



## FILM FORUM at the CLA

This year we will show a series of films in English for students enrolled in the University of Perugia and Erasmus students. The first series of four films share a common theme: SOLIDARITY, particularly as it may be expressed in the highly diversified, economically stratified, multi-ethnic and multi-racial American society. Two of these four films are also characterized by a choral cast and interweaving of lives that most exemplify the heterogeneous nature of society in which

individuals struggle to find a common bond, often overcoming with great effort prejudice and indifference. There will be a brief introduction to each film and, if students wish, a discussion following. The films will be shown in the **CLA theatre from 14-16:00 on Friday afternoons.**



### **CRASH (2004) Dir. Paul Haggis (16 October 2015)**

Several stories interweave during two days in Los Angeles involving a collection of inter-related characters, a police detective with a drugged out mother and a thieving younger brother, two car thieves who are constantly theorizing on society and race, the white district attorney and his irritated and pampered wife, a racist white veteran cop (caring for a sick father at home) who disgusts his more idealistic younger partner, a successful Hollywood director and his wife who must deal with the racist cop, a Persian-immigrant father who buys a gun to protect his shop, a Hispanic locksmith and his young daughter who is afraid of bullets, and more.



### **GRAND CANYON (1991) Dir. Lawrence Kasdan (30 October 2015)**

A diverse group of characters are thrown together through chance encounters while coping with urban chaos in L.A. The main focus is the growing friendship between an immigration lawyer (Kevin Kline) and a tow-truck driver (Danny Glover) who meet when Kline's car breaks down in a crime-ridden neighborhood.



### **THE VISITOR (2007) Dir. Thomas McCarthy (13 November 2015)**

In Connecticut, lonely widowed Professor Walter Vale has a boring life. He teaches only one class at the local college and is trying to learn how to play the piano, despite not having the necessary musical talent. Walter is assigned to attend a conference about Global Policy and Development at New York University, where he is to give a lecture about a paper on which he is co-author. When he arrives at his apartment in New York, he finds Tarek Khalil, a Syrian musician, and Zainab, a Senegalese street vendor, living there. He sympathizes with the situation of the illegal immigrants and invites the couple to stay with him. Tarek invites him to go to his gig at Jules Live Jazz. Walter is fascinated with his African drum and Tarek offers to teach Walter to play the drum. However, after an incident in the subway, Tarek is arrested by the police and sent to a detention center for illegal immigrants. Walter has just hired a lawyer to defend Tarek when, out of the blue, Tarek's mother Mouna arrives at the apartment from Michigan. He invites her to stay in Tarek's room and while trying to get Tarek released, Walter and Mouna get close to each other and he finds reasons to feel life can be exciting and worth living again.



### **MAGNOLIA (1999) Dir. Paul Thomas Anderson (27 November 2015)**

24 hours in L.A.; it's raining cats and dogs. Two parallel and intercut stories dramatize men about to die: both are estranged from a grown child, both want to make contact, and neither child wants anything to do with dad. Earl Partridge's son is a charismatic misogynist; Jimmy Gator's daughter is a cokehead and waif. A mild and caring nurse intercedes for Earl, reaching the son; a prayerful and upright beat cop meets the daughter, is attracted to her, and leads her toward a new calm. Meanwhile, guilt consumes Earl's young wife, while two whiz kids, one grown and a loser and the other young and pressured, face their situations. The weather, too, is quirky.