



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Center for Latin American Studies

Brazilian Films Catalog

This catalog aims to inform educators about the Brazilian films that are available from Vanderbilt University's Center for Latin American Studies (CLAS). We hope that it will assist those using film in classes on Portuguese language and Brazilian culture. Each film is described, and a few example questions for critical discussion are provided.

If you are interested in obtaining any of these films from the CLAS lending library for personal or classroom use, please visit the lending library website at <https://as.vanderbilt.edu/clas/outreach/lending-library/>.

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2 FILHOS DE FRANCISCO: A Historia de Zezé di Carmago & Luciano

Breno Silveira (Director), 2005



Francisco, a poor tenant farmer in the hinterland of Goiás, pursues what appears to be an impossible dream, to turn two of his nine children into a famous music duo. Among the many mishaps, an entrepreneur tries to promote them in the interior of Brazil, until an accident interrupts the career of the duo. Years later, Mirosmar becomes Zezé Di Carmago, but fame only comes when he joins his brother Welson (Luciano), the perfect partner to fulfill the prophecy of his father.

Approximate runtime: 129 min
Drama, Family, Music, Adventure
G-rated, Grades 6-12

Discussion Question

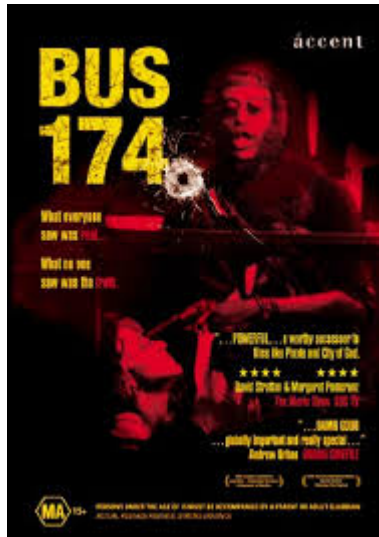
1. What does the film indicate about the possibilities for the futures of children in the country-side of Brazil? Is it realistic or not?

Pergunta da Discussão

1. O que indica o filme sobre as possibilidades para o futuro das crianças no campo do Brasil? É realista ou não?

BUS 174 (*Ônibus 174*)

Jose Padilha (Director), 2002



On June 12, 2000, a bus filled with passengers was hijacked in Rio De Janeiro in broad daylight. The kidnapper, Sandro do Nascimento, terrorized his victims for four and a half hours as the whole country watched the drama live on Brazilian TV. Based on extensive research of stock footage, interviews and official documents, Bus 174 tells two parallel stories. Not only does it explain the dramatic events that unfolded as the police tried, and failed, to handle the hijack situation; but it also tells the life story of the hijacker, revealing how a typical Rio de Janeiro street kid was transformed into a violent criminal. Both stories are interwoven to explain the violence in Brazil.

Approximate runtime: 120 min

Poverty, Crime, Violence

***Rated R**, Grade 12 or University-level

Discussion Question

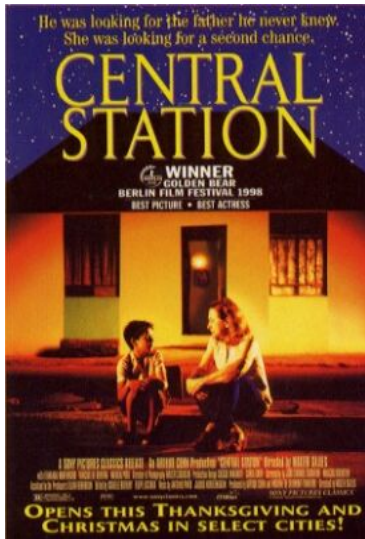
1. Some people believe the police should allow criminals to escape from a robbery in order to prevent a hostage situation. Do you agree or disagree with this belief?

Pergunta da Discussão

1. Algumas pessoas acreditam que a polícia deve permitir que criminosos escapem de um assalto para evitar uma situação de refém. Você concorda ou discorda com esta crença?

CENTRAL STATION (*Central do Brasil*)

Walter Salles (Director), 1998



Inside Rio de Janeiro's bustling Central Station, two very unlikely souls are about to become inextricably linked. When a young boy (Vinicius de Oliveira) witnesses his mother's accidental death, a lonely retired schoolteacher reluctantly takes the child under her wing. Although initially distrustful of each other, the two form an uncommon bond as they venture from the bustling city to Brazil's barren and remote northeast region in search of the boy's father. Together, the two embark on a journey of the heart that restores the woman's spirit and teaches the child precious life lessons.

Approximate runtime: 106 min

Family, Orphans, Drama

***Rated R**, Grade 12 or University-level

Discussion Question

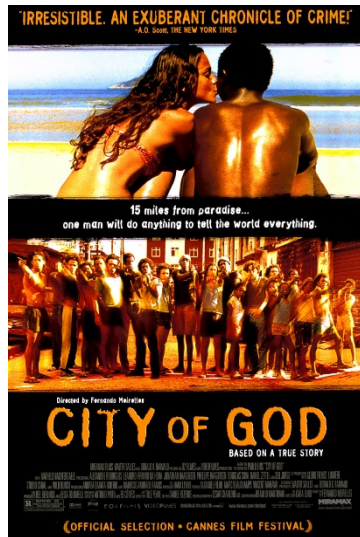
1. How do ethics and identity intersect in the film? Through Dora or the boy, Josue?

Pergunta da Discussão

1. Como se cruzam a ética e a identidade no filme? Através de Dora ou o menino, Josue?

CITY OF GOD (*Cidade de Deus*)

Fernando Meirelles & Kátia Lund (Directors), 2002



Celebrated with worldwide acclaim, this powerful true story of crime and redemption has won numerous prestigious awards. The streets of the world's most notorious slum, Rio de Janeiro's City of God, are a place where combat photographers fear to tread, police rarely go and residents are lucky if they live to the age of 20. In the midst of the oppressive crime and violence, a frail and scared young boy will grow up to discover that he can view the harsh realities of his surroundings with a different eye: the eye of an artist. In the face of impossible odds, his brave ambition to become a professional photographer becomes a window into his world and ultimately his way out. Portuguese with English Subtitles.

Approximate runtime: 135 min

Poverty, Crime, Violence

***Rated R**, Grade 12 or University-level

Discussion Question

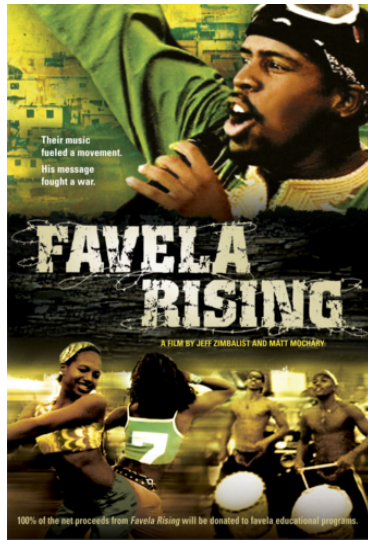
1. How does the film present who is an “insider” vs. “outsider”? Consider the role of the city, its mappings & boundaries.

Pergunta da Discussão

1. Como é que o filme apresenta que é um “insider” vs. “outsider”? Considere o papel da cidade, os seus mapeamentos e os seus limites.

FAVELA RISING

Jeff Zimbalist (Director) & Matt Mochary (Director), 2010



Haunted by the murders of his family and many of his friends, Anderson Sá is a former drug-trafficker who becomes a social revolutionary in Rio de Janeiro's most feared slum. Through hip-hop music, the rhythms of the street, and Afro-Brazilian dance he rallies his community to counteract the violent oppression enforced by teenage drug armies and sustained by corrupt police. Just as Anderson's grassroots AfroReggae movement is at the height of its success, a tragic accident threatens to silence the movement forever.

Approximate runtime: 82 min
Music, Dance, Drug-trafficking, Favelas
Not-rated, Grades 9-12

Discussion Question

1. Describe the change in Anderson from agent of reproduction of the status quo in his society to agent of creation or revolution.

Pergunta da Discussão

1. Descreva a mudança de Anderson de ser um agente da reprodução do status quo em sua sociedade para agente da criação ou revolução.

FOUR DAYS IN SEPTEMBER (*O Que é Isso, Companheiro?*)

Brun Barreto (Director), 1997



Fernando, a journalist, and his friend César join terrorist group MR8 in order to fight Brazilian dictatorial regime during the late sixties. Cesare, however, is wounded and captured during a bank hold up. Fernando then decides to kidnap the American ambassador in Brazil and ask for the release of fifteen political prisoners in exchange for his life. Thoughtful, even-handed direction examines the event from a variety of perspectives. Based on the memoirs of Green Party member Fernando Gabeira. Academy Award Nomination - Best Foreign film.

Approximate runtime: 106 min

Action, Politics, Terrorism

***Rated R**, Grade 12 or University-level

Discussion Question

1. Should a dictatorship be fought by methods that are also authoritarian?

Pergunta da Discussão

1. Deve-se combater uma ditadura por métodos que são também autoritários?

PANORAMA BRASIL: Seleção Brasileira das Cidades

Brasil Sensacional (Governo do Brasil), 2014



Aimed at opinion leaders and aims to disseminate the country and the 12 host cities for the FIFA World Cup Soccer 2014. Brings an overview of the 12 cities that will host the World Cup in Brazil. Movies are a minute with images of major cities and nearby tourist attractions were produced along with a four-minute video about Brazil.

Approximate runtime: 25 min
Brazil, Tourism, Soccer
Not-rated, Grades 1-12

Discussion Question

1. What are the implications of the World Cup games being hosted at these cities? How does this medium focus on positives or negatives of the sites?

Pergunta da Discussão

1. Quais são as implicações dos Jogos Olímpicos sendo hospedado nestas cidades? Como é que este meio se concentra em positivos ou negativos dos locais?

PIXOTE: A Lei Do Mais Fraco

Hector Babenco (Director), 1981



Award-winning depiction of a homeless Brazilian youth's inexorable descent into the criminal underworld and how they are used by corrupt police and other crime organizations to commit crimes. This film is illuminated with flashes of innocence, joy, humor and friendship.

Approximate runtime: 128 min
Street children, crime, violence
***Rated R**, Grade 12 or University-level

Available online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCCK3k0OKtc>

Discussion Question

1. Describe the nature of Pixote and Sueli's relationship.

Pergunta da Discussão

Descreva a natureza da relação entre Pixote e Sueli.

THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD (*O Caminho das Nuvens*)

Vicente Amorim (Director), 2003



Romao is a family man of Paraíba who is unemployed and decides to face the road to get to Rio de Janeiro in search of a job that pays his salary of one thousand reais per month, in order to provide a decent life for his family. To realize this dream, he travels 3200 kilometers by bicycle, accompanied by his wife Rose and five children, facing hunger, heat, fatigue, and violence.

Approximate runtime: 86 min
Family, Adventure, Brazil
Not-rated, Grades 6-12

Discussion Questions

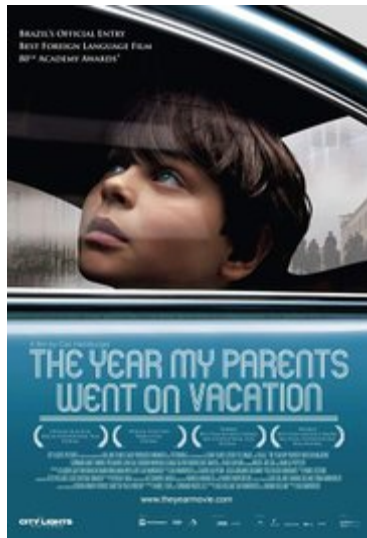
1. How does the film reflect on parental practices or the raising of children?

Pergunta da Discussão

1. Como reflete o filme as práticas parentais ou a criação das crianças?

THE YEAR MY PARENTS WENT ON VACATION (*O Ano em Que Meus Pais Saíram de Férias*)

Cao Hamburger (Writer), 2007



In 1970, Mauro is a twelve-year-old boy who loves football and the button game. One day, his life changes completely, as his parents leave unexpectedly on vacation and for no apparent reason. In fact, Mauro's parents were forced to flee because they were seen as leftists, who were persecuted by the military dictatorship, and for that reason they decided to leave him with his paternal grandfather. But the grandfather dies on the same day that Mauro arrives in São Paulo, which means Mauro has to stay with Shlomo, an old solitary Jew who was his neighbor. While awaiting a phone call from his parents, Mauro has to deal with his new reality, which has moments of sadness for the situation in which he lives and also of joy, to track the performance of the Brazilian team in the World Cup 1970.

Approximate runtime: 105 min
Family, Soccer, Brazil
PG-rated, Grades 6-12

Discussion Question

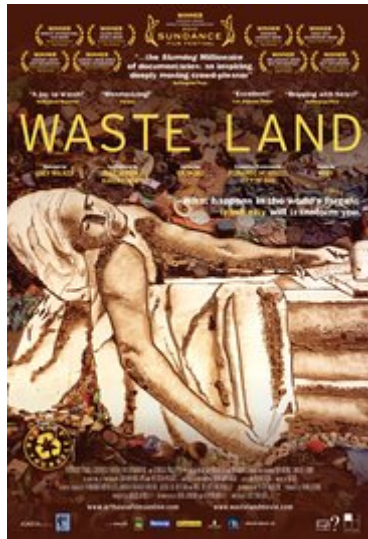
1. What parallels can be drawn between the characters Shlomo and Mauro's mother and father?

Pergunta da Discussão

1. Que paralelos podem ser traçados entre as personagens de Shlomo e a mãe e o pai de Mauro?

WASTE LAND: Un documentaire sur L'art

Lucy Walker & Karen Harley (Directors), 2009



An uplifting feature documentary highlighting the transformative power of art and the beauty of the human spirit. Top-selling contemporary artist Vik Muniz takes us on an emotional journey from Jardim Gramacho, the world's largest landfill on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, to the heights of international art stardom. Vik collaborates with the brilliant *catadores*, pickers of recyclable materials, true Shakespearean characters who live and work in the garbage quoting Machiavelli and showing us how to recycle ourselves.

Approximate runtime: 99 min

Brazil, Art, Urbanization

PG-rated, Grades 6-12

Discussion Question

1. How can perceptions of the human condition be informed based on the *catadores* we see in the film? How does the idea of art transcend these conditions?

Pergunta da Discussão

1. Como pode ser informada a percepção da condição humana com base nos *catadores* que vemos no filme? Como é que a ideia da arte transcende essas condições?



Other available movies:

TROPA DE ELITE (2007)

TROPA DE ELITE 2: O INIMIGO AGORA É OUTRO (2010)

Created and edited by:

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Center for Latin American Studies
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