

PLATO International Film Festival Summer, 2017

(Thursdays 9:30-12, Grand Hall, Capital Lakes, Madison.)

6/15. The Butterfly (France, 2003) All Julien wants to do in his retirement is collect and preserve butterflies. However, neighbor 8-year-old Elsa stows away on a field trip to find a rare specimen. 80 minutes.

6/22. Piku. India. 2015. Dir. Shoojit Sircar. 122 min.

A strong-minded (to say the least) young woman battles her equally strong-minded father and a taxi driver gets caught up in the struggle and learns to be strong-minded in turn. A strong-minded comedy with no false notes.

6/29. The Second Mother (Brazil, 2015) As the longtime housekeeper for a wealthy family, Val is committed to the ideas of loyalty and respect. But her values are challenged when her estranged daughter - who has a very different attitude about class - comes to visit. 112 minutes.

7/6. Like Father, Like Son. Japan. 2013. Dir. Hirokazu Kore-ida. 122 Min.

Two sons are switched at birth and the error is discovered years later. The families, from markedly different socio-economic levels, try to work things out, and the boys get involved as well. Not a comedy; not a tragedy – a study in values.

7/13. Belle UK 2013. Dir. Amma Asante. 105 minutes.

Based on a true story and a noted painting, yes, a young woman of color is brought to late 18th century England. Her family, society, and finally the law, try to figure out what to do with her. The kicker comes in the end titles.

7/20. Amazing Grace. UK. 2006. Dir. Michael Apted. 111 minutes.

A seemingly vapid young lord-to-be, played by a vivid Joan Gruffud, is drawn into the complex moral and economic issue of slavery, and pursues the cause through the years, buoyed by the famous hymn.

7/27. The Grocer's Son (France, 2007) When his father becomes ill, a young man takes over the family's traveling grocery. However, he doesn't relate well to his customers until his girlfriend intervenes. 96 minutes.

8/2. King of the Hill (USA, 1993) A young boy's adventures while living alone in a run-down hotel in 1930's depression-era Midwest. Based on a memoir by A. E. Hotchner. 103 minutes.