

The Museum of Modern Art

Television Movies: Big Pictures on the Small Screen

February 19-29, 2020

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

Wednesday, February 19

- 4:30pm *The Trip to Bountiful*. 1953. USA. Directed by Vincent J. Donahue. Written by Horton Foote. 60 min.
- 6:30pm *Tosca*. 1955. USA. Directed by Kirk Browning. Adaptation by John Gutman. 111 min.

Thursday, February 20

- 4:30pm *The Anderson Platoon*. 1967. France. Written and directed by Pierre Schoendoerffer. 63 min.
- 6:30pm *Present Laughter*. 1967. Great Britain. Directed by Gordon Flemyng. Written by Noël Coward. 100 min.

Friday, February 21

- 4:30pm *Le petit théâtre de Jean Renoir (The Little Theater of Jean Renoir)*. 1970. Italy, France. Written and directed by Jean Renoir. In French; English subtitles. 100 min.
- 7:30pm *Angst vor der Angst (Fear of Fear)*. 1975. Federal Republic of Germany. Written and directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. In German; English subtitles. 88 min.

Saturday, February 22

- 1:30pm *The Glass Menagerie*. 1973. USA. Directed by Anthony Harvey. Screenplay by Stewart Stern. 105 min.
- 4:30pm *Cartesius*. 1974. Italy. Written and directed by Roberto Rossellini. In Italian; English subtitles. 150 min.
- 7:30pm *Meantime*. 1983. Great Britain. Written and directed by Mike Leigh. 107 min.

Sunday, February 23

- 2pm *Inside*. 1996. United States. Directed by Arthur Penn. Written by Bima Stagg. 94 min.
- 4:30pm *The Trip to Bountiful*. 1953. USA. Directed by Vincent J. Donahue. Written by Horton Foote. 60 min.
- 6:00pm *Tosca*. 1955. USA. Directed by Kirk Browning. Adaptation by John Gutman. 111 min.

Tuesday, February 25

- 4:30pm *Present Laughter*. 1967. Great Britain. Directed by Gordon Flemyng. Written by Noël Coward. 100 min.
- 7:30pm *The Anderson Platoon*. 1967. France. Written and directed by Pierre Schoendoerffer. 63 min.

Wednesday, February 26

- 4:30pm *Angst vor der Angst (Fear of Fear)*. 1975. Federal Republic of Germany. Written and directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. In German; English subtitles. 88 min.

Thursday, February 27

- 4:30pm *The Glass Menagerie*. 1973. USA. Directed by Anthony Harvey. Screenplay by Stewart Stern. 105 min.
- 7:30pm *Cartesius*. 1974. Italy. Written and directed by Roberto Rossellini. In Italian; English subtitles. 150 min.

Friday, February 28

- 4:30pm *Meantime*. 1983. Great Britain. Written and directed by Mike Leigh. 107 min.
- 7:30pm *Inside*. 1996. United States. Directed by Arthur Penn. Written by Bima Stagg. 94 min.

Saturday, February 29

- 7:00pm *Le petit théâtre de Jean Renoir (The Little Theater of Jean Renoir)*. 1970. Italy, France. Written and directed by Jean Renoir. In French; English subtitles. 100 min.

The Trip to Bountiful. 1953. USA. Directed by Vincent J. Donehue. Written by Horton Foote. With Lillian Gish, Eileen Heckart, Eva Marie Saint. Horton Foote's excellent meditation on nostalgia premiered on NBC as part of the popular *Philco-Goodyear Television Playhouse* series before moving to Broadway in the fall of 1953. This was a marked change from the norm, as *Bountiful* became the first Broadway production based on a television play. Lillian Gish turns in arguably a career-best performance as the elderly Carrie Watts, who simply wants to see her hometown one last time before she dies. Eva Marie Saint appears in an early supporting role. This presentation includes Goodyear sponsorship messages from the original broadcast. 60 min.

Wednesday, February 19, 4:30

Sunday, February 23, 4:30

Tosca. 1955. USA. Directed by Kirk Browning. Adaptation by John Gutman. With Leontyne Price, David Poleri, Josh Wheeler. Originally televised as part of *NBC Opera Theatre*, Puccini's famous work is performed here in English with an astounding performance by legendary soprano Leontyne Price in the title role. With this production, Price became the first African-American to appear on a televised opera in a leading role. Set in Rome on the eve of the Napoleonic Wars, *Tosca* tells a tragic story of love and betrayal between painter Cavaradossi and actress Tosca. *NBC Opera Theatre* was a concerted effort to expose highbrow culture to a large audience and embodies the unusually risky and experimental mindset of early television programming. 111 min.

Wednesday, February 19, 6:30

Wednesday, February 13, 6:30

The Anderson Platoon. 1967. France. Written and directed by Pierre Schoendoerffer. Embedded in a 33-man platoon within the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, Pierre Schoendoerffer's documentary uses cinéma vérité to examine the daily life for soldiers during the Vietnam War. A veteran of the First Indochina War, Schoendoerffer saw the Vietnam War as its successor but with U.S. troops instead of French. Stanley Kubrick was an admirer of the film, and the use of Nancy Sinatra's song "These Boots Are Made for Walkin'" recalls its later use in *Full Metal Jacket*. Originally broadcast on French television, *The Anderson Platoon* aired on CBS in the U.S. before winning the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 1968. 63 min.

Thursday, February 20, 4:30

Tuesday, February 25, 7:30

Present Laughter. 1967. Great Britain. Directed by Gordon Flemyng. Written by Noël Coward. With Peter O'Toole, Honor Blackman, Isla Blair. Based on the 1939 play by Noël Coward of the same title, *Present Laughter* is a light-hearted comedy that depicts a few days in the life of self-obsessed stage actor Garry Essendine as he grapples with overcoming his imminent mid-life crisis before setting sail for a theater tour in Africa. Peter O'Toole gives an inspired performance as Garry with Honor Blackman as his estranged wife. Gordon Flemyng's version was a part of the *ITV Play of the Week* anthology series which ran from 1955 to 1974. 100 min.

Thursday, February 20, 6:30

Tuesday, February 25, 4:30

Le petit théâtre de Jean Renoir (The Little Theater of Jean Renoir). 1970. Italy, France. Written and directed by Jean Renoir. With Nino Formicola, Milly Monty, Jeanne Moreau. Consisting of four different episodes, each segment of this film deals with the theme "c'est la revolution" and is full of Renoir's trademark wit. *Le petit théâtre de Jean Renoir* was Renoir's last completed work and it encompasses the stylistic progression of his career seamlessly. With an air of dark humor, each vignette focuses on the stages of love, the evolution of relationships, and the existential connection between people, while Renoir, himself, acts as master of ceremonies. The film premiered on French

television in December of 1970 and was later released theatrically in October of 1975. In French; English subtitles. 100 min.

Friday, February 21, 4:30

Saturday, February 29, 7:00

Angst vor der Angst (*Fear of Fear*). 1975. Federal Republic of Germany. Written and directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. With Margit Carstensen, Ulrich Faulhaber, Brigitte Mira. Based on Asta Scheib's 1974 novel *Langsame Tage*, *Fear of Fear* depicts housewife Margot's descent into hysteria during the final days of her second pregnancy. Her preoccupied husband and monstrous in-laws fail to properly support her and she is forced to seek comfort by alternative means. An oft-overlooked entry in Fassbinder's oeuvre, *Fear of Fear* showcases the director at his best and stars Fassbinder regulars Margit Carstensen, Brigitte Mira, and Irm Hermann. In German; English subtitles. 88 min.

Friday, February 21, 7:30

Wednesday, February 26, 4:30

The Glass Menagerie. 1973. USA. Directed by Anthony Harvey. Screenplay by Stewart Stern. With Katharine Hepburn, Sam Waterston, Joanna Miles. 16mm. The third filmed adaptation of Tennessee Williams' breakout play aired on ABC in December 1973 and was a rousing success with critics and viewers. Taking place entirely in a small St. Louis apartment, *The Glass Menagerie* stars Sam Waterston and Katharine Hepburn (in her television debut) as the squabbling Tom and Amanda Wingfield, with Joanna Miles as the chronically ill Laura and Michael Moriarty as her would-be suitor Jim. Winner of four Primetime Emmy Awards, including Supporting Actor of the Year and Supporting Actress of the Year. 105 min.

Saturday, February 22, 1:30

Thursday, February 27, 4:30

Cartesius. 1974. Italy. Written and directed by Roberto Rossellini. With Ugo Cardea, Anne Pouchie, Claude Berthy. What is truth? This is the question at the center of Roberto Rossellini's subdued biopic on French philosopher René Descartes, part of a loose series of historical films that defined the director in his final years. The film walks through 25 years of Descartes life, focusing on his insatiable quest for knowledge as he travels throughout Europe debating other great minds. Though at first glance these films appear drastically different from the neorealist masterpieces that made him famous, the naturalistic approach, existential pondering, and use of amateur actors is pure Rossellini. In Italian; English subtitles. 150 min.

Saturday, February 22, 4:30

Thursday, February 27, 7:30

Meantime. 1983. Great Britain. Written and directed by Mike Leigh. With Marion Bailey, Phil Daniels, Tim Roth. 16mm. Featuring mesmerizing early performances by Tim Roth and Gary Oldman, Mike Leigh's *Meantime* illustrates the tedium of unemployment and the slow descent into societal disillusionment it inevitably leads to. The film follows a working-class family — particularly two sons — and contrasts them with their middle-class relatives in Thatcher-era England. Already a veteran of BBC's *Play for Today*, Leigh's fascination with the tragicomic lives of blue-collar workers is on full display here. 107 min.

Saturday, February 22, 7:30

Friday, February 28, 4:30

Inside. 1996. United States. Directed by Arthur Penn. Written by Bima Stagg. With Nigel Hawthorne, Eric Stoltz, Louis Gossett Jr. 35mm. 94 min.

Inside is director Arthur Penn's last feature film before his death in 2010 and it focuses on the presence and the collateral damage Apartheid had on the South African people — specifically those who conspired against the institutionalized system of racial segregation. The film follows the fictional imprisonment and torture of a South African political conspirator in 1988 and the aftermath of his imprisonment ten years later. *Inside* premiered on Showtime in August 1996, went on to screen theatrically in several film festivals including Toronto and Cannes, and was later nominated for an Emmy. 94 min.

Friday, February 28, 7:30

Sunday, February 23, 2:00

Dates and times are subject to change; please refer to moma.org for the most up-to-date information.

Organized by Theo Harrison, Film Traffic Coordinator, Department of Film, with Emily Rago, Intern, Department of Film.