



2025 Fall Term
Tuesdays, September 23
to October 7
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.



BEHIND THE SCENES: THE FILMS AND FILMMAKERS THAT CHANGED HOLLYWOOD

Presented by Steven C. Smith



In this online three-part series, Emmy-nominated documentarian and author Steven C. Smith will treat us to a lively look at some of Hollywood's greatest behind-the-scenes stories. Registration required to receive the Zoom link. Recordings of sessions are available to registered participants. Interested in coming to PSC to watch a livestream of the zoom? Contact us for arrangements.

Tuesday, September 23: Hollywood on Hollywood

Hollywood loves to show itself onscreen. We'll see how filmmakers have dramatized moviemaking, in ways both affectionate (*Singin' in the Rain*) and searing (*Sunset Blvd.*). We'll also discover how real-life scandals, and changing times, influenced the ways Hollywood held a mirror to itself.

Tuesday, September 30: When Movies Go Wrong

Occasionally, Hollywood's smooth factory system goes off the rails. We'll celebrate two notorious examples. First: 1967's *Valley of the Dolls*, a camp classic intended to be Judy Garland's comeback. Then, 1963's *Cleopatra*, infamous for the affair of Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton (even the Vatican condemned it!), and an out-of-control production cost.

Tuesday, October 7: The Ultimate Theatre: When Movies' Greatest Directors Went to War.

Discover how WWII changed the lives of five of Hollywood's top directors: John Ford (*The Grapes of Wrath*), William Wyler (*Wuthering Heights*), John Huston (*The Maltese Falcon*), George Stevens (*Shane*), and Frank Capra. We'll see how WWII inspired them to make post-war classics like *The Best Years of Our Lives* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.



Steven C. Smith is an award-winning author and four-time Emmy-nominated producer. Steven's over-200 documentaries on film history include collaborations with Steven Spielberg, George Lucas, Martin Scorsese, Stephen Sondheim, Julie Andrews, Cicely Tyson, Harrison Ford, and Sidney Poitier. He has lectured at the Library of Congress, the American Film Institute, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures and other venues. The author of biographies of composers Bernard Herrmann and Max Steiner, his latest book is *Hitchcock and Herrmann: The Friendship and Film Scores That Changed Cinema*.

TUITION
\$45 Members
\$54 Non-Members

INFORMATION & REGISTRATION at
www.PasadenaSeniorCenter.org
or call (626) 795-4331