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September 3, 2010

Food for Thought Presents Hitchcock's *Vertigo*

Sacramento – The September event in the California State Library's cultural series, ***Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library***, will be held on **Wednesday, September 15**. This free evening event includes refreshments, a classic film, and a lively post-film discussion.

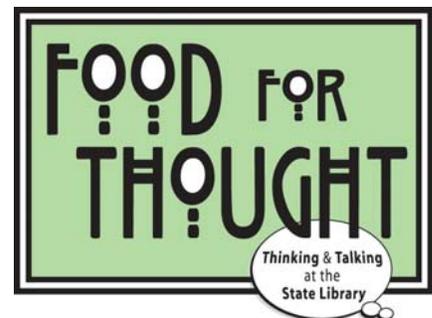
This month **Food for Thought** presents Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, starring James Stewart as Scottie, a retired detective with a crippling fear of heights who falls for a woman who doesn't exist, and Kim Novak as Madeleine, a twist on the quintessential Hitchcock blond—icy, remote, and carnal.

When first released in 1958, few people considered *Vertigo* to be Hitchcock's best. "There are no lovely, witty 'Hitchcock moments' here, no sense of the Master cackling to himself behind the curtains as he pulls the strings of the characters and audience," says critic Rob Gonsalves. Instead, the director relentlessly pushes Stewart's character to the brink of insanity. Steeped in pain and loss, Novak's poignant Madeleine emerges as one of the most sympathetic female characters in all of Hitchcock.

Roger Ebert considers *Vertigo* to be one of the two or three best films Hitchcock ever made, and the most confessional, dealing directly with themes that controlled his art. Emotional threads of fear, guilt, and obsession come together in the greatest single shot in all of Hitchcock—a hotel room lit by a neon sign. "This shot," says Ebert, "in its psychological, artistic, and technical complexity, may be the one time in his entire career that Alfred Hitchcock completely revealed himself, in all of his passion and sadness."

Filmed on location in San Francisco, *Vertigo* "is a beautiful movie, circling slowly around the elegant heart of the great city, its colors sharp and rich," says Gonsalves. "Bernard Herrmann's score, woozy and menacing, completes the tapestry of this romance of doom."

The California State Library launched ***Food for Thought*** because it believes that libraries and the free expression of ideas are essential to a healthy democracy. ***Food for Thought*** is a unique monthly venue where film buffs and thinking people talk freely about ideas and issues. By helping Californians stay intellectually invigorated, the California State Library is taking an active role in shaping the future of this great state.



Join us on Wednesday, September 15 from 5:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the California History Room, Room 200, Library & Courts Building II, 900 N Street, Sacramento. Doors open at 5:00 pm; the program begins at 6:00 pm with time for discussion afterward. Metered street parking is free after 6:00 pm; 8th and O light rail access is nearby. Seating in this venue is limited, so attendees must RSVP to Rebecca Ann Fontaine at (916) 653-9942 or rfontaine@library.ca.gov.

***Food for Thought* is made possible by generous donations from the California State Library Foundation**

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