1492: Conquest of Paradise (1992) Ridley Scott’s epic film on Columbus’ journey to the New World. Exposing the treatment of the indigenous peoples; Spanish arrogance and the results of empire. Gerard Depardieu stars as Columbus with Sigourney Weaver as Queen Isabella.

A Soldier’s Story (1997) Tensions flare in this gripping film about a murder on a black army base near the end of World War II. Captain Davenport (Howard E. Rollins, Jr.), a proud black army attorney, is sent to Fort Neal, Louisiana, to investigate the ruthless shooting death of Sergeant Waters (Adolph Caesar). Through interviews with Sarge's men, Davenport learns that he was a vicious man who served the white world and despised his own roots. Was the killer a bigoted white officer? Or could he have been a black soldier embittered by Waters' constant race baiting? Both a spellbinding mystery and a superb drama that transcends race.

Adoration (2009) What would you do if you found out your father may have been a terrorist? A high school boy writes a story for class that makes this claim. Is it true? Friends, family, teachers and internet chat-room partners start to wonder and worry. Now he must journey through a maze of family secrets to find the truth about his dead father. From Academy Award-nominated director Atom Egoyan (1997, Best Director, The Sweet Hereafter) comes a story of a young man who must question everything he knows in order to learn who he is and who his father was. Adoration presents a world where there is no such thing as us versus them and the truth is never as simple as right and wrong.

Age of Innocence (2003) Martin Scorsese directs Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer and Winona Ryder in a brilliant adaptation of Edith Wharton's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. A ravishing romance about three wealthy New Yorkers caught in a tragic love triangle, the ironically-titled story chronicles the grandeur and hypocrisy of high society in the 1870s.

American History X (1998) Perhaps the highest compliment you can pay to Edward Norton is that his Oscar-nominated performance in American History X nearly convinces you that there is a shred of logic in the tenets of white supremacy. If that statement doesn't horrify you, it should; Norton is so fully immersed in his role as a neo-Nazi skinhead that his character's eloquent defense of racism is disturbingly persuasive—at least on the surface. Looking lean and mean with a swastika tattoo and a mind full of hate, Derek Vinyard (Norton) has inherited racism from his father, and that learning has been intensified through his service to Cameron (Stacy Keach), a grown-up thug playing tyrant and teacher to a growing band of disenfranchised teens from Venice Beach, California, all hungry for an ideology that fuels their brooding alienation.

Amores Perros- (2001) Best Foreign film at Cannes Film Festival. This remarkable film explores the passion, loss, and fragility of our lives. In telling three stories connected by one traumatic incident, Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu uses an intricate screenplay by novelist Guillermo Arriaga to make three movies in close orbit, expressing the notion that we are defined by what we lose—from our loves to our family, our innocence, or even our lives. These interwoven tales—about a young man in love with his brother's pregnant wife, a perfume spokeswoman and her married lover, and a scruffy vagrant who sidelines as a paid killer—are united by a devastating car crash that provides the film's narrative nexus, and by the many dogs that the characters own or care for.

Angela's Ashes (2000) Because Frank McCourt's bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir Angela's Ashes was dearly embraced by millions of readers, it was perhaps inevitable that Alan Parker's film version would prove somewhat disappointing. McCourt's book is blessed with subtleties of language and detailed observation that do not easily lend themselves to screen interpretation, and Parker's film suffers from an overly literal, reverently somber approach that lacks the cumulative emotions of McCourt's account of impoverished youth in Ireland. And where McCourt was able to leave his family's suffering with tenacious humor and fighting Irish spirit.

Antwone Fisher (2002) Autobiographical movies rarely get more truthfully moving than Antwone Fisher. The title is also the name of this fine drama's first-time screenwriter, a former Navy seaman who was working as a film-studio security guard when his life-inspired script was developed as Denzel Washington's directorial debut.
Washington portrays a Navy psychologist assigned to assess Fisher's chronic violent temper. This touching true story addresses painful memories, broken desires, and heartfelt reunions without resorting to a contrived happy ending. Fisher's good life is worth celebrating, and Washington brings a delicate touch to the party.

**A Prophet (2010)** (Oscar Nominated Best foreign film) In his labyrinthine portrait of a convict turned kingpin, Jacques Audiard combines the grittiness of HBO's *Oz* with the shifting loyalties of a Leone western. After assaulting a cop, Malik (Tahar Rahim) earns a six-year prison bid. Though illiterate, the 19-year-old speaks French and Arabic. Instead of congregating with the Muslim inmates, he keeps to himself, providing a perfect target for Mob boss César, who makes him a *Godfather*-like offer he can't refuse: kill Reyeb, an Arab set to testify against the Corsicans, or meet his maker. Malik decides he would prefer to live. In return, Luciani offers him protection but stops short of treating him like an equal. When Malik isn't serving coffee and making deliveries, he studies French and Corsu. With what he learns from the mobsters, he befriends two other loners, Ryad and Jordi the Gypsy, and starts a drug-smuggling operation. The years pass, and Malik takes advantage of his parole leaves to work both sides of the fence, and when the authorities transfer César's crew to a different facility, the balance of power shifts from the aging master to the model student.

**Axis of Evil Comedy Tour (2009)** Four Middle-Eastern-American comedians perform. Clean humor and hilarious!

**Ballast (2008)** (Six Independent Spirit nominations) A double prize winner at the Sundance Film Festival and one of the most critically acclaimed films of 2008, Ballast is a stunningly evocative story of personal catastrophe and communal redemption. In the cold winter light of the Mississippi Delta, three lonely people stumble under the weight of a shared tragedy. Writer-director Lance Hammer and his gifted cast of local, non-professional actors have created an unflinching, profoundly humane story of lost souls forced by circumstance to seek solace in the most unlikely of places.

**The Band’s Visit (2007)** A fading Egyptian police band arrives in Israel to play at the Arab Cultural Center. They take the wrong bus; they find themselves in a desolate Israeli village. This cross-cultural comedy proves that getting lost is sometimes the best way to find yourself.

**Baran (2008)** Winner for Best Film at the Montreal Film Festival. In a Tehran building site, a 17-year-old Iranian named Lateef is known more for his playful antics than his hard work. Then things take an unexpected turn when an Afghan coworker falls from the building and the worker's son, Rahmat, enters the scene to become the new provider for his family. But even as Lateef finds himself irresistibly drawn to Rahmat, it's not until the revelation of Rahmat's secret (that he is actually a young woman, posing as a man) that both of their lives are forever changed!

**Before Night Falls (2001) -** Based on the posthumously published memoir by Cuban poet Reinaldo Arenas, *Before Night Falls* is artist-director Julian Schnabel's second exercise in artist biography. It's rare to see an artist's life and work so elegantly interwoven, and *Before Night Falls* uses all of Arenas' life as its canvas, from impoverished youth to lively gay freedom in mid-1950's Cuba; imprisonment during Castro's antigay regime; and to New York City in 1980, followed by Arenas’ battle with AIDS and subsequent suicide (depicted here as assisted) in 1990.

**Beloved/Their Eyes Were Watching God** — (2 films on same DVD) *BELOVED*: Oprah Winfrey and Danny Glover play the unforgettable lead roles in a powerful, widely acclaimed cinematic triumph from Jonathan Demme. Sethe (Winfrey) is constantly confronted by the secrets that have haunted her for years. Then, an old friend from out of her past (Glover) unexpectedly reenters her life. With his help, Sethe may finally be able to rediscover who she is and regain her lost sense of hope. Adaptation of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. *THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD*, the story of a remarkable and resilient woman's quest for love and fulfillment based on the best-selling book by Zora Neale Hurston.

**The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2012)** An award-winning, all-star cast lights up this buoyant comedy laced with genuine emotion. Seven cash-strapped seniors decide to outsource their retirement to a resort in far-off India.
**Black Robe** (1991) In 1634 a young French Jesuit missionary is assigned to trek 1,500 miles through the New France wilderness to a mission settled in Huron Indian country. *Black Robe* chronicles the journey of Father Laforgue (Lothaire Blutheau) as he leaves his Jesuit brothers and, with the aid of a young translator and guide, Daniel (Aden Young), and eight canoes of Algonquin Indians, moves into the uncompromising Canadian northern territory on a die-hard mission to convert the natives. A restless tale of Laforgue's conflicted faith juxtaposed against the sublime spiritual harmony with the land that the Huron and Algonquin already hold. *Black Robe* dances to its own drummer and is tuned into the precarious balance between nature's mystery and spirit and the strident, unyielding religious ethic. The film also features one of the late, great composer Georges Delerue's noblest scores.

**Bliss** (2007) Adapted from internationally acclaimed author Zulfu Livaneli's novel, BLISS. When 17-year-old Meryem is found disheveled and unconscious by the side of a lake, her family believes the worst - that her chastity has been lost and that she has been a willing accomplice in its disposal. They turn to the ancient principle of "tore," a strict moral code governing the rules of sexual practice, which condemns Meryem to death. The duty of defending the family's honor is given to distant cousin Cemal, who must take Meryem to Istanbul and kill her along the way. The two begin to fall for each other and their journey takes an unexpected turn when they meet Irfan, an academic escaping his big city angst, who is also looking for a second chance in life. Set against the impressive backdrop of Turkey's natural wonders, BLISS pits tradition against modernity, urban against rural and East against West, all the while refusing to settle for easy answers.

**Boy in the Striped Pajamas** (2008) Bruno knows that his father is a soldier and that they have to move to a new house in the country... a house near what he thinks is a farm. But his father isn't just a soldier; he's a high-ranking officer in Hitler's elite SS troops who's just been placed in command of Auschwitz. Bored and restless in his new home, Bruno, an innocent and naive eight year old, ignores his mother and sets off on an adventure in the woods. He discovers the concentration camps perimeter fence. On the other side sits a boy his own age, with whom Bruno strikes up a friendship--a friendship that will have tragic consequences.

**Boys in the Hood** (1998) (20th Anniversary Edition). John Singleton’s award-winning portrayal of social problems in inner-city Los Angeles takes the form of a tale of three friends growing up together in the 'hood'. Facing tough lives, two succumb to the crime surrounding them in their environment, but one learns to have the strength of character to do what is right and to always take responsibility for his actions. Academy Award® nominee for Best Director and Best Writing, Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen (1992).

**Bread and Roses** (2000) Bread and Roses shows us the world of the illegal immigrants in Los Angeles who clean buildings for sub-standard wages and no benefits. Life is a daily struggle to pay the bills and put food on the table. These poor people live in fear that they will be fired without cause and turned into beggars. Often enough their worst fears are realized. They watch helplessly as their friends are demeaned, mistreated, and thrown out on the street. A union organizer, Sam, tries to organize these frightened and abused people.

**Bread and Tulips** (2002) Left behind at a rest stop while on a tour with her family, Rosalba decides to take a vacation of her own in Venice, but soon a few days turns into something more as she makes new friends, gets a job and meets a new man.

**Bride & Prejudice** (2005) A clash of cultures in this modern musical retelling of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice is entertaining tale of one girl’s unlikely search for love in India.

**Calendar Girls** (2003) When twelve ordinary members of the Women’s Institute, a prim and proper local ladies club, decide they need to find a more compelling way to raise money for a new charity, they turn to their traditional annual calendar and give it a very untraditional twist.


**Children of Heaven** (1999 first Iranian film ever nominated for an Oscar) Majid Majidi celebrates the immediacy and essence of childhood in this delightful tale of a brother and sister who share a pair of shoes when the
boy (though no fault of his own) loses his sister's only pair. Since their parents are too poor to afford a new pair, they keep it a secret, trading them off every day in a mad rush, jumping gutters and navigating the twisting lanes to their schools and back. Then the boy hatches a plan: the third-place prize in a student footrace is a new pair of shoes, and he's determined to take it. The family scenes are delicately observed, and Majidi captures the spirit of the children perfectly: proud, emotional, petulant, sweet, and disarmingly sincere. The film has a Western-friendly framework without losing the naturalistic eye and lolling rhythm that gives the best Iranian films their richness. His efforts earned the film the honor of becoming the first Iranian feature to earn an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Film.

Chocolat (2000) Driven by fate, Vianne (Binoche) drifts into a tranquil French village with her daughter Anouk, in the winter of 1959. Her newly opened chocolatier is a source of attraction and fear, since Vianne's ability to revive the villagers' passions threatens to disrupt their repressive traditions. The pious mayor (Alfred Molina) sees Vianne as the enemy, and his war against her peaks with the arrival of "river rats" led by Roux (Depp).

The Circle (2001) Three women are released from prison and their need for money leads them to take desperate measures. An unmarried woman seeking an abortion is rejected from her father's house by the violent threats of her brothers. Their crimes are vague their guilt or innocence unimportant. Their paths cross the suspense of their intrigues heightens. Their plights are often too tragically similar. Their world is one of constant surveillance bureaucracy and age-old inequalities. But this stifling world cannot extinguish the spirit strength and courage of the circle of women.

Circumstance (2011) A tale of love and family turned upside down by obsession and suspicion. A provocative coming-of-age story that cracks open the hidden world of Iranian youth culture. Two vivacious teens, wealthy Atafeh and orphaned Shireen are full of wild yearnings and while the simplest things are often disallowed them, they take risks everyday to lead thier own lives.

Color of Paradise (2000) Another Majid Majidi film. A spirited blind boy with a passion for learning and life arrives home for a three-month break. He's loved by his giggly little sisters and adored by his gentle granny, but his widowed, self-pitying father sees him as a burden and is determined to foist him off on someone else before he remarries--specifically, a kindly blind carpenter who welcomes the boy with all his heart. Majidi is at his best exploring the texture of the boy's world--little hands feeling their way through a garden, the sounds of metal pencils punching out Braille pages, the shuffle of fingers on paper--and his imagery is delicate and lush. If there is one thing many Iranian films have in common, it's an unerring sense of how to end a film. This is one of the most affecting ever: beautiful, moving, simple, a glowing moment that crystallizes the entire movie.

Comics Without Borders -Various comedians from all over the country.

The Cup (2007) Set in a Tibetan monastery-in-exile in India; the movie follows a few young monks whose devotion to Buddhism is rivaled by their fervor for soccer. They risk punishment to sneak out at night and watch games on a black and white TV in a neighboring house. One night they get into a squabble and are kicked out of the house; then, to make matters worse, they get caught by a stern monastery official named Geko. But the World Cup final match is the very next night! They beg the abbot of the monastery to let them rent a TV and satellite dish so they can watch the final game, and Geko and the abbot relent--now, if they can only gather the money and assemble the satellite dish, the game is within their grasp.

The Darjeeling Limited (2009) Adrien Brody, Owen Wilson, Jason Schwartzman and Angelica Huston star. Three American brothers who have not spoken to each other in a year set off on a train voyage across India with a plan to find themselves and bond with each other. Their spiritual quest veers rapidly off-course due to unforeseen events. With special features.

Death at a Funeral (2010) Less than three years after the 2007 Brit-com Death at a Funeral hit theaters, this remake offered a nearly scene-for-scene variation on the original. Once again a family has gathered for the dignified memorial service for a patriarch: older son (Chris Rock) has prepared a eulogy; younger son (Martin Lawrence) has flown in on his celebrity as a bestselling author; favorite niece (Zoe Saldana) has brought her fiancé (James Marsden, flipping out), unaware that he has accidentally ingested a hallucinogen manufactured by her
pharmaceutically minded brother. The wild card is a stranger (Peter Dinklage, the only member of the cast to repeat his role from the 2007 film) who has something urgent to impart to the two sons.

**Defiance (2008)** Daniel Craig (James Bond: Quantum of Solace) stars as Tuvia Bielski, an ordinary citizen turned hero, in this action-packed epic of family, honor, vengeance and salvation. *Defiance* is a riveting adventure that showcases the extraordinary true story of the Bielski brothers, simple farmers—outnumbered and outgunned—who turned a group of war refugees into powerful freedom fighters. Tuvia, along with his unyielding brother, Zus (Liev Schreiber), motivate hundreds of civilians to join their ranks against the Nazi regime. Their inspirational story is a true testament to the human spirit.

**Dim Sum Funeral** (2009) An Irish funeral has what’s called a wake; a Jewish funeral has what’s called sitting shiva; and a traditional Chinese funeral is something else entirely-- which is what the estranged siblings of a Westernized Chinese-American family discover as they try to fulfill their mothers last wish.

**District 9** (2009) Startlingly original social science-fiction thriller that “soars on the imagination of its creators”. With gritty realism, the film plunges us into a world where the aliens have landed…only to be exiled to a slum on the fringes of Johannesburg, South Africa. One lone human discovers the mysterious secret of the extraterrestrial weapon technology. Hunted through the bizarre back alleys of an alien shantytown, he will discover what it means to be the ultimate outsider on your own planet.


**Do the Right Thing** (2010) 20th anniversary edition. Spike Lee's incendiary look at race relations in America, circa 1989, is so colorful and exuberant for its first three-quarters that you can almost forget the terrible confrontation that the movie inexorably builds toward. *Do the Right Thing* is a joyful, tumultuous masterpiece--maybe the best film ever made about race in America, revealing racial prejudices and stereotypes in all their guises and demonstrating how a deadly riot can erupt out of a series of small misunderstandings. Set on one block in Bedford-Stuyvesant on the hottest day of the summer, the movie shows the whole spectrum of life in this neighborhood and then leaves it up to us to decide if, in the end, anybody actually does the "right thing."

**Don’t Tempt Me** (2003) Heaven has sent its best, and the devil has enlisted his worst. Victoria Abril and Penelope Cruz co-star as agents doing battle for ultimate supremacy. The winner is to be decided by whoever can secure the soul of a short-tempered punch-drunk boxer on earth. These sexy angels pull no punches, using their brains, wiles and of course, sex appeal. Damnation has never been this seductive and seduction never more heavenly…he’s not going to know what hit him…he’s only human!

**El Norte** – (1983) *El Norte* portrays both the beauty and harshness of Rosa and Enrique's homeland; the low comedy and justifiable paranoia that mark their passage through Mexico, especially Tijuana, a "lost city" where everyone is "temporary"; and the culture shock of encountering America, where "even the poorest people have toilets." The filmmakers were after more than docudrama; their movie reaches for a mystical dimension, weaving imagistic and color motifs from native myth into the visual design, as well as incorporating periodic declarations about life on Earth being only a dream. The film is most alive in the presences of newcomers Gutiérrez and Villalpando; their acting gifts are modest but sincere, and the mixture of enthusiasm and trepidation in their performances is genuine (they themselves were "without papers" as they shot their Los Angeles scenes).

**Enemies, A Love Story** ((1989) Ron Silver plays a Holocaust survivor who has moved to America and married the Polish gentile who hid him from the Nazis. An intellectual, he is not satisfied with this simple peasant woman and so he has an affair with a sultry émigré (Lena Olin). His life is then made more complicated by the reappearance of his wife from the old country (Anjelica Huston), who he thought had died in the Nazi death camps.

**Eastern Promises** (2003) David Cronenberg's *Eastern Promises*, a stunning look at violence, responsibility, and skin. Near Christmastime in London, a baby is born to a teenage junkie--an event that leads a midwife (Naomi Watts) into the world of the Russian mob. Central to this world is an ambitious enforcer (Viggo Mortensen) who's lately buddied up with the reckless son (Vincent Cassel) of a mob boss (Armin Mueller-Stahl, doing his benign-
Eastern Promises has a furtive humor, nicely conveyed in Viggo Mortensen's highly original performance. Covered in tattoos, his body a scroll depicting his personal history of violence, Mortensen conveys a subtle blend of resolve and lost-ness. He's a true, haunting mystery man.

**5 Dias Sin Nora** (2010 Spanish, no subtitles) Here, Nora Boren Kurtz (Silvia Mariscal), divorcée and quite the silent type, commits suicide very close to Passover. She leaves detailed instructions for her Catholic-Mexican-Indian maid to make the meal just right, and is sure to invite everyone for Passover without even telling anyone she's feeling low. Her ex-husband, Jose Kurtz (Fernando Lujan), lives across the way and spies on her once in a while - though she spies on him frequently. He is the one who lets himself in, and finds her dead.

**The Fall** (2006) Roger Ebert proclaimed it "one of the most extraordinary films I've ever seen," and there's no denying the avalanche of wild images in The Fall: grand castles, desert vistas, elephants swimming in the open ocean. A stunt man (Lee Pace) is laid up with leg injuries. Depressed over his disability and a recent lost love, he plans suicide, but is temporarily derailed by the inquisitive friendship of a little girl (Catinca Untaru), to whom he tells wild stories of adventurers and princesses. Shot in over 20 countries.

**Farewell My Concubine** (1993) The panorama of 20th-century Chinese history swirls past two men, celebrated actors with their own decidedly specialized view of things. We first observe their lives as children at the Peking Opera training school, a brutal and demanding arena for future actors. While still in training, the effeminate Douzi is chosen to play the transvestite role and the masculine Shitou is chosen to play the royal role in a ritualized play about a king and a concubine. The actors are so good at this performance that they become identified with these roles for their entire careers; through World War II, through the takeover by the Communists, through the insanity of the Cultural Revolution, they are known for their famous parts. The movie may be stronger on good old-fashioned melodrama than on profound conclusions, but boy, does it fill up the eyes. Indeed, though Farewell My Concubine shared the top prize at the 1993 Cannes Film Festival and snagged two Oscar nominations, it had difficulty gaining official approval from China.

**Flawless** (1999) - Walter (Robert De Niro) is a homophobic policeman who suffers a stroke while responding to gunshots in his own apartment building; for speech therapy, he starts taking singing lessons from his neighbor Rusty (Philip Seymour Hoffman), a gay drag queen who's saving up money for a sex-change operation.

**Frozen River** (2009) - Frozen River is a dramatic feature film which takes place in the days before Christmas near a little-known border crossing on the Mohawk reservation between New York State and Quebec. Here, the lure of fast money from smuggling presents a daily challenge to single moms who would otherwise be earning minimum wage. Two women-- one white, one Mohawk, both single mothers faced with desperate circumstances-- are drawn into the world of border smuggling across the frozen water of the St. Lawrence River.

**Gangs of New York** (2002)–This motion picture event from acclaimed director Martin Scorsese earned 10 Academy Award nominations including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor, along with 5 Golden Globe Award nominations for Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actress, and Best Song! As waves of immigrants swell the population of New York, lawlessness and corruption thrive in lower Manhattan's Five Points section. After years of incarceration, young Irish immigrant Amsterdam Vallon returns seeking revenge against the rival gang leader who killed his father. But Amsterdam's personal vendetta becomes part of the gang warfare that erupts as he and his fellow Irishmen fight to carve a place for themselves in their newly adopted homeland.


**The Gods Must Be Crazy** - Epic Comedy of absurd proportions. South African director Jamie Uys caught lightning in a bottle with The Gods Must Be Crazy--a Coke bottle, to be specific. This slaphappy collection of goofy pratfalls and culture-clash gags became an enormous international smash, and made a sort of star out of the Bushman selected to play the central role, the completely ingratiating N!Xau. He plays a man, unaware of white culture who finds a Coca-Cola bottle in the Kalahari (dropped by a passing pilot) and promptly has his life turned
around by this mystical object. Proving that physical comedy remains a true international language, millions of moviegoers around the world drank it up.

**Hebrew Hammer** (2004) — Stars Adam Goldberg in the title role of this holiday farce as a handsome Orthodox stud and man of action who is called upon to save Hanukkah. When Santa Claus’ evil son Damian is pushed over the edge by his father’s liberal policies, he murders the Christian patriarch and, stepping into the vacated role, launches a nefarious worldwide campaign to eradicate the Jewish Holiday. The Hammer joins forces with Esther (Greer), the gorgeous daughter of the chief of the Jewish Justice League to topple Damian and save Hanukkah for future generations.

**Hester Street** (1999) Delightfully quaint film about the assimilation of Jewish immigrants in America in the late 1800s. Jake, a self-made Yankee who has shaved his beard and side curls in favor of an updated look. An émigré from Russia, Jake's been living in New York's Lower East Side for five years, taking up with a new woman and earning enough money to support his dance hall ways. To his dismay, his wife, Gitl (played charmingly by Carol Kane), and son, Yossele, join him from the Old World. Jake is embarrassed by his wife, who retains her religious ways, wearing the wigs and scarves that tradition dictates. In turn, Gitl is distraught over the changes in Jake, who insists on calling their son Joey and trying to modernize them both.

**HickSpanic** — (2009) Latino Comedian Alex Reymundo.

**The Hurt Locker** — (Best Film Oscar of 2009 and first woman to win Best Director Oscar) War is a drug. Nobody knows that better than Staff Sergeant James, head of an elite squad of soldiers tasked with disarming bombs in the heat of combat. To do this nerve-shredding job, it’s not enough to be the best: you have to thrive in a zone where the margin of error is zero, think as diabolically as a bomb-maker, and somehow survive with your body and soul intact. Powerfully realistic, action-packed, unrelenting and intense, The Hurt Locker has been hailed by critics as “an adrenaline-soaked tour de force”

**In America** — (2004) In America stars the incandescent Samantha Morton and Paddy Considine as two young Irish parents who have lost their only son. Trying to run away from their grief, they move (illegally) to a junkie-infested apartment building in New York City with their two daughters. Though they struggle with meager jobs and suffocatingly hot weather, a friendship with an artist in an apartment below them (Djimon Hounsou—Amistad) becomes a catalyst that allows them to rebuild their family.

**Indian Comedy Tour** (2010) Various Indian and Indian-American comedians perform.

**Indian Invasion Comedy** (2007) Indian and Indian-American comedians perform.

**Inglourious Basterds** (2009) Brad Pitt takes no prisoners in Quentin Tarantino’s high-octane WWII revenge fantasy. As war rages in Europe, a Nazi-scalping squad of American soldiers, known to their enemy as “The Basterds” is on a dangerous mission to take down the leaders of the Third Reich. Bursting with “action, hair-trigger suspense with machine-gun spray of killer dialogue. A Tarantino classic.

**In the Name of the Father** — (1994) Based on a true story, this rousing and tough-minded film details British overzealousness in prosecuting an IRA bombing in the 1970s. Grabbing up a pair of small-time thieves (Daniel Day-Lewis and John Lynch) and their families, the government concocts a conspiracy case against them and tosses them all in jail. Until then, Day-Lewis has been a ne’er-do-well, an apolitical goof looking for a quick score. But confronted with the toughness of his own father (Pete Postlethwaite) in the face of British torture, he begins to realize just what the stakes are. In the Name of the Father is at times grueling and never less than compelling, with a complex performance by Day-Lewis and a strong one by Emma Thompson, as the lawyer who finally cracks through the British obstructions to the truth.

**Infidel** (2010) Meet Mahmud Nasir, loving husband, doting father and something of a relaxed Muslim. He may not be the most observant, but in his heart he is a true Muslim. After his mother’s death, Mahmud finds his birth certificate, which reveals that he was adopted at birth and... he’s Jewish, with the real name of Solly Shimshillewitz! As Mahmud tumbles headlong into a full-scale identity crisis, the only person he can turn to is Lenny, a drunken
Jewish cabbie. Soon Mahmud is embarking on lessons in Jewishness, starting with how to dance like Topol and the proper way to say oy vey. This revelation couldn’t come at a worse time, with Mahmud’s son about to marry the stepdaughter of a radical Muslim cleric. Archie Panjabi (The Good Wife) and Matt Lucas (Little Britain) join the cast of this hilarious English farce.

**Invictus** – (2010) What does Nelson Mandela do after becoming president of South Africa? He rejects revenge, forgives oppressors who jailed him 27 years for his fight against Apartheid and finds hope of national unity in an unlikely place: the rugby field. Clint Eastwood directs an uplifting film about a team and a people inspired to greatness. Morgan Freeman (NBR's Best Actor Award winner and Oscar nominee for this role) is Mandela, who asks the national rugby team captain (Best Supporting Actor Oscar nominee Matt Damon) and his squad to do the impossible and win the World Cup. Prepare to be moved.

**The Joy Luck Club** – (1993) The film adaptation of Amy Tan's bestselling novel is a delight and a moving experience, an anthology of stories wrapped in one Chinese-American woman's journey to understand her roots. Wayne Wang directs a large, outstanding cast spread over eight different tales of the lives of Chinese women, most of them set in the past. The script is a delicate balance of emotions that swell but don't gush, and Wang brings impressive texture and a personal feel to Tan's descriptions of daily life in the Chinese-American community.

**Kaante** - (2003) The film, about six strangers who come together to pull off an impossible crime – a bank robbery. The heist involves a service bank in Los Angeles, which is less guarded than others. How they plan it out, the way they go about executing it, and what becomes of their plans, especially when they realize one of them is a cop, leads to a striking and dramatic finale that is sure to leave the audience exhilarated. Shot entirely in the US, with Hollywood production teams and crews and an all Indian cast. Certainly a homage to Reservoir Dogs, Usual Suspects with Bollywood thrown in for more entertainment.

**Katyn** - (2007) The critically-acclaimed film from Poland’s greatest living director, Andrzej Wajda. 1940, after Germany’s invasion of Poland, Joseph Stalin ordered the liquidation of the Polish officer corps, slaughtering nearly 22,000 men in Katyn Forest. Based on this horrific, historical event, Katyn tells the affecting story of four fictional officers and their families as they struggle to uncover the truth. Based on the novel “Post Mortem” by Andrzej Mularczyk. *Academy Award Nominee for Best Foreign Language Film Winner of the European Film Awards Prix d’Excellence.

**The Killing Fields** – (1984) This harrowing but rewarding drama concerns the real-life relationship between New York Times reporter Sidney Schanberg and his Cambodian assistant Dith Pran (Haing S. Ngor), the latter left at the mercy of the Khmer Rouge after Schanberg--who chose to stay after American evacuation but was booted out-failed to get him safe passage. Filmmaker Roland Joffé, previously a documentarist, made his feature debut with this account of Dith's rocky survival in the ensuing madness of the Khmer Rouge's genocidal campaign. Most of the movie is a shattering re-creation of hell on Earth. The late Haing S. Ngor--a real-life doctor who had never acted before and who lived through the events depicted in the film--is outstanding, and he was the first Asian to ever win a Best Supporting Actor Oscar. On February 25, 1996, Ngor was shot dead outside his home in Chinatown, i n downtown Los Angeles, California.

**The Kingdom of Heaven** – (2005) Ridley Scott’s Kingdom of Heaven is greater than the sum of its parts, delivering a vital, mostly engrossing tale following Balian (Orlando Bloom), a lonely French blacksmith who discovers he's a noble heir and takes his father's (Liam Neeson) place in the center of the universe circa 1184: Jerusalem. Here, grand battles and backdoor politics are key as the first-time screenwriter, William Monahan, fashions an excellent storyline to tackle the centuries-long conflict. Two forward-thinking kings, Baldwin (Edward Norton in an uncredited yet substantial role) and Saladin (Ghassan Massoud), hold an uneasy truce between Christians (who hold the city) and Muslims while factions champ at the bit for blood. There are good and evildoers on both sides, with the Knights Templar taking the brunt of the blame.

**The King’s Speech**- (2010 Best Film) After the death of his father King George V and the scandalous abdication of King Edward VIII, Bertie (Colin Firth) who has suffered from a debilitating speech impediment all his life, is suddenly crowned King George VI of England. With his country on the brink of war and in desperate need of
a leader, his wife, Elizabeth, the future Queen Mother, arranges for her husband to see an eccentric speech therapist, Lionel Logue. After a rough start, the two delve into an unorthodox course of treatment and eventually form an unbreakable bond. With the support of Logue, his family, his government and Winston Churchill, the King will overcome his stammer and deliver a radio-address that inspires his people and unites them in battle.

**The Kite Runner - (2007)** Amir is a young Afghani from a well-to-do Kabul family; his best friend Hassan is the son of a family servant. Together the two boys form a bond of friendship that breaks tragically on one fateful day, when Amir fails to save his friend from brutal neighborhood bullies. Amir and Hassan become separated, and as first the Soviets and then the Taliban seize control of Afghanistan, Amir and his father escape to the United States to pursue a new life. Years later, Amir – now an accomplished author living in San Francisco – is called back to Kabul to right the wrongs he and his father committed years ago.

**La Mission– (2009)** Ex-convict and recovering alcoholic, She, gets by on his macho persona, but lives for the love of his son Jesse. When he discovers that Jesse has been living a secret life, Che reacts violently and is forced to examine his actions and the life he lives. Powerful and challenging.

**Lawrence of Arabia (1962)** Classic heroic tale of a true-life odyssey of T. E. Lawrence in this dramatic portrait of the famed British officer’s journey in the Middle East. He courageously unites the warring Arab factions into a strong guerilla front and leads them to brilliant victories in treacherous desert battlefields where they eventually defeat the ruling Turkish Empire. Stars Peter O'Toole, Alec Guinness, Anthony Quinn, Jose Ferrer, Anthony Quayle, Omar Sharif.

**Lebanon - (2010-94 min.)** Israeli soldiers in a tank head into Lebanon in the 1982 First Lebanon War. The entire film is inside the tank…with the claustrophobic ambience of small spaces and impending violence.

**Leila – (1995)** Reza and Leila, an attractive and affluent Iranian young couple deeply in love and recently married, discover that Leila is unable to conceive. Although Reza steadfastly insists that it matters not in the least, his mother feels otherwise: she is determined that her son have children and continue the family line. Invoking tradition, she convinces her daughter-in-law that Reza must, out of necessity, take a second wife to produce an heir. The heartbreak that follows is so eloquently recorded that the final outcome is "in a word, devastating."

**Life is Beautiful – (1998)** An inspired motion picture masterpiece, *LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL* was nominated for 7 Academy Awards -- winning 3 Oscars, including one for Best Actor, Robert Benigni. In this extraordinary tale, Guido (Benigni) -- a charming but bumbling waiter who's gifted with a colorful imagination and an irresistible sense of humor -- has won the heart of the woman he loves and created a beautiful life for his young family. But then, that life is threatened by World War II ... and Guido must rely on those very same strengths to save his beloved wife and son from an unthinkable fate! Honored with an overwhelming level of critical acclaim, this truly exceptional, utterly unique achievement will lift your spirits and capture your heart!

**The Lives of Others (2007)** Nominated for a Best Foreign Language Film Oscar. The place is East Berlin, the year is 1984, and it all begins with a simple surveillance assignment: Capt. Gerd Wiesler (Ulrich Mühe), a Stasi officer and a specialist in this kind of thing, has been assigned to keep an eye on Georg Dreyman, a respected playwright, and his actress girlfriend. Though Dreyman is known to associate with the occasional dissident, his record is spotless. Everything changes when Wiesler discovers that Minister Hempf has an ulterior motive in spying on this seemingly upright citizen. In other words, it's *personal*, and Wiesler's sympathies shift from the government to its people—or at least to this one particular person. That would be risky enough, but then Wiesler uses his privileged position to affect a change in Dreyman's life. The God-like move he makes may be minor and untraceable, but it will have major consequences for all concerned, including Wiesler himself.

**The Long Walk Home** (1991) The story is set against the backdrop of the emerging civil rights movement of the 1950s South. Sissy Spacek plays a Southern socialite who becomes gradually enlightened by the plight of her housekeeper, played by Whoopi Goldberg, as she struggles to raise her family amid the increasing turmoil, prejudice, and violence around her. A well-done treatment of an important period of American history, *The Long Walk Home* is an effective and accurate period drama.
Lost in Translation (2003) Bill Harris and Charlotte are two Americans in Tokyo. Unable to sleep, Bob and Charlotte cross paths one night in the luxury hotel bar. This chance meeting soon becomes a surprising friendship. They venture through Tokyo having often hilarious encounters with its citizens, and ultimately discover a new belief in life’s possibilities.

Maria, Full of Grace (2005) Maria is a Colombian teenager who, for a large paycheck, agrees to be a mule for drug-runners: she has to swallow dozens of thumb-sized capsules of heroin and smuggle them into New York. This debilitating process is painstakingly described, and of course not everything goes as planned when Maria and her fellow mules land in America. The lead performance of Catalina Sandrino Moreno, who won awards at the Seattle and Newport Film Festivals is worth mentioning.

Madea Goes to Jail (2006) Play version. Madea's about to be sent to the only place she won't be able to talk her way out of...jail! From acclaimed playwright Tyler Perry comes a spectacular new play performed live onstage and brilliantly captured for home presentation. Uplifting and uproarious, this tale of everybody's favorite Southern matriarch overflows with all the heartwarming laughter, and down-home wisdom.

The Mission (1986) A visually stunning epic, THE MISSION recounts the true story of two men--a man of the sword (Robert De Niro) and a man of the cloth (Jeremy Irons)--both Jesuit missionaries who defied the colonial forces of mighty Spain and Portugal to save an Indian tribe from slavery in mid-18th-century South America. Mendoza (De Niro) is a slave trader and colonial imperialist who murdered his own brother (Aidan Quinn) and seeks penance for his sins by becoming a missionary at Father Gabriel's (Irons) mountaintop mission. A rich and thought-provoking film, it contains moving images of despair, penance, and redemption that are among the most evocative ever filmed. It won the top prize at Cannes in 1986 and was nominated for a Best Film Oscar. The film is shot through with piercing, haunting imagery, pictures of enduring imaginative force.

Moonrise Kingdom (2011) Set on island of coast of New England in summer of 1965. Story of two 12-year-olds who fall in love, make a secret pact, and run away together into the wilderness. The peaceful island is turned upside down in the search for them by the oddball authorities.

Monsoon Wedding (2005) Monsoon Wedding is a delightful film, which spins a web of family relationships that knit and break during a wedding at a perfect pace. The excellent performances exceed the often stereotypical roles on offer (including the incomparable Nasiruddin Shah as the harassed father, Kulbhushan Kharbanda as the comic uncle, and Shefali Chaya as the orphaned cousin). Nair's sympathetic eye for the unnoticed and the harassed is at its best with the tender romance between the servant and Dube (Vijay Raaz), the marigold-munching, upwardly mobile wedding coordinator, who brings pathos and humor to the often unseen servant classes. The handheld camera gives a docudrama feel to this celebratory look at the upper-middle-class Hindu Punjabi joint family, while paying tribute to modern Indian public culture of music, television, and, of course, "Bollywood."

My Family (1995) Spanning three generations, "My Family" ("Mi Familia" in Spanish) is fascinating account of one family's struggle to stay together and survive the mean streets of East Los Angeles. Narrated by Edward James Olmos, the film centers on a Mexican-American family who want to achieve the American dream, however they face obstacles along the way. The film, directed by Gregory Nava ("Selena") is an honorable, beautiful, and tragic masterpiece that captures the essence of what it is to be Latino in Southern California. Using realism and incorporating local and Mexican slang, Nava, along with writer Olmos provide the viewers with close yet a distant relationship with the family.

My Left Foot (1989) Daniel Day-Lewis won a much-deserved Oscar for his wily, passionate performance as Irish artist and writer Christy Brown, whose cerebral palsy kept him confined to a wheelchair. Filmmaker Jim Sheridan (In the Name of the Father) adapts Brown's own autobiography for this spirited piece, focusing on the sometimes-difficult fellow's formative years in his large family and in love with sundry women. Day-Lewis is inspired, and Brenda Fricker (also a recipient of an Oscar for her part in this movie) is almost luminous as Christy's dedicated mother. So, too, are Ray McAnally as the hero's stormy father, and Hugh O'Conor as the child Christy.

Night on Earth (1991) Jim Jarmusch's 1991 story begins in Los Angeles one evening at 7:07 p.m. A talent agent gets into the back of a taxi driven by a sullen, chain-smoking young woman, and over the course of their
bumpy conversation, the agent becomes convinced that the cabby would be perfect for a particular part in a movie. Meanwhile, at that very moment, taxi drivers in New York, Paris, Rome, and Helsinki are all having unique encounters with a variety of fares, breaking through that invisible social barrier between the front and back seats of their cars, often to absurd or touching effect. This is sometimes a hilarious quintet of tales of urban displacement and existential angst, spanning time zones, continents, and languages.

**The New World** (2006) The legend of Pocahontas and John Smith receives a luminous and essential retelling by maverick filmmaker Terrence Malick. The facts of Virginia's first white settlers, circa 1607, have been told for eons: explorer Smith (Colin Farrell) and the Native American princess (Q’orianka Kilcher) bond when the two cultures meet, a flashpoint of curiosity and war lapping interchangeably at the shores of the new continent.

**Not Without My Daughter** (2001) Based on a true story. Betty Mahmoody has come to the Middle East with her daughter and native-born husband (Alfred Molina) for a visit with his family. But, soon the horrible truth about their vacation surfaces. Betty's husband doesn't intend to bring his family back to America...ever. She may return, he says, but their daughter must stay. And he has centuries of local custom and the oppressive might of a police state behind him. As a stranger in a foreign land, Betty has no money, no friends and no rights. But she does have an unconquerable will. In a hostile, war-torn country, where even the slightest misstep can mean death, she makes a desperate bid to escape with her child.

**Omid Kjalili: No Agenda** - (2008) The first ever DVD by Britain's most popular Iranian stand-up. After breaking all box-office records at the Edinburgh Festival and then going on a forty date sell-out tour across the UK, this is Omid's final show. Recorded live at The Long Palladium captured in all its glory.


**Osama** (2003) The first movie produced by Afghanistan filmmakers after the fall of the Taliban. After the brutal Taliban regime bans women from working and forbids them to leave their homes without a male escort, a 12-year-old girl and her mother find themselves on the brink of starvation. With nowhere left to turn, the mother disguises her daughter as a boy. Now called Osama, the young girl embarks on a terrifying and confusing journey as she tries to keep the Taliban from discovering her true identity.

**Our Family Wedding** (2010) Can love really conquer all? --Including the biggest alpha dads in the universe? That's what the adorable young couple in Our Family Wedding gets to find out. The couple are so deeply in love that they never realized the possible backlash of their respective dads, Brad (the always-compelling Forrest Whitaker) and Miguel (standup comic Carlos Mencia). Our Family Wedding tackles black and Latino prejudices, which make up the bulk of the plot and the dialogue (the film also takes on class differences; the African-American family is quite wealthy, while the Hispanic one is working class). The terrific cast brings deft delivery and big hearts to this interracial love story.

**Outsourced** – (2006) Comedy with Russell Peters (Canadian-Indian) He talks about many ethnic groups, makes fun of them, but knows how to make fun of himself, too. His accents are impeccable and whether you have or have not been exposed to any Asian cultures - you are up for an awesome treat.

**Paper Dolls** – (2006) Documentary/film. After closing the border to Palestinian care workers, Israeli needed to fill the gaps in the job market. Among those who came to work were Filipinos in various stages of gender transition. These individuals who see themselves in a female persona, shunned by their communities and families at home, build new lives in Israel as caregivers to the elderly. On their nights off they are performers in a drag queen ensemble, “Paper Dolls in Tel Aviv nightclubs.
The Perfect Crime (El Crimen Perfecto) (2007) Director Alex de la Iglesia's satire about consumer culture and machismo manifests in Rafael as a love of nice suits and a fear of commitment. Rafael is a buffoon, stealing champagne and lobsters from Yeyo's grocery store, or seducing clerks in dressing rooms. This black comedy, offering up his characteristic social commentary in a skewering of consumerist culture and the superficial values it perpetuates is hysterically funny and entertaining.

The Pianist (2004) Nominated for 7 Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and winner of 3, The Pianist stars Oscar winner Adrien Brody in the true-life story of brilliant pianist and composer Wladyslaw Szpilman, the most acclaimed young musician of his time until his promising career was interrupted by the onset of World War II. This powerful, ultimately triumphant film follows Szpilman's heroic and inspirational journey of survival with the unlikely help from a sympathetic German officer. A truly unforgettable epic, testifying to both the power of hope and the resiliency of the human spirit, The Pianist is a miraculous tale of survival masterfully brought to life by visionary filmmaker Roman Polanski in his most personal movie ever.

The Piano (1998) Jane Campion's The Piano struck a deep chord with audiences in 1993, who were mesmerized by the film's rich, dreamlike imagery. It is the story of a Scottish woman named Ada (Holly Hunter), who has been mute since age 6 because she simply chose not to speak. Ada travels with her daughter Flora (Anna Paquin) and her beloved piano to a remote spot on the coast of New Zealand for an arranged marriage to a farmer (Sam Neill). She gives piano lessons to a gruff neighbor (Harvey Keitel) who has Maori tattoos on his face, and, well, things develop from there. It's a breathtakingly beautiful and original achievement from Campion, a unique stylist. The Piano won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival and Oscars for Hunt, Paquin, and Campion's screenplay.

The Piano Lesson (VHS 1998) The only one of August Wilson's plays to be filmed. This 1990 Pulitzer Prize-winner is an amazing piece of work. The play deals not just with racism and its effects but with the ongoing legacy and curse of slavery on modern blacks. Set in 1920s Pittsburgh, the story deals with the arrival of Boy Willie (Charles Dutton) from Mississippi, to claim a family heirloom from his sister Berniece (Alfre Woodard): the piano, carved by their ancestors with symbols of slavery. He wants to sell it to buy the land his grandfather worked as a slave; Berniece refuses to give it up because it represents a horrifying episode from the family's past.

Precious (2009) What's particularly notable about the film's success and acclaim is that in the beginning, at least, it presents one of the grimmest scenarios imaginable. The scene is Harlem, New York, in 1987. Teenager Clarisse 'Precious' Jones (Gabourey Sibide) is dirt poor, morbidly obese, semi-literate, and pregnant for the second time--both courtesy of her own father (the first baby was born with Down syndrome). Her home life is several levels below Hell, as her bitter, vengeful welfare mother, Mary (Mo'Nique, Oscar winning performance), abuses her both physically and otherwise. Yet somehow, the young woman still has hopes and dreams (depicted in a series of delightful fantasy sequences). She enrolls in an alternative school, where a young teacher (Paula Patton) takes her under her wing and even into her home, and visits a social worker (an excellent Mariah Carey; fellow pop star Lenny Kravitz is also effective as a male nurse) who further helps bring Precious out of the darkness.

Raise the Red Lantern (1991) Zhang Yimou directed this fascinating, visually formal film about an educated woman (Gong Li) who is sent off to become the newest wife of a feudal nobleman in 1920s China. Nearly isolated in his spooky, palatial home, she develops relationships with several of the other wives and slowly becomes aware of a hideous legacy of punishment toward more willful women.

Real Women Have Curves (2005) Set in the vibrant environs of East Los Angeles, with a breakthrough performance by Latina newcomer America Ferrera, this comedic drama takes a familiar subject--a bright teenager struggling to define her identity--and turns it into an authentic celebration of feminine empowerment. Eighteen-year-old Ana has scholarship potential, her first boyfriend, and a chubby figure that her similarly overweight mother won't stop harping about. Mom insists that Ana work in her sister's dressmaking sweatshop, continuing a family tradition that can only break her spirit.

Red, White and Brown (2009) Recorded live before a sold-out audience at the WaMu Theater at Madison Square Garden, Russell Peters delivers material from his record-breaking "Homecoming Tour," with tales of his travels to India and Dubai, as well as his own issues with body hair, the World Cup, and yet another take on cheap Indians.

Run Lola Run (1999) The story of two young lovers who find themselves with very little time when a shady deal goes awry. Manni, who works for the mob, has 20 minutes to find 100,000 missing Deutsche marks. Lola is the only person who can rescue him from a terrible fate.

Russian Bride (2007) Tanya sees her life in Russia headed nowhere, if only she lived in America. She submits her picture to a catalog for Russian brides and Middle-aged Americans plead to marry her. Blake is a workaholic who rarely meets any girls, a lonely, aging man who has no idea how to treat women. The idea of a Russian wife is pleasing. This is the man Tanya chooses to spend the rest of her life with.

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (2012) A visionary Sheikh believes his passion for the peaceful pastime of fishing can enrich the lives of his people, and he dreams of bringing the sport to the not so fish-friendly desert. The unlikely team; Britain’s leading fisheries expert, the Sheikh’s representative, and an overzealous PM’s press secretary latch onto it as a good will story.

Sankofa (1993) SANKOFA is an Akan word that means, ‘one must return to the past in order to move forward.’ Mona, a contemporary model, is possessed by spirits lingering in the Cape Coast Castle in Ghana and travels to the past, where, as a house servant called Shola she is constantly abused by the slave master. Nunu, an African-born field hand, and Shango, Shola’s West Indian Lover, continuously rebel against the slave system. For Nunu this means direct conflict with her son, a mulatto benefitting from the system as a head slave. Inspired by Nunu and Shangos determination to defy the system, Shola finally takes her fate into her own hands.

Schindler’s List (1993) It was the artistic and critical triumph of Schindler's List that Spielberg called "the most satisfying experience of my career." Adapted from the best-selling book by Thomas Keneally and filmed in Poland with an emphasis on absolute authenticity, Spielberg's masterpiece ranks among the greatest films ever made about the Holocaust during World War II. It's a film about heroism with an unlikely hero at its center--Catholic war profiteer Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson), who risked his life and went bankrupt to save more than 1,000 Jews from certain death in concentration camps.

Secrets and Lies - (1998) Secrets and Lies involves Hortense (Marianne Jean-Baptiste), an elegant black woman wanting to learn her birth mother's identity. She will find its Cynthia (Brenda Blethyn), who is one of the saddest creatures we've seen in film. She's also one of the most real and, ultimately, one of the most lovable. Timothy Spall is Cynthia's brother, a giant man full of love who is being slowly defeated by his fastidious wife (Phyllis Logan).

Selena (1997) Jennifer Lopez is quite good as Selena, whose roots we come to know through the story of her father (Edward James Olmos), a Corpus Christi singer who was rejected by white audiences. The script focuses primarily on Selena's inspiring rise, and it tries to muster some sense of urgent conflict over not-particularly-contentious issues (such as her relationship with a guitarist). The unavoidable subject of Selena's killer--a woman who happened to be the president of her fan club--is considerably and oddly downplayed.

Siberaide (1979) This ambitious 1979 Russian film attempts no less a feat than the encapsulation of the tumultuous history of Russia in the 20th century. The film weaves an engrossing tale of three generations of two Russian families in the remote region of Siberia, each trying in their own way to find fulfillment in their lives as they seek to reconcile themselves with the ever-changing landscape of their homeland. Sandwiched between the chaotic events of the First and Second World Wars, as well as the Russian Revolution of 1917, the people of the small village find themselves at the cusp of great changes, from communications to the expanding infrastructure and the changes that brings, to the discovery of oil and the riches and perils that come with it. Konchalovsky juxtaposes
archival footage with stunning cinematography and contrasts the assaultive changes of the modern world with the timeless impulses of family and the enduring need to adapt and survive.

**Sin Nombre** (2009) Seeking the promise of America, a beautiful young woman, Sayra (Paulina Gaitan), joins her father on an odyssey to cross the gauntlet of the Latin American countryside. Along the way, she crosses paths with a teenaged Mexican gang member, El Casper (Edgar M. Flores), who is maneuvering to outrun his violent past. Together they have to rely on faith, trust and street smarts if they are to survive their increasingly perilous journey towards the hope of new lives.

**Slumdog Millionaire** (2010 Best Film Oscar) Jamal Malik is just one question away from winning a fortune on India’s version of “Who Want to be a Millionaire?” How has this uneducated young man from the slums succeeded in providing correct responses to questions that have stumped countless scholars before him?

**Snow Falling On Cedars** (2000) There, a Japanese American war hero (Rick Yune) stands accused of murdering a white fisherman in the years following World War II. His wife (Youki Kudoh) is the former childhood sweetheart and lover of a local newspaperman (Ethan Hawke) whose bitterness over the loss—as well as his helplessness during the internment of Japanese Americans, and the crusading legacy of his journalist father (Sam Shepard)—prevents him from coming to the defense of the accused man.

**Sometimes in April** (2005) Its protagonist (Idris Elba, from The Wire) pieces together the past tragedy from the perspective of a decade-later war-crimes tribunal, where his brother is on trial. It's hard to know which is less bearable—the depiction of atrocities, such as mass murder at a girls school, or the second-guessing of the international community, which largely stood by while the horror was unfolding. (Like Hotel Rwanda, this film zeroes in on the U.S. government's distinction that "acts of genocide" occurred in Rwanda rather than "genocide," a Joseph Heller-like absurdity.)

**Stand and Deliver** and **Lean on Me** (Both are on DVD- 1988) Look at the too-cool-to-cope kids in Jaime Escalante's class at East L.A.'s tough Garfield High, and many will say they see a bunch of losers. Escalante sees scholars. How he cajoles, instructs, challenges and inspires his no-expectations barrio kids to pass the daunting Calculus Advanced Placement Test forms the amazing heart of Stand and Deliver [Side A], starring Edward James Olmos and Lou Diamond Phillips. **Lean on Me** is on the B side. Paterson, New Jersey's Eastside High is the setting for Lean on Me, starring Morgan Freeman as bat-and-bullhorn-toting principal Joe Clark, whose controversial methods turned the failing school around and made Clark a national symbol of tough-love education.

**Talk to Her** (2003) Writer-director Pedro Almodóvar makes another masterpiece with Talk to Her, his first film since the wonderful All About My Mother. Marco (Dario Grandinetti) is in love with Lydia (Rosario Flores), a female bullfighter who is gored by a bull and sent into a coma. In the hospital, Marco crosses paths with Benigno (Javier Camara), a male nurse who looks after another coma patient, a young dancer named Alicia (Leonor Watling). From Benigno's gentle attentiveness to Alicia, Marco learns to take care of Lydia... but from there, the story goes in directions that deftly manage to be sad, hopeful, funny, and creepy, sometimes at the same time.

**Timeline** (2003) A small band of adventurers in a fantastical realm of danger and death. In this case, a group of archaeologists and combat experts use a "3-D fax machine" to time-travel back to France in 1357, in hopes of retrieving Walker's father (Billy Connolly) and returning safely to the present. Fending for themselves against marauding hordes of medieval French warriors at war with the invading British, these semi-intrepid travelers find their body count rising, and the deadline for their return home is rapidly approaching…

**TransAmerica** (2008) A small but rich movie about Bree--formerly Stanley--a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual awaiting gender-reassignment surgery who learns she has a wayward teenage son named Toby. When her therapist (Elizabeth Peña, Jacob's Ladder) strong arms Bree into facing her past, she bails Toby (Kevin Zegers) out of jail and they end up on a road trip across the country. Bree wrestles with discomfort and compassion as she learns about Toby's own troubles, even while her own grow worse when she's forced to ask for help from her hostile parents. Transamerica doesn't push for any great catharsis, but instead slowly peels away the layers of Bree's defenses, laying bare her basic struggle for respect and a chance at happiness.
**Transsiberian** (2008) In *Transsiberian*, a train twisting across the white Siberian landscape becomes a trap for a well-meaning American couple, Roy (Woody Harrelson) and Jessie (Emily Mortimer), who find themselves pursued by a Russian policeman (Ben Kingsley) while on a trip to Moscow. On the train, they befriend a younger couple--but the charming pair hold secrets that draw Roy and Jessie into a frozen nightmare. At its core, *Transsiberian* is about the anxiety of being in a new world--be it a new country or a new phase of your life--and not knowing the rules, the fear of taking the wrong step and falling.

**Under the Same Moon** (2007) Even across thousands of miles, the special bond between a mother and son can never be broken. Carlitos, a scrappy nine-year-old boy whose mother, Rosario, has gone to America to build a better life for both of them. Carlitos embarks on an extraordinary journey to find his mother.

**Walk on Water** (2009) This enthralling award-winning film by internationally-acclaimed director Eytan Fox explores the motives, strengths, and, ultimately, the humanity of an Israeli assassin sent to rectify a wrong committed five decades earlier. Eyal is a top assassin in the Israeli secret service. He has killed terrorists before, but this time he is sent to eliminate an aging former Nazi war criminal. During his mission, Eyal meets his target’s granddaughter and grandson, who inadvertently help him uncover his own troubled history and face his demons, while they discover the ugly truth their family has hidden from them for decades. What began as a straightforward mission has suddenly escalated in intensity and complexity – thrusting three very different people into a thrilling triangle of murder, friendship and fate.

**What's Cooking?** (2003) At first glance, *What's Cooking?* looks like it was dreamed up by some politically correct screenwriting committee: a series of overlapping stories that intercut among four families (one Hispanic, one Vietnamese, one African American, one Jewish) all preparing for Thanksgiving dinner. But what could be toothless and smarmy is made gripping and genuinely affecting by a mixture of observant writing, fluid direction, and a truly superb ensemble of actors, including Mercedes Ruehl, Alfre Woodard, Joan Chen, Julianna Margulies, Kyra Sedgwick, Dennis Haysbert, and a host of less well known but just as capable others. The script is a marvel of orchestration: small annoyances blossom into fierce conflicts, secrets are deftly revealed, and sanctimoniousness is subtly punctured. The acute but sympathetic portrait of family stress and tension is layered with quiet observations about race and class, as well as the capacity for tolerance and forgiveness.

**The Wedding Banquet** (2004) This international hit by Ang Lee is a funny and poignant story of a gay, Taiwanese-American man who goes to some lengths to fool his visiting family that he's actually straight. The results are far more complicated and entertaining than anyone could have guessed.

**The White Ribbon** (2010: Academy Award winner: Best Foreign Film) *The White Ribbon* weaves an unsettling and enigmatic spell. Michael Haneke's film is set just before World War I in a village in northern Germany, where a series of strange occurrences take place over several months. These occurrences are sinister and cruel and often involve the children of the village--not merely as victims (although child abuse seems to be a far-from-isolated event) but also as perpetrators. At least that's the way it appears. Nothing is completely spelled out in Haneke's scheme, which hints and insinuates and thoroughly gets under the viewer's skin over the course of 144 edgy minutes. We might notice the children are of an age that will make them mature participants in the horror of Germany in the 1930s and '40s, but even this is left as an unemphasized point.

**The Young Lions** (2010) TIME magazine’s top Ten Movie on 2010, Young Lions is a whip-smart slapstick comedy, takes aim at Jihadi suicide bombers and illuminates the war on terror through satire and farce. Follow five inept aspiring terrorists on their quest to strike a blow and how they demonstrate that terrorism may be about ideology, but it can also be about idiots.

*Filmmovement Film List*
We just renewed for a 4th year) These are all award-winning International Films with an award-winning Short film on each disk. These films have gone through the global festivals circuit; won one or many awards; may not have been released in theaters in U.S. You can find out details at the website: www.filmmovement.com


A Call Girl (Slovenia; 2010) 23-yr-old women leaves village for the capital city for education and becomes a call girl. Not everything goes right. Short film: “Honored” [U.S.]

A Screaming Man (Chad/France-2011) Adam, a former swimming champion, now in his 60’s is a pool attendant at a hotel in Chad taken over by Chinese owners. He’s forced to give up his job to his son, Abdel, leaving Adam humiliated and resentful. And the country is in the middle of a civil war. Short film: “Expectations” (Chad/France)

Alamar (Mexico-2010) Teaching his son about Mayan heritage and a fisherman’s life. Short film: “No Corras Tanto” (Take It Easy) [Spain]

Arranged (Syria-2009) Two women (one Muslim one Jewish) whom are both betrothed, become friends. Short film: “The Raft” [Germany]

The Colors of the Mountain (Columbia-2010) Short film: “The Swimmers” [Cuba]

Come Undone (Italy-2010) Life-changing choice for a couple who are both adulterers. Short film: “12 Years” [Germany]

Corpo Celeste (2012-Italy) 13-year-old Marta returns to native Italy after living in Switzerland for 10 yrs. she forges her very own way in life’s lessons. Short film: “Raju” [Germany]


The Drummer (Hong Kong, Taiwan/Germany 2009) Short film: “Love and War” [Swedish]

Eldorado (Belgium-2009) Short film: “Icebergs” [Switzerland]

For My Father (Israel-2009) Short film: “Ali & the Ball” [Australia]

Free Men (France-2012) Short film: “Lustig” [U.S.]

Gigante (Uruguay-2009) Short film: “Dennis” [Denmark]

Helena from the Wedding (U.S. 2010) Drama/Comedy; Friends meet at cabin for New Year’s Eve and trouble abounds. Short film: “Awaiting Examination” [Sweden]

How I Ended This Summer (Russia-2010) On a desolate island in the Arctic Circle where two men work and their travails. **Short film:** “Winner” [Bosnia and Herzegovina/USA]

The Human Resource Manager (Israel, 2011) HRM of Jerusalem’s largest bakery is in trouble. Suicide bombing with foreign worker killed; HR Manager sent to victim’s hometown in Romania to make amends. **Short film:** “Tell Your Children” [Hungary 5 min.]

If I Want to Whistle, I Whistle (Romania-2010) Young man in prison is driven to a surprising act of defiance as he makes a last grasp for freedom; **Short film:** “Kiss” [Netherlands]

Illegal (Russia/Belgium-2011) Mother and son leave Russia illegally to Belgium. **Short film:** “Rita” [Italy]

In Love We Trust (China-2009) **Short film:** “Hugo” [Australia]

Jaffa (Israel-2010) Palestinian mechanic and owner’s young daughter, who’s Jewish, fall in love and plan to elope with a shocking event that effect everyone’s lives. **Short film:** “Lost Paradise” [Israel]

Karen Cries on the Bus- (Colombia-2011); **Short film:** “Lessons From the Night” [Australia]

King of Devil’s Island- (Norway-2011); **Short film:** “Bale” [UK]

Lake Tahoe- (Mexico-2009) **Short film:** “Noodles” [France]

Little Sparrows- (Australia, 2011) Three sisters in an Australian summer with their mother whose cancer has returned; one reveals a secret. **Short film:** “A Lost and Found Box of Human Sensation” [Germany]

Munyurangabo- (Rwanda-2009) Brothers return to Rwanda. **Short film:** “Alptraum” [Germany]

Only When I Dance -(U.K., set in Brazil-2010)) **Short film:** “Lil’a” [Germany]

The Piano Factory- (China-2011) Father builds a piano from scratch for his daughter. **Short film:** “The Necktie” [Canada, animated]

The Pope’s Toilet -(Uruguay-2009); **Short film:** “Video 3000” [Germany]

Prairie Love-(U.S.-2012) **Short:** “A Family Portrait” (animated) [UK]

The Protecktor- (Czech Republic-2011); **Short:** “I’m a Child of Holocaust Survivors” [Israel-animated]

The Queen of Hearts (France-2011); **Short:** “Luis and Marta Work Together” [UK]

Seven Minutes in Heaven- (Israel/2011) **Short film:** “Grandmothers” [Brazil]

Somers Town- (UK/Poland-2009) **Short film:** “Odd Shoe” [UK]

The Wind Journeys- (Colombia-2010) **Short film:** “Danzak” [Peru]
The Window- (Argentina/Spain-2009) Short film: “Seventy” [Spain]