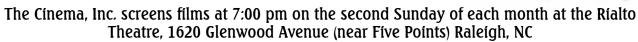
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Ambersons

February 10 *The Bigamist*

March 10

Breaking Away

April 14 Ida

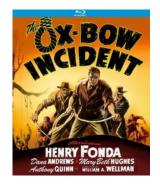
May 12 Wadjda June 9

Sophie's Choice

July 14
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Paradise

August 11

Mulholland Drive



September 9, 2018: The Ox-Bow Incident

USA 1943, B&W, Unrated, 75 min

Directed by William A. Wellman; starring Henry Fonda, Dana Andrews, Mary Beth Hughes

The story of intolerance and mob mentality is more relevant today than it was in the old west. This is a grim picture, but works to provide a chilling example of subtle evil using powerful dramatics throughout. Gil (Fonda) is a drifter futilely trying to secure normality as he returns to claim a lost loved one. He's been caught up in a standoff over murder and angry accusations. Men's lives are on the line as a lynch mob forms. There are exciting tension-packed moments, but the film keeps to a meditative mood, delivering a strong message on the unpredictability of violence and the need to act with logic, not mindless aggression.



October 14, 2018: The Trouble With Harry

USA 1955, Color, PG, 99 min

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock; starring John Forsythe, Shirley MacLaine, Edmund Gwenn

The trouble with Harry is that he is dead, and everyone seems to have a different idea of how he died, and what their own culpability is and what should be done with the body. Harry is buried and exhumed several times by various parties, and let's just say that it gets complicated. This character piece is a quirky take on "whodunnits" and introduces both Shirley MacLaine and Jerry Mathers (aka Beaver Cleaver). Light comedy and dark humor easily coexist in the Technicolor glories of a New England autumn.



November 11, 2018: Nora's Will

Mexico 2008, Color, Unrated, 92 min

Directed by Mariana Chenillo; starring Fernando Luján, Enrique Arreola, Ari Brickman

Nora is discovered dead on her bed by her ex-husband José. He also discovers a refrigerator full of beautifully prepared dishes - all for the impending Passover meal...the hallmarks of a labor of love. But José sees it as evidence of manipulation. The timing of Nora's death at the beginning of Passover necessitates a delay in burying her. She's put on ice and left in her bedroom until a burial can proceed five days hence. José is an atheist and impatient with the dictates of ceremonial rules. This is a gently-paced movie, sweet-natured with a dry sense of humor and a growing cast of characters including Nora's psychiatrist, her mournful cat, a rabbi, José's wife and children.



December 9, 2018: The Adventures of Prince Achmed

Germany 1926, Color, Unrated, 81 min, Animation

Directed by Lotte Reiniger and Carl Koch
The Mysteriaus Geographic Advantures of Jason

The Mysterious Geographic Adventures of Jasper Morillo

Australia 2005, Color, Not Rated, 28 min , Animation Directed by Anthony Lucas

Prince Achmed accidentally trades his sister to a wicked magician for a flying horse, which takes him to the island of Wak-Wak, where he falls in love with a bird princess named Pari Bann. When demons steal Pari Bann away from Achmed, he turns to Aladdin's magic lantern for help. The film is considered the first animated feature film. This enormously enjoyable fantasy film maintains interest from beginning to end simply from the inventiveness of its ground breaking animation.



January 13, 2019: The Magnificent Ambersons

USA 1942. B&W. Unrated. 88 min

Directed by Orson Welles and Fred Fleck; starring Tim Holt, Joseph Cotton, Dolores Costello, Agnes Moorehead

This is an ancient story, yet forever a timely one. It captures the crumbling facade of the turn of the twentieth century as the old lifestyle surrendered to the new. Isabel Amberson (Costello) is courted by Eugene Morgan (Cotton), but he is rebuffed on account of his whimsical happenstance. She marries Wilbur Manifer instead, and their son, George, is terribly over-indulged. Twenty years later, the spoiled and entitled George returns home, his visit coinciding both with his father's death and Eugene's return to court his mother.



February 10, 2019: The Bigamist USA 1953, B&W, UnRated, 80 min

Directed by Ida Lupino; starring Edmund Gwenn, Edmond O'Brien, Joan Fontaine

The Bigamist has noir overtones. The noir element is of entrapment through moral weakness. O'Brien is a lonely traveling salesman in LA when he meets Lupino, a young waitress on a Hollywood bus tour. A relationship develops and one thing leads to another, but not before O'Brian tries to extricate himself. He has a wife in Frisco. O'Brien, who is morally weak, digs himself deeper into a bind that cannot be broken without tragic consequences. The script is soft on the bigamist, although he is punished. However, there is maturity and sensitivity in a scenario where decent people get themselves into a mess simply because of normal human frailties. The strength of the film is in the lead performances and the screenplay which sensitively deals with extra-marital sex and single motherhood.

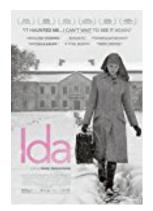


March 10, 2019: Breaking Away

USA 1979. Color. PG. 101 min

Directed by Peter Yates; starring Dennis Christopher, Dennis Quaid, Daniel Stern

Dave (Dennis Christopher) is fresh out of high school and concentrating on his impressive bicycle racing skills. Dave is on an "Italy" kick, talking with an accent and embracing the Italian way of life. Friends Mike, Cyril, and Moocher are adrift in the same boat as Dave, but Dave is a compassionate guy who dreams of something different. The film builds to the big competition: the local kids against the university jocks. There's the prevailing sense that the friends will soon drift away. The film is a paean to the dying embers of youth and the promise of what lies ahead..



April 14, 2019: Ida

Poland 2013, B&W. Unrated, 82 min

Directed by Pawel Pawlikowski; starring Agata Trzebuchowska, Agata Kulesza

Ida is a novice nun preparing take her vows of chastity. She feels entirely ready but her prioress insists she spend some time in the "real world". Ida is instructed to visit her sister, Wanda Gruz. During this visit she learns her birth parents were Jewish, and were killed during World War II. Ida wants to dig deeper. In this Oscar-winning film, Ida is exposed to a variety of secular behaviors which she has been shielded from in the convent. Wanda smokes, drinks, and indulges in casual sex. She's a troubled woman who wears her feelings on her sleeve as consistently as Ida buries hers. The final act details the emotional fallout both characters experience in the wake of their discovery.



May 12, 2019: Wadjda

Netherlands 2012, Color, Unrated, 98 min

Directed by Haifaa Al Mansour; starring Waad Mohammed, Reem Abdullah, Abdullrahman Al Cohani

Wadjda is the first feature film from Saudi Arabia and, equally important, directed by a woman. The film tells of Wadjda growing up in Riyadh and learning the dos and don'ts of being a young girl in a male-controlled Muslim culture. Wadjda admires the bicycle that her friend Abdulla rides. She wants one of her own and embarks on a quest to pay for the bike. She signs up for the school's competition on teachings of the Koran so that she may win the cash prize. The film's multi-generational story plays like a dedication to the spirit of women of the Kingdom.

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June 9, 2019: Sophie's Choice USA 1982, Color, R, 150 min

Directed by Alan J. Pakula; starring Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, Peter MacNicol

On his first night at a Brooklyn boarding house, Stingo witnesses a drunken Nathan berating Sophie in a stairwell. He notices a number tattooed on her arm. Nathan hurls insults at Stingo before huffing off, leaving Stingo to comfort Sophie. The next morning Nathan invites Stingo to a picnic as an apology for his behavior. The trio become good friends. The second half of the film switches gears to depict Sophie's time at Auschwitz and her work as a Nazi officer's servant. This backstory brings us full circle as Sophie's past life explodes in the stories of Nathan and Stingo. Few films have handled gutpunching tragedy, romantic melodrama and intermittent comedy so skillfully.



July 14, 2019: Children of Paradise

France 1945, B&W, Unrated, 189 min

Directed by Marcel Carné; starring Arletty, Jean-Louis Barrault, Pierre Brasseur

Against a backdrop of 19th century Parisian theater life, a great beauty has a lasting effect on the lives of four disparate men: a brilliant mime, who falls debilitatingly in love with her, rendering him unable to accept the love of his own admirer; a womanizing Shakespearean actor, who briefly shacks up with her in a somewhat passionless affair; a rich and powerful count, who saves her from a spurious criminal charge, and subsequently takes her to see the world; and a flamboyant criminal whose mischievous meddling brings to a head all of their various entanglements. The epic sweep of Carné's film is often intoxicating and filled with plenty of enjoyable and engaging moments that are wonderfully entertaining.



August 11, 2019: Mulholland Drive

USA 2001, Color, R, 147 min

Directed by David Lynch; starring Naomi Watts, Laura Harring, Justin Theroux

This film throws away any notion of traditional linear storytelling. It's Hollywood, and a wide-eyed blonde, Betty (Watts), has arrived at her aunt's place to find a mysterious brunette, Rita (Harring), who was in a car accident and lost her memory. Betty endeavors to aid Rita, putting them on a path where dreams and reality collide. Their story interacts with a film director who was strong-armed into hiring an actress for the lead role of his film. However, his connection to the two women may run deeper. This film is sexy, dark, and exotic, with an unpredictable plot twist that forces you to reinterpret what you've seen. What is reality? That's for you to decide.

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