

January 16, 2009

Museum on Main Street
JOURNEY STORIES
Film List

The following information has been assembled to assist you in researching and developing local programs around the themes of the Journey Stories exhibition. The information is organized according to the themes of each section of the exhibition. Hold a film viewing and discussion or work with your local movie theatre to dedicate one screen, one night a week, to a film in conjunction with the exhibition. All films listed are available in DVD.

ONE WAY TRIP

The Black Robe, (1991)

Set in 1634, this film tells the story of a young French Jesuit missionary assigned to trek 1,500 miles through the New France wilderness to a mission settled in Huron Indian country. The movie offers a restless tale of the priest's conflicted faith juxtaposed against the sublime spiritual harmony with the land that the Huron and Algonquin already hold. 101 minutes.

Desperate Crossing: The Untold Story of the Mayflower (2007)

From their self-imposed exile in Holland and perilous Atlantic crossing in the Mayflower to unimaginable hardships encountered in their new land, this is the definitive story of the Pilgrims and how they came to live--and ultimately prosper--in the harsh climate of an unfamiliar world. A&E. 137 minutes.

The New World: Nightmare in Jamestown (2005)

It's a story of bubonic plague, starvation, espionage and cannibalism -- and the founding of America's first colony. In 1607, a handful of English adventurers set sail across the Atlantic, expecting a paradise teeming with gold and riches. Now, 400 years later, the latest discoveries reveal the true story of Jamestown--as you've never seen it before. With exclusive access to forensics and archaeology, National Geographic reveals shocking new evidence of starvation and disease, secret plots and Spanish spies. Authentic recreations bring to life one of the most dramatic chapters in America's history. 50 minutes.

ACROSS THE GREAT 'DESERT' TO THE WEST

PBS: American Experience: THE WEST (1996)

This five part series teaches students about Native American tribes, Spanish explorers, American pioneers, homesteaders, and a steady U.S. expansion westward. Primary resource materials--from memoirs to rare archival footage--encourage students to learn history through exploration rather than memorization.

Paint Your Wagon (1969)

Lerner and Loewe's Broadway smash became the first and only musical undertaking for Clint Eastwood, who stars alongside Lee Marvin as two corners of a love triangle involved with beautiful Jean Seberg and partners in a bizarre financial enterprise in Gold Rush-era California. 164 min.

Rio Bravo (1959)

John Wayne plays the sheriff of a small town in southwest Texas who must keep custody of a murderer whose brother, a powerful, local rancher, is trying to help him escape. After a friend is killed trying to muster support for him, he and his deputies - a disgraced drunk and a cantankerous old cripple - must find a way to hold out against the rancher's hired guns until the marshal arrives. In the meantime, matters are complicated by the presence of a young gunslinger - and a mysterious beauty who just came in on the last stagecoach. 141 minutes.

Rio Lobo (1970)

The final film by the legendary director Howard Hawks, released in 1970, found him paired with longtime leading man John Wayne in a story slightly similar to their more familiar *Rio Bravo*. Set at the end of the Civil War, the story finds Wayne playing a Union army colonel who recovers some stolen gold and roots out a traitor. 114 minutes.

Shane (1953)

One of Hollywood's best films about "staying put" in the West; features dramatic tension between homesteading farmers and ranchers. 118 minutes

Stage Coach (1939)

Sometimes described as "the first adult Western," this John Ford film is really a character study of nine disparate people riding a coach across trackless wastelands, where they're victimized by the elements and menaced by marauding Indians. An excellent film for discussions of the real vs. mythologized West. 96 minutes.

RAILROADS SPAN THE NATION

PBS: American Experience: Transcontinental Railroad (2002)

A behind the scenes look at one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century: the building of a transcontinental railroad across the United States. Completed in only six years by unscrupulous entrepreneurs, brilliant engineers, and legions of dedicated workers, the Transcontinental Railroad left in its wake a horde of displaced, broken Native Americans. See how the railroad helped shape the politics and culture of mid-19th century America. 120 minutes

ACCELERATED MOBILITY

The Grapes of Wrath, (1940)

Director John Ford's most famous black and white epic drama - the classic adaptation of John Steinbeck's 1940 Pulitzer Prize-winning, widely-read 1939 novel. Set in the Oklahoma dustbowl of the 1930's Tom Joad returns to his home after a jail sentence to find his family kicked out of their farm due to foreclosure. He catches up with them on his uncle's farm, and joins them the next day as they head for California and a new life...hopefully. 128 minutes.

The Trip to Bountiful, (1985)

A masterful, Oscar-winning performance by Geraldine Page highlights this drama about an elderly woman who wants to escape her unhappy home life and return to her childhood home once more before she dies. Wistful, moving tale, based on Horton Foote's play, also stars John Heard and Rebecca De Mornay. 108 minutes.