

## SOME TALES FOR WINTER EVENINGS

In the olden days on the Northwest Coast, the dark, cold, inclement winter days were a time to gather round the long house fire with the story tellers. A time to pass on the legends, traditions, magic, humour, songs, cautionary tales, and wisdom of the elders.

The movie medium may not always be so rich with the wisdom of our elders and one must be selective, but, at its best, film is one of the most powerful communicating devices of our age. It gives us deep experiences and it does strongly influence our collective values.

In the words of Luis Bunuel as quoted in "100 Best Films To Rent You've Never Heard Of"--

*In the hands of a free spirit the cinema is a magnificent and dangerous weapon. It is the superlative medium through which to express the world of thought, feeling and instinct.*

*A film is like an involuntary imitation of a dream. The darkness that slowly settles over a movie theatre is equivalent to the act of closing the eyes. Then, on the screen, as within a human being, the nocturnal voyage into the subconscious begins.*

*The device of fading allows images to appear and disappear as in a dream; time and space become flexible, shrinking and expanding at will; chronological order and the relative values of time duration no longer correspond to reality; cyclical action can last a few minutes or several centuries; shifts from slow motion to accelerated action heighten the impact of each.*

*The cinema seems to have been invented to express the life of the subconscious, the roots of which penetrate poetry so deeply.*

If the old story tellers had such a device as film! Then again, they weren't addressing a hyper media savvy audience. In any case, film carries many of the same roles and uses many of the same devices in our age as did those stories told centuries ago.

Here, from Movie Monday, are a few stories in the modern idiom to pass some winter's evenings.

Bruce Saunders Jan /98