

## Act II

# Confronting Cinematic Stereotypes: Struggle, Redemption, and Second Chances in Modern Film

Our community enrichment cinema course continues with Act II in spring 2023. Participants will watch and discuss four films that depict struggle, redemption, and second chances in different cultural settings. Each class session will include a lecture followed by a film screening. Afterward, audience members will be able to engage in conversation about the events featured, the ways directors presented the subjects, and cinematic techniques used that may answer some questions while raising others.

### About the instructor



This course is taught by Dr. D.J. Higgins, assistant teaching professor of film/video and music at Penn State Schuylkill. Dr. Higgins earned the Doctor of Philosophy in Modern Languages

from Middlebury College and is an active filmmaker, having directed, written, and produced several award-winning short films.

### Registration

Each class begins at 6:00 p.m. in Morgan Auditorium at Penn State Schuylkill's Student Community Center.

Cost: \$30 for community members

Free for Penn State Schuylkill students, faculty and staff members (see *campus newsletter* for details).

**Register online:**  
[schuylkill.psu.edu/cinematiccourse](https://schuylkill.psu.edu/cinematiccourse)



**January 19, 2023**

**Queen of Katwe** (Mira Nair, 2016)

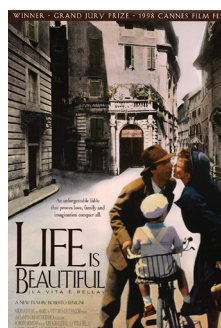
*Queen of Katwe* tells the story of Phiona Mutesi's (Madina Nalwanga) journey as a Ugandan chess star and her rise to stardom. The film was inspired by Tom Crothers' book, *The Queen of Katwe: A Story of Life, Chess, and One Extraordinary Girl's Dream of Becoming a Grandmaster*.



**February 16, 2023**

**Green Book** (Peter Farrelly, 2018)

*Green Book* takes us on a journey into the Deep South of 1962 and is named after Victor Hugo Green's *The Negro Motorist Green Book*. The film won three Academy Awards and highlights the unique friendship between Dr. Don Shirley, an African-American pianist, and Tony Lipp, his Italian-American driver.



**March 23, 2023**

**La vita è bella** (*Life is Beautiful*) (Roberto Benigni, 1997)

*La vita è bella* is an Oscar-winning film on the Holocaust that made more than \$230 million at the box office. Roberto Benigni wrote, directed, and starred in this film, which is one of the highest grossing non-English films of all time. *Screened with English subtitles.*



**April 13, 2023**

**I cento passi** (*One Hundred Steps*) (Marco Tullio Giordano, 2000)

*I cento passi* takes place in Palermo and focuses on Peppino Impastato's public battle with his mafioso father. The award-winning film is in the Sicilian dialect and takes a powerful stance against the Sicilian mafia (Cosa nostra). *Screened with English subtitles.*