

## AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL: Monday, 2/7 through Thursday 2/10

All films will be shown in the Shen Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. All Core 8 students are required to view at least one of the films, and to complete an assignment on it given by your instructor. We invite you to come join us and watch the films on the large screen!

**Monday, 2/7: LONG NIGHT'S JOURNEY INTO DAY:** This film chronicles four stories of violence and reconciliation in South Africa's post-Apartheid democracy, including the story of a young American woman who was in South Africa working against Apartheid but was later killed in a rash of street violence because of the color of her skin. Using four specific cases, the film looks at the effects of long term injustice as well as violence on society and individuals, and asks questions about the nature of justice and forgiveness.

### Questions to consider when viewing Long Night's Journey into Day:

1. Why was there still so much unrest in South Africa as they prepared for their first democratic elections?
2. Do the political and economic injustices suffered by Amy Biehl's killers make them less guilty or more deserving of amnesty?
3. Although Eric Taylor felt truly sorry about his role in four politically motivated murders, the families of the victims could not forgive him. Is there a limit to forgiveness, or is it always possible and better to forgive? Compare the families of Taylor's victims with Amy Biehl's parents: which position seems more understandable to you? Why?
4. Do you think the police were justified in killing gang members in front of a bus full of school children so that they could see that life in the gangs doesn't pay? Why or why not?

**Tuesday, 2/8: HOTEL RWANDA:** the true life story of a hotel manager (played by Don Cheadle) who risks his own life to house over 1,000 refugees who are fleeing violence between two tribes, the Hutu and the Tutsis. The story is set in Rwanda during the 1994, when violence left over one million dead in a three month span, most by machete. This film illustrates the impact one individual can have even in the worst situations. Although the story takes place in the midst of genocide, it offers hope that the good in human nature can prevail.

### Question to consider when viewing Hotel Rwanda:

1. Why are the Hutus and the Tutsi fighting?
2. What role did the media in Rwanda play in the fighting?
3. What drives Paul to protect the refugees?
4. Why didn't the UN remove the refugees?
5. What does this film say about international politics and intervention?

**Wednesday, 2/9: TSOTSI:** an Academy Award winning film by South African Director Gavin Hood, Tsotsi (which means “Thug” or “Gangster” in South African street language) is the story of a young man living in the urban slums of Johannesburg. Driven by his anger at being orphaned at an early age and left to fend for himself, he lives a life of selfish brutality until one night he highjacks a car and discovers a baby in the backseat. The story of his attempt to care for the baby brings out a more human side of Tsotsi, and allows the viewers to root for him as he confronts his past and his own violent nature.

**Questions to consider when viewing Tsotsi:**

1. How was Tsotsi allowed to “fall through the cracks” after his parents died?
2. Why does he take the baby with him when he abandons the car?
3. What is his response to the baby, and what does it reveal about him?
4. Why doesn't he want his friends to know he has the baby?
5. How does Miriam affect his life? Do you have hope for a better future for Tsotsi?

**Thursday, 2/10: THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND:** tells the fictional story of the personal physician to the real life dictator Idi Amin. Set in Uganda in the 1970's, the film tells the story of how Amin rose to power and how he abused that power for personal wealth and status. Forest Whitaker won an Academy Award for his portrayal of the brutal and paranoid Amin, who demanded absolute obedience and trusted no one. The film gives us a chilling view of how destructive absolute power can be in what many think was the hands of a mad man.

**Questions to consider when viewing The Last King of Scotland:**

1. How did Amin come to power? Was his takeover justified?
2. What did the people of Uganda expect from their new leader?
3. What events occurred or what decisions did Amin make that might lead you to question his sanity?
4. What did Amin do to ensure that the doctor couldn't leave Uganda? What did this lead the doctor to do?
5. What did the doctor do that Amin considered a betrayal? What did Amin do in response to this perceived betrayal?