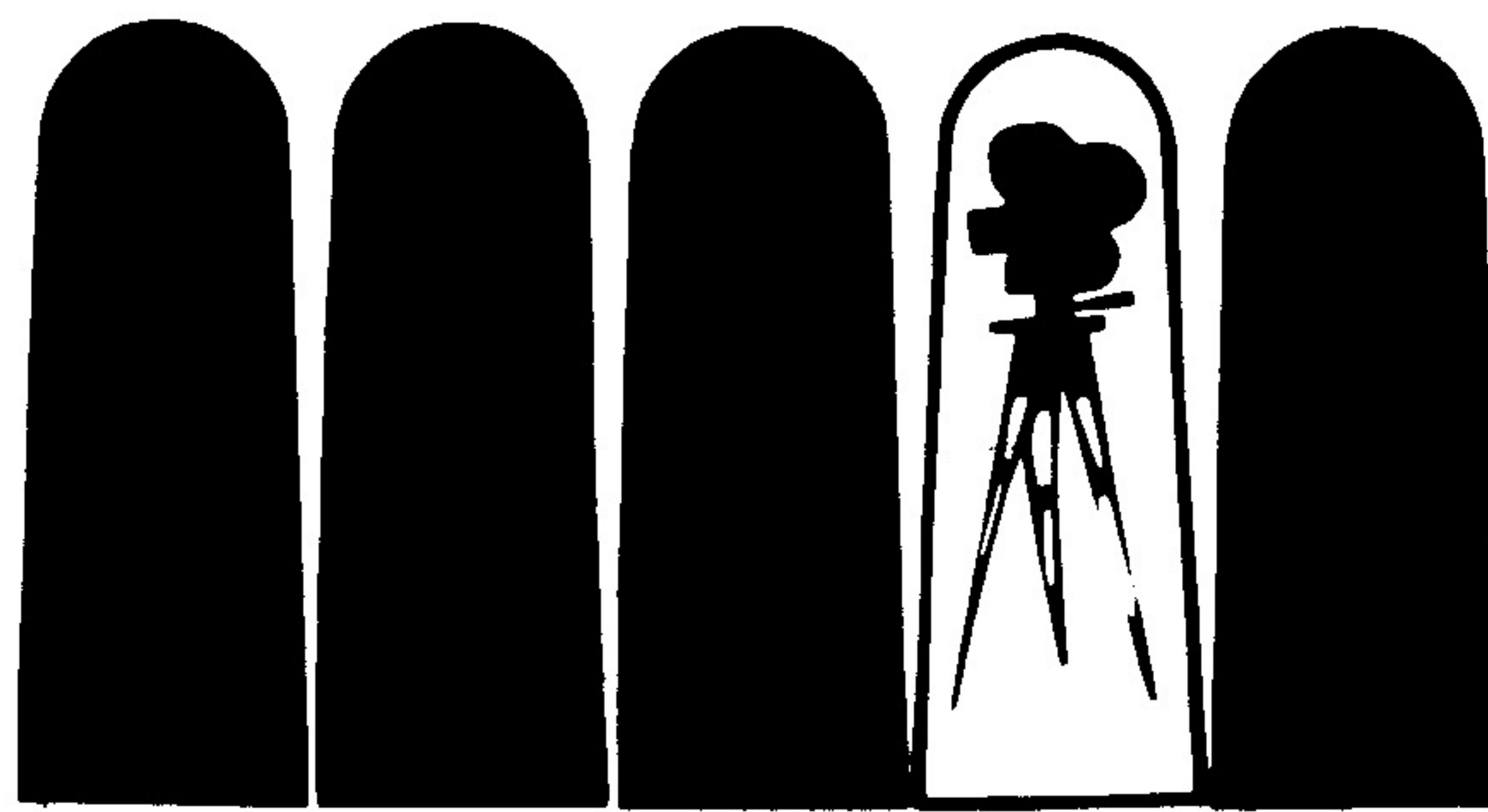


## Document Citation

Title	<b>My darling Clementine</b>
Author(s)	David Stewart Hull
Source	<i>Dartmouth Film Society</i>
Date	1963
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	2
Subjects	
Film Subjects	My darling Clementine, Ford, John, 1946



# THE DARTMOUTH



# DAILY FILM PROGRAM

1962-1963

## MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (1946)

Wyatt Earp	Henry Fonda	Mayor	Roy Roberts
Chihuahua	Linda Darnell	Kate Nelson	Jane Darwell
Doc Holliday	Victor Mature	Ike Clanton	Grant Withers
Old Man Clanton	Walter Brennan	Bartender	J. Farrell MacDonald
Virgil Earp	Tim Holt	John Simpson	Russell Simpson
Clementine	Cathy Downs	James Earp	Don Garner
Morgan Earp	Ward Bond	Town Drunk	Francis Ford
Thorndyke	Alan Mowbray	Barber	Ben Hall
Billy Clanton	John Ireland	Hotel Clerk	Arthur Walsh

Screenplay by Samuel Engle and Winston Miller, adapted from a story by Sam Hellman, adapted, in turn, from a book by Stuart N. Lake. Produced by Samuel Engle for Twentieth-Century Fox.

Directed by JOHN FORD

One of the great stories of the American West is that of Wyatt Earp (1848-1929) and the battle at the O.K. Corral. This episode, plus a few others, served as the basis for no less than seven films: FRONTIER MARSHALL (1939), BADMEN OF TOMBSTONE (1948), WINCHESTER 73 (1950), WICHITA (1955), THE GUNFIGHT AT THE O.K. CORRAL (1957), THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF WYATT EARP (1960) in addition to today's feature.

Again, as with Billy the Kid, it is hard to separate fact from fiction, but the known life of Wyatt Berry Stapp Earp is not too complicated. He was born in Monmouth, Illinois in 1848, worked as a wagonmaster, a buffalo driver, a professional hunter, armed guard for Wells Fargo and finally ended as a police agent between the period 1874-1881 in Wichita and later in Tombstone, where the famous gunfight took place on October 26, 1881. He was accused of murder for his part in this wholesale slaughter but was acquitted and went to Denver. In 1898 he opened a saloon in Nome, Alaska during the great Klondike gold rush, and later opened similar establishments in gold cities in Nevada. In 1927 he possessed a mine in California and some oil wells. He died, in his bed, in Los Angeles in 1929. Three of his four brothers died before him: Morgan was killed a month after the great fight in Tombstone by friends of the Earp victims; Virgil died of pneumonia in 1905; James died in 1926.

The book on which the film is based was written in 1931 and is overwhelmingly in favor of its hero. However, the best biography by Frank Waters, published in 1960 gives the true, and rather less delightful version of his life.

His great friend, Doc Holliday, was born John H. Holliday in Valdosta, Georgia, the son of a major in the confederate cavalry. He studied to be a dentist in the East, then moved to Dallas for reasons of health. He soon gave up dentistry and became a professional gambler, and in one game he killed a young soldier and was forced to flee to Denver. He met Wyatt Earp in Fort Griffin, Texas in 1877. At Dodge City he picked up Kate Fisher, a dancer and prostitute, who became his mistress. He saved Earp's life on at least one occasion and the two moved to Tombstone in December 1879. After many adventures, he died in his bed of tuberculosis, his last words going down in history: "This is funny."

He has appeared in only four sound films, three mentioned above with the addition of Howard Hughes' THE OUTLAW (1943) in which he was beautifully played by Walter Huston.



MY DARLING CLEMENTINE is the perfect John Ford formula Western; one knows exactly what is to happen and it is possible to sit back and enjoy the predictable spectacle. Easy moving and charming as the film is, it was extremely difficult to make. Ford insisted on shooting on location in Monument Valley, where he had made STAGECOACH in 1939. The nearest railroad was 190 miles away in Flagstaff, and 500 people had to be fed and housed literally in the middle of nowhere. The budget ran well over two million dollars, an enormous sum for the 1946 period. When the location crew arrived, they discovered that there were no Saguaro cacti growing in the region, so they had to be constructed of cement and metal 50 feet high and shipped from Hollywood to make the locale look authentic. On one memorable March day there was a snowstorm in the morning, a sand storm in the early afternoon, a cloudburst three hours later and a tornado at night.

In spite of this, the film was finished and rests today as one of the great Westerns of all time. As the original New York Times review summed it all up, "The gentlemen are perfect. Their humors are earthy. Their activities are taut. The mortality rate is simply terrific. And the picture gets off with several bangs."

David Stewart Hull