

Favorite Foreign Films That Can Be Used in the Classroom

Title of Film: ***Laagan – Once Upon a Time in India***

Director: Ashutosh Gowariker

Year: 2002

Rated PG

Nationality: Indian

Approximate time period: Colonial

Connections for the classroom: Caste system; cricket (the game); colonialism; clash of cultures; etc.

Title of Film: ***Baraka***

Director: Ron Fricke

Year: 1993

Not Rated

Nationality: None

Approximate time period: 1990s

Connections for the classroom: A 90 minute movie with no words or plot. It is about life on earth.

Title of Film: ***In the Time of the Butterflies***

Director: Mariano Barroso

Year: 2001

Rated: PG-13

Nationality: Dominican Republic

Approximate time period: 1960s

Connections for the classroom:

Title of Film: ***To Live***

Director: Yimou Zhang

Year: 1994

Not Rated

Nationality: Chinese

Approximate time period: 1940-1970s

Connections for the classroom: About the Cultural Revolution

Title of Film: ***Shower***

Director: Yang Zhang

Year: 1999

Rated: PG-13

Nationality: Chinese

Approximate time period: 1990d

Connections for the classroom: Change of bathhouse culture mirrors pace of modernization in China

Title of Film: ***Ran***
Director: Akira Kurosawa
Year: 1985
Rated: R
Nationality: Japanese
Approximate time period: Edo
Connections for the classroom: Intrigue, warfare, costuming – parallels to *Lear*

Title of Film: ***Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter and Spring*** (skip Summer please)
Director: Ki-duk Kim
Year: 2003
Rated: R
Nationality: Korean
Approximate time period: Modern but universal/timeless
Connections for the classroom:

Title of Film: ***Farrinelli***
Director: Gérard Corbiau
Year: 1995
Rated: R
Nationality: Italian
Approximate time period: Baroque
Connections for the classroom: Wonderful overview of the life of the Castrato.
Excellent music in the movie.

Title of Film: ***Not One Less***
Director: Yimou Zhang
Year: 1999
Rated: G
Nationality: Chinese
Approximate time period: Contemporary
Connections for the classroom: Rural China

Title of Film: ***Life is Beautiful***
Director: Roberto Benigni
Year: 1998
Rated: PG-13
Nationality: Italian
Approximate time period: WWII
Connections for the classroom: Used in a creative writing class – in connection with personal stories (biographical) – life struggles and overcoming odds.