CINÉMATHEQUE PRESENTS...

MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION (1935)
Directed by John M. Stahl

Based on a best seller by Lloyd C. Douglas, Magnificent Obsession tells the story of Bobby Merrick (Robert Taylor), an alcoholic whose recklessness and hospitalization results in the death a respected physician. Helen Hudson (Irene Dunne), the doctor's widow, refuses Bobby's apology and steps into traffic. She's struck down by a car and blinded. Shaken by the tragic events, Bobby gives up alcohol and begins studying to become a doctor and right the wrong he's done to Helen. He begins spending time at Helen's family's estate and she grows fond of his frequent visits. Can Helen forgive the destruction Bobby has wreaked on her life? Can Bobby reverse Helen's blindness with a delicate and dangerous operation that has never before been performed?

112 min.

IMITATION OF LIFE (1934)
Directed by John M. Stahl

The first of two film versions of Fannie Hurst's novel, Imitation of Life chronicles the friendship between Beatrice Pullman (Claudette Colbert), a widowed mother and her hired housekeeper Delilah Johnson (Louise Beavers), who like Beatrice also has a daughter. Beatrice yearns to operate her own business. She manages to do so thanks to Delilah's special pancake recipe. Together they form a corporation to merchandise "Aunt Delilah" pancake mix, and within ten years both women are quite wealthy. But their relationships with their now teenage daughters becomes strained. Beatrice and her daughter Jessie (Rochelle Hudson) both vie for the attention of the same man and Delilah's daughter Peola (Fredi Washington) resents being African-American and tries to pass as white.

111 min.