

## **“The Irish in John Ford’s Life and Films”**

A Presentation by Prof. Kevin Stoehr, Boston University

John Ford is the only director to have won six Academy Awards, including two for documentaries that he made during World War Two. His classic films include *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Young Mr. Lincoln*, *Stagecoach*, *How Green Was My Valley*, *My Darling Clementine*, *The Quiet Man*, *The Searchers*, and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. He was a major influence on some of the world’s most acclaimed directors.

Ford was born into a large Irish family in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and spent most of his youth living amidst other Irish families on Munjoy Hill in Portland. This presentation will trace the influence of Ford’s Irish roots on his personality as well as on his film career. We will also see selected clips from relevant movies by Ford, ranging from fairly obscure silent films to his later classic *The Quiet Man*.

Kevin Stoehr, Ph.D., is a professor of humanities at Boston University. His recent books include *Ride, Boldly Ride: Aspects of the Western in American Cinema* (University of California Press, 2012) and *Nihilism in Film and Television* (McFarland, 2006). He is the co-editor of *John Ford in Focus: Essays on the Filmmaker’s Life and Work* (McFarland, 2008) and the editor of *Film and Knowledge: Essays on the Integration of Images and Ideas* (McFarland, 2002). He is a native of Portland and organized a Ford film festival that took place there in 2005.