

January Film Series at the Eldredge Public Library

Once again this Carol Yindra will be offering her inspiring film series “Movies of Triumph” as part of the Learning Series at the Eldredge Public Library. The course will begin on Tuesday, January 3, at 1:00, and will continue for four weeks through the month. This year the showings will include a number of foreign films ranging from romantic comedies to coming-of-age stories to on-the-road tales. All will feature the intersection of differing viewpoints and cultures, and they will leave the audience with an uplifted spirit. Spaces still remain in the class, and those interested in attending the series may register at the Library desk; the requested donation is \$15.00, which will cover all four films. A brief description of each film follows:

“Wadjda” (January 3): An enterprising Saudi girl signs on for her school's Koran recitation competition as a way to raise the remaining funds she needs to buy a green bicycle. Wadjda wants her own bicycle in a country where the culture does not allow girls to ride one, and her story reveals how those in cultures totally different from our own can share similar values.

“The Straight Story” (January 10): This film chronicles a trip made by 73-year-old Alvin Straight from Laurens, Iowa, to Mt. Zion, Wisconsin, in 1994 while riding a lawn mower. The man undertakes his strange journey to mend his relationship with his ill, estranged, 75-year-old brother Lyle. Along the way he learns about family, friendship, and the kindness of strangers.

“Monsieur Lazhar” (January 17): Bachir Lazhar, an Algerian immigrant, is hired to replace an elementary school teacher who died tragically. This film depicts the encounter between two distant worlds and the power of self-expression through the travels of a humble man who is ready to transcend his own loss in order to accompany children beyond the silence and taboo of death.

“The Women on the Sixth Floor” (January 24): "Les Femmes du 6ème Étage" is a delightful romantic comedy based on the class and cultural differences between the French upper class and the Spanish immigrants in the early 60's in Paris. This is a feel good movie that will do wonders for sagging January spirits.