Discovering Chestnut Hill: 2017 Preservation Awards applaud community members’ exceptional care

by Shirley Hanson

Inside Springside Chestnut Hill Academy’s historic Wissahickon Inn building on Jan. 8, the annual meeting of the Chestnut Hill Conservancy (a branch of the Chestnut Hill Community Action Program’s new name, the Chestnut Hill Conservancy) attracted a large and engaged audience of Chestnut Hill residents and preservationists. This year, the 10th annual event was focused on preserving and celebrating the community’s history, particularly in the areas of education and the arts. The conservancy also presented several awards to individuals and organizations for their contributions to the community’s cultural heritage.

Woodmere Art Museum
TELLING THE STORY OF PHILADELPHIA’S ART AND ARTISTS

Woodmere Art Museum and the Chestnut Hill Film Group present the 44th season of rare and unseen films as well as classics. For more information or clips of the films, visit woodmereartmuseum.org. Season sponsored by the Chestnut Hill Local

Tuesdays: 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments served | $5 suggested donation

Love Me Tonight
February 7
1932 | 104 minutes
Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart provide the superb score for director Robert Mulligan’s pre-code musical masterpiece starring Maurice Chevalier as a tailor and Jeanette MacDonald as the object of his ardor. Co-stars Myrna Loy and C. Aubrey Smith. Rare and technically accomplished.

Midnight
February 14
1939 | 94 minutes
Charles Brackett and Billy Wilder provide the script for Charles Laughton’s enchanting, romantic screwball comedy. British American showgirl Claudette Colbert arrives in Paris and finds herself torn between a Russian count posing as a poor taxi driver and Don Ameche and wealthy, decadent socialite John Barrymore.

7 Boxes
February 21
2012 | 110 minutes
This dark and comedic thriller is The Fast and the Furious with WheelBarrows. All Victor, a seventeen-year-old delivery boy in sweetering Asuncion, Paraguay, has to do for $300 US is deliver seven boxes of unknown contents. Multiple pursuers make the task all but impossible. In Spanish with English subtitles.

Passage to Marseille
February 24
1944 | 109 minutes
Warner Brothers’ follow up to Casablanca features most of the same talent before and behind the camera. Unfolding in a complex flashback-within-flashback structure, Michael Curtiz directs Humphrey Bogart as a freedom-loving French journalist who sacrifices his happiness and security to battle Nazi tyranny. With Claude Rains and Sylvia Sidney. Greenstreet. Music by Max Steiner and great black-and-white cinematography by James Wong Howe.

Reflections in a Golden Eye
March 7
1967 | 108 minutes

The events leading up to a bizarre crime of passion on a domestic army base are examined in one of director John Huston’s best and most unusual movies. This challenging adaptation of Carson McCuller’s novel of repression and hysteria features career-best performances from Elizabeth Taylor, Maximilian Schell, Julie Harris, Brian Keith, and Robert Forster.

Le Samourai
March 14
1967 | 105 minutes
Fern Alain Delon is an enigmatic and taciturn hit man who lives by his own austere code of ethics. He becomes dangerously enamored with an exotic nightclub singer in director Jean-Pierre Melville’s psychological crime thriller soaked in rain, trench coats, and fedoras. This hugely influential color noir deconstructs the imagery of hardboiled Hollywood into a poetic and lucid dream of imitation but never duplicated, in French with English subtitles.

The Sugarland Express
March 21
1974 | 110 minutes

Steven Spielberg’s theatrical feature film directorial debut is a road movie loaded with action and suspense, starring Goldie Hawn and William Atherton as lovers on the run who kidnap highway patrolman Michael Sacks and are pursued by lawman Ben Johnson. Music by John Williams and cinematography by Vilmos Zsigmond.

Raising Arizona
March 28
1987 | 94 minutes

The Coen Brothers second feature film is a dark, screwball comedy that takes its cues from 1940s and 1950s “B” movies and dime novels: Career criminal Nicolas Cage goes on the lam for the love of police officer Holly Hunter, but the barren desert wind up kidnapping a child and fleeing through a surreal and catchy West.

Monkeys Business
April 4
1931 | 77 minutes

The anarchic third feature film starring the Marx Brothers is a pre-code masterpiece that was the quartet’s first movie written directly for the screen. Groucho, Harpo, Chico, and Zeppo are on a train crossing the Atlantic Ocean embroiled with gangsters, romancing Thelma Todd, and each gracious-lady pretending to be Maurice Chevalier when discovered.

The Kid Brother
April 11
1927 | 84 minutes

Harold Lloyd plays a small-town undertaker living in the shadow of his more successful older brothers—but when some money is stolen from the town council, it’s up to Lloyd to find the crooks and save the day. Lloyd is flanked by Jack Oakie, featuring a heartwarming story in this delightful entertainment. Silent with live musical accompaniment, presented by the Secret Cinema, using an archival 16mm print (with surprise short subjects preceding the feature).

The Killing
April 18
1956 | 185 minutes

The prodigious gifts of young filmmaker Stanley Kubrick are artfully displayed in this, his third feature film, a tight, terse, and suspenseful film noir about a “perfectly” planned racetrack robbery. Outstanding high-key, black-and-white photography by Lucien Ballard illuminates a less glamorous gallery of iconic “B” actors including Sterling Hayden, Marie Windsor, Timothy Carey, and Elisha Cook Jr. Our 2016–2017 season finale.

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9201 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118 | 215-247-0476 | woodmereartmuseum.org