

## 2018 Thursday Morning Movies Movie Nostalgia/World Movies/Documentaries

This timeframe will be shared between Kath Bambridge and Helen Kellaway. There is a mixture of nostalgia, world movies and documentaries. The following are movies to be presented by Kath.

### ***Closely Watched Trains* - Date not yet scheduled**

**Dr Jiri Menzel : B/W 92m**

*Best Foreign Film : Won the Academy Award 1968*

This is Jiri Menzel's first major feature film. It is a stand-out film of the Czech New Wave.

Milo is a timid, young, sensitive adolescent. He starts work as a station guard with a new uniform that he is proud of and allows him to stand on the platform. He is in love with a pretty conductress but is unable to talk to her. This is all set to the background of WWII and the pre-Nazi Czech government. The film is a blend of drama, comedy and tragedy.

### ***Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress***

**Dr Dai Sijie : China 2002 : 111m**

*Nominated for a Golden Globe and selected for Cannes Film Festival 2002*

Best friends Ma and Luo, sons of a reactionary doctor during Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution are sent to the Phoenix Mountains for re-education. The local tailor has a daughter working as his seamstress – they both fall in love with her. Their re-education takes a twist when they discover a suitcase with novels from the West.

### ***Far From Men***

**David Oelhoffen : 2014 : 97m**

*Selected for the Venice Film Festival and nominated for an Academy Award*

Star : Viggo Mortensen. Based on Albert Camus book.

Set in Algeria in 1954 as the war with the French for independence starts. Daru is an ex-French soldier, born in Algeria with a Spanish lineage. From both sides he is seen as an alien. He is working as a teacher when approached to escort a dissident prisoner to the nearest police station.

### ***Honey***

**Dr Semih Kaplanoglu : 2010 : 100m**

*Golden Bear Winner at Berlin Film Festival*

Yusuf is the central character of this gorgeous film. Living in a mountainous region in Turkey, his father is a honey collector and Yusuf's true happiness is spending time with him. Kaplanoglu captures the beauty and cruelty of this world balanced by family love and the mysteries of nature.

### ***Italian***

**Dr Andrei Kavchuk : 2006 : 95m**

Six year old Vanya is living in an orphanage in Russia where they sell the children for a profit to westerners. When Vanya is chosen by an Italian couple he is excited until a mother comes to reclaim her child. Vanya starts on a quest to find his mother. Based on a true story, this film has won 30 international awards including the Berlin Kinderfest Grand Prix.

### ***Of Horses and Men***

**Dr Benedikt Erlingsson : 2013 : 81m**

*Best Director San Sebastian and Tokyo Film Festivals*

Described as the best Icelandic noir equine comedy by Kate Muir, The Times. I think it is likely you have never experienced a film like this one. In a remote village in Iceland horses and their village folk share their lives, loves, hates and their share of deaths.

### ***Accident***

**Dr So Cheang : 2009**

*Nominated for a Golden Lim in Venice*

This film follows a professional hit man in a busy Chinese city who has perfected the art to create 'accidents' which help him perform his job. When he is almost killed in a similar way he becomes convinced someone is plotting to terminate him. Is he right?

### ***No Man's Land***

**Dr Danis Tanovic**

This was Danis' first film which he wrote/directed.

*Won Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film*

The satirical tale of two enemy soldiers, Ciki and Nino who find themselves stranded in *No Man's Land* during the Bosnian conflict. Amid the insanity of war, the two men fight for their lives. The United Nation attempts to take action but each side wants to see the other side's soldier taken. It personalises the conflict of 1993.

### ***The Kid with a Bike***

**Dr Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne : Belgium : 89m**

Another human drama about growing up. Cyril is abandoned by his father and sent to State care. He escapes and goes searching for his father. Hiding in a doctor's surgery he meets Samantha. Cyril is understandably angry with his father and takes it out on himself. Samantha agrees to have him on weekends and these two lonely people find some peace.

### ***The Counterfeiters***

**Dr Stefan Ryzowitzky : Austrian : 98m**

*Academy Award Best Foreign Language Film*

Talented Russian Jewish counterfeiter is sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp to work on operation Bernhard. The Third Reich thought if they could counterfeit the UK and USA monies the economies of both countries would fall. Solomon (Solly) Sorowitsch must use his wit to survive and faces the moral dilemma his actions bring.

### ***Trumbo***

**Dr Peter Askin : 2007 : 95m**

Dalton Trumbo, was a screen writer who refused to testify before the House Un-American Committee. He was black-listed by Hollywood and imprisoned for ten months. His income of \$75,000 dropped to \$3,000. Because of the black-listing of many people in Hollywood, a black market was created. In 1956 he won an Academy Award for *The Brave One* writing as Robert Rich. His screen plays include *A Bill of Divorcement*, *Thirty Seconds over Tokyo*, *Spartacus*, *Exodus*, *Lonely are the Brave*, *Papillon*.

### ***Hitchcock Truffaut***

**D Kent Jones : 2015 : 90m**

In 1962 Francois Truffaut interviewed Alfred Hitchcock over a one week period. From these interviews he produced the book Hitchcock/Truffaut. The film gives a great insight in the world of cinema. With comments from other directors.

### ***Kurosawa : BBC Production : 2000***

Born 23 March 1910, Akira Kurosawa showed an early talent as an artist. During his film career he used this talent to design his sets and tell the story. He was the assistant director of Kajiro Yamamoto, the father of Japanese cinema. He started directing in 1933. It is not until 1951 when *Rashomon* was released that he is recognised by the West after winning the Venice Film Festival and an Oscar with films like the *Seven Samurai*, *Yojimbo*, *Throne of Blood* and *Ran*. This film explores his place in film history.

### ***Man on the Train***

**Dr Patrice Leconte : 2003 : 87m**

*Venice Film Festival Best Picture and Best Actor, Jean Rochefort.*

This is a masterpiece. The script brings the longing and questioning of the life you live. Milan arrives late in a small village on a holiday weekend – he is a criminal. Manesquier, a retired teacher, befriends him as there are no rooms available. Through their unexpected friendship both men long for the life the other has led.

### ***Beijing Bicycle***

**Dr Wang Xiaoshuai : China 2000 : 113m**

*Winner Silver Bear Berlin Film Festival 2001*

Guel is a messenger rider on the busy streets of Beijing. Finally he has earned 600 yuan to be the proud owner of the silver mountain bike he rides. On this day of happiness it is stolen. The film follows Guel's journey to discover his bike but along the way he discovers himself.

### ***Shop on the High Street***

**Dr Jan Kadar & Elmarklos**

*Academy Award Best Foreign Film 1965*

In 1942 the Nazi concentration camp deportations were taking place in a small Slovakia town. Much to the excitement of his wife and brother-in-law, Tono has been appointed "Aryan controller" of the elderly. Rozalia's a Jewish widow. Tono, a carpenter, poor but happy is faced with displacing her. Rozalia, however, believes he has come to assist her. Tono accepts this and a friendship develops. As he repairs her furniture the Nazi's round up the Jews, while he desperately tries to protect her.

### ***La Strada***

**Federico Fellini : 1956 : 104m**

*Winner of Venice Film Festival, New York Film Critics Award, BAFTA Best Film 1956*

Stars : Anthony Quinn and Giulietta Masina

Gelsomina is a simple soul who captures the eye of Zarnpano, a strong man in a circus. Her mother sells her to him and they travel the country performing. Zarnpano is a cruel and brutish man, while Gelsomina tries to please. When they encounter The Fool, a highwire performer and a rival of Zarnpano who takes a shine to Gelsomina the drama is taken to a new level.

Giulietta Masina, a brilliant actress was Fellini's wife. The circus is a recurring theme in his films. As a 9 year old he ran away to the circus but was returned to his family but the fascination remained.

## **M**

**Fritz Lang : German 1931 : 105m**

Star : Peter Lorre

*M* is Fritz Lang's first talking movie. His movie career was in a slump but *M* changed all that. Hans Beckert is a devious serial child killer and implied molester. Lang uses sound effectively to heighten tensions through the film. Hans whistles *In the Hall of the Mountain King* before he kills. When the town forms a vigilante group no-one is safe. When they capture Franz he is put on trial in a Kangaroo Court. You will recognise the film techniques born here and used in so many other films. Never seeing the perpetrator adds to the suspense.

## **L'Atalante**

**Jean Vigo : France 1934 : 85m**

This is a timeless masterpiece of love and yearning. Vigo complained that it takes two pairs of lips and three thousand meters of film to come together. Jean, a sea-faring adventurer and Juliette who wanted to be settled in the city were newly married and set afloat on a barge, along with first mate Père Jules and other crew. Vigo fell ill while filming and died of leukemia at the age of 29.

## **A Day in the Country : Une Partie De Campagne**

**Jean Renoir : French 1936 : 40m**

It is an idyllic day in the country with family, mother, father, daughter, Henrietta and her fiancé. While the men fish, the women find romance. Renoir blends nature and human nature. The film did not end as Renoir envisaged but was edited in his absence but his genius as a film maker can still be seen.

## **Zero for Conduct**

**Jean Vigo : France 1933 : 40m**

This film is about childhood rebellion against an oppressive school institution. Vigo uses motion, animation and trick photography to create form and content. These were used by others but his aquarium shot was his. There is full frontal nudity, body-obsessed humour, anti-religious and homo eroticism within the film. This is outweighed by the combination of the talents of Vigo and the place this film holds in the history of cinema.

## **The Cranes are Flying**

**Mikhail Kalatozov : Russia 1957 : 97m**

*Tatyana Samojlova won the Palme d'Or Best Actress Award*

The fate of two lovers, Boris and Veronika, are drastically changed by the outbreak of WWII. When Veronika believes Boris to be dead, she marries his cousin. It highlights the devastating effects of the war, not only on Russia but on Veronika.

## **People on Sunday**

**Dr Robert Sindmak : Germany 1929 : 73m**

This is a drama about a group of young Berliners, a taxi driver, a record shop sales girl, a film extra and a model on a typical Sunday. This is an important film of the German avant-garde, its influence on the French New Wave and the Italian Neo-realism. This version is made up of retrieved footage as no complete version still exists.