

GEORGE EASTMAN MUSEUM

DRYDEN THEATRE

Dryden Theatre Film Listings — December, 2026

Featured Series:

Silent Tuesdays

14 Films on Screen

An autumn tradition at the Dryden, silent films with live accompaniment return on Tuesdays to explore the first thirty-five years of cinema. Comedies, epics, westerns, horror films, and the avant-garde were all part of that early cinema, and are all represented in our series this fall. Whether it's Laurel and Hardy, Tom Mix, Ramon Novarro, or Pola Negri, the faces that made the movies will make their appearance on our big screen. Accompanied by Philip Carli on our 1925 Knabe piano, this is as close as you'll get to re-creating the original cinematic experience, short of inventing a time machine.

Holidays

11 Films on Screen

The Dryden Theatre is not immune to the holiday spirit, and our offerings this year take a three-pronged approach. There are time-honored favorites: *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. But we're also featuring a series of Nora Ephron films, as she often wrote scripts that take place around the holidays. For the more adventurous and worldly in our audience, take a trip to La Métropole with our series *Joyeux Noël*, featuring holiday films from France. Across five weeks and fifteen screenings, the Dryden celebrates the end of the year like no one else!

Joyeux Noël

4 Films on Screen

While most of our holiday cinematic memories are of American films, film industries around the world have set their work at the holidays, particularly the cinema of France. Often films that take place around Christmas, instead of being about Christmas itself, these films can tackle themes as disparate as wartime collaboration, the setting aside of conflict to celebrate humanity, or the idea that love can only truly be expressed through music. Yet each film uses the holidays as a backdrop to accentuate the narrative action, sometimes providing a counterpoint that creates thematic conflict. Through two world wars and into the 1960s, these four films provide a brief glimpse into the way that France views and holds Christmas in its heart.

Nora Ephron's Holidays
4 Films on Screen

Nora Ephron is one of those screenwriters that seems to enjoy placing her scripts around the holidays. *Sleepless in Seattle* begins with Jonah's Christmas Eve radio talk show call. *You've Got Mail* details Kathleen's final holiday season with her bookstore. *Mixed Nuts* takes place almost exclusively on Christmas Eve, and *When Harry Met Sally...*'s climax takes place on New Year's Eve. Ephron has written extensively on her affection for the season and its traditions, so this year The Dryden has decided to dedicate part of its holiday screenings to Ephron and her films, perhaps creating new traditions to take part in.

Indiana Jones @ 45
3 Films on Screen

The Man with the Hat is Back, and now he's forty-five years older. Four and half decades ago, a team that includes George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Lawrence Kasdan, and Harrison Ford brought a new hero to life. Indiana Jones was smart, resourceful, handsome, and up to the task of tackling Nazis, unethical archaeologists, and the mysteries of the universe. Over nine years, the team released three blockbuster adventures that span Indy's life from 1912-1938, and we can all agree to ignore whatever happened outside of that. During our holiday week this year, The Dryden celebrates this original trilogy, including a 35mm screening of the first film in the series, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, on December 26.

Tuesday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.

Silent Tuesdays

Speedy

(Ted Wilde, US 1928, 85 min., 35mm)



In a rollicking action comedy that rivals the masterful *Safety Last*, Harold Lloyd plays Harold "Speedy" Swift. A dreamer and schemer, Speedy gets himself involved in a number of outrageous slapstick stunts in his attempts to hold down a job. The highlights include a climactic mad dash across New York City in a horse-drawn trolley and Speedy's equally uproarious taxi ride to Yankee Stadium with terrified passenger Babe Ruth (playing himself!).

Live piano accompaniment by Philip C. Carli.

35mm preservation print courtesy of the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.

Jouex Noel | Holidays

The Umbrellas of Cherbourg

(Jacques Demy, France 1964, 91 min., 35mm)



One of the most beloved and cherished of all musicals is this colorful, romantic, and bittersweet study of love and chance. Guy (Nino Castelnuovo) and Genevieve (the radiant Catherine Deneuve) are the lovesick couple who are torn apart when Guy must leave the seaside town of Cherbourg for military service in Algeria. Every line of dialogue is sung to the memorably haunting score by Michel Legrand, culminating in a snowy Christmas Eve resolution.

35mm print from the George Eastman Museum Collection.

Thursday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.

Rochester Premiere

Hen

(*Kota*, György, Pálfi, Germany/Greece/Hungary 2026, 96 min., DCP, Greek and Italian with English subtitles)



Somewhere between *Babe: Pig in the City* and *Eolies Hen*, the newest film from György, Pálfi (*Hukkle*). The film follows a chicken from hatching into the wider and more dangerous world. Bred to be valuable because of her looks, the black-feathered Hen is discarded as food until she finds a way to escape, only to face the wilderness of human existence on her own. She makes her way to a roadside restaurant where she is a background observer of, and occasional participant in, dramas of domestic violence and human trafficking. Less a social critique viewed through the eyes of an animal and more of a reminder that life happens around, and in spite of, us, *Hen* is a remarkable piece of cinematography and editing that proves cinema as a machine for empathy.

DCP from Dekanalog

Friday, December 4, 7:30 p.m.

Rochester Premiere

zi

(Kogonada, US 2026, 99 min., DCP, Cantonese and Mandarin with English subtitles)



In Hong Kong, a young violinist named Zi (Michelle Mao) struggles with her memory while enigmatic visions of her future self haunt her. She meets a stranger named Elle (Haley Lu Richardson), whom she recognizes from these visions. Together, they spend the day walking Hong Kong's streets and are soon joined by Min (Jin Ha), a researcher at the local neurology center. As the day turns to night and night turns to dawn, Zi must reconcile the increasingly overlapping realities of her past, present, and future selves. The latest feature from Kogonada, the acclaimed director of *After Yang* and *Columbus*, *Zi* is a beguiling meditation on memory, time, and human connection.

DCP from Grasshopper Films

Saturday, December 5, 2 p.m.

Filmi Fest 2000

Devdas

(Sanjay Leela Bhansali, India 2002, 185 min., 35mm, Hindi with English subtitles)



This is the quintessential love story of Indian cinema, based on a celebrated 1917 novel by Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay and brought to the big screen many times, to huge popular acclaim. This is one of the most recent versions—a lavishly produced melodrama set in the early 1900s, with stellar performances by cinematic icons Shah Rukh Khan in the title role, Aishwarya Rai as his beautiful sweetheart Paro, and Madhuri Dixit as a prostitute who secretly adores the cursed young man. Sanjay Leela Bhansali, a specialist in romantic storytelling, pushes the emotional ingredients of the story to their extremes in a riveting explosion of color, sumptuous choreography, and an unbridled lyricism reminiscent of Vincente Minnelli's most memorable works. If your eyes don't get wet, you must have a heart of stone.

35mm print from the George Eastman Museum collection

Saturday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.

Nora Ephron's Holidays

You've Got Mail

(Nora Ephron, US 1998, 119 min., 35mm)



Nora Ephron's updating of *The Shop Around the Corner* takes us into the early days of e-mail and message boards. Instead of writing anonymous letters to each other through the mail, small business comes into conflict with corporate culture via AOL chat rooms. Kathleen (Meg Ryan) owns a children's bookstore in Manhattan that she inherited from her mother. She has been communicating online with a user who calls himself only NY152 and building a relationship with him, unaware that that user is Joe Fox (Tom Hanks), whose family owns a bookstore chain that is looking to push Kathleen out. As the final holiday season winds down for Kathleen and her bookstore, she begins to wonder whether her online relationship can survive the revelation of their identities.

35mm print from Warner Bros. via HFC

Tuesday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.

Silent Tuesdays

Butterfly

(Clarence Brown, US 1924, 80 min., 35mm)



Starring Laura La Plante (a favorite from last year's *Silk Stockings* screening) and Rochester-born Norman Kerry, this romantic drama from one of the leading romantic directors is rarely seen at all, let alone on the big screen. Hilary Collier (Ruth Clifford) sacrifices her own career to support the musical education of her younger sister, Dora (La Plante), also known as Butterfly, even giving up the man she loves to her precocious charge. When Dora decides to leave her husband for an eminent musician, Kronschi (Kerry), who is in love with Hilary, bitter conflict ensues.

Live piano accompaniment by Philip C. Carli.

35mm preservation print courtesy of the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.

Jouex Noel | Holidays

Who Killed Santa Claus?

(*L'assassinat du Père Noël*, Christian-Jaque, France 1941, 105 min., DCP, French with English subtitles)



The first film produced by Continental Films, the Nazi-controlled French film production company during World War II, *Who Killed Santa Claus?* is nonetheless a story of resistance against collaboration. In an isolated village in the French Alps, Christmas has come again, bearing the expectation of traditions, such as local globemaker Gaspard (Harry Baur) dressing up as Pere Noel to deliver presents to the village children and becoming increasingly inebriated along the way. The assassination doesn't take place until halfway through the film at which point we have gotten to know the townspeople, their suspicions, and their finger-pointing. As the authorities try to find their way through the snow, the villagers must put aside their prejudices to solve the mystery.

DCP from The Film Desk

Thursday, December 10, 7:30 p.m.

Rochester Premiere

Atonement

(Reed Van Dyk, US 2026, 118 min.)



Screening on his 66th birthday, Kenneth Branagh stars in this powerfully human true story about the immeasurable costs of war. Displaced from their home by U.S. military action during the early days of the Iraq War, the Khachaturian family finds refuge with relatives, gathering their three generations together under one roof. But when another bombing erupts nearby, they decide to return to their home across the city. As they navigate the war-torn streets of Baghdad, the family is trapped in a firefight between U.S. Marines and insurgents, and one Marine's (Boyd Holbrook) split-second decision devastates the family. Years later, haunted by his time in Iraq and aided by a New Yorker journalist (Branagh), the Marine seeks to reconcile with the Khachaturian matriarch and her surviving family members.

DCP from Kino-Lorber

Friday, December 11

Dryden Rented

Saturday, December 12, 2 p.m.

Nora Ephron's Holidays

You've Got Mail

(Nora Ephron, US 1998, 119 min., 35mm)



Nora Ephron's updating of The Shop Around the Corner takes us into the early days of e-mail and message boards. Instead of writing anonymous letters to each other through the mail, small business comes into conflict with corporate culture via AOL chat rooms. Kathleen (Meg Ryan) owns a children's bookstore in Manhattan that she inherited from her mother. She has been communicating online with a user who calls himself only NY152 and building a relationship with him, unaware that that user is Joe Fox (Tom Hanks), whose family owns a bookstore chain that is looking to push Kathleen out. As the final holiday season winds down for Kathleen and her bookstore, she begins to wonder whether her online relationship can survive the revelation of their identities.

35mm print from Warner Bros. via HFC

Tuesday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.

Silent Tuesdays

Applause

(Rouben Mamoulian, US 1929, 80 min., 35mm)



Our silent film series always ends with an early sound film to demonstrate the changes in the industry. Here, Helen Morgan plays Kitty Darling, a burlesque star with dreams of Broadway. Pregnant and with a husband on death row, Kitty decides to send her daughter to a convent school to focus on her career. Years later, when the daughter, April (Joan Peers), returns and joins her mother's act, she must confront her mother's declining career, the advances of her mother's boyfriend, Hitch Nelson (Fuller Mellish, Jr.), and a potential future for herself away from the stage – and her family.

35mm print courtesy of the Library of Congress

Wednesday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.

Jouex Noel | Holidays

My Night at Maud's

(*Ma nuit chez Maud*, Éric Rohmer, France 1969, 105 min., DCP, French with English subtitles)



In the brilliantly accomplished centerpiece of director Éric Rohmer's "Moral Tales" series, Jean-Louis Trintignant plays Jean-Louis, one of the great conflicted figures of sixties cinema. A pious Catholic engineer in his early thirties, he lives by a strict moral code in order to rationalize his world, drowning himself in mathematics and the philosophy of Pascal. After spotting the delicate, blonde Françoise at Mass, he vows to make her his wife, although when he unwittingly spends the titular night (following Christmas Eve mass) at the apartment of the bold, brunette divorcée Maud, his rigid ethical standards are challenged. A breakout hit in the United States, *My Night at Maud's* was one of the most influential and talked-about films of the decade.

DCP from Janus Films

Thursday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.

Harold Lloyd

The Milky Way

(Leo McCarey, US 1936, 89 min., 35mm)



The conclusion of a loose “sports” trilogy from Harold Lloyd (*The Freshman* featured Lloyd playing football and *Speedy* is intrinsically tied to baseball), this film also closes out our tribute to Harold Lloyd, who received the George Eastman Award in both 1955 and 1957. Now making films in the sound era, Lloyd plays timid milkman Burleigh Sullivan, who defends his sister’s honor in a brawl that finds the current middleweight champion, Speed McFarland (William Gargan) knocked unconscious. Burleigh had nothing to do with the knockout outside of dodging a punch, but when the newspapers learn of the spat, they build him into the next contender to McFarland’s title. With help from his sister, Mae (Helen Mack) and trainer Gabby (Adolphe Menjou), Burleigh works his way up the ladder to a re-match, hoping that everything is on the level.

35mm preservation print courtesy of the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

Friday, December 18, 7:30 p.m.

Holidays

The Nightmare Before Christmas

(Henry Selick, US 1993, 76 min., DCP)



When Jack Skellington, Pumpkin King of Halloween Town, stumbles upon the portal to Christmastown, he can’t believe his eyes. Even though he doesn’t quite understand what this Christmas and “Sandy Claws,” is all about, Jack wants a piece of the action and sets out to take the holiday back to Halloween Town. Drawing on inspiration from the Rankin-Bass television specials of the 1960s and ‘70s, while also establishing a cornerstone for decades of further stop-motion animation such as *Wildwood*, this film underwhelmed in its initial release, prompting multiple re-releases and growing a cult fanbase that straddles two holidays. Producer Tim Burton’s frequent collaborator, Danny Elfman not only wrote the score and the songs for the film, but also provides the voice of Skellington himself.

DCP from Walt Disney Pictures via Swank

Saturday, December 19, 2 p.m.

Holidays

The Nightmare Before Christmas

(Henry Selick, US 1993, 76 min., DCP)



When Jack Skellington, Pumpkin King of Halloween Town, stumbles upon the portal to Christmastown, he can't believe his eyes. Even though he doesn't quite understand what this Christmas and "Sandy Claws," is all about, Jack wants a piece of the action and sets out to take the holiday back to Halloween Town. Drawing on inspiration from the Rankin-Bass television specials of the 1960s and '70s, while also establishing a cornerstone for decades of further stop-motion animation such as *Wildwood*, this film underwhelmed in its initial release, prompting multiple re-releases and growing a cult fanbase that straddles two holidays. Producer Tim Burton's frequent collaborator, Danny Elfman not only wrote the score and the songs for the film, but also provides the voice of Skellington himself.

DCP from Walt Disney Pictures via Swank

Saturday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.

Nora Ephron's Holidays

Sleepless in Seattle

(Nora Ephron, US 1993, 105 min., 35mm)



One Christmas Eve, eighteen months after his mother's death, young Jonah (Ross Malinger) calls radio advice show *You and Your Feelings* because his Christmas wish is to help his father, Sam (Tom Hanks), find happiness again. A continent away, one of the listeners is Annie (Meg Ryan), a reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*. She writes a letter to Sam suggesting they meet at the top of the Empire State Building, unaware that her friend and editor, Becky (Rosie O'Donnell), sends it. Jonah reads the letter and is convinced that the two are right for each other, but Sam dismisses the distance they'd need to bridge. When Becky arranges a business trip to Seattle, perhaps their paths will cross for the first time in real life.

35mm print from Sony Pictures

Tuesday, December 22, 7:30 p.m.

Nora Ephron's Holidays

Mixed Nuts

(Nora Ephron, US 1994, 97 min., 35mm)



Nora Ephron's dark humor (as evidenced in the novel and screenplay for *Heartburn*) comes out full-force in this comedy set at a suicide prevention hotline on Christmas Eve. The staff of "Lifesavers" needs almost as much help as their clients. Philip (Steve Martin) is being evicted and discovers his girlfriend has been cheating on him. Catherine (Rita Wilson) has a crush on Philip, and Mrs. Munchnik (Madeline Khan) gets stuck in an elevator. Into their lives come ex-con Felix (Anthony LaPaglia) and his girlfriend Gracie (Juliette Lewis), starting an avalanche of comedic adventure including a concussion, an overdose, a dead body, and roller bladers carrying Christmas trees. Also featuring Robert Klein, Rob Reiner, Adam Sandler, Liev Schreiber, Garry Shandling, Parker Posey, and Jon Stewart, Ephron puts this all-star cast through the ringer over a very memorable slapstick holiday.

35mm print from Sony Pictures

Wednesday, December 23, 7:30 p.m.

Jouex Noel | Holidays

Joyeux Noël

(Christian Carion, France/Germany/UK/Belgium/Romania/Japan 2005, 116 min., DCP, French and German with English subtitles)



In the first year of the Great War, soldiers line the trenches, French and Scotsmen on one side and Germans on the other. Among the Germans is opera singer Nikolaus Sprink (Benno Fürmann), who has been pulled away temporarily to perform with his fiancée, Anna (Diane Kruger) to perform for Crown Prince Wilhelm. Disgusted by the comfort of the German generals while their troops rot away on the front line, Nikolaus determines to return to the front to sing for his fellow soldiers. When Anna decides to accompany him, it sparks a temporary cease fire marked by music and fellowship. Based on the actual "Christmas Truce" of December 1914, the film demonstrates that peace can be found even amidst the climate of violent confrontation.

35mm print from Sony Pictures Classics

December 24-25

Museum Closed

Saturday, December 26, 2 p.m.

Nora Ephron's Holidays

Sleepless in Seattle

(Nora Ephron, US 1993, 105 min., 35mm)



One Christmas Eve, eighteen months after his mother's death, young Jonah (Ross Malinger) calls radio advice show *You and Your Feelings* because his Christmas wish is to help his father, Sam (Tom Hanks), find happiness again. A continent away, one of the listeners is Annie (Meg Ryan), a reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*. She writes a letter to Sam suggesting they meet at the top of the Empire State Building, unaware that her friend and editor, Becky (Rosie O'Donnell), sends it. Jonah reads the letter and is convinced that the two are right for each other, but Sam dismisses the distance they'd need to bridge. When Becky arranges a business trip to Seattle, perhaps their paths will cross for the first time in real life.

35mm print from Sony Pictures

Saturday, December 26, 7:30 p.m.

Indy @ 45

Raiders of the Lost Ark

(Steven Spielberg, US 1981, 115 min., 35mm)



Following the major box office success of *Jaws* and *Star Wars*, Steven Spielberg and George Lucas joined forces to create one of the most beloved adventure franchises of all time. Harrison Ford stars in the now-iconic role of Indiana Jones, a professor and archaeologist whose fieldwork involves fighting Nazis, outrunning boulders, and spelunking in ancient, snake-filled tombs. *Raiders of the Lost Ark* represents Spielberg and Lucas at the height of their powers, perfecting a timeless formula that combines action, humor, and fantasy in a highly polished package.

Tuesday, December 29 7:30 p.m.

Indy @ 45

Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom

(Steven Spielberg, US 1984, 118 min., DCP)



Indy (Harrison Ford) is recruited to infiltrate an ancient, evil cult that has kidnapped and enslaved all of the children from a small village in India. The follow-up to *Raiders of the Lost Ark* adds a great deal more humor and even a musical number to its continuing tribute to classic Saturday matinée adventure films and serials, but it's the brilliant action sequences, including a rollicking mine car chase, that make this memorable and a must for the big screen.

Wednesday, December 30, 7:30 p.m.

Indy @ 45 | Free for Members

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade

(Steven Spielberg, US 1989, 127 min., DCP)



For the third chapter of the globetrotting adventure cycle, Indy (Harrison Ford) teams up with his medieval scholar father (Sean Connery) in a quest for nothing less than the Holy Grail itself. The old-fashioned thrills include a motorcycle chase, a fight on top of and inside a Nazi tank, and a prelude depicting an early adventure for the young Indy, played by River Phoenix.

Thursday, December 31, 7:30 p.m.

Nora Ephron's Holidays

When Harry Met Sally...

(Rob Reiner, US 1989, 95 min., DCP)



"I'll have what she's having" The deli scene has become such an iconic moment in popular American film that it's easy to overlook the smart, bittersweet romantic comedy that surrounds it. Based on an idea by director Reiner and filled with hilarious contributions by star Billy Crystal (that classic line was his), the late Nora Ephron's wittiest script follows a pair of New Yorkers (Crystal and his perfectly matched costar Meg Ryan) who attempt to answer an age-old question: Can a guy and a gal ever be "just friends"? In addition to a winter montage in New York City featuring Central Park, ice skating, window displays, and Christmas tree shopping, the all-timer climax takes place on New Year's Eve.

DCP from Warner Bros.