Don’t miss the Movie Time film series shown every other Wednesday at the Charles Allis Art Museum. These films are presented by leading Milwaukee films historian, Dale E. Kuntz. Special choices from his collection of classic films from the 30s and 40s are shown on 16mm reel-to-reel film. Most of his films are not available on DVD, so the audience has a rare opportunity to see these films in their original glory.

Prior to each screening, Dale fascinates the audience with his vast knowledge of film history and gives the inside scoop on each movie. As a bonus, on any Wednesday when a film is scheduled, general admission to the Museum doubles as a movie ticket. Guests may choose to arrive early to visit the museum and then stay for the film. Bring a friend, check out our permanent collection and current exhibition, then grab a seat in the Great Hall and enjoy!

FILMS NOMINATED FOR BEST PICTURE (BUT DID NOT WIN)

As movie fans, we often wonder why one film won Best Picture while another exceptional film did not. What a tough question – with no one to answer! Early on, from 1928 – 1931 only five films were nominated each year for Best Picture. From 1932 to 1943, this began to change. Some years eight films were nominated, some years ten or twelve! The “Golden Year” of film, 1939, the list of nominated films that did not win includes classics like Wuthering Heights, Goodbye Mr. Chips, Stagecoach, Dark Victory, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, The Wizard of Oz, Love Affair and Ninotchka. Talk about a tough choice! Studio politics often played a part in selecting the winning film. An Academy award winning film always brought a lot more money to the studio. MGM, the largest studio, was often accused of winning because they had the most members in the Academy. Whatever the reason, some great films were nominated – but did not win. Happily, we bring you some of the best “losers”!
Surprisingly, during the Golden Age of musicals, very few musicals (or musical stars) were ever nominated. Top Hat is considered the best of the 10 films that Rogers & Astaire made together. The usual mistaken-identity plot has many twists and turns. With music by Irving Berling, the film won another three nominations: Best Interior Decorator; Best Dance Direction for “The Piccolino” and Best Song, “Cheek to Cheek”. Top Hat lost to The Lullaby of Broadway.

One of the most outstanding, and most beautiful films of the 1930s. Based on the popular novel by James Hilton, this fascinating story features five people who are kidnapped and taken to a strange Tibetan land where health, peace and longevity are the norm – as long as you don’t leave Shangri-La. Also nominated for Best Sound Recording, Best Score, Best Assistant Director, and won for Best Interior Decorating and Best Film Editing.

The definitive version of Emily Bronte’s classic novel – it doesn’t get any better than this! Though the film only uses the first 17 chapters of the novel – it fully captures the tragic and desperate love story of Katherine and Heathcliff. Gregg Toland’s Academy Award winning cinematography perfectly captures the bleakness of English moors. Also nominated for Best Director, Best Screenplay, Interior Decoration and Alfred Newman’s score – one of the most beautiful ever written for a film.

Based on the best-selling novel by Henry Bellamann. One of the most over-looked and underrated films in motion picture history! A superb cast brings to life the strange and emotional lives of people in a small Midwestern town at the turn of the 20th century. Magnificently produced with one of Erich Wolfgang Korngold’s best scores. Also nominated for Best Director (Sam Wood) and Best Black and White Cinematography.

Colman shines in another adaptation of a James Hilton novel. In World War I, he suffers from amnesia. He falls in love and marries a dancer. Years later, he regains his memory – he doesn’t remember her or his past life. One of the greatest romantic films ever made with Garson at her shining best! Also nominated for Best Actor (Colman), Best Director, Best Interior Decoration, Best Score and Best Supporting Actress.

A sparkling comedy involving three wives who get a letter from a mutual friend, who says she is running off with one of their husbands! Told in flashback, you get to see each wife’s story and why they think their husband is the culprit. Darnell steals the show with one of the best performances of her career. Celeste Holm is the voice of the letter-writer. Joseph L Mankiewicz won for Best Director and for Best Screenplay.