

MAKING MEMORIES AT THE MOVIES - A Guide to Watch at Home

Day & Night, Night & Day

All films in this program have something in common: Either movie title or lead song has the word Day or Night in them!

Do you recall seeing these films? Let's spark some memories!

#1 *Night and Day* is a 1946 [Technicolor Warner Bros.](#) biographical and musical film starring [Cary Grant](#) as American composer and songwriter [Cole Porter](#). The film features several of the best-known Porter songs, including the title song "[Night and Day](#)," "[Begin the Beguine](#)" and "[My Heart Belongs to Daddy](#)."

[Alexis Smith](#) plays [Linda Lee Porter](#), Porter's wife of 35 years. [Monty Woolley](#) and [Mary Martin](#) appear as themselves, and the rest of the cast includes [Jane Wyman](#), [Eve Arden](#), [Alan Hale](#), [Dorothy Malone](#), [Donald Woods](#), and [Ginny Simms](#).

Theme:

Roughly covering the years 1912 to 1946, the story begins during Porter's undergraduate days at Yale University. When his first stage show fails, songwriter Cole Porter (Cary Grant) goes off to fight in World War I until, injured, he lands in a hospital. He impresses nurse Linda Lee (Alexis Smith) with his creativity, but their budding romance must wait as Cole heads home.

Focusing his attentions on Broadway and the London stage in the postwar years, Porter pens an unbroken string of hit songs, including "**Just One of Those Things**," "**You're the Top**," "**I Get a Kick Out of You**," "**Begin the Beguine**," and "**Day and Night**".

We join the movie after Porter has been injured, sees Linda Lee again in the hospital and famously writes **Night and Day**. In one of the film's giddy highlights, Porter is inspired by the "**drip, drip, drip**" of an outsized rainstorm, runs to the piano and cries "I think I've got it!"

Fun Facts:

Cole Porter was approaching 40 when he truly became a commercial success on Broadway. His biggest success, "Kiss Me Kate," came when he was in his late 50's. He died, at 73, in 1964, a lonely, morose alcoholic. Perhaps, most paradoxically, Porter was married (mostly) happily and faithfully (in his fashion) to Linda Lee Thomas, who had been abused by her first husband. She remained Porter's muse and confidante till she died, tolerating his relationships with a string of male lovers.

Food for Thought:

Do you recognize some of Cole Porter's music? ([All Through the Night](#)," "[Anything Goes](#)," "[I Get a Kick Out of You](#)," "[You're the Top](#))

Did you ever see a Cole Porter play? ([Anything Goes](#), [Can-Can](#), [Gay Divorce](#), [High Society](#), [Kiss Me, Kate](#), and [Silk Stockings](#))

#2 The Gay Divorcee is a 1934 American [musical film](#) directed by [Mark Sandrich](#) and starring [Fred Astaire](#) and [Ginger Rogers](#). The stage version included many songs by [Cole Porter](#), which were left out of the film, except for "[Night and Day](#)". Although the film's screenplay changed most of the songs, it kept the original plot of the stage version. The movie was based on the [Broadway musical *Gay Divorce*](#). The title from the musical - *Gay Divorce* - was dropped "as too frivolous toward marriage by the censors" and modified to *Divorcee*.

Theme:

Mimi Glossop ([Ginger Rogers](#)) arrives in England to seek a [divorce](#) from her geologist husband Cyril Glossop ([William Austin](#)), whom she has not seen for several years. Under the guidance of her domineering and much-married Aunt Hortense ([Alice Brady](#)), she consults incompetent and bumbling [lawyer](#) Egbert Fitzgerald ([Edward Everett Horton](#)), once a fiancé of her aunt. He arranges for her to spend a night at a seaside hotel and to be caught in an adulterous relationship with Rodolfo Tonetti ([Erik Rhodes](#)). But Egbert forgets to arrange for private detectives to "catch" the couple.

By coincidence, Guy Holden ([Fred Astaire](#)) an American dancer and friend of Egbert's, who briefly met Mimi on her arrival in England, and who is now smitten with her, also arrives at the hotel, only to be mistaken by Mimi for the man she has been waiting for.

We join the movie as Rogers and Astaire dance to Cole Porter's [Night and Day](#), sung by Astaire, in a hotel suite overlooking an English Channel beach at night

Food for Thought:

Do you enjoy watching Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dance?

Do you like to dance?

In what other movies did Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers star? (Top Hat, Follow the Fleet, Swing Time, Shall we Dance?)

Can you think of another dancing duo? (Gene Kelly & Rita Hayworth, Julie Andrews & Rex Harrison, Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev)

#3 *A Day at the Races* (1937) is the seventh film starring the [Marx Brothers](#), with [Margaret Dumont](#), [Allan Jones](#), and [Maureen O'Sullivan](#). Like their previous [Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer](#) feature [A Night at the Opera](#), this film was a major hit.

Theme:

The Standish Sanitarium, owned by Judy Standish ([Maureen O'Sullivan](#)), has fallen on hard times. Banker J.D. Morgan ([Douglass Dumbrille](#)), who owns a nearby racetrack and nightclub, holds the mortgage to the sanitarium and is attempting to gain control of it in order to convert the building into a casino.

Judy's faithful employee Tony ([Chico Marx](#)), suggests asking for financial help from the wealthy, hypochondriacal patient Mrs. Emily Upjohn ([Margaret Dumont](#)). After she has been given a clean bill of health by the doctors at the Sanitarium, Mrs. Upjohn threatens to leave for treatment by Dr. Hugo Z. Hackenbush ([Groucho Marx](#)), who unbeknownst to Mrs. Upjohn is actually a horse doctor. To convince her to help finance the sanitarium, Tony lies and tells her that Dr. Hackenbush has been hired to run the sanitarium. Mrs. Upjohn is elated and informs Judy with Dr. Hackenbush in charge she will consider helping her financially.

We join the movie just as Mrs. Upjohn is about to sign an agreement to help Judy. Mr. Whitmore sanitarium's crooked business manager and Banker Morgan's right-hand man doubts Dr. Hackenbush's credentials. He brings in the eminent Dr. Leopold X. Steinberg ([Sig Ruman](#)) from [Vienna](#), whom he hopes will expose Hackenbush as a quack. After Mrs. Upjohn agrees to an examination by Steinberg, Hackenbush wants to flee for fear of being exposed as a fraud.

Food for Thought:

Do you enjoy the Marx brothers?

Do you have a favorite skit or movie?

Who are the Marx brothers?

#4 *Saturday Night Fever* is a 1977 American [dance drama film](#) directed by [John Badham](#). It stars [John Travolta](#) as Tony Manero, a working-class young man who spends his weekends dancing and drinking at a local Brooklyn [discothèque](#); [Karen Lynn Gorney](#) as Stephanie Mangano, his dance partner and eventual confidante; and [Donna Pescow](#) as Annette, Tony's former dance partner and would-be girlfriend.

Theme:

Anthony "Tony" Manero is a 19-year-old [Italian American](#) from the [Bay Ridge](#) neighborhood of [Brooklyn](#), New York. He lives with his parents, grandmother, and younger sister, and works at a [dead-end job](#) in a small hardware store. To escape his day-to-day life, Tony goes to 2001 Odyssey, a local [disco](#) club, where he is king of the dance floor and receives the admiration and respect he longs for. Tony has four close Italian American friends: Joey, Double J, Gus, and Bobby C. A fringe member of his group of friends is Annette, a neighborhood girl who longs for a more serious relationship with Tony.

Tony and his friends ritually stop on the [Verrazzano–Narrows Bridge](#) to clown around. The bridge has special significance for Tony as a symbol of escape to a better life on the other side—in more [suburban Staten Island](#).

We join the film for two dance numbers at the disco. Tony leads a group in the movie's famous Stayin' Alive number and then with Stephanie in the disco's dance competition.

Fun Facts:

Saturday Night Fever was a huge commercial success. The film significantly helped to popularize [disco music](#) around the world and made Travolta, already well known from his role on TV's [Welcome Back, Kotter](#), a household name; he was nominated for the [Academy Award for Best Actor](#) for his performance. The [Saturday Night Fever soundtrack](#), featuring disco songs by the [Bee Gees](#), is one of the best-selling soundtracks of all time.

Food for Thought:

You might recognize some of the other music made famous by the movie:

[Stayin' Alive](#) performed by [Bee Gees](#)

[How Deep Is Your Love](#) performed by Bee Gees?

[Night Fever](#) performed by Bee Gees

[More Than a Woman](#) performed by Bee Gees

[If I Can't Have You](#) performed by [Yvonne Elliman](#)

[Jive Talkin'](#) performed by Bee Gees

[You Should Be Dancing](#) performed by Bee Gees

[Disco Inferno](#)" performed by [The Trammps](#)

Did you ever go to a disco?

Where you a good dancer when you were younger?

Who grew up in Brooklyn?

Can you relate to how Tony felt? Was dancing ever an outlet for you?

#5 *Around the World in 80 Days* is a 1956 American [epic adventure-comedy](#) film starring [Cantinflas](#) and [David Niven](#), produced by the Michael Todd Company and released by [United Artists](#).

Theme:

In 1872, an English gentleman [Phileas Fogg \(David Niven\)](#) claims he can circumnavigate the world in eighty days. He makes a [£20,000](#) wager with four skeptical fellow members of the [Reform Club](#) that he can arrive back eighty days from exactly 8:45 pm that evening.

Together with his resourceful valet, [Passepartout \(Cantinflas\)](#), Fogg goes hopscotching around the globe generously spending money to encourage others to help him get to his destinations faster so he can accommodate tight steamship schedules.

We join the film when they set out on the journey from Paris by [hot air balloon](#) upon learning the mountain train tunnel they intended to travel through is blocked. We'll travel with them as they traverse beautiful landscapes from high above.

Fun Facts:

The film boasts an [all-star cast](#), with [David Niven](#) and [Cantinflas](#) in the lead roles of Fogg and Passepartout. Joining them are [Shirley MacLaine](#) as Princess Aouda and [Robert Newton](#) as the detective Fix, in his last role.

The film was nominated for eight [Oscars](#),^[23] of which it was awarded five.

Food for Thought:

Would you ever want to travel in an air balloon?

What do you think it would be like to see the earth from a balloon?

What's your favorite way to travel.....train, plain, boat, car, on foot, bicycle?

If you had the choice, how would you spend 80 days and with whom?

#6 Groundhog Day is a 1993 American [fantasy comedy](#) film directed by [Harold Ramis](#) and written by Ramis and [Danny Rubin](#). It stars [Bill Murray](#) as Phil Connors, a TV weatherman who, during an assignment covering the annual [Groundhog Day](#) event, is caught in a [time loop](#), repeatedly reliving the same day. [Andie MacDowell](#) and [Chris Elliott](#) co-star.

Theme:

Weatherman Phil Connors reassures [Pittsburgh](#) viewers that an approaching blizzard will miss [Western Pennsylvania](#). He goes with news producer Rita Hanson and cameraman Larry to [Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania](#), to cover the [Groundhog Day](#) festivities.

The next day, Phil awakens at his Punxsutawney [bed and breakfast](#) to [Sonny & Cher's "I Got You Babe"](#) on the clock radio. He tapes a half-hearted report on [Punxsutawney Phil](#) and the town's festivities. Rita wants to stay and cover other events, but Phil wants to return to Pittsburgh. The blizzard blankets the region in snow, stranding them in Punxsutawney. Phil shuns the celebrations and retires to bed early. Phil wakes to "I Got You Babe" and the same DJ banter on the radio and discovers the day's events repeating exactly. Phil relives the day and returns to bed, assuming it was a dream, but it is still Groundhog Day when he wakes again. He's trapped in a [time loop](#) that no one else is aware of. Phil tries to explain his situation to Rita, for whom he has feelings, by accurately predicting the day's events. Rita sympathizes, and they spend the entirety of one loop together.

We enter the movie when, during one loop, Phil enthusiastically reports the Groundhog Day festivities, amazing Rita. They spend the rest of the day together, and Phil impresses her with his apparent overnight transformation and charitable deeds. Phil tells her that no matter what happens, even if he is doomed to continue awakening alone each morning forever, he wants her to know that he is finally happy, because he loves her

Food for Thought:

Have you ever felt like you had a déjà vu experience? Why do you think that happens?

Do you believe in the Ground Hog tradition?

- According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, it gets scared and runs back into its burrow, predicting six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring

If you could repeat a situation over and over again, what would it be? Your wedding day? Getting your first job? Riding a bike for the first time? Can you think of an experience that was so wonderful, you'd like it to happen again?

#7 *A Hard Day's Night* is a 1964 [musical comedy film](#) directed by [Richard Lester](#) and starring the English [rock](#) band [the Beatles](#)—[John Lennon](#), [Paul McCartney](#), [George Harrison](#), and [Ringo Starr](#)—during the height of [Beatlemania](#).

Theme:

[The Beatles](#) evade a horde of [fans](#) while boarding a train for London. En route, they meet Paul's trouble-making grandfather ([Wilfrid Brambell](#)) for the first time; he becomes so much of a nuisance that Paul has him locked up in the guards van.

With an hour before the final run-through, Ringo is forced to watch the grandfather and takes him to the canteen for tea while he reads [a book](#). The grandfather talks Ringo into going outside to experience life rather than reading books, passing a surprised John and Paul on the way out. He tries to have a quiet drink in a pub, takes pictures, walks alongside a canal, and rides a bicycle along a railway station platform. While the other three futilely search for Ringo, he is arrested on suspicion and taken to the police station, where Paul's grandfather joins him shortly after attempting to sell photographs of the Beatles with forged signatures.

We join the movie at the beginning of the televised concert, which goes on as planned. After the concert the Beatles are whisked away to another performance via helicopter.

Food for Thought:

Did you ever see the Beatles in person? Can you recall seeing them on the Ed Sullivan Show?

Did you ever go to a live concert?

What do you think of the way fans reacted to the Beatles?