

NEWS RELEASE

From the Shepherdstown Film Society
Shepherdstown, WV

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For Immediate Release

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SHEPHERDSTOWN FILM SOCIETY ANNOUNCES FALL FILM SCHEDULE

The Shepherdstown Film Society is pleased to announce its fall, 2018 series. This season starts our fifteenth year of providing free films for Shepherd University students and faculty, and the Shepherdstown community. Our continuing partnership with the Scarborough Society of Shepherd University provides the financial support needed to maintain this commitment.

Six films will be presented, starting on August 31 and running through November 16. Three films comprise the fall theme – lesser known films by well-known directors. One film is presented in collaboration with the American Conservation Film Festival (ACFF), one is presented in conjunction with the Shepherd University Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence program and one is presented in collaboration with the Shepherd University Department of English and Modern Languages.

All films will be shown on Fridays. All showings are at 7:00 p.m. in Shepherd University's Reynolds Hall. As with all the Society's films, admission will be free and each showing (except "The Deer Hunter" on September 21) will be followed by a discussion. An opening night reception at the War Memorial Building will kick off the series from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, August 31.

More information on each film can be found on the Society's website at www.shepherdstownfilmsociety.org. The film schedule will be as follows:

August 31: "What's Eating Gilbert Grape"
September 14: "In the Hills and Hollows"
September 21: "The Deer Hunter"
October 5: "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg"
October 26: "The Bride of Frankenstein"
November 16: "The Station Agent"

Details of the films follow below, in the order in which the films are being shown:

August 31: "What's Eating Gilbert Grape" (USA, 1993, 118 minutes, directed by Lasse Hallstrom). Gilbert Grape's life is wasting away in a small job, in a small town as the only functioning adult in his family. What's eating him is his complex of responsibilities without rewards. He's looking for a way out while he's held by ties of love. Rated PG-13 for language. Post-film discussion led by Rebecca Ayraud.

September 14: "In the Hills and Hollows" (USA, 2016, 77 minutes, directed by Keely Kernan). West Virginia's economic development has been hostage to its topography and its geology. Coal has given both good and bad economic times and social upheavals. Fracked natural gas may do the same. This

film looks at the current fracking boom in northern West Virginia and its effects on the communities it has disrupted. Not Rated. This is a special presentation in collaboration with the ACFF.

September 21: "The Deer Hunter" (USA, 1978, 183 minutes, directed by Michael Cimino). A group of high school friends from a western Pennsylvania steel town enlist in the army at the height of the Vietnam War. We experience their bonds of friendship and strains of conflict before, during and after their war experiences. None escapes the war unbroken. The film received five Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. Rated R for violence, language and brief nudity. This is a special presentation in conjunction with Shepherd University's Appalachian Heritage Writer-in-Residence program. In lieu of a post-film discussion, please consider attending Dr. James Broomall's talk "Soldiers' Tales from the Civil War: Stories of Home and the Trauma of War" in Reynolds Hall at 5:30.

October 5: "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg" (France, 1964, 91 minutes, directed by Jacques Demy). Young love flourishes in 1950s Cherbourg, France until the world imposes complications in this tale told exclusively through song and sung dialogue. The film received the Palme d'Or at the 1964 Cannes Film Festival. Not Rated. Post-film discussion led by Mary Stanley.

October 26: "The Bride of Frankenstein" (USA, 1935, 75 minutes, directed by James Whale). Building on the popularity of the 1931 film "Frankenstein", none other than Mary Shelley herself appears in this film to tell us there is more to the Frankenstein story. Frankenstein and the monster have survived. From this introduction, their misadventures in a hostile world continue. Not Rated. Presented in collaboration with Shepherd University's Department of English and Modern Languages in celebration of the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Post-film discussion led by Dr. James Pate, Shepherd University Assistant Professor of English and Modern Languages.

November 16: "The Station Agent" (USA, 2003, 89 minutes, directed by Tom McCarthy). Bereft at the loss of his only close friend, who shares his passion for trains, a young man with a form of dwarfism takes up residence in an abandoned train station. Hoping for sanctuary from an uncaring world, he is soon besieged by a mix of would be new friends. He must confront their need to connect and perhaps his own. Rated R for language and some drug content. Post-film discussion led by Winnie Bernat.

For further information about the Society and its films, visit their website or contact Lisa Welch at 304-876-1837 (email lmwelch@frontiernet.net) or Mina Goodrich at 304-876-2159.

End of release