

MOVIE REVIEW

Film Clips

Love is in the air at Lamorinda Theatres

By Derek Zemrak



Judy Tenuta Photo provided
Free Movie Night -7 p.m. Feb. 9, Orinda Theatre

In keeping with our FREE Classic Movie Night tradition, we will be screening an Audrey Hepburn film. This time it's the 1963 classic comedy, mystery, romance, "Charade," starring Hepburn and Cary Grant and directed by Stanley Donen. And it's just in time for Valentine's Day.

After Regina Lampert (Hepburn) falls for the dashing Peter Joshua (Grant) while on a skiing holiday in the French Alps, she discovers upon her return to Paris that her husband has been murdered. Soon, she and Peter are giving chase to three of her late husband's World War II cronies, Tex (James Coburn), Scobie (George Kennedy) and Gideon (Ned Glass), who are after \$250,000 the quartet stole while behind enemy lines. But why does Peter keep changing his name?

"Charade" received one Oscar nomination for Best Original Song, "Charade" by Henry Mancini and lyrics by Johnny Mercer. "Charade" earned both Hepburn and Grant Golden Globe nominations in 1964. Stop in for a great glass of wine before the movie at Cine Cuvée, located adjacent to the Orinda Theatre.

Greatest Love Songs from the Movies - 7 p.m., Feb.11, Rheem Theatre

Pianist Patti Liederker will be performing the great LOVE songs from movies on the beautiful Dom DeLuise baby grand piano. This is the perfect Valentine date night listening to romantic songs from movie favorites, such as "Unchained Melody" ("Ghost"), "I Will Always Love You" ("The Bodyguard"), "It Must Have Been Love" ("Pretty Woman") just to name a few. The evening will include a video presentation and lecture by Derek Zemrak. The Moraga Community Foundation is sponsoring this event. Admission is \$15

Live Comedy at the Orinda Theatre - 8 p.m. Feb. 16, Judy Tenuta

Judy Tenuta is an entertainer, actress, author, producer and accordionist. Her comedy is female-centric, specializing in parody and impressions. Her stage persona is the Love Goddess as she encourages her fans to convert to "Judyism." Tenuta's stand-up specials have aired on Showtime, Lifetime and HBO. She has appeared in "The Weird Al Show" and done voiceovers in several animated series as well as producing and starring in "Desperation Boulevard" in 1998. Admission is \$20.

"It's Time" by Paul Linke - Feb. 17-19. Rheem Theatre

Even though this one-man play comes after Valentine's Day, it is still a love story about the enormity of life, the power of love and the importance of acknowledging all those who have helped and participated along the way. In his 60-minute tour-de-force, Paul Linke will have you laughing, crying, clutching the hand of your loved one or longing to reach for the phone to make amends. Admission is \$25.

Not to be missed

SENIORS ... continued

Discovering Opera: Kevin Puts' "Silent Night" presented by Bradford Wade from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Feb. 9 at the Lafayette Library, Arts & Science Room. Lecturer Bradford Wade will give a guided tour of "Silent Night," with a description of the plot interspersed with musical examples. This lecture is given in conjunction with Opera San Jose's production of "Silent Night," Feb. 11-26. Members Free, Non-Members \$10

"The Value of Community and Choice as We Grow Older," a live-streamed event hosted by Beacon Village in Boston and locally by Lamorinda Village features best-selling author of "Being Mortal," Dr. Atul Gawande at 2 p.m. on Feb. 13 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church at 49 Knox Drive. For more information or to register (seats limited) call (925) 2543-2300 or RSVP@lamorindaVillage.org.

GARDEN

The Winter Rose Pruning workshop at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28 is a must for rose lovers. Rejuvenate your rose bushes and encourage beautiful new canes to produce the best blooms. Workshops are held in a covered outdoor area. Dress warmly and be prepared to learn a lot. Call (925) 254-3713 or email

info@mcdonnellnursery.com to reserve a seat.

The Lafayette Garden Club's General Meeting is from 9:45 a.m. to noon on Feb. 9 at the Lafayette Veteran's Building at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The speaker will be Bruce Rodgers, the "orchid whisperer" who will speak about the many charms of orchids and how to grow them. Bruce has been growing, hybridizing, and decorating with orchids for over 30 years and offers a wide range of orchid growing and decorating services. His books will be available. Visitors are welcome! Please email Carolyn Poetzsch cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club monthly meetings are held at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. The Feb.13 program is "Designing Beautiful, Edible Gardens" with Mike Irvine, Lead Gardener and project director of Homestead Design Collection, who designed Test Gardens for Sunset Magazine. A social time runs 10:30-11 a.m. and the program runs 11 a.m.-noon. All are invited to attend and consider becoming a member.

The Moraga Garden Club Monthly Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m., Thursday, Feb.16 at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Guest speaker will be Laurie Callaway, of Laurie Cal-

laway Garden Design. Her topic will be, "Secrets of a Four Season Garden." Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour, the 10 a.m. meeting, as well as the presentation by Laurie Callaway, immediately following the meeting.

The Montelindo Garden Club meets at 9 a.m. Friday February17 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, in Orinda. Everyone is welcome. Presentation: Plant Hunting at the "Edge of the World" with William McNamara, Executive Director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden of Glen Ellen, CA, and plant hunter extraordinaire, who has been instrumental in building this botanical garden, which "Advances the Conservation, Study and Cultivation of the Flora of Asia."

Come to the Kokedama String Garden Workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 25. String gardens are the latest trend for displaying houseplants. Also called Kokedama, string gardens wrap a plant's root system in moss and string, creating a piece of living art. In this hands-on, make and take class, you'll learn wrapping techniques, as well as how to care for your string garden. Cost: \$40 class fee includes all supplies needed. Reservations: Call (925) 284-4474 and make your reservation today.

Lamorinda Weekly

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Service Clubs Announcements



We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

January 27

Uncommon Ron Brown tells stories

February 3

Mike Green comes directly from the Antioch Rotary Club

Watch for a brand new Rotary International Project on Virtual Reality

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting. Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

January 26: Rachal Zinn Superintendent Lafayette School District

February 2: Steven Cross Conflict Resolution

www.rotarylafayette.org
 www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680



"Improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment"

Please join us for our next meeting:

WHEN: Wednesday, February 1st
 Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.
 Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Buttercup Grill
 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.

Contact us about our Crab Feed Feb. 11th at Lafayette Community Center

For more information, contact:
 Regina Englehart @925-876-9076
 or go to: soroptimist24-680.org

Discover 'A Brand New Testament' During the International Film Showcase

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

You may not have known it, but God has been living in Bruxelles, Belgium, since... well... forever! This is at least according to this new irreverent movie, "A Brand New Testament," and he is not the benevolent fatherly figure you might have imagined. In this funny, sarcastic, and caustic film, he is mean, sexist, certainly well-organized, and with something of a sadistic bent.

For a week, the Orinda Theater will present this crazy comedy full of surprises as part of the International Film Showcase. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity for some good laughs.

It is pretty clear that Jaco van Dormael, the director-writer-producer of the movie, had a great deal of fun creating this surreal and jubilant tale of rebellion. The most movie buffs will remember van Dormael for his first acclaimed delightful movie "Toto the Hero" in 1991.

The film starts with pure imaginative craziness with Benoît Poelvoorde, who really pushes the envelope, portraying God as an authoritarian maniac who drives his wife and daughter crazy, not to mention the whole of humanity. Poelvoorde is one of French-speaking-Europe's favorite comedians, always bordering on absurd humor with traits of poetry. He makes no effort here to improve his unprepossessing appearance and adds no redeeming quality to God. It is no wonder that his daughter — yes,

God has a 10 years old daughter — rebels. And then, all hell breaks loose.

Yolande Moreau, another remarkable and well-known European actress, is God's wife. The poor clueless creature seems to have given up completely, but one should not underestimate Mrs. God.

In the second part of the movie, the daughter strays from the family's nest to look for apostles of her own; she meets all kinds of different characters, some of them quite surprising. Those who like classic French actress Catherine Deneuve will certainly appreciate her transformation in this movie.

The second half of the movie is less radical and more poetic, mitigating the first part's caustic vision of religion. Some critics in Europe regretted that van Dormael did not push more the subversive quality of his movie, but the optimism and niceness of the discourse should appeal to an American audience. No worries though, even when he becomes nice, van Dormael continues to be humorous and surprising.

If you have not seen the trailer for this movie, do not look for it. The preview gives out too many of the surprises of the film. It's a good idea to allow for the unexpected. Ultimately, the laughs caused by the movie give a feeling of well being, so why not take advantage of it?

"The Brand New Testament" will open at the Orinda Theatre on Jan. 27 for a week. More information at Lamorindatheatres.com