

STAGES OF LIFE IN FILM

Coordinators: Marshall Marcovitz and Renee Solomon

Movies can act as a time machine, causing you to think about your life in an entirely new way. This study group uses clips from twelve remarkable movies to discuss the films in the context of great stories, great performances, character development, direction and editing. A life-cycle developmental perspective, derived from Eric Erickson's framework of the developmental tasks to be mastered as one moves through life's stages from childhood through old age, adds to the depth of the discussion. Class members give a voluntary director's report. All films are available from Netflix, Amazon streaming, or DVD. Our study begins with *Citizen Kane*, which spans a tycoon's lifetime. Please view *Citizen Kane* before the first class. See you at the movies.

Readings and other Required Materials:

"Raising Kane and Other Essays" by noted film critic Pauline Kael plus readings about developmental life stages will be selected from among the following. Readings will be available either in a coursepack or sent to class members via email.

Betty Carter and Monica McGoldrick, *The Expanded Family Life Cycle*, Allyn & Bacon, 2005, 3rd edition: Chapter 2, Self in Context: The Individual Life Cycle, pp.27-47
Chapter 4, Culture and the Family Life Cycle, pp. 59-68

Avery Weisman, *On the Nature of Being Mortal*, Human Sciences Press, 1986 : Chapter 6, The 10 Speed Life Cycle, pp. 112-133

Erik Erikson, *Childhood and Society*, W.W. Norton, 1963, 2nd Ed., Chapter 7, Eight Ages of Man, pp. 147-175

J. Brandon Wallace Reconsidering the Life Review, *The Gerontologist*, Vol. 32, pp 120-125 (1992)

Philip Roth, The Last Days of Herman Roth *NY Times*, Dec. 30, 1990

Peggy McIntosh, *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack, Peace and Freedom, 1989*, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

FILMS should be viewed before each class and participants should be ready to discuss. Assignment for first session: please watch *Citizen Kane*, 1941, directed by Orson Wells. Volunteer to give a director's report on Wells.

Marshall Marcovitz has had a lifelong love affair with the movies. He's fascinated with the power of the movies to move us emotionally. He studied film with the famed critic Roger Ebert at the University of Chicago. **Renee Solomon**, DSW, is a retired professor, Columbia University School of Social Work. A gerontologist and clinical social worker, she currently has a small psychotherapy practice - and she loves the movies.

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Week 1: *CITIZEN KANE*, 1941, Orson Wells, USA – Multi-stage

Week 2. *AWAY FROM HER*, 2006, Sarah Polley, Canada: - Old age

Week 3 *SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER*, 1977, John Badham, USA – Adolescence

Week 4: *ONLY YESTERDAY*, 1991, Isao Takahata, Japan – Childhood

Week 5. *TRAIN WRECK*, 2015, Judd Apatow, USA - Adulthood

Week 6. *BOYHOOD*, 2014, Richard Linklater, USA – Childhood

Week 7. *BOYZ IN THE HOOD*, 1991, John Singleton, US – Adolescence

Week 8. *LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE*, 1993, Alfonso Arau, Mexico – Multi-stage

Week 9. *JULES AND JIM*, 1961, Francois Truffaut, France – Midlife

Week 10: NOTHING BUT A MAN, 1964, Michael Roemer, USA - Adulthood

Week 11. 8-1/2, 1963, Federico Fellini, Italy – Midlife

Week 12. WILD STRAWBERRIES, 1957, Ingmar Bergman – Multi-stage