

KEY:

SIL = Silent Film

FOR = Foreign Film

P-60's C = Considered a "classic film" from before the '60s (i.e. Cary Grant, Gregory Peck type films)

M = Mature (may be light violence, sex, mature language, and/or some nudity)

DARK = DARK (definitely disturbing violence and/or sex and/or foul language and/or nudity)

LIGHT = Lighthearted & Funny

L & H = Lighthearted, but also heartwarming, sweet

H-break = Bring tissues

SUR = Surreal, trippy

VISUAL = Visually quite beautiful (either cinematography, scenery, both, or more)

NOVEL = Based on a novel

PLAY = Based on a play

TRUE = Based loosely or more exactly on real events

S & Q = Slow moving, quiet film—don't expect any car chases or train wrecks

SCARY = Scary movie!

HUMOR = Pretty funny all the way through—maybe satirical, farcical,

THINK = A thinking film—heady stuff, philosophical.

I only listed actors I knew would be recognizable to most everyone.

- ☞ **12 Monkeys**, Bruce Willis, Brad Pitt, Madeleine Stowe, In a future world devastated by disease, a convict is sent back in time to gather information about the man-made virus that wiped out most of the human population on the planet. M, SUR.,
- ☞ **21 Grams**, Sean Penn, Naomi Watts, Benicio Del Toro, M, H-break, S & Q;
- ☞ **The 400 Blows**, dir. by Francois Truffaut, Moving story of a young boy who, left without attention, delves into a life of petty crime. FOR, L & H
- ☞ **1984**, NOVEL, John Hurt, George Orwell's dark prediction of the future—excellent but depressing
- ☞ **Adaptation**, Nicholas Cage, Meryl Streep, Chris Cooper; A lovelorn screenwriter becomes desperate as he tries and fails to adapt 'The Orchid Thief' by Susan Orlean for the screen. L & H, THINK
- ☞ **After Hours**, Griffin Dunne, dir. by Martin Scorsese, LIGHT, SUR, a computer worker goes to Soho one night and has nightmarish (but funny) experiences.
- ☞ **Amadeus**, Tom Hulce, F. Murray Abraham; Fictionalized, psychological study of man jealous of Mozart; fabulous music by Neville Marriner
- ☞ **Amelie** ~ FOR, LIGHT, VISUAL, truly delightful and whimsical; Amélie is an innocent and naive girl in Paris with her own sense of justice. She decides to help those around her and, along the way, discovers love.
- ☞ **American Beauty**, Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening, Chris Cooper; M, VISUAL, A sexually frustrated suburban father has a mid-life crisis after becoming infatuated with his daughter's best friend.
- ☞ **American Hustle**; Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper, Amy Adams, Christian Bale; A con man, Irving Rosenfeld, along with his seductive partner Sydney Prosser, is forced to work for a wild FBI agent, Richie DiMaso, who pushes them into a world of Jersey powerbrokers and mafia. M. Based on ABSCAM
- ☞ **Annie Hall**, Diane Keaton, Woody Allen. L & H; HUMOR; THINK; relationship film
- ☞ **All That Heaven Allows**, Jane Wyman, Rock Hudson, P-'60s C; H-break; A woman falls in love with a younger man, but she falls prey to society's scolding eye
- ☞ **Angel Heart**, Mickey Rourke, Robert DeNiro; DARK, SCARY, SUR
- ☞ **Animal House**, John Belushi, farcical, M, devil-may-care frat boys vs. uptight college admin & rich frat boys
- ☞ **Apocalypse Now**, Martin Sheen, Robert Duvall, Coppola's exploration of the Vietnam War, M, VISUAL
- ☞ **The Apu Trilogy**, FOR, NOVEL, S & Q, The Apu Trilogy = three Bengali films directed by Satyajit Ray: Pather Panchali (1955), Aparajito (1956) & The World of Apu (1959). Frequently listed in the history of the greatest Indian cinema. Original music by Ravi Shankar. Based on two Bengali novels from 1929 & and 1932.
- ☞ **As Good As It Gets**, Jack Nicholson, Helen Hunt, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Greg Kinnear; L & H, Quite touching & funny; A single mother/waitress, a misanthropic author, and a gay artist form an unlikely friendship after the artist is assaulted in a robbery.
- ☞ **The Assassination of Jesse James** by the Coward Robert Ford, Brad Pitt, Casey Affleck, S & Q, VISUAL, TRUE—the music & cinematography is haunting—Pitt & Affleck are wonderful; beautiful western.

- ☞ *Badlands*, Martin Sheen, Sissy Spacek, TRUE, M, about 2 teen killers in South Dakota
- ☞ *Barry Lyndon* ~ from Stanley Kubrick; Ryan O'Neill; a young Irishman seeks to become nobility; VISUAL—Painterly & beautiful, but also a bit slow for some people's taste; NOVEL (from 1844) ~ over 3 hrs. long; M
- ☞ *Beauty and the Beast* (1946 version, dir. by Jean Cocteau, French), FOR, VISUAL, SUR, strange & lovely (B & W)
- ☞ *Boys Don't Cry*, Hilary Swank, TRUE, DARK ~ about a transgender teen in Nebraska
- ☞ *Bicycle Thieves* (that's right—the real title—NOT *The Bicycle Thief*), FOR, S & Q; Addresses the issue of whether to steal or see your family starve. Classic.
- ☞ *Birdman*, Michael Keaton, A washed-up actor, who once played a famous superhero, attempts to revive his career by writing and starring in a Broadway play. SUR, THINK,
- ☞ *The Big Lebowski*, Jeff Bridges, John Goodman; A hippie dude becomes involved in kidnapping because of a misunderstanding of identity. HUMOR
- ☞ *The Birth of a Nation*, SIL, D.W. Griffith's 1920s classic revealing frighteningly racist portrayals of African Americans (he later made a film called *Tolerance* to back-pedal on his racist depictions)
- ☞ *Biutiful*, Javier Bardem, VISUAL, M, THINK, SUR; This is the story of Uxbal, a man living in this world, but able to see his death, which guides his every move.
- ☞ *Black Orpheus*, A retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice myth, set during the time of the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, 1959. FOR. Marcel Camus shot the film entirely on location in Brazil with his cast and crew of mostly local talent. Camus wanted to capture the dramatic landscapes around Rio and the vibrant sounds and colors of the area, infusing the film with a kinetic energy set to the constant throbbing beat of samba music.
- ☞ *Black Swan*, Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis; M, SUR—about a woman transforming through her ballet role as the Black Swan ~ she is a committed dancer who wins the lead role in a production of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" only to find herself struggling to maintain her sanity.
- ☞ *Blood Simple*, Frances McDormand, Dan Hadeya; SCARY, S & Q, M; a woman leaving her husband finds herself in danger
- ☞ *Blue Velvet*, Kyle McLaughlin, Dennis Hopper, Isabela Rossalini; DARK, SCARY, SUR; The discovery of a severed human ear found in a field leads a young man on an investigation related to a beautiful, mysterious nightclub singer and a group of psychopathic criminals who have kidnapped her child. Highly disturbing. A classic.
- ☞ *Brazil*, Jonathan Pryce, Robert DeNiro; commentary on bureaucracy run amok in the future; SUR, M, THINK
- ☞ *Breaking the Waves*, Emily Watson, Stellan Skaarsgard, Oilman Jan is paralyzed in an accident. His wife, who prayed for his return, feels guilty; even more, when Jan urges her to have sex with another. DARK, unsettling
- ☞ *Breathless*, A small-time thief steals a car and impulsively murders a motorcycle policeman. Wanted by the authorities, he reunites with a hip American journalism student and attempts to persuade her to run away with him to Italy. FOR, S & Q. dir. by Jean Luc Godard
- ☞ *Brokeback Mountain*, Jake Gyllenhaal, Heath Ledger, about the bigotry against gay men; DARK; H-break; very beautiful film by Ang Lee—devastating love story, outstanding acting
- ☞ *Bull Durham*, Kevin Costner, Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins; LIGHT; HUMOR; about baseball and love; M
- ☞ *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligary*, 1920, FOR, SCARY, SIL; Hypnotist Dr. Caligari uses a somnambulist, Cesare, to commit murders. Classic example of German Expressionism.
- ☞ *Cape Fear*, Robert DeNiro, Nick Nolte, Jessica Lange, Juliet Lewis; SCARY; DARK; about a slightly crooked lawyer whose dysfunctional family is haunted by an ex-con.
- ☞ *A Christmas Carol* (1951 w/ Alistair Sim), P-'60s C; to my mind, the BEST version of the Dickens story—maybe good for near Christmas
- ☞ *Cinema Paradiso*, FOR, L & H; H-break; about a young Italian boy and his relationship with a film projectionist; about love of films! MY recommendation for the first film we view on movie afternoon; NO ONE doesn't like this film! Here are trailers for your consideration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=stLekU5BnbI> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2-GX0Tltgw>
- ☞ *City Lights*, Charlie Chaplin, P-'60s C; SIL; L & H; HUMOR; 1931. Very funny. With the aid of a wealthy erratic tippler, a dewy-eyed tramp who has fallen in love with a sightless flower girl accumulates money to be able to help her medically. The ending is one of the greatest in film history.
- ☞ *City of God*, Brazilian, FOR; M/DARK; Two boys growing up in a violent neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro take different paths: one becomes a photographer, the other a drug dealer. Considered a brilliant classic.
- ☞ *Children of Paradise* (*Les Enfants du Paradis*); FOR, L & H; some H-break; *Les Enfants du Paradis*, released as *Children of Paradise* in North America, is a 1945 French film directed by Marcel Carné. It was made during the German occupation of France during World War II. Set among the Parisian theatre scene of the 1820s and 1830s, it tells the story of a beautiful courtesan, Garance, and the four men who love her in their own ways: a mime artist, an actor, a criminal and an aristocrat. A three-hour film in two parts, it was described in the original American trailer as the French answer to *Gone With the Wind* (1939). The leading nouvelle

vague director François Truffaut once said: "I would give up all my films to have directed *Children of Paradise*". The film was voted "Best Film Ever" in a poll of 600 French critics and professionals in 1995. It is over 3 hrs. long. For those interested, Roger Ebert wrote an extensive review (but watch for spoilers): <http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/great-movie-children-of-paradise-1945>

- ⌘ ***Chinatown***, Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway; M, THINK, dir. By Roman Polanski; A private detective hired to expose an adulterer finds himself caught up in a web of deceit, corruption, and murder.
- ⌘ ***A Clockwork Orange*** ~ the Stanley Kubrick classic ~ LOTS of violence ~ DARK humor; amoral hooligans terrorize ordinary people & a brainwashing attempt; M
- ⌘ ***The Conversation***, Gene Hackman, John Cazale; THINK, S & Q; A paranoid, secretive surveillance expert has a crisis of conscience when he suspects that a couple he is spying on will be murdered. A classic by Coppola.
- ⌘ ***Dazed & Confused***; HUMOR; L & H; a VERY young Matthew McConaughey; The adventures of high school and junior high students on the last day of school in May 1976.
- ⌘ ***Days of Heaven***, Richard Gere, Brooke Adams, Sam Shepherd; VISUAL (rapturous cinematography!); about a group of drifters who go to Texas for migrant work and meet a farmer; fabulous story—Richard Gere's first major film; Terence Mallick's first major film; S & Q;
- ⌘ ***Dead Man***, Johnny Depp, Gary Farmer (Native American actor), Crispin Glover, Gabriel Byrne; On the run after murdering a man, accountant William Blake encounters a Native American man named Nobody who prepares him for his journey into the spiritual world. SUR, THINK, a little slow, some violence, strange but spiritual
- ⌘ ***Death of a Cyclist***; FOR, S & Q; Spanish, A couple having an affair strike a bicyclist with their car and do not offer aid out of fear of their relationship being exposed.
- ⌘ ***Death of a Salesman***, Dustin Hoffman, John Malkevich; PLAY, An aging traveling salesman recognizes the emptiness of his life and tries to fix it. H-break. Hoffman & Malkevich are brilliant.
- ⌘ ***Defending Your Life***, Albert Brooks, Meryl Streep; HUMOR, about a man who dies & goes to a kind of judgment court to see whether he can move on or must go back to earth. L & H
- ⌘ ***Diabolique***, FOR, M, The wife and mistress of a cruel headmaster conspire to kill him; after the murder is committed, his corpse disappears, and strange events begin to plague the two women.
- ⌘ ***Dog Day Afternoon***, Al Pacino. M, TRUE, A man robs a bank to pay for his lover's operation; it turns into a hostage situation and a media circus.
- ⌘ ***Donnie Darko***, Jake Gyllenhaal, SUR, M, THINK, a little SCARY ~ A troubled teenager is plagued by visions of a man in a large rabbit suit who manipulates him to commit a series of crimes, after he narrowly escapes a bizarre accident. Trippy & dark, but fascinating.
- ⌘ ***Double Indemnity***, Fred McMurray, Barbara Stanwyck, Edward G. Robinson, P-'60s C; 1944; CLASSIC film noir; An insurance representative lets himself be talked into a murder/insurance fraud scheme that arouses an insurance investigator's suspicions.
- ⌘ ***Down by Law***, Tom Waits ~ strange, M, in B & W; about three convicts who escape in Louisiana; some HUMOR; S & Q; eerie soundtrack;
- ⌘ ***Downfall***; Bruno Ganz; war story/story of Hitler's last days ~ intense, considered highly accurate; FOR, TRUE
- ⌘ ***Dr. Strangelove***, Peter Sellers, George C. Scott; Kubrick's classic commentary on war; fabulous satire; THINK, HUMOR
- ⌘ ***DUNE***; Kyle McLaughlin, Virginia Madsen, Brad Dourif; A Duke's son leads desert warriors against the galactic emperor and his father's evil nemesis when they assassinate his father and free their desert world from the emperor's rule. Fantasy

- ⌘ ***Eraserhead***, David Lynch's very strange film—S & Q, SUR, THINK—indescribable plot—a nightmare on wheels
- ⌘ ***Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind***, Jim Carrey, somewhat comic but poignant; M, SUR; raises the question of whether you would erase all memories of a person, if you could, if the relationship were a difficult one—not typical Jim Carrey comedy—he's excellent in a serious role

- ⌘ ***Fargo***, Frances McDormand, William H. Macy, Steve Buscemi, HUMOR, about a kidnapping/murder gone wrong; some violence
- ⌘ ***Fast Times at Ridgemont High***, Judge Rheinhold, Sean Penn, Jennifer Jason Leigh; HUMOR; high school students cope w/ adolescence; a bit of subtle sex, not much.
- ⌘ ***Fight Club***, Brad Pitt, Edward Norton; NOVEL; SUR, An insomniac office worker, looking for a way to change his life, crosses paths with a devil-may-care soap maker, forming an underground fight club that evolves into something much, much more. Not for those offended by sexual content—there's lots.
- ⌘ ***The Fisher King***, Jeff Bridges, Mercedes Ruell, Robin Williams, Amanda Plumber; HUMOR; L & H; about two men, lost in different ways

- ☞ ***Fool for Love***, Sam Shepherd (who also wrote the play), Kim Basinger, Harry Dean Stanton, Randy Quaid; May is waiting for her boyfriend in a run-down American motel, when an old flame turns up and threatens to undermine her efforts and drag her back into the life that she was running away from. The situation soon turns complicated. SUR; Strange, a bit trippy, but compelling if you like that sort of thing!
- ☞ ***Frances***, Sam Shepherd, Jessica Lange—TRUE, the life of actress Frances Farmer, who rebelled against the conventions & mores of her time; brilliant acting, fascinating story; M
- ☞ ***Giant***, Rock Hudson, James Dean, Elizabeth Taylor, Sal Mineo. P-'60s C; Sprawling epic covering the life of a Texas cattle rancher and his family and associates. Classic film with wonderful undertones of fighting racism (specifically Mexican Americans) and sexism. It is 3 ½ hours long (just saying!). James Dean very last film.
- ☞ ***The Godfather***, Al Pacino, Marlon Brando (the whole set); M; Coppola's most famous film; The aging patriarch of an organized crime dynasty transfers control of his clandestine empire to his reluctant son.
- ☞ ***The Gold Rush***, Charlie Chaplin, P-'60s C; silent; 1925; A prospector goes to the Klondike in search of gold and finds it and more. Very funny classic scene with shoes.
- ☞ ***Gone Girl***, Ben Affleck, Neil Patrick Harris; a mystery; M; THINK; some sex & violence; With his wife's disappearance having become the focus of an intense media circus, a man sees the spotlight turned on him when it's suspected that he may not be innocent.
- ☞ ***Goodbye to Language***; indescribable; FOR, SUR, M, VISUAL, THINK
- ☞ ***Goodfellas***, Ray Liotta, Robert DeNiro, Joe Pesci, Lorraine Bracco, Paul Sorvino; TRUE; M/DARK—fair amount of sex & violence—very fast moving; one of Martin Scorsese's most popular films (ALL of my students wanted me to show this one, but they were 18 – 35-year-olds from LA); The story of real life Henry Hill and his life through the teen years into the years of mafia, covering his relationship with his wife Karen Hill and his Mob partners Jimmy Conway and Tommy DeVito in the Italian-American crime syndicate.
- ☞ ***The Good Girl***; Jennifer Aniston, Jake Gyllenhaal, John C. Reilly; A discount store clerk strikes up an affair with a stock boy who considers himself the incarnation of Holden Caulfield. L & H ~ subtle humor ~ some mild sex
- ☞ ***Gosford Park***, Maggie Smith, S & Q; The lives of upstairs guests and downstairs servants at a party in 1932 in a country house in England as they investigate a murder involving one of them.
- ☞ ***The Gospel According to St. Matthew***, The life of Jesus Christ according to the Gospel of Matthew. Pasolini shows Christ as a marxist avant-la-lettre and therefore uses half of the text of Matthew. Selected by the Vatican in the "religion" category of its list of 45 "great films." Maybe a good film for near Christmas. Very beautiful; check out this clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEs4g9A9HGc>
- ☞ ***The Graduate***; a classic ~ some sex; Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft; about a college graduate & seduction; LIGHT, M, famous soundtrack by Simon & Garfunkel
- ☞ ***The Grand Budapest Hotel***, Ralph Fiennes, The adventures of Gustave H, a legendary concierge at a famous hotel from the fictional Republic of Zubrowka between the first and second World Wars, and Zero Moustafa, the lobby boy who becomes his most trusted friend. L & H; whimsical! VISUAL
- ☞ ***Grand Illusion*** (dir. by Jean Renoir), During the First World War, two French soldiers are captured and imprisoned in a German P.O.W. camp. Several escape attempts follow until they are sent to a seemingly impenetrable fortress, which seems impossible to escape from. P-'60s C, FOR
- ☞ ***The Great Dictator***, Charlie Chaplin, his spoof on Hitler (well before Hitler was unpopular in the US), Very funny & Poignant (not silent), P-'60s C; HUMOR
- ☞ ***The Green Mile***; Tom Hanks; story of a prison and a prisoner with a magical gift; L & H; SUR; a classic
- ☞ ***Groundhog Day***, Bill Murray, Ande McDowell; a man relives the same day over and over—what he learns; HUMOR
- ☞ ***Hachi; A Dog's Tale***; Richard Gere, Joan Allen; H-break; A college professor's bond with the abandoned dog he takes into his home. Poignant and sad.
- ☞ ***Hannah and Her Sisters***, Mia Farrow, Barbara Hersey, Woody Allen, Michael Caine; a Woody Allen comedy; the lives of three sisters and the men they're involved with; HUMOR
- ☞ ***Harold & Maude***, Ruth Gordon, Bud Cort; a 1960s classic about a lost young man and how an elderly woman changes his life. HUMOR; Young, rich, and obsessed with death, Harold finds himself changed forever when he meets lively septuagenarian Maude at a funeral.
- ☞ ***Harvey***, Jimmy Stewart, P-'60s C; HUMOR; L & H; a man is friends with a 6-ft. rabbit
- ☞ ***Haxan***, 1922, Fictionalized documentary showing the evolution of witchcraft, from its pagan roots to its confusion with hysteria in modern Europe. SUR; SIL; FOR
- ☞ ***The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter***, Alan Arkin, Sondra Locke, NOV by Carson McCullough. When deaf mute Singer moves to a small city to be near his only friend confined in a hospital, he grows attached to his landlady's sensitive 16-year-old daughter. H-break; THINK

- ⌘ **Heaven**, documentary, Diane Keaton interviews a variety of people on their view of what heaven is (with old film clips of heaven interspersed)—very quirky but funny
- ⌘ **High Fidelity**, John Cusack, Tim Robbins, Jack Black, relationship troubles of a music store owner; HUMOR;
- ⌘ **I Heart Huckabees**, Jason Schwartzman, Jude Law, Naomi Watts, A husband-and-wife team play detective, but not in the traditional sense. Instead, the happy duo helps others solve their existential issues, the kind that keep you up at night, wondering what it all means. HUMOR; L & H; M
- ⌘ **Immortal Beloved**; Gary Oldman, Jeroen Krabbé, Isabella Rossellini; The story of Beethoven; Rapturous soundtrack!
- ⌘ **The Importance of Being Ernest**, PLAY, HUMOR; Michael Redgrave; fabulous satire on society and how things must be; When Algernon discovers that his friend, Ernest, has created a fictional brother for whenever he needs a reason to escape dull country life, Algernon poses as the brother, resulting in ever increasing confusion.
- ⌘ **Intimate Strangers**, A Frenchwoman tells her marital troubles to a man she mistakes for a psychiatrist, and soon they form an unusual relationship. FOR; THINK; L & H; a truly lovely film
- ⌘ **Iron Jawed Angels**, Hilary Swank, Angelica Huston, Defiant young activists take the women's suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote.
- ⌘ **It's a Wonderful Life**, Jimmy Stewart, 'nuff said!, P-'60s C; L & H;
- ⌘ **J'Accuse**; FOR; THINK; SIL., commentary on WWI (with real footage from WWI)
- ⌘ **Jacob's Ladder**; Tim Robbins; DARK; SCARY; THINK; Mourning his dead child, a haunted Vietnam War veteran attempts to discover his past while suffering from a severe case of dissociation. To do so, he must decipher reality and life from his own dreams, delusion, and perception of death. Many disturbing scenes; powerful.
- ⌘ **Juliet of the Spirits**; Fellini film ('65); Visions, memories, and mysticism all help a 40-something woman to find the strength to leave her cheating husband. SUR. FOR
- ⌘ **Kiss Kiss Bang Bang**, Robert Downey, Jr., Val Kilmer; Film noir spoof (with allusions to Sunset Blvd. and other classic film noir movies); M (bordering on DARK); HUMOR (very funny if you're not easily offended)
- ⌘ **Kiss of the Spider Woman**, William Hurt, Raul Julia, A gay man and a political prisoner are together in a prison. The gay man narrates the stories of two fake movies and his own life. DARK, THINK
- ⌘ **Lars and the Real Girl**, Ryan Gosling, Patricia Clarkson, Emily Mortimer, A delusional young man strikes up an unconventional relationship with a doll he finds on the Internet. L & H; H-break; HUMOR;
- ⌘ **La Roue**, 1923, Sisif, a railwayman, and his son Elie fall in love with the beautiful Norma (who Sisif rescued from a train crash when a baby and raised as his daughter), with tragic results. SIL. M.
- ⌘ **La Strada**, Anthony Quinn, 1954 Fellini movie, A care-free girl is sold to a traveling entertainer, consequently enduring physical and emotional pain along the way.
- ⌘ **Last Tango in Paris**, Marlon Brando, DARK, about a relationship between two strangers; explicit sex scenes.
- ⌘ **Little Big Man**, Dustin Hoffman, Jack Crabb, looking back from extreme old age, tells of his life being raised by Native Americans and fighting with General Custer. L & H;
- ⌘ **The Lives of Others**, In 1984 East Berlin, an agent of the secret police, conducting surveillance on a writer and his lover, finds himself becoming increasingly absorbed by their lives. VERY similar to FF Coppola's The Conversation with Gene Hackman
- ⌘ **Lolita**, James Mason, Shelley Winters, Peter Sellers, A middle-aged college professor becomes infatuated with a fourteen-year-old nymph. M, HUMOR, NOVEL; considered a masterpiece (both the novel & play) but you must be able to get past the subject matter of an older man courting a teenager.
- ⌘ **Long Day's Journey Into Night**, from Eugene O'Neill's autobiographical PLAY, Jason Robards, Katherine Hepburn, Ralph Richardson; H-break, S & Q; Over the course of one day in August 1912, the family of retired actor James Tyrone grapples with the morphine addiction of his wife Mary, the illness of their youngest son Edmund and the alcoholism and debauchery of their older son Jamie. As day turns into night, guilt, anger, despair, and regret threaten to destroy the family. Katherine Hepburn excellent as a drug addicted woman.
- ⌘ **Lost Highway**, Bill Pullman, SUR, THINK - VERY surreal and nightmarish—David Lynch
- ⌘ **M**, Peter Lorre, film noir, M, 1931 classic; When the police in a German city are unable to catch a child-murderer, other criminals join in the manhunt.
- ⌘ **Magnolia**, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Jason Robards, Julianne Moore, Tom Cruise—THINK, M, An epic mosaic of interrelated characters in search of love, forgiveness, and meaning in the San Fernando Valley.
- ⌘ **Manhattan**, Woody Allen, Diane Keaton, Meryl Streep; HUMOR, story of several relationships

- ⌘ **Metropolis**, SIL, Fritz Lang classic, 1927, In a futuristic city sharply divided between the working class and the city planners, the son of the city's mastermind falls in love with a working class prophet who predicts the coming of a savior to mediate their differences.
- ⌘ **The Mexican**, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, James Gandolfini, a rom-com, HUMOR, L & H; A man tries to transport an ancient gun called The Mexican, believed to carry a curse, back across the border, while his girlfriend pressures him to give up his criminal ways.
- ⌘ **Midnight Cowboy**, Jon Voight, Dustin Hoffman, M; sexual situations. A naive hustler travels from Texas to New York to seek personal fortune but, in the process, finds himself a new friend.
- ⌘ **Miss Firecracker**, Holly Hunter, Tim Robbins, Mary Steenburgen, Scott Glenn; a misfit enters a beauty pageant—quite sweet and touching, L & H; HUMOR
- ⌘ **Modern Times**, Charlie Chaplin; The Tramp struggles to live in modern industrial society with the help of a young homeless woman.
- ⌘ **Mona Lisa**, Bob Hoskins, Michael Caine—a man tries to rescue a prostitute; excellent film, but DARK
- ⌘ **Moonstruck**, Cher, Nicholas Cage, Danny Aiello—HUMOR, relationship film
- ⌘ **My First Mister**; Albert Brooks, Leelee Sobieski; M, sweet film about lost young woman who starts hanging out with a sad, middle-aged man
- ⌘ **My Life as a Dog**; FOR, H-break, HUMOR, about a young boy who is separated from his very ill mother—touching
- ⌘ **Mystic River**, dir. By & starring Sean Penn, w/ Tim Robbins, Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon—DARK, H-break, about kids who grow up differently in a Boston neighborhood after a childhood tragedy

- ⌘ **Naked**; David Thewliss; DARK, brilliant film, but highly disturbing, about a sociopathic man; British
- ⌘ **Natural Born Killers**; Woody Harrelson, Juliette Lewis, Robert Downey Jr.; DARK; HUMOR; SUR; about the media's sensationalizing of two killers; brilliant, but a bit unnerving
- ⌘ **The New World**; Colin Farrell, David Thewliss, Christian Bale, Q'orianka Kilcher; TRUE—about the story of the English exploration of Virginia, and of the changing world and loves of Pocahontas. VISUAL.
- ⌘ **The Night of the Hunter**, Robert Mitchum, Shelley Winters, Lillian Gish; P-'60s C; an ex-con, con-man preacher visits a family of his former cell mate; SCARY;
- ⌘ **No Country for Old Men**; NOVEL, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Tommy Lee Jones; SCARY, SUR, M; Violence and mayhem ensue after a hunter stumbles upon a drug deal gone wrong and more than two million dollars in cash near the Rio Grande.
- ⌘ **Nosferatu**; FOR, SIL, SCARY (in a 1920s sort of way); Vampire Count Orlok expresses interest in a new residence and real estate agent Hutter's wife.
- ⌘ **O Brother Where Art Thou**, the Coen Brothers, John Goodman, George Clooney, John Turturo; HUMOR; based on Homer's *The Odyssey*; In the deep south during the 1930s, three escaped convicts search for hidden treasure while a relentless lawman pursues them.
- ⌘ **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**, Jack Nicholson, NOVEL; M; dir. By Milos Forman; A criminal pleads insanity after getting into trouble again and once in the mental institution rebels against the oppressive nurse and rallies up the scared patients. Very much a tale about power and repression.
- ⌘ **Pan's Labyrinth**; FOR. Touching. In the Falangist Spain of 1944, the bookish young stepdaughter of a sadistic army officer escapes into an eerie but captivating fantasy world.
- ⌘ **Paths of Glory**, Kirk Douglas—HUMOR; M; darkly funny commentary on war (early Kubrick); 1957. After refusing to attack an enemy position, a general accuses the soldiers of cowardice and their commanding officer must defend them.
- ⌘ **The Passenger**; Jack Nicholson; S & Q; VISUAL. (dir. by Michelangelo Antonioni) A frustrated war correspondent, unable to find the war he's been asked to cover, takes the risky path of co-opting the I.D. of a dead arms dealer acquaintance.
- ⌘ **The Passion of Joan of Arc**; In 1431, Jeanne d'Arc is placed on trial on charges of heresy. The ecclesiastical jurists attempt to force Jeanne to recant her claims of holy visions. SIL. CLASSIC silent film from 1928. Beautifully acted; a true art film. THINK.

- ⌘ **Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid**, James Coburn, Kris Kristofferson; S & Q; western. An aging Pat Garrett is hired as a lawman on behalf of a group of wealthy New Mexico cattle barons--his sole purpose being to bring down his old friend Billy the Kid.
- ⌘ **People Will Talk**, P-'60s C; Cary Grant; Dr. Noah Praetorius falls in love with Debra, a student who finds out that she is pregnant by her old boyfriend. Very much a story about unwarranted judgment.

- ☞ ***A Perfect World***; dir. by & starring Clint Eastwood; w/ Kevin Costner, Laura Dern; A kidnapped boy strikes up a friendship with his captor: an escaped convict on the run from the law, headed by an honorable U.S. Marshal. Quite touching. Costner was perfect in it. Touching film.
- ☞ ***The Piano***; Holly Hunter, Harvey Keitel, Sam Neill, Ana Pacquin; commentary on a woman's voice in 19th century; A mute woman is sent to 1850s New Zealand along with her young daughter and prized piano for an arranged marriage to a wealthy landowner, but is soon lusted after by a local worker on the plantation. M, THINK; S & Q; very much a film about who has a voice in society
- ☞ ***Pillow Book***, Ewan McGregor, SUR, sensual, A woman with a body writing fetish seeks to find a combined lover and calligrapher. Lots of nudity, but VISUAL
- ☞ ***The Player***, Tim Robbins, Fred Ward, Whoopi Goldberg, Lyle Lovett, Greta Scacchi, Peter Gallagher, Dean Stockwell; HUMOR, about a movie executive; A Hollywood studio executive is being sent death threats by a writer whose script he rejected - but which one?
- ☞ ***The Pledge*** (directed by Sean Penn), Jack Nicholson, Robin Wright, Aaron Eckhardt, Benicio del Toro, Helen Mirren; excellent who-done-it and psychological study; A retiring police chief pledges to catch the killer of a young child. trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Oh6Av_Z1Wk
- ☞ ***The Positively True Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleader-Murdering Mom***; Holly Hunter, Beau Bridges; TRUE story of a woman who tries to sabotage her daughter's competition by planning a hit on the girl's mother.
- ☞ ***Pow-wow Highway***; Gary Farmer; L & H; Depicts the struggles of reservation-dwelling Native Americans in S.D. The main character is an introspective and lovable person in a process of seeking pride and identity through traditional and mystical means of gathering power. His high school friend, a Vietnam War Veteran, exerts power as a highly principled social activist, using a modern rational materialist adversarial model of progress.
- ☞ ***Prizzi's Honor***; Jack Nicholson, Angelica Huston, Kathleen Turner; HUMOR; sort of a mafia spoof; A professional hit man and hit woman fall in love. S & Q.
- ☞ ***Pulp Fiction***; John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Bruce Willis, Uma Thurman; well told story with ensemble cast about hit men, a boxer, a gangster's wife, and others ~ some sex, LOTS of violence
- ☞ ***Pygmalion***, Leslie Howard, 1938, NOVEL; A Victorian dialect expert makes a bet that he can teach a cockney flower girl to speak proper English and pass as a lady in high society.
- ☞ ***Quills***; Geoffrey Rush; about the Marquis de Sade; DARK
- ☞ ***Raggedy Man***; Sissy Spacek, Eric Roberts, Sam Shepherd; DARK; Nita, a divorced mother of two boys, is stuck working as a telephone operator in a small Texas town in World War II. Her friendship with a sailor on leave causes tongues to wag in town.
- ☞ ***Raising Arizona***; Nicholas Cage, Holly Hunter; HUMOR; A childless couple kidnap a baby. VERY funny.
- ☞ ***Rashomon***; FOR; THINK; Japanese; rape told from four different perspectives (those who were present)
- ☞ ***Reds***; Warren Beatty, Diane Keaton, Jack Nicholson, Gene Hackman; TRUE; story of John Reed, Louise Bryant, and the Bolshevik Revolution.
- ☞ ***Repulsion***; FOR; DARK; sex-repulsed woman who disapproves of her sister's boyfriend sinks into depression and has horrific visions of rape and violence.
- ☞ ***Room 237*** ~ a documentary about *The Shining* ~ interesting film that exemplifies
- ☞ ***Rosemary's Baby***; Mia Farrow, John Cassavettes, Ruth Gordon; SCARY, M. dir. by Roman Polanski. A young couple move into an apartment, only to be surrounded by peculiar neighbors and occurrences. When the wife becomes mysteriously pregnant, paranoia over the safety of her unborn child begins to control her life (maybe a good Halloween flick)
- ☞ ***Runaway Train***; Jon Voigt, Eric Roberts; M; existentialism; VISUAL; about convicts escaping a brutal prison.
- ☞ ***Run Lola Run***; FOR, four takes on a sticky situation; After a botched money delivery, Lola has 20 minutes to come up with 100,000 Deutschmarks.
- ☞ ***Rushmore***; Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray; HUMOR. Very funny & poignant at the same time. Whimsical. The extracurricular king of Rushmore preparatory school is put on academic probation.
- ☞ ***Scenes from a Marriage***; FOR, Ingmar Bergman; Follows the relationship of Marianne and Johan as they separate, engage in extramarital affairs, bond, re-bond and eventually divorce. Their relationship continues after the divorce; this is a couple that can't stay away from each other, though they argue most of the time.
- ☞ ***Scrooged***; Bill Murray; HUMOR—very funny modern version of *A Christmas Carol*—maybe good for Christmas time
- ☞ ***The Seventh Seal***, Bergman flick with Max von Sydow, FOR; a disillusioned Crusades knight plays chess with Death—an allegory of man's search for meaning ~ a classic in B & W; THINK

- ☞ ***Sex Lies & Videotape***; Andy McDowell, James Spader; DARK—about a lying husband and a man who can't be intimate
- ☞ ***Sexy Beast***; DARK; Ben Kingsley, Ray Winstone; about a man trying to escape his criminal past being lured into one more job. Strange, SCARY, but excellent.
- ☞ ***The Sheltering Sky***; NOVEL (Paul Bowles); Debra Winger, John Malkovich; M; The American artist couple Port and Kit Moresby travel aimlessly through Africa, searching for new experiences that could give sense to their relationship. But the flight to distant regions only leads both deeper into despair. THINK; VISUAL (Bertolucci)
- ☞ ***The Shining***; Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall; SCARY; NOVEL (Stephen King); dir. by Kubrick; A family heads to an isolated hotel for the winter where an evil and spiritual presence influences the father into violence, while his psychic son sees horrific forebodings from the past and of the future.
- ☞ ***The Shop on Main St.*** FOR; M; Slovakia during WW2. Tono lives a poor life, but the authorities offer him to take over the Jewish widow Lautman's little shop for sewing material. She is old and confused and thinks that he is only looking for employment and hires him. The odd couple begin to like each other. But some time later the authorities decide that the Jews must leave the city. What should he do with the old lady? H-break; THINK.
- ☞ ***Short Cuts***, M, different people's lives intermingle in LA. Andie McDowell, Jack Lemmon, Julianne Moore, Matthew Modine, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Robert Downey Jr., Madeleine Stowe, Tim Robbins, Lily Tomlin, Lyle Lovett, Frances McDormand, Buck Henry, Peter Gallagher
- ☞ ***The Silence of the Lambs***; Anthony Hopkins, Jody Foster; SCARY
- ☞ ***Silver Linings Playbook***; L & H; Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence; After a stint in a mental institution, former teacher Pat Solitano moves back in with his parents and tries to reconcile with his ex-wife. Things get more challenging when Pat meets Tiffany, a mysterious girl with problems of her own. L & H; HUMOR;
- ☞ ***A Simple Plan***; Bill Paxton, Billy Bob Thornton; When three blue collar acquaintances come across millions of dollars in lost cash, they make a plan to keep their find from the authorities but find complications and mistrust weaving its way into their plan.
- ☞ ***Smoke Signals***; based on stories by Native American writer Sherman Alexie. Gary Farmer, Adam Beach, Evan Adams; Young Indian man Thomas is a nerd in his reservation, wearing oversize glasses and telling everyone stories no one wants to hear. Road trip. VERY dear film. L & H
- ☞ ***Spellbound***; Hitchcock film. Ingrid Bergman, Gregory Peck. 1945. A psychiatrist protects the identity of an amnesia patient accused of murder while attempting to recover his memory. Salvador Dali created the art for the dream sequence.
- ☞ ***Spider***. NOVEL. Ralph Fiennes, Miranda Richardson, Gabriel Byrne. A mentally disturbed man takes residence in a halfway house. His mind gradually slips back into the realm created by his illness, where he replays a key part of his childhood. SUR. M. Psychologically dark, but fascinating.
- ☞ ***The Spirit of the Beehive***. FOR. S & Q. Spanish film. VISUAL. In 1940, after watching and being traumatized by the movie Frankenstein (1931), a sensitive seven year-old girl living in a small Spanish village drifts into her own fantasy world.
- ☞ ***Splendor in the Grass***, Warren Beatty, Natalie Wood. Outstanding performances. P-'60s C. About young people living with restrictive mores.
- ☞ ***Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter . . . and Spring***; FOR. Very Zen. Lovely. S & Q. A young and truth seeking boy travels to an isolated lake, where an old Buddhist master lives on a small floating temple.
- ☞ ***Stardust Memories***, Woody Allen, Charlotte Rampling; L & H; love story, nostalgia.
- ☞ ***The Story of the Weeping Camel***; FOR; H-break; VISUAL; poignant. When a Mongolian nomadic family's newest camel colt is rejected by its mother, a musician is needed for a ritual to change her mind.
- ☞ ***A Streetcar Named Desire***, from the Tennessee Williams PLAY, Kim Hunter, Marlon Brando; a classic. Disturbed Blanche DuBois moves in with her sister in New Orleans and is tormented by her brutish brother-in-law while her reality crumbles around her.
- ☞ ***Sunset Boulevard***, P-'60s C; Gloria Swanson, William Holden; film noir. A screenwriter is hired to rework a faded silent film star's script only to find himself developing a dangerous relationship.
- ☞ ***Taxi Driver***, Robert DeNiro, Jody Foster, Cybil Shepherd. M/Dark—violence. A mentally unstable Vietnam War veteran works as a night-time taxi driver in New York City where the perceived decadence and sleaze feeds his urge for violent action, while attempting to save a preadolescent prostitute in the process.
- ☞ ***The Tempest***; PLAY—a MODERN version of the Shakespeare play with John Cassavetes and Molly Ringwald.
- ☞ ***Thank You for Not Smoking***; commentary on advertising with Aaron Eckhardt, Maria Bellow. S & Q. THINK. Satirical comedy follows the machinations of Big Tobacco's chief spokesman, Nick Naylor, who spins on behalf of cigarettes while trying to remain a role model for his twelve-year-old son.

- ☞ ***The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada***, Tommy Lee Jones, Barry Pepper, Dwight Yoakum, January Jones. Poignant film about justice. M. Some sex and violence. Ranch hand Pete Perkins looks to fulfill the promise to his recently deceased best friend by burying him in his hometown in Mexico.
- ☞ ***Titus***; Anthony Hopkins, Jessica Lange. DARK. Very disturbing, based on Shakespeare's very dark PLAY. Titus returns victorious from war, only to plant the seeds of future turmoil for himself and his family.
- ☞ ***To Kill a Mockingbird***; Gregory Peck; a classic. Harper Lee's classic NOVEL. Atticus Finch, a lawyer in the Depression-era South, defends a black man against an undeserved rape charge, and his children against prejudice.
- ☞ ***Touch of Evil***, P-'60s C, Orson Welles, Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh; one of the last film noir pictures made; 1958—more innocent than this description (next) sounds: A stark, perverse story of murder, kidnapping, and police corruption in a Mexican border town. A definite classic!
- ☞ ***The Thin Red Line***, NOVEL and reflections, Jim Caviezel, Sean Penn, Nick Nolte; Adaptation of James Jones' autobiographical 1962 NOVEL, focusing on the conflict at Guadalcanal during the second World War. Stirring and beautiful; VISUAL; THINK.
- ☞ ***The Trial***, dir. & narrated by Orson Wells; Anthony Perkins; SUR. NOVEL. Based on the Kafka novel. An unassuming office worker is arrested and stands trial, but he is never made aware of his charges.
- ☞ ***True Romance***; DARK (much violence and some sex); Christian Slater, Patricia Arquette, Dennis Hopper, Gary Oldman; very romantic if you can handle the violence (written by Quentin Tarantino); In Detroit, a lonely pop culture geek marries a call girl, steals cocaine from her pimp, and tries to sell it in Hollywood. Meanwhile, the owners of the cocaine - the Mob - track them down in an attempt to reclaim it.
- ☞ ***Un Chien Andalou***; SUR; Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí present seventeen minutes of bizarre, surreal imagery.
- ☞ ***The Virgin Suicides***; Kirsten Dunst, Josh Hartnett, James Woods, Kathleen Turner; M. disturbing. A group of male friends become obsessed with five mysterious sisters who are sheltered by their strict, religious parents in suburban Detroit in the mid-1970s.
- ☞ ***The Wall*** (Pink Floyd); Bob Geldof; M; A confined but troubled rock star descends into madness in the midst of his physical and social isolation from everyone.
- ☞ ***Wild at Heart***, Nicholas Cage, Laura Dern, Willem Defoe. DARK. Not for the faint of heart. Graphic and disturbing sex and violence (David Lynch film). But well done. Young lovers Sailor and Lula run from the variety of weirdos that Lula's mom has hired to kill Sailor.
- ☞ ***Wild Strawberries***, FOR. Bergman's film of looking back at youth. After living a life marked by coldness, an aging professor is forced to confront the emptiness of his existence.
- ☞ ***Wings of Desire***; FOR. THINK. S & Q. An angel tires of overseeing human activity and wishes to become human when he falls in love with a mortal.
- ☞ ***Winter's Bone***; Jennifer Lawrence, John Hawkes, Garrett Dillahunt; An unflinching Ozark Mountain girl hacks through dangerous social terrain as she hunts down her drug-dealing father while trying to keep her family intact. M. THINK. S & Q.
- ☞ ***Wonder Boys***, Michael Douglas, Tobey McGuire, Robert Downey Jr., Frances McDormand. L & H; HUMOR; An English Professor tries to deal with his wife leaving him, the arrival of his editor who has been waiting for his book for seven years, and the various problems that his friends and associates involve him in.
- ☞ ***Wonderland***, Val Kilmer, TRUE re: killings in '80s LA; DARK, TRUE; In the police investigation of a brutal crime scene, one man was at the center of it all: legendary porn star John Holmes.
- ☞ ***Wuthering Heights*** (this one's the PBS version with Tom Hardy, not the Lawrence Olivier version), NOVEL, Foundling Heathcliff is raised by the wealthy Earnshaws in Yorkshire but in later life launches a vendetta against the family. Painful love story.
- ☞ ***Zodiac***, Jake Gyllenhaal, Robert Downey, Jr., Mark Ruffalo, TRUE, SCARY—in the late 1960s/early 1970s, a San Francisco cartoonist becomes an amateur detective obsessed with tracking down the Zodiac Killer, an unidentified individual who terrorizes Northern California with a killing spree.

TV SHOWS (box sets for lending out)

Homicide: Life on the Streets

The Wire

Six Feet Under

Deadwood

The Office (the British version with Ricky Gervais, NOT the American version with Steve Carrell)

Films By Well Known Directors

Woody Allen (Annie Hall, Manhattan, Stardust Memories, Hannah and Her Sisters)

Robert Altman (Short Cuts, The Player, Fool for Love)

Wes Anderson (Rushmore, The Grand Budapest Hotel)

Darren Aronofsky (Black Swan)

Ingmar Bergman (Wild Strawberries, Scenes from a Marriage, The Seventh Seal)

Bernardo Bertolucci (Last Tango in Paris, The Sheltering Sky)

Jane Campion (The Piano)

Charlie Chaplin (Modern Times, The Gold Rush, The Great Dictator, City Lights)

Coen Brothers (Raising Arizona, Fargo, O Brother Where Art Thou, Blood Simple, The Big Lebowski, No Country for Old Men)

Francis Ford Coppola (The Godfather, Apocalypse Now, The Conversation)

Guillermo del Toro (Pan's Labyrinth)

Clint Eastwood (Mystic River, A Perfect World)

Federico Fellini (La Strada, Juliet of the Spirits)

González Iñárritu (21 Grams, Biutiful, Birdman)

David Fincher (Fight Club, Zodiak)

Milos Forman (One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Amadeus)

Terry Gilliam (12 Monkeys, The Fisher King, Brazil)

Jean-Luc Godard (Breathless, Goodbye to Language)

Peter Greenaway (Pillow Book)

Alfred Hitchcock (Spellbound)

John Huston (Prizzi's Honor)

Spike Jonze (Adaptation)

Elia Kazan (A Streetcar Named Desire, Splendor in the Grass)

Stanley Kubrick (Paths of Glory, Dr. Strangelove, Lolita, The Shining, Barry Lyndon, A Clockwork Orange)

Akira Kurosawa (Rashomon)

Fritz Lang (M, Metropolis)

Ang Lee (Brokeback Mountain)

Spike Lee (Passing Strange)

Mike Leigh (Naked)

Richard Linklater (Fast Food Nation, Dazed & Confused)

David Lynch (Wild at Heart, Lost Highway, Blue Velvet, Eraserhead)

Terrence Malick (Days of Heaven, The Thin Red Line, Badlands, The New World)

Sam Mendez (American Beauty)

Sam Peckinpaw (Pat Garrett & Billy the Kid)

Roman Polanski (Rosemary's Baby, Chinatown, Repulsion)

Satyajit Ray (The Apo Trilogy)

David O. Russell (I Heart Huckabees, Silver Linings Playbook)

Martin Scorsese (Taxi Driver, After Hours, Goodfellas, Cape Fear)

Steven Soderbergh (Sex Lies & Videotape)

Oliver Stone (Natural Born Killers)

Giuseppe Tornatore (Cinema Paradiso)

Francoise Truffaut (The 400 Blows, Breathless)

Lars von Trier (Breaking the Waves)

Orson Welles (The Trial, Touch of Evil)

Wim Wenders (Wings of Desire)