99 DOWN, 1 TO GO
Film buff watches the century's best 100 movies in four months

By Jess Decina

Like many college students his age, sophomore Oliver Joszt enjoys watching movies. But "enjoys" might not be the word for Joszt, who, over a four-month period, watched 99 movies from the American Film Institute's "100 Years, 100 Movies" list. And all it took was a subscription to Netflix.

It was interesting in what constitutes a 'great movie," Joszt said. "Also, I [wanted] a better understanding of what educated people in the film community think a great movie is.'

As an English major with a concentration in cinema studies, Joszt has made his passion for film an integral part of his everyday life. Classes alone have him watching several hours worth of movies on an average day.

"It's more studying than actually watching movies," he said. "I watch movies in my spare time, but I rarely get spare time.'

But cinema studies wasn't Joszt's calling. Not long after arriving at Rider, he decided to switch his major. That's when he met his advisor, Dr. Cynthia Lucia of the English Department, who told him more about the film aspect of the major.

"I met him when he was a freshman and he came to my office expressing interest in the cinema studies concentration," Lucia said. "I was immediately pleased to know that he was in the program because he really expressed such a genuine interest and a wide knowledge about cinema."

Currently, Lucia has Joszt in her Language of Film Analysis course, which studies films from three different perspectives: film appreciation, film history and film theory.

"He seems to have a limitless curiosity," she said. "He just expresses what he's interested in, in this case film, and he really just wants to learn about it as much as he can," she said. "I was incredibly impressed with the time and the effort and everything involved, but at the same time I wasn't surprised." From watching all of these films, Joszt has picked up an appreciation for a few classics along the way. The best two films from the list, he said, include "a tie between Rebel Without A Cause and Some Like It Hot." But he still looks at some films with a critical eye.

"I question why some films with a critical eye," he said. "I went on the Tower of Terror twice," she said. "But we did go shopping. We shopped every day we were there."

Before heading out to lunch, Joyce chooses to put off her work and instead looks at some pictures from her spring break Florida trip. After going to Disney World, Joyce found a new passion: thrill rides.

"I went on the Tower of Terror twice," she said. "Then, in the summer we all went to Six Flags. I have been on Nitro, Batman and Superman. I like these rides."

Now, Maggie has called again and Joyce heads downstairs to meet her and go to Daly's. Joyce settles on a sweet potato, salad, fried noodles, her second Pepsi of the day and chicken noodle soup.

"I love chicken noodle soup," she said.

Another Sandy student, Raul, who will return to China next week, joins Joyce and Maggie.

Graduate student Xiaoqian "Joyce" Ni sips soup. She is currently juggling, Joyce's attention is quickly turned off the kettle and returns to her computer forget and heads for the bathroom to wash her face and brush her teeth.

By 10 a.m., she sits at the computer checking e-mails, looking over a take-home test, and talking on AOL Instant Messenger. Preoccupied with the tasks at hand, looking over a take-home test, and talking on her teeth.

"It turns off the kettle and returns to her computer forget and heads for the bathroom to wash her face and brush her teeth.

But at least it is better than Daly's," Raul added.

Joyce's afternoon plans include once again looking at the take-home test and admits she will probably have another Pepsi. Afterward she walks to mail services to send boxes of cosmetics she has recently bought to friends back home.

"I am so jealous of him," Joyce said, "I want to go back too."

The group talks about Raul's internship and their own future prospects.

"I don't know what my internship will be," Joyce said. "Rider will take good care of that." After finishing the potato and a good portion of the soup, Joyce runs her fork through the fried noodles. With a look of disgust, she takes melon from Maggie's plate instead and the two agree that the food they are in New York, especially in Chinatown, was much better.

"It tasted so good, and was so cheap there too," Joyce said.

Joyce said Chinese food around Rider doesn't taste anything like the food she has back home.

"But at least it is better than Daly's," Raul added.

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Next, Joyce gets ready for her job, working at the front desk in her residence hall, and talks about what school was like for her at Sandy.

At her hometown university, there are typically four people to a room. Students are documented if they are seen drinking or smoking and a river separates male and female student residence halls.

"I think it is ridiculous," she said.

Joyce and her friends often find it difficult to travel to the area around Rider. Without a car they must rely on public transportation.

"Sometimes we go to Wal-Mart for things, we go to the mall, and we go into Princeton a lot too," she said. "We go for Chinese food or to Tomoe's for sushi." But what is on her mind the most, besides the six term papers she has to write before next week, is the trip she and Maggie will take over winter break.

"We are going to be in Las Vegas for Christmas and then will fly to San Diego and Los Angeles," Joyce said. "I am excited but think I will be very tired. It is a lot to see in just seven days."