

SHORT TAKES

with Chris Voelker

Audio Visual Services

Librarian and Film Geek



Q: How do you select the movies that become part of the Library's collection?

A: I keep up with all the new releases. We get hundreds of holds for the big box office hits, but critically acclaimed independent, foreign and classic films are also popular. And many people love a variety of TV series and British programs.

Q: What are the most popular film topics?

A: You wouldn't believe how many people ask for horror films! And just about every other genre: comedy, gangster, mystery, romance, science fiction, fantasy, western, animation.

Q: What makes a film a classic?

A: There are some films that were mostly ignored at their time of release but are now considered as classics. *NIGHT OF THE HUNTER*, *BRINGING UP BABY* and *CITIZEN KANE* were flops when first released. Some films, like *GONE WITH THE WIND* are an instant classic. For many years, no one heard of *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE*. It was not considered a "classic" until the 1970s when the film went into public domain and was shown all over the place. There was sudden access to it and the reaction was "this film is great!"

Some categories of older films are now very popular and even have film festivals built around them. Risqué movies from the early 1930s are known as "Pre-codes." Many crime dramas from the 1940s and 1950s are now known as 'Film noir.'

Q: What trends have you observed in films and movies?

A: Sequels and comic books! For our Movies@Main programs we get our highest attendance with newer family-friendly films.