

WHY WE LOVE THE TALKING MOVIES SIG

In October 2018, a group of OLLI movie buffs met to discuss a problem: some sensational movies which we were longing to see never made it to theaters in Tampa. Or they came and were gone before we blinked. Could we come up with a way to view meaningful movies and then discuss them with our OLLI friends?

Under the guidance of Richard Rogers and Kathy Palmer, Talking Movies was born. We started with about 20 members, who agreed to meet on Zoom from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on the third Friday of every month. Members nominate the movies we watch. We began by using the vast library of free movies available through the Hillsborough County Public Library on Hoopla and/or Kanopy (little-known benefits of your library card- check them out!) We have gradually expanded our pool of eligible films to those streaming on Netflix and on Amazon Prime (free on that service or renting for no more than \$4.99.) We vote, and the highest-scoring movie among our group that month is what we watch.



Talking Movies was an instant success and has been meeting continuously ever since October 2018. It was certainly a sanity-saver for many of us during the pandemic.

What types of films do we view? Not blockbusters from Disney or Marvel. The majority of movies we watch have been rated highly both by critics (using IMDb scores) and audiences (using Rotten Tomatoes scores.) Modern movies, movies by some of the most prominent directors, foreign films, documentaries – our eclectic group likes every genre. Some of our popular selections have been: *The Trial of The Chicago 7*, *Nyad*, *La La Land*, *Lady Bird*, *A Man Called Ove*, *My Octopus Teacher*, *Parasite*, and *The Holdovers*. Over the years, almost 150 movies have been nominated. SIG members contribute by submitting a question for use in our discussions, so the role of meeting facilitator (which rotates each month) is made easier.

A few years back, Kathy Palmer handed off administrative duties to me, and I have been coordinating ever since. Richard Rogers remains the group's chair. Richard's technological expertise allows us to easily view the trailer for each month's nominated films. Talking Movies currently has 45 members, with 14-18 people Zooming in monthly to participate. No RSVP is required – you just sign in by 1:30 p.m. on the meeting date if you want to attend.

We are an enthusiastic, energetic and articulate group who just LOVE movies! OLLI's SIG coordinator, Nancy Baily-Williamson, has described us as "a book club for movies." You can participate from home or while traveling, since all you need is a Zoom connection and an active OLLI membership. We gain so much from each other's comments and questions during our monthly discussions.

If you're interested in learning more about Talking Movies, please contact [me](#). Happy viewing!

—Arlene Zimney