

Three Arrows Film Festival 2011

Here's the lineup for the 2011 Three Arrows Film Festival, as presented by Jerry Cooper, Bruce Dancis, Carol Gruber and Carol Marsh.

All screenings, except those on July 1 and July 14, will be at 8 p.m. Thursdays in the Norman Thomas Social Hall.

*Friday, 8 p.m., July 1: "A Secret" ("Un Secret") - French, written and directed by Claude Miller, 2007: Based on a best-selling novel by Phillippe Grimbert (which is based on real events), Claude Miller's beautiful and moving film examines the impact on one family of France's collaboration with the occupying Germans during World War II. The film, which is set in 1953 includes flashbacks to the war years and flash-forwards to the 1980s, is centered around the unraveling of a long-held family secret. Presented by Carol Marsh.

Thursday, July 7: "The Talk of the Town" - American, directed by George Stevens, 1942: Cary Grant stars as a radical on the run from the law – I kid you not – who hides out in the home of a school teacher friend (Jean Arthur). Complicating matters is the presence of a renowned law professor (Ronald Coleman) as her temporary boarder. This remarkable comedy-drama features spirited debates about the law and justice, as well as a compelling romantic triangle. Presented by Bruce Dancis.

*Thursday, July 14, 7:45 p.m.: "The Great Dictator" - American, written and directed by Charles Chaplin, 1940: For his first all-talking film, Charles Chaplin made the daring decision to satirize Adolf Hitler and the Nazis. Drawing upon the physical resemblance of his famous character, the Little Tramp, and the German führer, Chaplin plays the dual role of a Jewish barber and Adenoid Hynkel, the ruthless dictator of Tomainia. This "prematurely anti-fascist" comedy remains one of Chaplin's most enduring and important films. This program will begin earlier than usual, at 7:45 p.m., so we can show a special surprise short which also makes fun of Hitler. Presented by Bruce Dancis.

Thursday, July 21: "Seconds" - American, directed by John Frankenheimer, 1966: Rock Hudson gives his finest performance in this thriller by the director of "The Manchurian Candidate." A banker who's unhappy with his work and his life receives a strange offer from a friend who's supposed to be dead: How would he like to take on an entirely new identity and get a second chance at life? This cautionary tale remains one of the underrated gems of the '60s. Presented by Bruce Dancis.

Thursday, July 28: "Passion Fish" - American, written and directed by John Sayles, 1992: America's leading progressive, independent filmmaker delivers a powerful work about the relationship between two women, a former soap opera star (Mary McDonnell) who returns to her native Louisiana following a debilitating injury and the housekeeper/companion/nurse (Alfre Woodard) she hires to care for her. As in many of Sayles' best films ("Lone Star," "Sunshine State"), the human drama between these two women is inextricably connected to matters of race, class and culture. Presented by Bruce Dancis.

Thursday, August 4: "Forbidden Games" ("Jeux interdits") - French, directed by Rene Clement, 1952: The heartbreaking story of the effect of war on two children - a Parisian girl whose parents and dog are killed fleeing German aerial bombardment and a peasant boy whose home she wanders into - as they devise "forbidden games" to come to terms with death. Winner of numerous awards, including the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, Venice Film Festival Golden Lion Award, NY Film Critics Circle Award. Presented by Carol Gruber.

Thursday, August 11: "The Divided Heart" - British, directed by Charles Crichton, 1954: Based on a true story, this film raises the agonizing dilemma of "whose child" - the German couple who adopted and raised a "German orphan" or the Yugoslavian mother who survives the war and comes to claim him. Winner of three British Academy film awards. Presented by Carol Gruber.

Thursday, August 18: "The Rules of the Game" ("La regle du jeu") - French, written and directed by Jean Renoir, 1939: "The Rules of the Game" is both a comedy of manners and a vicious satire on the hypocrisy of French high society on the eve of World War II. The satire was so vicious, in fact, that it led to a riot when the film premiered in Paris in 1939. Jean Renoir, who made the film, was the son of the great painter Pierre Auguste Renoir. Presented by Jerry Cooper.

Thursday, August 25: "The Go-Between" - British, directed by Joseph Losey, written by Harold Pinter, 1970: Gorgeously filmed in Technicolor in rural Norfolk, this 1900 period piece is an end-of-innocence tale, the price paid by a 13-year-old boy, poor but well-bred, who serves as the go-between for clandestine lovers. Starring Julie Christie, Alan Bates and Margaret Leighton. In the words of Vincent Canby, "an idyll about murder, a charming tale of casual cruelty, and a terrifying picture of an innocent love." Winner of the 1971 Cannes Grand Prix, entered in 1999 British Film Institute's 100 Best British Films. Presented by Carol Gruber.

Thursday, September 1: "The Night of the Hunter" - American, directed by Charles Laughton, written by James Agee, 1955: A sinister crook (Robert Mitchum), posing as a preacher, pursues two children (after murdering their mother) to learn the secret location of a cache of money stolen by their father. Co-starring Shelley Winters and Lillian Gish. The only film directed by Laughton, he used German Expressionist techniques to create a terrifying film noir, which has earned a place on many lists of film greats. Presented by Carol Gruber.