

Hometowns to HOLLYWOOD

Dr. Annette Bochenek, Film Historian

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Program Description: Go behind the scenes of classic Hollywood history with Hometowns to Hollywood! Film Historian Dr. Annette Bochenek takes you on the road to visit the hometowns of classic Hollywood stars through her series of highly informative and engaging presentations. Annette's experiences traveling to the hometowns of classic film stars bolster her discussions of the lives of the classic Hollywood elite, while celebrating their lives and legacies in their respective hometowns and beyond. Annette is thrilled to offer audiences this especially significant "walk" in the footsteps of Hollywood stars through photos, videos, and captivating stories.

"Hometowns to Hollywood" is sure to be an exciting experience for teens, adults, and seniors. Moreover, Annette can adapt her presentations to suit the interests of her audiences in the best way possible.

"Hometowns to Hollywood" presentations are delivered in one of two varieties:

1. **60-minute Themed Presentation (60-min. presentation); virtual, hybrid, or in-person.** This involves a multimedia presentation of the themed topic at hand. Presentations include photos, videos and/or audio clips. Optional memorabilia display offered at no additional cost.
2. **60-minute Profile Presentation (60-min. presentation); virtual, hybrid, or in-person.** This involves a multimedia presentation and discussion of an actor's early years, career highlights, and later accomplishments, as well as a discussion of his/her hometown and legacy. Presentations include photos, videos and/or audio clips. Optional memorabilia display offered at no additional cost.

Biography: Dr. Annette Bochenek is an archivist, film historian, professor, and an avid scholar of Hollywood's Golden Age. She manages the "Hometowns to Hollywood" blog, in which she profiles her trips to the hometowns of classic Hollywood stars. She also hosts a film series by the same name. She has been featured on Turner Classic Movies. A regular columnist for Turner Classic Movies, *Classic Movie Hub* and *Silent Film Quarterly*, her articles have also appeared in *Nostalgia Digest*, *The Dark Pages Film Noir Newsletter*, and *Chicago Art Deco Society Magazine*.

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List of Presentations (2024)

Themed Film History Presentations:

The following presentations focus on themes relating to Hollywood history, as opposed to an individual performer.

- **A-List Animals**
Learn about classic Hollywood's beloved animal stars.
- **Bad Boys & Girls: The Characters We Love to Hate**
Examine classic cinema's most detestable characters.
- **Based on the Book: From Page to Picture Part I & II**
Explore classic films based upon books.
- **Bombshells: Hollywood's Leading Ladies**
Explore classic cinema's iconic bombshell actresses.
- **Celluloid Road Trip: U.S. Edition**
Travel to different destinations in the U.S. through a variety of classic Hollywood films shot on-location.
- **Chicago in the Classics**
Explore depictions of Chicago in Golden Age film.
- **Chicago: The First Hollywood**
Celebrate Chicago's early entertainment heritage.
- **Comics to Classics**
Explore classic films inspired by comic strips, from superhero feats to everyday fun.
- **Dressing the Stars**
Learn about memorable movie costumes and key studio fashion designers of classic film.
- **Dynamic Duos: Comedic Partnerships**
Explore early comedy's top partnerships from vaudeville, radio, film, and television.
- **Everybody Dance!: Classic Cinema's Top Dancers**
Celebrate the iconic dancers of classic film.
- **The History of the Hollywood Musical**
Learn about the evolution of the Hollywood musical, hit musical films, and top stars.
- **Hitchcock: The Master of Suspense**
Learn about Hitchcock's iconic, suspenseful films.
- **Hobbywood: Pastimes of the Stars**
Learn about the off-screen hobbies of Hollywood stars.
- **The Hollywood Canteen**
Hear stories about Hollywood's unique approach to entertaining servicemen during WWII.
- **Hollywood Goes Royal**
Explore depictions of royalty in classic Hollywood.
- **Hollywood Style: Icons of Fashion**
Explore the daring wardrobe choices and revolutionary makeup innovations of the stars.
- **How Did They Do That?!**
Learn about how some of classic Hollywood's most iconic movie scenes were accomplished.
- **The Irish in Hollywood**
Explore depictions of the Irish and individuals of Irish descent in classic film.
- **Ladies of Laughter: Great Comediennes**
Celebrate the funny women of film, TV, and radio.
- **Latinx in Hollywood**
Celebrate the Latinx individuals of classic Hollywood.
- **Matinee Idols: Hollywood's Leading Men**
Learn about classic Hollywood's top male stars.
- **Mermaids in the Movies**
Explore classic Hollywood depictions of mermaids.
- **Million Dollar Legs: Insuring the Stars**
Learn about how classic film stars protected their trademark physical features.
- **Myths to Movies**
Explore depictions of mythological heroes and creatures in classic film.
- **Polish in Hollywood**
Explore depictions of the Irish and individuals of Irish descent in classic film.
- **Queer in Hollywood**
LGBTQIA+ depictions in classic Hollywood films.
- **Sibling Stars of Hollywood**
Explore the legacies of classic Hollywood siblings.
- **Silent Clowns: Chaplin, Keaton, & Lloyd**
Celebrate three legends of silent comedy: Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and Harold Lloyd.
- **Spotlight on Biopics**
Learn about classic Hollywood dramatizations of the lives of various notable individuals.
- **Stars & Sports: Hollywood Athletes**
Learn about Hollywood stars and their athletic achievements.
- **That's All, Folks!**
Explore the history of early animation, including the works of top animation studios.

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- **Tinseltown Touchdown!: Football in Film**
Learn about depictions of football in classic film.
- **Tooning Tinseltown**
Explore cartoon caricatures of classic Hollywood stars.
- **The Women Who Built Hollywood**
Learn about female film pioneers who worked in cinema, on-screen and off.

Themed Career/Setting Presentations:

- **Career Spotlight: Hollywood Goes to Space**
Depictions of space in classic Hollywood films.
- **Career Spotlight: Hollywood Goes to the Library**
Depictions of librarians in classic Hollywood films.
- **Career Spotlight: Hollywood Goes to School**
Depictions of educators in classic Hollywood films.

Themed Composer Presentations:

- **Movie Melodies: The Music of Irving Berlin**
Enjoy a presentation about Irving Berlin's legacy and music in classic Hollywood films.
- **Movie Melodies: The Music of the Gershwins**
Enjoy a presentation about George and Ira Gershwin's legacy and music in classic Hollywood films.
- **Movie Melodies: The Music of Cole Porter**
Enjoy a presentation about Cole Porter's legacy and music in classic Hollywood films.

Themed Oscar Presentations:

- **A Night at the Oscars: Academy Award History**
Learn about the history of the Academy Awards, memorable moments, and Best Picture contenders.
- **A Night at the Oscars: Best Picture Spotlight**
Learn about the history of the Best Picture category, memorable contenders, and this year's nominees.
- **A Night at the Oscars: Best Actress Spotlight**
Learn about the history of the Best Actress category, memorable contenders, and this year's nominees.

- **A Night at the Oscars: Best Actor Spotlight**
Learn about the history of the Best Actor category, memorable contenders, and this year's nominees.

Themed Holiday Presentations:

- **A Classic Hollywood Christmas Part I & II**
Enjoy a presentation on classic Hollywood's top Christmas films.
- **A Classic Television Christmas**
Enjoy a presentation on classic television Christmas specials and holiday sitcom moments.
- **A Hollywood Halloween**
Enjoy a presentation about the classic horror films.
- **Hollywood Valentine: Married in the Movies**
View a presentation highlighting memorable classic film wedding moments, on and off the screen.
- **On-Screen Specters: Ghosts in Film**
Explore depictions of ghosts from the spooky to the humorous in classic Hollywood films.
- **Scrooge Through the Years**
Learn about different classic Hollywood versions of *A Christmas Carol*.

Profile Presentations:

The following presentations focus on individual performers and partnerships, discuss the individuals' hometowns, careers, and legacies.

- Lucille Ball: Queen of Comedy (NY)
- Jack Benny: An Illinois Original (IL)
- Fred & Ginger: Forever Dancing (ID-MO)
- Judy Garland: A Centennial Celebration (MN)
- Hedy Lamarr: A Brilliant Beauty (AUS)
- Laurel & Hardy: Another Fine Mess (ENG-GA)
- The Marx Brothers: A Legacy of Laughter (NY-IL)
- Frank Sinatra: The Legacy of Ol' Blue Eyes (NJ)
- Jimmy Stewart: Hollywood's Everyman (PA)
- Esther Williams: Mermaid of the Movies (CA)
- Elizabeth Taylor: Actress and Activist (ENG)

*Custom presentations can also be developed upon request at no additional cost.