MELODRAMA IN FILM: AROUSING EMOTIONS IN THE DARK

April 8  The Wild World of Pre-Code Hollywood Melodrama
Perils of Pauline, Way Down East, The Crowd, Madame X, The Sin of Madelon Laude, One Way Passage, Born to Be Bad

April 15 Women in Early Melodrama: In and Out of Trouble
Back Street, Stella Dallas, To Each His Own, The Heiress, Kitty Foyle, Caught, Letter from an Unknown Woman

April 22 Bette Davis: Queen of 1940s Melodrama
Dark Victory, Old Maid, The Letter, The Great Lie, In This Our Life, Old Acquaintance, Now, Voyager

April 29 Joan Crawford: Putting the “Drama” in Melodrama
Sadie McKee, A Woman’s Face, Mildred Pierce, Flamingo Road, Humoresque, Possessed, Daisy Kenyon

May 6 Influence of Douglas Sirk on Hollywood Melodrama
Magnificent Obsession, All That Heaven Allows, Far from Heaven, Written on the Wind, Imitation of Life, Some Came Running, The Bad and the Beautiful

May 13 European Melodrama
Woman on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, All About My Mother, Talk to Her. Special Guest Presentation: Variety film critic Dennis Harvey on Rocco and His Brothers

May 20 European Melodrama Part II

No Class on May 27

June 3 Scenes from Melodrama that Arouse Emotions
The Bridges of Madison County, An Affair to Remember, Splendor in the Grass, Peyton Place
RECOMMENDED READING ON MELODRAMA

“Home is Where the Heart Is: Studies in Melodrama and the Woman’s Film” edited by Christine Gledhill, BFI Books, 1987


“Melodrama, Genre, Style, Sensibility” by John Mercer and Martin Shingler, Wallflower Books, 2004

“Melodrama & Meaning” by Barbara Klinger, Indiana University Press, 1994

“The Complete Films of Bette Davis” by Gene Ringgold, Carol Publishing Group, 1990


“The Cinema of Max Ophuls: Magisterial Vision and the Figure of Woman” by Susan M. White, Columbia University Press, 1995

“American Film Melodrama: Griffith, Vidor, Minnelli” by Robert Lang, Princeton University Press, 1989


MATINEE
See these films in their entirety. All films start at 3 p.m

The Letter, April 15, Maier

Written on the Wind, April 29, Maraschi

Love Crime, May 13, Maraschi

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