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Thu 17 Aug
6.30

Serenade

Mann's most melodramatic film, *Serenade*, loosely based on James M. Cain's classic novel, features Mario Lanza as the Mexican peasant with a natural singing voice who is transformed into an emotional cripple by Joan Fontaine and throws up his operatic success until Sarita Montiel (Mann's wife) nurses him back to spiritual health. With Lanza a weak hero – he is given no task to perform – the two women are given more prominence than usual as they struggle to express themselves through Lanza. U.S.A. 1956. With Vincent Price. 120 mins.



Thu 17 Aug
8.45

Men in War

With the possible exception of Sam Fuller, no other American director has so vividly caught the atmosphere of battle. The encounter is only a small one – an American platoon, cut off from HQ, tries to take a hill from a virtually invisible enemy in the midst of the Korean War – but as the men crawl inch by inch over the terrain, arguing all the while what to do, Mann's camera impassively makes it clear that, however small the engagement, it is only those willing to commit themselves totally to it who will survive, at considerable cost to their humanity. U.S.A. 1956. With Robert Ryan, Aldo Ray, Brian Keith. 102 mins.



Fri 18 Aug
6.30

The Tin Star

A strangely restrained film for Mann, *Tin Star* is more notable for its formal devices than the interior tensions of its characters. Henry Fonda is the self-contained ex-sheriff turned bounty hunter who takes upon himself the role of father to Anthony Perkins and teaches him how to handle men as well as guns and re-acquires his own self respect in the process. U.S.A. 1957. With Neville Brand, John McIntire. 93 mins.



Fri 18 Aug
8.45

God's Little Acre

Mann and scriptwriter Philip Yordan transformed Erskine Caldwell's sensationalist novel about poor whites in the deep South into a study of two "overreachers", each struggling to control the destiny of the family. Robert Ryan is the monomaniacal patriarch desperately trying to harness the energies of his constantly squabbling flock into a search for grandfather's mythic buried gold, while Aldo Ray dreams the similarly impossible dream of reinvigorating their ramshackle homestead by turning the mill back on and bringing the whole valley back to fertility. U.S.A. 1957. 118 mins.



Mon 21 Aug
6.30

Man of the West

In *Man of the West* Mann subjects his hero (Gary Cooper) to nothing less than a descent into Hell. At the start Cooper seems to be a solid enough citizen but from the moment the malevolent, demented Lee J. Cobb enters the film and claims him as the favourite son he once was, Cooper must live through his past and finally kill his evil father as the price of the re-assertion of his own identity. An extraordinary, grandiose film, it sees Mann effortlessly bending the genre to produce a movie that for once justifies the adjective Shakespearian. U.S.A. 1958. With Julie London, Royal Dano, John Dehner. 96 mins.