



The Avon.

THE BEST OF INDEPENDENT CINEMA

Avon Theatre Film Center
272 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT
Box Office: 203-967-3660
www.avontheatre.org

RELIGIOUS HOPE FROM THE MOVIES

The Avon Theatre and Mockingbird Ministries are pleased to present a new film series entitled “Humor and God, Passion and Humility: Religious Hope from the Movies”. This summer the Avon will screen three luminous movies that present God in ways that engage the stresses of life with humor, passion and serenity. There will be a post-film Q&A with Reverend Paul Zahl after each of the screenings.

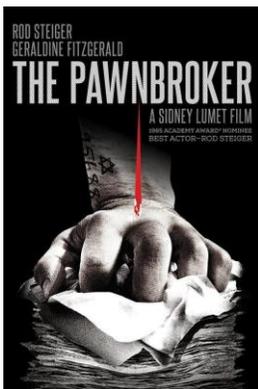


BARCELONA (1994)

Wednesday, June 22 at 7:30pm

Director Whit Stillman's delightful comedy about two young American ex-pats living in 1980s Spain is so full of memorable one-liners and surprising comedic situations that you could almost miss some back-story themes within the tale. Those include themes of politics and themes of religion. A religious theme here is the power of prayer, and the power of prayer to bring enduring romance to an insecure but appealing young man. There is also a balletic send-up of “Protestantism” that a viewer may never forget. And let's definitely not forget the sublime music of Mark Suozzo. – Paul Zahl

Rated PG-13 | In English | 101 minutes

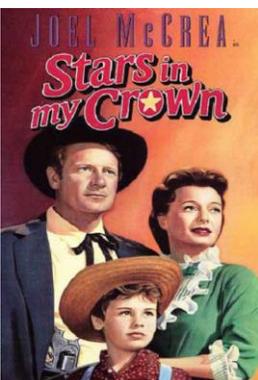


THE PAWNBROKER (1964)

Wednesday, July 27 at 7:30pm

This film is both an early Holocaust movie and an explicit Passion Play. I don't think Rod Steiger's performance will ever date. *THE PAWNBROKER* was controversial at the time of its release because of a scene involving nudity – which was what made me want to see it at age 13, and I got in! The direction, by Sidney Lumet, and the photography, by Boris Kaufman, were considered a little “arty” but they work. There is a catharsis at the end which is saturated in religious imagery. If you missed *THE PAWNBROKER* when it came out, now could be your chance. Oh, and Quincy Jones wrote the music. – Paul Zahl

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STARS IN MY CROWN (1950)

Wednesday, August 24 at 7:30pm

This was director Jacques Tourneur's favorite of all his films. It tells the story of a frontier parson, a strong character who once could shoot as well as he can now preach, who brings a warm persona of kindness, prayer, and courage to a troubled town. The parson has to take a voluntary “sabbatical” in the middle of the movie, which is itself a lesson in non-resistance. Subsequently, he has to confront the Ku Klux Klan. I find nothing hackneyed nor preachy in this movie – just a spirit of sincere religion that doesn't try to call attention to itself. Joel McCrea stars as the minister. – Paul Zahl

Rated G | In English | 89 minutes

This film series is co-promoted by the InterFaith Council of Southwestern CT

InterFaith Council of Southwestern CT

“The place for interfaith action... the space for interfaith conversation.”



To purchase your tickets, please visit www.avontheatre.org