



# Movies With Spirit

*A Humanity's Team Grassroots Activity*

*Supported by the Ulster County Religious Council, Kingston Area Council of Churches,  
Ministers' Alliance of Ulster County and Mid-Hudson Islamic Association*

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## 2009–2010 Calendar

**Sept. 26, OUTSOURCED (2006), Woodstock Sufi Center/Flowing Spirit Healing, 33 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock** — Director John Jeffcoat's gentle and illuminating satire-romance about presumptions and culture in a global economy tells the story of Todd Anderson (Josh Hamilton), a 32-year-old manager of a Seattle customer call center, who learns his entire Order Fulfillment department is closing and the services will be outsourced to India, where local workers can field customer calls more cheaply. Adding insult to injury, he must travel to India to train his replacement and get the new operators up to speed. At first nonplussed by his unfamiliar Indian surroundings, Todd is later disarmed by the friendliness of his likable replacement, Puro (Asif Basra), and charmed by opinionated co-worker Asha (Ayesha Dharker). Winner of 16 film-festival awards, the film provides a human touch to the effects of cultural differences on work, friendship and love and on the global economy's impact on national and personal identity. *Rated PG-13 for some sexual content.*

**Oct. 17, WALL-E (2008), Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church, 122 Clinton Ave., Kingston** — A Pixar Animation Studios ecological parable directed by Andrew Stanton about the last robot left on Earth assigned to clean up the environmental mess that humans made of our planet. Wall-E (voiced by Ben Burtt) dutifully compacts trash, but develops some oddly human habits and ideas. When a spaceship called the Axiom, containing Earth's evacuated population (since the planet was long ago deemed too toxic to ever support life again), sends an advanced feminine probe robot named Eve (Elissa Knight) to Earth, Wall-E is instantly smitten and tries to impress Eve with his collection of human memorabilia. Little does Wall-E realize that he also shows Eve a secret that could save Earth and make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind once more. When Eve realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all. But after centuries alone in space, Wall-E can't stand the thought of losing the only friend he's ever known and eagerly follows her into the deepest reaches of space on the adventure of a lifetime. Along the way, the friendly trash-collecting robot who has always known what he was made for gradually begins to understand what he was meant for. A great family film with emotional purity and a poignant message about the folly of human greed and its potential effects on Earth and the human race. *Rated G.*

**Nov. 21, AFTER LIFE (1998), Woodstock Jewish Congregation, 1682 Glasco Turnpike, Saugerties** — Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-Eda's unpretentious, endearing film, blending documentary and fiction, takes place in a way station (which looks like an old junior high school)

between life and death, where 22 newly dead people are asked, over the course of a week, to choose just one memory to take into the afterlife. Dedicated caseworkers tease out self-deceptions as well as real epiphanies from the 22 lives. An old woman remembers reuniting with her husband on a crowded bridge after World War II; a man recollects the breeze felt on a tram ride the day before a summer vacation; an executive faces his own treachery. Remembering becomes a courageous act. And we see in this award-winning and critically acclaimed film how memories are distorted, improved on and revised. *Japanese with English subtitles. Not rated— some material may not be suitable for children under 13.*

**Dec. 19, MILLIONS (2004), Reformed Church of Port Ewen, 160 Salem St., Port Ewen** — A heartfelt, emotionally delicate children's movie about life and death and all the parts in between. Starting anew after the death of their mother, 9-year-old Anthony (Lewis McGibbon) is ever-practical, while his brother Damian (Alex Etel) uses imagination, fantasy and faith to make sense of his confusing world. When a suitcase full of money falls out of the sky at Damian's feet, it sends the boys on an adventure of a lifetime that leads them to realize that true wealth has nothing to do with money. *Rated PG for mild violence, adult language and a discreet suggestion of adult sexuality.*

**Jan. 16 — IF I NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN (1997), St. John's Episcopal Church, 207 Albany Ave., Kingston** — Juan Pablo Villasenor's award-winning comedy blends humor and sentiment as it chronicles the road adventures of a group of elderly musicians who escape from a Mexico City nursing home in search of a common dream of playing their music in public. Along the way they confront the police, drug lords, nursing home authorities, their families and others determined to destroy their only change to perform. The compelling, funny and inspiring film — which won six Ariel awards, Mexico's equivalent of the Oscars — is about life, death and the quest for happiness. *Spanish with English subtitles. Not rated.*

**Feb. 20, WONDROUS OBLIVION (2003), Jewish Congregation of New Paltz Community Center, 30 N. Chestnut St. (Route 32), New Paltz** — David Wiseman (Sam Smith), an 11-year-old Jewish boy living in a bigoted working-class London neighborhood in 1960, dreams of being a world-class cricket player, even though he is one of the worst players at his school and is ridiculed by his classmates for it. David is shocked and delighted when Dennis (Delroy Lindo), a Jamaican laborer, and his lively and big-hearted family move in next door, install a cricket pitch and offer to coach him. Against the wishes of his parents — who were immigrants from wartime Germany and suffered bigotry in Britain — David spends a lot of time next door, becoming very friendly with Dennis's daughter, Judy (Leonie Elliott), and improving his cricket game. Director Paul Morrison's film reminds us of the magic and beauty that come from friendships that cross cultures. *Rated PG for thematic material, some violence, sensuality, language including racial remarks and brief smoking by minors.*

**March 20, KING OF CALIFORNIA (2007), St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 163 Main St. (Route 299), New Paltz** — Michael Douglas stars as a treasure-hunting eccentric in this comedy from director Michael Cahill. Recently released from a mental institution and reunited with his 16-year-old daughter Miranda (Evan Rachel Wood), Charlie (Douglas) decides there's centuries-old gold buried near their lower-middle-class neighborhood and sets out on an obsessive quest to find it. Along the way, the estranged parent and child rekindle a long-lost bond and Miranda champions the free spirit that blazes in his deranged mind. *Rated PG-13 for some strong language, mature thematic elements and brief drug references.*

**April 17, THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY (1981), Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 22 Livingston St., Kingston** — Only a sophisticated film could be as etiquette-breaching as this immensely popular comedy-drama, which takes off when a Coca-Cola bottle thrown from a plane lands intact among a Kalahari Desert bush tribe in southern Africa, whose members have no knowledge of the world beyond. This “gift from the gods” proves a mixed blessing when the tribesmen fight over it and eventually use it for a weapon. To keep peace, bushman Xi (played by Namibian San farmer N!xau) is assigned to take the bottle to “the end of the earth” and throw it back to the gods. In his lone journey he encounters Western civilization for the first time, with the film interpreting Western life through Xi’s eyes. Meanwhile, Kate Thompson (Sandra Prinsloo) leaves her job as a South African newspaper reporter to teach Kalahari children. In the wilderness she continually bumps into clumsy microbiologist Andrew Steyn (Marius Weyers). At the same time, maniacal guerrilla Sam Boga (Louw Verwey) leads a coup attempt. Director Jamie Uys brings these wildly divergent characters together in this irresistibly silly film. *Rated PG for thematic elements.*

**May 15, THE MATRIX (1999), Vivekananda Retreat, Ridgely, 101 Leggett Road, Stone Ridge** — Keanu Reeves plays computer hacker Thomas Anderson in the year 1999 whose terminal begins telling him he may have some sort of messianic function in deciding the fate of the world. Thomas (hacker alias, Neo) is gradually made to understand that everything he imagines to be real is actually the handiwork of 21st-century computers — and that the year is actually closer to 2199. These computers — a massive artificial intelligence system known as the Matrix — has tapped into people’s minds and created the illusion of a real world. The Matrix has, in fact, subverted human beings into batterylike energy sources confined to pods, and it can be stopped only by a savior modestly known as the One, who can crack open the Matrix and return people to both physical and psychological freedom. Directed by Larry and Andy Wachowski. *Rated R for violence.*

**June 19, 1 GIANT LEAP (2002), St. James United Methodist Church, 35 Pearl St., Kingston** — British musicians and filmmakers Duncan Bridgeman and Jamie Catto created an ode to world diplomacy in this freewheeling documentary that spans the world. Using music and visuals from 25 countries, the film mixes tempo with talk and songs with stories to explore the global nature of music and art, despite cultural differences. The film features music and interviews with mainstream artists like R.E.M. vocalist Michael Stipe and English singer-songwriter Robbie Williams, along with a multitude of unknown world musicians from Northern Africa to Southeast Asia. Author Kurt Vonnegut, actor Dennis Hopper and spiritual teacher Ram Dass also participate. The film’s message is that we are all one, that we are all on the same journey and that we all share the outcome that is put into action. *Not rated.*

**July 17, ELSA AND FRED (2005), Temple Emanuel, 243 Albany Ave., Kingston** — This romantic comedy by Argentine Marcos Carnevale is about the irresistible power and total madness of love, as depicted by two people, at the end of the road, who discover it’s never too late to love — or to dream. Meeting over a fender bender, Elsa (China Zorrilla) and Fred (Manuel Alexandre) begin an awkward, prickly affair. She’s an inveterate liar of indeterminate vintage; he’s a 78-year-old reserved widower a bit younger than Elsa. Elsa bursts into his life like a whirlwind, determined to teach him that the time he has left is precious and that he should enjoy every minute of it. Though appalled by Elsa’s carpe diem behavior, Fred surrenders to her frenzy, youth and beautiful madness. Engagingly acted, this film won four film critic and film festival awards. *Spanish with English subtitles. Rated PG for some mild thematic elements and language.*

**Aug. 21, BOBBY DOGS (2007), Woodstock Reformed Church, 16 Tinker St., Woodstock —** This romantic comedy-drama is about recovering alcoholic Bobby Tucker (Mike Boland), wracked with inner doubts about his ability to avoid the perpetual relapses that have scarred his life. Stuck in a dead-end job with an abusive employer, Bobby and fellow kitchen worker Fernandez Holmes (Joshua Eddy) decide to quit and strike out on their own. As Bobby is hounded by loan sharks and haunted by his malevolent former boss, Jen Shea (Dawn McGee) pedals her way into his life, empowering him to battle his inner demons, which threaten to propel Bobby back to drinking. This heartwarming story of hope and the power of the human spirit won acclaim at four film festivals. *Not rated.*

***Each screening begins at 7 p.m. and is followed by a facilitated discussion. Evenings end around 10 p.m. A \$5 contribution is suggested for moviegoers over age 12. Screenings include refreshments, provided by the hosting facility.***

*The series is organized by Gerry Harrington, strategic alliances and communications coordinator of Humanity's Team, a global movement "awakening the world to oneness." It is supported by the Ulster County Religious Council, the Kingston Area Council of Churches, the Ministers' Alliance of Ulster County and the Mid-Hudson Islamic Association, but has no religious affiliation.*

***For more information, contact Gerry Harrington at (845) 331-7168, (845) 389-9201 or gerry.harrington@humanitysteam.org. Details are also available on the Movies With Spirit Facebook page.***

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