

MOVIE DISCUSSIONS: *Please go to*

<https://www.stfrancisstamford.org/events/sf-movie-discussion>
for time & location info.

2026

- Jun 14 **Sherlock Holmes** (2009) buy / rent Prime Video
A high-energy, action-driven take on the iconic detective (Robert Downey, Jr) as he battles a lethal criminal mastermind in Victorian London.
- May 10 **Imitation of Life** (1959) buy / rent Prime Video, TCM
A classic melodrama about a mother (Lana Turner)-daughter duo coping with race, identity, and societal expectations in mid-20th-century America.
- Apr 19 **Trumbo** (2015) buy / rent Prime Video, Tubi, Hoople, Kanopy
A biographical drama about blacklisted Hollywood screenwriter Dalton Trumbo fighting for his career and free expression during the Red Scare.
- Mar 15 **Crimes and Misdemeanors** (1989) **NOT AVAILABLE**
A dark comedy-drama interweaving stories of morality, guilt, and choices in love and life.
- Feb 15 **Crossing Delancey** (1988) buy / rent Prime Video
A romantic comedy about a modern New York woman whose grandmother hires a matchmaker to set her up.
- Jan 11 **Remains of the Day** (1993) Pluto, buy / rent Prime Video
In post-World War II England, a dedicated butler, Stevens (played by Anthony Hopkins), looks back on decades of service to his master—including the master's ties to fascism—and on his repressed relationship with his former housekeeper, Miss Kenton (played by Emma Thompson), realizing too late the personal cost of his unwavering loyalty.

2025

- Nov 9 **The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (2011) Prime Video, HBO MAX
A group of British retirees travels to India to live in what they believe will be a luxurious, newly restored hotel, only to find it far less grand than advertised. As they adapt to their new surroundings, each discovers unexpected friendships, love, and a renewed sense of purpose amid the colorful chaos of Jaipur.
- ~~Nov 9 **Monsoon Wedding** (2001) buy / rent Amazon, Apple TV NOT AVAILABLE
Set in Delhi during the monsoon season, the movie follows the chaotic, colourful preparations for the arranged marriage of Aditi (a young Indian woman) to Hemant (an NRI engineer returning from Texas). As relatives from around the world converge, family secrets, modern romances, cultural expectations, and emotional turbulence all converge amid the extravagance and traditions of the big wedding celebration.~~
- Oct 19 **Babett's Feast - followed by Pizza** (1988) HBO MAX

Set in late 19th-century Denmark, 2 devout sisters run a modest religious community when a French refugee cook named Babette arrives. After winning a lottery, she uses her prize to prepare a magnificent French banquet for the sisters and their guests—through this lavish meal she offers more than food, bringing transformation, gratitude, and unexpected grace to the austere congregation.

Sep 14

My Dinner with Andre (1981) Prime Video and HBO MAX

A thoughtful, dialogue-driven film directed by Louis Malle. It centers on a long dinner conversation between 2 old friends — playwright Wallace Shawn and theater director Andre Gregory — who reconnect after years apart. During the meal, Andre shares stories about his spiritual and philosophical journeys around the world, seeking deeper meaning in life. Wally, more rooted in everyday practicality, listens, questions, and pushes back. The film invites viewers to reflect on how we live and what gives life meaning, all through an intense yet intimate exchange.

August

No movie - taking a summer break

Jul 20

The Miracle Woman (1931) TCM and Prime Video

After an unappreciated minister dies, his daughter loses her faith in God, prompting her to open a phony temple with a con man. Can the love of a blind aviator restore her faith and happiness?

Jun 22

The Third Man (1949) Prime Video, Tubi, & Freevee

Set in post-World War II Vienna, an American writer Holly Martins (Joseph Cotten) arrives in the city to visit his old friend Harry Lime (Orson Welles), only to learn that Lime has recently died under mysterious circumstances. As Martins investigates, he uncovers a web of deception, black-market dealings, and conflicting stories about Lime's death. His search leads him to Lime's lover, Anna (Alida Valli), and ultimately to the shocking revelation that Harry is still alive and involved in a dangerous scheme. Directed by Carol Reed and featuring an iconic zither score, it is renowned for its atmospheric cinematography and famous final chase through Vienna's sewers.

May 18

Marshall (2017) Prime Video and HBO MAX

This is a biographical legal drama about a young Thurgood Marshall (Chadwick Boseman), the first African American Supreme Court Justice, early in his career as a lawyer for the NAACP. It focuses on one of his lesser-known cases in 1941, where he defends a Black chauffeur, Joseph Spell (Sterling K. Brown), falsely accused of raping a wealthy white woman (Kate Hudson) in CT. Partnering with an inexperienced Jewish lawyer, Sam Friedman (Josh Gad), Marshall faces racism and legal obstacles. The film highlights his determination and sets the stage for his later groundbreaking civil rights work.

Apr 27

Here (2024) Prime Video and Netflix

Directed by Robert Zemeckis, this drama chronicles the history of a single location over millennia. It begins with prehistoric times, depicting dinosaurs and the Ice Age, and progresses through various eras, including the habitation by the Lenni-Lenape people, colonial estates, and multiple families who occupy a house built in the early 20th century. Through these narratives, the film explores themes of love, loss, and the passage of time, highlighting the continuity of human experience in a single place.

Mar 23 **It Happened One Night** (1934) Prime Video and Tubi
Directed by Frank Capra, this is a classic romantic comedy about heiress Ellie Andrews (Claudette Colbert) fleeing her controlling father to reunite with her husband. Along the way, she meets journalist Peter Warne (Clark Gable), who offers help in exchange for an exclusive story. Their combative relationship grows into love through comedic misadventures, leading Ellie to choose Peter over her husband. The film's humor, romance, and charm earned it five Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Feb 16 **Conclave** (2024) Peacock
This movie is based on the Robert Harris's novel. It is a political thriller about the secretive process of electing a pope after the sudden death of the previous one. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) leads the conclave amid power struggles and personal doubt. A shocking twist reveals the newly elected pope, Cardinal Benitez, is intersex and unknowingly the first female pope, a secret the late pope had hidden. This revelation raises profound questions about tradition and unity, set against Vatican politics and faith.

Jan 12 **Barbie** (2023) Prime Video (rent) and HBO Max
Barbie is a playful, yet thought-provoking comedy-fantasy directed by Greta Gerwig. The film follows Barbie (Margot Robbie) as she leaves the perfect, pink world of Barbie Land to explore the real world after experiencing an existential crisis. Accompanied by Ken (Ryan Gosling), she embarks on a journey of self-discovery, challenging stereotypes and confronting societal expectations about femininity. The film cleverly blends humor, social commentary, and vibrant visuals, offering a fresh take on identity, empowerment, and self-acceptance.

2024

Dec 7 **It Happened on Fifth Avenue** (1947) Prime Video (rent) and Tubi (free)
This is a charming holiday comedy about a homeless man, Aloysius T. McKeever, who takes up residence in a wealthy NY mansion while its owner is away for the winter. McKeever invites several people in need to join him, including a recently evicted veteran and the mansion owner's daughter, posing as a runaway. Through comedic twists and heartfelt moments, the unlikely group forms a temporary family, finding love, friendship, and 2nd chances.

Nov 18 **A Dry White Season** (1989) Prime Video, PlutoTV, Fandango Apple TV
The movie is set in South Africa in 1976 during the apartheid era and follows Ben du Toit (Donald Sutherland), a white schoolteacher who lives a comfortable, complacent life. His perspective changes dramatically when the son of his black gardener, Gordon Ngubene (Winston Ntshona), is brutally beaten by the police during a protest against apartheid. When Gordon seeks justice for his son, he is arrested and dies under suspicious circumstances. Driven by a newfound sense of justice and outrage, Ben risks everything to uncover the truth and expose the brutal realities of the apartheid regime. The film also features Susan Sarandon as an investigative journalist and Marlon Brando in an Oscar-nominated role as a human rights lawyer.

Oct 20 **The Miracle Club** (2023) Netflix, Prime Video (rent)
This is a heartwarming drama set in 1967, following 3 women from a tight-knit Irish community—Lily, Eileen, and Dolly—who dream of visiting the sacred town of Lourdes in France. When an unexpected opportunity arises, they embark on the pilgrimage, each

carrying their own emotional burdens. Along the way, their friendship is tested as long-buried secrets resurface. Through shared struggles and spiritual growth, the women find healing and reconciliation in unexpected ways.

Sep 15

Lincoln (2012) Prime Video (rent)

This is an historical drama film directed by Steven Spielberg. The movie focuses on the final months of Abraham Lincoln's presidency and his efforts to pass the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery. Set during the American Civil War, Lincoln (portrayed by Daniel Day-Lewis) navigates the complexities of politics and warfare while grappling with personal and moral dilemmas. The film showcases Lincoln's leadership style, his relationships with key figures such as Secretary of State William Seward (played by David Strathairn), and the challenges he faces in securing enough votes to pass the amendment. It offers a compelling portrayal of Lincoln's political genius and his commitment to ending slavery.

Jun 8, 5 PM

Philadelphia 11 - **This is not available thru streaming - only at the Avon theater on Jun 5, 7 - 9 PM - it is recommended to buy tickets in advance.**

In an act of civil disobedience, a group of women and their supporters organized their ordination to become Episcopal priests in 1974. The Church of Advocate in Philadelphia welcomes them, but change is no small task. The women are harassed, threatened, and banned from stepping on church property. In this feature-length documentary film, we meet the women who succeed in building a movement that transforms and age-old institution, and challenges the very essence of patriarchy within Christendom.

May 19, 5 PM

Oppenheimer (2023) Peacock

In 1926, J. Robert Oppenheimer faced academic challenges and personal struggles at Cambridge. Guided by Niels Bohr, he shifted to theoretical physics in Göttingen. Oppenheimer marries, teaches in the U.S., and leads the Manhattan Project during WWII due to the Nazi threat. The success of the Trinity test and bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki weigh heavily on him. As an Atomic Energy Commission advisor, Oppenheimer advocates caution, but political tensions lead to a hearing questioning his security clearance. Accusations of past communist ties tarnish his reputation, limiting his influence. President Lyndon B. Johnson partially rehabilitated Oppenheimer in 1963.

Apr 14, 5 PM

A League of Their Own (1992) TV, fubo, Prime Video

This is a sports comedy-drama film directed by Penny Marshall. Set during World War II, the movie tells the story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, which was created to maintain baseball's popularity while male players were serving in the war. The film focuses on two sisters, Dottie Hinson (Geena Davis) and Kit Keller (Lori Petty), who join the Rockford Peaches team and their experiences playing in the league under the guidance of manager Jimmy Dugan (Tom Hanks). The movie explores themes of sisterhood, perseverance, and breaking gender stereotypes in sports.

Mar 10, 5 PM

Dead Man Walking (1996) Prime Video, fubo & Showtime

Matthew Poncelet, on death row for a teenage couple's murder, seeks Sister Helen Prejean's aid as his execution nears. Despite his initial lack of remorse, Sister Helen strives to commute his sentence, facing resistance from victims' families desiring "absolute justice." Poncelet's prejudiced demeanor softens through Sister Helen's efforts. A denied commutation leads to a tearful confession before execution, with Poncelet seeking forgiveness. At his funeral, the

murdered boy's father, once filled with hatred, finds solace through prayer with Sister Helen. The story delves into redemption, forgiveness, and the complex interplay of justice and mercy in the face of heinous crimes.

Feb 11, 3 PM **The Way We Were** (1973) Prime Video

In 1937, college students Katie Morosky and Hubbell Gardiner formed an unlikely connection despite their contrasting beliefs. After separating, they reunite in post-WWII New York, falling in love. Despite political differences and societal pressures, they marry and move to Hollywood, where Hubbell's career flourishes. However, Katie's activism strains their relationship, leading to infidelity and divorce. Years later, they encounter each other during an anti-nuclear demonstration, sharing a poignant farewell. The story explores the impact of politics on personal lives, showcasing the complexities of love and ideology against the backdrop of historical events.

Jan 14, 5 PM **Auntie Mame** (1958) Prime Video

Orphaned Patrick Dennis is raised by his flamboyant and unconventional aunt, Mame Dennis (Rosalind Russell), in 1920s Manhattan. Despite conservative trustee Dwight Babcock's attempts to stifle Mame's influence, Patrick thrives under her care. Mame's financial setbacks, marriage to oil baron Beauregard Burnside, and adventures unfold. Patrick's engagement to a disapproving girl prompts Mame to expose her family's prejudices, leading to a breakup. Mame's autobiography publication brings revelations and reconciliations. By 1946, Patrick married Mame's secretary, Pegeen, and they had a son. Mame, with Michael, plans a journey to India, symbolizing a life rich in experiences.

Jan 14, 5 PM **Love Actually** (2003) Prime Video & Netflix

A 2003 Christmas romantic comedy film, written and directed by Richard Curtis. Mostly filmed on location in London, the screenplay delves into different aspects of love as shown through 10 separate stories involving a variety of individuals, many of whom are shown to be interlinked as the plot progresses. The story begins 5 weeks before Christmas and is played out in a weekly countdown until the holiday, followed by an epilogue that takes place one month later.

2023

Nov 12, 5 PM **Living** (2022) Prime Video

A British drama, set in 1953 London, depicts Rodney Williams as a bureaucrat in the county Public Works department (played by Bill Nighy). He sits at his desk surrounded by piles of paperwork, and seems uninspired. A group of women petition the council to have a World War II bomb site redeveloped into a children's playground. They are sent on a wild goose chase through the bureaucracy & get nowhere. Then Williams receives a terminal cancer diagnosis and the rest of the movie portrays the changes he makes in his life to make a difference.

Oct 22, 5 PM **The Hidden Life** (2019) Prime Video

The Hidden Life is a 2019 epic historical drama film depicting the life of Franz Jägerstätter, an Austrian farmer and devout Catholic who refused to fight for the Nazis in World War II. Despite his incarceration by the Nazis & overwhelming pressure on his family, he stays true to his beliefs.

- Sep 10, 5 PM **My Octopus Teacher** (2020) Netflix
My Octopus Teacher is a film directed by Pippa Ehrlich and James Reed, which documents a year spent by filmmaker Craig Foster forging a relationship with a wild common octopus in a South African kelp forest. At the 93rd Academy Awards, it won the award for Best Documentary Feature.
- July 16 4 Oscar-nominated documentaries:
- The Elephant Whisperers** (Netflix - 41 minutes)
- How Do You Measure a Year** (HBO - 29 minutes)
<http://filmshared.com/play.php?movie=tt15026956ttttttttttt>
- Haulout** (YouTube - 25 minutes)
<https://www.newyorker.com/video/watch/the-new-yorker-documentary-haulout>
- Stranger at the Gate** (25 minutes)
<https://www.strangeratthegate.com/watch-the-film>
- May 20 **Do the Right Thing** (1989)
The story explores a Brooklyn neighborhood's simmering racial tension between its African-American residents and the Italian-American owners of a local pizzeria, culminating in tragedy and violence on a hot summer day.
- April 23 **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind** (2019)
The film is based on the memoir of the same name by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. Set in Malawi, the story revolves around a young boy named William who has a talent for fixing things & utilizing 'junk' for his projects. His town is impoverished & suffers from drought. William believes he can build a windmill to power the town's water pump. But, there aren't many believers including his own father.
- March 12 **The Man Who Would be King** (1975)
Based on a short story by Rudyard Kipling, this adventure film follows the exploits of Peachy Carnehan (Michael Caine) and Danny Dravot (Sean Connery), English military officers stationed in India. Tired of life as soldiers, the two travel to the isolated land of Kafiristan, where they are ultimately embraced by the people and revered as rulers. After a series of misunderstandings, the natives come to believe that Dravot is a god, but he and Carnehan can't keep up their deception forever.
- February 5 **A Passage to India** (1984)
This expansive period drama centers on the changing dynamic between British colonials and native locals in India during the 1920s. When an outing to explore scenic caves ends in English tourist Adela Quested (Judy Davis) accusing Indian doctor Aziz Ahmed (Victor Banerjee) of rape, the incident results in a major court case, one that reinforces tensions between the British Empire and the growing movement towards Indian independence.
- January 8 **Gentleman's Agreement** (1985)

A reporter pretends to be Jewish in order to cover a story on anti-Semitism, and personally discovers the true depths of bigotry and hatred.

2022

November 6 **The Mission** (1986)

Eighteenth-century Spanish Jesuits try to protect a remote South American tribe in danger of falling under the rule of pro-slavery Portugal.

October 2 **Out of Africa** (1985)

In 20th-century colonial Kenya, a Danish baroness/plantation owner has a passionate love affair with a free-spirited big-game hunter.

August 7 **The Adam Project** (2022)

After accidentally crash-landing in 2022, time-traveling fighter pilot Adam Reed teams up with his 12-year-old self for a mission to save the future.

June 12 **Places in the Heart** (1984)

Edna Spalding finds herself alone and broke on a small farm in the midst of the Great Depression when her husband, the Sheriff, is killed in an accident. Moses, a wandering Black man, helps her plant cotton to try to keep her farm and family together. She also takes in a blind boarder, Mr. Will, who lost his sight in the Great War. She must endure storms and harsh labor to try to make her mortgage payment on time.

May 15 **Crash** (2004)

Los Angeles citizens with vastly separate lives collide in interweaving stories of race, loss and redemption.