Dancing with the Devil

Thursday, March 4, 7:30 pm
Maryland Institute College of Art, Brown Center, Falvey Hall

Dancing with the Devil, a 101-minute documentary hosted by Academy Award-winning director Jon Blair, tells the stories of Spiderman, a 28-year-old drug lord in Rio de Janeiro, inspector Leonardo Torres, a muscle-bound cop from Rio’s drug squad, and Pastor Dione, an evangelical preacher who intends to end the city’s drug conflict. With groundbreaking access to the drug world of Rio’s slums thanks to the journalistic work of foreign correspondent Tom Phillips (United Kingdom’s Guardian newspaper), the 2009 film raises important issues regarding moral ambiguity, race, and religion.

After the screening, Jon Blair will participate in a discussion that will include Johns Hopkins University professors Jennifer Culbert and Bernadette Wegenstein, and MICA video & film arts chair Patrick Wright. Blair is the only documentary producer/director working in the United Kingdom who has won all three of the premiere awards in his field: an Oscar, an Emmy (twice) and a British Academy Award.

Along with MICA’s video and film arts department, this program is sponsored by Johns Hopkins University through its program in Latin American studies; the Evolution, Cognition, and Culture Project; the department of German and Romance Languages and Literatures; the department of Anthropology; the department of Political Science; and the Program in Film and Media Studies.