

The DePauw > Features

Film series highlights social justice issues

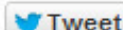
By CAROLINE MCCAULAY

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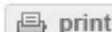
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Linda Elman, associate professor of Spanish, was studying filmmaker Iciar Bollain on her sabbatical when she learned of the Spanish Film Club, an organization that allows universities to apply for grants to host film festivals. Elman applied for and won a grant from Pragda Films, with support from the Secretary of State for Culture of Spain.

The grant allows for a series of five films to be shown at DePauw this semester. Elman, the series coordinator, and other modern language department members chose films related to courses offered this semester for Beyond the Borders. "An effort was made to have an interdisciplinary focus... and to reach out to various departments and organizations," Elman said.

The first Spanish film in the series, "Chico and Rita," was shown this Sunday. "Chico and Rita" is the story of a love that transcends greed, racism and a city lost to time. The movie is set in various backgrounds of 1948 Havana, Cuba, Las Vegas and New York. The 90-minute film was nominated last year in the Best Animated Feature category at the academy awards. While it did not win, it was the first Spanish film to be nominated in that category.

"Chico and Rita" is visually exciting and the music is wonderful," Elman said.

The Beyond the Borders films cover a diverse range of subject matter. For example, the next film, "The Death of Pinochet" (La Muerte de Pinochet), directed by Bettina Perut and Ivan Osnovikoff will be shown Sept. 9. The film covers the political upheaval and violence Chile faced after the death of their country's general in 2006.

"All these films deal with very human dilemmas and conditions: youth unemployment, racism, individual freedom, family dynamics, ethical questions and political oppression," Elman said.

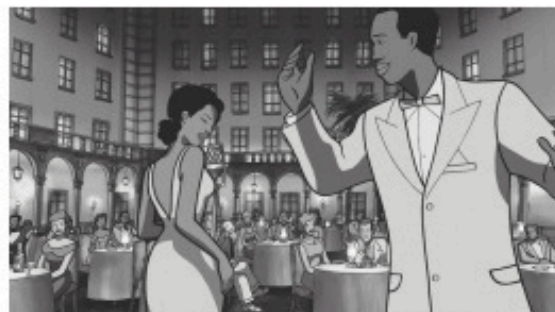



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A still from the film, "Chico and Rita," which was shown as part of the Beyond the Borders Film series this past Sunday.



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