope in the city which is a contrast to what he has known. Mahmut is a successful commercial photographer and his ordered life is disrupted by the presence of his cousin and this exacerbates his concern with his ex-wife Nazan (Zuhal Gencer Erkaya) who has remarried and is leaving to live in Canada with her new husband. When Mahmut leaves town on a photo shoot he hires Yusef to accompany him as an assistant which puts some money into Yusef's hands. Mahmut receives word that his mother is sick and he leaves again to tend to her leaving Yusef alone in the house, and returns to find that his cousin has not kept the house clean and neat which cause the two to argue. Yusef walks the streets sometimes following an attractive girl (Ebru Ceylan) he has seen but cannot find the opportunity to speak with her. Mahmut follows his ex-wife, Nazan, to the airport and watches as she and her new husband leave the country. Yusef and Mahmut each live in isolated world and makes decisions that bring about the subtlest of changes in their lives, changes that have great consequences.



SATURDAY MARCH 28 7:30 PM

## Vizontele 2001

The story takes place in a small town (called Hakkari) in Turkey at the beginning of the 70's. The time has come to bring technology into that small town. The first Television (or called Vizontele by the citizens) arrives and the chaos begins. Some people are excited and some are afraid of this new device which can show us live pictures from different places. Is it devils easy prey to catch us or is it just a feature of the modern time? Without losing time, the mayor (Altan Erkekli) of the town Hakkari tries to find some people who can help him to set up the signal receiver on the highest position of the mountain. His Team consists of one crazy electrician called Emin (Yilmaz Erdogan) and some mayor office staff members and none of them has any knowledge of TVs. These predecessors of time tried their luck :). The Story of Vizontele consists of many Jokes which are mixed up with some traditional superstitions to show how funny the conflict between these two points can be. But also with a dramatical point of view. The storyline of Vizontele is based on the memories of the Dircetor Yilmaz Erdogan, where he grew up in Hakkari while he was a little child.

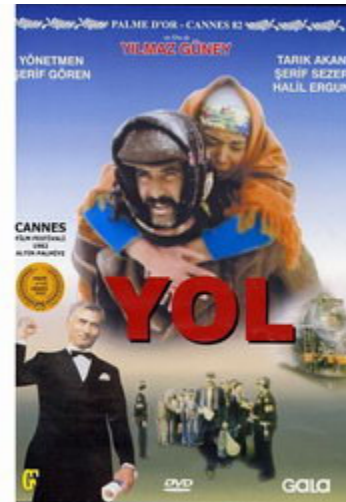


Sunday MARCH 29 2:00 PM

## Yol (The Road) 1982

- FIPRESCI Prize, Cannes Film Festival
- Golden Palm, Cannes Film Festival

The Road (Yol), depicts the story of what five friends, convicts in the Imrali Prison, live through during their week-long leave, due to a special permission to spend the religious festivities with their families for good conduct. Seyyit Ali, learning of his wife's infidelity, has to bloody his hands for traditions' sake... Mehmet Ali, rejected by his beloved wife's family as he is thought to have left his brother-in-law to die during the robbery... Yusuf who is send back to prison because he loses his permission sheet... Mevlut, who dreams of spending his leave with his fiancée but is thwarted by her family as they never leave her alone? Omer, fallen for one of the village's beauties, Gulbahar, not knowing what to do..



Sunday MARCH 29 7:30 PM

## Masumiyet (Innocence) 1997

- Venice Film Festival

After murdering his married sister's lover, Yusuf (Güven Kirac) inflicted a wound on his sister which rendered her speechless. Released from prison 10 years later, he looks up his mute sister, now suffering abuse from a husband who beats her. Yusef moves into a seedy hotel, sharing a room with depressed alcoholic Bekir (Haluk Bilginer), a man occasionally intimate with Ugur (Derya Alabora), a nightclub singer who is in love with a multiple murderer serving a life sentence. Yusuf becomes friends with Bekir, but his efforts to help him go awry. Shown at the 1997 Venice Film Festival.



Sunday MARCH 29 5:00 PM