SPANISH & PORTUGUESE Film Festival
All Films will be screened at Collins Cinema.
Mask wearing will be optional. Masks will be available upon request.

*Sponsored by the Spanish & Portuguese Department, the Florence Redding Jessup ‘56 Fund and PRADGA.*

This series is in tribute to the life of Spanish major Florence Lois Redding Jessup, Wellesley Class of 1956, who dedicated her life to the study and advancement of Spanish studies. As an undergraduate, she spent her junior year abroad in Spain. After obtaining an M.A. in 1958 and Ph.D in 1975, both from Indiana University, she served as Professor of Spanish at Butler University for over thirty years. She was indeed a woman who “made a difference” in a field she loved.

**February, 10th**
**In The Heights**
Opening reception, 4:30pm
Film Showing, 5pm

**Synopsis:**
An exuberant musical and visual feast created by Lin-Manuel Miranda, *In the Heights* is a love letter to the Washington Heights neighborhood and an homage to the diverse Latinx communities of Upper Manhattan.

The scent of warm coffee hangs in the air just outside of the 181st St. subway stop, where a kaleidoscope of dreams rallies a vibrant and tight-knit community.

At the intersection of it all is a likable and magnetic bodega owner Usnavi, who hopes, imagines, and sings about a better life. For him, the dream is not only to return to the happy Dominican Republic of his childhood but also, to finally ask the intimidating Vanessa out on a date. An aspiring fashion designer, Vanessa dreams of leaving her dead-end beauty salon job and moving downtown to pursue her passion. Smart college student Nina yearns to reinstate her identity as a Latina on the heels of her dispiriting year at the white-dominant Stanford. Ultimately, Usnavi and the residents of the close-knit neighborhood get a dose of what it means to be home. View Trailer [HERE](#)

**February, 17th**
**Cartas mojadas**
**Film Showing, 5pm**

**Synopsis:**
Thousands of people risk their lives crossing the Mediterranean Sea every year in an attempt to reach the European shores. In her new film, renowned documentarian Paula Palacios sheds light on the urgent migratory crisis taking place today.

While a mysterious voice coming from the depths of the sea reads letters written by mothers to their children, *Drowning Letters* follows a rescue ship of the Spanish NGO Open Arms as it embarks on a dramatic mission to save the lives of 550 people stranded in international waters. The film also takes us aboard a Libyan Coast Guard military ship and shows us the most dangerous place in the world, Libya, where human beings are abused and enslaved.

Featuring unprecedented access and must-see images, *Drowning Letters* is an urgent and necessary film to understand one of the most tragic chapters in contemporary history.

View Trailer [HERE](#)

**February, 24th**
**Cabeza de negro**
**Film Showing, 5pm**

**Synopsis:**
Based on real events, this political drama fuses Brazilian history with international anti-racist movements. Saulo, a black introvert student and fan of the Black Panther Movement, challenges his school in the largely white city of Fortaleza.

After Saulo’s reaction to a racial insult from a classmate, his teachers describe him as a young delinquent and swiftly attempt to expel him ignoring his usually calm and articulate demeanor. Outraged, Saulo refuses to leave the school until justice is done. His solitary occupation ends up challenging the school’s board and mobilizes the entire community. The students did not anticipate, however, the principal’s extreme reaction.

Echoing events from around the world, *A Bruddah’s Mind* effectively calls out racism, misogyny, and militarism. It reminds us about the importance of activism, political engagement, and the sacrifices that come with it. View Trailer [HERE](#)
March 3rd
Miente miriam
Film Showing, 5pm

Synopsis:
The first dramatic feature by documentary duo Natalia Cabral and Oriol Estrada centers on a quinceañera celebration and shows how racial prejudices affect a teenage girl’s choices.

*Miriam Lies* is the latest in an exciting and refreshing new wave of cinema from the Dominican Republic. For sensitive teen Miriam (Dulce Rodriguez), life really shouldn’t be much more than sunny afternoons spent with best friend Jennifer, talking about boys and making preparations for their upcoming shared quinceanera, an event celebrated mainly by upper-middle-class society in Santo Domingo. The product of a short, troubled mixed-race marriage, the shy teen is often made to feel like an outcast within her own working-class family for being darker than the rest, leading her to find comfort in an online relationship with sympathetic suitor, and potential quinceanera date, Jean-Louis.

When Jean-Louis reveals himself to be black, Miriam feels the weight of a badly broken society bear down on her young shoulders, driving her to create a web of tall tales, excuses, and deepening cover-ups. With a cast that delivers some incredibly natural performances, this powerful debut feature from co-writer/directors Natalia Cabral and Oriol Estrada shoots sharp criticism at the heart and mind of Caribbean society with a treatment as subtle as it is demolishing.”- Hebe Tabachnik, Seattle International Film Festival. View Trailer [HERE](#)

March 17th
Nudo mixteco
Film Showing, 5pm

Synopsis:
Taking place in a rural Mixtec village in Oaxaca, southern Mexico, Nudo Mixteco follows the return of María, Esteban, and Toña, each from a different direction. Each of them has a different reason for coming back, just like each had a different reason to leave in the first place. However, all three face a confrontation that will force a turning point in their lives.

María buries her mother, her father rejects her, and in uncertainty, she asks her childhood love, Piedad, to leave with her. Esteban returns after three years to discover that Chabela, his wife, is living with another man. Enraged, he calls the village people to prosecute her in an assembly. Toña, faced with her daughter’s abuse, relives her own pain when she returns to confront her family to protect her.

Narrated from the point of view of the women, the three stories momentarily intersect with each other and together paint an exceptional picture of the local culture, in which filmmaker Ángeles Cruz herself grew up. Festivities, rituals, and a village council that acts as a tribunal – these elements make up the fabric of a community that should offer protection, warmth, and security. However, the fates of the three protagonists will reveal a constant fight against age-old patriarchal power and prejudice. View Trailer [HERE](#)