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Classic Film Festival Nov. 4-7

Summary:

(September 29, 2004)-By Jackie Thrasher '05, UMM News Service -- What do Marilyn Monroe, Cary Grant, and Elizabeth Taylor have in common? Each are stars in the sixth annual Classic Film Festival series, presented by the University of Minnesota, Morris Campus Activities Council Films Committee. This year's festival will run Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 4-7 at the Morris Theatre. Following is the schedule and film descriptions:

Thursday, Nov. 4, at 7 p.m., *Some Like it Hot*. (b/w, 1959, 120mins, PG) Starring Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis. Directed by Billy Wilder. Two out of work musicians witness the St. Valentine's Day massacre and hit on a novel solution to escape the mobsters who wish to rub them out. They trade in their trousers, don women's clothing and head south with Sweet Sue and her Society Syncopaters. With one of the sharpest scripts by Billy Wilder and I.A.L. Diamond this movie has everything. A great cast on top form in a story that careens along to a killer finish. The supporting cast, which includes George Raft, Pat O'Brien and Joe E. Brown, is excellent. Nominated for six Oscars, including best actor (Lemmon), writing (Wilder/Diamond) and director, it won only one for Best Costume Design, black and white.

Friday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m., *Arsenic and Old Lace*. (b/w, 1944, 118mins, NR) Starring Cary Grant, Josephine Hull, Jean Adair, Raymond Massey, Peter Lorre and Priscilla Lane. Directed by Frank Capra. Grant plays an author famous for writing books denouncing the institution of marriage who has just married. As he introduces his new bride to his family he discovers just what his sweet maiden aunts have been up to in their basement. This film has plenty of witty dialogue, lots of funny slapstick and physical humor, and quite a few wild plot developments. Sit back and enjoy the ride. Adapted from Joseph Kesselring's play.

Saturday, Nov. 6, at 2 p.m., *National Velvet*. (color, 1944, 123mins, G) Starring Elizabeth Taylor, Mickey Rooney, Donald Crisp, Anne Revere and Angela Lansbury. Directed by Clarence Brown. Taylor and Rooney, child movie star products of the studio star system, are at their best in this great family movie. A young girl strives to fulfill her dreams, against the odds, by entering her horse in the famed Grand National Steeplechase. Based on the book by Enid Bagnold. Revere won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar in the role of Taylor's mother.

Saturday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m., *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. (b/w, 1951, 92mins, G) Starring Michael Rennie, Patricia Neal, Hugh Marlowe and Sam Jaffe. Directed by Robert Wise. The classic sci-fi movie from the 1950s as well as a wry commentary on the political climate of the era. An alien, with his robot companion, arrives on Earth to deliver a warning to all nations. Communication proves difficult and he learns that not all humans share his peaceful intentions. The special effects might not compare to what can be achieved using computers today but the quiet and observant story draws you in and highlights both the good and the bad in human nature.

Sunday, Nov. 7, at 7 p.m., *The Birds*. (color, 1963, 119mins, G) Starring Tippi Hedren, Rod Taylor, Jessica Tandy and Suzanne Pleshette. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. One of Hitchcock's strangest and most terrifying films. A young

woman travels to the coastal town of Bodega Bay in California to hook up with a young man she's only just met. Soon the town is being attacked by marauding birds. This is one of Hitchcock's most psychologically complicated stories, a tense study of violence, loneliness, and complacency. Loosely based on a story by Daphne du Maurier.

Following each film there will be a discussion at the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Center in Morris, 630 Atlantic Avenue.

Tickets may be purchased individually, or as a pass for the entire festival beginning in October at the UMM Office of Student Activities or from the Morris Theatre. Individual tickets are priced at \$1.50 for UMM students \$2 for seniors and children under 18 and \$3 for general admission. Festival passes are priced at \$5 for UMM students \$7.50 for seniors and children under 18 and \$10 for general admission.

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