

MVAH ZOOM Movie Club
December 7, 2021 3pm
Next movie club: January 4, 2022 at 3PM

Attendees:

Host: Barbara Brennan

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

Movie 1. RED JOAN (Netflix) –

Rating: 4.4. out of 5

Jennie Rooney's book Red Joan is inspired by the story she found but isn't based on the true story, there are quite a few differences between the two. ... The “granny spy” went on to inspire Rooney's novel, and then the film of the same name starring Judi Dench and Sophie Cook, which is now out on digital release. Aug. 28, 2019. What did Melita Norwood do?

Melita Norwood was the Soviet Union's longest-serving British spy. From World War II through the Cold War, she stole nuclear secrets from the office where she worked as a secretary and passed them to Moscow. Apr 23, 2019. Red Joan is a film based, although highly romanticized, on the true story of spy Melita Norwood who stole British nuclear secrets for the Soviets.

Her story, told through the fictional character of Joan Stanley, is inextricably linked with the fate of the Cambridge spies, who were recruited by Soviet sympathizers at the university because they were likely to reach high positions in the British Government. The real

Melita Norwood, known as 'Hola' by the Russians was an Englishwoman who worked at the Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association in London. The association was actually conducting secret nuclear weapons research in a joint project with the Americans codenamed 'Tube Alloy'.

Movie 2. PASSING (Netflix 2021) Starring Ruth Negga as Clare and Tessa Thompson as Irene.

Rating: 3.7 out of 5

Passing is a 2021 black-and-white drama film written, produced, and directed by Rebecca Hall in her feature directorial debut. The film is based on the 1929 novel of the same name by Nella Larsen, and its title refers to African-Americans who had skin color light enough to be perceived as white, referred to as "passing." [2] The film stars Tessa Thompson, Ruth Negga, André Holland, Bill Camp, Gbenga Akinnagbe, Antoinette Crowe-Legacy, and Alexander Skarsgård.

The film had its world premiere at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival on January 30, 2021 and began a limited theatrical release on October 27, 2021, prior to streaming on Netflix on November 10. It received critical acclaim.

JANUARY MOVIES

THE DIG (2020 Netflix)

In May 1939, as Europe lurched towards war, amateur excavator/archaeologist Basil Brown, hired to dig up the huge mounds on Edith Pretty's property in Suffolk, struck gold (literally). First, he came across the skeleton of an 88-foot ship dating to the Anglo-Saxon period. This was the first phase of what Sue Brunning,

curator at the British Museum, has called "one of the most important archaeological discoveries of all time, certainly in British archeology but I would argue in the world." The next phase was discovering the burial chamber within the ship, filled with a treasure trove of almost perfectly-preserved artifacts, made from gold and garnet: a stunning helmet, shoulder clasps, a golden belt buckle. Pretty donated the artifacts to the British Museum, where they sit to this day, known as the "Sutton Hoo find." This fascinating story is the subject of Netflix's new film "The Dig," directed by Simon Stone, with Moira Buffini adapting John Preston's novel for the screenplay.

I'M YOUR MAN (2021 Amazon Prime)

Maria Schrader's "I'm Your Man," which won an award at Berlin earlier this year before a limited theatrical release from Bleecker Street next week, is a clever little movie, a film that defies its set-up as a familiar, quirky rom-com to become something deeper and more poignant about the human condition. Of course, using unimaginable technology to highlight what it really means to be human has been the foundation of science fiction for generations but Schrader and co-writer Jan Schomburg (working from a short story by Emma Braslavsky) imbue their genre hybrid with eloquence and intelligence. And it helps a great deal to have two delightful performers to deliver their themes. "I'm Your Man" may not break the mold, but it operates within it with confidence and grace.