

LATER LIFE LEARNING

SERIES E: Suspense Craft: The Gripping Genius of Alfred Hitchcock

Tuesdays, 10:00 – 11:45 am, September 18 to November 20, 2018
No class October 8, 2017 for Thanksgiving

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema
506 Bloor St. W. (just east of Bathurst)

Lecturer:

Stephen Bede Scharper is associate professor at the School of the Environment and the Department for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto. A firm believer in the values of “public scholarship,” Dr. Scharper’s ability to blend the scholarly and the accessible are the hallmarks of his teaching and public speaking careers. A former columnist at the Toronto Star, he is a frequent contributor to print media and a popular guest commentator on public affairs programs on both radio and television.

Overview:

“The length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder.”—Alfred Hitchcock

This series will explore the iconic, suspenseful brilliance of legendary director Alfred Hitchcock, whose films continue to entertain, and terrify, a half century after they first illumined darkened theatres around the world.

1. September 18: Foreign Correspondent (1940)

In this, Hitchcock’s second Hollywood production, Joel McCrea stars as an intrepid American reporter unmasking Nazi collaborators in pre-war London. Professional and romantic zeal merge when he encounters a vibrant British debutante, played by 19-year-old Laraine Day and her seemingly peace-loving Dad.

2. September 25: Saboteur (1942)

This riveting World War II thriller stars Robert Cummings and Priscilla Lane in a desperate search to expose Fifth Columnists in the US, with a dramatic climax at the Statue of Liberty that is not to be missed.

3. October 2: Shadow of a Doubt (1943)

Hitchcock’s personal favourite stars a jejune Teresa Wright and suave Joseph Cotten as her Uncle Charlie, who just might not be as nice as his family thinks.

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4. October 9: *Rope* (1948)

Have you ever contemplated the perfect murder? Don't! That is an underlying theme in this eerily unsettling drama. Based on the Leopold and Loeb murder case, and starring Jimmy Stewart, it marks Hitchcock's first foray into colour.

5. October 16: *Strangers on a Train* (1951)

Featuring a spellbinding performance by Robert Walker, this Hitchcock gem stars Farley Granger as a tennis star who finds himself implicated in murder via the twisted machinations of a "fan" he meets on a train.

6. October 23: *Rear Window* (1954)

When is snooping legitimate sleuthing? Starring a mature Jimmy Stewart and a stunning Grace Kelly, this superbly directed cliffhanger also features Raymond Burr in a very non-Perry Mason-esque role.

7. October 30: *Dial M for Murder* (1954)

Starring Ray Milland, Robert Cummings, and Grace Kelly in what many deem her best performance, this blood-chilling thriller brings betrayal, blackmail, and murder right into the living room. Be careful where you leave your scissors!

8. November 6: *Vertigo* (1958)

This psychological thriller starring Jimmy Stewart and the opalescent Kim Novak reveals Hitchcock's mastery of colour, surreal art, and the noir genre. It is one reason Hitchcock has become a demiurge among European film aficionados.

9. November 13: *North by Northwest* (1959)

Considered by many to be one of the most entertaining films ever made, this lush Hitchcock Cold War offering features a sophisticated Cary Grant who experiences an unforgettable "history lesson" at Mt. Rushmore.

10. November 20: *Psycho* (1960)

Starring Janet Leigh and Anthony Perkins (as Norman Bates), this spine-tingler has been hailed as one of the most "shocking" films ever to light up a screen. Warning: After seeing this film, you may never take a shower again!