Think your family is dysfunctional? In 1183, King Henry II of England gives his fiercely outspoken, independent queen, Eleanor, a holiday break from the castle in which he keeps her exiled, to spend Christmas with him, their sons, and other special guests—including his mistress. The ageing Henry has dangled the prospect of announcing his successor, and princes Richard, Geoffrey, and John jockey for the crown as they and others do their worst to influence the embittered king.

Deborah Deliyannis, Associate Professor of History,
will introduce the film with brief remarks

Balian, a village blacksmith in 1180s France, sets out on crusade to atone for his sins and to come to terms with the death of his wife and child. Along the way, he becomes entangled in the politics of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, and must grapple with the competing motives of love, power, and the desire to be the perfect knight. Although the film receives low marks for historical accuracy, the moral dilemma which arises from striving to stay true to one’s ideals resonates in this director’s cut.

Leah Shopkow, Associate Professor of History,
will introduce the film with brief remarks

The last chapter in Peter Jackson’s riveting Lord of the Rings trilogy, the director’s cut of The Return of the King brings to a close the quest of Frodo and his faithful sidekick Sam to destroy the ring of power that contains the life-force of the trilogy’s title character, the dark lord Sauron. In the balance hang not only the fates of friends, comrades-in-arms, and loved ones, but the very survival of the various kingdoms of Middle Earth and the sovereign kings and queens who strive to rule justly.

Maksymilian Szostalo, PhD Candidate, History,
will introduce the film with brief remarks

no charge for admission, and the Institute provides free pizza and soda