

Gulf Coast Reads Movie Suggestions

Texas

Days of Heaven – Richard Gere, Brooke Adams, Sam Shepard

Giant – Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson, James Dean

Lonesome Dove – Tommy Lee Jones, Robert Duvall, Robert Urich

Victorian/Edwardian Social Life and Customs

The Age of Innocence – Michelle Pfeiffer, Daniel Day-Lewis, Wynona Ryder

The House of Mirth – Gillian Anderson, Eric Stolz

In the Good Old Summertime – Judy Garland, Van Johnson

The Magnificent Ambersons – Joseph Cotten, Anne Baxter, Tim Holt, Agnes Moorehead

Meet Me in St. Louis – Judy Garland, Mary Astor, Margaret O'Brien

Pioneer Life

Centennial – Robert Conrad, Richard Chamberlain

Cimarron (1931) -- Richard Dix, Irene Dunne

Cimarron (1960) – Glenn Ford, Maria Schell, Anne Baxter

O Pioneers! -- Jessica Lange, David Strathairn

Old Yeller – Tommy Kirk, Dorothy McGuire, Fess Parker

Love Stories

Love Comes Softly – Katherine Heigl, Dale Midkiff

The Magic of Ordinary Days – Keri Russell, Skeet Ulrich

Sarah, Plain and Tall – Glenn Close, Christopher Walken

Documentaries

Isaac's Storm (2004) -- This feature-length special based on Erik Larson's book has weather experts, historians, and survivors' descendants guiding us through the horrific day that claimed over 6,000 lives.

Voices by the Bay: an Oral History of Seabrook (2011) -- More than 30 longtime Seabrook residents tell their stories of this colorful Galveston Bay community southeast of Houston, Texas, settled in 1832 by Spanish Land Grant recipients known as "Austin's 300." In this land of Indians, pirates, hurricanes, and the Texas Revolution, they created a life for themselves in what would eventually become Seabrook. Stories range from the tragic to the humorous, all set in the sleepy fishing village that became a breezy summer escape in 1900 for wealthy Houstonians on "Millionaires Row." Today, Seabrook is home to a large recreational boating community, myriad businesses, tourist attractions and NASA.

Reality Series

Frontier House (2002) -- Three modern families were chosen to learn to survive as if the year is 1883. Using the tools and technology of that time they must make difficult choices and cope with the consequences in the Montana wilderness.

Texas Ranch House (2006) -- Follow the daily life of a brave and diverse group of cowboys-at-heart who discover how the myth of the American West meshes with reality, as 15 people learn what it was like to get a ranch up and running in 1867.

King Vidor films

King Vidor was born in Galveston on February 8, 1894 and survived the hurricane of 1900. He grew up to become a renowned film director. His first film was the short subject Hurricane in Galveston in 1913. He received five Oscar nominations for The Crowd (1928), Hallelujah (1929), The Champ (1931), The Citadel (1938), and War and Peace (1956). In 1979, Vidor was awarded an honorary Oscar. He died at age 88 in 1982.

La Boheme (1926) – Lillian Gish, John Gilbert

The Crowd (1928) – Eleanor Boardman, James Murray

Hallelujah (1929) – Daniel L. Haynes, Nina Mae McKinney

The Champ (1931) – Wallace Beery, Jackie Cooper

The Texas Rangers (1936) – Fred MacMurray, Jack Oakie

Stella Dallas (1937) – Barbara Stanwyck, Anne Shirley

The Citadel (1938) – Robert Donat, Rosalind Russell

The Wizard of Oz (1939) – uncredited, though he directed the Kansas scenes

Northwest Passage (1940) – Spencer Tracy, Robert Young

Duel in the Sun (1946) – Jennifer Jones, Gregory Peck, Joseph Cotten

The Fountainhead (1949) – Gary Cooper, Patricia Neal

Ruby Gentry (1952) – Jennifer Jones, Charlton Heston

Man Without a Star (1955) – Kirk Douglas, Jeanne Crain

War and Peace (1956) – Audrey Hepburn, Henry Fonda, Mel Ferrer

Solomon and Sheba (1959) – Yul Brynner, Gina Lollobrigida