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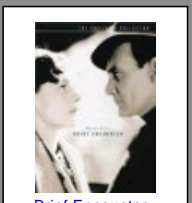
FilmJerk Favorites

A group of unique directors and the essential works that you've got to see.

|| David Lean ||



Honored with the American Film Institute Life Achievement Award in 1990, Lean's body of work (ranging from the intimate film to the grandiose epic) demonstrates an obsessive cultivation of craft and a fastidious concern with detail that has become the very definition of quality British cinema.



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Celia Johnson, Tre...
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Adapted from Noel Coward's one-act play, Lean takes a potentially boring story of middle-age flirtation and tenderly creates one of the most enduring and poignant romance films ever made. Brilliantly underplayed, two happily married strangers meet by chance in a railway station and fall desperately in love, but never physically express the undercurrent of passion that exists between them, even during their final gut wrenching separation - if your heart doesn't ache, you're just not human!



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Martin Landau, Mark Rydell and Lyle Kessler Present "The Total Picture Seminar"

By CarrieSpecht

October 28th, 2009

"The Total Picture Seminar" is a two day immersion into the collaborative experience of filmmaking with actor Martin Landau, director Mark Rydell, and screenwriter Lyle Kessler. This one-time special event geared toward filmmakers, actors, writers and anyone involved in the creative process of filmmaking is a close up and personal look at the inter-relationship of the three critical disciplines of narrative filmmaking.



This completely original seminar offers a unique opportunity to directly participate in the process required of all good filmmaking: collaboration. This is not just a show and tell, but a hands-on event that will include practical experience (how better to learn than by doing?). Unlike the usual class that instructs purely by lecture, "The Total Picture" is designed with interaction as a key element. Scenes will be selected from the writer participants and then acted by the actors who are selected by Mark, Martin and Lyle with the finished work presented and reviewed in class. In addition, Lyle Kessler will moderate what is surely to be a lively conversation between the attendees and the seasoned professionals as motion picture clips of the trio's previous works will be deconstructed for acting, directing, and writing content.

Landau (Best Supporting Actor Oscar for "Ed Wood"), Rydell (nominated as Best Director for "On Golden Pond") and Kessler (recipient of the New York State council on the Arts Playwriting Award) have been kicking around the concept of this seminar for many years, which is only natural given their collective background for sharing their crafts. Landau and Rydell have been co-directors of the Actors Studio West since the 1960s, and Kessler has run the Actors Studio West Playwright/Directors Unit for 10 years (he has even served as director of the Sundance Screenwriters Lab). What they now propose is to take what they have always done within the Actors Studio and take it outside to the general public.

At one point there was some thought to establishing a whole school around the concept, but a seminar presented itself as the ideal forum in which to launch their curriculum. As the three men like to emphasize, a person can be taught varied aspects of the skills of each discipline, but it's a whole other kettle of fish when you live it. And since they themselves have experienced success by understanding the complex ways in which actors, writers and directors collaborate on the most artistically rewarding level, they want to help others learn how to achieve the same success: by literally demonstrating the challenge of working with people you are likely to have never met before with varying degrees of ability - just like your first day on any set.

This opportunity should not be under appreciated, especially at the incredibly reasonable price of \$250 (purposely set low to accommodate the struggling artist). Over the course of two days, you would basically be paying each man minimum wage for what can only be described as their invaluable life's work, including their industry know-how, prestige, personal success, teaching experience, and collaborations with the likes of Woody Allen, Alfred Hitchcock, Henry Fonda, John Wayne, Al Pacino, and Albert Finney. Let alone the awards and nominations for Oscars, Golden Globes, Emmys and Tonys. Now that's a bargain!

The seminar will be held at he Haines Hall (Room 39) on the UCLA campus in Westwood on Saturday and Sunday, November 14th and 15th, from 10am - 6pm, with check-in beginning at 9am. For more details about the seminar, including instructions for writers to submit scenes to be considered, please visit: www.TheTotalPictureSeminar.com

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Demonstrating moments of intimacy through gigantic display, Lean sets up the greatness of Pip's expectations with the magnitude of his frightful encounters; one with an escaped convict, whose emergence into the frame reminds us what it's like to be a child in a world of oversized, menacing adults, and another with the meeting of mad Miss Havisham, in all her gothic splendor.



[Lawrence of Arabia](#)

John Dimech, José ...

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Peter O'Toole made an enigmatic and lasting impression in his debut role as British officer T.E. Lawrence, who helped Arab rebels fight the Turks in WWI, and Omar Sharif has perhaps the greatest cinematic intro of all time as he magically appears through the ghostly waves of the desert heat, achieving Lean's compulsive drive to create the perfectly composed shot. Alec Guinness, Anthony Quinn, Jose Ferrer, and Claude Rains round out this incredibly talented and magnetically charged cast.

Recommended by CarrieSpecht

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