 Spotlight on Turkey

One of the notable films of 2015 was the Oscar-nominated “Mustang” from director Deniz Gamze Ergüven. It’s about five sisters who, driven by a desire for freedom, fight back against the limits imposed on them one summer in their village in Northern Turkey. “Mustang” is a highlight of the 15th Boston Turkish Film Festival, running March 17-April 3 at the Museum of Fine Arts.

Programmed by festival founder and director Erkut Gömülü, the lineup of contemporary Turkish films includes the opening film “Ivy” (“Sarmasik”), the second feature from Turkish filmmaker Tolga Karacelik (“Toll Booth”), who will attend the screening. Shot by Turkey’s top cinematographer, Gokhan Tiryaki (he photographed Nuri Bilge Ceylan’s acclaimed “Winter Sleep”), the film focuses on the tensions that erupt among the Turkish crew of a cargo ship when it becomes stranded off the coast of Egypt.

Director Çagan Irmak will be presented with this year’s Boston Turkish Film Festival Excellence in Turkish Cinema Award at a ceremony March 18, following the screening of his latest film, “A Unique Life.” It’s about a restless, middle-aged woman who enrolls at a university and ends up on an ocean voyage with a group of young adventurers.

Internationally acclaimed director Zeki Demirkubuz returns to the festival March 30 to screen his latest film, “Nausea,” about a philandering husband, Ahmet, whose wife and daughter die in an accident. As Ahmet develops an unusual relationship with his cleaning lady and her children, his emotions begin to rise to the surface.

For more information go to www.BostonTurkishFilmFestival.org or www.mfa.org.