
















Filter: Minimum score of 6 or a special recommendation.

This is a non-official, pseudo-scientific list of less-than-obvious movies that I've seen and are worth your viewing time, keeping in mind that I like many different kinds of movies. All ratings are just a quick guide to relative enjoyability and socially redeeming value (if any). Also included are films of suspect social value but which left me really glad I had seen them at least once. What results is a hodge-podge of films that should keep you from depending on insidious, plot-spoiling previews.

**ACTION**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Branded To Kill</b><br>Suzuki, Seijun (1967) [R]              | 7 This is considered Suzuki's B-movie masterpiece, all mood and style laced with sex and violence. The plot is understandable more as a concept than a fleshed out thing, but plot is not the point.   |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Chocolate</b><br>Pinkaw, Prachya (2008) [R]                   | 7 What the director did for simple Thai farmers in "Ong Bak: The Thai Warrior" he repeats for autistic children in this tale, in which the special needs daughter of an ex-yakuza woman (or was she with the government?) shows an unnatural ability for Thai fighting. Sometimes a bit too maudlin, The young star escalates her quest into an scarily intense finale that has to be experienced. Either these are the most dedicated stunt people in history — or life is cheap in Thailand. |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Conspiracy Theory</b><br>Donner, Richard (1997) Adventure [R] | 8 An enjoyable action movie for those with a suspicion about, well, everything. A treat for Lone Gunmen everywhere.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Drive</b><br>Wang, Steve (1996) Comedy [R]                    | 7 A very credible entry into the hyper-kinetic martial arts genre concerning a man, on the run from an evil corporation, whose Kung Fu is on "11" and whose karaoke is to be feared. Brittany Murphy supplies comic relief, some of it unintentional, to supplement unwilling sidekick Kadeem Hardison.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hobo With a Shotgun</b><br>Eisener, Jason (2011) [R]          | 6 A hobo who just wants a lawnmower opts to clean up a town ruled by a blood-crazed family. In the wake of the Tarantino/Rodriguez "grindhouse with modern editing and effects" movies, Eisener opens up a can of purism by actually making a grindhouse movie, with amateur extras and over-the-top villains in neat prep school haircuts. Wow.   |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Iron Monkey</b><br>Yuen, Woo-ping (1993) Martial Arts [PG-13] | 9 Extremely well-made adventure/comedy set in historical China. Not as mystical as "Crouching Tiger" but equally entertaining.   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Machete</b><br>Rodriguez, R & Maniquis, E (2010) Comedy [R]   | 7 For anyone who saw the fake trailer for this movie in the middle of the "Grindhouse" double-feature and thought "They really ought to make that movie!"...here ya' go and it delivers on what the blood-spattered, self-parodying trailer promised in spades — or rather, machetes. Includes guest shots by a lot of fine actors (also Steven Seagal) and a very humorous throwaway joke involving a certain actor's choice of getaway car.  |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Machine Girl, The</b><br>Iguchi, Noboru (2008) Comedy [UR]    | 6 With half of a tongue firmly in cheek — and the other half lying on a plate (you've been warned), this enthusiastically gory Japanese revenge flick lets loose not just both but multiple revolving barrels of splattering mayhem that one may find hard to top without being a full-time watcher of shock movies.   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Overlord</b><br>Avery, Julius (2018) Horror [R]               | 8 Another brilliant example of B-movie genres being crossed with A-list talent to produce an entertaining and very satisfying winner. Here, an expertly staged World War 2 movie slowly bleeds (ha ha) into sci-fi horror, letting us gloss over some historically inaccurate inclusiveness.   |     |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").
















Family oriented fare





May definitely push the limits for some.

**ACTION**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Peacemaker</b><br>Gunn, James (2022) Comedy [TV-MA]           | 8 Season 1 is a gonzo combination of bloody action and bizarre humor that manages to let the less-than-one-dimensional character from 2021's "Suicide Squad" actually evolve (slowly). Often hilarious and full of surprises, with a uniquely ROTFL / WTF? opening credits sequence.   |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shoot 'em Up</b><br>Davis, Michael (2000) [R]                 | 7 As long as you accept this movie for what it is (a whole movie of all the "cool moves" worked out by 12-year-old boys during late night sleepovers), you'll have a good time watching this non-stop symphony of dry humor, preposterous shootouts and well-edited action.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Streets of Fire</b><br>Hill, Walter (1984) [PG]               | 7 A ex-soldier returns to rescue his pop star girlfriend, who has been kidnapped by a scarily satanic Willem Dafoe. A sterling example of a B-movie that rises above its class by turning its clichés into archetypes, using anachronisms to edge towards fantasy and making its music as much of a driver as action scenes. |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Stunt Man, The</b><br>Rush, Richard (1980) Drama [R]          | 8 A man with a need to hide stumbles into a job as a stunt man for a director, played by Peter O'Toole, who may not be trustable. A great little film that keeps you guessing while you enjoy the behind-the-scenes view of movie stunts.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sukiyaki Western Django</b><br>Miike, Takashi (2007) [R]      | 7 Miike, known for his white-knuckle thriller "Audition," explores the spaghetti Western genre, resulting in a stew of high-drama and exuberant excess that includes Quentin Tarentino in one of the roles. Will be high on the cult lists   |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tears of the Black Tiger</b><br>Sasanatieng, Wisit (2000) [R] | 7 Digitally colorized into a fluorescent orgasm for users of various contraband, this incandescent mixture of retro Thai romance, Italian Western and Sam Raimi thrills is something you will want to pull out any time the "right" folks are visiting.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tokyo Drifter</b><br>Suzuki, Seijun (1966) [NR]               | 6 A yakuza's attempts to go straight are foiled. Although plot-challenged (esp. for Americans), this is a prime Japanese 60's B-movie, chock full of visual fun.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>V for Vendetta</b><br>McTeigue, James (2006) [R]              | 9 An ideas movie that answers the questions it asks — and then makes you question the answers. A mix of provocative word-play and exhilarating action that should leave you with something to talk about.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Warrior Nun</b><br>Barry, Simon (2020) [TV-MA]                | 8 Gun-toting ninja nuns! Vatican intrigue! Wildly imaginative Christian mythology! Ancient artifacts! And a Buffy-like protagonist. What's not to love???  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Warriors, The</b><br>Hill, Walter (1979) [R]                  | 7 A street gang unexpectedly gets caught far from its turf and must fight its way back home. Hardly a cultural masterpiece, yet it is still one of the seminal works of violent, stylized urban near-fantasy films.  |    |

**ADVENTURE**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Army of Darkness</b><br>Raimi, Sam (1993) Comedy [R] | 7 Raimi switches gears from horror to action/adventure in this "moments later" sequel to Evil Dead II, but does not skimp on the slapstick humor. |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fist of Legend</b><br>(1994) Comedy                  | 7   |  |



Something completely different.



Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").









Family oriented fare




May definitely push the limits for some.

## ADVENTURE

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>❑ <b>Green Knight, The</b><br/>Lowery, David (2021) [R]</p>  | <p>8 A successful mix of arthouse, action and hypnotic visuals, this follows the path of Gawain, a youthful layabout in the court of a certain English king. His quest will either lead to his become a hero or a legend—the audience must ultimately decide. </p> |
| <p>❑ <b>Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus, The</b><br/>Gilliam, Terry (2009) Fantasy [PG-13]</p>        | <p>7 The wagon of a traveling minstrel show that wanders through modern England, holds some rather enormous secrets, but so do some of the characters in this Terry Gilliam film that was Heath Ledger's last. </p>  |
| <p>❑ <b>Mask of Zorro, The</b><br/>Campbell, Martin (1998) [PG-13]</p>                                | <p>8 A very decent resurrection of both the character and the genre, falling back on solid action and well-placed humor, not to mention the eye-candy for both sexes.</p>   |
| <p>❑ <b>Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl</b><br/>Verbinski, Gore (2003) [PG-13]</p> | <p>8 Twenty minutes too long but that's a minor flaw in a classic swashbuckler/ghost story with several great characters, including Johnny Depp channeling the (eventual) ghost of Keith Richards.</p>  |
| <p>❑ <b>Rundown, The</b><br/>Berg, Peter (2003) Comedy [PG-13]</p>                                    | <p>8 An indebted specialist in "retrieving" things goes after a mobster's pseudo-archeologist son. One-half formula, one-fourth exhilarating action and one-fourth gut-busting humor. This is worth seeing with an audience, even if it's the Saturday night gang.</p>  |
| <p>❑ <b>Scott Pilgrim Vs. the World</b><br/>Wright, Edgar (2010) Comedy [PG-13]</p>                   | <p>8 An off-the-wall — and sometimes right through it — adventure fantasy about a teenager with romantic problems that include a series of jealous boyfriends warped through a street fighter video game. All in all, a seriously entertaining diversion. </p>     |
| <p>❑ <b>Time Bandits</b><br/>Gilliam, Terry (1981) Comedy [PG]</p>                                    | <p>8 Gilliam's first directorial effort is a hoot, taking a neglected kid on a series of wild adventures in time and space. </p>  |
| <p>❑ <b>White God</b><br/>Mundruczó, Kornél (2014) [UR]</p>   | <p>7 The abandonment of a mixed-breed dog in the middle of a Hungarian city is the catalyst for this bit of magical realism about dogs turning the tables on humans.  </p>  |

## BAD

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>❑ <b>Creeping Terror, The</b><br/>Nelson, Arthur (1964) Sci-fi [G]</p> | <p>1 They lost the original soundtrack so a narrator does the play-by-play about a shuffling carpet from space that roams the countryside and very slowly eats some incredibly stupid people.</p>   |
| <p>❑ <b>Deadly Prey</b><br/>Prior, David A. (1987) Adventure [R]</p>      | <p>1 The unintentionally hilarious nadir of Rambo wannabes mashed up with "The Most Dangerous Game." An armored para-military outfit "secretly" training near Los Angeles kidnaps a practice victim who is—OH NO—a killer trained by their own leader! Produces many absurd moments of unintended laughter. The preview alone is worth watching.</p>  |
| <p>❑ <b>Glen Or Glenda</b><br/>Wood, Jr., Edward D. (1953) Drama [NR]</p> | <p>1 After "Plan 9," this "exposé" of transvestism is the quintessential Ed Wood movie, containing everything that marks Wood as a true auteur—of incredibly bad movies—but an auteur nevertheless: Bad acting, inexplicable dialog, unexplainable fantasy sequences and Bela Lugosi ranting about puppy dog tails. Oh yes. </p> |
| <p>❑ <b>Hard Ticket To Hawaii</b><br/>Sidaris, Andy (1987) Action [R]</p> | <p>1 One of a series by an ex-Monday Night Football director taking advantage of the over-supply of soap opera stars and recent Playboy playmates to make cheap action movies with plenty of gratuitous flesh. The acting and production values (let's throw in an "infected" giant snake!) push it into the realm of truly entertaining bad movies.</p>  |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").








Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

**BAD**

- ❑ **Lady Terminator**  
Djalil, H. Tjut (1989) Horror [R]  
- 1 There is no need for an MST3K treatment here. This Indonesian bloodfest attempts to replicate the basics of "The Terminator" in a hilarious collision of South Asian culture, bad dubbing and even worse mullets, using a female lead who is controlled by the vengeful spirit of a "South Seas witch" instead of Skynet — a legendary sexual bogey-woman with an "appetite" about which the abstinence-only Sex Ed crowd would heartily approve.
- 
- ❑ **Mac and Me**  
Raffill, Stewart (1988) Sci-fi [PG]
- 1 A direct rip-off of E.T. featuring aliens who seem to be the unsettling result of cross-breeding an ugly fruit with an inflatable sex doll. The child alien manages to cause what is probably five-figure damage to the family house yet everyone thinks he's still cute. Clips from this movie were substituted by Paul Rudd whenever he was promoting a film on Conan O'Brian's shows.
- 
- ❑ **Manos: the Hands of Fate**  
Warren, Harold P (1966)
- 1 A "hippy" cult and their crazy rites are portrayed in a work of art that appears on many of the "worst of the worst" lists. See it in the Mystery Science Theater 3000 version to avoid brain damage.
- 
- ❑ **Miami Connection**  
Park, Woo-sang (1987) Martial Arts [UR]
- 1 The story of a pop rock band, who happen to be orphans... and live together in the same house... and are all Tae Kwon Do experts. They are pitted against motorcycle ninjas who control the Miami drug trade, headed by their lead singer's brother, who must have the weakest impulse control in movie history. Painfully entertaining (in a good way).
- 
- ❑ **Orgy of the Dead**  
Apostolof, Stephen C. (1965) Horror [NR] 
- 1 A couple is captured and forced to watch a series of dances by women who are dead...and topless. Written but not directed by Ed Wood, this is the exact opposite of what you should rent, sight unseen, to impress your new in-laws with your iconoclastic movie tastes. Trust me.
- 
- ❑ **Plan 9 From Outer Space**  
Wood, Jr., Edward D. (1958) Sci-fi [G] 
- 1 This is the classic "bad" movie against which other movies are judged. Bela Lugosi appears briefly before leaving Wood adrift by dying. Inspired the biographical movie "Ed Wood" which makes a great double-feature with this one.
- 
- ❑ **Room, The**  
Wiseau, Tommy (2003) [R]
- 1 An astonishingly bad (and perhaps vengeance-motivated?) story about a great guy named Johnny whose friends pretty much all betray him. Universally panned, it led to the spoofy homage, "The Disaster Artist." The dialog is as horrendous as the acting and perhaps a third of the movie has no purpose except to repeat what we've seen in slightly different ways—as if porn movies were the model.
- 
- ❑ **Sharknado**  
Ferrante, Anthony C. (2013) Horror [TV-14]
- 1 Although not quite as terminally bad as the "classic" bad movies, this is a real keeper, something to share with loudmouthed friends, pizza and a large amount of alcohol. Although the title says most of what you need to know, it does not fully prepare you for the cheap shortcuts and breathtaking stupidity on display.
- 
- ❑ **Troll 2**  
Fragasso, Claudio (1991) Horror [PG-13] 
- 1 Highly recommended if you are 1) with a group of quick-witted friends and 2) under the influence, otherwise you may not quite appreciate the charm of this extemporaneously plotted piece of unintentionally hilarious crap. The preponderance of Italian names in the creative team may explain why the English dialog sucks so badly or why the word "troll" does not appear in the script at all. Also see the documentary "Best Worst Movie."



Something completely different.



Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").



















Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

## COMEDY

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>2 Brothers and a Bride</b><br>Schleppi, Helmut (2003) [PG-13]                                  | 8 Two farming brothers left adrift by the death of their mother try to find a "wife" via Russian dating excursions. Things resolve themselves in ways they don't expect, with ample humor and some great acting by Tim Blake Nelson.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>24 Hour Party People</b><br>Winterbottom, Michael (2002) Drama [R]                             | 8 The story of Tony Wilson and Factory Records, which incubated seminal punk and rave groups. Funny, tragic, you know...all of the usual ingredients, but after the entertainment is over, you leave feeling like you understood what it was all about.   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adaptation</b><br>Jonze, Spike (2002) [R]  | 8 A writer adapts an unfilmable book by making it about his own struggle to adapt it. Clever and funny, with an obvious debt to Fellini's "8 1/2."  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>And Now For Something Completely Different</b><br>McNaughton, Ian (1971) [PG]                  | 9 Monty Python's best early bits, reshot for cinema. It was my first exposure—a true whack on the side of the head. I've never been quite right since.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Anniversary Party, The</b><br>Cummings, A & Lee, J J (2001) Drama [R]                          | 7 A reunited novelist and actress celebrate their 6th wedding anniversary amid an assortment of friends and "those" neighbors. Great dialog.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bad Santa</b><br>Zwigoff, Terry (2003) Black [R]   | 9 Funny in the most horrific way, the most worthless soul you could imagine finds an unlikely glimmer of redemption in an unexpected relationship with a kid. That this is also a setup for the funniest "police brutality" scene I've ever seen is simply part of the proceedings. Recommended for anyone who needs a breather from over-commercialized holiday sweetness. |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bambi Meets Godzilla</b><br>Newland, Marv (1969) [NR]  | 9 A classic cartoon short. No other description is needed beyond the title. Well, except this is not for kids.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bartleby</b><br>Parker, Jonathan (2001) Drama [PG-13]  | 8 Melville's Kafkaesque tale of an inconsequential man who chooses to become even less so is given a modern treatment leavened with some very funny comedy bits amid solid acting.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Best in Show</b><br>(2000) Black [PG-13]   | 8 The cut-throat world of dog shows from the "Spinal Tap" folks.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Birdman Or (the Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)</b><br>Iñárritu, Alejandro G. (2014) Drama [R] | 8 An actor, whose most famous role is a super-hero he badly wants to put in his past, stars in a Broadway play. Things get weird.   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Black Dynamite</b><br>Sanders, Scott (2009) [R]  | 7 An inspired parody of 70's blaxploitation movies that acquits itself well against the likes of "Planet Terror" and "Death Proof." The humor is well integrated into the plot line instead of just random silliness and it works.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bubba Ho-tek</b><br>Coscarelli, Don (2003) Horror [R]  | 7 A B-movie plot gets raised to the heights of comic absurdity as two kings and one president, who are all supposed to be dead, battle it out in the confines of a nursing home. This is the very definition of the expression "what a hoot!" and the more you know about Elvis, the more you will appreciate the accuracy of Bruce Campbell's characterization.            |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cashback</b><br>Ellis, Sean (2006) Drama [R]   | 8 An expansion of the director's award-winning short about an art student struggling with both romance and a possibly real power over time, this is a small gem of an indie film.   |   |



Something completely different.



Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").

















Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.



**COMEDY**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Clerks</b><br>Smith, Kevin (1994) Black [R]  | 7 Kevin Smith's debut movie, in which various foul-mouthed McJobbers do a lot of really funny things.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Clerks II</b><br>Smith, Kevin (2006) [R]   | 7 Although it would be hard to top the experience of first meeting these characters, this is a funny, credible sequel to the original.   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cocaine Bear</b><br>Banks, Elizabeth (2023) Horror [R]                                   | 7 Although it doesn't rise to the levels of "Tucker & Dale vs. Evil," this delivers pretty well on the level of comedic mayhem its title suggests. Good for a group watch.   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Confessions of a Dangerous Mind</b><br>Clooney, George (2002) Drama [R]                  | 8 Based on the "autobiography" of The Gong Show's Chuck Barris, in which he claims to have been a CIA assassin during his mysterious absences while his shows were at their height. His story is aided and abetted by a group of big names.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Disaster Artist, The</b><br>Franco, James (2017) [R]                                     | 8 This satirical homage/apologetic for Tommy Wiseau's "The Room" successfully juggles three movies simultaneously: A hilarious but somehow affectionate satire of the movie, a believable portrayal of the very mysterious, indefatigable but seriously troubled Wiseau and a sort-of-inspiring, sort-of-demented "luck and pluck" story. Recommended but not required: Making it the second half of a double-feature with the original. |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Down With Love</b><br>Reed, Peyton (2003) [PG-13]  | 8 Loving recreation of a 60's comedy romance with excellent dialog, unexpected twists and some extremely clever throw-away jokes.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dr. Strangelove</b><br>Kubrick, Stanley (1964) Sci-fi [NR]                               | 10 Kubrick's broad satire of the Cold War mentality and right-wing extremism holds up decades later because it is based on the unchanging progression of "logic" that fear and misunderstanding bring to any crisis. The characters are taken from the actors in the politics of the time, especially "Buck" Turgidson, modeled on Gen. Curtis "Kill 'em all and let God sort them out" LeMay (for a real fright, look him up).          |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ed Wood</b><br>Burton, Tim (1994) Drama [R]  | 8 A very entertaining biography of the shoot-from-the-hip director of such truly awful movies as "Plan 9 From Outer Space" and "Glen or Glenda?"   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Election</b><br>Payne, Alexander (1999) Black [R]  | 9 Tracy Flick: she's not a high-school over-achiever—she's a freakin' political machine! But amid all the black humor and hallway intrigue, the movie forces you to ask: For whom should you be rooting?   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Escape From Tomorrow</b><br>Moore, Randy (2013) Black [R]                                | 7 A man on a family vacation at a theme park gets some upsetting news, and things start to spiral into weirdness. Surreptitiously filmed in part at Disney World.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Everything Everywhere All At Once</b><br>Kwan, Dan & Scheinert, Daniel (2022) Action [R] | 9 Highly recommended for the "something completely different" crowd: It's as if Marvel decided to do a new season of "What If..." based on the idea behind Kim's Convenience... as a Jackie Chan movie... made by Monty Python (or at least, Terry Gilliam). Holy cow. It's messy and bonkers and hilarious—and the audience I was with immediately recognized what kind of performance awards are apparently given out by the IRS.      |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Extra Ordinary</b><br>Ahern, M & Loughman, E (2019) Horror [R]                           | 8 A one-hit wonder is contracting with Satan for a come-back album and it's up to a retired ghost hunter (now a driving school instructor) to save the day. A strong ensemble of comic actors makes this consistently funny, a little gross and a real no-brainer for a  |    |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").















Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

## COMEDY

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| □ <b>Extra Ordinary</b>   | crowd-pleasing Halloween film fest.  |   |
| □ <b>Family, The</b><br>Besson, Luc (2013) Black [R]                            | 8 When an American family moves to France as part of a witness protection program, their old habits and true natures complicates life for their handlers (and some of the locals), even as the father seems to be finding a meaningful new path for his life. A well-paced black comedy that lets you in on the joke on a need to know basis.  |    |
| □ <b>Fear and Loathing In Las Vegas</b><br>Gilliam, Terry (1998) [R]            | 6 This isn't really decipherable without having read the Hunter S. Thompson book, but since it is only a visualization of the book's scenes, you can pass on it without qualms.  |    |
| □ <b>Fearless Vampire Killers, The</b><br>Polanski, Roman (1967) Horror [PG-13] | 7 Roman Polanski's spoof of Hammer horror films is a balance of genre-busting slapstick and moody visuals that deserves to be seen at least once.  |    |
| □ <b>Fido</b><br>Currie, Andrew (2006) Horror [R]                               | 8 "Pleasantville" meets "Night of the Living Dead" in this very funny mash-up of zombie films and 1950's suburban culture, in which some of the zombies have more sensitivity than humans. Includes at least four standout comic performances.   |    |
| □ <b>Final Girls, The</b><br>Strauss-Schulson, Todd (2015) Horror [PG-13]       | 7 A teenager and her friends gets mysteriously sucked into the bowels of a 70's summer camp slasher film in which her mother had a role. Lots of good, meta-satirical fun with a decent dose of actual drama.  |    |
| □ <b>Fleabag</b><br>Waller-Bridge, Phoebe (2016) Drama [TV-MA]                  | 10 Twelve 30 minute episodes of concentrated manic-depressive hilarity interrupted by two-hankie reveals, with some inspired storytelling tricks (Hot priest: "What was that?"). This show is absolutely brilliant and goes out on top.  |    |
| □ <b>Ghost World</b><br>Zwigoff, Terry (2000) [R]                               | 8 Looking for love when you hate the world. Based on a comic, with great performances and a script that doesn't pull punches.  |  |
| □ <b>God Bless America</b><br>Goldthwait, Bobcat (2011) Black [R]               | 7 Aided by a bubbly teenager with a pronounced psychopathic streak, a thoroughly disgusted Everyman pauses in his desire to shoot himself in order to start shooting deserving people instead. An amusing black comedy with a little too much exposition about modern culture (but well-written exposition you wish you had said yourself) and a very high guilty pleasure quotient. |  |
| □ <b>God said, "Ha!"</b><br>Sweeney, Julia (1998) [PG-13]                       | 9 Constantly funny, often side-splitting yet often poignant, this one-woman show by Julia Sweeney about her very ill brother, her parents and herself shows how, when life serves you lemons, some people make a lemon layer cake.   |  |
| □ <b>Greaser's Palace</b><br>Downey Sr., Robert (1972) Western [TV-MA]          | 6 A blackly satirical parable about Jesus.   |  |
| □ <b>Groundhog Day</b><br>Ramis, Harold (1997) Fantasy [PG]                     | 8 One of Bill Murray's best movies, about a man forced to relive a single day over and over again until he gets it right, dammit.  |   |
| □ <b>Guru, The</b><br>Mayer, Daisy Von Scherler (2003) [R]                      | 7 An entertaining mix of Hollywood romance and Bollywood (Indian) dance movies, spiced by off-kilter characters and on-target humor.   |  |
| □ <b>Happy Death Day</b><br>Landon, Christopher (2017) Horror [PG-13]           | 8 A sorority girl must figure out how to survive a killer while stuck in some kind of time loop. Scary near the beginning but mostly hilarious and clever with a talented comic lead.  |  |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").















Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

**COMEDY**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p>❑ <b>Happy Death Day 2U</b><br/>Landon, Christopher (2019) Sci-fi [PG-13]</p>              | <p>8 A serendipitous idea leads to an unplanned sequel that shifts genres, matching the comic imagination found in its horror(ish) movie predecessor but adding real emotional depth. Jessica Rothe continues to be an impressive comic actor and her castmates supply half the fun of watching. The other half is the riffing on what happened in the original.</p>  | <p></p>   |
| <p>❑ <b>Harold and Maude</b><br/>Ashby, Hal (1971) Drama [PG]</p>                             | <p>9 A young man's obsession with death (and the frequent faking of his own) collides with the unstoppable force of an elderly woman bent on wringing every possible joy from the time she has remaining. A solid classic of independent film that should not be missed.</p>  | <p></p>   |
| <p>❑ <b>Homecoming</b><br/>Dante, Joe (2005) Horror [R]</p>                                   | <p>8 Not a horror film as much as bludgeoning political satire. An entrenched political animal's unexpectedly sincere wish to an Iraq war casualty's mother leads to a very different kind of zombie movie. To say this is unkind to the Bush administration is like saying a big boot is unkind to roaches.</p>  |  |
| <p>❑ <b>Hot Fuzz</b><br/>Wright, Edgar (2007) [R]</p>   | <p>8 Extremely entertaining, gross and consistently hilarious, this shark-out-of-water tale about an über-cop put on a leash includes well-disguised cameos and a slew of insider details that make it worth watching more than once.</p>   | <p></p>   |
| <p>❑ <b>House of Yes, The</b><br/>(1998) Black [R]</p>  | <p>7 Definitely an independent film (with Parker Posey, of course): a slightly demented younger sister tries to hold on to the brother on whom she has depended for love.</p>   | <p></p>   |
| <p>❑ <b>Idiocracy</b><br/>Judge, Mike (2006) Sci-fi [R]</p>                                   | <p>8 While two hapless victims of a military experiment sleep, the human race devolves to its lowest common denominator in this sci-fi satire that answers the question "What's the worst that could happen?" with a sledgehammer. It loses its edge as it tries to develop something resembling a plot, yet the film is (to use an appropriate term) littered with so many seditiously hilarious gags that it begs a second viewing.</p> | <p></p>  |
| <p>❑ <b>In a World...</b><br/>Bell, Lake (2013) [R]</p>                                       | <p>9 A beautifully written comic riff on feminism and family dynamics set in the world of movie trailer and TV voice-overs, in which a woman living in the shadow of her father's voice gets a chance to break out. A treat for film fans.</p>  | <p></p>   |
| <p>❑ <b>Incredible Adventures of Wallace and Gromit, The</b><br/>Park, Nick (2001) [G]</p>    | <p>9 Compilation of all three Wallace &amp; Gromit animation shorts. "The Wrong Trousers" is still the best, but the other two are also very funny.</p>   | <p>  </p> |
| <p>❑ <b>Invention of Lying, The</b><br/>Gervais, R &amp; Robinson, M (2009) Drama [PG-13]</p> | <p>9 Even though it eventually resolves itself in a "romantic comedy" conclusion, there is little else that is formulaic about this film, an absurdist comedy that starts with a simple "what if" then suddenly veers into some profound questions about faith, kicked off in a scene of wholly unexpected intensity.</p>   | <p></p>   |
| <p>❑ <b>John Dies At the End</b><br/>Coscarelli, Don (2012) Sci-fi [R]</p>                    | <p>7 The lives of two goofs are upended by a drug that seems to unbind the edges of time and space. A B movie elevated by some great dialog and imaginative plot developments.</p>  | <p></p>   |
| <p>❑ <b>Jojo Rabbit</b><br/>Waititi, Taika (2019) Drama [PG-13]</p>                           | <p>9 Waititi walks a tightrope here, in danger of using comedy to minimize the horrors of Nazi Germany. That disappears when you realize this is told entirely from the perspective of a lonely little boy who worships a fantasy version of his country's leader. Then Waititi delivers a sobering reminder, even as he celebrates the possibility of</p>  | <p></p>   |



Something completely different.



Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").















Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.



## COMEDY

- **Jojo Rabbit** redemption.
- 
- **Killer Klowns From Outer Space** 7 Classic cult movie in which aliens with an odd resemblance to every clown-o-phobic kid's worst nightmare turn a town's population into the equivalent of juice boxes. Definitely a "B" movie, but too wildly imaginative to pass up. 
- Chiodo, Stephen (1988) Horror
- 
- **Kung Fu Hustle** 9 Everything you've ever liked about action movies, kung fu fights and Roadrunner cartoons, all rolled into one frenzied gift to anyone with a bag of popcorn. This would be a PG13 except for one initial murder and an "F" word in the subtitles (that is incomprehensible in the dubbed version).  
- Chow, Stephen (2005) Martial Arts [R]
- 
- **Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou, The** 7 A meandering mood comedy with a mythical man-eating shark as the MacGuffin. Good stuff if you are in the mood for it, but not Anderson's best. 
- Anderson, Wes (2004) [R]
- 
- **Little Hours, The** 7 Frustrated nuns meet secret lovers in the middle ages. This semi-improvised screwball affair, based on "The Decameron," comes close to what a Pythonesque American comedy might be. It's a little uneven, but the wildly funny parts delivered by a cast of current luminaries compensates for the occasional miss. 
- Baena, Jeff (2017) [R]
- 
- **Look Who's Back** 7 A political fantasy in which Adolf Hitler has been mysteriously transported from his final day at the Führerbunker to the same spot in modern Germany. His deadpan insistence on being, uh...himself results in his being mistaken for the ultimate in method-acting comedians. A poison-tipped satire of modern culture ensues, a great mash-up of surreal comedy and "The Office" that works pretty well. 
- Wnendt, David (2015) [R]
- 
- **Love Witch, The** 7 Biller again weaves kitsch and meticulously accurate period design into a fascinating and funny pseudo-exploitation flick, about a witch in search of true love. 
- Biller, Anna (2016) [NR]
- 
- **Matador, The** 9 A friendless, globe-trotting (i.e., homeless) assassin on the verge of a hallucinatory burn-out strikes up a chance friendship with an average guy, with hilarious, unpredictable results. 
- Shepard, Richard (2005) Black [R]
- 
- **Me and You and Everyone We Know** 8 A very funny, extremely offbeat but ultimately "true" group of interlocking stories involving an awkward artist wannabe, a shoe salesman with just a hint of derangement, his kids and their neighbors. May push the boundaries of some folks' tastes, but relax...you are in the hands of someone who loves people. 
- July, Miranda (2005) Drama [R]
- 
- **Midnight in Paris** 9 A writer struggling with a change in career focus finds a visit to Paris having a very strange effect on him. Woody Allen pulls off another masterwork with a perfect tag line: "After midnight, Paris is magic." No kidding. 
- Allen, Woody (2011) [PG-13]
- 
- **Monty Python and the Holy Grail** 10 The ultimate and unmatched touchstone of film comedy—its first 17 minutes obliterated any preconceptions of what could be turned into multi-layered, gut-busting humor. Warning: if you think it's all just silly, that is a character flaw best kept to yourself. 
- Gilliam, T & Jones, T (1975) [PG]
- 
- **Monty Python's Life of Brian** 9 If people thought that Python humor was often a divider of people into those who got it and those who did not, this tale of a hapless Jewish kid who is mistaken for a Messiah does extra duty as a divider of people who "get" Christianity and those who do not. 
- Jones, Terry (1979) [R]



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)















Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").



Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Monty Python's the Meaning of Life</b><br>Jones, T & Gilliam, T (1983) [R] | 9 Monty Python returns with another series of over-the-top sketches that supplied the world with multiple catch-phrases: "Every sperm is sacred," "...a wafer thin mint."   |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Napolean Dynamite</b><br>Hess, Jared (2004) Black [PG]                     | 8 Hilarious but often excruciating look at the life of a high school misfit who begins to see a tiny glimmer of light at the end of his very, very dark tunnel. There's a slight tone of mean-spiritedness to this that would not have been noticeable if it weren't for events like Columbine.                           |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Nurse Betty</b><br>Labute, Neil (2000) Thriller [R]                        | 8 A savage murder plunges a waitress into a self-reinforcing delusion to find the soap opera character she thinks she is in love with. Smart and extremely funny but leavened with corpses by two hit men who think she may need killing.   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>O Brother, Where Art Thou?</b><br>(2000) [PG-13]                           | 9 The Odyssey, if it had been set in the depression-era South.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Office Space</b><br>Judge, Mike (1999) [R]                                 | 8 Although it eventually settles into a more pedestrian comedy, anyone who has worked in the corporate world will howl at the details woven into this movie. Unless you don't "get" it, in which case you must be one of the characters on the screen...and may God have mercy on you.                                    |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>One Cut of the Dead</b><br>Ueda, Shin'ichirō (2017) Horror [UR]            | 9 This making-of-a-zombie-movie zombie movie comedy is about as inventive and surprising as you can get. If a 30+ minute single take prelude before the opening credits roll isn't impressive enough, just wait.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Orgazmo</b><br>Parker, Trey (1997) [NC-17]                                 | 7 A white-shirted Mormon missionary gets sucked into the porn world in a movie that has surprising respect for all involved, despite the deliberately inane story, characters, sets and accessories. Try to figure out why this got an NC17 instead of a R, because no one else can.                                      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Parasite</b><br>Ho, Bong Joon (2019) Thriller [R]                          | 9 A poor family with some very creative employment ideas entangles themselves with a rich family. The situation works out well for them but not for those they replaced—one of whom has left behind quite a surprise. This is a masterpiece of genre hopping, with every shift in tone following naturally from the last. |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pieces Of April</b><br>Hedges, Peter (2003) Drama [PG-13]                  | 8 Alternately poignant and hilarious story of an estranged daughter trying to make her first Thanksgiving dinner...and the last her mother may ever have. This one avoids maudlin tear-jerking through an ensemble of strong comic performances.  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pink Flamingos</b><br>Waters, John (1972) [NC-17]                          | 6 John Waters most famous cult film is about people competing for the title of "The Filthiest Person Alive." 'Nuff said, except that it excels at questioning the basis for "standards of decency" that elsewhere might be used to cancel and humiliate those at the edges of "proper" society.                           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pleasantville</b><br>Ross, Gary (1998) Fantasy [PG-13]                     | 8 Two teenagers are magically transported to a world that is a humorously unsettling combination of "Father Knows Best" and "1984," where they proceed to upend the social structure.   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Polite Society</b><br>Manzoor, Nida (2023) Action [PG-13]                  | 8 This story of a British Pakistani teen's dream to be a stuntwoman manages to hilariously segue between three or four genres before its madcap conclusion. A no-brainer selection for a group movie night. Better to skip the previews—just watch it!  |  |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").


















Family oriented fare















May definitely push the limits for some.








## COMEDY

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Primary Colors</b> Nichols, Mike (1998) [R]	7	A realistic (in more ways than one) window into the political world, as a young volunteer in a presidential campaign learns how idealism and realism cohabitate.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Real Women Have Curves</b> Cardoso, Patricia (2002) Drama [PG-13]	8	A slice of life comedy about how shallow perceptions, inflicted by oneself and others, can steer the course of one's life.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Rocky Horror Picture Show, The</b> Sharman, Jim (1975) Musical [R]	9	One of the ultimate "now for something completely different" movies, a consistently amusing, over-the-top, very counter-cultural parody of science fiction cliches within a dead-on rock and roll musical.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Secretary</b> Shainberg, Steven (2002) Drama [R]	8	Two very damaged people find a mutually-affirming relationship that works, umm...for them. The first non-creepy, light-hearted B&D comedy but still not exactly appropriate for grandmothers, right-wing moralists or knee-jerk feminists.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Series 7: The Contenders</b> Minahan, Daniel (2001) Black [R]	8	A "reality" TV show in which the contestants try to assassinate each other. Black humor of the highest sort.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shaolin Soccer</b> Chow, Stephen (2004) [PG]	7	This would be a forgettable B-movie mess, except for the highly enjoyable goofiness of the whole thing, and the gut satisfaction of watching people kick soccer balls through walls.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shaun of the Dead</b> Wright, Edgar (2004) Horror [R]	9	Wickedly funny take on zombie films that spends enough time building its characters to get you to care for them...well, most of them.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sideways</b> Payne, Alexander (2004) [R]	9	Two college buddies take off on a wine-country jaunt just before one gets married, and things don't go the way either expects. The audience was pounding the seats in laughter.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>State and Main</b> Mamet, David (2000) [R]	8	A light but amusing movie about making movies, possibly best appreciated by those familiar with the process.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Super Troopers</b> Chandrasekhar, Jay (2001) [R]	7	The adventures of a squad of highly mischievous state troopers, in which the quality of the writing and the wickedness of some of the more deadpan humor pushes it well past the mediocrity to which most sophomoric movies of this sort aspire.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Team America: World Police</b> Parker, Trey & Stone, Matt (2004) Action [R]	8	A mostly very funny movie that is designed to offend just about EVERYONE at one point or another, skewering action movie clichés, Jerry Bruckheimer, knee-jerk conservative patriotism, politically active liberal actors and simplistic solutions to the world's problems. Not for your grandmother.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ted Lasso</b> Hunt, Brendan & Kelly, Joe & Lawr, B (2020) Drama [TV-MA]	9	A second-string football coach, going through a tough patch, is hired to coach a British football club (yes, that means soccer). This is a one-off Saturday Night Live skit that has been elevated by great writing, inspired comic performances and not a trace of saccharine into the most uplifting show of 2020. Don't miss this.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>This Is Spinal Tap</b> Reiner, Rob (1984) [R]	10	Classic rock band parody. I would give it an "11" but my meter doesn't go that far.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tokyo Godfathers</b> Furuya, Shôgo (2003) [PG-13]	8	Three incredibly unlikely nurturers find an abandoned baby during the Christmas season and must decide whether to keep it or find the parents. A fine, funny example of animation for adults.		

**COMEDY**

- **Triplets Of Belleville, The**  
Chomet, Sylvain (2003) Comedy [PG-13] 10 His grandmother, her dog and an elderly jazz age trio try to rescue a kidnapped cyclist from the French mafia. Although it's in French, the lack of dialog and surplus of hilarious visual jokes make it a real winner, especially for fans of Jacques Tati.   
- **Viva**  
Billar, Anna (2007) [R] 7 A constantly amusing, although overlong, camp parody of 1970's sexploitation movies by the writer/director/star who later made the critically-acclaimed "The Love Witch." Some rightfully question whether it is possible to deliberately create kitsch. Here the answer is "yes."  
- **Welcome to the Dollhouse**  
Solondz, Todd (1996) Drama [R] 8 Grim but accurate black comedy about a teen girl's attempts to survive normal life.
- **Wild Tales**  
Szifron, Damián (2014) Black [R] 9 Six cynically funny tales of how karma works and how people create it...and occasionally balance it out. A "can't miss" if you like observant foreign comedies with teeth.  
- **Witching & Bitching**  
Iglesia, Álex De La (2013) Horror [NR] 7 Escaping after pulling off an armed robbery, a gang encounters a hilarious assortment of people with supernatural talents. Often wildly funny, especially the opening heist.  
- **Zombieland**  
Fleischer, Ruben (2009) Horror [R] 8 An odd quadruple learns to survive and—maybe—trust each other during a zombie apocalypse. An often hilarious take on zombie tropes with some great twists in store.  
- **Zombieland: Double Tap**  
Fleischer, Ruben (2019) Horror [R] 7 Our quartet of zombie killers are back, a bit weary of each other while looking for a zombie-free oasis, and picking up more than a few very amusing characters along the way. Not bad for a sequel. 

**CRIME**

- **Before the Devil Knows You're Dead**  
Lumet, Sidney (2007) [R] 9 A plot by two brothers to rob a jewelry store takes them on unexpected paths. Great performances by its cast makes this tale, fractured in more ways than one, riveting all the way to the intensely felt end.
- **Bound**  
Wachowski, A & L (1996) Film Noir [R] 8 Two women get their revenge on a dangerous jerk and have a very close friendship while doing it. 
- **Croupier**  
Hodges, Mike (1998) [R] 8 Slick and funny movie about a croupier who wants to outsmart the larger game. 
- **Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai**  
Jarmusch, Jim (1999) [R] 7 Even with the skewed perspective that is typical of this director, this enjoyably offbeat action movie, about a Zen-guided hit man, is enlivened by a number of comic performances. 
- **Grosse Pointe Blank**  
Armitage, George (1997) Comedy [R] 8 An assassin's new "job" takes him by coincidence to his home town, where his 10 year class reunion is about to occur. A classic black comedy. 
- **Heavenly Creatures**  
Jackson, Peter (1994) Horror [R] 7 Two teen girls from Down Under go from bad to worse to rilly, rilly awful. Based on a true story. 
- **Natural Born Killers**  
Stone, Oliver (1994) [R] 8 Using a variety of styles and dark humor, Stone tells a no-holds-barred story of two merciless sociopaths-in-love set against the backdrop of modern celebrity worship.  



Something completely different.

Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)

Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").



Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

## CRIME


- ❑ **Out of Sight**  
(1998) [R]

8 Well done crime/romance based on Elmore Leonard's work.

---

- ❑ **Pépé le Moko**  
Duvivier, Julien (1937) Film Noir [PG]




8 A very watchable, seminal film noir about a charismatic hoodlum hiding in Morocco before Rick opened his place.



---

- ❑ **Sex and Fury**  
Suzuki, Norifumi (1973) [R]


6 A woman's quest for vengeance against a trio who betrayed and murdered her father. A "classic" Japanese sexploitation film that manages to be both camp and legitimately entertaining.

---

- ❑ **Spanish Prisoner, The**  
Mamet, David (1997) Film Noir [PG]

8 Very twisty crime story with Steve Martin in a fairly straight role and great dialog by David Mamet.



---


- ❑ **Spartan**  
Mamet, David (2004) Adventure [R]

8 A sterling example of a film that does not talk down to the audience. A professional soldier discovers (as we follow along) a web of intrigue surrounding a girl's disappearance.

---

- ❑ **Spring Breakers**  
Korine, Harmony (2012) Film Noir [R]



9 Four college girls on a spring break trip to Florida they thought they could not afford, a trip that gradually reveals the true character of each and their limits—if applicable. This film deconstructs and then reassembles the pieces of road, beach and urban crime pictures to simply follow the characters and as a result, creates a surprising and very tense minor masterpiece of exploitation, whose true protagonists are not identified until the end.



## DOCUMENTARY

- ❑ **Animusic**  
Lytle, Wayne (2001) [NR]

8 Seven hypnotic animations of original music, in which the MIDI score drives CGI "instruments." Although there are three or four standouts, the "Pipe Dreams" segment will make you giddy.

---


- ❑ **Band Called Death, A**  
Covino, M & Howlett, J (2012) [NR]

9 The beautifully constructed story of three brothers who formed a band that was both unique and ahead of its time, with an emotional arc that makes this as much about the importance of family love as it is about following one's dreams. This is a great little film.

---

- ❑ **Best Worst Movie**  
Stephenson, Michael (2009) Comedy [NR]


8 The child star of "Troll 2," a film many consider to be even worse than "Plan 9," returns to document the current lives of the film's stars and its still cluelessly self-impressed Italian production team. Well worth the time for pulling us into the very different lives of those involved and as a study of the way a cult film "happens."



---

- ❑ **Catfish**  
Schulman, A & Joost, H (2000) [PG-13]

9 A New York photographer develops an internet friendship with an admiring young Michigan artistic prodigy and her family, which morphs into a relationship with her older sister. Then things get real freakin' interesting. This unsettling but ultimate satisfying documentary plays on our post-"Blair Witch" expectations while taking us to a wholly unexpected place.



---



- ❑ **Comedian**  
Charles, Christian (2002) Comedy [R]

9 Filmed after putting his TV show to bed, this documentary details and compares Jerry Seinfeld's methodical development of a new stand-up act to that of a rising unknown. Both strive to reach the heights of the comic gods, where dwelleth Bill Cosby.

---

- ❑ **Crumb**  
Zwigoff, Terry (1994) [R]

10 Bio of the "Keep on Truckin'" cartoonist and his seriously whacked-out family. A real car-wreck of a movie that nevertheless illustrates the power of the human psyche to deal with emotional abuse.



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").












Family oriented fare







May definitely push the limits for some.



**DOCUMENTARY**

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| □ <b>Eyes of Tammy Faye, The</b><br>Bailey, Fenton and Barbato, R (2000) [PG-13] | 8 | Loving but satirical look at the the life of Tammy Faye Baker.   |    |
| □ <b>Fast, Cheap &amp; Out of Control</b><br>Morris, Errol (1997) [G]            | 9 | Four short, fascinating features about men who control their own world in very different ways.   |    |
| □ <b>Kid Stays in the Picture, The</b><br>Morgan, Burstein And (2002) Comedy [R] | 8 | A stylized and fascinating film version of producer Robert Evans autobiography.  |    |
| □ <b>Koyaanisqatsi</b><br>Reggio, Godfrey (1983) [G]                             | 9 | "Life Out of Balance" Set to a soundtrack by Philip Glass, this is a perception-bending montage of scenes that transition from nature to the habitat of Man, but filmed in a way that may spark a lasting change in how you perceive modern life.  |    |
| □ <b>Mayor Of The Sunset Strip</b><br>Hickenlooper, George (2004) [R]            | 8 | A retrospective of the sad, funny, lucky, almost hard-to-believe career of a consummate rock and roll fan who served as a gateway to success for countless alternative bands.  |    |
| □ <b>Stone Reader</b><br>Moskowitz, Mark (2002) [PG-13]                          | 8 | A book-lover finally reads a novel he put away years before and it triggers a quest to find the author, who disappeared. Along the way, we revisit all the reasons that fuel the passions of those who love to read.   |    |
| □ <b>Tabloid</b><br>Morris, Errol (2010) [R]                                     | 9 | Doc auteur Errol Morris examines two wildly different accounts of either 1) a young woman's attempt to rescue the love of her life from a cult or 2) the kidnap and rape of a young male Mormon missionary. As documentaries go, it overflows with provocative themes that range from psychotic delusions, the dynamics of cults, the hijacking of a story by both the news media and/or the participants, hidden subcultures and much more, including cloning. Don't miss it. |    |
| □ <b>What the #\$*! Do We (k)now!?</b><br>Chasse, Antz & (2004) [NR]             | 7 | A motley assortment of experts and mystics discuss the state of the arts and sciences regarding man and the universe, woven into a fictional storyline that illustrates some of it. A solid attempt at connecting popular science & philosophy, as long as you take it as an inspiration for finding out more, not as a definitive source.   |  |
| □ <b>Yes Men, The</b><br>Ollman, Dan & Price, Sarah (2004) [R]                   | 8 | Often hilarious record of two jokers who pull off elaborate stunts as fake members of international business organizations.  |  |

**DRAMA**

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| □ <b>Anomalisa</b><br>Johnson, D & Kaufman, C (2015) [R] | 9 | A motivational speaker who has become numb to all but his own existence finds a kernel of emotional rebirth in a one-night stand—maybe. For two or three minutes, you think "these are puppets" and then you completely forget this fact as this extraordinarily human, somewhat allegorical tale unfolds. |   |
| □ <b>Auto Focus</b><br>Schrader, Paul (2002) [R]         | 8 | Funny, tragic look at the life and dual-personality of Bob Crane, comedy actor, family man and sexual athlete.   |    |
| □ <b>Backbeat</b><br>Softley, Iain (1993) Music [R]      | 7 | Pre-fame, Hamburg-era Beatles w/kick-ass sound track. The story is so-so, but the fly's eye view of a place and time in which a cultural shift was in the making is emotionally riveting.  |   |
| □ <b>Big Fish</b><br>Burton, Tim (2003) Comedy [PG-13]   | 8 | The son of an incurable teller of tall tales tries to find the "real" man amid the retelling of several of his tallest. A celebration of how people live on in the memory of those who knew them.  |    |



Something completely different.

Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)

Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").













Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

## DRAMA

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>❑ <b>Big Short, The</b><br/>McKay, Adam (2015) [R]</p>                            | <p>9 The story of the home finance collapse that in turn took down the world economy in 2007-2008, told from the perspective of two groups of analysts who saw coming what no one would believe — or admit — was even possible. Big points for its ability to explain the deliberately esoteric terms used by Wall Street types to confuse their clients.</p>   |    |
| <p>❑ <b>Black Snake Moan</b><br/>Brewer, Craig (2006) [R]</p>                        | <p>9 100% spirit of the Blues gets uncorked in this not-really-over-the-top salvation drama that fills a tongue-in-cheek riff on 70's sexploitation films with the spirit and flesh of real people trying to work with the hands they hold. Great music and formidable acting from both leads make this Brewer's second strong "gritty reality/fantasy."</p>  |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Buffy the Vampire Slayer (TV)</b><br/>Whedon, Joss (1997) Horror [TV-14]</p> | <p>10 Easily one of the top ten (top three?) all-time reasons to watch TV, this series used horror as an excuse to delve into universal themes of growing up, friendship, life and death. And it did it with some of the funniest dialog ever heard from a small screen. Season 1 was an entertaining setup for the unexpectedly riveting story arcs that followed it, and like all Joss Whedon creations, MUST be watched in proper order.</p>   |    |
| <p>❑ <b>Butcher Boy, The</b><br/>(1998) Horror [R]</p>                               | <p>8 Graphic study of a mind trapped in a murderous self-delusion, with vivid performances.</p>   |    |
| <p>❑ <b>Cause For Alarm!</b><br/>Garnett, Tay (1951) [UR]</p>                        | <p>7 This story of a housewife with an abusive husband is enjoyable not just for its build to a great plot twist, but for its invitation for modern viewers to provide a running commentary on its concentration of everything that was wrong with 50's culture.</p>  |    |
| <p>❑ <b>Climax</b><br/>Noé, Gaspar (2018) Horror [R]</p>                             | <p>7 An interesting, partially improvised study of how high-strung dancers might react to an unexpected LSD experience. Although not as shocking as a typical horror movie, it nevertheless takes you through a truly unsettling experience that also spends a lot of time celebrating modern dance.</p>  |    |
| <p>❑ <b>Coffee and Cigarettes</b><br/>Jarmusch, Jim (2004) Comedy [R]</p>            | <p>7 Uneven but often brilliant collection of B&amp;W shorts featuring two or three actors interacting over the titular consumables.</p>  |    |
| <p>❑ <b>Colossal</b><br/>Vigalondo, Nacho (2016) Comedy [R]</p>                      | <p>7 A young woman failing at everything except partying returns to her empty family home to regroup, then discovers her really strange connection to a monster ravaging Seoul. Wildly imaginative, often funny and sometimes scary—but not due to the monster you would expect. From the guy who gave us "Timecrimes."</p>   |    |
| <p>❑ <b>Crying Game, The</b><br/>Jordan, Neil (1992) [R]</p>                         | <p>9 When, for personal reasons, an Irish terrorist tracks down the girlfriend of an English soldier, events take a turn for which he, and the audience, is extraordinarily unprepared. One of cinema's great twists turns what looks like a thriller into a major after-the-show conversation piece.</p>   |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Donnie Darko</b><br/>Kelly, Richard (2001) Comedy [R]</p>                    | <p>9 A teenage boy in therapy and on medication begins to see paranoid hallucinations and to believe he is being asked to be the saviour of the Universe. But is this drama, science fiction or...documentary? This "John Hughes meets David Lynch" movie is hilarious, mystifying and emotionally touching. It will stay with you even though the first viewing is like waking from a dream with a serious case of "WTF?" To experience properly, watch the "original" theatrical release first, then whenever the "I need to see that again" happens, the "Director's</p> |    |



Something completely different.



Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").














Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

**DRAMA**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| □ <b>Donnie Darko</b>   | Cut" is a little more accessible, but slightly less mystical.   |   |
| □ <b>Edmond</b><br>Gordon, Stuart (2005) [R]                                | 8 A small change in his planned schedule takes a middle-class white guy down a bizaare and unsettling new path, with possibly the most ironic use of a fortune teller I've ever seen.   |       |
| □ <b>Far From Heaven</b><br>Haynes, Todd (2002) [PG-13]                     | 9 Retro 50's drama inspired by films of Douglas Sirk (Imitation of Llife).  |    |
| □ <b>Fast Color</b><br>Hart, Julia (2018) Fantasy [PG-13]                   | 8 A young woman with a unnatural talent for destruction, running from something or somebody, returns to her estranged mother. This is a very different take on the super-hero story, never boring yet unfolding at a stately pace until its emotionally satisfying climax.  |    |
| □ <b>Fighting With My Family</b><br>Merchant, Stephen (2019) Comedy [PG-13] | 8 "It's not fake, it's fixed," says one character in defending the livelihood of a wrestling family—in which the kids dream of being called to the WWE and... glory! That is an apt description here, wherein a group of comedic talents nails the personalities and looks of the people inspiring it. It's a spandex-to-riches story about an athletic form of entertainment that wins big as an enjoyable, family-centered (but hardly PG) movie. |    |
| □ <b>Finding Forrester</b><br>(2000) [PG-13]                                | 7 Entertaining drama in the "old codger who is actually famous finds a protege" genre.  |    |
| □ <b>Finding Neverland</b><br>Forster, Marc (2004) [PG]                     | 8 A slightly fictional but "true in spirit" retelling of how "Peter Pan" was written.   |   |
| □ <b>Forbidden Room, The</b><br>Maddin, Guy (2015) Fantasy [R]              | 8 A film that has no interest in plot as anything but a placeholder and framing device for a series of inexplicable dreams within dreams. If you understand the craziness you are getting into, it holds up as an enjoyable exercise in the kind of freeform imagining at which children are experts.   |    |
| □ <b>Fountain, The</b><br>Aronofsky, Darren (2006) Fantasy [PG-13]          | 7 A simpler movie than it appears, with its apparent three stories turning into two (and really, just one — but with ample visual illustration), this will appeal to lovers of fantasitc realism (really) and grand romance.  |    |
| □ <b>Ghost Story, A</b><br>Lowery, David (2017) Fantasy [R]                 | 8 The "life" of a ghost, as told over time. Slow and stately with Kubrickian framing, this creates a transcendent meditation examining the passage of time and memory. Do not go into this expecting horror or action.  |    |
| □ <b>Gods and Monsters</b><br>Condon, Bill (1998) [R]                       | 8 Fictionalized bio of the man who gave us "Frankenstein," "The Bride of Frankenstein" and "The Invisible Man" and his platonic relationship with his gardener.   |   |
| □ <b>Goodfellas</b><br>Scorsese, Martin (1990) Comedy [R]                   | 9 Theft and murder with the guy who lives next door, told with ironic black humor. A classic retelling of the basic gangster story, with an absolutely scary Joe Pesci.   |   |
| □ <b>Grave of the Fireflies</b><br>Takahata, Isao (1988) [PG]               | 9 A masterpiece of animated drama from Studio Ghibli about a brother and sister living in the aftermath of WWII fire-bombing.   |   |
| □ <b>Green Mile, The</b><br>(1999) [R]                                      | 8 Fantasy from Stephen King about a very, very large dude who can heal people, but who winds up on death row.   |   |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").
















Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

## DRAMA

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Happy Accidents</b><br>Anderson, Brad (2000) Comedy [R]                      | 8 Marisa Tomei and Vincent D'Onofrio go round and round the question of whether he is a awesomely skillful madman or what he claims to be. The less you know about this going into it, the better.   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hustle and Flow</b><br>Brewer, Craig (2005) [R]                              | 8 A pimp discovers family and hope in some very unlikely places while he dreams of finding a way out of his current life. Even with some rough spots, this hits all the notes it attempts, ending with an unexpected but perfect grace note.   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>In The Mood For Love</b><br>Wong, Kar wai (2000) Romance [PG]                | 8 In 1962 Hong Kong, two expatriates from other Chinese regions bond over mutual betrayal. Stately "piece of ordinary life" film with intoxicating visuals. Knowing the historical backdrop (on the DVD extras) adds a lot to the movie.   |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Locke</b><br>Knight, Steven (2014) [R]                                       | 9 In a span of several hours, spent entirely at the wheel of his car, a past mistake leads to a British engineer's life unraveling in front of us, yet we leave with nothing but hope for someone who is clearly the strongest among all those in his life.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Magnolia</b><br>(1999) [R]   | 9 A series of related vignettes, about the way fate changes peoples lives, that manages to fascinate despite its length, with one of the most surprising endings (you are guaranteed to be surprised) in any movie I've seen.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Man Who Wasn't There, The</b><br>(2001) [R]                                  | 8  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>My Mother's Castle</b><br>Robert, Yves (1990) Comedy [G]                     | 9 Taken from the memoirs of writer Marcel Pagnol, this is the second half of the story of his childhood love of Provence and happy family vacations. Thoroughly engrossing memory piece with a massive emotional payoff at the end.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Nines, The</b><br>August, John (2007) [R]                                    | 8 The mystery behind three intersecting stories in which the same people appear (sort of) is eventually revealed. A twister that plays games with you, sustained by a sardonic sense of humor about the imaginary worlds that actors—among others—build. Some critics apparently found the explanation too hard to understand, although it is right there in front of them. I mean, right there. |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Once Upon a Time In... Hollywood</b><br>Tarantino, Quentin (2019) Action [R] | 9 A fading star of Westerns and long-time stunt double who is his anchor find themselves pulled into an alternate history of the Manson Family incident. As only he can do, Tarantino takes a visceral plunge into 1969 Los Angeles, seamed with his dialog and studded with tension and occasional violence.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Performance</b><br>Cammell, D. & Roeg, N. (1970) [R]                         | 8 A criminal on the run from the London mob is sheltered by a jaded rock star with some strange personal issues. One of the classic 70's psychedelic films, with some eye-opening Rolling Stones trivia associated with it, the earliest music video and even proto-rap (The Last Poets) on the soundtrack.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Remember the Titans</b><br>Yakin, Boaz (2000) [PG]                           | 8 This story of an African-American coach breaking the barriers of racial integration in sports is still a fairly standard sports movie but transcends the usual cliches.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Requiem for a Dream</b><br>Aronofsky, Darren (2000) Trip To Hell [NR]        | 9 Absolutely not for the squeamish or prudish: Here's why, whether you are twenty-five or sixty-five, you shouldn't do drugs, in elegantly plotted detail.   |   |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").














Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

**DRAMA**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>❑ <b>Rocket Science</b><br/>Blitz, Jeffrey (2007) [R]</p>               | <p>9 A high school kid with a stuttering problem is coaxed into joining a debate team by another student. An excellent answer to the question "Why are teenage sports &amp; contest movies so predictable?" The final, understated scene will stick with you longer than most films of this type.</p>   |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Room</b><br/>Abrahamson, Lenny (2015) [R]</p>                      | <p>9 This is a movie that takes you to a place you cannot imagine — such as being a child whose entire world is the room in which his mother has been a sex slave for five years — then turns that horror into an uplifting story that pulls you along with a deep understanding of human nature, right through to its knowing and perfect little grace note.</p>   |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Science of Sleep, The</b><br/>Gondry, Michel (2006) [R]</p>        | <p>8 A young man, whose exuberantly whacked dream life merges with reality, strikes up a circling romance with a "girl next door" who seems created specially for him. The movie brews a very special concoction of surrealistic, but coherent, magic</p>   |       |
| <p>❑ <b>Scotland, Pa</b><br/>Morrisette, Billy (2004) [R]</p>              | <p>7 A story we've seen before (but sorry, you'll have to find out for yourself) told as a soap opera, centered on the fiefdom of a hamburger joint, and enlivened by comic performances. An inspired idea that almost works, but the need to follow the already well-known plot stifles some of its potential as a movie.</p>  |    |
| <p>❑ <b>Separation, A</b><br/>Farhadi, Asghar (2011) [PG13]</p>            | <p>9 With a bit of a thriller, of courtroom drama and of Rashomon in it, this emotionally involving film is really about the dynamics of human reactions that can tip the small events of family and civic life towards the edge of a cliff, filtered through the norms of a modern Iranian family. We become the ultimate judge here, as we see events unfold that may or may not be retold truthfully by the participants, presented to us in many shades of gray. This one will leave you talking about it for days.</p>   |    |
| <p>❑ <b>Sex and Lucia</b><br/>Medem, Julio (2001) [R]</p>                  | <p>9 A confidently romantic young woman seeks the answer to why her dead lover descended into a tortured melancholy as we watch scenes from...their lives? his new novel? Although it is certainly sexy enough, the multiple climaxes are emotional ones.</p>   |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Shortbus</b><br/>Mitchell, John Cameron (2006) Comedy [UR]</p>     | <p>8 A gay couple with issues visits a married couples counselor; behind her loom two framed Chinese characters meaning "Help me." All three are on the "shortbus" of personal relationships and wind up at a (real) Manhattan club that attracts the special needs people who feel rejected elsewhere. Falling shy of success in the way that plagues improvised work, this still achieves a humor-spiced connection to open-minded audiences in the first American comedy-drama to treat sex as just a filmable part of life (if you need a BIG FAT WARNING about this, consider it given). Has possibly the most interesting commentary track I've ever heard.</p> |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Singing Detective, The</b><br/>Gordon, Keith (2003) Comedy [R]</p> | <p>7 A very damaged boy finds a way out of the almost psycho-somatic trap in which he has imprisoned himself. It may take two viewings to get past this movie's distracting structure and understand how it all fits into the tragicomic story.</p>   |    |
| <p>❑ <b>Sita Sings the Blues</b><br/>Paley, Nina (2008) Comedy [NR]</p>    | <p>9 Nina Paley's trans-national romantic breakup inspires a spectacular, animated re-telling of the Ramayan, the story of Sita and her less-than-dependable lover Rama, narrated with understated humor by Indian shadow puppets and laced with 1920's jazz songs.</p>   |   |



Something completely different.



Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").














Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.



## DRAMA

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sonatine</b><br>Kitano, Takeshi (1993) Crime [R]                               | 8 A cold-blooded gangster, who realizes his time is at hand, delays the inevitable in a playful idyll.   |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Songs From The Second Floor</b><br>Andersson, Roy (2002) Comedy [NR]           | 8 Bona-fide Swedish Art Movie filled with unforgettable visual metaphors. Several characters struggle with the breakdown of reason and the death of spirituality without realizing how they are contributing to it. Consistently funny, but keep some anti-venom handy.  |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Straight Story, The</b><br>Lynch, David (1999) Comedy [G]                      | 9 David Lynch makes a heartfelt, G-rated movie! A man wants to visit his dying brother, and uses a riding mower to get there. Based on a true story.   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song</b><br>Peebles, Melvin Van (2007) [R]        | 7 The classic 70's "put it to the Man" movie, a truly seminal independent film. It's not a "great" film, but it's full of a kind of psychedelic black cinema verité (not to mention some eye-opening sex) that had not been seen before. It surprised everyone (except perhaps Van Peebles and his emergency backer, Bill Cosby) with its success. |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Swimming Pool</b><br>Ozon, François (2000) [NR]                                | 8 An erotic, dramatically engrossing exploration of a) two lost souls filling each other's psychic holes, b) the creative process by which authors imagine their stories and perhaps, their characters, or c) both of the above. Worth seeing with friends just to argue over what the movie is actually showing you, especially at its end.       |       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Synecdoche, New York</b><br>Kaufman, Charlie (2008) [R]                        | 8 A failing playwright uses an unexpected windfall to mount an autobiographical play within a play...within a play...within a play. Another entertaining mind-bender from Charlie Kaufman, doing his own directing this time.  |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Taxi Driver</b><br>Scorsese, Martin (1976) [R]                                 | 9 Scorsese & Deniro's examination of a right-wing fanatic whose preparation to "make a difference" turns out quite different from what he (and the horrified audience) expected. Don't miss it. Hey, I'm talking to you.   |    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Thirteen Conversations About One Thing</b><br>Sprecher, Jill (2001) Comedy [R] | 8 Excellent multi-story film about finding (or making) something meaningful about life.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Velvet Goldmine</b><br>Haynes, Todd (1998) Music [R]                           | 7 Glam rock's "That Thing You Do," based on the relationship between David Bowie and Iggy Pop. Obi Wan, does the Jedi Council know about this one?   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Waking Life</b><br>Linklater, Richard (2000) Drama [R]                         | 8 Hyper-cool head trip about dreams, dreams within dreams and philosophy. Definitely worth seeing if you're in the mood for some thought-provoking, visually striking entertainment. The DVD's commentary track and subtitles are worth checking out.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>You Can Count on Me</b><br>Loneragan, Kenneth (2000) Comedy [R]                | 8 A comedy drama about a strong sister and a wayward brother, that offers no happy ending, but manages to make us feel good anyway.  |   |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").
























Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

**FANTASY**

- ❑ **Avalon** 7 A live-action "anime" from the director of "Ghost in the Shell," this is a very noirish, cyber-punk story of a forbidden adventure game, with arresting visuals and a haunting score, plus the strange mix of Japanese and Polish credits.   
Oshii, Mamoru (2003) Film Noir [R]
- 
- ❑ **Being John Malkovich** 10 A totally bizarre idea, the existence of a passage into an actor's consciousness, taken to its logical and hilarious conclusion.    
Jonze, Spike (1999) [R]
- 
- ❑ **City of Lost Children, The** 8 This is all mood and style, but what a trip of a movie. A madman who can't dream kidnaps children and steals theirs.    
Jeunet, Jean-Pierre; Caro, M (1995) Black Comedy
- 
- ❑ **Delicatessen** 8 Often hilarious post-apocalyptic black comedy / romance between an ex-clown and a butcher's daughter—a butcher forced to find an illegal source for meat.    
Jeunet, Jean-Pierre; Caro, M (1991) Comedy [R]
- 
- ❑ **Eraserhead** 7 If you think you that David Lynch makes strange films and have not yet seen his first full-length feature, you don't know what strange IS. The story of Henry, his girlfriend (and her whacked out family) and their baby ("...at least, they think it's a baby"), is told in the style of a black-humor and white-knuckles industrial waste nightmare. It is disturbing, deeply symbolic and yet funny. You cannot claim to be in the "cult movie" club without seeing this one. It will stick with you.   
Lynch, David (1977) [NR]
- 
- ❑ **Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind** 9 Written by Charlie Kaufman. A hapless nobody discovers that his girlfriend has had her memory of him erased and in despair, does the same. What follows is a clever, very unconventional but entertaining love story that feels more like what love is like.   
Gondry, Michel (2004) Comedy [R]
- 
- ❑ **Holy Mountain, The** 6 A quest movie in which a Christ-like figure wanders through the director's imagination in ways only a 1970's director with a vicious anti-religious, anti-establishment bent and an bottomless mine of completely uninhibited visual ideas could pull off (that is, this movie could not be made today). Highlights include a recreation of the Aztecs defeat starring lizards and frogs, a testicle-collecting warrior king and... well, don't show this to your grandmother.    
Jodorowsky, Alejandro (1973) [R]
- 
- ❑ **iZombie** 9 After unknowingly partying with the undead, a workaholic woman on her way to becoming a surgeon is forced into a major career change: solving murders with the help of the victim's brains. Fans of "Buffy" and "Veronica Mars" will be more than satisfied by this intelligent, often hilarious show's high standards of smart, character-driven dialog.   
Ruggiero-Wright, D & Thomas, R (2015) Comedy [TV-14]
- 
- ❑ **Mirrormask** 7 With her mother possibly dying from an illness, a teenaged girl slips into a fantastic and vaguely disturbing shadow world in which an anti-Mother threatens to use her as a replacement for her anti-daughter. Worth seeing just for the imagery, but a bit talky.   
McKean, Dave (2005) [PG]
- 
- ❑ **My Neighbor Totoro** 9 Miyazaki's fantasy about two small girls who meet fantastic creatures while waiting for their sick mother to return. Probably one of the best introductions to his humanistic style of fantasy animation.     
Miyazaki, Hayao (1988) [G]
- 
- ❑ **Princess Mononoke** 10 Historical fantasy from Miyazaki with ecological themes and his unsurpassed animation.    
Miyazaki, Hayao (1997) Fantasy [PG]
- 
- ❑ **Spawn** 8 The DVD's of the HBO series are a great example of moody, stylish animation and a "hell" of a story line. Unfortunately, HBO did not let McFarlane finish his overall story.     
McFarlane, Todd (1997) [PG-13]



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").








Family oriented fare




May definitely push the limits for some.



## FANTASY


- ❑ **Spirited Away** 10 Miyazaki one-ups both Disney and Lewis Carroll in a story about a girl trying to rescue her parents from a resort for Japanese spirits. Gorgeous animation that deserves a large screen.    
- Miyazaki, Hayao (2001) [PG]

- ❑ **Unbreakable** 8 A man discovers he cannot be hurt in this thoughtful (and of course, twisting) riff on the mythology of super heroes. 
- Shyamalan, M. Night (2000) [PG-13]


## HORROR


- ❑ **28 Days Later** 8 An intelligent descendant of "Night of the Living Dead" but no one sleep walks through THIS one. 
- Boyle, Danny (2003) [R]


- ❑ **30 Coins** 8 This Spanish comedy goes DEEP into the Catholic conspiracy genre, inspired by the question, "What happened to the bribe Judas took for betraying Jesus?" Be prepared for an absolutely bonkers answer from the director who gave us "Witching and Bitching."  
- Iglesia, Álex De La (2020) Comedy [TV-MA]




- ❑ **American Psycho** 8 A "faceless" upper-class Wall Streeter tries to either create meaning or prove that it is unattainable through his savagely bloody "hobby." The movie leaves you with interesting after-movie (but preferably before dinner) questions about the nature of the psychosis on display and who is a part of it. 
- Harron, Mary (2000) [R]


- ❑ **American Werewolf in London, An** 8 Both horror and black humor abound in this tale of two Americans who run afoul of supernatural beasts in the English countryside. Would make a good double bill with "Ginger Snaps."
- Landis, John (1987) Comedy [R]

- ❑ **Anna and the Apocalypse** 7 The less you know about this extremely enjoyable little horror film the better. It does have a few angsty teenagers. And maybe some zombies. And someone might sing. 
- McPhail, John (2017) Musical [R]
















- ❑ **Ash Vs. Evil Dead** 9 This series is a worthy edition to the "Dead" canon, continuing the slapstick and over-the-top gore that we would expect, and yes, Ash is still Ash. Great support from guest stars, including Lucy Lawless and Lee Majors. 
- Raimi, S & Various, V (2015) Comedy [TV-MA]

- ❑ **Attack the Block** 9 Beginning with a set piece that aggressively avoids this genre's usual clichés, a group of teenagers discovers that their 'hood is infested with something unearthly. An excellent example of fresh thinking and attitude that breathes life into the alien invasion genre. It supplies serious, low-tech thrills while larding the action with some understated but sobering social commentary (one example being our brief glimpse into Moses' bedroom). 
- Cornish, Joe (2011) Sci-fi [R]

- ❑ **Audition** 8 A lonely widower looks for a new wife via an "audition" scheme hatched by a film industry friend. This is a truly great shocker—especially given its "misogynist buddy comedy" beginning—and the less you know about it the better. Not for the squeamish.   
- Miike, Takashi (1999) Thriller [R]

- ❑ **Babadook, The** 9 When a strange "children's book" appears in the home of a single mother and her precociously odd six-year-old son, truly creepy things start to happen. A very different kind of horror movie, especially enjoyable if you have a passing familiarity with Jungian psychology, but which will nevertheless raise some goosebumps in anyone who watches it. 
- Kent, Jennifer (2014) [NR]

**HORROR**

- ❑ **Blair Witch Project, The**  
Myrick, D and Sánchez, E (1999) [R] 8 Although this particular movie could only be done once (not counting countless parodies) and depends upon a suspension of disbelief regarding the camera work, it effectively generates a sense of overwhelming dread. 
- 
- ❑ **Brotherhood of the Wolf**  
Gans, Christophe (2001) Action [R] 8 Once you get past the kung-fu technique of the Native American character (but then, this IS a fantasy), this is a decent, classically-constructed horror flick that riffs on a legendary series of eerie killings in 16th century France. The English-dubbed dialog is not up to par, so if you can, stick with the original French. 
- 
- ❑ **Cabin in the Woods, The**  
Goddard, Drew (2012) Comedy [R] 9 Co-written with Joss Whedon, this is the "college kids in the woods" movie to end all "college kids in the woods" movies, an extremely funny, endlessly inventive horror movie. It goes beyond being a clever riff to deconstruct and "explain" the whole genre. Warning: the ding of elevators arriving may trigger you for the rest of your life. 
- 
- ❑ **Call of Cthulhu, The**  
Leman, Andrew (2005) [UR] 7 An indie version of the Lovecraft story about a horrific ancient god, but done as a dead serious, 20's style silent movie that manages to get a LOT of atmospheric bang out of its obviously scarce bucks. A reworking with a CGI monster might make it a commercial contender, but as an example of what inspired talent can do, it's a winner. 
- 
- ❑ **Cemetery Man**  
Soavi, Michele (1994) Comedy [R] 7 This story of a cemetery keeper and his Igor-like assistant, whose duties include picking off pesky zombies. Consistently interesting with macabre humor and artistic references (google "magritte lovers"), including a main character based on a comics hero who was based on the actor who plays the main character.  
- 
- ❑ **Color Out of Space, The**  
Stanley, Richard (2019) [UR] 7 A generally successful stab at creating otherworldly weirdness in a modernized version of the H. P. Lovecraft story. Despite the injection of slightly skewed humor, I don't think the phrase "Everything is going to be okay" has been repeated more often and been more wrong. 
- 
- ❑ **Dead Alive**  
Jackson, Peter (1992) Comedy [NR] 8 A sort of "Evil Dead II" on designer steroids, Peter Jackson's take on zombie movies achieves a funny/gross index that has never been equaled. Consider yourself forewarned (nevertheless, be sure to get the "Unrated" version).  
- 
- ❑ **Dead Don't Die, The**  
Jarmusch, Jim (2019) Comedy [R] 7 True to the director's style, this improvised riff on a genre (zombies in case you did not pick up on that) is funny and unpredictable while not necessarily being to everyone's taste (zombie movie fans, included). Still, this is one of his most accessible films. 
- 
- ❑ **Dead Snow**  
Wirkola, Tommy (2009) Comedy [R] 7 Eight friends on a winter vacation, perfect powder and Nazi zombies. What more could you ask for? For fans of shock, this overly messy entry into the genre adds both a bit of originality and humor while delivering the goods.  
- 
- ❑ **Dead Snow 2: Red Vs. Dead**  
Wirkola, Tommy (2014) Comedy [R] 7 Bursting with, shall we say, intestinal fortitude, this picks up where the original left off and expands its horizons to include a U.S. zombie-fighting squad (which may explain why it seems to be in English this time). The bloodily goofy humor of the concept lumbers on, squashing any notions of good taste, like... like... well, like a Nazi zombie driving a tank.   



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").


















Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

## HORROR

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>❑ <b>Eight Legged Freaks</b><br/>Elkayem, Ellory (2002) Comedy [PG-13]</p>   | <p>8 A modern remake of the old industrial/nuclear waste monster movie, but with less predictable outcomes for all involved and a healthy dash of humor. </p>   |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Endless, The</b><br/>Benson, J &amp; Moorhead, A (2017) Sci-fi [NR]</p> | <p>8 These two directors specialize in evoking a sense of creeping, creepy mystery with Lovecraftian overtones. Here, two brothers who escaped from a cult return to find the mystery that lay behind it. Whoa. </p>  |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Evil Dead II</b><br/>Raimi, Sam (1987) Comedy [R]</p>                   | <p>7 For practical purposes, this is a remake not a sequel, but with better special effects and a walloping dose of the slapstick humor lurking in the dark closets of the original. Add "Army of Darkness" for a classic, genre-crossing double-feature. </p>  |  |
| <p>❑ <b>Evil Dead, The</b><br/>Raimi, Sam (1981) Comedy [R]</p>                 | <p>7 Five friends get away from it all in a backwoods cabin that happens to hide one hell of a book. The dated special effects are so gruesomely squishy they are funny, but the director knew what he was doing. </p>  |  |
| <p>❑ <b>From Dusk Till Dawn</b><br/>Rodriguez, Robert (1996) Adventure [R]</p>  | <p>7 The blood flies, in more ways than one, in this violent fantasy flick set in a saloon with a secret that lies south of the U.S. border. </p>   |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Ginger Snaps</b><br/>Fawcett, John (2000) Comedy [R]</p>                | <p>8 "Snaps" is a verb, not a noun. Two Goth sisters with a bent towards the macabre deal with a nasty animal bite and a truly ultimate case of PMS, while their mother is sure it's all her fault. One of the better variations on a classic theme. </p>   |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Godzilla</b><br/>Honda, Ishirô (1954) Sci-fi [UR]</p>                   | <p>7 The granddaddy of big monster movies in its original Japanese, Raymond Burr-less version, full of projected post-Hiroshima horror. Great stuff, especially if you are ten or can imagine yourself at that age. </p>   |   |
| <p>❑ <b>House</b><br/>Ohbayashi, Nobuhiko (1977) [TV-MA]</p>                    | <p>6 An experimental film-maker makes his first feature an over-the-top horror movie based on "scary" ideas from his 11-year-old daughter, preserving all the unexplained craziness one would expect from the source while throwing at the screen every 1970's visual technique possible. See: kung-fu battles with firewood! Carnivorous pianos! Evil cats! Mysterious old aunts! A stepmother who seems to visiting from a completely different movie! Should not be missed if you are a fan of cult movies.  </p> |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Housebound</b><br/>Johnstone, Gerard (2014) Comedy [NR]</p>             | <p>8 This very entertaining mixed-genre film brings a delinquent young woman back to her childhood home with a court-ordered ankle bracelet and an load of psychic baggage. </p>  |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Idle Hands</b><br/>Flender, Rodman (1999) Comedy [R]</p>                | <p>8 Above average horror spoof that is worth watching because of the deadpan humor. </p>   |   |
| <p>❑ <b>It Follows</b><br/>Mitchell, David Robert (2014) Thriller [R]</p>       | <p>9 A film that is sure to be loved by abstinence-only proponents everywhere, wherein a woman finds herself being followed by a deadly, supernatural presence after an error in judgment. This is an unsettling bit of horror film mastery that just drips — drips I tell you! — with juicy metaphors about the teenage years. Excellent and creepy. </p>  |   |
| <p>❑ <b>Jennifer's Body</b><br/>Kusama, Karyn (2009) Comedy [R]</p>             | <p>7 A shallow high school tease shows her true nature after a run-in with some rockers with devilishly innovative self-help ideas, leaving her BFF to deal with it. One might take this as a so-so horror movie </p>   |   |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").
















Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.



**HORROR**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>☐ <b>Jennifer's Body</b></p>  | <p>about man-eating women, except for the pair who wrote and directed — and the truck-load of Christian symbolism tucked into it. The concept may be too messy to really work, but worth a dinner discussion (especially if you've seen the far superior "Ginger Snaps").</p>  |   |
| <p>☐ <b>Juan of the Dead</b><br/>Brugués, Alejandro (2011) Comedy [R]</p>                          | <p>7 An often very amusing mix of splatter horror and subversive comedy that is also a testament to changing times in Cuba. Some of the jokes made at the expense of the Cuban regime are both dryly hilarious and worthy of a prison term in years past.</p>  |   |
| <p>☐ <b>Little Monsters</b><br/>Forsythe, Abe (2019) Comedy [R]</p>                                | <p>8 Need to see a zombie movie that defies expectations to the point that it beomes one of the feel-good movies of the year? This is one.</p>   |    |
| <p>☐ <b>Mandy</b><br/>Cosmatos, Panos (2018) Thriller [NR]</p>                                     | <p>7 The idyllic Northwest woods domestic life of a lumberjack and his artist wife morphs into a savage revenge tale with touches of other-worldly fantasy, animated breaks and a bit of Rob Zombie. A real trip, but suffers from the same problem as the director's last: It's a 90 minute movie stretched to two hours by absurdly slow dialog.</p>                                   |    |
| <p>☐ <b>May</b><br/>McKee, Lucky (2002) Comedy [R]</p>   | <p>7 Black (very black) comedy about an outcast's extreme efforts to find companionship.</p>   |    |
| <p>☐ <b>Mimic</b><br/>Del Toro, Guillermo (1997) Sci-fi [R]</p>                                    | <p>8 Somewhat unpredictable horror story with an intelligent premise about engineered insects that mutate way, way beyond their designers intent, with strong performances from the actors.</p>  |   |
| <p>☐ <b>Onibaba</b><br/>Shindô, Kaneto (1964) [NR]</p>   | <p>8 Two women survive amidst war and famine through methodical brutality, until the sex drive of the younger upsets the balance. WAY ahead of its time, with a riveting score, tense atmosphere and hint of the supernatural.</p>   |       |
| <p>☐ <b>Only Lovers Left Alive</b><br/>Jarmusch, Jim (2013) [R]</p>                                | <p>8 Easily one of Jarmusch's most accessible movies, this slice of "life," movie, involving two lovers separated by distance and some very troublesome others, drips a dark mood of well-aged decadence.</p>  |    |
| <p>☐ <b>Pearl</b><br/>West, Ti (2022) Comedy [R]</p>   | <p>8 Striking a skillful balance between black comedy and outright horror—and presented as if done by the same folks who gave us "The Wizard of Oz"—this prequel to the hit, "X" gives us the backstory of one of that movie's characters. A definite must-see if you enjoyed "X" and definitely the second half of a double-feature night. The end credit sequence is a total hoot.</p> |    |
| <p>☐ <b>Puppet Master: the Littlest Reich</b><br/>Laguna, S &amp; Wiklund, T (2018) Comedy [R]</p> | <p>7 This would be a forgettable B-movie splatter-fest except it was written by S. Craig Zahler, director of the genre mashups "Bone Tomahawk" and "Brawl in Cell Block 99." It does not quite match the level of horror comedy in Peter Jackson's "Dead Alive" but it sure tries. Consider yourself warned.</p>   |   |
| <p>☐ <b>Re-Animator</b><br/>Gordon, Stuart (1985) Comedy [R]</p>                                   | <p>7 This "Frankenstein as biology nerd" gore-fest set a standard for gruesomely campy B-movie horror until "Dead Alive" raised the bar into the ozone layer.</p>  |   |
| <p>☐ <b>Revenant, The</b><br/>Prior, D. Kerry (2009) Comedy [R]</p>                                | <p>7 A low-key but often very funny hybrid of the vampire/zombie/bromance genres that manages to avoid predictability at every corner turned by the plot.</p>  |    |
| <p>☐ <b>Ring, The</b><br/>Verbinski, Gore (2002) [PG-13]</p>                                       | <p>8 The Japanese original "Ringu" made just a little more sense, but this one will totally creep you out. Be sure to watch all the DVD extras (especially the hidden one).</p>  |    |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").




Family oriented fare





May definitely push the limits for some.


## HORROR


- ☐ **Shadow of the Vampire**  
Merhige, E. Elias (2000) Comedy [R]


7 The making of the granddaddy of vampire flicks, "Nosferatu," except one of the actors isn't kidding. 
- ☐ **Stake Land**  
Mickle, Jim (2010) [R]

8 A boy learns to survive in a post-apocalyptic world of vampire-zombies. Although it gets frenetic enough, this is worth seeing just as much for the somber mood it creates, its not-quite-by-the-numbers plotting and the emotional resonance of its ending. 
- ☐ **Tucker and Dale Vs. Evil**  
Craig, Eli (2010) Comedy [R]

9 Obviously well-versed in the trappings of backwoods horror movies, the director and writer run a jubilant chainsaw through every possible cliché from that genre, producing a gut-busting (heh) turning of the tables. Don't miss this if you enjoyed horror/comedy romps like "Evil Dead 2" or "Død Snø." You will enjoy it even more if you understand that "Checkhov's Gun" applies to more than just guns. 
- ☐ **Werewolves Within**  
Ruben, Josh (2021) Comedy [R]

7 Very entertaining, cleverly written little horror film, wherein people stranded in a small town are threatened by a winter storm, a pipeline project and maybe a werewolf. Although some of the small-town characters veer into "Twin Peaks" territory, the performance of an actress who became semi-famous from cell phone commercials makes up for it. 
- ☐ **Witch, The**  
Eggers, Robert (2015) [R]

8 Low key, atmospheric and existentially horrifying, this tale of a Puritan family's descent into their worst nightmare puts you right into 17th century Calvinist paranoia as effectively as "Alien" did for people trapped in spaceships. Do not miss this. 
- ☐ **Wormwood: Road of the Dead**  
Roache-turner, Kiah (2014) Action [NR]

7 This Australian zombie / road movie is good for some Saturday night chuckles and zombie action. 


## INDEPENDENT


- ☐ **Sling Blade**  
(1996) [R]

9 


## MUSICAL

- ☐ **Dr. Horrible's Sing-along Blog**  
Whedon, Joss (2008) Comedy [NR]

10 A Greek tragedy masquerading as a 42-minute musical comedy: Dr. Horrible plots to join the Evil League of Evil and win the girl of his dreams at the same time — if only Captain Hammer doesn't get in the way. With great songs (Greek chorus included) and hilarious dialog, it is exactly what we expect from the team that gave us Buffy's "Once More With Feeling" episode, with an ending true to its subversive aim. 
- ☐ **Moulin Rouge!**  
Luhrmann, Baz (2001) Romance [PG-13]

9 A beautifully staged and wildly over-the-top musical drama of love found in the streets of old Paris. 
- ☐ **Once**  
Carney, John (2006) Drama [R]

10 This is easily the best "music movie" I've ever seen: a complete reimagining of what a "romantic" "musical" can be. It mines deeply into the emotional resonance that music can hold while casting off every possible cliché. Some serendipitous casting makes this the perfect part 2 of a double-feature with "The Commitments."
- ☐ **West Bank Story**  
Sandel, Ari (2005) Comedy [NR]

9 This hilarious short musical reconstructs Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the form of two rival fast food joints staffed by some very stubborn characters, plus one star-crossed couple. 



Something completely different.



Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").









Family oriented fare





May definitely push the limits for some.




**MYSTERY**

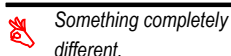
- **8 Women**  
Ozon, François (2002) Musical [R] 8 Eight women (from three generations of French cinema goddesses) and one man (deceased) are trapped in a house where they are forced to reveal their secrets, sometimes with a bit of song and dance. This is a lot of fun.  
- **Big Lebowski, The**  
Coen, J. and Coen, E. (1998) Comedy [R] 8 With a mystery as its center of gravity, the Coen Brothers then run wild in a comic tale that goes into all sorts of orbital loops.
- **Brick**  
Johnson, Rian (2005) Film Noir [R] 9 Remember all those cool kids in high school who were always in some kind of trouble? Here's what they were up to, told in a classic noir style as both riveting mystery flick and absurdist comedy in one expertly assembled package. 
- **Fargo**  
Various (2014) Comedy [TV-MA] 9 Taking a cue from a plot device in the original movie, but then weaving its own new (and complete) story, this is a superlative example of what is possible from television when everything from writing to directing to acting is working at a high level. 
- **Lone Star**  
Sayles, John (1996) [R] 10 One of the best writers in the movies weaves an old murder, Tex-Mex history and family conflicts into more mystery than you can possibly guess; a consummate bit of sleight-of-hand that implicates its audience in its examination of prejudice. 
- **Memento**  
Nolan, Christopher (2000) Thriller [R] 10 A mystery told in reverse chronology that simulates the main character's memory-deficient world-view, defying your ability to predict its path. A brain-damaged insurance investigator with no short-term memory attempts to find his wife's murderer. 

**ROMANCE**

- **Chocolat**  
Hallström, Lasse (2000) Comedy [PG-13] 8 Light romance with spirited performances and a touch of fantasy. 
- **How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days**  
Petrie, Donald (2003) Comedy [PG-13] 7 An enjoyable comedy romance about the eventual collision between two high-powered people who have made bets that can only lead to screwball results when they finally meet.
- **Sliding Doors**  
Howitt, Peter (1998) Fantasy [PG-13] 8 The timing of a closing elevator door makes all the difference between two tellings of the same romantic tale.
- **Tattoo: A Love Story**  
Bean, Richard W. (2002) Comedy [R] 8 A very uptight school teacher meets the man of her nightmares. This is an offbeat comedy with some very funny moments and true heart lining the story. 
- **Tortilla Soup**  
Ripoll, María (2001) Comedy [PG-13] 8 Entertaining re-make of "Eat Drink Man Woman" with a Mexican-American family and equally wonderful food.

**SCI-FI**

- **2001: A Space Odyssey**  
Kubrick, Stanley (1968) [G] 10 The audience does not realize it, but Kubrick started this seminal work of mind-expansion by having the audience stare at a monolith for three minutes while listening to ethereal music they had probably never heard before. Understanding this is the key to what he is doing: Taking them into an experience that is connected to what they understand even as it takes them to the future—and beyond. 
- **Akira**  
Ôtomo, Katsuhiro (1988) [R] 8 A seminal Post-WWIII Sci-Fi w/mental mutants. Based on a Japanese manga.  

















 Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)

 Animated (but not  
necessarily a "cartoon").


Family oriented fare


 May definitely push  
the limits for some.

## SCI-FI

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bad Batch, The</b> Amirpour, Ana Lily (2016) Horror [R]	6 Amirpour's second feature takes us to a society where undesirables are banished to a Mad Max-style desert populated by trailer park cannibals and Burning Man rejects. Worth a watch for a fresh take on the genre and to make you guess who is behind that hermit's makeup.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Bad Taste</b> Jackson, Peter (1987) Horror [NR]	6 Peter Jackson's first movie, made on a budget with a camera that shot 30 seconds at a time, is a humorous, wildly over-the-top gore-fest about space aliens invading a New Zealand town. Don't say you weren't warned.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Brazil</b> Gilliam, Terry (1985) [R]	8 Sci-Fi film noir craziness from ultra-imaginative ex-Python Terry Gilliam.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Clockwork Orange, A</b> Kubrick, Stanley (1971) [R]	9 The work of three geniuses (Burgess, Kubrick and Carlos) come together in this seminal adaptation of Burgess' book about the tension between unchecked "freedom" vs. enforced socialization. Few directors can be said to have reset the bar for a genre of movies, but here is Kubrick doing it a second time, with McDowell's wickedly erudite "Alex" plummeting to the top of the movie villain roster—introduced as the celebrated "anti-hero" until we realize he is a sociopath.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Coherence</b> Byrkit, James Ward (2013) [NR]	8 On the night that a mysterious comet is visible, eight friends gather for a dinner party that builds to a series of delightfully awesome WTF moments. Despite being mostly shot in a living room with a miniscule budget, this is a perfect little science-fiction film.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dark City</b> Proyas, Alex (1998) Film Noir [R]	9 Sci-Fi mystery noir: Asks not only "what is reality" but "why does it keep changing every night?"		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>eXistenZ</b> Cronenberg, David (1999) [R]	8 A group of people are given a first look at a reclusive games wizard's completely submersive video game using a creepy bionic controller. Then things get REALLY weird.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Gattaca</b> Niccol, Andrew (1997) [PG-13]	8 How can a talented person get ahead in a caste system based on genetics? Very thoughtful sci-fi suspense movie.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ghost in the Shell, The</b> Oshii, Mamoru (1995) Sci Fi [R]	9 Despite its obvious appeal to teen males, this is an excellent adult animation about an android cop and her need to understand the nature of her existence. Stunning visuals float in a moody soundtrack, philosophical musings about the Soul are punctuated by intense action. One of the most influential of all early animes.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Iron Sky - Director's Cut</b> Vuorensoola, Timo (2015) [R]	7 While doing a PR-driven return to the Moon to boost the re-election chances of a Palinesque president, a U.S. astronaut discovers a planetary threat that has been hiding there for 70 years. For a crowd-sourced B movie, this is a lot of fun, especially with the more complete director's cut (which adds character development and new FX work). Look for a funny, direct homage (from an unexpected source) to a now-famous scene from "Downfall."		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Liquid Sky</b> Tsukerman, Slava (1982) [R]	7 An abused fashion model discovers she is the unwitting pusher to a tiny spaceship of full of dopamine addicts. One of the truly unique ones, a galactic convergence of lack of money, an alien perspective (of the New York glam punk scene), over-the-top set pieces and a truly unearthly soundtrack, this is an experience that should not be missed.		



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").













Family oriented fare











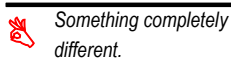
May definitely push the limits for some.

**SCI-FI**

- **Man Who Fell To Earth, The** 6 One of the classic cult films, starring David Bowie as a Martian who gets sidetracked from his mission to save his dying planet.   
Roeg, Nicolas (1976) [R]
- **Maniac** 9 Emma Stone and Jonah Hill star as people with psychological issues who volunteer for an experimental drug-based therapy. Inventive, surprising and often hilarious, this is one of the better entries from Netflix. 
- **They Cloned Tyrone** 8 A small-time thug, a pimp and a sex worker gradually discover that things are not as they appear in their neighborhood. This is inventive riff on the Blaxploitation style and occasionally unsettling, but with hilarious dialog delivered fast enough to require subtitles. Learn as little as possible, but don't miss it. 
- **Timecrimes** 9 When his wife leaves on an errand, a middle-aged man follows a curious sight right into a perfectly staged logical nightmare. A beautifully plotted little twister that sucks you into the rapidly deteriorating dilemma of its "hero."  
- **Truman Show, The** 10 A happy man's life holds one humongous secret. If it's possible that you know nothing about this movie, do NOT find out anything except by watching it. Don't even read the cover. 
- **Twelve Monkeys** 9 A man is sent to the past to prevent urban terrorists from destroying civilization. More wild, time-bending fantasy from Terry Gilliam. 
- **Vexille** 7 Set In a future where Japan has ignored international limitations on robotic development and isolated itself from the rest of Earth. An investigating agent tries to determine what is going on and discovers a horrifying secret in this extremely well-rendered CG anime.   

**THRILLER**

- **11:14** 8 In a cleverly written tale of karma on a rampage, five interlocking stories converge at the time of the title. Well worth the time to watch more than once. Do not watch the trailer. 
- **Amores Perros** 9 Fiercely involving slice of three lives that literally crash together at an intersection in Mexico City. It has been compared to "Pulp Fiction," but a grittier and truer sense of moral complexity fills all the corners.  
- **Bacurau** 7 A woman returning to her Brazilian hamlet finds her neighbors falling victim to mysterious murders that may be tied to water politics or may be just a new version of an old short story. A healthy dollop of local color eventually turns to horror in this effective and immersive award winner.  
- **Blood Simple** 9 Primo modern noir film that hits the target—and the introduction of the Coen brothers to audiences craving great films. 
- **Blue Velvet** 8 An unforgettable look at American schizophrenia, where middle-class "normal" may hide something truly disturbing beneath its surface. Dennis Hopper and Dean Stockwell inhabit two very different but equally frightening characters in Kyle McLachlan's very unexpected trip to the underbelly of a small town.  
- **Conversation, The** 8  
Coppola, Francis Ford (1974) [PG]



Something completely different.

Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)

Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").
























Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.



## THRILLER

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Drive</b> Refn, Nicolas Winding (2011) [R]	8	Ryan Gosling credibly adds a new character to the pantheon of über-cool but deadly anti-heroes in this tale of a stunt & getaway driver who gets tangled in the lives of too many people. The director's ability to build tension through controlled pacing makes the explosions of violence all the more cathartic.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Eyes Wide Shut</b> Kubrick, Stanley (1999) [R]	8	An errant husband stumbles onto a "party" that sets a new bar for the phrase "fish out of water." In the same way that 2001 gave 1968 audiences an experiential taste of the mysterious universe, this film does the same for the paranoid sense that hidden evil has long been at work in the upper reaches of society. The European cut does not have the idiotic digital screening imposed on some scenes.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fargo</b> Coen, J & Coen, E (1996) Comedy [R]	9	A trapped life in the snowy fields of North Dakota leads to murder and black comedy in one of the Coen brothers' best and most essential portraits of people dealing with the presence of evil in their midst.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fight Club</b> Fincher, David (1999) Fantasy [R]	8	Man, did this go where I wasn't expecting it, or what?		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Fourth Man, The</b> Verhoeven, Paul (1983) Comedy [R]	9	A gruesomely funny psychological thriller, pitting a gay Catholic writer with a full-tilt Virgin fixation against the electric seductiveness of a possibly homicidal widow. It's filled to the brim with critic-baiting symbolism and a line of blasphemy in the first love scene will be followed by the sound of jaws hitting the floor.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Free Fire</b> Wheatley, Ben (2016) [R]	8	An arms deal goes badly among people who definitely trust their guns more than the people around them. This is a consistently amusing black humor shoot-em-up.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Freeway</b> (1996) Black Comedy [R]	8	White-trash retelling of Little Red Riding Hood. Reese Witherspoon kicks ass and many other body parts. Not for your grandma, though.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Go</b> (1999) [R]	8	A movie about what happens when you just go with the flow. Very unpredictable, often very funny.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Identity</b> Mangold, James (2003) [R]	8	What coincidence brings a group of people to a run-down motel with a crazed killer? Serious fun for thrill seekers.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Intacto</b> Fresnadillo, Juan Carlos (2002) [R]	8	An unpredictable riff on the nature of chance and gambling, with a European flair.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Kill Bill: Volume 1</b> Tarentino, Quentin (2003) Martial Arts [R]	9	An assassin is brutally betrayed on her wedding day and vows revenge. This is a multi-styled homage to bloody "grind house" kung fu films, but as usual reassembled into a work of art by the director.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Kill Bill: Volume 2</b> Tarentino, Quentin (2004) Martial Arts [R]	8	The 2nd half (not sequel) to the movie reveals that what we have is an unsweetened love story, the kind that would unfold naturally between killers.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Kontroll</b> Antal, Nimród (2003) Comedy [R]	8	Romance mixed with the Kafkaesque lives of rival ticket inspectors down in the caverns of the Budapest subway, with the added chill of a hoodie-shrouded figure who gives random passengers a very unhelpful shove towards the trains.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>La Femme Nikita</b> Besson, Luc (1990) [R]	8	A convicted addict/murderer gets a second chance as a government operative. Forget the first TV series or the lame American remake ("Point of No Return"). This original sizzles in the sense of dread it		



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").















Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

**THRILLER**

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| □ <b>La Femme Nikita</b>   | brings to the action, which violently interrupts Nikita's desperate desire for a "real" life.  |   |   |
| □ <b>Last Seduction, The</b><br>Dahl, John (1994) Film Noir [R]              | 9 The quintessential take-no-prisoners woman-in-the-driver's seat neo-noir. This role is why Linda Fiorentino's character in "Men in Black" says three years later, "I'm a very important person on my planet. Like a queen, a goddess even. There are those who worship me!" Indeed.  |    |    |
| □ <b>Limey, The</b><br>(1999) [R]  | 8 An excellent not-what-it-seems thriller in which a British hit man tries to find out what happened to his daughter in America.   |   |   |
| □ <b>Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels</b><br>Ritchie, Guy (1998) [R]      | 9 Extremely entertaining, funny crime thriller.  |    |   |
| □ <b>Machinist, The</b><br>Anderson, Brad (2004) [R]                         | 9 Well-executed existentialist mystery-thriller in which a machinist wastes away while trying to understand what is happening around him. Kafka would be proud.  |    |   |
| □ <b>Mulholland Dr.</b><br>Lynch, David (2001) [R]                           | 9 David Lynch produces a brilliant modern-noir about the fragility of Hollywood dreams, in which the "oh, by the way" segue occurs somewhere in the last two-thirds. By that point we should have known that it's a Lynch film and the dream we've been watching cannot be trusted.  |    |   |
| □ <b>Night of the Hunter, The</b><br>Laughton, Charles (1955) Film Noir [NR] | 8 A classic story of evil coming to prey on a small town family. The performance by Robert Mitchum is creepy enough and some of the film's quieter interludes are mesmerizing, but much of the other acting (especially that involving religious expressions) pushes believability. Called by some a noir fairy tale and the first cult film, you won't be disappointed if you like one-of-a-kind movies or films that inspired David Lynch. |    |   |
| □ <b>Nightcrawler</b><br>Gilroy, Dan (2014) [R]                              | 9 Jake Gyllenhall takes on overtones of Nosferatu as a bottom-dwelling but very serious entrepreneur, discovering that there is both money and self-validation to be achieved in video news. This one veers into the darkest of black comedy territory.  |  |   |
| □ <b>Nobody</b><br>Naishuller, Ilya (2021) [R]                               | 9 A home invasion that disgraces a woefully non-aggressive office drone spirals into one of the best action movies of the year. Surprises abound and the less you know, the better. Seriously: Do NOT watch any previews.  |  |   |
| □ <b>Open Your Eyes</b><br>Amenábar, Alejandro (1997) Romance [R]            | 8 The original film that was remade into "Vanilla Sky". A playboy veers between reality and dreams after a horrible accident and (maybe) a crime.  |  |  |
| □ <b>Orphan Black</b><br>Coghill, K, Angelis, A & Detsky, J (2013) [TV-14]   | 9 A young woman on the edge of both the law and society becomes a member of a group of women harboring an enormous secret. Alternately funny, exciting and terrifying, this one has it all (the less you know, the more fun you will have with the first episodes)   |  |   |
| □ <b>Perfect Host, The</b><br>Tomnay, Nick (2010) [R]                        | 8 A bank robber looking for a place to lay low stumbles into the company of a man preparing for a dinner party. Nothing goes the way he expects, even after he thinks he knows what to expect. David Hyde Pierce brings some seriously unbalance fun to the proceedings.   |  |   |



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").



















Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

## THRILLER

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pi</b> Aronofsky, Darren (1998) Sci Fi [R]	8	The X-Files meets ultra-orthodox Judaism: a mathematics genius tortured by migraines believes he has found a number sequence that explains, well... a LOT of stuff and everyone wants a piece of him.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pulp Fiction</b> Tarantino, Quentin (1994) [R]	10	Tarantino's masterpiece of perfectly cadenced dialog, black humor, Moebius strip plotting, sudden violence and film homages spawned many imitations, but it's very hard to beat the original.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Red Road</b> Arnold, Andrea (2006) [NR]	9	This hyperrealistic thriller simply plunges you into the life of a British woman, whose job is to monitor security cameras, as she begins to take an interest in a particular person. Although the film reveals its secrets slowly, it also creates palpable tension as we begin to ask, with some justification, "Why is she doing this? Why did she do THAT?" until all is revealed in a completely credible, very humanistic way. Powerful stuff.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Reservoir Dogs</b> Tarantino, Quentin (1992) [R]	8	Quentin Tarantino's first feature film, violent, funny and surprising.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Run, Lola, Run</b> Tykwer, Tom (1999) [R]	8	Three throbbing, highly-kinetic alternate takes on a couple with a very serious problem having to do with missing mob money. A movie about choice, fate and the random timing of chance, designed to explode in your brain (non-lethally).		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Samourai, Le</b> Melville, Jean-pierre (1967) [PG]	8	A 60's French new wave director makes an utterly straightforward thriller about an assassin with a price on his head — and forever defines what "cool" is all about.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Save the Green Planet</b> Jang, Joon-Hwan (2003) Comedy [UR]	8	A genre-busting mix of goofy police procedurals, gruesome Asian thrillers and stock elements of other genres, this nevertheless refuses to give away its game, turning into a constantly surprising and visually inventive bit of fun for those not put off by any of the above description, with a "hero" who may be more than a bit of a paranoid schizo.		 
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Silence of the Lambs, The</b> (1991)	8			
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Simple Plan, A</b> Raimi, Sam (1998) [R]	8	The discovery of a large sum of what appears to be "free" money gives rise to the plan of the title. All that is needed is to observe the KISS principle...if you can.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Snatch</b> Ritchie, Guy (2000) Comedy [R]	8	Hilarious British gangster film. See it on DVD with the subtitles turned on.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tailor of Panama, The</b> Boorman, John (2001) Comedy [R]	8	Complex South American intrigue with Pierce Brosnan giving us an anti-James Bond character that would later flower beautifully in "The Matador."		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Trainspotting</b> Boyle, Danny (1996) [R]	8	Oh, what fun you can have on heroin....not! (but hardly the moral tale that "Requiem for a Dream" is).		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>True Romance</b> Scott, Tony (1993) Crime [R]	8	A comics store grunt and a call girl fall in love and accidentally steal a large amount of cocaine; fireworks ensue. Written by Q. Tarantino.		
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Twin Peaks</b> Lynch, David & Frost, Mark (1990) Comedy [TV-MA]	9	David Lynch's seminal TV show, about the pervasive Pacific rain forest weirdness surrounding the murder of a high school girl, laid the groundwork for much of the off-kilter shows that followed. It went off the rails in the middle of season 2 due to Lynch's refocusing on		



Something completely different.



Foreign language (dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").



Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.

**THRILLER**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Twin Peaks</b><br>Singer, Bryan (1995) Film Noir [R]          | movie projects, but with the short Season 1 it was clearly structured through Season 2's episode 9 as a complete story. My advice: Stop there and exult in the new golden age of television that followed Lynch's lead.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Usual Suspects, The</b><br>Singer, Bryan (1995) Film Noir [R] | 9 Thieves get hired by a mysterious Eastern European crime lord and a classic tale of deception and betrayal unfolds, right to the last minute. One of the classic noir thrillers.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vanilla Sky</b><br>Crowe, Cameron (2001) [R]                  | 8 An effective remake of the Spanish film "Abre Los Ojos" ("Open Your Eyes"), in which the life of a wealthy playboy takes a dramatic turn after a tragic accident — but not nearly as dramatic as what happens next. A real mindbender of a movie.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Village, The</b><br>Shyamalan, M. Night (2004) [PG-13]        | 8 The less you know, the better. No previews!! A Puritan-like group—living in a self-sustaining settlement at the edge of a forest—is plagued by a tradition that seems to demand an occasional sacrifice to a horror lurking there. It's Shyamalan so you know a big surprise is coming. It's a doozy.     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Wild At Heart</b><br>Lynch, David (1990) [R]                  | 7 The meandering tale of an accidental killer, his oh-so-in-love girl, her monster of a mother and other assorted miscreants—as only David Lynch can conceive them. If you like Lynch's brand of weirdness, you'll probably like this one.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Wild Things</b><br>McNaughton, John (1998) Film Noir [R]      | 8 A steamy, twisting, often subtly satirical film about a crime of passion among the well-to-do and their toadies in South Florida. It manages to tell a classically sleazy noir tale while it parodies itself at the same time. DO NOT miss the closing credits, which put the logic into the plot twists. |



Something completely different.



Foreign language  
(dubbed or subtitled)



Animated (but not necessarily a "cartoon").



Family oriented fare



May definitely push the limits for some.