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DIVA and LCC Team Up To Offer Great Directors Class

The DIVA Center and Lane Community College have teamed up again for a winter term course offering related to the great directors of the cinema.

The course, The History of Film: The Great Directors, meets the first Sunday of each month from 1:00 PM - 9:30 PM (with breaks). Taught by former Hollywood director and DIVA's screenwriting instructor Tom Blank, the class views and discusses in length three films by the same director. The class is an on-going exploration of the trends and innovations of the most creative filmmakers.

This winter the course offers:

January 4: Jean Renoir and French creative realism.

1 PM: "Grand Illusion" (114 min.)

4 PM: "The Rules of the Game" (106 min.)

7 PM: "French Cancan" (102 min.)

Both the 1 and 4 o'clock screenings feature films included on many critic's "best film" lists. Most critics prefer "Rules of the Game", but "Grand Illusion" is considered one of the greatest war films ever made even though no actual combat is shown. "French Cancan" is a fictionalized story of the founding of the Moulin Rouge nightclub.

February 1: Preston Sturges, Comedy Auteur

1 PM: "The Lady Eve" (94 min.)

4 PM: "Sullivan's Travels" (90 min.)

7 PM: "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek" (98 min.)

Preston Sturges was the writer director of some of the funniest movies of the 1940's. Sturges is first Hollywood director to direct his own

script. He won the first Oscar ever given for best screenplay. Moreover, his works have been the subject of nearly 100 film festivals.

March 1: Yasujiro Ozu, Unique Stylist/Unknown Master

1 PM: "Late Spring" (108 min.)

4 PM: "Tokyo Story" (136 min.)

7 PM: "Floating Weeds" (86 min.)

Ozu is widely regarded as the most Japanese of all filmmakers. Perhaps for this reason American distributors didn't show them until the 1970's, and then audiences who loved Bergman, Bresson and Antonioni accepted them enthusiastically. His work won't appeal to fans of "Batman" or "Die Hard," but they are, for those willing to accept "a tone of sympathetic sadness," incredibly moving. In fact, "Tokyo Story" in its quiet power is often equated with both "Citizen Kane" and "The Rules of the Game."

The History of Film: The Great Directors is offered by LCC and taught at DIVA. The registration fee is only \$10.00 for 24 hours of film and discussion. Register through Lane Community College's Community Education program. Free Parking in the City Parking Structures on Charnelton