

## **Spring 2023 International Film Series**

### **Global Women Warriors**

**Monday, Feb. 13; 6:30pm; Wilder Pavilion, AAC and on Zoom: meeting ID 955 5691 1227**

***The Woman King* (2022-U.S./South Africa/Benin-135 min.) directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood**

**\*\*\*co-sponsored by Bentley's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion\*\*\***

In the 1800s, the all-female Agojie warriors will protect, to their death, the West African kingdom of Dahomey. Their physical prowess and fierce defense of Dahomey inspires terror in foreign and domestic adversaries. In addition to recruiting and training the girls who will continue Dahomey's defense, General Nanisca leads with intelligence, ability, and awareness of how to prepare herself and others. The most stunning recruit, Nawi, poses her own challenges and problems. She and Nanisca will require several confrontations before they can move forward comfortably. As General Nanisca, Viola Davis presents extraordinary strength and steely composure. As Nawi, Thuso Mbedu holds her own against the formidable Viola Davis. As King Ghezo, John Boyega has charisma, and Lashana Lynch as Izogie adds a vivid, three-dimensional character, often rare in action films that rely on simplistic ones. Only the slavers lack any complexity, determined only to prosper, exhibiting an indifference to human suffering. In fact, such slave trade existed from about 1600 through 1904 in what is now Benin.

(<https://kdhx.org/articles/film-reviews/2932-%E2%80%98the-woman-king%E2%80%99-triumphs-with-action-and-issues>)

**Tuesday, March 21; 6:30pm; Wilder Pavilion, AAC and on Zoom: meeting ID 941 4315 9074**

***A Fantastic Woman* (2017-Chile/Spain/Germany-104 min.) directed by Sebastián Lelio**

Marina and Orlando are in love and planning for the future. After celebrating Marina's birthday one evening, Orlando falls seriously ill. Marina rushes him to the emergency room, but he passes away just after arriving at the hospital. Instead of being able to mourn her lover, suddenly Marina is treated with suspicion. The doctors and Orlando's family don't trust her. A woman detective investigates Marina to see if she was involved in his death. Orlando's ex-wife forbids her from attending the funeral. And to make matters worse, Orlando's son threatens to throw Marina out of the flat she shared with Orlando. Marina is a trans woman and for most of Orlando's family, her sexual identity is an aberration, a perversion. Marina struggles for the right to be herself. She battles the very same forces that she has spent a lifetime fighting just to become the woman she is now - a complex, strong, forthright, and fantastic woman.

(<https://www.sonyclassics.com/afantasticwoman/>)

**Wednesday, Apr. 12; 6:30pm; Wilder Pavilion, AAC and on Zoom: meeting ID 964 4291 5525**

***Woman at War* (2018-Iceland/France/Ukraine-101 min.) directed by Benedikt Erlingsson**

**\*\*\*co-sponsored by Bentley's Office of Sustainability\*\*\***

Halla is a fifty-year-old independent woman. But behind the scenes of a quiet routine, she leads a double life as a passionate environmental activist. Known to others only by her alias "The Woman of the Mountain," Halla secretly wages a one-woman-war on the local aluminum industry. As Halla's actions grow bolder, from petty vandalism to outright industrial sabotage, she succeeds in pausing the negotiations between the Icelandic government and the corporation building a new aluminum smelter. But right as she begins planning her biggest and boldest operation yet, she receives an unexpected letter that changes everything. Her application to adopt a child has finally been accepted and there is a little girl waiting for her in Ukraine. As Halla prepares to abandon her role as saboteur and savior of the Highlands to fulfill her dream of becoming a mother, she decides to plot one final attack to deal the aluminum industry a crippling blow.

(<http://www.womanatwarfilm.com/synopsis/>)