

RARE AND SELDOM-SEEN MOVIES—RECOMMENDATIONS

MOVIES: RARE AND SELDOM-SEEN

AUGUST, 2016 POST

42nd Street (1933)

Warner Baxter, Bebe Daniels, Ruby Keeler, Ginger Rogers, Dick Powell, George Brent, Guy Kibbee, Una Merkel, Allen Jenkins

Famous Broadway producer is a taskmaster with his cast as he tries to put together a musical showcasing his girlfriend. She breaks her ankle during rehearsals and provides an ingenue the opportunity of her life to star in a Broadway musical. This is an early musical and a model for all to follow. It's the quintessential musical with Busby Berkeley choreography and hit songs throughout. Most musicals have one or two memorable songs, but this musical hits the mark with every song. Highly entertaining. This is a **must see** movie, and I would highly recommend everyone own this film. IMDB: [42nd Street](#)

Queen Christina (1933)

Greta Garbo, John Gilbert, Ian Keith, Lewis Stone, C. Aubrey Smith, Reginald Owen

Queen Christina opposes her advisors, who relish war and want to choose her husband. She flees the royal life, is mistaken as a man and falls in love with a fellow traveller. Conflict ensues when she returns to the palace. [Because Garbo's persona in real life exhibited both masculine and feminine characteristics, this mistaken perception was believable.] I appreciate Greta Garbo in her silent films, and in those

films she is marvelous. Queen Christina is considered by many to be her best film. In her talking pictures Garbo's voice is low, and she speaks with an accent. Her acting is also, at times, stiff and unnatural. She has, though, some very powerful moments as an actress in this film. The film is very good, Garbo is beautiful and spellbinding, and one who appreciates film should see it. View, as well, Garbo at her best in such films as Romance, Susan Lenox, and Grand Hotel. IMDB: [Queen Christina](#)

Alice Adams (1935)

Katharine Hepburn, Fred MacMurray, Fred Stone, Evelyn Venable, Charley Grapewin, Hedda Hopper, Hattie McDaniel

This Booth Tarkington story features working class Alice striving to be a part of upper class society. An upper class beau dates her not knowing her true social status. The viewer watching this film will experience those emotions which filmgoers appreciate in great movies. This film offers a family-oriented, Midwestern culture, nostalgic atmosphere as Katharine Hepburn garners empathy from the viewer. Her performance is outstanding, and her talent combined with a delightful story make this a **must see** movie. IMDB: [Alice Adams](#)

Three Loves Has Nancy (1938)

Janet Gaynor, Robert Montgomery, Franchot Tone, Guy Kibbee, Reginald Owen, Charley Grapewin

Janet Gaynor plays a goofy rube following author/playboy Robert Montgomery to New York by coincidence. It's actually painful to watch such accomplished actors (Gaynor, Montgomery, Tone) performing in this silly comedy. Gaynor won the academy award for her portrayals in

7th Heaven, Street Angel, and Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans and was nominated for A Star is Born. Her performance in this comedy is exceptional, but the role is below her level of talent. This movie may provide a few laughs, but there's better content elsewhere. Too silly for celluloid. IMDB: [Three Loves Has Nancy](#)

If Winter Comes (1947)

Walter Pidgeon, Deborah Kerr, Angela Lansbury, Binnie Barnes, Janet Leigh, Dame May Whitty, Reginald Owen

Engaging romance set in 1939 England. Textbook writer marries on the rebound after being dumped by his fiancée, but then she returns to England after marriage and a three-year absence having realized she'd made a mistake. This is a bittersweet and intelligent story with first-rate acting from Walter Pidgeon and Deborah Kerr, and all others, actually. (A young Janet Leigh plays a significant part in this film.) This is not a sappy romance but a gritty tale with many plot twists. It's a wonderful view if you're in the mood for a roller coaster romance. IMDB: [If Winter Comes](#)

Black Orpheus (Orfeu Negro) (1959)

Breno Mello, Marpessa Dawn, Lourdes de Oliveira

This is a tangled love story set amidst Rio's Carnival. Country girl, Eurydice, runs away from her country home to the city, fearing a man wants to kill her. She meets Orfeo, and they fall in love. Orfeo, however, is already engaged. This movie won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. This movie is pure magic. The Brazilian jazz soundtrack by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Luiz Bonfá, among others, is classic and helped usher in the Brazilian jazz wave of the 60s.

(Remember The Girl from Ipanema?) As a viewer you will be engrossed in this film, and you'll savor the beautiful music in this film. This is the highest form of film art. Yeah, obviously, a **must see** movie! IMDB: [Black Orpheus](#)

It's Love I'm After (1937)

Leslie Howard, Bette Davis, Olivia de Havilland, Bonita Granville, Spring Byington

Theater actor tries to improve his relationship with a fellow actress but complications arise when a love-struck fan will not relent in her pursuit of the actor. Three heavyweight actors in a lightweight comedy. Leslie Howard and Bette Davis team up well in this farce which has its tedious moments and its many witty delights. Olivia de Havilland shines as the beautiful young lady infatuated with Howard, and Bonita Granville annoys in a small part as the obnoxious youngster. Although not a classic, the film is amusing and worth watching. IMDB: [It's Love I'm After](#)

The Rich are Always with Us (1932)

Ruth Chatterton, George Brent, Bette Davis, Robert Warwick

Caroline's marriage to Greg is falling apart, and a young rival makes her move to marry Greg while a family friend tries to marry Caroline. Real-life couple Ruth Chatterton and George Brent star in this Pre-Code romance that is steeped in dramatic tension and engaging from beginning to end. Bette Davis shines as the jealous rival of Chatterton and gives her usual strong performance. This is a **must see** for fans of the era. IMDB: [The Rich Are Always With Us](#)

The Girl from Missouri (1934)

Jean Harlow, Franchot Tone, Lionel Barrymore, Lewis Stone, Alan Mowbray

If you want a good introduction to Jean Harlow, her acting and her persona, see *The Girl from Missouri*. Jean stars as a poor girl from a small town determined to marry a Park Avenue millionaire. Although not a topnotch actress, Jean makes up for her lack of acting ability with her beauty, her moxie, and her energy. Good screen play and intriguing plot twists make for a highly entertaining film from beginning to end. IMDB: [The Girl From Missouri](#)

So Proudly We Hail (1943)

Claudette Colbert, Paulette Goddard, Veronica Lake, George Reeves, Barbara Britton, Sonny Tufts, Kitty Kelly

Significant war drama based on actual events and real people following the heroics of a group of nurses during World War II in Bataan and Corregidor. This is Claudette Colbert's film, and she delivers an emotional, professional performance as always. This movie is well worth watching, though, for Veronica Lake's amazing, depth-of-her-soul performance as a nurse with an agenda. Veronica truly displays her sometimes overlooked talent as a first-class actress. George Reeves surprises in a key dramatic role, and Paulette Goddard's beauty and talent are a bonus in this film focusing on the role of women in World War II. IMDB: [So Proudly We Hail](#)

City Lights, (1931)

Charles Chaplin, Virginia Cherrill

Although the era of silent films had passed, Chaplin refused to make talkies, feeling that silent films were the true film art form. In this film the tramp falls in love with a beautiful blind girl, who has fallen on bad times financially. The film is emotional and beautiful in its own right. Chaplin also wrote the musical score, which adds considerable pathos to the viewing experience. This film marks the high point of Chaplin's films and would be a good introduction to his work. Chaplin fan or not, sit back and revel in the beauty and grace of a film masterpiece. This is a **must see** film. IMDB: [City Lights](#)

IF.... (1968)

Malcolm McDowell

Life, social cliques, conflict and cruelty in a boys' English boarding school. A progressive look at the rituals and relationships among the socially stratified boys and the development of resentment and anger. Unusually shot in color and black and white. Mildly interesting. Slow, erotic, violent, bizarre at times. Coming of age as anger. This film was rated 'X' when released. If you have an interest in British films of this period, give it a try. Certainly not essential viewing. IMDB: [If....](#)

Trio (W. Somerset Maugham 's Trio) (1950)

Nigel Patrick, Wilfrid Hyde-White, Jean Simmons, Michael Rennie

Three stories by W. Somerset Maugham are adapted for this film. The film is introduced and narrated by Maugham.

Verger— When the board finds out their church verger of 17 years can neither read nor write, they fire him. He marries and opens a shop. A cute twist at the end makes this story endearing.

Mr. Know-All—Obnoxious know-it-all annoys everyone. A pleasant comedy. *Sanatorium*—Stories of the various personalities, conflicts, and love in a TB sanatorium.

Very good filmed versions of Maugham's stories. The plot twists are similar to the O. Henry stories. Well worth watching. IMDB: [Trio](#)

The Old Corral (1936)

Gene Autry, Smiley Burnette, Roy Rogers, Sons of the Pioneers, Lon Chaney, Jr.

A night club singer witnesses a murder and is pursued by the Chicago mob. She flees to the West to hide. Gene Autry is a good singer, and there are some good action scenes. (Roy Rogers and the Sons of the Pioneers are the thieves in this film!) Smiley Burnette simultaneously plays a harmonica, accordion, tambourine, and a xylophone (with his toes) while singing. Quite a feat. Some horse chases and trick horse riding, too. Gene doesn't even lose his hat during fight scenes. He's good. If you have an interest in 30s westerns, this is a good example. Mildly interesting. IMDB: [The Old Corral](#)

Kings Row (1942)

Ann Sheridan, Robert Cummings, Ronald Reagan, Betty Field, Charles Coburn, Claude Rains, Maria Ouspenskaya

This movie tells the story of two best friends who mature with tragedies and triumphs in their lives. There are dual, intertwined plots, and incredible conflicts mixed with mystery. The acting is variable but mostly very good with some top stars in supportive roles. This movie keeps the viewer engaged from the first scene to the last. There is also an

impressive soundtrack by Korngold that adds significantly to the feel of this movie. Every movie lover should see this film. **It's a must see.** IMDB: [Kings Row](#)

Hasty Heart (1949)

Ronald Reagan, Patricia Neal, Richard Todd

Reagan is wounded in WWII, and while recovering in the infirmary is asked to befriend an ornery comrade who is dying and is unaware of his condition. Uninspired beginning to this movie, and it doesn't get better. It's a long slog through this movie with Reagan providing some cringeworthy 'acting' moments. Patricia Neal shines, and Reagan redeems himself in the final scene with a powerful delivery. Richard Todd is outstanding and carries this film. I was tempted to quit early on this one, but saw it through to the end. The final scene made the time spent worthwhile. IMDB: [Hasty Heart](#)

Storm Warning (1951)

Ginger Rogers, Ronald Reagan, Doris Day

On a lonely, dark street the clan kills a man right in front of Ginger. Of course, she's in trouble. Smoldering, creepy film noir. This movie is all Ginger. She had been a major star for decades when this film was made, and her talent shines. This is an intriguing, suspenseful film well worth watching. IMBD: [Storm Warning](#)

The Winning Team (1952) Doris Day, Ronald Reagan, Frank Lovejoy

Fascinating biopic of Grover Cleveland Alexander, one of baseball's greatest pitchers in the 1920s. Doris Day sparkles. Ronald Reagan does rather well in this film. Good vintage baseball footage adds interest. Worth a watch. IMDB: [The Winning Team](#)

No More Orchids (1932)

Carole Lombard, Lyle Talbot, Walter Connolly, C. Aubrey Smith

This is an early talkie with Carole Lombard, one of the most popular stars of the 30s. Rich, spoiled girl falls in love with a nobody. This is a drama/romantic comedy with plenty of double entendres mixed in. Complex conflict and a good story make this film well worth watching. Lombard is always good, and she makes this movie engaging and entertaining. You will enjoy this movie. IMDB: [No More Orchids](#)

Brief Moment (1933)

Carole Lombard, Gene Raymond, Donald Cook

Rich boy wants to marry a night club singer, but the family is appalled at their son's choice. This is a romance with plenty of conflict. Lombard and Raymond are excellent. Lombard was great in her comedies, but she is powerful in her role in this film. You can't come away from this film without an appreciation for Carole Lombard's talents. I highly recommend this film. IMDB: [Brief Moment](#)

Lady by Choice (1934)

Carole Lombard, May Robson, Roger Pryor, Walter Connolly

To drum up publicity, a night club fan dancer adopts an old lady from a senior home on Mothers' Day. Turns out the old lady's a handful. This is a pleasant dramedy but not as engaging as some of Lombard's other films. Lombard always sparkles, though. Well worth watching. IMDB: [Lady By Choice](#)

Seven Sweethearts (1942)

Kathryn Grayson, Marsha Hunt, Cecilia Parker, Van Heflin, S.Z. Sakall

High-strung journalist lands in an idyllic hotel populated with beautiful girls and a peaceful lifestyle. The proprietor oversees his seven daughters, all of whom are waiting for the oldest to marry so they can also. Kathryn Grayson songs are showcased in this film. Odd but pleasant musical comedy. If you like Grayson's style of singing, you should watch this film. IMDB: [Seven Sweethearts](#)

A Covenant with Death (1967)

George Maharis, Laura Devon, Katy Jurado, Earl Holliman, Gene Hackman

Movie opens with a wife murdered in her bedroom—by her drunken husband? Starts with a bang and then slows to a crawl. Way too much time spent on romantic subplots. Earl Holliman makes a mark in this film with a strong performance. Overall, though, this film is an example of a good book turned into a dull movie. Read the book; avoid the movie. IMDB: [A Covenant With Death](#)

A Yank at Eton (1942)

Mickey Rooney, Edmund Gwenn, Ian Hunter, Freddie Bartholomew, Juanita Quigley, Alan Mowbray, Peter Lawford

High school football star, Rooney, is headed to Notre Dame until his mother marries an Englishman, and he's forced to move to England. I didn't have high expectations for this movie, but Mickey Rooney always entertains. Mickey can be overbearing and overact, and there are some silly scenes, but, overall, the movie is engaging and a lot of fun. Little sister, Juanita Quigley, is marvelous and steals every scene she's in. You won't be disappointed by watching this film. Give it a try. IMDB: [A Yank At Eton](#)

Take Her, She's Mine (1963)

James Stewart, Sandra Dee, Audrey Meadows, Robert Morley, John McGiver, John Denver

Mollie goes to college with the best of intentions, but an overwhelming part of the college experience is—boys. Her parents aren't as keen on their daughter's college experience and sexual awakening as is Mollie. This is a cute, engaging comedy from the 60s. Good acting all around. James Stewart is very good in comedy roles, and Sandra Dee does what she does best. It gets a little predictable and routine at times, but overall it serves its purpose well as an entertaining comedy. Worth a watch. IMDB: [Take Her, She's Mine](#)

Wabash Avenue (1950)

Betty Grable, Victor Mature, Phil Harris, Reginald Gardiner, Margaret Hamilton

Scheming wheeler-dealer pursues show girl. Betty overacts and Victor is unlikable and overbearing. Betty sings and dances and shows a lot of leg. Lots of glitz and dance hall numbers. Very slim plot. Corny, not funny, and tiresome. You need to be a hardcore Betty Grable fan to love this film. Wasted my money on this one. Don't waste your time. IMDB: [Wabash Avenue](#)

Mister Antonio (1929)

Leo Carrillo, Virginia Valli, Gareth Hughes

Primitive talkie with amateur acting and with Carrillo speaking Italian at times. Basic story of Carrillo helping a young girl kicked out of her uncle's home for visiting a roadhouse with her cousin. Booth Tarkington wrote the story, which is simple but solid. Mild historical interest, but viewing this film is not time well spent. IMDB: [Mister Antonio](#)

Caravan (1946)

Stewart Granger, Jean Kent, Anne Crawford

Friends from childhood but from different English classes, Oriana and Richard hope to marry but face obstacles and sabotage from a rival. Richard is also sidetracked, however, by a sexy dancer during his trip to Spain. Stewart plays the strong hero, as always, but there's too much dialogue at times in this uneven adventure/romance. Melodramatic, strange at times, lots of coincidences, but somewhat interesting. Worth a view, but there are much better Granger films. Try King Solomon's Mines. IMDB: [Caravan](#)

Mother is a Freshman (1949)

Loretta Young, Van Johnson, Rudy Vallee, Betty Lynn

Loretta Young was an exquisite beauty in her movies in the 30s, and she still looks good in middle age. Single mother of a college girl must return to college because she's broke but qualifies for a family scholarship—her best option as a source of income. Smooth professor [Johnson] romantically pursues new freshman [Young]. A pleasant late 40s comedy with veteran actors excelling in their roles. Engaging, interesting, and enjoyable. IMDB: [Mother Is A Freshman](#)

Perfect Strangers (1950)

Ginger Rogers, Dennis Morgan, Thelma Ritter, Paul Ford

Married but separated Ginger Rogers meets married Dennis Morgan during sequestered jury duty for a murder trial. Romance ensues. Solid acting all around in this drama/romance. Lots of similarities to 12 Angry Men, but with the addition of a romantic subplot. A little slow at times, but the movie is very engaging. Great chemistry between Rogers and Morgan. Well worth watching. IMDB: [Perfect Strangers](#)

Her Highness and the Bellboy (1945)

Hedy Lamarr, Robert Walker, June Allyson, Agnes Moorehead, Rags Ragland

An Austrian princess travels to New York to rekindle a romance with a former flame. She develops a special relationship with a bellboy. Top performers Robert Walker and Hedy Lamarr with June Allyson display their exceptional talents in this lightweight romantic comedy. Rags Ragland nails his performance in a central role in this film. Some humor,

some pathos, some romance, some dancing, some silliness, and some glamour. Worth a watch. IMDB: [Her Highness And The Bellboy](#)

That Hagen Girl (1947)

Ronald Reagan, Shirley Temple, Rory Calhoun, Conrad Janis

Dark, mysterious beginning to a story that focuses on a question throughout about that Hagen girl. Small town gossip pegs the teenager as a pariah. Ronald Reagan is no great shakes as an actor, but he's serviceable in this film. Unfortunately, Shirley Temple is pretty weak as an actress. The movie, however, is engaging and interesting enough to provide an entertaining view. IMDB: [That Hagen Girl](#)

Come Live With Me (1941)

James Stewart, Hedy Lamarr, Ian Hunter, Verree Teasdale, Donald Meek

Penniless writer meets wealthy immigrant about to be deported. They marry in order for her to stay in America. She, however, already has a married lover. Hedy Lamarr isn't the best actress in this film, but she is the perfect beauty. Jimmy Stewart solidly plays the same cool, relaxed character he usually does. This film is simple, sentimental and interesting. Entertaining enough to watch. IMDB: [Come Live With Me](#)

The Chapman Report (1962)

Efrem Zimbalist Jr., Shelley Winters, Jane Fonda, Claire Bloom, Glynis Johns, Andrew Duggan, Ty Hardin, Cloris Leachman, Chad Everett

Dr. Chapman conducts sex research anonymously with a variety of women. The movie begins with flashbacks and interviews with women who have a variety of sexual difficulties. It then follows the current sex lives of the women. Although there are some bright spots among the actors (Claire Bloom and Glynis Johns in particular), top stars generally turn in subpar performances. This movie actually gets better as it progresses. Although the movie has passed its “Use By” date, it could be a worthwhile viewing experience. IMDB: [The Chapman Report](#)

Loose Ankles (1930)

Douglas Fairbanks, Loretta Young

Young heiress attempts to create a scandal to void a dead relative’s will and cheat her greedy relatives out of their inheritance. Convoluted but interesting plot in this Pre-Code comedy. Weak script and amateurish acting. Racy for the times and filled with corny humor, but the stunning Loretta Young as the young heiress makes this film worth watching. IMDB: [Loose Ankles](#)

The Naughty Flirt (1931)

Alice White, Paul Page, Myrna Loy

Spoiled, wild rich girl sets her sights on a man she feels is not after her money. Alice White makes a perfect flirt in this Pre-Code comedy. These Pre-Code movies are interesting relative to the insights they provide into life in the 20s. Delightful fluff makes for an entertaining view. IMDB: [The Naughty Flirt](#)

Bishop Murder Case, The (1930)

Basil Rathbone, Leila Hyams, Roland Young

The body of a man with an arrow through his heart and a chess piece as a clue is found on the archery range. Philo Vance investigates. Stilted, verging on humorous, acting in this early talkie murder mystery. (A good example of silent film actors struggling to adapt to talking pictures.) Basil Rathbone, as Philo Vance, at least gets practice for his Sherlock Holmes character. If you're looking for another old mystery to watch and have run out of other options, give this a view. Otherwise, you have many better choices. IMDB: [The Bishop Murder Case](#)

Kennel Murder Case, The (1933)

William Powell, Mary Astor, Eugene Pallette

Philo Vance investigates a man who was murdered in a locked room. This is the best of the Philo Vance series of films. It serves as a good introduction to the series, and if you want to get a good feel for the nature of these whodunits, choose this film first. William Powell, among the many actors who portray the detective, also does the best job—the most authentic, the most charismatic, and the most comfortable. And Mary Astor—she's good in everything she's in. Can't go wrong with this gem. IMDB: [The Kennel Murder Case](#)

Dragon Murder Case, The (1934)

Warren William, Margaret Lindsay, Lyle Talbot, Eugene Pallette

A party guest disappears during a swim in the pool, and when the pool is drained, what looks like dragon prints are found on the bottom. Engaging, entertaining murder mystery from the early 30s starring Warren William as Philo Vance. (You even get early underwater

photography in this film.) Acting is good all around in this mystery. Witty dialogue and ongoing suspense make this whodunit worth watching. IMDB: [The Dragon Murder Case](#)

Casino Murder Case, The (1935)

Paul Lukas, Alison Skipworth, Donald Cook, Rosalind Russell, Ted Healy, Leo G. Carroll

Philo Vance is watchful after a warning about a murder. The one he is watching is poisoned but recovers. However, the victim's wife is poisoned and dies in her home. Paul Lukas plays Philo Vance in this typical 30s whodunit but doesn't have the charisma of the other actors who play this character. Humorous bits play out in this entry in the Vance series, in fact it's interesting that Vance fights with his manservant in a fashion similar to the sport Clouseau has with his servant, Cato, in the Pink Panther series. Even though, this entry is not as interesting as the others in the Vance series. Worth a look if you're out of other options. IMDB: [The Casino Murder Case](#)

Garden Murder Case, The (1936)

Edmund Lowe, Virginia Bruce, Benita Hume, Gene Lockhart

Philo Vance suspects hypnosis behind suspicious suicides. Edmund Lowe stars as a subpar Philo Vance in this very average episode in the Philo Vance series. Formulaic and predictable. View if you really want to see all the movies in the series. IMDB: [The Garden Murder Case](#)

Calling Philo Vance (1940)

James Stephenson, Margot Stevenson, Henry O'Neill

A wealthy designer is in the midst of negotiations for his latest creation when he's murdered within a locked room. James Stephenson plays Philo Vance and is arrested in Vienna by Nazis. This provides foreign intrigue, but most action takes place in America in this better-than-average Vance whodunit. This is a remake of The Kennel Murder Case. Good mystery and worth watching. IMDB: [Calling Philo Vance](#)

Tracks (1977)

Dennis Hopper, Taryn Power, Dean Stockwell

Soldier accompanies a dead soldier across the country by train during the Vietnam War. Mostly dialogue with weird, complicated action. Awkward conversations, very 70s presentation. Even though he serves as an honor guard for a dead soldier on a cross-country train trip, psychologically tortured Dennis Hopper pathetically pursues a teenage girl on the train. Even though the girl (Taryn Power) is pretty, it is no reason to watch this dud. With constant rumbling of the train, audio is poor in this film, also. Skip it. IMDB: [Tracks](#)

Dreamboat (1952)

Clifton Webb, Ginger Rogers, Anne Francis, Jeffrey Hunter, Elsa Lanchester

A respected college professor faces a rash of problems when his previously unknown silent films start showing up on TV shows. Typical but engaging '50s comedy. Clifton Webb plays the same role in most of his films, but he does it so well. His pairing with Ginger Rogers in this film makes it particularly interesting. Elsa Lanchester plays her comedic role with flair, and Anne Francis adds beauty and a solid performance to

the film. Nothing to make you think or stretch your imagination, but fun, fluffy entertainment. Well worth watching. IMDB: [Dreamboat](#)

The Spanish Main (1945)

Paul Henreid, Maureen O'Hara, Walter Slezak, Binnie Barnes

After a Dutch refugee is shipwrecked near the Carolinas, he is imprisoned. After escaping, he seeks revenge as a pirate. He captures and falls in love with the daughter of a Mexican noble. Standard adventure fare, but Paul Henreid, Binnie Barnes and, particularly, Maureen O'Hara make this mediocre effort worth watching. Maureen O'Hara's beauty and dominance of every scene make her the deserved focus of this movie. Recommended. IMDB: [The Spanish Main](#)

Rendezvous (1935)

William Powell, Rosalind Russell, Binnie Barnes, Cesar Romero, Lionel Atwill, Charley Grapewin

Bill wants to serve at the front in the Great War, but is sidetracked when the daughter of the assistant secretary of war schemes to have him assigned to a desk job at home. World War I intrigue wrapped in a romantic comedy. William Powell plays his usual cool and witty role while Rosalind Russell plays the jealous, pesty girlfriend with comedic flair. Not a classic but entertaining and well worth watching. IMDB: [Rendezvous](#)

Penrod's Double Trouble (1938)

Billy Mauch, Robert J. Mauch, Dick Purcell, Gene Lockhart

This comedy/adventure is based on Booth Tarkington's Penrod character. Two identical looking boys switch places in this story to foil the plot of disreputable characters. Wholesome '30s family fare featuring the Booth Tarkington Penrod character. The multiracial cast and scene stealing dog reminded me of the Our Gang comedies. Talented child actors make this film an enjoyable viewing experience. IMDB: [Penrod's Double Trouble](#)

The Joe Louis Story (1953)

Coley Wallace, Hilda Simms, Paul Stewart

The Joe Louis Story is a sanitized biography of the great boxer. The acting is mediocre, but the story is engaging. The most interesting aspect of the film is the actual footage of Joe's classic fights woven into the movie. A 'B' picture but worth the time spent viewing. IMDB: [The Joe Louis Story](#)

The Divine Lady (1929)

Corinne Griffith, Victor Varconi, H.B. Warner, Marie Dressler, Ian Keith

The story of Lady Hamilton's romance with British war hero Admiral Horatio Nelson. Well-done silent film with sound effects and singing and some good action scenes. Interesting romance based on historical figures. Gloria Swanson in Sunset Boulevard said, "We had faces then." That is truly the case in this film in which the faces of the actors are so expressive—particularly Corinne Griffith, whose beauty and abilities as an actress are the centerpiece of the film. Very engaging and well worth watching. IMDB: [The Divine Lady](#)

Divorce His, Divorce Hers (1973)

Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, Carrie Nye

Views of a couple's divorce first from his point of view, and, in the second half of the film, from her point of view. This seems to be a low point for Taylor and Burton. All dialogue, little action, slow moving, complicated plot interlaced with flashbacks. Overall poor acting, weak screenplay?—something doesn't quite work here. Worth a view, but you probably won't be satisfied with the time spent. IMDB: [Divorce His, Divorce Hers](#)

In Old Arizona (1928)

Warner Baxter, Edmund Lowe, Dorothy Burgess

A bandit tries to romance a local beauty while eluding the local sheriff. Based on the O Henry story, *The Caballero's Way*, *In Old Arizona* is pretty slow and only mildly entertaining. Glimpses of desert scenery, some love scenes, some humor, little action, and too much dull dialogue. That's the first half of the movie. The second half actually becomes interesting and makes the film worth watching. Considering it's an early talkie, the video transfer is quite good, but the audio results in dialogue that is very hard to understand at times. If you are a fan of early talkies, this is a good example. If you are looking for 90 minutes of entertainment, I could go either way on recommending you spend 90 minutes of your life watching *In Old Arizona*. IMDB: [In Old Arizona](#)

The Silver Horde (1930)

Evelyn Brent, Joel McCrea, Louis Wolheim, Jean Arthur, Blanche Sweet

A salmon fisherman loves two girls and must choose between the girl with the bad reputation and the more-refined society girl. Primitive, early talkie production. Barebones production values and routine acting. Jean Arthur is not as attractive as in her later movies, and she's still an actress-in-training in this film. Joel McCrea is always attractive and delivers a standard performance. Scenes of the fishing industry are interesting, but the fight scenes are lame. The movie is mildly interesting but worth watching. IMDB: [The Silver Horde](#)

Bride by Mistake (1944)

Alan Marshal, Laraine Day, Marsha Hunt, Edgar Buchanan, Slim Summerville

Millionaire wants to find a man to marry who will not marry her for her money. She uses a friend to double for her at functions so she can observe the men without distraction. Complications arise when she finds a man she likes, but he's fallen in love with her double. Warm, amusing and entertaining movie with likable characters and a straight forward plot. A great watch for a popcorn and movie evening. IMDB: [Bride By Mistake](#)

The Hallelujah Trail (1965)

Burt Lancaster, Lee Remick, Jim Hutton, Pamela Tiffin, Donald Pleasence, Brian Keith, Martin Landau, Dub Taylor

A wagon train carrying whiskey for miners is attacked by the temperance union, Indians, and the cavalry because of its cargo. Beautiful scenery, great cinematography. Beyond that...not much. Comedic western falls flat. Not a hit, but a must miss. IMDB: [The Hallelujah Trail](#)

The Downhill Racer (1969)

Robert Redford, Gene Hackman, Camilla Sparv, Dabney Coleman

Hotshot, arrogant U.S. team skier clashes with his coach. At times beautiful and at times boring. Great cinematography and some beautiful scenery, but Redford's dialogue is minimal, his character is uninteresting and emotionally vapid, and the plot is paper thin. Watchable but certainly not a must see. IMDB: [The Downhill Racer](#)

Millionaire For Christy (1951)

Fred MacMurray, Eleanor Parker, Richard Carlson, Una Merkel

A secretary is given the assignment of traveling to meet the radio personality who has inherited two million dollars. She decides to try to marry him. Eleanor Parker is beautiful and plays her part well, as does Fred MacMurray. But this turkey does them a great disservice. The plot is silly, improbable and uninteresting. Skip this one. IMDB: [A Millionaire For Christy](#)

The Dark Corner (1946)

Lucille Ball, Clifton Webb, William Bendix, Mark Stevens

A secretary tries to help her boss, who has been framed for murder and is in danger of being murdered himself. This movie is a routine murder/detective story with a love interest, of course. The movie is slow, flat and fairly uninteresting. Mark Stevens is actually an unlikeable character and does not fit his role well, and Lucille Ball appears to simply walk through her part no pizzazz or spark in her character. Even the fight scenes are unrealistic. William Bendix is spot on in his portrayal, and

Clifton Webb does well as the smoldering heavy in the film. Bottom line —there are so many good movies to watch, don't waste your time on this one. IMDB: [The Dark Corner](#)

Thérèse Desqueyroux (Therese) (1962)

Emmanuelle Riva, Philippe Noiret, Edith Scob

Therese is trapped in a loveless, boring marriage. Her husband is poisoned and dies. Did she do it? A sad, beautiful, poetic story with amazing cinematography and first-rate acting. Insightful examination of marriage, depression and human frailty. This movie deserves the viewer's close attention to fully appreciate the artistry of this work. I'd rate it a **must see**. IMDB: [Therese Desqueyroux](#)

Pretty Maids All In A Row (1971)

Rock Hudson, Angie Dickinson, Telly Savalas, Roddy McDowall, Keenan Wynn

A serial killer is responsible for the murder of many beautiful high school girls. Who is killing all of these girls? Yes, there are a lot of pretty maids, and an abundance of bare breasts. Angie Dickinson is beautiful and sexy and serviceable in her role. Rock Hudson is overweight, long past his expiration date and awkward to watch at times. Trashy, horrible acting, and an incredibly weak screen play, but the movie is entertaining enough to make it through to the end. IMDB: [Pretty Maids All In A Row](#)

Period Of Adjustment (1962)

Anthony Franciosa, Jane Fonda, Jim Hutton, Lois Nettleton, John McGiver, Jack Albertson

This film displays the marital difficulties of two couples—one just married and the other married for some time. Quirky dramedy, but quintessential Tennessee Williams. Powerful, sometimes breathtaking performances by Lois Nettleton and Anthony Franciosa. Jim Hutton and Jane Fonda, to me, seem miscast, and their performances are uneven, sometimes spot-on, and sometimes cringeworthy. Overall, the film increased in interest and at the end was a very satisfying experience. Well worth the investment of time. IMDB: [Period of Adjustment](#)

The Hard Way (1943)

Ida Lupino, Joan Leslie, Dennis Morgan , Jack Carson

Helen sees her life as a failure but sees potential in being a stage mother to her talented, younger sister. A very entertaining, gritty melodrama with incredibly good acting and even some entertaining musical numbers. Engaging from beginning to end. IMDB: [The Hard Way](#)

The Gracie Allen Murder Case (1939)

Gracie Allen, Warren William, Ellen Drew, William Demarest,

Gracie tries to help Philo Vance solve a murder, and her continual bumbling provides the comedy for this mystery. The Gracie Allen Murder Case is an interesting Philo Vance mystery infused with quintessential Gracie Allen humor. The movie is a joy to watch and laugh-out-loud funny. IMDB: [The Gracie Allen Murder Case](#)

The Wild Angels (1966)

Peter Fonda, Nancy Sinatra, Bruce Dern, Diane Ladd, Michael J. Pollard, Gayle Hunnicutt

Hells Angels try to recover a lost bike, get involved in a riot, bust their buddy from the hospital, and bury him when he dies, all leading to a raucous party. Right after I saw this “B” movie in the 60’s I bought the soundtrack. The movie was pretty awful, but the music was sensational! I still listen to it today with just as much enjoyment as I did many years ago. This has got to be the best biker soundtrack ever. You simply can’t not love it! If you can find it, buy it—the soundtrack, not the movie. IMDB: [The Wild Angels](#)

Blondie (1938-1950)

Penny Singleton, Arthur Lake, Larry Simms, Gene Lockhart, Jonathan Hale

This is the first in a series of 28 films based on the Blondie comic strip featuring Blondie and Dagwood Bumstead. The comedies have held up very well and are as funny and engaging as they were over half a century ago. Baby Dumpling and Daisy the dog are cute scene-stealers throughout the series. My teenage daughter actually laughs out loud at these comedies, and it’s a nostalgic pleasure for me to watch them again after so many years. Although the comedies are equally enjoyable, for an introduction to the series one might want to first watch “Blondie” and then “Blondie Goes to College,” one of the best. Avoid the last movie, “Beware of Blondie,” because, for some reason, it falls flat. One can purchase these movies at a bargain rate on [amazon.com](#). I’d give most of these movies a **must see** rating.

Blondie (1938) Blondie Meets the Boss (1939) Blondie Takes a Vacation (1939) Blondie Brings Up Baby (1939) Blondie on a Budget (1940)

Blondie Has Servant Trouble (1940) Blondie Plays Cupid (1940)
Blondie Goes Latin (1941) Blondie in Society (1941) Blondie Goes to
College (1942) Blondie's Blessed Event (1942) Blondie for Victory
(1942) It's a Great Life (1943) Footlight Glamour (1943) Leave It to
Blondie (1945) Life with Blondie (1946) Blondie's Lucky Day (1946)
Blondie Knows Best (1946) Blondie's Big Moment (1947) Blondie's
Holiday (1947) Blondie in the Dough (1947) Blondie's Anniversary
(1947) Blondie's Reward (1948) Blondie's Secret (1948) Blondie's Big
Deal (1949) Blondie Hits the Jackpot (1949) Blondie's Hero (1950)
Beware of Blondie (1950)

IMDB: [Blondie](#)

IMDB: [Blondie Goes To College](#)

MOVIES: RARE AND SELDOM-SEEN

SEPTEMBER, 2016 POST

Le Femme Nikita (Nikita) (1990)

Anne Parillaud, Marc Duret, Patrick Fontana

Drug-dependent, unsocialized, street-hardened Nikita has killed on the street and is infamous for her killer-machine approach to death. When caught, the authorities give her the choice of death or becoming an assassin for the French government. WOW. This movie is breathtaking. Parillaud is amazing as Nikita—perfect and nuanced for this role. If you're looking for a great action/thriller with a solid story, you will love this film. (This is a French film with a choice of subtitles or dubbed dialogue.) It's a **must see** movie! IMDB: [La Femme Nikita](#)

Hangmen Also Die (1943)

Brian Donlevy, Walter Brennan, Anna Lee, Gene Lockhart, Lionel Stander

The cruelty of the Nazis and the cleverness of the Czech resistance is portrayed in this film. The Nazis search for an assassin while the Czechs scheme to hide his identity. A propaganda movie filmed during WWII, there is generally good acting with cruelty and torture on the part of the Nazis, and courageous collaboration on the part of the resistance movement among the Czechs. A mildly interesting film which shows its age, but it is watchable. IMDB: [Hangmen Also Die](#)

Four Frightened People (1934)

Claudette Colbert, Herbert Marshall, Mary Boland, William Gargan, Leo Carrillo

This is a Cecile B. DeMille production filmed on location in the South Pacific. Even though most of the movie is an arduous trek through the jungle, this is a fascinating film to watch. Essentially a drama/adventure, there is also humor and pathos in this film. Claudette Colbert is marvelous as the timid school teacher. She's actually the focus of this film, and the men come to appreciate her beauty more as the journey progresses. This is a movie worth watching. IMDB: [Four Frightened People](#)

Repulsion (1965)

Catherine Deneuve, Ian Hendry, John Fraser, Yvonne Furneaux

This is a well-done psychological thriller following the descent of a young manicurist into depression and hallucinations. Captivating from the opening sequence. Slow moving but suspenseful. Well-directed and good performances all 'round with incredible cinematography. Deneuve is beautiful, of course, and is exceptional in her role. A sensitive and emotional portrayal of a fragile, troubled young girl. Dark, psychological drama turns into Hitchcock on steroids. This movie is not for everyone, but if you start it, I would recommend seeing it to the end.
IMDB: [Repulsion](#)

Union Pacific (1939)

Barbara Stanwyck, Joel McCrea, Akim Tamiroff, Robert Preston, Brian Donlevy, Anthony Quinn

This is a western based on the development of the Union Pacific Railroad. Its bigger and better than most westerns, though, because it's a Cecil B. DeMille picture. [McCrea](#) puts in a strong performance. Barbara Stanwyck is usually exceptional in her films, but she's a little too cutesie in this film, and the Irish brogue detracts from her performance. Her role makes her seem a little silly. The film works well though with plenty of action, and this is well worth watching if you like westerns.
IMDB: [Union Pacific](#)

Mayerling (1968)

Omar Sharif, Catherine Deneuve, James Mason, Ava Gardner

Heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire loves a young girl more than he loves his country and his royal obligations. The romance is troubled. The film is very colorful with the costumes and pageantry. Lots of royal glitz. Great cinematography. Dancing. Slow moving—very slow

moving. I had a hard time getting into this film. Great love story based on fact, but it didn't move me. No emotional appeal. Deneuve and Sharif both seem bored and have low energy rather than grand passion. This movie is watchable, but there are so many better movies.

IMDB: [Mayerling](#)

Thank Your Lucky Stars (1943)

Eddie Cantor, Dennis Morgan, Humphrey Bogart, Bette Davis, Olivia de Havilland, John Garfield, Pat Dixon, Ida Lupino, Ann Sheridan, Alexis Smith, Jack Carson, Alan Hale

Very slim plot but rather a showcase for Hollywood stars—their songs, stories, and humor. Song after song and comedy sketches. Interesting to see vintage stars performing in roles you would not normally see them in and musical numbers with stars exhibiting their talent. Produced during WWII with the boys overseas in mind. Corny humor but glamorous stars and entertaining bits. Dancing, singing, vaudeville schtick, witty banter, and Eddie Cantor. If this is for you, it's worth a view. IMDB: [Thank Your Lucky Stars](#)

Rio Grande (1950)

John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, Ben Johnson, Harry Carey Jr., Chill Wills, J. Carrol Naish, Victor McLaglen, Grant Withers, Sons of the Pioneers

A mother arrives in cavalry camp to take her son, an underage recruit, home. Her husband is the camp commander. Flat out a great western by John Ford. Amazing images and cinematography with incredible horsemanship scenes. Not as much action as some western fans may want, but good dramatic conflict between father and son and husband

and wife. Sentimental songs by the Sons of the Pioneers. Beautiful Maureen O'Hara is outstanding in her role, John Wayne is steady as usual, but [Victor McLaglen](#) owns his role as the crusty, Irish sergeant with a mix of humor, pathos and his iconic facial expressions. Well worth watching. IMDB: [Rio Grande](#)

Decline of the American Empire (Le déclin de l'empire américain) (1986)

Dominique Michel, Dorothee Berryman, Louise Portal

Four men are at a lodge preparing a meal for their female partners who are at a gym working out. They all get together later to discuss, mostly, their sexual relations and problems. Pretentious intellectuals discuss (lots of talk, talk, talk) sex and brag about their affairs. Awkward entanglements. Canadian movie in French with really bad, mismatched English dubbing. Boring, silly dialogue, amateurish acting. I know there's a deeper psychological meaning to this film, but it's not worth the agony of having to watch this film to fully understand the point this film is trying to make. If you want an example of an artistically terrible movie, watch this. (Please don't.) IMDB: [Decline of the American Empire](#)

It's Always Fair Weather (1955)

Gene Kelly, Dan Dailey, Cyd Charisse

Three ex-GIs agree to meet again ten years after the end of WWII but when meeting find they no longer have anything in common. Dated and corny musical. It gets pretty silly at times. Decent singing and dancing but no memorable hits. Gene Kelly is good, as usual, and does some great dance routines, but the interest level doubled when Cyd Charisse

entered the film about 1/4 way through. She outshines by far all other actors. If you're a passionate Gene Kelly or Cyd Charisse fan, this movie is for you. If not, there are many other far better musicals to watch. IMDB: [It's Always Fair Weather](#)

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (1947)

Danny Kaye, Virginia Mayo, Boris Karloff, Ann Rutherford, Reginald Denny

Living with his overbearing mother and mistreated by his fiancé and his boss, Walter escapes into adventurous daydreams. Danny Kaye makes a good Walter Mitty. Danny can be silly, but he is talented. This movie serves as a showcase for Danny's silly songs. Some scenes go on too long. Thurber's story upon which this movie is based is wonderful, and it's a story you should read. The movie is not award winning quality, but average entertainment nonetheless. IMDB: [The Secret Life of Walter Mitty](#)

Gold Rush, The (1925)

Charles Chaplin, Georgia Hale, Mack Swain, Tom Murray

Charlie looks for gold in Alaska and falls prey to local toughs and also falls in love with a local beauty. Charlie Chaplin was a genius, and The Gold Rush is his masterpiece. Fast-paced, high-level humor, pathos, and romance. No one in film was more creative than Chaplin. If you haven't seen a Chaplin film, or a silent film for that matter, start with this one. You won't be disappointed. It's a **must see** film. IMDB: [The Gold Rush](#)

Dark Passage (1947)

Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Bruce Bennett, Agnes Moorehead

On a highway near San Quentin a woman knowingly picks up an escaped prisoner convicted of murder. Interestingly filmed from Bogart's point of view (1st person) for the first part of the film. Bogart and Bacall are sensational together. (Bacall is at her most beautiful.) Wonderful character actors add flavor to the film. There are many coincidences and improbabilities in the plot, but because of the suspense and mystery and exceptional acting, this is a very good movie. If you're unfamiliar with Bogart or Bacall, see this movie. If you're a fan, and haven't seen this movie, see it. IMDB: [Dark Passage](#)

Something of Value (1957)

Rock Hudson, Dana Wynter, Wendy Hiller, Sidney Poitier

A story of racial prejudice, violence, cruelty and revolution in Kenya in the 50s. Clueless Europeans vs. native Kenyans. Based on historical events but uneven in many respects—script, acting, emotional effect. It never quite all comes together. Cheesy attempts at intellectualism. Sidney Poitier is excellent, and his acting is the saving grace of the film. Dana Wynter is good in her role but underutilized, and Rock Hudson's difficult to watch at times. You should read the book by [Robert Ruark](#) upon which the movie is based. You'll be disappointed with the movie. IMDB: [Something of Value](#)

De-Lovely (2004)

Kevin Kline, Ashley Judd, Jonathan Pryce

A look at the life of Cole Porter. Breezy and sometimes hokey (film presents Porter as a ghost who can't be seen or heard observing his own

life in the same manner as Scrooge in A Christmas Carol). Porter tunes and parts of tunes throughout—nearly nonstop. Plot is thin and focuses on Porter’s relationship with his wife and his homosexuality. The acting is very good, the songs are exceptional, and the film is worth seeing for the songs—if that’s all you expect. IMDB: [De-Lovely](#)

Animal Farm (1954)

Gordon Heath, Maurice Denham

Although dated and artlessly animated (how else to present animals as the featured actors?) the film is well done and delivers Orwell’s political message. (No Disney animated classic here.) This film’s interest is as a curiosity, and is another example of ‘Read the book, skip the movie.’ IMDB: [Animal Farm](#)

The Adventures of Mark Twain (1944)

Fredric March, Alexis Smith, Donald Crisp, Alan Hale, C. Aubrey Smith, John Carradine, Percy Kilbride

This film dramatizes the life and literature of Mark Twain. Interesting and amusing. It’s as easy to love this movie as it is to love any of Twain’s works. Magnificent, heartwarming, an incredible story. I can’t say enough about this movie. Fredric March is the perfect Mark Twain and Alexis Smith is ideal as his wife, steady actress and extremely beautiful. If you have an interest in literature, history, Twain’s works, or just good storytelling, you will love this movie. It’s a **must-see** film! IMDB: [The Adventures of Mark Twain](#)

Murder at the Vanities (1934)

Carl Brisson, Victor McLaglen, Jack Oakie, Kitty Carlisle, Toby Wing, Duke Ellington

A Vanities review featuring continual songs, dances and beautiful girls during which the police conduct a murder investigation. This was risqué for its time and is fun to watch. IMDB: [Murder at the Vanities](#)

Search for Beauty (1934)

Buster Crabbe, Ida Lupino, Robert Armstrong, Toby Wing, James Gleason

Schemers try to sell a health and fitness magazine and then membership in a health resort based on beautiful bodies. The celebrity 'bodies' they enlisted as partners rebel once they realize they're part of a scam.

Average acting, interesting plot, and a lot of beautiful girls. Not a lot of depth here, but a PreCode opportunity to show off beautiful women and throw around risqué banter. Interesting enough to watch. IMDB: [Search for Beauty](#)

The Cheat (1931)

Tallulah Bankhead, Harvey Stephens, Irving Pichel

A creepy predator has designs on married Tallulah and gives her the \$10000 of a charity's money she lost in a bad investment in exchange for a night together. A good PreCode drama and a chance to see Bankhead in a starring role. Entertaining and worth watching. IMDB: [The Cheat](#)

Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein (1948)

Bud Abbott, Lou Costello, Lon Chaney Jr., Bela Lugosi, Lenore Aubert, Jane Randolph

Wasn't expecting much from this film, but it was a good blend of the horror films of the 30s and the humor of Abbott and Costello. And it works well as both a horror film and a comedy. Lon Chaney Jr. and Bela Lugosi recreate their roles as the Wolfman and Dracula. Frankenstein actually plays a supporting role. Whether you're a fan of Abbott and Costello or not, this is an entertaining, scary and funny film.

IMDB: [Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein](#)

Sundays and Cybele (Les dimanches de Ville d'Avray) (1962)

Hardy Krüger, Nicole Courcel, Patricia Gozzi

Pierre is haunted by the image of a child he killed when his plane crashed in Vietnam. Back in France he suffers from amnesia and PTSD. He befriends a little girl whose father has sent her to a boarding school, and they meet on Sundays. Although the relationship is innocent, others don't see it that way. This is a beautiful, emotional film. One becomes engrossed from the opening scene and commits to a tender, emotional, sad journey with Pierre. This is a classic French art film, and it won the 1962 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. This film is neglected and forgotten and has always been controversial, but it is **must see** viewing. IMDB: [Sundays and Cybele](#)

Caught in the Draft (1941)

Bob Hope, Dorothy Lamour, Lynne Overman, Eddie Bracken, Clarence Kolb

Typical war-time comedy with Bob Hope the same as he is in all of his movies. Dorothy Lamour isn't the best actress, but she does well in this film. The film is fast-moving and funny and a good way to pass the time for 90 minutes. IMDB: [Caught in the Draft](#)

MOVIES: RARE AND SELDOM-SEEN

OCTOBER, 2016 POST

A Patch of Blue (1965)

[Sidney Poitier](#), [Shelley Winters](#), [Elizabeth Hartman](#)

Selina lives a horrible life with her prostitute mother who accidentally blinded her when Selina was five. Selina finds solace in the local park where she meets a young office worker who is kind to her and tries to teach her how to get along in the city. White Selina does not know that her friend is black, and when her mother finds out, she forbids Selina to see him. This movie is tender and emotional, and the acting is exceptional. You will be drawn into this movie and engaged to the end. This is a **must see** movie. IMDB: [A Patch of Blue](#)

Give Me a Sailor (1938)

Bob Hope, Matha Raye, Betty Grable

Two brothers want to marry the same girl, and one brother plots a scheme with the girl's unattractive sister to squelch his brother's romance. This is a funny, first-rate comedy. Hope, Raye, and Grable are

all in top form, but Martha Raye shines in this film. She was a great actress and comedienne and was actually the star of this picture. Engaging and entertaining. You'll enjoy this film. IMDB: [Give Me a Sailor](#)

The Princess Comes Across (1936)

[Carole Lombard](#), [Fred MacMurray](#), [Douglass Dumbrille](#)

Girl with a questionable past fakes her identity as a Swedish princess to break into Hollywood films. Things get complicated on her transatlantic voyage to America with blackmail, murder, and love. Lombard and MacMurray work well together in this fast moving romantic comedy/murder mystery. Lombard is always a joy to watch, and the film is average but entertaining. IMDB: [The Princess Comes Across](#)

Love Before Breakfast (1936)

[Carole Lombard](#), [Preston Foster](#), [Cesar Romero](#)

The boss of the man Carole is to marry transfers him to Japan so he has a chance to win Carole over. It's hard not to like Carole Lombard, and she plays well off Preston Foster's character in this battle of the sexes romantic comedy. Her continual tirades in this film wear a little thin, but she plays her role so well. Enjoyable, engaging and well worth watching. IMDB: [Love Before Breakfast](#)

Don't Look Now (1973)

[Julie Christie](#), [Donald Sutherland](#), [Hilary Mason](#)

Against her husband's wishes, a wife works with a psychic to contact her dead daughter. Starts off with an emotional wallop—and then slows to a crawl. Not the best acting here. Has a creepy, Rosemary's Baby feel to it. Beautiful cinematography in Venice. If you can tolerate the slow pace of this movie, and you like creepy thrillers, this film may appeal to you. [IMDB: Don't Look Now](#)

The Ladies Man (1961)

Jerry Lewis

Jerry is jilted by his college girl friend and vows to remain a bachelor. He then takes a job in a women's boarding house, which serves as the setting for his antics. Over-the-top acting all around, but nobody can top Jerry at over-the-top acting. Continual physical comedy and an abundance of beautiful women. It's hard to recommend this movie. Some people like Jerry, and some don't. To me, his movies with Dean Martin were better than his single efforts. In this movie I found a few chuckles, but that was about it. Movie is dated and just too corny. [IMDB: The Ladies Man](#)

The Spiders (1919)

[Carl de Vogt](#), [Ressel Orla](#), [Lil Dagover](#), [Georg John](#), [Rudolf Lettinger](#)

The hero searches for hidden Inca gold and a precious diamond while battling gangsters known as The Spiders. This is an interesting adventure story and well done for 1919. If you're a silent movie fan, you should watch this film directed by Fritz Lang. If you do not usually watch silent movies, there are far more interesting silent movies you would enjoy. [IMDB: The Spiders](#)

Stella Maris (1918)

Mary Pickford

Mary plays dual roles. Stella Maris is a bedridden cripple who lives in a rich world hidden from all the ugliness of life outside her bedroom. Unity is a plain, abused orphan. Their lives are connected by the married man who loves Stella and adopts Unity. In split-screen scenes, Pickford plays opposite herself. This film is beautiful and tender. It's a good representation of Pickford's work and of well-done movies of the silent era. Plenty of conflict, beauty, and sorrow in this film. See it. You will enjoy it. IMDB: [Stella Maris](#)

L'Enfant (2005)

[Jérémie Renier](#), [Déborah François](#), [Jérémie Segard](#)

A young girl gives birth to a child by a thief who cares more for crime than for her or the baby. With no emotion or remorse, he sells the baby without his girlfriend's knowledge. Slow moving, but emotionally engaging. The lead actors give powerful performances. No music soundtrack, just raw drama. This movie won the Palm d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. This film is in French with English subtitles. If you watch this movie, see it through to the end. IMDB: [L'Enfant](#)

Poppy (1936)

[W.C. Fields](#), [Rochelle Hudson](#), [Richard Cromwell](#)

Fields adopts Poppy as a little girl and raises her in the circus where he works as a medicine salesman. As a young woman Poppy falls in love with the mayor's son but is seen by many as not worthy because of her

background. There are also complications regarding an inheritance. This movie is funny and tender. Fields does well as a dramatic actor as well as a comedian, and Hudson is adorable and gives an engrossing performance. This film is a classic and a **must see** movie. IMDB: [Poppy](#)

Familia (2005)

[Sylvie Moreau](#), [Macha Grenon](#), [Juliette Gosselin](#)

A character study with complicated relationships all around. Gambling addict, Michele, takes her teen daughter and leaves a man who cares for her to mooch off a friend, who has her own issues. This is an excellent movie with powerful acting, emotional conflicts, and a focus on the lives of women. This movie is in French with English subtitles, and I would recommend it highly. Engaging from first frame to last. IMDB: [Familia](#)

The Old Dark House (1932)

Boris Karloff, Melvyn Douglas, [Charles Laughton](#)

Travelers are stranded in a rainstorm and seek shelter in an 'Old Dark House.' The inhabitants are bizarre and dangerous. Scary characters, and lots of flickering lights, howling wind, thunder and driving rain. Charles Laughton is a good actor, but his attempt at a 'Scottish?' accent is inauthentic and distracting. Melvyn Douglas is suave, snarky and amusing. Lilian Bond and Gloria Stuart are beautiful and add a bit of PreCode naughtiness. Actually very good for an early sound movie similar to the classic Invisible Man of the era. IMDB: [The Old Dark House](#)

Darling Lili (1970)

[Julie Andrews](#), [Rock Hudson](#)

Lili is a popular singer who entertains French and British audiences while acting as a spy for the Germans. A beautiful movie with great cinematography and a memorable musical soundtrack. Some good aerial battle scenes with biplanes. A showcase for Julie Andrews, but is it a musical, a spy drama, a romance, a comedy? The pairing of Rock Hudson and Julie Andrews is unconvincing and lacks passion. (Rock Hudson is only a serviceable actor.) The movie is more of a miss than a hit, but it's worth a watch if you're a Julie Andrews fan—she gives a solid performance. IMDB: [Darling Lili](#)

Papa's Delicate Condition (1963)

[Jackie Gleason](#), [Glynis Johns](#), [Charles Ruggles](#)

Good-hearted Jack Griffith does a lot of good in his community and for his beloved daughter, but his 'delicate condition' comes between him and his wife. Heartwarming family comedy with the talented Jackie Gleason. Glynis Johns shines as the dutiful wife, and cute [Linda Bruhl](#) is Jackie's perfect companion in comedy. The movie is slow and lame at times, but is worth watching. IMDB: [Papa's Delicate Condition](#)

Black Like Me (1964)

[James Whitmore](#), [Sorrell Booke](#), [Roscoe Lee Browne](#)

Biographical account of a white man who changed his skin color and hair and posed as a black man traveling through the South. Dated but dramatic and a good historical representation of the times. Slow moving in parts and sometimes too philosophical rather than just presenting the action in scenes. The book is good and the movie, although progressive

for its time, could have been better, but this is a movie interesting enough to watch. [IMDB: Black Like Me](#)

The Fabulous Baker Boys (1989)

[Jeff Bridges](#), [Michelle Pfeiffer](#), [Beau Bridges](#)

Two failing lounge piano players decide to add a singer. Michelle Pfeiffer is amazing in this film. She is perfect in her role as escort/singer. The Bridges brothers are also at their best. Lots of sexual tension here. Fabulous acting, great drama. You will enjoy this exceptional movie. [IMDB: The Fabulous Baker Boys](#)

Cannery Row (1982)

[Nick Nolte](#), [Debra Winger](#), [Audra Lindley](#)

Marine biologist lives among characters in Cannery Row and falls for a drifter who goes to work at the local bordello. Some good ocean-side cinematography. Debra's cute but neither she nor Nolte are good actors in this film. Of average interest. The movie falls flat, and your time would be better spent reading the book. [IMDB: Cannery Row](#)

The Enchanted Cottage (1945)

[Dorothy McGuire](#), [Robert Young](#), [Herbert Marshall](#)

A young, homely girl goes to work in a widow's cottage and falls in love with a disfigured pilot wounded in the war who boards there. A truly enchanting, engaging and uplifting romance. There's a poetic beauty to

this film. If you have a romantic spirit and you appreciate old movies, you **must see** this film. IMDB: [The Enchanted Cottage](#)

MOVIES: RARE AND SELDOM-SEEN

NOVEMBER, 2016 POST

This Gun for Hire (1942)

Alan Ladd, Veronica Lake, Robert Preston

Alan Ladd is a hired killer who is paid for a job with dirty money. He then seeks revenge, meets Veronica Lake on a train, and things get complicated from there. The acting is first rate, the atmosphere is pure film noir, and the plot is engaging from beginning to end. This is a film noir masterpiece. It's a **must see** movie! IMDB: [This Gun For Hire](#)

Places in the Heart (1984)

[Sally Field](#), [Lindsay Crouse](#), [Ed Harris](#)

Sally delivers a strong performance as a woman with unbending determination in the face of impossible odds during the Depression. (She won the Oscar for Best Actress for this role.) Great characters, good acting and lots of conflict. The film loses steam, however, about two-thirds of the way through. A good movie worth watching. IMDB: [Places in the Heart](#)

Tammy Tell Me True (1961)

Sandra Dee, John Gavin, Charles Drake

Southern girl Tammy lives on a riverboat and has no formal education but wants desperately to go to college. Facing many obstacles at college, she charms all those with whom she relates and discovers much about herself. The movie is wholesome, family entertainment, and Sandra Dee is quite good in her role. Her backwoods accent is spot on and accentuates her character. Nothing classic here but a pleasant viewing experience. IMDB: [Tammy Tell Me True](#)

Little Murders (1971)

Elliott Gould, Marcia Rodd, Vincent Gardenia

Perky optimist, Patricia, aggressively pursues Alfred, who is a noncommittal, unemotional nihilist. This is an anti-violence/anti-murder film, but it goes about its message in a twisted, bizarre way. Supposedly a black comedy with a message, this film is too hokey and too dated to provide more than a few chuckles. Too much of the film is simply annoying. It's OK to skip this one. IMDB: [Little Murders](#)

The Plot Against Harry (1989)

Martin Priest, Ben Lang, Maxine Woods

A racketeer released from prison tries to recreate things as they were before incarceration. Unfortunately, he's a born loser. Very low-key, slow-moving drama/comedy. Not a high priority for viewing, but watchable. IMDB: [The Plot Against Harry](#)

The Mark of Zorro (1940)

Tyrone Power, Linda Darnell, Basil Rathbone

Standard Zorro fare with the masked bandit stealing from the authorities. Of course, a young girl falls in love with the mysterious desperado. This version of the Zorro story is of mild interest with not enough action until the last fourth of the movie, when there is more action and a higher level of interest. If you enjoy adventure movies of the 30s and 40s, you will like this film. I prefer the 1998 “Mask of Zorro” with Banderas and Zeta-Jones. IMDB: [The Mark of Zorro](#)

Raw Deal (1948)

Dennis O’Keefe, Claire Trevor, Marsha Hunt

A convict escapes from prison with the help of his girlfriend. They kidnap a girl who was interested in him also. Focus is on his prolonged escape. Love interest subplot and revenge subplot. If you like film noir or are looking for a good example of film noir, this movie is for you. Incredible cinematography with eerie, atmospheric soundtrack. Action, suspense, and drama from the beginning. Great noir. If you appreciate film as an art form, this is a **must see** movie. IMDB: [Raw Deal](#)

Kristin Lavransdatter (1995)

Linus Aaberg, Gisken Armand, Berard Arnø [Directed by Liv Ullmann]

Beautiful Kristin lives an idyllic life in medieval Norway. Kristin’s father arranges a marriage for her with a landowner, but events in her world become so chaotic that she seeks shelter in a convent, where a knight develops a romantic interest in her. Soap opera level drama ensues.

Totally engrossing film with exceptional acting, lush cinematography, and emotional plot developments. If you love film, find this movie and see it. It may become one of your favorites. (In Norwegian with subtitles.) This is a **must see** movie. IMDB: [Kristin Lavransdatter](#)

Secrets and Lies (1996)

Timothy Spall, Brenda Blethyn, Phyllis Logan

Raw views of dysfunctional families. Life as anger and disappointment. Character that ties the families together is a young, adopted woman searching for her birth mother. Heavy drama—emotional, sad, can be depressing. Exceptional acting! This is a British film with British accents and jargon. Heart-wrenching, mesmerizing. Great cinema.
IMDB: [Secrets and Lies](#)

Inside Daisy Clover (1965)

Natalie Wood, Christopher Plummer, Robert Redford

Carnival urchin with an eccentric mother tries to lead a normal life against all odds. Improbable rags-to-riches plot. Poorly conceived Pygmalion knock-off. A story of men using and manipulating a young girl. Not Natalie's best outing as an actress. Bad lip-syncing for Natalie's songs. Flat, uninspired acting across the board (except from Ruth Gordon). Even with all the star power, this movie disappoints.
IMDB: [Inside Daisy Clover](#)

On an Island with You

Esther Williams, Peter Lawford, Ricardo Montalban, Jimmy Durante, Cyd Charisse, Xavier Cugat and His Orchestra

Esther is shooting a movie and is engaged to her costar. She is aggressively pursued by a naval officer serving as an advisor on the film. Quintessential Esther Williams. Splashy musical numbers from the start. Lots of music, water, swimming, singing, dancing, beauty. Durante provides the humor. Cugat and his band provide most of the music. More dancing and singing than dialogue or plot. If you appreciate these stars, give it a try. Entertaining. IMDB: [On an Island with You](#)

The Day of the Locust

Donald Sutherland, Karen Black, Burgess Meredith

Hollywood in the 30s. Boys pursue beautiful wannabe starlet who is flirty, fickle, slutty. Very stylized, catchy period soundtrack, rich cinematography, and Black is beautiful. Slow moving, sensual, some humor. Good acting. Some uniquely bizarre scenes. Entertaining enough to watch, but view at the risk of becoming confused, repulsed and disappointed. [Another example of the novel being the far better choice.] IMDB: [The Day of the Locust](#)

Child Bride (1938)

Shirley Mills, Bob Bollinger, Warner Richmond

Based on actual events involving child marriage in backwoods country in the early 30s. The school marm faces strong resistance when preaching to the locals about forgoing child marriage. Titillating subject matter and scenes. It's unsettling watching this educational/exploitation movie, considering modern standards and sensibilities. Amateurish actors, but worth watching as a curiosity. IMDB: [Child Bride](#)

And Then There Were None (1945)

Barry Fitzgerald, Walter Huston, Louis Hayward

Ten people are invited to an island mansion for a weekend. The host is not present, but one-by-one guests start dying. This movie is the quintessential murder mystery. Engaging, great pace, good soundtrack, suspenseful. This movie should be a part of every film fan's collection. A **must see** film. IMDB: [And Then There Were None](#)

MOVIES: RARE AND SELDOM-SEEN

DECEMBER, 2016 POST

Vanity Fair (1998)

[Natasha Little](#), [Frances Grey](#), [Philip Glenister](#), [David Ross](#), [Nathaniel Parker](#)

When Vanity Fair came up on my viewing list, I didn't look forward to seeing it because a mini-series from the BBC can be ponderous and boring. What a surprise! This exceptional film captured me in the first scene and didn't let me go until five hours later. The story is based on the classic novel by Thackeray and presents the scenes and characters in a manner that is dramatic but often with a hint of humor. The characters are memorable and distinctly portrayed by incredibly talented actors. Becky Sharp in the novel was pursued by many for her charms and beauty, and Natasha Little, as Becky in the film, is the perfect Becky Sharp—amazingly beautiful and playing the role of the devious, ambitious trollop with a sly, knowing grin. A unique feature of this film is the brilliant use of extreme closeups. In the battle scene, for instance, the viewer hears the sound of the battle but sees only the facial features of the soldiers. The light humor in the film is punctuated throughout with an unusual brass band soundtrack. I can't say enough about this film. If

it were an American feature film, it would have been showered with Oscars. It is definitely **Must See** viewing, particularly if you are interested in dramatic portrayals of classic novels—or not.

IMDB: [Vanity Fair](#)

Mambo (1954)

Silvana Mangano, Michael Rennie, Vittorio Gassman

A young girl is pursued by two men (wealthy man and loser) with whom she has love/hate relationships. She flees her romantic situation and moves from Venice to Rome to pursue a career in dance. She's strangely affected and inspired by African rhythm music, and it appears dance is her true love. Both men still pursue her with many plot complications. The movie is dark, slow and moody. Although it has some star power and the acting is commendable, it is a true 'B' movie of only average interest. IMDB: [Mambo](#)

Love is a Many Splendored Thing (1955)

William Holden, Jennifer Jones, Torin Thatcher

Beautiful, widowed Eurasian doctor in Hong Kong is pursued by a married foreign correspondent. She states she has no intention of falling in love. There's also a cultural conflict subplot. Lush cinematography, first class acting, engaging story, and stirring soundtrack. This is a perfect, classic love story for adults. See this movie. You'll enjoy the experience. A **must see** romance. IMDB: [Love is Many Splendored Thing](#)

The French Lieutenant's Woman (1981)

Meryl Streep, Jeremy Irons, Hilton McRae

A young, engaged man becomes obsessed with the local 'mad woman' shunned by the community for being a whore. There is a strange juxtaposition between the period plot and contemporary scenes of the starring actors in a relationship. Beautiful cinematography, lush soundtrack and brilliant acting. Moody and mysterious atmosphere. I'm ambivalent about this film. It's worth watching, but I didn't find the experience satisfying. IMDB: [The French Lieutenant's Woman](#)

My Favorite Wife (1940)

Irene Dunne, Cary Grant, Randolph Scott

Cary's wife has been reported as drowned in a shipwreck and has been missing for seven years. Surprise. She shows up on Cary's wedding day to his new wife. This is a standard Cary Grant comedy with all the confusion and complications. It's funny, heartwarming and well worth watching. IMDB: [My Favorite Wife](#)

Magnificent Obsession (1935)

Irene Dunne, Robert Taylor, Charles Butterworth

A young woman loses her husband partially due to the recklessness of a privileged [ne'er-do-well](#). She then loses her sight in an accident partially due to the same man. The man changes his life in devotion to her thereafter. This is an inspirational film that will leave you with a good feeling and perhaps inspire you to be kind and giving in your life. The acting is exceptional, and the story is moving. You will like this film. IMDB: [Magnificent Obsession](#)

Magnificent Obsession (1954)

Jane Wyman, Rock Hudson, Agnes Moorehead

A young woman loses her husband partially due to the recklessness of a privileged [ne'er-do-well](#). She then loses her sight in an accident partially due to the same man. The man changes his life in devotion to her thereafter. The 1935 version of this film is a softer, sweeter and faster-paced movie. It's a warmer and more sensitive presentation with better acting. This 1954 version is in color, slower-paced and more highly charged. It also has a lush soundtrack. The acting is uneven—(I'm not a Rock Hudson fan. He's wooden, detached, inauthentic and unrealistic as a kisser.) Barbara Rush is also weak in this film. This version just doesn't have the quality and level of performances that the 1935 version has. I, obviously, prefer the earlier version of this movie.

IMDB: [Magnificent Obsession](#)

Tender Mercies (1983)

Robert Duvall, Tess Harper, Betty Buckley, Ellen Barkin

Country music star hits bottom via alcoholism but is still drawn to the business. His relationships with three women provide the conflict. This is a gentle, thoughtful movie with a great country music soundtrack. First-class acting with a very engaging story. Excellent film in every aspect. You will like this film. IMDB: [Tender Mercies](#)

Straw Dogs (1971)

Dustin Hoffman, Susan George, Peter Vaughan

A mild-mannered mathematician rents a manor in England's countryside to write his book. His sexy wife is bored and continually distracts him. The locals doing construction on the garage salivate over the hot wife, end up raping her and laying siege to the house. The mathematician thinks he's smart enough to win against the locals. All sex and violence with this film. If you like sex and violence (lots) in a movie, this is for you. If not, watch something else. IMDB: [Straw Dogs](#)

American Madness (1932)

Walter Huston, Pat O'Brien, Kay Johnson

Bank-based drama. Board vs. Director, Director's wife has a roving eye, Assistant Director in trouble with the mob—topped off with a bank robbery and a murder mystery. Frank Capra directed this gem, and the acting is first class. Very engaging story. This film is very well done and should interest you from the beginning. IMDB: [American Madness](#)

Sir Walter Scott's Ivanhoe (1997)

Steven Waddington, Victoria Smurfit, Susan Lynch

I looked forward to this movie because Ivanhoe is a favorite novel of mine. This BBC mini-series is an adaptation, however, and not faithful to the plot of the novel (not that it has to be). I'm ambivalent about the movie, though. The movie was very well done and is a masterful production. However, it was too long. There were many subplots, and it was hard to follow the story at times. The movie seemed to be more ABOUT Ivanhoe rather than starring the Ivanhoe character since other actors had more screen time than did Ivanhoe. Acting is more 'theatrical,' more Shakespeare-like than natural, and the Ivanhoe and Rowena actors were beautiful, of course, but not outstanding in their

roles. Other actors were superior. There were some good action scenes involving sword fights and battles and jousting and even fires and torture. But overall, the movie was too tedious. If you plan to spend this much time with *Ivanhoe*, read the book. Amazon: [Sir Walter Scott's Ivanhoe](#)

Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion (1938)

Leslie Howard, Wendy Hiller, Wilfrid Lawson Henry Higgins wins a bet with Colonel Pickering to turn a guttersnipe into a lady. The problem is...what to do with her when the 'experiment' is over. This movie is a faithful rendering of the Shaw play. No color, glitz, or music as in 'My Fair Lady.' The acting is superb, and Wendy Hiller is the perfect Eliza Doolittle. This film is a delightful dramedy—a filmed version of the classic play—a cinematic treasure that is **must see** viewing.

IMDB: [Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion](#)

The Europeans (1979)

Lee Remick, Robin Ellis, Wesley Addy

Drawing room drama concerning the relationships and desires of 19th century New Englanders and the visiting Europeans who may be taking advantage of their wealthy American relatives. Mildly interesting but slow-moving, all talk, subdued acting. Beautiful cinematography and costumes. Unless you want to visualize the novel as the director perceived it, skip this movie. (The novel is great. Read it instead.)

IMDB: [The Europeans](#)

Pennies from Heaven (1936)

Bing Crosby, Madge Evans, Edith Fellows

A drifter befriends a child at a carnival and soon discovers she is a school truant and behavior problem. He helps her when he realizes a social worker is trying to institutionalize her. This is a light-weight amusement with songs by Crosby and Louis Armstrong. Warm-hearted story with a scene-stealing performance by the juvenile Edith Fellows. Entertaining. IMDB: [Pennies from Heaven](#)

The Banger Sisters (2002)

Susan Sarandon, Goldie Hawn, Geoffrey Rush

(Yes, the title means what you think it means.) Two women were groupies during the Jim Morrison era of sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll. They meet after being separated for 20 years, and one has become a conservative, rich wife and mother. The other hasn't changed. Conflict and comedy ensue. (Eva Amurri plays Susan Sarandon's daughter in the film and is her daughter in real life.) Hawn's performance sparks this movie. This film is a worthwhile amusement. IMDB: [The Banger Sisters](#)

Imitation of Life (1934)

Claudette Colbert, Warren William, Rochelle Hudson

A widow with a young child teams up with a single black mom to start a business. The business is a success, but the black woman's daughter wants to pass for white, and the white woman's daughter falls in love with her fiancée. Interesting plot, strong acting. The film is dramatic and highly interesting, but the ending fizzles out. Nevertheless, this is a movie worth watching. IMDB: [Imitation of Life](#)

Imitation of Life (1959)

Lana Turner, John Gavin, Sandra Dee

The basic concept of this movie is the same as the 1934 version, but the plot is different with the widow being an actress instead of an aspiring businesswoman. In short, this movie is watchable and fairly well done, but every aspect of the 1934 version is superior. Watch both versions to compare approaches to making a film from a novel, or only watch the better version. IMDB: [Imitation of Life](#)

The Great White Hope (1970)

James Earl Jones, Jane Alexander, Lou Gilbert

This film, based on the award-winning play, dramatizes the life of Jack Johnson, a black prize fighter during the first half of the 20th century. The primary focus of the movie is Jack's controversial relationship with his white lover. This film is a tour de force for James Earl Jones. It is an incredible performance. The film is extremely well done. You will be impressed with this film. IMDB: [The Great White Hope](#)

The Gay Divorcee (1934)

[Fred Astaire](#), [Ginger Rogers](#), [Alice Brady](#)

Ginger visits her aunt in Europe in order to obtain a divorce from her American husband while being pursued by Fred. Her incompetent lawyer sets her up with a correspondent, and she mistakes Fred for the correspondent. This film has a bevy of beauties from the '30s, lots of lame jokes and silliness, incredible dance routines, songs, and choreography. It features the songs 'Night and Day,' and 'The Continental.' If you're unfamiliar with musicals from the '30s, this film is a good example. If you are a fan, or not, of Ginger Rogers and Fred

Astaire, this is **must see** viewing. This movie is simply lots of fun and pure entertainment! IMDB: [The Gay Divorcee](#)