**Burt Lancaster**

**JULY 19 - 25**

**THE CIRCUS**

Directed by Sam Wood (1928, DEAN JONES)

Lancaster's first feature, and his first role as a bullfighter, was also a major turning point in his career, as he gave one of his best performances. The story follows a young man (played by Lancaster) who becomes a bullfighter and eventually rises to become a famous matador. The film is a vibrant look at tap dancing around the world, with Lancaster dancing in a number of settings ranging from the streets of Spain to the bullfighting arena. The film's score features music by Aaron Copland, and the film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Score.

**CRISS CROSS**

Directed by Robert Siodmak (1949, DON SIEGEL)

A classic crime drama set in post-war New York City, CRISS CROSS tells the story of a gangster who returns from prison to find his old crew engaged in a bloody turf war with rival gangs. Lancaster plays the protagonist, who struggles to maintain his loyalty to his former boss (played by Edward G. Robinson) while also trying to protect his own life. The film is known for its intense direction by Siodmak and its gritty realism, and it was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture.

**THE FLAME AND THE ARROW**

Directed by Michael Curtiz (1943, DON SIEGEL)

An action-packed adventure starring Lancaster as a former bandito who returns to Mexico to take vengeance on the corrupt officials who once wronged him. The film is notable for its fast-paced action scenes and its use of location filming to create a sense of authenticity. The film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Music (Scoring of a Dramatic or Comedy Picture).

**THE MEANEST GAME**

Directed by Robert Siodmak (1956, DON SIEGEL)

A classic crime drama set in the 1930s, THE MEANEST GAME tells the story of a gangster who returns from prison to find his old crew engaged in a bloody turf war with rival gangs. Lancaster plays the protagonist, who struggles to maintain his loyalty to his former boss (played by Edward G. Robinson) while also trying to protect his own life. The film is known for its intense direction by Siodmak and its gritty realism, and it was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture.

**BIRDMAN OF ALCATRAZ**

Directed by John Frankenheimer (1962, JOHN FRANKENHEIMER)

A biographical drama based on the life of the notorious prison escapee Robert Stroud, the film stars Lancaster as Stroud, who was a convicted murderer and served time in Alcatraz prison. The film is notable for its gritty realism and its depiction of life in the prison, and it was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor (for Bob Orton's performance as Stroud's cellmate).

**THE WILD BUNCH**

Directed by Sam Peckinpah (1969, JOHN FRANKENHEIMER)

A classic Western drama set in the 1870s, THE WILD BUNCH tells the story of a gang of former Confederate soldiers who return to the American West to rob a bank. The film is known for its intense direction by Peckinpah and its depiction of violence and brutality, and it was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay.