

CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS A FILM SOCIETY?

A film society is an organization formed by group of enthusiastic film viewers who like to choose the films they wish to see, so that they might learn more about the art, the history and the technique of the cinema, as well as for the sheer enjoyment of viewing good films.

It is a community organization screening high quality films not widely shown, or not shown at all in commercial theatres or on television.

It is a voluntary body, non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit making, consisting of a majority of members who pay a membership fee.

It has a committee of management, elected by and from the members to manage the affairs of the society and to arrange screenings of specially selected films.

A film society usually meets in a public hall, or other meeting rooms on regular occasions, and provides its members with fine films from many countries and sources, covering a wide range of subjects. A typical year's program may include some of the great silent films and other classics as well as modern narrative films ranging from fantasy, drama and comedy to avant-garde experiments with narrative forms. Experimental films, animation and documentaries should not be overlooked. To help achieve the aims of a film society, members are advised of the merits of the films to be screened through program notes, discussions and talks, according to the requirements of the members and the resources of the society.

It is not expected that every member will enjoy each film seen in the film society repertoire, but it is assumed that members will view the

films intelligently and not condemn a film when they do not fully appreciate the content or the meaning.

Film society programs are designed to open the mind to the wider horizons of the cinema, the youngest of the arts, a horizon which stretches all over the world, back into the past and ahead into the future.