

'Dinner and a Movie' celebrates '30s comedies

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

The slapstick scenes, witty dialogue, gender wars and gutsy heroines of the screwball romantic comedy emerged in the 1930s.

This month, Meadow Brook Hall on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills celebrates the film genre with dinner-and-a-movie screenings of classic romantic comedies.

The Awful Truth with Cary Grant and Irene Dunne is scheduled for Feb. 19. *Flatfoot* with Jean Harlow, Loretta Young and Reginald Owen is set for Feb. 26.

"It's a lot of fun to see '30s movies in a '30s house on a big screen," said Meadow Brook Hall's acting director Sally Victor of the venue's *Dinner and a Movie* series.

Enhancing the experience is screening locale. Films are shown - and dinner is served - in Meadow Brook Hall's elegant ballroom, the original motion picture-viewing room of resi-

FILM

What: *Dinner and a Movie* series at Meadow Brook Hall on the campus of Oakland University, Rochester Hills
Where: 7 p.m. (doors open), 7:30 p.m. (screening), Wednesday, Feb. 19 and Feb. 26

Tickets: \$25 per person and include dinner. A cash bar is available. Space is limited, so please call in advance for reservations, (248) 370-3140, or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org on the Internet.

dence owners Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer John Dodge, and her second husband, Alfred G. Wilson.

Films from the 1930s are the current focus of the series since "Meadow Brook was in its heyday in the '30s," said Victor. *Dinner and a Movie* is in its second season and also runs in October.

Screenings begin at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), and feature a multicourse dinner,

including appetizer, main course and dessert.

Each course is served during a break in the film and accompanied by an informal discussion of the movie, its history and trivia.

"The discussion is led by our curator who talks about the movie in a fun way," said Victor. "The personality of attendees tends to be somewhat outgoing, so there are many questions and lots of talk, but it's very informal."



Meadow Brook Hall's *Dinner and a Movie* series is held in the estate's ballroom where Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer John Dodge, and her second husband, Alfred G. Wilson, viewed motion pictures in the '30s.

Past audiences have been diverse and screenings regularly sell out, said Victor. "There isn't an age demo-

graphic. The program seems to appeal to people who simply enjoy old movies. We have 20-somethings and 70-somethings

in the crowd plus everything in between."

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Take the plunge and learn about Great Lakes wrecks

BY KEELY KALESKI
STAFF WRITER

If a ship sunk in 1913, underwater it looks just as it did then. It's a cool thing to see, and one of the reasons Dennis Bosak joined the Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club.

The club is hosting a Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival on Saturday at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn.

Bosak said anyone who's interested in history, archeology, boaters and water enthusiasts should attend.

Over 4,000 ships sank in the Great Lakes and to date they've only found half of them," said Bosak. "It's history underwater. The Great Lakes are full of wrecks and artifacts."

Festival-goers can choose from a variety of events and activities.

Check out the shipwreck artifact and museum displays and exhibits by marine artists in the Dome Room. Representatives

SHIPWRECK FESTIVAL

When: 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22

Where: Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, Michigan Avenue at Greenfield, Dearborn.
Admission: Program package ticket \$35, Salt Water Program \$15, Diver's Forum \$7, freshwater Program \$20. Call (734) 769-2458 or visit the Web site www.fordseahorses.org

from local historical preservation and historical societies will have displays too.

Two seminars are being presented from 9-11 a.m. Award-winning authors and photographers Jack and Sue Drafiel will talk about the challenges of taking pictures with a digital camera underwater.

Jarrod Jablonski, of Global Underwater Explorers, offers an introduction to Doing it Right, a common sense approach to diving that stresses safety and the importance of practice and experience.

Visit "Fabulous Fiji," the Solomon Islands, Thailand and Bangkok with divers during the Saltwater Program noon to 2:30 p.m.

Attend the Diver's Forum 3:30-5 p.m. to learn more about the controversy behind the sinking of the *Carl D. Bradley* from Rick Myster. The ship was one of six "Titanics of the Great Lakes."

Jarrod Jablonski talks about the British hospital ship *Britannic* that sunk on Nov. 21, 1916 after an unexplained explosion. The *Britannic* was

approximately 20 feet longer than the *Titanic*.

Lee Murdock brings Great Lakes legends to life through song during the Freshwater Program 6:30-9 p.m.

A highlight is Tony Gramer's presentation - "36 Hours Adrift, the sinking of the schooner *Corsair*."

"The wreck is almost still in intact," said Bosak. A 133-foot schooner, *Corsair* sunk on Sept. 28, 1872, off Thunder Bay light-house.

Two of the seven crew survived to tell the story. The wreck was located in the summer of 2001. Gramer and his

crew joined in the filming and documentation in 2002.

Ric Myster shares his research about "The Great Storm of 1913."

His research includes first-hand accounts of diving the Charles S. Price, Regina and Louisiana and interviews with people who survived the storms.

Bosak, a Livonia resident, is president of the Ford Seahorses Diving Club.

"It's one of the oldest scuba diving clubs in the U.S.," he said. "The membership is diverse, and you don't have to be a Ford employee to join."



Jennifer Krpfit of Redford won first place for this photo titled "Helmsman Needed" in the 2002 Ford Seahorses Underwater Photo Contest.

February 23 - May 18, 2003

VAN GOGH: Fields

Call for tickets: (248) 769-2456
www.toledomuseum.org

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