Cinematic Achievements in Method Acting

With Mr. Joseph Geddes, Supervisor of Curriculum, Instruction & Evaluation at the West Morris Regional School District, former WMCHS teacher of Film Analysis

All classes begin at 6:30 p.m.

Method acting has been a mainstay of American cinema since the 1950s. This systematic approach to understanding and embodying a character have influenced some of the greatest on-screen performances of the 20th century. This series will explore some of these iconic films and performances, focusing on the specific techniques, cultural influences, and personalities that helped to shape them.

April 18 - James Dean and Rebel Without a Cause

April 25 - Marlon Brando and On the Waterfront

May 2 - Marilyn Monroe, Montgomery Clift, and The Misfits

May 9 - Robert DeNiro and Raging Bull

For those unable to attend in-person, the recorded series will be available to registrants for one week after the presentation.

What Are Women Good For?: the American Novel 1850-2005

with Dr. Robert Battistini, Dean of Education & Humanities and Professor of English, Centenary University

All classes begin at 10:30 a.m.

American literature has long pondered who or what is ‘American.’ But American novels have been especially interested in American women—how should women behave? What makes their lives worthwhile? Whom should they love, and how? To what extent, and how, can they act on their own desires and aspirations? These questions cannot be answered simply—they require deep engagement and attention to nuance. Novels are ideal for this sort of cultural work: novels excel at complexity, multiplicity, and even the unsolvable.

In this series, we will explore especially memorable novelistic responses to questions of women’s worth. We’ll begin with women from the Bible, then consider a half dozen American women novelists, culminating in living writer Marilyne Robinson.

June 14 - Antecedents—the Bible [Eve, Esther, Ruth, Mary] & early American novels
Susan Warner and Harriet Beecher Stowe - the role of sentiment (pious development & political action)

June 21 - Edith Wharton—the novel of manners & the role of female talent
Zora Neale Hurston—an affirmation of female desire

June 28 - Toni Morrison—intersectionality & the presence of the past
Marilynn Robinson—spirituality & the everyday
100 Years of the Broadway Musical: 1890s-1990s

With Dr. Robert W. Butts, Artistic Director/Conductor The Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey, Professor Montclair State University, Saint Elizabeth University

All classes begin at 10:30 a.m.

The Broadway musical developed from several musical theater traditions. From the 1890s through the 1990s and today.

April 5 - 1890-1920 - the development of the musical and the influence of opera, operetta, and cabaret including the works of George M. Cohan, Franz Lehar, and Florenz Ziegfeld and the songs of Jerome Kern, Irving Berlin, and George Gershwin.

April 12 - 1920-1943 - The 1920s was an exciting time for all the arts as music and theater flourished. The Depression and World War II cast a spell on the 1930s that saw the musical reinvigorated with Oklahoma! Those creating the music included Rodgers and Hart, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Sigmund Romberg, Cole Porter, and George and Ira Gershwin.

April 19 - 1943-1965 - The Golden Age of the Broadway Musical was marked by many shows that continue to be produced in opera houses, community theaters, and in revivals around the world. Those who contribute major shows included Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Leonard Bernstein, Meredith Wilson, and others.

April 26 - 1965-2000 - The late 60s and 1970s was a slow period for Broadway, though several shows were created that continue to be popular. By 1980, Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber had created a new interest in the musical which led to the production of shows that are among the most popular of all.