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## WEXNER CENTER GOES WEST FOR NINE-FILM SERIES IN JANUARY

This January, the Wexner Center presents a five-night, nine-film series offering some of the best films from that most American of genres, the western. Though the western has been proclaimed dead or irrelevant numerous times in film history, the recent releases of *3:10 to Yuma*, *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, and even the Coen brothers' western update *No Country for Old Men* suggest that there is still plenty of life and contemporary relevance in the genre (see the [New York Times Magazine cover story](#) "How the Western Was Won" on November 11 for more on this topic).



*The Searchers*, showing January 10  
Image courtesy Warner Bros.

**The Western** series at the Wexner Center—which **kicks off January 10**—presents a rare chance to revisit (or see on the big screen for the first time) some influential western classics. It features some of the genre's iconic stars (including John Wayne, James Stewart, Randolph Scott, and Gary Cooper) in films by some of the genre's masters (such as John Ford, Howard Hawks, Anthony Mann, and Budd Boetticher). While this series focuses on the postwar western cycle typified by flawed heroes and muddled morals (exemplified by Ford's landmark *The Searchers*), it also includes lighter approaches (*The Plainsman*, *Trail of the Vigilantes*) and the clearly revisionist *Little Big Man*. This series was organized by the Wexner Center's film staff.

Tickets for each night of the series are \$7 general public; \$5 members, students, and senior citizens; \$3 children under 12. All films are 35mm vault prints, and all will be screened in the center's state-of-the-art Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St. inside the Wexner Center. More information: 614 292-3535 or [www.wexarts.org](http://www.wexarts.org).

Convenient parking is available in Ohio State's [Ohio Union Garage](#) and [Arps Garage](#), both with entrances from North High Street and College Road. Parking is also available nearby at the South Campus Gateway Garage, located one block east of North Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

### The schedule follows.

## **THE WESTERN**

### **Thursday, January 10**

#### **DOUBLE FEATURE**

7 pm: ***The Searchers*** (John Ford, 1956). 119 mins.

9:10 pm: ***The Tall T*** (Budd Boetticher, 1957). 78 mins.

Regularly cited as one of the best American films, *The Searchers* stars John Wayne as a man driven by racially fueled hatred to find his niece (Natalie Wood) who was captured by Indians as a young girl. The film was a major influence on Martin Scorsese's *Taxi Driver*. In *The Tall T* a trio of killers matches wits with rancher Randolph Scott after they take him and two newlyweds hostage while planning a stagecoach holdup. Based on an Elmore Leonard story.

### **Saturday, January 12**

#### **DOUBLE FEATURE**

7 pm: ***The Gunfighter*** (Henry King, 1950). 84 mins.

8:35 pm: ***The Plainsman*** (Cecil B. DeMille, 1936). 113 mins.

Gregory Peck stars in *The Gunfighter* as Jimmy Ringo, the "fastest gun in the west" who wants to put his past behind him yet faces those who want his title at every turn. Cecil B. DeMille was more concerned with spectacle than authenticity when creating *The Plainsman*, one of the few big budget westerns of the mid-1930s. Stars Gary Cooper as Wild Bill Hickock and Jean Arthur as Calamity Jane (!) out to quell an Indian uprising started by white gun runners.

### **Saturday, January 19**

#### **DOUBLE FEATURE**

7 pm: ***Little Big Man*** (Arthur Penn, 1970). 139 mins.

9:30 pm: ***Broken Arrow*** (Delmer Daves, 1950). 93 mins.

Upending almost every conceivable convention of westerns, *Little Big Man* stars Dustin Hoffman as a 121-year-old man who reminisces about his adventurous life as a pioneer, an adopted Indian, a disgraced snake oil huckster, and a survivor of Custer's Last Stand. *Broken Arrow* stars Jimmy Stewart as an ex-soldier trying to broker a peace with Apache Chief Cochise (Jeff Chandler) and nearby settlers. The film is credited as being one of the first Hollywood films to more sensitively portray Native Americans.

### **Thursday, January 24**

7 pm: ***Rio Bravo*** (Howard Hawks, 1959). 141 mins.

John Wayne stars as the sheriff of a Texas border town who recruits three men—drunken Dean Martin, cocky Ricky Nelson, and crotchety Walter Brennan—to help him guard a jailed killer until the U.S. Marshall arrives. The film is filled with quintessentially Hawksian elements—action, humor, men bound by loyalty and courage, an independent woman who proves her mettle (Angie Dickinson)—and the result is one of the greatest westerns ever made.

### **Thursday, January 31**

#### **DOUBLE FEATURE**

7 pm: ***The Naked Spur*** (Anthony Mann, 1953). 91 mins.

8:40 pm: ***Trail of the Vigilantes*** (Allan Dwan, 1940). 75 mins.

*The Naked Spur* stars Jimmy Stewart as an obsessed bounty hunter bent on bringing in killer Robert Ryan in order to collect the money to buy back his lost spread. Cast from a mold similar to *Destry Rides Again*, the comic-western *Trail of the Vigilantes* stars Franchot Tone as a city slicker who teams up with tough guy Broderick Crawford to free a town from the grip of organized cattle rustler Warren William. Also with Andy Devine and Mischa Auer.

**Calendar Information for The Western:** A five-night, nine-film series (January 10–31) focusing on some of the most influential films of the western genre. Tickets for each evening are \$7 general public; \$5 members, students, and senior citizens; \$3 children under 12. Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St. Tel: (614) 292-3535. More information: [www.wexarts.org/fv](http://www.wexarts.org/fv).

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#### **SEASON SUPPORT**

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