



# TV & Movie Reviews

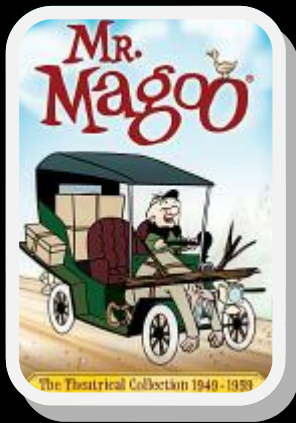
*Starring:*

*Sally Hull, Dennis McPherson, and  
Susie Poper*

*Special Guest Critic: Sadie Hull*

# For Children's DVDs, Sadie says...

## Mr. Magoo ...The Review



My sidekick Sadie (age 8) and I sat down on a rainy day recently to enjoy a Mr. Magoo marathon. Sadie was instantly smitten. Mr. Magoo, a WC Fieldsian bumbler, was created in 1949. He is regularly thrown into wacky misadventures due to his nearsightedness and stubborn self-confidence. She giggled as the wealthy retiree mumbled clever puns and seemed to find his way out of hopeless situations again and again. She was also tickled that she recognized the voices of Jim Bachus as Mr. Magoo (Thurston Howell III from Gilligan's Island), Mel Blanc, Tycoon Magoo and Worcestershire (Looney Tunes Yosemite Sam) and Casey Kasem as Waldo (Shaggy on Scooby-doo).

Mr. Magoo isn't without a cringeworthy moment or two. His Chinese houseboy, Charlie was depicted with bucked teeth and slanted eyes and blurted phrases like "Solly Cholly". The character Charlie has been dropped altogether from being shown on television since the late 60s or in some instances his voice was dubbed over.

Washington County Free Library owns two copies of Mr. Magoo the Television Collection 1960-1977 and two copies of Mr. Magoo the theatrical collection 1949-1959.

Sadie and I agree, if you are looking for something to watch on a lazy, rainy day Mr. Magoo will make you smile. Click the link above to see it in the catalog.



Sally Hull

*Note: Sadie Hull is Sally's youngest daughter. We hope she will be a regular movie critic for us!*

# For Children's DVDs, Sadie says...

## [Charlotte's Web](#)



Sadie chose the 1973 Hanna-Barbera version of *Charlotte's Web* to review because she had recently read E.B. White's barnyard tale of friendship, loyalty and compassion and cried her eyes out. At first, she rolled her eyes and exclaimed it was going to be lame due to the mix of 1970s animation style and the slow, low voice of the beginning narration. Within minutes, the entire family was being shushed because she was immediately swept into the familiar story. She enjoyed seeing the characters come to life and especially enjoyed the musings of Templeton the rat, especially during his trip to the fair while singing the Sherman brothers' "A Veritable Smorgasbord" song. Fun fact: Agnes Moorehead (Goose) and Paul Lynde (Templeton) worked together in *Bewitched* and Dave Madden (Ram) and Danny Bonaduce (Avery Arable) worked together in the *Partridge Family* in the 70s.

When I asked her which she liked better, book or movie, she winked and said the movie was really good...but the book was better. WCFL owns the book and both the 1973 and 2006 versions on dvd so why not gather the family and see which version you like best! Click the link at the top to see it in the catalog.



Sally Hull

*Note: Sadie Hull is Sally's youngest daughter. We hope she will be a regular movie critic for us!*

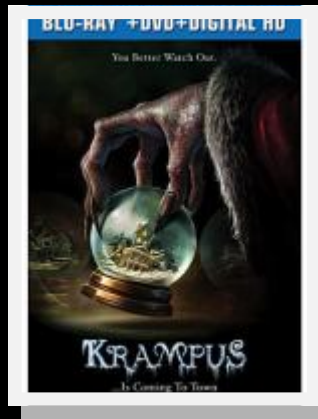
# *For Horror on DVD, Susie says...*

## [Grimm](#)

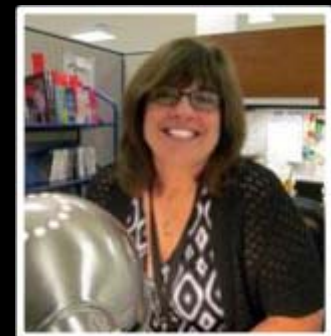


The TV series “Grimm” is like the fairy tales that we grew up reading, but with a slightly grittier twist to it. It’s set in today’s day and age in Portland, Oregon. The main character is a detective that is the “Grimm” - someone that can see the evil beasts that lurk in ordinary humans. Well, these creatures look like ordinary humans, but they could be hexenbeasts, werewolves, or other evil creatures, and only the “Grimm” can solve the killings that these creatures have caused. Along the way he has befriended a werewolf and other creatures that are friendly to help him solve the crimes. Click the link above to get going with season 1!

## [Krampus](#)



Krampus was a bit different than most horror movies. It’s Christmastime, and a dysfunctional family is getting together for the holidays. What they don’t realize is that being mean to each other will bring the Krampus to life—the opposite of classic Santa Claus. They have no idea what is in store for them when they bring Krampus to life. Click the link above to see it in the catalog!



Susie Poper

# For Classics on DVD, Dennis Recommends...



## [The Cary Grant Signature Collection](#)

If you ever wonder why movies and actors from the golden age of Hollywood are still revered by young and old alike; a good place to start would be by watching the films of Cary Grant. Even people who aren't familiar with classic actors know the name, and I recently had the pleasure of previewing the Cary Grant Signature collection box set, featuring 5 of his films from the 1940's. The first, ***My Favorite Wife***, starring Irene Dunne; a favorite co-star of Grant's, was a lot of fun. It seems that on the eve of his honeymoon, his first wife, thought to be drowned at sea, shows up at the hotel he and his bride are sharing.

The second, ***Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House*** is another classic. This film, starring Myrna Loy, predates the Tom Hanks "Money Pit" film by about 40 years and is every bit as funny. The third, ***Destination Tokyo*** is a wartime film, and for a change, showcases Cary's dramatic side. Besides being a film for those who enjoy Tom Clancy type intrigue, this film also gives one a greater appreciation for the range of Cary Grant's acting talent.

The fourth, ***Night And Day***, a biopic based loosely on the life of composer Cole Porter, surprisingly was my favorite of the five. It features a liberal dose of Porter's songs from the Great American Songbook (which kept me humming for days after). It's also filmed in beautiful Technicolor, and he (surprise, surprise) even sings a bit. The fifth, ***The Bachelor and the Bobbysoxer***, starring Myrna Loy and Shirley Temple, was pretty funny as well, as a young Shirley Temple falls in love with the much older Cary Grant. It features a hilarious scene where Cary Grant tries to pass himself off as a kind of hepcat. [Watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBmeOzSzKoY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CBmeOzSzKoY)

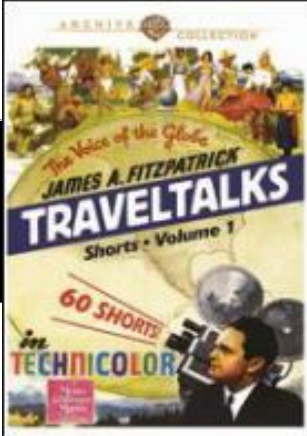
I must say, I've always liked Cary Grant but took him and his films for granted, and that's partly because as an actor, he made it look so easy. I always knew he was funny, but after watching these films, now available through WMRL, I now have an even greater appreciation and respect for his wide range of acting talents, both comedic and dramatic.



Dennis McPherson

# For Classics on DVD, Dennis Recommends...

## [Fitzpatrick Traveltalks](#)



Another fun, recent DVD release is ***Fitzpatrick Traveltalks***. This is pretty amazing stuff as countries and cities from around the world circa late 1930's and 1940's are shown in glorious Technicolor (I'm a sucker for Technicolor). Yes, before Rick Steves, we had James Fitzpatrick. These are shorts that would have played prior to the main feature at movie theaters.

For me, it was interesting to see how lifestyles in some cases have changed (like practically the whole population of Switzerland getting around on bicycles) and in some cases stayed the same (Guatemala looks in many ways the same now, over 60 years later).

The fact that these are fairly short (60 shorts on 3 discs) make these fun to watch for those like me with fairly short attention spans. It's also a great way to get a quick geography lesson and take a trip back in time to many of the major cities and countries as they were in the twentieth century. Click the link above to see it in the catalog.



Dennis McPherson