



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?

The Lunch Box (India, 2013)

- **Award/recognition:**
 - Screened at [International Critics' Week](#) at the [2013 Cannes Film Festival](#), and later won the Critics Week Viewers Choice Award also known as Grand Rail d'Or. It was shown at the [2013 Toronto International Film Festival](#).
 - Nominated for [Best Film Not in the English Language](#) at the [2015 British Academy Film Awards](#).

The Lunch Box (2)

Director: Ritesh Batra.

Setting: Mumbai, India.

MAIN CHARACTERS:

- Ila: young wife seeking her husband's attention by cooking delicious lunches for him;
- Saajan: older man who receives Ila's lunches by mistake;
- Shaikh: trainee at insurance company;
- Auntie: upstairs neighbor.

The Lunch Box (3)

Synopsis:

A mistaken delivery in Mumbai's famously efficient lunchbox delivery system connects a young housewife to an older man in the dusk of his life as they build a fantasy world together through notes in the lunchbox.

The Lunch Box (4)

- **Questions for discussion:**
 - For each main character at the start of the film, what are the most important relationships in their lives?
 - How does Shaikh use food to develop his relationship with Saajan?
 - What do you think of the ending of this film and why?



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