

American FASCISM



Gabriel Over the White House

Sunday, 14 January 2018 at 4:30pm

Gregory La Cava | USA 1933 | 86 min

Hack politician Judson Hammond (Walter Huston) takes office as President of the United States during the Depression but is insensitive to the needs of the people, colluding instead with the special interests groups that bought his presidency. But when he gets into a car crash and awakens from a coma a few weeks later, he's a different man.

"A fascist fantasy." (*Pre-Code.com*)

"A unique and somewhat daffy Depression-era New Deal comic fantasy...creepy in its smug acceptance of a dictatorship as the best way to get things done and in its...simplicity of thinking that its messianic radicalism could just shake off the Constitution and America's democracy would still exist." (Dennis Schwartz)

Black Legion

Sunday, 21 January 2018 at 4:30pm

Archie Mayo, Michael Curtiz | USA 1937 | 83 min

Frank Taylor (Humphrey Bogart) is an average hard-working man with ambitions to become foreman. When the job opens, it is given to a Polish-American immigrant. Frank becomes disgruntled and is easily recruited by a co-worker to join the Black Legion, a secretive hate group similar to the Ku Klux Klan, which appeals to the xenophobic fears of its members and uses violence to intimidate foreign-born Americans.



Meet John Doe

Sunday, 28 January 2018 at 4:30pm

Frank Capra | USA 1941 | 122 min

A homeless man (Gary Cooper) is hired by newspaper to be the face behind fictional protest letters, written by a newspaper columnist (Barbara Stanwyck), about society's ills and in the process a nationwide political movement is begun. The paper's ambitious owner decides to use "John Doe's" popularity as his ticket to the White House.

"It's pure Capra, run through with the tension between idealism and corruption, faith in the goodness of the common man and acknowledgment in the easy manipulation of people and processes by the rich and powerful for their own gain." (*Parallax View*)

"*Black Legion* is editorial cinema at its best — ruthless, direct, uncompromising. Beneath its fictional veneer, it is the quasi-documentary record of the growth of the hooded organization that terrorized the Midwest in 1935-36...under the mantle of "100 per cent Americanism." (*The New York Times*, 1937)