

French Film Festival brings 'Perspectives of Paris' to Elon

Eva Hill
Copy Editor

The Elon Tournées French Film Festival was back for its third year with the theme "Perspectives of Paris." The festival is one month of weekly French films. Every film was shown with English subtitles.

Sarah Glasco, assistant professor in the Foreign Language Department, is in charge of organizing and selecting films for the festival.

"My personal and professional reasons for bringing these films to Elon is to offer cultural opportunities in a small town and, yes, to raise cultural awareness in general," she said.

Glasco said the School of Communications is playing a key role in sponsorship this year. Two communications professors and a cinema studies major will be speaking at the film showings. The French Club is also working to promote the films on campus and provide volunteers at the showings. The club is also responsible for a closing reception at the end of

the festival.

To bring the festival to the university, Glasco said she applied for a grant through the French American Cultural Exchange. The Tournées Festival is a program of FACE, which aims to bring contemporary French cinema to universities. The Tournées festival is now in its 15th year of operation and has partnered with more than 300 universities, according to the website.

Glasco said she selects the films, with help from her colleagues, from a list provided by the sponsor and all the films are French films from the past five years. She said she also selected this year's theme, Perspectives of Paris.

"When pursuing the list of films and reading the synopses, Paris seemed to stand out in so many of them this year, so there you go," she said.

Kelly Robinson, Elon senior and president of the French Club, said the festival is a chance to feature French culture and the French language.

"This year's festival is great

because it has a common theme of Paris, so every movie we show is connected to Paris in some way," she said. "Through a sequence of five films, we are trying to give people a general idea of the complexities of Paris and Parisian culture."

Robinson said the French community on campus is fairly large. She said there is the French learning community; La Maison Française, the French honors society; Pi Delta Phi, the French Club and French majors and minors.

Dylan Clements, Elon senior and French student, said the French film festival is an excellent way of allowing students to access material they might not otherwise encounter.

"Bringing culture to our campus in this way helps unify students, as learners of French, in a way that facilitates appreciation for French cinema," he said.

The Elon Tournées Film Festival showed one film each Wednesday at 6 p.m. until Nov. 3. All showings took place in McEwen 011.

Speaking N.C.: Walt Wolfram and Voices of North Carolina seek to dispel speech misconceptions

Alexa Johnson
Senior Reporter

Y'all, yins, pokes, warshers, ain'ts.

If anyone knows that these forms of dialect aren't just the way words are thrown around in conversation or a computer screen, it's Walt Wolfram, sociolinguistic wizard and professor at North Carolina State University.

Sociolinguistics is the study of language in its social context. Wolfram happens to be an expert in the field and has studied African American dialects in Detroit, Appalachian dialects in West Virginia and many more.

He served as the former president of the Linguistic Society of America and is a vital force inside of the North Carolina Language and Life Project, an organization dedicated to linguistic research, graduate and undergraduate education, and language outreach programs.

Since its inception, the NCLLP has recorded more than 1,500 interviews, created several documentaries on North Carolinian dialects, held workshops and presentations and developed a dialect awareness curriculum for middle school students in social studies and language arts throughout the state.

Language prejudice

One of Wolfram's personal crusades is against the notion that dialect is a negative thing.

"A popular assumption is that a dialect is something 'someone' else speaks," Wolfram said. "The reality is that I could go around the room and ask everyone to pronounce one word, and the only way you could render it is with a dialect."

A misconception that many people harbor is the belief that dialects are ill-formed derivatives of Standard English. The truth is that dialects are highly patterned, systematic, intricate varieties of language.

Wolfram explained that the notion of correctness is a social notion, not a grammatical one. He also said that language is often a tool of social oppression and that people, as social beings, have a responsibility to address language-related inequalities.

One example of linguistic prejudice can be found in a study of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where a man calls and inquires about the same apartment multiple times using different accents. The landlady only offers the apartment when a "typical" American dialect is used.

Wolfram explained that every day over 80,000 calls are made everyday and there is ample documentation that language discrimination does take place.

Why should language tolerance be any different than tolerance of gender, race or sexuality, he asks? "If you are going to be tolerant, why aren't you tolerant of language?" Wolfram said. "Think of the inconsistencies of being intolerant."

What does THAT mean? Learn how to speak Cackalacky:

- Touron - (TOR-on) - tourist moron
- Meehonky - (mee-HON-key) - hide and seek
- Boomer - (BOO-mer) - red squirrel
- Juvember - (joo-VEM-ber) - slingshot
- Dingbatter - (DING bat-ter) outsider/tourist
- Ellick - (EE-lick) coffee with sugar
- Whopperjawed - (WOP-per-jawed) - askew, not right
- Sigogglin' - (si-GOG-glin) crooked/not straight
- On the swamp - in the neighborhood, nearby
- Mommuck - (MO-muck) - harass, bother

The hidden wealth of North Carolina

For linguistics, North Carolina is the jackpot.

North Carolina natives speak a "Cackalacky" dialect (specific to the North but applicable to South Carolina), that splits into five different dialect regions — southern highlands, Piedmont, costal plain, Virginia piedmont and the Outer Banks.

One of the most striking dialects in North Carolina comes from the Outer Banks area, specifically Ocracoke Island, where the locals, speaking their unique island brogue, often use words like "meehonky" and "dingbatter."

This variety and fierce love for regional dialects is why Wolfram refers to the state as "dialect heaven."

Celebrating and teaching dialects

As North Carolina is a place that celebrates and takes pride in regional speech patterns, it only seems natural that Wolfram and Jeffrey Reaser developed Voices of North Carolina 2005 to educate youth about dialect history and importance.

The program curriculum calls for lessons on language attitudes, style shifting, dialect patterns and language change in rural and urban settings. There is also a focus on connections between history, culture and language, as well as regional dialects in North Carolina and social dialects, such as Cherokee and Latino English.

"We've got to educate kids early about the legitimacy and rich resources of dialect," Wolfram said.

Voices of North Carolina was a pilot program in schools in the western part of the state, particularly in Avery, Johnston and Wake counties, as well as the Outer Banks.

After hearing about Voices of North Carolina, Elon senior Matt Baker adopted a new perspective on language.

"Realizing that the way you talk isn't wrong or that you aren't stupid is definitely something that should be taught to kids," Baker said. "I know I've judged people by the way they talk. This is something that should be taught all over the country."

Coordinating your clothes



Lindsay Kimble
Columnist

Matching. Seems simple enough, doesn't it? Sadly though, mis-matched clothing and accessories is on of the biggest fashion crimes perpetrators commit. These simple guidelines should help even the most rushed student avoid the dreaded brown/black faux pas.

Match all your hardware

The leather belt with the large, silver embellished buckle matches your outfit perfectly — yet so do the gold-plated leaf earrings. Should you wear both? Never. Remember to keep your metals like. If your jewelry is silver, avoid wearing a belt or shoes with gold hardware. Those Tori Burch flats with the large gold medallions do not, under any circumstances, match your silver necklace. Likewise, one gold accessory means all gold accessories. One silver accessory means all silver accessories.

Coordinate your socks

So what if you can't see them? Socks should always coordinate with some color or aspect of your outfit. If the occasion arises to take off your boots, hot pink socks will, without a doubt, detract from your perfectly coordinated brown sweater/skirt combination.

Black / blue / brown combination rules

This offense is probably the one most committed. A black shirt should never be paired with a brown belt — these shades were not meant to go together. Black athletic shorts do not go hand in hand with a navy T-shirt. Clothing or accessory items in these three colors are tricky and should only be paired with items in the same color. There are some exceptions — black and brown combos are forgivable if the shade of brown is very light, typically closer to tan. Black and blue combinations are also okay, but only if the shade of blue is closer to light or Carolina blue.

Too many stripes

My shorts are blue plaid and my shirt is pink and white striped — this matches right? The colors go together, so it should look good, correct? No, no, no. The combination of vertical stripes, horizontal stripes or any form of plaid or seersucker can be dangerous. A general rule of thumb — only one item of clothing should be in any of these patterns. Otherwise, your outfit stands a chance of looking busy and cluttered. If your polo has vertical stripes, your shorts should not have horizontal ones, it's as simple as that. The only exceptions are seersucker suits, however, that's a trend only the extremely preppy should attempt to emulate.

There is a chance of being too matching

Often referenced as the "Canadian Suit," the jean on jean trend was once synonymous with too much matchy-matchy. The trend has made a comeback — if done right. Make sure each denim object is a different wash of jean. For example, pair a very dark wash skinny jean with a light wash jean button-up. Roll up the sleeves and add a patterned scarf for some contrast.

Other cases of over-matching however will never be in style. Try to avoid entire outfits of same-color pieces. Purple tights, a purple skirt, a purple top and a purple headband will never look good. If you must, vary the shades of a same color. Also, girls, your eye shadow should absolutely never match your outfit. That light blue eye shadow does not accessorize the blue tank well — it looks tacky.