

Movies

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when he compared them with the "urbane and civilized" politicians of the past.

In fact, the more you think about it, movies aren't the only objects of cultural nostalgia. Broadway has never been more commercially successful, but it would be hard to find a theater critic who would claim that Broadway's current assembly line of glitzy remakes and revivals could hold a candle to the mid-20th century glories of Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams and Eugene O'Neill. Ditto for pop music, which most critics would say is at a low ebb of artistic innovation today, especially compared with the burst of creativity and experimentation that the medium enjoyed first in the 1960s and then again in the late 1970s and early 1990s.

Age is a big factor. I have a young teenager in my house, and he likes modern-day movies, music and TV shows just fine. Most of the people who think movies are worse than ever are, ahem, old — at least old enough to remember exactly when movies felt special, usually when they were young themselves.

Everyone I've quoted grousing about the movies was middle-aged when they did the grousing. We have a special emotional bond with the cultural artifacts of our youth, which is probably why I can remember the lyrics to every song, good or bad, that was on the Top 40 when I was in seventh grade.

"It's hard to break out of the nostalgia we have for the movies of our youth, probably because the movies that feel the most fresh and special are the ones you saw when you first learned to love movies," says Peter Rainier, film critic for the *Christian Science Monitor*. "Intellectually, you grow out of it, but not emotionally. I grew up seeing crummy Hollywood movies from the early 1960s, so I admit it — I still like 'Cleopatra.'"

Ask baseball fans to name their favorite player of all time and they'll inevitably choose someone from their youth. Albert Pujols and C.C. Sabathia may be rolling up incredible career statistics, but would anyone over 40 pick them over Willie Mays or Sandy Koufax? I doubt it.

The same logic applies for

Lamb

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session of the U.S. House of Representatives, the network ushered in a new era of journalism and a new understanding of objectivity.

C-SPAN had a staff of four at the time of the inaugural 1979 broadcast. Today, C-SPAN has a staff of 275, and its round-the-clock programming is available to 86 million TV households via nearly 7,900 cable systems.

C-SPAN2 — broadcasting U.S. Senate proceedings and the popular Book TV, featuring 48 hours each week of nonfiction book programming — was launched in 1986, and C-SPAN3, featuring public affairs events from Washington and around the country, made its debut in 1997. Overnights and weekends, C-SPAN3 spotlights American history with features from award-winning history series. C-SPAN Radio can be heard nationwide on XM Satellite Radio, and worldwide at c-span.org.

Lamb also was C-SPAN's first on-camera interviewer, hosting the network's first viewer call-in program in October 1980. Over the years, he has interviewed Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton and George W. Bush, as well as many world leaders such as Margaret Thatcher and Mikhail Gorbachev. For 15 years, beginning in 1989, he interviewed 800 nonfiction authors for the weekly program "Booknotes." Four books of collected interviews have been published based on this series. Currently, Lamb hosts "Q and A," an hour-long interview program on Sunday evenings with experts in politics, media, education or technology.

Lamb and his wife, Victoria, are longtime residents of Arlington, Va., and will be together on their visit to Vermillion and the USD campus.

Past Al Neuharth Award recipients include Walter Cronkite (1989), Carl T. Rowan (1990), Helen Thomas (1991), Tom Brokaw (1992), Larry King (1993), Charles Kuralt (1994), Albert R. Hunt and Judy Woodruff (1995), Robert MacNeil (1996), Cokie Roberts (1997), Tim Russert and Louis D. Boccia (1998), John Seigenthaler (1999), Jim Lehrer (2001), Tom Curley (2002), Don Hewitt (2004), Garrison Keillor (2005), Bob Schieffer (2006), John Quinn and Ken Paulson (2007), Charles Overy (2008), Katie Couric (2009) and Cathie Black and Frank Vega (2010).

"Stories have become such familiar formulas and casts so stereotyped that a picture-wise audience can tell what will happen after seeing just the first reel of the average production."

CONRAD NAGEL (1928)

movies. Film junkies love to point to 1939 or 1969 and marvel at the amazing glut of dazzling films. It's true. Those were great years for movies. Of course, no one mentions all the dreck, conveniently forgetting that in 1969 "The Love Bug" was a bigger hit than "Easy Rider."

In pop culture, we have a selective collective memory, savoring the gems, forgetting the junk. As we get older, we grow fonder of

the artistic joys of our youth. So maybe the movies are worse than ever, but I'm betting that it won't be too many years before some grumpy critic, faced with another horrifying assemblage of reboots and superhero extravaganzas, comes to the conclusion that 2011 wasn't such a bad year at all.

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Winslet's Cut Out For Emmy Honor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — While many aspiring Emmy nominees were in hair and makeup preparing to talk to the press when the nominations were announced in July, Kate Winslet was givin' a chicken a lickin'.

"Nobody knows this, but I didn't really know that the nominations were coming out that day," the 35-year-old actress said by satellite from London last week while promoting her film "Contagion."

Winslet starred in the HBO miniseries "Mildred Pierce," based on the 1941 James M. Cain novel, which grabbed a top 21 Emmy bids.

"I was in England, and I was doing some really great daylong cookery classes with my best friend," Winslet said. "And my best friend and I, that particular day, we happened to be doing a butchery class. And, literally, as the email came through telling me that I had been nominated and that we had received 21 nominations

overall — I am not kidding you — I was hacking up a chicken. Isn't that great? I just love that story."

Winslet is nominated for lead actress in a miniseries or movie for her title role in "Mildred Pierce."

"I have never been nominated for an Emmy before. I've never been to the ceremony before," she said. "And it's a wonderful way actually to reconnect with all the people who were involved with 'Mildred' who I haven't seen in actually for over a year now. So, I'm really, really excited."

"'Mildred' was a very special part of last year for me and for all of us who were involved," she said. "And it was a really extraordinary group of people who all stuck together for 17 weeks of really hard slog. So, you know, all the hard work paying off in these nominations is just fantastic."

The 2011 Primetime Emmy Awards will be presented Sunday in Los Angeles and broadcast on Fox.

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