



# 40<sup>th</sup> UND Writers Conference - "Wit"



## Film Festival

The following films have been selected by the authors attending the UND Writers Conference. All films are free and open to the public. Screenings will take place in the Memorial Union Lecture Bowl.

### Wednesday, April 1st



2:00 **Sullivan's Travels** (1941) selected by Jacqueline Osherow

This classic Preston Sturges film, starring Joel McCrea and Veronica Lake, follows a Hollywood director of "escapist films who goes on the road to learn about real life" during the Great Depression (IMBD). A brilliant twist gives him a true taste of the world. Run time

90 mins. *"I haven't seen the film in years, but loved it every time I saw it. I choose it because it's not only witty but about comedy and its place in the world."* – Jacqueline Osherow



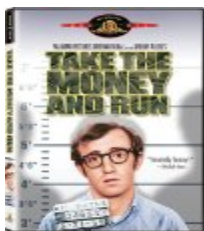
6:00 **Arthur** (1981) selected by Greg Williamson

Directed and written by Steve Gordon with memorable performances by Liza Minnelli, Sir John Gielgud, Geraldine Fitzgerald, and Jill Eikenberry. Arthur, played by Dudley Moore, is the constantly drunk heir to a vast fortune. In order to secure his inheritance he must marry a woman the family has selected for him, but then he meets a woman he could really love.

Run time 97 mins. Greg Williamson writes, *"This film, about the Dudley Moore character's*

*fall from grace, is a classic. The dialogue is just so funny and sharp."*

### Thursday, April 2nd



2:00 **Take the Money and Run** (1970) selected by Steve Almond

Documentary about a bumbling bank robber played by Woody Allen. Run time 85 mins.

*"I've chosen Take the Money and Run because it speaks to my greed and ineptitude. Also: it's the autobiography of a skinny Jewish loser who marries a hot chick. We are all fools and burglars. Better to laugh at ourselves than weep."*



6:00 **The Royal Tenenbaums** (2001) selected by Karen Russell

Written and directed by Wes Anderson, starring Gene Hackman, Angelica Huston, Ben Stiller, Luke and Owen Wilson, Gwyneth Paltrow, Bill Murray, Danny Glover, and Alec Baldwin. This quirky film revolves around a family of former child prodigies who gather

together as adults when one of the members has a terminal illness. Karen Russell writes, *"I think The Royal Tenenbaums is more effective than Prozac, exercise, and the sun in a double-blind study. It never fails to make me smile."*

### Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>



2:00 **Slacker** (1991) selected by Chuck Klosterman

Written and Directed by Richard Linklater, this film takes us to Austin, Texas and introduces us to a cast of misfits through a series of vignettes that bleed seamlessly from one to the other. Run time 97 mins. *"Slacker" is one of the few films that authentically changed my life.*

*... It had never occurred to me that someone could tell a story without any narrative whatsoever. . . I had never watched a movie where almost all the people had the same sense of humor I did: It's all jokes without punch lines, characters who are obsessive and confused at the same time, and how it feels to be bored by your own weirdness."* – Chuck Klosterman

6:00 **Badlands** (1973) selected by Charles Baxter.



Written and directed by Terrence Malick, Martin Sheen and Sissy Spacek star in this dramatization of the Starkweather-Fugate killing spree of the 1950s, which began when a teenager and her boyfriend kill her entire family and several others. Run time 94 mins.

Charles Baxter writes, *"At first, Badlands does not seem like an inevitable choice as a film for a conference on wit. But "wit" traditionally means the unexpected yoking of two (or more)*

*seemingly incompatible elements or thoughts. Badlands is full of such unlikely pairings: the central pair of lovers; the voice-over narration with images that don't always match it; the strange tonal emptiness combined with great beauty on the soundtrack and in the landscape. It's a strange, beautiful movie--with a North Dakota reference."*

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