

EVENING COURSE



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Old Hollywood: Tough Guys and Mad Dames

The 1940s was an interesting time in American cinema that created a very specific flavour of movies. During WWII and its aftermath, characters became tougher and more troubled shrouded in noir and psychological themes of madness that shaped gender stereotypes and a new breed of star. This course will provide a focus on single personalities of the era exploring works that were often a (dark) reflection of who these movie stars were, while some attempted to break the conventions of Hollywood and the roles they played in front of and behind the camera. Those looked at will be: Gregory Peck, Lana Turner, Robert Mitchum, Barbara Stanwyck, Burt Lancaster, Olivia de Havilland, Humphrey Bogart, Ida Lupino and Glenn Ford. Films discussed will include: *Remember the Night* (1940), *Duel in the Sun* (1944), *The Killers* (1946), *Gilda* (1946), *The Dark Mirror* (1946), *Out of the Past* (1947), *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1946), *In a Lonely Place* (1950), *On Dangerous Ground* (1951).

Week No. / Date	Session Topic	Films / Director(s) / Studio(s)	
INTRODUCTION: BEGINNING OF THE END			
1		Precursors:	
	 Conquering heroes 		
	 Grit and the Glamour 	Gone with the Wind (1939)	
	• Broken	Director(s): Victor Fleming, George	
	• Trauma town	Cukor, Sam Wood	
	 Mind as metaphor 	Studio(s): Selznick International	
	•	Pictures / Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer	
	'This is the story, then, of a great empire	TV VV 1 00 (1000)	
	built of dreams of glamour, dreams of	The Wizard of Oz (1939)	
	beauty, wealth and success, and of that	Director(s): Victor Fleming, King Vidor	
	empire's sudden decline and fall.' — Otto	Studio(s): Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer	
	Friedrich, City of Nets: A Portrait of	Wuthering Heights (1939)	
	Hollywood in the 1940's (2014)	Director(s): William Wyler	
		Studio(s): The Samuel Goldwyn	
	After the leading moviemakers capped off	Company	
	the 1930s with Gone with the Wind, The	Company	
	Wizard of Oz and Wuthering Heights in	Main:	
	1939, Hollywood (seemingly) had a <i>bright</i>		
	future. However, shortly after, with the US	Double Indemnity (1944)	
	entering WWII in 1941, studio output was defined by 'hardboiled' narratives that gave	Director(s): Billy Wilder	
	birth to the tough guy persona who would	Studio(s): Paramount Pictures	
	either be in the battlefields of Europe or	, ,	
	wrestling with an internal battlefield often	Story of G.I. Joe (1945)	
	wrosting with an internal battleffeld often	Director(s): William A. Wellman	



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explored back home in the urban sprawl that had defined the first quarter of the 20th century. The 'dream factory' was, aside from the musicals holding onto any sense of optimism, becoming something far more psychological. The studios* and their notorious moguls - Louis B. Mayer (MGM), the Warner brothers (Warner Bros.), Joseph M. Schenck, Darryl F. Zanuck, Spyros Skouras and William Fox (20th Century Fox), to name a few - still lead the charge and was an interesting decade that gave birth to a forerunner of stars whose sensibilities truly set the groundwork for what was to come. We talk about how the 1940s not only shaped the tough guys but also how it portrayed women on screen. We have the gaslighting and psychological roles but, amongst early challenging performance, female talent that dared to challenge convention.

*The 'Big 5' studios of the Golden Age were: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, RKO, 20th Century Fox, Warner Bros., and Paramount Pictures.

Studio(s): Lester Cowan Productions (Uncredited. Distributed by United Artists)

Gilda (1946)

Director(s): Charles Vidor **Studio(s):** Columbia Pictures

The Killers (1946)

Director(s): Robert Siodmak

Studio(s): Mark Hellinger Productions (distributed by Universal Pictures)

The Snake Pit (1948)
Director(s): Anatole Litvak
Studio(s): Twentieth Century Fox

In a Lonely Place (1950) Director(s): Nicholas Ray

Studio(s): Santana Pictures Corporation (distributed by Columbia Pictures)

The Dark Mirror (1946)
Director(s): Robert Siodmak
Studio(s): Nunnally Johnson
Productions (distributed by Universal
Pictures)

Reference to:

The Hitch-Hiker (1953) Director(s): Ida Lupino

Studio(s): The Filmakers Inc. / RKO

Radio Pictures

ROBERT MITCHUM: HOLLYWOOD REBEL

2

- Problem child
- · Roguish charm
- Artistic passions

"No matter what you do, do your best at it. If your going to be a bum, be the best bum there is."

Robert Mitchum (August 6, 1917 – July 1, 1997) was known primarily for his powerhouse performances and crafting the antihero persona that became a trademark of Hollywood during the post-war period. So, over the years, it was of no surprise that he

Main:

Out of the Past (1947)

Director(s): Jacques Tourneur **Studio(s):** RKO Pictures

The Night of the Hunter (1955)
Director(s): Charles Laughton
Studio(s): Paul Gregory Productions
(distributed by United Artists)

Heaven Knows, Mr. Alison (1957) **Director(s):** John Huston

Studio(s): Twentieth Century Fox



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would often present characters that ranged from the roguish hero to the down right malevolent. His range and stature was not one that would have been associated with the majority of actors of that period and, therefore, with the likes of Kirk Douglas and Burt Lancaster, presented a *new* breed of stoic movie stars that paved the way for what would eventually become the action heroes of the 1980s. Mitchum was not one to be underestimated and often became the strong beating heart of his movies, whether out to save you or *bury* you. His volatility and controversies off screen only add to his persona and reputation.

Reference to:

Story of G.I. Joe (1945)

Director(s): William A. Wellman **Studio(s):** Lester Cowan Productions (distributed by United Artists)

Track of the Cat (1954)
Director(s): William Wellman
Studio(s): Wayne/Fellows Productions
(distributed by Warner Bros.)

Cape Fear (1962)

Director(s): J. Lee Thompson **Studio(s):** Universal Pictures

Ryan's Daughter (1970)
Director(s): David Lean
Studio(s): Faraway Productions
(distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

The Friends of Eddie Coyle (1973)

Director(s): Peter Yates
Studio(s): Paramount Pictures

The Yakuza (1974)

Director(s): Sydney Pollack **Studio(s):** Warner Bros.

Farewell, My Lovely (1975) Director(s): Dick Richards Studio(s): Warner Bros.

Tombstone (1993)

Director(s): George P. Cosmatos Studio(s): Hollywood Pictures / Cinergi

Pictures

LANA TURNER: TRAGIC ATTRACTIONS

3

- The 'Sweater Girl'
- Glamour girl
- Life imitates art

"A successful man is one who makes more money than his wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man."

From "sweater girl" to glamour girl Julia Jean 'Lana' Turner (February 8, 1921 –

Main:

The Postman Always Rings Twice

(1946)

Director(s): Tay Garnett

Studio(s): Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

The Three Musketeers (1948)
Director(s): George Sidney
Studio(s): Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Imitation of Life (1959)







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June 29, 1995) lit up the screen. Often the epitome of the Hollywood blonde, Turner's roles were also associated with this tragic and beautiful figure that smouldered on screen; her personal filled with tragedy – from the murder of her father to the 'justifiable homicide' surrounding the death of one of her partners at the hands of her daughter. She was her own movie, full of all the trappings and conventions of Hollywood; a star whose sexual allure held up what most criticised as a limited acting ability. Here was a figure of platinum perfection, an MGM star for 17 years who became the quintessential product of the Hollywood studio system.

Director(s): Douglas Sirk Studio(s): Universal International **Pictures**

Reference to:

Ziegfeld Girl (1941)

Director(s): Robert Z. Leonard **Studio(s):** Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1941) **Director(s):** Victor Fleming **Studio(s):** Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer The Bad and the Beautiful (1952) **Director(s):** Vincente Minnelli Studio(s): Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Madame X (1966)

Director(s): David Lowell Rich **Studio(s):** Ross Hunter Productions

HUMPHREY BOGART: THE QUIET DETECTIVE

4

- Play it again
- King of noir
- Grizzled

"The problem with the world is that everyone is a few drinks behind."

When we often think of the iconic private investigator framed by strips of light and shrouded with a stream of smoke and an even smokier femme fatale, Humphrey Bogart was the man. Born on 25^t December 1899, Bogart was a quiet actor whose style was as much about what wasn't said than what was. As with most stars, it was his presence and grizzled features that added a great deal of pathos to what could have so easily become cardboard cut out characters. Having fallen in love with Lauren Bacall while filming To Have and Have Not (1944) in 1943, they tied the not the following year. Bacall was just 19 years old at the time they met, Bogart 25 years her senior. Although the marriage had its problems, the relationship lasted until the time of his death; their collaborations on screen having become as equally iconic as his solo outings. After a battle with cancer,

Main:

Dark Passage (1947) **Director(s):** Delmer Daves Studio(s): Warner Bros.

The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948)

Director(s): John Huston Studio(s): Warner Bros.

In a Lonely Place (1950) **Director(s):** Nicholas Ray

Studio(s): Santana Pictures Corporation (distributed by Columbia Pictures)

Reference to:

The Maltese Falcon (1941) **Director(s):** John Huston Studio(s): Warner Bros.

Casablanca (1942)

Director(s): Michael Curtiz Studio(s): Warner Bros.

The Big Sleep (1946) **Director(s):** Howard Hawks Studio(s): Warner Bros.



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sadly Bogart passed away on January 14 th	
1957.	The Harder They Fall (1956)
	Director(s): Mark Robson
	Studio(s): Columbia Pictures

IDA LUPINO: RENAISSANCE WOMAN

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- Ms Independent
- True original
- Before her time

"I had no desire to crash a man's world."

Ida Lupino (4 February 1918 – 3 August 1995) was not only a British Hollywood movie star but also one of few women in the town who had crossed over into becoming a writer, producer and director. A true renaissance woman, Lupino was dubbed "the last of Hollywood's rugged individualists," her family name often associated with the dramatic. This began with a banished nobleman from Bologna during the early 17th century who fled to England where, under the name of Georgius, survived as a roaming puppeteer and fathered a theatrical dynasty. In the centuries that followed, another Lupino was famous for performing a record 210 pirouettes on a handkerchief, while another originated the role of Nana the dog in Peter Pan. It is no surprise in reading these stories that the family's symbol was a red-hot poker, inspired by their noted ability to fire up an audience. As one of the few female directors of the Golden Age, Ida would go on to direct everything from noir The Hitch-Hiker to episodes of Bewitched and The Twilight Zone. As a movie star she was somewhat overlooked but as a filmmaker became a groundbreaking talent.

Main:

Out of the Fog (1941)
Director(s): Anatole Litvak

Studio(s): Warner Bros. / First National

Pictures

On Dangerous Ground (1951) Director(s): Nicholas Ray Studio(s): RKO Radio Pictures

The Bigamist (1953)
Director(s): Ida Lupino
Studio(s): The Filmakers

Reference to:

High Sierra (1940)
Director(s): Raoul Walsh
Studio(s): Warner Bros.

The Hitch-Hiker (1953) Director(s): Ida Lupino

Studio(s): The Filmakers Inc. / RKO

Radio Pictures

The Big Knife (1955)
Director(s): Robert Aldrich

Studio(s): The Associates & Aldrich Company (distributed by United Artists)

GREGORY PECK: AMERICAN PATRIARCH

6

- A quintessential mid-century American man
- Onscreen dad
- Commander

Main:

Duel in the Sun (1946) **Director(s):** King Vidor **Studio(s):** Vanguard Films









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"I don't lecture and I don't grind any axes. I just want to entertain."

Gregory Peck (April 5, 1916 – June 12, 2003) garnered a reputation over the years as a fatherly figure – To Kill a Mocking Bird (1962), Cape Fear (1962), The Omen (1976) – often cast in roles that would balance both a stoic and sympathetic side. Although known as being amiable and a fun-loving man at home, Peck's persona onscreen was one of a stern nature that only fed into his role as patriarchs. He was tough... but also caring, often seen as anything from the good-looking romantic lead (even in his later years) to a rugged World War II hero. Peck was all of this: the measurement of Americana; his heroic features all part of his movie star qualities. No surprise then that Peck was once described as "the most decent man in Hollywood"; rising to stardom at a time when dignity and fair play made a hero. His son, Anthony Peck, summed him up the best: "My father never let me down. He is totally like the lawyer he plays in To Kill A Mockingbird, Gregory Peck is Atticus Finch."

Twelve O'Clock High (1949) Director(s): Henry King

Studio(s): Twentieth Century-Fox Film

Corporation

Cape Fear (1962)

Director(s): J. Lee Thompson **Studio(s):** Universal Pictures

Reference to:

Roman Holiday (1953) Director(s): William Wyler Studio(s): Paramount Pictures

Spellbound (1945)

Director(s): Alfred Hitchcock Studio(s): Selznick International Pictures / Vanguard Films (distributed by United Artists)

The Gunfighter (1950) Director(s): Henry King

Studio(s): Twentieth Century Fox

Moby Dick (1956)
Director(s): John Huston
Studio(s): Moulin Productions
(distributed by Warner Bros.)

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962) Director(s): Robert Mulligan

Studio(s): Pakula-Mulligan / Brentwood

Productions

The Omen (1976)

Director(s): Richard Donner **Studio(s):** Twentieth Century Fox

The Boys from Brazil (1978)

Director(s): Franklin J. Schaffner

Studio(s): ITC Films (distributed by

Twentieth Century Fox)

BARBARA STANWYCK: FEARLESS

7

Missv

• Strong and dynamic

Pushing those gender norms

"Egotism - usually just a case of mistaken

Main:

Double Indemnity (1944) **Director(s):** Billy Wilder **Studio(s):** Paramount Pictures



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nonentity."

Barbara Stanwyck was born Ruby Catherine Stevens on July 16, 1907 in New York City. As one of Hollywood's most respected and prolific actresses, she starred in 85 films across a 60-year career. Her versatility as an actress led to a myriad of different performances from screwball comedies to classic film noir and vivid melodrama. Each role showcased her gift for portraying nononsense women; characters who often strived to make a place for themselves in a 'man's world' including iconic femme fatales and career women. Although she was a four-time Oscar nominee. Stanwyck never won, but later received an honorary award in 1982 for her "superlative creativity and unique contribution to the art of screen acting". Stanwyck passed away January 20, 1990 from congestive heart failure.

Sorry, Wrong Number (1948) Director(s): Anatole Litvak Studio(s): Hal Wallis Productions

Forty Guns (1957)

Director(s): Samuel Fuller

Studio(s): Twentieth Century Fox /

Globe Enterprises

Reference to:

Baby Face (1933)

Director(s): Alfred E. Green **Studio(s):** Warner Bros.

Remember the Night (1940, preview

December 31st 1939) **Director(s):** Mitchell Leisen **Studio(s):** Paramount Pictures

The Lady Eve (1941)

Director(s): Preston Sturges **Studio(s):** Paramount Pictures

Meet John Doe (1941) **Director(s):** Frank Capra

Studio(s): Frank Capra Productions (distributed by Warner Bros.

Clash by Night (1952) Director(s): Fritz Lang

Studio(s): Wald/Krasna Productions (distributed by RKO Radio Pictures)

GLENN FORD: SECRETS AND LIES

8

- Underrated star
- The serial adulterer
- · A volatile man

"I've never played anyone but myself on screen."

Canadian born Glenn Ford (May 1, 1916 – August 30, 2006) made his reputation playing impassive, laconic military types and Western heroes, which were often his bread-and-butter. Such roles were criminally underrated, often providing an effortlessly authoritative performance and working hard in his output of movies, of

Main:

Gilda (1946)

Director(s): Charles Vidor **Studio(s):** Columbia Pictures

The Big Heat (1953) **Director(s):** Fritz Lang **Studio(s):** Columbia Pictures

Blackboard Jungle (1955)
Director(s): Richard Brooks
Studio(s): Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Reference to:



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which were sometimes three to four a year. When he *wasn't* working, he put all of his energy into his home life; designing his own house (with a 900-pound artificial sun suspended over a glassed-in atrium) where, hung on the wall was the Nazi death sentence he earned during WWII for training French Resistance fighters. However, despite his homebred façade and 'Jonathan Kent' exterior, Ford's private life was, later, revealed to be somewhat of a sham when he confessed (to his son, nonetheless) of all his extramarital affairs during his time as a Hollywood actor.

3:10 to Yuma (1957)
Director(s): Delmer Daves
Studio(s): Columbia Pictures

Superman (1978)

Director(s): Richard Donner Studio(s): Dovemead Films / Film Export A.G. / International Film Production (distributed by Warner Bros.

Framed (1947)

Director(s): Richard Wallace **Studio(s):** Columbia Pictures

Lust for Gold (1949)

Director(s): S. Sylvan Simon **Studio(s):** Columbia Pictures

OLIVIA DE HAVILLAND: THE LAST LIONESS

9

- Sibling rivalry
- Rational and Radiant
- · Dark desires
- Lady Triumphant

"Famous people feel that they must perpetually be on the crest of the wave, not realizing that it is against all the rules of life. You can't be on top all the time; it isn't natural."

As one of the last remaining stars of the Golden Age, Olivia de Havilland (July 1, 1916 – July 26, 2020) was a commanding presence on and off screen and not to be mistaken for the delicate beauty she was often associated with early in her career. This was a star never afraid to show a bewitching brilliance and play with the psychological themes that became prominent in the post-war years. She may have received two Oscars and nominated another three times, but this didn't stop her helping to take down Hollywood's studio system with a landmark legal victory in the 1940s. Known for her moralising and highmindedness, it was also well known that de Havilland and her sister Joan Fontaine detested each other; interestingly enough this sibling rivalry echoed in one of her finest films, The Dark Mirror (1946); a film

Main:

The Dark Mirror (1946)
Director(s): Robert Siodmak
Studio(s): Nunnally Johnson
Productions (distributed by Universal
Pictures)

The Snake Pit (1948)
Director(s): Anatole Litvak
Studio(s): Twentieth Century Fox

My Cousin Rachel (1952)
Director(s): Henry Koster
Studio(s): Twentieth Century Fox

Reference to:

The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938)
Director(s): Michael Curtiz

William Keighley

Studio(s): Warner Bros.

In This Our Life (1942)

Director(s): John Huston, Raoul Walsh

(uncredited)

Studio(s): Warner Bros.

The Heiress (1949)

Director(s): William Wyler **Studio(s):** Paramount Pictures







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noir centred around identical twins. Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte (1964) **Director(s):** Robert Aldrich **Studio(s):** The Associates and Aldrich (distributed by Twentieth Century Fox)

BURT LANCASTER: THE HARLEM KID

10

- Inherent danger
- His own man
- The Last Action Hero

"We're all forgotten sooner or later. But not films. That's all the memorial we should need or hope for."

Known for his tall, broad and powerful physique and a smile that lit up Tinselton, Burt Lancaster (November 2, 1913 – October 20, 1994) was an astonishing Hollywood specimen. Growing up in Harlem, he spent the majority of his twenties as a circus acrobat that only enhanced his awe-inspiring frame and adding to those large signature movements. Lancaster was of a particular ilk: not the actor who would disappear into a role but dazzle an audience as 'Burt'. Within the shackles of a star persona he found a multitude of standout roles, and never lost his prime. He would often team up with his life-long friend from his circus days, Nick Cravat, showing off his athleticism – *Trapeze* (1956) a fine example – utilising Lancaster's skills as a high flier. He soared and conquered, yet his progressive liberal reviews developed a philosophy and perspective that was often at odds with Hollywood. As a strong advocate for equal rights, this often placed him in the firing line (often a target of FBI investigations) over the years; speaking out in support of racial issues and other minorities, the Vietnam War, the AIDS crisis and the death penalty. Despite three marriages and apparent affairs (with both men and women), Lancaster's reputation as a human outshone his stardom. Tough guy? Great guy.

Main:

The Killers (1946)

Director(s): Robert Siodmak

Studio(s): Mark Hellinger Productions (distributed by Universal Pictures)

Brute Force (1947) Director(s): Jules Dassin

Studio(s): Mark Hellinger Productions (distributed by Universal Pictures)

Trapeze (1956)

Director(s): Carol Reed

Studio(s): Hecht-Hill-Lancaster

Reference to:

From Here to Eternity (1953) **Director(s):** Fred Zinnemann Studio(s): Columbia Pictures

Vera Cruz (1954)

Director(s): Robert Aldrich

Studio(s): Hecht-Lancaster Productions

(distributed by United Artists)

The Sweet Smell of Success (1957) **Director(s):** Alexander Mackendrick Studio(s): Hecht-Hill-Lancaster Productions / Norma Productions / Curtleigh Productions (distributed by United Artists)

The Birdman of Alcatraz (1962) **Director(s):** John Frankenheimer Studio(s): Norma Productions (distributed by United Artists)

The Leopard (1963)

Director(s): Luchino Visconti Studio(s): Titanus / Société Nouvelle Pathé Cinéma / Société Générale de

Cinématographie (S.G.C.)



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The Train (1964) **Director(s):** John Frankenheimer Studio(s): Les Films Ariane / Les Productions Artistes Associés / Dear Film Produzione (distributed by United Artists) **The Swimmer** (1968) **Director(s):** Frank Perry Studio(s): Horizon Pictures (distributed by Columbia Pictures) Ulzana's Raid (1972) **Director(s):** Robert Aldrich Studio(s): De Haven Productions / The Associates & Aldrich Company (distributed by Universal Pictures) Local Hero (1983) **Director(s):** Bill Forsyth Studio(s): Goldcrest Films (distributed

by Twentieth Century Fox)

Studio(s): Touchstone Pictures / Silver Screen Partners II / The Bryna Company

Tough Guys (1986) **Director(s):** Jeff Kanew