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Illustration: Anthony Perri

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Santa at the Movies: A Film Festival Retrospective

(Cape May, NJ) Take an afternoon from the holiday madness to learn more about one of Hollywood's most beloved leading men: Santa Claus. From his early appearances at just after the turn of the century to his latest portrayal in the season's hit *Fred Claus*, Santa has always been portrayed in films in various ways. "Sometimes he's the jolly guy you expect, and sometimes he's not at all what you expect," says Tom Sims, Executive Director for the New Jersey State Film Festival and instructor for the program, which will take place at 2:00 p.m. on December 15 at Cape May Stage.

"We've all seen *Miracle on 34th Street*," Sims continues, "and Edmund Gwenn's portrayal is the quintessential Santa Claus. But what about the Santa at the mall in 'A Christmas Story'. Not exactly your classic Santa." Sims says this is a retrospective for the whole family. "There have been so many great actors who have played this timeless character," he adds. "We're going to have a lot of fun looking at all of these with some great clips and great stories." Reserve your place for this presentation, hosted by the Cape Island Film Society, by calling 609-884-6700.

On Friday December 14^h, Cape May Stage is generously donating a portion of the evening's box office proceeds to benefit the NJ State Film Festival and Cape Island Film Society. We're certain that the Film Society supporters will show their support and make Cape May Stage's show "Every Christmas Story Ever Told!" a sell-out performance.

The Cape Island Film Society and New Jersey State Film Festival at Cape May are Southern New Jersey's premiere film arts organizations dedicated exclusively to the support and presentation of creative, challenging, groundbreaking, film/video works by New Jersey filmmakers. The Society is also the region's leading educational and cultural resource for youth and adult learners interested in all facets of the cinematic experience. For tickets and information, contact our office at 609-884-6700 or visit them online at www.njstatefilmfestival.com.

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