

160 Movies You Should See Before You Die

(and why)

by Chuck Weiss

The have is an Associate of Science Degree in Cinematography. I know how to make movies. Listed below are some of my favorites, along with my reasons as to why they are.

You won't find the obvious classics on this list that you've probably already seen. I preferred instead to concentrate on films that I believe are classics in their own right, which you might have missed. I'm particularly fond of good comedies, so there are a number of them listed here. There are also a few that are especially for children, but ones that their parents will also enjoy.

The links provided will take you to imdb.com for more information about the movie, including user reviews, trivia and a full listing of the cast and crew.

WARNING: Many of my recommendations contain spoilers, but if they entice you to see the film, then all the better.

The next time you want to watch a good movie, select one from those listed below.

1. [9 to 5 \(1980\)](#)

Three female employees of a corrupt, misogynistic department head find a way to turn the tables on him.

A delightful comedy about women in the workplace, starring Jane Fonda, Lilly Tomlin and Dolly Parton, who also wrote the famous title song that got an Oscar nomination. Dabney Coleman's villainy is a joy to watch as the "sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot."

2. [1984 \(1956\)](#)

In a dystopian future, a man whose job it is to rewrite history finds the courage to rebel when he falls in love.

Of all the attempts to adapt George Orwell's novel to the screen, I consider this the best and against which all others should to be judged. The final scene is chilling.

3. [African Queen, The \(1951\)](#)

In East Africa during WWI, a hard drinking riverboat captain is persuaded by a strait-laced missionary to undertake a trip up a dangerous river and use his boat to attack a German gunship.

This is a great movie by a great director, John Huston, but it's a wonder it ever got made. Filmed on location in the jungles of Africa, the experience was a hardship for all. It's claimed that everyone in the cast and crew got sick except John Huston, and Humphrey Bogart who said "All we ate was baked beans, canned asparagus and Scotch whiskey. Whenever a fly bit Huston or me, it dropped dead." Katharine Hepburn drank only water, and as result she suffered a severe bout of dysentery.

Bogart won the Oscar for Best Actor. Hepburn was nominated for Best

Actress, Huston for Best Director, and Best Screenplay with James Agee.

4. [Al Capone \(1959\)](#)

A chronicle of the rise and fall of Chicago crime boss, Al Capone.

There have been many movies about the most notorious gangster who ever lived, but I believe that Rod Steiger's performance stands above them all. Some would award that title to Robert de Nero in *The Untouchables* (1987), but when I saw it I could only see the actor, instead of the character he was playing. Not so with Rod Steiger's portrayal. It's well worth watching.

5. [All About Eve \(1950\)](#)

A seemingly timid but secretly ruthless ingénue insinuates herself into the lives of an aging Broadway star and her circle of influential friends.

Joseph Mankiewicz who wrote *Citizen Kane* also wrote and directed this classic starring Betty Davis. Great performances from everyone in the cast. The film received 14 Oscar nominations and won six of them, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screenplay.

6. [Andersonville Trial, the \(1970\)](#)

A made-for-TV movie based on the play, which itself was based on the transcript of the trial for war crimes of Henry Wirz, the Commandant of the infamous Confederate POW camp at Andersonville, Georgia. It was the "Nuremberg Trial" of the American Civil War.

It's worth watching for its recounting of this historical trial. Although he was found guilty and hanged, the script shows that Captain Wirz was not wholly unsympathetic with his defensive argument. William Shatner plays Col. Chipman, the army prosecutor. Although his acting style is predictable, the other members of the cast turn in very agreeable performances. Richard Basehart's portrayal of Henry Wirz with his anguished testimony on the stand is particularly noteworthy.

Jack Cassidy won a Primetime Emmy Award as his defense counsel. George C. Scott directed.

7. [Apocalypse Now \(1979\)](#)

A army officer serving in Vietnam is tasked with assassinating a renegade Special Forces Colonel who has "gone native" and set himself up as a god deep in the jungle. To get there he must travel by riverboat.

Based on *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, this is perhaps the best war movie ever made, and there have been many. The trip down river is a perilous journey through unspeakable horrors, a descent into madness and the darkness of the human psyche.

The film was nominated for eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director (Coppola), and Best Supporting Actor (Duvall). It won Best Cinematography and Best Sound.

8. [Awakenings \(1990\)](#)

The victims of an encephalitis epidemic many years ago have been catatonic ever since, but now a new drug offers hope of reviving them.

Based on the true story of Dr. Oliver Sacks and his patients, as told in his

memoir of the same name. The story is in itself both heartwarming and heartbreaking, a natural for Robin Williams in his role as the doctor. Robert De Nero costars as one of his patients, and was nominated for an Oscar for his performance.

9. [Bedazzled \(2000\)](#)

A man with low self esteem is granted seven wishes by the Devil to attract the girl of his dreams, in exchange for his soul.

A very funny American remake of *Bedazzled* (1967), a very dry British comedy. Brendan Fraser stars, with Elizabeth Hurley as a sexy Devil who teaches Fraser the truth about “the whole good and evil thing.”

10. [Bedford Incident, The \(1965\)](#)

With the cooperation of the Navy a reporter goes aboard a US destroyer to gain material for a magazine article, while its captain tries to confront a Soviet submarine caught violating territorial waters. A high-risk game of “cat and mouse” in the cold war era, starring Richard Widmark as the captain, and Sidney Poitier as the reporter.

When I was in the Navy I was stationed in Iceland as part of NATO’s tracking of Soviet submarines coming down from the north Atlantic, much like the destroyer was doing in this movie. Our method of tracking was to drop listening devices (buoys) into the ocean to predetermined depths from P3 aircraft. One time the buoy actually hit the hull of the sub we were tracking. If it weren’t for the steady nerves of its captain, we could have had a real “incident” similar to that of the fictitious Bedford. The tensions felt in the film were not exaggerated.

11. [Birdman of Alcatraz \(1962\)](#)

A convicted murderer held in permanent isolation rescues a dying bird in the exercise yard and nurses it back to health. He goes on to educate himself about birds and becomes a renowned expert on bird diseases, inventing cures for a number of them.

The true story of Robert Stroud who spent 54 years in prison (42 of them in solitary confinement), and rehabilitated himself in spite of a penal system determined to break him.

Stars Burt Lancaster, and directed by John Frankenheimer. Received four Oscar nominations, including Best Actor (Lancaster).

12. [Boy and His Dog, A \(1975\)](#)

A young man and his telepathic dog try to survive in a post-apocalyptic wasteland.

From a novella by Harlan Ellison, starring Don Johnson, with Jason Robards. A dark comedy, with the last scene of the movie that made it a cult classic.

13. [Boys from Brazil, The \(1978\)](#)

The Nazis who fled Germany at the end of WWII to South America seek to revive the Third Reich by cloning Hitler.

A intriguing premise, made believable by the outstanding performances of all. Starring Gregory Peck as Dr. Josef Mengele, with Sir Laurence Olivier’s portrayal as Ezra Lieberman, the famous real life Nazi hunter,

earning him Oscar nomination. The film features Jeremy Black, who gives a noteworthy performance, as four different teenage Hitler clones, living in different countries and growing up in different cultures.

14. [Bridge on the River Kwai, The \(1957\)](#)

British POWs are forced to build a railway bridge across a river for the Japanese in occupied Burma, not knowing that the allied forces are planning a daring commando raid to blow it up.

Stars Sir Alec Guinness, with Sessue Hayakawa as the Japanese Commandant. The movie, loosely based on a real event in World War II, won a total of seven Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Actor (Guinness), Best Supporting Actor (Hayakawa), and Best Director (David Lean).

15. [Bulworth \(1998\)](#)

A disillusioned US Senator wants to commit suicide, and puts a contract out on himself to do it. He continues to campaign for reelection as he waits, but takes the opportunity to be bluntly honest with both the voters and his contributors.

People should see this at least once before they vote in any election. Written, directed and stars Warren Beatty in the title role. The film received three Golden Globe nominations.

16. [Cabaret \(1972\)](#)

A female nightclub entertainer in Berlin Germany romances two men while the Nazi Party rises to power.

The incomparable Bob Fosse not only choreographed this musical, but won an Oscar for directing as well. Anything he did is worth watching. Liza Minnelli stars, and won the Oscar for Best Actress.

17. [Caine Mutiny, The \(1954\)](#)

When a US Naval captain shows signs of mental instability that jeopardizes the ship, the first officer relieves him of command.

The film was adapted from the 1952 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Herman Wouk, and stars Humphrey Bogart as Captain Queeg. His paranoid testimony at the trial of the first officer for mutiny, where he fiddles with two steel balls in his hand as he becomes more and more agitated, is a classic scene in cinema.

The movie won 5 Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Actor for Bogart's performance.

18. [Captains Courageous \(1937\)](#)

The spoiled son of a wealthy industrialist falls overboard from a steamship. He's picked up by a fishing boat, and made to earn his keep by joining the crew in their work.

This story by Rudyard Kipling stars Spencer Tracy, who won an Oscar for Best Actor, and one of the most accomplished child actors of any period, Freddie Bartholomew.

19. [Carrie \(1976\)](#)

A shy teenage girl unleashes her dormant, telekinetic powers with

murderous affect after being humiliated by her classmates at their senior prom.

A horror classic by Brian De Palma, from a story by Stephen King, starring Sissy Spacek who received an Oscar Nomination. Her revenge at the end of the movie makes anyone ever bullied in school stand up and cheer. You go, girl!

20. [Cat on a Hot Tin Roof \(1958\)](#)

An alcoholic ex-football player drinks his days away and resists the affections of his wife. A reunion with his terminally ill father brings up memories and revelations for both father and son that help them to reconcile their differences.

Adapted from the play by Tennessee Williams, and stars Paul Newman as the ex-football player, Elizabeth Taylor as his wife, and Burl Ives as "Big Daddy." Watch this film for the performance of Burl Ives, who tries to understand his son before he dies. I always thought he was underrated as an actor.

Nominated for five Oscars, Best Picture, Best Actor (Newman), Best Actress (Taylor), and Best Director and Adapted Screenplay (Richard Brook).

21. [Catch Me If You Can \(2002\)](#)

Frank is a skilled forger of checks and a con man, who at the age of 17 passes as a doctor, lawyer and even an airline pilot.

The film is based on Frank Abagnale Jr.'s autobiography. It's directed by Steven Spielberg and stars Leonardo DiCaprio as Frank, Tom Hanks as the FBI agent on his trail, and Christopher Walken as Frank's father, who was nominated for an Oscar for his performance. Amazing the mischief that someone can do with a little "chutzpa."

22. [Charly \(1968\)](#)

A mentally challenged man undergoes an experiment that gives him the intelligence of a super genius.

Based on the novel *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes, the film stars Cliff Robertson who won a well deserved Oscar as Best Actor for his performance.

23. [Chicago \(2002\)](#)

Two women on death-row in the 1930s develop a fierce rivalry, competing for publicity, celebrity status, and the attention of a sleazy lawyer.

Stars Renée Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Richard Gere, and Queen Latifah, as the jailhouse matron. Another musical with the dance numbers choreographed by Bob Fosse.

This stylish film won the Oscar for Best Picture, and Catherine Zeta-Jones won for Best Supporting Actress.

24. [Chinatown \(1974\)](#)

A private detective hired to expose an adulterer in 1930s Los Angeles finds himself caught up in a web of deceit, corruption, and murder.

This film noir classic is a compact movie, where every scene is necessary

for plot or character development. In fact, it won that year's Oscar for Best Screenplay. It's Roman Polanski's finest film for which he was nominated an Oscar for Best Director. Starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, both of whom also received Oscar nominations.

25. [Christmas Carol, A \(1951\)](#)

A miserly businessman has no time for sentimentality, and views Christmas largely as an excuse by do-gooders soliciting donations for the poor to "pick his pocket." However, on Christmas Eve he's visited by three spirits who educate him as to the true meaning of the holiday.

The best Ebenezer Scrooge on film. Most critics agree that all others should be measured against this one. Alastair Sim's performance (for which he received an Oscar nomination) is outstanding, especially on Christmas morning when he awakens to find that he's not dead and has been given a second chance in life. His giddiness is a joy to watch. I'm a sucker for movies about redemption, and this is one of the best.

26. [Cocaine Bear \(2023\)](#)

This hilarious comedy was inspired in part by a true incident. In 1985, a drug smuggler flew over Georgia and dumped bundles of cocaine out the door before parachuting with 80 pounds of it strapped to his body. The parachute malfunctioned, and he fell to his death in the drive way of a home in Knoxville, Tennessee. 40 kilos of the drug landed in a national forest where some of it was eaten by a black bear who died (most likely within minutes) from cerebral hemorrhaging and heart failure. With the exceptions of the smuggler and the bear, there were no other casualties.

In the film, "Pablo Escobear" (as she's now called by her fans) goes on a rampage killing seven people by the movie's end. The CGI bear is realistic looking, and was deserving of an Oscar for its portrayal of a hardcore cocaine addict. It did, however, received an Oscar nomination for Best Animation in a Live Action Production.

27. [Colossus: The Forbin Project \(1970\)](#)

The country's nuclear arsenal is given up completely to a super computer, thereby eliminating any chance that human error might accidentally start WWII. What could possibly go wrong?

After *2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)*, this is the best of the "computer runs amok" movies. Eric Braeden is perfect as Dr. Forbin, the computer's creator, with his measured, low key performance.

28. [Court Jester, The \(1955\)](#)

A carnival performer masquerades as a court jester to oppose a tyrannical ruler, and help restore the rightful king he deposed.

A comedy classic and Danny Kaye's best movie, with Basil Rathbone as the villain. Their sword fight at the end is priceless. Rathbone, who was an excellent swordsman, later said the scene was the most dangerous he'd ever filmed, and that he feared getting seriously hurt. When you see it, you'll understand why.

Danny Kaye earned a Golden Globe Award nomination for Best Actor in a Comedy.

29. [Damn Yankees \(1958\)](#)

A musical comedy about an aging baseball fan who makes a pact with the Devil to become a young outfielder for the Washington Senators.

Great entertainment, with a wickedly funny performance by Ray Walston as the Devil. The musical numbers, especially “Those Were the Good Old Days,” where the Devil reminisces about his fondest memories, are fun to watch. The film received a Golden Globe nomination for Best Musical.

30. [Dark Star \(1974\)](#)

An expanded version of John Carpenter’s student film, a comedy about a crew of hapless astronauts who go from system to system looking for unstable planets to blowup.

To bring it up to a length that could be distributed in movie theaters an additional 50 minutes was filmed, including hysterical scenes featuring a beachball alien. This movie is a classic example of what can be done with some imagination, and next to no money.

31. [Dave \(1993\)](#)

A minor actor named Dave, with an uncanny resemblance to the President, is recruited by the Secret Service to become a momentary stand-in for the real President while he’s away (visiting his mistress). When the President has a stroke, Dave is persuaded to continue in the role until he recovers.

A comedy gem of a movie, with Kevin Kline in the title role, Sigourney Weaver as the President’s estranged wife, and Frank Langella as the White House Chief of Staff who tries to control Dave when he attempts to do some public good while sitting in the oval office.

Kline was nominated for a Golden Globe Award as Best Actor in a Comedy for his performance.

32. [Day After, The \(1983\)](#)

Small town residents in eastern Kansas experience the devastating effects of nuclear war.

The original broadcast of this made-for-TV movie was viewed by more than 100 million Americans. The unprecedented television event reignited non-proliferation debates, and galvanized support for disarmament.

Initially Ronald Reagan had believed that nuclear war was winnable, but in his memoir, *An American Life*, he revealed that the film changed his mind about nuclear policy, and led him to sign the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 1987, which significantly reduced the nuclear arsenals of both the US and Soviet Union.

The film won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Special Visual Effects, and was nominated for 11 others Emmys. Directed by Nicholas Meyer, and starring Jason Robards.

33. [Day the Earth Stood Still, The \(1951\)](#)

A flying saucer lands in Washington, DC with an urgent message for the people of Earth.

The visitor asks the President to assemble a representative from every nation so they can convey his message to their peoples, but is told it’s

impossible because of the animosity governments have for one another. The very human looking alien, Klaatu, eludes the security that's been placed around him and explores the city, eventually meeting Professor Barnhardt (Sam Jaffe as a thinly disguised Albert Einstein). After proving who he is, Klaatu explains his mission. Barnhardt agrees to convene a meeting of scientists from around the world to hear his message, but says that a demonstration is needed to convince them to come. Klaatu agrees and interrupts the electrical grids of every city on the planet as proof of his power, hence the movie's title. The message that Klaatu delivers at the end of the film has been criticized by many as being essentially fascist in nature. You be the judge.

Starring Michael Rennie, and directed by Robert Wise, with an inventive score that you'll instantly recognize by Bernard Hermann. The film won a Golden Globe Award for "Promoting International Understanding." (I hadn't know there was such an award.)

34. [Day Without a Mexican, A \(2004\)](#)

When a mysterious fog surrounds the boundaries of California, all the Mexicans in the state disappear, severely damaging the economy.

A cautionary tale about the unwanted consequences of severely limiting immigration, which is still relevant 20 years later.

35. [Dead Again \(1991\)](#)

A private eye is enlisted to track down the identity of a woman with amnesia. He soon finds, however, that he might have a past life connection to her that endangers both of them.

A reincarnation murder mystery, starring the acting talents of then husband and wife team, Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson. A very clever script with two scenes featuring Robin Williams in a dramatic role.

36. [Death of Stalin, The \(2017\)](#)

After being in power for nearly 30 years, Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin suddenly dies. The members of the Council of Ministers scramble for power, fearing for their lives if they don't get it.

A dark comedy about what happened in the wake of Stalin's death that seems ridiculous, and probably was.

37. [Defending Your Life \(1991\)](#)

Two recently deceased souls find themselves at a way station where the newly departed must await judgement as to whether they can move on to higher planes of existence, or have to reincarnate back to Earth to learn the lessons they didn't in their previous life. The official review of Julia's life is going very well. She did everything right and is expected to "graduate." Daniel, on the other hand, is facing a serious challenge by the prosecutor, who accuses him of never facing his fears.

Stars Meryl Streep, and Albert Brooks (who also wrote and directed), with Rip Torn as his defense attorney. The comedy is enjoyable, but I'm recommending this film for reminding us that it's our fears that hold us back in life.

38. [Destination Moon \(1950\)](#)

Three men come together to build a rocket ship to take them to the moon.

This was the first movie to realistically depict space flight. 19 years before we actually went to the moon, it accurately depicted the effects of G-forces during liftoff, weightlessness in space, and even a spacewalk to repair a damaged radio antenna.

Noted science fiction author Robert Heinlein contributed to the screenplay that was adapted from his novel. The film won the Oscar for Best Special Effects, and helped to inspire the people who would later make going to the moon a reality.

39. [Die Hard \(1988\)](#)

A New York City police officer tries to save his estranged wife and dozens of her co-workers taken hostage by terrorists during a Christmas party at their corporate headquarters in Los Angeles.

There were three *Die Hard* movies. This is the one to watch, if only for the performance of Alan Rickman as Hans Gruber, one of the greatest movie villains of all time!

40. [District 9 \(2009\)](#)

An alien race stranded on Earth is forced to live in slum-like conditions. A civil employee is charged with their resettlement to an even more distant location, but is exposed to alien biotechnology with disastrous results.

The aliens are, of course, representative of any despised minority group that's forced to live in ghettos, apart from accepted society. Ironically the movie takes place in South Africa, which itself has a history of racial Apartheid. But this film has a deeper message, revealed in the way it tells its story. From the beginning, we learn of the arrival of the aliens and their settlement through news reports and media interviews. As the film progresses, though, the official reporting is shown to be in sharp contrast to what's actually happening. How many times have we seen that happen?

Received four Oscar nominations, including Best Picture.

41. [Django Unchained \(2012\)](#)

With the help of a bounty-hunter, a freed slave sets out to rescue his wife from a brutal plantation owner.

This is the only Quentin Tarantino movie that I enjoy watching repeatedly. He always goes a little over-the-top for my tastes, usually at the end of his movies (even in this one), but this film is very well written, especially the character of Dr. Schultz, the quirky bounty-hunter. I'm recommending the movie for the thoroughly entertaining performance of Christoph Waltz in the role, which won him an Oscar.

Also stars Jamie Foxx as the freed slave, with Leonardo DiCaprio as the plantation owner.

42. [Doctor Strange \(2016\)](#)

Benedict Cumberbatch portrays a brilliant but narcissistic surgeon who suffers a career ending injury to his hands that puts him on a path of spiritual discovery.

One of the few Marvel Super Hero movies I really enjoy. Cumberbatch's performance, as he tries to reconcile his medical training with the Eastern philosophy that he must embrace to be "healed," made me a fan of his and willing to watch anything he does. (If you like Sherlock Homes stories, check out his *Sherlock* TV series, a very clever, modern dress interpretation.)

43. [Don't Look Up \(2021\)](#)

Two astronomers go on a media tour to warn of a large comet they've discovered that's sure to hit Earth, and destroy all life on the planet. But no one wants to hear the bad news.

As Neil deGrasse Tyson said, this movie isn't fiction. It's just the type of reaction that would likely happen. Stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence as the astronomers, with Meryl Streep as an indecisive President. Be sure to view past the credits for one last scene that answers a question, which most of the audience will have likely forgotten.

Nominated for four Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay.

44. [Dracula \(1979\)](#)

Count Dracula lands on England's shore in search of a bride.

Frank Langella as the sexiest, and most compelling Dracula on film. (Ask any woman who's seen it.) It made his career. With Sir Laurence Olivier as Dr. Van Helsing.

45. [Ecstasy \(1933\)](#)

Eva is married to an older man, but soon leaves him. Later she meets a young man her age, and they fall deeply in love. Fate, however, brings the husband to the young lover who has taken Eva from him.

Hedy Lamarr created quite a scandal with her portrayal of the first female orgasm on film. Her husband, a very rich man, was so embarrassed that he attempted to buy all the existing prints. Fortunately, he failed. (It's said that Mussolini refused to give up his copy for any price.)

46. [Enemy of the State \(1998\)](#)

A lawyer becomes targeted by the NSA, when he receives evidence of the politically murder of a US Congressman.

An example of the kinds of things our government's surveillance apparatus could do if it wanted to destroy someone. I was told by the son of a surveillance specialist that the technology depicted in the film was at least five to ten years out of date when it was released.

Stars Will Smith as the lawyer, Gene Hackman as a retired surveillance expert who reluctantly helps him, and Jon Voight as the bad guy within the NSA.

47. [Enola Holmes \(2020\)](#)

When Sherlock's young sister discovers her mother is missing, she set out to find her. In the process she becomes a super-sleuth in her own right, and outwits her famous brother to unravel a dangerous conspiracy.

Child star Millie Bobby Brown was 16 when she starred in the title role. The script is inventive and well written, with Ms. Brown dominating the

movie with her thoroughly delightful performance.

48. [Escape from the Planet of the Apes \(1971\)](#)

The world is shocked by the appearance of three chimpanzees, who splashdown unexpectedly in a US spacecraft. They appear to be extremely intelligent, and after one of them is accidentally killed, it's discovered that they can talk. They become instant media celebrities, but the President's science advisor believes them to be a threat to the human race.

Everyone's seen *Planet of the Apes (1968)*. This is the third and best of its sequels. Roddy McDowell and Kim Novak star in their original roles, with Eric Braeden as the science advisor. Fun to watch throughout, except for the tragic ending that spawned the many sequels and retellings of the franchise that followed.

49. [Everything Everywhere All at Once \(2022\)](#)

A middle-aged Chinese immigrant learns of the multiverse and is told that she alone can save all of existence, but only by exploring her alternate self in other realities.

This is a fast paced romp through alternate universes, and anything is possible. Try to keep up. It might require more than one viewing to take it all in. Superbly acted by Michelle Yeoh, Ke Huy Quan, and Jamie Lee Curtis, all of whom won Oscars for their performances.

50. [Ex Machina \(2014\)](#)

A young computer programmer is selected to participate in an experiment in synthetic intelligence by evaluating the human qualities of a highly advanced humanoid A.I.

What will we do when an A.I. goes beyond sentient, and becomes emotionally human? A good story that won the Oscar for Best Visual Effects.

51. [Falling Down \(1993\)](#)

An ordinary man is pushed to the breaking point in his personal life, and lashes out violently against the everyday injustices he sees in society.

I've always thought that one day average people might be spurred to rebel against the establishment, when they realize that what they always get is never what's advertised. (Does anyone remember the Wendy's TV commercial where a little old lady asks, "Where's the beef?") A well scripted movie starring Michael Douglas, who never disappoints.

52. [Fearless \(1993\)](#)

A fearful man's personality is dramatically changed after surviving an airline crash.

Perhaps my most favorite film of all, because of what it says about our relationship with fear. Stars Jeff Bridges and Rosie Perez, who got an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actress. Directed by Peter Weir.

53. [Flatland \(1965\)](#)

"A. Square" lives in Flatland, a world of two dimensions, length and width, but with no depth. One day he's contacted by an unseen, higher being who shows him a world that exists beyond his perception, that of the third

dimension.

A charming, animated film based on Edwin Abbott's famous novel, *Flatland* that depicts the different dimensions as increasingly higher levels of perception. The film is short (only 34 minutes), but very entertaining as well as educational. The animation helps to understand a difficult concept.

54. [Flatliners \(1990\)](#)

Five medical students experiment with near death experiences, until the dark consequences of their past deeds put their lives at risk.

Everyone's heard that as a person dies, they see their life pass before their eyes. This is called the "Life Review," as recorded in the Akashic Record, and the subject of this engrossing film. The ensemble cast was comprised of Hollywood's best up-and-coming actors at the time, Kiefer Sutherland, Kevin Bacon, William Baldwin, and Julia Roberts, all of whom give fine performances.

55. [Flight of the Phoenix, The \(1965\)](#)

After an oil company plane crashes in the Sahara desert the survivors are buoyed with hope by one of the passengers, a designer of airplanes who supervises them in building a new plane from the wreckage of the old one, in the hope that it can fly them to civilization.

There's a big "reveal," which comes in the middle of the movie that changes everything. One of the best of the survivalist films. The cast features Jimmy Stewart as the pilot and Richard Attenborough as his co-pilot, with Hardy Krüger as the thoroughly unlikable German airplane designer.

56. [Forbidden Planet \(1956\)](#)

In the 23rd century the crew of a starship travels to a distant planet to investigate why a colony there has gone silent. They find only two survivors of an invisible, deadly force native to the planet, their robot, and the dangerous secret of a lost civilization.

The survivors are a scientist and his daughter, who has never seen another human before. The movie is seen as a retelling of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. But the film goes beyond that connection, teaching us a thing or two about Freudian Psychology, and the dangers of not keeping our darker impulses in check.

Received an Oscar nomination for Best Special Effects.

57. [Fortune Cookie, The \(1966\)](#)

After he's been accidentally tackled by a football player while filming a game, a TV cameraman is persuaded to feign a serious injury for the insurance money.

The film stars Jack Lemmon, but is recommended for the performance of Walter Matthau as his delightfully, sleazy brother-in-law lawyer that won him an Oscar. Written and directed by Billy Wilder.

58. [Freaks \(1932\)](#)

A beautiful circus trapeze artist agrees to marry a midget, one of the "freak" sideshow performers, but his friends discover she's only marrying him for his inheritance.

Produced and directed by Tod Browning, who during his youth worked in a circus, both as a clown and a contortionist. His familiarity and love of circus folk inspired him to make this disturbing film.

59. [Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, A \(1966\)](#)

A wily Roman slave schemes to earn his freedom by romantically uniting his master with a courtesan. But matters get complicated, and chaos ensues when he entices his neighbors into helping him.

A musical comedy by Richard Lester, based on the comedies of the ancient Roman playwright Plautus (c.254 - 184 BC). Stars Zero Mostel, Phil Silvers and Buster Keaton. A thoroughly delightful and entertaining movie.

60. [Galaxy Quest \(1999\)](#)

The cast of a syndicated TV space opera have to reenact their roles using a real starship, when an alien race seeks their help against a powerful galactic tyrant.

This is a spoof of Star Trek fandom. Any spoof is all the better if it's done with love of the subject it's lampooning, and this one obviously is. Stars Tim Allen, Sigourney Weaver, Alan Rickman, and Tony Shalhoub.

61. [Ghost \(1990\)](#)

A man is murdered. With the help of a reluctant psychic, his spirit attempts to warn his girlfriend that her life is in danger as well.

The sensual love scene at the potter's wheel, done to the song of *Unchained Melody*, helped to make this supernatural love story a hit, that and the comedic talent of Whoopi Goldberg as the psychic that won her an Oscar. Also stars Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore.

62. [Grand Budapest Hotel, The \(2014\)](#)

A writer encounters the owner of an aging high-class hotel, who tells him of his early years serving as a lobby boy in the hotel's glorious years under an exceptional concierge.

This is an entertaining, and visually stunning look into the bygone world of the grand hotels that catered to the wealthy before the aristocracy of Europe was swept away in the wake of WWII. The film is both weird and engrossing, both trademarks of its director Wes Anderson.

Ralph Fiennes plays the eccentric concierge, and Tony Revolori is his young lobby boy. Willem Dafoe, Jeff Goldblum, Harvey Keitel, Jude Law, and Bill Murray appear in minor roles. Nominated for nine Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director (Anderson), and Best Cinematography.

63. [Gravity \(2013\)](#)

An engineer on her first space mission, and a veteran astronaut on his last, struggle to survive after their capsule is demolished by space debris while they're out spacewalking.

Stars Sandra Bullock and George Clooney. 80% of the film was CGI, done while Bullock and Clooney were suspended from wires in front of a green-screen, making their performances that much more impressive. Its depiction of a cascading wave of space debris is a very real possibility,

which would have disastrous consequences if it were ever to happen.

The film won seven Academy Awards, including Best Director (Alfonso Cuarón, who also wrote the screenplay), Best Cinematography, and Best Visual Effects.

64. [Groundhog Day \(1993\)](#)

Phil is a narcissistic weatherman who finds himself in a time loop, forced to relive the same day over, and over, and over again.

Phil is the “everyman.” He reacts to his situation as we probably would, first with bewilderment, then anger, boredom, and finally suicide (which only lasts until the next morning when he wakes up to begin the day all over again). With all the time in the world, he finally resigns himself to his destiny and begins to change the only thing he can, himself.

I’ve never been a big Bill Murray fan. To me his sarcastic brand of humor makes his performances predictable, except for this one. Phil’s metamorphosis from a self-centered jerk into a decent and compassionate human being is a joy to watch.

65. [Guess Who's Coming to Dinner \(1967\)](#)

When a young woman introduces her African-American fiancé to her parents, they’re forced to reassess their attitudes about race relations.

Stars Spencer Tracy in his last film, and Katherine Hepburn (who won an Oscar for her performance), with Sidney Poitier as the fiancé. A thought-provoking film, even for today’s audiences, directed by Stanley Kramer.

66. [Heat \(1995\)](#)

A team of high-end professional thieves start to feel the heat from a determined LA police detective.

Two of Hollywood’s greatest show off their talents in this quintessential crime drama. Robert De Niro stars as the head of the criminal gang, with Al Pacino as the cop hot on his trail.

67. [Hospital, The \(1971\)](#)

A hospital's chief-of-staff struggles to find meaning in his life during a series of mysterious deaths of hospital personnel.

Written by Paddy Chayefsky, who won the Oscar for Best Screenplay, starring George C. Scott and Diana Rigg. The most important part of any movie is the script, and any film written by Chayefsky is worth watching for its riveting dialog.

68. [How the Grinch Stole Christmas \(2000\)](#)

On the outskirts of Whoville lives a green, revenge-seeking Grinch who plots to ruin Christmas for all of its citizens.

A mischievous Christmas movie, tailor-made for the broad comedy of Jim Carrey, that won the Oscar for Best Makeup.

69. [I, Tonya \(2017\)](#)

Competitive “bad girl” ice skater Tonya Harding rises amongst the ranks at US Figure Skating Championships, but her future in professional skating is thrown into question when her ex-husband takes action against her main rival by kneecapping her.

Based upon real events, the film is sympathetic to Harding's denials of having any involvement in planning or encouraging the attack on Nancy Kerrigan, although she did accept a plea bargain in which she admitted to conspiracy to hinder prosecution.

With an excellent performance in the title role that received an Oscar nomination, Margot Robbie shows herself to be a talented, dramatic actress as well as a comedic one. Allison Janney (Press Secretary, C.J. Cregg, of TV's *West Wing*) won a well deserved Oscar for Best Supporting Actress as Tonya's cold and demanding mother.

70. [Inherit the Wind \(1960\)](#)

Two of the nation's most well known lawyers argue for the prosecution and the defense in the trial of a Tennessee high school science teacher accused of teaching Darwin's theory of evolution, a crime in that state.

Based on the real-life "Scopes Monkey Trial," the film is historically accurate, except Mr. Scopes didn't have a girlfriend at the time, and the town wasn't hostile to him or his defense council. Spencer Tracy stars as Henry Drummond (real life crusading attorney Clarence Darrow), and Fredric March as Matthew Brady (real life William Jennings Bryan, three times Presidential candidate and fundamentalist Christian).

The trial was largely uneventful until Darrow called Bryan to the stand as an expert on the Bible, and showed that attempts to interpret it literally only resulted in a host of contradictions. The film depicts this historic courtroom drama, with the full impact that it had in real life, made all the more relevant today with the rise of Christian fundamentalism.

Another one directed by Stanley Kramer. Spencer Tracy received an Oscar nomination for Best Actor.

71. [Invasion of the Body Snatchers \(1956\)](#)

The doctor of a small town discovers that its inhabitants are being replaced by emotionless, alien duplicates.

Rod Serling, creator of *The Twilight Zone*, once remarked at a college seminar, "The worst fear of all is the fear of the unknown working on you, which you cannot share with others." The doctor's discovery certainly fits Mr. Serling's description, and the film is a case study in paranoia.

Unfortunately the studio demanded a happy ending that was tacked on at the end. The film was meant to end with the doctor running down the highway yelling, "They're here, they're here! You're next!" (fade to black). Remember, being paranoid doesn't mean they're not really out to get you!

72. [Invention of Lying. The \(2009\)](#)

In a world where no one has ever lied, a man suddenly discovers he can.

What would happen if you were the only person in the world who could lie, or was even aware of the concept. What couldn't you do? This is a very funny and yet poignant film, starring Ricky Gervais who also wrote and directed.

73. [Island of Dr. Moreau, The \(1996\)](#)

A man adrift at sea is rescued and brought to an island where he discovers that its inhabitants are experimental animals being surgically transformed into strange-looking humans by a mad, but brilliant doctor.

From a story by H.G. Wells, with Marlon Brando giving a hypnotic performance as the grotesque, Dr. Moreau. A darkly atmospheric and disturbing film that has much to say about the morality of experimenting on animals. Another film by John Frankenheimer, a very talented director.

74. [It \(1927\)](#)

A salesgirl pursues a handsome playboy.

The vivaciousness of Clara Bow in this silent film is still impressive to modern audiences. It was the magnetism of her performance that gave her the moniker of the "It Girl" that not only referred to the movie's title, but also to the fact that she had "it," that undefinable quality of a star.

75. [JFK \(1991\)](#)

New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison discovers there's more to the Kennedy assassination than the official story.

My father was a vocal critic of the Warren Report (the official explanation of the assassination) from the beginning, as I am today. Director Oliver Stone received so much hate from the media for this movie (even before it was released) that it makes one wonder why. I believe this film accurately depicts what likely happened. (I'll present evidence that the assassination was a coup d'état in a future "Ramble" of mine at chuck-weiss.com).

Received five Oscar nominations, including Best Picture, Best Director (Stone), Best Supporting Actor (Tommy Lee Jones) and Best Screenplay (Stone again, with Zachary Sklar). The film was based on *Crossfire: The Plot That Killed Kennedy* by Jim Mars, and *On the Trail of the Assassins* by Jim Garrison.

76. [Joe Versus the Volcano \(1990\)](#)

Joe, a hypochondriac who leads a lonely, mind-numbingly pathetic life learns that he has only six months to live. Joe accepts an offer from a billionaire to throw himself into a volcano on a distant tropical island, so he can gain its mineral rights from the natives who need a willing, human sacrifice. Before Joe leaves he professes his affection for a co-worker who's attracted to him, but can't handle the fact he's going to die in six months. While in route to the island (first by air, then by sea), he meets two sisters who dislike each other, but also dislike their father and themselves for sucking up to him to get what they want. Joe boards a yacht that will take him to the island, that's owned and captained by one of the sisters. In route, Joe learns that life is always worth living, no matter how short it may be.

A delightful comedy, which is worth seeing if only for the outstanding performance of Meg Ryan as the three different women. She gives each their own distinct personality, so that you're quite willing to suspend your disbelief and accept her in each role. Also stars Tom Hanks as Joe, and Lloyd Bridges as the billionaire. Anyone who has ever worked in a dead end, really s*tty job will appreciate the opening scene.

77. [Julius Caesar \(1953\)](#)

The growing ambition of Julius Caesar is a source of major concern to his close friend Brutus. Cassius persuades him to participate in his plot to assassinate Caesar, but they both sorely underestimate Caesar's friend,

Mark Antony.

Shakespeare's account of the assassination, and the civil war that followed. Stars James Mason as Brutus, Marlon Brando as Mark Anthony, and John Gielgud as Cassius. Great performances all around. Another film written and directed by Joseph Mankiewicz. Nominated for five Oscars, including Best Picture, and Best Actor (Brando).

78. [L.A. Confidential \(1997\)](#)

Three policemen, working within the corrupt police department of Los Angeles in the 1950s, investigate a series of murders with their own brand of justice.

All the characters are compelling in their realism and none of them feel two dimensional, breaking the mold of good cop and bad cop. The film was nominated for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Cinematography, but won for Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Supporting Actress for Kim Basinger performance. The cast also includes Kevin Spacey, Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce, and Danny DeVito.

79. [Last Action Hero \(1993\)](#)

A young fan of the Jack Slater action movies is given a magic movie ticket that transports him into the fictional world of their leading character.

A spoof of action movies, and that it stars one of the biggest action heroes in Hollywood (who fortunately also had good comic instincts) makes this a joy to watch. Arnold Schwarzenegger is the hero, with F. Murray Abrahams, Charles Dance, and Anthony Quinn giving deliciously evil performances as the villains. Child actor, Austin O'Brien is perfect as Slater's eager young fan, and delivers some of the funnest lines in the movie.

80. [Lawrence of Arabia \(1962\)](#)

The story of T.E. Lawrence, the English army officer who successfully united and led the diverse Arab tribes to fight for their liberation from Turkish rule during World War I. The national boundaries of the region that were established after the war, in the wake of what Lawrence had accomplished, made the Middle East what it is today.

Based on his autobiographical account, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, the film stars Peter O'Toole in the title role. It won Oscars for Best Picture, and Best Director for David Lean. It was O'Toole's first major film, for which he received an Oscar nomination as Best Actor.

81. [Leap of Faith \(1992\)](#)

A faith-healer is stranded in a small town with his traveling troupe, where he finds he can't fool all of the people all of the time.

Loosely based on the career of televangelist Peter Popoff, this film shows all the tricks traveling evangelists use to bilk naive believers out of their hard earned money. I have a good friend who in his youth worked with Reverend Ike, a famous traveling minister, selling prayer cloths to the crowd as they waited for the main event. That experience made him a cynical person. Stars Steve Martin, who's perfect as the faith-healer.

82. [Lincoln \(2012\)](#)

As the Civil War rages on, President Lincoln struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield while he fights with many inside his own cabinet about his decision to emancipate the slaves.

Directed by Steven Spielberg, and stars Daniel Day-Lewis as Lincoln, who gives an Oscar winning performance.

83. [Lineup, The \(1958\)](#)

In San Francisco, a psychopathic killer and his mentor retrieve packages of heroin, smuggled into the country by unsuspecting travelers.

A film noir movie spin-off of a popular TV crime show, called *The Lineup*. But what really makes this movie worth watching is Eli Wallach's performance as the psychopath. He was originally angry about having to do the film because it was his second movie, after his prestigious debut in *Baby Doll (1956)*, and he was doing what he thought was a routine thriller. However, Wallach soon realized he was actually playing a complex role in a well written movie, and became very supportive of the project.

84. [Lion in Winter, The \(1968\)](#)

In 1183 each of the three sons of King Henry II want to inherit the throne, but he won't commit to a choice. When he allows his imprisoned wife Eleanor of Aquitaine out for a Christmas visit, they all plot to force him into making a decision. Historically one of England's most influential families revealed in this engrossing drama.

Stars Peter O'Toole as King Henry and Katharine Hepburn as Queen Eleanor. Henry's three sons are played by Anthony Hopkins (Richard), Nigel Terry (John), and John Castle (Godfrey, Henry's bastard son). Nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor (O'Toole), and Best Director (Anthony Harvey), it won for Best Actress (Hepburn) and Best Adapted Screenplay (James Goldman from his stage play).

85. [Little Foxes, The \(1941\)](#)

This is the tale of a wealthy and corrupt family in the deep south, early in the twentieth century.

Bette Davis gives what I think is the best performance of her career as the family's ruthless matriarch. Written by Lillian Hellman, based on her own wealthy banking family.

Nominated for nine Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Director (William Wyler), Best Actress (Davis), Best Screenplay (Hellman), and two for Best Supporting Actress (Patricia Collings and Teresa Wright), but not winning a single one. An outrage!

86. [Lost Horizon \(1937\)](#)

A well respected diplomat on a humanitarian mission in war torn China has his plane diverted and crashes in the mountains of Tibet. He and the other survivors are taken to an isolated monastery, Shangri-La, where they debate an invitation to stay in a literal paradise.

The 1930s was a time when the depression, the rise of fascism at home and in Europe, and the threat of another major war combined to make everyone anxious about their future. The idea of a place where one might

escape all that, and live long and happy lives was an appealing one, and the film was a box office hit. However, it took five years to recoup its costs due to problems during production, and going almost a third over its original budget.

Stars Ronald Colman as the worldly diplomat, and directed by the legendary Frank Capra. The film was nominated for five Oscars, including Best Picture and Supporting Actor (HB Warner). Be sure to see the version restored to its original viewing time of 132 minutes.

87. [Love at First Bite \(1979\)](#)

After being evicted from his castle in Transylvania, Count Dracula and his assistant travel to New York to find the woman whom the Count believes is the reincarnation of someone he has loved for centuries.

A comedy where Dracula finds his true love, and lives happily ever after. Stars George Hamilton, and Susan Saint James, with great comic support from Arte Johnson as Renfield, and Richard Benjamin who competes with Dracula for Saint James' affections.

88. [Magnificent Ambersons, The \(1942\)](#)

At the turn of the century, the spoiled young heir to the decaying Amberson fortune comes between his widowed mother and the man she has always loved.

Orson Welles wrote the screen adaption of Booth Tarkington's novel and directed, as well. Many film critics would consider this the best movie ever made (even better than *Citizen Kane* that Welles also made), if it weren't for the happy ending imposed on him by the studio, and filmed without his consent. It's thought that the studio destroyed the original "Director's Cut" when the movie was released, but I had the good fortune when I was a film student to see what was probable the only surviving copy with the original ending. The last shot of the movie begins at the front door of the Anderson estate (which used to encompass dozens of acres) and slowly zooms out to show that it's now only a corner lot, in the heart of a bustling modern city.

Nominated for four Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Supporting Actress (Agnes Moorehead).

89. [Man Who Would Be King, The \(1975\)](#)

Based on a tale by Rudyard Kipling set in the 1880s, two former British soldiers in India decide to set themselves up as kings in Kafiristan, a land where no westerner has set foot since Alexander the Great.

A spectacular adventure with Sean Connery and Michael Caine, who give riveting performances. While their characters are certainly not role models, their love and respect for each other transcends their faults and, in the end even their lives.

Written and directed by John Huston, who received an Oscar nomination for his screenplay.

90. [Manchurian Candidate, The \(1962\)](#)

An American POW in the Korean War is brainwashed and his personality split in two, with one programmed as an assassin charged with shooting a candidate for President when activated with a deck of playing cards.

North Korea's research of brainwashing and mind control techniques is well known. This film shows in dramatic fashion how it can be done. Stars Laurence Harvey, Frank Sinatra, and Angela Lansbury who received an Oscar nomination for her performance as the wife of the Vice Presidential candidate.

91. [Memento \(2000\)](#)

A tale told from the point of view of a man with brain damage who can never hold a thought for more than 15 minutes at a time, as he tries to track down his wife's murderer.

An interesting premiss, written and directed by Christopher Nolan with an inventive screenplay for which he received an Oscar nomination.

92. [Men Who Stare at Goats, The \(2009\)](#)

A reporter might have the story of a lifetime when he meets a man who claims to be a former member of the military's secret "New Earth Army," a unit that trained to use paranormal powers.

Based on actual events, the movie combines three separate programs developed by the army: the Remote Viewing Program (run by the army's Intelligence and Security Command), the "Jedi" Program (run by Special Forces), and The First Earth Battalion that was a concept and a field manual, but never became an operational unit.

Stars George Clooney as Lyn Cassady, partly based upon real-life Remote Viewer, Joe McMoneagle, and Jeff Bridges as Bill Django, based on Army Lt. Col. James Channon who wrote the First Earth Battalion field manual. Unbelievable, but true.

93. [Miracle Worker, The \(1962\)](#)

The true story of young Hellen Keller, a blind and deaf girl, and how she was taught to communicate with people by Anne Sullivan, who later became her life long companion as Ms. Keller traveled and lectured later in life.

Anne Bancroft and Patty Duke star as Anne Sullivan and Hellen Keller, reprising their stage performances in this film adaptation of the play. Patty Duke was 16 in her first movie, and became the youngest person at the time to win an Oscar with her performance. Ms. Keller is credited with helping to write the screenplay.

I have a personal memory of seeing Hellen Keller. I was in elementary school, when she visited and addressed the older children assembled in the auditorium.

94. [Network \(1976\)](#)

A television network cynically exploits the ravings of a deranged news anchor for profit, but finds that his message is difficult to control.

Another gem by screenwriter, Paddy Chayefsky, years before Fox News, that stars Faye Dunaway, William Holden, and Peter Finch as "The Mad Prophet of the Airways" (his last film). Both Dunaway and Finch won Oscars for their performances.

95. [Night to Remember, A \(1958\)](#)

A recreation of the sinking of the Titanic.

Although not nearly as grand a production as James Cameron's *Titanic* (1997), this film is the type of "stiff upper lip" British disaster movie, that they do so well.

96. [No Time for Sergeants \(1958\)](#)

A country bumpkin is drafted into the Air Force, and is too dumb to realize he's driving everyone around him crazy.

The movie stars Andy Griffith, and it launched his comedy career. Directed by Melvyn LeRoy.

97. [North by Northwest \(1959\)](#)

A New York City advertising executive goes on the run after being mistaken for a government agent by a group of foreign spies trying to kill him. He meets and falls in love with a woman whose loyalties he begins to suspect.

My favorite film by Alfred Hitchcock. The climactic ending at the top of Mount Rushmore is a cinematic classic. Stars Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint, with James Mason as the villain.

98. [Ox Bow Incident \(1942\)](#)

When a posse captures three men suspected of killing a local farmer, they become strongly divided over whether or not to lynch them.

Based on a best selling novel, the movie received an Oscar nomination for Best Picture. The book and the film were thought to be a parable about fascism. Directed by William Wellman.

99. [Panic in the Year Zero! \(1962\)](#)

The story of a family trying to escape the aftermath of a nuclear attack.

A believable and gripping film released only three months before the Cuban Missile Crisis, when we came the closest we've ever been to nuclear war. Directed by, and starring Ray Milland.

100. [Paper Moon \(1973\)](#)

During the Great Depression, a con man finds himself saddled with a young girl who may or may not be his daughter.

Stars Ryan O'Neal and his real-life daughter Tatum O'Neal, who at age 10 became the youngest ever to win an Oscar (in any category) for Best Supporting Actress. Directed by Peter Bogdanovich.

101. [Paths of Glory \(1957\)](#)

After a failed attack on a German position during World War I, a general orders that three soldiers to be chosen at random and court-martialed for cowardice, the penalty if convicted being death by firing squad.

One of the best anti-war movies ever made, starring Kirk Douglas, and Adolphe Menjou. Written and directed by the legendary Stanley Kubrick.

102. [Phantom of the Paradise \(1974\)](#)

An evil record tycoon betrays a young composer and steals his music to open his Rock and Roll emporium, The Paradise.

A retelling of *The Phantom of the Opera*, with music and lyrics by Paul Williams who plays Swan, the music impresario who steals the Phantom's

music. The film is a scathing, satirical commentary of the record industry, and pop music fandom. A delightful horror-comedy directed by Brian De Palma, with an introduction by Rod Serling.

103. [Picture of Dorian Gray, The \(1945\)](#)

An debauched young man, with no regard for others, somehow keeps his youthful appearance over the years, but a magic portrait of himself that he keeps hidden grows more ugly and grotesque with each of his transgressions, revealing the true condition of his soul.

From a novel by Oscar Wilde, and starring Hurd Hatfield as the young man, with George Sanders as his cynical friend. The movie is in black-and-white except for the times when Dorian Gray's picture is shown in color. A supernatural character study of an amoral hedonist.

104. [Princess Bride, The \(1987\)](#)

A bedridden boy's grandfather reads him a story about a farm boy turned pirate, and the obstacles he encounters in his quest to be reunited with his true love.

A fantasy classic, with the most authentic sword fight ever filmed! Stars Cary Elwes, Mandy Patinkin, and Andre the Giant, with comic support by Billy Cristal and Robin Wright as the love interest. Directed by Rob Reiner. The satire will likely go over the heads of most young children, but their parents will enjoy it.

105. [Producers, The \(1967\)](#)

A failed Broadway producer, with help from a reluctant accountant, devises a plan to make money by producing a sure-fire flop called, "Springtime for Hitler."

One of the funnest movies ever made! Written and directed by Mel Brooks, starring Zero Mostel, Gene Wilder, and Kenneth Mars as the Nazi playwright. Be sure to watch the original, not the remake.

106. [Puss in Boots: The Last Wish \(2022\)](#)

When Puss in Boots discovers that in pursuit of his passion for adventure he has burned through eight of his nine lives, he sets out on a quest to restore them by finding the mythical Last Wish. Along the way he discovers he has rivals for the prize.

If I were hard pressed to name the best animated feature film ever, I would have to choose this one. The story line, artwork, scenes of both comedy and drama, and one of the best villains and side-kick characters of any movie, all combine to make this a "must see" classic. There are some priceless scenes that are a special delight for cat owners.

Nominated for an Oscar as Best Animated Feature Film.

107. [Pygmalion \(1938\)](#)

A phonetics and diction expert makes a bet that he can teach a cockney flower girl to speak proper English and pass as a lady in high society.

Adapted from Bernard Shaw's play that was later remade as the musical, *My Fair Lady* (1964). Stars Leslie Howard and Windy Hiller, both of whom were nominated for Oscars, as was the film itself for Best Picture.

108. [Queen of Katwe \(2016\)](#)

The true account of a girl living in poverty in Uganda who became a world class chess champion.

A heartwarming story with a nice touch at the end of the film, where the actors are shown along side their real life counterparts.

109. [Quest for Fire \(1981\)](#)

Set 80,000 years in the past, a primitive tribe guards its most precious possession, fire. They know how to tend their fire and how to use it, but not how to make it. When a neighboring tribe steals their flame, three are chosen to set out to find another, or none of them will survive.

If you like anthropology (the study of human societies and their development), you will especially enjoy this film. A look at the dawn of our species and the development of our humanity. There's no discernible language spoken in the movie, so communication is done through grunts and body language, yet there's never any doubt as to what's happening on the screen.

Stars Everett McGill, Ron Perlman, and Nicholas Kadi as the cavemen, with Rae Dawn Chong as the member of an advanced tribe who teaches them how to make fire. Won Best Oscar for makeup.

110. [Quick and the Dead, The \(1995\)](#)

A female gunfighter comes to a frontier town where a dueling tournament is being held that draws gunslingers from all over the West. She enters the contest hoping to kill the man who murdered her father.

A stylish western starring Sharon Stone as the beautiful, and very capable gunfighter. Gene Hackman co-stars as an evil tyrant you love to hate, who rules the town with an iron determination, his quick draw and deadly aim, and backup (when necessary) from his murderous bodyguards. The wild west was never like this, but great fun to watch.

111. [Rashomon \(1950\)](#)

The rape of a bride and the murder of her husband are recalled from the viewpoint of the rapist/murder, the bride, and the husband's ghost.

Japanese director Akira Kurosawa explores the variable nature of truth, all the more relevant in the age of "fake news."

112. [Rasputin \(1996\)](#)

A made-for-TV biopic about the infamous "mad monk," Rasputin, who gained great influence with the royal family of Russia before the revolution, despite his debauchery.

Alan Rickman won a Primetime Emmy Award for his portrayal of Rasputin, an acting tour de force! Also starring Ian McKellen as Czar Nicholas II.

113. [Red Badge of Courage, The \(1951\)](#)

A Civil War Union soldier struggles to find the courage to fight.

Written and directed by John Huston, the film was adapted from Stephen Crane's novel. Stars real life war hero Audie Murphy, who knew what it felt like to fight for his life on the battlefield.

114. [Reefer Madness \(1936\)](#)

Drug dealers lead innocent teenagers to become addicted to reefer cigarettes by holding wild parties with jazz music.

You should see this film, not to laugh at it, but to understand the kind of hysterical anti-marijuana propaganda that got the American public to believe it was a real threat to their children, and Congress to classify it as dangerous as heroin. The acting seems absurd to modern audiences, but back then people believed it.

115. [Rocky Horror Picture Show, The \(1975\)](#)

An engaged, sexually uptight couple traveling by car on “a dark and stormy night” have a breakdown in an isolated area, and must seek shelter at the residence of Dr. Frank-n-Furte where their inhibitions are shattered, and their libidos released.

A musical comedy about a bisexual, transvestite alien and his crew. Stars Tim Curry as the doctor, with Susan Sarandon and Barry Bostwick as the uptight couple. Not for the sexually repressed.

116. [Romancing the Stone \(1984\)](#)

A romance novelist travels to Colombia to ransom her kidnapped sister, and soon finds herself in the middle of a dangerous adventure, hunting for treasure with a rogue of questionable motives.

A thoroughly enjoyable adventure, romantic comedy that transformed actress Kathleen Turner into box office gold. Also starring Michael Douglas, and Danny DeVito. (Five years later, the three came together again to make *The War of the Roses*, also on this list.)

117. [Romeo + Juliet \(1996\)](#)

A well done modern-dress production of Shakespeare’s tragic love story, with a fine performance from Leonardo DiCaprio as Romeo.

Modern dress retellings of Shakespeare’s plays can help make them more understandable to contemporary audiences, and therefore more enjoyable. This one certainly does.

118. [Rude Awakening \(1989\)](#)

In the 1960s, two activist hippies flee the country to live in the jungles of South America in order to evade the FBI. When they return to New York twenty years later, they find that their friends have “sold out,” and are now more concerned about their social standing than fighting social injustice.

A comedy that asks two important questions. What happened to the idealism we had when we were young, and can we ever get it back? Stars Eric Roberts, Julie Hagerty, and Cheech Marin.

119. [San Francisco \(1936\)](#)

On the eve of the big earthquake of 1906 in San Francisco, a Barbary Coast saloonkeeper and a Nob Hill impresario compete for the affections of a beautiful singer.

Recommended for the scene depicting the earthquake, which is estimated to have been 7.9 on the Richter scale, and to have killed three thousand people. Despite being almost ninety years ago, the film’s expert editing gives the viewer the feeling of being in a really bad earthquake. If you

can, I suggest seeing it on a big screen to enjoy its full impact (or sitting close to a small one if you can't).

Stars Clark Gable and Jeanette MacDonald, with Spencer Tracy as Father Tim Mullin who won an Oscar nomination. The film was also nominated for Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Original Screenplay.

120. [Sand Pebbles, The \(1966\)](#)

In 1926, a US navy gunboat patrolling the Yangtze River during China's civil war sets out to rescue American missionaries trapped between the two factions.

Our military presence in China was meant to bolster western imperialism in Asia. I particularly like this movie because when they finally reach the missionaries, it turns out they don't want to be rescued. One of them says to the squad sent to escort them back to the gunboat, "Damn your flag; damn all flags!" I agree with that sentiment. Nationalism only supports imperialism and wars to steal the natural resources of other countries, instead of fostering the cooperation between nations that's necessary in an ever shrinking world.

Stars Steve McQueen and directed by Robert Wise, both of whom were nominated for Oscars.

121. [Seven Samurai \(1954\)](#)

In feudal Japan farmers from a small village bullied by bandits hire a veteran samurai for protection, who then recruits six other samurai to join him.

Another film by Japanese director, Akira Kurosawa, later remade as a western, *The Magnificent Seven* (1960).

122. [Singin' in the Rain \(1952\)](#)

This comedy about Hollywood's transition from silent films to talkies is considered by many to be the best musical ever made. I concur.

Stars Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, and Donald O'Connor. Gene Kelly's scene, where he dances in the rain as he sings the title song, is a well deserved classic.

123. [Snowpiercer \(2013\)](#)

An engrossing apocalyptic future where a failed climate change experiment has killed all life except for the human survivors who boarded the Snowpiercer, a train that circles a frozen Earth once every year. All the necessities (and the luxuries reserved for first and second class passengers) are self-sustaining. The train's caste system and delicate balance of resources are seriously threatened when the mistreated passengers in third class revolt.

An intriguing concept, made believable by a cast that includes Chris Evans as the leader of the rebellion. Also stars John Hurt, and features Ed Harris as the train's creator and engineer. The film, which was adapted from a graphic novel, spawned a TV series with its fourth season scheduled for streaming in 2025.

124. [Some Like it Hot \(1959\)](#)

After two male musicians witness the famous Valentine's Day Massacre

in Chicago, they flee the state by joining an all-girl band disguised as women.

Stars Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis, Marilyn Monroe, with Joe E. Brown delivering one of the funnest last lines of any movie. In addition to being Hollywood's biggest sex symbol at the time, Monroe was actually a good comedian.

Lemmon was nominated for Best Actor and Billy Wilder, who wrote and directed, received Oscar nominations for doing both.

125. [Somewhere in Time \(1980\)](#)

A man becomes obsessed with the photograph of a young woman taken in 1912 that hangs in an old hotel where he's staying, and uses self-hypnosis to travel back in time and meet her.

A poignant, time travel story, with a haunting love theme, starring Christopher Reeves, who gives a very sensitive performance. I found the concept of time travel by hypnosis to be an intriguing one, especially in light of speculation among some theoretical physicists that our collective consciousness might be the force that determines our reality.

126. [Soylent Green \(1973\)](#)

In a polluted and over populated future, a cynical cop stumbles on the truth about the food supply.

Stars Charlton Heston as the cop, and Edward G. Robinson as his roommate and research assistant. The story is well told with good performances all around, but watch this movie for Robinson as one of the few people still alive who remembers how life use to be. It was his last film, and he gives a commanding performance every minute he's on the screen with Heston.

127. [Spartacus \(1960\)](#)

A slave survives brutal training as a gladiator and leads a revolt against Rome, while the ambitious Crassus seeks to gain power by crushing the uprising.

The film is loosely based on historical events, and stars Kirk Douglas in the title role, with Sir Laurence Olivier as Crassus. Peter Ustinov is a delight as Batiatus, the fawning owner of the gladiatorial school, and steals every scene he's in. Fine performances by all, with Ustinov winning the Oscar for Best Supporting actor. Another one on this list directed by Stanley Kubrick.

128. [Splash \(1983\)](#)

A young man falls in love with a mermaid without knowing her secret.

This is literally a "fish out of water" love story. Daryl Hannah is a comic delight as the mermaid who knows nothing of humans, or how they live, when she arrives in New York City.

Also stars Tom Hanks, with John Candy and Eugene Levy adding to the hilarity. Directed by Ron Howard.

129. [Stage Door Canteen \(1943\)](#)

A young soldier on a pass in New York City visits the real-life Stage Door Canteen, where stars of stage, screen and radio hosted a recreational

center for servicemen during the war.

The film is worth seeing for the performances of the top entertainers of the period, made for the war effort. Star appearances range from small cameos, such as Johnny Weissmuller working in the canteen's kitchen, to more substantial roles. Life magazine counted a total of 82 performers in movie (too many to recount here). Also featured were the biggest of the Big Bands: Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Guy Lombardo, and Xavier Cugat, among others.

130. [Strangers on a Train \(1951\)](#)

Two strangers meet on a train. One tries to persuade the other to help him commit the perfect crime by swapping murders, each killing the person the other hates the most.

Famous detective novelist Raymond Chandler wrote the screenplay for this classic by Alfred Hitchcock. Later remade as a comedy, *Throw Momma from the Train (1987)*, starring Danny DeVito and Billy Crystal. The two movies would make a good double bill.

131. [Support Your Local Sheriff! \(1969\)](#)

A man becomes the sheriff of a small western town, and uses his ingenuity instead of a gun to enforce the law.

James Garner stars in this comedy western, where his acting skills and charming manner are put to good use.

132. [Take the Money and Run \(1969\)](#)

A “documentary” of the life of Virgil Starkwell, a hopelessly inept bank robber.

For those who think that all Woody Allen's movies are stories of neurotic New Yorkers, you need to see one of his early films, and this is the best.

133. [Taming of the Shrew, The \(1967\)](#)

A brutish, fortune-hunting scoundrel tames his wealthy, shrewish wife.

The legendary chemistry between Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor is on full display in this adaptation of Shakespeare's admittedly misogynistic, but still funny comedy.

134. [Them \(1954\)](#)

Atomic tests in New Mexico cause common ants to mutate into giant man-eating monsters that threaten civilization.

The best of the “atomic bug” sci-fi movies of the 1950s, with believable performances and special effects that got an Oscar nomination.

135. [Thief of Bagdad, The \(1940\)](#)

After being tricked and cast out of Bagdad by an evil wizard, King Ahmad joins forces with a young thief to reclaim his throne and the princess he loves.

The film's major characters were later featured in Disney's animated classic, *Aladdin (1992)*, the streetwise young thief, the bumbling elderly sultan, the evil sorcerer, the beautiful princess and, of course, the genie. Perhaps another good double bill.

Stars John Justin as King Ahmad, Conrad Veidt as the wizard Jaffar, and Sabu as the thief. Rex Ingram is featured as the genie who grants Sabu three wishes. The film won Oscars for Best Color Cinematography and Best Special Effects.

136. [Thing from Another World, The \(1951\)](#)

At a remote arctic outpost, scientists and the Air Force investigate a flying saucer buried in the ice and snow, accidentally unleashing a long dormant humanoid, botanical alien.

Directed by Howard Hawks, with his characteristic “rapid-fire” delivery of dialogue that gives the film its sense of urgency and believability, making this one of the better “alien monster” movies. James Arness who plays the alien would become famous four years later as Marshal Matt Dillon in TV’s *Gunsmoke*.

137. [Things to Come \(1936\)](#)

Civilization collapses with a devastating plague after a prolonged second World War. A strongman emerges to take control, and rules with absolute power over the survivors living in a ruinous landscape, until he’s challenged by a visitor from a part of the world that rebuilt after the war, and continued to progress technologically.

H.G. Wells wrote the screenplay, adapted from his novel. The film predicted WWII almost three years before England declared war on Germany. It also depicted future technologies that wouldn’t be invented until years later, huge tunneling machines, a working helicopter, fully automated factories, and huge flat TV screens.

The film was a disaster at the box office, despite being well received by the critics. During the depression, and with the threat of war looming, audiences didn’t want to see a discouraging depiction of the future, preferring instead the musicals and comedies of the 1930s.

Stars Raymond Massey as the visitor. Sir Ralph Richardson co-stars as “The Boss,” and said that he modeled his character after Italian dictator, Benito Mussolini.

138. [THX 1138 \(1971\)](#)

A man tries to escape a dystopian underground society, where every aspect of life is controlled and the taking of sedative drugs is compulsory.

A student film by George Lucas that was enlarged and released as his first feature film. The transition was financed with a modest budget of 2.4 million dollars from Warner Brothers Studios, so to cut costs and add to the futuristic look of his dystopia Lucas obtained permission to film in the underground tunnels of the new subway system being built in San Francisco (BART).

139. [Time Bandits \(1981\)](#)

A young boy joins a band of time traveling dwarves as they jump from era to era looking for treasure to steal.

Great cameos by Sean Connery as King Agamemnon, John Cleese as Robin Hood, Ian Holm as Napoleon, and Sir Ralph Richardson as God. David Rappaport, Kenny Baker, Malcolm Dixon, Mike Edmonds, Jack Purvis, and Tiny Ross star as the dwarves, with Craig Warnock as the

young boy. Terry Gilliam directed. A good movie for children, and fun for adults too.

140. [Time Machine, The \(1960\)](#)

Rod Taylor and Yvette Mimieux star in this film about a 19th century inventor and his time machine.

A whimsical scene in the movie features a storefront mannequin that, to Taylor's amusement, displays the changes in women's fashions as he travels forward in time. Besides being a well crafted movie, I've always liked it for the question it poses at the end. It's been discovered that Taylor, who recently returned to tell his disbelieving friends what he saw in the future, has left again in his time machine and taken three books from his library with him to help rebuild society for the naive and uneducated Eloi. Taylor's friend asks the housekeeper, "Which three books would you have taken?"

The film won the Oscar for Best Special Effects.

141. [Touch of Evil \(1958\)](#)

A story of murder, kidnapping and police corruption.

Orson Wells co-wrote, directed, and stars as the Chief of Police of a Mexican border town in this film noir classic.

142. [Treasure Island \(1950\)](#)

The treasure seeking adventures of young Jim Hawkins and pirate captain Long John Silver.

This movie defined how we think of pirates. It had all the firsts, how pirates bury their loot and mark it on treasure maps, what songs they sing ("Fifteen men on a dead man's chest. Yo, ho, ho and a bottle of rum!"), and the Black Spot that marks you for death. So avast, ye land lubbers, watch this here movie every 19th of September on "Talk Like a Pirate Day!" (It's been an unofficial national holiday since 1995.)

A Disney film from a story by Robert Louis Stevenson. Child actor Bobby Driscoll plays Jim Hawkins, and Robert Newton hams it up as Long John Silver to great affect.

143. [Treasure of the Sierra Madre, The \(1948\)](#)

When two Americans searching for work in Mexico can't find any, they convince an old prospector to help them mine for gold in the Sierra Madre Mountains.

Another film written and directed by John Huston. For this one, he received Oscars for doing both. Stars Humphrey Bogart and Walter Huston (John's father), who got the Oscar for best Supporting Actor as the prospector. My favorite of Bogart's many movies.

144. [Triumph of Will \(1935\)](#)

The infamous propaganda film of the 1934 Nazi Party rally in Nuremberg, Germany.

Written and directed by Leni Riefenstahl, Hitler's legendary filmmaker, this documentary demonstrates the power of the Nazi rallies that helped him rise to power, the grand and spellbinding spectacles that they were.

145. [Truman Show, The \(1998\)](#)

An insurance salesman discovers that his whole life has actually been a reality TV show, and that his every move from birth has been watched by millions of fans worldwide.

I'm normally not a Jim Carey fan, but his portrayal of Truman is sympathetic, and the message of the movie is an empowering one. It's a theme of many good films, that no matter how much our lives are determined by things over which we have no control, we can still resist and ultimately free ourselves.

The movie received three Oscar Nominations, including Best Director (Peter Weir) and Best Supporting Actor (Ed Harris).

146. [Ulysses \(1954\)](#)

A movie adaptation of Homer's *Odyssey* that depicts Ulysses' long journey home after the Trojan War.

I loved this movie as a kid, especially the scenes with the Cyclops. The special effects throughout the film are actually quite good. Stars Kirk Douglas in the title role. Another good movie for children that adults will also enjoy.

147. [Unbreakable \(2000\)](#)

A man learns something extraordinary about himself when he's the only survivor of a train derailment.

An unusual, but very good (and believable) super-hero movie. In my opinion, the best by M. Night Shyamalan.

148. [Unforgiven \(1992\)](#)

A retired gunslinger reluctantly takes on one last job, with the help of his old partner.

I consider this to be one of the best westerns ever made. There are no clear heroes or villains. Although none of the characters in the story are innocent, none deserved to die.

The film was directed by and stars Clint Eastwood, who won Oscars for both. It also won the Best Picture award. Co-stars Gene Hackman and Morgan Freeman.

149. [Up \(2009\)](#)

After the death of his wife, an old man attaches thousands of balloons to his house and floats away on a voyage of discovery with a young stowaway aboard.

The first ten minutes of this animated film by Pixar is one of the most touching love stories ever filmed. The rest of the movie is quite enjoyable, too. It was nominated for Best Picture, and won for Best Animated Feature Film.

150. [Usual Suspects, The \(1995\)](#)

The sole survivor of a mass shooting aboard a ship docked in the harbor tells how a notorious criminal mastermind manipulated the events that led up to it, starting with five minor criminals meeting in a seemingly random police lineup.

One of the best crime dramas on film, with one of the most famous twist endings of any movie. The ensemble cast features Kevin Spacey, Gabriel Byrne, Stephen Baldwin, Chazz Palminteri, Benicio Del Toro, Kevin Pollak, and Pete Postlethwaite.

Spacey won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor, while Chazz Palminteri and Pete Postlethwaite received Oscar nominations for their performances. Christopher McQuarrie won an Oscar for his original screenplay.

151. [V for Vendetta \(2005\)](#)

In a British dystopian society, a masked freedom fighter plots to overthrow the tyrannical government with the help of a young woman. But first she must be made ready for the task.

This movie became an inspiration for resistance movements around the world, with the iconic mask of the freedom fighter mass produced to hide the faces of real protesters at their public rallies.

152. [War of the Roses, The \(1989\)](#)

A married couple tries everything to drive each other out of the house in a vicious divorce battle.

Stars Kathleen Turner and Michael Douglas as the warring couple, with Danny DeVito as a divorce attorney, who also directed. Turner and Douglas play well off each other, in this their second film together. Their first, *Romancing the Stone (1984)*, is also on this list.

153. [What Dreams May Come \(1998\)](#)

A man dies in an auto accident and enters Heaven. When he discovers that his grieving wife has killed herself, he sets out to rescue her from her self-imposed hell.

Robin Williams, Max von Sydow, and Cuba Gooding Jr. star in this visually stunning movie. The visual effects team won Oscars for the painted world of the afterlife.

154. [Without a Clue \(1988\)](#)

Sherlock Holmes is really a dimwitted cover for the real detective, Dr. Watson, who is a person of color and would not otherwise be taken seriously.

A good comedic premiss, executed with harlaious affect, starring Michael Caine as Holmes, and Ben Kingsley as Dr. Watson.

155. [Wolf \(1994\)](#)

The chief editor of a large book publishing corporation is bitten by a werewolf, and slowly becomes one while fighting to keep his job from a conniving underling.

Stars Jack Nicholson, Michelle Pfeiffer and James Spader as the conniving underling. My favorite werewolf movie. I especially like the scene where Nicholson urinates on Spader's shoes, explaining that he's just marking his territory.

156. [World, the Flesh and the Devil, The \(1959\)](#)

An African American miner is trapped in a cave-in and waits for rescue.

He hears them digging but they suddenly stop. In a panic he digs the rest of the way out by himself, only to find that all of humanity has been killed in a biological war. He believes himself to be the only survivor . . . until he hears a woman scream.

The woman turns out to be white, which made this film a commentary on race relations, as well as an engrossing post-apocalyptic tale. The movie was boycotted by some theaters in the South, and in one case a showing in Georgia had to be stopped because of escalating racial tensions in the audience.

Stars Harry Belafonte and Inger Stevens.

157. [Yesterday \(2019\)](#)

An unsuccessful song writer finds he's suddenly the only person alive who remembers the Beatles. It's as if they never existed. He cuts a CD of Beatle songs, and becomes a world-wide sensation.

This is one of my favorites. Himesh Patel stars and sings all the songs, which he does very well. SNL comedian Kate McKinnon is perfect as his talent agent, and real life musical superstar, Ed Sheeran, also stars. Every scene is a delight!

158. [Yojimbo \(1961\)](#)

A samurai arrives at a small town divided by two rival criminal gangs, and decides to stay and play them against each other.

Starring Toshiro Mifune, and directed by Akira Kurosawa. Japan's samurai movies are the equivalent of our westerns, and this one inspired the "spaghetti western" genre of films, when it was remade by Sergio Leone as *For a Fist Full of Dollars (1964)*. Another double bill?

159. [Zardoz \(1974\)](#)

In the late 23rd century after the collapse of civilization, a savage trained to kill survivors to keep the population down finds his way into the protected community of immortals who have become bored with life.

A film that's engaging with its imagery and low cost (but thoroughly believable) special effects. It shows how immortality would ultimately make life boring and meaningless.

160. [Zombieland \(2009\)](#)

A college student trying to get home, a gun toting roughneck in search of one last Twinkie, and two sisters trying to get to an amusement park, hook up to traverse a zombie infested America.

My favorite movie about the zombie apocalypse, a comedy of course. Stars Jesse Eisenberg as the student, Woody Harrelson as the roughneck, with Emma Stone and Abigail Breslin as the two sisters.

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