

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCES FILMS AND SCENES CATALOGUE

**Project “Intercultural Competence Development for Adult
Education” - Acronym “IntCult AE”**

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Partners:

INTRODUCTION

The catalogue "Intercultural Competences Through Films and Scenes" was created to provide useful examples of intercultural competences during moments of intercultural contact and analyse them in detail. This initiative aims to leverage the appeal of visual media to anchor relevant concepts in an interactive and engaging way.

Who It's For: The catalogue is aimed at educators, students, professionals, and anyone interested in developing intercultural competences through the analysis of films and scenes. This tool can be particularly useful in the field of adult education, offering an innovative and accessible approach to exploring and better understanding the challenges and opportunities of communication and intercultural interaction.

How It Works: The catalogue is structured to include the title, a brief description, duration, directors, release date, the relationship with cultural competences, a link to view the trailer, available languages, and specific scenes with photos characterizing the film.

This approach not only makes the catalogue a valuable resource for learning and teaching intercultural competences but also offers an innovative and engaging way to explore intercultural themes through cinema and television.

CREDITS

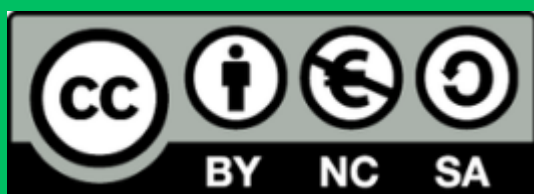
Introduction: Euro-Net

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Layout and design: Euro-Net

This Catalogue is Free to Download



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1. From Scratch (2022)

Country: USA

Director: Dennie Gordon, Nzingha Stewart

Genre: Melodrama

Year: 2022

Duration: 8 episodes

Synopsis: The artist falls in love with an Italian chef and begins a passionate journey across cultures and continents, where she will experience love, loss, rebirth, and hope. A significant aspect is the adaptation and inculturation process of an Italian in a culturally foreign country, who is “rejected” by his family and accepted by the family of his beloved.

Why the film is chosen for this project: All the episodes form a story of migration, depicting the complexity of the main character's enculturation process. The storyline highlights moments of decisive action without hesitation, traverses through alienation, and, most importantly from the project's perspective, demonstrates the different facets of stereotypes that delineate “entering” the various stages of cultural engagement.

Trailer





2. Brooklyn (2015)

Country: UK, Canada, Ireland

Director: John Crowley

Genre: Melodrama

Year: 2015

Duration: 117m

Synopsis: Eilis Lacey, a young Irish immigrant seeking a new life and happiness in 1950s Brooklyn. Her initial longing for home and her homeland soon gives way when the girl embarks on a passionate love affair. However, when she receives news from her hometown, she must make a difficult choice between two countries and two men on opposite ends of the world. Based on the bestselling novel, “Brooklyn” is a warm, wonderful story about love and finding your way home.

Why the film is chosen for this project: The film's action is set in the 1950s, but the protagonist's emotions seem current. The film can be used as a basis for discussing to what extent the process of enculturation is linked to a specific social climate and to what extent it is timeless.

Trailer





3. Arnold (2023)

Country: USA

Director: Lesley Chilcott

Genre: Biographical, Documentary

Year: 2023

Duration: 180m (3 parts, 60m each part)

Synopsis: The three-part biographical film about the life and career development of Arnold Schwarzenegger - champion bodybuilder, Hollywood icon and politician. Using archive footage and interviews conducted contemporaneously with the protagonist, it shows the path of his development from boyhood dreams, through emigration to artistic and political success. All parts of the film make up this story - Part 1: The Athlete, Part 2: The Actor and Part 3: The American.

Why the film is chosen for this project: The film documents a true-life story in which emigration and enculturation unleashes the success factor. The character of the protagonist is widely known, which makes the film an attractive material for analysis and educational discussion. The division of the story into three parts allows the different stages of enculturation to be analysed separately, becoming a rich teaching material.

Trailer





4. The Hundred-Foot Journey (2014)

Country: India, United Arab Emirates, USA

Director: Lasse Hallström

Genre: Comedy, Drama

Year: 2014

Duration: 122m

Synopsis: After fleeing political violence in India, the talented cook Hassan Kadam and his family arrive in France, where they decide to open an Indian restaurant in Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val, inspired by a chance encounter with a kind local, Marguerite. This decision sparks a fierce rivalry with Madame Mallory's nearby haute cuisine restaurant, where Marguerite works as a sous-chef. The competition intensifies until Hassan, Marguerite, and Madame Mallory find a way to bridge their differences, leading to a blend of cultures and cuisines that transforms their lives and the community.

Why the film is chosen for this project: Through the characters' interactions, the movie explores themes of cultural diversity, prejudice, and the importance of understanding and appreciating different cultures. It provides opportunities for students to explore and discuss topics such as cultural identity, stereotypes, intercultural communication, and the benefits of embracing diversity.

Trailer





5. I am Dublin (2015)

Country: Sweden

Director: Ahmed Abdullahi, David Aronowitsch, Sharmarke Binyusuf , Anna Persson

Genre: Documentary

Year: 2015

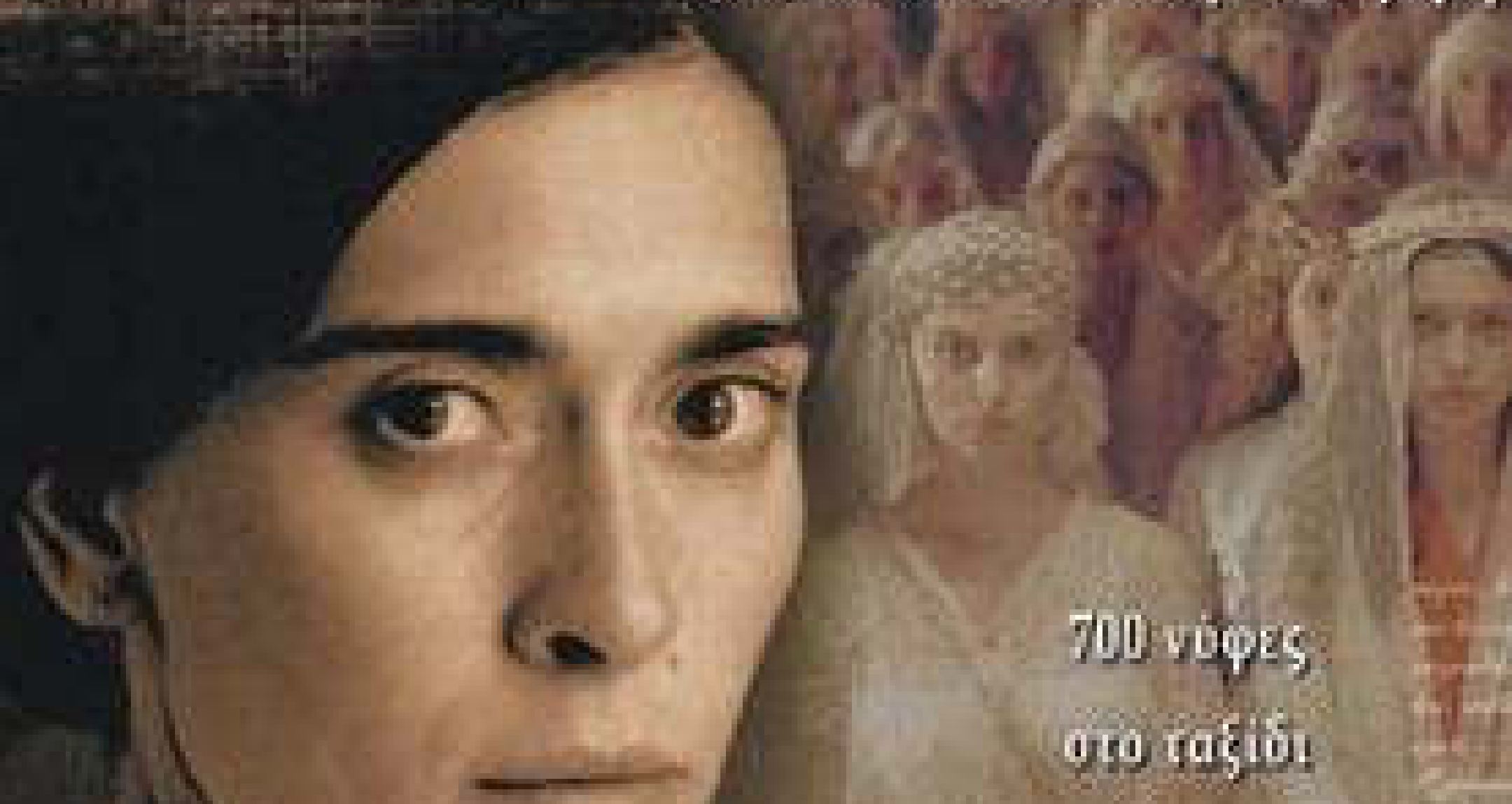
Duration: 80m

Synopsis: Ahmed lives in hiding in Sweden after fleeing from Somalia. He has been in Europe for six years. When Ahmed arrived on the Italian island of Lampedusa, he was forced to leave fingerprints. In that moment, he became a so-called "Dublin case".

Why the film is chosen for this project: This movie is a Swedish documentary telling a story of a Somali stuck in the asylum process. Although it may be a bit slow and "raw", it is made by those who faced it.

Trailer





6. Brides (2004)

Country: Greece

Director: Pantelis Voulgaris

Genre: Drama

Year: 2004

Duration: 128m

Synopsis: Set in the turbulent social and political climate of 1922, the film is based on the historical reality of thousands of mail order brides going to America to marry emigrant workers. The central character is the seamstress Niki who is sent from her remote Greek island home by her family, in order to become the wife of a Greek tailor in Chicago.

Why the film is chosen for this project: "Brides" delves into the immigration journey, highlighting the transitional phase from the familiar to the unknown through the lens of women forced into marriage. It examines the protagonists' identities, shaped by their socio-cultural backgrounds and the societal conditions driving their migration. The film portrays the clash between traditional roles and new-world ideals during this voyage, exploring themes of tradition, identity, freedom, and justice, as these women unwittingly become pioneers of a new Western life, driven by necessity rather than choice.

Trailer





7. Bend It Like Beckham (2002)

Country: UK

Director: Gurinder Chadha

Genre: Comedy, Drama, Romance

Year: 2002

Duration: 112m

Synopsis: Two ambitious girls, despite their parents' wishes, have their hearts set on careers in professional football. “Bend It Like Beckham” is a heartwarming charmer about a young girl's search for identity in 21st Century England. Like “Fiddler on the Roof”, “Beckham” deals with the painful struggles that tradition-bound cultures must go through as they enter a looser, more freedom-loving modern world. The culture in this case, is that of immigrant and first-generation Indians living in Great Britain.

Why the film is chosen for this project: "Bend It Like Beckham" explores gender roles, cultural expectations, and pursuing dreams through Jess's story, a young Indian woman defying norms to play soccer. It prompts discussions on gender equality and cultural barriers, highlighting the tension between personal desires and societal pressures. The film delves into identity, multiculturalism, and the importance of inclusivity, portraying the challenges and triumphs of navigating between two worlds.

Trailer





8. **Fuocoammare** (2016)

Country: Italy

Director: Gianfranco Rosi

Genre: Documentary

Year: 2016

Duration: 108m

Synopsis: Shot on the Sicilian Island of Lampedusa during the European migrant crisis and sets the migrants' dangerous Mediterranean crossing against a background of the ordinary life of the islander.

Why the film is chosen for this project: Gianfranco Rosi tells the drama of the tragedies at sea, the heroism of hospitality, and the “fleshy” skeleton - because it is made up, above all, of faces and gestures - of a special island such as Lampedusa. To do so, however, the director who has just been elected winner of the Special Silver Ribbon, goes down one level concerning the traditional media narrative of the landings. When he does, beyond the horizon line he finds the horror of the bodies trapped in the hold of a dilapidated boat and the claustrophobia of a journey whose reasons rhyme exclusively with the word despair.

Trailer





9. Minari (2020)

Country: South Korea, USA

Director: Lee Isaac Chung

Genre: Drama

Year: 2020

Duration: 115m

Synopsis: A Korean American family moves to an Arkansas farm in search of its own American dream. Amidst the challenges of new life in the strange and rugged Ozarks, they discover the undeniable resilience of family and what really makes a home.

Why the film is chosen for this project: This blend of cultures within a single family encapsulates the essence of interculturality, highlighting the struggles and joys of maintaining one's cultural roots while embracing a new identity. "Minari" not only explores the immigrant experience, but also delves into themes of family, ambition, and the universal quest for belonging, making it a rich subject for discussions on intercultural dynamics.

Trailer





10. Elemental (2023)

Country: USA

Director: Peter Sohn

Genre: Animation, Romantic, Comedy, Drama

Year: 2023

Duration: 101m

Synopsis: In "Elemental", Ember Lumen, a lively fire element, and Wade Ripple, a tranquil water element, embark on an adventure in a city where nature's elements are personified. Their unlikely bond forms as they join forces to save Ember's father's convenience store, navigating through a series of challenges that blend humor, romance, and drama. This heartwarming tale explores the harmony and understanding between contrasting forces of nature.

Why the film is chosen for this project: Elemental is, first and foremost, a movie about migration. The movie cleverly uses a straightforward metaphor in a unique way that explicitly discuss how the characters are not bound to naturalized beliefs that seem to be only natural. The movie takes its time to discuss the migration process and what it means to few unwelcomed, even if not explicitly so. It is a beautiful example of dismantling cultural stereotypes while tackling particular experiences of second-generation migrants and their position in-between two worlds.

Trailer





11. Worlds Apart (2015)

Country: UK, Greece

Director: Christoforos Papakaliati

Genre: Drama

Year: 2015

Duration: 114m

Synopsis: The film presents three stories of cross-cultural romance, representing three different generations, during the socio-economic upheaval that has prevailed in Greece over the last decade. As a seemingly endless wave of fervent nationalism sweeps through Greece and challenges every love story, we follow the characters' difficult journey of integration.

Why the film is chosen for this project: In all three relationships there are visible and invisible societal and cultural barriers, that push couples of mixed or opposing heritages apart. Although differences, hostility and non-acceptance are still present, the film illustrates the idea of embracing each other's differences, not fearing them. The film provides opportunities to discuss how the inculturation process is impacted by the change of values in a politically and economically tormented society.

Trailer





12. Once (2007)

Country: Ireland
Director: John Carney
Genre: Musical, Romance
Year: 2008
Duration: 86m

Synopsis: A vacuum repairman (Glen Hansard) moonlights as a street musician and hopes for his big break. One day a Czech immigrant (Marketa Irglova), who earns a living selling flowers, approaches him with the news that she is also an aspiring singer-songwriter. The pair decide to collaborate, and the songs that they compose reflect the story of their blossoming love.

Why the film is chosen for this project: "Once" showcases the power of cultural exchange and collaboration, as the main characters come together through their shared love of music despite their cultural differences, fostering a message of unity.

Trailer





13. Shun Li and the Poet (2011)

Country: Italy

Director: Andrea Segre

Genre: Drama

Year: 2011

Duration: 98m

Synopsis: “Shun Li and the Poet” narrates the friendship between Shun Li, a Chinese immigrant working as a bartender in Chioggia, and Bepi, a Slavic fisherman known as “the poet”. Their relationship provides a poetic escape from solitude, creating a silent dialogue between diverse cultures. However, their bond stirs unease within their communities, highlighting fears of the new and unknown. This story explores identity, belonging, and the transformative power of friendship in a divided world.

Why the film is chosen for this project: “Shun Li and the Poet” succeeds in giving a human face to immigration and the sacrifices made by foreign workers across Europe, in the hope of giving their families a better life. Faced with a cultural divide, Shun Li’s and Bepi’s fates are different, yet their story is a captivating one.

Trailer





14. The Big Sick (2017)

Country: USA

Director: Michael Showalter

Genre: Drama, Comedy

Year: 2017

Duration: 80m

Synopsis: Kumail is a Pakistani comic, who meets an American graduate student named Emily at one of his stand-up shows. As their relationship blossoms, he soon becomes worried about what his traditional Muslim parents will think of her. When Emily suddenly comes down with an illness that leaves her in a coma, Kumail finds himself developing a bond with her deeply concerned mother and father.

Why the film is chosen for this project: The film provides a rare and authentic portrayal of a cross-cultural relationship involving a Pakistani immigrant, highlighting the importance of diverse stories and characters in mainstream cinema. It offers viewers insights into the challenges and dynamics within immigrant families, showcasing cultural nuances and traditions, thus promoting cultural understanding and empathy.

Trailer





15. Io Capitano (2023)

Country: Italy, Belgium

Director: Matteo Garrone

Genre: Drama

Year: 2023

Duration: 123m

Synopsis: Io capitano narrates the epic stories of two cousins, who leave Dakar and set out for Europe. In this contemporary odyssey, the young men must overcome myriad obstacles in their struggle to survive in the desert and at the sea.

Why the film is chosen for this project: A tale of formation, rather than denunciation, which pushes the gaze of the spectator accustomed to listening to the reports of numbers and landings, to remember, how behind the cold data there are faces, aspirations, lives that are very similar to ours.

Rights are indeed denied within the odyssey of a journey that everything 'disrupts', except the 'stubbornness' of being able to make it. The feature film is certainly not lacking in terrible and violent reality, but it exudes a humanity that reminds us how in this world we are all alike; some are simply luckier because they were born in better conditions.

Trailer



SCENES

1. Dune
2. The Big Sick
3. His House
4. His House
5. Io Capitano
6. Once
7. Brooklyn
8. The Swimmers
9. Elemental
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11. Elemental
12. Minari
13. Terraferma
14. Terraferma
15. Bend It Like Beckham



1. Dune (2021)

Country: USA, Canada

Director: Denis Villeneuve

Genre: Action, Adventure, Drama, Sci-Fi

Time stamp: 50:50

Short description of the scene: An ambassador of a local group from a desert planet, where water is immensely scarce, arrives for a meeting and is somewhat rudely received by the words "I'll respect the dignity of any man who respects mine". He spits on the ground. As the guards are about to violently react to something they understand to be hostile and disrespectful behaviour, a culture mediator thanks the ambassador for sharing his precious humidity as a sign of good faith in the encounter. And spits on the ground himself.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: Cultural behaviors are often grounded in reality. Since realities differ, social norms and the meaning given to actions may differ as well. In this case, the planet is dry to the point where people need especial suits that recycle their body fluids to maintain their body hydrated. To spit is a form of personal sacrifice and an indicative of respect.



2. The Big Sick (2017)

Country: USA

Director: Michael Showalter

Genre: Drama, Comedy

Time stamp: 08:30

Short description of the scene: In this scene, Kumail and his American girlfriend, after experiencing an intense love story that has made them happy and led them to live together, face a difficult obstacle. Their harmony is shattered due to Kumail's family traditions, tied to his country of origin, Pakistan, which dictates that he is meant for an arranged marriage. These family pressures force Kumail to reveal to his girlfriend that their relationship has no future.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: This scene poignantly highlights the cultural divisions that can strain personal relationships. Despite the immediate pain, the narrative promises a journey towards understanding and reconciliation. As the story unfolds, these obstacles are navigated and ultimately overcome, culminating in a resolution that bridges the cultural divides.



3. His House (scene 1) (2020)

Country: UK

Director: Remi Weekes

Genre: Drama, Comedy

Time stamp: 17:02

Short description of the scene: A refugee couple escapes from war-torn South Sudan and settles in an English town. Bol decides to leave the house and get to know his neighbourhood. While getting a haircut, he asks the barber various things about his whereabouts, passes by the church, and picks up a box of basic necessities that they have for refugees. He ends up in a pub where he finds a way to entertain himself by watching football and singing along with the other patrons.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: In this scene we see the hero's personal effort to find a point of contact with the British culture at all levels. Without questioning his identity, he becomes a clear example of a positive attitude towards acculturation.



4. His House (scene 2) (2020)

Country: UK

Director: Remi Weekes

Genre: Drama, Comedy

Time stamp: 07:00

Short description of the scene: While the couple are having dinner, Rial retains their daughter's necklace, dresses in colourful clothes, and rather than using a table, sits on the floor to eat.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: In the scene we clearly see different kinds of attitude of the couple, Bol and Rial, towards a different culture. Bol tries to assimilate: he tries to get to know the people in his neighbourhood, sings football songs, asks Rial to use utensils rather than her hands when they eat, and even changes how he dresses. Bol wants to prove to the government that he and Rial, his wife, belong in the UK. Rial, however, clings to their culture.



5. Io Capitano (2020)

Country: Italy, Belgium

Director: Matteo Garrone

Genre: Drama

Time stamp: 00:35

Short description of the scene: When the two boys left Senegal and embarked on the journey to Europe, they found themselves in the Sahara Desert, threatened by the hostile conditions of the desert and by attacks from the Libyan mafia. The boy protagonist tries to save an oppressed woman from the long journey in the desert.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: The scene tells of the danger of the journey driven by the need to dream of an elsewhere of well-being, where often facing the danger of death does not mean being inhuman.



6. Once (2007)

Country: Ireland

Director: John Carney

Genre: Musical, Romance

Time stamp: 00:30

Short description of the scene: On the streets of Dublin, an Irish street musician meets a Czech girl (also with a past as a pianist). The two immediately become friends. The educational scene occurs when she opens the doors of her house to the man. She lives with her little fatherless daughter, and her mother who doesn't speak English. In a situation of clear hardship due to emigration, the man, instead of feeling hindered by possible barriers and cultural differences, asks the girl to play with him and form a band.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: The scene is a clear example of social inclusion through music that permeates the entire film and demonstrates all its power in breaking down cultural differences.



7. Brides (2004)

Country: Greece

Director: Pantelis Voulgaris

Genre: Drama

Time stamp: 45:20

Short description of the scene: The two spend time together. Norman gives Niki a book. She gives him black olives from her village. They talk about their parents. He shows her the magic of making photos. He finds out she has never got any love letters... They just can't help falling for each other; yet Niki is not a daydreamer... When a woman wants to read her "kismet" on her palm she goes: "No need. I know mine." Niki does not dream about eloping with Norman, or her future romantic life with Prodromos. Her only dream is about nice fabrics, a lot of customers and a Singer Machine.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: This scene tells the first connection between two different culture and reveals the dream of the emigration and emancipation and the woman.

8.The Swimmers (2022)

Country: UK

Director: John Crowley

Genre: Drama

Time stamp: 1:52:21

Short description of the scene: Syria trained to compete at the Olympics. When they finally migrate in Germany Yusra pursues her athletic goals while Sara realizes that it is time for her to discover what he wants from her new life. In this scene she adopts a more modern appearance by cutting her hair and wearing flash clothes and jewellery. Then she announces to her sister her decision to leave Germany and offer help as a volunteer to refugees who arrive at the Greek islands.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: The scene gives a very clear picture of the life of a refugee who runs away from her home to save her life only to find a vision and her place in the world. Apparently, Sara rejects the plans her family has for her and makes her own decisions about her future which are being attuned with the historical needs of our time.



9. Elemental (scene 1) (2023)

Country: USA

Director: Peter Sohn

Genre: Animation, Romantic, Comedy, Drama

Time stamp: 48:00

Short description of the scene: At dinner, the person from the mainstream culture compliments how the other person speaks very clearly. Uncomfortably, she responds that that's what happens when that's your first language that you spoke your entire life.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: This scene showcases two things. 1 - how second-generation migrants are treated as "the other" even when no harm is intended. 2 - It exemplifies how microaggressions work and are a good segway for explaining how small, apparently innocuous and/or well-intentioned actions carry a negative connotation.



10. Elemental (scene 2) (2023)

Country: USA

Director: Peter Sohn

Genre: Animation, Romantic, Comedy, Drama

Time stamp: 1:00:00

Short description of the scene: Ember discuss her feelings of obligation towards her parents and the sacrifices they made by leaving their homeland in search of a better future for her. This is complemented by a later scene where, while reflecting on her unwillingness to inherit the shop, she says "the only way to make up for such an immense sacrifice is sacrifice your own life".

Why the scene is chosen for this project: This scene showcases particular pressured that second generation migrant may endure.



11. Elemental (scene 3) (2023)

Country: USA

Director: Peter Sohn

Genre: Animation, Romantic, Comedy, Drama

Time stamp: 1:04:00

Short description of the scene: Ember's father tell the story about the moment he left Fireland. How he bowed to his father, but he did not return the sentiment. And how he carries the burden of their family not understanding that he is still "fire" even after the left.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: This scene can be an anchor to discuss identity after migrating.



12. Minari (2023)

Country: South Korea,USA

Director: Lee Isaac Chung

Genre: Drama

Time stamp: 29:00

Short description of the scene: The grandmother offers her daughter some food she brought from Korea. The daughter cries.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: The scene is a simple illustration on how foreign-born people may miss the little things that felt like home.



13. Terraferma (scene 1) (2011)

Country: Italy

Director: Emanuele Crialese

Genre: Drama

Time stamp: 46:00

Short description of the scene: The village discuss the consequences of a man having their ship seized by authorities for helping migrants who were a drift at the sea. A conflict arises between saving people, protecting the local economy, and the effect on tourism.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: This scene illustrates how inhuman the legal system (and authorities) may deal with migration and how locals may be targeted for helping people in need.



14. Terraferma (scene 2) (2011)

Country: Italy

Director: Emanuele Crialese

Genre: Drama

Time stamp: 00:56

Short description of the scene: The woman describes how her situation was in Libia, how she escaped with her son, how she was adrift for days without food, and how several boats passed by them without offering any help.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: This scene intensely and poignantly represents the challenges, difficulties, and sufferings faced by migrants in their desperate attempt to seek a better life. The woman's story, describing her escape from Libya with her son, their struggle for survival without food, and the pain of being ignored by various boats, highlights the harsh reality of the obstacles and barriers migrants must confront. This scene underscores the need for empathy, understanding, and action within the context of interculturality and migration issues, emphasizing the importance of human solidarity in the face of divisions created by borders and cultures.



15. Bend It Like Beckham (2002)

Country: UK

Director: Gurinder Chadha

Genre: Comedy, Drama, Romance

Time stamp: 38:42

Short description of the scene: Two friends embrace each other at a pedestrian crossing, which is perceived by friends of the parents of one of them as contact with a boyfriend from the country where they now live. The girl is accused of immoral behaviour, which brings negative consequences for her family.

Why the scene is chosen for this project: This scene is showing how behaviour that is ordinary for Europeans can be misinterpreted by people from Indian culture.

CONCLUSIONS

The Catalogue of Films and Scenes for Intercultural Competence is a valuable and effective tool for educators aiming to promote intercultural understanding and competence. Here is how its value and usefulness can be summarised:

1. **Educational Value:** This catalogue is a valuable educational resource, offering teachers and students concrete examples of intercultural interactions and their associated complexities, stimulating deep reflection.
2. **Diversity and Inclusion:** The selection of films embraces a wide variety of cultures and settings, which is essential to illustrate the diversity of human experience and promote inclusion.
3. **Practical Tool for Discussion:** The films and scenes were chosen for their potential to generate discussion on cultural differences, adaptation, identity, and the challenges of intercultural communication. This makes the catalogue a practical tool to trigger meaningful conversations in educational or training contexts.
4. **Cultural Sensitivity:** Focusing on intercultural competence, the catalogue promotes cultural sensitivity and empathy, fundamental skills in an increasingly globalized world.
5. **Multimedia Approach to Learning:** The use of films and scenes emphasizes the importance of visual storytelling in teaching and learning, offering an engaging and memorable way to understand and reflect on intercultural issues.
6. **Reflection on Real-World Challenges:** The films have been carefully selected to reflect real-world intercultural challenges, preparing viewers for real-life interactions and the emotional complexities these can entail.
7. **Accessibility and Engagement:** The inclusion of multimedia content, such as trailers and potentially QR codes for easy access, demonstrates a commitment to making the material accessible and engaging for users.

This catalogue thus offers itself as an indispensable resource for educators wishing to explore intercultural issues and develop interpersonal and comprehension skills in diverse contexts, facilitating dynamic and interactive learning through the power of film.

DISCLAIMER

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