



A Century of Cinema: let's explore cinema by the decade – the 1960's: a decade of transformation, of a youth-driven cultural revolution; movies that broke social taboos, such as sex, violence and racism; a dynamic decade of Groovy Musicals, James Bond, Spaghetti Westerns, European New Wave, New Hollywood and a little Cinéma Vérité. Here are over one hundred titles - all available on DVD or through our streaming services (HOOPLA and Kanopy); additionally an excellent resource is *Medium Cool: The Movies of the 1960's* by Ethan Mordden.

The Apartment (1960) Billy Wilder's Oscar Winning comedy stars Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine and Fred MacMurray - a Manhattan insurance clerk tries to rise in his company by letting its executives use his apartment for trysts, but complications and a romance of his own ensue. Out of the five, Wilder won three Oscars – Best Picture, Best Director and Best Screenplay. Other Wilder greats of this decade include: *The Fortune Cookie* (1966), *Irma la Douce* (1963), *Kiss Me, Stupid* (1964) and *One, Two, Three* (1961).

Barbarella (1968) Jane Fonda stars as the Queen of the Galaxy, a sexy astronaut from the 41st century who sets out to find and stop the evil scientist Durand Durand (yes, inspired the name of 1980's new wave band *Duran Duran*). This sci-fi cult classic, directed by then husband Roger Vadim is not only listed among *The 100 Most Amusingly Bad Movies Ever Made* in John Wilson's *The Official Razzie® Movie Guide*, it's also Fonda's career embarrassment. Fonda would later become known for her political activism (*Hanoi Jane*) and acting accolades, including the winner of two Academy Awards, seven Golden Globe Awards, a Primetime Emmy Award and the AFI Life Achievement Award.

The Battle of Algiers (Italy and Algeria, 1966): One of the most influential political films in history. Director Gillo Pontecorvo vividly re-creates a key year in the tumultuous Algerian struggle for independence from the occupying French in the 1950's. Shot on the streets of Algiers in documentary style, the film is a case study in modern warfare.

Blowup (1966) *Sometimes reality is the strangest fantasy of all.* Michelangelo Antonioni's mystery thriller set in Swinging Sixties London stars David Hemmings, Vanessa Redgrave and Sarah Miles; Thomas, a London fashion photographer, believes he unwittingly captured a murder on film; features a racy, sensual scene with real-life fashion icon, Veruschka, as well as a rare cameo performance of *The Yardbirds*. Antonioni is also known for his trilogy on modern alienation: *L'Avventura* (1960), *La Notte* (1961) and *L'Eclisse* (1962). Other Swinging Sixties London films include *Alfie* (1966), *Attraction* (1969) and *Georgy Girl* (1966).

Bonnie and Clyde (1967) *The strangest damned gang you ever heard of. They're young. They're in love. They rob banks.* Arthur Penn's Depression-era gangster drama – loosely based on the real lives of Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow – stars Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway, and features Michael J. Pollard, Gene Hackman (in his film debut) and Estelle Parsons (who took home an Oscar); while controversial upon release - due to its unprecedented level of graphic violence – Penn's groundbreaking chronicle of America's most infamous criminals remains a milestone in cinematic history. Other Penn films of this decade include *Alice's Restaurant* (1969), *The Chase* (1965) and *The Miracle Worker* (1962).

Breathless (France, 1960): Jean-Luc Godard burst onto the film scene in 1960 with this jazzy, free-form, and sexy homage to the American film genres. This anything-goes crime narrative stars Jean-Paul Belmondo and Jean Seberg; it helped to launch the French New Wave and ensured that cinema would never be the same. Other Godard greats include: *Alphaville* (1965), *Les Carabiniers* (1963), *Contempt* (1963), *Une Femme Mariée* (1964), *Masculin Féminin* (1966), *Le Petit Soldat* (1963), *Pierrot le Fou* (1965) and *Weekend* (1967).

Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961) – Blake Edwards romantic comedy based on Truman Capote's 1958 novella stars Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly, an eccentric café society girl, and George Peppard as Paul Varjak, a struggling writer and potential love interest. The stylish and chic Golightly – with the big hat, the oversized sunglasses, the tiara, the gloves, the hairdo, the pearls, and most of all the little black dress – is one of cinema's most iconic images. Other Hepburn films of the Sixties include *Charade* (1962), *The Children's Hour* (1961), *My Fair Lady* (1964), *Paris When It Sizzles* (1964), *Two for the Road* (1967) and *Wait Until Dark* (1967).

Closely Watched Trains (original title: *Ostre sledované vlaky*, 1966) Jiří Menzel's Oscar winning film - a coming-of-age story about a young man working at a train station in German-occupied Czechoslovakia during World War II. The Czech New Wave movement flourished in the 1960's - before the 1968 Soviet invasion shut it down. Other classics from this unique period include *The Cremator* (1969), *Fireman's Ball* (1967) and *The Shop on Main Street* (1965).

Cool Hand Luke (1967) *On the chain gang, they'd seen every kind of man...but Luke became a legend.* Prison drama based on Donn Pearce's 1965 novel stars Paul Newman, George Kennedy (who won an Oscar) and Strother Martin. Set in the early 1950's in a Florida prison camp, it tells the story of Luke (Newman), a prisoner who refuses to submit to the system. A commercial and critical success, the film cemented Newman's status as one of the era's top actors. Other Newman greats of this decade: *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* (1969), *Hud* (1963), *The Hustler* (1961) and *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1962).

The Days of Wine and Roses (1962) Blake Edwards's devastating portrait of alcoholism adapted from JP Miller's 1958 Playhouse 90 teleplay; stars Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick as Joe and Kirsten, two average Americans who succumb to the bottle and attempt to deal with their problems. The film is not only heartbreaking, but it had a lasting effect in reinforcing the growing social acceptance of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Dont Look Back (1967) D.A. Pennebaker's documentary covering Bob Dylan's 1965 tour of England, which includes appearances by musicians Alan Price (The Animals), Joan Baez and Donovan. Iconic opening scene: Dylan displaying and discarding a series of cue cards bearing selected words and phrases from the lyrics to his song *Subterranean Homesick Blues* (including intentional misspellings and puns) with Beat poet, Allen Ginsberg, in the background. **Monterey Pop** (1968) is another Pennebaker must-see.

Dr. No (1962) *His name is Bond. James Bond.* Based on Ian Fleming's 1958 novel and the first film in the James Bond series, it stars Sean Connery, Ursula Andress, Joseph Wiseman and Jack Lord. Connery is James Bond, a resourceful British government agent, who is sent to Jamaica to investigate the disappearance of a fellow colleague; the trail leads him to the underground base of Dr. No, who is plotting to disrupt an early American space launch from Cape Canaveral with a radio beam weapon. But most of all - who can forget the Swiss Andress as Honey Ryder, the original Bond girl, when she walks out of the sea in a white bikini with a diving knife on her hip! Other Bond greats: the parody *Casino Royale* (1967),

From Russia with Love (1963), *Goldfinger* (1964), *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* (1969), *Thunderball* (1965) and *You Only Live Twice* (1967).

Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964). *Gentlemen, you can't fight in here! This is the War Room*. Stanley Kubrick's brilliant black comedy stars Peter Sellers (in 3 roles), George C. Scott, Sterling Hayden and Slim Pickens. Loosely based on Peter George's 1958 novel *Red Alert*, it satirizes the Cold War fears of a nuclear conflict between the Soviet Union and the United States. Other Kubrick works of this decade: *Lolita* (1962), *Spartacus* (1960) and *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968).

Easy Rider (1969) *A man went looking for America. And couldn't find it anywhere . . .* This landmark counterculture phenomenon stars Dennis Hopper, Peter Fonda and Jack Nicholson. Billy (Hopper), Wyatt (Fonda) and George (Nicholson) - two bikers and an alcoholic lawyer - embark on a freewheeling trip from Los Angeles to New Orleans; the final scene in a New Orleans cemetery makes it worth the watch! Fonda starred in another cult classic biker film, alongside Nancy Sinatra (yes, Frank's daughter) and Bruce Dern: Roger Corman's *The Wild Angels* (1966).

Goodbye, Columbus (1969) Romantic comedy based on Philip Roth's 1959 novella stars Richard Benjamin and Ali MacGraw (in her film debut). Brenda Patimkin, an intelligent, but spoiled, nouveau riche Radcliffe student, has an affair with Neil Klugman, a working-class army veteran – let's just say they don't live happily ever after. Dated and not the most well-acted, but with the music by *The Association*, the Westchester County décor and MacGraw's fabulous wardrobe – it encapsulates a long-gone era.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (original title: *Il buono, il brutto, il cattivo* 1966) Sergio Leone's epic *Spaghetti Western* stars Clint Eastwood (the Good), Lee Van Cleef (the Bad) and Eli Wallach (the Ugly). Three gunslingers compete to find a fortune in a buried cache of Confederate gold amid the violent chaos of the American Civil War. Other Eastwood/Leone collaborations: *A Fistful of Dollars* (1964), *For a Few Dollars More* (1965) and *Once Upon a Time in the West* (1968).

The Graduate (1967) *Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me!* Mike Nichols' comedy based on Charles Webb's 1963 novel stars Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft and Katharine Ross. 21-year-old Benjamin Braddock is a recent college graduate – aimless, with no future prospects in sight - and a virgin. Mrs. Robinson (Bancroft), an older married woman, offers her services. All is fine until he falls for her daughter, Elaine (Ross). With witty dialogue and an incredible *Simon & Garfunkel* soundtrack, this film never disappoints.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (1967) Groundbreaking for its time - one of the few films to depict an interracial marriage in a positive light and released shortly after anti-miscegenation laws were struck down by the Supreme Court in *Loving v. Virginia* – it stars Spencer Tracy, Sidney Poitier, and Katharine Hepburn, and features Hepburn's niece Katharine Houghton. In a nutshell: a couple's attitudes are challenged when their daughter introduces them to her African-American fiancé. The late Poitier (1927-2022) became the first African American to win the Best Actor Oscar in *Lilies of the Field* (1963). Other notable films of the sixties include: *In the Heat of the Night* (1967), *A Patch of Blue* (1965) and *A Raisin in the Sun* (1961).

A Hard Day's Night (1964) *The Beatles starring in their first full-length, hilarious action-packed film!* Stars The Beatles – a day and a half in the life of the Fab Four (John, Paul, George and Ringo) leading up to a televised concert gig. Other *Beatlemania* flicks include *Help!* (1965) and the animated *Yellow Submarine* (1968).

The Haunting (1963) British horror film - an adaptation of Shirley Jackson's 1959 gothic novel *The Haunting of Hill House* – stars Julie Harris, Claire Bloom and Richard Johnson; a scientist doing research on the paranormal invites two women to a haunted mansion. One of the participants soon starts losing her mind. This psychological thriller became a cult classic and is considered among the best haunted-house films. Other horror films for consideration: ***Black Sabbath***(1963), ***Carnival of Souls*** (1962), ***Eyes Without a Face*** (1960), ***Horror Hotel*** (1961), ***The Innocents*** (1961), ***Night of the Living Dead*** (1968), ***The Pit and the Pendulum*** (1961) and ***Village of the Damned*** (1960).

I Am Cuba (originally *Soy Cuba*, 1964) Soviet Director Mikhail Kalatozov's delirious masterpiece uses four stunning vignettes to paint a picture of pre-revolutionary Cuba, its culture, and its people. Trivia: Fidel Castro, Raoul Castro and Che Guevara took the film crew up to the Sierra Maestra Mountains to show them where the revolution was fought. All three served as technical advisors to the film; upon release, *Soy Cuba* was not shown outside of Cuba and the Soviet Union. Nearly went into oblivion until Martin Scorsese and Francis Coppola restored and released in the US in the early 1990's.

If.... (1968) Lindsay Anderson's dark satire stars Malcolm McDowell (in his film debut) as Mick Travis, a student who leads a revolution/savage insurrection at an old established private school in England. Upon release, the film was extremely controversial, receiving an X for its violence. Decades later it was praised: Rotten Tomatoes calls it "incendiary, subversive, and darkly humorous, *If....* is a landmark of British countercultural cinema."

It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World (1963) *Everybody who's ever been funny is in it!* Stanley Kramer's all-star epic road comedy starring the legendary Spencer Tracy features nearly every living comedian at the time of production - Milton Berle, Sid Caesar, Buddy Hackett, Ethel Merman, Phil Silvers to name a few; a madcap pursuit of \$350,000 in stolen cash by a diverse and colorful group of strangers turns into a hilarious and wacky odyssey. Some of the gags might be dated, but it still good clean entertainment. Other great comedies of the 60's: ***Barefoot in the Park*** (1967), ***Don't Drink the Water*** (1969), ***King of Hearts*** (*Le roi de Coeur*, France 1966), ***The Odd Couple*** (1968), ***The Producers*** (1967) and ***The Russians Are Coming the Russians Are Coming*** (1966).

Judgment at Nuremberg (1961) Epic courtroom drama stars Spencer Tracy, Burt Lancaster, Richard Widmark, Marlene Dietrich, Maximilian Schell, Judy Garland and Montgomery Clift. Set in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1948, the film depicts the Judges' Trial of 1947, one of the 12 U.S. Nuremberg Military Tribunals. In a bold move for a Hollywood feature of its era, it included original footage of the death camps as encountered by Allied troops. Controversial in Germany, as many took offense at having their still-recent past dissected on the big screen, but critically acclaimed in the US It garnered 11 Academy Award nominations, including four among its star-studded cast (and a win for Schell).

Jules et Jim (France, 1962) François Truffaut's romantic drama stars Jeanne Moreau, Oskar Werner and Henri Serre; it charts, over twenty-five years, the relationship between two friends – Jules and Jim – and the object of their mutual obsession – the alluring and passionate Catherine. Other Truffaut works include ***Antoine and Colette*** (1962), ***Fahrenheit 451*** (1966), ***Shoot the Piano Player*** (1960) and ***Stolen Kisses*** (1968).

Knife in the Water (Original title: *Nóż w wodzie*, Poland, 1962) Roman Polanski's first feature is a brilliant psychological thriller - when a young hitchhiker joins a couple on a weekend yacht trip, psychological warfare ensues as the two men compete for the woman's attention. Polanski creates a disturbing study of fear, humiliation, sexuality, and aggression. Other Polanski works of this decade include ***Cul-de-sac*** (1966), ***The Fearless Vampire Killers*** (1967), ***Repulsion*** (1965) and ***Rosemary's Baby*** (1968).

La Dolce Vita (1960) Federico Fellini's highly stylized social satire and winner of the *Palme d'Or* at Cannes stars Marcello Mastroianni, Anita Ekberg and Anouk Aimée. It follows Marcello Rubini (Mastroianni), a suave journalist who, over seven days and nights, journeys through the sweet life of Rome. Fellini's masterpiece introduced the world to modern Rome's decadent realm of paparazzi, pseudo-intellectuals, and working class individuals living a vapid existence. Other Fellini films of the decade include: *8½* (1963) and ***Juliet of the Spirits*** (1965).

La Jetée (France, 1962) Chris Marker's science fiction featurette (only 28 minutes in length) is on every cinema studies syllabus. Constructed almost entirely from black and white still photos, it tells the story of a post-nuclear war experiment in time travel - a man who is forced to explore his memories in the wake of World War III's devastation.

Last Year at Marienbad (Original title: *L'année dernière à Marienbad*, 1961) Alain Resnais's enigmatic work stars Delphine Seyrig, Giorgio Albertazzi and Sacha Pitoëff - in a strange and isolated chateau, a man becomes acquainted with a woman and insists that they have met before. Its dreamlike structure both fascinates and baffles viewers. Many critics hail it as an avant-garde masterpiece, while others find it pretentious and incomprehensible – you decide. Other France imports (and Oscar Winners): ***A Man and a Woman*** (1966) and ***Sundays and Cybèle*** (1962).

Lawrence of Arabia (1962) David Lean's Oscar winning drama (nearly 4 hours) based on the life of T. E. Lawrence and his 1926 book *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* stars Peter O'Toole as Lawrence with Alec Guinness playing Prince Faisal; depicts Lawrence's experiences in the Ottoman Empire's provinces during World War I. Other historical epic dramas of this decade include: ***Cleopatra*** (1963), ***Dr. Zhivago*** (1965), ***Exodus*** (1960), ***The Greatest Story Ever Told*** (1965) and ***How the West Was Won*** (1962).

Love with the Proper Stranger (1963) Set in Manhattan, this tough and tender romance stars Natalie Wood and Steve McQueen; Angie Rossini, a salesclerk at Macy's department store, finds herself pregnant after a one-night stand with Rocky Papasano, a footloose musician, who does not even remember her. McQueen (1930-1980) was the ultra-cool male film star of the 1960's and starred in: ***Baby the Rain Must Fall*** (1965), ***Bullitt*** (1968), ***The Great Escape*** (1963), ***Hell Is for Heroes*** (1962), ***Nevada Smith*** (1966), ***The Magnificent Seven*** (1960) and ***The Thomas Crown Affair*** (1968).

Lover Come Back (1961) *All is fair in love and advertising*. Rock Hudson, Doris Day and Tony Randall star in this delightful romantic comedy Madison Avenue style. Two rival advertising executives compete for the same client – and eventually fall in love. Other Doris Day Sixties comedies: ***Please Don't Eat the Daisies*** (1960), ***Send Me No Flowers*** (1964), ***That Touch of Mink*** (1962) and ***The Thrill of It All*** (1963).

Mary Poppins (1964) *It's supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!* Walt Disney's charming musical based on P.L. Travers' books stars Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke; In turn of the century London, a magical nanny employs music and adventure to help two neglected children become closer to their father. Other great sixties musicals – ***A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*** (1966), ***Beach Blanket Bingo*** (1965), ***Camelot*** (1967), ***Funny Girl*** (1968), ***Hello, Dolly!*** (1969), ***How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*** (1967), ***Oliver!*** (1968), ***The Sound of Music*** (1965), ***Sweet Charity*** (1969), ***Thoroughly Modern Millie*** (1967), ***The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*** (1964) and ***Viva Las Vegas*** (1964).

Midnight Cowboy (1969) Based on James Leo Herlihy's 1965 novel, it has the distinction of being the only X-rated film in Oscar history - John Schlesinger's heartbreaking and disturbing tale of two lost souls who find friendship in the cold, hostile streets of New York. Joe Buck (Jon Voight), a naïve Texan hustler

comes to the big city to seek personal fortune, and teams up with the outcast, Ratso Rizzo (Dustin Hoffman). Also worth watching on Kanopy is the 2022 documentary *Desperate Souls, Dark City and the Legend of Midnight Cowboy*.

Ocean's 11 (1960) *You wouldn't call it a gang. Just Danny Ocean and his 11 pals - the night they blew all the lights in Las Vegas!*... heist film stars the Rat Pack: Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop. Danny Ocean (Sinatra) gathers a group of his World War II compatriots to pull off the ultimate Las Vegas heist. Together the eleven friends plan to rob five Las Vegas casinos in one night.

One Hundred and One Dalmatians (1961) Walt Disney's 17th animated feature film based on Dodie Smith's 1956 novel. The villainous Cruella de Vil, who wants to make their fur into coats, kidnaps a litter of Dalmatian puppies. Their parents, Pongo and Perdita, set out to save their puppies from Cruella, in the process of rescuing 84 additional ones that were bought in pet shops, bringing the total of Dalmatians to 101. Other Disney greats: *The Jungle Book* (1967), *The Love Bug* (1968) *The Parent Trap* (1961) and *The Sword In The Stone* (1963).

The Party (1968) *If you've ever been to a wilder party... you're under arrest!* Blake Edwards hilarious and oh-so groovy comedy stars the legendary genius Peter Sellers as Hrundi V. Bakshi, a painfully polite and bumbling actor from India who accidentally gets invited to a Hollywood executive's exclusive party (instead of being fired on the set). Upon arrival, Bakshi manages to sabotage the entire evening. Edwards skewers Hollywood snobbery in this spot on, behind-the-scenes lampoon of Tinseltown. Other Peter Sellers classics: *After the Fox* (1966), *The Pink Panther* (1963), *A Shot in the Dark* (1964) and *What's New Pussycat* (1965).

Persona (Sweden, 1966) Ingmar Bergman's psychological tour de force stars the legendries (and Bergman regulars) Bibi Andersson and Liv Ullmann; involves the intense relationship between Alma, a young nurse (Andersson) and her patient, well-known stage actress Elisabet Vogler (Ullmann), who has suddenly stopped speaking. They move to a cottage off the coast of Sweden (Fårö which would become Bergman's home), where Alma cares for Elisabet, confides in her and begins having trouble distinguishing herself from her patient. Other Bergman classics: *Shame* (1968), *The Silence* (1963) and *Virgin Spring* (1960).

Planet of the Apes (1968) Post-apocalyptic parable - loosely based on the 1963 French novel *La Planète des Singes* by Pierre Boulle – stars Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall and Kim Hunter; an astronaut crew crash-lands on a strange planet in the year 3978, and apes with human-like intelligence and speech rule; campy but also a frightening message warning humanity about our self-destructive ways. Heston/George Taylor last lines sum it up: *Oh my God. I'm back. I'm home. All the time, it was... We finally really did it. You Maniacs! You blew it up! Ah, damn you! God damn you all to hell!*

Psycho (1960) Alfred Hitchcock's brilliant thriller stars Anthony Perkins as Norman Bates - a motel proprietor with (just a few) mommy issues - Janet Leigh, Vera Miles and Martin Balsam. Terrifying, visually stunning, with an amazing score by Bernard Herrmann, *Psycho* broke boundaries at the time – with its brutality and sexual violence. Other creepy serial killer themed films include *The Boston Strangler* (1968), *No Way to Treat a Lady* (1967) and *Peeping Tom* (1960); other Hitchcock classics of this decade include: *The Birds* (1963), *Marnie* (1964), *Torn Curtain* (1966) and *Topaz* (1968).

Purple Noon (*Plein soleil*, France 1960) René Clément's psychological thriller, based on Patricia Highsmith's 1955 novel *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, stars Alain Delon as Tom Ripley, a duplicitous American charmer in Rome on a mission to bring his privileged, devil-may-care acquaintance Philippe

Greenleaf (Maurice Ronet) back to the United States. What initially seems a carefree tale of friendship soon morphs into a saga of seduction, identity theft ... and murder. Clément also directed *Is Paris Burning?* (1966) and *Joy House* (1964).

The Queen: Behind the Scenes of a 1967 Drag Beauty Pageant (1968). Before *Paris is Burning* (1990) - and way before *RuPaul's Drag Race* (2009 to present), this ground-breaking documentary introduced audiences to the world of competitive drag. Organized by LGBTQ icon and activist Flawless Sabrina, the competition boasted a star-studded panel of judges including Andy Warhol, Larry Rivers, and Terry Southern – it's a vibrant piece of Queer history and a fantastic time capsule from 1968 (before Stonewall). Another underground documentary of note: *Walden* (1969) Jonas Mekas' epic portrait the 1960's New York avant-garde scene.

Romeo and Juliet (1968) Franco Zeffirelli's adaptation of the Shakespearean classic stars Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey as the star-crossed lovers; he also adapted *The Taming of the Shrew* (1967), starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. The multi-talented Zeffirelli (1923 - 2019) was stage and film director, producer, production designer and politician, and one of the most significant opera and theatre directors of the post-World War II era. He got his film start working with Luchino Visconti - who directed *The Leopard* (1963) and *Rocco and His Brothers* (1960).

Splendor in the Grass (1961) Elia Kazan's poignant drama set in 1928 Kansas stars Natalie Wood and Warren Beatty (in his film debut) as two high school sweethearts, navigating feelings of sexual repression, love, and heartbreak. Other Natalie Wood films worth the watch: *Gypsy* (1962), *Sex and the Single Girl* (1964), *This Property Is Condemned* (1966) and *West Side Story* (1961).

The Sterile Cuckoo (1969) Alan J. Pakula's directorial debut - based on John Nichols' 1965 novel - stars Liza Minnelli and Wendell Burton. Two students from neighboring colleges in upstate New York are swept up in a tragic romance: Pookie Adams - a kooky, lonely misfit with no family – gets involved/clings with Jerry Payne - a quiet, studious guy. Despite their differences, eccentricities and inadequacies, it works (for a while). Poignant, painful and well-acted, and it put Minnelli on the acting map and garnered her first Oscar nomination.

They Shoot Horses, Don't They? (1969) *Yowza! Yowza! Yowza! Welcome to the dance of destiny, ladies and gentlemen.* Sydney Pollack's Depression era drama based on Horace McCoy's 1935 novel stars Jane Fonda, Michael Sarrazin, Susannah York and Gig Young – it follows a disparate group of individuals desperate to win an inhumane, grueling dance marathon.

Titicut Follies (1967) Fred Wiseman's harrowing documentary takes us inside the Massachusetts State Prison for the Criminally Insane; Wiseman (considered the godfather of documentary filmmakers) named it *Titicut Follies* after an annual talent show put on by the inmates. (*Titicut* being the Indian name for the Taunton River in MA). Due to its stark, graphic portrayal of the prison conditions and the inmates' treatment, authorities banned its distribution for 24 years. In the past it was nearly impossible to see a Fred Wiseman film unless you caught it at an obscure art house cinema or on PBS at 4 am. Now they are available in Kanopy including *High School* (Documenting a Philadelphia High School, 1968), *Hospital* (Daily Activities of an Urban Hospital, 1969) and *Law & Order* (An Examination of Police Practices and Behavior, 1969).

Valley of the Dolls (1967) *The nation's most startling and hotly discussed best-seller now on the screen with every shock and sensation intact.* Based on Jacqueline Susann's 1966 novel, it stars Barbara Parkins, Patty Duke and Sharon Tate and follows three women struggling to forge careers in the entertainment industry, each of them descending into barbiturate addiction—"dolls" being a slang term for depressant

pills or "downers." Campy and melodramatic (apparently Susann hated the adaptation), it's gained cult status.

What Ever Happened to Baby Jane? (1962) Robert Aldrich's psychological thriller based on Henry Farrell's 1960 novel stars Bette Davis as Baby Jane Hudson, a demented and aging former child star, who torments her paraplegic sister, Blanche (Joan Crawford) in an old Hollywood mansion - quite disturbing to say the least. Other Bette Davis films worth the watch: ***Hush...Hush***, ***Sweet Charlotte*** (1964) and ***The Nanny*** (1965); Joan Crawford: ***Berserk*** (1967) and ***Strait-Jacket*** (1964).

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (1966) *You are cordially invited to George and Martha's for an evening of fun and games.* Mike Nichols's (in his directorial debut) mind-bending psychological drama based on Edward Albee's 1962 play stars Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, George Segal and Sandy Dennis. George and Martha, a bitter middle-aged couple, her derisive of his lowly position at a New England college, ask a new colleague (Nick) and his wife (Honey) over for drinks, and put them through one distressing night. All four actors were nominated for their outstanding performances; it was Taylor and Dennis who took home Oscars, and it's undoubtedly Taylor's best and most challenging film performance – not to be missed.

Wild in the Streets (1968) *If you're thirty, you're through!* American International Pictures' consummate "teens-ploitation" flick stars Christopher Jones, Shelley Winters, Diane Varsi, Hal Holbrook and Richard Pryor. The story of Max Frost, a youth who gains significant political influence as the leader of a counterculture rock band with his rallying cry of voting rights for teenagers.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow (*Ieri oggi domain*, Italy 1963) Vittorio de Sica's Oscar winning comedy stars legends Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni; consists of three short stories about couples in different parts of Italy: in Naples, they are poor but resourceful; in Milan, Loren (costumed in Christian Dior) debates her preference over a Rolls Royce or her husband; and in Rome, Mastroianni is an industry scion who helps Loren's prostitute set a wavering priest back onto the spiritual plane. De Sica also directed: ***The Boom*** (1963), ***It Started in Naples*** (1960), ***Marriage Italian Style*** (1964), ***A Place for Lovers*** (1969), ***Two Women*** (1960) and ***Woman Times Seven*** (1967).

Z (Algeria and France, 1969) Costa-Gavras' Oscar winning political thriller based on Vassilis Vassilikos' 1966 novel; a thinly-fictionalized account of the events surrounding the assassination of the democratic Greek politician Grigoris Lambrakis in 1963. With its dark view of Greek politics and its downbeat ending, the film captures the director's outrage about the junta that then ruled Greece. Other 1960's thrillers: ***Cape Fear*** (1962), ***Fail Safe*** (1964), ***Funeral in Berlin*** (1966), ***In Cold Blood*** (1967) and ***The Manchurian Candidate*** (1962).