

Global film festival to visit Tech this weekend

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A-J ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

It is one thing to be a fan of foreign films from, say, Italy and France.

Those usually were included when nominations were announced for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film for a great many years.

However, Jeremy Quist, manager of the Global Lens Series — curated by the Global Film Initiative in San Francisco — pointed out that, with the turn of the century, film programs had begun to grow throughout Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.

More to the point, he said that a woman named Susan Weeks Coulter wanted to introduce a cross-cultural understanding in the United States after 9/11.

Quist said, “She felt that the language of cinema would be a great way to do that.”

This led to the Global Lens Film Festival premiering in some markets in 2003 and 2004 — and eventually making a mark on the Texas Tech campus.

Hilary Lawson, marketing and publicity coordinator for the Global Film Initiative, said, “Texas Tech has shown (individual) films from the Global Lens series before, but this is the first time the university has shown the series in its entirety.”

All 11 films are being offered at no charge this weekend in room 101 in Tech’s mass communication building.

The festival will open with a movie from Mexico on Friday, with actress Sandra Carbonell making an appearance for a post-screening question-and-answer series.

Robert Peaslee, assistant professor with the department of electronic media and communication at Tech, said “Sandra contacted me initially because she saw our spring screening of ‘Vaho’ on the Global Film Initiative’s calendar.

“She resides in Texas, so she sent me a note, asking when the screening would take place, because she was interested in attending. Ultimately, the timing didn’t work out, so I told her that we were planning encore screenings of films and that I would let her know when we got those scheduled.

“When it came time to program the encore screenings into a festival format, I asked if she would be interested in attending as a guest (which, of course, she was), which made ‘Vaho’ a logical opening night film.”

Looking further back, Quist said one purpose of the festival was to provide more regional balance.

Peaslee was able to pull off just that in the form of a weekend festival now, one that would allow Lubbock moviegoers to see movies not only from Mexico, but also from such areas as Burkina Faso in Africa, Algeria, China, India, Iran, Peru, Serbia, South Africa, Uruguay and Vietnam.

Peaslee indicated that some movies have been shown here before on an irregular basis.

He explained, "I first learned about the GFI a few years back in the midst of doing some research on independent film exhibition in the United States."


In short, what Peaslee wanted to do was address a lack of exposure to non-mainstream films in Lubbock.


That said, he now points out that Tech is the only institution in the state of Texas to be hosting the Global Film Series.


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