

The Appoggiatura

All the Chorale News that will fit

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Books and Movies



Randy Malloy (B2) and his wife Indra are avid readers and also keep tabs on interesting movies and TV shows. Indra writes: [unedited]

Hello John! While you are all busy zooming, I will use this time to give you my input on books and films. I speak for me not my beloved, although we tend to agree on several of our faves. Except television. Randy enjoys many a series, but most of them leave me cold. That is why *The Crown* was such a wonderful surprise and treat!

Anyway, as to films; I/we have been binge watching a particular actor or director. We google their films and then watch the ones we have not already seen. It is a good way to discover "little" films often overlooked by Hollywood hype. Like the hilarious *Logan Lucky*, which we discovered under Adam Driver films. Anyway, found some great Woody Allen films we had missed: *The Wonder Wheel* and *Match Point* being favorites. *Marriage Story* is one of the best films I have seen all year. Other Noah Baumbach gems include *The Squid and the Whale* and *Frances Ha*. A recent beautiful film is *The Truth* starring the still magnificent Catherine Deneuve.

The above mentioned are all fine "films." Now for a couple of "movies" for sleepless isolation nights. I guarantee you will not guess the ending of the new release *The Vanished*. A thriller about a mom and dad who go camping with their young daughter! Then two (original and sequel) disaster flicks from Norway, yes Norway. *The Wave* (fjords get tsunamis) and *The Quake* (and earthquakes).

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Books: I take my reading seriously. Karl Ove Knausgaard, the master of writing about human shame. Elena Ferrante, her Naples four part novel is rich in beauty and a power reflection on womanhood. I just started her new novel released today The Lying Life of Adults. One chapter in, I give it five stars. Colson Whitehead's The Underground Railroad and George Saunders' Lincoln in the Bardo are modern classics. Not to mention timely in this time of Black Lives Matter.

Again getting into Covid time-filling junk reading, besides the usual Baldacci and Connelly crime reads, we have happened upon a couple of thrillers with a twist. The Guest List is currently on the bestseller list. The Silent Patient is another gem of an ending you probably won't guess.

And I finally close with my disappointment of the year. I so awaited Connie Schultz's The Daughters of Erietown. I am a big fan of hers, and she won the fucking Pulitzer! So why did I feel that I was wading thru As the World Turns in Erietown?! I guess it might appeal to some women of a certain age (There are nostalgic references to Higbee's Silver Grille.), but I would be embarrassed to recommend it to serious literature lovers. The Pulitzer!

And Randy writes:

John:
My taste, especially in movies, may lean toward the dark and violent, with a touch of humor. The 5 movies i have enjoyed the most this pandemic season, in no particular order, are:

Da 5 Bloods
7 Psychopaths
Midsummer
Match Point
Hell or High Water

Books:
Ohio
I Know Why the Crawdads Sing.
The Guest List
Home Fire
Little Fires Everywhere

Not inclusive: i know i left a lot off; we read a LOT of books and see a LOT OF MOVIES.

PLEASE DON'T BE SHY
ABOUT SENDING IN
MATERIAL FOR THE
APPOGGIATURA...WE DO NOT
HAVE A REPORTING STAFF.
PHOTOS ARE ESPECIALLY
WELCOME.



Let your Chorale friends know what you're up to during the pandemic. Send photos and info to: johndrotleff@gmail.com