

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

January 8, 2017

HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE (New Zealand, 2016)



This wonderful comedy has everything: an endearing youngster unloved and unwanted, an unlikely “grumpy old man” caring for him, his wife, a nurturing mother figure, incompetent social service personnel, and an assortment of fabulous characters, white and Maori, who populate this New Zealand setting. The film never descends into cliché or sentiment, and the slapstick situations, though exaggerated, are real and touching. The writer/director, Taika Waititi, started out in stand-up comedy but became a movie-maker over a decade ago, and his film, shown at

the Sundance Festival, has won over all who have seen it. Ricky, the amusing and unpredictable hero will make you laugh and break your heart. He and his gruff companion, played by Sam Neill, travel on a wild and crazy journey full of hilarious escapades. You’ll love this movie.

January 22, 2017

MUSTANG (Turkey, 2015)

Five beautiful young sisters in a Black Sea coastal town are kept virtual prisoners in their home as they blossom into sexual maturity and begin to discover their own identities and interests. When, at the end of the school term, the girls’ playful behavior with some male classmates is misinterpreted as obscene and depraved, their grandmother (who cares for the orphaned girls) takes away all their possessions, replaces their clothes with frumpy frocks, and invites female neighbors to teach the girls how to cook, sew, and prepare for life as wives. Despite the fate to which they have been assigned, their loyalty to each other and their sisterly bonds are uplifting. The film has a different cultural setting, but the theme of awakening is universal, and its repression by a sometimes cruel patriarchy which protects the girls “for their own good” is disturbing but true.



February 12, 2017

THE 100 YEAR-OLD MAN WHO CLIMBED OUT THE WINDOW AND DISAPPEARED (Sweden, 2013)



Reviewers of this 2013 Swedish comedy call the film “an absurdist mock epic, hilarious and outrageous.” Allen Karlsson, a centenarian with a distinguished past who has been sentenced to a retirement home after a mishap with dynamite, escapes this dull life and begins a series of adventures. Past and present are blended a la “Forest Gump” as Karlsson relates his life story to a new friend, a dangerous skinhead type. We

relive scenes from the Spanish Civil War, the Manhattan Project, and the Cold War, and our hero's talent for blowing things up also plays a major part in the insane situations in this marvelous movie. Enjoy the extraordinary events for yourselves and laugh from start to finish during your wild ride.

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 26, 2017

REMEMBER (USA, 2015)



Christopher Plummer plays Zev, a holocaust survivor in his 80s living in a nursing home, who is losing his memory to Alzheimer's disease. He befriends a fellow survivor of Auschwitz, Max, played by Martin Landau, who has been involved in hunting down war criminals, and who has learned that the Camp Commandant, responsible for the murder of their families, is living in America under an assumed name. Unable to pursue the Nazi because he's in a wheelchair, Max convinces Zev to implement a plan they had devised earlier with Zev's recently deceased wife, to find

the villain and put a bullet in his brain. He gives Zev a letter of precise instructions which will enable him to track down the murderer. How can a feeble old man, slowly losing his own identity and memory, fulfill such a harrowing mission with just a daily reminder to "read letter" printed on his wrist to help him complete his awful task? The film proceeds both as a somber drama and suspenseful adventure, with a jolting twist at the end.

March 12, 2017

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC (USA, 2016)

Viggo Mortenson plays Ben Cash, raising a brood of six children in an extreme counterculture lifestyle, off the grid, in the forest, learning hand-to-hand combat, fending for themselves. He immerses them in classic literature and various philosophies, requiring them to form their own opinions after having memorized and regurgitated the facts and to discuss issues around nightly campfires. Sounds like this unconventional upbringing might be just a slightly extreme but positive alternative to the consumerist society of fast food outlets and shopping malls of America today.



But when their mother dies in the hospital where she has been treated for bi-polar disease, the family is confronted at her funeral by their grandfather, whose multi-millionaire life style in the mainstream and pragmatic philosophies could hardly be more different. The viewer will have to decide in the end if Ben is a principled father figure raising strong and high-achieving children or rather, a rigid, reckless fool who may be open to charges of child abuse.

March 26, 2017

INDIGNATION (USA, 2016)



Philip Roth, the brilliant novelist and chronicler of post-World War II America, wrote this small novel in 2008. It recalls a time of repressive conformity, racial segregation, blatant anti-Semitism, overpowering fear of Communism, and inhibiting sexual rules. Set in 1951 and clearly autobiographical, it's the story of Marcus Messner, son of a Newark, N.J. butcher, who in attempting to avoid the draft and service in the Korean War, is accepted by and attends Winesburg College, a small Ohio school. Marcus has all the difficulties you might

expect of a brilliant, self-proclaimed atheist, a rebel before his time, who has to undergo an uncomfortable interrogation about his philosophies, including his objection to attending compulsory chapel, and yet must keep a lid on his emotions including erotic feelings which are repressed during a complicated romance that goes wrong. This film portrays the grim atmosphere of a time long gone and is a great adaptation of a Roth novel.



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