



It Don't Mean a Thing: The Off-Key History of Jazz Movies

Tim A. Ryan

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. ET

Resources

American Film Institute: 100 Years . . . 100 Movies

<https://www.afi.com/afis-100-years-100-movies-10th-anniversary-edition/>

British Film Institute: Greatest Films of All Time

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/sight-and-sound/greatest-films-all-time>

Academy Award Winners for Best Picture at the Internet Movie Database

https://m.imdb.com/search/title/?groups=best_picture_winner&sort=year_desc

Play the Way You Feel: The Essential Guide to Jazz Stories on Film by Kevin Whitehead (Oxford UP, 2020)

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/play-the-way-you-feel-9780190847579?cc=us&lang=en&>

Moving to Higher Ground: How Jazz Can Change Your Life by Wynton Marsalis and Geoffrey Ward (Random House, 2009)

<https://wyntonmarsalis.org/books/title/moving-to-higher-ground-how-jazz-can-change-your-life>

H.Con.Res.57 - A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress respecting the designation of jazz as a rare and valuable national American treasure.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/100th-congress/house-concurrent-resolution/57>

Jammin' at the Margins: Jazz and the American Cinema by Krin Gabbard (U of Chicago P, 1996).

<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/J/bo3628711.html>

Early Jazz: Its Roots and Musical Development by Gunther Schuller, 1968 (Oxford UP, 1986)

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/early-jazz-9780195040432?cc=us&lang=en&>

The Swing Era: The Development of Jazz, 1930-1945 by Gunther Schuller (Oxford UP, 1989)

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-swing-era-9780195043129?lang=en&cc=es>

Blues in the Night (1941) on the Internet Archive.

<https://archive.org/details/blues-in-the-night-1941>

A Man Called Adam (1966) on Kanopy [potentially available for free with a library account].

<https://www.kanopy.com/en/product/man-called-adam>

“Round Midnight: Return from Exile” by Mark Anthony Neal (Criterion, 26 Apr. 2022).

<https://www.criterion.com/current/posts/7757--round-midnight-return-from-exile>

“The Real Genre of Whiplash” by Chance Lira (YouTube, 2025).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ni7scTQcyTw>

Symphony in Black: A Rhapsody of Negro Life. 1935.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0F3Yie_UDpk.

Jammin' the Blues. 1944.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88PwJX5gyxU&list=RD88PwJX5gyxU&start_radio=1

The Sound of Jazz. 1957.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAOi38wT4R8&list=RDJAOi38wT4R8&start_radio=1