

**Reel World Cinema XXXVI (Summer 2017)**  
***America's Indigenous Music: The  
Secular Hymnody of American Experience***

America's 20<sup>th</sup> century indigenous music—jazz, blues, protest, country, rock, and rap—has functioned as a kind of secular hymnody for the nation with the soul of a church. Empowered by a media revolution, America's home-grown music crossed racial and cultural and geographical boundaries to give expression to the joys and sorrows, the ecstasies and the agonies, of a nation ever coming of age. These eight movies tell the stories of some of the men and women whose musical vision reveals and shapes the modern American psyche.

**July 7: *Young Man with a Horn* (Michael Curtiz, 1950).** The story of jazz innovator Bix Biederbecke (1903–1931) starring Kirk Douglas, Lauren Bacall, Doris Day, and Hoagy Carmichael. Don't believe the happy ending. 112 minutes

**July 28: *Lady Sings the Blues* (Sidney J. Furie, 1972).** The tragic story of Billie Holiday (nee Eleanora Fagan, 1915–1959) based on her autobiography and featuring an Academy Award nominated performance by Diana Ross. 144 minutes

**Aug. 4: *Bound for Glory* (Hal Ashby, 1976).** The chronicle of folk singer Woody Guthrie (1912–1967) (David Carradine), who lifts the spirits of depression-era American workers as he rides the rails with them west to California. Haskell Wexler won the Oscar for cinematography. 147 minutes

**Aug. 18: *Coal Miner's Daughter* (Michael Apted, 1980).** Sissy Spacek becomes Loretta Lynn (b. 1932)—and won the Oscar—as the poverty-stricken girl from Kentucky who changed Country Music forever with the aid of her supportive husband Oliver (Tommy Lee Jones). 125 minutes.

**Aug. 25: *Walk the Line* (James Mangold, 2005).** This film traces the early life of Johnny Cash (1932–2003) played by Joaquin Phoenix and his relationship to June Carter (1929–2003) played by Reese Witherspoon. Witherspoon won the Oscar for her performance. 140 minutes

**Sept. 8: *I'm Not There* (Todd Haynes, 2007).** Six actors (Christian Bale, Marcus Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger, Ben Whishaw, and Cate Blanchett!!!) portray different facets of Bob Dylan's life and persona in a patchwork of stories. 135 minutes

**Sept. 22: *Straight Outta Compton* (F. Gary Gray, 2015).** The story of the notorious rap group N.W.A. and its expose of life in the 'hood. O'Shea Jackson, Corey Hawkins, and Jason Mitchell lead the ensemble cast. 147 minutes.