

MVAH ZOOM Movie Club

July 4, 2023 @ 3pm

Next movie club: August 1, 2023 @ 3PM

Attendees:

Louise McLean
Robert McLean
Kathi Hanrahan (host)

JULY MOVIES

Movie 1: Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody (2022, Netflix) – Biographical Musical Drama

Rating: 3.2

Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody is a 2022 American film based on the life and career of American singer and actress Whitney Houston, a successful musical (and movie) star with an amazing voice and well-known hits, but a rocky life and relationships until her early death at age 48. The film stars Naomi Ackie as Houston with Stanley Tucci as producer Clive Davis, Ashton Sanders, Tamara Tunie, Nafessa Williams, and Clarke Peters in supporting roles. Audiences polled by CinemaScore gave the film an average grade of "A" on an A+ to F scale, while PostTrak reported 88% of audience members gave the film a positive score. (Wikipedia)

Movie 2: Local Hero (1983, Prime Video) – Comedy-Drama

Rating: 5

Local Hero is a 1983 Scottish comedy-drama film written and directed by Bill Forsyth and starring Peter Riegert, Peter Capaldi, Denis Lawson, Fulton Mackay and Burt Lancaster. The film is about an American oil company representative who is sent to the fictional village of Ferness on the west coast of Scotland to purchase the town and surrounding property for his company. For his work on the film, Forsyth won the 1984 BAFTA Award for Best Direction. On Rotten Tomatoes, the film received a rare 100% positive rating based on 36 reviews, with a weighted average of 8.80/10. The site's consensus reads: "A charmingly low-key character study brought to life by a tremendously talented cast, *Local Hero* is as humorous as it is heartwarming". (Wikipedia)

AUGUST MOVIES

Movie 1: *There Will Be Blood* (2007, Prime Video) – Drama

There Will Be Blood is an American epic period drama film, loosely based on the 1927 novel *Oil!* by Upton Sinclair.^[4] It stars Daniel Day-Lewis as Daniel Plainview, a silver miner turned oilman on a ruthless quest for wealth during Southern California's oil boom of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Widely touted as a masterpiece, this sparse and sprawling epic about the underhanded "heroes" of capitalism boasts incredible performances by leads Daniel Day-Lewis and Paul Dano and is director Paul Thomas Anderson's best work to date. (Wikipedia, Rotten Tomatoes 91%)

Movie 2: *Peace by Chocolate* (2021, Prime Video) – Comedy/Drama

Peace by Chocolate is based on an internationally recognized true story. After the bombing of his family's chocolate factory, Tareq Hadhad, a charming young Syrian refugee, struggles to settle into small-town life in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Despite moving to a new country, he's intent on pursuing his dream to become a doctor. But when his father, Issam, insists that he must focus on survival, Tareq and his family move towards a different, but familiar path: Rebuilding Issam's chocolate business. When what seemed like a nostalgic attempt to cling onto remnants of an old life past becomes an overnight sensation, Tareq is shocked. As father and son both struggle to find common ground and navigate the complexities of family duty, the heightening tension between them threatens to tear the family apart. (Rotten Tomatoes, 86%)

Matilda (1996, Netflix) – Drama

Matilda is a charming family film directed by Danny DeVito, based on Roald Dahl's novel. The movie follows the story of a gifted young girl named Matilda Wormwood, played by Mara Wilson, who discovers her telekinetic powers while living in a neglectful and abusive household. Matilda seeks refuge in her school, where she befriends the kind-hearted Miss Honey, portrayed by Embeth Davidtz. However, their happy existence is threatened by the cruel and intimidating headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, played brilliantly by Pam Ferris. *Matilda* is a heartwarming tale of courage and friendship that will captivate audiences of all ages. (Forbes, 4/1/23)