***MAKING MEMORIES AT THE MOVIES – A Guide to Watching at Home***

***VETERAN’S DAY CELEBRATION***

**All films in this program have something in common:**

**Do you recall seeing these films? Let’s spark some memories!**

***Yankee Doodle Dandy*** is a 1942 [American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) biographical musical film about [George M. Cohan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_M._Cohan), known as "The Man Who Owned Broadway. It stars [James Cagney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Cagney), [Joan Leslie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Leslie), [Walter Huston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Huston), and [Richard Whorf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Whorf), and features [Irene Manning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irene_Manning), [George Tobias](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Tobias), [Rosemary DeCamp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosemary_DeCamp), [Jeanne Cagney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeanne_Cagney), and Vera Lewis.

**Theme:**

Brought to the White House to receive a Congressional Gold Medal from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Broadway legend George M. Cohan (James Cagney) reflects on his life. Flashbacks trace Cohan's rise, from a childhood performing in his family's vaudeville act to his early days as a struggling Tin Pan Alley songwriter to his overwhelming success as an actor, writer, director and producer known for patriotic songs like "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "Over There."

**We join the film** as it flashes back to a Cohan’s performance on stage leading a compilation of patriotic song and dance numbers. Cohan and his sister have joined the family act and The Four Cohans are performing successfully. As years go by, George gets too cocky and is blacklisted by theatrical producers for being troublesome. He leaves the act and hawks his songs unsuccessfully around to producers. In partnership with another struggling writer, [Sam Harris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sam_H._Harris), he finally interests a producer, and they are on the road to success.

**Fun Facts:**

Cohan himself served as a consultant during the production of the film. Due to his failing health, his actual involvement in the film was rather limited. However, Cohan did see the film before he died (from cancer) and approved of Cagney's portrayal.

Actress Jeanne Cagney, who played the part of Cohan's sister, was James Cagney's real-life sister. Cagney's brother, William Cagney, was the Associate Producer of the film.

Rosemary Decamp, who played the mother of George M. Cohan, was, in fact, 11 years younger than Cagney.

Songs included in the film clip: “You’re a Grand Ole Flag” and “Over There”

**Food for Thought:**

Can you sing “Yankee Doodle Dandy”?

Were you in the service during WWII? Korea?

Were you married to a soldier? Did you get married as a result of the War?

***Hollywood Canteen*** is a 1944 American [musical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) [romantic comedy film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romantic_comedy_film) starring [Joan Leslie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Leslie), [Robert Hutton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Hutton_(actor)), and [Dane Clark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dane_Clark) and distributed by [Warner Bros.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warner_Bros.) The film was written and directed by [Delmer Dave’s](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delmer_Daves), and is notable for featuring many stars appearing as themselves in [cameo roles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameo_appearance). The film received three [Academy Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award) nominations.

**Theme:**

The film's setting is the [Hollywood Canteen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollywood_Canteen), a free entertainment club open to [servicemen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soldier). The Canteen was created as a [G. I.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GI_(military)) [morale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morale)-booster by [movie stars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Movie_star) [Bette Davis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bette_Davis) and [John Garfield](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Garfield) during [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II). Many of those cameos in the film had previously volunteered to work there or provide entertainment. They include: [The Andrews Sisters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Andrews_Sisters), [Jack Benny](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Benny), [Joe E. Brown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_E._Brown), [Eddie Cantor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie_Cantor), [Kitty Carlisle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kitty_Carlisle), [Jack Carson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_Carson), [Joan Crawford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Crawford), [Faye Emerson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faye_Emerson), [Sydney Greenstreet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sydney_Greenstreet), [Alan Hale, Sr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Hale,_Sr.), [Paul Henreid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Henreid), [Joan Leslie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Leslie), [Peter Lorre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Lorre), [Ida Lupino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ida_Lupino), [Dorothy Malone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Malone), [Dennis Morgan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dennis_Morgan), [Janis Paige](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Janis_Paige), [Eleanor Parker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleanor_Parker), [Roy Rogers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy_Rogers) (with [Trigger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trigger_(horse))), [S.Z. Sakall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S.Z._Sakall), [Zachary Scott](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zachary_Scott), [Alexis Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexis_Smith), Jane Stanwyck, [Jimmy Dorsey](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jimmy_Dorsey) and [The Golden Gate Quartet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Golden_Gate_Quartet).

**We join the film when** The Andrews Sisters with Jimmy Dorsey and His Orchestra sing **"Gettin' Corns for My Country"** and "**Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy**" **from the movie Buck Privates**.

**Fun Facts:**

“Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy was a major hit for [The Andrews Sisters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Andrews_Sisters) and an iconic [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) tune. The song is ranked No. 6 on [Songs of the Century](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Songs_of_the_Century). [Bette Midler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bette_Midler)'s 1972 recording of the song reached the top ten on the [U.S. pop singles chart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billboard_Hot_100).

**The Andrews Sisters** were an American [close harmony](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Close_harmony) singing group of the [swing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Swing_music) and [boogie-woogie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boogie-woogie) eras. The group consisted of three sisters: [contralto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contralto) **LaVerne Sophia** (July 6, 1911 – May 8, 1967), [soprano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soprano) **Maxene Angelyn "Maxene"** (January 3, 1916 – October 21, 1995), and [mezzo-soprano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mezzo-soprano) **Patricia Marie "Patty"** (February 16, 1918 – January 30, 2013). Throughout their long career, the sisters sold well over 75 million records (the last official count released by [MCA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_Corporation_of_America) Records in the mid-1970s).

**Food for Thought:**

Let’s name the Andrews Sister.

Did anyone ever attend a Hollywood Canteen while in the service?

Can you think of any performers you might have seen at a Hollywood Canteen?

***Buck Privates*** is a 1941 [musical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) [military comedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_comedy) film that turned [**Bud Abbott**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bud_Abbott)**and**[**Lou Costello**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lou_Costello) into bona fide movie stars. It was the first [service comedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_comedy) based on the peacetime draft of 1940.

**Theme:**

Slicker Smith and Herbie Brown ([Abbott and Costello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbott_and_Costello)) are sidewalk peddlers who hawk [neckties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neckties) out of a suitcase. They are chased by a cop and duck into a movie theater, not realizing that it is now being used as an Army Recruitment Center. Believing that they are signing up for theater prizes, they end up enlisting instead. Life at camp is not so bad, since [The Andrews Sisters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Andrews_Sisters) appear at regular intervals to sing patriotic or sentimental tunes, and Herbie continues to screw up with little consequence

**We join the movie** when Slicker Smith leads their troop in rifle drill training at boot camp. While all the troops are in line, Herbie presents a problem!

**Fun Facts:**

The comedy team made two more service comedies before the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) entered the war ([*In the Navy*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_the_Navy_(film)) and [***Keep 'Em Flying***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keep_%27Em_Flying)). A sequel to this movie**,** [***Buck Privates Come Home***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buck_Privates_Come_Home), was released in 1947. ***Buck Privates*** is one of three [Abbott and Costello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbott_and_Costello) films featuring [the Andrews Sisters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Andrews_Sisters), who were also under contract to [Universal Pictures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Pictures) at the time.

**Food for Thought:**

Can you think of an Abbott and Costello skit that stands out in your memory?

Were you or your spouse in the army? Did you go to boot camp? Where were you stationed?

Did you ever service in the armed services over sees? Where were you?

***Anchors Aweigh*** is a 1945 American [Technicolor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technicolor) musical comedy film directed by [George Sidney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Sidney) and starring [Frank Sinatra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Sinatra), [Kathryn Grayson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kathryn_Grayson), and [Gene Kelly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_Kelly).

**Theme:**

Two sailors (Sinatra and Kelly) go on a four-day shore leave in [Hollywood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hollywood), accompanied by music and song. Joe has his heart set on spending time with his girl, Lola, while Clarence asks him to teach him how to get girls. They meet an aspiring young singer and try to help her get an audition at [Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer).

**We join the film** when Joe Brady and Clarence Doolittle are Navy sailors who have a four-day leave in Hollywood. Clarence is smitten with Susan, the young singer, from the beginning. She tells them that she has been trying to find work in music, and longs to perform with José Iturbi. Trying to make Susan impressed with Clarence, Joe tells her that Clarence is a personal friend of Iturbi, and that he has arranged an audition for Susan with him. Kelly and Sinatra perform the number **“I Begged Her”,** which became a hit of the 40’s.

**Fun Facts:**

In addition to a live-action Kelly dancing with [Jerry Mouse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerry_Mouse) the cartoon mouse, the movie also features [José Iturbi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jos%C3%A9_Iturbi), [Pamela Britton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pamela_Britton), [Dean Stockwell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dean_Stockwell), and Sharon McManus.

**“I Begged Her”** took 73 takes until it was perfect for filming.

"**Anchors Aweigh**" is the march of the [United States Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Navy) and the [fight song](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fight_song) of the [United States Naval Academy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Naval_Academy). It was composed in 1906 by [Charles A. Zimmermann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_A._Zimmermann) with lyrics by [Alfred Hart Miles](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alfred_Hart_Miles&action=edit&redlink=1). When he composed "Anchors Aweigh," Zimmermann was a lieutenant, and had been bandmaster of the [United States Naval Academy Band](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Naval_Academy_Band) since 1887. Miles was Midshipman First Class at the Academy, in the class of 1907, and asked Zimmermann to assist him in composing a song for that class, to be used as a football march.

**Food for Thought:**

Were you or anyone you know in the Navy? Where did you travel to?

Who do you think is a better dancer, Kelly or Sinatra? Who’s a better singer?

How did you meet your spouse?

***This Is the Army*** is a 1943 American wartime [musical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) [comedy film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comedy_film). It was adapted from a wartime stage musical with the same name, designed to boost morale in the U.S. during [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II), directed by [Ezra Stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ezra_Stone). The [screenplay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Screenplay) by [Casey Robinson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casey_Robinson) and [Claude Binyon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_Binyon) was based on the 1942 [Broadway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadway_theatre) [musical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_theatre) by [Irving Berlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irving_Berlin), who also composed the film's 19 songs and broke screen protocol by singing one of them.

**Theme:**

During World War I song-and-dance man Jerry Jones is drafted into the US Army, where he stages a revue called *Yip Yip Yaphank.* It is a rousing success, but one night during the show orders are received to leave immediately for France. Instead of the finale, the troops march up the aisles through the audience, out the theater's main entrance and into a convoy of waiting trucks.

**We join the film** twenty-five years later when World War II is raging in Europe. Jerry's son Johnny ([Ronald Reagan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Reagan)) enlists in the Army shortly after [Pearl Harbor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor). He tells his sweetheart Eileen Dibble ([Joan Leslie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Leslie)) that they cannot marry until he returns, since he doesn't want to make her a widow.

While in the service, Johnny reluctantly accepts an order to stage another musical, following in his father's footsteps. He compiles a group of talented men who are now in the service to be part of the revue. The show goes on tour throughout the United States and eventually plays [Washington, D.C.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington,_D.C.), in front of [President Roosevelt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin_Delano_Roosevelt). During the show it is announced that this is the last performance: the soldiers in the production have been ordered back to their combat units.

**Fun Facts:**

The movie features a large ensemble cast, including [George Murphy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Murphy), [Ronald Reagan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Reagan), [Joan Leslie](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Leslie), [Alan Hale, Sr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Hale,_Sr.) and [Rosemary DeCamp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosemary_DeCamp), while both the stage play and film included soldiers of the [U.S. Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Army) who were actors and performers in civilian life. Joe E. Lewis in film too!

**Food for Thought:**

Did you recognize any actors in the film?

Rosemary DeCamp is in the film, too…. what is she known for? (The Life of Riley, Bob

Cummings Show)

“Casting Call” was one song. Did you recognize the song “This is the Army Mr. Jones”?

Did you ever see a revue in the Service? Did you ever see Bob Hope in person?

***South Pacific*** is a 1958 American [romantic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romance_film) [musical film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) adaptation of the [Rodgers and Hammerstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodgers_and_Hammerstein) musical [*South Pacific*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Pacific_(musical)), and based on [James A. Michener](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_A._Michener)'s [*Tales of the South Pacific*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tales_of_the_South_Pacific). The film starred [Rossana Brazzi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rossano_Brazzi), [Mitzi Gaynor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitzi_Gaynor), [John Kerr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Kerr_(actor)) and [Ray Walston](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_Walston) in the leading roles with [Juanita Hall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juanita_Hall) as Bloody Mary, the part that she had played in the original stage production.

**Theme:**

The plot centers on an American nurse stationed on a South Pacific Island during World War II, who falls in love with a middle-aged expatriate French plantation owner but struggles to accept his mixed-race children. A secondary romance, between a [U.S. Marine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Marine) lieutenant and a young [Tonkinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonkin) woman, explores his fears of the social consequences should he marry his Asian sweetheart.

**We join the film** when the sailors contemplate their lives on the Island in the company of the female nurses who tend to keep to themselves, as they sing “There’s Nothing Like a Dame”. We later hear the number “You Have to Be Carefully Taught,” which speaks to the racial conflicts of the 40’s and 50’s, in this case, an American serviceman falling in love with an Asian woman during WWII.

**Fun Facts:**

The producers' original plan was to have [Ezio Pinza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ezio_Pinza) and [Mary Martin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Martin), the two leads of the original Broadway cast, reprise their roles for the film, but Pinza died. Had he survived long enough to perform in the film, the producers would have cast Martin. Instead, [Doris Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doris_Day) was offered the part of Nellie, but passed; [Elizabeth Taylor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Taylor) tested for the same role, but was rejected by Rodgers after she suffered stage fright in her audition. Logan later heard her sing but was unable to persuade Rodgers to change his mind. Ultimately, [Mitzi Gaynor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitzi_Gaynor), who had prior work in musical films, and had tested twice for Nellie, was cast in the role

*South Pacific* received scrutiny for its commentary regarding relationships between different [races](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_(classification_of_human_beings)) and [ethnic groups](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_group). In particular, "You’ve Got to Be Carefully Taught" was subject to widespread criticism, judged by some to be too controversial or downright inappropriate for the musical stage. Sung by the character Lieutenant Cable, the song is preceded by a line saying [racism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racism) is "not born in you! It happens after you’re born..."

**Food for Thought:**

Have you ever been to the South Pacific? A Caribbean Island? Where?

Did you see South Pacific on Broadway? Mary Martin was in the play…. What is she best known for? (Peter Pan)