East of Eden (1955)
Directed by Elia Kazan

Based on John Steinbeck’s best-seller and starring James Dean in his first feature role, *East of Eden* tells the story of Cal, the son of a Salinas valley lettuce farmer (Raymond Massey). Cal can’t seem to stay out of trouble and he struggles to live up to the example of his brother Aaron (Richard Davalos). Only Aaron’s girlfriend Abra (Julie Harris) and the town sheriff (Burl Ives) can see the good in him. When the family business falls into jeopardy, Cal obtains money from his estranged mother, who works as the madam of a brothel. Cal’s actions though well intentioned set off a firestorm of events.
115 min.

Splendor in the Grass (1961)
Directed by Elia Kazan

Deanie (Natalie Wood) and Bud (Warren Beatty in his screen debut) are high school sweethearts living in rural Kansas in on the eve of the 1929 stock market crash. The two are in love and plan to marry but Deanie’s rigid middle class mother (Audrey Christie) urges her to resist her desire for sex, while Bud’s oil tycoon father (Pat Hingle) encourages him to find another girl to satisfy his needs. Afraid of damaging Deanie’s reputation, Bud does indeed end up in the arms of another woman, driving Deanie into depression and eventually madness.
124 min.