



International Food Films: Culture and Relationships

Presented by Rita and Bill Hadden

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8-week Outline (key film excerpts shown in class)

- 1. Eat Drink Man Woman (Taiwan, 1994)
- 2. Like Water for Chocolate (Mexico, 1992)
- 3. The Lunch Box (India, 2013)
- 4. Julie and Julia (NYC, France, 2009)
- 5. Tampopo (Japan, 1985)
- 6. The Hundred Foot Journey (France, India 2014)
- 7. Babette's Feast (Denmark, 1987)
- 8. Big Night (U.S., 1996)
- QUESTIONS?

Like Water for Chocolate (Mexico)

Food for Passion

Like Water for Chocolate (1992)

Award/recognition:

- Earned 10 [Ariel Awards](#) including [Best Picture](#).
- Nominated for a [Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language Film](#).

Director & Producer: Alfonso Arau.

Settings: Rio Grande, Mexico; Eagle Pass, TX.

Time Periods: 1885, 1910, 1934.

Like Water for Chocolate (2)

MAIN CHARACTERS:

- **Sisters: Rosaura, Gertrudis, Tita;**
- **Cook, maids: Nacha, Chenchá;**
- **Pedro; Dr. John Brown; Alex Brown: son of John Brown;**
- **Older Esperanza: daughter of Rosaura and Pedro, wife of Alex Brown, niece of Tita;**
- **Young Esperanza: daughter of Esperanza, granddaughter of Rosaura, grandniece of Tita.**

Like Water for Chocolate (3)

Synopsis:

Passionate Tita is in love with Pedro, but her controlling mother forbids her from marrying him. When Pedro marries her sister, Tita throws herself into her cooking -- and discovers she can transfer her emotions through the food she prepares.

Like Water for Chocolate (4)

Questions for discussion:

- What effect does the family tradition that the youngest daughter remains home to care for an aging mother have on the sisters and on the plot?
- How does Tita's cooking affect her guests?
- What role(s) does FOOD play in the lives of the main characters in this film?



For questions and information, contact:

Rita Hadden
rhadden@gmail.com
202-244-3268

Bill Hadden
wchadden@gmail.com
202-250-1942