Talking Pictures TV

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Weekly Highlights 14th–20th November

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For full listings please visit

talkingpicturestv.co.uk/schedule/

SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER

7.45am SINNERS' HOLIDAY (1930)
CHANNEL PREMIERE



We're kicking off the week with another of our pre-code classics. It also happens to be James Cagney's big-screen debut; he'd appeared in the Broadway version of the story, and reprises his role as Harry, the son of penny arcade owner Ma Delano. He runs a speakeasy on behalf of local villain Mitch, but kills him during a heated argument. Ma then tries to save her son's skin by framing her daughter's ex-con boyfriend for Mitch's murder. Joan Blondell, who'd starred alongside Cagney in the stage version, also makes her debut here, taking the role of Harry's girlfriend Myrtle.

Did you know…? Lucille La Verne plays Ma, but her final film role remains her most famous – she provided the voice of the Evil Queen in Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937).



3.50pm THE CRUEL SEA (1953)
CHANNEL PREMIERE

One of the greatest war movies ever made stars Jack Hawkins as Ericson, commander of a British escort vessel who must guide his inexperienced charges through the dangers of combat at sea during the Second World War's Atlantic campaign. The seasoned veteran is left demoralised by the failure of his last command, but there's worse to come – a chilling dilemma involving the possible sighting of an enemy submarine; he knows he should order its destruction, but in doing so, he will kill the innocent survivors of an earlier shipwreck who are in the water nearby. Director Charles Frend handles the action superbly, and Hawkins delivers a career-best performance as Ericson, a man left with an impossible decision. Donald Sinden, Denholm Elliott and Stanley Baker are among the excellent supporting cast.

Did you know…? Stanley Baker lobbied for a role in the film. Eventually it paid off, although he and Sinden swapped parts before shooting began. The film launched the career of Virginia McKenna, who met her first husband, Denholm Elliott, on set.

9.10pm BELLMAN AND TRUE (1987)
CHANNEL PREMIERE



Tense and enthralling heist movie from HandMade films, who'd recently scored big successes with two other classic British thrillers – *The Long Good Friday* and *Mona Lisa*. *Bellman and True* – deserves to be regarded just as highly thanks to its taut screenplay written by its director Richard Loncraine. Bernard Hill takes the lead role of Hiller, an alcoholic computer programmer who has lost both his job and his wife. She's left him to take care of her young son, who's then kidnapped by hardened criminals who want Hiller to help them pull off a major robbery at a bank near Heathrow Airport.

Did you know…? The title comes from a line in the folk song D'ye ken John Peel; 'bellman' later became the underworld slang name for the electronic alarm specialist in a gang of robbers.

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER



5pm THE FOOTAGE DETECTIVES

This week fellow FDs, we're bringing a touch of magic to the show!
Yes – an amazing reel of 1950s card tricks... As well as a visit to The Chelsea Flower Show in the 50s!
Then viewer Alan Binson invites us aboard his model railway - complete with its very own Imperial Cinema!
And Ken in Glasgow has an incredible reel of Scottish football fans heading to the Empire Stadium – but when was it filmed?
It's a real gem - rare footage with some lovely family history.
Hands up if you drank at the Leather Bottle pub next to Merton Park Studios?
I bet those walls have a few tales to tell!
And you lot have been busy too – from spotting a Z-Cars communications issue... To a fascinating find by the FD's natural history branch – involving gorillas and Richard the Lionheart.
We investigate unlocked shop doors in Hammersmith in 1959...
And discover why the police struggle to catch their man in Innocent Meeting.
Fantastic detective work all round!
So, see you Sunday at 5 or Monday at 7 for…
THE FOOTAGE DETECTIVES!
Pick a card - any card….

MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER



7.10am THE DOORWAY TO HELL (1930) CHANNEL PREMIERE

Grab a cuppa, some toast or cereal and enjoy your breakfast while watching another pre-code classic starring James Cagney. Once again, it's a crime movie, this time dubbed 'the picture gangland defied Hollywood to make' by Warner Bros' publicity department. Lew Ayres was just 21 years of age when he took the lead role of Louie Ricarno, the so-called Napoleon of the Chicago underworld. His protection racket makes him a fortune, but he wants to leave it all behind and live a quiet life in Florida with his girlfriend Doris (Dorothy Mathews). However, love is blind, so Louie hasn't noticed that Doris is a gold-digger making eyes at his 'friend' Mileaway (Cagney), who has plans of his own for Louie and his business.

Did you know…? The film was nominated for the Best Writing, Screenplay Oscar. Fans of the Universal horror cycle will no doubt spot Dwight Frye, who went on to play Renfield in *Dracula* (1931) and Fritz in *Frankenstein* (1931), as one of the hoodlums.



TUESDAY 17th NOVEMBER

9am ANNA CHRISTIE (1930)
CHANNEL PREMIERE

'Garbo talks!" screamed the publicity for this pre-code romantic classic. It was the most widely anticipated release of 1930 thanks to the fact it provided the Swedish beauty with her first speaking role, that of a prostitute who finds romance with an honest sailor, played by Charles Bickford. Based on a play by Eugene O'Neill, Anna Christie received Oscar nominations for Best Director (Clarence Brown), Best Actress (Garbo) and Best Cinematography (William H Daniels).

Did you know…? Garbo spoke such excellent English by the time the film was made that she had to exaggerate her accent to make herself sound more Swedish. Her line "Gimme a whisky, ginger ale on the side, and don't be stingy, baby," is one of the most famous in film history.

3pm TURN THE KEY SOFTLY (1953)



Superb drama, a precursor to the social realist films that would come to dominate British cinema in the coming decade. Joan Collins, Yvonne Mitchell and Kathleen Harrison play a trio of very different women released from Holloway Prison on the same day. The story, based on a novel by John Brophy, follows what happens during the next 24 hours. While middle-class Monica (Mitchell), finds herself on the verge of committing another crime thanks to her ne'er-do-well boyfriend (Terence Morgan), Stella (Collins) is tempted to return to a life of prostitution and Granny Quillam (Harrison) receives a cold welcome from her daughter. If you don't shed a tear at what fate has in store for her and her beloved dog Johnny, you're very hard-hearted indeed!

Did you know…? This was Joan Collins' first film under her new contract with Rank. Her character is seen standing under a poster advertising the Gregory Peck film *Snows of Kilimanjaro*; six years later she was his leading lady in the Western *The Bravados*.



THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER

11.45am SO LONG AT THE FAIR (1950)

Before embarking on a long and fruitful association with Hammer Films, where he made the likes of *The Curse of Frankenstein*, *Dracula* and *The Mummy*, Terence Fisher co-directed this rather wonderful psychological thriller. It stars Jean Simmons as Vicky, who's in Paris to visit the Exposition Universelle of 1889 with her brother Johnny. However, after their first night in the city, he vanishes and everyone she meets claims he was never there – apart from young English artist George, who helps Vicky uncover the truth. Dirk Bogarde co-stars as George; he and Simmons make an achingly beautiful pair. David Tomlinson also appears as Johnny, while Honor Blackman, Felix Aylmer and Andre Morell co-star.

Did you know…? Based on a 1947 novel by Antony Thorne, the plot is inspired by a 19th-century urban legend known as 'The Vanishing Hotel Room' or 'The Vanishing Lady', which has also been used in various other books and films.

FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER

9pm THE CELLAR CLUB – SHATTER (1974)



Enjoy international intrigue, mystery and kung fu? Then you're in for a treat. Hollywood hard man Stuart Whitman plays Shatter, a US assassin who thinks he's been hired by the CIA to carry out a hit. However, on arriving in Hong Kong to pick up his payment, he discovers he's been double-crossed, and it was actually the mob who acquired his services – and now he's set to become their latest target. However, Shatter isn't the kind of guy who takes such things lying down… Peter Cushing, Anton Diffring and martial-arts star Ti Lung are among the supporting cast.

Did you know…? The film was going to be shot in Canada, but after Hammer Films signed a deal with the Shaw Brothers studio, the location was moved to Hong Kong. Peter Cushing completed his scenes in four days; it was his final movie for Hammer. Original director Monte Hellman was fired two weeks into the shoot and was replaced by producer Michael Carreras.

*** COMING ATTRACTIONS ***

And don't forget about these gems which will also be appearing on the UK's No 1 nostalgia channel in the coming weeks:

- **Our Man Flint** starring **James Coburn, Lee Cobb & Gila Golan**. Showing 24th October and you can see our trailer **HERE**.
- NEW SERIES **Lillie** starring **Francesca Annis, Anton Rodgers & Patrick Holt**. Series starts 24th October and you can see our trailer **HERE**.
- **Pre Code Season** (Week 1), including films starring James Cagney, Joan Crawford, Jean Harlow, Lionel Barrymore and many more. Starting 26th October and you can see our trailer **HERE**.
- **Modesty Blaise** starring **Monica Vitti, Dirk Bogarde & Terence Stamp**. Showing 29th October and you can see our trailer **HERE**.
- **Tales Of Manhattan** starring **Charles Boyer, Rita Hayworth & Henry Fonda**. Showing 31st October and you can see our trailer **HERE**.



TPTV Encore

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