

THE SLP MOVIE WATCHLIST™



THE SLP MOVIE WATCHLIST

Every Wednesday



Your weekly source of movie recommendations to satisfy your cinematic cravings.

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Mental, written and directed by P.J. Hogan, is a fun film about an eccentric woman who randomly takes on the role as the nanny of five children who have a “crazy” mother. Through her shenanigans she is able to teach them about the madness of life and the importance of family.

Toni Collette and Anthony LaPaglia sink themselves into their roles so brilliantly that you lose yourself in their insanity.

Oh, and it's an Aussie film, which adds yet another level of fun!

Mental combines the certifiably loony characters of *Best In Show* with the heartfelt songs of *The Sound of Music*, literally.

Recommended For: People who can appreciate off-the-wall, zany stories!

Silver Linings Playbook is a peculiar story about two people who have experienced loss and want to believe in a better tomorrow. Hope gives them comfort. Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper spend the majority of the film challenging one another, both as characters and actors. Their chemistry on screen is undeniable.

Silver Linings Playbook has the endearing qualities of *He's Just Not That Into You* with the wildly honest characters of *The Ugly Truth*, creating a modest and tenacious love story.

Recommended For: People who don't judge romantic comedies for their inability to be something other than romantic comedies.



Timeline is an adventure story in which a group of young archaeological students travel back to the 14th century to rescue their professor.

We all know Gerard Butler has the ability to take on roles with a huge degree of intensity (*300*) and an equal degree of softness (*P.S. I Love You*), and his performance in this film, though earlier in his career, is no exception.

Timeline will take you for one heck of a ride! When you're about to get stabbed with a sword or punctured with several fire-arrows, the slight possibility of deteriorating while travelling through time doesn't seem so bad in comparison.

Recommended For: People who love history and can be swept away by a historical-themed film that isn't a documentary.



Cabaret is a wonderfully quirky musical about a young female entertainer in Berlin who has a dream of becoming a film actress. As Nazi Germany rises to power around her, she gets caught up in a romance with two different men. "Leave your troubles outside" and go inside the club because "life is a Cabaret".

The opening scene of the movie begins with the song *Willkommen*. If you haven't seen that classic opening scene, make sure you watch it because you'll surely come across a reference to it in popular culture at some point.

The incredible performances of Liza Minnelli, Michael York, and Helmut Griem are outstanding! (Won for Actress in a Leading Role & Best Director)

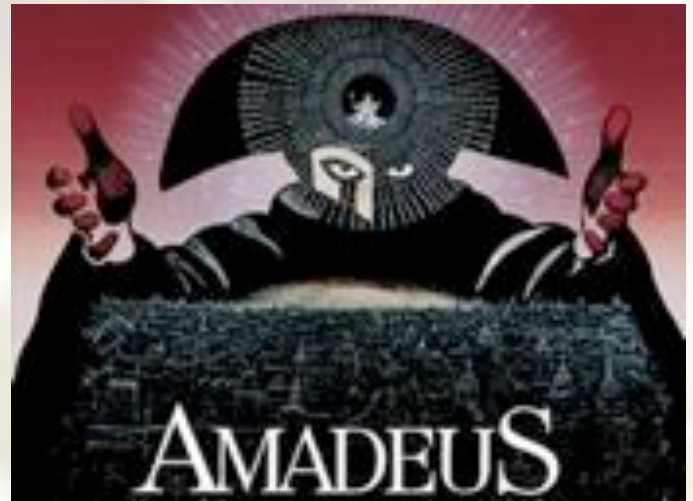
Recommended For: People who appreciate the exceptional talent and work of choreographer/director, Bob Fosse.

Amadeus is the story of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. He was a brilliant composer, but a irresponsible man, especially when it came to women and booze. Mozart's rival, Antonio Salieri, tells the story of Mozart from an insane asylum as a flashback.

If you forget everything after you watch the movie, you'll definitely remember the score of breathtakingly haunting music....and Mozart's entertaining laugh.

(Won Best Picture in 1984)

Recommended For: People who's parents played them classical music when they were kids and are intrigued to know more about the man behind the music.



The King's Speech tells the story of King George VI and his struggle with his speech impediment. After his unexpected rise to the throne, his speech therapist helps him build confidence in his abilities as a leader.

Tom Hooper's directing and Collin Firth's incredible execution of the role of the famous monarch turned this simple and elegant story into a movie masterpiece.

Geoffrey Rush even plays his humble character so well that you forget about how creepy he is as Barbossa in *Pirates of the Caribbean* films.

Recommended For: People who don't get frustrated or feel bad watching someone struggle to speak clearly.





Murder At 1600 is a hidden gem of a film. It's got action, romance, suspense, and sneaky politics, and gives you the adrenaline rush that any great crime drama should.

It tells the story of Agent Nina Chance and Detective Harlan Regis who investigate the murder of Carla Town, whose body is found in the White House. During the investigation, Regis discovers political secrets that could put the USA in danger!

This is an intelligent, bold, and thrilling murder mystery that keeps your eyes glued to the screen.

It deserves at least 4 stars for keeping you hooked and always wondering: "What's going to happen next?" And it deserves 5 stars just for starring Diane Lane. She is just awesome.

Recommended For: People who get a kick out of seeing Diane Lane kick some butt.

The Pelican Brief tells the story about a law student who uncovers a conspiracy after the murder of two Supreme Court Justices. The student's professor and lover, gives her brief of the case over to the FBI. The brief ends up with one of the president's men who believes it may smear the president's good name.

1. This film is one of the few well-told crime drama thrillers of the 1990s.

2. Warning: You will spend the entire film trying to figure out what is in the brief.

3. Julia Roberts's performance is superbly compelling!



Recommended For: People who want to watch something other than *Remember The Titans* when choosing one of Denzel's earlier works.



Papillon is a Steve McQueen classic. For those of you who have never seen a McQueen film, now is the time to start. His performance is haunting.

It tells the story of Henri "Papillon" Charriere and his time serving his sentence on a prison island. He befriends another man, Louis Dega (Dustin Hoffman), who is a forger. Life on the island is like a nightmare so Papillon attempts escape. Unfortunately, it lands him in solitary confinement for 2 years. How many escape attempts will it take for him to escape?

If one were to choose 4 words to describe the film they would be: Eerie, disturbing, raw, and sentimental. It is a crime drama that tells the story from a different side of the coin, the side that includes life imprisonment.

Recommended For: People who need reassurance that their lives don't suck by seeing how horrible life would be on a prison island.



A Fish Called Wanda features an incredible cast of actors including John Cleese, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Kevin Kline. Simply put, it's about four characters who work together to engage in robberies around London. The tom-foolery and backstabbing involved in the story make this film an utter riot.

It's a delightful blend of vulgar comedy and endearing vivaciousness.

If the awkward situations that Cleese's character seems to find himself in don't have you on the floor laughing, then the outrageous and highly absurd plot will.

Recommended For: People who love fish.

Adventures In Babysitting follows the experiences of Chris Parker. When her boyfriend cancels their date at the last minute, she must babysit the Andersons. Chris drives downtown to pick up her best friend who is in trouble, and must take the kids with her. Everything seems fine until her car gets a flat tire.

It's a great comedy-adventure for all ages.....well for anyone above 13 years old, as there is some explicit content. But the film's inappropriateness is also the film's charm.

Chris Parker is played by Elizabeth Shue, who is also known for her role as Jennifer in *Back to the Future Part II & III*.

Recommended For: People who have ever had the absolute worst and best time of their life all in one night.



Moscow On The Hudson tells the story of Vladimir Ivanoff, a musician who makes the decision to defect from Russia while in a Bloomingdale's store. Though his desire for freedom is strong, he finds adjusting to life in America more difficult than he thought.



It is one of Robin Williams's most raw performances. He is authentic in every single one of his emotional choices. The comedy shines through in Ivanoff's attempts at conforming to a lifestyle that is not natural to him.

The film covers important themes of integration, acceptance, fear of the unknown, morality, and the goodness of the human heart. To put it simply, it's just a fantastic original story.

Recommended For: People who can sit through an entire show of Robin's stand-up comedy.



What's Eating Gilbert Grape tells the heartwarming story of Gilbert and his struggle to take care of his brother Arnie and cope with his mother's obesity. When the woman of his dreams enters his life, his focus on family shifts and he must deal with the consequences.

Johnny Depp is absolutely beautiful, both inside and out, and he's not the only one to impress. Leonardo Di Caprio gives a stunning performance that all young actors should use as inspiration.

It is through the eyes of Gilbert that the importance of family and taking care of the people you love comes to light as a theme.

Recommended For: People who never cry during movies but secretly want to.

Buster Keaton was a very successful and famous director, producer, and comic of the early 20th century. His most success in feature films came in the 1920s. For many, including Orson Welles, his greatest achievement was *The General*, a civil war film.

What does Buster Keaton have to do with this film?

In *Benny & Joon*, Sam (Depp) models his behaviour after Buster Keaton. It is Sam's eccentric and comedic personality that charms Juniper 'Joon' Pearl. The dynamic relationship between them is ignited because Sam's quirkiness is encouraged and interrupted by Joon, who is mentally ill.

This film is charming through and through. And who doesn't love Johnny Depp playing a loving and crazy character at the same time?

Recommended For: People who don't take themselves too seriously and can admit that they are a little bit "insane in the brain".



Chocolat is not just a movie about chocolate. It is about love, letting go of the past, learning to adapt, being accepting of those around you...and chocolate. Starring Juliette Binoche, Judi Dench, Alfred Molina, and Johnny Depp, *Chocolat* is a perfect tale to watch curled up on a couch with a hot chocolate.



Guided by the tale told by a narrator, the film tells the story of Vianne and her daughter, Anouk, who travel from town to town, to spread the gift of chocolate, just as their ancestors had done for many generations. They arrive in a French village and open up a 'chocolaterie', and it isn't too long before their unorthodox attitudes begin to ruffle a few feathers.

Recommended For: People who drool at the thought of the combination of delectable chocolate and Johnny Depp.



The Fifth Element tells the futuristic story of Korben Dallas (Bruce Willis) who one day becomes the key player in a mission to fight an Evil that is much more powerful than the power-hungry Mr Zorg. Will he be able to find the secret weapon in time to save the planet?

Not only are the action sequences full of excitement, but the script is sprinkled with just the right amount of humour, and the story is truly inspiring.

Be warned, you'll want to buy the soundtrack off of iTunes after you watch it.

Recommended For: People who want to see Chris Tucker in a very interesting leopard print outfit.

Independence Day is not all about America winning its independence. It's about the world claiming its right to survive.

It has all 3 of the necessary elements of a great sci-fi action film:

1. Creepy aliens who want to destroy every living thing on Earth.
2. Lots of screaming people.
3. Two guys smoking cigars while blowing up the bad guys.

Jeff Goldblum and Will Smith make for a great alien-killing, joke-making team.



Recommended For: People who love to watch Will Smith kick some alien ass...because we all know that is what he lives for.

Stargate is the film that turned into a very successful science-fiction TV franchise. When Dr.Langford, an archeologist, finds an advanced piece of technology buried in Egypt, his daughter takes it upon herself to complete his work of figuring out what it is years later. She acquires the expertise of Dr. Daniel Jackson to make the device work.



Daniel and a team of military experts, lead by Colonel Jack O'Neil, travel to another planet where they discover a civilization of humans who worship the Egyptian Sun god, Ra.

Starring Kurt Russell and James Spader, this film will get you excited to learning more about ancient Egyptian history.

Recommended For: People who are looking for an excuse to start watching a new television show of over 18 seasons worth of entertaining sci-fi content.



The Ice Man tells the story of the incredible Dutch Daredevil, Wim Hof, who has taught himself to endure unbelievably cold temperatures. His idea of training to withstand the cold is to take nightly dips in the canal in Amsterdam in freezing weather.

Will Hof be able to complete a 26-mile marathon in -25C while only wearing shorts and sandals?

Be stunned and amazed by Wim's gift!
CAUTION: Body temperatures may drop in the watching of this film.

Recommended For: People who need proof that the human mind is more powerful than anything else.

Mad Hot Ballroom is a documentary about young elementary students living in New York City who compete against other schools in the state in ballroom dance.

As the students learn the steps and rhythms of the merengue, tango, rumba, foxtrot, and swing, they also are learning life lessons. In particular, they are learning what ballroom teacher, Pierre Dulaine, outlines in his teaching philosophy including: *respect, compassion, control, communication, and joy.*

The film doesn't go without involving the drama of being a young person...family pressures, cultural stereotypes, homework, and of course school crushes.

Recommended For: People who really want to learn the meaning of shaking their tail feathers from a few talented kids.



In *Paper Clips*, students from a middle school in Whitwell, Tennessee participate in a lesson about the Holocaust, but it soon turns into a world-recognized memorial project. Their idea was to collect 6 million paper clips to represent the souls of the Jews who were killed by the Nazis.

The project became much bigger than any of the teachers had anticipated and impacted the lives of so many people around the world, including many Holocaust survivors.

It is a deeply touching story that should inspire youth to advocate for righteous causes and make a difference.

Recommended For: People who believe in tolerance and will continue to tell stories of the struggles of the Jewish people during the Holocaust to future generations.





The Ten Commandments....What a classic and historic story. For those who haven't heard of it before, the film tells the story of Moses, who one day learns that he is the chosen man destined by God to lead the Jewish people to freedom.

Charlton Heston plays a mighty fine Moses. And who doesn't want to see that! At the very least, try to appreciate the grandeur of the film because it mirrored the grandeur of the story very well, especially for 1956.

Running Time: 220 minutes - not to worry, there are plenty of money shots to keep you intrigued.

Recommended For: People who want to watch the parting of the Red Sea scene (go look on IMDB to see how that scene was done).

Simply put, *The Longest Day* recounts the events of D-Day, from both the German and Allied perspectives.

For a film shot in the early 1960s, it is pretty amazing. The cinematography is quite impressive, especially for the technology available at the time. Most importantly, it gives one the sense of the pacing of war. War is not fast, it is not glamorous. It is slow, painful, and there is a lot of time for camaraderie...if you're not getting shot at, of course.



Running Time: 178 minutes - just watch it, it's really not that long.

Recommended For: People who love a great war movie.

Schindler's List is a beautiful film that has touched the hearts of many. Oskar Schindler is widely known as the man who saved the lives of hundreds of Jews during the Second World War. Falling witness to the horrible persecution of the Jews by the Nazis, the German businessman made the brave and honourable decision to employ the Jews in his factories.

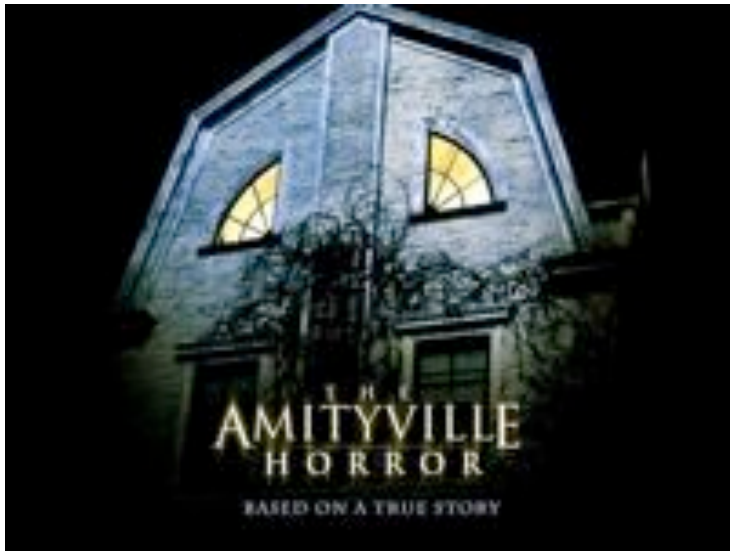


Though Liam Neeson and Ralph Fiennes look similar, their characters are quite opposite. You can probably tell they'd be butting heads the entire film.

It is the winner of 7 Academy Awards, and directed by Steven Spielberg.

Running Time: 195 minutes of pure genius.

Recommended For: People who have never had their entire soul slip into utter sadness, sympathy, and joy at the same time.



The Amityville Horror (1979 & 2005) is based on a true story. A newlywed couple and their children move into a beautiful house which they later discover was the home where a brutal murder was committed. The new family is terrorized by evil forces that lurk within the home.

Ryan Reynolds stars in the remake of the film, though James Brolin is much more convincing as a possessed psycho the original version.

Scare Scale: 6.8 / 10

Recommended For: People who dare to know the real meaning of a haunted house.

The Birds (1963) is an supremely disturbing psychological horror film directed by none other than Alfred Hitchcock.

Melanie Daniels, a well-to-do socialite, travels to a small town to run after a young man that she met in San Francisco. In an eerie turn of events, the birds in the town begin to viciously attack the people living there. Will Melanie get out before the birds attack her?

Scare Scale: 8 / 10

Recommended For: People who love birds and people who hate birds. The people who love them will instantly dislike them. The people who hate birds will continue to look over their shoulder whenever there are crows nearby.



If you really want to be creeped out and have the hairs on your neck stand up, then you should watch the original *The Stepford Wives* (1975). In the town of Stepford, Connecticut lies a frightening truth. When Joanna Eberhart moves there with her family, she can't help but notice something strange about the perfect behaviour of the other female residents.



Please do not watch the 2004 remake of the film. If you've seen it watch the original with a fresh eye.

Scare Scale: 7.2 / 10

Recommended For: People who watch any of the 'Real Housewives' shows and want to know what is really going on. And if you have any neighbours who act like perfect housewives, you may want to do a little digging.



Last Tango In Paris is not about a ballroom dancing couple who have their last dance under the Eiffel Tower before being murdered. It's about an American businessman who has a cloak-and-dagger type of affair with a passionate young Parisian woman. Paul and Jeanne's relationship is purely one of a sexual nature.

It's a fabulous story of passion and desire. Bernardo Bertolucci directed a wonderful and unforgettable film for those movie watchers who aren't afraid to get a little down and dirty.

<VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED: Marlon Brando does get his freak on with the beautiful French actress, Maria Schneider. For age 48, he's still as suave as he was in *Guys and Dolls*.>

Recommended For: People who can appreciate tasteful passion being performed on-screen.

Shakespeare In Love chronicles key moments in the life of the brilliant William Shakespeare. He was broke and at a loss of ideas, then he meets the most incredible woman. She becomes his muse and shapes him into the budding playwright he was born to be.

Gents: if you're ever in need of some old English pick-up lines, there are a few in here that you could try. No guarantees they'll work though. The film won seven Oscars if that's any consolation.

Ladies: Joseph Fiennes, Ben Affleck, and Colin Firth. Need one say more?

Recommended For: People who have always had a hard time visualizing Shakespeare as a stud.



A Walk To Remember is one of those movies you never forget. It tells the story of Landon Carter, the high school 'bad boy', who finds joy with a sweet and innocent girl who everyone thinks is a loser. As Landon gets to know Jamie, he discovers that there's more to her than meets the eye.

Mandy Moore (Jamie) is stunning in this film, both as an actress and as a vocalist. Her ability to play the role of Jamie with such precision and honesty is impressive.

Some of you may remember Shane West (Landon) from that one episode of *Boy Meets World* "A Kiss Is More Than A Kiss" where he makes out with Topanga at Chubbies...or maybe not. Just know he's a great on-screen kisser.

Recommended For: People who find a sense of comfort in stories about high school romances.

When Judy and Peter come across the board game, *Jumanji*, their lives change forever. After rolling the dice, they release a man who has been trapped in the game for many years. They soon realize that they have caused dozens of horrors to escape, and the only way they can get rid of them is to finish the game.



After watching it, you will never hear the sound of drums beating in the distance the same way ever again.

Starring Robin Williams, Kirsten Dunst, and Bonnie Hunt.

Recommended For: People who are always overconfident when playing board games.

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus tells the story of a whimsical traveling theatre company which gives its audiences an experience of a lifetime. When Tony (Heath Ledger) enters the Imaginarium, he has some zany bewildering experiences.

You should definitely watch it because it was Heath Ledger's last film before his death.

It is directed by Terry Gilliam. He definitely pulled some comedic inspirations from his work on *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Recommended For: People who want to go on a visual trip without the use of drugs.



Stardust is about a young man who promises his wife-to-be that he will find a fallen star. The only way he can find it is by crossing the border to a magical land. Once he finds the fallen star, he must be bold and courageous in order to keep it.

The film has a stellar cast including Claire Danes, Ian McKellen, Michelle Pfeiffer, Robert De Niro, Charlie Cox, and Sienna Miller.

If you're in the mood for a lighthearted, enchanted tale, this is a perfect film for you. Expect lots of laughs and a fun time!

It is directed by Matthew Vaughn, who also directed *X Men: First Class*.

Recommended For: People who dream of Claire Danes falling into their backyard...not in the middle of a crater.

Coach Carter (2005) is an inspiring story of a basketball coach who motivates the team to be better men. Ken Carter cuts off all access to the gym when he notices that the students on the team are not reaching their academic potential.



It delves into the important conversation that is being implemented more often into sports teams: there's more to being on the team than playing the sport. As Carter's character mentions, all of the team members are 'student' athletes, where student comes first.

It teaches a great lesson about discipline and the true meaning of a team environment.

Recommended For: People who need to see an example of the ultimate coach.

Technically golf is not a sport, it's a game. For the sake of this watchlist, we are making an exception.

In 1913, Ouimet was only 20 years old when he had the most incredible opportunity to play golf against his own golf idols. *The Greatest Game Ever Played* (2005) is based on the true story of Francis Ouimet, a young man who triumphs over the US Open champion, Harry Vardon.

Shia Labeouf embodies the role very well. It makes you wonder how much he had to practice golf for real, and how much is computer generated.



Recommended For: People who have never played golf and need to keep the illusion that it's an easy game.

The Longest Yard (also 2005) is a remake of the original film starring Burt Reynolds as Paul Crewe. In this film, Reynolds plays the role of Coach Nate Scarborough, the man who pushes the prison inmate football team to be better than the prison guard's team. Comedy guru, Adam Sandler, makes the role of Crewe his own.



Although none of these guys can *Bend It Like Beckham* per say, they can pack a mean tackle.

The film 'humanizes' the criminal characters and tells a story of triumph against oppressors.

Recommended For: People who believe in the power of one's resolve.

The story of *Guys and Dolls* (1955) takes place in New York city where a well-known gambler accepts a bet from Nathan Detroit to take a virtuous and frigid female missionary, Sergeant Sarah Brown, to Havana. He takes the challenge and unexpectedly falls in love with her. This makes it hard when he has to deal with the consequences for using the bet.



The wonderful Jean Simmons stars with Vivian Blaine (Marilyn Monroe wanted her role!), coupled with the smooth operator of jazz, Mr. Frank Sinatra, and the method acting master, Marlon Brando (though on set things were tense between those boys).

Recommended For: People who have ever been told 'sit down, you're rockin the boat', and often ask for 'luck to be a lady'.

A Chorus Line (1985) follows the stories of a group of talented performers who must audition for an tough director in order to get a role in the chorus of a new musical on Broadway.

Each character is based on the stories of real dancers from New York City. Michael Bennett was the director and choreographer of the first Broadway performance of the show.

He recorded the stories of his friends and colleagues in the business and turned it into a raw, true and incredibly entertaining musical that all performers in show business can relate to.



Recommended For: People who enjoy auditions, or who like dancers wearing ↑ (any of the above)

Chicago (2002) is a tale of revenge, jealousy, and love (it's always thrown in somehow). Velma Kelly murdered her sister and husband after finding them in bed together, and Roxie Hart killed her boyfriend after getting upset that he was not going to stick to his promise to make her a STAR!



She and Velma end up on death row (which is not a good situation in 1920s Chicago. With the hired help of lawyer Billy Flynn, both women fight for the spotlight in order to keep from being hung....in public.

Recommended For: People who need a clear example of what NOT to do when someone cheats on you. It should never involve weapons or heightened emotions, or a combination of the two. A simple "Goodbye _____!!!!!!!" (Fill in the blank) will do fine.



Once Upon a Time in the West is Sergio Leone's tale of Jill, a depressed widow, Frank, a land grabbing railroad thug, and a mysterious drifter who likes to play music with his harmonica.

Being a Leone film, the atmosphere and visuals are breathtaking, but the actors nearly outshine him. Charles "Pug-face" Bronson really outdoes himself here, stoic and strong from his introduction to the final duel. Henry Fonda is absolutely chilling in his

only notable performance as a villain. Jason Robards is charming and easy going as the Robin Hood-esque Cheyenne. Also, Claudia Cardinale is...just really, really sexy.

Ennio Morricone did the score for the movie, but you already knew that.

Recommended For: People with an obsession with trains and train stations. You're out there somewhere.

Unforgiven begins with The Schofield Kid (Jamiz Woolvett), a naive, young gunslinger eager to chase down a couple of bad boys who cut up a prostitute. He brings Munny, who is in need of...money on board, as well as Will's old pal, Ned, played by Morgan "My God, that voice is fu**ing majestic" Freeman.

Who can watch a Western list without mentioning Clint Eastwood? He directed and starred as William Munny in this Oscar-winning film.

Watching Eastwood transform from a gentle, family man back into one bad motha-SHUT YO' MOUTH. The audience supposed to be disappointed with him, but who doesn't like seeing Eastwood shoot people in the face and deliver cold, poetic monologues at the same time.



Recommended For: People who are turned on by the smooth, sensual sounds from Morgan Freeman's mouth. So, basically everyone with ears.

The dark horse on the list is *Rango*, a light-hearted Western/Comedy about a Chameleon who cosplays as Clint Eastwood...this will be the last time mentioning him.



Johnny Depp plays Rango, your everyday, quirky pet reptile with a love of acting. He lives an easy yet dull life inside of his glass bowl. That world is literally shattered when the bowl takes a tumble onto the freeway. Tired and thirsty, Rango wanders to a desert town where he uses his acting chops to convince everyone that he is a cold-hearted sharpshooter, not unlike Clin..., A Certain Fellow in Need of a Formal Title. Rango becomes Town Sheriff and that's when his act becomes real.

This film is one of those kind of for kids and adults. It's packed with some really clever references and nods to fans of the Western genre. The story takes the shape of a surprisingly engaging whodunit, and there are some truly impressive and creative action sequences.

Recommended For: People who like anthropomorphic creatures dressed up in real-person clothing.



Redline resembles just about every other racing movie: a lowlife with a passion for speed, Sweet J.P., gets a shot to compete in the galaxy's biggest race, *Redline*. J.P. is not only facing off with the other racers, though. Not to mention, there's an entire planet's army of robots after him for stepping on their turf.

What this movie lacks in depth, it makes up for in pure, unadulterated FUN. This film sure doesn't take long to crank the gnarly knob up to 11, lasting from

J.P.'s insane introductory crash all the way to the final stretch. Takashi Koike took SEVEN YEARS and a budget that could bankrupt a small country to complete *Redline*.

Recommended For: People who like songs that go UNTZ UNTZ UNTZ UNTZ UNTZ.

Summer Wars is the world's #1 greatest date movie. It's got your slowly budding, oh-so-gooey romance. It's got your lovable characters, soul crushing heartbreak, and heartwarming faith in humanity. Oh, and it's also got a master mathematician, falsely accused of cyber-terrorism, finding himself in a race against time against an evil hacker trying to bring ruin upon the entire planet.

Kenji, a nerdy high schooler and admin for Oz (an advanced social media network) gets enlisted by one of the school's hottest girls, Natsuki, to come to her family's summer reunion and act as her boyfriend. Lucky break, right? Well, she's really not that into him. This leads Kenji to many lonesome nights solving math problems. One of the algorithms he cracked turns Oz into a bugged-up nightmare. Will Kenji to save Oz and win Natsuki's heart?

Recommended for: Nerds, the sweet, delicate angels who tolerate them, and anyone with a big, fun, lovable, goofy, yet mostly intolerable family.



When the final credits of this Satoshi Kon masterpiece roll, you will have to pick up and reassemble the tiny pieces of your brain that exploded all over the walls. *Paprika* is about dreams, representing topics of repressed memories, lifelong aspirations, and sexual desires.



For those of you thinking this is just some artsy-fartsy film, hold your tomatoes, because there is a plot and it is twisty, turny, and so very juicy. It follows Chiba, an Agent Smith-like woman and her cute and bubbly dream world persona, Paprika.

'They' are on a mission to track down the thief of the D.C. Mini, a prototype psychotherapy gizmo which is able to record and playback patients' dreams. When the Mini is used to manipulate and invade innocent minds, the stakes to apprehend the criminal go through the roof!

Recommended For: Joe Rogan and his entire fanbase.

Reservoir Dogs may have started it all, but Tarantino's follow-up smash-hit was what really gained him clout as a true auteur with his trademark mega real, mega violent, mega cool style.



On top of that, *Pulp Fiction* may be the most complete movie of all time. It's got laughs (can anyone take Eric Stoltz seriously?), chills, love, and suspense (if Bible quotes were always read that way, church attendance would go through the roof).

Go to IMDB, now look at the film's rating, now look at the film's cast, now look at the film's budget, now pick your jaw up from off of the floor.

Recommended For: People who would pay top dollar for Quentin to make them a mixtape.

Quentin fans may or may not count this toward his sparkling filmography, as it was not directed by Tarantino. Tony Scott's *True Romance* has QT's style oozing out of the conversations, action scenes, and humour. This film is a wonderful love letter to cinema.

It stars Christian Slater, in one of his least psychotic roles, as a lonely comic book store employee, Clarence. The adventure starts when he hooks up with Alabama (Patricia Arquette) and falls madly in love with her.

When Clarence must face Drexel (Gary Oldman), 'Bama's pimp, that's when the bloodbath begins.

Recommended for: Christopher Walken impersonators.



Just as you think you were getting downright sick of WWII films, *Inglourious Basterds* came along. Tarantino and Eli Roth's bromance finally makes it to the big screen, Ennio Morricone conducts the score, and Brad Pitt returns from his small role in *True Romance*.

Christoph Waltz makes his first major film debut as Hanz Landa in an Oscar winning performance. Waltz's contribution in particular is so good, that it makes one wonder if Tarantino will ever again write a movie that doesn't include a certain well spoken and witty German.

In Pitt's words, this movie is about one thang, and one thang only: killin' Nazi's. Boy, does that happen in droves.

Recommended For: People who like the "Hitler finds out about ___" internet meme from *Downfall*. This movie is not recommended for skinheads.



When Italian director Claudio Fragasso and his wife got sick of all of their hippie friends becoming vegetarians, the duo penned *Troll 2*, a sickening horror classic. It's about a family that goes on an exchange trip to the rural community of Nilbog (Can you crack the riddle of the town's name?), a mysterious area plagued by goblins.

The goblins, which are made up of little people in potato sacks and paper maché, are absolutely horrifying.

The documentary made about this film, *Best Worst Movie*, is far superior to the actual movie.

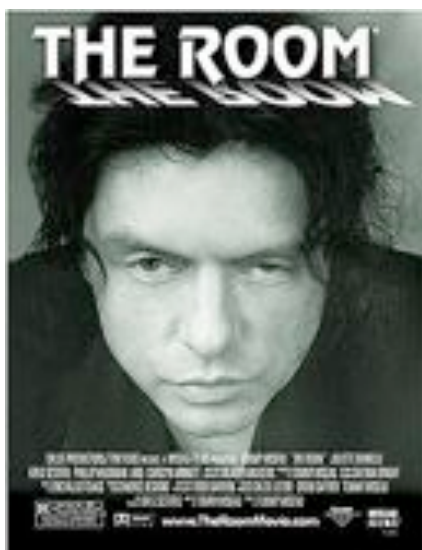
Recommended For: People who are looking for a new Halloween costume.

In 1994, *Super Street Fighter 2* was one of the biggest games on the planet, the film industry was just starting to realize how profitable cross-platforming could be, and Jean-Claude Vanne Damme was a budding action giant. What could go wrong?

Well, besides Guile being French, Ryu and Ken being sleazy, scam artists, and Blanka looking like the Hulk and Pennywise the Clown's offspring, not much. *Street Fighter: The Movie* is a blast. It incorporates just about every character, stage, and special move from the game and throws in a lot of tongue-in-cheek moments.

Zangeif (Andrew Bryniarski) and Chun-Li (Ming-Na Wen), captured their video game personas fairly well. There's also a game based on the movie if you can believe it: *Street Fighter: The Movie...The Game*.

Recommended For: Anyone with a Sega Genesis and a VCR machine.



The Room is all about one man: the legendary Tommy Wiseau. Without him, this movie would be another sub-par romantic drama, complete with enough ADR, that they may as well have done it over with sock puppets and some of the most inexplicable scene transitions known to film. But the enigma that is Tommy Wiseau made this movie unforgettable.

How did such a bizarre man get the funds and personnel to create this masterpiece? We will likely never know.

Tommy plays a man, Johnny, who is being torn apart by everyone he loves. His girlfriend, Lisa, is not too into him. Worse, she's cheating on him with his best friend and fellow rooftop football fanatic, Mark. Watching Wiseau's decent into madness is breathtaking, heartbreaking, and mostly hilarious.

Recommended For: All the tri-polar romeros out there.

Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) is a film that takes the classic story of Cinderella and shapes it for an audience that wants to see the non-sugarcoated tale. Drew Barrymore showcases the emotional roller-coaster of her character with grace. She really slips well into Cinderella's shoes.

(Pun intended)



You've never seen the characters from the fairy tale so well represented as real life 'caricatures'. The actors were brilliantly casted for their roles, though it would have been interesting to see what Ryan Gosling would have done to take Drew's breath away in the role of Prince Henry.

The dabs of comedy from Angelica Houston as Rodmilla (the step-mother) add spice to this already zesty movie.

Recommended For: People who are confident that they can throw apples at a person sitting on a runaway horse.

What can anyone say about Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore as a pair in the hilarious cheesy-melody filled film, *Music and Lyrics (2007)*.

Drew's quirk is blatantly obvious as her character Sophie stumbles over herself and her words. Her words, though, are what save Alex Fletcher from composing a disaster of a song for pop sensation, Cora. You've never experienced the rebirth of 80s pop glory until you've watched this.

Recommended For: People who have tried writing a song by copying and pasting diary entries onto sheet music.



Big Miracle (2012) is based on the true story of three gray whales who were trapped in the Arctic Circle. In the film, news reporter, Adam, asks his ex-girlfriend to come to Alaska to help save the family of trapped whales. Rachel, played by Drew Barrymore, is a borderline anal Greenpeace volunteer pours her heart into caring for the animals and the environment.



Drew plays her character so well that the audience really believes that she cares for the whales. Who knows if Drew herself actually loves whales. Since she looks like she does because of those delightful eyes and sweet smile, we just assume she does.

Recommended For: People who have ever been caught at MarineLand making the whale sounds like Dora from *Finding Nemo*. Do youuuuuuu liiiiiiiiike whaaaaales?

The nearly flawless *Goodfellas* sets the standard that all mobster movies look up to. It tells the true story of Henry Hill's (Ray Liotta) entrance, upbringing, and eventual exit from the Italian Mafia. What's great about this film is that it shows the life of crime from all angles. The characters are the same way, having great depth, and not being portrayed as 100% heroes or villains.



Unmatched performances by Paul Sorvino as the lethargic mob boss, Paulie, Robert De Niro as the ambitious thief, Jimmy, and Joe Pesci as the psychotic trigger man, Tommy make the cast of *Goodfellas* on a class of its own.

Mix in a great soundtrack with Tony Bennet and Derek and the Dominoes, and you've got a ganster movie to kill for.

Recommended For: Fans of the "Contemporary American Poultry" episode of *Community*.

Martin Scorsese's contemporary, Oscar-calibur classic, *The Departed*, contains copious amounts of Mark Wahlberg in a high strung, agitated state and has enough twists and turns to confuse Stephen Hawking.

The Departed is a clash between an undercover cop (DiCaprio) acting as a thug for a feared crime lord (Nicholson) and an undercover thug (Damon) acting as a cop for Boston's Internal Affairs unit.

The film is based off of a Hong Kong thriller, *Infernal Affairs*, and does a great job adapting the story to take place in Boston.



Recommended For: People who like "Comfortably Numb", but don't like Pink Floyd.

The under-appreciated gem of this week is *After Hours*, a real life Alice in Wonderland-ish trip down the rabbit hole that is The Big Apple. Once again, Scorsese does a great job in making a character out of the setting, this time showcasing the size, sleaze, and strangeness of New York City.



When a white collar word processor, Paul (Griffin Dunne) gets a date with a bubbly stranger, Marcy (Rosanna Arquette) he is pulled into a far off part of the city to meet her. This isn't a problem until Paul loses his money. In order to get home, he has to rely on the kindness of the after hours occupants of New York's bars and diners.

They are the sometimes helpful, sometimes not guides, similar to the Blue Caterpillar or Cheshire Cat.

Recommended For: Weirdos who watched *Pulp Fiction* and thought Rosanna Arquette was good girlfriend material.

Leos Carax created a truly brutal, bizarre, and beautiful world in *Holy Motors*, but couldn't have done so without his main star, Denis Lavant. Lavant plays the multi-talented and multi-faced



Monsieur Oscar in this artsy, yet uber entertaining French flick. Oscar is basically the most impossibly talented performer in the world, and in the movie, he travels around in a stretch limousine and puts on "acts" around Paris. These can range from super weird, like becoming a chain smoking, sewer dwelling troll to super real, like becoming an aging businessman giving his last words to his niece.

Oscar's characters are all extremely varied and he breathes a unique life into each of them.

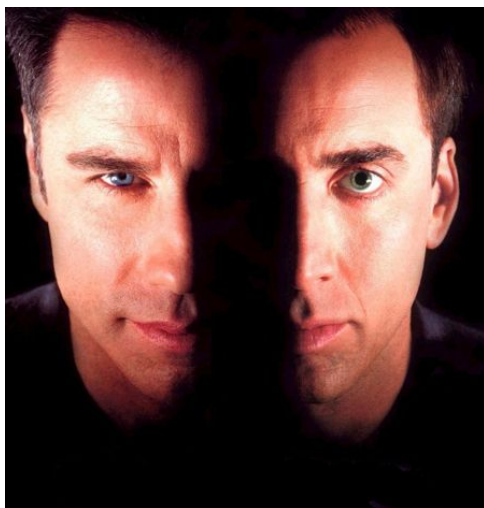
Recommended For: Xenophiles and accordion lovers.

Wachowski's *Cloud Atlas* is a tough movie to recommend. The credits really are the best part of this movie. "What, Haley Berry was that old dude!? What, Hugo Weaving was that old lady!?" Props to the make-up department on this one, as some of the transformations will leave you bug-eyed, staring at the screen thinking "Wouldn't it have been easier to just hire more actors?".

The whole film is about connectivity and how (read this in Morpheus' voice) "our choices define outcomes." Since six stories are bridged by this rule, it is a little more obvious because Berry, Weaving, Tom Hanks, Jim Broadbent, Doona Bae, and others each play 5+ different roles.



Recommended For: Pissed off senior citizens/renege fast food employees from the future/anti-establishment journalists from the 70's/suicidal musicians (They're all connected! Like, whoa!)



The plot to *Face/Off* is so brilliant, it's a wonder Hollywood hasn't done it to death already. John Travola and Nicholas Cage are what you might call "colourful" actors.

Sean Archer, an FBI supercop, is obsessed with catching the eccentric terrorist, Caster Troy. Archer puts Troy into a coma-like state, but Troy's gang is still running a muck. Archer goes undercover to stop them so he transplants Troy's face onto his and becomes his own worst enemy. When Troy wakes up, with no face to wear but Archer's, he sets off to find his foe and take him out.

It's really mind boggling when you realize that the characters themselves are playing the other character.

Recommended For: Anyone considering a nose job or Botox. It's like looking in a mirror, only not.