Pay-as-you-wish Friday Nights

Bernard and Irene Schwartz Classic Film Series


Justice in Film

Explore how film has tackled social strife, morality, and the perennial struggle between right and wrong—conflicts that manifest across cultures and history.

Entrance to the film series is included with Museum Admission during New-York Historical's Pay-as-you-wish Friday Nights (6–8 pm). No advance reservations. Tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 6 pm. New-York Historical Society Members receive priority.

For more information on our featured films and speakers, please visit nyhistory.org/programs or call (212) 485-9205.
Justice in Film

Friday, September 28, 7 pm
Hobson's Choice | 1954 | 108 min.
Filmmaker Ric Burns, in conversation with Paley Center for Media curator Ron Simon and New-York Historical Society’s Vice President for Public Programs Dale Gregory, introduces this classic about a gifted shoemaker working for a tyrannical shop owner whose daughter upends her father’s plans for the future. Presented to complement the exhibition Walk This Way: Footwear from the Stuart Weitzman Collection of Historic Shoes. Directed by David Lean. Starring Charles Laughton, John Mills, Brenda de Banzie.

Friday, October 1, 7 pm
The Story of Qiu Ju | 1992 | 100 min.
Legal scholars Linda Greenhouse, Robert Post, and Kenji Yoshino introduce the Venice Film Festival’s 1992 Golden Lion award winner. A peasant woman living in rural China, Qiu Ju decides to travel to the big city in an effort to get justice for her husband after he is beaten up by a local community leader. (Mandarin with English subtitles.) Directed by Zhang Yimou. Starring Gong Li, Liu Peiji, Lei Kesheng.

Friday, October 8, 7 pm
A Matter of Life and Death | 1946 | 104 min.
Thelma Schoonmaker, a three-time Academy Award winner and the longtime editor for Martin Scorsese, presents a new restoration of this British post-war classic. Co-directed by Schoonmaker’s late husband, Michael Powell, the film follows the heavenly trial of a downed British WWII pilot as he defends his right to live against seemingly impossible odds. Directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger. Starring David Niven, Kim Hunter, Robert Coote.

Friday, October 15, 7 pm
Shadow of a Doubt | 1943 | 108 min.
Ron Simon and Dale Gregory introduce Alfred Hitchcock’s film noir about a teenage girl whose quiet, humdrum life suddenly becomes exciting when her sophisticated, worldly uncle comes to visit. But after witnessing his increasingly suspicious behavior, she realizes he may not be the upstanding man she thought he was. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Starring Teresa Wright, Joseph Cotten, MacDonald Carey.

Friday, October 22, 7 pm
People Will Talk | 1951 | 110 min.
Legal scholar and author Philip C. Bobbitt introduces this romantic comedy with echoes of the McCarthy era. Join us for the story of a physician who becomes embroiled in a witch hunt-like misconduct trial by a jealous rival, who questions everything from his work methods to his personal relationships. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz. Starring Cary Grant, Jeanne Crain, Finlay Currie.

Friday, March 1, 7 pm
Cabin in the Sky | 1943 | 98 min.
Gail Lumet Buckley, author and daughter of Cabin in the Sky star Lena Horne, and journalist Bob Herbert introduce the musical that follows Little Joe, a chronic gambler killed over his debts who is given a second chance at life as both heaven and hell grapple for his soul. Directed by Vincente Minnelli. Starring Ethel Waters, Eddie “Rochester” Anderson, Lena Horne.

Friday, March 8, 7 pm
Pat and Mike | 1952 | 95 min.
Legal scholar Annette Gordon-Reed and her husband, Justice Robert R. Reed, in conversation with Ron Simon and Dale Gregory, introduce this classic film about a woman who won’t give up her promising athletic career despite her fiancé’s insistence that she abandon her ambitions to marry him. Directed by George Cukor. Starring Ethel Waters, Eddie “Rochester” Anderson, Lena Horne.

The screenings of Hobson’s Choice, The Story of Qiu Ju, and Pat and Mike are presented in collaboration with the Center for Women’s History at New-York Historical Society.

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Presented at the Robert H. Smith Auditorium at the New-York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024

Film Series Programmer: Dale Marsha Gregory, Vice President for Public Programs