

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH 1946

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH 1946 IS A PHRASE THAT ENCAPSULATES THE PROFOUND STRUGGLES AND PIVOTAL MOMENTS OF THE IMMEDIATE POST-WORLD WAR II ERA. THE YEAR 1946 MARKED A SIGNIFICANT TURNING POINT IN HISTORY, CHARACTERIZED BY RECOVERY, RECONSTRUCTION, AND THE ONGOING FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE. THIS ARTICLE EXPLORES THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT, MAJOR EVENTS, CULTURAL SHIFTS, AND LASTING IMPACTS OF 1946, OFFERING A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THIS YEAR REMAINS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH IN THE ANNALS OF HISTORY.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF 1946

THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR II

1946 WAS A YEAR DEFINED BY THE AFTERMATH OF THE MOST DEVASTATING CONFLICT IN HUMAN HISTORY. WITH THE WAR ENDING IN 1945, NATIONS AROUND THE GLOBE GRAPLED WITH REBUILDING SOCIETIES, ECONOMIES, AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES. THE DEVASTATION WAS WIDESPREAD, LEAVING MILLIONS HOMELESS, DISPLACED, AND MOURNING LOST LOVED ONES. THE WORLD WAS AT A CROSSROADS, FACING THE CHALLENGE OF ENSURING THAT SUCH A CONFLICT WOULD NEVER RECUR.

EMERGENCE OF SUPERPOWERS

THE GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE WAS TRANSFORMING RAPIDLY. THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION EMERGED AS SUPERPOWERS, SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE COLD WAR. THEIR CONTRASTING IDEOLOGIES OF CAPITALISM AND COMMUNISM CREATED TENSIONS THAT WOULD INFLUENCE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR DECADES. IN 1946, THIS RIVALRY BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE, INFLUENCING DIPLOMATIC POLICIES AND MILITARY STRATEGIES.

MAJOR EVENTS OF 1946

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

- NUREMBERG TRIALS: ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LEGAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, THE NUREMBERG TRIALS BEGAN IN NOVEMBER 1945 AND CONTINUED INTO 1946. THESE TRIALS PROSECUTED NAZI LEADERS FOR WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND GENOCIDE, ESTABLISHING A PRECEDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.
- PARTITION OF INDIA: IN AUGUST 1946, TENSIONS BETWEEN HINDUS AND MUSLIMS IN BRITISH INDIA ESCALATED, LEADING TO THE DEMAND FOR INDEPENDENCE AND THE EVENTUAL PARTITION OF INDIA IN 1947. THE EVENTS OF 1946 LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THIS HISTORIC DIVISION, WHICH RESULTED IN MASSIVE UPHEAVAL AND LOSS OF LIFE.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGES

- POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION: COUNTRIES ACROSS EUROPE AND ASIA EMBARKED ON MASSIVE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. MARSHALL PLAN DISCUSSIONS BEGAN IN 1946, AIMING TO AID WESTERN EUROPE'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY.
- RISE OF CONSUMER CULTURE: IN THE UNITED STATES, 1946 MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A CONSUMER BOOM. WARTIME AUSTERITY GAVE WAY TO INCREASED PRODUCTION, SHOPPING, AND THE RISE OF SUBURBIA.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

- DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY: THE ATOMIC BOMB'S USE DURING WWII SPURRED FURTHER RESEARCH. IN 1946, THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL TEST OF A NUCLEAR REACTOR TOOK PLACE, FUELING DEBATES ABOUT NUCLEAR ENERGY AND WEAPONS.
- EMERGENCE OF COMPUTERS: THE GROUNDWORK FOR MODERN COMPUTING WAS LAID IN 1946, WITH THE CREATION OF THE ENIAC (ELECTRONIC NUMERICAL INTEGRATOR AND COMPUTER), THE FIRST GENERAL-PURPOSE ELECTRONIC DIGITAL COMPUTER.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL SHIFTS IN 1946

FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT

- THE FILM INDUSTRY BEGAN TRANSITIONING FROM WARTIME THEMES TO MORE DIVERSE GENRES. NOTABLE FILMS LIKE *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE* (1946) BECAME CLASSICS, REFLECTING THEMES OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE.
- THE RISE OF TELEVISION AS A NEW MEDIUM BEGAN, SETTING THE STAGE FOR A CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

LITERATURE AND ARTS

- WRITERS AND ARTISTS RESPONDED TO THE TRAUMA AND UPHEAVAL OF THE WAR YEARS. EXISTENTIALISM GAINED PROMINENCE, WITH FIGURES LIKE JEAN-PAUL SARTRE AND ALBERT CAMUS QUESTIONING HUMAN EXISTENCE AMID CHAOS.
- THE ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONIST MOVEMENT STARTED GAINING MOMENTUM, INFLUENCING MODERN ART.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND CHANGES

- THE YEAR SAW INCREASED ADVOCACY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY IN THE UNITED STATES. AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS PUSHED FOR EQUALITY, LEADING TO THE EARLY STAGES OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.
- WOMEN WHO HAD ENTERED THE WORKFORCE DURING WWII FACED SOCIETAL PRESSURES TO RELINQUISH THEIR JOBS, SPARKING ONGOING DEBATES ABOUT GENDER ROLES.

GLOBAL IMPACT AND LEGACY OF 1946

ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- THE UNITED NATIONS WAS OFFICIALLY FOUNDED IN OCTOBER 1945, BUT ITS ACTIVITIES EXPANDED SIGNIFICANTLY IN 1946, AIMING TO PROMOTE PEACE AND COOPERATION.
- THE WORLD BANK AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF) BEGAN OPERATIONS IN 1946 TO FACILITATE GLOBAL ECONOMIC STABILITY.

DECOLONIZATION AND INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS

- 1946 WAS A PIVOTAL YEAR FOR COLONIES SEEKING INDEPENDENCE. THE PHILIPPINES GAINED FULL INDEPENDENCE FROM THE UNITED STATES IN JULY, SETTING A PRECEDENT FOR OTHER NATIONS.
- ANTI-COLONIAL MOVEMENTS INTENSIFIED IN AFRICA AND ASIA, LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLES.

LASTING CULTURAL AND POLITICAL CHANGES

- THE TRAUMA OF WAR AND THE MORAL QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE HOLOCAUST AND ATOMIC BOMBINGS INFLUENCED GENERATIONS. DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE, AND ETHICS BECAME CENTRAL TO GLOBAL DISCOURSE.
- THE COLD WAR'S INITIAL TENSIONS EMERGED IN 1946, SHAPING INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND MILITARY STRATEGIES.

WHY 1946 REMAINS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

THE HUMAN COST OF WAR AND REBUILDING

THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF WWII AND THE EVENTS OF 1946 UNDERScoreD THE FRAGILE NATURE OF PEACE AND THE DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT. MILLIONS OF LIVES HAD BEEN LOST, AND ONGOING VIOLENCE AND UPHEAVAL

THREATENED TO DESTABILIZE REGIONS FURTHER. THE DECISIONS MADE DURING THIS YEAR—SUCH AS PROSECUTING WAR CRIMINALS, REDRAWING BORDERS, AND ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS—WERE CRUCIAL IN SHAPING A FUTURE WHERE PEACE AND SECURITY COULD BE PRESERVED.

ETHICAL AND MORAL QUESTIONS

THE ATROCITIES REVEALED DURING THE NUREMBERG TRIALS AND THE BOMBINGS RAISED PROFOUND ETHICAL QUESTIONS. HOW COULD HUMANITY PREVENT SUCH HORRORS FROM RECURRING? THE ANSWERS FORMULATED IN 1946 CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE DEBATES ON JUSTICE, WAR, AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UN AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL PRECEDENTS SIGNIFIED A COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO UPHOLD HUMAN DIGNITY. THIS ONGOING STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE REMAINS CENTRAL TO CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL POLITICS, MAKING 1946 A FOUNDATIONAL YEAR IN THE ONGOING FIGHT TO PREVENT AVOIDABLE LOSS OF LIFE.

CONCLUSION

1946 WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A DEFINING YEAR IN MODERN HISTORY—A PERIOD MARKED BY TRAUMA, RESILIENCE, AND HOPE. FROM THE LEGAL RECKONING OF WAR CRIMES TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, THE EVENTS OF 1946 CONTINUE TO RESONATE TODAY. RECOGNIZING THIS YEAR AS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO BUILD A MORE PEACEFUL AND JUST FUTURE.

KEYWORDS: A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH 1946, POST-WORLD WAR II, NUREMBERG TRIALS, COLD WAR BEGINNINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DECOLONIZATION, CULTURAL SHIFTS 1946, GLOBAL RECONSTRUCTION, HUMAN RIGHTS HISTORY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAIN PLOT OF 'A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH' (1946)?

'A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH' FOLLOWS A BRITISH PILOT WHO SURVIVES A FATAL FALL AFTER A STRANGE CELESTIAL ERROR, LEADING HIM TO ARGUE HIS CASE FOR SURVIVAL IN THE AFTERLIFE WITH CELESTIAL BEINGS OVERSEEING THE TRIBUNAL.

WHO DIRECTED 'A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH' AND WHAT IS NOTABLE ABOUT THEIR STYLE?

THE FILM WAS DIRECTED BY MICHAEL POWELL AND EMERIC PRESSBURGER, RENOWNED FOR THEIR USE OF VIVID COLOR, IMAGINATIVE STORYTELLING, AND BLENDING OF FANTASY AND REALITY, WHICH IS EVIDENT IN THIS CLASSIC FILM.

HOW DOES 'A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH' EXPLORE THEMES OF LOVE AND MORALITY?

THE FILM EXPLORES LOVE ACROSS THE DIVIDE OF LIFE AND DEATH, EMPHASIZING MORAL QUESTIONS ABOUT JUSTICE, THE VALUE OF LIFE, AND THE AFTERLIFE'S FAIRNESS, ALL INTERTWINED WITH A ROMANTIC STORYLINE.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FILM'S ENDING IN 'A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH'?

THE ENDING UNDERSCORES THEMES OF HOPE, THE TRIUMPH OF LOVE AND HUMAN SPIRIT, AND THE IDEA THAT LIFE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR, EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH AND THE UNKNOWN.

How was 'A Matter of Life and Death' received upon its release in 1946?

The film was critically acclaimed for its innovative visuals, compelling story, and imaginative approach, and has since become regarded as a classic of British cinema.

What influence has 'A Matter of Life and Death' had on filmmaking and popular culture?

The film has influenced numerous filmmakers through its blend of fantasy and realism, and its iconic visual style has inspired visual effects, storytelling techniques, and references in popular culture.

Additional Resources

A Matter of Life and Death (1946): An Investigative Examination of Post-War Ethical Dilemmas and Cultural Shifts

The year 1946 marked a pivotal juncture in history, emerging from the chaos of World War II into a landscape fraught with moral ambiguity, societal upheaval, and nascent hopes for reconstruction. Among the myriad themes that defined this turbulent period, the phrase "A Matter of Life and Death" encapsulates both the literal and figurative struggles faced by individuals and nations alike. This investigative article delves into the multifaceted dimensions of 1946, exploring the ethical dilemmas, cultural shifts, and political upheavals that characterized this critical year, illuminating how these factors continue to resonate in contemporary discourse.

Contextual Backdrop: The Post-War World in 1946

The immediate aftermath of World War II left a world grappling with destruction, displacement, and a profound reevaluation of human values. The geopolitical landscape was reshaped by the defeat of Axis powers, the emergence of Cold War tensions, and the nascent formation of international institutions aimed at preventing future conflicts.

Major Political Developments

- The Formation of the United Nations: Established in October 1945, the UN began to operate in 1946, aiming to promote peace, security, and human rights.
- Nuremberg Trials: Beginning in November 1945 and concluding in 1946, these trials sought justice for war crimes committed during the Holocaust and Nazi regime.
- Emergence of the Cold War: Tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union intensified, influencing global policies and military strategies.

Societal and Cultural Shifts

- Refugee Crises and Displacement: Millions of displaced persons faced uncertain futures amid border disputes and ethnic cleansing.
- The Rise of Human Rights Discourse: The horrors of the Holocaust prompted global conversations on morality, justice, and human dignity.
- Technological Advances: The atomic bomb's development during the war prompted ethical debates over nuclear proliferation.

THE ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF 1946: LIFE, DEATH, AND JUSTICE

THE MORAL LANDSCAPE OF 1946 WAS RIDDLED WITH DILEMMAS ROOTED IN WARTIME ATROCITIES, THE ETHICS OF JUSTICE, AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF NATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.

THE AFTERMATH OF THE HOLOCAUST: JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

THE NUREMBERG TRIALS EPITOMIZED A GROUNDBREAKING EFFORT TO HOLD WAR CRIMINALS ACCOUNTABLE,

[A Matter Of Life And Death 1946](#)

a matter of life and death 1946: A Matter of Life and Death Ian Christie, 2021-10-21
Produced in the aftermath of the Second World War, Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger's *A Matter of Life and Death* (1946) stars David Niven as an RAF pilot poised between life and death, his love for the American radio operator June (Kim Hunter) threatened by medical, political and ultimately celestial forces. The film is a magical, profound fantasy and a moving evocation of English history and the wartime experience, with virtuoso Technicolor special effects. In the United States it was released under the title *Stairway to Heaven*, referencing one of its most famous images, a moving stairway between earth and the afterlife. Ian Christie's study of the film shows how its creators drew upon many sources and traditions to create a unique form of modern masque, treating contemporary issues with witty allegory and enormous visual imagination. He stresses the teamwork of Powell and Pressburger's gifted collaborators, among them Director of Photography Jack Cardiff, production designer Alfred Junge, and costume designer Hein Heckroth, and explores the history of both British and international responses to the film. Christie argues that the film deserves to be thought of as one of the greatest achievements of British cinema, but of all cinema.

a matter of life and death 1946: A Matter of Life and Death Ian Christie, 2000 A dazzling fantasy produced in the aftermath of World War Two, *A Matter of Life and Death* (1946), directed by Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, starred David Niven as an RAF pilot poised between life and death. This book looks in detail at the making of the film. Ian Christie shows how the film drew on many sources and traditions to create a unique form of modern masque, treating contemporary issues with witty allegory and enormous visual imagination. He believes the film deserves to be thought of as one of cinema's greatest achievement.

a matter of life and death 1946: *Hauntings and Poltergeists* James Houran, Rense Lange, 2015-08-13 Few people can claim the distinction of experiencing first-hand such occurrences as hauntings and the presence of poltergeists, but countless numbers of people are fascinated by these unexplainable events. Written by the world's most knowledgeable authorities in this field, the essays in this work promote a better understanding of the manifestations of and various reasons for hauntings and poltergeist phenomena. The experts come from such backgrounds as anthropology, history, philosophy, psychiatry, and sociology, and provide sober yet highly readable in-depth discussions of numerous ideas and rationalizations for hauntings and poltergeists, from a critical and scientific perspective. Divided into three major sections--sociocultural, physical and physiological, and psychological perspectives--this work provides an overview of each perspective and also addresses the general psychology of belief in the paranormal and how that belief relates to experiences with ghosts and poltergeists.

a matter of life and death 1946: *What Is it Like to Be Dead?* Jens Schlieter, 2018-08-06
Studies of near-death experiences show that such experiences not only provide a new certainty of post-mortem survival, but often function as a call for fundamental change in the present. Reported

aftereffects encompass changes in attitudes, beliefs, and life orientation. It is said that experiencers have lost their fear of death, found their purpose in life, or become more spiritual. The experience - often declared to be indescribable, inexplicable, or ineffable - is held by many to be the most important of their lives and, moreover, the best proof available for matters transcendent. In *What Is It Like To Be Dead?*, Jens Schlieter argues that to understand recent testimonies of near-death experiences, we need to be aware of the history of innumerable reports of earlier near-death experiences that were communicated and handed down in scores of newspapers, journals, and books. Collections of such testimonies have been published for more than 150 years, accompanied by attempts to classify and interpret them. Schlieter analyzes the religious relevance of near-death experiences -for the experiencers themselves, but also for the growing audience attracted by these testimonies. Near-death experiences bear ontological, epistemic, intersubjective, and moral significance, ranging from reassurance that religious experience is still possible to claims that they initiate a new spiritual orientation in life, or offer evidence for the transcultural validity of afterlife beliefs. This study is the first to document and analyze four centuries of near-death testimonies before the codification of the genre in the 1970s, offering the first full account of the modern genealogy of near-death experiences.

a matter of life and death 1946: *Directory of World Cinema: Scotland* Bob Nowlan, Zach Finch, 2015-05-29 Scotland, its people and its history have long been a source of considerable fascination and inspiration for filmmakers, film scholars and film audiences worldwide. A significant number of critically acclaimed films made in the last twenty-five years have ignited passionate conversations and debates about Scottish national cinema. Its historical, industrial and cultural complexities and contradictions have made it all the more a focus of attention and interest for both popular audiences and scholarly critics. *Directory of World Cinema: Scotland* provides an introduction to many of Scottish cinema's most important and influential themes and issues, films and filmmakers, while adding to the ongoing discussion concerning how to make sense of Scotland's cinematic traditions and contributions. Chapters on filmmakers range from Murray Grigor to Ken Loach, and Gaelic filmmaking, radical and engaged cinema, production, finance and documentary are just a few of the topics explored. Film reviews range from popular box office hits such as *Braveheart*, and *Trainspotting* to lesser known but equally engaging independent and lower budget productions, such as *Shell and Orphans*. This book is both a stimulating and accessible resource for a wide range of readers interested in Scottish film.

a matter of life and death 1946: *Sacrifice and Modern War Literature* Alex Houen, Jan-Melissa Schramm, 2018 This book explores how writers from the early nineteenth century to the present have addressed the intimacy of sacrifice and war. Each chapter presents fresh insights into the literature of a particular conflict. The range of literature examined complements the rich array of topics related to wartime sacrifice that the contributors discuss.

a matter of life and death 1946: *Typical Men* Andrew Spicer, 2001-04-12 *Typical Men* is the first book length study of masculinity in British cinema and offers a broad and lively overview from the Second World War to the present day. Spicer argues that masculinity in popular fiction can best be understood as a range of dynamic and competing cultural types which rise and fall in relation to shifting patterns of film production, audience taste and social change. Specific chapters are devoted to each of the major types debonair gentlemen, civilian professionals, action adventurers, the Everyman, Fools and Rogues, criminals, rebels and damaged men - which trace their changing histories through innovative readings of key films, together with a fresh look at the performances of particular stars including James Mason, Kenneth More, Michael Caine and Sean Connery. A final chapter explores the complex and hybrid types that have evolved within a volatile and unstable contemporary British cinema, now part of an array of interrelated media images of masculinity. *Typical Men* will be of keen interest to those concerned with the cultural history of gender, and its detailed and carefully contextualised interpretations of films afford a reappraisal of British cinema history, especially the neglected and despised 1950s. 'Andrew Spicer's *Typical Men* is a major intervention in debates about masculinity in the cinema. It takes a lot of intellectual risks, and

locates cinematic stereotypes of masculinity in a cinematic and cultural context. It is trenchant and original, and redefines the field of gender representation.' – Sue Harper, Professor of Film History, University of Portsmouth 'The strength of this elegantly and wittily written book is that, in the precision of its detail about individual performances, actors and films, it never loses sight of its argumentative threads.' – Brian McFarlane, *Screening the Past*

a matter of life and death 1946: *Celluloid Saviours* Emily Caston, 2020-05-22 In *Celluloid Saviours*, the author analyses a corpus of US films dating from the silent era that she calls film blanc. In these fantasy films a guardian spirit with extraordinary powers suspends the ordinary, known laws of time and space, and a main character reforms himself or herself in life-changing ways. The author argues that the historical pattern of film blanc relates to the rise and fall of liberal and reform thought in US politics, specifically to conceptions of human nature as a tabula rasa. This conception is evident both in the early feature films featuring angels such as Chaplin's *The Kid* and much later examples such as the 1980s box office hit, *Trading Places*. She argues that this narrative tradition runs from Hollywood's beginnings to the present day and is foreshadowed in the English ghost stories of Charles Dickens. The classic era of film blanc is epitomised in the enduringly popular film, *It's a Wonderful Life*. More recent examples of narrative form analysed by Caston include *The Truman Show* and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*.

a matter of life and death 1946: *Love in the Afterlife* Richard Striner, 2016-04-29 This is a definitive study of films that have been built around the themes of love, death, and the afterlife—films about lovers who meet again (and love again) in heaven, via reincarnation, or through other kinds of after-death encounters. Far more than books about mere ghosts in the movies or religion in movies, *Love in the Afterlife* presents a complex but highly distinctive and unique pattern—the love-death-afterlife pattern—as it was handed down by the ancient Egyptians and Greeks (in the Isis and Orpheus myths, for example), developed by Freud and his followers in the duality of “Eros and Thanatos,” and then featured in popular movies from the 1920s to the recent past. Among its other qualities, *Love in the Afterlife* may encourage readers to look at movies differently and reflect upon the possibility that other patterns in cinema may have gone undetected for years. Furthermore, this book will show how the love-death-afterlife theme found its way into all sorts of different film types: melodramas, comedies, war films, horror films, film noir, and other genres. The book will be well illustrated and quotations from film reviews will enliven its pages. A long appendix gives production data on almost sixty individual films.

a matter of life and death 1946: *The Encyclopedia of Epic Films* Constantine Santas, James M. Wilson, Maria Colavito, Djoymi Baker, 2014-03-21 Soon after film came into existence, the term epic was used to describe productions that were lengthy, spectacular, live with action, and often filmed in exotic locales with large casts and staggering budgets. The effort and extravagance needed to mount an epic film paid off handsomely at the box office, for the genre became an immediate favorite with audiences. Epic films survived the tribulations of two world wars and the Depression and have retained the basic characteristics of size and glamour for more than a hundred years. Length was, and still is, one of the traits of the epic, though monolithic three- to four-hour spectacles like *Gone with the Wind* (1939) and *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) have been replaced today by such franchises as the Harry Potter films and the Lord of the Rings trilogy. Although the form has evolved during many decades of existence, its central elements have been retained, refined, and modernized to suit the tastes of every new generation. *The Encyclopedia of Epic Films* identifies, describes, and analyzes those films that meet the criteria of the epic—sweeping drama, panoramic landscapes, lengthy adventure sequences, and, in many cases, casts of thousands. This volume looks at the wide variety of epics produced over the last century—from the silent spectacles of D. W. Griffith and biblical melodramas of Cecil B. DeMille to the historical dramas of David Lean and rollercoaster thrillers of Steven Spielberg. Each entry contains: Major personnel behind the camera, including directors and screenwriters Cast and character listings Plot summary Analysis Academy Award wins and nominations DVD and Blu-ray availability Resources for further study This volume also includes appendixes of foreign epics, superhero spectacles, and epics produced for television,

along with a list of all the directors in the book. Despite a lack of overall critical recognition and respect as a genre, the epic remains a favorite of audiences, and this book pays homage to a form of mass entertainment that continues to fill movie theaters. The Encyclopedia of Epic Films will be of interest to academics and scholars, as well as any fan of films made on a grand scale.

a matter of life and death 1946: Art Directors in Cinema Michael L. Stephens, 2015-09-02 Often forgotten among the actors, directors, producers and others associated with filmmaking, art directors are responsible for making movies visually appealing to audiences. As such they sometimes make the difference between a hit and a bomb. This biographical dictionary includes not only the world's great and almost-great artists, but the unjustly neglected film designers of the past and present. Among the more than 300 art directors and designers are pioneers from silent films, designers from Hollywood and Europe's Golden Ages, Asian figures, post-Golden Age personalities, leaders of the European and American New Waves, and many contemporary designers. Each entry consists of biographical information, an analysis of the director's career and important films, and an extensive filmography including mentions of Academy Award nominations and winners.

a matter of life and death 1946: It's a Wonderful Life Michael Newton, 2023-09-07 Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life* is one of the best-loved films of Classical Hollywood cinema, a story of despair and redemption in the aftermath of war that is one of the central movies of the 1940s, and a key text in America's understanding of itself. This is a film that remains relevant to our own anxieties and yearnings, to all the contradictions of ordinary life, while also enacting for us the quintessence of the classic Hollywood aesthetic. Nostalgia, humour, and a tough resilience weave themselves through this movie, intertwining it with the fraught cultural moment of the end of World War II that saw its birth. It offers a still compelling merging of fantasy and realism that was utterly unique when it was first released, and has rarely been matched since. Michael Newton's study of the film investigates the source of its extraordinary power and its long-lasting impact. He begins by introducing the key figures in the movie's production - notably director Frank Capra and star James Stewart - and traces the making of the film, and then provides a brief synopsis of the film, considering its aesthetic processes and procedures, touching on all those things that make it such an astonishing film. Newton's careful analysis explores all those aspects of the film that are fundamental to our understanding of it, particularly the way in which the film brings tragedy and comedy together. Finally, Newton tells the story of the film's reception and afterlife, accounting for its initial relative failure and its subsequent immense popularity.

a matter of life and death 1946: Death at the Movies Lyn Davis Genelli, Tom Davis Genelli, 2013-08-12 *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), *Resurrection* (1980), *Poltergeist* (1982), *Beetlejuice* (1988), *Ghost* (1990), *Groundhog Day* (1993), *The Sixth Sense* (1999) — these are only a few of the influential movies in recent decades dealing with the afterlife. But beyond entertainment, do they mean anything? The authors of this wise and well-informed guide believe so. They explore how popular motion pictures, from *Outward Bound* (1930) to *Hereafter*, play a perhaps unconscious role in guiding humanity toward its evolutionary comprehension of the meaning and purpose of death. They draw on the Tibetan Book of the Dead, Buddhism, and depth psychology to review some of the most spiritually powerful films ever made. Death is, say the authors, at once the most immediate locked door and the ultimate frontier, a staggering paradox that invites us to search for deeper understanding based upon a level of consciousness beyond thought. After reading this book, you'll never view *Casablanca* or *The Wizard of Oz* the same way again.

a matter of life and death 1946: Screen, 2005

a matter of life and death 1946: Live Forever or Die Trying Thomas J. Mooney, 2011-04-05 Initially, I had intended to write this book in the summer of 2006. At that time, my involvement in the Life Extension Movement was growing, my enthusiasm was palpable; trusted friends and colleagues urged me to undertake the project, noting that it would give momentum to a nascent movement that was a mere blip on the political radar screen and bring needed attention to an issue that many thought might never be discussed seriously in a society that considers death an unpleasant but inevitable reality. Even though I agreed with this analysis, I managed to avoid any

serious attempt to start a far-reaching debate on the political, social, and economic consequences of radically extending one's life into the future. After all, I thought, the technology in this field is still at a nascent stage, antiaging research receives few government grants, controversy abounds in the scientific community as to the mere possibility of indefinite life extension; most elected officials are clueless about it and even a majority of the President's Council on Bioethics is hostile to the idea. But that being said, I never was one to back down from a good fight. I had read much of the scientific work undertaken by a multitude of scientists determined to understand how and why human beings slowly age, and how we can reverse our demise and extend our lives indefinitely. I disagreed with the naysayers who pompously declare that prolonging life will ruin the environment, cause overpopulation, promote wars over scarce resources, as well as those narrow-minded, quasi—pundits who embraced a number of bogus charges and half-truths intended to impede further research into the causes of the terminal disease of aging. I had more than enough evidence to confront the critics, but for some unknown reason, I lost the internal primal spark necessary to fight back. I thought, should I enter a battle that few know about and even fewer care? Instead of hearing a clarion call to act, I became mired in skepticism, doubt and a growing resignation toward terminal apathy. ...

a matter of life and death 1946: Britain Andrew Whittaker, 2009 British culture is strewn with names that strike a chord the world over such as Shakespeare, Churchill, Dickens, Pinter, Lennon and McCartney. This book examines the people, history and movements that have shaped Britain as it now is, providing key information in easily digested chunks.

a matter of life and death 1946: *Brigadoon, Braveheart and the Scots* Colin McArthur, 2003-09-26 The films *Brigadoon* and *Braveheart* have an enormous resonance both for Scots throughout the world and the wide audience of non-Scots for whom such films provide general impressions of Scottishness. This provocative book discusses the films' representations of Scotland and the Scots, looking at that cluster of images and stories whereby Scotland is (mis)recognized and yet often comes to be known. Colin McArthur explores *Brigadoon* and documents the contempt the film has elicited, particularly from the Scots intelligentsia. He succumbs to *Brigadoon*'s charm, but finds no such mitigating features in *Braveheart*. Tracing the film's appropriation by political, touristic and sporting figures, he argues that, far from being about Scottish history, it is primarily about Hollywood and its cinematic traditions. He looks at the way film distorts history and examines *Braveheart*'s sinister appeal to the proto-fascist psyche.

a matter of life and death 1946: *Motion Picture Photography* H. Mario Raimondo-Souto, 2014-11-18 In 1891, William Dickson, a researcher at Thomas Edison's firm, developed the Kinetograph, a motion picture camera that used Eastman Kodak's new celluloid film. Almost immediately, an industry was born. The new artistic and technical discipline of motion picture photography matured as the film industry grew. From the beginnings of the movie camera, developments in film production and exhibition have been inextricably linked to the evolution of motion picture photography. This work traces the history of motion picture photography from the late 19th century through the year 1960, when color photography became the accepted standard. Generously illustrated, it covers each decade's cameras, lenses, cameramen, film processing methods, formats, studios, lighting techniques and major cinematographic developments. Each chapter concludes with examples of the decade's outstanding cinematography. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here.

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