

<b>Title</b>	Being John Malkovich
<b>Director</b>	Spike Jonze
<b>Date</b>	1999
<b>Area</b>	Early Modern Philosophy
<b>Theme</b>	Descartes - dualism
<b>Plot Summary</b>	Failed puppeteer Craig Schwartz (John Cusack) finds a portal in his workplace that allows him to inhabit the body of actor John Malkovich for 15 minutes, experiencing what he experiences. Increasingly he finds that he can control Malkovich's actions. With his co-worker Maxine (Christine Keener) he goes into business selling 'rides' in Malkovich. When his wife Lotte (Cameron Diaz) tries it, she uses Malkovich to have an affair with Maxine, who becomes pregnant. Eventually he learns to stay in Malkovich indefinitely, impressing Maxine enough for her to marry him. Eventually she tires of him, and takes up with Lotte. Craig is forced out of Malkovich, and ends up imprisoned in Maxine's daughter, impotently watching Maxine and Lotte. Offers an imagining of the Cartesian idea of the self as a mind distinct from the body, able to occupy its and also leave it behind.
<b>Key Scenes</b>	
<b>Relevant Text</b>	Descartes, Meditation 6 Walter Ott, 'It's my Heeeeeaaad! Sex and Death in Being John Malkovich', in K. Blessing and P. Tudico eds Movies and the Meaning of Life.