

## In Memoriam



### **Linda Buchanon Jacob**

The first Whitehead International Film Festival was held in January of 2002. In April of that year Marjorie Suchocki received an email from Linda B. Jacob, telling her of the Helios Foundation's interest in contributing financial support. As costs spiraled upward from that first year's modest beginnings, it was the Helios Foundation that allowed us to keep pace with the costs, and by 2004 expand to the format of ten features and ten shorts screening over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. This support continued through 2013, when we were able to make the transition to the generous local support of film sponsors, as well as support through ticket sales.

To our loss and our sorrow, Linda Jacob passed away in 2014. In gratitude to her, we dedicate the 14th Whitehead International Film Festival to her memory.

# Welcome!



The Whitehead International Film Festival is extremely grateful for the following

## FILM SPONSORS

*Wadjda*, Diane Kenney and DarEll Wiest

*Excuse my French*, Hala Aly Abuhusien and Ignacio Castuera

*Siddharth*, Alfredo Galvan and Damian Geddry

*Rock the Casbah*, Susan and Ray Bell

*Ilo Ilo*, Terri and Bob Ireland

*Lion's Heart*, Murray Palitz

*Like Father, Like Son*, Janice and Richard Lau

*Love and Lemons*, John Suchocki

*Lovely Louise*, Pilgrim Film Collective (Lynn Juarez, Grace and William Moreman, Donna Ambrogi, Jeanne A. Powers, Barbara Troxell, Patricia Patterson)

*Grand Seduction*, Karen and David Lull

Thanks also to Mr. and Mrs. James G. Harker for graciously supplying the wine for our banquet. And once again, thanks to John Buchanan for his continuing generosity.

For the latest information about the festival, please visit  
[whiteheadfilmfestival.org](http://whiteheadfilmfestival.org)

## FESTIVAL SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

**Friday, 16 January, 2015**

**OPENING**

- 10:00 Faith & Film Class begins (Butler 201) and private screening of *The Grand Seduction* (MUDD Theater)
- 6:00 Banquet, Haddon Conference Center
- 7:15 Leave for MUDD Theater
- 7:30 Film short: *The Paper Piano*  
Feature film: *Wadjda* (Saudi Arabia)  
*audience discussion led by Marjorie Suchocki*

**Saturday, 17 January, 2015**

- 10:00 Film Short: *Seasick*  
Feature Film: *Excuse My French* (Egypt)  
*audience discussion led by Anita Zachary*
- 2:00 Film Short: *Blue Like a Gun Shot*  
Feature Film: *Siddharth* (India)  
*audience discussion led by Helene Schlesserevjamir*
- 7:00 Film Short: *A Beautiful Life*  
Feature Film: *Rock the Casbah* (Morocco)  
*audience discussion led by Elaine Walker*

**Sunday, 18 January, 2015**

- 1:00 Film Short: *Take It Easy*  
Feature Film: *Ilo Ilo* (Singapore)  
*audience discussion led by Marjorie Suchocki*
- 3:00 Film Short: *And the Red Man Went Green*  
Feature Film: *Lion's Heart* (Argentina)  
*audience discussion led by Mark Wiley*
- 7:00 Film Short: *Technicolor Alaska*  
Feature Film: *Like Father, Like Son* (Japan)  
*audience discussion led by Kathleen Greider*

**Monday, 19 January, 2015**

- 10:00 Film Short: *May We Grow*  
Feature Film: *Love and Lemons* (Sweden)  
*audience discussion led by Leah Laird*
- 2:00 Film Short: *Distraction of a Stationary Nature*  
Feature Film: *Lovely Louise* (Switzerland)  
*audience discussion led by Kathy Black*
- 7:00 Film Short: *Fugditive*  
Feature Film: *The Grand Seduction* (Canada)  
*audience discussion led by Sharon Rhodes-Wickett*
- 9:00 Announcement of Whitehead Award

## From the Director

Our films this year deal in one way or another with truth, its complexity, and the consequences of intentionally suppressing important facts of the way things are. Saturday's films particularly involve such suppression. *Excuse my French* puts a child in the uncomfortable situation of being taken for what he is not. The mistake in his identity actually makes things much easier for him—but when the truth gets out? In *Siddharth*, suppressing an unhappy truth contributes to tragedy. It's easier, of course, to delay giving someone information that will cause them emotional distress. But what of the consequences? In *Rock the Casbah*, suppression of information important to the family creates emotional entanglements not easily resolved. How much easier it was—and how much better for one's reputation?—to hide the reality. Monday's *Lovely Louise* gives us a double-take as two versions of the past collide. And our closing film, *The Grand Seduction*, turns on a real whopper as a whole town colludes in deception in order to accomplish what it perceives to be its greater good.

While these five films deal directly with truth-telling and deception, the other five contain more subtle distortions. What of Wajda's entrance into the Koran competition, supposedly for religious reasons? In *Corazon de Leon*, our lion-hearted Leon simply withholds information in order to meet the woman to whom he is attracted, but what of the other characters in this film? How truthful, really, are they? Is it truth that finally resolves the issues?

Our Sunday evening film, *Like Father, Like Son* raises an alternative question. Is it better not to know the truth? And what of *Love and Lemons*? What is the role of truth-telling in this romantic comedy? Perhaps the Singapore film, *Ilo Ilo*, is the one film that seems to stay with the virtue of truth-telling. But there is truth-not-told in this fine film—is this prudence or deception?

The Whitehead International Film Festival celebrates films that promote the common good. The 2015 films from ten different cultures raise interesting concerns about the role of transparency and truth-telling relative to the common good. How would our own culture fare in the way it balances truth-telling, convenience, and deception? What is the role of truth in promoting the common good?

Good cinema to you!

Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki



## Banquet speaker: Zayn Kassam



Zayn Kassam is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Pomona College and also on the faculty at Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California. A graduate of McGill University, Dr. Kassam teaches courses in Islamic philosophy, mysticism, gender and literature in addition to a course on philosophical and mystical texts from a comparative perspective. She has lectured widely on gender issues in the United States, Canada and Britain and has been honoured with a Wig Award for Distinguished Teaching at Pomona College.

We welcome her to the 14th Whitehead International Film Festival.

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## *Seizing an Alternative:* Toward an Ecological Civilization

June 4–7, 2015

An international conference bringing together some 1,000 presenters across more than 80 fields of specialty for the most ambitious trans-disciplinary event held on behalf of the planet.

Pomona College, Claremont, CA

Uniting the Tenth International Whitehead Conference and Ninth International Conference on Ecological Civilization.

Plenary speakers:

Bill McKibben, Founder, 350.org  
Vandana Shiva, TIME's "Hero" of the environment  
Sheri Liao, China's leading environmental activist  
John B. Cobb, Jr., Intellectual architect of conference events  
Herman Daly, Father of ecological economics  
Wes Jackson, Pioneer in perennial agriculture  
David Griffin, Founder of constructive postmodern thought



*"To see the world with ecological relations at its core means never to see it in the same way again."*  
John B. Cobb, Jr.

Registration: [Whitehead2015.com](http://Whitehead2015.com)  
Information: [PandoPopulus.com/conference](http://PandoPopulus.com/conference)

## Friday, 16 January 2015 7:30 OPENING NIGHT



### Film Short: *The Paper Piano*

Director: Marianela Maldonado

Country: United States, 2011

Film Length: 7 minutes

A small Venezuelan girl makes her way from her home in a poor neighborhood toward the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra's rehearsal hall, with tunes from Chopin's piano music giving her courage along the way.

### Feature Film: *Wadjda*

Director: Haifaa Al Mansour

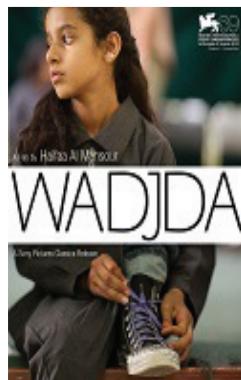
Country: Saudi Arabia

Language: Arabic

Film Length: 98 minutes

Wadjda is a 10-year-old girl living in Saudi Arabia. After a fight with her friend Abdullah, a neighborhood boy she shouldn't be playing with, Wadjda sees a beautiful green bicycle for sale.

She wants the bicycle desperately so that she can beat Abdullah in a race. But Wadjda's mother won't allow it, fearing repercussions from a society that sees bicycles as dangerous to a girl's virtue. So Wadjda decides to try and raise the money herself. Soon enough Wadjda's plans are thwarted when she is caught running various schemes at school. Just as she is losing hope of raising enough money, she hears of a cash prize for a Koran recitation competition at her school.



*This film is sponsored by DarEll Wiest and Diane Kenney*

Saturday, 17 January 2015  
10 a.m.



Film short: *Seasick*

Director: Eva Cvijanovic

Country: Canada, 2013

Film Length: 3 1/2 minutes

Eva Cvijanovic's dreamlike pen-and-ink animation is a marvelous maritime escapade, enveloping viewers in a beautifully ethereal underwater world.

Feature Film: *Excuse My French*

Director: Amr Salama

Country: Egypt, 2014

Language: Arabic w/ English subtitles

Film Length: 99 minutes

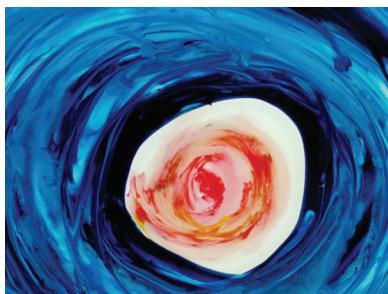


*Excuse My French* follows 12-year-old Hany as he tries to fit in at his new governmental school, after his banker father suddenly drops dead, leaving his mother in debt and unable to afford his former private education. With his longer hair and chocolate spread sandwiches, not only is Hany clearly from a more privileged background than the sons of the plumbers and barbers in his new class, but he is also the only Christian in a room full of Muslims. After Hany is mistaken for a Muslim, he decides to play along, seeking his classmates' acceptance by excelling in science, memorizing the Quran, scoring at football and singing the latest mahragan tune. He almost succeeds, until one day he is beaten up by the class bully and his mother drags him to the principal's office. As if that were not embarrassing enough, all his classmates then spot the cross around her neck, and Hany is unmasked as a Christian.

*This film is sponsored by Hala Aly Abuhusien and Ignacio Castuera*

2015 Claremont, California

## Saturday, 17 January 2015 2 p.m.



### Film short: *Blue Like a Gunshot*

Directors: Masoud Raouf

Country: Canada, 2003

Film Length: 5 minutes

Through an animation technique using vivid brush strokes, artist Masoud Raouf suggests the chaos and creativity of earth, with human conduct contributing to much of the chaos.

### Feature Film: *Siddharth*

Director: Richie Mehta

Country: India, 2013

Language: Hindi w/English subtitles

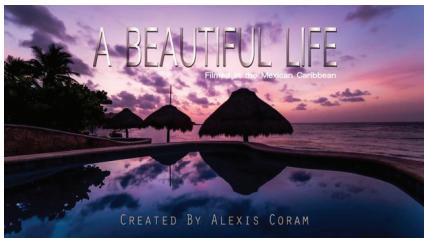
Film Length: 96 minutes

After sending away his 12 year-old son Siddharth for work, Mahendra (a chain-wallah who fixes broken zippers on the streets) is relieved – his financial burdens will be alleviated. But when Siddharth fails to return home, Mahendra learns he may have been taken by child-traffickers. With little resources and no connections, he travels across India in pursuit, with the hope that whatever force arbitrarily took his child away will return him unharmed.



*This film is sponsored by Alfredo Galvan and Damian Geddry*

Saturday, 17 January 2015  
7 p.m.



**Film short: *A Beautiful Life***

Directors: Alexis Coram

Country: Mexico, 2014

Film Length: 4½ minutes

Lapsed photography allows us to empathically join the artist in an entrancingly beautiful week in Mexico.

**Feature Film: *Rock the Casbah***

Director: Laila Marrakchi

Country: France/Morocco, 2013

Language: French w/English subtitles

Film Length: 83 minutes

Despite the familiarity of its tale about recriminations,

revelations and reconciliations during a family gathering for a funeral, "Rock the Casbah" is consistently engaging and frequently amusing, largely due to the vivid performances by a strong cast, fleet pacing by writer-director Laila Marrakchi ("Marock"), and some sharp observations about the role of women in an upper-class milieu torn between Muslim traditions and Western influences.



*This film is sponsored by Ray and Susan Bell*

2015 Claremont, California

## Sunday, 18 January 2015 1 p.m.



### Film short: *Take It Easy (No Corras Tanto)*

Directors: Cesar Díaz Meléndez

Country: Spain, 2010

Film Length: 4 minutes

This sand-animated film takes us on an amazing dreamlike journey where people and nature transform into each other, reflecting the circle of life.

### Feature Film: *Ilo Ilo*

Director: Anthony Chen

Country: Singapore, 2013

Language: Mandarin w/English subtitles

Film Length: 99 minutes



Nine-year-old Jiale (Koh Jia Ler) is the son of two stressed working parents in late-1990s Singapore when the economy was tanking and people feared for their jobs. Tian Wen Chen plays the father, Teck, a truly terrible salesman whose attempts to demonstrate his supposedly “unbreakable” glass lead to disaster. Yann Yann Yeo is Jiale’s mum, Hwee Leng, short-tempered and distracted. Jiale’s beloved grandpa, who had been notionally minding Jiale after school, has died, and now his parents have decided to hire a live-in maid for childcare and general domestic duties. This new development, along with the fact that Hwee is pregnant, makes Jiale even more insecure; Chen shows how the boy senses and absorbs his parents’ own anxiety and feeds it back to them in the form of terrible behaviour. It is in this fraught family nest that the new maid must make herself at home as best she can.

*This film is sponsored by Bob and Terri Ireland*

## Sunday, 18 January 2015 3 p.m.



**Film short: *And the Red Man went Green***

**Directors:** Ruth Meehan  
**Country:** United Kingdom, 2005  
**Film Length:** 2 minutes

How confusing to be elderly and alone, making your way through a crowded sidewalk toward the street crossing, then waiting for the signal! How amazing to meet a young man on roller skates in the middle of the crosswalk!

### **Feature Film: *Lion's Heart*** ***Corazón de León***

**Director:** Marcos Carnevale  
**Country:** Argentina, 2013  
**Language:** Spanish w/English subtitles  
**Film Length:** 94 minutes



Tall and lovely Ivana

Cornejo (Julietta Diaz), is a lawyer and partner divorced from her former husband Diego (Mauricio Dayub) in a law firm. One day after losing her cellphone she receives a call from Leon Godoy (Guillermo Francella), who found the phone and intends to return it. In the telephone conversation great empathy is established and both feel an immediate interest, so they arrange for the cellphone to be returned personally the next day. To Ivana's astonishment, however, she finds that Leon is just 4'6" tall. She tries to overcome those extra inches as the relationship develops, but she must face not only social prejudice, but her own.

***This film is sponsored by Murray Palitz***

2015 Claremont, California

## Sunday, 18 January 2015 7 p.m.



### Film Short: *Technicolor Alaska*

Director: Alexis Corman

Country: USA, 2014

Film Length: 3 minutes

Alexis Corman, the same artist who brought us a beautiful week in Mexico, now takes us to Alaska on a winter night, showing us all the wonder of the aurora borealis.

### Feature Film: *Like Father, Like Son* *Soshite chichi ni naru*

Directors: Hirokazu Koreeda

Country: Japan, 2013

Language: Japanese w/English subtitles

Film Length: 121 minutes

Following an unexpected phone call, affluent architect Ryota and his wife, Midori, learn that their six-year-old son, Keita, was switched at the hospital and is not their biological child. Seeing Midori's devotion to Keita even after the news, and observing the rough yet caring family that has raised his natural son for the last six years, Ryota begins to question his own values on fatherhood as he must choose between 'nature' and 'nurture,' a decision that will change their lives forever.



*This film is sponsored by Janice and Richard Lau*

## Monday, 19 January 2015 10 a.m.



### Film short: *May We Grow*

Director: Erika MacPherson

Country: Canada, 2013

Film Length: 22 minutes

A family in Canada loves the great tree growing in the front yard. But for trees, as for people, life has an eventual end. How do we deal with the loss of a valued part of one's home environment? What of our planetary home?

### Feature Film: *Love and Lemons* *Små Citroner Gula*

Director: Teresa Fabik

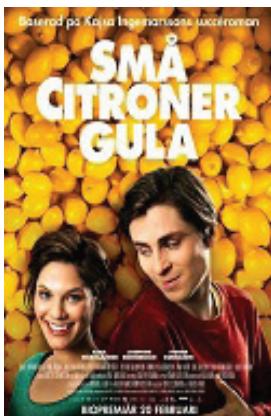
Country: Sweden 2013

Language: Swedish

Film Length: 99 minutes

*Love and Lemons* is a romantic comedy about love, friendship and the courage it takes to follow your dreams. The movie is based on the successful novel with the same title by author Kajsa Ingemarsson.

Agnes is a chef and she loves cooking. She has a good job, a boyfriend who loves her and a best friend who is always there for her. One day she is both fired from the luxurious restaurant and dumped by her boyfriend. Therefore she has nothing left to loose when a friend asks Agnes if she would like to be part owner in and open up a new restaurant. At the same time she manages to fall in love with the one person who cannot know who she really is.



*This film is sponsored by John Suchocki*

## Monday, 19 January 2015 2 p.m.



### Film short: *Distraction of a Stationary Nature*

Director: Shyra de Souza

Country: Canada, 2013

Film Length: 10 minutes

We sit down to a routine task; we know it needs to be

done—but haven't you noticed how easy it is to think of other things that might be done instead?

### Feature Film: *Lovely Louise*

Director: Bettina Oberli

Country: Switzerland, 2013

Language: Swiss German w/English subtitles

Film Length: 91 minutes



André, 55, lives with his mother Louise, 80, and leads an unspectacular life. He works as a taxi driver while the elderly diva dreams of bygone days as an actress in Hollywood. One day the charismatic Bill, 50, an American, turns up on their doorstep – a stranger who will soon turn their quiet life upside down.

*This film is sponsored by Pilgrim Film Collective (Lynn Juarez, Grace and William Moreman, Donna Ambrogi, Jeanne A. Powers, Barbara Troxell, Patricia Patterson)*

## Monday, 19 January 2015 7 p.m.

### Film Short: *Fudgitive*

Director: Hunter Popalis/Dusty Bricker  
Film Length: 3 minutes



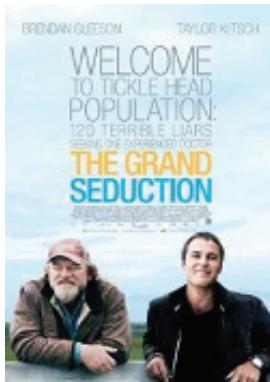
In New York City, the mayor wants to implement policies that will address the problem of obesity. Alas, the ghosts in an inner city graveyard want their ice cream anyway.

### Feature Film: *The Grand Seduction*

Director: Don McKellar  
Country: Canada, 2013  
Film Length: 113 minutes

A small fishing village must procure a local doctor to secure a lucrative business contract. When unlikely candidate and big city doctor Paul Lewis lands in their lap for a trial residence, the townsfolk rally together to charm him into staying.

As the doctor's time in the village winds to a close, acting mayor Murray French has no choice but to pull out all the stops and begin The Grand Seduction.



*This film is sponsored by Karen and David Lull*

## FILM SPONSORSHIP

We are grateful to this year's film sponsors, and we invite you to consider sponsoring a film for the 2016 festival. The features cost an average of \$500, and the shorts, an average of \$60.

Films can be sponsored by individuals, or by a group of individuals (such as this year's Pilgrim Place Film Supporters). All sponsorships are tax deductible.

Contact Marjorie Suchocki: [mhsuchocki@gmail.com](mailto:mhsuchocki@gmail.com)

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How do we select films for the Whitehead Film Festival as well as the winner of the Whitehead Film Festival Award each year?

### Film Selection Criteria

1. The film shall exhibit artistic excellence in screenplay, music, and filming technique.
2. The film shall promote the common good, which is defined as a society in which persons and communities care for one another's well-being.
3. The film shall exhibit sensitivity to the human situation, promoting the dignity of all.
4. As appropriate to the film's subject matter, the film shall foster ecological responsibility.
5. The film shall cultivate a realistic hope of creative transformation.

See you again next year at the  
15th Annual  
Whitehead International  
Film Festival  
January, 2016

Liked the films? Want to dig deeper? Consider taking next  
year's Faith & Film Class!

Offered in conjunction with the  
Whitehead International Film Festival  
Taught by Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki

The festival's featured guest will also meet with the class

The class fulfills several purposes: 1) to increase our ability to understand the artistic merits in film; 2) to explore ways of utilizing films to probe issues of faith; 3) to serve as a jury for the 10th Annual Whitehead International Film Festival, deciding which of the ten feature films best meets the criteria of "Celebrating Films that Promote the Common Good."

Information will be available at [whiteheadfilmfestival.org](http://whiteheadfilmfestival.org)