An illustrated lecture by Leslie Goddard





Revisiting a Civil War Classic, or Why Gone With the Wind Still Matters

Seventy-five years after its blockbuster premiere in 1939, *Gone with the Wind* continues to inspire passionate devotion. With ticket sales since 1939 translated into contemporary dollars, it is the world's all-time box-office champion. American Film Institute members voted it the most popular film of all time. This illustrated talk by historian Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., reviews the story of how *Gone With the Wind* was made, including the two-year search for Scarlett O'Hara, the pioneering special effects, and the perfectionistic drive of visionary producer David O. Selznick. We'll explore the accuracy of the movie's history and its lasting influence in shaping popular understanding of the American Civil War. What accounts for this movie's remarkably enduring popularity?



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Leslie Goddard holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University specializing in U.S. history and American studies, as well as a master's degree in theater. A former museum director, she is the author of two books on Chicago history and currently serves on the executive board of the Chicago Civil War Round Table. She speaks frequently on topics in history with particular expertise in the areas of Civil War history, women's history, and Chicago history.