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ERIE, PA. - The Great Lakes Film Association is proud to announce the second edition to our film series "Floyd's Films" hosted each month by veteran film critic Floyd Lawrence. For our second presentation we shall offer a special screening of a timeless classic film "Paths Of Glory" starring Kirk Douglas on Thursday July 26th at the Roadhouse Theatre For Contemporary Art, 145 West 11th Street Erie Pa.

In Stanley Kubrick's "Paths of Glory" war is viewed in terms of power. This mesmerizing, urgent film about a true episode in World War I combines the idea that class differences are more important than national differences with the cannon-fodder theory of war, the theory that soldiers are merely pawns in the hands of generals who play at war as if it were a game of chess. The result of this amazing film has been the emergence of one of the great talents in contemporary cinema, the master whose greatest work was yet to come.

The futility and irony of the war in the trenches in WWI is shown as a unit commander in the French army must deal with the mutiny of his men and a glory-seeking general after part of his force falls back under fire in an impossible attack.

A path of Glory (1957) is a masterful, unsentimental, classic anti-war film about World War I. It was 28 year-old Stanley Kubrick's fourth feature-length film (Kubrick served as its director and co-writer with Calder Willingham (screenwriter for *Little Big Man* (1970)) and blacklisted crime novelist Jim Thompson), but it was his first major success, following after his first amateurish feature *Fear and Desire* (1953) (subsequently removed from circulation and screenings by Kubrick himself), *Killer's Kiss* (1955), and MGM's low budget *The Killing* (1956). [Kubrick's work with actor Kirk Douglas in this film led to his choice as a replacement director for Anthony Mann for *Spartacus* (1960), following a falling out between Douglas and Mann.] Kubrick's film was added to the Library of Congress National Film Registry in 1992.

Juxtaposed in interesting fashion, this low-budget, independent production with a distinctly European flavor premiered one week *after* the release of David Lean's Best Picture-winning, CinemaScopic war epic blockbuster, *The Bridge on the River Kwai* (1957) from Columbia Pictures. This stark, slightly stagey, 87-minute black and white film, shot on location in Germany with crisp B/W photography (by George Krause) with a budget less than \$1 million, is as compelling and harsh an indictment and criticism of war as Lewis Milestone's award-winning, anti-war classic *All Quiet On The Western Front* (1930), adapted from Erich Maria Remarque's novel.

The title of the film, actually ironic and inappropriate since war is not a 'path of glory', was suggested by line 36 in 18th century English romantic poet Thomas Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*:

The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

Paths Of Glory is considered one of Kubrick's best films.

This one night only special event will take place at 7:30pm to be followed by a question and answer session hosted by Floyd Lawrence and his co-host Peggy Brace and a wine and cheese reception.

For more information or V.I.P. reservations please call the Roadhouse Theatre box office between the hours of 2:00pm and 6:00pm Tuesday through Saturday at 814-456-5656