

A Different Evening
International Film Club at Ahmedabad University
(In Memory of Prof. Niranjan Bhagat)

Date: **January 10, 2019, Thursday.**

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Venue: Ahmedabad University Auditorium,
GICT Building, Near M G Science College.

Name of the Film: **The Last Station**

(Based on the novel by Jay Parini)

Year of Release: February 26, 2010

Director: Michael Hoffman (2 awards and 7 nominations)

Genre: Drama

Duration: 1 Hour 52 Minutes

Awards: 2 Oscar nominations + 3 other awards and 15 other nominations

Actors:

Helen Mirren (Oscar Winner + 122 other awards and 124 other nominations)

Christopher Plummer (Oscar Winner + 45 other awards and 62 other nominations)

James McAvoy (Golden Globe Winner + 17 other awards and 31 other nominations)

Paul Giamatti (Oscar nomination + 45 other awards and 59 other nominations)

Audio Language: **English** Subtitles: English

Colour: Colour

Also known as: Tolstoi, le dernier automne (France)

Aspect Ratio: 16:9 High Definition (720p)

About the film:

An excellent film on the last years of the legendary writer and philosopher Leo Tolstoy and the upheavals in his personal life. A historical drama that illustrates Russian author Leo Tolstoy's struggle to balance fame and wealth with his commitment to a life devoid of material things.

In 1910, acclaimed Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy, is in the later stage of his life. His basic tenets are brotherly love and world peace through pacifism. A denouncement of material wealth and physical love. His chief follower is Vladimir Chertkov, who does whatever is required to advance the cause. Chertkov hires a young man named Valentin Bulgakov to be Tolstoy's personal secretary in carrying out this work.

Tolstoy's wife, Countess Sofya, believes that her husband's writings are rightfully hers after he passes, as she wants and believes she deserves the monetary benefits derived from them.

Countess Sofya, wife and muse to Leo Tolstoy, uses every trick of seduction on her husband's loyal disciple, whom she believes was the person responsible for Tolstoy signing a new will that leaves his work and property to the Russian people.

The film depicts some of the very sensitive and delicate moments, interactions and disagreements along with the instances of unconditional affection and love between Leo Tolstoy and Countess Sofya.

The story and characters are very well drawn and engaging. The cinematography, acting and costumes, all are presented with great perfection. It is a film about love. A legendary figure torn between love for his wife and love for an ideology that he believes in.

Additional information worth keeping in mind:

- (1) In reality, Countess Sofya bore Tolstoy 13 children and copied out six drafts of his novel "War and Peace" - by hand.
- (2) Helen Mirren and Christopher Plummer replaced Meryl Streep and Anthony Hopkins, who were originally scheduled to play the roles of Sofya and Leo Tolstoy.
- (3) After watching this film, Prof. Niranjana Bhagat described it as a landmark film on the complex personal relationships that the giants of the society have faced invariably, where nothing is black and nothing is white.