

## Movies To Watch Over and Over

St. Stephens Film Society

- *The Sound of Music* (1965)
  - Excoriated by the critics at the time (“reactionary pap,” “the sugarcoated lie”), and often knocked by people who have never seen it, both the music and the movie stood the test of time – an all-time Sung family favorite. Andrews makes for a determined heroine for the ages and the new digital print is breathtaking -- essential viewing.
- *When Harry Met Sally* (1989)
  - Underneath the cutesy formulaic rom-com lies a flawless screenplay by Nora Ephron and a love letter to the romantic possibilities of New York City. After “*The Godfather*,” most quoted movie in the Sung household – “tell me I’ll never have to be out there again,” “no one has ever quoted me back to me before,” “I’ll have what she’s having” etc. And the jazzy music by Harry Connick Jr. is a treat.
- *A Room with a View* (1985)
  - Most perfectly realized of all Merchant-Ivory productions, a “marriage” of unforgettable beauty (Florence, mostly) and delightful ensemble performances by Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Daniel Day Lewis, Denholm Elliot and Helena Bonham Carter. An irresistible “union” of beautiful Italian scenery, nuanced British mannerisms and highest caliber literary source.
- *Patton* (1969)
  - Scripted by Francis Ford Coppola, one of the great character studies in cinema that captures a uniquely American hero, General George S. Patton. The movie seems to have it both ways – it glorifies Patton as a military hero, even as it questions and debunks the nature of American heroism and the lust for power. Towering performance by George C. Scott makes all this possible.
- *Kundun* (1997)
  - Movie about the early life of the Dalai Lama by Martin Scorsese is one of the most beguiling movies ever made, and strangely moving without the conventions of melodrama or plotline.
- *The Graduate* (1967)
  - Not clear why this remains one of my own favorites. Could it be that at one time I identified with the post-collegiate aimlessness? Or the still-funny script? Or Anne Bancroft’s all-time great performance as Mrs. Robinson? Watching it again, I now think its greatness lies in the ending – the penultimate scene seems to capture the zeitgeist and aim of the 60s perfectly.

