

press release

REEL 13 film descriptions

Saturday, June 28: *A Star is Born* and *Funny Ha Ha*

9 p.m. Reel 13 Classic: *A Star is Born* (1954) 176 min.

Directed by George Cukor and starring Judy Garland and James Mason, this remake of the 1937 original ranked seventh on the American Film Institute's 2006 list of best musicals. Garland plays young singer Esther, who saves Norman Maine (Mason), a famous star, from making a fool of himself onstage. Maine is an alcoholic whose career is on the wane but who manages, nonetheless, to acknowledge Esther's talent and help her jump-start a career in Hollywood. But as her star rises and his declines, Maine's misery grows. Harold Arlen and Ira Gershwin provided Garland with songs that would become standards in her concert repertoire, including *The Man That Got Away*, which earned an Oscar nomination for Best Song. Deemed "culturally significant" by the Library of Congress, this classic was selected for preservation in the National Film Registry.

12:10 a.m. Reel 13 Indie: *Funny Ha Ha* (2002) 89 min.

Nearing 24 and recently unemployed, Marnie spends her days hanging out with friends she knew in college, trying out unsatisfying temp positions, and pining after an unavailable and unwilling love interest. Like Marnie, *Funny Ha Ha* is consumed not so much by outward angst, but rather the reluctantly-accepted reality that life is not perfect. In exploring the themes of Marnie's life, it artfully shows that people aren't always good or bad, things aren't always black and white, boundaries are easily blurred, and timing is often off.