

U.S.**Woody Allen**

Take the Money and Run (1969) This film is presented as a documentary on the life of an incompetent, petty criminal named Virgil Starkwell.

Annie Hall (1977)

Neurotic New York comedian Alvy Singer falls in love with the ditsy Annie Hall.

Broadway Danny Rose (1984)

Danny Rose is a manager of artists, and although he's not very successful, he nevertheless goes out of his way to help his clients.

Hannah and Her Sisters (1986)

During a Thanksgiving Day party we make acquaintance with a numerous and problematic family. The leading characters are three sisters.

Crimes and Misdemeanors (1989)

Woody Allen about humanity.

Hal Ashby*Harold and Maude* (1971)

Young, rich, and obsessed with death, Harold finds himself changed forever when he meets lively septuagenarian Maude at a funeral.

Bruce Beresford*The Fringe Dwellers* (1986)

Story of an aboriginal family who tries to move out of the fringe into the main white community.

Richard Brooks*Elmer Gantry* (1960)

Elmer Gantry, salesman, teams up with Sister Sharon Falconer, evangelist, to sell religion to America in the 1920s.

John Cassavetes*Shadows* (1959)

Cassavetes' jazz-scored improvisational film explores interracial friendships and relationships in the Beat-Era (1950s) New York City. A particular favorite of mine, real fine.

A Woman Under the Influence (1974)

The film challenges conventional representations of madness in cinema. Very intense, very memorable Gena Rowlands, Cassavetes' wife. Also stars his friend Peter Falk.

Killing of a Chinese Bookie (1976)

To clear his debt, a strip club owner grapples with his own conscience as he must kill a Chinese bookie. Stars Ben Gazzara. Great 'period piece' of city of L.A.

Bill Condon*Kinsey* (2004)

A look at the life of Alfred Kinsey, a pioneer in the area of human sexuality research, whose 1948 publication *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* was one of the first scientific recorded studies of sexual behavior.

Anthony Drazan*Zebrahead* (1992)

This is a Romeo and Juliet type tale based in Detroit, Michigan. Two young men, Zack, a white teen accused of *acting black* and Dee, a black teen, defy racial lines and form a strong friendship.

Bill Duke*The Killing Floor* (1985)

During World War I, a poor black Southerner travels north to Chicago to get work in the slaughterhouses, where he becomes embroiled in the organized labor movement.

Robert Duvall*The Apostle* (1997)

After his happy life spins out of control, a preacher from Texas changes his name, goes to Louisiana and starts preaching on the radio. An '*only could be made in the U.S.*' movie about Southern Pentecostal religion. Unique film.

John Frankenheimer*Birdman of Alcatraz* (1962)

A surly convicted murderer held in permanent isolation becomes a renowned bird expert. Burt Lancaster is awesome.

Seven Days in May (1964)

U.S. military leaders plot to overthrow the President because he supports a nuclear disarmament treaty and they fear a Soviet sneak attack.

The Burning Season (1994)

Based on the true story of a Brazilian rubber tapper who leads his fellow workers in protest against the government and developers. Stars Raul Julia.

Todd Haynes*Far From Heaven* (2002)

Cathy is the perfect '50s housewife, then one night she surprises her husband Frank kissing another man, and her tidy world starts spinning out of control. She finds consolation in the friendship of their black gardener, Raymond – a socially taboo relationship that leads to further disintegration of life as she knew it.

Norman Jewison*A Soldier's Story* (1984)

Film adaptation of Charles Fuller's play. A black officer investigates a murder in a racially charged situation during WWII.

Roland Joffé*The Mission* (1986)

Jeremy Irons plays a Spanish Jesuit who goes into the South American wilderness to build a mission in the hope of converting the Indians of the region. Robert DeNiro plays a slave hunter who is converted and joins Irons in his mission. When Spain sells the colony to Portugal, they are forced to defend all they have built against the Portuguese aggressors. Simply a terrific film.

Stanley Kubrick*Paths of Glory* (1957)

When soldiers in WWI refuse to continue with an impossible attack, their superiors decide to make an example of them. Very powerful anti-war film.

Spartacus (1960)

They trained him to kill for their pleasure...but they trained him a little too well...the Spartacus slave uprising against the Roman Empire.

Dr. Strangelove (1964)

An insane general starts a process to nuclear holocaust that a war room of politicians and generals frantically try to stop. A 'must see' for Peter Sellers' fans.

Charles Laughton*The Night of the Hunter* (1955)

A sinister crook posing as a preacher pursues two children for their secret, the location of stolen loot.

Sidney Lumet*12 Angry Men* (1957)

A dissenting juror in a murder trial slowly manages to convince the others that the case is not as obviously clear as it seemed in court.

The Pawnbroker (1964)

This was one of the first films to deal with the affects of Nazi Germany's concentration camps on their survivors. It stars Rod Steiger and is a memorable film. Set in Harlem in NYC.

Serpico (1973)

The true story about what happens to a NYC cop who's a whistle-blower on rampant corruption in the force.

Dog Day Afternoon (1975)

Based on true events, a NYC man and two accomplices are besieged in a bank with all the bank employees after his attempt to rob enough money to pay for his male lover's sex change operation goes awry.

The Verdict (1982)

A lawyer sees the chance to salvage his career and self-respect by taking a medical malpractice case to trial rather than settling.

Delbert Mann (script-Paddy Chayefsky)**Marty (1955)**

This movie is a simple, beautiful and touching love story with great performances and direction. Chayefsky also wrote the movie *Network* (1976) directed by Sidney Lumet.

Michael Mann**Ali (2001)**

Muhammad Ali from 1964 to 1974, told in three braided threads. The boxer: from becoming champion to regaining the championship. Religion and politics: Cassius Clay becomes a Black Muslim, truncates a friendship with Malcolm X, perhaps is Elijah Muhammad's pawn, refuses induction into the US military, and faces a five-year prison sentence while his case goes to the Supreme Court.

Ronald F. Maxwell**Gettysburg (1993)**

Civil War battle and based on the excellent historical novel by Michael Shaara entitled *The Killer Angels*.

Alan J. Pakula**Sophie's Choice (1982)**

Sophie is a survivor of Nazi concentration camps, who has found a reason to live in Nathan, a sparkling if unsteady American Jew obsessed with the Holocaust.

Sam Peckinpah**The Wild Bunch (1969)**

An aging group of outlaws look for one last big score as the traditional American West is disappearing around them.

Roman Polanski**The Pianist (2002)**

A Polish Jewish musician struggles to survive the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto in WWII. Very powerful.

Sidney Pollack**Absence of Malice (1981)**

Suppose you picked up this morning's paper and your life was a front page headline...and everything they said was accurate...but none of it was true?

Martin Ritt**Hombre (1967)**

In this film more is said with just one look. An Indian cop travels by stagecoach and encounters more than his share of trouble. Filled with hard looks, calmly delivered threats and lots of gun play.

Norma Rae (1979)

A young single mom and textile worker agrees to help unionize her mill despite the problems and dangers.

Michael Roemer**Nothing But a Man (1964)**

A young black man in 1963 Alabama loves a minister's daughter, works hard, and is oppressed and called *boy* by everyone he comes in contact with.

Stuart Rosenberg**Cool Hand Luke (1967)**

A man refuses to conform to life in a southern prison.

John Sayles (I'm a huge fan!!!!)**Matewan (1987)**

A labor union organizer comes to an embattled mining community brutally and violently dominated and harassed by the mining company.

Lone Star (1996)

Set in a mythical border town in Texas, story explores race, immigration, incest and a lot more.

Steven Spielberg**Schindler's List (1993)**

Oskar Schindler is a vain, glorious and greedy German businessman who becomes an unlikely humanitarian amid the barbaric Nazi regime when he feels compelled to turn his factory into a refuge for Jews. Based on a true story.

Edward Zwick**Glory (1989)**

About the Massachusetts 54th regiment of black soldiers in the Civil War based on the book *One Gallant Rush* by Peter Burchard.

BRAZIL**Hector Babenco****Pixote: A Lei Do Mais Fraco (1981)**

The life of a boy in the streets of Sao Paulo, involved with little crimes, prostitutes, etc. Tough ghetto life in Brazil perfectly recorded – totally devastating.

Marcel Camus**Orfeu Negro (1959) ['Black Orpheus']**

A retelling of the Orpheus and Eurydice myth, set during the time of the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro.

Carlos Diegues**Bye Bye Brazil (1979)**

A four-person traveling tent show, the "Caravana Rolidel," treks through the big cities, tiny villages, port towns and Amazonian jungles of the largest country in South America.

Leon Hirszman**They Don't Wear Black Tie (1981)**

Union leader's son doesn't want to engage in a strike, because his wife is pregnant, thus disregarding his father's tradition of political activism.

Walter Salles**Central Station (1998)**

An emotive journey of a former school teacher, who writes letters for illiterate people, and a young boy, whose mother has just died, in search for the father he never knew.

BRITAIN**Cy Enfield****Zulu (1964)**

On January 22, 1879, the British Army suffers one of its worst defeats when Zulu forces massacre 1,500 of its troops. A short time after the main battle a Zulu force numbering in excess of 4,000 warriors advances on a

British supply dump guarded by 139 Welsh infantrymen. The film concentrates on this bloody 12-hour battle.

Bill Forsyth

Local Hero (1983)

An American oil company sends a man to Scotland to buy up an entire village where they want to build a refinery. But things don't go as expected.

Stephen Frears

My Beautiful Launderette (1985)

An ambitious Asian Briton and his white lover strive for success and hope, when they open up a glamorous laundromat.

Dirty Pretty Things (2002)

An illegal Nigerian immigrant discovers the harsh, oppressive side of London life. Very good film about immigrants in London.

Anthony Harvey

The Lion in Winter (1968)

1183 A.D.: King Henry II's (Peter O'Toole) three sons all want to inherit the throne, but he won't commit to a choice. They and his wife, Katherine Hepburn as Eleanor of Aquitaine, all variously plot to force him.

Mike Hodges

Get Carter (1971)

A vicious London gangster, Jack Carter, travels to Newcastle for his brother's funeral. He begins to suspect that his brother's death was not an accident and sets out to follow a complex trail of lies, deceit, cover-ups and backhanders through Newcastle's underworld, leading, he hopes, to the man who ordered his brother killed.

Terry Jones

Monty Python's Life of Brian (1979)

Brian is born on the original Christmas, in the stable next door. He spends his life being mistaken for a messiah.

Neil Jordan

Mona Lisa (1986)

Sometimes love is a strange and wicked game.

The Crying Game (1992)

An unlikely kind of friendship develops between Fergus, an Irish Republican Army volunteer, and Jody, a kidnapped British soldier lured into an IRA trap by Jude, another IRA member.

Shekhar Kapur

Bandit Queen (1994)

The movie tells the true story of the bandit queen, Phoolan Devi, who was sent to prison in 1983 and got free in 1994. During the five years she was prosecuted by the Indian police and turned into a legend (like a modern Robin Hood) by the Indian press.

Elizabeth (1998)

A film of the early years of the reign of Elizabeth I of England and her difficult task of learning what is necessary to be a monarch.

David Lean

Brief Encounter (1945)

Story of adultery that began the new wave of post-war British cinema, and oh that Rachmaninoff score!

Ryan's Daughter (1970)

WWI seems far away from Ireland's Dingle peninsula when Rosy Ryan Shaughnessy goes horseback riding on the beach with the young English officer. BUT...

Mike Leigh

Secrets and Lies (1995)

Successful black woman traces her birth mother to a lower-class white woman, who denies it; emotions run high as everyone's secrets are exposed.

Vera Drake (2004)

Vera Drake is a selfless woman who is completely devoted to, and loved by, her working class family. She also secretly visits women and helps them induce miscarriages for unwanted pregnancies. Takes place in 1950s Britain, and Vera sees herself as helping women in need. Very powerful.

Ken Loach

Land and Freedom (1995)

Spring 1936, a young unemployed communist, David, leaves his hometown of Liverpool to join the fight against fascism in Spain.

Bread and Roses (2001)

Two Latina sisters work as cleaners in a downtown office building, and fight for the right to unionize.

Chris Menges

A World Apart (1988)

South Africa, 1963. A mother's love, a family's courage, semi-autobiographical, based on the daughter of Joe Slovo, leader of the S.A.C.P.

Carol Reed

The Third Man (1949)

An American pulp writer arrives in post WWII Vienna only to find that the friend who waited for him is killed under mysterious circumstances. The ensuing mystery entangles him in his friend's involvement in the black market, with the multinational police, and with his Czech girlfriend.

Tony Richardson

A Taste of Honey (1961)

The moving story of a plain young girl who becomes pregnant by a black sailor, befriends a homosexual, and gradually becomes a woman.

Tom Jones (1963)

Tom Jones, a presumed bastard child, is taken in and raised as the child of an English gentlemen. Tom is a likeable, devil-may-care chap in adulthood, with a great love for the beautiful Sophie Western but an inability to resist the advances of any other attractive lady.

Ken Russell

Women in Love (1969)

This is an exploration of the relationships, personalities, and philosophies of two men and two women in the high society of the early 1900s. One man (Reed) is an industrialist, and treats relationships as possessions. The other man (Bates) is a school inspector and tries to define love between men and women, and men and men. One woman (Jackson) is a socialite, and sees relationships in terms of usage. The other woman (Linden) sees love as pure and simple, a permanent bond.

Fred Zinneman

The Day of the Jackal (1973)

A professional assassin codenamed "Jackal" plots to kill Charles de Gaulle, the President of France.

CHINA**Chen Kaige***Yellow Earth* (1984)

Yellow earth focuses on the story of a Communist soldier who is sent to the countryside to collect folk songs for the communist revolution.

Farewell My Concubine (1993)

The story of two men, who met as apprentices in the Peking Opera, and journey for over 50 years of China's history.

Temptress Moon (1996)

Not far from Shanghai, in a country town stands the palatial home of the Pang family. Old Master Pang is an addict who brings up his beautiful daughter, Ruyi, on opium smoke.

The Emperor and the Assassin (1999)

In pre-unified China, the King of Qin sends his concubine to a rival kingdom to produce an assassin for a political plot, but as the king's cruelty mounts, she finds her loyalty faltering.

Yang Li*Blind Shaft* (2003)

A bold feature from writer-director Li Yang (also producer & film director) who is not afraid to expose the every man for himself corruption and swindling situations of contemporary China's mining workers conditions.

Xiaoshuai Wang*Beijing Bicycle* (2001)

Struggle and consequences in modern Chinese society as depicted by the confrontation between a boy from rural China and a boy in Beijing. It is filmed all over Beijing.

Yimou Zhang*Red Sorghum* (1987)

An old leper who owned a remote sorghum winery dies. Jiu'er, the wife bought by the leper, and her lover, identified only as "my Grandpa" by the narrator, take over the winery and set up an idealized quasi-matriarchal community headed by Jiu'er.

Ju Dou (1990)

A woman married to the brutal and infertile owner of a dye mill in rural China conceives a boy with her husband's nephew but is forced to raise her son as her husband's heir without revealing his parentage in this circular tragedy.

Raise the Red Lantern (1992)

A sad story about the lives of concubines.

Story of Qiu Ju (1992)

Realistic portrayal of life in China as Qiu Ju fights bureaucracy.

To Live (1994)

Historical chronicle of China from the '40s to the '80s, through the story of the family of Fugui and Jiazhen. It is stunning in its breadth and beauty. You will learn a lot.

Not One Less (1999)

In her village, she was the teacher...In the city, she discovered how much she had to learn.

Yuan Zhang*East Palace, West Palace* (1997)

In China, homosexuality isn't illegal, but homosexuals are routinely persecuted by the police and arrested for 'hooliganism.' The film focuses on a young gay writer, A-Lan, who being attracted to a young policeman, manages to have himself interrogated for a whole night by him. His life-story which he tells during the interrogation reflects the general repression of the Chinese society.

The policeman's attitude shifts from the initial revulsion to fascination and finally to attraction.

FRANCE**Patrice Chéreau***La Reine Margo* (1994) ['Queen Margo']

The night of August 24, 1572, is known as the Massacre of St. Bartholomew. In France a religious war is raging.

Jean Cocteau*Beauty and the Beast* (1947)

Once upon a time, the one and only...a masterpiece by Cocteau.

Mathieu Kassovitz*La Haine* (1995)

Powerful film about modern day 2nd generation immigrant youth living in the suburbs of Paris. Revolves around three main characters: a working-class Jew, an African boxer, and a north African Arab.

Louis Malle*Le Souffle au Coeur* (1971) ['Murmur of the Heart']

A coming of age story about a 15-year-old boy who has an incestuous relationship set in France in the mid-50s.

Marcel Ophuls*Le Chagrin et la Pitié* (1969) ['The Sorrow and the Pity']

From 1940 to 1944, France's Vichy government collaborated with Nazi Germany. Marcel Ophuls mixes archival footage with 1969 interviews of a German office and of collaborators and resistance fighters from Clermont-Ferrand.

Jean Renoir*Grand Illusion* (1938)

During WWI, two French officers are captured. One is an aristocrat while the other was a mechanic in civilian life. A classic film with fine acting, directing, writing and cinematography, and a story filled with memorable characters who are involved in action, suspense, and drama, with some comic parts and even, later in the film, some romance.

The Rules of the Game (1950)

Renoir's look at bourgeois life in France at the onset of World War II. An assorted cast of characters – the rich and their poor servants – meet up at a French chateau for various reasons and the result is murder.

The River (1951)

Three teenaged girls are living in Bengali (India) near a big river. The screen is used like a huge canvas, the color is unbelievable and it's worth seeing at a theatre during a cinema-fest.

Alain Renais*Hiroshima, Mon Amour* (1959)

A French young woman has spent the night with a Japanese man, at Hiroshima where she went for the shooting of a film about peace. He reminds her of the first man she loved. It was during World War II, and he was a German soldier. The main themes of this film are memory and oblivion. This is the first film in which Americans, if they saw this film, would have seen footage of the effects of the nuclear attack.

GERMANY**Rainer Werner Fassbinder**

Angst Essen Seele Auf (1974) ['Ali Fear Eats the Soul']

Emmi, an older woman, falls in love with Ali, an Arab guest worker, more than ten years younger. When they both decide to marry, everybody and everyone seems to be against them.

Faustrecht der Freiheit (1975) ['Fox and His Friends']

Franz "Fox" Biberkopf is a working-class guy, at loose ends when his lover is arrested and the police shutter their carnival booth. In need of cash for his weekly lottery purchase, Fox lets himself be picked up by an elegant older man named Max. At Max's, he meets two younger gay men who have expensive tastes and images to uphold. The next day, Fox wins 500,000 marks in the lottery, and Max's friends suddenly become Fox's friends, especially Eugen, the heir to a bookbinding firm that's short of cash. Eugen's polish beguiles Fox, and the fleeing begins.

Die Ehe der Maria Braun (1979) ['The Marriage of Maria Braun']

This movie follows the life of a young German woman, married to a soldier in the waning days of WWII. Fassbinder has tried to show the gritty life after the end of WWII and the turmoil of the people trapped in its wake.

Berlin Alexanderplatz (1980)

[TV mini-series]

This film which is basically the longest narrative film ever made, is a 15-1/2 hour episodic exploration of the character of Franz Biberkopf, "hero" of Alfred Döblin's acclaimed novel, as well as the Alexanderplatz area of Berlin that he inhabits.

Werner Herzog

Aguirre, der Zorn Gottes (1972) ['Aguirre, Wrath of God']

A band of ruthless conquistadors venture up a river in 16th century South America in search of fortune only to find that the journey rapidly becomes more perilous. Morale and feelings of loyalty to Spain deteriorate thus power struggles ensue amongst the soldiers.

Jeder für sich und Gott Gegen alle (1974)

['Kaspar Hauser']

Herzog's film is based on the true and mysterious story of Kaspar Hauser, a young man who suddenly appeared in Nuremberg in 1828, barely able to speak or walk, and bearing a strange note; he later explained that he had been held captive in a dungeon of some sort for his entire life that he could remember, and had only just been released, for reasons unknown. His benefactor attempts to integrate him into society, with intriguing results.

Fitzcarraldo (1982)

Kinski plays the title role of an obsessed opera lover who wants to build an opera in the jungle. To accomplish this he first has to make a fortune in the rubber business, and his cunning plan involves hauling an enormous river boat across a small mountain with aid from the local Indians.

Fritz Lang

Metropolis (1927)

The Workers, led by the beautiful Maria, plan a revolt against the aloof Thinkers that dominate them in this future dystopia.

M (1931)

When the police in a German city are unable to catch a child-murderer, other criminals join in the manhunt.

Fury (1936)

Based on the story "Mob Rule" by Norman Krasna. Fritz Lang shows us how a decent and once civilized man can become a ruthless and bitter man. It's one study of the effects of lynch-mob violence.

Michael Verhoeven

Das Schreckliche Mädchen (1990)

['The Nasty Girl']

Sonya is a German high school student who decides to write an essay about her town's history during the Third Reich and its resistance to it. To her dismay, and more so the town's, she uncovers instead definite collaboration during the period. As she digs deeper, she must struggle against the town's vocal and violent opposition to her search for the truth.

Wim Wenders

Der Himmel über Berlin (1987) ['Wings of Desire']

The film centers around the story of two angels wandering post-war Berlin. Invisible to humans, they nevertheless give their help and comfort to all the lonely and depressed souls they meet.

INDIA**Satyajit Ray**

The following 3 movies are considered a trilogy...

Pather Panchali (1955)

Sometimes in the early years of the century, a boy, Apu, is born to a poor Brahmin family in a village in Bengal.

Aparajito (1957)

A boy leaves home to study in Calcutta, while his mother must face a life alone.

Parash Pathar (1958)

An underpaid middle-aged clerk finds a 'parash pathar', a stone that changes iron to gold on touch.

Ghare-Baire (1984) ['The Home and the World']

When the movie opens, a woman is recalling the events that molded her perspective on the world. Years ago, her husband, a wealthy Western-educated landowner, challenged tradition by providing her with schooling, and inviting her out of the seclusion in which married women were kept, to the consternation of more conservative relatives. Meeting her husband's visiting friend from college, a leader of an economic rebellion against the British, she takes up his political cause, despite her husband's warnings. As the story progresses, the relationship between the woman and the visitor becomes more than platonic, and the political battles, pitting rich against poor and Hindu against Moslem, turn out not to be quite as simple as she had first thought. VERY, VERY POWERFUL.

ISRAEL**Moshe Mizrahi**

Madame Rosa (1977) [in French]

Madame Rosa lives in a sixth-floor walkup in the Pigalle; she's retired prostitute, Jewish and an Auschwitz survivor, a foster mom to children of other prostitutes. Momo is the oldest and her favorite, an Algerian lad whom she raises as a Muslim.

ITALY**Bernardo Bertolucci***The Conformist* (1971)

A weak-willed Italian man becomes a fascist flunky who goes abroad to arrange the assassination of his old teacher, now a political dissident.

1900 (1977)

It begins with the defeat of the fascist regime in Italy by the allies. The film then flashes back to 1900 with the birth of Alfredo and Olmo who belong to different social classes. The story is about their lives in contrast.

La Luna (1979)

A mother's attempt to wean her son off heroin results in an incestuous relationship.

The Last Emperor (1987)

The story of the final emperor of China.

Franco Brusati*Bread and Chocolate* (1973)

Beautifully told story about an Italian immigrant in Switzerland.

Vittorio de Sica*The Bicycle Thief* (1948)

A man and his son search for a stolen bicycle vital for his job.

Umberto D (1952)

Umberto Domenico Ferrari, an elderly and retired civil servant, is desperately trying to maintain a decent standard of living on a rapidly dwindling state pension post WWII.

Two Women (1960)

Cesira and 13-year-old daughter, Rosetta, flee from the allied bombs in Rome during WWII. They travel to the village where Cesira was born, but on the way they both get raped by soldiers hiding in a church. Cesira suffers a breakdown, but a young intellectual falls in love with her.

The Garden of the Finzi-Continis (1971)

In the late 1930s, in Ferrara, Italy, the Finzi-Continis are one of the leading families, wealthy, aristocratic, urbane and Jewish. The rise of fascism in Italy closes in on the family.

Federico Fellini*La Strada* (1954)

Gelsomina is sold for a few coins by her very poor mother to Zampano, a fairground wrestler. A haunting story of a tragic relationship.

Le Notti di Cabiria (1957) ['Nights of Cabiria']

Giulietta Massina as the prostitute who was born to lose but still never gives up is MASTERFUL. She creates a wonderful innocent character. Fellini, her husband, tells a very simple complicated story.

La Dolce Vita (1960)

Marcello Mastroianni is a young playboy journalist who spends his days between celebrities and rich people, seeking for ephemeral joy in parties and sex. A classic.

8-1/2 (1963)

8-1/2 is about Guido Anselmi, an Italian director who has lost all inspiration for his upcoming movie, and it's too late to back out. He retreats into his dreams.

Roma (1972)

Virtually plotless, gaudy, impressionistic portrait of Rome through the eyes of one of its most famous citizens, sort of autobiographical.

Amarcord (1974)

In this movie Fellini portrays his home town of Rimini as he remembered it in the '30s, during his young days. Many bizarre but very warm and human characters and

specific Mediterranean humor made this movie the most popular of all his works.

Sergio Leone*Per un Pugno di Dollari* (1964) ['Fistfull of Dollars']

A wandering gunfighter plays two rival families against each other in a town torn apart by greed, pride and revenge.

Lina Wertmüller*Seduction of Mimi* (1972)

Mimi is a Sicilian dockworker who loses his job when he votes against the Mafia candidate in what he thinks is a secret ballot. He leaves his wife behind and goes to Turin, where he meets and moves in with Fiore, a street vendor and Communist organizer.

All Screwed Up (1973)

It is a colorful and lively story about a group of young migrant workers and the problems they encounter after moving from southern Italy to northern Italy's bustling metropolis, Milan.

Love and Anarchy (1973)

Italy in the 30s. Tonino, a sad faced, freckled peasant, comes to Rome to kill Mussolini. He has anarchist connections, and his contact in Rome is Salome, a lively flapper and popular professional at the bordello where she lives.

Swept Away (1974)

A rich woman and some friends rent a yacht to sail the Mediterranean Sea during summer. The sailor, who is a communist, does not like this woman but has to put up with her. No, this is NOT the Madonna flick, it's the **much better** original film.

Seven Beauties (1976)

"He who fights and runs away, lives to fight another day" seems to pretty well summarize this bleak, cynical movie about a Cassanova confronting fascism. The horrors of war and the terrible decisions which have to be made to save one's own skin becomes the major thrust of this film.

JAPAN**Juzo Itami***Tampopo* (1985)

In this humorous paean to the joys of food, the main story is about trucker Goro who rides into town like a modern Shane to help Tampopo set up the perfect fast-food noodle restaurant. Savvy satire of Japanese society, especially with regard to women.

Akira Kurosawa*Rashomon* (1950)

A heinous crime and its aftermath are recalled from differing points of view.

Seven Samurai (1954)

The mighty warriors who became the seven national heroes of a small town.

Throne of Blood (1957)

Kurosawa's 'Macbeth'

Yojimbo (1961)

A crafty ronin comes to a town divided by two criminal gangs and decides to play them against each other to free the town.

High and Low (1963)

At a crucial point in his business life, executive Gondo learns that his son has been kidnapped and that the ransom demanded is near the amount Gondo has raised for a critical business deal.

***Dodes'Ka-Den* (1970)**

Episodes from the lives of a group of Tokyo slum-dwellers: Rokkuchan, a retarded boy who brings meaning and routine to his life by driving an imaginary subway car; children who support their parents by scrounging or by tedious and ill-paying endeavors; schemers who plot or dream of escaping the shackles of poverty.

***Dersu Uzala* (1975)**

A Russian army explorer who is rescued in Siberia by a rugged Asiatic hunter renews his friendship with the woodsman years later when he returns at the head of a larger expedition. Filmed entirely in natural light in Siberia. Takes place from 1902-07.

***Kagemusha* (1980)**

When a powerful warlord in medieval Japan dies, a poor thief recruited to impersonate him finds difficulty living up to his role and clashes with the spirit of the warlord during turbulent times in the kingdom.

***Ran* (1985)**

Kurosawa's 'King Lear'

MEXICO**Alfonso Arau*****Como Agua Para Chocolate* (1996) ['Like Water for Chocolate']**

It shows how marriage was imposed in times past, and how a love between two people can change everything. This picture set a new epoch in Mexican movies all over the world.

Alfonso Cuarón***Y Tu Mamá También* (2001)**

In Mexico, two teenage boys and an attractive older woman embark on a road trip and learn a thing or two about life, friendship, sex and each other.

Luis Estrada***La Ley de Herodes* (1999) ['Herod's Law']**

Mexico, 1949. The fable of a janitor turned Mayor of a little town lost in the Mexican desert, who gradually realizes how far his new acquired power and corruption can get him.

Jorge Fons***El Callejón de los Milagros* (1995) ['Midaq Alley']**

Based on the Naguib Mahfouz' novel (he is the Egyptian Nobel Prize winner for literature). The story, translated from Cairo to Mexico City's downtown, narrates the life of the members of the neighborhood and the connection between them. This movie won the Ariel (the Mexican Oscar) as best movie in 1995.

Alejandro Galindo***Tacos al Carbón* (1972)**

This hilarious Mexican comedy classic follows the meteoric rise and fall of a man (Vicente Fernandez) who goes from street taco vendor to entrepreneur of Mexico City's largest chain of taquerias. The film offers a glimpse of life in the barrios of Mexico City during the early 1970s.

Alejandro González Iñárritu***Amores Perros* (2000)**

A horrific car accident connects three stories, each involving characters dealing with loss, regret, and life's harsh realities, all in the name of love.

Paul Leduc***Reed, México Insurgente* (1973)**

A dramatization of John Reed's newspaper accounts of the Mexican Revolution. Considered the first real film in Mexican cinema to be made on the Mexican Revolution.

***Frida, Naturaleza Viva* (1986)**

About the most prominent female painter of Latin America, Frida Kahlo.

RUSSIA**Elem Klimov*****Come and See* (1985)**

A boy is unwillingly thrust into the atrocities of war in WWII Byelorussia, fighting for a hopelessly unequipped resistance movement against the ruthless German forces. Witnessing scenes of abject terror and accidentally surviving horrifying situations he loses his innocence and then his mind. A unique film depicting the effects of WWII on the Eastern Front.

Sergei Eisenstein***The Battleship Potemkin* (1925)**

A dramatized account of a great Russian naval mutiny and a resulting street demonstration which brought on a police massacre in Odessa in 1905.

***Alexander Nevsky* (1938)**

The story of how a great Russian prince led a ragtag army to battle an invading force of Teutonic Knights. The soundtrack by composer Prokofiev and Eisenstein's direction are a sight and sound to behold.

SPAIN**Pedro Almodóvar*****La Ley del Deseo* (1987) ['Law of Desire']**

A filmmaker's sexual orientation jeopardizes his art project. An amazing film that reflects how Spanish society sought to catch up with the rest of the world re: 'sexual revolution' when Franco died.

***All About My Mother* (1999)**

A single mother in Madrid sees her only son die on his 17th birthday as he runs to seek an actress' autograph. She goes to Barcelona to find her son's father, a transvestite named Lola who does not know he has a child.

***Talk to Her* (2002)**

Two men share an odd friendship while they care for their girlfriends who are both in deep comas. This is an amazing movie about men.

MULTIPLE COUNTRIES**Luis Buñuel*****Un Chien Andalou* (1929) ['An Andalusian Dog']**

It consists of 17 minutes of bizarre and surreal images that may or may not mean anything. Good way to sample the filmography of Luis Buñuel is to begin with this surreal short. It was an artful collaboration between two surrealist masters, Buñuel and Salvador Dali, who were part of a surrealism movement in Spain that became an international influence. (France)

***Los Olvidados* (1950) ['The Young and the Damned']**

About youth in the streets of the slums of Mexico City. (México)

Ensayo de un Crimen (1955) ['The Criminal Life of Archibaldo de la Cruz']

A bizarre black comedy about a man whose overwhelming ambition in life is to be a renowned serial killer of women, and will stop at nothing to achieve it – but not everything goes according to plan. (Mexico)

Le Charme Discret de la Bourgeoisie (1972) ['The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie']

Several bourgeois friends planning to get together for dinner experience a succession of highly unusual occurrences that interfere with their expected dining enjoyment. (France, Italy, Spain)

Carlos Carrera

El Crimen del Padre Amaro (2002) ['The Crime of Father Amaro']

Padre Amaro soon discovers that corruption and the Church are old acquaintances in Los Reyes. (Mexico, Spain, Argentina, France)

James Clavell

The Last Valley (1971)

People in a small German village in the last village to remain untouched by the devastating Thirty Years' War (early to mid-1600s) try to exist in peace with a group of soldiers occupying the valley. Very good depiction of the Middle Ages, religious wars, plague, etc. (Britain, U.S.)

Serif Gören, Yilmaz Güney

Yol (1982)

A harsh portrait of Turkey, its people and the authorities, shown through the stories of five prisoners given a week's home leave, and the problems they encounter in adjusting to the world outside. It is a particularly powerful depiction of the condition of women in that region of the world. (Turkey, Switzerland, France)

Raoul Peck

Lumumba (2000)

The true story of the rise to power and brutal assassination of the formerly vilified and later redeemed leader of the independent Congo. (France, Belgium, Germany, Haiti)

Michael Radford

Il Postino (1994) ['The Postman']

Lyrical, moving and beautifully photographed gentle comedy in which an exiled Chilean poet (Pablo Neruda) inspires his Italian postman to woo and marry a local girl. (France, Italy, Belgium)

MOVIES ABOUT LOS ANGELES**John Badham**

Blue Thunder (1983)

The cop test pilot for an experimental police helicopter learns the sinister implications of the new vehicle.

Charles Burnett

To Sleep With Anger (1990)

When Harry comes to town, he brings good times, bad times... And a lot of trouble!

Patricia Cardoso

Real Women Have Curves (2002)

This is the story of Ana, a first generation Mexican-American teenager on the verge of becoming a woman.

John Cassavetes

Killing of a Chinese Bookie (1976)

To clear his debt, a strip club owner grapples with his own conscience as he must kill a Chinese bookie. Stars Ben Gazzara. Great 'period piece' of city of L.A.

Joel Coen

The Big Lebowski (1998)

"Dude" Lebowski, mistaken for a millionaire Lebowski, seeks restitution for his ruined rug and enlists his bowling buddies to help get it.

Alex Cox

Repo Man (1984)

Young punk Otto becomes a repo man after helping to steal a car, and stumbles into a world of wackiness as a result.

Antoine Fuqua

Training Day (2001)

On his first day on the job as a narcotics officer, a rookie cop works with a rogue detective who isn't what he appears.

Ulu Grosbard

True Confessions (1981)

De Niro (a Catholic priest) and Duvall (a homicide detective) play brothers drawn together after many years apart. A fine movie about L.A., screenplay written by the dynamic duo, Joan Didion and John Gregory Dunne. They hit the target with this one.

Dennis Hopper

Colors (1988)

An experienced cop and his rookie partner patrol the streets of East L.A. while trying to keep the gang violence under control.

Mick Jackson

L.A. Story (1991)

Harris Telemacher is the "Wacky Weather" man for an L.A. TV station. He finds himself battling the insane conditions and people caused by the manic chaos that is L.A.

Lawrence Kasden

Grand Canyon (1991)

Grand Canyon revolved around six residents from different backgrounds whose lives intertwine in modern-day L.A.

Lauren Lazin with Afeni Shakur, producer

Tupac: Resurrection (2003)

Home movies, photos and recited poetry illuminate the life of Tupac Shakur. This is the film his mom produced.

Michael Mann

Collateral (2004)

A cab driver finds himself the hostage of an engaging contract killer as he makes his rounds from hit to hit

during one night in L.A. He must find a way to save both himself and one last victim.

Ridley Scott

Blade Runner (1982)

Deckard, a blade runner, has to track down and terminate 4 replicants who hijacked a ship in space and have returned to earth seeking their maker.