

Days of Wine and Roses

by: Gary N.

Many of the fellowship are quite familiar with the 1962 movie *Days of Wine and Roses* directed by Blake Edwards, Oscar winning music by Henry Mancini with lyrics by Johnny Mercer, and starring Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick, who were nominated for best actor and best actress. The film depicts the downward ugliness of alcoholism in the wife, while the husband is able to find recovery in A.A. With the help of a sponsor (played by Jack Klugman), he becomes a responsible father to his young daughter despite a number of severe slips.

However, many that have seen that movie many times may not know that *Days of Wine And Roses* was originally an Emmy winning 1958 90-minute teleplay. It was directed by John Frankenheimer and starred Cliff Robertson and Piper Laurie. The teleplay was featured on the anthology series *Playhouse 90* on CBS.

The teleplay is a fascinating experience to watch, not least of which is because that *Playhouse 90* was live TV, a dimension entirely lost to TV drama today. Some of the costume and scene changes done live are remarkable all by themselves. I found myself profoundly moved by watching the teleplay. What an effort must have gone into the rehearsals that made this teleplay come to life!

The teleplay was written by a man that was drinking as he wrote the script and as it was rehearsed. Isn't that so typical of an alcoholic? The author was someone who could talk the talk and fully convey the emotional hell that compulsive drinking can create. However, he still had all the denial systems in place to tell himself that he "wasn't that bad." He became a member in good standing of the Fellowship sometime after the teleplay appeared in October of 1958, and spoke at the 1965 A.A. International in Toronto.

And even though this author died in 2001, I'm still somewhat puzzled about whether or not I should write his full name here, so I won't. One can easily search the Internet for the name of the movie and related teleplay, and determine the author that way. I'll leave it at that.

I was honored some time ago with the gift of the teleplay DVD. Would it be a good idea for a viewing, say after or during a normally scheduled meeting in Gwinnett County? We would simply require a large screen TV and a DVD player, which could be transported to the meeting place.

Were we to gather together to see this, even if you've seen the movie many times, I believe you'd still be very entertained were. For there is a bit of a surprise, even for the veteran movie watcher! The ending of the teleplay is not the same as the movie! Could we have the makings of a archives workshop here?

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