



Alliance Française of Lynchburg Newsletter – March 2010

FRENCH FILM: WELCOME



**Saturday, March 13, at 7:30 pm, at Riverviews
Artspace. Refreshments at 7:00 pm.**

This is a free event for Alliance Française members.
\$5.00 fee for non-members and guests.

Winner of the **2009 European Parliament LUX Film Prize**, *Welcome* is set in Calais, France. Bilal, a 17-year-old Kurdish refugee has spent the last three months traveling across Europe in an attempt to reunite with his girlfriend who recently emigrated to England. The end is in sight when Bilal reaches the north coast of France, where he can literally see the white cliffs of Dover across the English Channel. But his journey comes to an abrupt halt as local authorities prevent him from going any further. Bilal devises a plan to swim across the bitterly cold waters of the Channel, and heads to the local swimming pool to commence his training. It is here that he crosses paths with Simon, a middle-aged swimming instructor. The two men discover that they have much in common, and their friendship develops into a strong bond that will prove necessary for both men to realize their dreams for a happy future. A huge box office success in its native France, writer-director Philippe Lioret has created an absorbing story that speaks not only of the social issues of the day, but of the very nature of the human spirit.

<http://www.filmmovement.com/filmcatalog/index.asp?MerchandiseID=219> (See details & a trailer for the film.)

VCU FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL, RICHMOND

Mark your calendar for this amazing opportunity to view French films (includes 12 feature length films and 14 short films), meet French actors and filmmakers, and mingle with thousands of fellow Francophones. Passes for the entire weekend are \$115 for adults and \$65 for students. Go on line for more information and schedules (www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu). Group transportation or car pools for a Saturday day-trip could be arranged if there is sufficient interest.



Dates: Thursday March 25 – Sunday, March 28

CONVERSATIONS WITH SOLANGE - *Note two different times.*

Advanced: Mar. 4, 18, Apr. 1, 15, 29, May 13, 27, 4:00 – 5:00 pm
Beg / Mid: Mar. 11, 25, Apr. 8, 22, May 6, 20, 5:00 – 6:00 pm



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Two *Conversation With Solange* salons are continuing. One session is an opportunity for **intermediate to advanced** speakers to practice their French in a conversational, casual setting. The other is targeted for **advanced beginners to mid level** (e.g., *minimum* of one year of French). Both groups will meet at Macon Bookstore, in the back room, 2480 Rivermont Avenue. Both sessions are free to Alliance Française members, but participants are asked to purchase a beverage, snack, newspaper, etc., since this is a place of business, and we are using their space every week.



FRENCH CLASSES: BEGINNER, BUSINESS FRENCH

Classes are already underway for this semester. For any questions, you are welcome to email Michelle Gabathuler, president of AF de Lynchburg, at mmgabathuler@comcast.net.



WATCH FUTURE NEWSLETTERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Le Concours de L'Alliance Française, Thursday, April 29, 5:00 pm, at Virginia Episcopal School

Assemblée Générale de l'Alliance Française de Lynchburg, Thursday, May 20, 2010

And dates TBD:

- Historical Lecture
- Et...?
- Immersion Dinners

ATTRACTIONS PASSEES

MARDI GRAS / CARNEVALE, February 21

A group of Alliance Française and Dante Alighieri members, and their guests, enjoyed a festive evening with costumes, food, drink, music and dancing.

