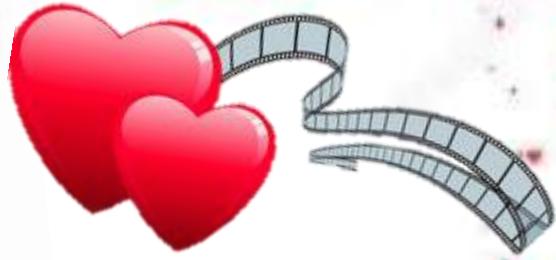


Romantic Movies

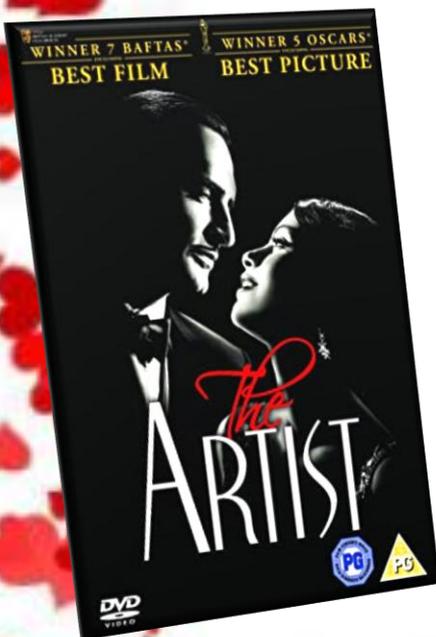


This February 'love is in the air' in the library. What better way to enjoy Valentine's Day than curled up on your couch watching a movie? From modern favourites to timeless classics, there are countless movies in the romance genre, so here at the Learning Curve we're here to help you narrow them down.

Get ready to laugh, cry, swoon, and everything in between with your favourite hunks, lovers, and heroines. Whether you're taking some 'me time' or cuddled up with that special someone, here at the library we have a great selection of DVDs.

These can all be found on popular streaming services or borrowed from the library using our Click & Collect Service once lockdown is over.

Be sure to have popcorn and tissues at the ready!



The Artist

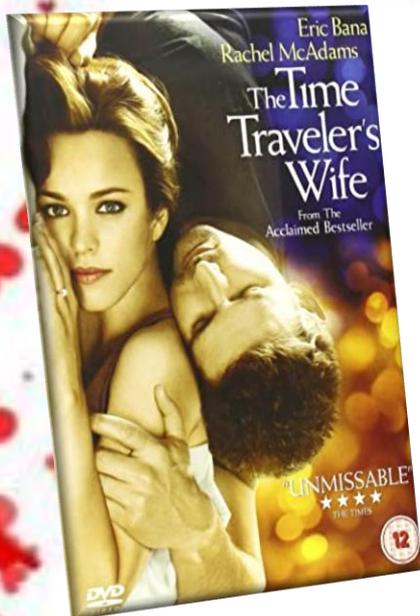
Director: Michel Hazanavicius

Actors: Jean Dujardin, Bérénice Bejo, John Goodman, James Cromwell, Penelope Ann Miller

The Artist is a love letter and homage to classic black-and-white silent films. The film is enormously likable and is anchored by a charming performance from Jean Dujardin, as silent movie star George Valentin.

In late-1920s Hollywood, as Valentin wonders if the arrival of talking pictures will cause him to fade into oblivion, he makes an intense connection with Peppy Miller, a young dancer set for a big break. As one career declines, another flourishes, and by channelling elements of A Star Is Born and Singing in the Rain, The Artist tells the engaging story with humour, melodrama, romance, and--most importantly--silence.

As wonderful as the performances by Dujardin and Bérénice Bejo (Miller) are, the real star of The Artist is cinematographer Guillaume Schiffman. Visually, the film is stunning. Crisp and beautifully contrasted, each frame is so wonderfully constructed that this sweet and unique little movie is transformed from entertaining fluff to a profound cinematic achievement.



The Time Traveler's Wife

Director: Robert Schwentke

Actors: Eric Bana, Rachel McAdams, Ron Livingston, Michelle Nolden, Alex Ferris

Romantic fantasy drama based on the bestselling novel by Audrey Niffenegger. Eric Bana stars as Chicago librarian Henry DeTamble, who is born with a genetic disorder that causes him involuntarily to time travel when he becomes stressed. This means that he often drops out of the present for long periods of time, causing his ongoing and deeply passionate romance with the love of his life, artist Clare Abshire (Rachel McAdams), to run into all kinds of difficult complexities.

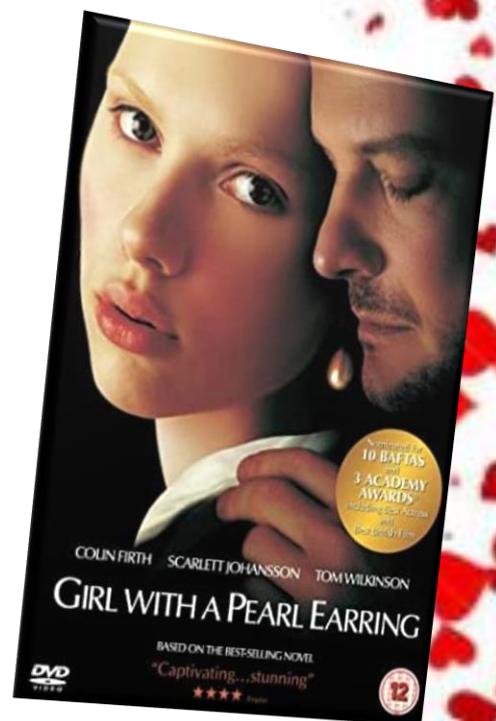
Girl with a Pearl Earring

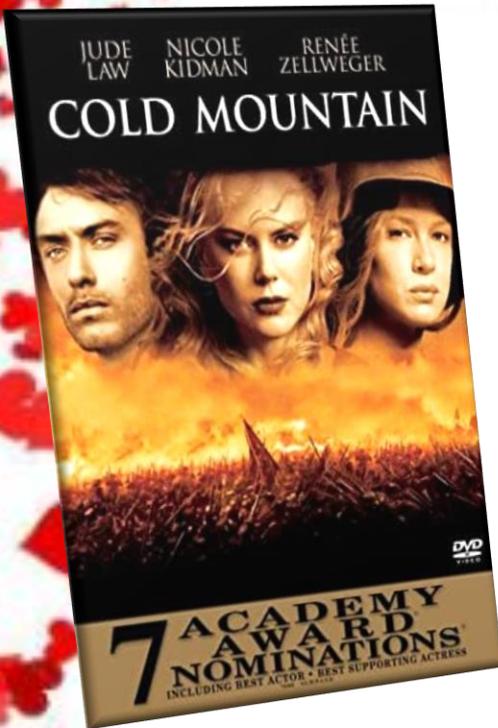
Director: Peter Webber

Actors: Scarlett Johansson, Colin Firth, Tom Wilkinson, Judy Parfitt, Cillian Murphy

In order to support her family, seventeen year old Griet becomes a maid in the house of Johannes Vermeer and soon attracts the master painter's attention. Although worlds apart in upbringing and social standing, Vermeer recognizes her intuitive understanding of his work and slowly draws her into his mysterious world of art and passion.

Whilst she falls increasingly under Vermeer's spell, his volatile family quickly grows jealous of her. Maria, his shrewd mother-in-law, struggles to maintain the family's lifestyle, but seeing that Griet inspires Vermeer, takes the decision to let their relationship develop. Van Ruijven, also sensing the intimacy between master and maid, commissions Vermeer to paint Griet's portrait. The result will be one of the greatest paintings ever created ☹ but at what cost?





Cold Mountain

Director: Anthony Minghella

Actors: Jude Law, Nicole Kidman, Renée Zellweger, Brendan Gleeson, Philip Seymour Hoffman

Sweeping American Civil War drama based on the novel by Charles Frazier, directed by Anthony Minghella. Jude Law stars as Inman, a wounded Confederate soldier who is slowly making the perilous journey back to his hometown of Cold Mountain in North Carolina, meeting a string of colourful characters along the way (played by actors including Philip Seymour Hoffman, Natalie Portman, Ray Winstone and Kathy Baker).

At home waits Ada Monroe (Nicole Kidman), the pre-war sweetheart to whom he has vowed to return. In his absence Ada, the shy and reserved daughter of a preacher (Donald Sutherland), has befriended the feisty Ruby (Renée Zellweger), a tough-talking young woman who can work the land as well as any man. Ruby supports Ada both emotionally and practically as she waits for Inman's return - but as the war drags on and her letters go unanswered, Ada finds it increasingly difficult to keep the faith.

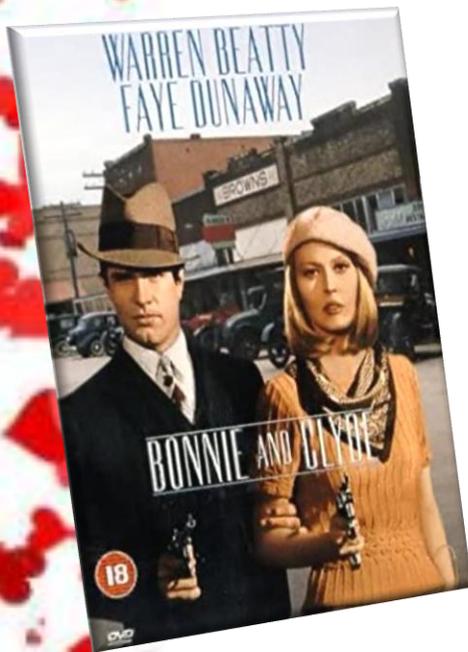
Moulin Rouge

Director: Baz Luhrmann

Actors: Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor, John Leguizamo, Jim Broadbent, Richard Roxburgh

Baz Luhrmann directs this remake of the 1952 musical about a Parisian cabaret club called the Moulin Rouge. Struggling British writer Christian (Ewan McGregor) relocates to the Montmartre district of Paris in the hope that being among other bohemian writers will inspire him to complete his latest novel. When he meets his neighbours, a troupe of performers led by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (John Leguizamo), Christian lends his writing skills to finish their work-in-progress show; when complete, the troupe hope to sell their show to the Moulin Rouge, the most decadent club in Paris. On his first visit to the club, Christian finds himself falling hopelessly in love with dancer and courtesan Satine (Nicole Kidman). As the two grow closer, events conspire to keep the young lovers apart, including the fact that Satine has been promised to the Duke of Monroth (Richard Roxburgh). The cast also includes Jim Broadbent as owner of the Moulin Rouge Harold Zidler and Kylie Minogue as the Green Fairy.





Bonnie and Clyde

Director: Arthur Penn

Actors: Warren Beatty, Faye Dunaway, Michael J. Pollard, Gene Hackman, Estelle Parsons

Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway star in Arthur Penn's lauded crime drama based on the true story of outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. In the 1930s, car thief Clyde (Beatty) teams up with Bonnie (Dunaway), the daughter of one of his victims, and together they become notorious bank robbers and Depression-era folk legends. They form a gang with Clyde's brother, Buck (Gene Hackman), Buck's wife, Blanche (Estelle Parsons), and gas station employee C.W. (Michael J. Pollard). When one of their robberies goes wrong, Clyde commits a murder and, with the police hot on their trail, the gangsters find themselves constantly on the run. The film received ten Oscar nominations, winning awards for Best Cinematography and Best Supporting Actress for Parsons.

Some Like It Hot

Director: Billy Wilder

Actors: Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon, George Raft, Pat O'Brien

Billy Wilder's classic Oscar nominated comedy. In February 1929, unemployed musicians Joe (Tony Curtis) and Jerry (Jack Lemmon) go on the run after witnessing the St Valentine's Day Massacre. Pursued by gangsters, the duo are forced to disguise themselves as women and join Sweet Sue's all-girl band on the next train for Florida. Joe is attracted to Sugar Kane (Marilyn Monroe), the band's singer, while Jerry finds himself pursued enthusiastically by millionaire Osgood E. Fielding III (Joe E. Brown). Comic complications ensue. Also included is the short 'Memories from the Sweet Sues' which pushes the certificate up to PG.





Beauty and the Beast

Director: Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise

Disney animated version of the classic fairy tale. When a prince is turned into a hideous beast by a magical spell, he finds that the only way out of his predicament is to win the love of the beautiful Belle. Belle agrees to come and stay at his home in exchange for the freedom of her father, whom the Beast had previously captured. At first she is repulsed by his hideous features, but as time passes she learns to recognise his true inner beauty.

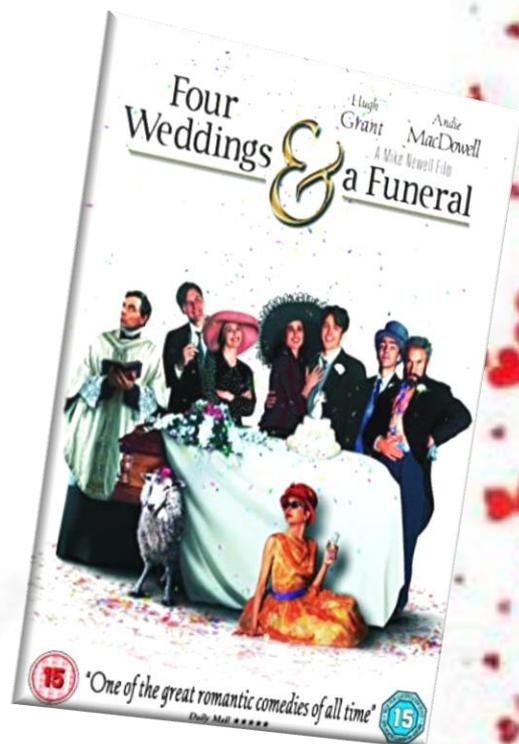
One of the most acclaimed and treasured animated films of all time is about to sweep you off your feet.

Four Weddings & a Funeral

Director: Mike Newell

Actors: Hugh Grant, Andie MacDowell, James Fleet, Simon Callow, John Hannah

This hugely popular comedy established Hugh Grant as Hollywood's favourite bumbling Brit and garnered Oscar nominations for Best Picture and Richard Curtis' screenplay. Shy Londoner Charles (Grant) meets American Carrie (Andie MacDowell) at a friend's wedding and enjoys a one-night stand with her. The next time they meet, again at a wedding, Carrie is accompanied by a rich fiancé, leaving Charles heartbroken. Never mind, with another wedding on the horizon, there is still time for him to pitch his woo and win the love of his transatlantic sweetheart. The film spawned not only a hit single for Wet Wet Wet with 'Love Is All Around', but also a best-selling poetry anthology, inspired by an on-screen reading of





Casablanca

Director: Michael Curtiz

Actors: Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains, Conrad Veidt

Casablanca: easy to enter, but much harder to leave, especially if your name is on the Nazis' most wanted list. Atop that list is Czech Resistance leader Victor Laszlo (Paul Henreid), whose only hope is Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart), a cynical American who sticks his neck out for no one especially Victor's wife Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman), the ex-lover who broke his heart. So when Ilsa offers herself in exchange for Laszlo's safe transport out of the country, the bitter Rick must decide what's more important, his own happiness or the countless lives that hang in the balance.

Romeo & Juliet

Director: Franco Zeffirelli

Actors: Leonard Whiting, Olivia Hussey, John McEnery, Milo O'Shea, Pat Heywood

Shakespeare's romantic tragedy of two innocent teenagers who love one another despite the fact that their families are bitter enemies.

This is an excellent production of the classic play with the Shakespeare script delivered in period costume as intended. It is well acted by all the cast, with strong performances by both the two leads despite their young ages. Although the film is nearly 50 years old the production stands the test of time and the picture quality is still reasonable (this has obviously been produced in a widescreen format) and the dialogue is clear.

