

MVAH ZOOM Movie Club

July 20, 2021 3pm

Next movie club: September 21th at 3PM

Attendees:

Host: Barbara Brennan

Cher Terry
Betsy Stephens
Louise and Bob McClean
Carol and Joe Mattaino
Kathi Hanrahan
Caryl Curry

Movie 1. Guernsey literary & potato peel & pie society - 2017– Netflix

MVAH Movie Club Average rating: 4.83 out of 5.

In 1946 a London-based writer begins exchanging letters with residents on the island of Guernsey, which was German-occupied during WWII. Feeling compelled to visit the island, she starts to get a picture of what it was like during the occupation.

Movie 2. Nomadland - 2020– Amazon Winner of Best Actress (Frances McDermott). Best Movie and Best Director 2020 Academy Awards

MVAH Movie Club Average rating: 4.13 out of 5.

Nomadland, written and directed by Chloé Zhao is based on a book of the same name by Jessica Bruder. The 2017 nonfiction book is a sweeping account of post-recession contemporary nomads like the fictional Fern. While researching the book, Bruder spent years following nomads across the country, and in doing so, showcased an invisible but significant portion of the American workforce. The author spent months living in a secondhand van, which she named “Halen,” in an effort to better understand her subjects, like Linda May and Swankie, who play themselves in the movie.

Nomadland’s loosely unfolding narrative follows Fern as she navigates life on the road, working several jobs, meeting and befriending fellow nomads and adjusting to her new normal. “The filmmakers refer to Frances as a docent, which I really love,” Bruder tells TIME. “She guides us down this road, and we meet all these people. We follow her narrative, but she’s also this backbone, and all these other things spoke off of her story.”

Like in Zhao's previous films *Songs My Brothers Taught Me* and *The Rider*, the director cast non-professional actors, in this case real-life nomads, to play versions of themselves. In adapting the book for the screen, Zhao told *Deadline* that the real-life elements helped shape the character of Fern. "Everything happens simultaneously, because once we meet someone like Swankie, we realize she has to be in the film, and that informs the journey that Fern is going to take," Zhao said.

September movies

Since September is a while away, I thought it prudent to let you know what the September movie selection is at the beginning of September. If you are like me, I tend to forget the details of the movie or book if there is too much time in between seeing/reading and discussing!