

The 2011-2012 Philosophy and Political Theory Film Series

This year's film series traces the theme of freedom and self-determination through different contexts; through imagined futures, 'actual' futures, and past memories; through the supernatural and the profoundly human. Each of these films, in its own way, asks what it means to be free and calls us to reflect upon our capacities for self-determination. Two of the films are based on stories by science fiction writer Philip K. Dick, who also wrote the short story upon which *Bladerunner*, one of last year's films, is based.

September 27: A Clockwork Orange

7pm in Rausch Auditorium

Protagonist Alex is an "ultraviolent" youth in futuristic Britain who is eventually caught, arrested, and convicted of murder and rape. While in prison, Alex undergoes aversion therapy and is programmed to detest violence. Once the therapy is complete, Alex returns to the streets of Britain, which are still plagued by violence, only to find that the tables have turned.

November 1: V for Vendetta

7pm in Rausch Auditorium

In a future, totalitarian Britain, Evey is rescued from a life-and-death situation by a masked vigilante known only as "V." Charismatic and skilled in the art of combat and deception, V incites revolution when he detonates two London landmarks and takes over the government-controlled airwaves, urging his fellow citizens to rise up against tyranny and oppression. As Evey uncovers the truth about V's mysterious background, she also discovers the truth about herself - and emerges as his unlikely ally in the culmination of his plot to bring freedom and justice back to a society fraught with cruelty and corruption.

Date TBA: The Minority Report

7pm in Rausch Auditorium

In the year 2054, crimes in Washington, D.C. are solved by "PreCrime", a specialized police unit that apprehends criminals based on foreknowledge provided by three psychics called "precogs". The cast includes Tom Cruise as PreCrime captain John Anderton, Colin Farrell as Department of Justice agent Danny Witwer, Samantha Morton as the senior precog Agatha, and Max von Sydow as Anderton's superior Lamar Burgess. Based on a short story by Philip K. Dick.

Date TBA: The Battle of Algiers

7pm in Rausch Auditorium

Most of this film about the Algerian struggle for independence is shot in flashback, presented as the memories of Ali, a leading member of the Algerian Front de Liberation Nationale (FLN), who is captured by the French in 1957. Three years earlier, Ali had been a petty thief who joined the secretive organization in order to help rid the Casbah of vice associated with the colonial government. The film traces the rebels' struggle and the increasingly extreme measures taken by the French government to quell what soon becomes a nationwide revolt.

Date TBA: A Scanner Darkly

7pm in Rausch Auditorium

In the future ("seven years from now"), America has lost the war on drugs. The highly addictive, debilitating, and illegal Substance D has swept across the country. In response, the government develops an invasive, high-tech surveillance system and puts in place a network of informants and undercover agents. The film tells the story of identity and deception in a near-future dystopia constantly under intrusive high-technology police surveillance in the midst of a drug addiction epidemic. The movie was filmed digitally and then animated using interpolated rotoscope over the original footage, giving it its distinctive look.

For more information, please contact Professor Tubert or Professor Tiehen of the Philosophy Department, or Professor Kessel of the Politics & Government Department