

Beyond Grumps and Spinsters: American Movies Take On Aging

Lecture and clip show by Peter L. Stein



Despite representing 20 percent of the American population, seniors have been barely visible over the long history of American movies. When older characters are prominent, they're often reduced to dispiriting stereotypes. Why has American cinema had such difficulty portraying aging in multi-dimensional, authentic ways? And might we finally be entering a golden age for “silver” movies? In this lively talk, brimming with clips from decades of Hollywood and independent cinema, film curator and documentary director Peter L. Stein presents an entertaining look at the way films have both reflected and influenced American perceptions of aging. Clips will include films such as *Sunset Boulevard*, *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?*, *Harold and Maude*, *45 Years*, *A Serious Man*, *Lucky*, *Grumpy Old Men*, *Nebraska* and *Grandma*.



Peter L. Stein is a Peabody Award-winning documentary filmmaker and freelance film writer, programmer and presenter. For eight years he was Executive Director of the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival and currently serves as Senior Programmer for Frameline, the San Francisco International LGBTQ Film Festival. More information at www.peterLstein.com.

Booking notes:

Length of presentation: approx. 75 minutes, with optional Q&A afterward

Technical needs:

- Podium with sufficient horizontal space for notes and a laptop
- microphone
- digital projector and large screen
- Audio and video used in presentation clips are imbedded in a Keynote (Macintosh) presentation file that can be run from speaker's Macintosh laptop (Thunderbolt port). Speaker can bring Thunderbolt-to-VGA connector; other adaptors or output requirements should be discussed beforehand. Alternatively, presentation can be played from a thumbdrive on venue's keynote-enabled computer, as long as speaker can operate the presentation from the podium.