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# 10 Chapter 10 MEDIA

## PROGRAMS:

1. Book and a Movie: Film Discussion Group
2. Brown Bag Film Series: Laugh & Lunch with the Great Radio Comedians
3. Hollywood Heartthrobs
4. Hollywood Travels By Boat
5. How the West Was/or Wasn't
6. Old Time Film Festival
7. Outer Space on Radio
8. Remembering Classic Film Villains
9. Shiver Me Timbers: Pirates in Fact & Fiction
10. Silent Film Festival
11. A Toledo Package

## OTHER PROGRAM IDEAS:

1. Alfred Hitchcock Festival
2. Fifties Sci-Fi Films
3. From Radio to Early TV
4. Miss Marple Through the Years
5. Old-time Radio Shows
6. Sherlock Holmes Through the Years

## SOURCES:

Halliwel's DVD, Film, & Video Guide

Leonard Maltin's DVD & Video Guide

All Movie Guide: <http://www.allmovie.com>

Encyclopedia of Television: <http://http://www.museum.tv/archives/etv/index.html>

Internet Movie Database: <http://www.imdb.com>

Old-Time Radio: <http://www.old-time.com/>

Sitcoms Online: <http://www.sitcomsonline.com/>

Radio Spirits: <http://www.radiospirits.com/>



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## **MEDIA**

### **Program Title:**

Book and a Movie: Film Discussion Group

### **Description/Summary:**

Meets once a month

Movie is viewed by the group and then discussed

Refreshments are served

### **Materials/Equipment/Resources:**

DVDs and VHS tapes

DVD/VCR player

Internet reviews

### **Helpful Hints:**

Group selects titles



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## **MEDIA**

### **Program Title:**

Brown Bag Film Series: Laugh and Lunch with the Great Radio Comedians

### **Description/Summary:**

A one- to one-and-one-half hour program of classic films featuring radio comedians was set up for a six-week series. Displays of biographies and books pertaining to old-time radio programs were set up and the audience was invited to check them out. Music from records of old radio programs was played prior to and after the film showings. Everyone ate lunch together and relaxed while enjoying the films.

### **Materials/Equipment/Resources:**

Films (Great Radio Comedians: Parts I, II, and III) were borrowed from OVAL-SOLO depository, Caldwell, OH. A 16mm projector, screen, record player, seating for the audience, table for book display, coffee, cups, and napkins were set up in advance.

### **Helpful Hints:**

This is an inexpensive, low-key program that requires little preparation time. Those attending – mostly older persons, but not entirely so – seemed to really enjoy it. It is best to hold the film festival during spring and summer when the weather is pleasant.

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## MEDIA

### Program Title:

Hollywood Heartthrobs

### Description/Summary:

After reminiscing about going to the movies in the old days (costs, newsreels, cartoons), we viewed a Betty Boop cartoon. Following this the group discussed favorite female stars and viewed an excerpt from Mae West's "I'm No Angel." We then discussed favorite male stars and saw an excerpt from Douglas Fairbanks' *Thief of Baghdad*. Materials about the lives of these individuals were included in the discussion.

### Materials/Equipment/Resources:

16mm projector or TV/VCR/DVD

Fairbanks Album. Boston: NY Graphic Society, 1975.

Griffith, Richard. *Movies*. Revised & Updated ed. NY: Simon & Schuster, 1981.

Shiach, Don. *Movie Book: An Illustrated History of the Cinema*. NY: Smithmark, 1995

Tuska, Jon. *Films of Mae West*. Secaucus, NJ: Citadel Press, 1973.

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## MEDIA

### Program Title:

Hollywood Travels by Boat

### Description/Summary:

After reminiscing about going to the movies in the old days (costs, newsreels, cartoons), we discussed films that featured boats or being on the water. I showed excerpts on seven movies. Prior to each excerpt there were discussions about the stars of the movie. These movies were *Deliverance* (canoe), *River of No Return* (raft), *African Queen* (riverboat), *Captains Courageous* (fishing vessel), *Moby Dick* (whaling vessel), *Mutiny on the Bounty* (navy tall-ship), and *A Night to Remember* (cruise liner). The latter was the 1953 version with Clifton Webb and Barbara Stanwyck. Other movie possibilities are Rooster Cogburn and Showboat.

### Materials/Equipment/Resources:

TV/VCR

Current Biography (various issues about the individual actors/actresses)

Leonard Maltin's DVD & Video Guide

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## MEDIA

### Program Title:

How the West Was/or Wasn't

### Description/Summary:

This was a two-part program. The first session covered how Hollywood looked at the Old West. Excerpts from five classic films were used including *Iola's Promise*, *Big Trail* (1930), *My Darling Clementine* (1946), *Shane* (1952), and *High Noon* (1952). We finished with the closing few minutes of the TV show, *Roy Rogers*, from the 1950s with everyone singing along to "Happy Trails." Discussion and reminiscing was held throughout. The second session covered the westward journey along the Oregon Trail. Using mostly children's books with lots of pictures, discussion centered on the hardships suffered by those going west and on what each one in the group would take if they had gone. Interspersed were excerpts from two film documentaries, *The Real West* (1961) and *America: Gone West* (1973).

### Materials/Equipment/Resources:

TV/VCR and/or film projector

Everson, William K. *Pictorial History of the Western Film*. Secaucus, NJ: Citadel Press, 1969.

Fisher, Leonard Everett. *Oregon Trail*. NY: Holiday House, 1990.

Parkman, Francis. *Oregon Trail: Sketches of Prairie and Rocky-Mountain Life*. NY: Dodd, Mead, 1964.

*Real West* (video). Newton, NJ: Shanachie Entertainment Corp., 1993.

Stein, R. Conrad. *Story of the Oregon Trail*. Chicago: Childrens Press, 1984.



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## **MEDIA**

### **Program Title:**

Old Time Film Festival

### **Description/Summary:**

On Wednesday evenings during the summer, we presented one-hour programs of classic films. Books about movies and actors were on display each night; the audience could check them out if they wished.

### **Materials/Equipment/Resources:**

16mm film projector and screen and seating were ready each week. Films that were selected featured W.C. Fields (Dentist, Golf Specialist, Fatal Glass of Beer), Charlie Chaplin (Easy Street, Floorwalker, Vagabond), Laurel & Hardy (Flying Deuces), and Buster Crabbe (Rocket Ship).

### **Helpful Hints:**

This program was publicized with posters in senior centers, news releases, and on the cable TV bulletin board. The library also printed bookmarks which advertised the program and listed which films were going to be shown and on which nights.



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## MEDIA

### Program Title:

Outer Space on Radio: From the War of the Worlds to Buck Rogers

### Description/Summary:

Following a brief discussion of old-time radio programs, we discussed a variety of science fiction series and the stars that provided the voices. This was divided into five segments: Children's series, Horror/Fantasy series, Anthology series, and the Mercury Theater on the Air. Excerpts were played from some of the shows in each category.

### Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Books:

Cantril, Hadley. Invasion from Mars. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Univ. Press, 1966.

Douglas, Susan J. Listening In. NY: Times Books, 1999.

Lackmann, Ronald W. Encyclopedia of American Radio. NY: Facts on File, 2000.

Maltin, Leonard. Great American Broadcast. NY: Dutton, 1997.

Rhoads, B. Eric. Blast From the Past. West Palm Beach, FL: Streamline Pub., 1996.

Sies, Luther F. Encyclopedia of American Radio: 1920-1960. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2000.

Cassettes: (for excerpts)

Adventures of Superman

Lights Out

Dimension X

X-Minus One

War of the Worlds

Other suggested series include Buck Rogers in the 25<sup>th</sup> century, Flash Gordon, Land of the Lost, Space Patrol, Quiet Please, Latitude Zero, and Tales of Tomorrow.

### Helpful Hints:

Try to keep the excerpts between 5-10 min.

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## MEDIA

### Program Title:

Remembering Classic Film Villains

### Description/Summary:

After a discussion about favorite horror movies, ten-minute excerpts from four classic films were shown. They included *Phantom of the Opera* (1925), *Dracula* (1931), *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935), and *The Wolfman* (1941). We then discussed how horror movies have changed in recent years.

### Materials/Equipment/Resources:

TV/VCR and/or 16mm projector

Boarski, Richard. *Films of Bela Lugosi*. Secaucus, NJ: Citadel Press, 1980.

Boarski, Richard. *Films of Boris Karloff*. Secaucus, NJ: Citadel Press, 1974.

Griffith, Richard. *Movies*. Revised and updated ed. NY: Simon & Schuster, 1981.

Shiach, Don. *Movie Book: An Illustrated History of the Cinema*. Revised ed. NY: Smithmark, 1995.

### Helpful Hints:

Before each film, material was presented on the life of the major actor as well as other movies in which he starred. I used this as a Halloween program and they really loved it.



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## MEDIA

### Program Title:

Shiver Me Timbers: Pirates in Fact & Fiction

### Description/Summary:

After discussion about pirates in general, five-minute excerpts from four pirate movies were shown. Discussion preceded each film about the actors/actresses showcased in them. Following this was a 10-minute excerpt from the film documentary: *"Pirates, Passion, & Plunder"* (Questar Video, 1995). Discussion then centered around the realities of piracy.

### Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Griffith, Richard. *Movies*. Revised and updated ed. NY: Simon & Schuster, 1981.

Leonard Maltin's *DVD & Video Guide*

Shiach, Don. *Movie Book: An Illustrated History of the Cinema*. Revised ed. NY: Smithmark, 1995

Movies: *Captain Blood*(1935); *Frenchman's Creek*(1944); *Treasure Island*(1950); *Kidnapped*(1960); *Pirates of Penzance* (1988) +

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## MEDIA

### Program Title:

Silent Film Festival

### Description/Summary:

Part I: Dramatic Stars

Beginning with the history of film, a five-minute excerpt from the first real movie was shown—*The Great Train Robbery* (1903) by Thomas Edison. Then a guessing game was held using pictures from books. Following this the Charlie Chaplin film, *The Tramp*, as shown.

Part II: Comedy Stars

Using the above format, another guessing game was held, then several short films were shown. They were *Love, Speed, & Thrills* with the Keystone Cops, *Mabel's New Hero* with Fatty Arbuckle, and *Haunted Spooks* with Harold Lloyd.

### Materials/Equipment/Resources:

16mm projector

Blum, Daniel C. *A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen*. NY: Putnam, 1953.

Griffith, Richard. *Movies*. Revised and updated ed. NY: Simon & Schuster, 1981.

Kerr, Walter. *Silent Clowns*. NY: Knopf, 1975.

Shiach, Don. *Movie Book: An Illustrated History of the Cinema*. Revised ed. NY: Smithmark, 1995.

### Helpful Hints:

Between films, we discussed the lives of various stars especially those in the films presented.



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## **MEDIA**

### **Program Title:**

A Toledo Package

### **Description/Summary**

This is a series of slide-tape productions produced by the Local History Department of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The goal is to increase public awareness of library resources, services, and programs and to promote interest in the humanities. Topics were "Meet me at the Tiedtke's," "Local History Highlights," "Toledo in the 1920's," "Toledo Towns and Neighborhoods," and "The Afro-American Experience in Toledo."

### **Materials/Equipment/Resources:**

A brochure was produced with brief descriptions of each topic. Pre-cued tapes, narrative with musical background, 35mm slides, slide projector, and cassette player were necessary as part of the whole program package.

### **Helpful Hints:**

A professional audio consultant provided advice for quality slide-tape programs. Narration on tape must be clear and distinguishable over tape hiss and other distracting noises.

Although the topics are primarily of interest to residents of Toledo, similar programs can be (or perhaps have been) developed by other cities. Hometown history seems to be especially appreciated by seniors.