Performing Arts: Theatre

Titles Available as of July 15, 2009

Greek Drama | Live Performances | Select Motion Pictures Featuring Theatre

See also:
Film Genre: Musicals Filmography
Performing Arts: Dance Filmography
Performing Arts: Music Filmography
William Shakespeare Filmography

The art of Kabuki. 1988. (35 min.). A study of the traditional, bombastic theater of Japan, with attention given to the symbolism of the performances. Program provides an introduction to the 400-year-old tradition of Kabuki, explaining its origins and purposes, its literary sources, and the meaning of its symbolism. The program shows the rehearsal, preparation of costume and wigs, and the performance of the Kabuki play. VHS 553

Autism, the musical. 2007. (93 min.). Profiles five children with autism, their parents, and acting coach Elaine Hill as they take on the enterprise of a full-length stage production. DVD 5115

Behind the scenes. 1992. (28 min. each). Focuses on the creative process behind the visual and performing arts. Goes behind the scenes with renowned artists and performers, covering fields of painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, music, dance and theater. Designed to instill creative and critical thinking skills in children through exploration of the visual and performing arts. VHS 1921 - 1930

Behind the scenes with Julie Taymor. Behind the scenes. 1992. (30 min.). Theater director Julie Taymor gives children a glimpse of herself at work staging scenes from The Tempest. The children are also given a taste of the kind of visual theater created by using puppets, masks and music. VHS 1930

Brecht on stage. Literature in the modern world. 1989. (25 min.). Scholars and contemporaries of Bertolt Brecht discuss his work and its impact on modern theater. VHS 5936

Broadway! a musical history. 1989. (720 min.). Describes the history of the Broadway musical since the late 19th century. Includes pictures and interviews of performers active in the Broadway scene. The formative years: Reviews beginnings of theater performances on Broadway and the histories at musical shows, including works by Gilbert and Sullivan, Victor Herbert, Ziegfeld, Cohan, etc. Discusses development of comic and live musicals, revues, and Viennese operettas. -- Broadway comes of age: Traces the history of Broadway theater through the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. Discusses the development of musical comedy and revue, the decline of the operetta, the trend toward integrated and "meaningful" shows. Reviews hit shows from that era. -- The golden years: Reviews styles in musical theater, musical comedy and revues in the postwar years and the 1950s. Features interviews with actors, actresses, directors, etc. Discusses musicals by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Irving Berlin, Lerner and Lowe, Leonard Bernstein, and Meredith Wilson. VHS 1920 Pt. 1-5

The revolution on Broadway: Reviews musical shows produced from 1959 through the 1960s. Discusses how the political atmosphere of the decade affected the theater. Uses interviews with actors, actresses, directors, and historians to discuss such works as

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Camelot, Hello Dolly, and Fiddler on the Roof. 1989. The revolution mellows: Reviews Broadway musical theater beginning in 1966 with cabaret and continuing through the 1970s. Traces the emergence and development of rock musicals and other radical changes. Discusses George M., Hair, Follies, Godspell, Grease, Jesus Christ Superstar, etc. Features interviews with composers, actors, actresses, directors and historians. VHS 1920 Pt. 4

Broadway the American musical. 2004. (120 min.). This documentary series details the razzle-dazzle history of a unique American art form. Each episode chronicles a different era and features the Broadway shows and songs that defined the period. The series draws on feature films, rare television moments, archival news footage, original cast recordings, still photos, diaries, journals, first person accounts, and on-camera interviews with many of the principals involved in creating the American musical. DVD 1278

Bunraku masters of Japanese puppet theater. 2002. (53 min.). Summary: "Presents the story of Bunraku through two of its greatest masters, puppeteer Tamao Yoshida and chanter Sumitayu Takemoto. ... Cameras go backstage to capture the immense preparations and grueling rehearsals for their rendition of the masterpiece Shinju Ten no Amijima."--Container. VHS 7694

Charles Weidman on his own. 1990. (59 min.). Charles Weidman's career is traced from his early roots to his partnership with Doris Humphrey and the last 30 years on his own. Contains historic footage of Weidman (and Humphrey) in performance, speaking about his work, teaching about his work, and also teaching a class in kinetic pantomime. Has contemporary performance of Lunchtown plus excerpts from: On My Mother's Side, Flickers, Brahms Waltzes, and Christmas Oratorio. VHS 1029

Children will listen. 2005. (60 min.). This documentary tracks the junior production of Stephen Sondheim's Into the Woods, featuring 140 Washington D.C. public school children in a performance at the Kennedy Center. The film captures the growth and transformation of these children, given a rare experience. DVD 1027

Chris Burden. 1989. (28 min.). Chris Burden talks about his works of the past twenty years, from the performances of the seventies to the sculpture and installations of the eighties. VHS 5915

A constant forge a film. (202 min.). A look at the life and work of John Cassavetes assembled from candid interviews, rare photos, archival footage, and the director himself. The narration is created from Cassavettes' own words. The actors discuss their own performances and those of their colleagues, give insights into Cassavetes's theater work, and into his handling of music in his films. DVD 1395

Dream girls. 1994. (50 min.). Film looks at the Takarazuka Revue, a highly successful theater company in Japan, where all roles are played by women and the Takarazuka Music School whose students dream of joining the Revue. VHS 4518

The golden age of Second Avenue. 1968. (70 min.). A documentary on the Yiddish theater in America. Features excerpts from Yiddish films (subtitled in English); includes interviews with those who have participated in the Yiddish theater. VHS 288

Henrik Ibsen. The modern world : ten great writers. 1987. (58 min.). Describes the evolution of contemporary theater through the revolutionary writings of dramatist Henrik Ibsen with numerous excerpts from plays illustrating the four main periods of his life: early
years, epic dramas, sociological plays, and the eight great final plays. HOME USE COLLECTION VHS 4822

**My Shakespeare.** 2005. (90 min.). Follow a group of amateur actors from a poor neighborhood in London as they prepare for a performance of Romeo and Juliet. Director Baz Luhrmann oversees the actors as they go through intense rehearsals to ingrain within themselves the significance of Shakespeare's play. DVD 4416

**OT: our town.** 2003. (77 min.). "Against all odds, the students at Dominguez High School set out to put on the school's first theatrical production in more than 20 years. But what does Thornton Wilder's famous play about life in rural Grover's Corners have to do with Compton, California? [This film] follows the students on their discovery of the power of art and the human spirit."--Container. DVD 1740

**Richard II: Casting a king.** 2002. (33 min.). This series looks at how the choice of actors and the rendering of themes in Shakespeare's drama impact an audience. This program shows how critical casting major roles can be in Richard II. Because casting will determine where an audience's sympathy lies, choosing an actor to play a major role can be a complex procedure, often requiring a specialist with considerable knowledge. Three different renditions of Richard as interpreted by Sir Ian McKellen, Sir Derek Jacobi, and Fiona Shaw are shown. Wendy Spon, head of casting at the Royal National Theatre, discusses some of the chief considerations for making these choices. DVD 1935

**Shakespeare behind bars.** 2006. (ca. 93 min.). Convicted felons behind bars at Kentucky's Luther Luckett Prison, rehearse for the Shakespearean production, The Tempest. The Tempest, fittingly about forgiveness, helps lead these men toward redemption and transformation. DVD 2088

**Sing faster the stagehands' Ring Cycle.** 1999. (56 min.). An in-depth, behind the scenes look at the work of stage designers and stage crew as they prepare for a performance of Richard Wagner's operas, the Ring Cycle. Beginning a month before the production it shows the stage preparation, set design, grips, lighting, sound, props and the preparation of scenery and special effects. Concludes by following the crew as manipulate their creations during the performance and perform carefully choreographed scene changes during the opera. VHS 6168

**Supporting actors.** 2002. (34 min.). "For anyone considering or currently pursuing a career as an actor, this video provides a reality check of just how brutal a business it can be. It features interviews both with aspiring actors and established performers, plus casting directors, talent agents, acting teachers and other industry professionals with the power to make or break a career. They reveal the intensely competitive nature of the profession and offer cautionary advice (dealing with rejection, the burn-out factor, the role of luck) as well as useful tips (what makes an effective head shot, selecting an audition monologue, choosing an agent, what casting directors are looking for). Supporting Actors will be an invaluable tool for aspiring actors and a fascinating behind-the-scenes view for those interested in the thinking theater, television and film industry pros." -from www.cinemaguild.com. Features interviews with aspiring actors, established performers, casting directors, talent agents, acting teachers and other industry professionals as they discuss acting as a profession. VHS 7466

**Teatro!** 1989. (58 min.). Documentary looks at the grass roots Honduran acting troup, Teatro la Fragua, founded by Jesuit priest, Jack Warner. Company members are shown

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performing in three plays, conducting an acting workshop in the town of Salama, and on a retreat to Copan, an ancient Mayan center. VHS 2548

**Ten years of robotic mayhem.** 1987. (120 min.). Collection of performances from numerous documentaries from Survival Research Libraries, showing the development of SRL from its earliest performances in front of a handful of people in San Francisco to grand spectacles staged for thousands using complex props and robotics. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 4637

**Theatre and the revolution.** 1990. (50 min.). Explores the use of theater in Eastern Europe for political purposes. Includes documentaries on the "Stalinist Show Trials" in the 1950s, the underground activities of actors and theater troupes in the 1989 revolutions, and the avant garde plays of Eastern Europe today. VHS 1708

**This is noh.** (39 min.). "This program introduces the actors of the Noh Association, Kyoto Branch, in a program scripted by the actors themselves. It features excerpts from numerous plays, rehearsals, and dances, providing insights into this ancient masked dance-drama tradition through the eyes of its practitioners." --from www.insight-media.com. VHS 7676

**The tradition of performing arts in Japan the heart of Kabuki, Noh and Bunraku. Nippon: the land and its people video series.** 1989. (30 min.). Presents a variety of traditional Japanese theater forms, including seldom-seen backstage preparations and performances by some of Japan's most illustrious names. Shows how the theater reveals aspects of Japanese culture, including the influence of other cultures, the harmony of life and nature, and the beauty of the four seasons. VHS 1769

**V-Day Until the violence stops.** 2003. (73 min.). Chronicles how Eve Ensler's hit Broadway solo show 'The Vagina Monologues' grew into V-Day, an international grassroots movement dedicated to stopping violence against women and girls. Has been widely recognized as "a celebration of women's sexuality and a condemnation of its violation" and praised as "frank, humorous and moving.". DVD 1349

**Writers of today.** 1990. (29 min.). Miller expounds his views on the role of theater in society. He contends that the play is "the last way the human race has to face itself without any intervening machinery," that movies and television are "filtering out the intimacy of human contact." He envisions the playwright as an "ordinary citizen... who can organize things dramatically." His criticisms of theater? Prices are too high, the play has taken on the "aura of a special event," and audiences are drawn primarily to blockbusters. VHS 6111-6115

**Greek Drama**

**Agamemnon.** 1983. (90 min.). Agamemnon returns home after a 10-year absence at the Trojan War, his queen Clytemnestra, welcomes him but Cassandra (daughter of the vanquished Trojan king Priam and now Agamemnon's captive mistress) foretells his murder. The murder of Agamemnon will be a double revenge: Clytemnestra will avenge their daughter Iphigenia, sacrificed by Agamemnon to secure a favorable wind toward Troy; Aegisthus, Clytemnestra's lover, will avenge the murder of his brothers by Agamemnon's father. VHS 1368

**Antigone.** 2001. (91 min.). A filmed play adaptation from the Jean Anouilh reinterpretation of the Sophocles tragedy. First written and produced during the Nazi Occupation, this play about a young woman facing a morally corrupt world raises powerful questions of human
interaction in regard to collaboration, responsibility and personal integrity. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 466

**The classical age.** 1980. (56 min.). Surveys the accomplishments of the Greek classical age. Discusses Greek art and literature of the period as well as Greek thought, linking the classical age to basic elements of Western civilization. Burstall's conversations with Greek scholar Kenneth Dover are interspersed with scenes from Greek drama; photographs of ancient ruins, artifacts, and sculpture; and scenes from recent Greek history and modern Greek culture. VIC 435

**Furies. Oresteia trilogy.** 1985. (70 min.). Having avenged his father's murder by killing his mother, Orestes--now pursued by the Furies because he has committed matricide--takes refuge at the shrine of Apollo, who promises protection and sends him to seek justice from Athena. The ghost of Clytemnestra rouses the Chorus of Furies to bring her murderer to justice. Athena, goddess of wisdom, judges between Orestes, who murdered his mother to avenge his father, and the Furies, who demand revenge for the murder of Clytemnestra. Her decision reflects the historical turning in Athens from personal retribution to community law. VHS 1370

**Greek drama reconstructing a Greek theater.** 1988. (25 min.). Reconstructs the famous Theater of Dionysus in Athens, showing how it evolved over time through the Greek and Roman periods. The date of an orchestra is set by its shape, a facade by the setting of the stones, an auditorium by its space for a descending Greek chorus, wooden seats by a mention of them in lines from a play by Aristophanes, and other parts of the structure through paintings on Greek vases from particular periods. VHS 5824

**Libation bearers.** Oresteia trilogy 1983. (61 min.). The play opens as Orestes, Agamemnon's son, returns from exile with his friend Pylades and dedicates a lock of his hair on his father Agamemnon's tomb. His sister Electra and the Chorus of Trojan Women come to offer libation at the tomb. They swear to avenge their father's death, as they have been directed to do by Apollo. Disguised as strangers, Orestes and Pylades enter Agamemnon's palace and Orestes first kills Aegisthus and then his mother Clytemnestra. Threatened by the Furies, he flees to seek Apollo's help. VHS 1369

**The poetry of earth.** The Unanswered question 1992. (177 min.). Examines how Igor Stravinsky kept tonality viable while experimenting freely with dissonance. Includes a complete performance of Stravinsky's Oedipus Rex. DVD 3993

**The Theban plays by Sophocles a new translation by Don Taylor.** 1988. (120 min.). Adaptations of the Theban plays, which begin with the Oedipus saga, setting the stage and creating the characters who continue the story to its conclusion in Antigone. Oedipus the king: Oedipus, King of Thebes, comes to ruin when he determines to learn the identity of the murderer of Laius, the former king. Oedipus at Colonus: Recounts the blind, exiled Oedipus' final days. The primary action involves a fight over where Oedipus is to die (as that place is to become hallowed ground). Antigone: Antigone defies Creon's decree to bury her slain brother according to religious rituals as Creon tries to impose his will on Antigone. VHS 458

**Live Performances**

For film adaptations of musical theater, see the Film Genre: Musicals Filmography.

*American University Subject Filmographies are available online at [http://www.library.american.edu/subject/media/index.html](http://www.library.american.edu/subject/media/index.html)*
**The brig.** 1963. (55 min.). Play about a Marine Corps prison was filmed on the stage of the Living Theatre after it had been closed down by the police for tax evasion. The cast and crew slipped into the theater through a coal chute and made the film in five hours. The furious rhythms of the play convey the inhumanity of military discipline with the raw force of a battle document. VHS 3403

**Elaine Stritch at Liberty from the Old Vic Theatre, London.** 2003. (146 min.). A career spanning more than 50 years, Elaine Stritch is one of Broadway's Grand Dames. Now, at age 77, she is as dynamic as ever, giving an astonishing one-woman performance. In a series of vignettes, punctuated by songs from the shows in which she starred, she tells stories of her career, ranging from the hilarious to the deeply moving. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 2815

**Everyman a moral play.** 1991. (54 min.). A live performance of the medieval play, in which Everyman, summoned by Death to go on a pilgrimage, entreats all of his friends, Fellowship, Kinship, Goods, Knowledge, Strength and other abstractions, to go with him, but finds that only Good Deeds will accompany him. VHS 1789

**The festino of Adriano Banchieri.** 1987. (29 min.). Presents a fully staged recreation of Adriano Banchieri's madrigal comedy Festino, performed according to the composer's directions. VHS 443

**Garth Fagan's Griot New York. Dance in America.** 1995. (85 min.). Following brief interviews with Garth Fagan and Wynton Marsalis, the program includes a complete performance of Griot New York. The concept of a griot, a West African storyteller who keeps the cultural heritage of a people alive, is used to depict the non-European culture of New York City, and particularly the African and Caribbean backgrounds of some of its residents. VHS 3238

**Goat Island. World of art : works in progress.** 1997. (25 min.). The Chicago performance company Goat Island is shown; members discuss their work. VHS 7848

**Kay Boyle.** 1989. (60 min.). "Kay Boyle, who has published more than 30 books in a rich career that stretches back to Paris in the 20's, gives her final performance at the Los Angeles Theatre Center and is interviewed by Sean Wong"--Container. VHS 3213

**Kiss me, Kate.** 2003. (147 min.). The first Broadway revival in nearly 50 years of the musical comedy masterpiece by composer Cole Porter and book writers Sam and Bella Spewack. Recounts the backstage and on-stage antics of two feuding romances during an out-of-town tryout for a musical adaptation of The taming of the shrew. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 2560

**Lerner & Loewe's Camelot.** 2007. (147 min.). Filmed at New York's Winter Garden Theater in 1982, the classic story of King Arthur and the love triangle between him, his wife, Queen Guenevere, and his best friend Lancelot. DVD 5306

**Mambo mouth.** 1991. (60 min.). John Leguizamo's monologues illustrate six fierce and funny Latin characters: Agamemnon, Loco Louie, Pepe, Manny the Fanny, Angel, and the Crossover King. VHS 7390

**Medea.** 1982. (87 min.). The stunning Kennedy Center production of Euripides' great classic about a woman driven by emotion beyond the brink of rationality. VHS 6919
Parade. 1974. (88 min.). A humorous performance of circus acts before a cheering audience in Sweden, including mimes, magicians, musicians, singers, jugglers, acrobats, and various others, as well as the audience itself. Jacques Tati does a number of his famous music hall mimes of sportsmen in between various circus acts. This is Tati's last film. VHS 3293

Play it again Nam a portrait of Nam June Paik. 1995. (26 min.). Profiles the career of Nam June Paik, a Korean-American neo-Dadaist performance artist. Paik, born in Seoul in 1932, lives in several New York City lofts which more closely resemble Ali Baba's cave than artists' ateliers. Some of the performances that made him famous (or even infamous) include dragging behind him a violin attached to a string, breaking a violin, and playing the piano with a camera. More currently, in his Cincinnati factory, he builds cutting-edge video robots and audiovisual sculptures. Paik plays with images, and mixes them up to create another image: his own; he plays endlessly with keyboards, musical or image-enhancing. Artist, engineer, musician of images, he is interested in everything -- reception, technology, theory. VHS 6198

The rivals. 2004. (147 min.). Sheridan's first play, is a portrait made of material from his own life, his scandalous marriage to a popular singer of the age and the characters he had come to know in the town of Bath. As his biographer Fintan O'Toole said it was an attempt to inflate everything that people thought they knew about him into a huge, hysterical burlesque. Instead of inventing a story and pretending it was real, he could present his own reality as if it were an invention. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 3742

Roy Cohn. 1993. (90 min.). Ron Vawter performs two linked monologues: the first, a portrayal of a classic Roy Cohn after-dinner speech for the Society for the Protection of the American Family; the second, is Vawter's remounting of Smith's own "performance-of-the self," entitled "What's underground about marshmallows?" and originally performed by Smith in 1981. VHS 6634

Select Motion Pictures Featuring Theatre

All about Eve. 2002. (138 min.). From the moment she glimpses her idol at the stage door, Eve Harrington moves relentlessly towards her goal: taking the reins of power from the great actress Margo Channing. The cunning Eve maneuvers her way into Margo's Broadway role, becomes a sensation and even causes turmoil in the lives of Margo's director boyfriend, her playwright and his wife. Only the cynical drama critics see through Eve, admiring her audacity and perfect pattern of deceit. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 3081

Children of paradise. 2002. (190 min.). Drama about the theater and the individuals that made the stage their life. Includes the love story of four men for one woman. DVD 375

Cradle will rock. 1999. (134 min.). From high society to life on the streets, Depression-era New York City is brought to vivid life. A time when da Vincis are given to millionaires who help fund the Mussolini war effort and Nelson Rockefeller commissions Mexican artist Diego Rivera to paint the lobby of Rockefeller Center. A time when a young Orson Welles and a troupe of passionate actors risk everything to perform the infamous musical "The Cradle Will Rock." As threats to their freedom and livelihood loom larger, they refuse to give in to censorship. Based on actual events. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 140

Dames. 2006. (90 min.). Three relatives stand to inherit a multi-millionaire's money if they turn against his pet hate, the theater. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 2071

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**Le dernier métro = The last metro.** 1992. (131 min.). Two members of a French theater company try to survive during the German occupation of World War II. Bonus features include audio commentaries, video interviews, deleted scene, essay, and more. Paris, 1942. Lucas Steiner is a Jew who feels compelled to leave the country in order to survive the German occupation during WWII. His wife Marion is an actress and a member of the Resistance who goes on to direct the theater for him. She tries to keep the theater alive by rehearsing a new play. She hires Bernard Granger for the leading role. The troupe believes that the show must go on no matter the circumstances. But Lucas never left the country, he is actually hiding in the basement. VHS 1872

**Les enfants du paradis = Children of paradise.** 1945. (190 min.). Story of theatrical society in 19th century Paris and the love between the mime Debureau and the beautiful courtesan Garance who is also loved by an aristocrat, a criminal, and an actor. HOME USE COLLECTION VHS 1738

**Footlight parade.** 1933. (104 min.). Cagney stars as Chester Kent, a diligent musical comedy director who is continually warding off snoopers hired by his competitors to steal his ideas. When his latest show is cancelled in favor of a talking picture, he turns to staging musical prologues to play before the features in moviehouses. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 2072

**Gentlemen prefer blondes.** 1953. (97 min.). A musical comedy about the adventures of two beautiful showgirls--an apparently stupid blonde goldigger and her provocative brunette friend--during a voyage from New York to Paris. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 244

**Gold diggers of 1933.** 1933. (98 min.). Dick Powell and Ruby Keeler play two young hopefuls struggling to make it on Broadway. Even falling in love has its hardships, as Powell's high-brow Eastern family is determined to break them (and the show) up. More complications set in when his brother falls for Keeler's wise-cracking roommate. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 2069

**Gold diggers of 1935.** 1935. (95 min.). A medical student working as a clerk in a ritzy New England hotel falls in love with a rich woman's daughter. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 2070

**The Great Ziegfeld.** 1936. (185 min.). Ziegfeld is a theatrical impresario, whose show business empire begins when he stage-manages a tour for a strongman. With almost no money in the bank, he charms European stage star Anna Held to headline his "Follies". From 1907, Ziegfeld stages annual editions of Broadway's most fabulous revue. Eventually, Ziegfeld abandons Anna in favor of other beauties. Ziegfeld comes to realize that his new romance with Follies-girl Audrey Dane, is all wrong, settling instead for good-natured actress Billie Burke. Bankrupted by the Depression, Ziegfeld dies as he plans a spectacular comeback. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 1979

**Hamlet 2.** 2008. (92 min.). When his Tucson, AZ school's theater department is threatened to be cut, failed-actor-turned-high-school-drama-teacher Dana Marschz writes a play that he hopes will solve everything. He decides to write a sequel to Shakespeare's Hamlet. Now, the drama department will stage one of the most politically incorrect musical extravaganzas ever seen. Dana and his class will put it all on the line for a night of conflict and controversial. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 5130

**Je rentre à la maison = I'm going home.** 2001. (83 min.). Gilbert Valance is a successful theater actor who learns that his wife, daughter, and son-in-law have been killed

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in a car accident. Over time, Valence's life regains a semblance of normalcy - he takes care of his orphaned grandson, strolls the streets of Pairs, frequents his favorite cafe and returns to the stage. But when an American film director casts him against type in an English-language production of Ulysses, Valence struggles to master the dialogue and his own emotions. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 682

**Jésus de Montréal = Jesus of Montreal.** 2004. (119 min.). A Montreal shrine seeks to inspire its congregants by modernizing its staging of the Passion play. A promising cast of vibrant young actors are signed on - one fresh from perfume commercials, another from the pornographic film industry, and another who had an affair with the basilica's priest - quickly drive the production on to become a smash hit. But as the play enjoys the success, the actors become more and more challenged to separate their real lives from their lives onstage. DVD 1210

**The Komediant.** 1999. (81 min.). Arriving in 1924, Pesach ke Burstein, the dancing-singing comedian, quickly became a leading figure in the Golden Era of Yiddish theater. On stage, he would meet, fall in love with and eventually marry rising star Lillian Lux. Embarking together on triumphant overseas tours as a couple, they soon became the parents of twins. Before long the children, Mike and Susan, were given stage names and accompanied their parents on tours. In time, the pressures of theatrical life would take its toll on the family. DVD 953

**Maskarada = Masquerade.** 1989. (102 min.). Michal, a famous actor in an eccentric actors' community, tries to escape from the public by creating a dangerous theater without the audience, a psychodrama involving life and death. A promising young actor named Jacek becomes immersed in this quest. VHS 2384

**Mel Brooks' The producers.** 2003. (90 min.). A legendary producer and his mild-mannered accountant face catastrophe when their play unexpectedly becomes a success. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 5169

**La Môme = La vie en rose.** 2007. (141 min.). A dramatic retelling of the life of Edith Piaf, considered one of the great performers of France. Raised in a brothel, taken to work in a circus by her father, and eventually abandoned by her parents, she spent her teen years on the streets. Eventually "rescued" by a crime figure who gives her career a start, she makes her way to international success, despite recurring frailty, illness, wild moods, drug and alcohol problems. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 4228

**My dinner with André.** 1981. (110 min.). Two friends, an intense, experimental theater director and a down-to-earth actor, meet over dinner at a fancy New York restaurant. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 1146

**The old fashioned way.** 2007. (70 min.). The Great McGonigle's traveling theatrical troupe are staying at a boarding house. They are preparing to put on a production of "The Drunkard" (and do so during this movie). Cleopatra Peperday puts up money for the show provided she can have a part ("Here comes the prince!"). Little Albert Wendelschaffer torments McGonigle all through lunch ("How can you hurt a watch by dipping it in molasses?"). In spite of being pursued by several sheriffs, McGonigle is able to keep going and see his daughter Betty happily married. W.C. Fields plays a charlatan who attempts to persuade an entire town that his daughter is actually heiress to an unclaimed fortune. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 3512

_American University Subject Filmographies are available online at http://www.library.american.edu/subject/media/index.html_
**Stage beauty.** 2004. (110 min.). Welcome to the 17th century stage, where Ned Kynaston's performance of Desdemona in Shakespeare's 'Othello' brings the house down nightly. Ned is the "most beautiful woman on the London stage". That is, until the King renounces the royal edict that only men can play women on stage. Enter Maria, Ned's seemingly loyal dresser, who becomes an instant star, leaving Ned to suppress his ardent feminine traits and make a man of himself. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 3758

**Synecdoche, New York.** 2009. (124 min.). Theater director Caden Cotard is mounting a new play. Determined to create a piece of brutal realism and honesty, he gathers an ensemble cast into a warehouse in Manhattan's theater district. He instructs each to live out their constructed lives in a small mockup of the city outside. As the city inside the warehouse grows, Caden's own life veers wildly off track. His daughter, Olive, is growing up under questionable guidance. He's helplessly driving his marriage to actress Claire into the ground. His daughter, Ariel, is mentally handicapped. He steadily blurs the line between the world of the play and that of his own deteriorating reality. As he pushes the limits of his relationships, both personally and professionally, a change in creative direction arrives in Millicent Weems, a celebrated theater actress who may offer Caden the break he needs. HOME USE COLLECTION DVD 5557