

**NEWS RELEASE**  
From the Shepherdstown Film Society  
Shepherdstown, WV

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For Immediate Release

(For further info contact Shepherdstown Film Society member Lisa Welch, telephone: 304-876-1837, e-mail: [lmwelch@frontiernet.net](mailto:lmwelch@frontiernet.net).)

**SHEPHERDSTOWN FILM SOCIETY SPRING SCHEDULE**

The Shepherdstown Film Society is pleased to announce its spring, 2018 series. Six films will be presented, starting on January 19 and running through April 20. Four films comprise our spring theme of the immigrant experience in America. One film is presented in conjunction with Shepherd University's Common Reading Program and one film is co-sponsored by the Shepherdstown Public Library.

The immigration themed films are presented through our continuing partnership with the Scarborough Society of Shepherd University. This partnership gives the Shepherdstown Film Society the financial support it needs to maintain its commitment to show free films for Shepherd students and faculty, and the Shepherdstown community.

All films will be shown on Fridays. All showings are at 7:00 p.m. in Shepherd University's Reynolds Hall. As with all the Society's films, admission will be free and each showing will be followed by a discussion. An opening night reception at The War Memorial Building will kick off the series from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, January 19.

Film fans may also be interested in Shepherd University's Lifelong Learning bus trip to Richmond for the French Film Festival on Friday March 23. Contact Karen Rice at 304-876-5135 or [krice@shepherd.edu](mailto:krice@shepherd.edu) for information.

More information on each film can be found on the Society's website at [www.shepherdstownfilmsociety.org](http://www.shepherdstownfilmsociety.org). The film schedule will be as follows:

January 19: "The Visitor"  
February 2: "The Glass Castle"  
February 16: "El Norte"  
March 9: "The Brother from Another Planet"  
April 13: "Le grand voyage"  
April 20: "A Better Life"

Details of the films follow below, in the order in which the films are being shown:

January 19: "The Visitor" (USA, 2007, 104 minutes, directed by Tom McCarthy with some dialogue in French, Arabic and Romanian). A widowed, emotionally empty college professor returns to his New York apartment after a long absence to find two immigrants living there. The immigrants thought they were renting from the owner. Owner and immigrants have been cheated by a con man. From this unpromising beginning, understanding and friendship blossom and the professor regains his soul. Richard Jenkins received an Academy Award nomination as best actor for his performance. Post-film discussion led by Winnie Bernat. Rated PG-13 for brief strong language.

February 2: "The Glass Castle" (USA, 2017, 127 minutes, directed by Destin Daniel Cretton). Based on the best-selling memoir by Jeannette Walls, this film traces her rootless family's odyssey across America. Overcoming periods of deep poverty, two wayward parents and the constant threat of homelessness, she and her siblings persevere to complete their education and build stable lives. This is a special presentation in conjunction with Shepherd University's Common Reading Program. Post-film discussion led by Dr. Sylvia Shurbutt. Rated P-13 for theme of family dysfunction, some language and smoking.

February 16: "El Norte" (USA, 1983, 141 minutes, directed by Gregory Nava, in Spanish with some dialogue in English and Quiché). A brother and sister flee a brutal civil war in Guatemala and travel through Mexico to the United States. Their dream of starting a new life propels this saga forward through a series of adversities. Critic Roger Ebert has called this film a "Grapes of Wrath" for our time. The film received an Academy Award nomination for best original screenplay. Post-film discussion led by Lex Miller. Rated R.

March 9: "The Brother from Another Planet" (USA, 1984, 108 minutes, directed by John Sayles with some dialogue in Spanish). The immigration theme is given a sci-fi twist as a space traveler falls to earth in New York harbor, visits Ellis Island and moves on to try to make sense of Manhattan. His attempt to come to terms with this brave new world is complicated by intergalactic bounty hunters who are hot on his trail. Post-film discussion led by Mary Stanley. Rated R for language, some drug content and brief nudity.

April 13: "Le grand voyage" (France, 2004, 108 minutes, directed by Ismael Ferroukhi in French and Arabic). Every able-bodied, financially able Muslim is obliged to do the Hajj, a pilgrimage to Mecca, at least once. Reda, a young thoroughly assimilated Frenchman, is asked by his more traditional father to accompany him on the Hajj. Reluctantly, Reda agrees to go and to drive them from France to Mecca by car. This showing is co-sponsored by the Shepherdstown Public Library. Post-film discussion led by Dr. Rachel Ritterbusch. Not rated

April 20: "A Better Life" (USA, 2011, 98 minutes, directed by Chris Weitz in Spanish with some dialogue in English). A Mexican immigrant struggles to make a life in Los Angeles for his teenaged son and himself. The son is drawn to local immigrant gang life and puts their future in peril. Demian Bichir received an Academy Award nomination as best actor in the role of the father. Post-film discussion led by Rebecca Ayraud. Rated PG-13 for some violence, language and drug use.

For further information about the Society and its films, visit their website or contact Lisa Welch at 304-876-1837 (email [lmwelch@frontiernet.net](mailto:lmwelch@frontiernet.net)) or Mina Goodrich at 304-876-2159.

End of Release