

## CHICAGO MOVIE TOURS

# 2026 Featured Talks



This guide highlights one **featured talk each month** in 2026, many tied to **holidays** and **cultural observances** for year-round programming inspiration.

While some talks are **available now**, others will **premiere** closer to their featured month and can be booked anytime after that. [Happy browsing!](#)



## JAN

### Hollywood Bites: From Golden Age Glamour to Rom- Com Delights

Discover a Chicago restaurant booth frequented by classic movie stars, and analyze food in the romantic comedy *When Harry Met Sally*.

*Available now or book Jan 2027!*



## FEB

### On the Run in Chicago: Behind the Scenes of *The Fugitive*

Go behind the scenes of *The Fugitive* to explore its Chicago roots, on-set challenges, and lasting legacy in film and television history.

*Available now*



## MAR

### Women's Fashion, Ferris Wheels, and Film at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair

Examine women's changing fashion at the World's Columbian Exposition while considering the first Ferris Wheel and fair photography.

*Available now*



## APR

### *Gone with the Wind* in Chicago: Place, Protest, and the Black Press

Visit a mill from the credits of *Gone with the Wind*, and uncover how Black Chicagoans and *The Chicago Defender* reacted to the 1939 movie.

*Available beginning April 2026*



## MAY

### School's Out for Summer! Child Actors and Chicago's Studio Teachers

Trace how studio teachers have taught and protected child actors from 1930s Hollywood to the Chicago sets of *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Home Alone*.

*Available beginning May 2026*



## JUN

### From Ferris to the Frontline: Chicago's Art Institute and Grant Park in the Movies

From *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*—[happy 40th!](#)—to political dramas, experience the Art Institute of Chicago and Grant Park through the lens of film.

*Available now*

# Meet Kelli

**Kelli Marshall** is a public speaker, educator, and founder of Chicago Movie Tours & Talks. A former film professor, Kelli is known for making complex topics fun and accessible through memorable stories, humor, and interactive presentations. Her work on film and television has appeared in books, academic journals, and the popular press, and she has been featured on podcasts, local TV, and international radio discussing classics from *The Wizard of Oz* to *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.



Kelli holds a PhD in Humanities and brings more than 20 years of teaching and public speaking experience to every event.



## Still Waters, Sudden Death: Chicago's Deadliest Disaster Onscreen

Examine the SS *Eastland* tragedy through its screen portrayals—from newsreels and documentaries to home movies and a Disney show.

*Available beginning Jul. 2026*



## Behind the Baby Carriage: Chicago and *The Untouchables*

Visit three Chicago locations in *The Untouchables*, focusing on the movie's baby carriage sequence in Union Station and later films it inspired.

*Available beginning Aug. 2026*



## No Soup for You! The Role of Food in *Seinfeld*

Learn how the TV series *Seinfeld* uses food to define characters, shape dialogue, and reveal (often wacky) American social norms.

*Available beginning Sep. 2026*



## The Making of *Contagion*: Chicago as Pandemic Horror Stage

Step into the frightening world of *Contagion*: 30+ Chicago locations, behind-the-scenes secrets, and eerie parallels to real-world pandemics.

*Available now*



## Batman in Chicago: Filming Locations and the Art of Anarchy

Explore Chicago as Gotham, uncover location filming secrets, and learn how camera angles in *The Dark Knight* reveal chaos and power.

*Available beginning Oct. 2026*



## Christmas in Chicago: Location and Legacy in *While You Were Sleeping*

Visit three Chicago locations from *While You Were Sleeping*, and consider the importance of Saul, the Jewish elder guiding this Christmas rom-com.

*Available beginning Nov. 2026*

# 2026 Pricing

Talks are available virtually or in person. They run about **60 minutes**, with unlimited time allotted afterward for **Q&A**.

## Virtual

### **\$300 per talk**

Bring Chicago's film history to your audience—anywhere!

## In Person

### **\$400 per talk**

Locations over 25 mi. from La Grange, IL, are quoted separately. [View map.](#)

# Book a Talk

## **KELLI MARSHALL**

Chicago Movie Tours & Talks

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Request a Talk

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# FAQs

## **Are talks available outside their featured month?**

Each talk is labeled *Available now* or *Available beginning [Month]*. Once a talk premieres, it remains available to book!

## **Do you offer other talks?**

Absolutely! Most of [Kelli's 50+ talks](#) center on Chicago's 130-year film history, but she also provides programs on broader topics like women in Hollywood, film noir, and Christmas movies.

## **Are the talks interactive?**

Yes! Kelli designs most talks to be engaging and interactive. Participants often ask questions and discuss their own histories with the films and locations. Additionally, some programs include polls and trivia!

## **What are your technical requirements for in-person talks?**

Kelli creates and projects all content using her MacBook Pro, with video footage and other media embedded in Apple programs. For in-person programs, a projector, large screen, HDMI cable, and audio equipment are required.

## **Can talks be customized?**

At this time, talks are presented as described, with full program details shared in advance.