

FLEX FLICKS

A film tribute: the highly influential German-born American Melodramatist
Douglas Sirk
 (1900-1987)

Fridays at 7:00 p.m. in the Art Department screening room: Room 7120
 Flex credit for each screening & post-screening group discussion! Theatre seating! Digital sound & picture!

“There is a very short distance between high art and trash, and trash that contains an element of craziness is by this very quality nearer to art.” — Douglas Sirk

Fri., Feb. 27: "All That Heaven Allows" (1955) (89 min.)
 7.6/10 at IMDB.com

Jane Wyman is a repressed wealthy widow, and Rock Hudson is the hunky Thoreau-following gardener who loves her in Douglas Sirk’s heartbreakingly beautiful indictment of 1950s small-town America. Sirk utilizes expressionist colors, reflective surfaces, and frames-within-frames to convey the loneliness and isolation of a matriarch trapped by the snobbery of her children and the gossip of her social-climbing country club chums. A subversive Hollywood tearjerker of the highest order.

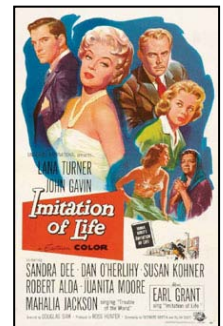


Fri., Mar. 27: "Written on the Wind" (1956) (99 min.) 7.5/10 at IMDB.com

Bathed in lurid Technicolor, melodrama maestro Douglas Sirk’s *Written on the Wind* is the stylishly debauched tale of a Texas oil magnate brought down by the excesses of his spoiled offspring. Features an all-star quartet that includes Robert Stack as a pistol-packin’ alcoholic playboy; Lauren Bacall as his long-suffering wife; Rock Hudson as his earthy best friend; and Dorothy Malone (who won a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her performance) as his nymphomaniac sister. When Sirk said this was “a film about failure,” he hardly did justice to the way pent-up, unfulfilled sexuality spills onto the screen and into the visual excess that has come to be considered his cinematic signature.

Fri., Apr. 24: "Imitation of Life" (1959) (125 min.) 7.7/10 at IMDB.com

Aspiring actress Lora Meredith (Lana Turner) and her daughter Susie (Sandra Dee) meets Annie Johnson (Juanita Moore) a homeless black woman at Coney Island and her daughter Sarah Jane, and soon they share a tiny apartment. Neurotic and obnoxious, Sarah Jane doesn’t like being black; since she’s light-skinned (her father was practically white), she spends the rest of the film passing as white, much to her mother’s heartache and shame. Lora, meanwhile, virtually ignores her own daughter in a single-minded quest for stardom. A groundbreaking film.



Fri., May 8: TBD— Choice of film will be determined by popular vote in April.

Sirk’s “Magnificent Obsession” (1954)
 (108 min.) 6.8/10 at IMDB.com

or Todd Haynes’ “Far from Heaven” (2002)
 (107 min.) 7.5/10 at IMDB.com. An homage to Sirk.

