

# **HC@gbc Presents Feature Film Friday: film reviews from GBC Faculty & members of the GBC Film Festival Committee.**

**Date:** Friday, February 12, 2021

**Reviewer:** Josh Webster, GBC English Faculty

**Film Title:** *In the Mood for Love*

**Run Time:** 98 minutes

**Film Genre:** Drama/Romance

**Director:** Wong Kar-Wai

**Screenplay:** Wong Kar-Wai

**Film Rating:** PG

**Leading cast members:** Maggie Cheung, Tony Chiu-Wai Leung

Most romantic dramas follow rhythms as predictable as a heart, and, in this regard, *In the Mood for Love* keeps the beat of the genre. Wong's film stands out not for the plot (a few twists, no revolution) but for its unique cinematography, luscious design, nuanced dialogue and the incredible performances of the film's protagonists. *In the Mood* chronicles a romance between neighbors Mr. Chow (Tony Chiu-Wai Leung) and Mrs. Chan (Maggie Cheung) in Hong Kong of the early 1960s; Leung and Cheung, to no one's surprise, inhabit their characters with elegant grace. They're a pleasure to watch, and Wong plays the advantage, holding them in close-up, frequently through doorways,

windows, in mirrors and other “frames” emphasizing the private, unseen moments that define the shared and individual lives unfolding on screen. The dialogue is sharp but sparse, as Wong allows the images to narrate in the way smoke curls in the air, the bright pastel pattern of a dress or the quiet beauty of rain falling in a Hong Kong alley. All things said, the title is an apt one, as it captures its subject through an intricate visual exploration of space, light, shadows, colors, objects and the speech of the human form; where most settle to tell a story of love, the film strives to create its experience, evoking the rich longing, the electric proximities and sharp solitudes inherent to the mood of romance itself.