

THE NEW COURIER

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Institut d'Estudis Nord-Americans

Monthly Publication

New cycle Film Club

*American Novels turned into Films:
Words- Upon- Images Cycle*



Literature and film have always had both good and reciprocal relations, a connection which has had and has different ways of expressing itself. Sometimes, literature is converted into film through the movie adaptation of literary works where the stories have been transformed into film scripts with great or not so great success. At times the opposite happens: the success of a film leads to the writing of a book based on the film script. In some films, literature has a main role in showing us the life of a real or fictional writer.

Since the beginning of American cinema, in the early 20th century, the relationship of the seventh art form with literature has been constant. A good number

of American authors, from Faulkner to Steinbeck to Miller to Fitzgerald to Hemingway were hired by the powerful film industry either to write film scripts or to adapt their own literary works into scripts to bring them to the big screen.

This academic year, we are going to take a look at some of the best American literary works that were brought to the big screen, works by John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Paul Auster, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, and Dashiell Hammet.

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Author of *Godesses in Everywoman*, *Gods in Everyman*, and *Goddesses in Older Women* presents

"THE GRAIL AND THE WASTELAND" A Healing Story for Psyche and Planet

The wounded Fisher King and the Wasteland is a personal and planetary story about depression, lack of creativity and failure to generate new life. The Grail that could heal the wounded king and restore the Wasteland needs to return to individual and collective consciousness.

The Grail is a feminine symbol and the story is a story for our time. There is a fascination with the sacred feminine and a need for the feminine principle to emerge.

The wound and the wasteland, patriarchy and the current state of the world are metaphorically related.

In this talk, Jean Bolen will give life to the story of the Grail and will reveal how the sacred feminine and the feminine principle are able to emerge through a world proliferation of women's circles.

November 4th at 7:00PM
IEN Theater

FILM CLUB

AMERICAN NOVELS TURNED INTO FILMS: WORDS-INTO-IMAGES CYCLE

In November we're opening this cycle with two of the most important works by John Steinbeck that were brought to the big screen.



Words John Steinbeck "Of Mice and Men", 1938

Clinging to each other in their loneliness and alienation, George and his simple-minded friend Lennie dream, as drifters will, of a place to call their own. But after they come to work on a ranch in the Salinas Valley their hopes, like "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men," begin to go awry.

"A thriller, a gripping tale ... that you will not set down until it is finished. Steinbeck has touched the quick."

Images Lewis Milestone "Of Mice and Men", 1939

Truly one of the unsung triumphs of 1939, this heartfelt adaptation of John Steinbeck's morality tale of two itinerant migrant workers seems just as fresh and powerful decades after its release. Lon Chaney Jr. gives the performance of a lifetime as the sweet yet feeble-minded Lennie, who is befriended by the weary Burgess Meredith. They both would be lost without each other in a rather mixed-up world.

November 10th at 7:00PM Theater



Words John Steinbeck "The Grapes of Wrath", 1939

In stark and moving detail, John Steinbeck depicts the lives of ordinary people striving to preserve their humanity in the face of social and economic desperation. When the Joads lose their tenant farm in Oklahoma, they join thousands of others, traveling the narrow concrete highways toward California and the dream of a piece of land to call their own. Each night on the road, they and their fellow migrants recreate society: leaders are chosen, unspoken codes of privacy and generosity evolve, and lust, violence, and murderous rage erupt.

A portrait of the bitter conflict between the powerful and the powerless, of one man's fierce reaction to injustice, and of a woman's quiet, stoical strength, **The Grapes of Wrath** is a landmark of American literature, one that captures the horrors of the Great Depression as it probes into the very nature of equality and justice in America.

Images John Ford "The Grapes of Wrath", 1940

Ranking No. 21 on the American Film Institute's list of the 100 greatest American films, this 1940 classic is a bit dated in its noble sentimentality, but it remains a luminous example of Hollywood classicism from the peerless director of mythic Americana, John Ford. The film tells a simple story about Oklahoma farmers leaving the depression-era dustbowl for the promised land of California, but it's the story's emotional resonance and theme of human perseverance that makes the movie so richly and timelessly rewarding. It's all about the humble Joad family's cross-country trek to escape the economic devastation of their ruined farmland, beginning when Tom Joad (Henry Fonda) returns from a four-year prison term to discover that his family home is empty. He's reunited with his family just as they're setting out for the westbound journey, and thus begins an odyssey of saddening losses and strengthening hopes.

November 24th at 7:00PM Theater

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Michigan Proficiency, ECPE

The ECPE (Examination for the Certificate of Proficiency in English) is the official proficiency in English Exam offered by the University of Michigan. A proficiency level in English is considered to be equal to that of a native speaker and is the required level for students seeking to attend an English-speaking university.

The Michigan Proficiency is proof of English ability at the proficiency level and is useful when looking for employment. It is a proficiency exam. We recommend the exam for students who are at the post-advanced level.

You will be able to take the ECPE this month at the IEN!

Important Information

Preliminary Exam Date:
November 12, 6:00 to 7:00 PM, IEN Theater

Test Registration:
November 16 - 22 in the Academic Office

Interviews:
November 19, 22 and 23

Final Exam:
November 26, 9:30AM - 1:30PM, IEN Theater

Exam Price: 165
FOR IEN STUDENTS ONLY: 150

Jubilee Jazz Club

The Jubilee Jazz Club is a jazz music group that organizes concerts, lecture cycles with a music listening component, and films at the IEN. They usually give two free programs a month. You're all invited to come. We hope to see you there!

This month we're having:

November Calendar

November 11th

ILLINOIS JACKET (1922-2004)
Directed by Vicenç Plana
FILM THE ILLINOIS JACKET
Directed by Arthur Elgort

November 25th

ELVIN JONES
Directed by Daniel Carbonell and Joan Mas
FILM DIFFERENT DRUMMER:
ELVIN JONES

Free! Thursday 11th November and
Thursday 25th November at 7:00
PM, IEN Conference Room

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Day in America is celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November, which this year is November 25th. It is a time to offer thanks, a time of family gatherings and holiday meals, a time of turkeys, stuffing, and pumpkin pie, a time for Indian corn, holiday parades and giant balloons.

Thanksgiving USA

The American Thanksgiving holiday began as a feast of thanksgiving in the early days of the American colonies almost four hundred years ago. In 1620, a boat filled with more than one hundred people sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to settle in the New World. This religious group had begun to question the beliefs of the Church of England and they wanted to separate from it.

The Pilgrims settled in what is now the state of Massachusetts. Their first winter in the New World was difficult. They had arrived too late to grow many crops, and without fresh food, half the colony died from disease. The following spring the Iroquois Indians taught them how to grow corn (maize), a new food for the colonists. They showed them other crops to grow in the unfamiliar soil and how to hunt and fish. In the autumn of 1621, bountiful crops of corn, barley, beans and pumpkins were harvested.

The colonists had much to be thankful for, so a feast was planned. They invited the local Indian chief and 90 Indians. The Indians brought deer to roast with the turkeys and other wild game offered by the colonists. The colonists had learned how to cook cranberries and different kinds of corn and squash dishes from the Indians. To this first Thanksgiving, the Indians had even brought popcorn. In following years, many of the original colonists celebrated the autumn harvest with a feast of thanks. After the United States became an independent country, Congress recommended one yearly day of thanksgiving for the whole nation to celebrate.

George Washington suggested the date November 26 as Thanksgiving Day. Then in 1863, at the end of a long and bloody civil war, Abraham Lincoln asked all Americans to set aside the fourth Thursday in November as a day of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving falls on the fourth Thursday of November, a different date every year. The President must proclaim that date as the official celebration. In 1939 President Franklin D. Roosevelt set it one week earlier. He wanted to help business by lengthening the shopping period before Christmas. Congress ruled that after 1941 the 4th Thursday in November would be a federal holiday proclaimed by the President each year.



Symbols of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a time for tradition and sharing. Even if they live far away, family members gather for a reunion at the house of an older relative. All give thanks together for the good things that they have. In this spirit of sharing, civic groups and charitable organizations offer a traditional meal to those in need, particularly the homeless.

On most tables throughout the United States, foods eaten at the first thanksgiving have become traditional. Turkey, corn (or maize), pumpkins, sweet potatoes (yams), potatoes and cranberry sauce are symbols which represent the first Thanksgiving. Now these symbols are drawn on holiday decorations and greeting cards.

The use of corn meant the survival of the colonies. "Indian corn" as a table or door decoration represents the harvest and the fall season. Sweet-sour cranberry sauce, or cranberry jelly, was on the first Thanksgiving table and is still served today. The cranberry is a small, sour berry. It grows in bogs, or muddy areas, in Massachusetts and other New England states. The Indians used the fruit to treat infections. They used the juice to dye their rugs and blankets. They taught the colonists how to cook the berries with sweetener and water to make a

sauce. The Indians called it "ibimi" which means "bitter berry." When the colonists saw it, they named it "cranberry" because the flowers of the berry bent the stalk over, and it resembled the long-necked bird called a crane.

The berries are still grown in New England. Very few people know, however, that before the berries are put in bags to be sent to the rest of the country, each individual berry must bounce at least four inches high to make sure they are not too ripe! In 1988, a Thanksgiving ceremony of a different kind took place at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. More than four thousand people gathered on Thanksgiving night. Among them were Native Americans representing tribes from all over the country and descendants of people whose ancestors had migrated to the New World.

The ceremony was a public acknowledgment of the Indians' role in the first Thanksgiving 350 years ago. Until recently most schoolchildren believed that the Pilgrims cooked the entire Thanksgiving feast, and offered it to the Indians. In fact, the feast was planned to thank the Indians for teaching them how to cook those foods. Without the Indians, the first settlers would not have survived.

We offer the following tasty holiday recipe to your own feast on Thanksgiving Day



FURMENTY (a wheat pudding on the order of an Indian Pudding)

Ingredients

1 cup cracked wheat
1/8 tsp. Ground mace
1 quart milk
1/2 tsp. Ground cinnamon
3/4 cup milk
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup heavy cream
2 eggs yolks
1/2 tsp. Salt
additional brown sugar

Directions

In a large pot, bring the water to a boil and add the wheat. Lower heat to simmer, cover, and continue to cook for 1/2 hour, or until, soft. Drain off all the water and add the milk, cream, salt, mace, cinnamon and sugar. Continue to simmer, stirring occasionally, until most of the liquid is absorbed (20 to 30 minutes). In a small bowl, beat the egg yolks and slowly stir 1/2 cup of the wheat mixture into the yolks. Then stir the yolk mixture into the pot, and continue cooking for another 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Serve sprinkled with brown sugar.

TEACHER'S PROFILE

This month we've talked with Judith Leary



Where were you born?

I was born in Lexington, Mass., the "birth place of American liberty" where the first battle of the American Revolutionary War was fought.

2. What is your city like?

It's a large town that pretends it's a small town. There's a historic center with a few buildings from the 1700's. It's still governed by a town council, a type of general assembly dating back to Revolutionary times. There isn't a mayor or any political parties, just individual council members. There's an open town council meeting at least once a year and any town resident can participate by presenting ideas or plans, or criticize and argue with the council members. It's quite an interesting experiment in democracy. Lexington is about 45 min. outside of Boston, so it's quite easy to visit the big city.

3. If you were to prepare a trip to your city for someone, what would you recommend visiting?

Boston. Boston is a university city so there's a lot going on, theater, concerts, and museums. There are a couple of interesting walking tours through the historic sections of Boston. You can visit Beacon Hill where they still have gas lamps for street lights or the renovated port area. You can cross the Charles River and visit Cambridge and walk around Harvard Yard.

4. Why did you decide to leave the US and move to Barcelona?

I was planning to teach in the public school system in San Francisco, and Spanish would have been extremely useful for that. The idea was to perfect my college Spanish. I had been planning to move to Madrid, and one night, on a whim, I said, "Forget Madrid! ... Barcelo-

na!" Thank God! I came with the intention of staying for a year, but just a couple of weeks after arriving I knew that that wasn't going to be enough. This was back in 1995 and I've got no plans to move back to the U.S. I go every couple of years on vacation and that's plenty!

5. What do you like best and least about Barcelona?

I came to Barcelona with the idea of staying for 2 or 3 years in order to learn Spanish so I could use that language in a job in the States. I've been here for 29 years which goes to show you what a poor language learner I am.

What I like best about Barcelona is that it's a very large but very livable city. Within the city there's quite a variety of places and things to do, the museums are wonderful, the restaurants are great, there's theater and music. And the geographical location of Barcelona is fantastic, you couldn't ask for more.

What I like least about the city is hectic, stressed pace, the big city coldness.

6. This month we're celebrating Thanksgiving. What does this holiday mean to you? How do you celebrate it in the US? Do you celebrate it here?

It used to mean a big turkey dinner with the family and our cousins' family. We'd spend most of the morning organizing and cooking for 15 or 18 people. This is pretty typical for Thanksgiving in the U.S., families and or friends get together and have a big meal, people add foods and dishes to the meal depending on where they're from and their family's roots. My family is of Irish origin, so we had all the traditional pilgrim type foods. We used to celebrate it here when we had the day off but some years ago Thanksgiving as a holiday got canceled so we don't celebrate it anymore.

SOURCES

www.Holidays.net <http://www.Holidays.net>, www.thanksgiving.allrecipes.com <http://www.thanksgiving.allrecipes.com>, www.theholidayspot.com <http://www.theholidayspot.com>, www.rats2u.com <http://www.rats2u.com>, www.novelguide.com <http://www.novelguide.com>, www.gradesaver.com <http://www.gradesaver.com>, www.sinisefans.org <http://www.sinisefans.org>, www.ac.www.edu <http://www.ac.www.edu>, www.filsite.org <http://www.filsite.org>

Celebrations the Complete Book of American Holidays, Contemporary Authors

PAST EVENTS: HALLOWEEN



November Activities

4 Thursday	7:00 PM	CONFERENCE THE GRAIL AND THE WASTELAND A Healing Story for Psyche and Planet	Theater
10 Wednesday	7:00 PM	FILM CLUB THE GRAIL AND THE WASTELAND Directed by Lewis Milestone	Theater
11 Thursday	8:00 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB ILLINOIS JACKET (1922-2004) Directed by Vicenç Plana	Conference Room
24 Wednesday	7:00 PM	FILM CLUB THE GRAPES OF WRATH Directed by John Ford	Theater
25 Thursday	22:30 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB ELVIN JONES Directed by Daniel Carbonell and Joan Mas	Conference Room
28 Thursday	22:30 PM	DINNER IN ENGLISH (Approximately 20)	Restaurant La Cratera
27 Saturday	1:45 PM	JUNIOR THANKSGIVING LUNCH AND GAMES IN ENGLISH (15)	Speak Easy Bar

MONTHLY REGULAR EVENTS

Twice a month at 7:00 PM	FILM CLUB in the IEN Theater. American Independents
Every two Thursday at 8:00 PM	JUBILEE JAZZ CLUB Concerts and lectures.
Once a month at 10:30 PM	DINNER IN ENGLISH [all other levels] Practice your English in a natural setting while you eat, drink, and socialize with IEN teachers and fellow students!

*Tickets are available at the reception desk, approximately 20.00.

What activities would you like to see? Do you have other opinions or contributions? Write us at:
The Courier, Via Augusta, 123. T. 93 240 5110 e-mail: info@ien.es