

Press Contact:
Harry Forbes, WNET
212-560-8027 or ForbesH@wnet.org

Lindsey Bernstein, WNET
212-560-6609 or BernsteinL@wnet.org

Press materials: thirteen.org/pressroom
Web site: www.thirteen.org/sites/reel13
Twitter: [@Reel13](https://twitter.com/Reel13)

Classic Love Stories Featured on *Reel 13* in February

February's slate of classic films on *Reel 13* features three critically acclaimed love stories – all great box office winners in their day – and distinctly emblematic of their respective decades.

Casablanca, one of the most seminal films of our time, and making its *Reel 13* debut, leads the charge. Based on Murray Burnett and Joan Alison's unproduced stage play "Everybody Comes to Rick's," the classic World War II-era film focuses on an American expatriate who must choose between his love for a woman and helping her Czech Resistance leader husband escape the Vichy-controlled city of Casablanca to continue his fight against the Nazis.

The Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, and Paul Henreid starrer was recognized with three Academy Awards including "Best Picture," "Best Director," and "Best Screenplay." The lead characters, memorable lines and theme song ("As Time Goes By") have become iconic and the film continuously tops the lists of the greatest films of all time.

The romantic comedy *Broadcast News*, written, produced and directed by James L. Brooks, centers around a television news producer with daily emotional breakdowns, a prickly reporter, and the producer's charismatic but far less seasoned rival. The film was nominated for seven Academy Awards including "Best Picture," "Best Actor," "Best Actress" and "Best Supporting Actor."

The romantic comedy *Four Weddings and a Funeral* rounds out the month's love story offerings. The first of several films by screenwriter Richard Curtis to

feature Hugh Grant tells the story of a committed bachelor who may have to consider the notion that he has found love after he meets the same women repeatedly at four weddings and a funeral. The film was recognized with four BAFTA Awards (out of its eight nominations) and received two Academy Award and three Golden Globe nominations.

Flawless, Ira and Abby and *The Jewish Cardinal* are among the month's independent offerings.

The series is pre-empted on Saturday, February 28 due to special pledge programming.

Every Saturday night beginning at 9 p.m., viewers can catch a Hollywood **Classic** hosted by film historian **Neal Gabler**, followed by an **Indie**, hosted by Columbia University professor **Richard Peña**. The evening concludes with a **Short** film selected by viewers who vote for their favorite of three shorts at Reel13.org.

7

"Casablanca" (1942) Dir: Michael Curtiz
Cafe owner Rick (Humphrey Bogart) helps an old flame (Ingrid Bergman) and her husband (Paul Henreid) escape from Nazis in Morocco.

"Flawless" (2007) Dir: Michael Radford
A caretaker (Michael Caine) and an executive (Demi Moore) collaborate in a diamond theft. Repeats early Sun 8th, 2:40am and early Wed 11th, 1am.

14

"Broadcast News" (1987) Dir: James L. Brooks
A reporter (Albert Brooks), a producer (Holly Hunter) and an anchorman (William Hurt) form a triangle in a TV-network news bureau.

"Ira and Abby" (2006) Dir: Robert Cary
A hastily married couple (Jennifer Westfeldt and Chris Messina) quickly devolve into a life of affairs, meddling parents, and therapy.

21

"Four Weddings and a Funeral" (1994) Dir: Mike Newell
A reserved Englishman, falling for an attractive American at a wedding, is foiled by his inability to express his feelings. With Hugh Grant, Kristin Scott Thomas, and Andie MacDowell.

"The Jewish Cardinal" (2012) Dir: Ilan Duran Cohen
The remarkable true story of Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Jewish Archbishop of Paris. Repeats early Sun 22nd, 3am and early Wed 25th, 1am.

28

The series is pre-empted for special pledge programming.

WNET is the parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21, New York's public television stations. For more than 50 years, THIRTEEN has been a partner with the tri-state community, using its rich resources to inform and inspire the passionate people of New York and the world to better understand and address the issues that challenge our diverse communities.

Reel 13 is funded by the Sy Syms Foundation and the Rubin Museum of Art.

David Horn is executive producer. Bob Morris is senior producer. Colleen McHugh is associate producer.

Visit **Reel 13 Online** at www.thirteen.org/sites/reel13/ for additional information.

#

About WNET

As New York's flagship public media provider and the parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than 5 million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, PBS NewsHour Weekend, Charlie Rose and a range of documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings available on air and online. Pioneers in educational programming, WNET has created such groundbreaking series as Get the Math, Oh Noah! and Cyberchase and provides tools for educators that bring compelling content to life in the classroom and at home. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through NYC-ARTS, Reel 13, NJTV News with Mary Alice Williams and MetroFocus, the multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region. WNET is also a leader in connecting with viewers on emerging platforms, including the THIRTEEN Explore App where users can stream PBS content for free.