

Third Friday Film: *Across the Universe* (2007)

Friday, September 20 at 6:30 pm in the Bloom Room

Beatles purists, beware and get over it. Ringo Starr, Paul McCartney, and Yoko Ono praised the film after seeing it. [Julie Taymor](#), the director of the film was interviewed about her screening with McCartney: "At the end of the screening I did the classic thing. I asked him, 'Was there anything you didn't like?' He said, 'What's not to like?'" Roger Ebert wrote: "I'm sure there were executives who thought it was suicidal to set a 'Beatles musical' in the 'Vietnam era.' But this is a movie that fires its songs like flowers at the way we live now. It's the kind of movie you watch again, like listening to a favorite album." Stephen Holden of the *New York Times* wrote: "From its first moments, when a solitary dreamer on a beach turns to the camera and sings, unaccompanied, the opening lines of the Beatles' song "Girl," Julie Taymor's '60s musical fantasia, *Across the Universe*, reveals its intention to use the Beatles' catalog to tell two stories at once, one personal, the other generational. That young man, Jude (Jim Sturgess), is a cheeky Liverpool dockworker with a twinkle in his eye. From here the movie only gets better. Somewhere around its midpoint, *Across the Universe* captured my heart, and I realized that falling in love with a movie is like falling in love with another person. Imperfections, however glaring, become endearing quirks once you've tumbled...." *Across the Universe* believes wholeheartedly in the quaint, communitarian spirit it exalts. You share the joy of its blissed-out hippies in the grass. You feel the deepening friendship between Jude and Max that is sealed in Max's incandescent performance of "Hey, Jude." And during the time it lasts, the intoxicating passion of Jude and Lucy, both innocents by today's standards, convinces, for a moment, that love is all you need. **There will be space for dancing!**

*Hosted by **Victoria and Joe Stefani**.*