

Summer 2022



The Stanford Theatre

221 University Avenue, Palo Alto (650) 324-3700

www.stanfordtheatre.org

Exactly thirty-five years ago, in July of 1987, the Packard Foundation rented the Stanford Theatre and presented two weeks of non-stop Fred Astaire. The great dancer had just died, and we wanted people to have a chance to experience him in a real movie theatre. Some said that watching films in a real theatre was pointless because everybody could see them on television. But our 1175-seat theatre was nearly sold out for two solid weeks. Many people came every night, and we got 700 fan letters. This persuaded us to buy the theatre and make the celebration permanent. Fred Astaire is why the Stanford Theatre still exists.

Since that time, we have shown nearly 2,000 different titles, nearly all made before 1960. We have sold over three million tickets, and many people consider the Stanford Theatre to be the best place in the world to watch classic movies.

Tickets cover about half of the cost of running the theatre. The other half is provided by grants from the Packard Humanities Institute, which also has a major role in film preservation.

On March 1, 2020, we were one of the first theatres to close because of the pandemic, and we have not rushed to reopen. We have made some changes to the ventilation system that should reduce the chance of infection, though nothing can eliminate all risk. But life cannot stop forever, and we have decided it is time to reopen.

Since we closed in the middle of a Kurosawa festival, you will find three Kurosawa masterpieces in our calendar. Otherwise we have selected some of our favorite films from the golden age of the movies—including two Sidney Poitier films that strictly fall beyond our normal date limit.

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		July 9 10 The Gay Divorcee 3:45, 7:30 Top Hat 5:40, 9:25	
14 15 It Started With Eve 7:30 100 Men and a Girl 5:55, 9:15		16 17 Casablanca 3:50, 7:30 In a Lonely Place 5:45, 9:25	
July 21 22 Miracle of Morgan's Creek 7:30 Christmas in July 6:10, 9:20		23 24 To Sir, With Love 3:35, 7:30 In the Heat of the Night 5:30, 9:25	
28 29 Rear Window 7:30 To Catch a Thief 5:35, 9:35		30 31 Sabrina 3:45, 7:30 Beat the Devil 5:50, 9:35	
Aug 4 5 A Tree Grows in Brooklyn 7:30 Curse of the Cat People 6:05, 9:50		Aug 6 7 Meet Me in St. Louis 3:30, 7:30 The Wizard of Oz 5:35, 9:35	
11 12 High Noon 7:30 Morocco 5:45, 9:05		13 14 The Philadelphia Story 3:25, 7:30 Dinner at Eight 5:30, 9:35	
Aug 18 19 Only Angels Have Wings 7:30 The Talk of the Town 5:20, 9:45		20 21 The Hidden Fortress 3:00, 7:30 Yojimbo 5:30, 10:00	
25 26 Laura 7:30 Shanghai Express 5:45, 9:10		27 28 North by Northwest 3:05, 7:30 Notorious 5:35, 10:00	
Sept 1 2 Safety Last 7:30	The General 7:30	Sept 3 4 Roman Holiday 3:40, 7:30 Pane, Amore e Fantasia 5:50, 9:40	
8 9 The Mark of Zorro 7:30 A Tale of Two Cities 5:45, 9:50		10 11 My Fair Lady 3:00, 7:30	
Sept 15 16 Ran 7:30		Program is subject to change without notice.	

The Stanford Theatre Foundation is dedicated to the preservation and proper exhibition of films from the Golden Age of Hollywood. The theatre itself (with over 1000 seats, a balcony, and a Wurlitzer organ) was built in 1925 and has been restored to recreate the original experience of going to these movies.

The Gay Divorcee (1934)

The second Astaire-Rogers picture was based on a Cole Porter show, but the only Porter song that remained was ‘Night and Day.’ Nevertheless, ‘The Continental’ won the first Oscar ever awarded for Best Song. With Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Edward Everett Horton, Alice Brady, Erik Rhodes, Eric Blore, Lillian Miles, Betty Grable.

Directed by Mark Sandrich. RKO. 107 min.

Top Hat (1935)

The best known Fred and Ginger picture, with a brilliant script and a sensational score by Irving Berlin (all five songs made the Hit Parade in 1935).

With Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Edward Everett Horton, Helen Broderick, Eric Blore, Erik Rhodes.

Directed by Mark Sandrich. Songs by Irving Berlin. RKO. 99 minutes.

It Started With Eve (1941)

A young man’s wealthy father is seemingly near death, and his last wish is to meet his son’s fiancée. The son hires a hat check girl to impersonate her, and his father is so delighted, he recovers. Now they’re afraid to tell him the truth, fearing a relapse.

With Deanna Durbin, Charles Laughton, Robert Cummings, Guy Kibbee. Directed by Henry Koster. Universal. 90 min.

100 Men and a Girl (1937)

Deanna’s father is a trombone player without a job. After screwball confusions reminiscent of *My Man Godfrey* (with three of the same actors), she manages to launch a new orchestra for unemployed musicians and even persuades Leopold Stokowski to conduct.

With Deanna Durbin, Adolphe Menjou, Alice Brady, Eugene Pallette, Mischa Auer, Billy Gilbert, Leopold Stokowski.

Directed by Henry Koster. Universal. 84 min.

Casablanca (1942)

On its 50th anniversary in 1992, more people watched Casablanca at the Stanford Theatre than anywhere else in the world.

With Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains, Sydney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre, S. Z. Sakall, Conrad Veidt, Dooley Wilson, Marcel Dalio, Madeleine LeBeau, Joy Page, John Qualen, Ludwig Stossel, Leonid Kinskey, Helmut Dantine.

Directed by Michael Curtiz. Warner Bros. 102 minutes.

In a Lonely Place (1950)

In this superb film noir Bogart is a Hollywood writer suspected of murder. His new neighbor Gloria Grahame provides an alibi. They fall in love, but she can’t help wondering about his dark, ugly moods.

With Humphrey Bogart, Gloria Grahame.

Directed by Nicholas Ray. Columbia Pictures. 94 minutes.

Miracle of Morgan’s Creek (1944)

Betty Hutton attends a wild, all-night party for departing soldiers, but the next day she cannot remember the name of the man she apparently married.

“There’s that flawless comic rhythm that is uniquely Sturges.” Peter Bogdanovich.

With Betty Hutton, Eddie Bracken, William Demarest, Diana Lynn.

Directed, produced and written by Preston Sturges. Paramount. 99 minutes.

Christmas in July (1940)

In this offbeat romantic comedy directed by Preston Sturges, Dick Powell mistakenly believes he has won \$25,000 in a slogan contest (“If you can’t sleep, it isn’t the coffee, it’s the bunk”).

With Dick Powell, Ellen Drew.

Directed and written by Preston Sturges. Paramount. 67 min.

To Sir, With Love (1967)

Mark Thackeray, an engineer by training, reluctantly takes a job as teacher to a group of unruly juvenile delinquents in London’s East End (filmed on location).

With Sidney Poitier, Christian Roberts, Suzy Kendall, Lulu, Faith Brook.

Directed by James Clavell. Columbia. 105 mins.

In the Heat of the Night (1967)

Black detective Virgil Tibbs is waiting for a train in Mississippi when he is accused of the murder of the town’s leading businessman. Tibbs turns out to be Philadelphia’s leading homicide investigator. “They call me MISTER TIBBS!”

With Sidney Poitier, Rod Steiger, Warren Oates, Lee Grant, James Patterson.

Directed by Norman Jewison. United Artists. 110 mins.

To Catch a Thief (1955)

Cary Grant is suspected of a series of jewel thefts. Beautifully photographed on the French Riviera..

With Cary Grant, Grace Kelly, Jessie Royce Landis, John Williams,.

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Paramount. 103 minutes.

Rear Window (1954)

A reporter with a broken leg is confined to his apartment, and passes time watching the neighbors from his rear window.

With James Stewart, Grace Kelly.

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Paramount. 112 minutes.

Sabrina (1954)

The daughter of the chauffeur on a Long Island estate has always loved the younger playboy son, but his stuffy elder brother surprises everyone in the end.

With Humphrey Bogart, Audrey Hepburn, William Holden, John Williams.

Directed by Billy Wilder. Paramount. 113 minutes.

Beat the Devil (1954)

In this “screwball noir” (shot on location in Italy) a cast of unconventional characters is seeking uranium in Africa.

With Humphrey Bogart, Jennifer Jones, Gina Lollobrigida, Robert Morley, Peter Lorre.

Directed by John Huston. Santana-Romulus. 90 mins.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (1945)

Absolutely splendid film about a bright young girl in a turn-of-the-century New York tenement family.

With Peggy Ann Garner, James Dunn, Dorothy McGuire, Joan Blondell, Lloyd Nolan, Ted Donaldson, James Gleason.

Directed by Elia Kazan. Twentieth Century-Fox. 128 minutes.

The Curse of the Cat People (1944)

A little girl has a mysterious friend: a beautiful lady who could possibly be only a figment of her imagination.

With Simone Simon, Kent Smith, Jane Randolph, Ann Carter, Eve March, Julia Dean, Elizabeth Russell, Erford Gage, Sir Lancelot.

Directed by Robert Wise RKO. 70 minutes.

Meet Me in St. Louis (1944)

Vincente Minnelli’s marvelous domestic musical about a year in the life of the Smith family, leading up to the 1904 World’s Fair.

With Judy Garland, Margaret O’Brien, Tom Drake, Leon Ames, Mary Astor, Lucille Bremer, June Lockhart, Harry Davenport, Marjorie Main, Joan Carroll.

Directed by Vincente Minnelli. MGM. 112 minutes.

The Wizard of Oz (1939)

You haven’t really seen it until you’ve seen it on the big screen with an audience.

With Judy Garland, Frank Morgan, Ray Bolger, Jack Haley, Bert Lahr, Margaret Hamilton, Billie Burke, Charley Grapewin.

Directed by Victor Fleming. MGM. 102 minutes.

High Noon (1952)

A newly retired marshall, scheduled to leave town with his Quaker bride, must do his final lonely duty for an ungrateful town.

With Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly, Thomas Mitchell, Lloyd Bridges, Katy Jurado.

Directed by Fred Zinnemann. Republic. 85 minutes.

Morocco (1930)

In this exquisite film, Sternberg uses light and shadow to create an unforgettable exotic mood in this story of the fatal attraction between legionnaire Gary Cooper and cabaret singer Dietrich.

With Marlene Dietrich, Gary Cooper, Adolphe Menjou.

Directed by Josef von Sternberg. Paramount. 97 minutes.

The Philadelphia Story (1940)

The society marriage of Tracy Samantha Lord and C.K. Dexter Haven ended in divorce, and now tabloid reporters have arrived to cover her upcoming wedding.

With Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, James Stewart, Ruth Hussey.

Directed by George Cukor. MGM. 112 minutes.

Dinner at Eight (1933)

Archetypal all-star entertainment, with the Edna Ferber-George Kaufman play translated by expert and very funny screenwriters.

With Marie Dressler, John Barrymore, Lionel Barrymore, Billie Burke, Wallace Beery, Jean Harlow, Lee Tracy.

Directed by George Cukor. MGM. 109 minutes.

Only Angels Have Wings (1939)

The arrival of a stranded showgirl (Jean Arthur) disrupts the lives of a group of American flyers in South America.

With Cary Grant, Jean Arthur, Richard Barthelmess, Rita Hayworth, Thomas Mitchell, Sig Rumann.

Directed by Howard Hawks. Columbia. 121 minutes.

The Talk of the Town (1942)

Wonderful romantic comedy about schoolteacher landlady Jean Arthur and her two tenants, suspected murderer Cary Grant and law professor (and future Supreme Court justice) Ronald Colman. “One of the most genial casts in history.” Baseline Movie Guide.

With Cary Grant, Jean Arthur, Ronald Colman, Glenda Farrell, Rex Ingram.

Directed by George Stevens. Columbia. 118 minutes.

The Hidden Fortress (1958)

This richly comic fairy tale of the rescue of a princess and her gold is acknowledged as the source for *Star Wars*. “Grand, bold movie-making.” Roger Ebert.

Yojimbo (1961)

In one of the best samurai film ever made, two crime bosses try to hire wandering samurai warrior Toshiro Mifune

Laura (1944)

A beautiful girl is murdered, or so it seems. *Laura* is one of the most hauntingly unforgettable films ever made, with David Raksin’s famous musical score,.

With Dana Andrews, Clifton Webb, Gene Tierney, Judith Anderson, Vincent Price,.

Directed by Otto Preminger. Twentieth Century-Fox. 86 minutes.

Shanghai Express (1932)

On a train travelling through China Shanghai Lily (Marlene Dietrich) is held by armed rebels. She could save the lives of her fellow passengers by giving herself to her captors’ warlord.

With Marlene Dietrich, Anna May Wong, Clive Brook, Warner Oland.

Directed by Josef von Sternberg. Paramount. 84 min.

North by Northwest (1959)

Advertising executive Cary Grant is mistaken for a U.S. agent.

With Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, James Mason.

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. MGM. 136 minutes.

Notorious (1946)

U.S. agent Cary Grant enlists the help of notorious party girl Ingrid Bergman to infiltrate a ring of Nazis in South America.

With Cary Grant, Ingrid Bergman, Claude Rains, Louis Calhern.

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. RKO. 101 minutes.

Safety Last (silent, 1923)

Harold Lloyd scales a skyscraper (and dangles from a clock) to win \$1000.

Safety Last has been by far the most popular silent film at the Stanford Theatre.

Dennis James at the Mighty Wurlitzer.

The General (silent 1926)

Confederate soldier Buster Keaton has his locomotive (and his girl) stolen by the Union army.

Too sublime to be called merely a comedy, this film is an exquisite poetic creation.

Dennis James at the Mighty Wurlitzer.

Roman Holiday (1953)

A young princess escapes her guardians for 24 hours and meets an American reporter.

With Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn, Eddie Albert.

Directed by William Wyler. Paramount. 117 minutes.

Pane, Amore e Fantasia (1953)

This Italian comedy’s great popularity made an international star of Gina Lollobrigida.

With Vittorio De Sica, Gina Lollobrigida.

Directed by Luigi Comencini. Italian with English subtitles. 91 minutes.

The Mark of Zorro (1940)

Zorro is cowardly fop by day, but dashing sword-fighting avenger by night.

With Tyrone Power, Basil Rathbone, Linda Darnell, Eugene Pallette.

Directed by Rouben Mamoulian. Twentieth Century-Fox. 94 minutes.

A Tale of Two Cities (1935)

Sidney Carton finds fulfillment in dying for love: “It is a far, far better thing I do now than I have ever done.”

With Ronald Colman, Elizabeth Allen, Edna May Oliver, Reginald Owen, Basil Rathbone.

Directed by Jack Conway. MGM. 125 minutes.

My Fair Lady (1964)

No description needed.

With Rex Harrison, Audrey Hepburn, Stanley Holloway, Wilfrid Hyde-White, Gladys Cooper, Jeremy Brett.

Directed by George Cukor. CBS/Warner. 175 minutes.

Ran (1985)

Kurosawa transposes *King Lear* to period Japan.

“Spectacular... The wide-screen, color coordinated battle scenes will blow your mind and must be seen in a theater. Don’t ever think of watching *Ran* on a DVD or cellphone!” New York Post.