Talking Pictures TV

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Weekly Highlights 5th–11th December

For general enquires please contact
sarah@talkingpicturestv.co.uk
aaron.chamberlain@mpb.uk.com

For full listings please visit
talkingpicturestv.co.uk/schedule/

*****PRE-CODE PHILO VANCE MOVIES*** ALL CHANNEL PREMIERES*****

SS Van Dine – the pseudonym of US art critic and author Willard Huntington Wright – is one of the great names in crime fiction, and the creator of ace amateur detective Philo Vance. We're thrilled to be bringing viewers pre-code big-screen adaptations of three of his greatest novels.



We begin with ***The Kennel Murder Case*** (Monday, 11.30am). Released in 1933, the same year in which the book on which it's based was first published, it stars the perfectly suave William Powell as Vance who, alongside his trusty Scottish terrier, investigates the murder of a fellow dog-fancier – a broken vase provides the key to unlocking the mystery. Directed by Michael Curtiz, who's best known for his work on *Casablanca*, the film also stars Mary Astor and was dubbed 'a masterpiece' by critic William K Everson.

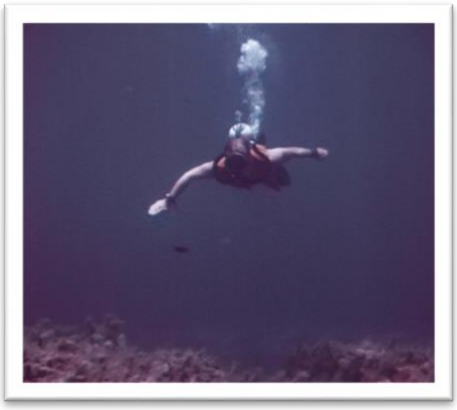
There's no Powell in the next in our season, ***The Bishop Murder Case*** (1929, Tuesday, 11.15am). Instead, Basil Rathbone – 10 years before playing another great literary detective, Sherlock Holmes – stars as Vance. He's on the trail of whoever killed a man nicknamed Cock Robin by shooting him with an arrow. A chess piece provides a crucial clue.





Finally, on Wednesday at 11.40am, Powell returns in ***The Benson Murder Case*** (1930), based on the first of Vine's novels to feature Vance. This time he's among the guests at a lavish party when its host, a ruthless stockbroker, is found dead. Vance soon gets to work, realising that the killer is among a shady group of suspects that includes a gambler, an actress and a gigolo.

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER
12pm DAVEY JONES' LOCKER (1966)
CHANNEL PREMIERE



Short but sweet family adventure, a welcome addition to our popular Saturday Morning Pictures slot. A group of children holidaying in Malta join an aqua-lung diving class. A headstrong member of the gang (or just plain naughty, depending on your point of view) learns a valuable lesson after discovering a wreck and deciding to investigate it on his own – with near-fatal consequences. Anthony Bate is the grown-up among the largely very young cast, which also includes our friend Susan George, who was just 11 years old at the time.

Did you know...? The screenplay was written by actor Wally Basco, who appeared in his first film, *Ivanhoe*, in 1913. His other acting credits include *The 39 Steps* (1935), *The Lady Vanishes* (1938), *A Night to Remember* (1958) and *Carry on Regardless* (1961).

3.55pm THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY (1965) CHANNEL PREMIERE



A cast led by Charlton Heston and Rex Harrison and direction by Carol Reed – what could possibly go wrong? In the case of *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, absolutely nothing at all! Inspired by Irving Stone's bestselling biography of Renaissance artist and sculptor Michelangelo Buonarroti (Philip Dunne, who wrote the screenplay, claimed he'd used none of the source material), it charts the life of Michelangelo (Heston), focusing largely on his four-year struggle to create one of the world's greatest works of art – the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. Harrison plays Pope Julius II, who commissioned the work. Diane Cilento, Harry Andrews and Adolfo Celi also appear.

Did you know...? Burt Lancaster was the original choice to play Michelangelo. However, Heston was thrilled to step into his sandals, describing the script as "possibly the best written that's ever been submitted to me... though whether it can work commercially, I don't know. It seems too good a script for that." It did make a loss due to its high production cost.

SUNDAY 6th DECEMBER

5pm THE FOOTAGE DETECTIVES



All aboard! Calling all wannabe train drivers!
This week we've a cracking rail recruitment reel...
There's a lovely soundie from Betty Brewer who wants to 'sit right down and write herself a letter'... and make believe it came from you! Meanwhile, 1938 proves to be a landmark year for glass and handbag manufacturing. "A handbag?"
We need your help identifying a supernatural film for one of our viewers...
And who remembers the Horlicks Mixer? Or Jonah the giant whale's world tour?
There's excellent casework from FD branches nationwide, including a Dial 999 mystery involving twenty thousand smackers...
The Danzigers get their money's worth from their bar set... and there are crossed wires in Flick Story, and The Vise.
And who taught you to put the cinema seat down? "If you didn't know, how would you know?" asks one FD!
So, we'll see you Sunday at 5 or Monday at 7 for...
THE FOOTAGE DETECTIVES!

MONDAY 7th DECEMBER



1.35pm SALOON BAR (1940)

Made early in Michael Balcon's tenure as head of Ealing Studios, this delightful offering, adapted from a 1939 West End play, has much in common with the hit series of comedies made by the company over the next decade – including quirky working-class characters dealing with extraordinary circumstances and a mix of thrills among the laughter. Gordon Harker heads the cast as bookie Joe Harris who, after a pound note stolen during a fatal robbery is found in his local pub's till, enlists the help of his fellow drinkers to find out how it got there – and hopefully prove the innocence of the man accused of the crime in the process. Elizabeth Allan, Mervyn Johns, Felix Aylmer and a young Roddy McDowall also appear.

Did you know...? The play that inspired the film, also called *Saloon Bar*, was written by Frank Harvey Jr. His other credits include *The Long Memory* (1953) as well as *Private's Progress* (1956) and its sequel, *I'm All Right Jack* (1959).

TUESDAY 8th DECEMBER

1.35pm MAN IN THE MOON (1960)



An out-of-this-world space race satire starring Kenneth More as William Blood, a lucky chap who never seems to suffer fear or illness and has extraordinary resistance to cold and heat. This makes him the ideal guinea pig for a professor's latest project which, if successful, will send William to the moon. He believes his good health is down to the fact that he's single, so imagine his consternation when he realises he's fallen in love with a stripper (Shirley Anne Field) just as his rocket is about to take off...

Did you know...? The film was directed by Basil Dearden, and co-written by his regular producing partner Michael Relph and Bryan Forbes; they spent months researching astronaut training techniques in a bid to ensure authenticity. The trio also collaborated on *The League of Gentlemen*, which was released earlier the same year.

THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER



9.30am BEYOND THE CURTAIN (1960)

A tension-filled, underrated gem that deserves to be better known, this Cold War drama stars Richard Greene and Eva Bartok. She plays an East German air stewardess who has been living in Britain as a refugee. However, due to an unscheduled stopover in her home country, she's trapped in Dresden, where the authorities try to pressure her into finding her dissident brother, who has gone into hiding. Greene, meanwhile, portrays the pilot who loves her, and will stop at nothing to rescue her and bring her back to Blighty. Marius Goring, Andrée Melly, Brian Wilde, George Mikell and Leonard Sachs also feature.

Did you know...? Hungarian-born Bartok became better known for her personal life than her acting work. Married and divorced five times, she is also said to have had affairs with David Mountbatten, 3rd Marquess of Milford Haven, and Frank Sinatra. Her only child, daughter Deana, claims the latter is her biological father.

FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER



2.40pm THE GOOD DIE YOUNG (1954)

The cast alone is worth tuning in for – where else are you going to see Laurence Harvey, Margaret Leighton, Stanley Baker, Joan Collins, Gloria Grahame, Richard Basehart and John Ireland on screen together? The plot is gripping too; directed by Lewis Gilbert, it's based on Richard Macaulay's novel about a group of down-on-their-luck, cash-strapped blokes who are persuaded to take part in a night-time raid on a post office by Rave, an unscrupulous gambler, womaniser and conman. The heist itself is a success, until Rave starts shooting not only the police officers searching for them, but also his accomplices. Watch out for the brilliant climax to the tale that proves crime doesn't pay.

Did you know...? Leighton plays Harvey's rich wife, on whom he is cheating. Three years later, the pair married in real life. Kirk Douglas visited Grahame and Ireland on the set at Shepperton Studios, even appearing as an extra – well done if you spot him!

*** 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:

- Bellman & True starring Bernard Jill, Derek Newark & Richard Hope. Showing 14thNovember and you can see our trailer **HERE**.
- The Cruel Sea starring Jack Hawkins, Donald Sinden & Denholm Elliott. Showing 14thNovember and you can see our trailer **HERE**.
- Call Northside 777 starring James Stewart, Richard Conte & Helen Walker. Showing 21st November and you can see our trailer **HERE**.
- Unfaithfully Yours starring Dudley Moore, Nastassja Kinski & Armand Assante. Showing 21st November and you can see our trailer **HERE**.
- Object Z starring Margaret Neale, Denys Peek & Trevor Bannister. Series starts as part of Saturday Morning Pictures 21st November and you can see our trailer **HERE**.
- Water World featuring Timothy West. Series starts 22nd November and you can see our trailer **HERE**.



TPTV Encore

The channel's catch up and VOD service can be found at tptvencore.co.uk, a HBBTV app via the red button on Freeview 82, Fire TV, the Amazon Firestick, Android TV, Apple TV and iOS & Android app stores. The service is free and we also offer a subscription package for ad free viewing and exclusive content never before seen on the channel.