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

**SPRING FLING!**

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

***Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*** is a1954 film directed by [Stanley Donen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Donen), with music by [Saul Chaplin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saul_Chaplin) and [Gene de Paul](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gene_de_Paul), lyrics by [Johnny Mercer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnny_Mercer), and choreography by [Michael Kidd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Kidd).. The movie, which is set in [Oregon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon) in 1850, is particularly known for Kidd's unusual choreography, which makes dance numbers out of such mundane [frontier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frontier) pursuits as chopping wood and [raising a barn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barn_raising).

**Theme:**

In 1850, backwoodsman Adam Pontipee comes into a town in the [Oregon Territory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Territory) to search for a bride. Met with ridicule by some locals, he comes upon the local tavern where he meets Milly. Convinced of her worth by the quality of her cooking and her insistence on finishing her chores before she would leave with him, he proposes and she accepts despite knowing each other for only a few hours.

Milly learns that Adam is one of seven brothers living under the same roof. The brothers have been named alphabetically from the [Old Testament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Testament) in order of birth. Milly decides to marry Adam's brothers off to her sisters.

**We join the film** as the winter months slowly pass. The women vent their frustration and resentment by playing pranks on the brothers. By spring, the women have forgiven their "kidnappers" and fallen in love with the brothers, who are now allowed to court them.

**Fun Facts:**

*Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* won the [Academy Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award) for [Best Scoring of a Musical Picture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Original_Score) and was nominated for four additional awards, including [Best Picture of the Year](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Picture) (where it lost to [*On the Waterfront*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_the_Waterfront)). The dresses worn by the female cast were made from old quilts that costume designer [Walter Plunkett](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Plunkett) found at [the Salvation Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Salvation_Army).

**The Brothers and their Brides**:

* [Howard Keel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_Keel) as Adam and [Jane Powell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Powell) as Milly
* [Jeff Richards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_Richards_(baseball_player/actor)) as Benjamin and [Julie Newmar (Newmeyer)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julie_Newmar) as Dorcas
* [Matt Mattox](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matt_Mattox) as Caleb and [Ruta Lee (Kilmonis)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruta_Lee) as Ruth
* [Marc Platt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marc_Platt_(dancer)) as Daniel and Norma Doggett as Martha
* [Jacques d'Amboise](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_d%27Amboise_(dancer)) as Ephraim and [Virginia Gibson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_Gibson) as Liza
* [Tommy Rall](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tommy_Rall) as Frank and Betty Carr as Sarah
* [Russ Tamblyn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russ_Tamblyn) as Gideon and Nancy Kilgas as Alice

**Food for Thought:**

Did you or anyone you know grow up in a rural town like the one depicted in Oregon?

Think about how you met your husband/wife. Were you fixed up on a date?

How long did you know your spouse before getting married?

***Carousel*** is a 1956 film adaptation of the 1945 [Rodgers and Hammerstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodgers_and_Hammerstein) stage musical [of the same name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carousel_(musical)). *Carousel* stars [Gordon MacRae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_MacRae) and [Shirley Jones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shirley_Jones), and was directed by [Henry King](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_King_(director)). Like the original stage production, the film contains what many critics consider some of Rodgers and Hammerstein's most beautiful songs, as well as what may be, along with the plots of [*Allegro*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegro_(musical)) and [*South Pacific*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Pacific_(musical)), the most serious storyline found in their musicals.

**Theme:**

The story revolves around [carousel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carousel) [barker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barker_(occupation)) Billy Bigelow, whose romance with millworker Julie Jordan comes at the price of both their jobs. After moving closer to Julie’s cousin Nettie, Billy attempts a robbery to provide for Julie and their unborn child. After it goes wrong, and 15 years later, Bill is given a chance to make things right.

**We join the film,** early on, when all the townspeople in the quintessential seaside town where Julie and Billy live are celebrating the promise of Spring, as they sing ***June is Bustin’ Out All Over.***

**Fun Facts:**

In the film, Billy dies by accident, rather than by suicide as in the show – when he falls on his own knife while trying to escape arrest.

[Frank Sinatra](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Sinatra) was originally cast to play Billy Bigelow. He even pre-recorded the songs he was to sing in the film. Prior to filming, the cast knew they had to film some scenes twice, one for regular Cinemascope and the other for CinemaScope 55. According to one account, when Sinatra arrived on the set, he claimed that he was being paid to film one movie, not two, and he walked away from the set and said: "You’re not getting two Sinatras for the price of one". However, according to [Shirley Jones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shirley_Jones)' 2014 autobiography, the real reason he walked away from the film was that the love of his life, [Ava Gardner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ava_Gardner), told him that if he didn't accompany her on her film set immediately, she would start an affair with her costar. Gardner was in the late stages of filming [*The Barefoot Contessa*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Barefoot_Contessa) at the time.

**Food for Thought**:

***Did anyone ever work at a carnival? Have you ever ridden on a carousel?***

***Do you recall going to carnivals when you were a kid? Or with your family?***

***Did you have any favorite rides? Did you ever win a prize for someone?***

***Carousel takes place in New England….Have you ever been to New England? Gone to a clambake?***

***April in Paris*** is a 1952 [musical comedy film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) starring [Doris Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doris_Day) and [Ray Bolger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_Bolger). A bureaucrat's mistake sends a chorus girl to Paris representing American theatre in place of a star actress. The movie was directed by [David Butler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Butler_(director)).

**Theme:**

Sam Winthrop Putnam is the Assistant Secretary to the Assistant to the [Undersecretary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Undersecretary) of State and was formerly Assistant Assistant Secretary to the Assistant to the Undersecretary of State. He sends an invitation to [Ethel Barrymore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethel_Barrymore) to represent the American theatre at an art exposition in [Paris](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris). Instead, the invitation is received and accepted by Ethel "Dynamite" Jackson, an All-American [Broadway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadway_theatre) chorus girl.

On returning to Washington, Putnam discovers that news services have gotten hold of the story that Miss Jackson has been invited to represent the US in Paris. Telegrams from all over America have poured in, expressing approval that a relative unknown is being given this opportunity.

Ethel and Winthrop meet on the way to Paris and fall in love. To impress people, she is given the task of conjugating French verbs and is aided by a waiter, Philippe (Claude Dauphin), who invites her to the ship’s dance. Eager to encourage romance, unbeknownst to the couple, a busboy poses as the ship’s captain and marries Ethel and Putnam. Unfortunately, Winthrop is engaged to Marcia Sherman, daughter of his boss Secretary Robert Sherman.

**We join the film** in Paris when Marcia shows up unexpectedly, surprising Winthrop and Ethel. Ethel seeks the advice of her new friend Philippe when she realizes that their wedding was staged.

**Fun Facts:**

According to many critics, [April in Paris](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B001OMM9LQ/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=B001OMM9LQ&linkCode=as2&tag=thefilmsofdori05&linkId=D6HD3QZHUQ7JEVSD) is a minor Doris Day musical. Some felt that her co-star, Ray Bolger, was not a suitable leading man and that Fred Astaire would have been more appropriate. However, Bolger's Broadway credits already included [*Life Begins at 8:40*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_Begins_at_8:40) (1934), [*On Your Toes*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On_Your_Toes) (1936), [*By Jupiter*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/By_Jupiter) (1942), [*All American*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_American_(musical)) (1962) and [*Where's Charley?*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Where%27s_Charley%3F) (1948), for which he won the [Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tony_Award_for_Best_Performance_by_a_Leading_Actor_in_a_Musical)l

**Food for Thought:**

Have you ever been to Paris? How did you get there? Some people have taken cruise liners like the one in April in Paris…..

Ray Bolger was in other movies. Can you name one extremely popular movie?

Can you think of a Doris Day movie? What about a famous song that Doris Day is know for?

***The Carol Burnett Show***wasan American [variety](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variety_show)/[sketch comedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sketch_comedy) television show starring [Carol Burnett](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carol_Burnett), [Harvey Korman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey_Korman), [Vicki Lawrence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vicki_Lawrence), and [Lyle Waggoner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyle_Waggoner). In 1975, frequent guest star [Tim Conway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Conway) became a regular after Waggoner left due to his doubts about the show's success in reruns. In 1977, [Dick Van Dyke](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Van_Dyke) replaced Korman for much of its final season.

**Theme:**

The episode we are going to watch is called “The Man Without the Green Thumb” starring Carol Burnett and Tim Conway. The next time you water your plants think about this funny portrayal of house plants and their owners

**Fun Facts:**

The Carol Burnett Show originally ran on [CBS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CBS) from September 11, 1967, to March 29, 1978, for 279 episodes, and again with nine episodes in the fall of 1991. The series won 25 primetime [Emmy Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmy_Awards), was ranked number 16 on [*TV Guide*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TV_Guide)*'*s [50 Greatest TV Shows of All Time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TV_Guide%27s_50_Greatest_TV_Shows_of_All_Time).

The popular variety show not only established Burnett as a television superstar, but it also made her regular supporting cast household names, with such sketches as "[As the Stomach Turns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As_the_Stomach_Turns)", (a parody of [*As the World Turns*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/As_the_World_Turns)) and "[Went with the Wind!](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Went_with_the_Wind!)" (a spoof of [*Gone with the Wind*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gone_with_the_Wind_(film))), "Carol & Sis", "[Mrs. Wiggins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mrs._Wiggins)", and "[The Family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Family_(sketch))" (which led to a [made-for-TV](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Television_film) movie titled [*Eunice*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eunice_(film)), as well as a spin-off television series titled [*Mama's Family*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mama%27s_Family)), "Nora Desmond" (Burnett's send-up of [Gloria Swanson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gloria_Swanson)'s character [Norma Desmond](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norma_Desmond) in [*Sunset Boulevard*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunset_Boulevard_(1950_film))), and "Stella Toddler". A frequent repeated segment was "Kitchen Commercials", in which cast members parodied TV commercials that drove a woman (Burnett) crazy. The long-running show was frequently nominated for [Emmys](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmy_Award) for best variety series and won three times.

**Food for Thought:**

The show also became known for its closing theme song, written by Burnett's husband, with these lyrics: Can you recall how it goes?

I'm so glad we had this time together

Just to have a laugh or sing a song

Seems we just get started and before you know it

Comes the time we have to say, "So long."

Do you ever talk to your plants? Does it make them healthier?

Did you watch the Carol Burnett Show? Did you enjoy it?

Did you have any favorite characters? Skits?

***State Fair***is a 1945 American [musical film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) directed by [Walter Lang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Lang). It is a musical adaptation of the [1933 film of the same name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Fair_(1933_film)), with original music by [Rodgers and Hammerstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rodgers_and_Hammerstein). The film stars [Jeanne Crain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeanne_Crain), [Dana Andrews](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dana_Andrews), [Dick Haymes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dick_Haymes), [Vivian Blaine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vivian_Blaine), [Fay Bainter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fay_Bainter), and [Charles Winninger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Winninger). *State Fair* was [remade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Fair_(1962_film)) in 1962, that time starring [Pat Boone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat_Boone) and [Ann-Margret](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ann-Margret).

**Theme:**

The Frake family is getting ready for the [Iowa State Fair](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iowa_State_Fair) – each with their own hopes for the trip ("Our State Fair"). Farm family Frake, with discontented daughter Margy, head for the Iowa State Fair. On the first day, both Margy and brother Wayne meet attractive new flames; so does father's prize hog, Blue Boy. Father Abel tends to his pig Blue Boy and bets his neighbor Dave Miller five dollars that the pig will win at the fair, and that the Frake family will all have a good time at the fair with no bad experiences.

As the fair proceeds, so do the romances.

**We join the film** as daughter Margy ([Jeanne Crain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeanne_Crain)) is in a melancholy mood as she packs for the fair ("[It Might As Well Be Spring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_Might_As_Well_Be_Spring)"). Margy muses about how the Fair will at least give her a break from seeing and doing the same old things every day on the farm.

**Fun Facts:**

*State Fair* was the only Rodgers and Hammerstein musical written directly for film. The movie introduced such popular songs as "It's A Grand Night For Singing" and "[It Might as Well Be Spring](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_Might_as_Well_Be_Spring)", which won the [Academy Award for Best Song](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academy_Award_for_Best_Song). Rodgers and Hammerstein adapted the film for the stage in 1969 for a production at [The Muny](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Muny) In Saint Louis. In 1996, it was adapted again for a [Broadway musical of the same name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_Fair_(musical)), with additional songs taken from other Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals.

Dick Haymes and Vivian Blaine were well known big band singers of the time who did their own singing. Jeanne Crain's singing voice was dubbed by Louanne Hogan.

**Food for Thought:**

This movie takes place in another rural town…in Iowa this time. Have you ever been to the Midwest? Do you know anyone who is from Iowa? Other Midwest states?

Do you recall going to a State Fair or a County Fair? Often there are contests…different than a Carnival, fairs might have rides, but they are usually to focus on agriculture and what the area is known for. What kinds of contests could you see at a State Fair?

What’s you favorite season? Do you like Spring? What is so special about Spring?

**Happy Girl** is a 1965 American [musical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musical_film) [romantic comedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romantic_comedy) and [beach party film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beach_party_film) starring [Elvis Presley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvis_Presley) in his 18th feature. The movie won a fourth place prize [Laurel Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurel_Award) in the category Top Musical of 1965. It featured the song "[Puppet on a String](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puppet_on_a_String_(Elvis_Presley_song))", which reached #14 on the [*Billboard*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billboard_(magazine)) Hot 100,

**Theme:**

**We join the film** just after [nightclub singer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nightclub_singer) Rusty Wells (Elvis) and his band have just closed their engagement at the club where they work in [Chicago](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago,_Illinois), and are just about ready to leave for their annual spring break trip to [Fort Lauderdale, Florida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Lauderdale,_Florida)—that is, until the club's owner, Big Frank ([Harold Stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Stone)), extends their stay at his club, foiling the band's plans for some sun and fun in Florida.

At the same time, Big Frank's daughter, college student Valerie ([Shelley Fabares](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shelley_Fabares)) also takes her spring break in Lauderdale with her friends, which worries her father to no end. So, at the suggestion of Rusty (who sees this situation as an opportunity for him and the guys to make Lauderdale after all), Big Frank hires Rusty and his band to make the trip to Lauderdale to look after Valerie to make sure she stays out of trouble. But the task isn't easy, as Rusty and the guys struggle to keep [sex-crazed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Promiscuity) [Italian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy) [exchange student](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exchange_student) Romano (Fabrizio Mioni) away from Valerie,

**Fun Facts:**

Although MGM presented *Girl Happy* as a [beach party film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beach_party_film) and while Presley had previously appeared shirtless in films prior to this, he never appears without a shirt at any time throughout his many scenes at the pool and on the beach in Florida, wearing long sleeves for most of the film - even while water-skiing

Even though the film is set in Fort Lauderdale, Elvis did not film any scenes in the city. Primary shooting was done at the MGM studios, while the beach scenes were filmed in southern California. Only second unit filming was done in Fort Lauderdale.

Shelley Fabares sings "Spring Fever" in a duet with Elvis, and Nina Talbot sings the song "Read All About It". This would the first of three movies in which Fabares would co-star with Elvis.

**Food for Thought:**

What do you think it means to have “Spring Fever”? Did you ever have Spring Fever? Sometimes we make reference to “Spring Cleaning”…What does that mean?

Did you ever go to Florida? Were you there on vacation? With your family? Your spouse?

Do you have a favorite Elvis Presley song? Movie?

What TV show did Shelley Fabares star in? What was her role? (Donna Reed…daughter*)*