

JULIE CHRISTIE · OSCAR WERNER



**AFLAME
WITH THE
EXCITEMENT
AND
EMOTIONS
OF
TODAY!**

FAHRENHEIT 451

CO-STARRING

TECHNICOLOR

CYRIL GUSACK

ANTON DIFFRING · JEREMY SPENSER · ALEX SCOTT

Screenplay by **FRANÇOIS TRUFFAUT** and **JEAN LOUIS BICHARD**

Based on the novel by **RAY BRADBURY**

Produced by **CURTIS V. ALLEN**

A UNIVERSAL PICTURES FILM PRODUCTION

A UNIVERSAL RELEASE

Directed by

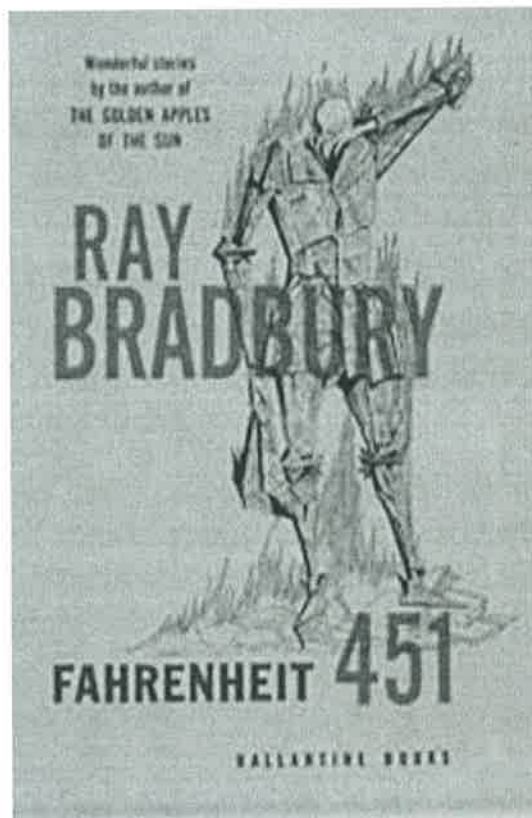
FRANÇOIS TRUFFAUT

Fahrenheit 451

by Ray Bradbury

presented by Geri Anna Barbara

Author:	Ray Bradbury
Country:	United States
Language:	English
Published:	1953
First edition cover, illustrator:	Joseph Mugnaini



Books burn at 451 degrees Fahrenheit...

Books are banned and burnt; robot dogs prowl the streets sniffing out those who read illegally; firemen answer the call, racing through the streets to burn book and reader alike.

Guy Montag is a fireman whose job it is to start fires... The system is simple. Everyone understands it. Books are for burning... along with the houses in which they are hidden. Guy Montag enjoys his job. He has been a fireman for ten years, and he has never questioned the pleasure of the midnight runs nor the joy of watching pages consumed by flames... never questioned anything until he meets a seventeen-year-old girl who tells him of a past when people were not afraid. Then he meets a professor who told him of a future in which people could think... and Guy Montag suddenly realises what he had to do - steal a book and read it. From that moment his life changes forever...

FAHRENHEIT 451 is Ray Bradbury's classic novel of censorship and defiance, as resonant today as it was when it was first published 64 years ago.

This science fiction at its best: holding up a mirror to our own troubled time where the destruction of information and the suppression of free speech is on the rise.

Bradbury places his story firmly in a world on the brink of war and TNT's experienced team also explore the relationship between private control and public violence.

But if the themes of this classic work are disturbing and profound, the form is dramatic and even comic. There are giant metallic killer dogs, TV screens for walls, adverts and media for entertainment, bored housewives, world war, rockets and rebels in the forest.

FAHRENHEIT 451 has been called the greatest science fiction story ever told. Like all good sci-fi, it speaks about now – a world obsessed with media rather than message, where trash culture and junk materialism rule; where conformity is prized above freedom and war is used as an excuse to undermine our liberty.



Title of the book

The title refers to the temperature 451 °F (233 °C) that Bradbury thought was the autoignition temperature of paper. Though this is popularly believed to be correct, scientists place the autoignition temperature from 440 °F (227 °C) to 470 °F (243 °C) depending on the study and type of paper.

Curiosity:

When Bradbury wrote the novel during the McCarthy era, he was concerned about censorship in the United States.

During a radio interview in 1956, Bradbury said:

"I wrote this book at a time when I was worried about the way things were going in this country four years ago. Too many people were afraid of their shadows; there was a threat of book burning. Many of the books were being taken off the shelves at that time. And of course, things have changed a lot in four years. Things are going back in a very healthy direction. But at the time I wanted to do some sort of story where I could comment on what would happen to a country if we let ourselves go too far in this direction, where then all thinking stops, and the dragon swallows his tail, and we sort of vanish into a limbo and we destroy ourselves by this sort of action."

FARENHEIT 451 in the teathre:

The American Drama Group Europe
presents TNT theatre Britain in FAHRENHEIT 451

Directed by Paul Stebbings

Musical Director: Paul Flush

Producer: Grantly Marshall

Fahrenheit 451 Stage text adapted:
Paul Stebbings and Phil Smith



FAHRENHEIT 451 in the cinema:
english-french sci-fi film,
113 minutes, 1966,
Director: Francois Truffaut



Fahrenheit 451 Quotes

"Everyone must leave something behind when he dies, my grandfather said. A child or a book or a painting or a house or a wall built or a pair of shoes made. Or a garden planted. Something your hand touched some way so your soul has somewhere to go when you die, and when people look at that tree or that flower you planted, you're there.

It doesn't matter what you do, he said, so long as you change something from the way it was before you touched it into something that's like you after you take your hands away. The difference between the man who just cuts lawns and a real gardener is in the touching, he said. The lawn-cutter might just as well not have been there at all; the gardener will be there a lifetime."

"The books are to remind us what asses and fool we are. They're Caesar's praetorian guard, whispering as the parade roars down the avenue, "Remember, Caesar, thou art mortal." Most of us can't rush around, talking to everyone, know all the cities of the world, we haven't time, money or that many friends. The things you're looking for, Montag, are in the world, but the only way the average chap will ever see ninety-nine per cent of them is in a book. Don't ask for guarantees. And don't look to be saved in any one thing, person, machine, or library. Do your own bit of saving, and if you drown, at least die knowing you were headed for shore."

“And when he died, I suddenly realized I wasn’t crying for him at all, but for the things he did. I cried because he would never do them again, he would never carve another piece of wood or help us raise doves and pigeons in the backyard or play the violin the way he did, or tell us jokes the way he did. He was part of us and when he died, all the actions stopped dead and there was no one to do them the way he did. He was individual. He was an important man. I’ve never gotten over his death. Often I think what wonderful carvings never came to birth because he died. How many jokes are missing from the world, and how many homing pigeons untouched by his hands? He shaped the world. He did things to the world. The world was bankrupted of ten million fine actions the night he passed on.”



Ray Bradbury's 10 best books

1. 'Fahrenheit 451'
2. 'The Martian Chronicles'
3. 'The Illustrated Man'
4. 'Something Wicked This Way Comes'
5. 'Dandelion Wine'
6. 'The Sound of Thunder and Other Stories'
7. 'Dark Carnival'
8. 'Zen in the Art of Writing'
9. 'Farewell Summer'
10. 'Death is a Lonely Business'

Book jackets

