

# Museum on Main Street

## FILMOGRAPHY

### *Between Fences*

#### ***Abraham Lincoln (1987)***

From the A&E *Biography* series, this program tells the complete story of Abraham Lincoln, from his rustic childhood to the tough campaign that made him president. Historians examine the leadership choices of his turbulent first term, as well as his bouts with depression and his troubled marriage to Mary Todd. Directed by Ken Burns. Not rated.

#### ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1938)***

For many, the 1938 film adaptation of Mark Twain's novel about the pranks and adventures of a mischievous boy in the river town of Hannibal, Missouri, is the definitive classic. One of the attractions of this film is the episode in which Tom tricks other children into whitewashing a fence for him. Directed by H.C. Potter and Norman Taurog. Starring Tommy Kelly as Tom Sawyer, Walter Brennan as Muff Potter, Victory Jory as Injun Joe, and May Robeson as Aunt Polly. Not rated.

#### ***Beyond Barbed Wire (1997)***

*Beyond Barbed Wire* is an historical documentary about the experiences of Japanese-American soldiers fighting for the United States in World War II and Japanese-American citizens held in relocation camps in the United States during the war years. Directed by Steve Rosen. Not Rated.

#### ***The Big Country (1958)***

In this epic Western about land and its power to shape the culture and the character of the people who live on it, two families, one wealthy and one less well-to-do, come to grips in a dispute over water rights. Directed by William Wyler. Starring Gregory Peck as James McKay, Jean Simmons as Julie Maragon, Charlton Heston as Steve Leech, Burl Ives as Rufus Hannassey, and Chuck Connors as Buck Hannassey. Not rated.

#### ***Black Picket Fence (2002)***

*Black Picket Fence* is a hard-hitting documentary from award-winning director Sergio Goes. In this film Goes follows Tislam Miller, a struggling rapper in the public housing projects of Brooklyn's East New York, as he strives to achieve the American Dream of finding success and having a nice house in the suburbs. Not Rated.

#### ***Border Patrol: America's Gatekeepers (1991)***

Through unprecedented access to an elite team of Border Patrol agents, A&E's *Investigative Reports* offers a rare, up-close look at the dangerous world of monitoring America's boundaries. The program documents the work of agents who put their lives on the line, turn back desperate immigrants, and interdict drug shipments. Interviews with past and present agents and government officials such as former Attorney General Janet Reno are included. Not rated.

***Don't Fence Me In (1945)***

In this classic Roy Rogers and Dale Evans movie, Dale plays a reporter from back East hot on the trail of the true story of outlaw Wild Cat Kelly. She meets Roy and "Gabby" Hayes, a.k.a. Wild Cat Kelly, and the adventure begins! In addition to the title song by Cole Porter, "Don't Fence Me In," Roy and Dale also sing "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" and "Along the Navajo Trail." Directed by John English. Not rated.

***Far and Away (1993)***

In this romantic epic film two young Irish immigrants, one from a wealthy land-owning family and the other the son of a poor tenant farmer, come to America for the promise of free land and participate in the Great Oklahoma Land Race of 1893. Directed by Ron Howard. Starring Tom Cruise as Joseph Donnelly, Nicole Kidman as Shannon Christie, Robert Prosky as Daniel Christie, Barbara Babcock as Nora Christie, and Colm Meaney as Kelly. Rated: PG-13.

***Giant (1956)***

This film epic traces the evolution of a family as a microcosm of the changing social and geographic landscape of Texas in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Personal battles over land ownership, land use, class, race relations, social conventions, and sense of place enlarge the plot. Directed by George Stevens. Starring Elizabeth Taylor as Leslie Lynnton Benedict, Rock Hudson as Jordan "Bick" Benedict, James Dean as Jett Rink, Dennis Hopper as Jordan Benedict III, and Sal Mineo as Angel Obregon II. Not rated.

***Good Fences (2003)***

Set in the decade of the 1970s, *Good Fences* is the story of the Spaders, an ambitious, upwardly-mobile, yet dysfunctional black family who discover that the white picket fence dream of American success is only another setting for struggle and survival. Directed by Ernest R. Dickerson. Starring Whoopi Goldberg as Mabel Spader and Danny Glover as Tom Spader. Rated: R.

***To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)***

Ranked thirty-four on the American Film Institute's list of the one hundred greatest American films, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Harper Lee. Told from the perspective of a young girl, Scout Finch, this story about racism in the Depression-era South unfolds as Scout's father, attorney Atticus Finch, defends a black man wrongfully accused of raping a white woman. As the trial progresses, Scout struggles to understand the absurdity of adult behavior guided by prejudice. The invisible, social boundaries between races as well as public and private spaces and points of view are examined. In the novel's most substantial subplot, Scout, her brother Jem, and their friend Dill make a game of trying to get a glimpse of a local recluse named Boo Radley. They dare each other to cross the fence into his yard and repeatedly trespass on his property. When Boo finally does come out, he is not the boogey man the children expected. Directed by Robert Mulligan. Starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch, Mary Badham as Scout Finch, Phillip Alford as Jem Finch, Robert Duvall as Boo Radley, Brock Peters as Tom Robinson, Estelle Evans as Calurnia, Collin Wilcox Paxton as Mayella Ewell, and James Anderson as Bob Ewell. Not Rated.

***Lone Star* (1996)**

The sheriff in a contemporary Texas border town lives under the sway of his father, also a lawman and a local legend. The discovery of his father's remains forces an investigation into the racist underbelly of the town, an issue complicated by illegal immigration, and a 40-year-old crime no one wants to talk about. Directed by John Sayles. Staring Chris Cooper as Sheriff Sam Deeds, Kris Kristofferson as Sheriff Charlie Wade, and Matthew McConaughey as Buddy Deeds.

***Mark Twain* (2002)**

America's first literary celebrity, Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) was a humorist, social satirist, newspaperman, riverboat pilot, best-selling author, a famous lecturer and storyteller, and one of the most quoted men in American history. Ken Burns draws upon thousands of archival photographs and almost twenty interviews with writers and scholars for this film about the man considered to be the father of American literature. Directed by Ken Burns. Not Rated.

***El Norte* (1983)**

Two teenagers from a Guatemalan village flee to "El Norte" (the United States) after their village is destroyed by the Guatemalan army. The film traces their journey through Mexico to Los Angeles where they try to make a new life as illegal immigrants. Directed by Gregory Nava. Spanish and English wit subtitles.

***Oklahoma!* (1955)**

With music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, this lavish screen adaptation of the hit Broadway musical from the 1940s doesn't disappoint. The musical *Oklahoma!* is based on the play *Green Grow the Lilacs* by Lynn Riggs which tells the story of romance and revenge on an Oklahoma homestead. Directed by Fred Zinnemann. Staring Gordon MacRae as Curly, Shirley Jones as Laurie, Gloria rahae as Ado Annie, and Rod Steiger as Jud. The score includes "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top," "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'," and "People Will Say We're in Love."

***Open Range* (2003)**

A small group of free range cattlemen fall victim to a powerful landowner in a dispute over free grazing in this revenge drama set on the Western prairie in the early 1880s. Directed by Kevin Costner. Starring Robert Duvall as Boss Spearman, Kevin Costner as Charley Waite, Annette Benning as Sue Barlow. Rated: R.

***Pleasantville* (1998)**

Two teenagers from the 1990s are transported into the perfect television world of a 1950s sitcom called *Pleasantville* (modeled after the likes of *Leave It to Beaver*, *Father Knows Best*, and *The Andy Griffith Show*). As they challenge and breach the social barriers of this fictionalized representation of the American Dream, they discover that the ideal world of 1950s suburbia is based on a culture of sameness, social regimentation, and exclusion. Directed by Gary Ross. Starring Tobey Maguire as David Wagner, Reese Witherspoon as Jennifer Wagner, William H. Macy as George Parker, Joan Allen as

Betty Parker, Jeff Daniels as Mr. Bill Johnson, and Don Knotts as the T.V. Repairman.  
Rated: PG-13.

***Robert Frost (2000)***

Named poet laureate of the United States by President John F. Kennedy, Frost remains one of the most popular poets in American literature. Poems like “Mending Wall,” a favorite with academics and readers of all ages, represent the subject matter and the themes that gave Frost his reputation as a nature poet and a regional writer. This film from the PBS series *Voices and Visions* interweaves interviews with the poet, original sound recordings of Frost reading his own work, dramatizations, and commentary by his publisher and fellow poets. A reading of “Mending Wall” is included. Not rated.

***The Sandlot (1993)***

In the summer of 1962, Scotty Smalls moves to a new town and makes friends with local boys by plying baseball in the neighborhood’s vacant lot, but when Scotty sends his father’s prized possession, a baseball signed by Babe Ruth, sailing over a fence into a neighbor’s yard, the group has to contend with a vicious dog named “The Beast.”  
Directed by David M. Evans. Starring Tom Guiry and Mike Vitar.

***Sarah, Plain and Tall (1991)***

Touted as the most watched made-for-T.V. movie of the 1990s, this is the Hallmark adaptation of Patricia MacLachlan's novel about a Maine schoolteacher who travels to the Kansas prairie to become the wife of a widowed homesteader with two young children. Directed by Glenn Jordan. Starring Glenn Close as Sarah and Christopher Walken as Jacob. Not rated. Two additional films complete the trilogy: *Skylark* (1992) and *Winter’s End* (1999). Not rated.

***Shane (1953)***

The most popular Western film of the 1950s, *Shane* was nominated for six Oscars and won one for best photography. Filmed on location in Jackson’s Hole, Wyoming, the spectacular scenery provides an inspired setting for the tale of a one-time gun slinger named Shane who tries to reform. He is taken in by a homesteaders, the Starrett family, and idolized by their young son, Joey, but when the Rykers, a powerful local ranch family, incite a range war to try to force the Starrett’s off their claim, Shane defends them by returning to the violent life he had hoped to escape. Directed by George Stevens. Starring Alan Ladd as Shane, Jean Arthur as Marian Starrett, Van Heflin as Joe Starrett, Brandon De Wilde as Joey Starrett, Jack Palance as Jack Wilson, and Emile Meyer as Rufus Ryker. Not Rated.

***A Thousand Acres (1997)***

A film adaptation of Jane Smiley’s award-winning, best-selling novel, *A Thousand Acres* is a modern retelling of Shakespeare’s *King Lear* set on an Iowa farm. When their stubborn, alcoholic father divides his land between three daughters, the struggle that ensues threatens to destroy the family. Directed by Jocelyn Moorhouse. Starring Jessica Lange as Ginny Cook Smith, Michelle Pfeiffer as Rose Cook Lewis, Jennifer Jason Leigh

as Caroline Cook, Jason Robards as Larry Cook, Colin Firth as Jess Clark, and Keith Carradine as Ty Smith. Rated: R.

***Tom Sawyer (1973)***

A popular alternative to the 1938 film adaptation of Twain's novel is this musical version. Directed by Don Taylor. Starring Johnny Whitaker (who also played Jody Davis in the 1970's T.V. show "Family Affair") as Tom Sawyer, Jodie Foster as Becky Thatcher, and Celeste Holm as Aunt Polly. Songs were written by the famous Sherman Brothers and have the Disney-like quality of their other work. Rated: G.

***Touch of Evil (1958)***

This classic film noir directed by and starring Orson Welles dramatizes the criminalization of race, cultural stereotypes, and border paranoia in the American imagination in this tale of murder and police corruption in a Mexican border town. Starring Orson Welles as Captain Hank Quinlan, Charlton Heston as Ramon Miguel "Mike" Vargas, Janet Leigh as Susan Vargas, and Marlene Dietrich as Tanya. Not rated.

***The Truman Show (1998)***

In this contemporary satire of 1950s American suburbia and reality television, Truman Burbank lives his entire life in the public eye, until he discovers that the idealized world of SeaHaven has been fabricated on the largest soundstage ever built. Some portions of the film were shot on location at Seaside, a modern suburban development featured in the *Between Fences* exhibit. Directed by Peter Weir. Starring Jim Carrey as Truman Burbank. Rated: PG.

***The Yearling (1947)***

This classic film based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings is about a boy's coming of age on a farm in the Florida wilderness. The struggle between man and nature is heightened when Jody Baxter adopts a fawn as a pet. As the young deer grows, it becomes a threat to the farm and the family's livelihood since it cannot be kept from eating the crops. No matter how high or how well made the fence, the pet deer cannot be contained or controlled, and Jody is forced to drive the animal away. Directed by Clarence Brown. Starring Gregory Peck as Penny Baxter, Jane Wyman as Ma Bater, and Claude Jarman, Jr. as Jody Baxter. Not Rated.