
The Top
101
fresh
POP CORN
Inspirational
Movies
by David Riklan
Ever Made

The Top 101 Inspirational Movies Ever Made – by David Riklan

Published by
Self Improvement Online, Inc.
http://www.SelfGrowth.com
20 Arie Drive, Marlboro, NJ 07746

©Copyright by David Riklan

Manufactured in the United States

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning, or otherwise, except as permitted under Section 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the prior written permission of the Publisher.

Limit of Liability / Disclaimer of Warranty: While the authors have used their best efforts in preparing this book, they make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents and specifically disclaim any implied warranties. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for your situation. You should consult with a professional where appropriate. The author shall not be liable for any loss of profit or any other commercial damages, including but not limited to special, incidental, consequential, or other damages.

The Top 101 Inspirational Movies Ever Made – by David Riklan

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ranking	Movie Title	
Introduction		6
Movie # 1	It's a Wonderful Life	8
Movie # 2	Forrest Gump	10
Movie # 3	Field of Dreams	12
Movie # 4	Rudy	14
Movie # 5	Rocky	16
Movie # 6	Chariots of Fire	18
Movie # 7	Pay It Forward	20
Movie # 8	Braveheart	22
Movie # 9	Shawshank Redemption	25
Movie # 10	Dead Poets Society	27
Movie # 11	Gandhi	29
Movie # 12	Jerry Maguire	31
Movie # 13	Patch Adams	33
Movie # 14	Good Will Hunting	35
Movie # 15	Life is Beautiful	37
Movie # 16	Gone with the Wind	39
Movie # 17	Groundhog Day	41
Movie # 18	Seabiscuit	43
Movie # 19	Remember the Titans	45
Movie # 20	A Beautiful Mind	47
Movie # 21	Dances with Wolves	49
Movie # 22	Beaches	51
Movie # 23	The Sound of Music	53
Movie # 24	Schindler`s List	55
Movie # 25	Fried Green Tomatoes	58
Movie # 26	To Kill A Mockingbird	60
Movie # 27	The Green Mile	63
Movie # 28	Mr. Holland`s Opus	65

Movie # 29	Steel Magnolias	67
Movie # 30	Saving Private Ryan	69
Movie # 31	The Wizard of Oz	71
Movie # 32	Star Wars	73
Movie # 33	What Dreams May Come	76
Movie # 34	The Matrix	78
Movie # 35	The Color Purple	81
Movie # 36	The Ten Commandants	83
Movie # 37	Hoosiers	85
Movie # 38	Finding Forrester	87
Movie # 39	Jesus of Nazareth (1977)	89
Movie # 40	Titanic	91
Movie # 41	Harold and Maude	94
Movie # 42	Ghost	96
Movie # 43	October Sky	98
Movie # 44	Gladiator	100
Movie # 45	Brian's Song	103
Movie # 46	Top Gun	105
Movie # 47	Stand and Deliver	107
Movie # 48	Rain Man	109
Movie # 49	Apollo 13	111
Movie # 50	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington	113
Movie # 51	Erin Brockovich	115
Movie # 52	Contact	117
Movie # 53	City of Angels	119
Movie # 54	Ben Hur	121
Movie # 55	Simon Birch	123
Movie # 56	Miracle On 34th Street	125
Movie # 57	E.T.	127
Movie # 58	American Beauty	129
Movie # 59	When Harry Met Sally	131
Movie # 60	Stand By Me	133
Movie # 61	Out of Africa	135
Movie # 62	The Patriot	137
Movie # 63	Lawrence of Arabia	140
Movie # 64	The Natural	142
Movie # 65	On Golden Pond	144
Movie # 66	Dangerous Minds	146
Movie # 67	Defending Your Life	148
Movie # 68	Cool Runnings	150

Movie # 69	Beauty & the Beast	152
Movie # 70	The Princess Bride	154
Movie # 71	Terms of Endearment	156
Movie # 72	Stepmom	158
Movie # 73	Casablanca	160
Movie # 74	A River Runs Through It	162
Movie # 75	Awakenings	164
Movie # 76	The Sixth Sense	166
Movie # 77	The Breakfast Club	168
Movie # 78	Lorenzo's Oil	170
Movie # 79	Powder	172
Movie # 80	The Rookie	174
Movie # 81	Men of Honor	176
Movie # 82	The Legend of Bagger Vance	178
Movie # 83	The Pianist	180
Movie # 84	The Lion King	182
Movie # 85	The Karate Kid	184
Movie # 86	My Left Foot	186
Movie # 87	Life As A House	188
Movie # 88	Amelie (Fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain, Le)	190
Movie # 89	Shine	192
Movie # 90	Patton	194
Movie # 91	Norma Rae	196
Movie # 92	Cinderella (1950 Version)	198
Movie # 93	Breaking Away	200
Movie # 94	Billy Elliot	202
Movie # 95	Philadelphia	204
Movie # 96	My Life	206
Movie # 97	Lean on Me	208
Movie # 98	Driving Miss Daisy	210
Movie # 99	Dead Man Walking	212
Movie # 100	Citizen Kane	214
Movie # 101	Antwone Fisher	216

Introduction

I just love inspirational movies—movies that inspire you, motivate you, and get your blood going.

Ever since I was child, I remember the impact that movies had on me. As I grew up, people would always ask me what my favorite inspirational movies were. I had my favorites. We all do.

Several years ago, my wife and I started an Inspirational and Self Improvement website, http://www.SelfGrowth.com. It was and still is loaded with tons of information on Inspirational Books, Quotes, Articles, Experts, Seminars, Newsletters, and Products to inspire you and help you improve your life. But there was always a piece missing.

The missing piece of the Inspiration Puzzle was Inspirational Movies; we never included any information on Inspirational Movies. This e-book is my attempt at remedying that situation.

We faced several challenges.

1. How do we decide what is an Inspirational Movie?
2. How do we rank the top Inspirational Movies?
3. What information should we include on each of the movies in the book?

To answer the first two questions, we decided to go to our "Readers." Our Internet business includes websites and newsletters on Self Improvement and Personal Growth. Our main Self Improvement newsletter has over 200,000 subscribers interested in Self Improvement and Inspiration.

(See http://www.SelfImprovementNewsletters.com.)

I decided to let our newsletter subscribers answer the first two questions. I sent out a survey to over 200,000 people asking them to tell me their favorite Inspirational Movie. I received thousands of responses that included over 800 different Inspirational Movies.

We counted the votes and ranked these movies based solely on the number of times a movie title was voted on by our readers. This book contains the Top 101 Inspirational Movies based solely on our Survey. The movies are ranked in order from # 1 to # 101.

And the Survey says (that the Most Inspirational Movie of All Time is)… "It's a Wonderful Life," starring Jimmy Stewart.

Are these actually the most inspiring movies off all time? In truth, only you, the reader, can answer that, but we believe that this list provides you with a great start.

The survey answered the first two questions for us: What are the Top 101 Most Inspirational Movies and how should they be ranked?

The only question left unanswered was, "What information should we include about each of the movies?" I decided to keep it simple. Each movie chapter contains a short synopsis, information about the main cast, memorable quotes, and a few links for additional information about the movie quickly.

WHAT LINKS ARE INCLUDED?

For each movie:

> I included a link to The Internet Movie Database (http://www.IMDB.com). I believe that this is the best movie website on the Internet.
>
> I included a link to Roger Ebert's movie reviews. I believe he is one of the best movie reviewers alive today.
>
> I also included a link to Amazon.com for anybody interested in purchasing a copy of the movie.

Have fun with your movie viewing. I hope this e-book and the movies in it bring you tremendous reading and viewing pleasure and Inspiration.

Movie # 1
It's a Wonderful Life

SYNOPSIS

Now perhaps the most beloved American film, *It's a Wonderful Life* was largely forgotten for years, due to a copyright quirk. Only in the late 1970s did it find its audience through repeated TV showings. Frank Capra's masterwork deserves its status as a feel-good communal event, but it is also one of the most fascinating films in the American cinema, a multilayered work of Dickensian density. George Bailey (played superbly by James Stewart) grows up in the small town of Bedford Falls, dreaming dreams of adventure and travel, but circumstances conspire to keep him enslaved to his home turf. Frustrated by his life, and haunted by an impending scandal, George prepares to commit suicide on Christmas Eve. A heavenly messenger (Henry Travers) arrives to show him a vision: what the world would have been like if George had never been born. The sequence is a vivid depiction of the American Dream gone bad, and probably the wildest thing Capra ever shot (the director's optimistic vision may have darkened during his experiences making military films in World War II). Capra's triumph is to acknowledge the difficulties and disappointments of life, while affirming--in the teary-eyed final reel--his cherished values of friendship and individual achievement. *It's a Wonderful Life* was not a big hit on its initial release, and it won no Oscars (Capra and Stewart were nominated); but it continues to weave a special magic. (1946, 129 minutes, NR). *Review by Robert Horton.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Jimmy Stewart (George Bailey): Just remember this, Mr. Potter: that this rabble you're talking about, they do most of the working and paying and living and dying in this community. Well, is it too much to have them work and pay and live and die in a couple of decent rooms and a bath?

Jimmy Stewart (George): What do you want, Mary? Do you want the moon? If you want it, I'll throw a lasso around it and pull it down for you. Hey! That's a pretty good idea! I'll give you the moon, Mary.
Donna Reed (Mary Hatch Bailey): I'll take it! Then what?

Jimmy Stewart (George): Well, then you can swallow it, and it'll all dissolve see, and the moonbeams would shoot out of your fingers and your toes and the ends of your hair... am I talking too much?

Henry Travers (Clarence): One man's life touches so many others, when he's not there it leaves an awfully big hole.

Henry Travers (Clarence): Remember George, No man is a failure who has friends.

Henry Travers (Clarence): You see, George, you really have had a wonderful life.

MAIN CAST

James Stewart - - - - George Bailey
Donna Reed - - - - Mary Hatch Bailey
Lionel Barrymore - - - - Mr. Potter
Thomas Mitchell - - - - Uncle William 'Billy' Bailey

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://imdb.com/title/tt0038650/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1999/10/its1029.html

AMAZON.COM
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005QCVY/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 2
Forrest Gump

SYNOPSIS

The Academy Award winner for Best Picture, Best Director Robert Zemeckis, and Best Actor Tom Hanks, this unlikely story of a slow-witted but good-hearted man somehow at the center of the pivotal events of the 20th century is a funny and heartwarming epic. Hanks plays the title character, a shy Southern boy in love with his childhood best friend (Robin Wright) who finds that his ability to run fast takes him places. As an All-Star football player he meets John F. Kennedy; as a soldier in Vietnam he's a war hero; and as a world champion Ping-Pong player he's hailed by Richard Nixon. Becoming a successful shrimp-boat captain, he still yearns for the love of his life, who takes a quite different and much sadder path in life. The visual effects incorporating Hanks into existing newsreel footage is both funny and impressive, but the heart of the film lies in its sweet love story and in the triumphant performance of Hanks as an unassuming soul who savors the most from his life and times. (1994, 142 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Robert Lane.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Tom Hanks (Forrest): Why don't you love me, Jenny? I'm not a smart man, but I know what love is.

Sally Field (Mrs. Gump): You have to do the best with what God gave you.

Tom Hanks (Forrest): Mama always said life was like a box a chocolates, never know what you're gonna get.

Mykelti Williamson (Bubba): Anyway, like I was sayin', shrimp is the fruit of the sea. You can barbecue it, boil it, broil it, bake it, saute it. Dey's uh, shrimp-kabobs, shrimp creole, shrimp gumbo. Pan fried, deep fried, stir-fried. There's pineapple shrimp, lemon shrimp, coconut shrimp, pepper shrimp, shrimp soup, shrimp stew, shrimp salad, shrimp and potatoes, shrimp burger, shrimp sandwich. That- that's about it.

Tom Hanks (Forrest): Now you wouldn't believe me if I told you, but I could run like the wind blows. From that day on, if I was ever going somewhere, I was running!

Tom Hanks (Forrest): We were like peas and carrots, Jenny and I.

Tom Hanks (Forrest): I don't know if we each have a destiny, or if we're all just floatin' around accidental-like on a breeze. But I, I think maybe it's both.

Tom Hanks (Forrest): I gotta pee.

MAIN CAST

Tom Hanks - - - - Forrest Gump
Robin Wright Penn - - - -Jenny Curran
Gary Sinise - - - - Lt. Dan Taylor
Mykelti Williamson - - - - Pvt. Benjamin Buford 'Bubba' Blue
Sally Field - - - - Mrs. Gump

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1994/07/929082.html

AMAZON.COM
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXA2/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 3
Field of Dreams

SYNOPSIS

A phenomenal hit when it was released in 1989, *Field of Dreams* has become a modern classic and a uniquely American slice of cinema. It functions effectively as a moving drama about the power of dreams, a fantasy ode to our national pastime, and a brilliant adaptation of W.P. Kinsella's exquisite baseball novel *Shoeless Joe*. Kinsella himself found the film a delightful surprise, differing greatly from his novel but benefiting from its own creative variations. It is the film that cemented Kevin Costner's status as an all-American screen star, but the story resonates far beyond Costner's handsome appeal. As just about everyone knows by now, Costner stars as Iowa farmer Ray Kinsella, who hears the mysterious words "If you build it, he will come," and is compelled to build a baseball diamond in the middle of his cornfield. His wife (Amy Madigan) supports the wild idea, but a reclusive novelist (modeled after J.D. Salinger and played by James Earl Jones) is not so easily persuaded. The idealistic farmer is either a visionary or a deluded fool, but his persistence is rewarded when spirits from baseball's past begin appearing on the ball field. Past and present intermingle in the person of "Moonlight Graham" (superbly played by Burt Lancaster), an unknown player who sacrificed his dreams of baseball glory for a dignified life as a small-town physician ... but what all of this means is unclear until the film's memorably heartfelt conclusion. A meditation on family, memory, and faith, the film balances humor and magic to strike just the right chord of thoughtful emotion, affecting audiences so deeply that the baseball field created for the production has now become a mecca of sorts for dreamers around the world. Universal's widescreen Collector's Edition DVD is a real treat, offering extensive production notes, full-length commentary by writer-director Phil Alden Robinson, and the extensive behind-the-scenes documentary. (1989, 106 minutes, PG) *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Voice: If you build it, he will come.

James Earl Jones (Terence): Ray, people will come Ray. They'll come to Iowa for reasons they can't even fathom. They'll turn up your driveway not

knowing for sure why they're doing it. They'll arrive at your door as innocent as children, longing for the past.…This field, this game, it's a part of our past, Ray. It reminds of us of all that once was good and it could be again. Oh, people will come Ray. People will most definitely come.

Kevin Costner (Ray): Fifty years ago, for five minutes you came within, y-you came this close! It would KILL some men to get so close to their dream and not touch it! God, they'd consider it a tragedy!

Ray Liotta ("Shoeless" Joe): Ty Cobb wanted to play. None of could stand the son-of-a-bitch when we were alive, so we told him to stick it!

Kevin Costner (Ray): I'm 36 years old, I love my family, I love baseball and I'm about to become a farmer. But until I heard the voice, I'd never done a crazy thing in my whole life.

MAIN CAST
Kevin Costner - - - - Ray Kinsella
Amy Madigan - - - - Anni Kinsella
Gaby Hoffmann - - - - Karin Kinsella
Ray Liotta - - - - "Shoeless" Joe Jackson
Timothy Busfield - - - - Mark
James Earl Jones - - - - Terence Mann
Burt Lancaster - - - - Dr. Archibald 'Moonlight' Graham
Frank Whaley - - - - Archie Graham
Dwier Brown - - - - John Kinsella

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0097351/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1989/04/349987.html

AMAZON.COM
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0783225881/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 4
Rudy

SYNOPSIS

This 1993 film by David Anspaugh (*Hoosiers*) is slowly building a reputation as a minor highlight of '90s movies. Based on a true story, *Rudy* stars Sean Astin as Rudy Ruettiger, a blue-collar kid whose father (Ned Beatty) worships Notre Dame football but who would never dare to dream that any of his sons could be a part of the team. The film is entirely about Ruettiger's ceaseless if sometimes wavering commitment toward that goal, despite tremendous obstacles in physical stature, education requirements, the dismissiveness of coaches, poverty, his father's envy, and endless delays of one kind or another. This is the sort of film that looks back on a life and says the battle was its own reward, not the glory. Astin is very moving as a boy who becomes a man and watches his world change, often in unexpected ways, through painful determination. Great support from Beatty, Lili Taylor as a hometown girl, and Robert Prosky and Charles S. Dutton as two valuable mentors. (1993, 116 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Sean Astin (Rudy): I've been ready for this my whole life.

Charles Dutton (Fortune): You're 5 foot nothin', 100 and nothin', and you have nearly a speck of athletic ability. And you hung in there with the best college football team in the land for 2 years. And you're gonna walk outta here with a degree from the University of Notre Dame. In this life, you don't have to prove nothin' to nobody but yourself.

Charles Dutton (Fortune): You got your head so far up your ass about that damn football team, you don't get the fact that you just got a year of top quality education! Waste? Quit wasting my time!

Jon Favreau (D-Bob): We've had a hell of a goddamn run haven't we?

MAIN CAST

Sean Astin - - - - Rudy Ruettiger

Jon Favreau - - - - D-Bob
Ned Beatty - - - - Daniel
Greta Lind - - - - Mary
Scott Benjaminson - - - - Frank
Mary Ann Thebus - - - - Betty
Charles Dutton - - - - Fortune
Lili Taylor - - - - Sherry
Christopher Reed - - - - Pete

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0108002/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1993/10/883707.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00004W221/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 5
Rocky

SYNOPSIS

The only remaining evidence that Sylvester Stallone might have had a respectable career, this 1976 Oscar® winner (for Best Picture, Director, and Editing) is still the quintessential ode to an underdog and one of the best boxing movies ever made. After writing the script about a two-bit boxer who gets a "million-to-one shot" against the world heavyweight champion, Stallone insisted that he star in the title role, and his equally unknown status helped to catapult him (and this rousing film) to overnight success. The story is familiar, but it's handled with such vitality and emotional honesty that you can't help but leap and cheer for Rocky Balboa, the chump-turned-champ who stuns the boxing world with the support of his timid girlfriend Adrian (Talia Shire) and grizzled trainer Gus (Burgess Meredith). Oscar nominations went to all the lead actors (including Burt Young as Adrian's hot-tempered brother), but four sequels could never top the universal appeal of this low-budget crowd pleaser. (1976, 119 minutes, PG). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Burgess Meredith (Mickey): You're gonna eat lightnin' and you're gonna crap thunder!

Sylvester Stallone (Rocky): Adrian!

Sylvester Stallone (Rocky): Yeah, that's me when I was eight years old, that's the Italian Stallion when he was a baby.

Sylvester Stallone (Rocky): You gotta be a moron...you gotta be a *moron* to wanna be a fighter.

Talia Shire (Adrian): Yeah. Beethoven was deaf. Helen Keller was blind. I think Rocky's got a good chance.

MAIN CAST

Sylvester Stallone - - - - Rocky

Talia Shire - - - - Adrian
Burt Young - - - - Paulie
Carl Weathers - - - - Apollo
Burgess Meredith - - - - Mickey
Thayer David - - - - Jergens
Joe Spinell - - - - Gazzo
Jimmy Gambina - - - - Mike

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0075148/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=18508

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000056H99/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 6
Chariots of Fire

SYNOPSIS

The come-from-behind winner of the 1981 Oscar for best picture, *Chariots of Fire* either strikes you as either a cold exercise in mechanical manipulation or as a tale of true determination and inspiration. The heroes are an unlikely pair of young athletes who ran for Great Britain in the 1924 Paris Olympics: devout Protestant Eric Liddell (Ian Charleson), a divinity student whose running makes him feel closer to God, and Jewish Harold Abrahams (Ben Cross), a highly competitive Cambridge student who has to surmount the institutional hurdles of class prejudice and anti-Semitism. There's delicious support from Ian Holm (as Abrahams's coach) and John Gielgud and Lindsay Anderson as a couple of Cambridge fogies. Vangelis's soaring synthesized score, which seemed to be everywhere in the early 1980s, also won an Oscar. *Chariots of Fire* was the debut film of British television commercial director Hugh Hudson (Greystoke) and was produced by David Puttnam. (1981, British, 123 minutes, PG). *Review by Jim Emerson*.

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Ian Charleson (Eric): Then where does the power come from, to see the race to its end? From within.

Ian Charleson (Eric): I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure.

Ian Holm (Sam): Yeah he's fast! But he won't go any faster. He's a gut runner, digs deep! But a short sprint is run on nerves. It's tailor-made for neurotics.

MAIN CAST

Nicholas Farrell - - - - Aubrey Montague
Nigel Havers - - - - Lord Andrew Lindsay
Ian Charleson - - - - Eric Liddell
Ben Cross - - - - Harold M. Abrahams
Daniel Gerroll - - - - Henry Stallard

Ian Holm - - - - Sam Mussabini
John Gielgud - - - - Master of Trinity
Lindsay Anderson - - - - Master of Caius
Nigel Davenport - - - - Lord Birkenhead
Cheryl Campbell - - - - Jennie Liddell
Alice Krige - - - - Sybil Gordon
Dennis Christopher - - - - Charles Paddock
Brad Davis - - - - Jackson Scholz
Patrick Magee - - - - Lord Cadogan
Peter Egan - - - - Duke of Sutherland

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0082158/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/ShowMovie.asp?MI=30405

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0790731010/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 7
Pay It Forward

SYNOPSIS
Pay It Forward is a multi-level marketing scheme of the heart. Beginning as a seventh-grade class assignment to put into action an idea that could change the world, young Trevor McKinney (Haley Joel Osment) comes up with a plan to do good deeds for three people who then by way of payment each must do good turns for three other people. These nine people also must pay it forward and so on, ad infinitum. If successful, the resulting network of do-gooders ought to comprise the entire world. Trevor's attempts to get the ball rolling include befriending a junkie (James Caviezel) and trying to set up his recovering-alcoholic mother (Helen Hunt) with his burn-victim teacher (Kevin Spacey), who posed the assignment. While this could have turned into unmitigated schmaltz, the acting elevates this film to mitigated schmaltz. By turns powerful and measured, the performances of Spacey, Hunt, and Osment can't make up for the many missteps in a screenplay that sanitizes the look of the lower-middle class and expects us to believe that homeless alcoholics and junkies speak in the elevated manner of grad students. (Can that really be Angie Dickinson as Hunt's dispossessed mother? Yes, it is!) The germ of the story is a good one, though, and one may wonder how it would have been handled by the likes of Frank Capra, who could balance sentiment with humor. But clearly Capra would never have let the ending of his version to take the nosedive into cliché and pathos that director Mimi Leder has allowed in this film. More than a few viewers will also recognize that Leder has blatantly borrowed her final image from *Field of Dreams*, where its intended effect was more keenly and honestly felt. (2000, 123 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jim Gay.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES
Haley Joel Osment (Trevor): Are you saying you'll flunk us if we don't change the world?

Haley Joel Osment (Trevor): I guess it's hard for people who are so used to things the way they are - even if they're bad - to change. 'Cause they kind of give up. And when they do, everybody kind of loses.

James Caviezel (Jerry): Well, you can't know. Not until you look at a dumpster. But when you climb into that thing for the first time and you pull those newspapers over you, that's when you know you've messed your life up. Somebody comes along like your son, and gives me a leg up, I'll take it. Even from a kid, I'll take it.

MAIN CAST

Kevin Spacey - - - - Eugene Simonet
Helen Hunt - - - - Arlene McKinney
Haley Joel Osment - - - - Trevor McKinney
Jay Mohr - - - - Chris Chandler
James Caviezel - - - - Jerry
Jon Bon Jovi - - - - Ricki McKinney
Angie Dickinson - - - - Grace
David Ramsey - - - - Sidney
Gary Werntz - - - - Thorsen

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0223897/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2000/10/102005.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005B4BI/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 8
Braveheart

SYNOPSIS

In his engaging audio commentary, Mel Gibson is deeply appreciative of his cast and collaborators (especially Oscar-winning cinematographer John Toll) and, of course, quite amusing when he wants to be. Gibson notes, "I fell in love a little bit" when he cast then-newcomer Catherine McCormack as William Wallace's ill-fated bride, and throughout his informative commentary, the actor-director conveys genuine passion for the story and a firm understanding of the period history that informed the entire production. The accompanying documentary, *Mel Gibson's "Braveheart": A Filmmaker's Passion*, is a 28-minute promotional film with behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with primary cast and crew. Particularly interesting are sequences revealing the equipment required for the epic battle scenes, including air cannons for firing dozens of arrows, and costly mechanical horses created to simulate animal-related violence. Viewers will especially admire the considerable challenge of filming in Europe's rainiest region, Scotland, where inclement weather enhanced the film's gritty authenticity. (1995, 177 minutes, R). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Mel Gibson (William): Lower your flags and march straight back to England, stopping at every home to beg forgiveness for a hundred years of theft, rape, and murder. Do this and your men shall live. Do it not, and every one of you will die today.

Mel Gibson (William): Aye, fight and you may die, run, and you'll live...at least a while. And dying in your beds, many years from now, would you be willin' to trade all of that from this day to that, for one chance, just one chance, to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take away our lives, but they'll never take our freeeedoooomm!

Mel Gibson (William): Yes, I've heard. He kills men by the hundreds, and if he were here he'd consume the English with fireballs from his eyes and bolts of lightning from his arse. I am William Wallace, and I see a whole army of my countrymen here in defiance of tyranny. You have come to fight as free men, and free men you are. What will you do with that freedom? Will you fight?

Sophie Marceau (Princess): You see? Death comes to us all. But before it comes to you, know this: your blood dies with you. A child who is not of your line grows in my belly. Your son will not sit long on the throne. I swear it

Mel Gibson (William): Every man dies, not every man really lives.

Mel Gibson (William): FREEEEE-DOMMMMMM!

Narrator: I will tell you of William Wallace. Historians will call me a liar, but history is written by those who've hanged heroes.

Mel Gibson (William): It's well beyond rage. Help me. For Christ's sake, help yourselves! If we join, we can win. If we win, well then we'll have what none of us has ever had before: a country of our own.

MAIN CAST

Mel Gibson - - - - William Wallace
James Robinson - - - - Young William
Sean Lawlor - - - - Malcolm Wallace
Sandy Nelson - - - - John Wallace
James Cosmo - - - - Campbell
Sean McGinley - - - - MacClannough
Alan Tall - - - - Elder Stewart
Andrew Weir - - - - Young Hamish
Gerda Stevenson - - - - Mother MacClannough
Mhairi Calvey - - - - Young Murron
Brian Cox - - - - Argyle Wallace
Patrick McGoohan - - - - Longshanks - King Edward I
Peter Hanly - - - - Prince Edward
Sophie Marceau - - - - Princess Isabelle

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0112573/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1995/05/980742.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CX95/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 9
Shawshank Redemption

SYNOPSIS

When this popular prison drama was released in 1994, some critics complained that the movie was too long (142 minutes) to sustain its story. Those complaints miss the point, because the passage of time is crucial to this story about patience, the squeaky wheels of justice, and the growth of a life-long friendship. Only when the film reaches its final, emotionally satisfying scene do you fully understand why writer-director Frank Darabont (adapting a novella by Stephen King) allows the story to unfold at its necessary pace, and the effect is dramatically rewarding. Tim Robbins plays a banker named Andy who's sent to Shawshank Prison on a murder charge, but as he gets to know a life-term prisoner named Red (Morgan Freeman), we realize there's reason to believe the banker's crime was justifiable. We also realize that Andy's calm, quiet exterior hides a great reserve of patience and fortitude, and Red comes to admire this mild-mannered man who first struck him as weak and unfit for prison life. So it is that *The Shawshank Redemption* builds considerable impact as a prison drama that defies the conventions of the genre (violence, brutality, riots) to illustrate its theme of faith, friendship, and survival. Nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture, Actor, and Screenplay, it's a remarkable film that signaled the arrival of a promising new filmmaker--a film that many movie lovers count among their all-time favorites. (1994, 142 minutes, R). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Morgan Freeman (Red): Prison life consists of routine, and then more routine.

Bob Gunton (Warden): I believe in two things: discipline and the Bible. Here you'll receive both. Put your trust in the Lord; your ass belongs to me. Welcome to Shawshank.

Morgan Freeman (Red): I must admit I didn't think much of Andy first time I laid eyes on him; looked like a stiff breeze would blow him over. That was my first impression of the man.

Morgan Freeman (Red): Let me tell you something my friend. Hope is a dangerous thing. Hope can drive a man insane.

Morgan Freeman (Red): These walls are kind of funny. First you hate 'em, then you get used to 'em. Enough time passes, gets so you depend on them. That's institutionalized. They send you here for life, that's exactly what they take. The part that counts, anyways.

Tim Robbins (Andy): Here's where it makes the most sense. You need it so you don't forget. Forget that there are places in the world that aren't made out of stone. That there's a - there's a - there's something inside that's yours, that they can't touch.

Tim Robbins (Andy): Yeah. The funny thing is, on the outside, I was an honest man, straight as an arrow. I had to come to prison to be a crook.

Morgan Freeman (Red): I have to remind myself that some birds aren't meant to be caged.

MAIN CAST

Tim Robbins - - - - Andy Dufresne, Inmate 37927
Morgan Freeman - - - - Ellis Boyd 'Red' Redding
Bob Gunton - - - - Warden Samuel Norton
William Sadler - - - - Heywood, Inmate 32365
Clancy Brown - - - - Capt. Byron Hadley
Gil Bellows - - - - Tommy Williams, Inmate 46419
Mark Rolston - - - - Bogs Diamond
James Whitmore - - - - Brooks Hatlen, Librarian

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0111161/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1994/09/941998.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B0000399WI/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 10
Dead Poets Society

SYNOPSIS

Robin Williams stars as an English teacher who doesn't fit into the conservative prep school where he teaches, but whose charisma and love of poetry inspires several boys to revive a secret society with a bohemian bent. The script is well meaning but a little trite, though director Peter Weir (*The Truman Show*) adds layers of emotional depth in scenes of conflict between the kids and adults. (A subplot involving one father's terrible pressure on his son--played by Robert Sean Leonard--to drop his interest in theater reaches heartbreaking proportions.) Williams is given plenty of latitude to work in his brand of improvisational humor, though it is all well-woven into his character's style of instruction (1989, 128 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Robin Williams (John): No matter what anybody tells you, words and ideas can change the world.

Robin Williams (John): Carpe, carpe diem, seize the day boys, make your lives extraordinary.

Robin Williams (John): O Captain, my Captain.

Robin Williams (John): Sucking all the marrow out of life doesn't mean choking on the bone

Robin Williams (John): I thought the purpose of education was to learn to think for yourself.

Ethan Hawke (Todd): I close my eyes. His image floats beside me. A sweaty-toothed madman with a stare that pounds my brain.

Robin Williams (John): Phone call from God? Now if it had been collect, it would have been daring!

Robin Williams (John): I sound my barbaric YAWP over the rooftops of the world.

MAIN CAST

Robin Williams - - - - John Keating
Robert Sean Leonard - - - - Neil Perry
Ethan Hawke - - - - Todd Anderson
Josh Charles - - - - Knox Overstreet
Gale Hansen - - - - Charlie Dalton
Dylan Kussman - - - - Richard Cameron
Allelon Ruggiero - - - - Steven Meeks
James Waterston - - - - Gerard Pitts
Norman Lloyd - - - - Mr. Nolan
Kurtwood Smith - - - - Mr. Perry
Carla Belver - - - - Mrs. Perry

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0097165/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1989/06/357909.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=6305144168/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 11
Gandhi

SYNOPSIS

Sir Richard Attenborough's 1982 multiple-Oscar winner (including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor for Ben Kingsley) is an engrossing, reverential look at the life of Mohandas K. Gandhi, who introduced the doctrine of nonviolent resistance to the colonized people of India and who ultimately gained the nation its independence. Kingsley is magnificent as Gandhi as he changes over the course of the three-hour film from an insignificant lawyer to an international leader and symbol. Strong on history (the historic division between India and Pakistan, still a huge problem today, can be seen in its formative stages here) as well as character and ideas, this is a fine film (1982, British-Indian, 200 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Ben Kingsley (Gandhi): Whenever I despair, I remember that the way of truth and love has always won. There may be tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they may seem invincible, but in the end, they always fail. Think of it: always.

Ben Kingsley (Gandhi): An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

Ben Kingsley (Gandhi): I know a way out of Hell. Find a small boy, about this high, whose parents have been killed, and raise him as your own. But make sure he is Muslim, and raise him as one.

MAIN CAST

Ben Kingsley - - - - Mohandas K. Gandhi
Candice Bergen - - - - Margaret Bourke-White
Edward Fox - - - - Gen. Dyer
John Gielgud - - - - Lord Irwin, Viceroy (Edward F.L. Wood)
Trevor Howard - - - - Judge Broomfield

John Mills - - - - Lord Chelmsford, Viceroy (F.J.N. Thesiger)
Martin Sheen - - - - Vince Walker
Ian Charleson - - - - Rev. Charlie Andrews
Athol Fugard - - - - Gen. Jan Christiaan Smuts
Günther Maria Halmer - - - - Dr. Herman Kallenbach
Saeed Jaffrey - - - - Sardar Patel
Geraldine James - - - - Mirabehn
Alyque Padamsee - - - - Mohammed Ali Jinnah
Amrish Puri - - - - Kahn
Roshan Seth - - - - Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0083987/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=27978

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXA4/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 12
Jerry Maguire

SYNOPSIS

One of the best romantic comedies of the 1990s, this box-office hit cemented writer-director Cameron Crowe's reputation as "the voice of a generation." Crowe could probably do without that label, but he's definitely in sync with the times with this savvy story about a sports agent (Tom Cruise) whose fall from grace motivates his quest for professional recovery, and the slow-dawning realization that he needs the love and respect of the single mom (Renée Zellweger in her breakthrough role) who has supported him through the worst of times. This is one of Cruise's best, most underrated performances, and in an Oscar-winning role, Cuba Gooding Jr. plays the football star who remains Jerry Maguire's only loyal client on a hard road to redemption and personal growth. If that sounds touchy-feely, it is only because Crowe has combined sharp entertainment with a depth of character that is rarely found in mainstream comedy. (1996, 138 minutes, R). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Cuba Gooding, Jr. (Rod): You are hanging on by a very thin thread and I dig that about you!

Tom Cruise (Jerry): Help me, help you. Help me, help you.

Cuba Gooding, Jr. (Rod): Show me the money!

Tom Cruise (Jerry): Show me the money!

Renée Zellweger (Dorothy): I love him! I love him for the man he wants to be. And I love him for the man he almost is.

Tom Cruise (Jerry): You complete me.

Renée Zellweger (Dorothy): Shut up. Just shut up. You had me at "hello."

MAIN CAST

Tom Cruise - - - - Jerry Maguire
Cuba Gooding, Jr. - - - - Rod Tidwell
Renée Zellweger - - - - Dorothy Boyd
Kelly Preston - - - - Avery Bishop
Jerry O'Connell - - - - Frank Cushman
Jay Mohr - - - - Bob Sugar
Bonnie Hunt - - - - Laurel Boyd
Regina King - - - - Marcee Tidwell
Jonathan Lipnicki - - - - Ray Boyd

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0116695/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1996/12/121301.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0800141741/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 13
Patch Adams

SYNOPSIS

Patch Adams raises two schools of thought: There are those who are inspired by the true story of a troubled man who finds happiness in helping others--a man set on changing the world and who may well accomplish the task. And then there are those who feel manipulated by this feel-good story, who want to smack the young medical student every time he begins his silly antics. Staving off suicidal thoughts, Hunter Adams commits himself into a psychiatric ward, where he not only garners the nickname "Patch," but learns the joy in helping others. To this end, he decides to go to medical school, where he clashes with the staid conventions of the establishment as he attempts to inject humor and humanity into his treatment of the patients ("We need to start treating the patient as well as the disease," he declares throughout the film). Robin Williams, in the title role, is as charming as ever, although someone should tell him to broaden his range--the ever-cheerful do-gooder à la *Good Will Hunting* and *Dead Poets Society* is getting a little old. His sidekick Truman (Daniel London) steals the show with his gawky allure and eyebrows that threaten to overtake his lean face--he seems more real, which is odd considering that Patch Adams does exist and this film is based on his life. Monica Potter is the coolly reluctant love interest, and she makes the most of her one-dimensional part. While moments of true heartfelt emotion do come through, the major flaw of this film is that the good guys are just so gosh-darn good and the bad ones are just big meanies with no character development. *Patch Adams*, though, does provide the tears, the giggles, and the kooky folks who will keep you smiling at the end. (1998, 110 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jenny Brown.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Robin Williams (Patch): You treat a disease, you win, you lose. You treat a person I'll guarantee you'll win.

Robin Williams (Patch): And my report will read IDGARA: I don't give a rat's ass.

Robin Williams (Patch): We need to start treating the patient as well as the disease.

Harold Gould (Arthur): You're focusing on the problem. If you focus on the problem, you can't see the solution. Never focus on the problem!

Monica Potter (Carin): Lesbian, airhead, ballbuster, whichever one of these disgusts you the most, take your pick. Please spread the word. I'm not here to date. I'm not here to flirt. I'm here to study.

MAIN CAST

Robin Williams - - - - Hunter 'Patch' Adams
Daniel London - - - - Truman Schiff
Monica Potter - - - - Carin Fisher
Philip Seymour Hoffman - - - - Mitch Roman
Bob Gunton - - - - Dean Walcott
Josef Sommer - - - - Dr. Eaton
Irma P. Hall - - - - Joletta
Frances Lee McCain - - - - Judy
Harve Presnell - - - - Dean J.P. Anderson
Daniella Kuhn - - - - Adelane
Peter Coyote - - - - Bill Davis
James Greene - - - - Bile
Michael Jeter - - - - Rudy
Harold Gould - - - - Arthur Mendelson
Bruce Bohne - - - - Trevor Beene

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0129290/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1998/12/122504.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00000IQV6/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 14
Good Will Hunting

SYNOPSIS

Robin Williams won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor, and actors Matt Damon and Ben Affleck nabbed one for Best Original Screenplay, but the feel-good hit *Good Will Hunting* triumphs because of its gifted director, Gus Van Sant. The unconventional director (*My Own Private Idaho*, *Drugstore Cowboy*) saves a script marred by vanity and clunky character development by yanking soulful, touching performances out of his entire cast (amazingly, even one by Williams that's relatively schtick-free). Van Sant pulls off the equivalent of what George Cukor accomplished for women's melodrama in the '30s and '40s: He's crafted an intelligent, unabashedly emotional male weepie about men trying to find inner-wisdom. Matt Damon stars as Will Hunting, a closet math genius who ignores his gift in favor of nightly boozing and fighting with South Boston buddies (co-writer Ben Affleck among them). While working as a university janitor, he solves an impossible calculus problem scribbled on a hallway blackboard and reluctantly becomes the prodigy of an arrogant MIT professor (Stellan Skarsgård). Damon only avoids prison by agreeing to see psychiatrists, all of whom he mocks or psychologically destroys until he meets his match in the professor's former childhood friend, played by Williams. Both doctor and patient are haunted by the past, and as mutual respect develops, the healing process begins. The film's beauty lies not with grand climaxes, but with small, quiet moments. Scenes such as Affleck's clumsy pep talk to Damon while they drink beer after work, or any number of therapy session between Williams and Damon offer poignant looks at the awkward ways men show affection and feeling for one another. (1997, 125 minutes, R). *Review by Dave McCoy.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Robin Williams (Sean): Real loss is only possible when you love something more than you love yourself.

Ben Affleck (Chuckie): Look, you're my best friend, so don't take this the wrong way. In twenty years, if you're still livin' here, comin' over to my

house to watch the Patriots games, still workin' construction, I'll fuckin' kill you. That's not a threat. Now, that's a fact. I'll fuckin' kill you.

Ben Affleck (Chuckie): You're sitting on a winning lottery ticket and you're too big of a pussy to cash it in.

Matt Damon (will): What is this, a Taster's Choice moment between guys?

Robin Williams (Sean): I just have a little question here. You could be a janitor anywhere. Why did work at the most prestigious technical college in the whole fuckin' world? And why did you sneak around at night and finish other people's formulas that only one or two people in the world could do and then lie about it? 'Cause I don't see a lot of honor in that, Will.

MAIN CAST

Robin Williams - - - - Sean Maguire
Matt Damon - - - - Will Hunting
Ben Affleck - - - - Chuckie Sullivan
Stellan Skarsgård - - - - Gerald Lambeau
Minnie Driver - - - - Skylar
Casey Affleck - - - - Morgan O'Mally
Cole Hauser - - - - Billy McBride
John Mighton - - - - Tom
Rachel Majorowski - - - - Krystyn
Colleen McCauley - - - - Cathy

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0119217/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1997/12/122504.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0788814664/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 15
Life is Beautiful

SYNOPSIS

Italy's rubber-faced funnyman Roberto Benigni accomplishes the impossible in his World War II comedy *Life Is Beautiful*: he shapes a simultaneously hilarious and haunting comedy out of the tragedy of the Holocaust. An international sensation and the most successful foreign language film in U.S. history, the picture also earned director-cowriter-star Benigni Oscars for Best Foreign Language Film and Best Actor. He plays the Jewish country boy Guido, a madcap romantic in Mussolini's Italy who wins the heart of his sweetheart (Benigni's real-life sweetie, Nicoletta Braschi) and raises a darling son (the adorable Giorgio Cantarini) in the shadow of fascism. When the Nazis ship the men off to a concentration camp in the waning days of the war, Guido is determined to shelter his son from the evils around them and convinces him they're in an elaborate contest to win (of all things) a tank. Guido tirelessly maintains the ruse with comic ingenuity, even as the horrors escalate and the camp's population continues to dwindle--all the more impetus to keep his son safe, secure, and, most of all, hidden. Benigni walks a fine line mining comedy from tragedy and his efforts are pure fantasy--he accomplishes feats no man could realistically pull off--both of which have drawn fire from a few critics. Yet for all its wacky humor and inventive gags, *Life Is Beautiful* is a moving and poignant tale of one father's sacrifice to save not just his young son's life but his innocence in the face of one of the most evil acts ever perpetrated by the human race. (1998, 114 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Sean Axmaker.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Roberto Benigni (Guido): What kind of place is this? It's beautiful: Pigeons fly, women fall from the sky! I'm moving here!

Roberto Benigni (Guido): Buongiorno, Principessa!

Roberto Benigni (Guido): You can't imagine how much I feel like making love to you. But I'll never tell anyone, especially not you. They'd have to torture me to make me say it.

MAIN CAST

Roberto Benigni - - - - Guido Orefice
Nicoletta Braschi - - - - Dora
Giustino Durano - - - - Eliseo Orefice
Sergio Bini Bustric - - - - Ferruccio Papini
Giuliana Lojodice - - - - School principal
Amerigo Fontani - - - - Rodolfo
Pietro De Silva - - - - Bartolomeo
Francesco Guzzo - - - - Vittorino
Raffaella Lebboroni - - - - Elena
Giorgio Cantarini - - - - Giosué Orefice
Marisa Paredes - - - - Madre di Dora
Horst Buchholz - - - - Dr. Lessing
Claudio Alfonsi - - - - Amico Rodolfo

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0118799/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1998/10/103003.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00001U0DP/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 16
Gone with the Wind

SYNOPSIS

David O. Selznick wanted *Gone with the Wind* to be somehow more than a movie, a film that would broaden the very idea of what a film could be and do and look like. In many respects he got what he worked so hard to achieve in this 1939 epic (and all-time box-office champ in terms of tickets sold), and in some respects he fell far short of the goal. While the first half of this Civil War drama is taut and suspenseful and nostalgic, the second is ramshackle and arbitrary. But there's no question that the film is an enormous achievement in terms of its every resource--art direction, color, sound, cinematography--being pushed to new limits for the greater glory of telling an American story as fully as possible. Vivien Leigh is still magnificently narcissistic, Olivia de Havilland angelic and lovely, Leslie Howard reckless and aristocratic. As for Clark Gable: we're talking one of the most vital, masculine performances ever committed to film. The DVD release has optional French subtitles and theatrical trailer. (1939, 220 minutes, NR). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Vivien Leigh (Scarlett): I can't think about that right now. If I do, I'll go crazy. I'll think about that tomorrow.

Vivien Leigh (Scarlett): War, war, war! This war talk's spoiling all the fun at every party this spring. I get so bored I could scream! Besides, there isn't going to be any war.

Clark Gable (Rhett): No, I don't think I will kiss you, although you need kissing, badly. That's what's wrong with you! You should be kissed and often, and by someone who knows how.

Clark Gable (Rhett): I can't go all my life waiting to catch you between husbands.

Clark Gable (Rhett): Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.

Vivien Leigh (Scarlett): As God is my witness, as God is my witness they're not going to lick me! I'm going to live through this and when it's all over, I'll never be hungry again! No, nor any of my folk. If I have to lie, steal, cheat or kill! As God is my witness, I'll never be hungry again!

MAIN CAST

Clark Gable…Rhett Butler
Thomas Mitchell - - - - Gerald O'Hara
Barbara O'Neil - - - - Ellen O'Hara
Vivien Leigh - - - - Scarlett O'Hara
Evelyn Keyes - - - - Suellen O'Hara
Ann Rutherford - - - - Carreen O'Hara
George Reeves - - - - Stuart Tarleton
Fred Crane - - - - Brent Tarleton
Hattie McDaniel - - - - Mammy
Oscar Polk - - - - Pork
Butterfly McQueen - - - - Prissy
Victor Jory - - - - Jonas Wilkerson
Everett Brown - - - - Big Sam
Howard C. Hickman - - - - John Wilkes
Alicia Rhett - - - - India Wilkes
Leslie Howard - - - - Ashley Wilkes

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0031381/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1994/12/953903.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00004RF96/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 17
Groundhog Day

SYNOPSIS

Bill Murray does warmth in his most consistently effective post-*Stripes* comedy, a romantic fantasy about a wacky weatherman forced to relive one strange day over and over again, until he gets it right. Snowed in during a road-trip expedition to watch the famous groundhog encounter his shadow, Murray falls into a time warp that is never explained but pays off so richly that it doesn't need to be. The elaborate loop-the-loop plot structure cooked up by screenwriter Danny Rubin is crystal-clear every step of the way, but it's Murray's world-class reactive timing that makes the jokes explode, and we end up looking forward to each new variation. He squeezes all the available juice out of every scene. Without forcing the issue, he makes us understand why this fly-away personality responds so intensely to the radiant sanity of the TV producer played by Andie MacDowell. The blissfully clueless Chris Elliott (*Cabin Boy*) is Murray's nudnik cameraman. (1993, 101 minutes, PG). *Review by David Chute.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Bill Murray (Phil): I'm a god. I'm not *the* God... I don't think.

Bill Murray (Phil): Well, what if there is no tomorrow? There wasn't one today.

Bill Murray (Phil): You want a prediction about the weather, you're asking the wrong Phil. I'll give you a winter prediction: It's gonna be cold, it's gonna be grey, and it's gonna last you for the rest of your life.

Bill Murray (Phil): What would you do if you were stuck in one place and every day was exactly the same, and nothing that you did mattered?

Bill Murray (Phil): This is pitiful. A thousand people freezing their butts off, waiting to worship a rat. You know, Groundhog Day used to mean something in this town. They used to pull the hog out and they used to *eat* it! You're hypocrites! All a ya!

MAIN CAST

Bill Murray - - - - Phil Connors
Andie MacDowell - - - - Rita
Chris Elliott - - - - Larry

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0107048/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1993/02/841765.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=080017948X/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 18
Seabiscuit

SYNOPSIS

Proving that truth is often greater than fiction, the handsome production of *Seabiscuit* offers a healthy alternative to Hollywood's staple diet of mayhem. With superior production values at his disposal, writer-director Gary Ross (*Pleasantville*) is a bit too reverent toward Laura Hillenbrand's captivating bestseller, unnecessarily using archival material--and David McCullough's familiar PBS-styled narration--to pay Ken Burns-like tribute to Hillenbrand's acclaimed history of Seabiscuit, the knobby-kneed thoroughbred who "came from behind" in the late 1930s to win the hearts of Depression-weary Americans. That caveat aside, Ross's adaptation retains much of the horse-and-human heroism that Hillenbrand so effectively conveyed; this is a classically styled "legend" movie like *The Natural*, which was also heightened by a lushly sentimental Randy Newman score. Led by Tobey Maguire as Seabiscuit's hard-luck jockey, the film's first-rate cast is uniformly excellent, including William H. Macy as a wacky trackside announcer who fills this earnest film with a much-needed spirit of fun. (2003, 141 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Gary Stevens (George): I think it's better to break a man's leg than his heart.

Tobey Maguire (Red): That horse is as much mine as he is yours!

Jeff Bridges (Charles): The horse is too small, the jockey too big, the trainer too old, and I'm too dumb to know the difference.

Chris Cooper (Tom): Every horse is good for something.

Tobey Maguire (Red): Jesus Christ! I want to be a horse!

MAIN CAST

David McCullough - - - - Narrator
Jeff Bridges - - - - Charles Howard
Paul Vincent O'Connor - - - - Bicycle Supervisor

Chris Cooper - - - - Tom Smith
Kingston DuCoeur - - - - Sam
Tobey Maguire - - - - Red Pollard
William H. Macy - - - - Tick Tock McGlaughlin
Gary Stevens - - - - George Woolf

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0329575/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2003/07/072504.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005JMCN/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 19
Remember the Titans

SYNOPSIS

With only one major star (Denzel Washington), an appealing cast of fresh unknowns, and a winning emphasis of substance over self-indulgent style, Boaz Yakin's *Remember the Titans* is, like *Rudy* before it, a football movie that will be fondly remembered by anyone who sees it. Set in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1971, the fact-based story begins with the integration of black and white students at T. C. Williams High School. This effort to improve race relations is most keenly felt on the school's football team, the Titans, and bigoted tempers flare when a black head coach (Washington) is appointed and his victorious predecessor (Will Patton) reluctantly stays on as his assistant. It's affirmative action at its most potentially volatile, complicated by the mandate that the coach will be fired if he loses a single game in the Titans' 13-game season. The players represent a hotbed of racial tension, but as the team struggles toward unity and gridiron glory, *Remember the Titans* builds on several subplots and character dynamics to become an inspirational drama of *Rocky*-like proportions. Yakin--whose debut, *Fresh*, was one of the best independent films of the 1990s--understands the value of connecting small scenes to form a rich climactic payoff. Likewise, Washington provides a solid dramatic foundation (his coach is obsessively harsh, but for all the right reasons) while giving his younger co-stars ample time in the spotlight. The result is a film that achieves what it celebrates: an enriching sense of unity that's unquestionably genuine. (Ages 9 and older). (2000, 113 minutes, PG). *Review by Jeff Shannon*.

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Denzel Washington (Coach Boone): Gary, if you want to play on this football team, you answer me when I ask you who's your Daddy. Who's your Daddy, Gary? Who's your Daddy?

Denzel Washington (Coach Boone): 5,280! And you will take this ball and run every single one of them! Your killing me Petey! Your killing me!

Denzel Washington (Coach Boone): This is no democracy. It is a dictatorship. I am the law.

Denzel Washington (Coach Boone): According to Greek mythology, the Titans were greater even than the gods. They ruled their universe with absolute power! Well that football field out there tonight, that's our universe. Let's rule it like Titans!

Hayden Panettiere (Sheryl): People say that it can't work, black and white; well here we make it work, everyday. We have our disagreements, of course, but before we reach for hate, always, always, we remember the Titans.

MAIN CAST

Denzel Washington - - - - Coach Herman Boone
Will Patton - - - - Coach Bill Yoast
Wood Harris - - - - Julius Campbell
Ryan Hurst - - - - Gerry Bertier
Donald Faison - - - - Petey Jones
Craig Kirkwood - - - - Jerry 'Rev' Harris
Ethan Suplee - - - - Louie Lastik
Kip Pardue - - - - Ronnie 'Sunshine' Bass
Hayden Panettiere - - - - Sheryl Yoast
Nicole Ari Parker - - - - Carol Boone
Kate Bosworth - - - - Emma Hoyt
Earl Poitier - - - - Blue Stanton
Ryan Gosling - - - - Alan Bosley
Burgess Jenkins - - - - Ray Budds
Neal Ghant - - - - Glascoe

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0210945/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2000/09/092904.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000056VP4/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 20
A Beautiful Mind

SYNOPSIS

A Beautiful Mind manages to twist enough pathos out of John Nash's incredible life story to redeem an at-times goofy portrayal of schizophrenia. Russell Crowe tackles the role with characteristic fervor, playing the Nobel prize-winning mathematician from his days at Princeton, where he developed a groundbreaking economic theory, to his meteoric rise to the cover of *Forbes* magazine and an MIT professorship, and on through to his eventual dismissal due to schizophrenic delusions. Of course, it is the delusions that fascinate director Ron Howard and, predictably, go astray. Nash's other world, populated as it is by a maniacal Department of Defense agent (Ed Harris), an imagined college roommate who seems straight out of *Dead Poets Society*, and an orphaned girl, is so fluid and scriptlike as to make the viewer wonder if schizophrenia is really as slick as depicted. Crowe's physical intensity drags us along as he works admirably to carry the film on his considerable shoulders. No doubt the story of Nash's amazing will to recover his life without the aid of medication is a worthy one, his eventual triumph heartening. Unfortunately, Howard's flashy style is unable to convey much of it. (2001, 135 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Fionn Meade.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Russell Crowe (John): Despite my privileged upbringing, I'm actually quite well-balanced. I have a chip on both shoulders.

Russell Crowe (John): I've made the most important discovery of my life. It's only in the mysterious equation of love that any logical reasons can be found. I'm only here tonight because of you. You're the only reason I am, you're all the reasons I am.

Jennifer Connelly (Alicia): I need to believe, that something extraordinary is possible.

Jennifer Connelly (Alicia): God must be a painter. Why else would we have so many colors?

MAIN CAST

Russell Crowe - - - - John Nash
Ed Harris - - - - William Parcher
Jennifer Connelly - - - - Alicia Larde Nash
Christopher Plummer - - - - Dr. Rosen
Paul Bettany - - - - Charles Herman
Adam Goldberg - - - - Sol
Josh Lucas - - - - Martin Hansen
Anthony Rapp - - - - Bender
Jason Gray-Stanford - - - - Ainsley
Judd Hirsch - - - - Helinger
Austin Pendleton - - - - Thomas King
Vivien Cardone - - - - Marcee Herman

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0268978/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2001/12/122101.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005JKQZ/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 21
Dances with Wolves

SYNOPSIS

Kevin Costner's 1990 epic won a bundle of Oscars for a moving, engrossing story of a white soldier (Costner) who singlehandedly mans a post in the 1870 Dakotas, and becomes a part of the Lakota Sioux community who live nearby. The film may not be a masterpiece, but it is far more than the sum of good intentions. The characters are strong, the development of relationships is both ambitious and careful, the love story between Costner and Mary McDonnell's character is captivating. Only the third-act portrait of white intruders as morons feels overbearing, but even that leads to a terribly moving conclusion. Costner's direction is assured, the balance of action and intimacy is perfect--what more could anyone want outside of an unqualified masterpiece? (1990, 181 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Tom Keogh.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Mary McDonnell (Stands With A Fist): My place is with you. I go where you go.

Kevin Costner (John): The strangeness of this life cannot be measured: in trying to produce my own death, I was elevated to the status of a living hero.

Kevin Costner (John): Dunbar, not Dumb Bear.

Graham Greene (Kicking Bird): I was just thinking that of all the trails in this life there is one that matters most. It is the trail of a true human being. I think you are on this trail and it is good to see.

MAIN CAST

Kevin Costner - - - - John Dunbar
Mary McDonnell - - - - Stands With A Fist
Graham Greene - - - - Kicking Bird
Rodney A. Grant - - - - Wind In His Hair
Floyd 'Red Crow' Westerman - - - - Chief Ten Bears
Tantoo Cardinal - - - - Black Shawl

Robert Pastorelli - - - - Timmons
Charles Rocket - - - - Lieutenant Elgin
Maury Chaykin - - - - Major Fambrough
Jimmy Herman - - - - Stone Calf
Nathan Lee Chasing His Horse - - - - Smiles A Lot (Ehasa)
Michael Spears - - - - Otter
Jason R. Lone Hill - - - - Worm
Tony Pierce - - - - Corporal Spivey
Doris Leader Charge - - - - Pretty Shield

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0099348/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1990/11/576465.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00000F187/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 22
Beaches

SYNOPSIS

Garry Marshall's 1988 drama about a 30-year friendship between two women, one wealthy (Barbara Hershey) and the other (Bette Midler) seeking her fortune in show business, is well written (based on the novel by Iris Rainer Dart) and nicely textured in its contrast between the characters' separate destinies. When Hershey becomes ill with cancer, the film takes a predictably sentimental course, yet Marshall brings out the best in both actresses and catches some very fine drama. The film is a little too long, perhaps, but overall it is a fine experience. (1988, 123 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Barbara Hershey (Hillary): I don't even remember what it was I was mad about and I don't care. Whatever it was you did, I forgive you.

Barbara Hershey (Hillary): I was jealous. I was so jealous of you I couldn't see straight! You did everything you said you were going to do, everything! And your talent, this incredible talent! I can't even yodel!

Bette Midler (CC): Well, what the hell did you know? Did you know how bad things were for me? No, because you wouldn't even open my letters. If you had even answered on, just one! Told me what a jerk I was, anything! But you didn't. You took your friendship away without even discussing it with me. So, thank you very much for forgiving me. But I don't forgive you.

Bette Midler (CC): OK, stay in. But will you at least get out of those pajamas? You've been in them for over a week!

Bette Midler (CC): You're not dead yet, so stop living as if you are!

MAIN CAST

Bette Midler - - - - Cecilia 'CC' Carol Bloom

Barbara Hershey - - - - Hillary Whitney Essex
John Heard - - - - John Pierce
Spalding Gray - - - - Dr. Richard Milstein
Lainie Kazan - - - - Leona Bloom
James Read - - - - Michael Essex
Grace Johnston - - - - Victoria Cecilia Essex
Mayim Bialik - - - - Cecilia 'CC' Carol Bloom (age 11)
Marcie Leeds - - - - Hillary Whitney Essex (age 11)

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0094715/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1989/01/333698.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000065V3K/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 23
The Sound of Music

SYNOPSIS

Some people may sneer at this 1965 musical, but the truth is the film has earned its status as a perennially watchable romantic-drama, largely on the strength of a fun story and chemistry between stars Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer. Veteran filmmaker Robert Wise (*The Day the Earth Stood Still*) mostly stays out of the way of the film's appealing elements, which include a based-on-fact tale of Austria's von Trapp family, who fled their Nazi-occupied country in 1938. Andrews is delightful and even fascinating as Maria, who sheds her tomboyish ways as a novice nun to accept the mantle of adulthood, becoming matron of the motherless von Trapp clan. Plummer is matinee-idol handsome and gives a smart performance to boot, and the cast of young people and kids who make up the singing von Trapp children make a strong impression. Based on the Rodgers and Hammerstein stage musical, the score includes such winners as "Maria" and the future John Coltrane hit "My Favorite Things." (1965, 174 minutes, NR). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Christopher Plummer (Capt. Von Trapp): Oh, there's nothing wrong with the children. Only the governesses.

Christopher Plummer (Capt. Von Trapp): You have brought music back in to my life. I had forgotten.

Julie Andrews (Maria): I can't seem to stop singing wherever I am. And what's worse, I can't seem to stop saying things-- anything and everything I think and feel.

Christopher Plummer (Capt. Von Trapp): The first rule of this household is discipline.

Christopher Plummer (Capt. Von Trapp): You are the twelfth in a long line of governesses who have come here to look after my children since their

mother died. I trust you will be an improvement on the last one. She stayed only two hours.

Julie Andrews (Maria): cats and other animals, but not for children and definitely not for me! It would be too...humiliating.

MAIN CAST

Christopher Plummer - - - - Capt. Georg von Trapp
Julie Andrews- - - -Maria
Eleanor Parker - - - - Baroness Elsa Schraeder
Richard Haydn - - - - Max Detweiler
Peggy Wood - - - - Mother Abbess
Charmian Carr - - - - Liesl von Trapp
Heather Menzies - - - - Louisa von Trapp
Nicholas Hammond - - - - Friedrich von Trapp
Duane Chase - - - - Kurt von Trapp
Angela Cartwright - - - - Brigitta von Trapp
Debbie Turner - - - - Marta von Trapp
Kym Karath - - - - Gretl von Trapp

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0059742/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=21325

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000067J1Q/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 24
Schindler`s List

SYNOPSIS

Steven Spielberg had a banner year in 1993. He scored one of his biggest commercial hits that summer with the mega-hit *Jurassic Park*, but it was the artistic and critical triumph of *Schindler's List* that Spielberg called "the most satisfying experience of my career." Adapted from the best-selling book by Thomas Keneally and filmed in Poland with an emphasis on absolute authenticity, Spielberg's masterpiece ranks among the greatest films ever made about the Holocaust during World War II. It's a film about heroism with an unlikely hero at its center--Catholic war profiteer Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson), who risked his life and went bankrupt to save more than 1,000 Jews from certain death in concentration camps. By employing Jews in his crockery factory manufacturing goods for the German army, Schindler ensures their survival against terrifying odds. At the same time, he must remain solvent with the help of a Jewish accountant (Ben Kingsley) and negotiate business with a vicious, obstinate Nazi commandant (Ralph Fiennes) who enjoys shooting Jews as target practice from the balcony of his villa overlooking a prison camp. *Schindler's List* gains much of its power not by trying to explain Schindler's motivations, but by dramatizing the delicate diplomacy and determination with which he carried out his generous deeds. As a drinker and womanizer who thought nothing of associating with Nazis, Schindler was hardly a model of decency; the film is largely about his transformation in response to the horror around him. Spielberg doesn't flinch from that horror, and the result is a film that combines remarkable humanity with abhorrent inhumanity--a film that functions as a powerful history lesson and a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the context of a living nightmare.
(1993, 195 minutes, R). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Ralph Fiennes (Amon): They cast a spell on you, you know, the Jews. When you work closely with them, like I do, you see this. They have this power. It's like a virus. Some of my men are infected with this virus. They should be

pitied, not punished. They should receive treatment because this is as real as typhus. I see it all the time. It's a matter of money? Hmm?

Liam Neeson (Oskar): Stern, if this factory ever produces a shell that can actually be fired, I'd be very unhappy.

Liam Neeson (Oskar): These people. My people. I want my people.

Ben Kingsley (Itzhak): This list... is an absolute good. The list is life. All around its margins lies the gulf.

Liam Neeson (Oskar): I could've gotten more out. I could've gotten more people if I just tried harder. I threw away so much money. You have no idea. If I just...

MAIN CAST

Liam Neeson - - - - Oskar Schindler
Ben Kingsley - - - - Itzhak Stern
Ralph Fiennes - - - - Amon Goeth
Caroline Goodall - - - - Emilie Schindler
Jonathan Sagall - - - - Poldek Pfefferberg
Embeth Davidtz - - - - Helen Hirsch
Malgoscha Gebel - - - - Victoria Klonowska
Shmulik Levy - - - - Wilek Chilowicz
Mark Ivanir - - - - Marcel Goldberg
Béatrice Macola - - - - Ingrid
Andrzej Seweryn - - - - Julian Scherner
Friedrich von Thun - - - - Rolf Czurda
Krzysztof Luft - - - - Herman Toffel
Harry Nehring - - - - Leo John
Norbert Weisser - - - - Albert Hujar

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0108052/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1993/12/894536.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXCK/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 25
Fried Green Tomatoes

SYNOPSIS

Kathy Bates stars as an unhappy wife trying to get her husband's attention in this amusing and moving 1991 screen adaptation of Fannie Flagg's novel *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe*. After befriending a lonely old woman (Jessica Tandy), Bates hears the story of a lifelong friendship between two other women (Mary Stuary Masterson and Mary-Louise Parker, seen in flashback) who once ran a cafe in town against many personal odds. The tale inspires Bates to take further command over her life, and there director Jon Avnet (*Up Close and Personal*), in his first feature, has fun with the film. Bates develops a real attitude toward her thickheaded spouse at home and some uppity girls in a parking lot, but dignity is generally the key to Avnet's approach with the story's crucial relationships. Tandy is a joy and clearly loves the element of mystery attached to her character, and Masterson and Parker are excellent in the historical sequences. (1991, 130 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Tom Keogh.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Jessica Tandy (Ninny): I wouldn't be afraid of death if I was you. I'd be more afraid of driving in rush hour traffic.

Jessica Tandy (Ninny): I found out what the secret to life is: friends. Best friends.

Cicely Tyson (Sipsey): Secret's in the sauce.

Cicely Tyson (Sipsey): Oh it don't make no kind of sense. Big ol' ox like Grady won't sit next to a colored child. But he eats eggs- shoot right outta chicken's ass!

Kathy Bates (Evelyn): Towanda! Right of Wrong, Queen Beyond Compare!

Mary-Louise Parker (Ruth): You're just a bee charmer, Idgie Threadgoode. That's what you are, a bee charmer.

MAIN CAST

Kathy Bates - - - - Evelyn Couch
Mary Stuart Masterson - - - - Idgie Threadgoode
Mary-Louise Parker - - - - Ruth Jameson
Jessica Tandy - - - - Ninny Threadgoode
Gailard Sartain - - - - Ed Couch
Stan Shaw - - - - Big George
Cicely Tyson - - - - Sipsey
Gary Basaraba - - - - Grady Kilgore
Grace Zabriskie - - - - Eva Bates
Richard Riehle - - - - Reverend Scroggins
Grayson Fricke - - - - Buddy Threadgoode Jr.

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0101921/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1992/01/735400.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=6305212112/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 26
To Kill A Mockingbird

SYNOPSIS

Ranked 34 on the American Film Institute's list of the 100 Greatest American Films, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is quite simply one of the finest family-oriented dramas ever made. A beautiful and deeply affecting adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Harper Lee, the film retains a timeless quality that transcends its historically dated subject matter (racism in the Depression-era South) and remains powerfully resonant in present-day America with its advocacy of tolerance, justice, integrity, and loving, responsible parenthood. It's tempting to call this an important "message" movie that should be required viewing for children and adults alike, but this riveting courtroom drama is anything but stodgy or pedantic. As Atticus Finch, the small-town Alabama lawyer and widower father of two, Gregory Peck gives one of his finest performances with his impassioned defense of a black man (Brock Peters) wrongfully accused of the rape and assault of a young white woman. While his children, Scout (Mary Badham) and Jem (Philip Alford), learn the realities of racial prejudice and irrational hatred, they also learn to overcome their fear of the unknown as personified by their mysterious, mostly unseen neighbor Boo Radley (Robert Duvall, in his brilliant, almost completely nonverbal screen debut). What emerges from this evocative, exquisitely filmed drama is a pure distillation of the themes of Harper Lee's enduring novel, a showcase for some of the finest American acting ever assembled in one film, and a rare quality of humanitarian artistry (including Horton Foote's splendid screenplay and Elmer Bernstein's outstanding score) that seems all but lost in the chaotic morass of modern cinema. Universal's Collector's Edition DVD gives this classic all the respect it deserves, offering the film in its original widescreen aspect ratio, a full-length commentary by director Robert Mulligan and producer Alan J. Pakula, informative production notes, and an exclusive documentary about the making of this all-time great American film. Consider this a must for any respectable DVD library. (1962, 129 minutes, NR). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Gregory Peck (Atticus): If you just learn a single trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.

Gregory Peck (Atticus): There's a lot of ugly things in this world, son. I wish I could keep 'em all away from you. That's never possible.

Gregory Peck (Atticus): In the name of God! Do your duty.

Mary Badham (Scout): Well, it would be sort of like shooting a mockingbird, wouldn't it?

MAIN CAST

Gregory Peck - - - - Atticus Finch
Mary Badham - - - - Jean Louise 'Scout' Finch
Phillip Alford - - - - Jeremy 'Jem' Finch
Robert Duvall - - - - Arthur 'Boo' Radley
John Megna - - - - Charles Baker 'Dill' Harris
Frank Overton - - - - Sheriff Heck Tate
Rosemary Murphy - - - - Maudie Atkinson
Ruth White - - - - Mrs. Dubose
Brock Peters - - - - Tom Robinson
Estelle Evans - - - - Calpurnia
Alice Ghostley - - - - Aunt Stephanie Crawford
Paul Fix - - - - Judge Taylor
Collin Wilcox Paxton - - - - Mayella Violet Ewell
James Anderson - - - - Robert E. Lee 'Bob' Ewell
William Windom - - - - Mr. Gilmer, Prosecutor

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0056592/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=23902

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0783225857/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 27
The Green Mile

SYNOPSIS

"The book was better" has been the complaint of many a reader since the invention of movies. Frank Darabont's second adaptation of a Stephen King prison drama (*The Shawshank Redemption* was the first) is a very faithful adaptation of King's serial novel. In the middle of the Depression, Paul Edgecomb (Tom Hanks) runs death row at Cold Mountain Penitentiary. Into this dreary world walks a mammoth prisoner, John Coffey (Michael Duncan) who, very slowly, reveals a special gift that will change the men working and dying (in the electric chair, masterfully and grippingly staged) on the mile . As with King's book, Darabont takes plenty of time to show us Edgecomb's world before delving into John Coffey's mystery. With Darabont's superior storytelling abilities, his touch for perfect casting, and a leisurely 188-minute running time, his movie brings to life nearly every character and scene from the novel. Darabont even improves the novel's two endings, creating a more emotionally satisfying experience. The running time may try patience, but those who want a story, as opposed to quick-fix entertainment, will be rewarded by this finely tailored tale. (1999, 188 minutes, R). *Review by Doug Thomas.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Tom Hanks (Paul): On the day of my judgement, when I stand before God, and he asks me why did I kill one of his true miracles...what am I gonna say? That is was my job? My job?

Michael Clarke Duncan (John): He kill 'em with they love. They love for each other. You see how it is? That's how it is all over the world

Michael Clarke Duncan (John): I'm rightly tired of the pain I hear and feel, boss. I'm tired of bein on the road, lonely as a robin in the rain. Not never havin no buddy to go with or tell me where we's comin from or goin to or why. I'm tired of people bein ugly to each other. It feels like pieces of glass in my head. I'm tired of all the times I've wanted to help and couldn't. I'm

tired of bein in the dark. Mostly it's the pain. There's too much. If I could end it, I would. But I can't.

Michael Clarke Duncan (John): about, that Mouseville place. I dreamed there was kids, and how they laughed at his tricks!

Tom Hanks (Paul): We each owe a death, there are no exceptions... but sometimes, oh God, the Green Mile seems so long.

MAIN CAST

Tom Hanks - - - - Paul Edgecomb
David Morse - - - - Brutus Howell
Bonnie Hunt - - - - Janice Edgecomb
Michael Clarke Duncan - - - - John Coffey
James Cromwell - - - - Warden Hal Moores
Michael Jeter - - - - Eduard 'Del' Delacroix
Graham Greene - - - - Arlen Bitterbuck
Doug Hutchison - - - - Percy Wetmore
Sam Rockwell - - - - William 'Wild Bill' Wharton
Barry Pepper - - - - Dean Stanton
Jeffrey DeMunn - - - - Harry Terwilliger
Patricia Clarkson - - - - Melinda Moores
Harry Dean Stanton - - - - Toot-Toot
Dabbs Greer - - - - Old Paul Edgecomb
Eve Brent - - - - Elaine Connelly

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0120689/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1999/12/121004.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CWQU/selfimproveme onl/

Movie # 28
Mr. Holland`s Opus

SYNOPSIS

An earnest and at times overblown story of a music teacher's impact on those around him, *Mr. Holland's Opus* is at times a genuinely touching drama in the vein of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Richard Dreyfuss (*Jaws, Close Encounters of the Third Kind*) plays an aspiring composer and musician who takes a job teaching music at a local high school to save money while he composes his music. But when his wife (Glenne Headley) becomes pregnant, Glenn Holland must put aside his dreams and address the everyday realities of his life, from the melancholy and sometimes tragic fates of his students to the discovery that the son he cherishes is deaf. Building to a highly emotional climax in which the teacher sees the impact he's had on the world around him, *Mr. Holland's Opus* is a showcase for a fine Oscar-nominated performance by Dreyfuss and an engaging, heartwarming story. (1995, 142 minutes, PG). *Review by Robert Lane.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Richard Dreyfuss (Glenn): The day they cut the football budget in this state, that will be the end of Western Civilization as we know it!

Glenne Headly (Iris): Why is everyone else's child more important than yours?

Glenne Headly (Iris): Tubas are for fat guys with pimples.

Richard Dreyfuss (Glenn): Playing music is supposed to be fun. It's about heart, it's about feelings, moving people, and something beautiful, and it's not about notes on a page. I can teach you notes on a page, I can't teach you that other stuff.

Olympia Dukakis (Principal Jacobs): A teacher has two jobs; fill young minds with knowledge, yes, but more important, give those minds a compass so that that knowledge doesn't go to waste.

Jean Louisa Kelly (Rowena): You love music and you make the kids love it too.

MAIN CAST

Richard Dreyfuss - - - - Glenn Holland
Glenne Headly - - - - Iris Holland
Jay Thomas - - - - Bill Meister, Phys-Ed Teacher JFK High School
Olympia Dukakis - - - - Principal Ellen Jacobs
William H. Macy - - - - Vice Principal Gene Wolters
Alicia Witt - - - - Gertrude Lang
Terrence Dashon Howard - - - - Louis Russ
Damon Whitaker - - - - Bobby Tidd
Jean Louisa Kelly - - - - Rowena Morgan
Alexandra Boyd - - - - Sarah Olmstead, Teacher

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0113862/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=37442

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=6305428352/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 29
Steel Magnolias

SYNOPSIS

Based on Robert Harling's play, this comedy-drama directed by Herbert Ross (*The Turning Point*) follows several years in the lives of women who regularly see one another at a beauty shop in their small Louisiana town. The story deepens as Julia Roberts, playing a serious diabetic and the daughter of Sally Field, goes downhill in her health. But as an ensemble piece, this is one of those enjoyably lumpy tearjerkers with many years' worth of stored truths suddenly being shared between the characters, lots of grievances aired, that sort of thing. Daryl Hannah and Shirley MacLaine assume the most eccentric roles, Dolly Parton the most fun, and Olympia Dukakis the most dignified, while Sally Field essentially provides the moral and emotional center of the movie. (1989, 117 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Dolly Parton (Truvy): In a good shoe, I wear a size six, but a seven feels so good, I buy a size eight.

Dolly Parton (Truvy): Time marches on and sooner or later you realize it is marchin' across your face.

Shirley MacLaine (Ouiser): I do not see plays, because I can nap at home for free. And I don't see movies 'cause they're trash, and they got nothin' but naked people in 'em! And I don't read books, 'cause if they're any good, they're gonna make 'em into a miniseries.

Shirley MacLaine (Ouiser): I'm not crazy, M'Lynn, I've just been a very bad mood for the last 40 years!

Julia Roberts (Shelby): I would rather have thirty minutes of wonderful than a lifetime of nothing special.

Olympia Dukakis (Clairee): Well, you know what they say: if you don't have anything nice to say about anybody, come sit by me!

Shirley MacLaine (Ouiser): The only reason people are nice to me is because I have more money than God.

Shirley MacLaine (Ouiser):A dirty mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Olympia Dukakis (Clairee): Ouiser, you sound almost chipper what happened today you run over a small child or something?

MAIN CAST

Sally Field - - - - M'Lynn Eatenton
Dolly Parton - - - - Truvy Jones
Shirley MacLaine - - - - Ouiser Boudreaux
Daryl Hannah - - - - Annelle Dupuy Desoto
Olympia Dukakis - - - - Clairee Belcher
Julia Roberts - - - - Shelby Eatenton Latcherie
Tom Skerritt - - - - Drum Eatenton
Sam Shepard - - - - Spud Jones
Dylan McDermott - - - - Jackson Latcherie
Kevin J. O'Connor - - - - Sammy Desoto
Bill McCutcheon - - - - Owen Jenkins

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0098384/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1989/11/382948.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00004TJKK/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 30
Saving Private Ryan

SYNOPSIS

When Steven Spielberg was an adolescent, his first home movie was a backyard war film. When he toured Europe with *Duel* in his 20s, he saw old men crumble in front of headstones at Omaha Beach. That image became the opening scene of *Saving Private Ryan*, his film of a mission following the D-day invasion that many have called the most realistic--and maybe the best--war film ever. With 1998 production standards, Spielberg has been able to create a stunning, unparalleled view of war as hell. We are at Omaha Beach as troops are slaughtered by Germans yet overcome the almost insurmountable odds. A stalwart Tom Hanks plays Captain Miller, a soldier's soldier, who takes a small band of troops behind enemy lines to retrieve a private whose three brothers have recently been killed in action. It's a public relations move for the Army, but it has historical precedent dating back to the Civil War. Some critics of the film have labeled the central characters stereotypes. If that is so, this movie gives stereotypes a good name: Tom Sizemore as the deft sergeant, Edward Burns as the hotheaded Private Reiben, Barry Pepper as the religious sniper, Adam Goldberg as the lone Jew, Vin Diesel as the oversize Private Caparzo, Giovanni Ribisi as the soulful medic, and Jeremy Davies, who as a meek corporal gives the film its most memorable performance. The movie is as heavy and realistic as Spielberg's Oscar-winning *Schindler's List*, but it's more kinetic. Spielberg and his ace technicians (the film won five Oscars: editing (Michael Kahn), cinematography (Janusz Kaminski), sound, sound effects, and directing) deliver battle sequences that wash over the eyes and hit the gut. The violence is extreme but never gratuitous. The final battle, a dizzying display of gusto, empathy, and chaos, leads to a profound repose. *Saving Private Ryan* touches us deeper than *Schindler* because it succinctly links the past with how we should feel today. It's the film Spielberg was destined to make. (1998, 170 minutes, R). *Review by Doug Thomas.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Barry Pepper (Pvt. Jackson): Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight.

Barry Pepper (Pvt. Jackson): Well, sir, seems to me, God gave me a special gift, fashioned in me a fine instrument of warfare.

Tom Hanks (Capt. Miller): James... I'm here to tell you your brothers were killed in combat. They're dead.

Tom Hanks (Capt. Miller): It's like finding a needle in a stack of needles.

Tom Sizemore (Sgt. Horvath): This time the mission is the man.

MAIN CAST

Tom Hanks - - - - Capt. John Miller
Edward Burns - - - - Pvt. Richard Reiben
Tom Sizemore - - - - Sgt. Michael Horvath
Matt Damon - - - - Pvt. James Ryan
Jeremy Davies - - - - Cpl. Timothy E. Upham, Interpreter
Adam Goldberg - - - - Pvt. Stanley Mellish
Barry Pepper - - - - Pvt. Daniel Jackson (sniper)
Giovanni Ribisi - - - - Pvt. Irwin Wade, Medic
Vin Diesel - - - - Pvt. Adrian Caparzo
Ted Danson - - - - Capt. Fred Hamill
Max Martini - - - - Cpl. Fred Henderson (as Maximilian Martini)
Dylan Bruno - - - - Pvt. Alan Toynbe
Joerg Stadler - - - - Steamboat Willie
Paul Giamatti - - - - SSgt. William Hill
Dennis Farina - - - - Lt. Col. Walter Anderson

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0120815/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1998/07/072404.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00001ZWUS/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 31
The Wizard of Oz

SYNOPSIS

When it was released during Hollywood's golden year of 1939, *The Wizard of Oz* didn't start out as the perennial classic it has since become. The film did respectable business, but it wasn't until its debut on television that this family favorite saw its popularity soar. And while *Oz*'s TV broadcasts are now controlled by media mogul Ted Turner (who owns the rights), the advent of home video has made this lively musical a mainstay in the staple diet of great American films. Young Dorothy Gale (Judy Garland), her dog, Toto, and her three companions on the yellow brick road to Oz--the Tin Man (Jack Haley), the Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr), and the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger)--have become pop-culture icons and central figures in the legacy of fantasy for children. As the Wicked Witch who covets Dorothy's enchanted ruby slippers, Margaret Hamilton has had the singular honor of scaring the wits out of children for more than six decades. The film's still as fresh, frightening, and funny as it was when first released. It may take some liberal detours from the original story by L. Frank Baum, but it's loyal to the Baum legacy while charting its own course as a spectacular film. Shot in glorious Technicolor, befitting its dynamic production design (Munchkinland alone is a psychedelic explosion of color and decor), *The Wizard of Oz* may not appeal to every taste as the years go by, but it's required viewing for kids of all ages. (1939, 101 minutes, G). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Judy Garland (Dorothy): Lions, and tigers, and bears! Oh, my!

Frank Morgan (The Wizard): A heart is not judged by how much you love, but how much you are loved by others.

Judy Garland (Dorothy): Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.

Margaret Hamilton (Wicked Witch of the West): I'll get you my pretty...and your little dog too!

Judy Garland (Dorothy): There's no place like home!

MAIN CAST

Judy Garland - - - - Dorothy Gale
Frank Morgan - - - - Professor Marvel/Emerald City Doorman/Cabbie/The Wizard's Guard/The Wizard of Oz
Ray Bolger - - - - Hunk/The Scarecrow
Bert Lahr - - - - Zeke/The Cowardly Lion
Jack Haley - - - - Hickory/The Tin Man
Billie Burke - - - - Glinda, the Good Witch of the North
Margaret Hamilton - - - - Miss Almira Gulch/The Wicked Witch of the West

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0032138/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/greatmovies/oz.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00000JS62/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 32
Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace

SYNOPSIS

"I have a bad feeling about this," says the young Obi-Wan Kenobi (played by Ewan McGregor) in *Star Wars: Episode I, The Phantom Menace* as he steps off a spaceship and into the most anticipated cinematic event... well, ever. He might as well be speaking for the legions of fans of the original episodes in the *Star Wars* saga who can't help but secretly ask themselves: Sure, this is *Star Wars*, but is it *my Star Wars*? The original elevated moviegoers' expectations so high that it would have been impossible for any subsequent film to meet them. And as with all the *Star Wars* movies, *The Phantom Menace* features inexplicable plot twists, a fistful of loose threads, and some cheek-chewing dialogue. Han Solo's swagger is sorely missed, as is the pervading menace of heavy-breather Darth Vader. There is still way too much quasi-mystical mumbo jumbo, and some of what was fresh about *Star Wars* 22 years earlier feels formulaic. Yet there's much to admire. The special effects are stupendous; three worlds are populated with a mélange of creatures, flora, and horizons rendered in absolute detail. The action and battle scenes are breathtaking in their complexity. And one particular sequence of the film--the adrenaline-infused pod race through the Tatooine desert--makes the chariot race in *Ben-Hur* look like a Sunday stroll through the park.Among the host of new characters, there are a few familiar walk-ons. We witness the first meeting between R2-D2 and C-3PO, Jabba the Hutt looks younger and slimmer (but not young and slim), and Yoda is as crabby as ever. Natalie Portman's stately Queen Amidala sports hairdos that make Princess Leia look dowdy and wields a mean laser. We never bond with Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jinn (Liam Neeson), and Obi-Wan's day is yet to come. Jar Jar Binks, a cross between a Muppet, a frog, and a hippie, provides many of the movie's lighter moments, while Sith Lord Darth Maul is a formidable force. Baby-faced Anakin Skywalker (Jake Lloyd) looks too young and innocent to command the powers of the Force or wield a lightsaber (much less transmute into the future Darth Vader), but his boyish exuberance wins over skeptics.Near the end of the movie, Palpatine, the new leader of the Republic, may be speaking for fans eagerly awaiting *Episode II* when he pats young Anakin on the head and says, "We will watch your career with great interest." Indeed! (1999, 132 minutes, PG). *Review by Tod Nelson.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Ewan McGregor (Obi-Wan): Master Yoda, I gave Qui-Gon my word. I will train Anakin...with out the approval of the council if I must.

Pernilla August (Shmi): Now, be brave, and don't look back.

Liam Neeson (Qui-Gon): Greed can be a very powerful ally.

Liam Neeson (Qui-Gon): The ability to speak does not make you intelligent. Now get out of here.

Frank Oz (Yoda): Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger. Anger leads to hate. Hate leads to suffering. I sense much fear in you.

Ewan McGregor (Obi-Wan): The boy is dangerous. They all sense it, why can't you?

MAIN CAST

Liam Neeson - - - - Qui-Gon Jinn
Ewan McGregor - - - - Obi-Wan Kenobi
Natalie Portman - - - - Queen Padmé Amidala
Jake Lloyd - - - - Anakin Skywalker
Pernilla August - - - - Shmi Skywalker
Frank Oz - - - - Yoda (voice)
Ian McDiarmid - - - - Senator Palpatine/Darth Sidious
Oliver Ford Davies - - - - Governor Sio Bibble
Hugh Quarshie - - - - Captain Panaka

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0120915/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1999/05/051701.html

Amazon.com

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CX5P/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 33
What Dreams May Come

SYNOPSIS

Robin Williams and Annabella Sciorra star in this visually stunning metaphysical tale of life after death. Neurologist Chris and artist Annie had the perfect life until they lost their children in an auto accident; they're just starting to recover when Chris meets an untimely death himself. He's met by a messenger named Albert (Cuba Gooding Jr.) and taken to his own personal afterlife--a freshly drawn world reminiscent of Annie's own artwork, still dripping and wet with paint. Meanwhile a depressed Annie takes her own life, compelling Chris to traverse heaven and hell to save Annie from an eternity of despair.The multitextured visuals seem to have been created from a lost fairy tale. Heaven recalls the landscape paintings of Thomas Cole and Renaissance architecture complete with floating cherubs, while hell is a massive shipwreck, an upside-down cathedral overgrown with thorns and a sea of groaning faces popping out of the ground (one of those faces is German director Werner Herzog). Williams is the perfect actor to play against the imaginative computer-generated imagery--he himself is a human special effect. But the lack of chemistry between Williams and Sciorra is painfully apparent, and the flashback plot structure flattens the story's impact despite its deeply felt examinations of the heart and the spirit. Still, there's no denying Eugenio Zanetti's triumphant production design and the Oscar-winning special effects, which create a fully formed universe that is at once beautiful, eerie, and a unique example of movie magic
(1998, 113 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Shannon Gee.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Cuba Gooding, Jr. (Albert): Thought is the reality. Physical is the illusion.

Cuba Gooding, Jr. (Albert): Heaven is big enough for everyone to have their own universe.

Robin Williams (Chris): I screwed up. I'm in dog Heaven.

Annabella Sciorra (Annie): Sometimes, when you lose, you win.

Jessica Brooks Grant (Marie): Dreams aren't real. I know.

MAIN CAST

Robin Williams - - - - Chris Nielsen
Cuba Gooding, Jr. - - - - Albert Lewis
Annabella Sciorra - - - - Annie Nielsen
Max von Sydow - - - - The Tracker
Jessica Brooks Grant - - - - Marie Nielsen
Josh Paddock - - - - Ian Nielsen
Rosalind Chao - - - - Leona
Lucinda Jenney - - - - Mrs. Jacobs
Maggie McCarthy - - - - Stacey Jacobs
Wilma Bonet - - - - Angie
Matt Salinger - - - - Reverend Hanley

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0120889/

Rober Ebert – Sun-times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1998/10/100204.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00007GZR5/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 34
The Matrix

SYNOPSIS

By following up their debut thriller *Bound* with the 1999 box-office smash *The Matrix*, the codirecting Wachowski brothers--Andy and Larry--annihilated any suggestion of a sophomore jinx, crafting one of the most exhilarating sci-fi/action movies of the 1990s. Set in the not too distant future in an insipid, characterless city, we find a young man named Neo (Keanu Reeves). A software techie by day and a computer hacker by night, he sits alone at home by his monitor, waiting for a sign, a signal--from what or whom he doesn't know--until one night, a mysterious woman named Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss) seeks him out and introduces him to that faceless character he has been waiting for: Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne). A messiah of sorts, Morpheus presents Neo with the truth about his world by shedding light on the dark secrets that have troubled him for so long: "You've felt it your entire life, that there's something wrong with the world. You don't know what it is, but it's there, like a splinter in your mind, driving you mad." Ultimately, Morpheus illustrates to Neo what the Matrix is--a reality beyond reality that controls all of their lives, in a way that Neo can barely comprehend. Neo thus embarks on an adventure that is both terrifying and enthralling. Pitted against an enemy that transcends human concepts of evil, Morpheus and his team must train Neo to believe that he is the chosen champion of their fight. With mind-boggling, technically innovative special effects and a thought-provoking script that owes a debt of inspiration to the legacy of cyberpunk fiction, this is much more than an out-and-out action yarn; it's a thinking man's journey into the realm of futuristic fantasy, a dreamscape full of eye candy that will satisfy sci-fi, kung fu, action, and adventure fans alike. Although the film is headlined by Reeves and Fishburne--who both turn in fine performances--much of the fun and excitement should be attributed to Moss, who flawlessly mixes vulnerability with immense strength, making other contemporary female heroines look timid by comparison. And if we were going to cast a vote for most dastardly movie villain of 1999, it would have to go to Hugo Weaving, who plays the feckless, semipsychotic Agent Smith with panache and edginess. As the film's box-office profits soared, the Wachowski brothers announced that *The Matrix* is merely the first chapter in a cinematically dazzling franchise--a chapter that is arguably superior to the other sci-fi smash of 1999 (you

know... the one starring Jar Jar Binks). (1999, 136 minutes, R). *Review by Jeremy Storey.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Laurence Fishburne (Morpheus): There's a difference between knowing the path, and walking the path.

Joe Pantoliano (Cypher): I know what you've been thinkin', cause I've been thinkin' it ever since I got here. Why, o, why, Didn't I take the blue pill...

Gloria Foster (Oracle): What's really going to bake your noodle later on is, would you still have broken it if I hadn't said anything.

Laurence Fishburne (Morpheus): Do you believe that's air you are breathing now?

Laurence Fishburne (Morpheus): I'm trying to free your mind, Neo. But I can only show you the door. You're the one that has to walk through it.

Hugo Weaving (Agent Smith): Never send a human to do a machine's job.

MAIN CAST

Keanu Reeves - - - - Neo/Thomas A. Anderson
Laurence Fishburne - - - - Morpheus
Carrie-Anne Moss - - - - Trinity
Hugo Weaving - - - - Agent Smith
Joe Pantoliano - - - - Cypher
Marcus Chong - - - - Tank
Gloria Foster - - - - Oracle
Julian Arahanga - - - - Apoc
Matt Doran - - - - Mouse
Belinda McClory - - - - Switch
Anthony Ray Parker - - - - Dozer

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0133093/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1999/03/033101.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00000K19E/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 35
The Color Purple

SYNOPSIS

Steven Spielberg, proving he's one of the few modern filmmakers who has the visual fluency to be capable of making a great silent film, took a melodramatic, D.W. Griffith-inspired approach to filming Alice Walker's novel. His tactics made the film controversial, but also a popular hit. You can argue with the appropriateness of Spielberg's decision, but his astonishing facility with images is undeniable--from the exhilarating and eye-popping opening shots of children playing in paradisiacal purple fields to the way he conveys the brutality of a rape by showing hanging leather belts banging against the head of the shaking bed. In a way it's a shame that Whoopi Goldberg, a stage monologist who made her screen debut in this movie, went on to become so famous, because it was, in part, her unfamiliarity that made her understated performance as Celie so effective. (This may be the first and last time that the adjective *understated* can be applied to Goldberg.) Nominated for 11 Academy Awards, including best picture and actress (supporting players Oprah Winfrey and Margaret Avery were also nominated), it was quite a scandal--and a crushing blow to Spielberg--when it won none. (1985, 154 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jim Emerson.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Akosua Busia (Nettie): Nothing but death can keep me from it.

Margaret Avery (Shug): I think it pisses God off when you walk by the color purple in a field and don't notice it.

Whoopi Goldberg (Celie): The jail you plan for me is the one you're gonna rot in.

Whoopi Goldberg (Celie): You a low down dirty dog, that's what's wrong. Time for me to get away from you, and enter into Creation. And your dead body'd be just the welcome mat I need.

MAIN CAST

Danny Glover - - - - Albert
Whoopi Goldberg - - - - Celie
Margaret Avery - - - - Shug Avery
Oprah Winfrey - - - - Sofia
Willard E. Pugh - - - - Harpo
Akosua Busia - - - - Nettie
Desreta Jackson - - - - Young Celie
Adolph Caesar - - - - Old Mr.
Rae Dawn Chong - - - - Squeak
Dana Ivey - - - - Miss Millie
Leonard Jackson - - - - Pa
Bennet Guillory - - - - Grady
John Patton Jr. - - - - Preacher
Carl Anderson - - - - Rev. Samuel
Susan Beaubian - - - - Corrine

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0088939/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1985/12/33300.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0790729717/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 36
The Ten Commandants

SYNOPSIS

Legendary silent film director Cecil B. DeMille didn't much alter the way he made movies after sound came in, and this 1956 biblical drama is proof of that. While graced with such 1950s niceties as VistaVision and Technicolor, *The Ten Commandments* (DeMille had already filmed an earlier version in 1923) has an anachronistic, impassioned style that finds lead actors Charlton Heston and Yul Brynner expressively posing while hundreds of extras writhe either in the presence of God's power or from orgiastic heat. DeMille, as always, plays both sides of the fence as far as sin goes, surrounding Heston's Moses with worshipful music and heavenly special effects while also making the sexy action around the cult of the Golden Calf look like fun. You have to see *The Ten Commandments* to understand its peculiar resonance as an old-new movie, complete with several still-impressive effects such as the parting of the Red Sea (1956, 220 minutes, G). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Charlton Heston (Moses): The city is made of bricks. The strong make many, the starving make few, the dead make none. So much for accusations.

Yul Brynner (Rameses) Command them to kneel before Pharaoh

Cedric Hardwicke (Sethi): Let the name of Moses be stricken from every book and tablet. Stricken from every pylon and obelisk of Egypt. Let the name of Moses be unheard and unspoken, erased from the memory of man, for all time.

John Derek (Joshua): God made men. Men made slaves.

Charlton Heston (Moses): It would take more than a man to lead the slaves from bondage. It would take a god.

MAIN CAST

Charlton Heston - - - - Moses
Yul Brynner - - - - Rameses
Anne Baxter - - - - Nefretiri
Edward G. Robinson - - - - Dathan
Yvonne De Carlo - - - - Sephora
Debra Paget - - - - Lilia
John Derek - - - - Joshua
Cedric Hardwicke - - - - Sethi

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0049833/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/movies/database/ShowMovie.asp?MI=22970

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0792154649/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 37
Hoosiers

SYNOPSIS

One of the most rousingly enjoyable sports movies ever made, this small-town drama tells the story of the Hickory Huskers, an underdog basketball team from a tiny Indiana high school that makes it all the way to the state championship tournament. It's a familiar story, but sensitive direction and a splendid screenplay helped make this one of the best films of 1986, highlighted by the superb performances of Gene Hackman as the Huskers' coach, and Oscar nominee Dennis Hopper as the alcoholic father of one of the team's key players. As the drama unfolds we come to realize that many of the characters (including Barbara Hershey as a schoolteacher with whom Hackman falls in love) are recovering from disappointing setbacks, and this depth of character is what makes the otherwise conventional basketball story so richly rewarding. Like *Rocky*, *Rudy*, and *Breaking Away*, this is a quintessentially American movie about beating the odds and rising above one's own limitations. Just try to watch it without cheering! (1986, 115 minutes, PG). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Gene Hackman (Coach Dale): Welcome to Indiana basketball.

Dennis Hopper (Shooter): I know everything there is to know about the greatest game ever invented.

Dennis Hopper (Shooter): Don't get caught watchin' the paint dry

Gene Hackman (Coach Dale): If you put your effort and concentration into playing to your potential, to be the best that you can be, I don't care what the scoreboard says at the end of the game, in my book we're gonna be winners.

MAIN CAST

Gene Hackman - - - - Coach Norman Dale
Barbara Hershey - - - - Myra Fleener
Dennis Hopper - - - - Shooter
Sheb Wooley - - - - Cletus

Fern Persons - - - - Opal Fleener
Chelcie Ross - - - - George
Robert Swan - - - - Rollin
Michael O'Guinne - - - - Rooster

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0091217/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1987/02/219621.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0792843592/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 38
Finding Forrester

SYNOPSIS

Finding Forrester could have been a shallow variant of *The Karate Kid*, congratulating itself for featuring a 16-year-old black kid from the South Bronx who's a brilliant scholar-athlete. Instead, director Gus Van Sant plays it matter-of-fact and totally real, casting a nonactor (Rob Brown) as Jamal, a basketball player and gifted student whose writing talent is nurtured by a famously reclusive author. William Forrester (Sean Connery) became a literary icon four decades earlier with a Pulitzer-winning novel, then disappeared (like J.D. Salinger) into his dark, book-filled apartment, agoraphobic and withdrawn from publishing, but as passionate as ever about writing. On a dare, Jamal sneaks into Forrester's musty sanctuary, and what might have been a condescending cliché--homeboy rescued by wiser white mentor--turns into an inspiring meeting of minds, with mutual respect and intelligence erasing boundaries of culture and generation.Comparisons to Van Sant's *Good Will Hunting* are inevitable, but *Finding Forrester* is more honest and less prone to touchy-feely sentiment, as in the way Jamal and a private-school classmate (Anna Paquin) develop a mutual attraction that remains almost entirely unspoken. The film takes a conventional turn when Jamal must defend his integrity (with Forrester's help) in a writing contest judged by a skeptical teacher (F. Murray Abraham), but this ethical subplot is a credible catalyst for Forrester's most dramatic display of friendship. It's one of many fine moments for Connery and Brown (a screen natural), in a memorable film that transcends issues of race to embrace the joy of learning. (2000, 136 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Sean Connery (William): Bolt the door, if you're coming in

Sean Connery (William): What you write in this apartment stays in this apartment.

Sean Connery (William): You're the man now, dog!

Rob Brown (Jamal): Don't forget to write.

Rob Brown (Jamal): "The rest of those who have gone before us cannot steady the unrest of those to follow." You wrote that in your book.

MAIN CAST

Sean Connery - - - - William Forrester
Rob Brown - - - - Jamal Wallace
F. Murray Abraham - - - - Prof. Robert Crawford
Anna Paquin - - - - Claire Spence
Busta Rhymes - - - - Terrell Wallace
April Grace - - - - Ms. Joyce
Michael Pitt - - - - John Coleridge
Michael Nouri - - - - Dr. Spence
Richard Easton - - - - Prof. Matthews

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0181536/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2000/12/122205.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005ASOC/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 39
Jesus of Nazareth (1977)

SYNOPSIS

Originally made for TV in 1977, this in-depth (six hours plus) version of Jesus' life is so thorough that the first hour is devoted solely to the story of his birth. The film doesn't skimp on some of the other landmark events of this famous story either. Director Franco Zeffirelli gives more than 12 minutes screen time each to the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. Passages of the Bible are quoted verbatim, the locations have a Palestine-like authenticity, and, aside from some of the principals (Robert Powell as Jesus, Olivia Hussey as Mary, and Stacy Keach as Barabbas), many of the non-Roman characters are actually played by Semitic-looking actors. Zeffirelli diligently provides the sociopolitical background that gave rise to Jesus' following and the crisis in belief it caused for the people of Israel (and one or two Romans). While not graphic by today's standards, some of the scenes--baby boys being ripped from their mothers' arms and slaughtered, nails being driven into Jesus' hands--may disturb young and/or sensitive children. (1977, 371 minutes, NR). *Review by Kimberly Heinrichs.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Robert Powell (Jesus): You wouldn't have had that power over me if it hadn't been given to you from above.

Robert Powell (Jesus): God wants to write the law on your hearts.

Robert Powell (Jesus): The good news I bring you is this; your captivity is over.

James Farentino (Simon Peter): I know in my heart he will not abandon us. I know in my heart he has forgiven me, forgiven all of us.

MAIN CAST

Robert Powell - - - - Jesus Christ
Anne Bancroft - - - - Mary Magdalene
Ernest Borgnine - - - - The Centurion
Claudia Cardinale - - - - The Adulteress

Valentina Cortese - - - - Herodias
James Farentino - - - - Simon Peter
James Earl Jones - - - - Balthazar
Stacy Keach - - - - Barabbas
Tony Lo Bianco - - - - Quintilius
James Mason - - - - Joseph of Arimathea
Ian McShane - - - - Judas Iscariot
Laurence Olivier - - - - Nicodemus
Donald Pleasence - - - - Melchior
Christopher Plummer - - - - Herod Antipas
Anthony Quinn - - - - Caiaphas
Rod Steiger - - - - Pontius Pilate

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0075520/

Steven D. Greydanus – Decentfilms.com
http://www.decentfilms.com/reviews/Jesusofnazareth.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B0000633QW/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 40
Titanic

SYNOPSIS

When the theatrical release of James Cameron's *Titanic* was delayed from July to December of 1997, media pundits speculated that Cameron's $200 million disaster epic would cause the director's downfall, signal the end of the blockbuster era, and sink Paramount Studios as quickly as the ill-fated luxury liner had sunk on that fateful night of April 14, 1912. Some studio executives were confident, others horrified, but the clarity of hindsight turned Cameron into an Oscar-winning genius, a shrewd businessman, and one of the most successful directors in the history of motion pictures. *Titanic* would surpass the $1 billion mark in global box-office receipts (largely due to multiple viewings, the majority by teenage girls), win 11 Academy Awards including best picture and director, produce the best-selling movie soundtrack of all time, and make a global superstar of Leonardo DiCaprio. A bona fide pop-cultural phenomenon, the film has all the ingredients of a blockbuster (romance, passion, luxury, grand scale, a snidely villain, and an epic, life-threatening crisis), but Cameron's alchemy of these ingredients proved more popular than anyone could have predicted. His stroke of genius was to combine absolute authenticity with a pair of fictional lovers whose tragic fate would draw viewers into the heart-wrenching reality of the *Titanic* disaster. As starving artist Jack Dawson and soon-to-be-married socialite Rose DeWitt Bukater, DiCaprio and Kate Winslet won the hearts of viewers around the world, and their brief but never-forgotten love affair provides the humanity that Cameron needed to turn *Titanic* into an emotional experience. Present-day framing scenes (featuring Gloria Stuart as the 101-year-old Rose) add additional resonance to the story, and although some viewers proved vehemently immune to Cameron's manipulations, few can deny the production's impressive achievements. Although some of the computer-generated visual effects look artificial, others--such as the sunset silhouette of *Titanic* during its first evening at sea, or the climactic splitting of the ship's sinking hull--are state-of-the-art marvels. In terms of sets and costumes alone, the film is never less than astounding. More than anything else, however, the film's overwhelming popularity speaks for itself. *Titanic* is an event film and a monument to Cameron's risk-taking audacity, blending the tragic irony of the *Titanic* disaster with just enough narrative invention to give the historical event its fullest and most timeless dramatic impact.

Titanic is an epic love story on par with *Gone with the Wind*, and like that earlier box-office phenomenon, it's a film for the ages.
(1997, 194 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Kathy Bates (Molly): You shine up like a new penny.

Leonardo DiCaprio (Jack): That's the one good thing about Paris: there's a lot of girls willing to take their clothes off.

Leonardo DiCaprio (Jack): I'm the king of the world!

Frances Fisher (Ruth): So this is the ship they say is unsinkable.

Gloria Stuart (Older Rose): It's been 84 years, and I can still smell the fresh paint. The china had never been used. The sheets had never been slept in. Titanic was called the Ship of Dreams, and it was. It really was.

Bill Paxton (Brock): Three years I've thought of nothing except Titanic, but I never got it, I never let it in.

MAIN CAST

Leonardo DiCaprio - - - - Jack Dawson
Kate Winslet - - - - Rose DeWitt Bukater
Billy Zane - - - - Caledon Hockley
Kathy Bates - - - - Molly Brown
Bill Paxton - - - - Brock Lovett
Gloria Stuart - - - - Rose Dawson Calvert (Older Rose)
Frances Fisher - - - - Ruth DeWitt Bukater
Bernard Hill - - - - Capt. Edward J. Smith
Jonathan Hyde - - - - J. Bruce Ismay
David Warner - - - - Spicer Lovejoy
Victor Garber - - - - Thomas Andrews
Danny Nucci - - - - Fabrizio De Rossi
Lewis Abernathy - - - - Lewis Bodine
Suzy Amis - - - - Lizzy Calvert
Nicholas Cascone - - - - Bobby Buell

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0120338/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1997/12/121904.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00000JLWW/selfimproveme
onl/

Movie # 41
Harold and Maude

SYNOPSIS

Black comedies don't come much blacker than this cult favorite from 1972, and they don't come much funnier, either. It seemed that director Hal Ashby was the perfect choice to mine a mother lode of eccentricity from the original script by Colin Higgins, about the unlikely romance between a death-obsessed 19-year-old named Harold (Bud Cort) and a life-loving 79-year-old widow named Maude (Ruth Gordon). They meet at a funeral, and Maude finds something oddly appealing about Harold, urging him to "reach out" and grab life by the lapels as opposed to dwelling morbidly on mortality. Harold grows fond of the old gal--she's a lot more fun than the girls his mother desperately matches him up with--and together they make *Harold & Maude* one of the sweetest and most unconventional love stories ever made. Much of the earlier humor arises from Harold's outrageous suicide fantasies, played out as a kind of twisted parlor game to mortify his mother, who's grown immune to her strange son's antics. Gradually, however, the film's clever humor shifts to a brighter outlook and finally arrives at a point where Harold is truly happy to be alive. Featuring soundtrack songs by Cat Stevens, this comedy certainly won't appeal to all tastes (it was a box-office flop when first released), but if you're on its quirky wavelength, it might just strike you as one of the funniest movies you've ever seen. (1972, 90 minutes, PG). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Bud Cort (Harold): You're so good with people.

Ruth Gordon (Maude): Aww, they're my species!

Ruth Gordon (Maude): He thought they were the most beautiful birds in the world. Then he found they were only seagulls.

Ruth Gordon (Maude): Harold, everyone has the right to make an ass out of themselves. You can't let the world judge you too much.

Ruth Gordon (Maude): Well, if some people get upset because they feel they have a hold on some things, I'm merely acting as a gentle reminder. Here today, gone tomorrow, so don't get attached to things!

MAIN CAST

Ruth Gordon - - - - Maude
Bud Cort - - - - Harold Chasen
Vivian Pickles - - - - Mrs. Chasen
Cyril Cusack - - - - Glaucus
Charles Tyner - - - - Uncle Victor
Ellen Geer - - - - Sunshine Doré
Eric Christmas - - - - Priest
G. Wood - - - - Psychiatrist
Judy Engles - - - - Candy Gulf
Shari Summers - - - - Edith Phern
Tom Skerritt - - - - Motorcycle Officer (as M. Borman)
Susan Madigan - - - - Girlfriend

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0067185/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=29508

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=6305882592/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 42
Ghost

SYNOPSIS

Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze are the passionate lovers whose romance is undone when the latter is murdered during a bungled hit arranged by a rival. The clever concept by screenwriter Bruce Joel Rubin (director of *My Life*) extends outward into comedy (Swayze's character communicates through a sassy medium played by Whoopi Goldberg, who won an Oscar for this role), horror (the afterlife is populated by hell-bound demons and the like), and romantic complications (a handsome suitor, played by Tony Goldwyn, comes on to Moore while Swayze's spirit is still hanging around). Directed by Jerry Zucker, previously best known for codirecting *Airplane!* and similar broad comedies, *Ghost* is a careful balancing act of strong commercial elements, but at heart it is a timeless Hollywood tearjerker that easily gets under one's skin. (1990, 122 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Tom Keogh*.
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Sam Wheat: Ditto.

Sam Wheat: It's amazing, Molly. The love inside, you take it with you.

Oda Mae Brown: I don't know you! I don't know Sam, but let me tell you what he did to me. He kept me up all night singing "I'm Henry the Eighth I Am."

Oda Mae Brown: You can't just blurt it out like that! And quit moving around, because you're starting to make me dizzy. I'll just tell her in my own way.

Oda Mae Brown: Molly, you in danger girl.

Oda Mae Brown: Damn baby,what'd you do to yo hair?!

Subway Ghost: Get off my train!

MAIN CAST

Patrick Swayze - - - - Sam Wheat
Demi Moore - - - - Molly Jensen
Whoopi Goldberg - - - - Oda Mae Brown
Tony Goldwyn - - - - Carl Bruner
Rick Aviles - - - - Willie Lopez, Burgler
Vincent Schiavelli - - - - Subway Ghost

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0099653/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1990/07/556720.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000059TEP/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 43
October Sky

SYNOPSIS

Based on the memoir *Rocket Boys* by Homer H. Hickam Jr., *October Sky* emerged as one of the most delightful sleepers of 1999--a small miracle of good ol' fashioned movie-making in the cynical, often numbingly trendy Hollywood of the late 20th century. Hickam's true story begins in 1957 with Russia's historic launch of the *Sputnik* satellite, and while Homer (played with smart idealism by Jake Gyllenhaal) sees Sputnik as his cue to pursue a fascination with rocketry, his father (Chris Cooper) epitomizes the admirable yet sternly stubborn working-man's ethic of the West Virginia coal miner, casting fear and disdain on Homer's pursuit of science while urging his "errant" son to carry on the family business--a spirit-killing profession that Homer has no intention of joining.As directed by Joe Johnston (*The Rocketeer*), this wonderful movie is occasionally guilty of overstating its case and sacrificing subtlety for predictable melodrama. But more often the film's tone is just right, and the spirit of adventure and invention is infectiously conveyed through Gyllenhaal and his well-cast fellow rocketeers, whose many failures gradually lead to triumph on their makeshift backwoods launching pad. Capturing time and place with impeccable detail and superbly developed characters (including Laura Dern as an inspiring schoolteacher), *October Sky* is a family film for the ages, encouraging the highest potential of the human spirit while giving viewers a clear view of a bygone era when "the final frontier" beckoned to the explorer in all of us. (1999, 108 minutes, PG). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

William Lee Scott (Roy): Let them have outer space. We got rock 'n roll.

William Lee Scott (Roy): If this rocket don't fly, you can kiss losing your virginity goodbye!

Jake Gyllenhaal (Homer): You know, it won't fly unless somebody pushes the button. It's yours if you want it.

William Lee Scott (Roy): I don't know why they'd drop a bomb on this place, be a heck of a waste of a bomb.

Chris Owen (Quentin): What do you want to know about rockets? Jake Gyllenhaal (Homer): Everything.

MAIN CAST

Jake Gyllenhaal - - - - Homer Hickam
Chris Cooper - - - - John Hickam
Laura Dern - - - - Miss Frieda Riley
Chris Owen - - - - Quentin Wilson
William Lee Scott - - - - Roy Lee Cook
Chad Lindberg - - - - Sherman O'Dell
Natalie Canerday - - - - Elsie Hickam
Scott Miles - - - - Jim Hickam
Randy Stripling - - - - Leon Bolden
Chris Ellis - - - - Principal Turner
Elya Baskin - - - - Ike Bykovsky
Courtney Cole-Fendley - - - - Dorothy Platt
David Dwyer - - - - Jake Mosby
Terry Loughlin - - - - Mr. Dantzler
Kailie Hollister - - - - Valentina Carmina

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0132477/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1999/02/021902.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00000IQVL/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 44
Gladiator

SYNOPSIS

A big-budget summer epic with money to burn and a scale worthy of its golden Hollywood predecessors, Ridley Scott's *Gladiator* is a rousing, grisly, action-packed epic that takes moviemaking back to the Roman Empire via computer-generated visual effects. While not as fluid as the computer work done for, say, *Titanic*, it's an impressive achievement that will leave you marveling at the glory that was Rome, when you're not marveling at the glory that is Russell Crowe. Starring as the heroic general Maximus, Crowe firmly cements his star status both in terms of screen presence and acting chops, carrying the film on his decidedly non-computer-generated shoulders as he goes from brave general to wounded fugitive to stoic slave to gladiator hero. *Gladiator*'s plot is a whirlwind of faux-Shakespearean machinations of death, betrayal, power plays, and secret identities (with lots of faux-Shakespearean dialogue ladled on to keep the proceedings appropriately "classical"), but it's all briskly shot, edited, and paced with a contemporary sensibility. Even the action scenes, somewhat muted but graphic in terms of implied violence and liberal bloodletting, are shot with a veracity that brings to mind--believe it or not--*Saving Private Ryan*, even if everyone is wearing a toga. As Crowe's nemesis, the evil emperor Commodus, Joaquin Phoenix chews scenery with authority, whether he's damning Maximus's popularity with the Roman mobs or lusting after his sister Lucilla (beautiful but distant Connie Nielsen); Oliver Reed, in his last role, hits the perfect notes of camp and *gravitas* as the slave owner who rescues Maximus from death and turns him into a coliseum star. Director Scott's visual flair is abundantly in evidence, with breathtaking shots and beautiful (albeit digital) landscapes, but it's Crowe's star power that will keep you in thrall--he's a true gladiator, worthy of his legendary status. Hail the conquering hero! (2000, 155 minutes, R). *Review by Mark Englehart.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Tommy Flanagan (Cicero): Sometimes I do what I want to do. The rest of the time, I do what I have to.

Derek Jacobi (Gracchus): The beating heart of Rome is not the marble of the Senate, it's the sand of the Colosseum. He'll bring them death and they will love him for it.

Connie Nielsen (Lucilla): Is Rome worth one good man's life? We believed it once, make us believe it again.

Derek Jacobi (Gracchus): I don't pretend to be a man of the people. But I do try to be a man for the people.

Russell Crowe (Maximus): I knew a man once who said, "Death smiles at us all. All a man can do is smile back."

Russell Crowe (Maximus): Strength and honor.

Djimon Hounsou (Juba): You have a great name. He must kill your name before he kills you.

MAIN CAST

Russell Crowe - - - - Maximus
Joaquin Phoenix - - - - Commodus
Connie Nielsen - - - - Lucilla
Oliver Reed - - - - Proximo
Richard Harris - - - - Emperor Marcus Aurelius
Derek Jacobi - - - - Senator Gracchus
Djimon Hounsou - - - - Juba
David Schofield - - - - Falco
John Shrapnel - - - - Gaius
Tomas Arana - - - - Quintus
David Hemmings - - - - Cassius
Ralf Moeller - - - - Hagen
Spencer Treat Clark - - - - Lucius
Tommy Flanagan - - - - Cicero
Sven-Ole Thorsen - - - - Tigris

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0172495/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2000/05/050501.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXE7/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 45
Brians Song (TV)

SYNOPSIS

While women shed more than a few tears over *Love Story* back in 1970, men had their equivalent with *Brian's Song* on TV. This biopic about the Chicago Bears' Brian Piccolo and Gale Sayers is no mere sports film. It's one of those transcendent stories that struck a rare cultural nerve, a sensitive film about love, friendship, cancer, racial harmony, and football that came along at just the right time. James Caan is at his free-spirited best as Piccolo, and Billy Dee Williams is very charming as the quiet Sayers destined for superstardom. Roommates and rivals, these two rookies soon become best friends because of their competitive natures and complementary personalities. When Piccolo becomes stricken with cancer, his relentless will to live inspires the talented Sayers to reach his athletic potential. Jack Warden, as the masterful coach George Halas, superbly manipulates the ying and yang relationship for all it's worth. Michel Legrand's melancholy theme still lingers in the mind as one of the all-time greats. (1971, 73 minutes, G). *Review by Bill Desowitz.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

James Caan (Brian): Well, on uh, Fake Draw Screen Right I uh, pick up the linebacker if he's coming, 'less of course it's Butkus, then I simply notify the quarterback to send for a preacher.

Billy Dee Williams (Gale): I love Brian Piccolo...and tonight, I want you to love him too.

MAIN CAST

James Caan - - - - Brian Piccolo
Billy Dee Williams - - - - Gale Sayers
Jack Warden - - - - Coach George Halas
Bernie Casey - - - - J.C. Caroline
Shelley Fabares - - - - Joy Piccolo
David Huddleston - - - - Ed McCaskey
Judy Pace - - - - Linda Sayers
Abe Gibron - - - - Himself

Jack Concannon - - - - Himself
Ed O'Bradovich - - - - Himself
Ron Feinberg - - - - Doug Atkins
Ji-Tu Cumbuka - - - - Roommate
Jim Boeke - - - - Veteran Player
Larry Delaney - - - - Dr. Fox
Stephen Coit - - - - Mr. Eberle

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0068315/

Brad Laidman – Film Threat
http://www.filmthreat.com/Reviews.asp?Id=1464

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00004TJQJ/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 46
Top Gun

SYNOPSIS

Jingoism, beefcake, military hardware, and a Giorgio Moroder rock score reign supreme over taste and logic in this Tony Scott film about a maverick trainee pilot (Tom Cruise) who can't follow the rules at a Navy aviation training facility. The dogfight sequences between American and Soviet jets at the end are absolutely mechanical, though audiences loved it at the time. The love story between Cruise's character and that of Kelly McGillis is like flipping through pages of advertising in a glossy magazine. This designer action movie from 1986 would be all the more appalling were it not for the canny casting of good actors in dumb parts. Standouts include Anthony Edwards--who makes a nice impression as Cruise's average-Joe pal--and the relatively unknown Meg Ryan in a small but memorable appearance. The DVD release has optional full-screen and widescreen presentations, optional French soundtrack, optional Spanish subtitles, and closed captioning. (1986, 110 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Maverick: I feel the need...

Maverick, Goose: ...the need for speed!

Maverick: That's right! Ice... man. I am dangerous.

Maverick: She's lost that loving feeling.

Maverick: You don't have time to think up there. If you think, you're dead.

Tom Skerritt (Viper): Let me ask you something, if you had to go into battle, would you want him on your side?

Val Kilmer (Iceman): You can be my wingman any time.

MAIN CAST

Tom Cruise - - - - Lt. Pete 'Maverick' Mitchell

Kelly McGillis - - - - Charlotte 'Charlie' Blackwood
Val Kilmer - - - - Lt. Tom 'Iceman' Kazanski
Anthony Edwards - - - - Lt. (j.g.) Nick 'Goose' Bradshaw
Tom Skerritt - - - - Cmdr. Mike 'Viper' Metcalf
Michael Ironside - - - - Lt. Cmdr. Rick 'Jester' Heatherly
John Stockwell - - - - Cougar
Barry Tubb - - - - Wolfman
Rick Rossovich - - - - Lt. (j.g.) Ron 'Slider' Kerner
Tim Robbins - - - - Lt. (j.g.) Sam 'Merlin' Wells
Clarence Gilyard Jr. - - - - Sundown
Whip Hubley - - - - Hollywood
James Tolkan - - - - Stinger
Meg Ryan - - - - Carole Bradshaw
Adrian Pasdar - - - - Chipper

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0092099/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1986/05/58817.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=6305127689/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 47
Stand and Deliver

SYNOPSIS

Based on a true story, this inspiring American Playhouse production stars Edward James Olmos as a high school teacher who motivated a class full of East L.A. barrio kids to care enough about mathematics to pass an Advanced Placement Calculus Test. Not exactly a variation of *To Sir, With Love*, the film concerns itself with assumptions and biases held by mainstream authorities about disadvantaged kids, and Olmos's efforts to keep his students coolheaded enough to prove them wrong. Olmos, virtually unrecognizable as the pudgy, balding instructor, gives a career performance in this fine piece directed by Ramón Menéndez, and written by the director and Tom Musca. (1987, 105 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Edward James Olmos(James): Tough guys don't do math. Tough guys fry chicken for a living!

Edward James Olmos(James): Tomorrow's another day. I'm worried you're gonna screw up the rest of your lives.

Edward James Olmos(James): Wouldn't want anyone thinking you're intelligent, would you?

Lou Diamond Phillips (Angel): Hey Kimo, aren't you happy? I'm the first one here! What's calcoolus?

MAIN CAST

Edward James Olmos - - - - Jaime A. Escalante
Estelle Harris - - - - Estelle (Principal Molina's secretary)
Mark Phelan - - - - Cop
Virginia Paris - - - - Raquel Ortega
Mark Eliot - - - - Tito
Adelaida Álvarez - - - - Sexy girl
Will Gotay - - - - Pancho

Patrick Baca - - - - Javier Perales
Ingrid Oliu - - - - Guadalupe 'Lupe' Escobar
Carmen Argenziano - - - - Mr. Molina (principal, Garfield High)
Tyde Kierney - - - - Joe Goodell
Rosanna DeSoto - - - - Fabiola Escalante
Bodie Olmos - - - - Fernando Escalante
Lou Diamond Phillips - - - - Angel Guzman

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0094027/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1988/04/289453.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=6305161917/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 48
Rain Man

SYNOPSIS

Rain Man is the kind of touching drama that Oscars are made for--and, sure enough, the film took Academy honors for best picture, director, screenplay, and actor (Dustin Hoffman) in 1988. Hoffman plays Raymond, an autistic savant whose late father has left him $3 million in a trust. This gets the attention of his materialistic younger brother, a hot-shot LA car dealer named Charlie (Tom Cruise) who wasn't even aware of Raymond's existence until he read his estranged father's will. Charlie picks up Raymond and takes him on a cross-country journey that becomes a voyage of discovery for Charlie, and, perhaps, for Raymond, too. *Rain Man* will either captivate you or irritate you (Raymond's sputtering of repetitious phrases is enough to drive anyone crazy), but it is obviously a labor of love for those involved. Hoffman had been attached to the film for many years, as various directors and writers came and went, but his persistence eventually paid off--kind of like Raymond in Las Vegas. Look for director Barry Levinson in a cameo as a psychiatrist near the end of the film. (1988, 133 minutes, R). *Review by Jim Emerson.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Tom Cruise (Charlie): Shut up! He is answering a question from a half hour ago!

Dustin Hoffman (Raymond): I don't know.

Dustin Hoffman (Raymond): I'm an excellent driver.

Tom Cruise (Charlie): I'm gonna let ya' in on a little secret, Ray. K-Mart sucks.

Dustin Hoffman (Raymond): K-mart sucks.

Dustin Hoffman (Raymond): 97X, bam! The future of rock 'n' roll. 97X, bam! The future of rock 'n' roll. 97X, bam! The future of rock 'n' roll.

Dustin Hoffman (Raymond): Ten minutes to Wapner.
Dustin Hoffman (Raymond): C-H-A-R-L-I-E, my main man.

MAIN CAST

Dustin Hoffman - - - - Raymond Babbitt
Tom Cruise - - - - Charles Sanford 'Charlie' Babbitt
Valeria Golino - - - - Susanna
Gerald R. Molen - - - - Dr. Bruner
Jack Murdock - - - - John Mooney, will executor
Michael D. Roberts - - - - Vern
Ralph Seymour - - - - Lenny
Lucinda Jenney - - - - Iris
Bonnie Hunt - - - - Sally Dibbs, diner waitress

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0095953/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1988/12/329485.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0792833260/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 49
Apollo 13

SYNOPSIS

NASA's worst nightmare turned into one of the space agency's most heroic moments in 1970, when the *Apollo 13* crew was forced to hobble home in a disabled capsule after an explosion seriously damaged the moon-bound spacecraft. Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon, and Bill Paxton play (respectively) astronauts Jim Lovell, Jack Swigert, and Fred Haise in director Ron Howard's intense, painstakingly authentic docudrama. The *Apollo 13* crew and Houston-based mission controllers race against time and heavy odds to return the damaged spacecraft safely to Earth from a distance of 205,500 miles. Using state-of-the-art special effects and ingenious filmmaking techniques, Howard and his stellar cast and crew build nail-biting tension while maintaining close fidelity to the facts. The result is a fitting tribute to the *Apollo 13* mission and one of the biggest box-office hits of 1995. (1995, 139 minutes, PG). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Kevin Bacon (Jack): So long, Earth. Catch you on the flip side.

Tom Hanks (Jim): From now on, we live in a world where man has walked on the moon. And it's not a miracle, we just decided to go.

Gary Sinise (Ken): Well, I uh, had a black cat walk over a broken mirror under the lunar module ladder, and nothing bad's happened yet.

Tom Hanks (Jim): Houston, we have a problem.

Ed Harris (Gene): We've never lost an American in space, we're sure as hell not going to lose one on my watch! Failure is not an option.

MAIN CAST

Tom Hanks - - - - Jim Lovell
Bill Paxton - - - - Fred Haise
Kevin Bacon - - - - Jack Swigert
Gary Sinise - - - - Ken Mattingly

Ed Harris - - - - Gene Kranz
Kathleen Quinlan - - - - Marilyn Lovell
Mary Kate Schellhardt - - - - Barbara Lovell
Emily Ann Lloyd - - - - Susan Lovell
Miko Hughes - - - - Jeffrey Lovell
Max Elliott Slade - - - - Jay Lovell
Jean Speegle Howard - - - - Blanch Lovell
Tracy Reiner - - - - Mary Haise
David Andrews - - - - Pete Conrad
Michele Little - - - - Jane Conrad
Chris Ellis - - - - Deke Slayton

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0112384/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1995/06/986005.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0783225733/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 50
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

SYNOPSIS

Political heavyweights decide that Jefferson Smith (James Stewart), an obscure scoutmaster in a small town, would be the perfect dupe to fill a vacant U.S. Senate chair. Surely this naive bumpkin can be easily controlled by the senior senator (Claude Rains) from his state, a respectable and corrupted career politician. Director Frank Capra fills the movie with Smith's wide-eyed wonder at the glories of Washington, all of which ring false for his cynical secretary (Jean Arthur), who doesn't believe for a minute this rube could be for real. But he is. Capra was repeating the formula of a previous film, *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*, but this one is even sharper; Stewart and Arthur are brilliant, and the former cowboy star Harry Carey lends a warm presence to the role of the vice president. Bright, funny, and beautifully paced, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* is Capra's ode to the power of innocence--an idea so potent that present-day audiences may find themselves wishing for a new Mr. Smith in Congress. The 1939 Congress was none too thrilled about the film's depiction of their august body, denouncing it as a caricature; but even today, Capra's jibes about vested interests and political machines look as accurate as ever. (1939, 129 minutes, NR). *Review by Robert Horton.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

James Stewart (Jefferson): Either I'm dead right, or I'm crazy!

James Stewart (Jefferson): No, sir, I will not yield!

Jean Arthur (Clarissa): What do you think? Now listen, go to work. Do as I tell you.

Edward Arnold (Jim): I want you to let the ballyhoo boys loose, plan a celebration, and declare a holiday.

MAIN CAST

Jean Arthur - - - - Clarissa Saunders
James Stewart - - - - Jefferson Smith

Claude Rains - - - - Sen. Joseph Harrison Paine
Edward Arnold - - - - Jim Taylor
Guy Kibbee - - - - Gov. Hubert 'Happy' Hopper
Thomas Mitchell - - - - Diz Moore
Eugene Pallette - - - - Chick McGann
Beulah Bondi - - - - Ma Smith
H.B. Warner - - - - Sen. Agnew (Senate Majority Leader)
Harry Carey - - - - The Vice President
Astrid Allwyn - - - - Susan Paine
Ruth Donnelly - - - - Emma Hopper
Grant Mitchell - - - - Sen. MacPherson (Privileges and Elections Committee)
Porter Hall - - - - Sen. Monroe (objecting to frivolity)
Pierre Watkin - - - - Sen. Barnes (Senate Minority Leader)

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0031679/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/movies/database/ShowMovie.asp?MI=7319#review

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003L9CJ/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 51
Erin Brockovich

SYNOPSIS

Much will be made of Julia Roberts's wardrobe in *Erin Brockovich*--a brash parade of daring hemlines and Wonderbra confidence. Roberts is unabashedly sexy in the title role of this fact-based comedy-drama, but she and director Steven Soderbergh are far too intelligent to rely solely on high heels and cleavage. Susannah Grant's brassy screenplay fuels this winning combination of star, director, and material, firing on all pistons with maximum efficiency. With Ed Lachman, his noted cinematographer from *The Limey*, Soderbergh tackles this A-list project with the fervor of an independent, combining a no-frills look with kinetic panache and the same brisk editorial style he used in the justly celebrated *Out of Sight*. roke and desperate, the twice-divorced single mom Erin bosses her way into a clerical job with attorney Ed Masry (Albert Finney), who's indebted to Erin after failing to win her traffic-injury case. Erin is soon focused on suspicious connections between a mighty power company, its abuse of toxic chromium, and the poisoned water supply of Hinkley, California, where locals have suffered a legacy of death and disease. Matching the dramatic potency of *Norma Rae* and *Silkwood*, *Erin Brockovich* filters cold facts through warm humanity, especially in Erin's rapport with dying victims and her relationship with George (superbly played by Aaron Eckhart), a Harley-riding neighbor who offers more devotion than Erin's ever known. Surely some of these details have been embellished for dramatic effect, but the factual basis of *Erin Brockovich* adds a boost of satisfaction, proving that greed, neglect, and corporate arrogance are no match against a passionate crusader. (Trivia note: The real Erin Brockovich appears briefly as a diner waitress.) (2000, 130 minutes, R). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Julia Roberts (Erin): Well as long as I have one ass instead of two I'll wear what I like if that's alright with you? You might want to re-think those ties.

Julia Roberts (Erin): Are you going to be something else that I have to survive? Because I don't think I can handle it.

Albert Finney (Ed): Do they teach beauty queens how to apologize? Because you suck at it!

Julia Roberts (Erin): Did they teach you how to apologize at lawyer school? 'Cause you suck at it.

Julia Roberts (Erin): For the first time in my life, I got people respecting me. Please, don't ask me to give it up.

Julia Roberts (Erin): They're called boobs, Ed.

MAIN CAST

Julia Roberts - - - - Erin Brockovich
David Brisbin - - - - Dr. Jaffe
Albert Finney - - - - Ed Masry
Dawn Didawick - - - - Rosalind
Aaron Eckhart - - - - George
Marg Helgenberger - - - - Donna Jensen
Cherry Jones - - - - Pamela Duncan
Valente Rodriguez - - - - Donald
Veanne Cox - - - - Theresa Dallavale
Conchata Ferrell - - - - Brenda
George Rocky Sullivan - - - - Los Angeles Judge
Pat Skipper - - - - Defending Lawyer
Tracey Walter - - - - Charles Embry
Jack Gill - - - - Defendant
Irene Olga López - - - - Mrs. Morales

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0195685/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2000/03/031703.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXFV/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 52
Contact

SYNOPSIS

The opening and closing moments of Robert (*Forrest Gump*) Zemeckis's *Contact* astonish viewers with the sort of breathtaking conceptual imagery one hardly ever sees in movies these day--each is an expression of the heroine's lifelong quest (both spiritual and scientific) to explore the meaning of human existence through contact with extraterrestrial life. The movie begins by soaring far out into space, then returns dizzyingly to earth until all the stars in the heavens condense into the sparkle in one little girl's eye. It ends with that same girl as an adult (Jodie Foster)--her search having taken her to places beyond her imagination--turning her gaze inward and seeing the universe in a handful of sand. *Contact* traces the journey between those two visual epiphanies. Based on Carl Sagan's novel, *Contact* is exceptionally thoughtful and provocative for a big-budget Hollywood science fiction picture, with elements that recall everything from *2001* to *The Right Stuff*. Foster's solid performance (and some really incredible alien hardware) keep viewers interested, even when the story skips and meanders, or when the halo around the golden locks of rising-star-of-a-different-kind Matthew McConaughey (as the pure-Hollywood-hokum love interest) reaches Milky Way-level wattage. Ambitious, ambiguous, pretentious, unpredictable--*Contact* is all of these things and more. Much of it remains open to speculation and interpretation, but whatever conclusions one eventually draws, *Contact* deserves recognition as a rare piece of big-budget studio filmmaking on a personal scale. (1997, 150 minutes, PG). *Review by Jim Emerson.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Matthew McConaughey (Palmer): I'm not against technology, doctor. I'm against the men who deify it at the expense of human truth.

Tom Skerritt (David): Ellie, still waiting for E.T. to call?

Matthew McConaughey (Palmer): We shop at home, we surf the Web, at the same time we're emptier.

Matthew McConaughey (Palmer): The reason I gave for not voting for you was a good one, but it wasn't the real one. I didn't vote for you because I didn't want to lose you.

Jodie Foster (Ellie): So what's more likely? That a mysterious, all-powerful God created the universe, and then decided not to leave a single evidence of his existence? Or that He simply doesn't exist at all, and that we created Him, so that we wouldn't have to feel so small and lonely?

MAIN CAST

Jodie Foster - - - - Dr. Eleanor Ann 'Ellie' Arroway
Jena Malone - - - - Young Ellie
Matthew McConaughey - - - - Father Palmer Joss
David Morse - - - - Ted Arroway
Geoffrey Blake - - - - Fisher
William Fichtner - - - - Kent Clark
Sami Chester - - - - Vernon
Timothy McNeil - - - - Davio
Laura Elena Surillo - - - - Cantina Woman
Tom Skerritt - - - - Dr. David Drumlin
Henry Strozier - - - - Minister
Michael Chaban - - - - Hadden Suit
Max Martini - - - - Willie
Larry King - - - - Himself
Thomas Garner - - - - Ian Broderick

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0118884/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1997/07/071101.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0790733226/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 53
City of Angels

SYNOPSIS

Some critics complained that *City of Angels* could never compare to Wim Wenders's exquisite German film *Wings of Desire*, which served as the later film's primary inspiration. The better argument to make is that any such comparisons are beside the point, because *Wings of Desire* was a much more deeply poetic, artfully contemplative film, whereas *City of Angels* is an enchanting product of mainstream Hollywood. Meg Ryan stars as Dr. Maggie Rice, a heart surgeon who is grieving over a lost patient when an angel named Seth (Nicolas Cage) appears to comfort her. She can see him despite the "rule" that angels are invisible, and Seth's love for Maggie forces him to choose between angelic immortality and a normal human existence on earth with her. Featuring heavenly roles for TV veterans Andre Braugher and Dennis Franz, the film liberally borrows imagery from *Wings of Desire*, but it also creates its own charming identity. Cage and Ryan give fine performances as lovers convinced they are soul mates, and although the plot relies on a last-minute twist that doesn't quite work, this earnest love story struck a chord with audiences and proved to be one of the surprise hits of 1998. The Special Edition widescreen DVD includes audio commentary by Nicolas Cage, producer Charles Roven, and director Brad Silberling in addition to deleted scenes, a behind-the-scenes documentary, a featurette about the film's special effects, and the theatrical trailer. (1998, 116 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Nicolas Cage (Seth): I would rather have had one breath of her hair, one kiss from her mouth, one touch of her hand, than eternity without it. One.

Sarah Dampf (Susan): What good would wings be if you couldn't feel the wind on your face?

Nicolas Cage (Seth): Some things are true whether you believe in them or not.

Meg Ryan (Maggie): When they ask me what I liked best, I'll say it was you.

Meg Ryan (Maggie): Something happened in that room. I got this jolt that... something bigger is out there. Something bigger than me, bigger than you. Does that sound crazy?

MAIN CAST

Nicolas Cage - - - - Seth
Meg Ryan - - - - Maggie Rice
Andre Braugher - - - - Cassiel
Dennis Franz - - - - Nathaniel Messinger
Colm Feore - - - - Jordan
Robin Bartlett - - - - Anne
Joanna Merlin - - - - Teresa Messinger
Sarah Dampf - - - - Susan
Rhonda Dotson - - - - Susan's Mother

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0120632/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1998/04/041003.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0790737345/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 54
Ben Hur

SYNOPSIS

Ben-Hur scooped an unprecedented 11 Academy Awards® in 1959 and, unlike some later rivals, richly deserved every single one. This is epic filmmaking on a scale that had not been seen before and is unlikely ever to be seen again. But it's not just running time or a cast of thousands that makes an epic, it's the subject matter, and here the subject--Prince Judah Ben-Hur (Charlton Heston) and his estrangement from old Roman pal Messala (Stephen Boyd)--is rich, detailed, and sensitively handled. Director William Wyler, who had been a junior assistant on MGM's original silent version back in 1925, never sacrifices the human focus of the story in favor of spectacle, and is aided immeasurably by Miklos Rozsa's majestic musical score, arguably the greatest ever written for a Hollywood picture. At four hours it's a long haul (especially given some of the portentous dialogue), but all in all, *Ben-Hur* is a great movie, best seen on the biggest screen possible. (1959, 212 minutes, NR). *Review by Mark Walker.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Frank Thring (Pontius): A grown man knows the world he lives in. For the moment, that world is Rome.

Jack Hawkins (Quintus): Now listen to me, all of you. You are all condemned men. We keep you alive to serve this ship. So row well, and live.

Stephen Boyd (Messala): By condemning without hesitation an old friend, I shall be feared.

André Morell (Sextus): You can break a man's skull. You can arrest him. You can throw him into a dungeon. But how do you fight an idea?

MAIN CAST

Charlton Heston - - - - Judah Ben-Hur
Jack Hawkins - - - - Quintus Arrius
Haya Harareet - - - - Esther
Stephen Boyd - - - - Messala

Hugh Griffith - - - - Sheik Ilderim
Martha Scott - - - - Miriam
Cathy O'Donnell - - - - Tirzah
Sam Jaffe - - - - Simonides
Finlay Currie - - - - Balthasar/Narrator in pre-credits sequence
Frank Thring - - - - Pontius Pilate
Terence Longdon - - - - Drusus
George Relph - - - - Tiberius Caesar
André Morell - - - - Sextus

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0052618/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=6681

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000056BP4/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 55
Simon Birch

SYNOPSIS

This screen adaptation of John Irving's novel *A Prayer for Owen Meany* was appreciated much more by audiences than by the majority of disapproving critics. Irving's books have fared only moderately well on film, and while *The World According to Garp* garnered critical praise, *The Hotel New Hampshire* was waiting in the wings to counteract the fanfare. *Simon Birch* is one of those nostalgic movies--determined to view the past in rose-colored hues--despite the fact that its protagonist, a dwarf named Simon Birch, is wholeheartedly unsympathetic. The film opens weepily, with Jim Carrey as the adult version of the film's main character and narrator, Joe Wenteworth (played as a youth by the serious young actor Joseph Mazzello). He's mourning at the grave of his best childhood friend, Simon Birch, with whom he had bonded instantly because both were misfits--one a dwarf, the other illegitimate. The deck is stacked from the beginning, especially when the camera dwells on Joe's luscious mom, Rebecca (Ashley Judd), who refuses to reveal the identity of Joe's father, which in turn urges Simon and Joe to embark on a quest to discover Joe's paternity. In a plot point that resembles *The Scarlet Letter*, the tide of fate turns on the "immoral" mom just as she's on the verge of finding true love with a decent fellow (played by Oliver Platt). *Simon Birch* ultimately descends into crudeness, though it asks the audience to continue to engage with its crass lead character. By the end, the film is reduced to drivel, cliché, and melodrama to tug our heartstrings into submission. All the things that should have been the film's focus--guilt, self-loathing, and redemption--remain elusive. (1998, 110 minutes, PG). *Review by Paula Nechak.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Joseph Mazzello (Joe): Time is a monster that cannot be reasoned with

Ian Michael Smith (Simon): You're already a bastard. Might as well be an enlightened one.

Ian Michael Smith (Simon): If God's made the church bake sale a priority, we're in a lot of trouble.

Joseph Mazzello (Joe): I have faith. I just need proof to back it up.

Jan Hooks (Miss Leavey): The Star of Bethlehem is not a piñata!

Ian Michael Smith (Simon): Now get over there with the other flying monkeys, where you belong.

Jan Hooks (Miss Leavey): The Virgin Mary does not chew gum.

MAIN CAST

Ian Michael Smith - - - - Simon Birch
Joseph Mazzello - - - - Joseph 'Joe' Wenteworth
Ashley Judd - - - - Rebecca Wenteworth
Oliver Platt - - - - Ben Goodrich
David Strathairn - - - - Rev. Russell
Dana Ivey - - - - Grandmother Wenteworth
Beatrice Winde - - - - Hilde Grove
Jan Hooks - - - - Miss Leavey
Cecilley Carroll - - - - Marjorie
Sumela Kay - - - - Ann
Sam Morton - - - - Stuart
Jim Carrey - - - - Adult Joe Wenteworth
John Mazzello - - - - Simon Wenteworth
Holly Dennison - - - - Mrs. Birch
Peter MacNeill - - - - Mr. Birch

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0124879/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1998/09/091103.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0788815466/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 56
Miracle On 34th Street

SYNOPSIS

The original 1947 version of this Valentine Davies story follows the misadventures of Kris Kringle (Edmund Gwenn) as he gets a job playing Santa Claus at Macy's department store in New York City. Natalie Wood is the little girl who tells him she doesn't believe in Santa, and Maureen O'Hara and John Payne are the couple who help Kris through a trial in which he must prove he's the jolly fellow from the North Pole. A sweet movie and perennial Christmas favorite, this is one of those movies that gets under your skin and must be revisited every so often. (1947, 96 minutes, NR). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

John Payne (Fred): Look Doris, someday you're going to find that your way of facing this realistic world just doesn't work. And when you do, don't overlook those lovely intangibles. You'll discover those are the only things that are worthwhile.

John Payne (Fred): Faith is believing when common sense tells you not to

Gene Lockhart (Judge Harper): The District Attorney's a Republican.

MAIN CAST

Maureen O'Hara - - - - Doris Walker
John Payne - - - - Fred Gailey
Edmund Gwenn - - - - Kris Kringle
Gene Lockhart - - - - Judge Henry X. Harper
Natalie Wood - - - - Susan Walker
Porter Hall - - - - Mr. Granville M. Sawyer
William Frawley - - - - Charles Halloran
Jerome Cowan - - - - District Attorney Thomas Mara
Philip Tonge - - - - Mr. Shellhammer

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0039628/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=7127

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00000K3CK/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 57
E.T.

SYNOPSIS

Steven Spielberg's 1982 hit about a stranded alien and his loving relationship with a fatherless boy (Henry Thomas) struck a chord with audiences everywhere, and it furthered Spielberg's reputation as a director of equally strong commercial sensibilities and classical leanings. Henry Thomas gives a strong, emotional performance as E.T.'s young friend, Robert MacNaughton and Drew Barrymore make a solid impression as his siblings, and Dee Wallace is lively as the kids' mother. The special effects almost look a bit quaint now with all the computer advancements that have occurred since, but they also have more heart behind them than a lot of what we see today. (1982, 115 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

E.T. : E.T. phone home.

Henry Thomas (Elliott): You could be happy here, I could take care of you. I wouldn't let anybody hurt you. We could grow up together, E.T.

Henry Thomas (Elliott): You must be dead, because I don't know how to feel. I can't feel anything anymore.

Drew Barrymore (Gertie): I taught him how to talk. He can talk now.

Robert MacNaughton (Michael): We're all going to die and they're never going to give me my license!

MAIN CAST

Henry Thomas - - - - Elliott
Dee Wallace-Stone - - - - Mary
Robert MacNaughton - - - - Michael
Drew Barrymore - - - - Gertie
Peter Coyote - - - - Keys
K.C. Martel - - - - Greg
Sean Frye - - - - Steve

C. Thomas Howell - - - - Tyler

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0083866/

ROGER EBERT: SUN-TIMES
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/greatmovies/et.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CX9Q/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 58
American Beauty

SYNOPSIS

From its first gliding aerial shot of a generic suburban street, *American Beauty* moves with a mesmerizing confidence and acuity epitomized by Kevin Spacey's calm narration. Spacey is Lester Burnham, a harried Everyman whose midlife awakening is the spine of the story, and his very first lines hook us with their teasing fatalism--like *Sunset Boulevard*'s Joe Gillis, Burnham tells us his story from beyond the grave. It's an audacious start for a film that justifies that audacity. Weaving social satire, domestic tragedy, and whodunit into a single package, Alan Ball's first theatrical script dares to blur generic lines and keep us off balance, winking seamlessly from dark, scabrous comedy to deeply moving drama. The Burnham family joins the cinematic short list of great dysfunctional American families, as Lester is pitted against his manic, materialistic realtor wife, Carolyn (Annette Bening, making the most of a mostly unsympathetic role) and his sullen, contemptuous teenaged daughter, Jane (Thora Birch, utterly convincing in her edgy balance of self-absorption and wistful longing). Into their lives come two catalytic outsiders. A young cheerleader (Mena Suvari) jolts Lester into a sexual epiphany that blooms into a second adolescence. And an eerily calm young neighbor (Wes Bentley) transforms both Lester and Jane with his canny influence. Credit another big-screen newcomer, English theatrical director Sam Mendes, with expertly juggling these potentially disjunctive elements into a superb ensemble piece that achieves a stylized pace without lapsing into transparent self-indulgence. Mendes has shrewdly insured his success with a solid crew of stage veterans, yet he's also made an inspired discovery in Bentley, whose Ricky Fitts becomes a fulcrum for both plot and theme. Cinematographer Conrad Hall's sumptuous visual design further elevates the film, infusing the beige interiors of the Burnhams' lives with vivid bursts of deep crimson, the color of roses--and of blood. (1999, 122 minutes, R). *Review by Sam Sutherland.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Kevin Spacey (Lester): You don't get to tell me what to do ever again.

Kevin Spacey (Lester): I feel like I've been in a coma for the past twenty years. And I'm just now waking up.

Kevin Spacey (Lester): Nope, I'm just an ordinary guy with nothing to lose.

Kevin Spacey (Lester): Remember those posters that said, "Today is the first day of the rest of your life"? Well, that's true of every day but one --- the day you die.

Mena Suvari (Angela): I don't think that there's anything worse than being ordinary.

MAIN CAST

Kevin Spacey - - - - Lester Burnham
Annette Bening - - - - Carolyn Burnham
Thora Birch - - - - Jane Burnham
Wes Bentley - - - - Ricky Fitts
Mena Suvari - - - - Angela Hayes
Peter Gallagher - - - - Buddy Kane
Allison Janney - - - - Barbara Fitts
Chris Cooper - - - - Colonel Frank Fitts
Scott Bakula - - - - Jim Olmeyer
Sam Robards - - - - Jim Berkley
Barry Del Sherman - - - - Brad Dupree

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0169547/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1999/09/092401.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CWL6/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 59
When Harry Met Sally

SYNOPSIS

Nora Ephron wrote the brisk screenplay for this 1989 romantic comedy, director Rob Reiner made a nicely glossy New York story (very much in a Woody Allen vein) out of it, and Billy Crystal's unstoppable charm made it something really special. Crystal and Meg Ryan play longtime platonic friends who keep dancing around their deeper feelings for one another, and Bruno Kirby and Carrie Fisher are their respective pals who fall in love and get married. Ryan doesn't get a lot of funny material, but her performance is typically alive and intuitive, and she more than holds her own with Crystal's comic motor mouth and sweet sentimentality. Reiner is on comfortable ground, liberated from the burden of making serious statements in the lead-footed manner of subsequent features. (1989, 95 minutes, R). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Billy Crystal (Harry): I've been doing a lot of thinking, and the thing is, I love you.

Billy Crystal (Harry): Right now everything is great, everyone is happy, everyone is in love and that is wonderful! But you gotta know that sooner or later you're gonna be screaming at each other about who's gonna get this dish. This eight dollar dish will cost you a thousand dollars in phone calls to the legal firm of That's Mine, This Is Yours.

Billy Crystal (Harry): Had my dream again where I'm making love, and the Olympic judges are watching. I'd nailed the compulsories, so this is it, the finals. I got a 9.8 from the Canadians, a perfect 10 from the Americans, and my mother, disguised as an East German judge, gave me a 5.6. Must have been the dismount.

Billy Crystal (Harry): You know, I have a theory that hieroglyphics are just an ancient comic strip about a character named Sphinxy.

Billy Crystal (Harry): I came here tonight because when you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible.

Meg Ryan (Sally): Most women at one time or another have faked it.

Woman Customer: I'll have what she's having.

MAIN CAST

Billy Crystal - - - - Harry Burns
Meg Ryan - - - - Sally Albright
Carrie Fisher - - - - Marie
Bruno Kirby - - - - Jess
Steven Ford - - - - Joe
Lisa Jane Persky - - - - Alice
Michelle Nicastro - - - - Amanda Reese

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0098635/

Roger Ebert-Sun-times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1989/07/362918.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXDC/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 60
Stand By Me

SYNOPSIS

A sleeper hit when released in 1986, *Stand by Me* is based on Stephen King's novella "The Body" (from the book *Different Seasons*); but it's more about the joys and pains of boyhood friendship than a morbid fascination with corpses. It's about four boys ages 12 and 13 (Wil Wheaton, River Phoenix, Corey Feldman, Jerry O'Connell) who take an overnight hike through the woods near their Oregon town to find the body of a boy who's been missing for days. Their journey includes a variety of scary adventures (including a ferocious junkyard dog, a swamp full of leeches, and a treacherous leap from a train trestle), but it's also a time for personal revelations, quiet interludes, and the raucous comradeship of best friends. Set in the 1950s, the movie indulges an overabundance of anachronistic profanity and a kind of idealistic, golden-toned nostalgia (it's told in flashback as a story written by Wheaton's character as an adult, played by Richard Dreyfuss). But it's delightfully entertaining from start to finish, thanks to the rapport among its young cast members and the timeless, universal themes of friendship, family, and the building of character and self-esteem. Kiefer Sutherland makes a memorable teenage villain, and look closely for John Cusack in a flashback scene as Wheaton's now-deceased and dearly missed brother. A genuine crowd-pleaser, this heartfelt movie led director Rob Reiner to even greater success with his next film, *The Princess Bride*. (1986, 89 minutes, R). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Wil Wheaton (Gordie): Suck my fat one you cheap dime store hood.

Corey Feldman (Teddy): Come on guys, by the time we get there the kid won't be dead anymore.

Corey Feldman (Teddy): This is my age. I'm in the prime of my youth and I'll only be young once. River Phoenix (Chris): Yeah, but you're gonna be stupid for the rest of your life.

Jerry O'Connell (Vern): If I could only have one food for the rest of my life? That's easy. Cherry Pez. Cherry flavor Pez. There's no doubt about it.

Grown Gordie Voice: It happens sometimes. Friends come in and out of our lives like busboys in a restaurant.

MAIN CAST

Wil Wheaton - - - - Gordie Lachance
River Phoenix - - - - Chris Chambers
Corey Feldman - - - - Teddy Duchamp
Jerry O'Connell - - - - Vern Tessio
Gary Riley - - - - Charlie Hogan
Kiefer Sutherland - - - - Ace Merrill
Casey Siemaszko - - - - Billy Tessio
Bradley Gregg - - - - Eyeball Chambers
Jason Oliver - - - - Vince Desjardins
Marshall Bell - - - - Mr. Lachance
Frances Lee McCain - - - - Mrs. Lachance
Bruce Kirby - - - - Mr. Quidacioluo
William Bronder - - - - Milo Pressman
Scott Beach - - - - Mayor Grundy
Richard Dreyfuss - - - - The Writer

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0092005/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/ShowMovie.asp?MI=11455

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0800141628/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 61
Out of Africa

SYNOPSIS

Sydney Pollack's 1985 multiple-Oscar winner is a sumptuous and emotionally satisfying film about the life of Danish writer Karen Blixen (Meryl Streep), better known as Isak Dinesen, who travels to Kenya to be with her German husband (Klaus Maria Brandauer) but falls for an English adventurer (Robert Redford). The film is slow in developing the relationship, but it is rich in beautiful images of Africa and in the romantic tone surrounding Blixen's gradual discovery of her life and voice. One downside: while we may all love Redford, he is as convincingly British as Kevin Costner is in *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*. (1985, 150 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Meryl Streep (Karen): I had a farm in Africa.

Meryl Streep (Karen): He even took the gramophone on safari. Three rifles, supplies for a month, and Mozart.

Meryl Streep (Karen): If I know a song of Africa, of the giraffe and the African new moon lying on her back, of the plows in the fields and the sweaty faces of the coffee pickers, does Africa know a song of me? Will the air over the plain quiver with a color that I have had on, or the children invent a game in which my name is, or the full moon throw a shadow over the gravel of the drive that was like me, or will the eagles of the Ngong Hills look out for me?

Meryl Streep (Karen): Perhaps he knew, as I didn't, that the Earth was made round so that we would not see too far down the road.

MAIN CAST

Meryl Streep - - - - Karen Christence Dinesen Blixen-Finecke
Robert Redford - - - - Denys George Finch Hatton
Klaus Maria Brandauer - - - - Baron Bror Blixen-Finecke
Michael Kitchen - - - - Berkeley Cole

Malick Bowens - - - - Farah
Joseph Thiaka - - - - Kamante
Stephen Kinyanjui - - - - Kinanjui
Michael Gough - - - - Lord Delamere
Suzanna Hamilton - - - - Felicity
Rachel Kempson - - - - Lady Belfield
Graham Crowden - - - - Lord Belfield
Leslie Phillips - - - - Sir Joseph
Mike Bugara - - - - Juma
Shane Rimmer - - - - Belknap, farm manager
Job Seda - - - - Kanuthia

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0089755/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1985/12/42194.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0783240171/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 62
The Patriot

SYNOPSIS

Aimed directly at a mainstream audience, *The Patriot* qualifies as respectable entertainment, but anyone expecting a definitive drama about the American Revolution should look elsewhere. Rising above the blatant crowd pleasing of *Stargate*, *Independence Day*, and *Godzilla*, director Roland Emmerich crafts a marvelous re-creation of South Carolina in the late 1770s (aided immeasurably by cinematographer Caleb Deschanel), and Robert Rodat's screenplay offers the same balance of epic scale and emotional urgency that elevated his earlier script for *Saving Private Ryan*. Unfortunately, Emmerich embraces clichés and hackneyed melodrama that a more gifted director would have avoided. Instead of attempting a truly great film about the most pivotal years of American history, Emmerich settles for a standard revenge plot with the Revolutionary War as an incidental backdrop. On those terms, the film is engrossing and sufficiently intelligent, especially when militia leader Benjamin Martin (Mel Gibson) cagily negotiates with British General Cornwallis (Tom Wilkinson) in one of the most rewarding scenes. For the most part, the story concerns Martin's anguished quest for revenge against ruthless redcoat Colonel Tavington (played with snide relish by Jason Isaacs), and the rise to manhood of Martin's eldest son, Gabriel (Heath Ledger), whose battlefield honor exceeds even that of his brutally volatile father. At its best, *The Patriot* conveys the horror of war among innocent civilians, and the epic battle scenes, while by no means masterful, are graphically intense and impressive. And although Ledger's love interest (Lisa Brenner) is too bland to register much emotion, the focus on family (which frequently relegates the war to background history) provides a suitable vehicle for Gibson, who matches his achievement in *Braveheart* with an effectively brooding performance. (2000, 164 minutes, R). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Jason Isaacs (William): You know, it's dirty business doing one's duty... but just occasionally it's a real pleasure.

Mel Gibson (Benjamin): Before this war is over, I'm going to kill you.

Mel Gibson (Benjamin): I have done nothing. And for that I am ashamed.

Mel Gibson (Benjamin): Aim small, miss small.

Jason Isaacs (William): Let it be known if you harbor the enemy you will lose your home.

Leon Rippy (John): I say we drink the wine, eat the dogs, and use the paper for musket lining.

Skye McCole Bartusiak (Susan): Papa! Papa please don't go. I say anything, just tell me what you want me to say and I'll say it. Papa please to don't go-oo.

MAIN CAST

Mel Gibson - - - - Benjamin Martin
Heath Ledger - - - - Gabriel Martin
Joely Richardson - - - - Charlotte Selton
Jason Isaacs - - - - William Tavington
Chris Cooper - - - - Harry Burwell
Tchéky Karyo - - - - Jean Villeneuve
Rene Auberjonois - - - - Rev. Oliver
Lisa Brenner - - - - Anne Patricia Howard
Tom Wilkinson - - - - Charles Cornwallis
Donal Logue - - - - Dan Scott
Leon Rippy - - - - John Billings
Adam Baldwin - - - - Capt. Wilkins
Jay Arlen Jones - - - - Occam
Joey D. Vieira - - - - Peter Howard
Gregory Smith - - - - Thomas Martin
Skye McCole Bartusiak - - - - Susan Martin
Mika Boorem - - - - Margaret Martin
Bryan Chafin - - - - Samuel Martin
Logan Lerman - - - - William Martin

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0187393/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.Suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2000/06/062801.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00004XPPG/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 63
Lawrence of Arabia

SYNOPSIS

There's no getting around a simple, basic truth: watching *Lawrence of Arabia* in any home-video format represents a compromise. There's no better way to appreciate this epic biographical adventure than to see it projected in 70 millimeter onto a huge theater screen. That caveat aside, David Lean's masterful "desert classic" is still enjoyable on the small screen, especially if viewed in widescreen format. (If your only option is to view a "pan & scan" version, it's best not to bother; this is a film for which the widescreen format is utterly mandatory.) Peter O'Toole gives a star-making performance as T.E. Lawrence, the eccentric British officer who united the desert tribes of Arabia against the Turks during World War I. Lean orchestrates sweeping battle sequences and breathtaking action, but the film is really about the adventures and trials that transform Lawrence into a legendary man of the desert. Lean traces this transformation on a vast canvas of awesome physicality; no other movie has captured the expanse of the desert with such scope and grandeur. Equally important is the psychology of Lawrence, who remains an enigma even as we grasp his identification with the desert. Perhaps the greatest triumph of this landmark film is that Lean has conveyed the romance, danger, and allure of the desert with such physical and emotional power. It's a film about a man who leads one life but is irresistibly drawn to another, where his greatness and mystery are allowed to flourish in equal measure. (1962, British, 216 minutes, NR). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Peter O'Toole (T.E. Lawrence): Do you think I'm just anyone? Do you?

Peter O'Toole (T.E. Lawrence): I pray that I may never see the desert again. Hear me, God.

Anthony Quayle (Col. Brighton): Damn it Lawrence! Who do you take your orders from?

Peter O'Toole (T.E. Lawrence): I cannot fiddle but I can make a great state of a small city.

Claude Rains (Mr. Dryden): A man who tells lies, like me, merely hides the truth. But a man who tells half-lies has forgotten where he put it.

MAIN CAST

Peter O'Toole - - - - T.E. Lawrence
Alec Guinness - - - - Prince Feisal
Anthony Quinn - - - - Auda abu Tayi
Jack Hawkins - - - - Gen. Allenby
Omar Sharif - - - - Sherif Ali ibn el Kharish
José Ferrer - - - - Turkish Bey
Anthony Quayle - - - - Col. Harry Brighton
Claude Rains - - - - Mr. Dryden
Arthur Kennedy - - - - Jackson Bentley
Donald Wolfit - - - - Gen. Murray

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0056172/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/greatmovies/lawrence_of_arabia.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXB2/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 64
The Natural

SYNOPSIS

From the sun-dappled heartland, a young man (Robert Redford, in soft lighting) emerges as maybe the best baseball player anybody's ever seen. On his way to the majors, he is cut down by an enigmatic black widow (Barbara Hershey) and vanishes for many years. When he reemerges, a silent mystery, he lands a spot with the New York team and begins tearing up the league--he's still the natural. Fans of the Bernard Malamud novel will be dismayed at the pure mythical hokum of this film, but baseball fanatics have been known to watch and rewatch this one; after all, it's constructed as a kind of shrine to the national pastime. Barry Levinson (*Rain Man*) directs the movie with an unabashed devotion to the game, although the film could use more of the realities of chewing tobacco and pine tar. Redford is fine, and Kim Basinger and Oscar-nominated Glenn Close are effective as the women in his life. The crowning touch is the soaring, extraordinary music by Randy Newman, the singer-songwriter turned orchestral composer. (1984, 134 minutes, PG).
Review by Robert Horton.
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Robert Redford (Roy): Red, it took me sixteen years to get here. You play me, and I'll give ya the best I got.

Robert Redford (Roy): My life didn't turn out the way I expected.
Robert Redford (Roy): Pick me out a winner Bobby.

Wilford Brimley (Pop Fisher): Well you're better than any player I ever had. And you're the best God damn hitter I ever saw. Suit up.

MAIN CAST

Robert Redford - - - - Roy Hobbs
Robert Duvall - - - - Max Mercy
Glenn Close - - - - Iris Gaines
Kim Basinger - - - - Memo Paris
Wilford Brimley - - - - Pop Fisher
Barbara Hershey - - - - Harriet Bird
Robert Prosky - - - - The Judge
Richard Farnsworth - - - - Red Blow

Joe Don Baker - - - - The Whammer
John Finnegan - - - - Sam Simpson
Alan Fudge - - - - Ed Hobbs
Paul Sullivan Jr. - - - - Young Roy
Rachel Hall - - - - Young Iris
Robert Rich III - - - - Ted Hobbs
Michael Madsen - - - - Bartholomew 'Bump' Bailey

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0087781/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=8274

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000056WQX/selfimproveme onl/

Movie # 65
On Golden Pond

SYNOPSIS

Writer Ernest Thompson, who came up with the original stage play of *On Golden Pond* and adapted it for film, is lucky to have two giants of the screen give dignity and breadth to his sometimes trite dialogue. Henry Fonda, in his last role, plays a prickly English professor at the disagreeable age of 80. Visiting his summer house by a Maine lake with his wife (Katharine Hepburn), the old man forges an unlikely bond with a lonely boy, comes to terms with his daughter (Jane Fonda), and suffers disorienting effects of mild dementia. Even playing a tired old man, Fonda is an absolute lion of a movie star, and Hepburn brings her special spirit to the part of his worried bride. The onscreen relationship between Henry and Jane Fonda naturally makes one think about their much-discussed difficulties offscreen, but that's a side benefit in a movie that is really just a celebration of simple human decency. Directed by Mark Rydell (*Harry and Walter Go to New York*). The DVD release has widescreen presentation, director's commentary, documentary footage on the making of the film, theatrical trailer, notes and information about the production, and optional Spanish subtitles. (1981, 109 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Doug McKeon (Billy Ray): So, I heard you turned 80 today.
Henry Fonda (Norman): Is that what you heard?
Doug McKeon (Billy Ray): Yeah. Man, that's really old.
Henry Fonda (Norman): You should meet my father.
Doug McKeon (Billy Ray): Your father's still alive?
Henry Fonda (Norman): No, but you should meet him.

MAIN CAST

Katharine Hepburn - - - - Ethel Thayer
Henry Fonda - - - - Norman Thayer Jr.
Jane Fonda - - - - Chelsea Thayer Wayne
Doug McKeon - - - - Billy Ray
Dabney Coleman - - - - Bill Ray
William Lanteau - - - - Charlie Martin

Christopher Rydell - - - - Sumner Todd

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0082846/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/ShowMovie.asp?MI=9282

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0784011648/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 66
Dangerous Minds

SYNOPSIS

This "To Ma'am with Love" is much more an escapist popcorn movie than the inner-city document its marketing suggested. Michelle Pfeiffer plays real-life former Marine Louanne Johnson, a high school English teacher who meets resistance from kids and administration alike at a tough urban school in Northern California. Pfeiffer is good, and her character's overall development even survives various post-production story cuts. (A romance with Andy Garcia's character was completely eliminated before release; Garcia is nowhere in sight.) The actors who play Johnson's students are also fine, and the whole film becomes the latest in a long tradition of sentimental movies about teachers who change the lives of kids. (1995, 95 minutes, R).
Review by Tom Keogh
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Michelle Pfeiffer (Louanne): There are no victims in this classroom.

Michelle Pfeiffer (Louanne):What should i tell them? If they dont want to die remember to knock?

Courtney B. Vance (Mr. Grandey☺ This wouldn't happened to have been their reward for reading poetry would it?
Michelle Pfeiffer (Louanne):In my classroom, poetry is its own reward.

MAIN CAST

Michelle Pfeiffer - - - - Louanne Johnson
George Dzundza - - - - Hal Griffith
Courtney B. Vance - - - - Mr. George Grandey
Robin Bartlett - - - - Ms. Carla Nichols
Beatrice Winde - - - - Mary Benton
Lorraine Toussaint - - - - Irene Roberts
Renoly Santiago - - - - Raul Sanchero
Wade Dominguez - - - - Emilio Ramirez
Idina Harris - - - - Callie Roberts
Marcello Thedford - - - - Cornelius Bates

Roberto Alvarez - - - - Gusmaro Rivera
Richard Grant - - - - Durrell Benton
Marisela Gonzales - - - - Angela
Toni Nichelle Buzhardt - - - - Nikki

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0112792/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1995/08/991984.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=6305428271/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 67
Defending Your Life

SYNOPSIS

Albert Brooks proves there's laughs after death with this almost heavenly comedy--almost heaven as in Judgment City, where recently perished Daniel Miller (Brooks) learns whether he is worthy of advancing to a higher plane of existence or will be sent back to earth for another incarnation. His fate will be determined in a very special trial, during which scenes from his life are replayed on a giant screen. "Isn't it realistic?" a judge asks. "It makes some people nauseous." While the steely prosecutor (Lee Grant) will try to prove that Daniel failed in life to face his fears and insecurities, his glad-handing, reassuring defender (Rip Torn) will argue on behalf of this hapless "little brain" (a Judgment City term for residents of earth). As Woody Allen did for the future in *Sleeper*, so does Brooks create an original vision of the afterlife. In Judgment City, white-robed residents can eat as much as they want without guilt or fear of gaining weight. They can also visit the Past Lives Pavilion, where they are greeted by a hologram of--who else--Shirley MacLaine. Daniel finds himself touched by an angel. Meryl Streep gives an enchanting performance as Julia, whose exemplary life is in stark contrast to his. During her trial, the court watches in rapture as she saves not only children, but a cat from a burning building. Daniel and Julia are a match made in Judgment City, but first Daniel must summon up the courage to express his true feelings for her, or she will surely advance without him. *Defending Your Life* is Brooks's most ambitious film and, with *Mother*, his most accessible. (1991, 111 minutes, PG). *Review by Donald Liebenson.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Rip Torn (Bob): Nope, it isn't Hell either. Actually, there is no Hell. Although I hear Los Angeles is getting pretty close.

Roger Behr(Comedian): Well, there's a nice-looking young man over there. Hi, how'd ya die?
Albert Brooks (Daniel): On stage, like you.

Meryl Streep (Julia): Yeah. Where are you staying?
Albert Brooks (Daniel): Obviously at the place for people that weren't very

generous and didn't adopt anybody. I'm at the Continental. Come over one day; we'll paint it.

MAIN CAST

Albert Brooks - - - - Daniel Miller
Michael Durrell - - - - Agency head
Meryl Streep - - - - Julia
Rip Torn - - - - Bob Diamond
James Eckhouse - - - - Jeep owner
Gary Beach - - - - Car salesman
Julie Cobb - - - - Tram guide
Peter Schuck - - - - Stan
Time Winters - - - - Porter
Sharlie Stuart - - - - Susan
Roger Behr ... Comedian

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0101698/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1991/04/643137.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000056WRG/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 68
Cool Runnings

SYNOPSIS

Based on an improbable but true story, *Cool Runnings* concerns the Jamaican bobsled team that competed in the 1988 Winter Olympics. Director Jon Turteltaub (*Phenomenon*) does a fine job with both the absurdity of the situation (the athletes had never even seen snow) and the passion behind it (their desire to compete and win). John Candy, in one of his last roles, is touching as a disgraced coach who seizes the opportunity to work with the Jamaicans as a chance for redemption. The bobsled scenes look good, and the races are exciting. The climax, which is entirely unexpected, takes the film to a wholly different level, even if events in the story don't quite match the facts. (1993, 97 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

John Candy (Irv): Our Father, who art in Calgary, bobsled be thy name. Thy kingdom come, gold medals won, on Earth as it is in turn seven...

Doug E. Doug (Sanka): One for the rhythm! Two for the rhyme! Three for the feeling! It's bobsled time!

Doug E. Doug (Sanka): I'm freezing my royal Rastafarian na-nas off!

Leon (Derice): Sanka, you dead?
Doug E. Doug (Sanka): Ya man.

Doug E. Doug (Sanka): Greetings, sled god.

Yul Brenner (Malik): You see Junior? Well, let me tell you what I see. I see pride! I see power! I see a bad-ass mother who don't take no crap off of nobody!

MAIN CAST

Leon - - - - Derice Bannock
Doug E. Doug - - - - Sanka Coffie

Rawle D. Lewis - - - - Junior Bevil
Malik Yoba - - - - Yul Brenner
John Candy - - - - Irving 'Irv' Blitzer
Raymond J. Barry - - - - Kurt Hemphill
Peter Outerbridge - - - - Josef Grool
Paul Coeur - - - - Roger
Larry Gilman - - - - Larry
Charles Hyatt - - - - Whitby Bevil Sr.
Winston Stona - - - - Coolidge
Bertina Macauley - - - - Joy Bannock
Pauline Stone Myrie - - - - Momma Coffie
Kristoffer Cooper - - - - Winston
Bill Dow - - - - Registration Official

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0106611/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1993/10/881524.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=6305428387/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 69
Beauty & the Beast

SYNOPSIS

The film that officially signaled Disney's animation renaissance (following *The Little Mermaid*) and the only animated feature to receive a Best Picture Oscar nomination, *Beauty and the Beast* remains the yardstick by which all other animated films should be measured. It relates the story of Belle, a bookworm with a dotty inventor for a father; when he inadvertently offends the Beast (a prince whose heart is too hard to love anyone besides himself), Belle boldly takes her father's place, imprisoned in the Beast's gloomy mansion. Naturally, Belle teaches the Beast to love. What makes this such a dazzler, besides the amazingly accomplished animation and the winning coterie of supporting characters (the Beast's mansion is overrun by quipping, dancing household items) is the array of beautiful and hilarious songs by composer Alan Menken and the late, lamented lyricist Howard Ashman. (The title song won the 1991 Best Song Oscar, and Menken's score scored a trophy as well.) The downright funniest song is "Gaston," a lout's paean to himself (including the immortal line, "I use antlers in all of my de-co-ra-ting"). "Be Our Guest" is transformed into an inspired Busby Berkeley homage. Since Ashman's passing, animated musicals haven't quite reached the same exhilarating level of wit, sophistication, and pure joy. (1991, 85 minutes, G). *Review by David Kronke.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

David Ogden Stiers (Cogsworth): This is yet another example of the late neoclassical baroque period. And as I always say, if it's not baroque, don't fix it!

Jerry Orbach (Lumiere): Master, I could be wrong, but that may not be the best way to win the girl's affections.

Richard White (Gaston): It's not normal for a woman to read! Soon she starts getting *ideas*, and *thinking*...

MAIN CAST

Paige O'Hara - - - - Belle (voice)

Robby Benson - - - - Beast (voice)
Richard White - - - - Gaston (voice)
Jerry Orbach - - - - Lumiere (voice)
David Ogden Stiers - - - - Cogsworth/Narrator (voice)
Angela Lansbury - - - - Mrs. Potts (voice)
Bradley Pierce - - - - Chip (voice)
Rex Everhart - - - - Maurice (voice)
Jesse Corti - - - - Lefou (voice)
Hal Smith - - - - Philippe (voice)
Jo Anne Worley - - - - Wardrobe (voice)
Mary Kay Bergman - - - - Bimbette (voice)
Brian Cummings - - - - Stove (voice)
Alvin Epstein - - - - Bookseller (voice)
Tony Jay - - - - Monsieur D'Arque (voice)

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0101414/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2002/01/010102.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CX8Y/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 70
The Princess Bride

SYNOPSIS

Screenwriter William Goldman's novel *The Princess Bride* earned its own loyal audience on the strength of its narrative voice and its gently satirical, hyperbolic spin on swashbuckled adventure that seemed almost purely literary. For all its derring-do and vivid over-the-top characters, the book's joy was dictated as much by the deadpan tone of its narrator and a winking acknowledgement of the clichés being sent up. Miraculously, director Rob Reiner and Goldman himself managed to visualize this romantic fable while keeping that external voice largely intact: using a storytelling framework, avuncular Grandpa (Peter Falk) gradually seduces his skeptical grandson (Fred Savage) into the absurd, irresistible melodrama of the title story. And what a story: a lowly stable boy, Westley (Cary Elwes), pledges his love to the beautiful Buttercup (Robin Wright), only to be abducted and reportedly killed by pirates while Buttercup is betrothed to the evil Prince Humperdinck. Even as Buttercup herself is kidnapped by a giant, a scheming criminal mastermind, and a master Spanish swordsman, a mysterious masked pirate (could it be Westley?) follows in pursuit. As they sail toward the Cliffs of Insanity... The wild and woolly arcs of the story, the sudden twists of fate, and, above all, the cartoon-scaled characters all work because of Goldman's very funny script, Reiner's confident direction, and a terrific cast. Elwes and Wright, both sporting their best English accents, juggle romantic fervor and physical slapstick effortlessly, while supporting roles boast Mandy Patinkin (the swordsman Inigo Montoya), Wallace Shawn (the incredulous schemer Vizzini), and Christopher Guest (evil Count Rugen) with brief but funny cameos from Billy Crystal, Carol Kane, and Peter Cook. (1987, 98 minutes, PG). *Review by Sam Sutherland.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Cary Elwes (Westley): As you wish.

Wallace Shawn (Vizzini): Inconceivable!

Robin Wright Penn (Buttercup**)**: You mock my pain!
Cary Elwes (Dread Pirate Roberts): Life is pain, Highness.

Mandy Patinkin (Inigo): Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die.

Cary Elwes (Westley): There's a shortage of perfect breasts in this world. 'Twould be a pity to damage yours.

Billy Crystal (Miracle Max): Have fun storming the castle!

Fred Savage (The Grandson): I'm telling you, you're messing up the story. Now get it right!

MAIN CAST

Cary Elwes - - - - Westley/Dread Pirate Roberts
Mandy Patinkin - - - - Inigo Montoya
Chris Sarandon - - - - Prince Humperdinck
Christopher Guest - - - - Count Tyrone Rugen
Wallace Shawn - - - - Vizzini
André the Giant - - - - Fezzik
Fred Savage - - - - The Grandson
Robin Wright Penn - - - - Buttercup/The Princess Bride
Peter Falk - - - - The Grandfather
Peter Cook - - - - The Impressive Clergyman
Mel Smith - - - - The Albino
Carol Kane - - - - Valerie
Billy Crystal - - - - Miracle Max
Anne Dyson - - - - The Queen
Margery Mason - - - - The Ancient Booer

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0093779/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1987/10/257124.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005LOKQ/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 71
Terms of Endearment

SYNOPSIS

Larry McMurtry's novel becomes a somewhat lumpy film as directed by James L. Brooks (*As Good As It Gets*). Nevertheless, it is entirely winning, with Shirley MacLaine and Debra Winger playing a combative mother and daughter who see each other through various ups and downs in love and loss, and most especially through a terminal illness endured by Winger's character. Jack Nicholson deservedly won an Oscar for his supporting role as a free-spirited astronaut who backs away from a romance with MacLaine and then returns in the clutch. As he always does, Brooks keeps things from getting too soapy with his intense concentration on the soulful evolution of his characters. (1983, 132 minutes, R). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Shirley MacLaine (Aurora): Do you have any reaction at all to my telling you I love you? Jack Nicholson (Garrett): I was just inches from a clean getaway.

Shirley MacLaine (Aurora): I just didn't want you to think I was like one of your other girls. Jack Nicholson (Garrett): Not much chance of that unless you curtsy on my face real soon.

Jack Nicholson (Garrett): If you wanted to get me on my back, all you had to do was ask me.

Shirley MacLaine (Aurora): Gorgeous isn't everything.

Shirley MacLaine (Aurora): Don't worship me until I've earned it.

MAIN CAST

Shirley MacLaine - - - - Aurora Greenway
Debra Winger - - - - Emma Greenway Horton

Jack Nicholson - - - - Garrett Breedlove
Danny DeVito - - - - Vernon Dahlart
Jeff Daniels - - - - Flap Horton
John Lithgow - - - - Sam Burns
Lisa Hart Carroll - - - - Patsy Clark
Betty King - - - - Rosie Dunlop
Huckleberry Fox - - - - Teddy Horton
Troy Bishop - - - - Tommy Horton
Shane Serwin - - - - Younger Tommy Horton
Megan Morris - - - - Melanie Horton
Tara Yeakey - - - - Baby Melanie Horton
Norman Bennett - - - - Edward Johnson
Jennifer Josey - - - - Young Emma Greenway

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0086425/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/ShowMovie.asp?MI=23030

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000055ZF6/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 72
Stepmom

SYNOPSIS

Though *Stepmom* was dismissed as a contender in the 1998 Oscar race, it's worth giving a second chance to this rather cogent, sharp-tongued look at second chances. Susan Sarandon's performance as a mom about to be replaced by her ex-husband's new girlfriend (played by Julia Roberts) has a lot of bite, and it's a shame the script opted to marginalize and trivialize her plight in its final reel. Initially, the rancor that passes between divorced mom Jackie (Sarandon) and trendy fashion photographer Isabel (Roberts) rings true, aided by the sincerity of Jackie's ex-husband Luke (Ed Harris) and the emotional plight of their children, who have the most to lose in their parents' divorce. As the drama makes clear, the kids are the real victims in the agony that ensues between old and new love. Director Chris Columbus, who is adept at showing familial chaos (he directed *Mrs. Doubtfire* and *Home Alone*) with a sanitized minimum of lingering emotional damage, actually manages to dig a trifle deeper than usual in exploring the jealousy and hurt that occur when the baton is passed between a birth mom and the younger wife who steps into her shoes. *Stepmom* fortunately manages to touch on that chord--showing how an ambitious woman might feel hampered by the responsibility of children just because she's fallen in love with their dad--as well as the haunting grief that it causes their birth mom. It's an issue that haunts millions of second wives everywhere, and while Roberts conveys the confusion of being taken for granted in the melee that follows, it's Sarandon who walks off with the film. She's relentless in her fury, and everyone else in the film--the generally excellent Harris included--is sideswiped. It's just a shame that Hollywood once again wimps out in the end, solving the problem by giving Sarandon a terminal illness. Instead of allowing Jackie and Isabel's relationship to unfold on something less than a high note, the movie has to quell its best thing with a false payoff because it doesn't know what to do with real life. (1998, 124 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Paula Nechak.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Jena Malone (Anna): You never asked me if I wanted a new mother. You never even asked me if I liked her!

Jena Malone (Anna): Well, it kind of smells like you, and I'm allergic to you too, so it fits perfectly.

Julia Roberts (Isabel): Look down the road to her wedding. I'm in a room alone with her, fixing her veil, fluffing her dress, telling her no woman has ever looked so beautiful. And my fear is she'll think, "I wish my mom were here."

Julia Roberts (Isabel): I don't have to listen to you, you're not my mother!

Ed Harris (Luke): Maybe we should tell them the truth. They can handle it. It should've been me instead of you.

MAIN CAST

Julia Roberts - - - - Isabel Kelly
Susan Sarandon - - - - Jackie Harrison
Ed Harris - - - - Luke Harrison
Jena Malone - - - - Anna Harrison
Liam Aiken - - - - Ben Harrison
Lynn Whitfield - - - - Dr. P. Sweikert
Darrell Larson - - - - Duncan Samuels
Mary Louise Wilson - - - - Mrs. Franklin
Andre B. Blake - - - - Cooper

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0120686/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1998/12/122506.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0767821769/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 73
Casablanca

SYNOPSIS

A truly perfect movie, the 1942 *Casablanca* still wows viewers today, and for good reason. Its unique story of a love triangle set against terribly high stakes in the war against a monster is sophisticated instead of outlandish, intriguing instead of garish. Humphrey Bogart plays the allegedly apolitical club owner in unoccupied French territory that is nevertheless crawling with Nazis; Ingrid Bergman is the lover who mysteriously deserted him in Paris; and Paul Heinreid is her heroic, slightly bewildered husband. Claude Rains, Sydney Greenstreet, Peter Lorre, and Conrad Veidt are among what may be the best supporting cast in the history of Hollywood films. This is certainly among the most spirited and ennobling movies ever made. (1942, 102 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Claude Rains (Capt. Renault): I am making out the report now. We haven't quite decided if he committed suicide or died trying to escape.

Ingrid Bergman (Ilsa): Play it once, Sam. For old time's sake.

Humphrey Bogart (Rick): Here's looking at you, kid.

Humphrey Bogart (Rick): Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine.
Humphrey Bogart (Rick): We'll always have Paris.

Claude Rains (Capt. Renault): Round up the usual suspects.

Humphrey Bogart (Rick): Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

MAIN CAST

Humphrey Bogart - - - - Rick Blaine
Ingrid Bergman - - - - Ilsa Lund Laszlo
Paul Henreid - - - - Victor Laszlo

Claude Rains - - - - Capt. Louis Renault
Conrad Veidt - - - - Maj. Heinrich Strasser
Sydney Greenstreet - - - - Signor Ferrari
Peter Lorre - - - - Guillermo Ugarte
S.Z. Sakall - - - - Carl (Rick's Cafe manager)
Madeleine LeBeau - - - - Yvonne
Dooley Wilson - - - - Sam
Joy Page - - - - Annina Brandel
John Qualen - - - - Berger (Norwegian underground member)
Leonid Kinskey - - - - Sascha (bartender at Rick's Cafe)
Curt Bois - - - - Pickpocket

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0034583/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/greatmovies/casablanca.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=6305736650/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 74
A River Runs Through It

SYNOPSIS

A lyrical and nostalgic film from director Robert Redford (*Quiz Show*, *Ordinary People*), based on the popular autobiographical novel by Norman MacLean, *A River Runs Through It* shows the best that modern filmmaking has to offer. The film chronicles two brothers coming of age in early-20th-century Missoula, Montana, under the stern tutelage of their minister father, played by Tom Skerritt (*Top Gun*). Their father instills in them a love of fly fishing, which for one brother (Brad Pitt) becomes a lifelong passion even as he sets out to become a newspaperman and struggles with his addiction to gambling. The other brother, Norman (Craig Sheffer), dreams of exploring the world outside of Missoula as he falls in love with a local girl (Emily Lloyd) who also dreams of broader horizons. Soon one brother must discover the true meaning of family loyalty when the other finds himself in deeper trouble than ever before. Redford, who also narrates the film, does a masterful job in re-creating the period and in drawing out affecting performances from his young cast. An Oscar winner for Philippe Rousselot's luminescent cinematography, this is a poignant and special film. (1992, 124 minutes, PG). *Review by Robert Lane.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Robert Redford (Narrator): But when I am alone in the half light of the canyon all existence seems to fade to a being with my soul, and memories. And the sounds of the Big Black Foot River, and a four count rhythm, and the hope that a fish will rise. Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters."

Robert Redford (Narrator): It is those we live with and love and should know who elude us.

Craig Sheffer (Norman): Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over

rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs. I am haunted by waters.

Robert Redford (Narrator): It is those we live with and love and should know who elude us.

MAIN CAST

Craig Sheffer - - - - Norman Maclean
Brad Pitt - - - - Paul Maclean
Tom Skerritt - - - - Rev. Maclean
Brenda Blethyn - - - - Mrs. Maclean
Emily Lloyd - - - - Jessie Burns
Edie McClurg - - - - Mrs. Burns
Stephen Shellen - - - - Neal Burns
Robert Redford- - - -Narrator (uncredited)

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0105265/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1992/10/782296.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0767836359/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 75
Awakenings

SYNOPSIS

Based on the acclaimed book by neurologist Oliver Sacks, director Penny Marshall's hit 1990 drama stars Robin Williams as Dr. Malcolm Sayer. Sayer is a neurologist who discovers that the drug L-Dopa can be used to "unlock" patients in a mental hospital from the mysterious sleeping sickness that has left them utterly immobilized. Leonard (Robert De Niro) is one such patient who awakens after being in a comatose state for 30 years, leaving Sayer to guide Leonard in adjusting to the world around him. Penelope Ann Miller costars as the daughter of another patient, with whom Leonard falls tenuously in love. Earning Oscar nominations for best picture, actor, and screenplay, this moving fact-based drama was a hit with critics and audiences alike. (1990, 121 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Robin Williams (Dr. Sayer): You'd think all of these "atypical" somethings would add up to a typical something.

Alice Drummond (Lucy): I can't imagine being older than 22. I've no experience at it. I know it's not 1926. I just need it to be.

Robert De Niro (Leonard): It's quiet. Robin Williams (Dr. Sayer): Yes, everybody's sleeping. Robert De Niro (Leonard): I'm not.

Robert De Niro (Leonard): Hello. My name is Lenord Lowe. It has been explained to me that I've been away for a long time. I'm back.

Robin Williams (Dr. Sayer): I'm sorry, if you were right, I would agree with you.

MAIN CAST

Robert De Niro - - - - Leonard Lowe
Robin Williams - - - - Dr. Malcolm Sayer
Julie Kavner - - - - Nurse Eleanor Costello
Ruth Nelson - - - - Mrs. Lowe

John Heard - - - - Dr. Kaufman
Penelope Ann Miller - - - - Paula
Alice Drummond - - - - Lucy Fishman, Patient
Judith Malina - - - - Rose, Patient
Barton Heyman - - - - Bert
George Martin - - - - Frank, Patient
Anne Meara - - - - Miriam, Patient
Richard Libertini - - - - Sidney, Patient
Laura Esterman - - - - Lolly
Dexter Gordon - - - - Rolando
Jane Haynes - - - - Frances

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0099077/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/ShowMovie.asp?MI=34277

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0800177363/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 76
The Sixth Sense

SYNOPSIS

"I see dead people," whispers little Cole Sear (Haley Joel Osment), scared to affirm what is to him now a daily occurrence. This peaked 9-year old, already hypersensitive to begin with, is now being haunted by seemingly malevolent spirits. Child psychologist Malcolm Crowe (Bruce Willis) is trying to find out what's triggering Cole's visions, but what appears to be a psychological manifestation turns out to be frighteningly real. It might be enough to scare off a lesser man, but for Malcolm it's personal--several months before, he was accosted and shot by an unhinged patient, who then turned the gun on himself. Since then, Malcolm has been in turmoil--he and his wife (Olivia Williams) are barely speaking, and his life has taken an aimless turn. Having failed his loved ones and himself, he's not about to give up on Cole. This third feature by M. Night Shyamalan sets itself up as a thriller, poised on the brink of delivering monstrous scares, but gradually evolves into more of a psychological drama with supernatural undertones. Many critics faulted the film for being mawkish and New Age-y, but no matter how you slice it, this is one mightily effective piece of filmmaking. The bare bones of the story are basic enough, but the moody atmosphere created by Shyamalan and cinematographer Tak Fujimoto made this one of the creepiest pictures of 1999, forsaking excessive gore for a sinisterly simple feeling of chilly otherworldliness. Willis is in his strong, silent type mode here, and gives the film wholly over to Osment, whose crumpled face and big eyes convey a child too wise for his years; his scenes with his mother (Toni Collette) are small, heartbreaking marvels. And even if you figure out the film's surprise ending, it packs an amazingly emotional wallop when it comes, and will have you racing to watch the movie again with a new perspective. You may be able to shake off the sentimentality of *The Sixth Sense*, but its craftsmanship and atmosphere will stay with you for days. (1999, 107 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Mark Englehart.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Donnie Wahlberg (Vincent): Do you know why you're afraid when you're alone? I do. I do.

Haley Joel Osment (Cole): How can you help me if you don't believe me?

Haley Joel Osment (Cole): Some magic's real.

Haley Joel Osment (Cole): Sometimes when people think they lose things... they didn't really lose them, it just gets moved.

Haley Joel Osment (Cole): I see dead people.

MAIN CAST

Bruce Willis - - - - Malcolm Crowe
Haley Joel Osment - - - - Cole Sear
Toni Collette - - - - Lynn Sear
Olivia Williams - - - - Anna Crowe
Trevor Morgan - - - - Tommy Tammisimo
Donnie Wahlberg - - - - Vincent Grey
Peter Anthony Tambakis - - - - Darren
Jeffrey Zubernis - - - - Bobby
Bruce Norris - - - - Stanley Cunningham
Glenn Fitzgerald - - - - Sean
Greg Wood - - - - Mr. Collins
Mischa Barton - - - - Kyra Collins
Angelica Torn - - - - Mrs. Collins

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0167404/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1999/08/080607.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00004BZIY/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 77
The Breakfast Club

SYNOPSIS

John Hughes's popular 1985 teen drama finds a diverse group of high school students--a jock (Emilio Estevez), a metalhead (Judd Nelson), a weirdo (Ally Sheedy), a princess (Molly Ringwald), and a nerd (Anthony Michael Hall)--sharing a Saturday in detention at their high school for one minor infraction or another. Over the course of a day, they talk through the social barriers that ordinarily keep them apart, and new alliances are born, though not without a lot of pain first. Hughes (*Sixteen Candles*), who wrote and directed, is heavy on dialogue but he also thoughtfully refreshes the look of the film every few minutes with different settings and original viewpoints on action. The movie deals with such fundamentals as the human tendency toward bias and hurting the weak, and because the characters are caught somewhere between childhood and adulthood, it's easy to get emotionally involved in hope for their redemption. Preteen and teenage kids love this film, incidentally. The DVD release includes production notes, cast and crew bios, widescreen presentation, Dolby sound, closed captioning, optional French and Spanish soundtracks, and optional Spanish subtitles. (1985, 97 minutes, R). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Molly Ringwald (Claire): I hate it! I hate having to go along with everything my friends say!

Judd Nelson (John): Does Barry Manilow know that you raid his wardrobe?

Judd Nelson (John): Hey, how come Andrew gets to get up? If he gets up, we'll all get up, it'll be anarchy!

Paul Gleason (Principal Vernon): Don't mess with the bull, young man. You'll get the horns.

Anthony Michael Hall (Brian): Could you describe the ruckus, sir?

Judd Nelson (John): Screws just fall out all the time, the world is an imperfect place.

Anthony Michael Hall (Brian): Dear Mr. Vernon: We accept the fact that we had to sacrifice a whole Saturday in detention for whatever it is we did wrong, but we think you're crazy for making us write an essay telling you who we think we are. You see us as you want to see us: in the simplest terms, in the most convenient definitions. But what we found out is that each one of us is a brain, and an athlete, and a basket case, a princess, and a criminal. Does that answer your question? Sincerely yours, The Breakfast Club.

MAIN CAST

Emilio Estevez - - - - Andrew Clark
Paul Gleason - - - - Principal Richard Vernon
Anthony Michael Hall - - - - Brian Johnson
John Kapelos - - - - Carl the Janitor
Judd Nelson - - - - John Bender
Molly Ringwald - - - - Claire Standish
Ally Sheedy - - - - Allison Reynolds

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0088847/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/ShowMovie.asp?MI=22180

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B0000A98ZP/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 78
Lorenzo's Oil

SYNOPSIS

With this powerful 1992 drama, director-producer George Miller (*The Road Warrior*) proved that a movie about a disease doesn't have to be a typical disease-of-the-week movie. Based on the real-life case of the Odones family, the story concerns 5-year-old Lorenzo, suffering mightily from an apparently incurable and degenerative brain illness called A.L.D. His parents, an economist (Nick Nolte) and a linguist (Susan Sarandon), refuse to accept the received wisdom that there is no hope, and set about learning biochemistry to pursue a cure on their own. The film becomes an intriguing scientific mystery mixed with a story of pain, grief, and the strain on the two adults. In other words, *Lorenzo's Oil* is similar to all those medical-mayhem TV flicks but with some key differences: a pair of great actors in Sarandon and Nolte--who actually do some of the finest work of their careers here--and Miller's bold and typically inventive direction. Miller, a doctor himself, refuses to shirk from the chaos and horrors of a child's agony, and he makes us hear the death chains rattling behind images that would be purely sentimental in another director's hands. (1992, 129 minutes, PG-13).
Review by Tom Keogh.
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Nick Nolte (Augusto): Dr. Nikolias, what about the other boys, what results are you seeing in them?

Peter Ustinov (Prof. Nikolais): As with Lorenzo it's too early to tell. We need this study to run for the full six months.

Nick Nolte (Augusto): And that would tell you what is obvious right now? That avoiding apple skins and pizza has no effect on this brutal disease?

MAIN CAST

Nick Nolte - - - - Augusto Odone
Susan Sarandon - - - - Michaela Odone
Peter Ustinov - - - - Prof. Gus Nikolais
Kathleen Wilhoite - - - - Deirdre Murphy

Gerry Bamman - - - - Dr. Judalon
Margo Martindale - - - - Wendy Gimble
James Rebhorn - - - - Ellard Muscatine, ALD Foundation
Ann Hearn - - - - Loretta Muscatine, ALD Foundation
Maduka Steady - - - - Omuori
Mary Wakio - - - - Comorian Teacher
Don Suddaby - - - - Himself
Colin Ward - - - - Jake Gimble
LaTanya Richardson - - - - Nurse Ruth
Jennifer Dundas - - - - Nurse Nancy Jo
William Cameron - - - - Pellerman, Protochem Labs

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0104756/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1993/01/800178.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005JLUD/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 79
Powder

SYNOPSIS

For all its flaws, *Powder* is still worthwhile for attempting to be unique and well intentioned. The film's qualities were overshadowed after its 1995 release when it was revealed that writer-director Victor Salva had served 15 months in prison for molesting a child actor during production of the 1988 TV movie *Clownhouse*. Controversy aside, *Powder* is a welcome step off the beaten path with sufficient strengths to balance its weaknesses. Fantasy and drama combine in the story of a teenager known as Powder for his snow-white skin. Powder is introduced into a tiny Texas community after spending his entire life in his grandparents' basement. He's a wise genius, but an outcast, alienated by those who misunderstand and fear him. When a schoolmaster (Mary Steenburgen) and science teacher (Jeff Goldblum) discover that Powder has a capacity for empathic insight and possesses the power to control electricity, the unusual boy becomes a tragic Christ-like figure--peaceful, prophetic, and perhaps too good to survive in the real world. In telling this heartfelt story, *Powder* struggles to be all things to all viewers--equal parts *E.T.* and *The Elephant Man*--which compromises its overall impact. But even though it's not a great movie, it sincerely tries to accomplish something original and wonderful, and that's more than most movies can claim. (1995, 111 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Sean Patrick Flanery (Powder): If you say that my IQ is well beyond your IQ charts then why are you asking me if I understand what you're saying?

Brandon Smith (Deputy Duncan): I'm just saying that that's more than albino, Doug. That is spooky.

Sean Patrick Flanery (Powder): And then its possible to talk to someone without any lies. With no sarcasms, no deceptions, no exaggerations, or any of the other things people use to confuse the truth.

MAIN CAST

Mary Steenburgen - - - - Jessica 'J.C.' Caldwell

Sean Patrick Flanery - - - - Jeremy 'Powder' Reed
Lance Henriksen - - - - Sheriff Doug Barnum
Jeff Goldblum - - - - Donald Ripley
Brandon Smith - - - - Deputy Harley Duncan
Bradford Tatum - - - - John Box
Susan Tyrrell - - - - Maxine
Missy Crider - - - - Lindsey Kelloway
Ray Wise - - - - Dr. Aaron Stripler
Esteban Powell - - - - Mitch
Reed Frerichs - - - - Skye
Chad Cox - - - - Zane
Joe Marchman - - - - Brennan
Phil Hayes - - - - Greg Reed
Danette McMahon - - - - Emma Barnum

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0114168/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1995/10/1003857.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=630542845X/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 80
The Rookie

SYNOPSIS

Jim Morris, the real-life hero of *The Rookie*, has an inspirational story all but guaranteed to put a smile on anyone's face. Happily, this G-rated Disney drama, based on Morris's published memoir of the same title, is suitable for an all-ages audience. Blessed with an awesome fastball, Morris nursed dreams of pitching for Major League Baseball during his 20s; injuries and bad luck, however, forced him to give up hope and become a teacher and coach. Years later, pressed by students and colleagues to try out for "the Show" one more time, Morris discovered he still had a powerful arm, and he was signed by the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. *The Rookie* is at its best throughout this first chapter in Morris's midlife adventure, though the rest of the film finds fresh angles on more familiar baseball-movie conventions. Dennis Quaid is soulful and charismatic as Morris, perfect in his depiction of a man both thankful and startled that destiny has given one of the good guys his due. Appropriate for ages 4 and up. (2002, 127 minutes, G). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Rachel Griffiths (Lorri): Jim Morris, I'm a Texas woman, which means I have no need for a man to keep things running.

Dennis Quaid (Jimmy): You know what we get to do today, Brooks? We get to play baseball.

Blue Deckert (Scout Patterson): Twelve straight pitches, three radar guns. All said the same thing.

MAIN CAST

Dennis Quaid - - - - Jimmy Morris
Rachel Griffiths - - - - Lorri Morris
Jay Hernandez - - - - Joaquin 'Wack' Campos
Beth Grant - - - - Jimmy's Mother
Angus T. Jones - - - - Hunter Morris
Brian Cox - - - - Jim Morris Sr.

Rick Gonzalez - - - - Rudy Bonilla
Chad Lindberg - - - - Joe David West
Angelo Spizzirri - - - - Joel De La Garza
Royce D. Applegate - - - - Henry
Russell Richardson - - - - Brooks
Raynor Scheine - - - - Frank
David Blackwell - - - - Cal
Blue Deckert - - - - Baseball Scout Dave Patterson
Daniel Tucker Kamin - - - - Durham Manager Mac

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0265662/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2002/03/032904.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000068DBE/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 81
Men of Honor

SYNOPSIS

Men of Honor presents a great role model for younger viewers, yet it's rated R due to abundant use of the *F* word. With appropriate discretion, parents should allow their preteen and teenaged children to see this rousing if altogether conventional biopic inspired by the life of Carl Brashear. Played with gravity and gumption by Cuba Gooding Jr., Brashear was the first African American to become a master diver in the U.S. Navy, despite the lingering effects of segregation, opposition from Navy brass, and the amputation of his left leg following a tragic on-duty accident. Robert De Niro adds marquee value and salty bluster as Billy Sunday, the drunken, redneck (and fictionalized) Master Chief who watches, with gradual admiration, as Brashear attains his ultimate goal through sheer force of will. This is all quite uplifting on its surface, but in attempting to hit the requisite highlights of an inspiring biography, director George Tillman Jr. (*Soul Food*) reduces Brashear's achievement to a succession of clichés, forcing Gooding and De Niro to battle sentiment with their noteworthy performances. As Sunday's neglected wife, Charlize Theron is completely extraneous; Hal Holbrook's diving-school commander is a ranting caricature; and newcomer Aunjanue Ellis barely registers as Brashear's wife (in part because their obligatory romance is handled with an utter lack of finesse). There's no question that Brashear's efforts are heroic and worthy of recognition, so *Men of Honor* serves its basic purpose. Still, one can't help but wonder if Brashear's story would be even more impressive with a more authentic treatment. --*Jeff Shannon* (2000, 129 minutes, R). *Review by*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Robert De Niro (Billy): You think you're better than me? Cuba Gooding, Jr, (Carl): You're damn right I am!

Robert De Niro (Billy): What the hell did he ever say to make you try so hard? Cuba Gooding, Jr, (Carl): Be the best. Robert De Niro (Billy): Well, you are.

Robert De Niro (Billy): The Navy Diver is not a fighting man, he is a

salvage expert. If it is lost underwater, he finds it. If it's sunk, he brings it up. If it's in the way, he moves it. If he's lucky, he will die young, 200 feet beneath the waves, for that is the closest he'll ever get to being a hero.

Cuba Gooding, Jr. (Carl): Honor, sir.

MAIN CAST

Robert De Niro - - - - Master Chief Leslie W. 'Billy' Sunday
Cuba Gooding, Jr. - - - - BM2/Chief/Master Chief Carl Brashear
Charlize Theron - - - - Gwen Sunday
Aunjanue Ellis - - - - Jo
Hal Holbrook - - - - Capt. 'Mr. Pappy', CO, U.S. Navy Salvage School, Bayonne, NJ
Michael Rapaport - - - - GM1 Snowhill
Powers Boothe - - - - Capt. Pullman
David Keith - - - - Capt. Hartigan
Holt McCallany - - - - MM1 Dylan Rourke
Joshua Leonard - - - - PO2 Timothy Douglas Isert
Dennis Troutman - - - - Boots
Joshua Feinman - - - - DuBoyce
Theo Nicholas Pagones - - - - FC Mellegrano
Ryan Honey - - - - Surveyor 2nd Yarmouth
David Conrad - - - - Lt. (j.g.)/Lt. Cmdr./Capt. Hanks

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0203019/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2000/11/111002.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXPP/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 82
The Legend of Bagger Vance

SYNOPSIS

The Legend of Bagger Vance doesn't break any new ground, but with Steven Pressfield's inspirational novel to guide them, director Robert Redford and screenwriter Jeremy Leven have tilled fertile soil with a graceful touch. Redford does for golf what *A River Runs Through It* did for fly-fishing: the sport is a conduit for a philosophy of living, and Redford achieves the small miracle of making golf a central metaphor that's visually compelling. Set in Savannah, Georgia, during the early '30s, the story charts the redemption of disillusioned World War I veteran and former golf champion Rannulph Junuh (Matt Damon), who emerges from self-imposed obscurity in an exhibition match against legendary golfers Bobby Jones (Joel Gretsch) and Walter Hagen (Bruce McGill). Having earlier abandoned the socialite (Charlize Theron) who has organized the tournament to promote her late father's spectacular golf resort, Junuh now depends on the support of a young fan (perfectly cast newcomer J. Michael Moncrief) and the mysterious Bagger Vance (Will Smith), a smiling Jiminy Cricket who serves as Junuh's caddy, golf guru, and Socratic angel of mercy. As Junuh regains the "authentic swing" he feared was lost forever, Redford guides his splendid cast through a spiritual journey that is specific to the discipline of golf and yet potently universal. As always, Redford also conveys his respect for nature and the rhythms of life as well as a sweet nostalgia for simpler times and purer values. With the casting of Jack Lemmon as the film's present-day narrator and elderly version of Moncrief's character, *The Legend of Bagger Vance* gains even greater dignity and, indeed, the glowing aura of legend. (2000, 126 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Matt Damon (Rannulph): Anything else? Bagger Vance: Just bash the living shit out of it.

Charlize Theron (Adele): And now I'm supposed to run into your arms and melt like butter on a hot muffin?

Matt Damon (Rannulph): I'm not asking for your crown, Walter. If I wanted

it badly enough, I'd just take it.

Will Smith (Bagger): I hear you lost your swing. I guess we got to go find it.

Matt Damon (Rannulph): I can't do it, Bagger. It was too long ago! Bagger Vance: No it wasn't. It was just a moment ago.

J. Michael Moncrief (Hardy): A terrific shot! But into the woods, goddammit! Goddammit! I spend more time in the trees than the squirrels do.

MAIN CAST

Will Smith - - - - Bagger Vance
Matt Damon - - - - Rannulph Junuh
Charlize Theron - - - - Adele Invergordon
Bruce McGill - - - - Walter Hagen
Joel Gretsch - - - - Bobby Jones
J. Michael Moncrief - - - - Hardy Greaves
Lane Smith - - - - Grantland Rice
Peter Gerety - - - - Neskaloosa
Michael O'Neill - - - - O.B. Keeler
Thomas Jay Ryan - - - - Spec Hammond
Trip Hamilton - - - - Frank Greaves
Dermot Crowley - - - - Douglas McDermont
Harve Presnell - - - - John Invergordon
Danny Nelson - - - - McManus
Bob Penny - - - - Laidlaw

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0146984/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2000/11/110302.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXI4/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 83
The Pianist

SYNOPSIS

Winner of the prestigious Golden Palm award at the 2002 Cannes film festival, *The Pianist* is the film that Roman Polanski was born to direct. A childhood survivor of Nazi-occupied Poland, Polanski was uniquely suited to tell the story of Wladyslaw Szpilman, a Polish Jew and concert pianist (played by Adrien Brody) who witnessed the Nazi invasion of Warsaw, miraculously eluded the Nazi death camps, and survived throughout World War II by hiding among the ruins of the Warsaw ghetto. Unlike any previous dramatization of the Nazi holocaust, *The Pianist* steadfastly maintains its protagonist's singular point of view, allowing Polanski to create an intimate odyssey on an epic wartime scale, drawing a direct parallel between Szpilman's tenacious, primitive existence and the wholesale destruction of the city he refuses to abandon. Uncompromising in its physical and emotional authenticity, *The Pianist* strikes an ultimate note of hope and soulful purity. As with *Schindler's List,* it's one of the greatest films ever made about humanity's darkest chapter. (2002, 150 minutes, R). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Thomas Kretschmann (Captain Hosenfeld): Thank God, not me. He wants us to survive. Well, that's what we have to believe.

Adrien Brody (Wladyslaw): It's an official decree, no Jews allowed in the parks.

Adrien Brody (Wladyslaw): They all want to be better Nazis than Hitler.

Adrien Brody (Wladyslaw): I know this is an awkward time to say this, but I wish I knew you better.

MAIN CAST

Adrien Brody - - - - Wladyslaw Szpilman
Thomas Kretschmann - - - - Captain Wilm Hosenfeld
Frank Finlay - - - - Father

Maureen Lipman - - - - Mother
Emilia Fox - - - - Dorota
Ed Stoppard - - - - Henry
Julia Rayner - - - - Regina
Jessica Kate Meyer - - - - Halina
Michal Zebrowski - - - - Jurek
Richard Ridings - - - - Mr. Lipa

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0253474/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2003/01/010302.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005JLT5/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 84
The Lion King

SYNOPSIS

Not an ideal choice for younger kids, this hip and violent animated feature from Disney was nevertheless a huge smash in theaters and on video, and it continues to enjoy life in an acclaimed Broadway production. The story finds a lion cub, son of a king, sent into exile after his father is sabotaged by a rivalrous uncle. The little hero finds his way into the "circle of life" with some new friends and eventually comes back to reclaim his proper place. Characters are very strong, vocal performances by the likes of Jeremy Irons, Nathan Lane, and Whoopi Goldberg are terrific, the jokes are aimed as much (if not more) at adults than kids, the animation is sometimes breathtaking, and the music is more palatable than in many Disney features. But be cautious: this is too intense for the *Rugrat* crowd. (1994, 88 minutes, G). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Jeremy Irons (Scar): Well, forgive me for not leaping for joy. Bad back, you know.

Ernie Sabella (Pumbaa): They call me "Mister Pig"!

James Earl Jones (Mufasa's Ghost): You have forgotten who you are and so have forgotten me. Look inside yourself Simba. You are more than what you have become. You must take your place in the circle of life.

James Earl Jones (Mufasa's Ghost): Remember who you are. You are my son and the one true king. Remember...

Nathan Lane (Timon): What do you want me to do, dress in drag and do the hula?

Matthew Broderick (Simba): We'll always be together, right? James Earl Jones (Mufasa's): Simba, let me tell you something my father told me. Look at the stars, the great kings of the past are up there, watching over us.

MAIN CAST

Matthew Broderick - - - - Simba (voice)
Joseph Williams - - - - Simba (singing) (singing voice)
Jonathan Taylor Thomas - - - - Young Simba (voice)
Jason Weaver - - - - Young Simba (singing) (singing voice)
James Earl Jones - - - - Mufasa (voice)
Jeremy Irons - - - - Scar (voice)
Moira Kelly - - - - Nala (voice)
Niketa Calame - - - - Young Nala (voice)
Laura Williams - - - - Young Nala (singing) (singing voice)
Ernie Sabella - - - - Pumbaa (voice)
Nathan Lane - - - - Timon (voice)
Robert Guillaume - - - - Rafiki (voice)
Rowan Atkinson - - - - Zazu (voice)
Madge Sinclair - - - - Sarabi (voice)
Zoe Leader - - - - Sarafina (voice)

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0110357/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1994/06/927167.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXB4/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 85
The Karate Kid

SYNOPSIS

John G. Avildsen not only directed *Rocky*, he tried remaking it over the years in a dozen different ways. One of them was this popular 1984 drama about a new kid (Ralph Macchio) in town targeted by karate-wielding bullies until he gets a new mentor: the handyman (Pat Morita) from his apartment building, who teaches him self-confidence and fighting skills. The screen partnership of Macchio's motor-mouth character and Morita's reserved father figure works well, and the script allows for the younger man to develop sympathy for the painful memories of his teacher. But the film's real engine, as with *Rocky*, is the fighting, and there's plenty of that. Elisabeth Shue is on board as the girl the klutzy Macchio dreams of winning. The DVD release features a theatrical trailer, Dolby sound, full-screen (pan and scan) presentation, and optional subtitles in French, Spanish, and English. (1984, 126 minutes, R). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Pat Morita (Miyagi): Man who catch fly with chopsticks accomplish anything.

Pat Morita (Miyagi): We make sacred pact. I promise teach karate to you, you promise learn. I say, you do, no questions.

Pat Morita (Miyagi): In Okinawa, all Miyagi know two things: fish and karate.

Pat Morita (Miyagi): First learn stand, then learn fly. Nature rule, Daniel San, not mine.

Martin Kove (John): We do not train to be merciful here, mercy is for the weak. A man confronts you in the street he is your enemy. An enemy deserves no mercy.

MAIN CAST

Ralph Macchio - - - - Daniel LaRusso
Pat Morita - - - - Mr. Kesuke Miyagi
Elisabeth Shue - - - - Ali Mills
Martin Kove - - - - John Kreese
Randee Heller - - - - Lucille Larusso
William Zabka - - - - Johnny Lawrence
Ron Thomas - - - - Bobby
Rob Garrison - - - - Tommy
Chad McQueen - - - - Dutch
Tony O'Dell - - - - Jimmy
Israel Juarbe - - - - Freddy Fernandez
William Bassett - - - - Mr. Mills
Larry B. Scott - - - - Jerry
Juli Fields - - - - Susan
Dana Andersen - - - - Barbara

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0087538/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=2911

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0800179501/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 86
My Left Foot

SYNOPSIS

Daniel Day-Lewis won a much-deserved Oscar for his wily, passionate performance as Irish artist and writer Christy Brown, whose cerebral palsy kept him confined to a wheelchair. Filmmaker Jim Sheridan (*In the Name of the Father*) adapts Brown's own autobiography for this spirited piece, focusing on the sometimes-difficult fellow's formative years in his large family and in love with sundry women. Day-Lewis is inspired, and Brenda Fricker (also a recipient of an Oscar for her part in this movie) is almost luminous as Christy's dedicated mother. So, too, are Ray McAnally as the hero's stormy father, and Hugh O'Conor (*The Young Poisoner's Handbook*) as the child Christy. All in all, this is a complete pleasure for viewers. (1989, Irish, 103 minutes, R). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Brenda Fricker (Mrs. Brown): If you've given up, I haven't.

Brenda Fricker (Mrs. Brown): It's in here battles are won.

Daniel Day-Lewis (Christy): "I didn't ask for a f - - - - - - psychological lecture...I only asked for a f - - - - - - light.

MAIN CAST

Daniel Day-Lewis - - - - Christy Brown
Brenda Fricker - - - - Mrs. Brown
Alison Whelan - - - - Sheila
Kirsten Sheridan - - - - Sharon
Declan Croghan - - - - Tom
Eanna MacLiam - - - - Benny
Marie Conmee - - - - Sadie
Cyril Cusack - - - - Lord Castlewelland
Phelim Drew - - - - Brian
Ruth McCabe - - - - Mary

Fiona Shaw - - - - Dr. Eileen Cole
Ray McAnally - - - - Mr. Brown

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0097937/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1990/02/529476.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0783114729/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 87
Life As A House

SYNOPSIS

A respectable tearjerker, *Life as a House* is a welcome throwback to angst-ridden family dramas like *Ordinary People* and *Terms of Endearment*. It falls short of those modern classics, but you'll probably still need Kleenex if you appreciate Kevin Kline's underrated dramatic skills. As the title suggests, Kline's project is a broad metaphor for repairing damaged lives from the foundation up. Playing an architect with terminal cancer, he gives an Oscar®-caliber performance, reaching out to his estranged, nihilistic son (future *Star Wars* star Hayden Christensen) and ex-wife (Kristin Scott-Thomas) as he wrecks and rebuilds the Malibu cliff-top home that contained his most painful memories. Director Irwin Winkler's flair with actors helps to minimize lapses in a script (by *As Good As It Gets* scribe Mark Andrus) that occasionally borders on maudlin. Overall, this is a fine reminder that Hollywood hasn't lost its soul to action and special effects. (2001, 125 minutes, R). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Kevin Kline (George): Sam, if you were a house, you would want to be built on rock over-looking the sea.

Hayden Christensen (Sam): Thank you for talking about me behind my back - useful in court.

Kevin Kline (George): Hindsight. It's like foresight without a future.

Hayden Christensen (Sam): I've been using since I was 12! You're also unbelievingly stupid.

Kevin Kline (George): You've worn out your welcome at this house, Sam. This may very well be the worst summer of your life but you've earned it.

Kevin Kline (George): I always thought of myself as a house. I was always what I lived in. It didn't need to be big. It didn't even need to be beautiful. It

just needed to be mine. I became what I was meant to be. I built myself a life. I built myself a house.

MAIN CAST

Kevin Kline - - - - George Monroe
Kristin Scott Thomas - - - - Robin Kimball
Hayden Christensen - - - - Sam Monroe
Jena Malone - - - - Alyssa Beck
Mary Steenburgen - - - - Colleen Beck
Mike Weinberg - - - - Adam Kimball
Scotty Leavenworth - - - - Ryan Kimball
Ian Somerhalder - - - - Josh
Jamey Sheridan - - - - Peter Kimball
Scott Bakula - - - - Officer Kurt Walker
Sam Robards - - - - David Dokos
John Pankow - - - - Bryan Burke
Kim Delgado - - - - Bob Larson
Barry Primus - - - - Tom

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0264796/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2001/10/102607.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005YUPC/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 88
Amelie (Fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain, Le)

SYNOPSIS
Perhaps the most charming movie of all time, *Amélie* is certainly one of the top 10. The title character (the bashful and impish Audrey Tautou) is a single waitress who decides to help other lonely people fix their lives. Her widowed father yearns to travel but won't, so to inspire the old man she sends his garden gnome on a tour of the world; with whispered gossip, she brings together two cranky regulars at her café; she reverses the doorknobs and reprograms the speed dial of a grocer who's mean to his assistant. Gradually she realizes her own life needs fixing, and a chance meeting leads to her most elaborate stratagem of all. This is a deeply wonderful movie, an illuminating mix of magic and pragmatism. Fans of the director's previous films (*Delicatessen*, *The City of Lost Children*) will not be disappointed; newcomers will be delighted. (2001, 122 minutes, R). *Review by Bret Fetzer.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES
Audrey Tautou (Amélie): It's better to help people than garden gnomes.

Audrey Tautou (Amélie): A least, you can't be a vegetable, because even a artichoke has heart.

Audrey Tautou (Amélie): I am nobody's little weasel.

Serge Merlin (Raymond Dufayel): So, my little Amélie, you don't have bones of glass. You can take life's knocks. If you let this chance pass, eventually, your heart will become as dry and brittle as my skeleton. So, go to him, dammit!

MAIN CAST
Audrey Tautou - - - - Amélie Poulain
Mathieu Kassovitz - - - - Nino Quincampoix
Rufus - - - - Raphaël Poulain, Amélie's Father
Yolande Moreau - - - - Madeleine Wallace, concierge
Artus de Penguern - - - - Hipolito, The Writer

Urbain Cancelier - - - - Collignon, The Grocer
Dominique Pinon - - - - Joseph
Maurice Bénichou - - - - Bretodeau, The Box Man
Claude Perron - - - - Eva, The Strip Teaser
Michel Robin - - - - Mr. Collignon
Serge Merlin - - - - Raymond Dufayel aka Glass Man

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0211915/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2001/11/110901.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B0000640VO/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 89
Shine

SYNOPSIS

This tearjerker by Australian filmmaker Scott Hicks is a surprising story about real-life classical pianist David Helfgott, an Australian who rose to international prominence at a very young age in the 1950s and '60s, and suffered a psychological collapse after enduring years of abuse from his father (Armin Mueller-Stahl). Hicks has three very fine actors portraying Helfgott at different stages of his life, including the adorably wry and goofy Noah Taylor (*Flirting*), who takes up the character's teen years, and Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush, giving a great performance playing the musician as a schizophrenic adult. Despite the Helfgotts' compromised psychological health, *Shine* is hardly a depressing experience. If anything, the story is really about how long one person's life can take to make glorious sense of itself. Sir John Gielgud, in golden form, plays Helfgott's teacher. The DVD release presents the film in its widescreen format, and also includes a Q&A with director Hicks and Rush's Golden Globes acceptance speech.. (1996, 105 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Tom Keogh.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Randall Berger (Isaac): America. You know, land of the free, home of the brave. You know, Mickey Mouse.

Armin Mueller-Stahl (Peter): In this world only the strong survive. The weak get crushed like insects.

John Gielgud (Cecil): You must play as if there's no tomorrow.

Armin Mueller-Stahl (Peter): Religion is nonsense. Nicholas Bell (Ben): It's also a gold mine if you know where to dig.

MAIN CAST

Geoffrey Rush - - - - David as an Adult
Justin Braine - - - - Tony

Sonia Todd - - - - Sylvia
Chris Haywood - - - - Sam
Alex Rafalowicz - - - - David as a Child
Gordon Poole - - - - Eisteddfod Presenter
Armin Mueller-Stahl - - - - Peter
Nicholas Bell - - - - Ben Rosen
Danielle Cox - - - - Suzie as a child
Rebecca Gooden - - - - Margaret
Marta Kaczmarek - - - - Rachel
John Cousins - - - - Jim Minogue
Noah Taylor - - - - David as an Adolescent
Paul Linkson - - - - State Champion Announcer
Randall Berger - - - - Isaac Stern
John Gielgud - - - - Cecil Parkes

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0117631/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1996/11/112905.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0780619587/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 90
Patton

SYNOPSIS

One of the greatest screen biographies ever produced, this monumental film runs nearly three hours, won seven Academy Awards, and gave George C. Scott the greatest role of his career. It was released in 1970 when protest against the Vietnam War still raged at home and abroad, and many critics and moviegoers struggled to reconcile current events with the movie's glorification of Gen. George S. Patton as a crazy-brave genius of World War II. How could a movie so huge in scope and so fascinated by its subject be considered an anti-war film? The simple truth is that it's not--Patton is less about World War II than about the rise and fall of a man whose life was literally defined by war, and who felt lost and lonely without the grand-scale pursuit of an enemy. George C. Scott embodies his role so fully, so convincingly, that we can't help but be drawn to and fascinated by Patton as a man who is simultaneously bound for hell and glory. The film's opening monologue alone is a masterful display of acting and character analysis, and everything that follows is sheer brilliance on the part of Scott and director Franklin J. Schaffner. Filmed on an epic scale at literally dozens of European locations, Patton does not embrace war as a noble pursuit, nor does it deny the reality of war as a breeding ground for heroes. Through the awesome achievement of Scott's performance and the film's grand ambition, Patton shows all the complexities of a man who accepted his role in life and (like Scott) played it to the hilt. (1970, 170 minutes, PG). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

George C. Scott (General Patton): Now I want you to remember that no bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country.

George C. Scott (General Patton): The object of war is not to die for ones country, but to make the other poor bastard die for his.

George C. Scott (General Patton): The Nazis are the enemy! Wade into them! Spill *their* blood! Shoot *them* in the belly!

Karl Michael Vogler (Field Marshal Rommel): You can afford to be an optimist. I can't.

George C. Scott (General Patton): There's only one proper way for a professional soldier to die: the last bullet of the last battle of the last war.

Karl Malden (General Bradley): There's one big difference between you and me, George. I do this job because I've been trained to do it. You do it because you LOVE it.

MAIN CAST

George C. Scott - - - - General George Smith Patton Jr.
Karl Malden - - - - Gen. Omar N. Bradley
Stephen Young - - - - Capt. Chester B. Hansen
Michael Strong - - - - Brig. Gen. Hobart Carver
Carey Loftin - - - - Gen. Bradley's Driver
Albert Dumortier - - - - Moroccan Minister
Frank Latimore - - - - Lt. Col. Henry Davenport
Morgan Paull - - - - Capt. Richard N. Jenson
Karl Michael Vogler - - - - Field Marshal Erwin Rommel
Bill Hickman - - - - Gen. Patton's Driver
Patrick J. Zurica - - - - 1st Lt. Alexander Stiller
James Edwards - - - - Sgt. William George Meeks
Lawrence Dobkin - - - - Col. Gaston Bell
David Bauer - - - - Lt. Gen. Harry Buford
John Barrie - - - - Air Vice-Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0066206/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/ShowMovie.asp?MI=10342

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005PJ8O/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 91
Norma Rae

SYNOPSIS

Veteran director Martin Ritt (*Sounder*) directed this earnest and very popular tale of a naive textile worker, widow, and mother in the U.S. South who becomes empowered by standing up for her rights in the workplace. Sally Field stars in the Oscar-winning title role as a woman who has been content to go along with the status quo until she realizes that she is entitled to more and can succeed if she stands up for herself. Her fight to improve deplorable working conditions at the textile plant causes a rift between her and the people closest to her, but her determination brings a new awareness to her and to all the women with whom she works. Ritt's typical, socially conscious story uses the politics of Norma Rae's struggle and also its emotions to build the film to a rousing climax. (1979, 110 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Robert Lane.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Ron Leibman (Reuben): Under the circumstances, best wishes hardly seem enough. Thanks are in order. Thank you for your companionship, for your stamina, your horse sense, and a hundred and one laughs. I also enjoyed looking at your shining hair and your shining face.

Sally Field (Norma Rae): Forget it! I'm stayin' right where I am. It's gonna take you and the police department and the fire department and the National Guard to get me outta here!

Ron Leibman (Reuben): I know the first time you're in is bad. It comes with the job. I saw a pregnant women on a picket line get hit in the stomach with a club. I saw a boy of 16 shot in the back. I saw a guy blown to hell and back when he tried to start his car in the morning. You just got your feet wet on this one.

MAIN CAST

Sally Field - - - - Norma Rae
Beau Bridges - - - - Sonny Webster
Ron Leibman - - - - Reuben Warshawky

Pat Hingle - - - - Vernon Wichard
Barbara Baxley - - - - Leona Wichard
Gail Strickland - - - - Bonnie Mae
Morgan Paull - - - - Wayne Billings
Robert Broyles - - - - Sam Bolen
John Calvin - - - - Ellis Harper
Booth Colman - - - - Dr. Watson
Lee de Broux - - - - Lujan
James Luisi - - - - George Benson
Vernon Weddle - - - - Reverend Hubbard
Gilbert Green - - - - Al Landon
Bob Minor - - - - Lucius White

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0079638/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/ShowMovie.asp?MI=8890

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000059HAN/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 92
Cinderella (1950 Version)

SYNOPSIS

Disney's adaptation of the beloved fairy tale became a classic in its own right, thanks to some memorable tunes (including "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes," "Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo," and the title song) and some endearingly cute comic relief. We all know the story--the wicked stepmother and stepsisters simply won't have it, this uppity Cinderella thinking she's going to a ball designed to find the handsome prince an appropriate sweetheart, but perseverance, animal buddies, and a well-timed entrance by a fairy godmother make sure things turn out all right. There are a few striking sequences of pure animation--for example, Cinderella is reflected in bubbles drifting through the air--and the design is rich and evocative throughout. It's a simple story padded here agreeably with comic business, particularly Cinderella's rodent pals (dressed up conspicuously like the dwarf sidekicks of another famous Disney heroine) and their misadventures with a wretched cat named Lucifer. There's also much harrumphing and exposition spouting by the King and the Grand Duke. It's a much simpler and more graceful work than the more frenetically paced animated films of today, which makes it simultaneously quaint and highly gratifying. (1950, 76 minutes, G). *Review by David Kronke.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

James MacDonald (Gus): Duh, duh, duh Happy Birthday!

MAIN CAST

Ilene Woods - - - - Cinderella (voice)
Eleanor Audley - - - - Lady Tremaine (voice)
Verna Felton - - - - Fairy Godmother (voice)
Rhoda Williams - - - - Drizella (voice)
James MacDonald - - - - Gus/Jacques/Bruno (voice)
Helene Stanley - - - - Live-action model Cinderella
Luis Van Rooten - - - - King/Grand Duke (voice)
Don Barclay - - - - Doorman (voice)
Lucille Bliss - - - - Anastasia (voice)
June Foray - - - - Lucifer (voice)

Betty Lou Gerson - - - - Narrator (voice)
Clint McCauley - - - - Mice (voice)
William Phipps - - - - Prince Charming (voice)

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0042332/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=12559

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005JKXS/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 93
Breaking Away

SYNOPSIS

Peter Yates's flag-waving film stands with *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *American Graffiti* as one of the best films about small-town Americana. Steve Tesich won an Oscar for his semi-biographical screenplay about four 19-year-olds who don't know what to do after high school. Dave Stohler (Dennis Christopher) and his three friends--ex-football star Mike (Dennis Quaid), wily comedian Cyril (Daniel Stern), and tough kid Moocher (Jackie Earle Haley)--are doomed to live in the college town of Bloomington, Indiana, where the local kids (nicknamed "Cutters"--a derogatory reference to quarry workers and their blue-collar families) are looked down on by the uppity students of nearby Indiana University. Stohler escapes into a world of Italian bicycling, picking up the lingo, the accent, and a good share of the talent of his heroes. He is also the scourge of his father's life. The used-car salesman (Paul Dooley) doesn't understand his son's affection for bicycling or, for that matter, his pride in being a "Cutter." *Breaking Away* rehabilitates the word *heartwarming* as Tesich's uncommonly intelligent script gives us well-rounded characters and a potent sense of place. The grandstanding finale--the real life "Little 500" bike race--gives the film a perfect, crowd-pleasing end. However, the film never sacrifices the development of characters for the action. Dooley is especially effective in one of those once-in-a-lifetime roles. The lifelong character actor's place in film history is established with this indispensable performance. (1979, 100 minutes, PG).
Review by Doug Thomas .
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Dennis Quaid (Mike): They're gonna keep callin' us "cutters." To them, it's just a dirty word. To me, it's just somethin' else I never got a chance to be.

Daniel Stern (Cyril): I sure miss playing basketball. I got depressed as hell when my athlete's foot and jock itch went away.

Paul Dooley (Mr. Stoller): I didn't want you to be this miserable. A little bit's all I asked for.

Paul Dooley (Mr. Stoller): I had a dream last night that everyone I ever sold a car to came back and there you were, handing them back their money!

MAIN CAST

Dennis Christopher - - - - Dave Stoller
Dennis Quaid - - - - Mike
Daniel Stern - - - - Cyril
Jackie Earle Haley - - - - Moocher
Barbara Barrie - - - - Mrs. Stoller
Paul Dooley - - - - Mr. Stoller
Robyn Douglass - - - - Katherine
Hart Bochner - - - - Rod
Amy Wright - - - - Nancy
Peter Maloney - - - - Doctor
John Ashton - - - - Mike's Brother

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0078902/

TV Guide
http://www.tvguide.com/Movies/database/showmovie.asp?MI=22188

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CX96/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 94
Billy Elliot

SYNOPSIS

Foursquare in the gritty-but-heartwarming tradition of *Brassed Off* and *The Full Monty* comes *Billy Elliot*, the first film from noted British theatrical director Stephen Daldry. The setting is County Durham in 1984, and things "up north" are even grimmer than usual: the miners' strike is in full rancorous swing, and 11-year-old Billy's dad and older brother, miners both, are on the picket lines. Billy's got problems of his own. His dad has scraped together the fees to send him to boxing lessons, but Billy has discovered a different aptitude: a genius for ballet dancing. Since admitting to such an activity is tantamount, in this fiercely macho culture, to holding up a sign reading "I Am Gay," Billy keeps it quiet. But his teacher, Mrs. Wilkinson (Julie Walters, wearily undaunted), thinks he should audition for ballet school in London. Family ructions are inevitable. Daldry's film sidesteps some of the politics, both sexual and otherwise, but scores with its laconic dialogue (credit to screenwriter Lee Hall) and a cracking performance from newcomer Jamie Bell as Billy. His powerhouse dance routines, more Gene Kelly than Nureyev, carry an irresistible sense of exhilaration and self-discovery. Among a flawless supporting cast, Stuart Wells stands out as Billy's sweet gay friend Michael. And if the miners' strike serves largely as background color, the brief episode when visored and truncheon-wielding cops rampage through neat little terraced houses captures one of the most spiteful episodes in recent British history. (2000, 110 minutes, PG-13).
Review by Philip Kemp.
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Julie Walters (Mrs. Wilkinson): Right Mr. Braithwaite, the sun will come out tomorrow. Fat chance.

Jamie Bell (Billy): I don't want a childhood. I want to be a ballet dancer.

Jamie Bell (Billy): Just because I dance ballet doesn't make me a poof.

Julie Walters (Mrs. Wilkinson): Find a place on that bloody wall and focus on that spot. Then whip your head 'round and come back to that spot. Prepare!

MAIN CAST

Jamie Bell - - - - Billy Elliot
Jean Heywood - - - - Grandma
Jamie Draven - - - - Tony Elliot
Gary Lewis - - - - Dad (Jackie Elliot)
Stuart Wells - - - - Michael Caffrey
Mike Elliot - - - - George Watson
Billy Fane - - - - Mr. Braithwaite
Nicola Blackwell - - - - Debbie Wilkinson
Julie Walters - - - - Mrs. Wilkinson
Carol McGuigan - - - - Librarian
Joe Renton - - - - Gary Poulson
Colin MacLachlan - - - - Mr. Tom Wilkinson
Janine Birkett - - - - Billy's Mum
Trevor Fox - - - - PC Jeff Peverly
Charlie Hardwick - - - - Sheila Briggs

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0249462/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2000/10/101302.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CXPD/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 95
Philadelphia

SYNOPSIS

Philadelphia wasn't the first movie about AIDS (it followed such worthy independent films as *Parting Glances* and *Longtime Companion*), but it was the first Hollywood studio picture to take AIDS as its primary subject. In that sense, *Philadelphia* is a historically important film. As such, it's worth remembering that director Jonathan Demme (*Melvin and Howard*, *Something Wild*, *The Silence of the Lambs*) wasn't interested in preaching to the converted; he set out to make a film that would connect with a mainstream audience. And he succeeded. *Philadelphia* was not only a hit, it also won Oscars for Bruce Springsteen's haunting "The Streets of Philadelphia," and for Tom Hanks as the gay lawyer Andrew Beckett who is unjustly fired by his firm because he has AIDS. Denzel Washington is another lawyer (functioning as the mainstream-audience surrogate) who reluctantly takes Beckett's case and learns to overcome his misconceptions about the disease, about those who contract it, and about gay people in general. The combined warmth and humanism of Hanks and Demme were absolutely essential to making this picture a success. The cast also features Jason Robards, Antonio Banderas (as Beckett's lover), Joanne Woodward, and Robert Ridgely, and, of course, those Demme regulars Charles Napier, Tracey Walter, and Roger Corman. -- (1993, 125 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jim Emerson.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Denzel Washington (Joe): Some of these people make me sick. But a law's been broken here. You do remember the law, don't you?

Denzel Washington (Joe): Now, explain it to me like I'm a four-year-old.

Denzel Washington (Joe): Are you a homo? Are you a queer? Are you a faggot? Are you a fruit? Are you gay, sir?

MAIN CAST

Tom Hanks - - - - Andrew Beckett
Denzel Washington - - - - Joe Miller

Roberta Maxwell - - - - Judge Tate
Buzz Kilman - - - - Crutches
Karen Finley - - - - Dr. Gillman
Daniel Chapman - - - - Clinic storyteller
Mark Sorensen Jr. - - - - Clinic patient
Jeffrey Williamson - - - - Tyrone
Charles Glenn - - - - Kenneth Killcoyne
Ron Vawter - - - - Bob Seidman
Anna Deavere Smith - - - - Anthea Burton
Stephanie Roth - - - - Rachel Smilow
Lisa Talerico - - - - Shelby
Joanne Woodward - - - - Sarah Beckett
Jason Robards - - - - Charles Wheeler

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0107818/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1994/01/899447.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=0800141806/selfimprovemeonl
/

Movie # 96
My Life

SYNOPSIS

Screenwriter Bruce Joel Rubin (author of the fanciful *Ghost*) made his directorial debut with this more serious confrontation with the realities of death. Michael Keaton plays an advertising executive who learns he is dying even as his wife (Nicole Kidman) is pregnant. The film beautifully focuses on his anger over everything: the unfinished business of his life and the probability he'll never meet his child. The late Dr. Haing S. Ngor (*The Killing Fields*) is terrific as a doctor who helps Keaton's character to recognize the corrosiveness of his rage and to let go. The film is a heartbreaker but truly cathartic for anyone who has felt the blunt pain of losing someone close. Keaton is outstanding. (1993, 112 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Nicole Kidman (Gail): I don't understand how you can open your heart to a camera and I'm, I am flesh and blood! I feel like I have already lost you

Michael Keaton (Bob): Dying's a really hard way to learn about life.

MAIN CAST

Michael Keaton - - - - Bob Jones
Nicole Kidman - - - - Gail Jones
Bradley Whitford - - - - Paul Ivanovich
Queen Latifah - - - - Theresa
Michael Constantine - - - - Bill
Rebecca Schull - - - - Rose
Mark Lowenthal - - - - Dr. Hills
Lee Garlington - - - - Carol Sandman
Toni Sawyer - - - - Doris
Haing S. Ngor - - - - Mr. Ho
Romy Rosemont - - - - Anya Stasiuk

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)

http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0107630/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1993/11/888972.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00000F5MN/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 97
Lean on Me

SYNOPSIS

Rocky director John Avildsen championed the briefly famous New Jersey high school principal Joe Clark in this upbeat 1989 drama. Morgan Freeman plays the tough-love educator who wields a baseball bat and bullhorn to keep discipline in his hallways and to motivate underachieving students to keep their acts together. After establishing Clark's controversial methods and showing him giving some punks the boot, Avildsen relies on the usual school-drama clichés to fill out the rest of the movie, including a challenge to Clark's philosophy from timid authorities. Freeman makes a strong impact as Clark, his dignity and integrity a sometimes awesome thing. Avildsen, however, is going for a *Rocky*-esque emotional crescendo. (1989, 104 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Robert Guillaume (Frank): If you're so hot on discipline then, goddammit, start by accepting mine. Because contrary to popular opinion, I'm the head nigger in charge!

Morgan Freeman (Joe): The Lord said, do whatever you have to do. And he didn't say "Joe, be polite."

Morgan Freeman (Joe): They used to call me Crazy Joe. Well now they can call me Batman!

Morgan Freeman (Joe): I don't have to do nothin' but stay black and die!

Jermaine 'Huggy' Hopkins (Thomas): We don't want a good principal! We want Mr. Clark!

MAIN CAST

Morgan Freeman - - - - Principal Joe Clark
Beverly Todd - - - - Ms. Levias
Robert Guillaume - - - - Dr. Frank Napier
Alan North - - - - Mayor Don Bottman

Lynne Thigpen - - - - Leonna Barrett
Robin Bartlett - - - - Mrs. Elliott
Michael Beach - - - - Mr. Darnell
Ethan Phillips - - - - Mr. Rosenberg
Sandra Reaves-Phillips - - - - Mrs. Powers
Sloane Shelton - - - - Mrs. Hamilton
Jermaine 'Huggy' Hopkins - - - - Thomas Sams
Karen Malina White - - - - Kaneesha Carter
Karina Arroyave - - - - Maria
Ivonne Coll - - - - Mrs. Santos
Regina Taylor - - - - Mrs. Carter

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0097722/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1989/03/341963.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=6305133514/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 98
Driving Miss Daisy

SYNOPSIS

Winner of the Academy Award for best picture of 1989, this gracefully moving drama, adapted from the hit play by Alfred Uhry, chronicles the 25-year friendship between a stubborn, aging Southern widow (Jessica Tandy) and her loyal chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). At first, the self-sufficient Miss Daisy is reluctant to accept the services of a chauffeur, but Hoke is quiet, wise, and tolerant, and as the years pass the unlikely friends develop a deep mutual respect and admiration. Tandy deservedly won the Oscar for her sassy and sensitive performance, and Freeman earned an Oscar nomination for bringing quiet depth and integrity to his memorable role. Ironically, director Bruce Beresford (*Tender Mercies*) was not nominated, but the film won Oscars for makeup and for Uhry's screenplay, in addition to a supporting actor nomination for Dan Aykroyd as Daisy's supportive son. Delicate, funny, and bittersweet, *Driving Miss Daisy* was a surprise hit when released, and marked the crowning achievement of Tandy's great career. (1989, 99 minutes, PG-13). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*
© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Jessica Tandy (Daisy): Hoke? Hoke. You're my best friend.

Esther Rolle (Idella): I wouldn't be in your shoes if the Sweet Lord Jesus come down and asked me himself.

Morgan Freeman (Hoke): I had the air-conditioning checked. I don't know what for. You never allow me to turn it on.

MAIN CAST

Morgan Freeman - - - - Hoke Colburn
Jessica Tandy - - - - Daisy Werthan
Dan Aykroyd - - - - Boolie Werthan
Patti LuPone - - - - Florine Werthan
Esther Rolle - - - - Idella
Joann Havrilla - - - - Miss McClatchey
William Hall Jr. - - - - Oscar

Alvin M. Sugarman - - - - Dr. Weil
Clarice F. Geigerman - - - - Nonie
Muriel Moore - - - - Miriam
Sylvia Kaler - - - - Beulah

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0097239/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1990/01/525949.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B000087F7D/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 99
Dead Man Walking

SYNOPSIS

Superbly adapted and directed by Tim Robbins from the nonfiction book of the same name by Sister Helen Prejean, this spiritually enlightened drama is too intelligent to traffic in polemics or self-righteous pontifications against the death penalty. But in examining the issue of capital punishment from a humanitarian perspective, the film urges thoughtful reflection on the justifications for legally ending a human life. Although it features a fine supporting cast, the film maintains its sharp focus through flawless lead performances by Oscar-winner Susan Sarandon as the Catholic nun Prejean, and Sean Penn as the death-row killer she struggles to save. Robbins avoids a biased message, letting the movie examine both sides of the issue instead (R. Lee Ermey gives a fine performance as the grief-stricken father of one of Penn's victims). As the drama unfolds and Penn's execution deadline grows near, *Dead Man Walking* is graced by compelling depths of theme and character, achieving an emotional impact that demands further reflection and removes the stigma of piousness from socially conscious filmmaking. (1995, 122 minutes, R). *Review by Jeff Shannon.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Lois Smith (Helen's Mother): A mother's arms are strong when her child is in danger.

R. Lee Ermey (Clyde): This is not a person. This is an animal.

Susan Sarandon (Sister Prejean): I want the last face you see in this world to be the face of love, so you look at me when they do this thing. I'll be the face of love for you.

Susan Sarandon (Sister Prejean): It's not faith, it's work.

MAIN CAST

Susan Sarandon - - - - Sister Helen Prejean
Sean Penn - - - - Matthew Poncelet
Robert Prosky - - - - Hilton Barber

Raymond J. Barry - - - - Earl Delacroix
R. Lee Ermey - - - - Clyde Percy
Celia Weston - - - - Mary Beth Percy
Lois Smith - - - - Helen's mother
Scott Wilson - - - - Chaplain Farley
Roberta Maxwell - - - - Lucille Poncelet
Margo Martindale - - - - Sister Colleen
Barton Heyman - - - - Capt. Beliveau
Steve Boles - - - - Sgt. Neal Trapp
Nesbitt Blaisdell - - - - Warden Hartman
Ray Aranha - - - - Luis Montoya
Larry Pine - - - - Guy Gilardi

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0112818/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/1996/01/1015392.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00000K0DQ/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 100
Citizen Kane

SYNOPSIS

Arguably the greatest of American films, Orson Welles's 1941 masterpiece, made when he was only 26, still unfurls like a dream and carries the viewer along the mysterious currents of time and memory to reach a mature (if ambiguous) conclusion: people are the sum of their contradictions, and can't be known easily. Welles plays newspaper magnate Charles Foster Kane, taken from his mother as a boy and made the ward of a rich industrialist. The result is that every well-meaning or tyrannical or self-destructive move he makes for the rest of his life appears in some way to be a reaction to that deeply wounding event. Written by Welles and Herman J. Mankiewicz, and photographed by Gregg Toland, the film is the sum of Welles's awesome ambitions as an artist in Hollywood. He pushes the limits of then-available technology to create a true magic show, a visual and aural feast that almost seems to be rising up from a viewer's subconsciousness. As Kane, Welles even ushers in the influence of Bertolt Brecht on film acting. This is truly a one-of-a-kind work, and in many ways is still the most modern of modern films from the 20th century. (1941, 119 minutes, PG). *Review by Tom Keogh.*

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Everett Sloane (Mr. Bernstein): Old age. It's the only disease, Mr. Thompson, that you don't look forward to being cured of.

Orson Welles (Charles Kane): Don't believe everything you hear on the radio.

Orson Welles (Charles Kane): I don't think there's one word that can describe a mans life.

Philip Van Zandt (Mr. Rawlston): It isn't enough to tell us what a man did. You've got to tell us who he was.

Orson Welles (Charles Kane): Rosebud...

MAIN CAST

Orson Welles - - - - Charles Foster Kane
Joseph Cotten - - - - Jedediah Leland/Newsreel Reporter
Dorothy Comingore - - - - Susan Alexander Kane
Agnes Moorehead - - - - Mrs. Mary Kane
Ruth Warrick - - - - Emily Monroe Norton Kane
Ray Collins - - - - Boss James 'Jim' W. Gettys
Erskine Sanford - - - - Herbert Carter, Inquirer Editor-in-Chief/Newsreel Reporter
Everett Sloane - - - - Mr. Bernstein, Kane's General Manager
William Alland - - - - Jerry Thompson/'News on the March' Narrator
Paul Stewart - - - - Raymond, Kane's Butler
George Coulouris - - - - Walter Parks Thatcher
Fortunio Bonanova - - - - Signor Matiste, Susan's Opera Coach
Gus Schilling - - - - The Headwaiter
Philip Van Zandt - - - - Mr. Rawlston
Georgia Backus - - - - Miss Bertha Anderson
Harry Shannon - - - - Kane's Father
Sonny Bupp - - - - Charles Foster Kane III
Buddy Swan - - - - Kane, age eight

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://us.imdb.com/title/tt0033467/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/greatmovies/kane.html

Amazon.com
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00003CX9E/selfimprovemeonl/

Movie # 101
Antwone Fisher

SYNOPSIS

Autobiographical movies rarely get more truthfully moving than *Antwone Fisher*. The title is also the name of this fine drama's first-time screenwriter, a former Navy seaman who was working as a film-studio security guard when his life-inspired script was developed as Denzel Washington's directorial debut. This Hollywood dream gets better: unbeknownst to the filmmakers, Derek Luke--a newcomer who won the title role over a throng of famous contenders--was also a friend of Fisher's, and the whole film seems blessed by this fortunate coincidence. Washington's sharp instincts as an actor serve him well, as both a subtle-handed director and Luke's costar playing Jerome Davenport, a Navy psychologist assigned to assess Fisher's chronic violent temper. Their therapy sessions prove mutually beneficial, as this touching true story addresses painful memories, broken desires, and heartfelt reunions without resorting to a contrived happy ending. Fisher's good life is worth celebrating, and Washington brings a delicate touch to the party. --Jeff Shannon

© 1996-2003, Amazon.com, Inc. or its affiliates

MEMORABLE QUOTES

Antwone Fisher: It don't matter what you tried to do, you couldn't destroy me! I'm still standing! I'm still strong! And I always will be.

MAIN CAST

Derek Luke - - - - Antwone Fisher
Malcolm David Kelley - - - - Antwone Fisher Age 7
Cory Hodges - - - - Antwone Fisher Age 14
Denzel Washington - - - - Jerome Davenport
Joy Bryant - - - - Cheryl
Salli Richardson - - - - Berta
Leonard Earl Howze - - - - Pork Chop
Kente Scott - - - - Kansas City

Kevin Connolly - - - - Slim
Rainoldo Gooding - - - - Grayson
Novella Nelson - - - - Mrs. Tate
Stephen Snedden - - - - Berkley
Leo Nepomuceno - - - - SP #1
Sung Kang - - - - Receptionist
Cordell Stokes - - - - Keith Age 5

LINKS TO MOVIE WEBSITES AND REVIEWS

IMDB (Internet Movie Database)
http://imdb.com/title/tt0168786/

Roger Ebert: Sun-Times
http://www.suntimes.com/ebert/ebert_reviews/2002/12/122003.html
Amazon.com

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ISBN=B00005JLRZ/selfimprovemeonl/