

# What's Available **NOW** On



## “Mae West: Dirty Blonde”

From PBS Living comes this documentary that aired on “American Masters” last year that does a deep dive into the life and career of Mae West, a groundbreaking writer, performer and subversive agitator for social change who possessed creative and economic powers that were unheard of for a female star in the 1930s.



## “Movie: Back to the Future”

The story that never gets old returns for another engagement as the saga of Marty McFly, Doc Brown and the time-traveling DeLorean plays out for Amazon streaming audiences in the trilogy of the Robert Zemeckis-directed adventure comedies. Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson, Crispin Glover and Thomas F. Wilson are among the stars.



## “Invincible”

From “The Walking Dead” creator Robert Kirkman comes this adult animation series that is based on the Skybound/Image comic of the same name and follows the adventures of 17-year-old Mark Grayson (voice of Steven Yeun) and son of the most powerful superhero on the planet. As he develops his own powers, he comes to realize his father’s legacy isn’t as heroic it seems. (ORIGINAL)



## “La templanza”

From Spain comes this period drama series that is set in the second half of the 19th century and follows the story of Mauro Larrea (Rafael Novoa), who finds his destiny restoring a vineyard to its former glory while pursuing the love of Soledad Montalvo (Leonor Watling), the feisty widow who once owned the property. Nathaniel Parker and David Levy also star. (ORIGINAL)

## best of ...

BY JAY BOBBIN



## BEST DAVID LEAN MOVIES

“**Blithe Spirit**” (1945) Noel Coward’s play inspired director Lean’s comedy-fantasy about an author and his second wife (Rex Harrison, Constance Cummings) whose pursuit of a seance – conducted by a medium played by Margaret Rutherford – conjures up the spirit of his first spouse (Kay Hammond).

“**Brief Encounter**” (1945) Lean’s treatment of the story about two married people (Celia Johnson, Trevor Howard) tempted to cheat with each other became iconic, referenced by other films (some using actual clips from it) over the ensuing years.

“**Great Expectations**” (1946) The first of Lean’s successful Charles Dickens adaptations casts John Mills as the orphaned Pip, whose initial hardships are reversed when an unknown benefactor funds his education and later life.

“**Oliver Twist**” (1948) John Howard Davies has the title role as Lean revisits Dickens, but other actors gave the more colorful parts – including Alec Guinness as questionable mentor Fagin and Anthony Newley as the Artful Dodger.

“**Summertime**” (1955) Lean returns to romance as Katharine Hepburn plays an American secretary

vacationing in Venice and hesitating to fall completely for an antiques dealer (Rossano Brazzi). “The Way We Were’s” Arthur Laurents wrote the screenplay.

“**The Bridge on the River Kwai**” (1957) The “epic” phase of Lean’s career began with this Oscar-winning adventure of World War II prisoners forced to build the title bridge, with Alec Guinness as the military colonel overseeing the operation, and William Holden as a captive much more interested in his own survival. Turner Classic Movies shows the picture Saturday, March 27.

“**Lawrence of Arabia**” (1962) Widely considered Lean’s masterpiece, this saga of a military man who was a World War II military liaison between British forces and Arabs made stars of Peter O’Toole – in the title role – and Omar Sharif. This is a movie that demands to be seen on the largest screen possible, thanks to its famous and magnificent panoramas (beautifully photographed by Freddie Young).

“**Doctor Zhivago**” (1965) Sharif reunited with Lean to play the title part in Lean’s sweeping

Russian Revolution romance, based on the novel by Boris Pasternak. Julie Christie’s stardom also was heightened by her performance as Zhivago’s true love Lara; the outstanding cast also includes Rod Steiger, Geraldine Chaplin, Alec Guinness, Tom Courtenay, Siobhan McKenna and Ralph Richardson.

“**Ryan’s Daughter**” (1970) Atmosphere again is essential to Lean’s love story set against World War I intrigue, with Sarah Miles – then the wife of the film’s writer, Robert Bolt – as the titular daughter of Irish pub owner Ryan (Robert Mitchum); her romance with a British officer (Christopher Jones) becomes problematic. Again directed by Lean, John Mills won an Oscar here.

“**A Passage to India**” (1984) Lean’s final film, adapted by E.M. Forster from his own novel, casts Judy Davis as an Englishwoman who undertakes a 1920s journey to British India – along with her future mother-in-law (Peggy Ashcroft) – to visit her fiancé (Nigel Havers) and is dismayed by the social system she finds there.