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The latest issue is at http://www.leepers.us/mtvoid/latest.htm

Middletown (NJ) Public Library Science Fiction Discussion Group:

Apr 4 WHO? [ROBO MAN] (1974) story (1955) & novel (1958)
by Algis Budrys
story:
https://sciencefiction.loa.org/biographies/budrys_who.php

Mark's Picks for Turner Classic Movies for March (comments by Mark R. Leeper and Evelyn C. Leeper):

In the early days of the 1960s, British filmmakers felt the tight grip on the public's morals loosen just a bit. One place where the new British attitudes could be observed was in the movies.

[A TASTE OF HONEY (1961), Wednesday, April 17, 12:00 PM]

[-mrl/ecl]

And some comments on some other films:

Other films of interest include:

For Shakespeare's birthday (April 23) we have:

- 8:00 AM ROMEO AND JULIET (1937)
10:15 AM HAMLET (1948)
1:15 PM A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (1935)
3:30 PM HENRY V (1944)
6:00 PM THRONE OF BLOOD (1957)

Is TCM having a theme of blackface and racial stereotypes this month? We have:

THE TEAHOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON (1956): A combination of progressiveness (interracial romance) on one hand, and racial stereotyping and yellowface (Marlon Brando as a Japanese) on the other.

TOUCH OF EVIL (1958): Charleton Heston portraying a Mexican police officer.

GONE WITH THE WIND (1939): And speaking of racial stereotyping,...

On the positive side, there are:

THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL (1959): A somewhat more nuanced portrayal of race, though it still came in for criticism. (One critic noted that since Mel Ferrer was only slightly lighter than Harry Belafonte, it somewhat soft-pedaled the question of interracial relationships.)

THE UGLY AMERICAN (1963): Brando plays an American in this one, leaving the Asian roles to Asian/Asian-American actors.

Also running are:

BEN-HUR: A TALE OF THE CHRIST (1925) and BEN-HUR (1959): In my opinion, the silent film version has a more exciting chariot race scene than the 1959 Charleton Heston remake.

CIMARRON (1960): Again, I think the "big scene"--in this case, the Oklahoma land rush--is better in the older, 1931 version, which also shows up occasionally on TCM.

MY FAVORITE YEAR (1982) and THE PRODUCERS (1967): Two "behind-the-scenes" films, one about television, the other about the theater.

THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY (1982) and VICTOR/VICTORIA (1982): Two films that feature--in very different ways--cross-dressing (which probably means there are states which want to ban them).

[-ecl]

Other films of interest include:

- MONDAY, April 1
6:00 AM Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ (1925)
8:30 AM The Big Parade (1925)
11:15 AM The Unholy Three (1925)
1:00 PM The Cameraman (1928)
2:30 PM The Crowd (1928)
4:15 PM The Broadway Melody (1929)
6:00 PM Flesh and the Devil (1926)
8:00 PM Grand Hotel (1932)
WEDNESDAY, April 3
8:15 AM The Teahouse of the August Moon (1956)
11:30 PM A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)
SUNDAY, April 7
6:00 AM Two on a Guillotine (1965)
TUESDAY, April 9
4:15 AM Cabin in the Sky (1943)
8:00 PM Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975)
WEDNESDAY, April 10
1:30 AM The Seventh Victim (1943)
3:00 AM The Vanishing (1988)
8:00 AM Lawrence of Arabia (1962)
THURSDAY, April 11
8:00 PM My Favorite Year (1982)
FRIDAY, April 12
2:15 AM The Producers (1967)
3:45 AM The Great Dictator (1940)
SUNDAY, April 14
8:00 PM Gone With the Wind (1939)
TUESDAY, April 16
12:15 AM Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1958)
2:15 AM Ben-Hur (1959)
6:00 AM A Carol for Another Christmas (1964)
9:00 AM Touch of Evil (1958)
THURSDAY, April 18
1:30 AM The Ugly American (1963)
FRIDAY, April 19
2:30 AM Simon (1980)
SATURDAY, April 20
12:00 PM The Magic Flute (1975)
6:15 PM The World, the Flesh and the Devil (1959)
MONDAY, April 22
6:00 AM Forbidden Planet (1956)
7:45 AM Cimarron (1960)
10:15 AM Doctor Zhivago (1965)
11:00 PM 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)
TUESDAY, April 23
3:45 AM Network (1976)
TUESDAY, April 23
8:00 AM Romeo and Juliet (1937)
10:15 AM Hamlet (1948)
1:15 PM A Midsummer Night's Dream (1935)
3:30 PM Henry V (1944)
6:00 PM Throne of Blood (1957)
WEDNESDAY, April 24
11:30 AM Camelot (1967)
FRIDAY, April 26
9:45 AM Black Narcissus (1947)
MONDAY, April 29
7:45 AM Westworld (1973)
11:45 AM My Favorite Year (1982)
1:30 PM Clash of the Titans (1981)
3:30 PM The Year of Living Dangerously (1982)
10:00 PM Victor/Victoria (1982)
WEDNESDAY, May 1
3:15 AM The Apartment (1960)

This Week's Reading (book comments by Evelyn C. Leeper):

I have been reading about the Year of the Four Emperors (69 C.E.). I have previously reviewed Gwyn Morgan's 69 A.D.: THE YEAR OF THE FOUR EMPERORS here (MT VOID, 01/18/2013), and have a couple of more books on the subject down the road.

But I have an interest in the entire Roman period, and I decided I also wanted to read about the lesser-known (or rather, shorter-lived) emperors. Galba, Otho, and Vitellius are covered fairly thoroughly in the books about 69 as well as in Suetonius. I suppose the next would be Nerva, but for some reason I decided to skip to the Year of the Five Emperors (193 C.E., with Pertinax, Didius Julianus, Pescennius Niger, Clodius Albinus, and Septimus Severus).

(I am reminded of mentioning Jose Saramago on a panel at a science fiction convention and discovering that no one else in the room had heard of him. Saramago was a Nobel Prize winner who had written several science fiction and fantasy novels, yet a room full of science fiction fans had never heard of him.)

[-ecl]

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Quote of the Week:

The better I get to know men, the more I find myself loving dogs.
--Charles de Gaulle