

GlenViewings Presents

The Seasons of War

“Heavy and devastating downpours have not curbed the violence that is infiltrating itself everywhere. Two opponents are present, one wants to hold on to power, the other seize it. They are fighting with their backs against the wall. I don’t know when or how it will all end. In the meantime, I perform my duty...” - Brother Luc’s letter (*Of Gods and Men*)

Of Gods and Men

(123min/
PG13/2010)
September 17
2 & 6:30 PM



Winter in
Wartime
(103min/R/2010)
October 21
2 & 6:30 PM

Gone with the Wind

(238min/G/1939)
November 10
1 PM



Incendies
(130min/R/2010)
November 18
2 & 6:30 PM

The four compelling stories in this series, set in locations across the world and in different historic eras, serve to remind us that war is a constant in human history. These conflicts inflict disorder and show the worst of mankind, but remarkably, also show ordinary people acting at their very best, and most humane, in spite of the chaos.

The films share this common theme – individuals showing the qualities of resilience, courage, generosity, and fortitude in the face of violent events beyond their control, whether the setting is Algeria during the civil war of the 1990’s (*Of Gods and Men*); the Netherlands in the 1940’s (*Winter in Wartime*); the American South during the Civil War (*Gone with the Wind*); or in an unnamed 20th century Middle East country (*Incendies*). Wars fought over disagreements in belief inevitably lead to the senseless loss of life, but ultimately the threads of faith, family, home, and hope remain intact throughout the many seasons of war that you will witness in this collection of films.

Domestic concerns play a large part in these stories, as the tensions and comforts of home are thrown into chaos by events on the battlefield. Perhaps this is also accentuated because the lead characters in each film – monks, women, and children – are all accidentally plunged into situations of war that disturb and disrupt their home lives. Pathos emerges from seeing these innocent lives torn apart, but also inspiration is gained from seeing them overcome the hardships and grow into their true selves, changed by the experiences they have acquired through war. Their internal, personal journeys reflect back upon the national experience of their countries, most notably in *Gone with the Wind* and *Winter in Wartime*.

The seasons change within and across these films, echoing another common theme: that of cycles of revenge and anger can only be broken through forgiveness. As the shocking ending of *Incendies* or the seemingly inevitable tragedy of *Of Gods and Men* attest, this is the only possible way to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past and to usher in a new climate.

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“With enough courage, you can do without a reputation.” – Rhett Butler
(*Gone with the Wind*)

Reel to Reel

	Of Gods and Men	Winter in Wartime	Gone with the Wind	Incendies
Director	Xavier Beauvois	Martin Koolhaven	Victor Fleming	Denis Villeneuve
Producers	Iain Canning Emile Sherman Gareth Unwin	San Fu Maltha Els Vandevorst	David O. Selznick	Luc Déry Kim McCraw
Writer	Xavier Beauvois	Mieke de Jong Martin Koolhaven Paul Jan Nelissen Martijn Lakemeier	Sidney Howard	Denis Villeneuve Valérie Beaugrand- Champagne
Actors	Lambert Wilson Michael Lonsdale	Yorick van Wageningen Jamie Campbell Bower	Clark Gable Vivien Leigh Leslie Howard Olivia de Havilland	Lubna Azabal Mélissa Désormeaux- Poulin Maxim Gaudette
Budget	\$6 million	N/A	\$3.85 million	\$6.8 million
Revenue	\$42,151,322 million	\$9.2 million	\$400 million	\$9 million
Awards	Cannes Film Festival: Grand Prix	Dutch Film Critics: Film of the year	10 Oscars, including Best Picture	Oscar nomination: Best Foreign Language Film

Did You Know?

- The actors in *Of Gods and Men* each took a month of professional training in the Cistercian and Gregorian chants and spent a week living as monks at an 11th-century French Abbey in preparation for their roles.
- After adjusting for inflation, *Gone with the Wind* is still the highest grossing film of all time.
- *Winter in Wartime* is based on a semi-autobiographical novel by Jan Terlouw, a former Dutch Deputy Prime Minister who lived under Nazi occupation as a child.
- Director Denis Villeneuve had never been to the Middle East before filming *Incendies*. He was drawn to the project immediately after seeing the 3.5 hour-long original play.

Things to Explore

- In *Of Gods and Men*, why do the monks stay? Do they make the right choice?
- How does Scarlett O’Hara’s turbulent life reflect the transformations of the South during and after the Civil War?
- In *Incendies*, what was the mother’s purpose in leaving the letters for her children? Why was it important for her to have her children go on this journey of discovery?

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“You don’t know what you’re up against, do you?” – Uncle Ben (*Winter in Wartime*)

Library Resources

1) **The Monks of Tibhirine: Faith, Love, and Terror in Algeria**, John W. Kiser
Kiser’s account of the mysterious kidnapping and murder of seven Trappist monks living in the Algerian village of Tibhirine at their monastery of Notre-Dame de l’Atlas during the summer of 1996.

Copy	Material	Location
271.125 Kis	Book	Nonfiction

2) **Gone with the Wind**, Margaret Mitchell
The Pulitzer Prize winning novel set in the Clayton County, Georgia during the American Civil War and Reconstruction.

Copy	Material	Location
Fiction Mitchell, M.	Book	Fiction

3) **Winter in Wartime**, Jan Terlouw
Terlouw’s award winning 1972 children’s novel on which Martin Koolhoven based his film.

Copy	Material	Location
J Fiction Terlouw	Book	Juvenile Fiction

4) **Of Gods and Men (DVD)**

Copy	Material	Location
DVD OFG	DVD, Fiction	Audiovisual Room

5) **Winter in Wartime (DVD)**

Copy	Material	Location
DVD WIN	DVD, Fiction	Audiovisual Room

6) **Gone with the Wind (DVD)**

Copy	Material	Location
DVD GON	DVD, Fiction	Audiovisual Room

7) **Incendies (DVD)**

Copy	Material	Location
DVD INC	DVD, Fiction	Audiovisual Room

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“You have to know, or your mind will never be at peace.” – Notary Jean Lebel
(*Incendies*)

Online Resources

Of Gods and Men

<http://www.sonyclassics.com/ofgodsandmen/>

The official website contains an excellent press kit and a link to buy the book on which the film is based and to an excellent *New York Post* article about the film.

Winter in Wartime

<http://www.sonyclassics.com/winterinwartime>

The official website's best feature is a full press kit which contains a wealth of extra information about the film.

<http://www.emanuellevy.com/comment/winter-in-wartime-interview-with-director-martin-koolhoven/>

One of few English interviews with the director available online.

Gone with the Wind

<http://www.warnervideo.com/gonewiththewind/>

A website to mark the release of Warner Brothers 70th anniversary edition of the film is fittingly sumptuous, with great photo galleries, extra video, downloads and even holiday E-cards!

<http://www.margaretmitchellhouse.com>

The official website for the well-preserved home of the *Gone with the Wind* author.

<http://www.scarlettohardy.com/>

The home of perhaps *Gone with the Wind's* biggest fan, an overwhelming collection of memorabilia associated with the film and the book.

Incendies

<http://www.sonyclassics.com/incendies>

The official site contains a synopsis, stills and a selection of press quotes.

<http://www.bfi.org.uk/sightandsound/featuresandinterviews/interviews/incendies-denis-villeneuve.php>

An interview with the director in which he states that the film is “not about war, it's about family.”

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IF YOU LIKED *Seasons of War*...

***Army of Crime* • Robert Guediguian/139 min/NR/2009**

– French World War II drama that retells the true story of Missak Manouchian, a poet and militant, who led an ill-suited band of resistance fighters against the Nazis in Europe.

***The Battle of Algiers* • Gillo Pontecorvo/123 min/NR/1966**

– Highly regarded and politically charged film that presents the Algerian struggle from France in 1957. Director Gillo Pontecorvo's careful re-creation of a complicated guerrilla struggle presents a rather partisan view of some complex social and political issues.

***Black Narcissus* • Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger/101 min/NR/1947**

– Controversial 1947 adaptation of Rumer Godden's novel that features Deborah Kerr and Kathleen Byron as head nuns at an Anglican school and hospital in the high Himalayas whose peaceful existence is disturbed by the presence of a handsome British government agent.

***Cold Mountain* • Anthony Minghella/155 min/R/2003**

– Based on the novel by Charles Frazier, this film is a sweeping tale set in the final days of the American Civil War. Jude Law stars as Inman, a young injured soldier who is struggling to make his way home to Cold Mountain, NC, where his beloved Ada (Nicole Kidman) awaits.

***The Cranes are Flying* • Mikhail Kalatozov/91 min/NR/1957**

– Based on a play by V. Rusov, a love story set during the early years of World War II.

***Empire of the Sun* • Steven Spielberg/153 min/PG/1987**

– Based on the autobiographical J.G. Ballard novel, Christian Bale stars as James Graham, a young boy living with his wealthy family in pre-World War II Shanghai. After the invasion by the Japanese, James meets a soldier-of-fortune (John Malkovich) that teaches him just enough to survive before his eventual imprisonment.

***Into Great Silence* • Philip Groning/162 min/NR/2005**

– Fascinating and intimate documentary about the Carthusian monks of the Grand Chartreuse, high in the French Alps (Chartreuse Mountains). The director was provided unprecedented access to this reclusive monastery for a total of six months creating a penetrating portrait of the rhythm of monastic life.

***Ivan's Childhood* • Andrei Tarkovsky/95 min/NR/1962**

– Tells the story of twelve-year-old Ivan, who is orphaned after the invasion of the Nazis, lands in prison camp, but escapes to become a spy for the Russian army.

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***Katyn* • Andrzej Wajda/121 min/R/2007**

--Oscar-nominated drama chronicling the harrowing events surrounding the 1940 massacre of captured Polish army officers in the Katyn Forest. Directed by the celebrated Polish filmmaker Andrei Wajda (*Ashes and Diamonds*, *Kanał*).

***Ride with the Devil* • Ang Lee/148 min/R/1999**

-- American drama directed by Ang Lee and based on the novel by Daniel Woodrell (*Winter's Bone*) that chronicles a complex tale of uneasy alliances and hostilities along the Kansas/Missouri border during the Civil War.

***Silent Light* • Carlos Reygadas/136 min/NR/2007**

-- A man of Mennonite faith in Mexico succumbs to a temptation he cannot resist in this drama written and directed by Carlos Reygadas.

***White Material* • Claire Denis/105 min/NR/2009**

-- In this drama directed and co-written by Claire Denis and Isabelle Huppert, Isabelle Huppert plays Maria, a white French expatriate living in an African nation that has fallen into political chaos.

Also Directed by Xavier Beavouis:

Don't Forget You're Going to Die (118 min/1995)

The Young Lieutenant (110 min/2005)

Also Directed by Martin Koolhoven:

Happy Family (82 min/NR/2006)

Suzy Q (82 min/NR/1999)

Also Directed by Denis Villeneuve:

Maelstrom (87 min/R/2000)

Polytechnique (77 min/NR/2009)