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, October 11, 7 pm
*The Private Life of Henry VIII* | 1933 | 97 min.
Michael Korda, the nephew of the film’s director and son of the film’s art director, introduces the classic British biographical dramedy that follows the exploits of King Henry VIII as he navigates his infamous multiple marriages in the salacious, treacherous world of his own creation. *Directed by Alexander Korda. Starring Charles Laughton, Robert Donat, Merle Oberon.*

Friday, October 25, 7 pm
*Libeled Lady* | 1936 | 98 min.
Things get out of hand when a plot to prevent a newspaper from folding under a libel suit goes awry. Scholars Philip Bobbitt and Betty Sue Flowers present the screwball comedy that stars a venerable who’s who of 1930s Hollywood. Directed by Jack Conway. Starring Jean Harlow, William Powell, Myrna Loy, Spencer Tracy.

Friday, November 8, 7 pm
*The Baker’s Wife* | 1938 | 134 min.
An idyllic village in the South of France is thrown into disarray when the local baker’s wife runs off with another man. When the villagers realize the baker is too devastated to continue baking for them, they devise a plan to set things right. New Yorker writer Adam Gopnik introduces this slice-of-life comedy. (French with English subtitles.) Directed by Marcel Pagnol. Starring Raimu, Ginette Leclerc, Fernand Charpin.

Friday, December 6, 7 pm
*Beauty and the Beast* | 1946 | 93 min.
Join the New Yorker’s Adam Gopnik and Richard Brody as they introduce this classic, sumptuous adaptation of the beloved fairy tale in which a kind-hearted girl takes her father’s place as the prisoner of a wretched Beast in an enchanted castle. (French with English subtitles.) Directed by Jean Cocteau. Starring Jean Marais, Josette Day, Marcel Andre.

Friday, January 31, 7 pm
*The Bitter Tea of General Yen* | 1933 | 87 min.
A powerful general and the young woman he rescues cope with their growing attraction to one another as the Chinese Civil War rages around them. Authors Joanna Lee and Ken Smith, in conversation with Paley Center for Media Curator Ron Simon, introduce this oft-overlooked gem. Directed by Frank Capra. Starring Barbara Stanwyck, Nils Asther, Walter Connolly.

Friday, February 21, 7 pm
*The Madness of King George* | 1994 | 111 min.
Legal experts Linda Greenhouse, Robert Post, and Kenji Yoshino present the BAFTA Award-winning film that depicts the true story of King George III, whose increasingly erratic behavior in 1788—not long after the loss of the American Revolution—sets off a power struggle in Parliament and within his own family. Directed by Nicholas Hytner. Starring Nigel Hawthorne, Helen Mirren, Ian Holm.

Friday, March 6, 7 pm
*Stage Fright* | 1950 | 110 min.
An aspiring actress tries to help her friend prove his innocence when he is accused of murdering the husband of a famous stage star—but suspicions begin to mount when the accused’s story doesn’t quite add up. Curator Ron Simon and New-York Historical Society Vice President for Public Programs Dale Gregory introduce this classic British film noir thriller. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Starring Jane Wyman, Marlene Dietrich, Michael Wilding, Richard Todd.

For more details and the latest information on our featured films, speakers, and related programs, please visit nyhistory.org/programs or call (212) 485-9205.

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