



American Center for Mongolian Studies and SOS Medica Clinic in Ulaanbaatar

Inner Asian Film Series Seminar Three, March 6, 2008

The Great Match (*La Gran Final*): A film by Gerardo Olivares (2006) – 88 minutes

There are several things to keep in mind when watching the film. Please take note of what you find to be similar among the three groups that are shown trying to watch the match; also note what is different. A prominent theme in the film is the intersection of the modern world with more traditional lifestyles. How does the World Cup symbolize the modern world and what else might it symbolize? Is it globalization, unity, universal values? What are the positive and negative aspects of these things as shown in the film?

Another prominent theme of the movie is conflict and resolution of conflict. In each of the three settings we see one group in contest with another. Are these conflicts resolved? If so, how? How do you think these groups will relate after the match is over?

The film focuses on people who live outside the boundaries of what we define as “modern” society; the difficulties they encounter in trying to reach that modern society are a source of a great deal of good-natured humor in the film, but is there a more serious message there? What about *our* rituals surrounding such events might the people portrayed in the film find amusing? What about parallel our attempts to reach the ancient and unspoiled in the way they attempt to reach the modern?

Was this film enjoyable, funny, worthwhile? Would you recommend it? If you were to change it, how would you do so?