



From "Gone With The Wind" to "Lord Of The Rings," Hollywood is ever hungry for a good story. And now the world's largest book fair is celebrating the alliance between cinema and literature by fueling the eternal debate — can a great book become a great movie?

The Frankfurt Fair has long played a vital role for film producers as a treasure trove of new material. Now fair organizers felt it was time to take stock of how closely the two are interlinked.

So publishers weary of wheeling and dealing can now retire to the fair's specially built new cinema and decide for themselves by watching screen adaptations of bestsellers.

Another Frankfurt cinema is staging a CLIC (Celebrating Literature in Cinema) festival while a third is showing great Russian classics. Hollywood and Literature, once uneasy bedmates, have recognized how much they need each other in an age when good storytelling means big money for both of them.

"They are worlds that you can put together. It is a difficult but a happy marriage," said the book fair's project manager Katharina Werdnik whose program also includes a string of panel discussions about cinema and books. "Yes, I think you can make great films out of great books," she told newsmen.

The rich and glorious tradition stretches from "East of Eden" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" through to "The Exorcist" and "The Godfather."

But devoted fans of "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" and "Bonfire of the Vanities" raged over their screen adaptations while children around the world checked every

plot twist and turn in the two Harry Potter sagas brought to the screen.

Werdnik believes people should forget the book when they go to the cinema and instead see the camera inside their heads. Never judge a book by its movie. "When I go to the cinema, I close my book and open up my imagination," she said, arguing that classics like Dr.

writers. Most writers today are already thinking in their head the book has to be a film even if they say No, that is not true." And, citing such complex novels as "The English Patient" and "The Naked Lunch," she said "You can always find a way to make a film out of a book. It is never impossible."



Can a great book become a great movie too?

Zhivago and Moby Dick lit up the screen.

Werdnik believes the 21st Century writer always has a screenplay in his or her mind's eye. "We have such a visual education from television that influences

For life without both art forms would be so much poorer as French director Francois Truffaut graphically showed with the burning of books in his adaptation of the Ray Bradbury novel "Fahrenheit 451." ●