Comedy on Film

With Mr. Joseph Geddes, Asst. Principal at West Morris Mendham H.S., former WMCHS teacher of Film Analysis

It has been said that comedy, perhaps more than any other form of artistic expression, has a short shelf life. Typically, comedy changes with the times and speaks to the specific needs of each new generation that arises. But of course, certain works fly in the face of this wisdom and stand as classics, entertaining generation after generation. So what is it?

This series will tackle this conundrum by looking at several examples of lauded classic film comedies through the years. We will explore what makes these films so special, what they have to say about their times and the generations that produced them, and what makes them ultimately stand the test of time (or not perhaps.)

October 7 - “A Night at the Opera: The Marx Brothers and the Art of Slapstick” @ 7:00 pm

Film to be screened on Monday, Oct. 4 @6:30 pm

October 14 - “Some Like It Hot: Gender and the Screwball Comedy” @7:00 pm

Film to be screened on Monday, Oct. 11 @6:30 pm

October 21 - “A Fish Called Wanda: Farce and the Monty Python School of Comedy” @ 7:00 pm

Film to be screened on Monday, Oct. 18 @6:30 pm

October 28 - “Best In Show: Improvisation and the Christopher Guest School of Comedy” @7:00 pm

Film to be screened on Monday, Oct., 25 @6:30 pm

Soar with the Birds

Presented by the New Jersey Audubon Society

The NJ Audubon Society requires ALL attendees to wear a mask during their presentations.

All classes begin at 10:30 a.m.

November 5 - Backyard Birds Through the Seasons

Backyards have a wonderful show of birds all year long. Learn what birds you might see through the seasons.

November 12 - Birds that Hunt - The Hawks, Falcons & Eagles of New Jersey

Over 150 pairs of Bald Eagles nest in NJ. Peregrine Falcons have re-occupied the cliffs of the Palisades and a Sharp-shinned Hawk has been hunting songbirds at your feeder. Learn about these magnificent animals and their lives

We plan on offering all sessions in-person at the Library. If there is a change, all attendees will be notified and provided with a link to an online session.

For those unable to attend in-person, all of the presenters have agreed to livestream their presentations and all but Audubon will also be available as a recording.
A Pride of Painters: Dutch Masters and French Impressionists
with Michael Norris Ph.D., former Museum Educator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

All classes begin at 10:30 a.m.

In this four-part series, get to know the part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art devoted to the pictures of three Dutch masters - Frans Hals, Johannes Vermeer and Rembrandt van Rijn - in two lectures. Along the way, learn about the Dutch Republic in its 17th century heyday, including its tulip mania and the Flying Dutchman!

Then spend two lectures in 19th century France, especially Paris, thanks to the vibrant art and exciting lives of the French impressionists Berthe Morisot and Camille Pissarro.

September 10, September 17, September 24 October 1

The Evolution of White Supremacy in America: Early Roots to Current Threats
With Dr. Jonathan Golden, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Comparative Religion and Director of Drew’s Center on Religion, Culture & Conflict

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

October 8 - Origins and Ideological Underpinnings
This first session looks at the ideological underpinnings of white supremacy in America. We will examine notions of racial hierarchy seen in the justifications for slavery in the U.S., white supremacist ideas embedded in our founding documents, and the birth of the KKK.

October 15 - The Formative Movement
This next session explores the resurgence of the KKK in the early 20th century and the American Nazi movement, which included some of America’s leading cultural and political figures. We will also explore the birth of Neo-Nazis and other White Supremacist movements of the mid-20th century.

October 22 - Revival and Going Mainstream
In this final session we will trace the evolution of White Supremacy in the United States from the late 20th century up to the present day with a focus on the movement’s makeover and mainstreaming. We will also make an effort to entertain some potential solutions.