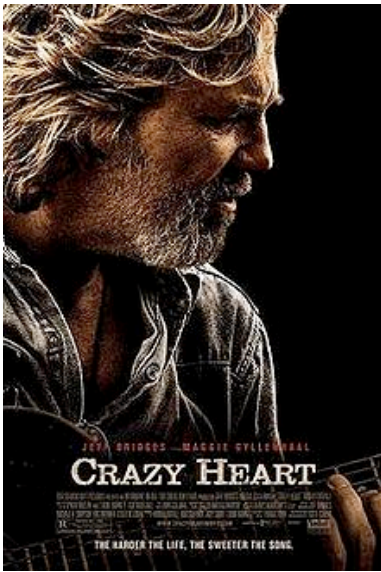




# GlenViewings Presents . . . . .

## A Little Bit of Country

"It all happens for a reason. Even when it's wrong. Especially when it's wrong." - Bad Blake  
(*Crazy Heart*)

		
<b>Crazy Heart</b> (111min/R/2009) December 17 2 & 6:30 PM	<b>Winter's Bone</b> (100 min/R/2010) January 21 2 & 6:30 PM	<b>Get Low</b> (100 min/PG-13/2010) <b>NEW DATE! March 4</b> 2 & 6:30 PM.

The best country songs use simple details to reveal profound things about the American experience. The three films in the "A Little Bit of Country" series also embody that mode of lyrical storytelling, with characters that could easily be the subjects of sad, beautiful, and true country folk music. *Get Low*'s irascible old coot, the fading alcoholic singer of *Crazy Heart*, and the resolute young girl on a perilous journey in *Winter's Bone* are all on the fringes of society, decidedly down on their luck. This outsider status is seemingly by choice, and their hardships are largely self-inflicted. Yet, their spirit carries them through to varying forms of hard-earned redemption, sweeter for the struggle it took to get there, but tinged with a melancholic aftertaste. All three are taciturn and difficult, yet carry a deep wisdom behind their eyes and possess a winning charm. They are true independents.

In each film, the American country landscape also mirrors their emotional states. As the 'Bad Blake' in *Crazy Heart*, Jeff Bridges spends the most time of the three in urban settings, but is at his freest and most peaceful on the open road or the big stage, rather than holed up in yet another cheap motel. The gloomy, haunted woods of *Winter's Bone* lurk behind Jennifer Lawrence's wounded 'Ree Dolly,' searching with steely determination for her lost father against the wishes of a hostile outside world. The amber glow of *Get Low* compliments that film's warm, nostalgic treatment of Robert Duvall's 'Felix Bush,' ready to finally face his past by throwing his funeral party while still alive.

*Crazy Heart* and *Get Low* are based on actual people and events, and *Winter's Bone* uses documentary techniques to convey the harsh realities of the Ozarks community's struggle against poverty and drugs. However, all three films also readily embrace the mythic qualities of their genre, landscapes and narratives, creating a feel best summarized by *Get Low*'s advertising slogan of "a true tall tale." These are films that feel classic, lived in and hewn from the very poetic fabric of the country, as if they were tales best shared with guitar music around a campfire. Or failing that, at a public library!

# GlenViewings Presents . . . . .

## A Little Bit of Country

"We like to imagine good and bad, right and wrong are miles apart. The truth is, very often they are all tangled up with each other." - Felix Bush (*Get Low*)

### Reel to Reel

	Crazy Heart	Winter's Bone	Get Low
<b>Director:</b>	Scott Cooper	Debra Granik	Aaron Schneider
<b>Writers:</b>	Scott Cooper	Debra Granik Anne Rosellini	Chris Provenzano C. Gaby Mitchell
<b>Producers:</b>	Rob Carliner Judy Cairo T-Bone Burnett Robert Duvall	Anne Rosellini Alix Madigan	Dean Zanuck David Gundlach
<b>Stars:</b>	Jeff Bridges Maggie Gyllenhaal	Jennifer Lawrence John Hawkes	Robert Duvall Bill Murray
<b>Budget:</b>	\$7,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$7,000,000
<b>Revenue:</b>	\$47,166,193	\$7,347,698	\$8,630,586
<b>Metacritic Score:</b>	83/100	90/100	77/100

### Did You Know?

- Jeff Bridges, who recorded all his own songs for *Crazy Heart*, has always been an avid musician and even released an album of his own music titled *Be Here Soon* in 2000.
- *Winter's Bone* is currently 3rd on Metacritic's list of the films featuring on the most critics' "best of 2010" lists.
- *Get Low* star Robert Duvall was also a producer on *Crazy Heart*, in which he makes a cameo appearance. Duvall won his only Academy Award for playing a country music star in 1983's *Tender Mercies*.

### Things to Explore

- What vision of America does each of the films present? What characterizes these views, and how does it affect the actions of their various characters?
- In what ways do *Crazy Heart*, *Winter's Bone*, and *Get Low* draw their plots from classic story structures, like fairy tales and parables? How do they enhance or subvert these tropes?
- What is the role of music and landscape in each of the films?
- How does the past haunt the characters in each film? How is this brought to bear on the present and resolved?

### Themes

- Independence
- Americana
- Righting wrongs

# GlenViewings Presents . . . . .

## A Little Bit of Country

“Never ask for what ought to be offered.” - Ree Dolly (*Winter's Bone*)

### Library Resources

**1) In the Country of Country: People and Places in American Music**, Nicholas Dawidoff  
Davidoff's classic study of the performers, places, and legends that have built the uniquely American art form of country music is easy to read and packed with incredible stories about some great songs and artists.

Copy	Material	Location
599.53 DUD	Book	Nonfiction

**2) Winter's Bone: A Novel**, Daniel Woodrell  
Just like the film, Woodrell's novel is a mix of both harshness and surprising tenderness and lyricism, charting the brave Dolly Ree's attempt to survive in a community gripped by drug culture and unspoken codes of control.

Copy	Material	Location
333.9595 HEL	Book	Nonfiction

**3) Robert Duvall: Hollywood Maverick**, Judith Slawson  
This biography needs updating to cover Duvall's distinguished later career, but still has insights into his 'un-Hollywood' persona and early career, from *To Kill a Mockingbird* to *Tender Mercies*.

Copy	Material	Location
791.43 DUVALL	Book	Nonfiction

**4) It Still Moves: Lost Songs, Lost Highways, and the Search for the Next American Music**, Amanda Petrusich  
A music journalist's search for the roots of Americana takes her across the country and into each of the genres that have come to define American culture.

Copy	Material	Location
599.53 DUD	Book	Nonfiction

**5) Meth: America's Drug Epidemic**, Amanda Petrusich  
A provocative analysis of a drug now believed to be consumed by over 12 million Americans each year, and especially the devastating social effect it has had on poor rural communities.

Copy	Material	Location
599.53 DUD	Book	Nonfiction

**6) Crazy Heart [videorecording (DVD)]**  
Copy DVD CRA  
Material DVD, Fiction  
Location Audiovisual Room

**7) Winter's Bone [videorecording (DVD)]**  
Copy NEW DVD WIN  
Material DVD, Fiction  
Location Audiovisual Room

# Glen Viewings Presents . . . . .

## A Little Bit of Country

"Ain't remembering wonderful?" - Bad Blake (*Crazy Heart*)

### Online Resources

<http://www.foxsearchlight.com/crazyheart/>

The official website for *Crazy Heart* features a chance to hear the moving Oscar-winning song "The Weary Kind" and a wealth of reviews, cast and crew profiles, behind-the-scenes videos and opportunities to buy the film on DVD.

<http://www.wintersbonemovie.com/links.html>

The official website for *Winter's Bone* is a little sparse, but does contain links to an excerpt from Daniel Woodrell's novel and to many of the musicians heard playing in the film.

<http://www.sonyclassics.com/getlow/site/index.html>

*Get Low*'s official campaign website is as playful and charming as the film itself, with bright, witty design featuring lots of clips from the film, an article on the real Felix Bush, and profiles of the cast and crew.

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/winters-bone-extras/id392088870>

A video 'extra' to *Winter's Bone* available to download from the iTunes store and titled "Hillbilly up", this features real life residents of the Ozarks discussing their community and their reaction to the film.

<http://www.hulu.com/watch/175485/popcorn-with-peter-travers-thu-jul-29-2010>

*Rolling Stone* critic Peter Travers interviews Robert Duvall about *Get Low*, and also gets the actor to open up about his career highlights, including working with Marlon Brando in *The Godfather*.

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/music\\_blog/2009/12/hank-thompson-crazy-hearts-reallife-bad-blake.html](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/music_blog/2009/12/hank-thompson-crazy-hearts-reallife-bad-blake.html)

*Crazy Heart* novelist Thomas Cobb reveals the real life inspiration for the character of Bad Blake, a Country Music Hall of Fame star named Hank Thompson.

<http://www.knoxville.com/news/2010/aug/22/the-living-corpse/>

See a photo and read about the life of Tennessee's Felix "Bush" Breazeale, the man whose 1938 funeral - held while he was still alive and attracting a rumored audience of 8,000 - inspired the story in *Get Low*.

<http://southernspaces.org/2010/life-shatter-zone-debra-graniks-film-winters-bone>

This excellent essay places *Winter's Bone* within a context of other 'dark fairytale' narratives, and also has some insightful musings on the film's deft use of the Ozarks landscape to convey meaning.

<http://www.vanityfair.com/online/oscars/2010/12/jennifer-lawrence-talks-about-the-winters-bone-awards-buzz.html>

A *Vanity Fair* interview with Jennifer Lawrence in which she discusses 'instant fame', *Winter's Bone* domination of the end of year awards lists, and her own future roles in the next *X-Men* film and the Jodie Foster-directed *The Beaver*.

# GlenViewings Presents . . . . .

IF YOU LIKED **A Little Bit of Country...**

***The Last Picture Show***

**(Peter Bogdanovich/125 min/1971)**

Chronicles the generational rites of passage and coming of age of a generation in a fictional one-horse town and pays homage to classical age of Hollywood.

***PayDay***

**(Daryl Duke/102 min/R/1972)**

This cult film is anchored by Rip Torn's performance as singer-songwriter Maury Dann and explores Dann's struggles to hang onto his waning popularity in this intelligent, moody drama.

***Nashville***

**(Robert Altman/157 min/R/1975)**

Massive ensemble cast in country music's capital is nimbly directed by Altman and explores the American obsession with celebrity and power.

***Coal Miner's Daughter***

**(Michael Apted/125 mins/PG/1980)**

Film adaptation of Loretta Lynn's autobiography that chronicles her tireless efforts in country music that eventually earned her a spot at the Grand Ole Opry. Features Sissy Spacek and Tommy Lee Jones.

***Tender Mercies***

**(Bruce Beresford/89 min/PG/1983)**

Robert Duvall stars in this tale of redemption as Mac Sledge, a once famous country singer now down on his luck. Sledge manages to turn his life around when he takes a job at a tiny Texas motel run by a widow.

***Paris, Texas***

**(Wim Wenders/150 mins/R/1983)**

After wandering the Texas desert, Travis (Harry Dean Stanton) is reunited with his brother Walt and tries to put the pieces of his life back together, getting reacquainted with his son and reconciling with his wife.

***Affliction***

**(Paul Schrader/113 min/R/1997)**

Based on the Russell Banks novel, Nick Nolte turns in a top notch performance as Wade Whitehouse, part-time sheriff of a small New England town who spends his time drinking and wrestling with the specter of his difficult childhood.

***The Straight Story***

**(David Lynch/111 min/G/1999)**

David Lynch directs this true story of Alvin Straight, an ailing widower in his early 70s who travels via riding lawn mower from Iowa to Wisconsin to reconcile with his estranged brother Lyle.

# GlenViewings Presents . . . . .

## ***Walk The Line***

**(James Mangold/136 min/R/2005)**

Award winning biopic on Johnny Cash that centers on the long relationship he had with June Carter. Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon both preformed all their own singing for the movie.

## ***The Living Wake***

**(Sol Tryon/91 min/2007)**

Absurdist dark comedy that spins the tale of one K. Roth Binew, a self-proclaimed artist and genius, as he arranges his own final party and living wake.

## ***The Wrestler***

**(Darren Aronofsky/109 min/2008)**

Poignant portrayal of professional wrestler Randy "The Ram" Robinson as he begins to reevaluate his life in the late years of his career. Features Mickey Rourke and Marisa Tomei.

## ***Frozen River***

**(Courtney Hunt/96 min/2008)**

First time feature by writer/director Courtney Hunt tells the story of Ray Eddy, a single mother living in upstate New York who tries to support her family by helping to smuggle illegal immigrants into the United States.

## ***Coming Soon to Theaters: Country Strong***

**(Shana Feste/2010)**

Gyneth Paltrow, Tim McGraw, and Garrett Hedlund star as Kelly Canter (Paltrow), a fallen country singer tries to resurrect her career with the help of her husband (McGraw) and two rising, young singers. In theatres January 7<sup>th</sup> 2010.

### **Also Directed by Debra Granik:**

*Down to the Bone* (110 min/R/2003)

### **Also Starring Jeff Bridges:**

*Fabulous Baker Boys* (116 min/R/1989)

*Fearless* (121 min/R/1993)

*The Big Lebowski* (127 min/R/1998)

### **Also Starring Maggie Gyllenhaal:**

*Donnie Darko* (113 min/R/2001)

*Secretary* (112 min/R/2002)

*The Dark Knight* (152 min/R/2008)

### **Also Starring Jennifer Lawrence:**

*The Burning Plain* (111 min/R/2008)

### **Also Starring Robert Duvall:**

*The Godfather* (175 min/R/1972)

*Apocalypse Now* (153 min/R/1979)

*The Apostle* (148 min/PG13/1997)

### **Also Starring Sissy Spacek:**

*Badlands* (95 mins/PG/1973)

*In The Bedroom* (138 min/R/2001)

*North Country* (126 min/R/2005)