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

***Let’s Go On Location!***

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

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

***Brigadoon*** is a 1954 American [Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer) [musical film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) based on the [Broadway musical of the same name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brigadoon) by [Alan Jay Lerner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Jay_Lerner) and [Frederick Loewe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Loewe). The film was directed by [Vincente Minnelli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincente_Minnelli) and stars [Gene Kelly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_Kelly), [Van Johnson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Van_Johnson), and [Cyd Charisse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyd_Charisse" \o "Cyd Charisse)

**Theme:**

[Americans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_of_America) Tommy Albright ([Gene Kelly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_Kelly)) and Jeff Douglas ([Van Johnson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Van_Johnson)) are on a hunting trip in [Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland) and become lost in the woodlands. They happen upon Brigadoon, a miraculously blessed village that rises out of the mists every hundred years for only a day. (This was done so that the village would never be changed or destroyed by the outside world.) Tommy falls in love with village lass Fiona Campbell ([Cyd Charisse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyd_Charisse" \o "Cyd Charisse)), whose younger sister Jean is about to be married to Charlie Dalrymple. When Tommy and Jeff happen upon clues about the village and its people that make no sense, Fiona takes them to see Mr. Lundie, the village schoolmaster, who tells them the story of Brigadoon and the miracle. If any villager ever leaves Brigadoon, the spell will be broken and the village will vanish forever. Furthermore, any outsider who wishes to stay must love someone in the village strongly enough to accept the loss of everything he or she knew in the outside world.

**We join the film** when Tommy and Fiona confess their love for each other and decide to marry, allowing Tommy to stay in Brigadoon for good.

**Later in the film**, Tommy confesses that he cannot stay. Fiona says she understands but is heartbroken and they say good-bye before Brigadoon completely disappears. Tommy and Jeff cross the bridge and walk away.

Back in New York City, Tommy can think only of Fiona. He and Jeff return to the same spot where they were lost, though Jeff reminds him again the village will not be there. But suddenly Tommy sees lights start to appear through the mist and runs toward them. Brigadoon reappears and Tommy gets to the foot of the bridge to see Mr. Lundie who says, "Tommy, lad, you! My, my, you must really love her. You woke me up." Tommy seems stunned that Brigadoon has been brought back, but Mr. Lundie reminds him: "I told ye, if you love someone deeply enough, anything is possible ... even miracles."

Tommy then runs across the bridge and reunites with Fiona as the village fades back into the mist.

**Fun Facts:**

The film was going to be shot on location in Scotland, but plans changed due to the unpredictability of the weather. It was filmed in an MGM sound stage.

**Food for Thought:**

* **Do you believe in miracles?**
* **Would you like to live in a town like Brigadoon, protected from the outside world? What would it be like to come back every one hundred years?**
* **Do you recall seeing Brigadoon on Broadway, in film or on TV with Robert Goulet, Peter Falk and Sally-Ann Howes?**

***Oklahoma!*** is a 1955 American [musical film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) based on the [1943 musical of the same name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma!) by [Richard Rodgers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Rodgers) and [Oscar Hammerstein II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_Hammerstein_II), starring [Gordon MacRae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_MacRae), [Shirley Jones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shirley_Jones) (in her film debut), [Rod Steiger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rod_Steiger), [Charlotte Greenwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlotte_Greenwood), [Gloria Grahame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gloria_Grahame), [Gene Nelson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_Nelson), [James Whitmore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Whitmore), and [Eddie Albert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eddie_Albert).

**Theme:**

Set in Oklahoma Territory, it tells the story of farm girl Laurey Williams and her courtship by two rival suitors, cowboy Curly McLain and the sinister and frightening farmhand Jud Fry. A background theme is the territory's aspiration for Statehood, and the local conflict between cattlemen and farmers.

**We join the film** as Curly rides his horse through the cornfield to Aunt Eller's farm. Laurey Williams is Aunt Eller's niece, with whom Curly is in love. Laurey clearly feels the same way but is loath to admit it.

Curly and Laurey are married. Gertie arrives at the wedding party, announcing she is also married. Her husband turns out to be Ali Hakim - Gertie's father forced Ali to marry her.

**Later in the film**, the festivities are disrupted by Jud, who sets fire to a haystack and threatens Curly with a knife. Curly jumps him, and inadvertently causes Jud to fall on his own knife, killing him.

A makeshift trial is held at Aunt Eller's house. Curly is found not guilty, and he and Laurey depart for their honeymoon in the surrey with the fringe on top.

**Fun Facts:**

Some potential actors considered for the role of Curly were James Dean and Paul Newman. Joanne Woodward was offered the role that Shirley Jones that she previously played on Broadway.

**Food for Thought:**

* **Can you think of any other Roger and Hammerstein musicals? (**[*Oklahoma!*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma!), [*Carousel*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carousel_(musical)), [*South Pacific*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Pacific_(musical)), [*The King and I*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_King_and_I), and [*The Sound of Music*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sound_of_Music))
* **Have you ever been to Oklahoma or any other mid-western state?**
* **Did you see Oklahoma in the movies? In a school production?**

***Sleepless in Seattle*** is a 1993 American [romantic comedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romantic_comedy) directed and co-written by [Nora Ephron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nora_Ephron), based on a story by Jeff Arch. It stars [Tom Hanks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Hanks) and [Meg Ryan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meg_Ryan), alongside a supporting cast featuring [Bill Pullman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Pullman), [Ross Malinger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross_Malinger), [Rob Reiner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rob_Reiner), [Rosie O'Donnell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosie_O%27Donnell), [Gaby Hoffmann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaby_Hoffmann), [Victor Garber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_Garber), and [Rita Wilson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rita_Wilson)

**Theme:**

After Chicago architect Sam Baldwin loses his wife Maggie to cancer, he and his eight-year-old son Jonah start a new life in Seattle, but they continue to grieve. A year and a half later on Christmas Eve, Jonah calls in to a radio talk show. Jonah persuades a reluctant Sam to go on the air to talk about how much he misses Maggie. Hundreds of women from around the country who hear the program and are touched by the story and write to Sam. One of the listeners is Annie Reed, a [*Baltimore Sun*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltimore_Sun) reporter who is engaged to Walter but feels there is something missing from their relationship. After watching the film [*An Affair to Remember*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Affair_to_Remember), Annie writes a letter suggesting that Sam meet her on top of the [Empire State Building](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire_State_Building) on Valentine's Day. She decides not to mail it, but her friend and editor Becky does it for her and later agrees to send Annie to Seattle.

**We join the film** when, with Jessica's help, Jonah flies to New York and goes to the Empire State Building searching for Annie. When Sam discovers what Jonah did, he grabs a later plane and follows Jonah where he finds him on the observation deck. Meanwhile, Annie sees the skyscraper from the [Rainbow Room](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow_Room) where she is dining with Walter and confesses her doubts to him, amicably ending their engagement. She rushes to the Empire State Building and arrives on the observation deck just moments after the doors to the down elevator close with Sam and Jonah inside.

**Fun Facts:**

Jeff Arch conceived of the story out of frustration with his career as a writer and producer. He pitched the film to six studios before accepted, due to the fact that the 2 leading stars hardly were seen on screen together. The film turned out to be one of the highest grossing movies of the year and continues to be a fan favorite.

Nora Ephron, the final screenwriter, insisted that Meg Ryan play Annie after seeing her in the movie “When Harry Met Sally”. Meanwhile, Ryan wanted her, then husband, Dennis Quaid to play Sam, but Ephron turned him down.

**Food for Thought:**

* **Have you ever seen *An Affair to Remember* with Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr?**
* **Have you gone to the top of the Empire State Building?**
* **Can you think of something that happened to you on a Valentine’s Day?**

***Viva Las Vegas*** is a 1964 American [musical film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) directed by [George Sidney](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Sidney) and starring [Elvis Presley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvis_Presley) and [Ann-Margret](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ann-Margret). The film is regarded by fans and [film critics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film_critics) as one of Presley's best films.

**Theme:**

Lucky Jackson (Elvis) goes to [Las Vegas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Las_Vegas_Valley), [Nevada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevada) to participate in the city's first annual [Grand Prix Race](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Prix_motor_racing). However, his race car, an [Elva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elva_(car_manufacturer)) Mk.6 Maserati, is in need of a new engine in order to compete in the event.

Lucky raises the necessary money in Las Vegas, but he loses it when he is shoved into the pool by the hotel's nubile swimming instructor, Rusty Martin (Ann-Margret).

**We join the film** when Lucky, who must work as a waiter at the hotel to replace the lost money to pay his hotel bill enters the hotel's talent contest in hopes of winning a cash prize sizable enough to pay for his car's engine. I just so happens that Rusty also competes…and wins!

**As the movie progresses,** Lucky attempts to win the affections of Rusty, who eventually falls in love with him. She immediately tries to change him into the man she wants him to be.

**Fun Facts:**

The chemistry between the two stars was genuine during filming. Presley and Ann-Margret began an affair, receiving considerable attention from film and music [gossip columnists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gossip_columnist). This reportedly led to a showdown with Presley's worried girlfriend [Priscilla Beaulieu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priscilla_Beaulieu). (Elvis and Priscilla married in 1967.) In her 1985 book [*Elvis and Me*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvis_and_Me#The_Ann-Margret_affair), Priscilla Presley describes the difficulties that she experienced when the gossip columnists erroneously "announced" that Ann-Margret and Presley had become engaged to be married. In her memoirs, Ann-Margret refers to Elvis Presley as her "soulmate" and stated: "We felt there was a need in 'The Industry' for a female Elvis Presley."

**Food for Thought:**

* **Were you a fan of Elvis Presley? Do you have any favorite songs?**
* **Do you recall seeing Elvis Presley on the Ed Sullivan Show?**
* **Have you ever been to Las Vegas?**

***Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*** is a 1939 American [political](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_drama) [comedy-drama film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comedy-drama) directed by [Frank Capra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Capra), starring [Jean Arthur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Arthur) and [James Stewart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Stewart), and featuring [Claude Rains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_Rains) and [Edward Arnold](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Arnold_(actor)). The film is about a newly appointed [United States Senator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senator) who fights against a corrupt political system, The film was controversial when it was first released, but successful at the box office, and it made Stewart a major star.

**Theme:**

The governor of an unnamed western state, Hubert "Happy" Hoppe, has to pick a replacement for recently deceased [U.S. Senator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate) Sam Foley. His corrupt [political boss](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_boss), Jim Taylor pressures Hopper to choose his handpicked stooge, while the governor's children want him to select Jefferson Smith ([James Stewart](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Stewart)), the head of the Boy Rangers. Unable to make up his mind Hopper decides to flip a coin. When it lands on edge – and next to a newspaper story on one of Smith's accomplishments – he chooses Smith, calculating that his wholesome image will please the people while his [naïveté](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Na%C3%AFvet%C3%A9) will make him easy to manipulate.

Junior Senator Smith is taken under the wing of the publicly esteemed, but secretly crooked, Senator Joseph Paine ([Claude Rains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_Rains)), who was Smith's late father's friend. To keep Smith busy, Paine suggests he propose a bill. With the help of his secretary, Clarissa Saunders ([Jean Arthur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Arthur)), who was the aide to Smith's predecessor and had been around Washington and politics for years, Smith comes up with a bill to authorize a federal government loan to buy some land in his home state for a national boys' camp, to be paid back by youngsters across America.

**We join the film** as donations begin to pour in. The proposed campsite, however, is already part of a dam-building [graft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graft_(politics)) scheme included in an appropriations bill framed by the Taylor [political machine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machine_(politics)) and supported by Senator Paine. Saunders, who looked down on Smith at first, but has come to believe in him, talks him into launching a [filibuster](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filibuster) to postpone the appropriations bill and prove his innocence on the Senate floor just before the vote to expel him. In his last chance to prove his innocence, he talks non-stop for about 25 hours, reaffirming the American ideals of freedom and disclosing the true motives of the dam scheme. Owing to the influence of Taylor's machine, newspapers and radio stations in Smith's home state, on Taylor's orders, refuse to report what Smith has to say and even distort the facts against the senator.

**Fun Facts:**

*Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* was attacked by the Washington press, and politicians in the [U.S. Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Congress), as [anti-American](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Americanism) and pro-[Communist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communism) for its portrayal of corruption in the [American government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States).

It has been called one of the quintessential [whistleblower](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whistleblower) films in American history.

**Food for Thought:**

* **What’s your opinion of how Jimmy Stewart handled himself on the Senate floor?**
* **Do you think that Stewart’s character was naïve or honest?**
* **Can you imagine doing that?**
* **Can you think of any other Jimmy Steward films?**

**Lucy’s Italian Movie**  **Season 5 – April 16, 1956**

**Theme:**

En route to Rome by train the Ricardos and Mertzes encounter director Vittorio Phillipi, renowned for his realistic and 'earthy' movies. Felipe thinks Lucy might be just right for a role in his latest film. Lucy, of course, wants to accept immediately, while Ricky takes Phillipi's card and says he'll call the director, who's anxious to cast the role as he's already started filming.  
  
**We join Lucy** at their Roman hote lwhen Lucy finds a magazine - in Italian, of course - with an article about Phillipi and his new film. A friendly bellboy translates the film's title - "Grappello Pungente" - as "Bitter Grapes". Assuming that the subject of the film is wine-making, Lucy starts planning a visit to a local vineyard to "soak up some local color". Ricky, claiming that the wine industry has enough problems without Lucy "lousing it up," forbids the inquiry but his interception of Phillipi's card and his appreciation of Fred's earlier mockery of Lucy's ambitions convince her that he doesn't want her to do the movie. After demonstrating to Ethel her ability to "shrug" her way through a conversation (including asking for 'a big pizza'), she gets the bellboy to direct her to the old-fashioned wine-making town of Turo and she's on her way.

Later in the episode, Phillipi explains that "Bitter Grapes" is a symbolic title, with no references to grapes or wine making in the film. Lucy was supposed to play a typical American tourist - a small part, one not worth worrying about, that he must film the next day. Since there is no guarantee that she will be in any condition to shoot the scene, he must withdraw the offer. Suddenly, while saying goodbye to the Mertzes, he realizes that Ethel herself is the most typical American tourist he could imagine and offers her the role, which, to Lucy's horror, Ethel is thrilled to accept. As the men see Phillipi out, Lucy advances on Ethel, muttering epithets of revenge...

**Fun Facts:**

Did you know that the grape stompers were real grape stompers?

Because they only spoke Italian, Lucy thought she might die during the grape stomping scene when she got into a scripted fight with one of the women who did not understand that it was part of the scene. Lucy wound up receiving actual blows from the other woman!

**Food for Thought:**

* **Did you ever see this episode?**
* **Have you been to Italy? To a vineyard?**
* **Have you ever made wine? Beer?**

***An American in Paris*** is a 1951 American [musical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) [comedy film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comedy_film) inspired by the 1928 orchestral composition [*An American in Paris*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_American_in_Paris) by [George Gershwin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Gershwin). Starring [Gene Kelly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_Kelly), [Leslie Caron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie_Caron), [Oscar Levant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_Levant), [Georges Guétary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georges_Gu%C3%A9tary), and [Nina Foch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nina_Foch), the film is set in [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris), and was directed by [Vincente Minnelli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincente_Minnelli) from a script by [Alan Jay Lerner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Jay_Lerner). The music is by [George Gershwin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Gershwin), with lyrics by his brother [Ira](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ira_Gershwin).

**Theme:**

American [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) [veteran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veteran) Jerry Mulligan ([Gene Kelly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_Kelly)) is an exuberant expatriate in Paris trying to make a reputation as a [painter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Painting). His friend and neighbor, Adam Cook ([Oscar Levant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_Levant)), is a struggling concert pianist and longtime associate of a French singer, Henri Baurel ([Georges Guétary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georges_Gu%C3%A9tary)). At the ground-floor bar, Henri tells Adam about his cultured girlfriend, Lise Bouvier ([Leslie Caron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie_Caron))

A lonely society woman and heiress, Milo Roberts ([Nina Foch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nina_Foch)), finds Jerry displaying his paintings in [Montmartre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montmartre) and takes an interest in him and his art. He tells Milo he has no interest in being a paid escort. When he attempts to leave after giving her money back, she insists she is only interested in his art…He ignores Milo and her acquaintances, and instead pretends to know Lise already and dances with her. She is standoffish and gives Jerry a wrong phone number. She consents to a late dinner with him but does not want to be seen eating with him in public….they share a romantic song and dance on the banks of the [Seine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seine) River in the shadows of [Notre Dame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Notre_Dame_de_Paris). However, she quickly rushes off to meet Henri after his performance ("[I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I%27ll_Build_a_Stairway_to_Paradise)"), where Henri tells her he has been asked to go on a tour of America and asks her to marry him.

**We join the film** roughly a month later and after much courting, Lise abruptly runs off when she and Jerry arrive by taxi at his apartment. When Jerry complains to Adam, Adam is shocked to realize both Henri and Jerry are involved with the same woman. Henri and Jerry discuss the woman they each love ("['S Wonderful](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%27S_Wonderful)"), unaware she is the same woman.

**Fun Facts:**

The story of the film is interspersed with dance numbers choreographed by Gene Kelly and set to Gershwin's music. MGM executive Arthur Freed bought the Gershwin musical catalog from George's brother Ira in the late 1940s, since George died in 1937. Some of the tunes in this catalog were included in the movie, such as "[I Got Rhythm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Got_Rhythm)" and "[Love Is Here to Stay](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love_Is_Here_to_Stay)". Other songs in the movie include "[I'll Build A Stairway to Paradise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stairway_to_Paradise)" and "['S Wonderful](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%27S_Wonderful)". The climax of the film is "The American in Paris" ballet, a 17-minute dance featuring Kelly and Caron set to Gershwin's [*An American in Paris*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_American_in_Paris)

**Food for Thought:**

* **Did you see this movie? The Broadway production**
* **Have you ever been to Paris? Can you recall any of the sights you might have seen?**
* **Gene Kelly started our program and ended our program….are there any other films that standout in which he starred?**
* **Did you ever find yourself in a similar situation?**