A hora da estrela
(The Hour of the Star, 1985)
Dir. Suzana Amaral. 96 min.

In Portuguese with English subtitles.

Suzana Amaral’s impressive debut feature (made when she was 52, having enrolled at NYU Film School after raising nine children) is a stark portrait of Macabéa (Marcelia Cartaxo), a young office typist barely eking out a life in São Paulo. At first Macabéa’s ignorance and lack of social graces test the audience’s sympathies, but Amaral is able to convey her interior landscape of thoughts and desires through camera work and a complex soundtrack of snippets from radio programs and electronic music. Based on a densely descriptive novel by Clarice Lispector, the film paints a stark portrait of the life of an urban Brazilian girl working barely above the poverty line while also providing us with lyrical oases in dreamy sequences in which Macabea dreams about other lives and possibilities.

When: March 4, 2010
Where: Jones Hall 204
Time: 7 PM

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