

03/29/24 -- Vol. 42, No. 39, Whole Number 2321

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An index with links to the issues of the MT VOID since 1986 is at http://leepers.us/mtvoid/back_issues.htm.

Middletown (NJ) Public Library Science Fiction Discussion Group:

Apr 4 WHO? [ROBO MAN] (1974) story (1955) & novel (1958)
 by Algis Budrys
 story:
 https://sciencefiction.loa.org/biographies/budrys_who.php

https://www.hoopladigital.com/ebook/who-algis-budrys/11561866

Mark's Picks for Turner Classic Movies for March (comments by Mark R. Leeper and Evelyn C. Leeper): comments on Mark's picks for Turner Classic Movies in October;

In the early days of the 1960s, British filmmakers felt the tight grip on the public's morals loosen just a bit. One place where the new British attitudes could be observed was in the movies. In A TASTE OF HONEY a very ordinary-looking woman (the excellent Rita Tushingham) escapes her lower-middle-class life and goes to live with social outcasts. It was banned in several countries for various reasons; according to Wikipedia, Tushingham said in 2020 that "a lot of the reaction was 'People like that don' t exist'--by which they meant homosexuals, single mothers and people in mixed-race relationships. But they did." It is part of a British social realist movement known as "kitchen sink realism".

[A TASTE OF HONEY (1961), Wednesday, April 17, 12:00 PM]

[-mrl/ecl]

And some comments on some other films:

Other films of interest include:

For Shakespeare's birthday (April 23) we have:

8:00 AM ROMEO AND JULIET (1937)
10:15 AM HAMLET (1948)
1:15 PM A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (1935)
3:30 PM HENRY V (1944)
6:00 PM THRONE OF BLOOD (1957)

Is TCM having a theme of blackface and racial stereotypes this month? We have:

THE TEAHOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON (1956): A combination of progressiveness (interracial romance) on one hand, and racial stereotypying and yellowface (Marlon Brando as a Japanese) on the other.

TOUCH OF EVIL (1958): Charleton Heston portraying a Mexican police officer.

GONE WITH THE WIND (1939): And speaking of racial stereotyping, ...

On the positive side, there are:

Other films of interest include:

8:30 AM The Big Parade (1925) 11:15 AM The Unholy Three (1925) 1:00 PM The Cameraman (1928) 2:30 PM The Crowd (1928)

8:00 PM Grand Hotel (1932)

4:15 PM The Broadway Melody (1929) 6:00 PM Flesh and the Devil (1926)

6:00 AM Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ (1925)

THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL (1959): A somewhat more nuanced portrayal of race, though it still came in for criticism. (One critic noted that since Mel Ferrer was only slightly lighter than Harry Belafonte, it somewhat soft-pedaled the question of interracial relationships.)

THE UGLY AMERICAN (1963): Brando plays an American in this one, leaving the Asian roles to Asian/Asian-American actors.

Also running are:

BEN-HUR: A TALE OF THE CHRIST (1925) and BEN-HUR (1959): In my opinion, the silent film version has a more exciting chariot race scene than the 1959 Charleton Heston remake. (It is followed on April 1 by a half-dozen classic, but lesser seen, silent films.)

CIMARRON (1960): Again, I think the "big scene"--in this case, the Oklahoma land rush--is better in the older, 1931 version, which also shows up occasionally on TCM.

MY FAVORITE YEAR (1982) and THE PRODUCERS (1967): Two "behind-the-scenes" films, one about television, the other about the theater.

THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY (1982) and VICTOR/VICTORIA (1982): Two films that feature--in very different ways--cross-dressing (which probably means there are states which want to ban them).

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MONDAY, April 1

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WEDNESDAY, April 3
8:15 AM The Teahouse of the August Moon (1956)
11:30 PM A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)
SUNDAY, April 7
6:00 AM Two on a Guillotine (1965)
TUESDAY, April 9
4:15 AM Cabin in the Sky (1943)
8:00 PM Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975)
WEDNESDAY, April 10
1:30 AM The Seventh Victim (1943)
3:00 AM The Vanishing (1988)
8:00 AM Lawrence of Arabia (1962)
THURSDAY, April 11
8:00 PM My Favorite Year (1982)
FRIDAY, April 12
2:15 AM The Producers (1967)
3:45 AM The Great Dictator (1940)
SUNDAY, April 14
8:00 PM Gone With the Wind (1939)
TUESDAY, April 16
12:15 AM Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1958)
2:15 AM Ben-Hur (1959)
6:00 AM A Carol for Another Christmas (1964)
9:00 AM Touch of Evil (1958)
THURSDAY, April 18
1:30 AM The Ugly American (1963)
FRIDAY, April 19
2:30 AM Simon (1980)
SATURDAY, April 20
12:00 PM The Magic Flute (1975)
6:15 PM The World, the Flesh and the Devil (1959)
MONDAY, April 22
6:00 AM Forbidden Planet (1956)
7:45 AM Cimarron (1960)
10:15 AM Doctor Zhivago (1965)
11:00 PM 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)
TUESDAY, April 23
3:45 AM Network (1976)
TUESDAY, April 23
8:00 AM Romeo and Juliet (1937)
10:15 AM Hamlet (1948)
1:15 PM A Midsummer Night's Dream (1935)
3:30 PM Henry V (1944)
6:00 PM Throne of Blood (1957)
WEDNESDAY, April 24
11:30 AM Camelot (1967)
FRIDAY, April 26
9:45 AM Black Narcissus (1947)
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This Week's Reading (book comments by Evelyn C. Leeper):

3:30 PM The Year of Living Dangerously (1982)

I have been reading about the Year of the Four Emperors (69 C.E.). I have previously reviewed Gwyn Morgan's 69 A.D.: THE YEAR OF THE FOUR EMPERORS here (MT VOID, 01/18/2013), and have a couple of more books on the subject down the road.

But I have an interest in the entire Roman period, and I decided I also wanted to read about the lesser-known (or rather, shorter-lived) emperors. Galba, Otho, and Vitellius are covered fairly thoroughly in the books about 69 as well as in Suetonius. I suppose the next would be Nerva, but for some reason I decided to skip to the Year of the Five Emperors (193 C.E., with Pertinax, Didius Julianus, Pescennius Niger, Clodius Albinus, and Septimus Severus). But first there was Lucius Verus, co-emperor with Marcus Aurelius from 161 to 169. I figured that our 1937 edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica would have a decent article on him, so I was quite astonished to discover that there was *no* article on Lucius Verus. The man was a Roman emperor for eight years, and gets no article in the Britannica?!

(I am reminded of mentioning Jose Saramago on a panel at a science fiction convention and discovering that no one else in the room had heard of him. Saramago was a Nobel Prize winner who had written several science fiction and fantasy novels, yet a room full of science fiction fans had never heard of him.)

[-ecl]

MONDAY, April 29

WEDNESDAY, May 1

7:45 AM Westworld (1973)

11:45 AM My Favorite Year (1982) 1:30 PM Clash of the Titans (1981)

10:00 PM Victor/Victoria (1982)

3:15 AM The Apartment (1960)

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Quote of the Week:

The better I get to know men, the more I find myself loving dogs.

--Charles de Gaulle

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