

*The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
in Central Oregon presents:*

OLLI Film Series

Hosted by Larry Weinberg

February 8: *Khartoum*

A 1966 film starring Charlton Heston (as Chinese Gordon) and Laurence Olivier (as the Mahdi). The film portrays the British defense of the Sudanese city of Khartoum against the siege of the Mahdist army. While there are deviations from historical events, the film does portray actual history from the 1880's, and Chinese Gordon was a fascinating character. This film is part of our ongoing series of shows that examine events of the Middle East and the portrayal of the residents of this critical area.

February 22: *Harvey*

Try to imagine that you have a giant rabbit (that no one else can see) for a friend. Do you think that might complicate your life? Well, that's just the challenge facing Jimmy Stewart in *Harvey*. Join us to watch this adventure as Elwood P. Dowd (Stewart) and Harvey the rabbit take on one and all. Stewart received an Oscar nomination for his work in this great film and Josephine Hull won the award for Best Supporting Actress in this 1950 delight.

March 14: *Topper*

This 1937 comedy tells the story of a stuffy, stuck-in-his-ways man who is haunted by the ghosts of a fun-loving married couple. Directed by Norman Z. McLeod, the film was produced by Hal Roach and distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. The movie stars

Constance Bennett, Cary Grant, Roland Young, Billie Burke, Alan Mowbray, Arthur Lake, and Hedda Hopper. It was nominated for Academy Awards for Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Young) and Best Sound, Recording. The movie was followed by the sequels *Topper Takes a Trip* (1939) and *Topper Returns* (1941). There was also a television series of the same name, which aired from 1953 to 1956, starring Leo G. Carroll and Anne Jeffreys.

March 28: *Circle of Deceit*

A 1982 German film that explores the civil war in Lebanon. The German actor Bruno Ganz plays a reporter covering the Lebanese war who quickly becomes too involved in the horror around him to remain subjective. What makes the film so gripping is that it was filmed on location while the war was going on, giving this film an immediacy rarely seen in fiction. *Circle of Deceit* puts the viewer into an uncomfortably voyeuristic position, effectively taking part in an examination of the pornography that war reporting has become for a large section of the media. Ganz is superb as he slowly comes to realize that he is living a lie. The main language is German, but in different situations appropriate languages are used. (English Subtitles)

April 11: *The Awful Truth*

Irene Dunne and Cary Grant star in this 1937 romantic comedy. The plot concerns

the machinations of a soon-to-be-divorced couple who go to great lengths to try to ruin each other's romantic escapades. *The Awful Truth* marked the first appearance of the uniquely effective light comedy persona used by Cary Grant in almost all his subsequent films, catapulting Grant's career. Grant fought hard to get out of the film during its shooting, since the Director Leo McCarey seemed to be improvising as he went along, and initially even wanted to switch roles with co-star Ralph Bellamy. Although this led to hard feelings, it didn't prevent another McCarey-Grant collaboration, *An Affair to Remember*, from being produced decades later.

April 25: *Rana's Wedding*

Shooting on location in East Jerusalem, Ramallah and at checkpoints in-between, Palestinian (Dutch/Arab Israeli) director Hany Abu-Assad filmed ***Rana's Wedding*** to observe the Palestinian-Israeli conflict through the eyes of a young woman who, with only ten hours to marry, must negotiate her way around roadblocks, soldiers, stone-throwers, overworked officials... and into the heart of an elusive lover. This movie, which explores love among the ruins of an occupied territory, was presented with the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival's 2003 Nestor Almendros Prize for courage in filmmaking. (English Subtitles)

May 9: *Belles of St. Trinians*

A 1954 comedy set in the fictional St. Trinian's School, this film and its sequels were inspired by a series of cartoons by British

cartoonist Ronald Searle. Directed by Frank Launder and written by him and Sidney Gilliat, it was the first of a series of four films with well-known British actors: Alastair Sim was both headmistress Miss Fritton and her brother Clarence Fritton, George Cole was cockney badboy "Flash Harry", and Joyce Grenfell was Policewoman Ruby Gates. The students become embroiled in a plot with the daughter of an Arab sheik and the sheik's racehorse, trying to gamble on the outcome of the upcoming "Gold Cup" horse race. The Fourth Formers want the sheik's racehorse to win. However, the Sixth Formers want to keep the sheik's racehorse from racing, so that another racehorse can win instead. Meanwhile, the headmistress of the school also places a bet on the sheik's racehorse to win, to save her beloved school. All the while, the schoolgirls battle against the Ministry of Education, and against the school mistresses (the teachers) and the local police force, as well as amongst each other.

May 23: *Monsieur Ibrahim*

Omar Sharif stars in this 2003 French film directed by François Dupeyron. The film begins in a working-class neighborhood in the 1960s Paris. The main character, MoDse Schmidt (Momo), is a young Jewish boy growing up without a mother and with a father afflicted by crippling depression. Momo is fascinated by the elderly Muslim man (Ibrahim Demildji, played by Sharif) who runs a grocery store (where Momo often shoplifts). Their relationship develops and soon Momo feels closer to Ibrahim than to his father. The film traces this relationship. (English Subtitles)

Films are shown on the **second and fourth Fridays of the month at 1:00 p.m.**

Location: Terrace Lodge, Touchmark at Mt. Bachelor Village

A Touchmark map can be found at <http://touchmarkbend.com/tbor-SITE-MAP-BIG.htm>. The folks at the reception desk in the Terrace Lodge can show you the way to the Forum. Touchmark residents may join us to view and discuss the films.