

NOIR CITY 19: They Tried to Warn Us!

January 20–23, 2022 Grand Lake Theatre - Oakland, CA

All-Access Passport (12 movies): \$100 | Weeknight double bills \$15 | Weekend Shows \$12.50 per film

Proof of vaccination required | Mask protocol enforced

All FNF proceeds benefit the Film Noir Foundation

The NOIR CITY film festival, a Bay Area cultural institution since 2003, returns from COVID hiatus for an incisive and inspiring four-day festival at a new venue, Oakland's historic Grand Lake Theatre. Produced, programmed and hosted by Eddie Muller, this year's edition, subtitled "They Tried to Warn Us!", showcases 12 movies from mid-20th century Hollywood sure to resonate with contemporary viewers. "Film noir is revered for its incredible sass and style," Muller says, "but many of the films were also warning flares about issues that still plague our culture more than seventy years later." Included are shockingly prescient films focusing on megalomaniacal politicians, corrupt businessmen, neo-Nazis, racism, anti-Semitism, sexual predators, serial killers, police brutality—even a viral epidemic! This NOIR CITY program could not be more timely or topical. "That said, this isn't like taking your medicine," Muller notes. "It will be a restorative tonic for folks eager to see classic movies again on a big screen and enjoy, with the prescribed protocols, a return to the party atmosphere NOIR CITY is famous for."

For the return to in-person screenings, Muller—host of the popular Noir Alley franchise on Turner Classic Movies—has shifted the event to Oakland after many years at San Francisco's Castro Theatre. "The Grand Lake provided Noir Alley with a temporary studio during the pandemic," Muller says, "and I realized its vintage movie palace atmosphere, and the care and upkeep of the venue, would work perfectly for the type of show NOIR CITY loyalists have come to expect. Plus, I love Oakland. It hurts that the town has lost the Warriors and the Raiders, so I'm happy to give a little something back to the city's cultural life."

NOIR CITY 19: The Bay Area Film Noir Festival will open Thursday night, January 20, with a double bill: *All the King's Men* (1949), the noir-stained 1950 Best Picture Oscar winner, stars Broderick Crawford as Willie Stark, an ambitious Southern politician who doesn't let ethics interfere with his meteoric political rise. He won a Best Actor Oscar for his performance. It's paired with *The Argyle Secrets*, a 1948 B-picture freshly restored by Muller's Film Noir Foundation. This is its world premiere. The mystery centers around "The Argyle Album" containing the names of U.S. politicians and industrialists who abetted the Nazis in World War II.

Weeknight shows will be presented as double bills, with one \$15 admission price for two movies. Saturday and Sunday shows will have separate admissions (\$12.50) for each screening. All-Access Passports, granting admission to all 12 films, are available for \$100, a \$30 savings over the purchase price of individual tickets. All FNF proceeds from festival ticket sales benefit the non-profit Film Noir Foundation's efforts to rescue and restore films in danger of being permanently lost or damaged.

As is the tradition at NOIR CITY, fans can expect plenty of onscreen surprises, noir-inspired activities, and special guest appearances! The full schedule follows:

Thursday, January 20 (\$15 double bill)

7:30 **All the King's Men** (1949, d. Robert Rossen, 110 m. Columbia/Sony)

9:45 **The Argyle Secrets** (1948, d. Cy Endfield, 64 m. Film Classics [FNF/UCLA])

Friday, January 21 (\$15 double bill)

7:30 **Crossfire** (1947, d. Edward Dmytryk, 86 m. RKO/WB)

9:20 **Open Secret** (1948, d. John Reinhardt, 68 m. Eagle-Lion/UCLA)

Saturday, January 22 (separate \$12.50 admission for each show)

Afternoon shows

1:00 **The Accused** (1949, d. William Dieterle, 101 m. Paramount/LOC)

3:00 **The Killer That Stalked New York** (1950, d. Earl McEvoy, 79 m. Columbia/Sony)

Evening shows

7:00 **No Way Out** (1950, d. Joseph L. Mankiewicz, 106 m. 20th Century-Fox/Disney)

9:30 **The Sniper** (1952, d. Edward Dmytryk, 88 m. Columbia/Sony 35mm)

Sunday, January 23 (separate \$12.50 admission for each show)

Afternoon shows

1:00 **On Dangerous Ground** (1952, d. Nicholas Ray, 82 m. RKO/WB)

3:00 **The Prowler** (1951, d. Joseph Losey, 92 m. Horizon Pictures/UA [FNF/UCLA])

Evening shows

7:00 **Odds Against Tomorrow** (1959, d. Robert Wise, 96 m. UA/Park Circus)

9:00 **Force of Evil** (1948, d. Abraham Polonsky, 79 m. MGM/Park Circus)