

Winter Film Series
Freedom Public Library
38 Old Portland Road (603) 539-5176
Sunday Afternoons at 4:00
FREE

January 7, 2018

LUCKY (USA, 2017)



Harry Dean Stanton was a gaunt, sad-eyed character actor who played villains and odd-balls until he became a star in 1984 as a wandering amnesiac in "Paris, Texas." He died at 91 last September, after filming "Lucky," the story of a cranky, chain-smoking, 90-year-old atheist living in a small desert town who, alone but not quite lonely, ponders his life and accepts his mortality. The film leisurely portrays his unchanging daily routine, the small absurdities of life, and frequent repartee and rants with a bunch of delightful

acquaintances. The role of Lucky was written especially for Stanton whose swan song is his greatest performance yet.

January 21, 2018

TONI ERDMANN (Germany, 2016)

Winfried, a music teacher and practical joker, is disappointed at not being able to connect with his hyper-organized daughter, Ines - a corporate strategist on assignment in Bucharest. After an awkward and unsatisfying visit with her, Winfried creates "Toni Erdmann," complete with fright wig, leer and false teeth, who presents himself as a "Life Coach" for her company. Toni then proceeds to try to upend the status quo and disrupt the establishment in his quest to get a little closer to his high-flying daughter. This is, of course, a father-daughter comedy, but the game they are playing goes a bit deeper, and the film is according to the NYT, "a work of great beauty, great feeling, and great cinema."



February 11, 2018

THE BAND'S VISIT (Israel, 2007)



An Egyptian Police Band on its way to play at an opening of an Arab Cultural Institute gets stranded in a bleak little desert town in Israel after taking the wrong bus. The owner of the one dreary café informs the bandleader that not only is there no Cultural Institute opening, there is no culture, period. There's not even a hotel, for that matter, so the band members have to depend on the kindness of strangers while they wait for the bus to arrive the next

day. There is little plot in this charming movie, but the stories of some of these wonderful characters quietly unfold, especially those of Tewfiq, the bandleader, and Dina, the Café owner. In a smart, funny and eloquent film about ordinary Arabs and Israelis (speaking English), the lives, hopes and disappointments of these characters are shown without any intrusion of political hostility.



Come for the Movie. Stay for Supper!

Films show at 4:00 and popcorn is served.



Following each movie, we offer a simple soup and bread supper for anyone who would like to stay for a meal and a chance to talk about the film. The library has a signup sheet for volunteers to bring soup or bread.

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February 25, 2018

THE FLORIDA PROJECT (USA, 2017)



This wonderful movie was made using mostly non-actors in a seedy area on the outskirts of Disneyland and in a casual, almost plotless, way recounts the daily life of a bunch of kids as they enjoy the “carefree” days of summer. The main character, 6 year old Moonee (the brilliant Brooklynn Prince), is the leader of her little gang, and they have the run of the Magic Castle Motel, where their spontaneous play can make us feel almost nostalgic for past childhood summers, but which can also lead to trouble and danger. Willem Dafoe plays the motel manager, who cares for

the marginal clientele, but has to be the referee at times in their quarrels and the supervisor for their kids. There’s no happy ending in a life like Moonee’s. Though the Magic Kingdom is not far away, the Department of Child Welfare isn’t either.

March 11, 2018

LADY BIRD (USA, 2017)



(THIS MOVIE WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 25) This coming-of-age story, while addressing every theme of a high school movie, quite successfully avoids most clichés and has been adoringly reviewed by every critic and viewer. The stars are flawless, especially Saoirse Ronan, the young Irish actress whom we saw in “Brooklyn.” Here she portrays the angst-filled teen, Christine, who has adopted “Lady-Bird” as her new name. Christine’s life is just a “disaster”: life in boring old Sacramento, constraints of a Catholic school, not being one of the cool girls or the rich kids, first sex experiments, and above all, endless arguments with mother. Although Christine commits thoughtless and even cruel acts in her path to growing up, we have to forgive her and enjoy the fast-paced and amusing scenes, the memorable characters, and the knowledge and understanding Lady-Bird accumulates as it all works out.

March 25, 2018

THE SALESMAN (Iran, 2016)

(THIS MOVIE WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 11)

Emad and Rana are a young, cosmopolitan couple starring in an amateur theater production of “Death of a Salesman.” During a rehearsal, their apartment building begins to collapse because of shoddy construction and they are forced to relocate to another dwelling. They are unaware that the new apartment has previously been occupied by a prostitute who entertained her clients there.



Some were accustomed to calling at all hours, and one night Rana unwittingly buzzes open the entry door, thinking it is her husband. It isn’t. What follows is a horrific assault and a search for revenge and justice, made more difficult by the complicated bureaucracy in present day Iran, and by personal issues of pride and commitment. Emad and Rana’s domestic story is juxtaposed with that of Linda and Willy Loman in the play, and this Oscar-nominated thriller, according to one reviewer, is a suspenseful mixture of “Alfred Hitchcock and Arthur Miller.”



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