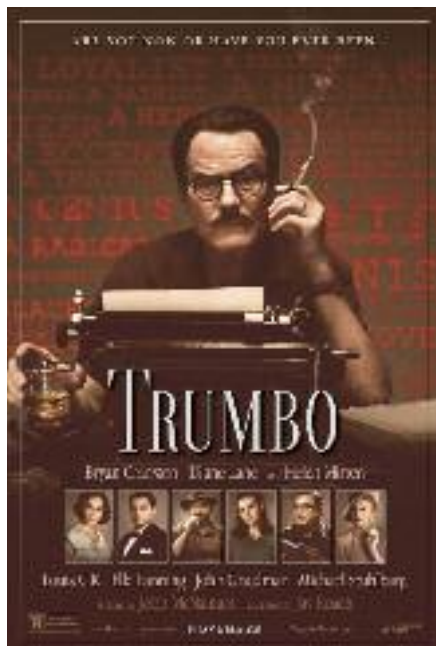


MOVIE REVIEW

No Turkeys at Orinda Theatre at This Time of Year!

By Derek Zemrak



Although everyone was talking about turkeys last week, you will not find any at the Orinda Theatre. This is the season when Hollywood gives us the cream of the

crop and Oscar buzz is in the air. Let's take a look at the three films that are shoe-ins for Best Picture nominations: "Brooklyn," "Spotlight" and "Trumbo."

"Brooklyn" is an amazing movie about an Irish immigrant in 1950s New York who falls for an Italian plumber in Brooklyn but faces temptation from an-

other man when she returns home. "Spotlight" is the front-runner to win the Best Picture Oscar. It is based on the true story of Boston Globe editor, Marty Baron, who in 2001 assigns a team of journalists to investigate allegations against Roman Catholic Priest John Geoghan, who was accused of molesting grammar school boys. "Trumbo" is my favorite movie of the year for it has all my favorite elements: it is based on a true story; it is an excellent film; and the history is accurate. Dalton Trumbo was Hollywood's top screenwriter in 1947. He and nine other Hollywood executives (The Hollywood Ten) were jailed and blacklisted after refusing to answer House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) questions about their alleged involvement with the Communist Party. Amazingly Dalton won two Academy Awards for best writing using a pseudonym – "The Brave One" (1956) and "Roman Holiday" (1963). Look for an Oscar nomination for Bryan Cranston for his role as Trumbo.

Photo Focus Features

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Not to be missed

ture the largest menorah in Contra Costa, Paul Savage Fire Juggler, Live music with Any Rubin, doughnuts, dreidels, face painting, latkes and more and is open to all. Chabad of Contra Costa sponsors this popular event with assistance from with Broadway Plaza management.

Hanukkah on Ice will be held at the Walnut Creek Civic Park Ice Rink from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on the fifth night of Hanukkah, Thursday, Dec. 10. Ice skaters of all ages will enjoy a menorah lighting sponsored by Chabad of Contra Costa on the rain protected outdoor rink while skating to Jewish music. Traditional Hanukkah donuts called Sufganiot, hot dogs, latkes and drinks will be available and can be ordered online. Advanced Tickets: \$15, if ordered in advance at www.JewishContraCosta.com. Tickets: \$18 at the event based on space available.

Daughters of the Goddess, a Bay Area women-only Goddess Temple, will be holding its annual Winter Solstice Ritual at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21. East Bay location given upon RSVP. Cost for newcomers: \$15. For info, contact Kahuna Leilani at (925) 787-9247 or visit www.Daughtersofthe-Goddess.com.

5A Rent-A-Space Santa's Secret Wrapping Room open to the public through Dec. 23, during business hours. This decorated area is set up with tables, chairs, wrapping paper, tape and ribbon – everything needed to get presents wrapped for free – especially handy if you need to wrap gifts without the watchful eyes of the recipients.

Its first ever "Giving Tree" is being hosted by Community Concern for Cats' volunteers at their Rescued Treasures Thrift Shop in Walnut Creek through Dec. 24. Their goal is to give the gift of life to as many homeless street cats as they can by providing needed medicines and medical procedures. Come down, buy a special ornament, and put it in the holiday window display. Rescued Treasures Thrift Shop is located at 1270 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek. For info, call (925) 937-3201.

The Orinda Aquatics Masters, an adult swimming program, will be offering an evening workout at the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. through Feb 4. These workouts will be held Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. No workouts on Dec 24 and 31. Swimmers may pay \$10 per swim, or pay a monthly fee of \$75 per month (December and January). For more info, contact Tiffany Forbes at tforbes267@gmail.com.

SENIORS

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Programs (HICAP) provides free and objective counseling and advocacy services to Contra Costa Medicare beneficiaries and their families who need assistance with Medicare enrollment and issues involving Medicare and associated insurance programs, including prescription drug coverage. HICAP does not endorse or sell insurance products. For appointments, call Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050. Appointments are at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., or noon on the first Wednesday and third Tuesday monthly in the Alder Room of the Lafayette Community Center.

Mindful Aging at the Moraga Library presents "Eat Smart, Live Strong – Nutritional Education for Older Adults" at 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10. Cynthia Black will show how to keep healthy and strong by following the guidelines of the Eat Smart, Live Strong program developed by the USDA Food and Nutrition Services specifically for adults between the ages of 60-74.

Positive Living Forum ("Happiness Club") Moderated by Bob Nozik, MD, Prof. Emeritus UCSF, Author of "Happy 4 Life: Here's How to Do It." Brighten your day and take part in this interactive gathering which features speakers on a wide range of topics that guide participants toward a more ideal and positive life experience from 10:30 a.m. to noon the second Thursday monthly in the Elderberry Room in the Lafayette Community Center. Free for Senior Services Members; \$10 non-members. Drop-ins welcome!

Diablo Fine Art Gallery

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OTHER ... continued

The Lamorinda Meditation Group has been meeting from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Monday and Thursday mornings since September of 2014. Come one or both days a week to settle in, meditate silently for 30 minutes with those who attend, and stay for questions and sharing or you may leave after meditation at 1036 Country Club Drive, Suite 100 (Career Wisdom Institute). Cost: \$5 donation for the use of this beautiful space. For more details, contact Gaby Mozee at gcmoozee@gmail.com.

The annual Grand Menorah Lighting in Walnut Creek will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6 at Broadway Plaza near Macy's, the first night of Hanukkah. The event will fea-

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Service Clubs Announcements

Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.

We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at **The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa**, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

December 4: Speaker: Tom Guarino , PG&E - Pipeline Safety Initiative	December 11: Speaker: Stephanie Mann - A Different Perspective On Gun Control
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Be sure to save Friday morning, December 18 at 7 am, for featured Pixar speaker, Josh Cooley. Find out how they produced award winning "Inside Out" from one of the original screenwriters!

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

December 3: Bob Gonser, attorney, will be speaking about investing for seniors.	December 10: Ron Bachman MD, will be speaking about the Oakland History Museum.
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www.rotarylafayette.org