LIST & SNAPSHOTS

2014 releases:

1. **23 Blast** (PG-13) (2014) (Mark Hapka, Bram Hoover) When a high school football star is suddenly stricken with irreversible total blindness, he must decide whether to live a safe handicapped life or bravely return to the life he once knew and the sport he still loves. **Critics: 5-6-5**

2. **Adventurer, The: The Curse of the Midas Box** (PG) (2014) (Michael Sheen, Lena Headey, Sam Neill) Seventeen-year-old Mariah Mundi's life is turned upside down when his parents vanish and his younger brother is kidnapped. Following a trail of clues to the darkly majestic Prince Regent Hotel, Mariah discovers a hidden realm of child-stealing monsters, deadly secrets and a long-lost artifact that grants limitless wealth. **Critics: 5-4**

3. **Alive Inside** (NR-Doc.) (2014) Dan Cohen, founder of the nonprofit organization Music & Memory, fights against a broken healthcare system to demonstrate music's ability to combat memory loss and restore a deep sense of self to those suffering from it. **Critics: 6-7-8**

4. **Amazing Spider-Man 2, The** (PG-13) (2014) (Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone) Peter Parker runs the gauntlet as the mysterious company Oscorp sends up a slew of super villains against him, impacting his life. **Critics: 5-7-6**

5. **Annabelle** (R) (2014) (Annabelle Wallis, Ward Horton) A couple begin to experience terrifying supernatural occurrences involving a vintage doll shortly after their home is invaded by satanic cultists. **Critics: 6-4-5**

6. **Annie** (PG) (2014) (Quvenzhane Wallis, Jamie Foxx) A foster kid, who lives with her mean foster mom, sees her life change when business tycoon and New York mayoral candidate Will Stacks makes a thinly-veiled campaign move and takes her in. **Critics: 4-4-5**

7. **Belle** (PG) (2014) The true story about Dido Elizabeth Belle, a mixed race illegitimate girl taken in by her Great Uncle, Lord Mansfield, a renowned judge with wealth and prestige. Belle is a very fine period piece that will keep viewers entertained throughout. A wonderful movie that has both romance and historical importance. Extremely well produced, the story and movie is right up there with the works of Jane Austin, with beautiful costuming and set design. **Critics: 8-7-7-8**

8. **Big Eyes** (PG-13) (2014) (Amy Adams, Christoph Waltz) A drama about the awakening of the painter Margaret Keane, her phenomenal success in the 1950s, and the subsequent legal difficulties she had with her husband, who claimed credit for her works in the 1960s. **Critics: 7-7-6**

9. **Big Hero 6** (PG) (2014) (voices of Ryan Potter, Scott Adsit) Disney animation, with heart and humor. "Big Hero 6" is an action-packed comedy-adventure about robotics prodigy Hiro Hamada, who learns to harness his genius-thanks to his brilliant brother Tadashi and their like-minded friends: adrenaline junkie Go Go Tamago, neatnik Wasabi, chemistry whiz Honey Lemon and fanboy Fred. When a devastating turn of events catapults them into the midst of a dangerous plot unfolding in the streets of San Fransokyo, Hiro turns to his closest companion-a robot named Baymax-and transforms the group into a band of high-tech heroes determined to solve the mystery. **Critics: 8-9-8**

10. **Book of Life, The** (PG) (2014) (voices of Diego Luna, Zoe Saldana) From producer Guillermo del Toro and director Jorge Gutierrez comes an animated comedy with a unique visual style. The Book Of Life is the journey of Manolo, a young man who is torn between fulfilling the expectations of his family and following his heart. Before choosing which path to follow, he embarks on an incredible adventure that spans three fantastical worlds where he must face his greatest fears. Rich with a fresh take on pop music favorites, The Book Of Life encourages us to celebrate the past while looking forward to the future. **Critics: 8-7-7**

11. **Boxtrolls, The** (PG) (2014) (voices of Isaac Hempstead-Wright, Ben Kingsley) Animated. A young orphaned boy raised by underground cave-dwelling trash collectors tries to save his friends from an evil exterminator. Based on the children's novel 'Here Be Monsters' by Alan Snow. **Critics: 7-7-6**

12. **Captain America: The Winter Soldier** (PG-13) (2014) (Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson) After being deemed unfit for military service, Steve Rogers volunteers for a top secret research project that turns him into Captain America, a superhero dedicated to defending America's ideals. **Critics: 8-9-7**

13. **Cesar Chavez** (PG-13) (2014) (Michael Pena, America Ferrera). It chronicles the birth of a modern American movement led by famed civil rights leader and labor organizer, Cesar Chavez. He embraced non-violence as he battled greed and prejudice in his struggle for the rights of farm workers. His triumphant journey is a remarkable testament to the power of one individual's ability to change the system. **Critics: 8-3-4**

14. **Dawn of the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) (2014) (Andy Serkis, Jason Clarke) A growing nation of genetically evolved apes led by Caesar is threatened by a band of human survivors of the devastating virus unleashed a decade...
earlier. They reach a fragile peace, but it proves short-lived, as both sides are brought to the brink of a war that will determine who will emerge as Earth's dominant species. **Critics: 8-8-7**

15. **Deliver Us From Evil** (R) (2014) (Eric Bana, Edgar Ramirez) Allegedly based on true events. A New York policeman who must stop a satanic cult leader. To do so he must regain his Christian faith and pair up with a priest to defeat the demonic power inside the man. The hero goes from having no faith to believing and serving God. He also asks for forgiveness and confesses his sins. The priest is a good representation of Grace. The film contains a lot of scary, sometimes very gruesome, bloody violence. So, caution is advised. **Critics: 6-5-8-4**


17. **Divergent** (PG-13) (2014) (Shailene Woodley, Theo James) In a world divided by factions based on virtues, Tris learns she's Divergent and won't fit in. When she discovers a plot to destroy Divergents, Tris and the mysterious Four must find out what makes Divergents dangerous before it's too late. **Critics: 7-6-7-4**

18. **Dolphin Tale 2** (PG) (2014) (Nathan Gamble, Harry Connick Jr.) The team of people who saved Winter's life reassemble in the wake of her surrogate mother's passing in order to find her a companion so she can remain at the Clearwater Marine Hospital. **Critics: 6-7-6**

19. **Double, The** (PG-13) (2014) Eisenberg plays Simon, a timid, isolated man who's overlooked at work, scorned by his mother, and ignored by the woman of his dreams (Wasikowska). The arrival of a new co-worker, James (also played by Eisenberg), serves to upset the balance. James is both Simon's exact physical double and his opposite - confident, charismatic and good with women. To Simon's horror, James slowly starts taking over his life. **Critics: 7-5-6-7**

20. **Draft Day** (PG-13) (2014) (Kevin Costner, Jennifer Garner) On the day of the NFL Draft, general manager Sonny Weaver has the opportunity to save football in Cleveland when he trades for the number one pick. He must quickly decide what he's willing to sacrifice in pursuit of perfection as the lines between his personal and professional life get blurred on a life-changing day for a few hundred young men with dreams of playing in the NFL. **Critics: 7-6**

21. **Drop, The** (R) (2014) (Tom Hardy, James Gandolfini) Bob Saginowski finds himself at the center of a robbery gone awry and entwined in an investigation that digs deep into the neighborhood's past where friends, families, and foes all work together to make a living - no matter the cost. **Critics: 8-7-7**

22. **Earth to Echo** (PG) (2014) (Teo Halm, Astro) After receiving a bizarre series of encrypted messages, a group of kids embark on an adventure with an alien who needs their help. **Critics: 6-5-5-5**

23. **Edge of Tomorrow** (PG-13) (2014) (Tom Cruise, Emily Blunt) An officer finds himself caught in a time loop in a war with an alien race. His skills increase as he faces the same brutal combat scenarios, and his union with a Special Forces warrior gets him closer and closer to defeating the enemy. **Critics: 7-9-8-6**

24. **Exodus: Gods and Kings** (R) (2014) (Christian Bale, Joel Edgerton) The defiant leader Moses rises up against the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses, setting 600,000 slaves on a monumental journey of escape from Egypt and its terrifying cycle of deadly plagues. **Critics: 3-6-4**

25. **Expendables 3, The** (PG-13) (2014) (Sylvester Stallone, Mel Gibson) Barney augments his team with new blood for a personal battle: to take down Conrad Stonebanks, the Expendables co-founder and notorious arms trader who is hell bent on wiping out Barney and every single one of his associates. **Critics: 4-6-5**

26. **Foxcatcher** (R) (2014) (Steve Carell, Channing Tatum) Psychological drama tells the story of Olympic Gold Medal-winning wrestler Mark Schultz, who sees a way out from the shadow of his more celebrated wrestling brother Dave and a life of poverty when he is summoned by eccentric multi-millionaire John du Pont to move onto his estate and train for the 1988 Seoul Olympics. Based on actual events of fragile men who pinned their hopes for love and redemption on a desperate obsession for greatness that was to end in tragedy. **Critics: 8-7-6**

27. **French Minister, The** (NR) (2014) (Thierry Lhermitte, Raphaël Personnaz) Semi-fictional satire about France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the lead-up to America's invasion of Iraq. Arthur is an autobiographical character — created by Antonin Baudry, who co-scripted the film — and his boss is a barely veiled version of Dominique de Villepin, who was foreign minister in 2003. **Critics: 7-6-6-8**

28. **Gabby Douglas Story, The** (NR-TV) (2014) (Regina King, Imani Hakim, Sydney Mikayla) The story of the gymnastics phenomenon who overcame overwhelming odds to become the first African American ever to win the gold medal for Individual All-Around in artistic gymnastics at the Olympic Games. **Critics: 7-7**

29. **Gimme Shelter** (PG-13) (2014) (Vanessa Hudgens, Rosario Dawson, Brendan Fraser) A pregnant teenager flees her abusive mother in search of her father, only to be rejected by her dad and forced to survive on the streets until a compassionate stranger offers a hopeful alternative. **Critics: 6-6**
30. **Giver, The** (PG-13) (2014) (Brenton Thwaites, Jeff Bridges) In a seemingly perfect community, without war, pain, suffering, differences or choice, a young boy is chosen to learn from an elderly man about the true pain and pleasure of the "real" world. Critics: 5-6-4

31. **God's Not Dead** (PG) (2014) (Shane Harper, Kevin Sorbo) Josh is a present-day college freshman and devout Christian who finds his faith challenged on his first day of Philosophy class by a dogmatic and argumentative Professor. If Josh will not admit that "God Is Dead," the professor challenges him to prove God's existence or he will fail the course and hinder his lofty academic goals. Critics: 5-4-6

32. **Godzilla** (PG-13) (2014) (Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Elizabeth Olsen) The world's most famous monster is pitted against malevolent creatures who, bolstered by humanity's scientific arrogance, threaten our very existence. Critics: 7-7-5

33. **Good Lie, The** (PG-13) (2014) (Reese Witherspoon, Arnold Oceng) Sudanese refugees given the chance to resettle in America arrive in Kansas, where their encounter with employment agency counselor forever changes all of their lives. Critics: 7-8-7

34. **Guardians of the Galaxy** (PG-13) (2014) (Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana) A group of space criminals must work together to stop a fanatic from destroying the galaxy. Critics: 8-9-7

35. **Heaven Is For Real** (PG) (2014) (Greg Kinnear, Kelly Reilly) Based on the true story of a small-town father who must find the courage to share his son's experience: Colton claims to have visited Heaven during a near death experience, and recounts the details of his journey with childlike innocence and speaks matter-of-factly about things that happened before his birth ... things he couldn't possibly know. Critics: 5-6-5

36. **Hobbit, The: The Battle of the Five Armies** (PG-13) (2014) (Martin Freeman, Richard Armitage) The third in a trilogy of films adapting the enduringly popular masterpiece The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien. "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" brings to an epic conclusion the adventures of Bilbo Baggins, Thorin Oakenshield and the Company of Dwarves. Having reclaimed their homeland from the Dragon Smaug, the Company has unwittingly unleashed a deadly force into the world. Enraged, Smaug rains his fiery wrath down upon the defenseless men, women and children of Lake-town. Obsessed above all else with his reclaimed treasure, Thorin sacrifices friendship and honor tohoard it as Bilbo's frantic attempts to make him see reason drive the Hobbit towards a desperate and dangerous choice. But there are even greater dangers ahead. Unseen by any but the Wizard Gandalf, the great enemy Sauron has sent forth legions of Orcs in a stealth attack upon the Lonely Mountain. As darkness converges on their escalating conflict, the races of Dwarves, Elves and Men must decide - unite or be destroyed. Bilbo finds himself fighting for his life and the lives of his friends in the epic Battle of the Five Armies, as the future of Middle-earth hangs in the balance. Critics: 7-7-5

37. **How to Train Your Dragon 2** (PG) (2014) (voices of Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler) DreamWorks Animation returns to the world of dragons and Vikings in this sequel to their successful 2010 outing How to Train Your Dragon. The original film followed the exploits of a Viking chief's son, who must capture a dragon in order to mark his passage into manhood and prove his worthiness to the tribe. Critics: 9-7-9-7


39. **Hunger Games, The: Mockingjay - Part 1** (PG-13) (2014) (Jennifer Lawrence, Julianne Moore) Under the leadership of President Coin and the advice of her trusted friends, Katniss spreads her wings as she fights to save Peeta and a nation moved by her courage. Critics: 7-7-5

40. **Identical, The** (PG) (2014) (Blake Rayne, Ray Liotta) Twin brothers are unknowingly separated at birth; one of them becomes an iconic rock 'n' roll star, while the other struggles to balance his love for music and pleasing his father. Critics: 4-7-4

41. **Interstellar** (PG-13) (2014) (Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway) In the near future, Earth has been devastated by drought and famine, causing a scarcity in food and extreme changes in climate. When humanity is facing extinction, a mysterious rip in the space-time continuum is discovered, giving mankind the opportunity to widen its lifespan. A group of explorers must travel beyond our solar system in search of a planet that can sustain life. The crew of the Endurance are required to think bigger and go further than any human in history as they embark on an interstellar voyage into the unknown. Coop, the pilot of the Endurance, must decide between seeing his children again and the future of the human race. Critics: 9-8-7

42. **Into The Storm** (PG-13) (2014) (Richard Armitage, Sarah Wayne Callies) Storm trackers, thrill-seekers, and everyday townspeople document an unprecedented onslaught of tornadoes touching down in the town of Silvertown. Critics: 3-6-4

43. **Into the Woods** (PG) (2014) (Anna Kendrick, Meryl Streep) Musical."Into the Woods" is a modern twist on several of the beloved Brothers Grimm fairy tales, intertwining the plots of a few choice stories and exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. This humorous and heartfelt musical follows the classic tales of Cin-
derella (Anna Kendrick), Little Red Riding Hood (Lila Crawford), Jack and the Beanstalk (Daniel Huttlestone), and Rapunzel (MacKenzie Mauzy)—all tied together by an original story involving a baker and his wife (James Corden & Emily Blunt), their wish to begin a family and their interaction with the witch (Meryl Streep) who has put a curse on them. **Critics: 7-7-6**

44. **Island of Lemurs: Madagascar** (G) (2014) (Documentary) A documentary that follows Dr. Patricia C. Wright's mission to help lemurs, the highly evolved creatures that arrived on Madagascar millions of years ago as castaways but are now highly endangered. **Critics: 7-7-7**

45. **Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit** (PG-13) (2014) (Chris Pine, Kevin Costner) Jack Ryan, as a young covert CIA analyst, uncovers a Russian plot to crash the U.S. economy with a terrorist attack. **Critics: 6-7-5-6**

46. **Jappeloup** (NR) (2014) (G. Canet, M. Hands) At the start of the 1980s, Pierre Durand abandoned a promising legal career and threw himself into his true passion, showjumping. He gambled everything on a young horse who no one else had any faith in: Jappeloup. Too small, too stubborn, too impetuous, he had many faults, but nonetheless had a remarkable jumping ability. **Critics: 7-7-7**

47. **Kill the Messenger** (R) (2014) (Jeremy Renner, Rosemarie DeWitt) A reporter becomes the target of a vicious smear campaign that drives him to the point of suicide after he exposes the CIA's role in arming Contra rebels in Nicaragua and importing cocaine into California. Based on the true story of journalist Gary Webb. **Critics: 7-7-6**

48. **Left Behind** (PG-13) (2014) (Nicholas Cage, Cassi Thomson) A small group of survivors are left behind after millions of people suddenly vanish and the world is plunged into chaos and destruction. **Critics: 6-4-3-4**

49. **Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return** (PG) (2014) (voices of Lea Michele, Dan Aykroyd) Dorothy wakes up in post-tornado Kansas, only to be whisked back to Oz to try to save her old friends the Scarecrow, the Lion, the Tin Man and Glinda from a new villain, the Jester, and to restore order and happiness to Emerald City. **Critics: 5-6-5-6**

50. **LEGO Movie, The** (PG) (2014) (voices of Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks) A full-length theatrical LEGO adventure. The animated story follows an ordinary, rules-following, perfectly average LEGO minifigure who is mistakenly identified as the most extraordinary person and the key to saving the world. **Critics: 8-9-7**

51. **Locke** (R) (2014) (Tom Hardy, Olivia Colman) Locke is a riveting movie, even though the story takes place entirely inside a car over 90 minutes. It plays like a morality tale. One bad mistake, tears the protagonist's life apart, but he bares the consequences willingly, trying to reconcile with those he's hurt. **Critics: 7-8-9-8**

52. **Lunchbox, The** (PG) (2014) (Irrfan Khan, Nimrat Kaur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui) A mistaken delivery in Mumbai's famously efficient lunchbox delivery system connects a young housewife to an older man in the dusk of his life as they build a fantasy world together through notes in the lunchbox. **Critics: 8-7-9-8**

53. **Maleficent** (PG) (2014) (Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning) A vengeful fairy is driven to curse an infant princess, only to discover that the child may be the one person who can restore peace to their troubled land. **Critics: 6-7-6-6**

54. **Maze Runner, The** (R) (2014) (Dylan O'Brien, Aml Ameen) Thomas is deposited in a community of boys after his memory is erased, soon learning with the maze that will require him to join forces with fellow “runners” for a shot at escape. **Critics: 7-7-6**

55. **Million Dollar Arm** (PG) (2014) (Jon Hamm, Suraj Sharma) A sports agent stages an unconventional recruitment strategy to get talented Indian cricket players to play Major League Baseball. **Critics: 7-6-6-7**

56. **Moms' Night Out** (PG) (2014) (Sarah Drew, Patricia Heaton) A comedy adventure that will bless many mo. Allyson is a mother of three, and she's exhausted. She plans a fun evening with her best friend, Izzy, and her mentor, Sondra. Saturday comes. The children are left with the husbands, but some unexpected events send the moms and dads on a hilarious adventure with trials and tribulations. The movie delivers an uplifting message of motherhood. **Critics: 7-6-7-5**

57. **Monuments Men, The** (PG-13) (2014) (George Clooney, Cate Blanchett). Based on the true story of the greatest treasure hunt in history, The Monuments Men is an action drama focusing on an unlikely World War II platoon, tasked by FDR with going into Germany to rescue artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves and returning them to their rightful owners. **Critics: 6-4-4**

58. **Most Wanted Man, A** (R) (2014) (Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rachel McAdams) A Chechen Muslim illegally immigrates to Hamburg, where he gets caught in the international war on terror. **Critics: 8-7-6**

59. **Mr. Peabody & Sherman** (PG) (2014) (voices of Ty Burrell, Max Charles) Animated: The time-travelling adventures of an advanced canine and his adopted son, as they endeavor to fix a time rift they created. **Critics: 7-7-6**

60. **Muppets Most Wanted** (PG) (2014) (Kermit, Miss Piggy) While on a grand world tour, The Muppets find themselves wrapped into an European jewel-heist caper headed by a Kermit the Frog look-alike and his dastardly sidekick. **Critics: 7-7-5**

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61. **Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb** (PG) (2014) (Ben Stiller, Robin Williams) A new adventure-filled Night At the Museum where Larry (Ben Stiller) spans the globe, uniting favorite and new characters while embarking on an epic quest to save the globe before it is gone forever. **Critics: 5-6-4**

62. **Noah** (PG-13) (2014) (Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly) Noah stars Russell Crowe as the biblical patriarch who builds an ark when the Creator gives him visions of a worldwide flood coming to wipe out evil men. It is an epic adventure story, with a nice ending that wraps everything up on a hopeful, inspiring note. In the ending, a conflicted Noah learns that the Creator is a God of mercy and love, not only justice. It inserts some extra-biblical material into the story, to build tension and give the story a dramatic three-act structure. **Critics: 6-8-8-6**

63. **Non-Stop** (PG-13) (2014) (Liam Neeson, Julianne Moore) Suspense thriller. During a transatlantic flight U.S. Air Marshal Bill Marks receives a series of cryptic text messages demanding that he instruct the government to transfer $150 million into an offshore account. Until he secures the money, a passenger on his flight will be killed every 20 minutes. **Critics: 7-7-4**

64. **Nut Job, The** (PG) (2014) (voices of Will Arnett, Katherine Heigl) Animated. An incorrigibly self-serving exiled squirrel finds himself helping his former park brethren raid a nut store to survive, that is also the front for a human gang's bank robbery. **Critics: 5-5-5**

65. **Penguins of Madagascar** (PG) (2014) (voices of Tom McGrath, Chris Miller) Skipper, Kowalski, Rico and Private join forces with undercover organization The North Wind to stop the villainous Dr. Octavius Brine from destroying the world as we know it. **Critics: 6-7-6**

66. **Planes: Fire & Rescue** (PG) (2014) (voices of Dane Cook, Ed Harris) Animated. When Dusty learns that his engine is damaged and he may never race again, he joins a forest fire and rescue unit to be trained as a firefighter. **Critics: 5-5-5**

67. **Pompeii** (PG-13) (2014) (Kit Harington, Emily Browning) Set in 79 A.D., Pompeii tells the epic story of a slave turned invincible gladiator who finds himself in a race against time to save his true love. As Mount Vesuvius erupts in a torrent of blazing lava, he must fight his way out of the arena in order to save his beloved as the once magnificent Pompeii crumbles around him. **Critics: 3-6-4**

68. **Railway Man, The** (R) (2014) (Colin Firth, Nicole Kidman) The extraordinary and epic true story of a British Army officer tormented as a prisoner of war at a Japanese labor camp during World War II. Decades later, he discovers that the Japanese interpreter responsible for much of his treatment is still alive and sets out to confront him, and his haunting past, in this tale of heroism, humanity and the redeeming power of love. **Critics: 6-6-5**

69. **Rio 2** (G) (2014) (voices of Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway) Animated. It's a jungle out there for Blu, Jewel and their three kids in RIO 2, after they're hurtled from that magical city to the wilds of the Amazon. As Blu tries to fit in, he goes beak-to-beak with the vengeful Nigel, and meets the most fearsome adversary of all - his father-in-law. **Critics: 5-4-4**

70. **Rover, The** (R) (2014) (Guy Pearce, Robert Pattinson) 10 years after a global economic collapse, a hardened loner pursues the men who stole his only possession, his car. He captures one of the thieves' brother, and the duo form an uneasy bond during the dangerous journey. **Critics: 7-5-6-6**

71. **Saving Christmas** (PG) (2014) (Kirk Cameron, Darren Doane) Kirk is enjoying the annual Christmas party extravaganza thrown by his sister until he realizes he needs to help out Christian, his brother-in-law who has a bad case of the bah-humbugs. Kirk's fresh look at Christmas provides Christian the chance to see Christ is where He has a l-

72. **Selma** (PG-13) (2014) (David Oyelowo, Carmen Ejogo) SELMA is the story of a movement. The film chronicles the tumultuous three-month period in 1965, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led a dangerous campaign to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition. The epic march from Selma to Montgomery culminated in President Johnson (Tom Wilkinson) signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement. Director Ava DuVernays SELMA tells the real story of how the revered leader and visionary Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (David Oyelowo) and his brothers and sisters in the movement prompted change that forever altered history. **Critics: 6-8-8**

73. **Sherlock (III-1): The Empty Hearse** (NR-TV Show) (2014) (Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman) Mycroft calls Sherlock back to London to investigate an underground terrorist organization. **Critics: 9-8-9**

74. **Sherlock (III-2): The Sign of Three** (NR-TV Show) (2014) (Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman) Sherlock tries to give the perfect best man speech at John's wedding when he suddenly realizes a murder is about to take place. **Critics: 9-8-9**

75. **Sherlock (III-3): His Last Vow** (NR-TV Show) (2014) (Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman) Sherlock goes up against notorious blackmailer Charles Augustus Magnussen. **Critics: 9-9-9**
76. **Snowpiercer** (R) (2014) (Chris Evans, Jamie Bell) Dystopian epic. A failed global-warming experiment kills off most life on the planet. The final survivors board a train that travels around the globe via a perpetual-motion engine. When cryptic messages incite the passengers to revolt, the train thrusts full-throttle towards disaster. **Critics:** 7-8-7

77. **Son of God** (PG-13) (2014) (Diogo Morgado, Roma Downey) The life story of Jesus is told from his humble birth through his teachings, crucifixion and ultimate resurrection. **Critics:** 5-5-6

78. **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** (PG-13) (2014) (Megan Fox, Will Arnett) When a kingpin threatens New York City, a news reporter finds a quartet of mutants which makes an alliance to unravel Shredder's plan as the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **Critics:** 3-6-3

79. **Theory of Everything, The** (PG-13) (2014) (Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones) This is the story of one of the world's greatest living minds, the renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, who falls deeply in love with fellow Cambridge student Jane Wilde. Once a healthy, active young man, Hawking received an earth-shattering diagnosis at 21 years of age. With Jane fighting tirelessly by his side, Stephen embarks on his most ambitious scientific work, studying the very thing he now has precious little of - time. Together, they defy impossible odds, breaking new ground in medicine and science, and achieving more than they could ever have dreamed. **Critics:** 8-8-7

80. **Transcendence** (PG-13) (2014) (Johnny Depp, Rebecca Hall) Sci-Fi Thriller. Dr. Will Caster is the foremost researcher in the field of Artificial Intelligence. His highly controversial experiments have made him famous, but they have also made him the prime target of anti-technology extremists who will do whatever it takes to stop him. However, in their attempt to destroy Will, they inadvertently become the catalyst for him to succeed-to be a participant in his own transcendence. **Critics:** 3-6-4

81. **Un Dios Prohibido** (NR) (2014) August 1936, the beginning of the Spanish Civil War. 51 members of the Claretean community of Barbastro (Huesca) die for their faith. The film recounts the last weeks of his life, since they are held until they are finally shot. During that time, they perform various writings they talk about their situation, of his fellow captives, people who saw them. These writings have been the basic testimony used to narrate this real fact in film version **Critics:** 6

82. **Unbroken** (PG-13) (2014) (Jack O'Connell, Miyavi) UNBROKEN is a powerful biographical movie about the life of Louis Zamperini, who became a famous evangelist. The son of Italian immigrants, Louie goes from being a mischievous young boy to an Olympic runner at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. When World War II begins, Louie joins the Air Force, but a tragic malfunction causes his plane to crash one day. Only Louie and two men survive. Stranded for weeks on a raft, Louie and the other men strive to survive, but bad goes to worse when they're taken by the Japanese army as prisoners of war. Through extreme hardships, Louie refuses to give up. **Critics:** 6-6-6

83. **When The Game Stands Tall** (PG) (2014) (Jim Caviezel, Alexander Ludwig) The journey of legendary football coach Bob Ladouceur, who took the De La Salle High School Spartans from obscurity to a 151-game winning streak that shattered all records for any American sport. **Critics:** 7-5

84. **Whiplash** (R) (2014) (Miles Teller, J.K. Simmons) Andrew Neyman is an ambitious young jazz drummer, single-minded in his pursuit to rise to the top of his elite east coast music conservatory. Plagued by the failed writing career of his father, Andrew hungers day and night to become one of the greats. Terence Fletcher, an instructor equally known for his teaching talents as for his terrifying methods, leads the top jazz ensemble in the school. Fletcher discovers Andrew and transfers the aspiring drummer into his band, forever changing the young man's life. Andrew's passion to achieve perfection quickly spirals into obsession, as his ruthless teacher continues to push him to the brink of both his ability-and his sanity. **Critics:** 8-8-8

85. **Young and Prodigious T.S, Spivet, The** (NR) (2014) (Kyle Catlett, Helena Bonham Carter). A ten-year-old cartographer secretly leaves his family's ranch in Montana where he lives with his cowboy father and scientist mother and travels across the country aboard a freight train to receive an award at the Smithsonian Institute. **Critics:** 7-8-8

**2013 releases:**

1. **“7th Floor, The”** (R) (2013) (Ricardo Darín, Belén Rueda) A father gets into a desperate search to find his children who disappeared while going down stairs from their apartment in the seventh floor. **Critics:** 5-6

2. **42** (PG-13) (2013) (Chadwick Boseman, Harrison Ford) The life story of Jackie Robinson and his history-making signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers under the guidance of team executive Branch Rickey. **Critics:** 7-7-7

3. **47 Ronin** (PG-13) (2013) (Keanu Reeves, Tadanobu Asano) A band of samurai set out to avenge the death and dishonor of their master at the hands of a ruthless shogun. **Critics:** 5-6-4

4. **After Earth** (PG-13) (2013) (Will Smith, Jaden Smith) A crash landing leaves Kitai Raige and his father Cypher stranded on Earth, a millennium after events forced humanity's escape. With Cypher injured, Kitai must embark on a perilous journey to signal for help. **Critics:** 4-5-7-4
5. *Ain't Them Bodies Saints* (R) (2013) (Rooney Mara, Casey Affleck) The tale of an outlaw who escapes from prison and sets out across the Texas hills to reunite with his wife and the daughter he has never met. Critics: 7-7-7

6. *All Is Lost* (PG-13) (2013) (Robert Redford) After a collision with a shipping container at sea, a resourceful sailor finds himself, despite all efforts to the contrary, staring his mortality in the face. Critics: 8-7-8

7. *Black Nativity* (PG) (2013) (Jacob Latimore, Forest Whitaker) A street-wise teen from Baltimore who has been raised by a single mother travels to New York City to spend the Christmas holiday with his estranged relatives, where he embarks on a surprising and inspirational journey. Critics: 4-4-4

8. *Book Thief, The* (PG-13) (2013) (Sophie Nelisse, Geoffrey Rush) While subjected to the horrors of World War II Germany, young Liesel finds solace by stealing books and sharing them with others. Under the stairs in her home, a Jewish refugee is being sheltered by her adoptive parents. Critics: 6-7-5

9. *Cage, The* (Foyle’s War, 2013, NR-TV, Season 8, episode 2) Foyle's investigation into the death of a nameless Russian leads to a mysterious military facility and the discovery that the victim was a spy with dangerous connections to British intelligence. Critics: 8-7


11. *Christmas Candle, The* (PG) (2013) (Hans Matheson, Samantha Barks) Deep in the heart of the English countryside lies the enchanting village of Gladbury. Legend has it every 25 years an angel visits the village candlemaker and touches a single candle. Whoever lights this candle receives a miracle on Christmas Eve. But when the candle goes missing, the miraculous and human collide in the most astonishing Christmas the village of Gladbury has ever seen. Critics: 2-4-8-4

12. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2* (PG) (2013) (voices of Bill Hader, Anna Faris) Flint Lockwood now works at The Live Corp Company for his idol Chester V. But he’s forced to leave his post when he learns that his most infamous machine is still operational and is churning out menacing food-animal hybrids. Critics: 6-6-6


15. *Croods, The* (PG) (2013) (voices of Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage) Animated. After their cave is destroyed, a cave family must trek through an unfamiliar fantastical world with the help of an inventive boy. Critics: 7-9-6

16. *Dear Mr. Watterson* (NR-Doc) (2013) Dear Mr. Watterson introduces us to numerous people who were profoundly influenced by the philosophical and very warmhearted comic strip created and written by Bill Watterson, who has studiously avoided the spotlight since ending the strip in 1995. Nearly two decades later, the film showcases how the collected works of Watterson still speak to readers everywhere. Critics: 6-6-5

17. *Despicable Me 2* (PG) (2013) (voices of Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig) Gru is recruited by the Anti-Villain League to help deal with a powerful new super criminal. Critics: 7-7-6

18. *Elysium* (R) (2013) (Matt Damon, Jodie Foster) Set in the year 2154, where the very wealthy live on a man-made space station while the rest of the population resides on a ruined Earth, a man takes on a mission that could bring equality to the polarized worlds. Critics: 7-7-6

19. *Emperor* (PG-13) (2013) (Matthew Fox, Tommy Lee Jones) As the Japanese surrender at the end of WWII, Gen. Fellers is tasked with deciding if Emperor Hirohito will be hanged as a war criminal. Influencing his ruling is his quest to find Aya, an exchange student he met years earlier in the U.S. Critics: 6-6-4


21. *Epic* (PG) (2013) (voices of Amanda Seyfried, Josh Hutcherson) A teenager finds herself transported to a deep forest setting where a battle between the forces of good and the forces of evil is taking place. She bands together with a rag-tag group characters in order to save their world -- and ours. Critics: 6-6-5


23. *Escape Plan* (R) (2013) (Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger) When a structural-security authority finds himself set up and incarcerated in the world's most secret and secure prison, he has to use his skills to escape with help from the inside. Critics: 6-7-5

Titles within quotation marks are originally in a foreign language. Underlined: my recommendation. November 4, 2014 Page 1
24. **Eternity Ring, The** (Foyle’s War, 2013, NR-TV, Season 8, episode 1) MI5 suspects British atomic research has been infiltrated, and ask Foyle to investigate whether a Russian spy network could be at work in the heart of London. Critics: 8-9


26. **“Fill the Void”** (2013) (Hadas Yaron, Yiftach Klein) A young Hasidic Jewish woman is pressured into an arranged levirate marriage to an older widower. Critics: 6-7-6

27. **Free Birds** (PG) (2013) (voices of Owen Wilson, Woody Harrelson) Two turkeys from opposite sides of the tracks must put aside their differences and team up to travel back in time to change the course of history - and get turkey off the holiday menu for good. Critics: 3-5-3

28. **Frozen** (PG) (2013) (voices of Kristen Bell, Josh Gad) 8-8 Fearless optimist Anna teams up with Kristoff in an epic journey, encountering Everest-like conditions, and a hilarious snowman named Olaf in a race to find Anna’s sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom in eternal winter. Critics: 8-8-7

29. **Getaway** (PG-13) (2013) (Ethan Hawke, Selena Gomez) Former race-car driver Brent Magna is pitted against the clock when his wife is kidnapped by a mysterious villain. He commandeers a young woman’s car and takes her on on a high-speed race against time. Critics: 4-2-4

30. **Good Day to Die Hard, A** (R) (2013) (Bruce Willis, Jai Courtney) John McClane travels to Russia to help out his seemingly wayward son, Jack, only to discover that Jack is a CIA operative working to prevent a nuclear-weapons heist, causing the father and son to team up against underworld forces. Critics: 4-5-6-5

31. **Grandmaster, The** (PG-13) (2013) (Tony Leung Chiu Wai, Ziyi Zhang) Epic action feature inspired by the life and times of the legendary kung fu master, Ip Man. The story spans the tumultuous Republican era that followed the fall of China’s last dynasty, a time of chaos, division and war that was also the golden age of Chinese martial arts. Critics: 6-7-5

32. **Grand Piano** (R) (2013) (Elijah Wood, John Cusack) Moments before his comeback performance, a concert pianist who suffers from stage fright discovers a note written on his music sheet. Critics: 5-6-6

33. **Gravity** (PG-13) (2013) (Sandra Bullock, George Clooney) A medical engineer and an astronaut work together to survive after an accident leaves them adrift in space. Critics: 9-8-9-8

34. **Hobbit, The: The Desolation of Smaug** (PG-13) (2013) (Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen) The dwarves, along with Bilbo Baggins and Gandalf the Grey, continue their quest to reclaim Erebor, their homeland, from Smaug. Bilbo Baggins is in possession of a mysterious and magical ring. Critics: 8-8-4

35. **Insidious: Chapter 2** (PG-13) (2013) (Patrick Wilson, Rose Byrne) The haunted Lambert family seeks to uncover the mysterious childhood secret that has left them dangerously connected to the spirit world. Critics: 5-7-6

36. **Jack the Giant Slayer** (PG-13) (2013) (Nicholas Hoult, Stanley Tucci) The ancient war between humans and a race of giants is reignited when Jack, a young farmhand fighting for a kingdom and the love of a princess, opens a gateway between the two worlds. Critics: 6-6-7

37. **Justin and the Knights of Valour** (PG) (2013) Animated. A young boy becomes a man as he embarks on a quest to become a knight. Critics: 4-3-6

38. **Last Stand, The** (R) (2013) (Arnold Schwarzenegger, Eduardo Noriega) The leader of a drug cartel busts out of a courthouse and speeds to the Mexican border, where the only thing in his path is a sheriff and his inexperienced staff. Critics: 6-7-4

39. **Lee Daniels’ The Butler** (PG-13) (2013) (Forest Whitaker, David Oyelowo) As Cecil Gaines serves eight presidents during his tenure as a butler at the White House, the civil rights movement, Vietnam, and other major events affect this man’s life, family, and American society. Critics: 6-7-4

40. **“Like Father, Like Son”** (NR) (2013) (Masaharu Fukuyama, Machiko Ono) Ryota Nonomiya is a successful businessman driven by money. When he learns that his biological son was switched with another child after birth, he must make a life-changing decision and choose his true son or the boy he raised as his own. Critics: 8-6-8


42. **Lone Survivor** (R) (2013) (Mark Wahlberg, Taylor Kitsch) . Marcus Luttrell and his team set out on a mission to capture or kill notorious al Qaeda leader Ahmad Shahd, in late June 2005. Marcus and his team are left to fight for their lives in one of the most valiant efforts of modern warfare. Critics: 8-8-8-6

43. **Mama** (PG-13) (2013) (Jessica Chastain, Megan Charpentier) Horror. Annabel and Lucas are faced with the challenge of raising his young nieces that were left alone in the forest for 5 years.... but how alone were they? Critics: 5
44. Man of Steel (PG-13) (2013) (Henry Cavill, Amy Adams) A young itinerant worker is forced to confront his secret extraterrestrial heritage when Earth is invaded by members of his race. **Critics: 7-7-6**

45. Man of Tai Chi (R) (2013) (Tiger Hu Chen, Keanu Reeves, Karen Mok) Tiger Chen is a Tai Chi student who is rather rebellious and uses Tai Chi to fight despite his master's concerns. When the temple where he studies get threatened from modern redevelopment, he fights in an underground fight club to get money the temple needs. However he soon realizes that his employer has other negative motives. **Critics: 6-6**

46. Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (PG-13) (2013) (Idris Elba, Naomie Harris) A chronicle of Nelson Mandela's life journey from his childhood in a rural village through to his inauguration as the first democratically elected president of South Africa. **Critics: 6-6**

47. "Mary's Land" (NR) (2013) (Juan Manuel Cotelo, Carmen Losa) An investigation of conversions and Marian apparitions by a fictional Devil's Advocate belonging to an atheist secret society. Fresh, daring, humorous, inspiring, not at all pietistic. Good apologetics. **Critics: 7-7-7**

48. Metallica: Through the Never (R) (2013) (Metallica, Dane DeHaan) Trip, a young roadie for Metallica, is sent on an urgent mission during the band's show. But what seems like a simple assignment turns into a surreal adventure. **Critics: 7-8-7-4**

49. “Minuscule: Valley of the Lost Ants” (NR) (2013) Animated French. In a peaceful forest, the remains of a picnic trigger a ruthless war between rival ant colonies, obsessed with gaining control of the same prize: a box of sugar cubes! Amidst this struggle a young ladybug befriends a black ant and helps him save his people from the horrible red ants... **Critics: 7-7-7**


51. Monsters University (G) (2013) (voices of Billy Crystal, John Goodman) Animated. A look at the relationship between Mike and Sulley during their days at Monsters University -- when they weren't necessarily the best of friends. **Critics: 8-7-5**

52. Nebraska (PG-13) (2013) (Bruce Dern, Will Forte) A father and son road trip, from Billings, Montana to Lincoln, Nebraska that gets waylaid at a small town in central Nebraska, where the father grew up and has scores to settle. Told with deadpan humor and a unique visual style, it's ultimately the story of a son trying to get through to a father he doesn't understand. **Critics: 8-8-7**

53. Olympus Has Fallen (R) (2013) (Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart) Disgraced former Presidential guard Mike Banning finds himself trapped inside the White House in the wake of a terrorist attack; using his inside knowledge, Banning works with national security to rescue the President from his kidnappers. **Critics: 7-7-5**

54. Oz The Great and Powerful (PG) (2013) (James Franco, Mila Kunis) A small-time magician is swept away to an enchanted land and is forced into a power struggle between three witches. **Critics: 6-6-6**

55. Pacific Rim (PG-13) (2013) (Charlie Hunnam, Idris Elba) As a war between humankind and monstrous sea creatures wages on, a former pilot and a trainee are paired up to drive a seemingly obsolete special weapon in a desperate effort to save the world from the apocalypse. **Critics: 4-5-5**

56. “Past, The” (PG-13) (2013) (Berenice Bermejo, Tahar Rahim, Ali Mosaffa) An Iranian man deserts his French wife and her two children to return to his homeland. Meanwhile, his wife starts up a new relationship. But the consequences of infidelity and selfishness can’t be overcome, and the children are the main victims. **Critics: 7-9-8**

57. Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (PG) (2013) (Logan Lerman, Alexandra Daddario) In order to restore their dying safe haven, the son of Poseidon and his friends embark on a quest to the Sea of Monsters to find the mythical Golden Fleece while trying to stop an ancient evil from rising. **Critics: 4-6-5**

58. Planes (PG) (2013) (voices of Dane Cook, Stacy Keach) Dusty is a cropdusting plane who dreams of competing in a famous aerial race. The problem? He is hopelessly afraid of heights. With the support of his mentor Skipper and a host of new friends, Dusty sets off to make his dreams come true. **Critics: 3-5-4**

59. Prisoners (R) (2013) (Hugh Jackman, Jake Gyllenhaal) When Keller Dover's daughter and her friend go missing, he takes matters into his own hands as the police pursue multiple leads and the pressure mounts. But just how far will this desperate father go to protect his family? **Critics: 8-6-8**

60. Red 2 (PG-13) (2013) (Bruce Willis, John Malkovich) Retired C.I.A. agent Frank Moses reunites his unlikely team of elite operatives for a global quest to track down a missing portable nuclear device. **Critics: 4-7-5**

61. Red Line (R) (2013) (Nicole Gale Anderson, John Billingsley) Made by Yellowline. A Los Angeles subway train is brought to a slamming stop, the tunnel partially collapsed, and several people injured. The survivors must figure out what caused it, and must deal with the greater danger that soon faces them. **Critics: 5-5**
62. **Saving Mr. Banks** (PG-13) (2013) (Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks) Author P.L. Travers reflects on her childhood after reluctantly meeting with Walt Disney, who seeks to adapt her Mary Poppins books for the big screen. *Critics: 7-8-7*

63. **Secret Life of Walter Mitty, The** (PG) (2013) (Ben Stiller, Kristen Wiig) A daydreamer escapes his anonymous life by disappearing into a world of fantasies filled with heroism, romance and action. When his job along with that of his co-worker are threatened, he takes action in the real world embarking on a global journey that turns into an adventure more extraordinary than anything he could have ever imagined. *Critics: 7-6-5*

64. "**Simple Life, A**" (NR) (2013) In Cantonese. "Tou ze". After suffering a stroke, an altruistic maid announces that she wants to quit her job and move into an old people's home. *Critics: 7-8-6*

65. **Smurfs, The** (PG) (2013) (Neil Patrick Harris, Hank Azaria) Animated. The Smurfs travel to Paris in an effort to save Smurfette from the clutches of the evil wizard Gargamel, who once again has visions of ruling the world. *Critics: 4-4*

66. **Snitch** (PG-13) (2013) (Dwayne Johnson, Jon Bernthal) A father goes undercover for the DEA in order to free his son who was imprisoned after being set up in drug deal. *Critics: 6-6-6.*

67. **Sunflower** (Foyle's War, 2013, NR-TV, Season 8, episode 3) Foyle is drawn into the bizarre murder of an ex-Nazi defector and leading expert on Soviet intelligence who had been working for MI5. *Critics: 8-8*

68. **Still Life** (NR) (2013) (Eddie Marsan, Joanne Froggatt) A poignant, quixotic tale of life, love and the afterlife. Meticulous and organized to the point of obsession, John May is a council worker charged with finding the next of kin of those who have died alone. When his department is downsized, John must up his efforts on his final case, taking him on a liberating journey that allows him to start living life at last. *Critics: 7-7*

69. **Thor: The Dark World** (PG-13) (2013) (Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman) Thor, the Mighty Avenger, battles to save Earth from an ancient race led by the vengeful Malekith that returns to plunge the universe back into darkness. Thor must embark on his most perilous and personal journey yet, one that will reunite him with Jane Foster and force him to sacrifice everything to save us all. *Critics: 7-7-7*


72. **What Maisie Knew** (R) (2013) (Onata Aprile, Julianne Moore) A contemporary reimagining of Henry James' novel, it tells the story of a captivating little girl's struggle for grace in the midst of her parents' bitter custody battle. Told through the eyes of the title's heroine, Maisie navigates this ever-widening turmoil with a six-year-old's innocence, charm and generosity of spirit. *Critics: 7-7-6*

73. **White House Down** (PG-13) (2013) (Channing Tatum, Jamie Foxx) While on a tour of the White House with his young daughter, a Capitol policeman springs into action to save his child and protect the president from a heavily armed group of paramilitary invaders. *Critics: 7-6-7*

74. “**Wind Rises, The**” (PG-13) (2013) (Dir. Miyazaki) (voices of Hideaki Anno/Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Miori Takimoto/Emily Blunt) Japanese animation. Nearsighted from a young age and unable to be a pilot, Jiro joins a major Japanese engineering company in 1927 and becomes one of the world's most innovative and accomplished airplane designers. *Critics: 8-7-9*

75. **World War Z** (PG-13) (2013) (Brad Pitt, Mireille Enos) United Nations employee Gerry Lane traverses the world in a race against time to stop the Zombie pandemic that is toppling armies and governments, and threatening to destroy humanity itself. *Critics: 7-7-6*

76. “**Zip & Zap and the Marble Gang**” (G) (2013) Spain's most beloved mischief makers, land on the big screen at last in this action-packed escapade, which pits the comic book heroes against the nefarious headmaster of a rural reform school. *Critics: 6-6*

**2012 releases:**

1. **2016: Obama's America** (PG) (2012) (Documentary) A documentary that examines the question, "If Barack Obama wins a second term, where will we be in 2016?" *Critics: 5-6*

2. “**Acacias, The**” (NR) (2012) (German de Silva, Hebe Duarte) From Argentina. A middle-aged truck driver is transporting a load of acacia wood and agrees to bring a young Paraguayan woman and her five-month old daughter with him at the request of his boss, a 1000-mile journey. This is a film of emotional richness that has no extraneous con-
version, enigmatic symbolism, or background music. A film where nothing happens and everything happens, that understands that silence alone is appropriate for what lies beyond words. **Critics: 7-6**

3. **Amazing Spider-Man, The** (PG-13) (2012) (Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone) Peter Parker finds a clue that might help him understand why his parents disappeared when he was young. His path puts him on a collision course with Dr. Curt Connors, his father's former partner. **Critics: 7-8-7**

4. **Avengers, The** (PG-13) (2012) (Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans) Nick Fury is director of S.H.I.E.L.D, an international peace keeping agency. The agency is a who's who of Marvel Super Heroes, with Iron Man, The Incredible Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Hawkeye and Black Widow. When global security is threatened by Loki and his cohorts, Nick Fury and his team will need all their powers to save the world from disaster. **Critics: 9-6-7**

5. **Big Miracle** (PG) (2012) (Drew Barrymore, John Krasinski) After small-town Alaska journalist Adam Carlson writes about three whales trapped in the Arctic Circle, the U.S. and U.S.S.R. team up to rescue them in this tale inspired by true events. **Critics: 7-6-5-7**

6. **Bourne Legacy, The** (PG-13) (2012) (Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz) An expansion of the universe from Robert Ludlum's novels, centered on a new hero whose stakes have been triggered by the events of the previous three films. **Critics: 7-7-6**

7. **Brave** (PG) (2012) (voices of Kelly MacDonald, Billy Connolly) Animated: Determined to make her own path in life, Princess Merida defies a custom that brings chaos to her kingdom. Granted one wish, Merida must rely on her bravery and her archery skills to undo a beastly curse. **Critics: 7-8-6**


9. **“Caesar Must Die”** (NR) (2012) Inmates at a high-security prison in Rome prepare for a public performance of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." **Critics: 7-6-7**

10. **Chimpanzee** (G) (2012) (Documentary) Oscar, a baby chimpanzee is enjoying his life with his mother in the jungles along the Ivory Coast. Without warning, it is orphaned during an attack from a rival group of chimpanzees. Afterwards, he attempts to survive on his own, and to be accepted by the other chimps. But Oscar struggles, until he is surprising adopted by the Alpha Male of his group. **Critics: 6-6**

11. **Chinese Zodiac** (PG-13) (2012) (Jackie Chan, Qi Shu) A globe-trotting adventurer uses high-tech gadgets to seek out priceless relics in this action-packed thrill ride starring the one and only Jackie Chan. **Critics: 6-4**

12. **"Deep, The"** (NR) (2012) Based on a true story, this affecting drama depicts the sinking of an Icelandic fishing trawler and the lone crewmember whose will to survive kept him alive as he swam six hours through frigid and rolling waters to reach safety. Nominated Foreign Movie from Iceland. **Critics: 6-6**

13. **Dr. Seuss' The Lorax** (PG) (2012) (voices of Zac Efron, Ed Helms) A 12-year-old boy searches for the one thing that will enable him to win the affection of the girl of his dreams. To find it he must discover the story of the Lorax, the grumpy yet charming creature who fights to protect his world. **Critics: 6-6**

14. **Duck Dynasty (2012, season 1)** (NR) Series introduces the Robertsons, a Louisiana bayou family living the American dream as they operate a thriving business while staying true to their family values and lifestyle. A home-grown mom-and-pop operation, Duck Commander has become a sporting empire by fabricating top-of-the-line duck calls and decoys out of salvaged swamp wood. But at the end of the day, you can find the whole family around matriarch Miss Kay's dinner table. **Critics: 7**

15. **“Ernest & Celestine”** (PG) (2012) Animated. French. The story of an unlikely friendship between a bear, Ernest, and a young mouse named Celestine. Received standing ovations at Cannes and Toronto. **Critics: 9-7-9-8**

16. **Expendables 2, The** (R) (2012) (Sylvester Stallone, Liam Hemsworth) Mr. Church reunites the Expendables for what should be an easy paycheck, but when one of their men is murdered on the job, their quest for revenge puts them deep in enemy territory and up against an unexpected threat. **Critics: 7-7-4**

17. **For Greater Glory** (R) (2012) (Andy Garcia, Oscar Isaac) A chronicle of the Cristeros War (1926-1929), by the people of Mexico against the atheistic Mexican government. **Critics: 6-7-4**

18. **Frankenweenie** (PG) (2012) (voices of Charlie Tahan, Atticus Shaffer) Animated: Young Victor conducts a science experiment to bring his beloved dog Sparky back to life, only to face unintended, sometimes monstrous, consequences. **Critics: 7-7**

19. **Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance** (PG-13) (2012) (Nicolas Cage, Ciaran Hinds) Johnny Blaze, a man who made a deal with the Devil, is on the run trying to make sure no-one is harmed by his alter ego, The Ghost Rider. He is approached by a Monk named Moreau who tells him that he can help him free of the Devil, but first, he needs Johnny's help to protect a boy, whom the Devil has plans for. **Critics: 4-5**

21. **Hanna Arendt** (NR) (2012) (Barbara Sukowa, Axel Milberg) A look at the life of philosopher and political theorist Hannah Arendt, who reported for The New Yorker on the war crimes trial of the Nazi Adolf Eichmann. **Critics:** 8-7-6

22. **Here Comes the Boom** (PG) (2012) (Kevin James, Salma Hayek) A high school biology teacher loses to become a successful mixed-martial arts fighter in an effort to raise money to prevent extra-curricular activities from being axed at his cash-strapped school. **Critics:** 6-5

23. **“Hijacking, A”** (NR) (2012) (Johan Philip, Soren Malling) The crew of a Danish cargo ship is hijacked by Somali pirates who proceed to engage in escalating negotiations with authorities in Copenhagen. **Critics:** 8-7-9

24. **Hobbit, The: An Unexpected Journey** (PG-13) (2012) (Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen) A younger and more reluctant Hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, sets out on an “unexpected journey” to the Lonely Mountain with a spirited group of Dwarves to reclaim their stolen mountain home from a dragon named Smaug. **Critics:** 8-5

25. **Hotel Transylvania** (PG) (2012) (voices of Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez) Dracula, who operates a high-end resort away from the human world, goes into overprotective mode when a boy discovers the resort and falls for the count’s teen-aged daughter. **Critics:** 7-3

26. **Hunger Games, The** (PG-13) (2012) (Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson) In a dystopian future, the totalitarian nation of Panem is divided between 12 districts and the Capitol. Each year two young representatives from each district are selected by lottery to participate in The Hunger Games. The televised games are broadcast throughout Panem. The 24 participants are forced to eliminate their competitors while the citizens of Panem are required to watch. When 16-year-old Katniss and her male counterpart Peeta are selected, they are pitted against bigger, stronger representatives who have trained for this their whole lives. **Critics:** 8-7-6

27. **Ice Age: Continental Drift** (PG) (2012) (voices of Ray Romano, John Leguizamo) Animated. Manny, Diego, and Sid embark upon another adventure after their continent is set adrift. Using an iceberg as a ship, they encounter sea creatures and battle pirates as they explore a new world. **Critics:** 6-7-6

28. **Into the White** (R) (2012) (Florian Lukas, David Kross) Norway, WWII: A group of British and German soldiers find themselves stranded in the wilderness after an aircraft battle. Finding shelter in the same cabin, they realize the only way to survive the winter is to place the rules of war aside. **Critics:** 7-7-7

29. **“I Wish”** (PG) (2012) (Koki Maeda, Ohshirô Maeda) 12-year-old Koichi, who has been separated from his brother Ryunosuke due to his parents’ divorce, begins to believe that the new bullet train service will create a miracle when the first trains pass each other at top speed. **Critics:** 7-7

30. **Last Ounce of Courage** (PG) (2012) (Marshal Teague, Nikki Novak) The son of a fallen soldier, years after his father's death, tries to reconnect with his grandfather, who is still grieving the loss of his child. **Critics:** 4-2

31. **Leviathan** (NR-Doc.) (2012) In the very waters where Melville's Pequod gave chase to Moby Dick, Leviathan captures the collaborative clash of man, nature, and machine. Shot on a dozen cameras - tossed and tethered, passed from fisherman to filmmaker - it is a cosmic portrait of one of mankind's oldest endeavors. **Critics:** 7-6

32. **Life of Pi** (PG) (2012) (Suraj Sharma, Irrfan Khan) A young man who survives a disaster at sea is hurled into an epic journey of adventure and discovery. While cast away, he forms an unexpected connection with another survivor ... a fearsome Bengal tiger. **Critics:** 8-7

33. **Lincoln** (PG-13) (2012) (Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field) As the Civil War continues to rage, America's president struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield and as he fights with many inside his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the slaves. **Critics:** 7-7

34. **Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted** (PG) (2012) (voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock) Animated. Alex, Marty, Gloria and Melman are still fighting to get home to their beloved Big Apple. Their journey takes them through Europe where they find the perfect cover: a traveling circus, which they reinvent - Madagascar style. **Critics:** 7-7-8

35. **Mirror Mirror** (PG) (2012) (Julia Roberts, Lily Collins) After a beloved King vanishes, his ruthless wife seizes control of the kingdom and keeps her beautiful 18-year-old stepdaughter, Snow White, hidden away in the palace. But when the princess attracts the attention of a charming and wealthy visiting prince, the jealous Queen banishes the girl to a nearby forest. Taken in by a band of rebellious but kindhearted dwarfs, Snow White blossoms into a brave young woman determined to save her country from the Queen. With the support of her new friends, she roars into action to reclaim her birthright and win back her Prince. **Critics:** 6-7-7-4

36. **“No”** (NR) (2012) (Gael Garcia Bernal, Luis Gnecco) From Chile. An ad executive comes up with a campaign to defeat Augusto Pinochet in Chile's 1988 referendum. **Critics:** 8-7-6

37. **October Baby** (PG-13) (2012) (Rachel Hendrix, Jason Burkey) Inspired in the story of pro-life activist Gianna Jessen, who was born prematurely in 1977 after a saline abortion procedure, which left her with cerebral palsy. The
53. Odd Life of Timothy Green, The (PG) (2012) (Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton) A childless couple bury a box in their backyard, containing all of their wishes for an infant. Soon, a child is born, though Timothy Green is not all that he appears. Critics: 7-6-5

39. “Other Son, The” (PG-13) (2012) (Emmanuelle Devos, Pascal Elbé) The moving and provocative tale of two 18-year-old men -- one Israeli, the other Palestinian -- who discover they were accidentally switched at birth, and the complex repercussions facing them and their respective families. Critics: 7-7-7

40. ParaNorman (PG) (2012) (voices of Kodi Smit-McPhee, Tucker Albrizzi) Animated. A misunderstood boy who can speak with the dead, takes on ghosts, zombies and grown-ups to save his town from a centuries-old curse. Critics: 7-7-7

41. Parental Guidance (PG) (2012) (Billy Crystal, Bette Midler) Artie and Diane agree to look after their three grandkids when their type-A helicopter parents need to leave town for work. Problems arise when the kids' 21st-century behavior collides with Artie and Diane's old-school methods. Critics: 5-5-5

42. Pirates, The! Band of Misfits (PG) (2012) (voices of Hugh Grant, Martin Freeman) Animated. Pirate Captain sets out on a mission to defeat his rivals Black Bellamy and Cutlass Liz for the Pirate of the year Award. The quest takes Captain and his crew from the shores of Blood Island to the foggy streets of Victorian London. Critics: 7-7


44. Possession, The (PG-13) (2012) (Natasha Calis, Jeffrey Dean Morgan) A young girl buys an antique box at a yard sale, unaware that inside the collectible lives a malicious ancient spirit. The girl's father teams with his ex-wife to find a way to end the curse upon their child. Critics: 5-5

45. Promised Land (R) (2012) (Matt Damon, Frances McDormand) A salesman for a natural gas company experiences life-changing events after arriving in a small town, where his corporation wants to tap into the available resources. Critics: 7-7

46. Raven, The (R) (2012) (John Cusack, Luke Evans) In the 19th century, a serial killer begins murdering victims using methods from Edgar Allan Poe's stories. Poe himself teams up with a young Baltimore detective to get inside the murderer's mind and try and stop more of his fictional works becoming grisly fact. As the hunt intensifies, Poe's own love, Emily Hamilton, becomes a target for the killer. Critics: 6-4


48. Red Lights (R) (2012) (Sigourney Weaver, Robert De Niro) Dr. Margaret Matheson and her partner, Tom Buckley are the world's foremost investigators of paranormal phenomena. Professional skeptics, they have debunked dozens of fraudulent mind readers, ghost hunters, faith healers and the like by detecting what Matheson calls 'red lights', subtle clues to the trickery behind each of these 'supernatural' occurrences. Critics: 6-6-3

49. Red Tails (PG-13) (2012) (David Oyelowo, Nate Parker) The 332nd Fighter Group, an all-black World War II unit made up of the best escort pilots and known as the Red Tails, fights racism at home while fighting the Nazis abroad in this action-packed drama based on the true story of the Tuskegee Airmen. Critics: 6-6-3


51. Robot & Frank (PG-13) (2012) (Frank Langella, James Marsden,) Set in the near future, an ex-jewel thief receives a gift from his son: a robot butler programmed to look after him. But soon the two companions try their luck as a heist team. Critics: 7-7-6

52. Safe (R) (2012) (Jason Statham, Catherine Chan) Mei, a young girl whose memory holds a priceless numerical code, finds herself pursued by the Chinese Triads, the Russian mob, and corrupt NYC cops. Coming to her aid is an ex-cage fighter whose life was destroyed by the gangsters on Mei's trail. Mindless violence galore. Critics: 6-4-4

53. Secret World of Arrietty, The (G) (2012) (voices of Bridgit Mendler, David Henrie) Animated. The Clock family are four-inch-tall people who live anonymously in another family's residence, borrowing simple items to make their home. Life changes for the Clocks when their daughter, Arrietty, is discovered. Critics: 7-8-7

54. Shadow Dancer (R) (2012) (Clive Owen, Andrea Riseborough) Set in 1990s Belfast, an active member of the IRA becomes an informant for MI5 in order to protect her son's welfare. Critics: 6-7

55. Sherlock (II-2): The Hounds of Baskerville (NR-TV Show) (2012) (Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman) Something terrible has happened to Henry Knight; Sherlock and John investigate the truth about the monstrous crea-
tura which apparently killed their client's father. A hound from hell? What seems like fantasy in Baker Street is a very different prospect in the ultra-secret army base that looms over Dartmoor. **Critics: 8-9-7**

56. **Sherlock (II-3): The Reichenbach Fall** (NR-TV Show) (2012) (Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman) Moriarty is back, with the most audacious crime of the century. But is Sherlock Holmes all he claims to be? With the world against them, Sherlock and John lock horns with their old enemy in one final problem. The question is, who will survive? **Critics: 8-9-7**

57. **Sinister** (R) (2012) (Ethan Hawke, Juliet Rylance) Found footage helps a true-crime author realize how and why a family was murdered in his new home, though his discoveries put his entire family in the path of a supernatural entity. **Critics: 7-5**

58. “**Tad, the Lost Explorer**” (G) (2012) Animated, from Spain. Tad is a celebrity archeologist and adventurer just like his hero Max Mordon... in his dreams! In reality, Tad is a Chicago construction worker. One day, however, he is mistaken for a real Professor and takes his place on a flight to Peru in search of the Lost City of Paititi. Professor Lavrof and his beautiful daughter Sara are waiting for the famous professor to crack the code. **Critics: 6-5-7**

59. **Take Shelter** (R) (2012) (M. Shannon, J. Chastain,) Curtis, a father and husband, is starting to experience bad dreams and hallucinations. Assuming mental illness, he seeks medical help and counseling. However, fearing the worst, he starts building an elaborate and expensive storm shelter in their backyard. This storm shelter threatens to tear apart his family, threatens his sanity and his standing in the community, but he builds it to save his family's life. **Critics: 4-7-7-6**

60. **Treasure Island** (NR-TV) (2012) Young Jim Hawkins is the only one who can successfully get a schooner to a legendary Island known for buried treasure. But aboard the ship is a mysterious cook named John Silver, whose true motivation on the journey challenges Jim's trust in the entire crew. **Critics: 5-6-6**

61. “**Two Lives**” (NR) (2012) (Juliane Köhler, Liv Ullmann) Drama: As the Berlin Wall crumbles, Katrine, the daughter of a Norwegian woman and a German occupation soldier, finds her idyllic life disrupted as she refuses to testify in a trial against the Norwegian state on behalf of her fellow "war children." **Critics: 7-7**

62. **Unconditional** (PG-13) (2012) (Lynn Collins, Michael Ealy) A woman’s idyllic life is shattered when her husband is killed in a senseless act of violence. As she prepares to take matters into her own hands, two unexpected encounters begin to change everything. **Critics: 7-7-7**

63. “**Wadjda**” (PG) (2012) (Waad Mohammed, Reem Abdullah) An enterprising Saudi girl signs on for her school’s Koran recitation competition as a way to raise the remaining funds she needs in order to buy the green bicycle that has captured her interest. **Critics: 7-7**

64. **Woman in Black, The** (PG-13) (2012) (Daniel Radcliffe, Ciaran Hinds) Horror: A young, early 20th century lawyer must contend with supernatural occurrences in the remote, seaside mansion where he’s working for a few days. **Critics: 6-7-6**

65. **Won't Back Down** (PG) (2012) (Viola Davis, Maggie Gyllenhaal) Two determined mothers, one a teacher, lo to transform their children's failing inner city school. Facing a powerful and entrenched bureaucracy, they risk everything to make a difference in the education and future of their children. **Critics: 5-7-7**

66. **Wrath of the Titans** (PG-13) (2012) (Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson) Perseus braves the treacherous underworld to rescue his father, Zeus, captured by his son, Ares, and brother Hades who unleashes the ancient Titans upon the world. **Critics: 5-4**

67. **Wreck-It Ralph** (PG) (2012) (voices of John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman) Animated: A video game villain wants to be a hero and sets out to fulfill his dream, but his quest brings havoc to the whole arcade where he lives. **Critics: 8-7**

68. “**Zarafa**” (NR) (2012) Animated from Belgium. A grandfather tells his grand kids the story of Maki, a young boy who escapes from slave traders, befriends a giraffe (the title character), cross the desert, meet a pirate, and a few other things on a trip that takes him from Africa to Paris. **Critics: 6-6**

69. **Zero Dark Thirty** (R) (2012) (Jessica Chastain, Jason Clarke) A chronicle of the decade-long hunt for al-Qaeda terrorist leader Osama bin Laden after the September 2001 attacks, and his death at the hands of the Navy S.E.A.L. Team 6 in May 2011. **Critics: 8-7**

**2011 releases:**

1. “**13 Assassins**” (R) (2011) (Kôji Yakusho, Takayuki Yamada,)Japanese In 1844, the peace of Feudal Japan is threatened by cruel Lord Naritsugu Matsudaira. A group of assassins come together for a suicide mission to kill him. **Critics: 7-6-7**
2. **Adventures of Tintin, The: The Secret of the Unicorn** (2011) (Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis and Daniel Craig). Spielberg animation. Tintin and Captain Haddock set off on a treasure hunt for a sunken ship commanded by Haddock's ancestor. But someone else is in search of the ship. **Critics:** 7-7-8

3. **African Cats** (G) (2011) Documentary: Two mothers, one a lioness, the other a cheetah, try to raise their young on the African savanna, a land filled with various perils, predators and foes. **Critics:** 7-8

4. "**Alexia**" (NR-Doc.) The life of Alexia Gonzalez-Barrios, who died at age 14 and whose process of beatification began in 1993. **Critics:** 7

5. **Another Year** (2011) (Jim Broadbent, Ruth Sheen) A look at four seasons in the lives of a happily married couple and their relationships with their family and friends. **Critics:** 7-9-7

6. **Apollo 18** (PG-13) (2011) (Warren Christie, Lloyd Owen) Decades-old found footage from NASA's abandoned Apollo 18 mission, where two American astronauts were sent on a secret expedition, reveals the reason the U.S. has never returned to the moon. **Critics:** 4

7. **Arthur Christmas** (PG) (2011) (voices of James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie) This all-ages animated holiday feature draws back the curtain on the super-secret toy-making facility Santa Claus keeps hidden beneath the North Pole. It also reveals the ultra-important mission Mr. Claus entrusts to his son, Arthur, one Christmas. **Critics:** 8-7-9

8. **Artist, The** (PG-13) (2011) (Jean Dujardin, Berenice Bejo) This modern-day silent film artfully recounts the poignant end of the silent-movie era in the late 1920s. The story contrasts the declining fortunes of a silent-screen superstar with his lover's rise to popularity as a darling of the "talkies." **Critics:** 8-8-8

9. **Battle: Los Angeles** (PG-13) (2011) (Aaron Eckhart, Ramon Rodriguez) A Marine Staff Sergeant who has just had his retirement approved goes back into the line of duty in order to assist a 2nd Lieutenant and his platoon as they fight to reclaim the city of Los Angeles from alien invaders. **Critics:** 6-4

10. **Bernie** (R) (2011) (Jack Black, Shirley McLaine, Matthew McConaughey Comedy: The true story of how the mortician of a small-town in Texas, beloved by everyone, who strikes up a friendship with a wealthy—but insufferable—widow. **Critics:** 6-7-7

11. **Better Life, A** (PG-13) (2011) (Demian Bichir, Jose Julian) An illegal Mexican immigrant tries to improve his gardening business and raise well a teenager son. A moving story of model fatherhood, work ethic, honesty and grit, all against great odds. **Critics:** 8-7-8

12. **Buck** (PG-Doc.) (2011) (Buck Brannaman) The inspiration for "The Horse Whisperer" is revealed in this Sundance Audience Award winner for Best Documentary. The master horseman tells details of his troubled childhood and his ensuing awareness of new ways that humans and horses might work with one another; and he finds that the ways we communicate with our animal companions offer lessons on how we relate to fellow human beings. **Critics:** 8-7

13. **Captain America: The First Avenger** (PG-13) (2011) (Chris Evans, Hugo Weaving) After being deemed unfit for military service, Steve Rogers volunteers for a top secret research project that turns him into Captain America, a superhero dedicated to defending America's ideals. **Critics:** 8-8-5

14. **Carnage** (R) (2011) (Kate Winslet, Christopher Waltz, Jodie Foster, John Reilly) Morality play: After two boys duke it out on a playground, the parents of the "victim" and the parents of the "bully" work out their issues. A polite discussion of childrearing soon escalates into verbal warfare, with razor sharp barbs, biting comedy centered on parental differences, all four parents revealing their true colors. None of them will escape the carnage. **Critics:** 6-7-7

15. **Cars 2** (G) (2011) (voices of Larry the Cable Guy, Owen Wilson) A hot-shot race-car named Lightning McQueen gets waylaid in Radiator Springs, where he finds the true meaning of friendship and family. **Critics:** 6-8-5

16. **Confession, The** (NR-TV series) (2011) (Kiefer Sutherland, John Hurt) A unique story of the process of redemption and an exploration of good and evil featuring a hit man and a priest. Deep conversation, marvelous acting. Originally shown as 10 episodes of 6 minutes each, to be continued. Total 60 m. **Critics:** 7-8-8

17. **Conspirator, The** (PG-13) (2011) (James McAvoy, Robin Wright Penn) Mary Surratt is the lone female charged as a co-conspirator in the assassination trial of Abraham Lincoln. As the whole nation turns against her, she is forced to rely on her reluctant lawyer to uncover the truth and save her life. **Critics:** 7-5-8

18. **Contagion** (PG-13) (2011) (Matt Damon, Kate Winslet) A thriller centered on the threat posed by a deadly disease and an international team of doctors contracted by the CDC to deal with the outbreak. **Critics:** 7-7-7

19. **Coriolanus** (R) (2011) (Ralph Fiennes, Vanessa Redgrave, Brian Cox, Gerard Butler, Jessica Chastain) Modern rendition of Shakespeare’s classic, with the original language. A banished hero of Rome allies with a sworn enemy to take his revenge on the city. **Critics:** 7-7.
20. **Courageous** (PG-13) (2011) (Alex Kendrick, Ken Bevel) When a tragedy strikes close to home, four police officers struggle with their faith and the roles they need to fulfill as husbands and fathers; together they make a decision that will change all of their lives. **Critics:** 6-5

21. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules** (PG-13) (2011) (Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick) Back in middle school after summer vacation, Greg Heffley and his older brother Rodrick must deal with their parents' misguided attempts to have them bond. **Critics:** 5-6

22. **Dolphin Tale** (PG) (2011) (Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd) A story centered on the friendship between a boy and a dolphin whose tale was lost in a crab trap. **Critics:** 6-6

23. **Don't Be Afraid of the Dark** (R) (2011) (Bailee Madison, Guy Pearce) Horror: A young girl sent to live with her father and his new girlfriend discovers creatures in her new home who want to claim her as one of their own. **Critics:** 6-6

24. **Eagle, The** (PG-13) (2011) (Channing Tatum, Jamie Bell) In 140 AD, twenty years after the unexplained disappearance of the entire Ninth Legion in the mountains of Scotland, young centurion Marcus Aquila arrives from Rome to solve the mystery and restore the reputation of his father, the commander of the Ninth, and retrieve the lost legion's golden emblem, the Eagle of the Ninth. **Critics:** 6-6-4

25. **Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close** (PG-13) (2011) (Thomas Horn, Sandra Bullock) Believing that his father left him a message before dying in the September 11 attacks, young Oskar Schell embarks on an emotional odyssey through New York City to find the lock that matches a key he found among his father's belongings. **Critics:** 6-7-6

26. **“From Up on Poppy Hill”** (PG) (2011) (English voices: Sarah Bolger, Anton Yelchin, Ron Howard) Japanese animated. A group of Yokohama teens look to save their school's clubhouse from the wrecking ball. Shun is one of the leaders at the clubhouse. Umi kind of falls for him and comes up with the idea to pretty up the clubhouse in order to impress the administrators and save it. The story is small and simple, but it's utterly charming, virtuous and romantic. **Critics:** 9-7-8

27. **Gnomeo & Juliet** (G) (2011) (voices of James McAvoy, Emily Blunt) Animated. Garden gnomes Gnomeo and Juliet have as many obstacles to overcome as their quasi namesakes when they are caught up in a feud between neighbors. Then plastic pink flamingos and lawnmower races get into the mix. **Critics:** 5-5-6

28. **Grace Card, The** (PG-13) (2011) (Michael Joiner, Michael Higgenbottom) Drama: An angry-at-the-world cop and a preacher who also works as a police officer find their lives challenged and changed when they’re partnered together. It shows that every day, we have the opportunity to rebuild relationships by extending and receiving God's grace. Offer The Grace Card, and never underestimate the power of God's love. **Critics:** 4-4-4

29. **Happy Feet Two** (PG) (2011) (voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams) Animated sequel. Mumble's son, Erik, is struggling to realize his talents in the Emperor Penguin world. Meanwhile, Mumble and his family and friends discover a new threat their home -- one that will take everyone working together to save them. **Critics:** 5-6-5

30. **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2** (R) (2011) (Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson) Harry, Ron and Hermione search for Voldemort's remaining Horcruxes in their effort to destroy the Dark Lord once and for all. **Critics:** 7-8-7


32. **Hugo** (PG) (2011) (Asa Butterfield, Ben Kingsley) When his father dies, 12-year-old orphan Hugo takes up residence behind the walls of a Parisian train station. There, he meets Isabelle, the daughter of filmmaker Georges Méliès, who holds the key to Hugo's destiny. **Critics:** 8-8-8

33. **Insidious** (PG-13) (2011) (Patrick Wilson, Rose Byrne) Horror: After moving into their new home, a family discovers that it's their boy, now in a coma, and not their house, who's haunted by the spirits and other otherworldly presences that are terrifying them. **Critics:** 7-6

34. **Jane Eyre** (PG-13) (2011) (Mia Wasikowska, Michael Fassbender) After a bleak childhood, Jane Eyre goes out into the world to become a governess. As she lives happily in her new position at Thornfield Hall, she meets the dark, cold, and abrupt master of the house, Mr. Rochester. But soon she finds herself falling in love with Mr. Rochester, who hides a terrible secret. **Critics:** 6-7-6

35. **Jiro Dreams of Sushi** (PG) (2011) Doc. A documentary on 85-year-old sushi master Jiro Ono, his business in the Ginza Tokio Subway station, and his relationship with his son and eventual heir, Yoshikazu. **Critics:** 7-9-8

36. **“Kid with a Bike, The”** (NR) (2011) (Thomas Diret, Celile De France). Abandoned by his father, a young boy is left in a state-run youth farm. In a random act of kindness, the town hairdresser agrees to foster him on weekends. **Critics:** 7-9

37. **Kung Fu Panda 2** (PG) (2011) (voices of Jack Black, Angelina Jolie) Po joins forces with a group of new kung-fu masters to take on an old enemy with a deadly new weapon. **Critics:** 7-7
38. **Lady, The** (R) (2011) (Michelle Yeoh, David Thewlis) The story of Aung San Suu Kyi as she becomes the core of Burma’s democracy movement, and her relationship with her husband, writer Michael Aris. **Critics:** 6-7-8

39. **Lark Rise to Candleford** (NR-TV) (2008-2011) 40-episode BBC drama series. It is very well done. Most of the chapters focus on a theme around which the story develops. Some programmes of these series could be used as a tool to discuss human development (relationships, forgiveness, communication, etc.). **Critics:** 8-8

40. “**Le Havre**” (NR) (2011) (André Wilms, Blondin Miguel) When an African boy arrives by cargo ship in the port city of Le Havre, an aging shoe shiner takes pity on the child and welcomes him into his home. Directed by Aki Kaurismäki. **Critics:** 7-7

41. **Lemonade Mouth** (G) (2011) (Bridgit Mendler, Adam Hicks) This Disney movie tells the story of five freshmen from different places in their school's social scheme, who meet in detention. Finding themselves united by the common desire to make music, they eventually form the best garage band in high school history. The movie includes nine original songs. **Critics:** 6-6

42. “**Maktub**” (NR) (2011) (Diego Peretti, Aitana Sánchez-Gijón) Manolo suffers a serious crisis: his marriage is in the rocks, work is tedious and his adolescent son does not speak with him. Then he runs into Antonio, a 15 year old with cancer and a contagious vitality. We are in a Christmas story, a good sentiments narrative and a social project. But mostly in a simple, positive, inspiring movie that does not fall for easy moralizing. **Critics:** 7-6

43. **Mars Needs Moms** (PG) (2011) (voices of Seth Dusky, Dan Fogler) Animated Sci-Fi: A young boy must save his mom after Martians kidnap her and intend to use her parenting skills to program their "Nanny-bots." **Critics:** 4-7

44. **Mighty Macs, The** (G) (2011) (Carla Gugino, Marley Shelton) In the early 70s, Cathy Rush becomes the head basketball coach at a tiny, all-girls Catholic college. Though her team has no gym and no uniforms -- and the school itself is in danger of being sold -- Coach Rush looks to steer her girls to their first national championship. **Critics:** 5-6

45. **Moneyball** (PG-13) (2011) (Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill) The story of Oakland A’s general manager Billy Beane's successful attempt to put together a baseball club on a budget by employing computer-generated analysis to draft his players. **Critics:** 8-8

46. “**Monsieur Lazhar**” (PG-13) (2011) (Fellag, Sophie Nelisse) At a Montréal public grade school, an Algerian immigrant is hired to replace a popular teacher who committed suicide in her classroom. While helping his students deal with their grief, his own recent loss is revealed. Algerian, nominated as Foreign Language. **Critics:** 7-7

47. **Monsters** (R) (2011) (Whitney Able, Scoot McNairy) Six years after Earth has suffered an alien invasion a cynical journalist agrees to escort a shaken American tourist through an infected zone in Mexico to the safety of the US border. **Critics:** 6-7-6

48. **Mr. Popper's Penguins** (PG) (2011) (Jim Carrey, Carla Gugino) The life of a businessman begins to change after he inherits six penguins, and as he transforms his apartment into a winter wonderland, his professional side starts to unravel. **Critics:** 6-6

49. **Muppets, The** (PG) (2011) (Jason Segel, Amy Adams) Comedy/Musical: A big fan of the Muppets, his adult brother and that man's girlfriend convince Kermit the Frog to reassemble the Muppets in order to save their old studio from a ruthless businessman who wants to tear it down for the oil deposit beneath it. **Critics:** 7-8-7-7

50. **My Own Love Song** (PG) (2011) (Rene Zegweller, Forest Whitaker) A wheelchair-bound former singer and her best friend embark on a road trip from Kansas to New Orleans, Louisiana. **Critics:** 5-5-6

51. **Mysteries of Lisbon, The** (2011) Period piece. It follows a jealous countess, a wealthy businessman, and a young orphaned boy across Portugal, France, Italy and Brazil where they connect with a variety of mysterious individuals. 256 minutes. **Critics:** 8-7

52. **Planet of Snail** (NR Doc.) A deaf, blind recluse with few ties to the outside world finds an ideal mate in a disabled woman, who expands his universe and inspires his passions. Their life together might not be grand, but it's beautiful in its simplicity. Language: Korean. **Critics:** 7-5-7

53. **Puss in Boots** (PG) (2011) (voices of Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek) Animated. A story about the events leading up to the sword fighting cat's meeting with Shrek and his friends. **Critics:** 7-7

54. **Rango** (PG) (2011) (voices of Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher) Animated. Rango is an ordinary chameleon who accidentally winds up in the town of Dirt, a lawless outpost in the Wild West in desperate need of a new sheriff. **Critics:** 7-7-6

55. **Rejoice and Shout** (2011) (NR-Doc.) Noted music documentarian Don McGlynn takes viewers on a journey through 200 years of African-American Christian music, using performance footage, audio, photos and interviews to document the history and power of gospel music. **Critics:** 5-6-6
56. **Rio** (G) (2011) (voices of Jesse Eisenberg, Anne Hathaway) Animated. When Blu, a domesticated macaw from small-town Minnesota, meets the fiercely independent Jewel, he takes off on an adventure to Rio de Janeiro with this bird of his dreams. **Critics: 7-7**

57. **Rise of the Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) (2011) (James Franco, Andy Serkis) During experiments to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease, a genetically-enhanced chimpanzee uses its greater intelligence to lead other apes to freedom. **Critics: 6-7-6**

58. **Separation, A** (PG-13) (2011) 9-8 “Nader & Simin” Iran. A married couple are faced with a difficult decision, to improve the life of their child by moving to another country or to stay in Iran and look after a deteriorating parent who has Alzheimer's. **Critics: 8-8**

59. **Seven Days in Utopia** (G) (2011) (Lucas Black, Robert Duvall) After a disastrous try on the pro circuit, a young golfer finds himself unexpectedly stranded in Utopia, Texas and welcomed by an eccentric rancher. **Critics: 5-3**

60. **Shun Li and the Poet** (NR) (2011) (Tao Zhao, Rade Serbedzija) A study of the friendship between a Chinese woman and a fisherman who came to Italy from Yugoslavia many years ago, who live in a small city-island in the Veneto lagoon. **Critics: 7-8-8**

61. **Simple Life, A** (NR) (2011) (Andy Lau, Deannie Yip) After suffering a stroke, an altruistic maid announces that she wants to quit her job and move into an old people's home. **Critics: 8-6-7-8**

62. **Smurfs, The** (PG) (2011) (Neil Patrick Harris, Hank Azaria) When the evil wizard Gargamel chases the tiny blue Smurfs out of their village, they tumble from their magical world into New York City. **Critics: 5-5**

63. **Source Code** (PG-13) (2011) (Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Monaghan) An action thriller centered on a soldier who wakes up in the body of an unknown man and discovers he's part of a mission to find the bomber of a Chicago commuter train. **Critics: 8-8-8**

64. **Snows of Kilimanjaro, The** (2011) (Ariane Ascaride, Jean-Pierre Darroussin and Gérard Meylan) Drama: A union pensioner and his wife are robbed, but find that merely getting the assailants brought to justice is not enough for their consciences. **Critics: 7-7**

65. **St Philip Neri: I Prefer Heaven**” (PG) (2011) (Gigi Proietti) The film highlights Neri's great love for youth, his warm sense of humor, contagious joy, deep mystical spirituality, and his amazing gift for miracles. Actor Gigi Proietti gives a moving performance as St. Philip in this beautifully produced film. Much fiction mixed with true biography. **Critics: 6-7-6**

66. **Super 8** (PG-13) (2011) (Elle Fanning, Joel Courtney) After witnessing a mysterious train crash, a group of friends in the summer of 1979 begin noticing strange happenings going around in their small town, and begin to investigate into the creepy phenomenon. **Critics: 7-8-7**

67. **There Be Dragons** (PG-13) (2011) (Chris Cox, Wes Bentley) A recently canonized priest is investigated by a journalist who discovers his own estranged father had a long connection to the saint's life. Uncovering the two men's relationship from childhood through the horrors of the Spanish Civil War unveils a compelling drama filled with passion, betrayal, love, faith and the power of forgiveness. **Critics: 5-7-8**

68. **Thor** (PG-13) (2011) (Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman) The powerful but arrogant warrior Thor is cast out of the fantastic realm of Asgard and sent to live amongst humans on Earth, where he soon becomes one of their finest defenders. **Critics: 6-7-7**

69. **Too Big to Fail** (NR-TV) (2011) (William Hurt, James Woods, Paul Giamatti) 7-8 Chronicles the financial meltdown of 2008 and centers on Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. Nominated at 63rd Emmy. **Critics: 7-7-7**

70. **Tree of Life, The** (PG-13) (2011) (Brad Pitt, Jessica Chastai) The story centers around a family with three boys in the 1950s. The eldest son witnesses the loss of innocence. **Critics: 8-8-6**

71. **Undefeated** (Doc.) (PG-13) (2011) (O.C. Brown, Bill Courtney) A documentary on an underdog football team who look to reverse their fortunes with coach Bill Courtney. **Critics: 7-6-7**

72. **War Horse** (PG-13) (2011) (Jeremy Irvine, Peter Mullan) Adapted from a novel by Michael Morpurgo, this majestic World War I drama centers on Devon lad Albert and his steadfast horse, Joey, whose faithful bond cannot be shaken -- even when Joey is sold to the cavalry and sent off to France. **Critics: 7-8-7**

73. **Way Back, The** (2010) (Jim Sturgess, Ed Harris) (PG-13) Drama: A small group of POWs escape from a Siberian labor camp and walk thousands of miles to freedom. **Critics: 7-7-7**

74. **We Bought a Zoo** (PG) (2011) (Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson) In this adaptation of Benjamin Mee's memoir about buying and saving a run-down zoo, the locale shifts from Britain to southern California. However, the wacky spirit of the original is retained, complete with escaped tigers and a zoo crew of misfits. **Critics: 7-8-6**
75. **West Is West** (NR) (2011) (Aqib Khan, Om Puri) Dramedy: Manchester, North of England, 1975. The Khan family continues to struggle for survival. The father decides to take his truant son back to the old country. **Critics:** 6-6

76. **Winnie the Pooh** (G) (2011) (voices of Jim Cummings, Craig Ferguson) Follows the adventures of Christopher Robin and his friends Pooh, Tiger, Eeyore, Piglet and more in the Hundred Acre Wood’s. **Critics:** 7-8

**2010 releases:**

1. “**A Matter of Principles**” (2010) (Federico Luppi, Norma Aleandro). A man with seemingly unwavering ethics is challenged by his new boss, who believes everyone has a price and it willing to prove it. In this Capra-esque tale no one leaves unscathed when principles and pragmatism collide. From Argentina. **Critics:** 8-7

2. **Alice in Wonderland** (PG) (2010) (Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp) 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical world from her childhood adventure, where she reunites with her old friends and learns of her true destiny: to end the Red Queen's reign of terror. **Critics:** 4-8-7-6

3. **Alpha and Omega** (PG) (2010) (voices of Justin Long, Hayden Panettiere) Animated. Two young wolves at opposite ends of their pack’s social order are thrown together into a foreign land and need each other to return home, but love complicates everything. **Critics:** 4-5

4. **Amish Grace** (2010) (NR-TV) (Kimberly Williams, Matt Letscher) When a gunman killed five Amish children and injured five others in a Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania schoolhouse shooting in October of 2006, the world media attention rapidly turned from the tragic events to the extraordinary forgiveness demonstrated by the Amish community. **Critics:** 7-7

5. **Another Year** (PG-13) (2010) (Jim Broadbent, Lesley Maanvile) A look at four seasons in the lives of a happily married couple and their relationships with their family and friends. **Critics:** 7-7


7. **Buried** (R) (2010) (Ryan Reynolds, voice of Robert Paterson) Paul is a U.S. contractor working in Iraq. After an attack by a group of Iraqis he wakes to find he is buried alive inside a coffin. With only a lighter and a cell phone it's a race against time to escape this claustrophobic death trap. **Critics:** 7-7

8. “**Certified Copy**” (2010) (Juliette Binoche, William Shimell) In Tuscany to promote his latest book, a middle-aged British writer meets a French woman who leads him to the village of Lucignano. While there, a chance question reveals something deeper. **Critics:** 7-8-7-6 (OK by Almudi)

9. **Chronicles of Narnia, The: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader** (PG-13) (2010) (Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes) Lucy and Edmund return to Narnia with their cousin Eustace where they meet up with Prince Caspian for a trip across the sea aboard the royal ship The Dawn Treader. Along the way they encounter dragons, dwarves, merfolk, and a band of lost warriors before reaching the edge of the world. **Critics:** 7-5

10. **Despicable Me** (PG) (2010) (voices of Steve Carell, Jason Segel) Animated comedy: When a criminal mastermind uses a trio of orphan girls as pawns for a grand scheme, he finds himself profoundly changed by the growing love between them. **Critics:** 7-7-8

11. **Devil** (PG-13) (2010) (Chris Messina, Geoffrey Arend) A group of people trapped in an elevator realize that the devil is among them. **Critics:** 7-7

12. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid** (PG) (2010) (Zachary Gordon, Robert Capron) Live-action adaptation of Jeff Kinney's illustrated novel about a wise-cracking junior high school student. **Critics:** 7-6-6

13. **Edge of Darkness** (R) (2010) (Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone) As homicide detective Thomas Craven investigates the death of his activist daughter, he uncovers not only her secret life, but a corporate cover-up and government collusion that attracts an agent tasked with cleaning up the evidence. **Critics:** 6-7-6

14. **Emma** (NR) (2010) (Romola Garai, Jonny Lee Miller) Jane Austin's Classic in a BBC miniseries (329 m.) Emma Woodhouse seems to be perfectly content, a loving father whom she cares for, friends, and a home. But Emma has a terrible habit - matchmaking. And it backfires. **Critics:** 8-8

15. **Endgame** (NR-TV) (2010) (William Hurt, Chiwetel Ejiofor). A story based on the covert discussions that brought down the Apartheid regime in South Africa. **Critics:** 8-8

16. “**Even the Rain**” (NR) (2010) (Gael García Bernal, Luis Tosar) While filming in Colombia the Water War breaks out, a 2000 conflict between in Cochabamba, Bolivia, local people rise up against plans to privatize the water supply. Icíar Bollain director. As a director and his crew shoot a controversial film about Christopher Columbus. **Critics:** 7-6-8

17. “**Extraordinary Adventures of Adele Blanc-Sec, The**” (PG) (2010) (Luise Bourgoin, Mathieu Amalric) An adventure set in the early part of the 20th century and focused on a popular novelist and her dealings with would-be suitors, the cops, monsters, and other distractions. Inspired in the cartoon character. **Critics:** 6-6-6
18. Extraordinary Measures (PG) (2010) (Brendan Fraser, Harrison Ford) A drama centered on the efforts of John and Alileen Crowley to find a researcher who might have a cure for their two children's rare genetic disorder. Critics: 5-6-5


22. Firebreather (PG) (2010) (voices of Dana Delany, Jesse Head) All Duncan wants is to be a normal kid in a normal school. Until he realizes he is something very far away from normal. Critics: 6-6

23. Five Minutes of Heaven (R) (2010) (Liam Neeson, James Nesbitt) The story of former UVF member Alistair Little. Twenty-five years after Little killed Joe Griffen's brother, the media arrange an auspicious meeting between the two. Critics: 7-6

24. Flipped (PG) (2010) (Madeline Carroll, Callan McAuliffe) Two eighth graders start to have feelings for each other despite being total opposites. Based on the novel "Flipped" by Wendelin Van Draanen. Critics: 7-5

25. Genesis Code, The (PG) (2010) (Logan Bartholomew, Kelsey Sanders) A college hockey player and a female journalism student struggle to find common ground with their spiritual faith and scientific studies. A repudiation of relativism and defense of the days of Creation from God's view. Critics: 5-7-7

26. Get Low (PG-13) (2010) (Robert Duvall, Bill Murray, Sissy Spacek,) A movie spun out of equal parts folk tale, fable and real-life legend about the mysterious, 1930s Tennessee hermit who famously threw his own rollicking funeral party... while he was still alive. Critics: 7-7-9


28. “Grandmother” (2010) (Anita Linda, Rustica Carpio) (“Lola” in orginal Tagalog) Two elderly women bear the consequences of a crime involving their respective grandsons. One is the victim, the other is the suspect. Both weak and poor, they laboriously solicit money in the midst of a storm, one for the victim's burial, the other for the suspect's bail bond. Critics: 7-6


30. “Hedgehog, The” (2010) (Garance Le Guillermic, Josiane Balasko) A serious but deeply bored 11-year old has decided to kill herself on her twelfth birthday. She questions and documents her life, drawing trenchant and often hilarious observations on the world around her. But as her appointment with death approaches, she meets some kindred spirits who inspire her to question her rather pessimistic outlook on life. In French. Critics: 8-7

31. Hide, The (Foyle's War, 2010, NR-TV, season 7, episode 3) (Michael Kitchen, Anthony Howell and Honeysuckle Weeks) DCS Foyle is replaced at last, but before departing he's asked to look into the case of a young man who joined the Nazi British Free Corps during the war. He was taken prisoner by the Germans and refuses to explain to anyone, including Foyle, why he agreed to join the Free Corps in the first place. Critics: 8-9-8

32. Hole, The (PG-13) (2010) (Chris Massoglia, Haley Bennett) A pair of brothers stumble upon a mysterious hole in their basement that leads to the darkest corridors of their fears and nightmares. Critics: 6-6

33. How to Train Your Dragon (PG) (2010) (voices of Jay Baruchel, Gerard Butler) A hapless young Viking who aspires to hunt dragons becomes the unlikely friend of a young dragon himself, and learns there may be more to the creatures than he assumed. Critics: 8-9-8

34. “Illusionist, The” (2010) A French illusionist finds himself out of work and travels to Scotland, where he meets a young woman. Their ensuing adventure changes both their lives forever. Critics: 8-7

35. Inception (PG-13) (2010) (Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt) A small team of dream infiltrators tries to plant an idea in their target's head but must contend with various obstacles and setbacks that threaten to leave them stuck forever in a subconscious limbo. Critics: 9-9-8

36. Inside Job (2010) Documentary. A comprehensive analysis of the global financial crisis of 2008, at a cost of the worst recession since the Great Depression, and nearly resulted in a global financial collapse. Through exhaustive research and extensive interviews with key financial insiders, politicians, journalists, and academics, the film traces the rise of a rogue industry which has corrupted politics, regulation, and academia. Critics: 8-8

38. Karate Kid, The (PG) (2010) (Jaden Smith, Jackie Chan) Work causes a single mother to move to China with her young son; in his new home, the boy embraces the martial arts and finds a new friend. Critics: 7-6

39. Killing Time (Foyle’s War, 2010, NR-TV, season 7, episode 2) (Michael Kitchen, Anthony Howell and Honeysuckle Weeks) It’s July 1945 and the commander of the US Forces in the Hastings area wants to segregate his white and black troops to avoid any racial conflict between them. DCS Foyle has strong views on the subject and doesn’t hesitate to remind everyone just what they were fighting for during the war. Critics: 6-7

40. “King of Devil’s Island” (R) (2010) (Benjamin Helstad, Trond Nilsen) Watched. OK Norwegian winter, early 20th century. On the boys home Bastoy, a new inmate leads the boys to an uprising against a brutal regime. How far is he willing to go to attain freedom? Critics: 7-6

41. King’s Speech, The (R) (2010) (Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush) The story of King George VI of Britain, his impromptu ascension to the throne and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch become worthy of it. Critics: 8-9-9-9

42. Last Airbender, The (PG) (2010) (Noah Ringer, Dev Patel) The story follows the adventures of Aang, a young successor to a long line of Avatars, who must put his childhood ways aside and stop the Fire Nation from enslaving the Water, Earth and Air nations. Critics: 4-2

43. Legend of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga’Hoole (PG) (2010) (voices of Jim Sturgess, Ryan Kwanten) Animated. When a young owl is abducted by an evil Owl army, he must escape with newfound friends to seek out the legendary Guardians to stop the menace. Critics: 7-5

44. Letters to God (PG) (2010) (Tanner Maguire, Jeffrey S.S. Johnson) A young boy fighting cancer writes letters to God, touching lives in his neighborhood and community and inspiring hope among everyone he comes in contact. Critics: 4-4

45. London River (NR) (2010) (Brendan Blethyn, Sotigui Kouyaté) After traveling to London to check on their missing children in the wake of the 2005 terror attack on the city, two strangers come to discover their respective children had been living together at the time of the attacks. Critics: 7-7

46. Lourdes (NR) (2010) (Sylvie Testud, Lea Seydoux) In order to escape her isolation, wheelchair-bound Christine makes a life changing journey to Lourdes, the iconic site of pilgrimage in the Pyrenees Mountains. Critics: 7-8

47. Megamind (PG) (2010) (voices of Will Ferrell, Tina Fey) The supervillain Megamind finally conquers his nemesis, the hero Metro Man... but finds his life pointless without a hero to fight. Critics: 7-6

48. My Name Is Khan (PG-13) (2010) (Shah Rukh Khan, Kajol) An Indian Muslim man with Asperger's syndrome takes a challenge to speak to the President seriously, and embarks on a cross-country journey. Critics: 8-7-7

49. Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (PG) (2010) (Emma Thompson, Ewan McGregor, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Ralph Fiennes, Maggie Smith) Nannie McPhee arrives to help a harried young mother who is trying to run the family farm while her husband is away at war, though she uses her magic to teach the woman's children and their two spoiled cousins five new lessons. Critics: 7-8-7


51. Nutcracker, The (PG) (2010) (Elle Fanning, Nathan Lane) In 3D. 1920s Vienna. On Christmas Eve, Mary's beloved Uncle Albert arrives with the gift of a wooden nutcracker doll. Later that night, Mary's imagination brings the doll to life. Introducing himself as "NC," he takes her on a wondrous journey through a stunning dimension where toys assume human form and everything appears ten times larger. Critics: 4-5

52. Oceans (G) (2010) (Doc.) An ecological drama/documentary, filmed throughout the globe. Part thriller, part meditation on the vanishing wonders of the sub-aquatic world. Critics: 7-6


54. “Oscar and the Lady in Pink” (NR) (2010) (Michele Laroque, Amir, Max von Sydow) Listening in to a conversation between his doctor and parents, a 10-year-old Oscar learns what nobody has the courage to tell him. He only has a few weeks to live. Furious, he refuses to speak to anyone except straight-talking Rose, the lady in pink he meets on the hospital stairs. Rose uses her fantastical experiences, her imagination, wit and charm to allow Oscar to live life and love to the full. Critics: 6-7

55. Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) (2010) (Logan Lerman, Brandon T. Jackson) A teenager in modern day New York City discovers that he is a son of Poseidon and has to find the lightning stolen from Zeus before the gods war agains each other. First book of the popular Harry Potter wannaby series. Critics: 6-5
56. **“Point Blank”** (R) (2010) (Gilles Lellouche, Roschdy Zem) Samuel Pierret is a nurse who saves the wrong guy—a thief whose henchmen take Samuel's pregnant wife hostage to force him to spring their boss from the hospital. A race through the subways and streets of Paris ensues, and the body count rises. Can Samuel evade the cops and the criminal underground and deliver his beloved to safety? **Critics: 8-6-7**

57. **“Precious Life”** (NR-Doc.) (2010) With the help of a prominent Israeli journalist, it chronicles the struggle of an Israeli pediatrician and a Palestinian mother to get treatment for her baby, who suffers from an incurable genetic disease. Each must face their most profound biases as they inch towards a possible friendship in an impossible reality. **Critics: 7-7**

58. **Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time** (PG-13) (2010) (Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton) A young fugitive prince and princess must stop a villain who unknowingly threatens to destroy the world with a special dagger that enables the magic sand inside to reverse time. **Critics: 6-4**

59. **Rabbit Hole** (PG-13) (2010) (Nicole Kidman, Aaron Eckhart) Life for a happy couple is turned upside down after their young son dies in an accident. Based on a play by David Lindsay-Abaire. **Critics: 7**

60. **Ramona and Beezus** (G) (2010) (Joey King, Selena Gomez) A 9-year-old must deal with her overactive imagination regarding developments at school and home, much to the chagrin of her teenage sister. **Critics: 7-5**

61. **Red** (PG-13) (2010) (Bruce Willis, Mary-Louise Parker) When his idyllic life is threatened by a high-tech assassin, former black-ops agent Frank Moses reassembles his old team in a last ditch effort to survive. **Critics: 7-5**

62. **Russian House, The (Foyle's War, 2010, NR-TV, season 7, episode 1)** (Michael Kitchen, Anthony Howell and Honeysuckle Weeks) It's June 1945 and Detective Chief Superintendent Foyle is looking for a Russian POW, who has escaped and is believed to have been seen in the Hastings area. **Critics: 7-8-8**

63. **Sammy's Adventures: The Secret Passage** (G) Animated. A sea turtle who was hatched in 1959 spends the next 50 years traveling the world while it is being changed by global warming. **Critics: 6**

64. **Secretariat** (PG) (2010) (Diane Lane, John Malkovich) Penny Chenery Tweedy and colleagues guide her long-shot but precocious stallion to set, in 1973, the unbeaten record for winning the Triple Crown. **Critics: 6-5**

65. **Senna** (NR-Doc.) The story of the monumental life and tragic death of legendary Brazilian motor-racing Champion, Ayrton Senna. Spanning the decade from his arrival in Formula One in the mid 80's, the film follows Senna's struggles both on track against his nemesis, French World Champion Alain Prost, and off it, against the politics which infest the sport, till his final accident in 1994 at age 34. **Critics: 8-7-7**

66. **Shrek Forever After** (PG) (2010) (voices of Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz) Rumpelstiltskin tricks a mid-life crisis burdened Shrek into allowing himself to be erased from existence and cast in a dark alternate timeline where Rumpel rules supreme. **Critics: 6-6-5**

67. **Sherlock (I-1): A Study in Pink** (NR-TV Show, Season 1) (2010) (Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman) This modern-day refresh of Sherlock Holmes has Arthur Conan Doyle's deductive genius moving through London as a Web-adept consultant to Inspector Lestrade and Dr. John Watson as an Afghan War vet who shares his Baker Street digs. Shedding the Victorian trappings but retaining the dark humor and clever wordplay, the opening season plunges Holmes into "A Study in Pink". **Critics: 7-7**

68. **Sherlock (I-2): The Blind Banker** (NR-TV Show, Season 1) (2010) (Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman) This modern-day refresh of Sherlock Holmes has Arthur Conan Doyle's deductive genius moving through London as a Web-adept consultant to Inspector Lestrade and Dr. John Watson as an Afghan War vet who shares his Baker Street digs. Shedding the Victorian trappings but retaining the dark humor and clever wordplay, the opening season plunges Holmes into "The Blind Banker". **Critics: 7-7**

69. **Sherlock (I-3): The Great Game** (NR-TV Show, Season 1) (2010) (Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman) This modern-day refresh of Sherlock Holmes has Arthur Conan Doyle's deductive genius moving through London as a Web-adept consultant to Inspector Lestrade and Dr. John Watson as an Afghan War vet who shares his Baker Street digs. Shedding the Victorian trappings but retaining the dark humor and clever wordplay, the opening season plunges Holmes into "The Great Game". **Critics: 8-8**

70. **Sorcerer's Apprentice, The** (PG) (2010) (Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel) Master sorcerer Balthazar Blake recruits a seemingly everyday guy in his mission to defend New York City from his archnemeses, Maxim Horvath. **Critics: 7-3**

71. **Spy Next Door, The** (PG) (2010) (Jackie Chan, Amber Valletta) Former CIA spy Bob Ho takes on his toughest assignment to date: looking after his girlfriend’s three kids, who haven't exactly warmed to their mom's beau. **Critics: 6-5-5**

72. **Tangled** (PG) (2010) (voices of Mandy Moore, Zachary Levi) Animated musical. The long-haired Princess Rapunzel has spent her entire life in a tower, but when she falls in love with a bandit who was passing by she must venture into the outside world for the first time to find him. **Critics: 8-7-8**
73. **Temple Grandin** (NR-TV) (2010) (Claire Danes, Julia Ormond) A biopic of Temple Grandin, an autistic woman who has become one of the top scientists in the humane livestock handling industry. Won several Emmy Awards. **Critics: 6-8-8**

74. **Toy Story 3** (G) (2010) (voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen) The toys are mistakenly delivered to a day-care center instead of the attic right before Andy leaves for college, and it's up to Woody to convince the other toys that they weren't abandoned and to return home. **Critics: 7-9-8-9**

75. “**Troll Hunter**” (PG-13) (2010) (Otto Jespersen, Glenn Erland Tosterud) A group of students investigate a series of mysterious bear killings, but learns that there are much more dangerous things going on. They start to follow a mysterious hunter, learning that he is actually a troll hunter. **Critics: 7**

76. **Tron: Legacy** (PG) (2010) (Jeff Bridges, Garrett Hedlund) The son of a virtual world designer goes looking for his father and ends up inside the digital world that his father designed. He meets his father's creation turned bad and a unique ally who was born inside the digital domain of The Grid. **Critics: 7-6**

77. **True Grit** (PG-13) (2010) (Hailee Steinfeld, Jeff Bridges) A tough U.S. Marshal helps a stubborn young woman track down her father's murderer. **Critics: 7-8**

78. **Unstoppable** (PG-13) (2010) (Denzel Washington, Chris Pine) With an unmanned, half-mile-long freight train barreling toward a city, a veteran engineer and a young conductor race against the clock to prevent a catastrophe. **Critics: 7-6**

79. **Waiting for ‘Superman’** (PG) (2010) (Documentary) Documentary: A look at the U.S. educational system, its problems and shortcomings, and what a small number of people are trying to do to fix it. **Critics: 7-8**

80. **Way, The** (NR) (2010) (Emilio Estevez, Martin Sheen) An American father travels to France to recover the body of his estranged son who died while traveling "El camino de Santiago" from France to Santiago de Compostela (Spain). **Critics: 7-7**

81. **Way to Live Together** (2010) Sam loves facts. He wants to know about UFOs and horror movies and airships and ghosts and scientists, and how it feels to kiss a girl. And because he has leukemia he wants to know the facts about dying. Sam needs answers to the questions nobody will answer. **Critics: 7-8**

82. “**Welcome to the South**” (NR) (2010) (Claudio Bisio, Alessandro Siani) The story of a self-pitying northern hero dispatched to the Mezzogiorno. What he finds is something at odds with his prejudices. The people of the hilltop town of Castellabate are admittedly incomprehensible. But they are friendly, honest and live in a place of heart-stopping natural beauty. **Critics: 6**

83. **What If...** (PG) (2010) (Kevin Sorbo, Kirsty Swanson) 15 years ago, Ben Walker left his girlfriend and his ministry calling for a business opportunity. Now with a high-paying career and a trophy fiancé, he is visited by an angel, who gives him a glimpse into what his life would like had he followed his calling. **Critics: 6-6**

84. **Winter's Bone** (R) (2010) (Jennifer Lawrence, John Hawkes) An unflinching Ozark Mountain girl hacks through dangerous social terrain as she hunts down her drug-dealing father while trying to keep her family intact. **Critics: 8-9**

**2009 releases:**


2. **13th Day, The** (NR) (2009) (Jane Lesley, Michael D'Cruze) Good retelling of the Fatima apparitions and miracle: beautiful, effective and for the most part historically accurate. Both artful and reverent. **Critics: 9**

3. **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (PG) (2009) (Zachary Levi, David Cross) Family comedy: The three pop-star chipmunks from the first film are back and enrolled in high school, where they vie with three female singing chipmunks discovered by their evil former agent. **Critics: 3-3-3**

4. “**Amreeka**” (PG-13) (2009) (Nisreen Faour, Melkar Muallem) Drama centered on a divorced mother and her teenage son, both Christian Arabs that emigrate from Bethlehem to a town in Illinois. In Arab and English. **Critics: 3-3**

5. **Armored** (PG-13) (2009) (Matt Dillon, Jean Reno) A newbie guard for an armored truck company is coerced by his veteran coworkers to steal a truck containing $42 million. But a wrinkle in their supposedly foolproof plan divdes the group, leading to a potentially deadly resolution. **Critics: 4-6-4-5-6**

6. **Astro Boy** (PG) (2009) (voices of Freddie Highmore, Nicolas Cage) Set in futuristic Metro City, Astro Boy is about a young robot with incredible powers created by a brilliant scientist in the image of the son he has lost. Unable to fulfill the grieving man's expectations, our hero embarks on a journey in search of acceptance. **Critics: 5-5-6-6**

8. **Bandslam** (PG) (2009) (Gaelan Alexander Connell, Alyson Michalka) A new kid in town assembles a fledgling rock band – together, they achieve their dreams and compete against the best in the biggest event of the year, a battle of the bands. **Critics:** 7-5-6

9. **Battle for Terra** (PG) (2009) (voices of Evan Rachel Wood, Luke Wilson) A peaceful alien planet faces annihilation, as the homeless remainder of the human race sets its eyes on Terra, a distant planet. **Critics:** 7-5-6

10. **Blind Side, The** (PG-13) (2009) (Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron) The story of Michael Oher, a homeless and traumatized boy who became an All American football player and first round NFL draft pick with the help of a caring woman and her family. **Critics:** 7-9-7-6-5

11. **Box, The** (PG-13) (2009) (Cameron Diaz, James Marsden) Science-fiction: A married couple is approached by a mysterious stranger with a tempting offer where if they push the button on a seemingly non-descript box, they'll receive $1 million, with the catch being someone somewhere in the world who they don't know will die as a result. **Critics:** 4-6-7

12. "**Brand New Life, A**" (NR) (2009) Inspired by her childhood, French-Korean filmmaker Ounie Lecomte recounts the emotional journey of a little girl abandoned by her father in an orphanage. **Critics:** 7-9

13. **Bright Star** (PG) (2009) (Ben Whishaw, Abbie Cornish) Drama based on the three-year romance between 19th century poet John Keats and Fanny Brawne, which was cut short by Keats' untimely death at age 25. **Critics:** 8-9-8-6-6

14. **Brothers** (R) (2009) (Jake Gyllenhaal, Tobey Maguire) When a Marine captain is reportedly killed in combat in Afghanistan, his family must contend with that and then his unexpected return, the disturbing ways in which he's changed, and the now altered family dynamics. A remake of the far superior and more theological 2004 Danish feature. **Critics:** 5-4-7-7-5

15. **Brothers at War** (R) (2009) Doc. An intimate portrait of an American family during a turbulent time. Jake Rademaker sets out to understand the experience, sacrifice, and motivation of his two brothers serving in Iraq. **Critics:** 6

16. **Capitalism: A Love Story** (R) (2009) (Documentary) Michael Moore's documentary explores the question: What is the price that America pays for its love of capitalism? **Critics:** 6-6-5

17. **Christmas Carol, A** (PG) (2009) (voices of Jim Carrey, Gary Oldman) An animated retelling of Charles Dickens' classic novel about a Victorian-era miser taken on a journey of self-redemption, courtesy of several mysterious Christmas apparitions. **Critics:** 6-7-6

18. **Cirque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant** (PG-13) (2009) (Chris Massoglia, John C. Reilly) Horror/Comedy: To save his friend, a teen agrees to become a half-vampire and live among circus freaks with his vampire mentor, unaware that doing so will eventually put the boys at odds and restart a feud between two factions of vampires. **Critics:** 3-6-3-3

19. **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs** (PG) (2009) (voices of Bill Hader, Anna Faris) The most delicious event since macaroni and cheese. Inspired by the beloved children's book, the film focuses on a town where food falls from the sky like rain. **Critics:** 8-8-7-8

20. **Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler, The** (TV) (2009) (Anna Paquin, Marcia Gay Harden) 8-8 The true story of a Catholic nurse who was part of the Polish underground during World War II and was arrested by the Nazi's for saving the lives of nearly 2,500 Jewish children by smuggling them out of the Warsaw ghetto. **Critics:** 8-7

21. **Damned United, The** (R) (2009) (Michael Sheen, Timothy Spall) Drama: After taking over the famous soccer team he once coached against and criticized, a successful but cocky manager must contend with following in his predecessor's footsteps, as we see what got him there and started the rivalry between the two men. **Critics:** 9-7-9-6

22. **District 9** (R) (2009) (Sharlto Copley, David James) An extraterrestrial race forced to live in slum-like conditions on Earth suddenly finds a kindred spirit in a government agent who is exposed to their biotechnology. **Critics:** 8-9-8-7

23. **Drag Me to Hell** (PG-13) (2009) (Alison Lohman, Lorna Raver) A loan officer ordered to evict an old woman from her home finds herself the recipient of a supernatural curse, which turns her life into a living hell. **Critics:** 8-9-7

24. “**Estudiante, El**” (NR) (2009) (Jorge Lavat, Norma Lazareno) An older man enlists in college and teaches a few things to some of the students. Super positive, but sappy as they come. No subtitles yet. **Critics:** 6

25. **Everybody's Fine** (PG-13) (2009) (Robert De Niro, Drew Barrymore) A widower who realized his only connection to his family was through his wife sets off on an impromptu road trip to reunite with each of his grown children. **Critics:** 4-5-7-4

26. **Fantastic Mr. Fox** (PG) (2009) (voices of George Clooney, Meryl Streep) Animated: Angry farmers, tired of sharing their chickens with a sly fox, look to get rid of their opponent and his family. **Critics:** 9-9-8-8

opportunities she never had, she helped to grow his imagination, intelligence and, most importantly, his belief in himself. That would drive him to become one of the world’s leading neurosurgeons. Critics: 7-7-7

28. Hachi: A Dog’s Tale (G) (2009) (Richard Gere, Joan Allen) A drama based on the true story of a college professor’s bond with the abandoned dog he takes into his home. Critics: 6-8-7

29. Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) (2009) (Miley Cyrus, Billy Ray Cyrus) As Hannah Montana’s popularity begins to take over her life, Miley Stewart returns home to Tennessee to reflect on her life. Critics: 3-7-5

30. Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) (2009) (Daniel Radcliffe, Michael Gambon) As Harry Potter begins his 6th year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, he discovers an old book marked mysteriously "This book is the property of the Half-Blood Prince" and begins to learn more about Lord Voldemort’s dark past. Critics: 7-7-6

31. Hotel for Dogs (PG) (2009) (Emma Roberts, Jake T. Austin) Two kids secretly take in nine stray dogs at a vacant house. Critics: 5-7-5-4-4-5

32. Hurt Locker, The (R) (2009) (Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie) Iraq. Forced to play a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse in the chaos of war, an elite Army bomb squad unit must come together in a city where everyone is a potential enemy and every object could be a deadly bomb. Critics: 9-8-7

33. Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG) (2009) (voices of Ray Romano, John Leguizamo) When Sid’s attempt to adopt three dinosaur eggs gets him abducted by their real mother to an underground lost world, his friends attempt to rescue him. Critics:5-7-4

34. Imagine That (PG) (2009) (Eddie Murphy, Yara Shahidi) A financial executive who can’t stop his career downspiral is invited into his daughter’s imaginary world, where solutions to his problems await. Critics: 4-4

35. Informant!, The (R) (2009) (Matt Damon, Scott Bakula) The U.S. government decides to go after an agribusiness giant with a price-fixing accusation, based on the evidence submitted by their star witness, vice president turned informant Mark Whitacre. Critics: 7-9-7-5

36. Ink (2009) (Christopher Soren Kelly, Quinn Hunchar, Jessica Duffy) A mysterious creature, know as Ink, steals a child’s soul in hopes of using it as a bargaining chip to join the Incubi - the group of supernatural beings responsible for creating nightmares. Critics: 8-8-6-7

37. Inkheart (PG) (2009) (Brendan Fraser, Paul Bettany) A young girl discovers her father has an amazing talent to bring characters out of their books and must try to stop a freed villain from destroying them all. Critics: 4-7-4-6-6


39. Invictus (PG-13) (2009) (Morgan Freeman, Matt Damon) The newly elected President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, hopes to begin reconciliation among his black and white constituents by urging them to unite behind the nation’s rugby team in the World Cup. Critics: 7-8-8-6

40. Knowing (PG-13) (2009) (Nicolas Cage, Chandler Canterbury) A teacher discovers a time capsule that holds prophecies—some of which have already come true. Critics: 9-7-9-5-5-4

41. “Letters to Father Jaakob” (NR) (2009) (Kaarina Hazard, Jukka Keinonen) With nowhere else to turn to after her unexpected release from prison, cold-blooded murderer Leila (Kaarina Hazard) reluctantly accepts a job composing letters for blind pastor Jacob (Heikki Nousiainen), whom she deeply resents at first but gradually grows to admire. A heartwarming tale of personal redemption. Critics: 7-7-8

42. “Little Nicholas” (NR) (2009) (Maxime Godart, Valerie Lemercier) In French. The adventures of Nicolas, who has a happy existence. However, one day, he overhears a conversation that might change forever, his mother is pregnant! He panics and envisions the worst: soon a little brother will... Critics: 8-7

43. Lovely Bones, The (PG-13) (2009) (Saoirse Ronan, Mark Wahlberg) Centers on a young girl who has been murdered and watches over her family - and her killer - from heaven. She must weigh her desire for vengeance against her desire for her family to heal. Critics: 6-6-4

44. Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) (2009) (voices of Reese Witherspoon, Seth Rogen) When a meteorite from outer space hits a young girl and turns her into a giant monster, she is taken to a secret government compound where she meets other monsters. Critics: 5-7-8-6-7-7

45. Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) (2009) (Ben Stiller, Amy Adams) Security guard Larry Daley infiltrates the Smithsonian Institute in order to rescue two people who have been shipped to the museum by mistake. Critics: 6-5-5

47. **Old Dogs** (PG) (2009) (John Travolta, Robin Williams) Comedy: A couple of lifelong friends and business partners find their lives turned upside down when one finds out he is the father of 7-year-old twins and must suddenly take care of them as a major business deal is going down. **Critics:** 1-4-2

48. “**Paa**” (2009) (G) (Amitabh Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Vidya Balan) A 13 year old boy has an extremely rare genetic defect which causes accelerated ageing. In spite of his condition he is a very happy boy who lives alone with his mother and grandmother. He does not know his father. By mere coincidence they will meet one day, and the boy will influence his father to look life differently. Hindi with subtitles. **Critics:** 7-6-7

49. **Pandorum** (R) (2009) (Dennis Quaid, Ben Foster) A pair of crew members aboard a spaceship wake up with no knowledge of their mission or their identities. Slowly the spacecraft's shocking, deadly secrets are revealed. **Critics:** 7-3-7-3

50. **Paul Blart: Mall Cop** (PG) (2009) (Kevin James, Keir O'Donnell) When a shopping mall is overtaken by a gang of organized crooks, it's up to the a mild-mannered security guard to save the day. **Critics:** 6-5-5-4

51. **Perfect Game, The** (PG) (2009) (lifton Collins Jr., Jake T. Austin) Based on a true story, a group of boys from Monterrey, Mexico who become the first non-U.S. team to win the Little League World Series. **Critics** 8-6-6

52. **Place of Execution** (NR-TV) (2009) (Emma Cunniffe, Lee Ingleby) BBC adaptation of Val McDermid's novel, extremely atmospheric and well acted. In 1963 a 13 year old girl disappears and the evidence developed by the police sets afoot this stark morality play, the facts of which are not fully revealed until 40 years later. **Critics:** 7-6

53. **Planet 51** (PG) (2009) (voices of Dwayne Johnson, Justin Long) Computer Animated Sci-fi/Comedy: Residents of an alien planet, that resembles a futuristic version of 1950s America, must contend with their world being upended with the arrival of a human astronaut from Earth. **Critics:** 5-6-4

54. **Ponyo** (G) (2009) (voices of Frankie Jonas, Noah Lindsey Cyrus) An animated adventure centered on a 5-year-old boy and his relationship with a goldfish princess who longs to become human. **Critics:** 8-8-8

55. “**Popieluszko**” (NR) (2009) (Adam Woronowicz, Artur Balczyński) Story of life of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the priest called "The Solidarity Chaplain", murdered by communist secret police. **Critics:** 6

56. **Princess and the Frog, The** (G) (2009) (voices of Anika Noni Rose, Bruno Campos) Classic Disney's musical fairy tale set in Jazz Age-era New Orleans and centered on a young girl named Princess Tiana and her fateful kiss with a frog prince who desperately wants to be human again. **Critics:** 8-8-8-9

57. **Push** (PG-13) (2009) (Chris Evans, Dakota Fanning) A group of young American ex-pats with telekinetic and clairvoyant abilities hide from a clandestine U.S. government agency. **Critics:** 3-5-6-4-4

58. **Race to Witch Mountain** (PG) (2009) (Dwayne Johnson, AnnaSophia Robb) A UFO expert enlists the help of a cabbie to protect two siblings with paranormal powers from the clutches of an evil organization. **Critics:** 6-7-5-6-4

59. **Secret of Kells, The** (PG) (2009) Animated. A life of adventure beckons young Brendan when a celebrated master illuminator arrives from foreign lands carrying an ancient but unfinished book, brimming with secret wisdom and powers. To help complete the magical book, Brendan has to overcome his deepest fears on a dangerous quest that takes him into the enchanted forest where mythical creatures hide. Nominated for oscar. **Critics:** 8-7-79


61. **Shorts** (PG) (2009) (Jimmy Bennett, Leslie Mann) A young boy's discovery of a colorful, wish-granting rock causes chaos in the suburban town of Black Falls when jealous kids and scheming adults alike set out to get their hands on it. **Critics:** 5-5-7

62. **Soloist, The** (PG-13) (2009) (Robert Downey Jr., Jamie Foxx) A Los Angeles journalist befriends a homeless Juilliard-trained musician while looking for a new article for the paper. **Critics:** 7-7-4

63. “**Stoning of Soraya M., The**” (R) (2009) (Shohreh Aghdashloo, Mozhan Marno, Jim Caviezel) A man stranded in a remote Iranian village is approached by a woman with a harrowing tale about her niece. **Critics:** 6-8-8

64. **Taking Chance** (NR-TV) (2009) (Kevin Bacon, Tom Aldredge) Inspired by the true story of a United States Marine who volunteered to escort the remains of a nineteen year old soldier who was killed in Iraq to his small hometown in remote Wyoming. **Critics:** 6-8-8

65. **Taking of Pelham 1 2 3, The** (R) (2009) (Denzel Washington, John Travolta) A remake of the 1974 classic. Denzel Washington plays a subway dispatcher in New York City who uses all his knowledge to stop the train hijacking by John Travolta's Ryder. **Critics:** 5-5-6-6-4

66. “**Town Called Panic, A**” (PG) (2009) Animated. This stop-motion adventure about a trio of plastic toys provides imaginative entertainment for viewers of all ages. Adapted from a TV series, the film follows Cowboy, Indian and Horse on a trip to the center of the Earth and beyond. **Critics:** 7
67. **Up** (PG) (2009) (voices of Edward Asner, Jordan Nagai) By tying thousands of balloon to his home, a senior citizen sets out to fulfill his lifelong dream of seeing South America. **Critics:** 9-8-8


69. **Where the Wild Things Are** (PG) (2009) (Max Records, voice of James Gandolfini) An adaptation of Maurice Sendak's classic children's story, where Max, a disobedient little boy sent to bed without his supper, creates his own world—a forest inhabited by ferocious wild creatures that crown Max as their ruler. **Critics:** 7-7-8-4

70. **“Window, The”** (NR) (2009) In Spanish, from Argentina. An old man in his house in the Patagonian countryside waits simultaneously to die, and the visit of his son who he hasn’t seen in many years. Beautifully filmed, slow paced. **Critics:** 8-8

71. **Young Victoria, The** (PG) (2009) (Emily Blunt, Rupert Friend) Princess Victoria must contend with various people trying to manipulate and/or win over her and her favors both before and after she becomes the Queen of England in the mid 19th century. **Critics:** 7-8-7-6

2008 releases:

1. **10,000 B.C.** (PG-13) (2008) (Steven Strait, Camilla Belle) A 21-year-old hunter from a primitive tribe must hunt mammoth to survive. **Critics:** 4-3

2. **“Admiral!”** (PG-13) (2008) (Konstantin Khabenskiy, Elizaveta Boyarskaya) **Critics:** 6

3. **All Clear** (Foyles War, 2008, NR-TV series, season 6, episode 3) With VE Day upon them, Foyle is asked to represent the police on the councils’ celebration committee. There he meets up with old friend, Major John Kieffer, who is representing the American forces. When a committee member is killed, however, the celebrations take a back seat, as Foyle sets out to uncover the murderer. Along the way he must delve into secrets that the Allied forces wish to keep hidden. **Critics:** 8-8

4. **Body of Lies** (R) (2008) (Leonardo DiCaprio, Russell Crowe) A former journalist injured in the Iraq war is hired by the CIA to track down an Al Qaeda leader in Jordan. **Critics:** 5-4-7-5-7-6

5. **Bolt** (PG) (2008) (voices of John Travolta, Miley Cyrus) The canine star of a fictional sci-fi/action show that believes his powers are real embarks on a cross country trek to save his co-star from a threat he believes is just as real. **Critics:** 7-9-7-8-7

6. **Boy in the Striped Pajamas, The** (PG-13) (2008) (Vera Farmiga, David Thewlis). Set during World War II, a story seen through the innocent eyes of Bruno, the eight-year-old son of the commandant at a concentration camp, whose forbidden friendship with a Jewish boy on the other side of the camp fence has startling and unexpected consequences. **Critics:** 8-8-9-7-7

7. **Broken Souls** (Foyles War, 2008, NR-TV series, season 6, episode 2) Foyle meets Josef Novak for a chess game. Novak is a Polish-Jewish psychiatrist at a nearby military mental-health institution where Dr Worth is found murdered. Foyle is called in, having to delegate the finding of a missing East End boy (formerly a child-evacuee in the Hastings area) to Sam. Meanwhile Fred Dawson, a crippled former POW, arrives back at his farm to find his wife and child being helped in the farm work by Johann, a German POW. Suspecting his wife Rose of an affair with Johann and resenting his easy manner with Fred and Rose's son, the couple argue, and Johann is later found dead after escaping the camp. **Critics:** 8-8

8. **Chronicles of Narnia, The: Prince Caspian** (PG) (2008) (Ben Barnes, William Moseley) The Pevensie siblings return to Narnia, where they are enlisted to once again help ward off an evil king and restore the rightful heir to the land's throne, Prince Caspian. Based on the book by C.S. Lewis. **Critics:** 7-8-8-8-5

9. **City of Ember** (PG) (2008) (Soairse Ronan, Harry Treadaway) Two teenagers race against time to find clues that will unlock the ancient mystery of a city's existence. For generations, the people of the City of Ember have flourished in an amazing world of glittering lights. But Ember's own powerful generator is failing... and the great lamps that illuminate the city are starting to flicker. **Critics:** 6-7-5-5-4

10. **“Class, The”** ("Entre les murs") (PG-13) (2008) (Francois Begadaeu) Teacher and novelist François Bégaudeau plays a version of himself as he negotiates a year with his racially mixed students from a tough Parisian neighborhood. **Critics:** 8-7-6

11. **College Road Trip** (G) (2008) (Martin Lawrence, Raven-Symoné) When an overachieving high school student decides to travel around the country to choose the perfect college, her overprotective cop father insists on coming along. **Critics:** 3

12. **Dark Knight, The** (PG-13) (2008) (Christian Bale, Heath Ledger) Batman and James Gordon join forces with Gotham's new District Attorney, Harvey Dent, to take on a psychotic bank robber known as The Joker. **Critics:** 10-9-10-8-9

13. **Day the Earth Stood Still, The** (PG-13) (2008) (Keanu Reeves, Jennifer Connelly) A remake of the 1951 classic sci-fi film about an alien visitor and his giant robot counterpart who visit Earth. **Critics:** 6-7-5-4

14. **Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who** (G) (2008) (voices of Jim Carrey, Steve Carrell) Horton the Elephant struggles to protect a microscopic community from his neighbors who refuse to believe it exists. **Critics:** 5-7-8-8-7

15. **Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed** (Doc.) (PG) (2008) Ben Stein investigates the snubbing of scientists and teachers who teach the theory of intelligent design. **Critics:** 5-8-4

16. **Fireproof** (PG) (2008) (Kirk Cameron, Erin Bethea). In an attempt to save his marriage, a firefighter uses a 40-day experiment known as "The Love Dare". **Critics:** 5-8-4

17. **Flash of Genius** (PG-13) (2008) (Greg Kinnear, Lauren Graham) Robert Kearns takes on the Detroit automakers who he claims stole his idea for the intermittent windshield wiper. **Critics:** 7-9-5-5-6-5

18. **Forbidden Kingdom, The** (PG-13) (2008) (Jackie Chan, Jet Li) A discovery made by a kung fu-obsessed American teen sends him on an adventure to China, where he joins a band of martial arts warriors. **Critics:** 5-2-7-6-5

19. **Happening, The** (R) (2008) (Mark Wahlberg, Zoeey Deschanel) A family is on the run from a natural crisis that presents a large-scale threat to humanity. **Critics:** 8-3-8-8-2

Titles within quotation marks are originally in a foreign language. **Underlined:** my recommendation
20. **Hellboy II: The Golden Army** (PG-13) (2008) (Ron Perlman, Selma Blair) The mythical world starts a rebellion against humanity in order to rule the Earth, so Hellboy and his team must save the world from the rebellious creatures. **Critics:** 9-9-10-8

21. **Henry Poole Is Here** (PG) (2008) (Luke Wilson, Radha Mitchell) Henry Poole moves in to a house in his old neighborhood, to spend what he believes are his remaining days alone. The discovery of a "miracle" by a nosy neighbor ruptures his solitude and restores his faith in life. **Critics:** 4-6-5

22. **High School Musical 3: Senior Year** (G) (2008) (Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens). As seniors in high school, Troy and Gabriella struggle with the idea of being separated from one another as college approaches. Along with the rest of the Wildcats, they stage a spring musical to address their experiences, hopes and fears. **Critics:** 5-3

23. **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull** (PG-13) (2008) (Harrison Ford, Shia LaBeouf) In 1957, Indiana Jones is thrust back in action, venturing into the jungles of South America in a race against Soviet agents to find the mystical Crystal Skull. **Critics:** 9-8-7-8-7-6

24. **Into the Storm** (NR-TV) (2008) Continuing the storyline of The Gathering Storm, Churchill at War is a look at the former British prime minister's life and career at the end of WWII. **Critics:** 7-7

25. **Ip Man** (PG-13) (2008) (Donnie Yen) A semi-biographical account of Yip Man, the first martial arts master to teach the Chinese martial art of Wing Chun, and his fight against the Japanese who had invaded his country in 1939. **Critics:** 8-9-9-8

26. **Journey to the Center of the Earth** (PG) (2008) (Brendan Fraser, Josh Hutcherson) On a quest to find out what happened to his missing brother, a scientist, his nephew, and their mountain guide discover a fantastic and dangerous lost world in the center of the earth. Based on the novel by Jules Verne. **Critics:** 6-7-6-5-5

27. **Kit Kittredge: An American Girl** (G) (2008) (Abigail Breslin, Julia Ormond) Kit Kittredge, a 9-year old girl, endures hardships while growing up during the Great Depression. **Critics:** 9-8-7-7-7

28. **Kung Fu Panda** (PG) (2008) (voices of Jack Black, Dustin Hoffman) Po the Panda is the laziest animal in the Valley of Peace, but unwittingly becomes the chosen one when enemies threaten his way of life. **Critics:** 8-7-9-9-7

29. **Leatherheads** (PG-13) (2008) (George Clooney, Renée Zellweger) In the 1920s, the owner of a professional football team drafts a strait-laced college sensation, only to watch his new coach fall for his fiancée. **Critics:** 9-6

30. **"Lemon Tree"** (PG) (2008) (Hiam Abbass, Ali Suliman) The story of a Palestinian widow who must defend her lemon tree field when a new Israeli Defense Minister moves next to her and threatens to have her lemon grove torn down. **Critics:** 8-7-8


32. **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (PG) (2008) (voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock). Animated sequel: Hoping to return to New York via a penguin-piloted plane, the four animal friends crash-land in the plains of Africa. **Critics:** 5-6-7-7-5

33. **"Midnight Eagle"** (NR) (2008) (Takao Osawa Yuko Takeuchi) When a gifted photographer witnesses the crash of a U.S. Stelth Bomber in Japan’s snowy mountains, he becomes a reluctant hero who must defy the odds to protect the plan’s lethal contents from getting into the wrong hands. In Japanese. **Critics:** 4-6

34. **Nim’s Island** (PG) (2008) (Abigail Breslin, Jodie Foster) A young girl inherits an isolated island with her scientist father and communicates with a reclusive author of the novel she’s reading. **Critics:** 5-5-6

35. **"North Face"** (PG-13) (2008) (Martín Adjemián, Víctor Hugo Carrizo) Based on a true story, North Face is a suspenseful adventure film about a competition to climb the most dangerous rock face in the Alps. **Critics:** 7-8-7

36. **O, Jerusalem** (R) (2008) (Elie Chouraqui, director) A tale of friendship between two men, one Jewish and the other Arab, as the state of Israel is being created. **Critics:** 6

37. **Old Fashioned Thanksgiving, An** (NR-TV) (2008) (Jacqueline Bisset, Tatiana Maslany) Taking place after the Civil War, it chronicles the life of a widow with three children who are poverty stricken. The eldest daughter concocts a story that ultimately draws their wealthy grandmother to their New Hampshire home. **Critics:** 6

38. **Penelope** (PG) (2008) (Christina Ricci, James McAvoy) Penelope, trapped by a family curse, sets out to find love and discover her true self. **Critics:** 6-5-6-5

39. **Plan of Attack (Foyle’s War**, 2008, NR-TV series, season 6, episode 1) Milner and DCS Meredith (Foyle’s replacement) have arrested a racketeer, but this has to take a back-seat when a highly-strung map-maker is found hanged in local woods, after confiding in a local Catholic priest (a German, but apparently anti-Nazi). It looks like suicide but Milner is not so sure. Threatened by the racketeer, Milner is the subject of an attempted assassination, which instead leaves Meredith dead. Foyle is reluctantly called back from retirement to solve both the cases, which he successfully does, and decides to stay in police work until the end of the war. **Critics:** 8-8

40. **“Ponyo on the Cliff”** (G) (2008) (Voices dubbed by Cate Blanchet and Matt Damon) Animated by Hayao Miyazaki. **Critics:** 8-8

41. **Ramchand Pakistani** (2008) (PG) (Mehreen Jabbar, Nandita Das, Syed Fassad Hussein) A lost Dalit Hindu little boy cross the India-Pakistan border. There he and his father, who comes after him, are captured by the Indian border patrol and jailed. There remained several years. However, he and his father remained hopeful. **Critics:** 7-6

42. **Raisin in the Sun, A** (NR-TV) (2008) (Sean “Puffy” Combs, Phylicia Rashad) An African-American family struggles with poverty and racism on Chicago’s South Side in the 1950s. **Critics:** 8-8

43. **Secret Life of Bees, The** (PG-13) (2008) (Dakota Fanning, Queen Latifah) Set in South Carolina in 1964, a teenage girl is haunted by the memory of her late mother. Based on the novel by Sue Monk Kidd. **Critics:** 6-6

44. **Son of Rambow** (PG-13) (2008) (Bill Milner, Will Poulter) Will, an English teenager from a family so strictly religious that they disapprove of his watching TV, listening to music, or fraternizing with others his age, goes through a major change over the course of one long summer. **Critics:** 6-7-8-10-7-6

45. **Spiderwick Chronicles, The** (PG) (2008) (Freddie Highmore, Sarah Bolger) A family uncovers the amazing truth of their new home, the Spiderwick estate, and the fantastic creatures that inhabit it. **Critics:** 6-7-8-4-6

47. “Summer Hours” (NR) (2008) (Charles Berling, Juliette Binoche) Two brothers and a sister witness the disappearance of their childhood memories when they must relinquish the family belongings to ensure their deceased mother's succession. In French. Critics: 9-7-9-7

48. Swing Vote (PG-13) (2008) (Kevin Costner, Madeline Carroll) Man gets reunited with his daughter and finds that his vote is vital to the outcome of an election. Critics: 5-5

49. “Tahaan” (G) (2008) (Purv Bhandare, Anupam Kher, Rahul Bose) A 8 year old boy who wants to get back his pet donkey ends up being used by terrorists in Kashmir, in the border between India and Pakistan. Hindi with subtitles. Critics: 7-8

50. Tale of Despereaux, The (G) (2008) (voices of Matthew Broderick, Dustin Hoffman) Animated: The tale of three unlikely heroes - a misfit mouse who prefers reading books to eating them, an unhappy rat who schemes to leave the darkness of the dungeon, and a bumbling servant girl with cauliflower ears - whose fates are intertwined with that of the castle's princess. Critics: 5-6-5


52. U2 3D (Doc.) (G) (2008) (Concert Film) Critics: 8

53. Under the Same Moon (PG-13) (2008) (Kate del Castillo, Adrian Alsonso) A boy living in Mexico crosses the Mexican/U.S. Border to be reunited with his mother. Critics: 6

54. Valkyrie (PG-13) (2008) (Tom Cruise, Bill Nighy) Drama/Suspense: Various disgruntled officers and others attempt to stage the assassination of Adolf Hitler and takeover of the German government during WWII. Critics: 7-7-6

55. Vantage Point (PG-13) (2008) (Dennis Quaid, Forest Whitaker) An attempted assassination of the president is told from five different points of view. Critics: 6-7-6


57. WALL·E (G) (2008) (voices of Ben Burtt, Elissa Knight) WALL·E, a robot, spends every day doing what he was made for. But soon, he will discover what he was meant for. Critics: 10-9-10-10

58. “Wednesday, A” (G) (2008) (Naseeruddin Shah, Anupam Kher) A man, after having planted some bombs in Bombay, demands the release of four major terrorists within the next few hours or the city will be blown apart. Hindi with subtitles. Critics: 8

59. Welcome to the Sticks (NR) (2008) Most popular film ever in France. A post office administrator tries to obtain a transfer to a fast French Riviera at any cost. Caught red-handed while trying to scam an inspector, he is banished to the Far North of France. Leaving his child and wife behind, the man goes to his frightening destination, a dread fully cold place inhabited by hard-drinking, unemployed rednecks, speaking an incomprehensible dialect. Philippe soon realizes that all these ideas were nothing but prejudices and that Bergues is not synonymous with hell. Critics: 8-7

60. Young @ Heart (Doc.) (PG) (2008) A story of the Young at Heart Chorus, a group of senior citizens who perform contemporary and classic rock and pop songs. Critics: 8-4-7-8-4

2007 releases:


2. “Alexandra” (NR) (2007) (Galina Vishnevskaya, Vasily Shevtsov) An elderly woman takes a train trip to visit her grandson at his army camp inside Chechnya. Critics: 9-10


5. Arranged (NR) (2007) (Zoe Lister-Jones, Francis Benhamou) The friendship between an Orthodox Jewish woman and a Muslim woman who meet as first-year teachers at a public school in Brooklyn. Over the course of the year they learn they share much in common: similar moral values and that they are both going through the process of arranged marriages. Critics: 7-8-8

6. Astronaut Farmer (PG) (2007) (Billy Bob Thornton, Virginia Madsen) When a man is forced to leave his job at NASA to tend to the family farm, he decides to build his own spaceship. Critics: 10-6

7. “August Evening” (PG-13) (2007) (Pedro Castaneda, Veronica Loren) August Evening follows an aging undocumented farm worker named Jaime and his young, widowed daughter-in-law, Lupe, as their lives are thrown into upheaval. Critics: 7-7

8. August Rush (PG) (2007) (Freddie Highmore, Keri Russell) A young musical prodigy uses his skills to find his birth parents. Critics: 6-8-4


12. Beyond the Gates (R) (2007) (Hugh Dancy, John Hurt) In 1994, a Catholic priest and an idealistic English teacher become unwittingly embroiled in the Rwandan genocide. Thousands of Tutsis are about to be massacred, and the English teacher and the priest must decide if they should stay and help the ethnic minority or run for their lives. Based on a true story. A.k.a. Shooting Dogs and In Every Human Heart. Critics: 7-6-7-8-5


15. Bridge to Terabithia (PG) (2007) (Josh Hutcherson, AnnaSophia Robb) A girl and a boy become friends when they find themselves outcasts at their school. They discover a magical place, Terabithia, and subsequently invent all kinds of creatures for and adventures in their special place. Critics: 9-7-8-6


18. Casualties of War (Foyle’s War, 2007, NR-TV series, season 5, episode 2) Foyle’s god-daughter Lydia and her young son James — traumatised by the bombing of his school — come to stay unexpectedly. Struggling to look after the boy when his mother goes missing, Foyle’s life suffers a further complication when the body of a local man is found near a military centre — leading him into the top-secret world of weapons research. In the meantime Milner investigates a crooked gambling ring. However, when Foyle is prevented from bringing the culprits to justice he resigns from the police force. Critics: 8-8

19. “Cave of the Yellow Dog, The” (2007) When a young Mongolian girl finds a puppy, her father demands she get rid of it, lest it be a danger to their family. Critics: 5-7-8

20. “Chak De India” (NR) (2007) (Shah Rukh Khan, Vidya Malavade) An ex-Indian Hockey captain coaches a hockey team of young girls from different parts of the country who lack team spirit. For the girls is the opportunity to make their nation proud, for him is a chance to reclaim his lost honor after being deemed a traitor seven years before. In Hindi. Critics: 9


22. “Dharm” (G) (2007) (Pankaj Kapur, Supriya Pathak) The life of a ritualistic Pandit is encroached upon by an abandoned infant. He adopts it and later he came to know the boy was born of a Muslim mother. The four years of Kartikeya’s childhood challenge the very core of Chaturvedi’s belief in Hinduism. Critics: 7-8

23. Dead Silence (R) (2007) (Ryan Kwaxten, Donnie Wahlberg) Soon after receiving an anonymous gift of a dummy, a young man finds himself suspected of murder and returns to his hometown to try to clear his name by uncovering the truth behind a local legend about a homicidal ventriloquist. Critics: 5-3

24. “Eklavya-The Royal Guard” (NR) (2007) (Amitaabh Bachchan, Saif Ali Khan, Boman Irani) Eklavya is part of the royal guard protecting the Jawardhan the Majaraja of Devigarh and upon the death of the queen he is involved in a plot by the king to kill Eklavya while the Jawardhan’s brother and his son pan to kill the king. In Indie.

25. Enchanted (PG) (2007) (Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey) Princess Giselle suddenly finds herself banished to modern day New York City, but can she find true love in the mean streets of the Big Apple? Critics: 7-6

26. Encounters at the End of the World (Doc.) (G) (2007) (Werner Herzog, director). Filmmaker Werner Herzog travels to Antarctica to capture its landscape's rarely seen beauty on film. Critics: 9-8-8

27. Final Season, The (PG) (2007) (Sean Astin, Michael Angarano) Kent Stock disrupts his life to become coach of a high school baseball team and try to lead them to victory. Critics: 4


32. High School Musical 2 (G) (2007) (Zac Efron, Vanessa Anne Hudgens). During the summer vacations a talent show is organized in a local country club and Troy, Gabriella, Sharpay, Ryan, Chad and Taylor participate. Critics: 4


34. I Am Legend (PG-13) (2007) (Will Smith, Dash Mihok) Just one man remains on Earth after a virus has transformed the population into vampire-like creatures. Based on the novel by Richard Matheson. Critics: 9-8-8-7


37. Kingdom, The (R) (2007) (Jamie Foxx, Chris Cooper) A team of U.S. government agents is sent to investigate the bombing of an American facility in the Middle East. Critics: 7-7-6-8

38. Kite Runner, The (PG-13) (2007) (Khalid Abdalla, Zekeria Ebrahimi) After spending years in California, Amir returns to his homeland in Afghanistan to help his old friend Hassan, whose son is in trouble. Critics: 8-7-8-5

40. **Last Sin Eater, The** (PG-13) (2007) (Liana Liberato, Soren Fulton) Living in 1850's Appalachia, 10-year-old Cadi Forbes is wracked with guilt over the death of her sister. To allay her guilt, she asks for help from a man known as The Sin Eater, but in the process of finding redemption, Cadi uncovers secrets that could tear apart both her family and her community. **Critics:** 5-4

41. **Last Stand of the 300, The** (Doc.) (NR-TV) (2007) History Channel on the battle of Thermopylae. **Critics:** 7-7

42. **“Like Stars on Earth”** (2007) (Darshheel Safary, Aamir Khan). From India. An eight year old boy is thought to be lazy and a troublemaker, until the new art teacher has the patience and compassion to discover the real problem behind his struggles in school. **Critics:** 8-5

43. **Lions for Lambs** (R) (2007) (Robert Redford, Meryl Streep) Injuries sustained by two Army ranger behind enemy lines in Afghanistan set off a sequence of events involving a congressman, a journalist, and a professor. **Critics:** 6-4-7-4

44. **Martian Child** (PG) (2007) (John Cusack, Bobby Coleman) A lonely man who recently lost his fiancee adopts a six-year-old boy in an attempt to create a family. **Critics:** 4-4

45. **Meet the Robinsons** (G) (2007) (voices of Daniel Hansen, Wesley Singerman) An inventor gets into a time machine with a mysterious stranger, and before they know it they're in the future having a showdown with a guy in a bowler hat. **Critics:** 7-6

46. **Messengers, The** (PG-13) (2007) (Kristen Stewart, Dylan McDermott) After a seemingly perfect family moves to a sunflower farm in the middle of nowhere, murder and mayhem begin to screw with their lives. **Critics:** 6-4

47. **Mr. Bean's Holiday** (G) (2007) (Roland Atkinson, Max Baldry) Mr. Bean wins a trip to Cannes where he unwittingly separates a young boy from his father and must help the two come back together. **Critics:** 8-7

48. **Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium** (G) (2007) (Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman) When Molly Mahoney inherits Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium a dark and ominous change begins to take over the once remarkable Emporium. **Critics:** 7-3

49. **“Munyurangabo”** (NR) (2007) From opposing ethnic groups, Ngabo and Sangwa are tested when old-timers warn, "Hutus and Tutsis should not be friends." An intense & inspiring portrait of youth in Rwanda. **Critics:** 7-8-6

50. **My Boy Jack** (NR-TV) (2007) (David Haig, Daniel Radcliffe) Author Rudyard Kipling and his wife search for their 17-year-old son after he goes missing during WWI. **Critics:** 7

51. **Nancy Drew** (PG) (2007) (Emma Roberts, Max Thieriot) A teen detective happens upon clues to a murder mystery involving a movie star. **Critics:** 9-5

52. **National Treasure: Book of Secrets** (PG) (2007) (Nicolas Cage, Justin Bartha) Treasure hunter Benjamin Franklin Gates looks to discover the truth behind the assassination of Abraham Lincoln by uncovering the mystery within the missing pages from his assassin's diary. **Critics:** 6-4-4

53. **No Country for Old Men** (R) (2007) (Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin) Violence and mayhem ensues after a hunter stumbles upon some dead bodies, a stash of heroin and more than $2 millions in cash near the Rio Grande. **Critics:** 10-9-9-10-9-10-8

54. **Note, The** (NR-TV) (2007) (Genie Francis, Ted McGinely) After a tragic plane crash, a local journalist discovers a note that she believed was written by one of the passengers. She seeks the note's intended receiver, but the journey is more revealing of her own past. **Critics:** 6-6

55. **Once** (R) (2007) (Glen Hansard, Markéta Irglová) A heartbroken musician sparks a new romance with a young immigrant, as they write, rehearse, and record songs that follow their love story. **Critics:** 10-9-9-10-9-10-8

56. **“Orphanage, The”** (R) (2007) (Bélen Rueda, Fernando Cayo) Laura returns to the house where she was raised, and decides to transform it into an orphanage. Soon, her son makes an invisible friend. **Critics:** 9-8-8-7

57. **Perfect Holiday, The** (PG) (2007) (Morriss Chestnut, Gabrielle Union) A young girl turns to a department store Santa in the hopes that he will help find a new husband for her divorced mother. **Critics:** 3

58. **Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End** (PG-13) (2007) (Johnny Depp, Keira Knightley) Will Turner, Elizabeth Swann and Captain Barbossa must sail off the edge of the map, navigate treachery and betrayal, and make their final alliances for one last decisive battle. **Critics:** 7-6-6-5-9

59. **Pride** (PG) (2007) (Terrence Howard, Bernie Mac) Jim Ellis, a man driven to see social change in his community, starts a swim team made up of disadvantaged inner-city kids. **Critics:** 6-5

60. **Ratatouille** (G) (2007) (voices of Patton Oswalt, Lou Romano) A sensitive, talented rat longs to be a world-class chef in a five-star Parisian restaurant. A great Pixar film, at the level of The Incredibles, but a bit more sophisticated, and aimed at kids’ funny-bones but their parents’ hearts and minds. **Critics:** 10-8


62. **Robin Hood** (NR-TV series) (Season 2: 2007) (Jonas Armstrong, Lucy Griffiths) The adventures of Robin, Marian and Co. vs. the Sheriff of Nothingham and other bad guys.13 episodes, aprox. 10 hours. **Critics** on average per episode: 6-5.

63. **Saving Sarah Cain** (PG) (2007) When Sarah Cain, a self-involved big-city newspaper columnist, travels to the funeral of her Amish sister, she becomes the legal guardian of her five Amish nieces and nephews. Rather than choose to move to Lancaster County to finish raising them there herself, or let them in the foster care system, Sarah decides to take them with her back to Portland where she believes she can make a new life for them. **Critics:** 6-6

64. **Shrek the Third** (PG) (2007) (voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy) King Shrek? Not if he can help it. When his father-in-law dies, Shrek does everything he can to stay out of the castle and stay in the swamp. **Critics:** 9-7-7-6

65. **Spider-Man 3** (PG-13) (2007) (Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst) Peter Parker has finally managed to strike a balance between his devotion to M.J. and his duties as a superhero. But there is a storm brewing on the horizon. **Critics:** 9-9-6

66. **Stardust** (PG-13) (2007) (Charlie Cox, Claire Danes) In a countryside town bordering on a magical land, a young man makes a promise to his beloved that he’ll retrieve a fallen star by venturing into the magical realm. **Critics:** 7-6-6

67. **Sunshine** (R) (2007) (Cillian Murphy, Chris Evans) It’s 50 years in the future and the sun is dying, so a team of astronauts travels millions of miles to try to reignite it and save life on Earth as we know it. **Critics:** 7-6
69. Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (R) (2007) (Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter) Benjamin Barker, a.k.a. Sweeney Todd, sets up a barber shop down in London which is the basis for a sinister partnership with his fellow tenant, Mrs. Lovett. Critics: 7-9-8-7


73. Ultimate Gift, The (PG) (2007) (Drew Fuller, Ali Hillis) A spoiled young man befriends a gravely ill child on his way to claim an inheritance from his late grandfather. Critics: 5-8-7-4


76. Zodiac (R) (2007) (Jake Gyllenhaal, Mark Ruffalo) This based-on-true-facts story follows the cops and journalists who were obsessed with capturing the Zodiac Killer, who terrorized San Francisco in the 1970s. Critics: 9-10-9-8-6

2006 releases:

1. 16 Blocks (PG-13) (2006) (Bruce Willis, Mos Def) A disturbed New York cop and a witness go 16 blocks, but face numerous, deadly obstacles on the way. Critics: 8-7-7-5

2. Akeelah and the Bee (PG) (2006) (Keke Palmer, Laurence Fishburne) A young girl has a talent for spelling, which leads her all the way to the National Spelling Bee, despite objections from her mother. Critics: 8-7-9-6-7


4. “Azur and Asmar: The Princes’ Quest” (PG) (2006) French animated fairy tale. Azure is a blond boy with blue eyes, Asmar has dark hair and dark eyes. As kids, they fought each other as brothers do. As grown ups, they mercilessly become rival in the quest for the djinn’s fairy, in a medieval Maghreb, full of dangers, magic spells and wonders. Critics: 7-7

5. Bad Blood (Foyle’s War, 2006, NR-TV series, season 4, episode 2) A biological warfare experiment with Anthrax goes horribly wrong and Sam is asked to marry. Critics: 8-8


7. Blood Diamond (R) (2006) (Leonardo DiCaprio, Djimon Hounsou) A fisherman, a mercenary, and a journalist find their lives touched by the discovery of a rare pink diamond. Critics: 5-6-7-8-6


9. Cars (G) (2006) (voices of Owen Wilson, Bonnie Hunt) A race car named Lightning McQueen lives for speed. When he gets into an accident in Radiator Springs, a town on Route 66, he learns there’s more to life than racing. Critics: 8-6-9-9-6


12. “Child, The” (2006, Jeremie Renier, Deborah Francois) A young couple living off government welfare and panhandling, give birth to a baby boy. Desperate for money and unable to face his parental responsibilities, the man sells the infant to a black market connection. Realizing he went too far, Bruno tries to retrieve his son and finds himself in deeper trouble than ever before. French v.o. Same director as “The Son” Critics: 9-8-9.


14. Death of a President (R) (2006) (Hend Ayoub, Brian Bolandt) One year after George W. Bush is assassinated, a TV station makes a documentary about the shooting death of Dub. Critics: 8-5-5-5-5

15. “Dor” (PG-13) (2006) (Ayesha Takia, Gul Panag) Two women, one form Himachal and the other from Rajasthan have their husbands working in Saudi Arabia. Accidentally one husband is killed by the other. The only way of rescuing the accused from death penalty is to get a signed pardon from the widow. Hindi with subtitles. Critics: 7-6-8


18. Facing the Giants (PG) (2006) (Alex Kendrick, Shannen Fields) Evangelical movie. A high-school football coach accepts Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior, convinces the players to do the same, and the team become state champions. All through the power of prayer. Critics: 6-4
19. **Fall, The** (R) (2006) (Lee Pace, Cantica Untaru) In a hospital, a little girl with a broken collarbone meets a bedridden man who starts telling her a fantastical story which reflects his state of mind. **Critics: 7-8-8**


21. **Fearless** (PG-13) (2006) (Jet Li, Dong Yong) Martial arts master Huo Yuanjia, founder of the Jin Wu Sports Federation, faces personal tragedy at the dawn of the 20th century. **Critics: 9-5-7-4**

22. **Firewall** (PG-13) (2006) (Harrison Ford, Paul Bettany) Harrison Ford plays a security specialist forced to rob a bank to pay off the criminal mastermind who has kidnapped his family. **Critics: 8-7-4-5-4**

23. **Flags of our Fathers** (R) (2006) (Ryan Phillippe, Jesse Bradford) Tells the story of six American soldiers who became instant heroes, and a symbol for victory to a nation that had grown weary of war, when they raised the American flag on Mt. Suribachi during the struggle for the island of Iwo Jima. **Critics: 10-9-7**

24. **Flicka** (PG) (2006) (Tim McGraw, Maria Bello) Young Katy claims a wild horse as her own—an effort to prove to her father that she is capable of one day taking over the family farm. **Critics: 5-5-6**

25. **Flight 93** (PG-13 TV) (2006) (Jeffrey Nordling, Brennan Elliott) Flight 93 is the story of the heroic passengers that took back their plane in an effort to stop a 9-11 terrorist attack. **Critics: 6-8-6**

26. **Flushed Away** (PG) (2006) (voices of Hugh Jackman, Kate Winslet) A penthouse-dwelling rat gets flushed down the toilet. In the sewer, he sees how other rats live. **Critics: 7-8-9-7**

27. **Flyboys** (PG-13) (2006) (James Franco, Martin Henderson) A story about the Lafayette Escadrille—volunteer fighter pilots who fought alongside the French in World War I. **Critics: 5-4-4**

28. **Glory Road** (PG) (2006) (Josh Lucas, Derek Luke) Set in the 1960s, this movie follows the trials and tribulations of a white basketball coach who goes up against white racists when they find out his starting line-up consists of all African-American players. **Critics: 8-7-8-7-5**

29. **“Great Silence, The”** (Doc.) (2006) (voices of Ray Romano, John Leguizamo) In this sequel, flooding threatens everyone as the Ice Age comes to a close. **Critics: 6-5-5-6**


31. **Happy Feet** (PG) (2006) (voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams) A cute, little penguin cannot sing—and thus, can’t attract a mate—but that’s okay, because he's a terrific tap dancer. **Critics: 6-7-8-7-6**

32. **Hidden Blade, The** (NR-TV) (2006) (Masato Nagase, Takako Matsu) A samurai falls for a woman outside his social class and must confront a friend in battle. **Critics: 7**


35. **Ice Age: The Meltdown** (PG) (2006) (voices of Ray Romano, John Leguizamo) In this sequel, flooding threatens everyone as the Ice Age comes to a close. **Critics: 6-5-5-6**

36. **Invasion** (Foyle’s War, NR-TV) (2006) (Zac Efron, Vanessa Anne Hudgens). Two high school students who are worlds apart—one of them is the school’s basketball star and the other one is the president of the science club—secretly decide to audition for a school musical, a decision that turns their world and their school upside down. **Critics: 5**


39. **Invincible** (PG) (2006) (Mark Wahlberg, Greg Kinnear) In the 1970s, a 30-year-old bartender becomes the star of the Philadelphia Eagles, despite the fact that he never even played college football. **Critics: 8-6-7-8**

40. **Jane Eyre** (NR-TV) (2006) (Ruth Wilson, Toby Stephens) BBC miniseries, 202 m. Masterpiece Theatre adaptation of the classic by Charlotte Bronte. A young governess with a tragic childhood falls in love with her employer, a brooding man with a painful secret. **Critics: 8-9-9**

41. **“Khosia ka Ghosial!”** (PG) (2006) (Anupam Kher, Pravin Dabbas) K.K. Khosia purchases a piece of land in South Delhi. As he draws plans for his family's new abode, his younger son Chhery decides to move to America, in the mean time his plot is forcefully occupied by a ruthless tycoon. **Critics: 6**

42. **“Krissh”** (NR) (Hrithik Roshan, Prianka Chopra) Sequel of Koi Mil Gaya that takes place 20 years after KMG. The innocent village boy Krishna is forced to become Krish—an Indian superhero. In Hindi. **Critics: 8-7**

43. **“Lage Raho Munna Bhai”** (NR) (2006) (Sanjay Dutt, Arshad Warsi) Sequel of Munna Bhai M.B.B.S. Munna falls platonically in love for a radio announcer, lies his way to meet her, and then finds honesty through the spirit of Gandhi. A riot. A very well crafted movie and a great message. In Hindi. **Critics: 9-10**

44. **Lake House, The** (PG) (2006) (Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock) Remake of the acclaimed Korean romance Il Mare about two lovers who discover that they live two years apart. **Critics: 9-7-8-4**

45. **Lassie** (PG) (2006) (Peter O’Toole, Jonathan Mason) After being sold off by a poor but affectionate family, an intrepid collie treks back home to see her master. **Critics: 7-8-7**
47. “Lights in the Dusk” (NR) (2006) (Janne Hyttiainen, Maria Heiskane). Director: Aki Kaurismaki’s final entry in his “Trilogy of Losers”. In Helsinki, a lonely night watchman is fooled by a feme fatale and a crooked businessman. Critics: 7-8-8
48. Looking For Comedy in the Muslim World (PG-13) (2006) (Albert Brooks, Sheetal Sheth) In an effort to broker better relations with Muslim countries, some bright bulb in the U.S. government decides to send comedian Albert Brooks on a fact-finding mission to discover what makes Muslim people laugh. Critics: 7-6-5-4
50. Miss Potter (PG) (2006) (Renée Zellweger, Ewan McGregor) Children's author Beatrix Potter battles an overbearing mother and the sexism of Victorian England so she may be able to pursue her art. Critics: 9-6
51. Monster House (PG) (2006) (voices of Mitchel Musso, Sam Lerner) A group of kids knows that a house is really a monster. If only they could convince their parents that they're telling the truth. Critics: 9-9-6-7
52. Nanny McPhee (PG) (2006) (Emma Thompson, Colin Firth) Emma Thompson stars as a nanny who uses her magical powers to rein in her seven unruly charges. Critics: 8-8-7-7
54. Night at the Museum (PG) (2006) (Ben Stiller, Robin Williams) At the Natural History Museum, an inept security guard unleashes a curse that causes the museum's displays and specimens to come to life. Critics: 6-4-4
55. One Night With the King (PG) (2006) (Tiffany Dupont, Luke Goss) A young, orphaned Jewish girl witnesses the slaughter of her people and grows up to be the Biblical Esther. Critics: 5
56. Over the Hedge (PG) (2006) (voices of Bruce Willis, Garry Shandling) A group of animals wakes up from their winter slumber to find that a housing development has sprouted up around them. They then must learn to deal with their new neighbors: humans. Critics: 8-5-8-8
57. Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13) (2006) (Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom) Captain Jack Sparrow is back and this time, he owes an unpaid debt to Davey Jones, captain of the Flying Dutchman. If doesn't pay it off, he faces enternal dam-
60. “Rang the Basanti” (2006) (Aamir Khan, Alice Patten). Dramatic modern patriotic Indian movie that combines the shooting of a documentary based on the memoirs of a British general during the colonial, with a present situation that recalls those historical events. In Hindi with subtitles. Critics: 9
61. “Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles” (PG) (2006) Hoping to develop a better understanding for his dying and estranged son, a Japanese fisherman travels to China to finish a documentary film his son was working on before being diagnosed with a terminal illness. In Chinese & Japanese. Critics: 6-7-8-9-8
63. Ron Clark Story, The (NR-TV) (2006) (Matthew Perry, Ernie Hudson) The real story of the passionate and innovative teacher who left his rural hometown to teach in one of Harlem's toughest schools. Critics: 7-7
64. Roving Mars (G) (2006) (Documentary) Critics: 5
65. Santa Clause 3, The: The Escape Clause (G) (2006) (Tim Allen, Martin Short) Santa (a.k.a. Scott Calvin) tries to juggle his family life with stopping Jack Frost, a cold foe who wants to put an end to Christmas. Critics: 5-5-6-4-3
66. Superman Returns (PG-13) (2006) (Brandon Routh, Kate Bosworth) After a six-year absence, the Man of Steel returns to Metropolis to do that crime-fighting thing he does. But some think the big city would be better off without him. Critics: 5-7-6-6-6
67. “Them” (NR) (2006) (Olivia Bonamy, Michael Cohen) French-Romanian horror film: Lucas and Clementine live peacefully in their isolated country house, but one night they wake up to strange noise... they're not alone... and a group of hooded assailants begin to terrorize them throughout the night. Critics: 9-6
68. Thiel Lord, The (PG) (2006) (Aaron Johnson, Jasper Harris) Two brothers escape their mean aunt and join a band of abandoned kids in Venice, Italy, where they have some fantastic adventures. Critics: 8
70. “Vitus” (PG) (2006) (Teo Gheorghiu, Bruno Ganz). A gifted young boy who wants to be a normal kid deals with his pushy parents who want him to be a pianist. Critics: 9-8-8-8-9
71. “Water” (2006 Foreign nom. Cadada-India) Indian, with subtitles. Set in 1938 India, an eight-year-old girl is sent to a home for Hindu widows, where her spunkiness disrupts the order of the women's lives. Critics: 8-9-8-9-7
72. We are Marshall (PG) (2006) (Matthew McConaughey, Matthew Fox) When a plane crash kills most of the players of a college football team, the team's new coach tries to recruit new players and lead the team back to glory. Critics: 9-6

Titles within quotation marks are originally in a foreign language  Underlined: my recommendation  November 4, 2014  Page 2


76. *World Trade Center* (PG-13) (2006) (Nicolas Cage, Michael Pena) The true story of two Port Authority police officers who rushed into the burning World Trade Center on September 11 to rescue people but became victims themselves when the skyscraper collapsed. Critics: 8-8-8-7

2005 releases:


2. *Baghban* (Caretaker, The) (2005) (Amitabh Bachchan, Hema Malini). Emotional family movie. A couple who have been married for forty years with four children all already married. The father is retiring and wants his sons to take care of them but their offspring are not happy with the idea. Critics: 8-7

3. *Batman Begins* (PG-13) (2005) (Christian Bale, Liam Neeson) This prequel to the Batman franchise tells the story of how millionaire Bruce Wayne came into being as the Caped Crusader. Among other things, when he was a boy, he witnessed the senseless murder of his beloved parents. After that, he became obsessed with the notion of revenge—and of righting wrongs done to others. Critics: 9-10-8-9-7


6. *Brotherhood of War, The* (Tae Guk Gi) (R) (2005) Epic-scale drama of two brothers caught up in the madness of the war that tore Korea apart in the early '50s. Jin-seok Lee is a bright and well-educated young man whose older and more physically imposing brother Jin-tae Lee believes he represents the best hope for his family's future. When both Jin-seok and Jin-tae are called up to fight in the South Korean army following the advance of Communistforces, a wary Jin-tae cuts a deal with his commanding officer—if he racks up an impressive enough record on the battlefield, the army will give Jin-seok an early release. Critics: 8-7-8-8

7. *Brothers Grimm, The* (PG-13) (2005) (Matt Damon, Heath Ledger) Brothers Will and Jake Grimm are a couple of travelling con-artists who are sent to investigate the disappearance of two girls. While trying to solve the mystery, they encounter an actual evil sorcerer. Critics: 6-5-3-2-4


10. *Chicken Little* (G) (2005) (voices of Zach Braff, Joan Cusack) Because of an earlier cry-wolf situation, the denizens of Oakey Oaks have labeled Chicken Little a bit of an alarmist. All that old resentment disappears when the little guy scores a winning run in a championship game and becomes the toast of the town. When he begins to think the sky is falling, he's loath to tell anyone, even though, this time, the sky really is falling. Now he must figure out a way to save the world and his rep. Critics: 9-7-2-5

11. *Chronicles of Narnia, The: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (PG) (2005) (William Moseley, Tilda Swinton) During World War II, the four Pevensie children are sent to a country home so that they'll be safe from foreign attack. Once there, they discover a magic wardrobe that is really a portal to the mystical land of Narnia, where a war between good and evil is underway. Based on a series of novels by CS Lewis. Critics: 8-7-8-6-7


14. *Corpse Bride* (PG) (2005) (voices of Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter) After a man jokingly puts a wedding ring on the finger of a skeleton, he gets much more than he bargained for—a dead woman appears to him as a ghost and claims she's his legal bride. Critics: 8-7-8-7

15. *Dark Water* (PG-13) (2005) (Jennifer Connelly, Ariel Gade) A single mother and her daughter move into a run-down apartment building that is haunted by the ghost of a former resident. Based on the Japanese cult horror film of the same name. Critics: 8-7-4-9-5

16. *Dear Frankie* (PG-13) (2005) (Emily Mortimer, Jack McElhone) A loving mother makes up fairy stories for her deaf son about his long, lost dad. In truth, the guy left them high and dry and hasn't been heard from since. Critics: 9-8-6-6


18. *Dreamer* (PG) (2005) (Kurt Russell, Dakota Fanning) A broken-down horse trainer and a broken-down horse are both given a second chance for success when the daughter of the horse trainer makes it her mission to mend both man and nag—and send them off to the Breeders' Cup Classic. Critics: 8-7-8-5

Titles within quotation marks are originally in a foreign language. Underlined: my recommendation. November 4, 2014. Page 1
19. Duma (PG) (2005) (Alexander Michaleotos, Hope Davis) Xan, a young boy growing up in the wilds Africa, finds an orphaned cheetah cub that he turns into a pet and names Duma. After a tragic occurrence befalls Xan and his parents, Xan finds himself living in the city with Duma. Realizing he must return the cheetah to his natural habitat, Xan sets off on the adventure of a lifetime. Critics: 8-8

20. Exorcism of Emily Rose, The (PG-13) (2005) (Laura Linney, Tom Wilkinson) A lawyer takes on a negligent-homicide case involving a priest who performed an exorcism on a young woman the Catholic church believed was possessed by the devil. The exorcism resulted in the woman's death, and now the priest who performed it is in prison. Critics: 8-5-4-5-5


22. Flightplan (PG-13) (2005) (Jodie Foster, Peter Sarsgaard) An emotionally devastated widow and her daughter embark on a non-stop transatlantic flight from Berlin to New York. When the girl vanishes without a trace mid-flight, all evidence indicates that her daughter was never on board which results in paranoia and doubt among the passengers and crew of the plane. Critics: 9-5-6-6

23. Game of their Lives (PG) (2005) (Gerard Butler, Wes Bentley) In 1950, in the small Brazilian town of Belo Horizonte, the U.S. soccer team—a ragtag group of part-time players—won an exciting match against the favored-to-win British team, which included some of the world’s greatest players. The score was first considered to be mistakenly reported; no one could believe the U.S. had actually defeated England. Even the New York Times refused to print the score, calling it some kind of hoax. Critics: 4-3-5-4

24. Good Night and Good Luck (PG) (2005) (David Strathairn, George Cloone) Set during the early days of broadcast television in the 1950s, George Clooney’s second directorial effort chronicles CBS anchorman Edward R. Murrow’s conflict with Senator Joseph McCarthy and his communist witch-hunts. The feud culminated when the politician accused the newsmen of being a communist himself. Critics: 10-8

25. Great Raid, The (R) (2005) (Joseph Fiennes, James Franco) Taking place during World War II, 500 American POWs have been entrapped in a Japanese prison camp for three years. Beginning to give up hope they will ever be rescued, a group of Rangers undertake a daring rescue mission to try and save them. Critics: 7-8-7-5-6


27. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13) (2005) (Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson) In his fourth year at Hogwarts, clever, resourceful Harry Potter is selected to take part in the Triwizard Tournament, competing against other young wizards from all over Europe. Things begin to look suspicious, however, when Lord Voldemort shows his face again, and soon it's not just a question of Harry taking home the winner's cup—he must fight for his life as well. Critics: 9-8-8-7


29. Howl’s Moving Castle (PG) (2005) (voice of Jean Simmons, Christian Bale) Sophie, a teenager who works in a hat shop, is whisked away to a fantastic land by a handsome wizard named Howl. But a mean witch casts a spell on Sophie, turning her into a 90-year-old woman. Now Sophie must drag her old bones all over the place to try and find an antidote to the pre-mature aging. Critics: 7-10-9-10-7

30. “Iqbal” (G) (2005) (Shreyas Talpade, Naseeruddin Shah) Iqbal is a deaf-mute villageboy who loves playing cricket. His sister helps him to join a Cricket Academy but after an skirmish with another player he is forced to leave but he convinces a drunkard ex-cricket player to be his coach. Hindi with subtitles. Critics: 7-6-8

31. John Paul II (NR-TV) (2005) (Documentary) This documentary profiles the journey of several students from New York City's public schools as they embark into the world of ballroom dancing. Reluctant participants at first, the eleven-year-olds eventually grow into determined competitors in the citywide finals. Critics: 7

32. King Kong (PG-13) (2005) (Naomi Watts, Jack Black) A documentary film crew and a group of explorers travel to Skull Island in search of a mythic monster, King Kong. When they find the beast, his temper is fierce, but his rage is eventually allayed by the sight of the beautiful Ann Darrow. As in the original, the 25-foot gorilla is brought to America and put on display for public viewing, but only until (spoiler—not!) he breaks free of his shackles and runs amok with eye-candy Darrow in tow. Critics: 10-9-10-10-7

33. Kung Fu Hustle (R) (2005) (Stephen Chow, Yuen Qiu) Set in China in the 1940s, a wannabe gangster aspires to join a notorious street gang. At the same time, an obnoxious landlady and her apparently frail husband exhibit extraordinary powers in defending their turf. Critics: 9-8-9-7

34. Ladies in Lavender (PG-13) (2005) (Judi Dench, Maggie Smith) Set in an English seaside town in 1936, this drama tells the somber tale of two elderly sisters who, while walking along the beach one day, come across a young man who has washed ashore. They nurse him back to health, all the while becoming a bit too fond of him—to the point of possessiveness. The situation grows complicated when a young, gorgeous Russian woman tries to start a relationship with the man. Critics: 7-5

35. Madagascar (PG) (2005) (voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock) This animal-focused family fare is set at New York's Central Park Zoo and features a lion, a zebra, a hippo, and a giraffe. The four four-footed friends are best buds, and when one of them goes missing, the other three break out of the zoo to find him. Only, ut oh, they soon find themselves on a ship bound for Madagascar and a life in the wild they're not prepared for. Critics: 5-6-5-5

36. Man, The (PG-13) (2005) (Samuel L. Jackson, Eugene Levy) Special Agent Derrick Vann and dental-supply salesman Andy Fidler make an unlikely pair when, after a series of whacky incidents and misunderstandings, they team up to catch the thug who offed Vann's partner. Critics: 5-3-5-3-3
40. March of the Penguins (G - USA version) (2005) (Documentary) Actor Morgan Freeman narrates this true tale of birth, survival, dating, mating, and danger. That's right, it's a documentary about penguins, nature's best dressed animals. Critics: 9-9-8-7-8

41. Oliver Twist (PG-13) (2005) (Barney Clark, Ben Kingsley) Roman Polanski's adaptation of the classic Dickens tale follows a penniless orphan who is lured into a world of crime by the sinister Fagin and his gang of pint-sized pickpockets. Critics: 8-9-10-9-6


44. Perfect Stranger, The (NR) (2005) (Pamela Brumley, Jefferson Moore) Nikki, a troubled attorney, receives a mysterious dinner invitation from a man claiming to be Jesus of Nazareth. Throughout their evening of conversation, arguments and spirited debate, Nikki learns things she never knew about life, the universe, and most importantly, herself. Critics: 6-7-7

45. Pride and Prejudice (PG) (2005) (Keira Knightley, Matthew Macfadyen) Yet another re-telling of Jane Austen's classic about a willful, middle-class young woman, Elizabeth Bennet, who finds herself at loggerheads with prideful Fitzwilliam Darcy, a snobbish member of England's landed gentry. Critics: 9-10-9-10-6

46. Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio, The (PG-13) (2005) (Julianne Moore, Woody Harrelson). In order to support her family, a devoted housewife and mother of ten finds herself entering—and winning—numerous jingle-writing contests. Critics: 9-9-7-9

47. Racing Stripes (PG) (2005) (Bruce Greenwood, Hayden Panettiere) Stripes, a confused Zebra, is raised away from his natural environment and grows up believing he is a racehorse. He realizes his dream of racing thoroughbreds, but only with the help of a friendly teenage girl and a bunch of barnyard do-gooders. Critics: 7-5-6-5-4

48. Red Eye (PG-13) (2005) (Rachel McAdams, Cillian Murphy) A woman is blackmailed into committing a crime by her seatmate during a routine flight. Threatened by the potential murder of her father, she is pulled into a plot to assist the stranger in killing a wealthy executive. Critics: 8-9-8-7-7

49. Robots (PG) (2005) (voices of Ewan McGregor, Robin Williams) This CGI-animated family fun takes place in a world populated entirely by robots. The story revolves around a young genius inventor named Rodney who believes his fellow robots are capable of making the world a better place, but finds his dream challenged by a corporate tyrant. Critics: 8-9-4-5-7

50. Sahara (PG-13) (2005) (Matthew McConaughey, Steve Zahn) An American explorer embarks on the adventure of a lifetime when he learns about a lost Civil War battleship known as the “Ship of Death.” Critics: 4-5-7-6-4

51. Sky High (PG) (2005) (Michael Angarano, Kurt Russell) It's tough if your parents are the world's most legendary heroes! Set in a world where superheroes are commonly known and accepted, a teenager tries to find a balance between being a normal kid and an extraordinary being. Critics: 6-5-8-5-5

52. “Sophie Scholl: The Final Days” (NR) (2005) (Julia Jentsch, Fabian Hinrichs) A dramatic reconstruction of the final days in the life of Sophie Scholl and her brother Hans who were both active members of an underground resistance group against the Nazi regime. Accused and convicted of high treason, they were executed in Munich in 1943. In German. Critics: 9-8-9-7


54. Syriana (R) (2005) (George Clooney, Jeffrey Wright) A veteran CIA man finds his job to be increasingly difficult when, after 21 years with the nation's intelligence outfit, funding is being cut, politics are winning out over reason, and, where terrorist activity is concerned, serious warning signs are being ignored. Critics: 10-9-7-7


58. “Ushpizin” (PG) (2005) (Shuli Rand, Michal Bat-Sheva Rand) An Orthodox Jewish couple's faith is tested during the holiday season. Critics: 7

59. “Viva Cubal!” (PG) (2005) (Malu Torrau, Jorgito Milo) A 10 year-old girl and her boy friend flee from their Havana home to find her estranged father and avoid having to leave the country with her mother. In Spanish. Critics: 4

60. Walk the Line (PG-13) (2005) (Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon) Biopic of the legendary Johnny Cash. Covers his rise to the top of the country-music charts, his love affair with drink and hard living, and finally, the faze of his life where he “gets right with God” and marries his true love, musician June Carter. Critics: 9-7-8-7

61. Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (G) (2005) (voices of Peter Sallis, Helena Bonham Carter) Animated. When a mysterious case of sabotage threatens to ruin the annual giant-vegetable-growing contest, Wallace and his loyal, newspaper-reading mutt Gromit set out to find the culprit. Critics: 8-9-10-8


63. Warm Springs (NR-TV) (2005) (Kenneth Branagh, Cynthia Nixon) FDR's struggle with polio, his discovery of the Warm Springs, Georgia spa resort and his work to turn it into a center for the aid of polio victims, and the resumption of his political career. Critics: 7-7

64. Winter Solstice (R) (2005) (Anthony LaPaglia, Aaron Stanford) A landscape architect, Jim Winters, finds his life adrift after his wife dies; his two sons are unmoored by the death as well—the older one plans on running away from life, and the younger one is retreating into himself in a major way. When Jim meets his new neighboring Molly, things begin to look up (or at least look different). Critics: 8-5-7-5
65. Zathura (PG) (2005) (Jonah Bobo, Josh Hutcherson) Two brothers engaged in a sibling rivalry find a box in the park that contains what they consider to be an old, dumb board game. They're about to dismiss it as nothing when they discover a second game within the box. This one takes them on a wild outer space adventure filled with action and peril. It's the experience of a lifetime, and it brings them closer together. Critics: 6-5-7-8-6

2004 releases:
1. Alamo, The (PG-13) (2004) (Billy Bob Thornton, Dennis Quaid) Raucous shoot-em-up based on the 1836 stand-off by a group of heroic Texans who, led by Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, held the mission for 13 tension-filled days against an attack by Mexican leader Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Critics: 3-4-9-5-5
2. Around the World in 80 Days (PG) (2004) (Jackie Chan, Steve Coogan) Based on the classic novel by Jules Verne, an English businessman embarks on a journey around the world, after taking on a bet that he can traverse the globe in 80 days. Critics: 3-6-6-7
4. Bobby Jones - Stroke of Genius (PG) (2004) (Jim Caviezel, Jeremy Northam) Biopic profiles the career and life of Robert Tyre Jones Jr., better known as Bobby Jones, the only golfer in history who won the prestigious Grand Slam all in the same year. Critics: 5-7-4-4-6
5. Bourne Supremacy, The (PG-13) (2004) (Matt Damon, Joan Allen) Alliances shift and corruption reigns, well, supreme in this action-packed spy thriller, the sequel to The Bourne Identity. In this episode, assassin Jason Bourne is still not quite sure who he is, and yet he must maneuver through the murky waters of international espionage without getting caught in some other trained killer's crosshairs. Critics: 7-8-7-9-5
7. Clearing, The (R) (2004) (Robert Redford, Helen Mirren) A successful business man is kidnapped and held for ransom in a remote forest. While the hostage is engaged in the negotiation of his lifetime, his wife works frantically with the FBI to secure his release. Critics: 8-7-2-6-4
8. Collateral (R) (2004) (Tom Cruise, Jamie Foxx) A taxi driver and failed comedy writer finds out that the customer he's driving around is really a contract killer who commits a series of hits during one night in L.A. Critics: 9-8-9-6-7
6. Day After Tomorrow, The (PG-13) (2004) (Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal) Big-budget catastrophe drama about the beginning of a new Ice Age, after multiple hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and tidal waves destroy most of the country. Critics: 8-7-7-4-5
10. Ella Enchanted (PG) (2004) (Anne Hathaway, Hugh Dancy) Modern-day fairytale about a young woman who was given the gift of obedience by a fairy. As a result, she can't refuse any command, and is left at the mercy of unscrupulous personalities. In order to regain control of her life, she embarks on a quest to free herself from the curse and eventually find love along the way. Critics: 5-9-4-9-6
11. Enemy Fire (Foyles’s War, 2004, NR-TV series, season 3, episode 2) (Michael Kitchen, Anthony Howell and Honeysuckle Weeks). February 1941: When a local manor house is commandeered for use as a special burial for treating injured RAF pilots, Foyle is called in to investigate a series of strange accidents. Critics: 8-8-9
12. Finding Neverland (PG) (2004) (Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet) Set in London in 1904, the film details the experiences and creative journey of “Peter Pan” author J.M. Barrie, and how such a journey spurred on his writing of his now famous children's book. Critics: 9-7-8-9-8
13. Five People You Meet in Heaven (NR-TV) (2004) (Jon Voight, Ellen Burstyn) A war vet and a maintenance worker at an amusement park, dies while trying to save a girl who is sitting under a falling ride. When he awakens in the afterlife, he encounters five people with ties to his corporeal existence who help him understand the meaning of his life. Critics: 8-7-7
15. French Drop, The (Foyles’s War, 2004, NR-TV series, season 3, episode 1) (Michael Kitchen, Anthony Howell and Honeysuckle Weeks). February 1941: Foyle again pursues a position that would allow him to contribute more to the war effort. But a local murder investigation sidetracks this endeavor as Foyle finds himself caught between rival spy organizations. Critics: 8-8-9
16. Garfield: The Movie (PG) (2004) (Breckin Meyer, voice of Bill Murray) CGI-laden adaptation of the popular comic strips centers around an overweight, lazy cat who has an ongoing feud with the dog of the house, Odie. When Odie gets abducted however, Garfield feels responsible to step into action and rescue his fellow pet. Critics: 3-3-7-3
20. Hellboy (PG-13) (2004) (Ron Perlman, Rupert Evans) Hellboy, a demon created in one of the Nazi’s occult experiments, was adopted by U.S. Agents and raised as a force of good. Now working as an investigator of the paranormal, he is assigned to a case that brings him back in touch with the evil scientist that started it all. Critics: 8-9-7-7-6
21. Hidalgo (PG-13) (2004) (Viggo Mortensen, Omar Sharif) Based on a true story, this action-adventure focuses on Frank T. Hopkins, a dispatch rider for the U.S. Cavalry who, in 1890, was given the honor of being the first American to participate in the legendary Arabian Desert horse race. Critics: 7-6-6-5-5


24. *I Am David* (PG) (2004) (James Caviezel, Ben Tibber) This acclaimed drama revolves around a 12-year-old boy who flees the nightmarish imprisonment of an Eastern European concentration camp. As he travels alone across Europe, he slowly finds happiness and regains trust in humanity. Critics: 8

25. *Ike: Countdown to D-Day* (NR-TV) (2004) The tense 90 days leading up to the D-Day invasion and how Dwight Eisenhower, against all odds, brilliantly orchestrated the most important military maneuver in modern history. Critics: 7-7

26. *I, Robot* (PG-13) (2004) (Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan) Based on a compilation of short-stories by cult fave Isaac Asimov, this sci-fi thriller takes place in the year 2035—a time when robots are a common household appliance and trusted by everyone. But when a detective investigates a murder, he begins to suspect a robot as the perp. Soon, however, his hunches lead him down other paths, and before long he is face to face with a much larger threat. Critics: 6-7-7-7


29. *Lemony Snicket's a Series of Unfortunate Events* (PG) (2004) (Jim Carrey, Emily Browning) After losing their parents in a fire, three wealthy kids are sent to live with a distant relative. Said relative locks them up at night and plots ways to kill them for their inheritance. Critics: 6-6-4-5-5


33. *Manchurian Candidate, The* (R) (2004) (Denzel Washington, Liev Schreiber) A former Captain of the U.S. Army remembers being brainwashed while in captivity in order to become a pawn once he returns home. Now he suspects that another soldier might have been turned into a killing machine. Critics: 10-9-10-8-7

34. *Miracle* (PG) (2004) (Kurt Russell, Eddie Cahill) Based on true events, this sports-drama tells the story of Herb Brooks, coach of the U.S. hockey team, who triumphed with his boys at the Soviets at the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid in 1980, despite overwhelming odds. Critics: 8-8-7-6-5


37. *Nascar 3-D: The Imax Experience* (PG) (2004) (narrated by Kiefer Sutherland) Screeenit Documentary: The sport of NASCAR is detailed from its origins through the typical activities leading up to and then on race day. Critics: 7

38. *National Treasure* (PG) (2004) (Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger) Archaeologist Ben Franklin Gates descends from a family of treasure-seekers who’ve all hunted for the same war chest hidden by the Founding Fathers of our nation. But not only does he have to look for the treasure, he also has to stay a step ahead of his ruthless competitor and the FBI. Critics: 5-4-5-6-4

39. *“Ninth Day, The”* (NR) (2004) (Ulrich Matthes, August Diehl) In German v.o. A Catholic Priest gets a surprise release from the horrors of the Dachau concentration camp and is given the grueling task to convince the Bishop of Luxembourg to support the Nazi regime. Critics: 8

40. *North & South* (NR) (2004) An English woman born to a privileged family is forced to move to a northern mill town where she has a secret admirer. 235 Minutes. Critics: 9-8-8

41. *Ocean's Twelve* (PG-13) (2004) (George Clooney, Brad Pitt) Danny Ocean and his crew of con artists return to pull off another major heist, this time in Europe. But not only do they have to focus on the job, they also have to deal with the casino owner they ripped off in Vegas, who is hot on their trail. Critics: 7-7-5-2-6

42. *Passion of the Christ, The* (R) (2004) (James Caviezel, Maia Morgenstern) Drama chronicles the last hours of Jesus Christ before his crucifixion in Jerusalem. Critics: 3-4-7-10-5


44. *Polar Express, The* (G) (2004) (voices of Tom Hanks, Daryl Sabara) A young boy on the verge of disbelieving in Santa Claus is taken aboard a fast-moving Christmas train headed for the North Pole, where he'll come face to face with the Jolly One himself. Critics: 7-9-6-6

45. *Princess Diaries 2, The: Royal Engagement* (G) (2004) (Anne Hathaway, Julie Andrews) Mia, the American teenager-turned-princess moves to the tiny nation of Genovia, not only to learn about the royal duties of being the country's future ruler, but also to face the challenge of being set up in an arranged marriage. Critics: 3-3-7-3-3

47. **Secret Window** (PG-13) (2004) (Johnny Depp, John Turturro) A successful author retreats to rural Connecticut after his divorce, only to find himself stalked by a mysterious stranger who accuses the writer of stealing a story from him. Based upon Stephen King's "Secret Window, Secret Garden." Critics: 6-7-4-3-6

48. **Shark Tale** (PG) (2004) (voices of Will Smith, Robert De Niro) This computer-animated adventure centers around a young fish named Oscar who claims to have killed a shark, not knowing that it was the son of the undersea shark-mafia boss. Critics: 6-7-5-4-5

49. **Shrek 2** (PG) (2004) (voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy) Sequel to the family favorite sees Shrek and his newlywed bride Princess Fiona return to her parents' kingdom for a post-wedding celebration. However, back home, not everyone's happy when they find out that she is married to an ogre. Critics: 10-9-8-7-8

50. **Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow** (PG) (2004) (Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow) A reporter investigates the mysterious disappearance of the world's best scientists. Together with aviator Captain Joseph Sullivan, a.k.a. Sky Captain, and his crew, she embarks on a quest that leads them to a crazy scientist who is bent on world domination. Critics: 9-7-8-5-6

51. **Something the Lord Made** (TV-NR) (2004) (Alan Rickman, Mos Def) Made-for-cable drama about heart surgery pioneers Alfred Blalock and Vivien Thomas whose friendship and collaboration were jeopardized by social pressures. Critics: 8-7-8


54. "**Swades**" (2004) (NR) (Sha Rukh Khan, Gayatri Joshi, Kishori Balal) Mohan a scientist working on a NASA satellite decides to return to India to trace his childhood nanny in a remote village in Uttar Pradesh finds himself in a world completely in contrasts to his American lifestyle. Inspired by Gita, a teacher, he decides to lead these neglected people. In Indie. Critics: 8

55. **Terminal, The** (PG-13) (2004) (Tom Hanks, Catherine Zeta-Jones) An immigrant fleeing from the cruel war that ravages his tiny Eastern European homeland, finds himself stuck in the terminal of a NYC airport, when the time of his arrival coincides with the point at which the war erases his country from the map. As a man with no home or valid papers, he takes up residence in the terminal itself, where he befriends the airport staff and falls in love with a flight attendant. Critics: 9-9-7-4-7

56. **They Fought in the Fields** (Foyles's War, 2004, NR-TV series, season 3, episode 3) (Michael Kitchen, Anthony Howell and Honeysuckle Weeks). April 1941: Foyle questions three Land Army girls about a murder that occurs on a Hastings farm. Critics: 8-8-9


59. "**Twilight Samurai**" (2004) (Hiroyuki Sanada, Rie Miyazawa) This Academy Award-nominated drama revolves around a low-ranking, poor samurai who struggles to support his two daughters and elderly mother while trying to win the heart of his long-time love. In Japanese. Critics: 8

60. **"Valentin"** (PG-13) (2004) (Rodrigo Noya, Carmen Maura) A 9-year-old boy who lives with his grandmother in Buenos Aires in the late 1960s is surrounded by problems in his family, that only he finds capable of solving himself. Critics: 6

61. **Village, The** (PG-13) (2004) (Joaquin Phoenix, Bryce Dallas Howard) Set in rural Pennsylvania in 1897, the citizens of the small village of Covington are surrounded by a forest that is inhabited by a race of "mythical creatures." Critics: 7-4-3-2-4

62. **War of Nerves,** A (Foyles's War, 2004, NR-TV series, season 3, episode 4) (Michael Kitchen, Anthony Howell and Honeysuckle Weeks). A.C. Rose orders Foyle to delegate his investigation of black marketing ring and personally look into the possibly seditious acts of a Socialist activist. Critics: 8-8-7

63. "**Yesterday**" (R) (2004) After falling ill, Yesterday learns that she is HIV positive. With her husband in denial and young daughter to tend to, Yesterday’s one goal is to live long enough to see her child go to school. Critics: 8-8-8

**2003 releases:**

1. Among the Few (Foyles's War, 2003, NR-TV series, season 2, episode 2) September 1940: When the police and the civil authorities suspect that petrol is being stolen from a local depot, Foyle agrees to let Sam Stewart go undercover as a driver to see if she can find out what is going on. Sam is partnered with Connie Dewar who is in love with a flying officer, Rex Talbot who just happens to be Andrew Foyle's best friend. It becomes apparent to Sam that Connie is involved in the petrol thefts and when she is found dead, there are a number of suspects. For DCS Foyle, the case becomes especially complicated when it turns out his son Andrew was perhaps the last person to see her alive. 120 minutes. Critics: 6-8


4. **City of Ghosts** (R) (2003) (Matt Dillon, James Caan) Globetrotting suspense thriller about a con man who evades the American authorities by traveling to Cambodia. Once there, he becomes embroiled in an insurance scam which leads to dangerous complications. Critics: 9-8-7-7-5

5. **Core, The** (PG-13) (2003) (Aaron Eckhart, Hillary Swank) Futuristic adventure follows a group of scientists who must travel to center of the Earth to start its core spinning again. If their mission fails, the planet's magnetosphere will disintegrate, its atmosphere will dissipate, destroying all terrestrial life. Critics: 7-7-5-7-4
6. **Daddy Day Care** (PG) (2003) (Eddie Murphy, Jeff Garlin) Two men lose their jobs and become stay-at-home dads. Together they open their own day-care facility, but soon it launches them into a highly comedic rivalry with an exclusive day-care academy. **Critics:** 2-3-2-3-5


8. **Darkness Falls** (PG-13) (2003) (Chanevy Kley, Emma Caulfield) Spooky thriller about a young drifter who returns to rescue his former girlfriend and her family from the mysterious evil that has haunted his hometown for over a century. **Critics:** 4-3

9. **Door to Door** (NR-TV) (2002) (William H. Macy, Kyra Sedwick) Heartwarming drama about a man with cerebral palsy who refuses to give up his life as a door-to-door salesman. Based on a real person. **Critics:** 7

10. **Entrusted** (PG) (2003) (Gregor Lamml, Giovanna Mezzogiorno) Hoping to entrap Maria von Gall, who runs a courageous underground railroad for Jews in France, the Nazis kidnap her son Thomas, a brilliant 11-year-old chess master. **Critics:** 6

11. **Fifty Ships** (Foyle’s War, 2003, NR-TV series, season 2, episode 1) (Michael Kitchen, Anthony Howell and Honeysuckle Weeks) September 1940: DCs Foyle investigates the murder of Richard Hunter whose body is found on a nearby beach. Although made to look like a suicide, Foyle has his doubts. Hunter was a heavy drinker and not very successful in life, but Foyle learns that he went to Oxford university. Howard Paige, a senior American government official is in the UK on top secret business. 120 minutes. **Critics:** 8-8-9

12. **Finding Nemo** (G) (2003) (voices of Albert Bros, Ellen DeGeneres) Father-and-son clownfish, Marlin and Nemo, become separated in the Great Barrier Reef, and little Nemo ends up in a dentist-office fish tank. Grief-striken, Marlin goes on a wild adventure to find and rescue his son **Critics:** 9-10-9-8-8

13. **Funk Hole** (Foyle’s War, 2003, NR-TV series, season 2, episode 4) October 1940: Someone’s stealing supplies to sell on the black market. Foyle is accused of spreading alarm in a London bomb shelter and so he ends up at home with his despondent injured son. The ‘funk hole’ houses elites willing to pay to live in a safe place in the country. 120 minutes **Critics:** 7-8


15. “**Games of Love and Chance**” (NR) (2003) (Osman Elkharraz, Sara Forestier) French. A high school production of “A Game of Love and Chance,” by an 18th century French playwright, gives restless 15-year-old Krimo an excuse to woo angelic classmate Lydia in Abdellatif Kechiche’s raw yet-sensitive Parisian drama. The two students become close, and Krimo wants to confess his true feelings to Lydia, but he’s apprehensive about turning their onstage relationship into something real. **Critics:** 7-4-6-6

16. **Gods and Generals** (PG-13) (2003) (Stephen Lang, Jeff Daniels) Sprawling epic paints an in-depth portrait of commanding officers and foot-soldiers on the Union and Confederate sides in the first half of the Civil War. A prequel to the similarly lengthy Gettysburg. **Critics:** 5-4-4-5-4

17. **Gospel of John, The** (PG-13) (2003) (Henry Ian Cusick, Christopher Plummer) The story of Jesus’ final years, as told—literally—by the apostle John. **Critics:** 7


19. **Guys, The** (PG) (2003) (Siguourney Weaver, Anthony LaPaglia) Play-based drama about a grief-striken New York Fire Department captain who hires a journalist to help him pen eulogies for eight close co-workers who perished in the World Trade Center disaster. **Critics:** 8

20. **Haunted Mansion, The** (PG) (2003) (Eddie Murphy, Terence Stamp) A workaholic visits a haunted house with his family during a job interview, when he meets a ghost who teaches him about life, including a valuable lesson about the importance of the family that he has too long neglected. Based on the popular Disneyworld ride. **Critics:** 6-9-4-4-3

21. **Holes** (PG) (2003) (Shia LaBeouf, Jon Voight) Kids’ mystery profiles a group of juvenile-hall inmates who are forced to dig a series of pits by their warden as an alleged character-building exercise. In reality, though, the warden is looking for a treasure buried somewhere on the facility grounds. Based on the novel by Louis Sachar. **Critics:** 9-8-7-8-7

22. **Hulk, The** (PG-13) (2003) (Eric Bana, Jennifer Connelly) Comic-based sci-fi thriller follows a physicist who, after being exposed to gamma radiation, develops the ability to turn into a huge, muscular alter ego when he’s irked. Simply put, you won’t like him when he’s angry. **Critics:** 6-7-5-2-4


24. **Identity** (R) (2003) (John Cusack, Ray Liotta) After they’re stranded in a remote hotel by a killer storm, 10 strangers begin to be murdered one-by-one by an unidentified killer in this tense murder mystery. **Critics:** 8-8-7-7-7

25. **In Search of Shakespeare** (NR TV Doc.) (2003) by Michael Wood, 240. Examining the greatest writer in the English language as he lived and breathed, this is a compelling portrait of Shakespeare and his world, vividly rendered by author and television presenter Michael Wood with The Shakespeare Company. **Critics:** 9

26. “**Kitchen Stories**” (PG) (2003) (Joachim Calmyere, Tomas Norstrom) A Swedish scientist is assigned to observe an old grumpy man’s kitchen habits, which gets complicated by his growing friendship with him. In Norwegian & Swedish. **Critics:** 7-6

27. “**Koi... Mil Gaya**” (NR) (2003) (Hrithik Roshan, Preity Zinta Rekha) This is Bollywood’s version of E.T. A physically and mentally challenged kid who is often bullied, receives the visit (and help) of a cute E.T. **Critics:** 7-6

28. **Last Samurai, The** (R) (2003) (Tom Cruise, Ken Watanabe) Set in 1870s, an American Winchester Rifles spokesman arrives sail to Japan to train the emperor’s troops to wipe out the last remaining samurai. But when he gets injured and captured by a samurai, he learns about their warrior honor code and then must to decide which side of the conflict he really wants to be on. **Critics:** 9-10-7-5-5

29. **League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, The** (PG-13) (2003) (Sean Connery, Shane West) Based loosely on Alan Moore’s comic series in which a group of characters drawn from famous works of literature are commissioned by Queen Victoria to fight the threat of a madman bent on world domination. **Critics:** 6-4-2-4-2

31. Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (PG-13) (2003) (Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen) Conclusion to the Rings cycle sees Aragorn return to claim the throne of Gondor, which is besieged by Sauron's hundred-thousand strong army of orcs, demons, and other beasts. Meanwhile, Frodo and Sam approach Mount Doom, the fiery volcano in which the ring of power must be destroyed. Critics: 9-10-10-6

32. Lost Prince, The (2003) (Tom Hollander, Miranda Richardson) Based on the true story of Prince John, the youngest son of England's King George V and his wife, Queen Mary, who suffered from epilepsy. BBC miniseries, Emmy winner 180 m. Critics: 8

33. Love Comes Softly (NR-TV) (2003) (Katherine Heigl, Dale Midkiff) Set in the old West, this drama revolves around a young widow whose pioneering spirit and inner strength is rewarded when she finds love again. Critics: 4

34. “Man Without a Past, The” (PG-13) (Markku Peltola, Kati Outinen) Set in Helsinki, Finland, this offbeat comedy tells the story of a man who loses his memory after being mugged, and then tries to rebuild his life as an amnesiac. In Finnish. Critics: 7-9


36. Medallion, The (PG-13) (2003) (Jackie Chan, Claire Forlani) A Hong Kong cop is transformed into an immortal warrior with superhuman powers after a fatal accident involving a mysterious medallion. With the help of a British agent, he's determined to find out about the secret of the medallion. At the same time, he must deal with a notorious villain who wants the magical medallion for his own purposes. Critics: 6-7-6-3

37. Missing, The (R) (2003) (Cate Blanchett, Tommy Lee Jones) Set in 19th century New Mexico, a father returns to his family decades after he abandoned his wife and daughter. Hoping to reconcile with them he has to find out that his wife died years ago and his daughter is unforgiving. But when his grandson is kidnapped by a band of outlaws, he teams up with his daughter to rescue the child. Critics: 5-8-7-5-5

38. “Mr. and Mrs. Iyer” (PG-13) (2003) (Rahul Bose, Konkona Sensharma) A Muslim photographer accompanies a young Hindu woman with her in a bus trip to Calcutta when a curfew is enforced as communal riots ensue. Some Hindu fanatics look for Muslims passengers and for protection they pretend that they are married. Slow action. Hindi with subtitles. Critics: 6-5

39. Open Range (R) (2003) (Robert Duvall, Kevin Costner) Classic western drama about four cattle rangers who team up to free their remote town from the dictatorship of a corrupt lawman. Critics: 9-8-7-5-5

40. Paycheck (PG-13) (2003) (Ben Affleck, Aaron Eckhart) Michael Jennings, a brilliant computer engineer only works short-term jobs that are highly paid. Once a job is completed he receives his paycheck and parts of his memory gets erased as a security measure for sensitive information. After completion of his latest job however he is not getting paid and the police is also looking for him. Realizing more than just his paycheck is at stake, he goes underground to put together the pieces of the last two years of his life to prove his innocence. Critics: 5-6-4-4-4

41. Peter Pan (PG) (2003) (Jeremy Sumpter, Jason Isaacs) Big-budget adaptation of the famous James M. Barrie coming-of-age novel about the boy who won't age. Tinkerbell, a fairy gives three children the ability to fly and off they are to Neverland, to help Peter fight the notorious Captain Hook. Critics: 9-4-9-8-8

42. “Pinjar” (R) (2003) (Urmila Matondkar) Emotional drama about the story of two Indian women, one Hindu forced to turn Muslim because of her marriage, and the other forced to desert her house when the riots during the partition of India and Pakistan flared up. Hindi with subtitles. Critics: 6-7-8

43. Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (PG-13) (2003) (Johnny Depp, Geoffrey Rush) Set in the Caribbean Sea in the 17th century, rogue pirate Jack Sparrow must rescue the daughter of a governor who was kidnapped by the doomed pirate Barbossa and his crew, who turn into living skeletons on moonlit nights. Critics: 6-7-5-8-8

44. Radio (PG) (2003) (Ed Harris, Cuba Gooding, Jr.) Set in a small South Carolina town, this drama which is based on true events portrays the long-lasting relationship between a high school football coach and a mentally challenged man whom he mentors. Critics: 9-8-5-6-4

45. “Return, The” (NR) (2003) (Vladimir Garin, Ivan Dobronravov) Two brothers cope with the sudden return of their long absent father which turns into a traumatic and emotional road trip of psychological exploration and bold statements about the processes in which kinship and mankind are forged. A Parable of the prodigal Father, haunting and thought-provoking. In Russian. Critics: 9-9-8

46. Rundown, The (PG-13) (2003) (The Rock, Seann William Scott) A bounty hunter takes on an assignment to capture a convicted criminal deep in the jungle of the Amazon. However, after they meet the two team up in pursuit of a hidden treasure. Critics: 9-10-4-4-7

47. “Russian Ark” (NR) (2003) (Sergei Dreiden, Maria Kuznetsova) Filmed in one continuous real-time shot through St. Petersburg’s famed Hermitage museum, this mesmerizing, elegiac ode to Russian culture follows the 19th-century writer the Marquis de Custine as he moves through the building visiting persons and examining arts from the country's history. Critics: 9-9-9

48. School of Rock (PG-13) (2003) (Jack Black, Joan Cusack) A burnt-out rock-band reject poses as his roommate and gets a job as a 4th grade substitute teacher at an uptight private school. His goal is to recruit the kids to form a band so he can cash in on the prize money at a local band contest. Critics: 9-9-9-9-6

49. Secondhand Lions (PG) (2003) (Robert Duvall, Michael Caine) Coming-of-age comedy set in 1960s Texas, follows a teenager who is forced to spend the summer with his eccentric and wealthy two uncles, whose exotic memories and stories stir the boy's spirit and re-ignite the men's lives. Critics: 7-6-4-4-5

50. Shattered Glass (PG-13) (2003) (Hayden Christensen, Peter Sarsgaard) Biopic based on the life of Washington D.C. journalist Stephen Glass, a twenty-something writer who quickly became the rising star of the “New Republic” for three years. Eventually his credibility was blown after the discovery that over half of his articles were fabricated. Critics: 9-9-9-7-7

51. Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas (PG) (2003) (voices of Brad Pitt, Catherine Zeta-Jones) Arabian sailor Sinbad encounters Eris, the Greek goddess of chaos, who frames him for a crime he didn't commit. To prove his innocence he has to battle terrifying monsters. Critics: 9-4-4-5-7
52. Spellbound (G) (2003) (Harry Altman, Angela Arenivar) Documentary. Academy Award-nominated documentary follows eight children as they compete for a place in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. Critics: 9-9-9

53. Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (PG) (2003) (Daryl Sabara, Alexa Vega) Third installment of the popular kid-agents series lets our under-age spies Carmen and Juni travel into the third dimension to battle the crazy villain Toymaker. Critics: 7-5-5-4-4

54. Tears of the Sun (R) (2003) (Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci) Action-thriller about a Navy SEAL team sent to extract a single doctor from a West African war zone. As hostile rebels close in, the doctor refuses to leave without her 70 refugee patients. And the team, which has been cut off from support, must act fast. Critics: 7-6-5-4-5

55. Timeline (PG-13) (2003) (Paul Walker, Francis O'Connor) 3 Time-travel adventure about a group of modern-day students who travel back to 1357 France to save their history professor. On the way, the encounter such inconveniences as bloodthirsty knights, the bubonic plague, and a full-fledged war. Based on the Michael Crichton bestseller. Critics: 4-3-2-1-3


57. Uncle Nino (PG) (2003) (Joe Mantegna, Pierrino Mascarino) A distant, slightly dysfunctional family is brought closer together when the father’s long-estranged Uncle Nino comes from Italy to Chicago for a surprise visit. Critics: 3-6

58. War Games (Foyle’s War. 2003, NR-TV series, season 2, episode 3) October 1940: A British food corporation signs a secret agreement with the Nazis to provide essential food services to the enemy during wartime, and murders result, including a young secretary that falls to her death out the window of her office. Foyle plays referee to the Home Guard’s war games, but there’s live ammunition and one of the Home guard ends up dead. The local children collecting paper and metal for the war effort prove instrumental in solving the case. 120 minutes Critics: 7-8-7-8

59. Winged Migration, The (G) (2002) Documentary about the migratory habits of birds. Oscar-nominated documentary, shot in 30 countries over the course of three years, about the migratory habits of birds. Critics: 9

60. Whale Rider (PG-13) (2003) (Keisha Castle-Hughes, Rawiri Paratene) Destined to be the new leader of a Maori tribe, a young girl struggles to prove herself in her male-dominated community. Critics: 9-10-7-9-9


2002 releases:

1. About a Boy (PG-13) (2002) (Hugh Grant, Nicholas Hoult) Witty, but predictable romantic comedy about a British lothario’s who believes that dating single mothers is less emotionally complicated only to have his eyes opened by his growing friendship with a troubled 12-year-old boy. Critics: 7-8

2. Below (R) (2002) (Bruce Greenwood, Matt Davis) Creepy WWII horror-thriller about an American submarine narrowly evading a German destroyer, only to encounter something far more sinister in the ocean depths Critics: 8-7-6-4

3. Big Fat Liar (PG) (2002) (Frankie Muniz, Paul Giamatti) Family-oriented showbiz satire/revenge comedy about a perpetual fibber (Muniz) who learns a lesson about telling the truth and gets some payback after a sleazy movie executive (Giamatti) steals his idea for a film. Critics: 5-7-5-5-6


5. City by the Sea (2002) (R) (Robert De Niro, Frances McDormand) Gritty crime drama about a New York City homicide detective who learns that his own son is a murder suspect. His investigation into the matter forces him to confront his own shortcomings as a father. Critics: 8-5-5-7-6

6. Collateral Damage (R) (2002) (Arnold Schwarzenegger, Cliff Curtis) After his family is killed in an attack by Colombia-based narco-terrorists, an understandably upset firefighter travels to South America for revenge. After being hassled by death squads, guerrillas, and drug lords, he finally gets some help from one of the perpetrators’ wives. Critics: 7-8-7-6-5-4

7. Copenhagen (NR-TV) (2002) (Stephen Rea, Daniel Craig, Francesca Annis) Based on Michael Frayn's play, the film imagines what might have happened between physicist Niels Bohr and Nazi-colaborator Werner Heisenberg when they met on a particular night in September 1941. Critics: 7-7


9. Eagle Day (Foyle’s War, 2002, NR-TV, season 1, episode 4) (Michael Kitchen, Honeysuckle Weeks) Foyle investigates a man found with a knife in his stomach in a bombed out building while son Andrew gets involved in a top secret radar program. Critics: 8-8

10. Emperor’s New Clothes, The (PG) (2002) (Ian Holm, Iben Hjejle) This romantic period-drama poses the question: What if Napoleon Bonaparte returned to France from his second exile, hired a look-alike to remain in his place, and fell in love with a working-class lass? Critics: 9-8-5-7

11. Equilibrium (R) (2002) (Christian Bale, Taye Diggs) Paranoid sci-fi thriller profiles a futuristic society where emotion is forbidden and the populace is forced to take empathy-deadening drugs. But when an anti-emotion enforcer forgets to take his daily dose, he starts to feel for the first time... Critics: 6-2-2-3-3

12. Evelyn (PG) (2002) (Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Vavasseur) Engrossing mix of family and courtroom drama, leavened by liberal doses of humor, about a single father who takes his case to the Irish Supreme Court after the Catholic Church takes his children away from him and places them in orphanages. Based on a true story. Critics: 8-6-7-8-7

13. Final Solution (R) (2002) (John Kani, Jan Ellis) A young white South African seeks the complete eradication of all blacks from their country, but then he has a religious conversion and fights apartheid. Critics: 7

15. German Woman, The (Foyle's War, 2002, NR-TV, season 1, episode 1) (Michael Kitchen, Honeysuckle Weeks) It is May 1940, and Detective Chief Superintendent Christopher Foyle's request for government service is again disallowed and he returns to local police work in Hastings, on the southern coast. Being without a license, he is assigned a young female driver by the name of Sam Stewart. Meanwhile, The German wife of a rich and influential aristocrat exempted from wartime internment is found decapitated in the midst of anti-German feeling. Critics: 8-8

16. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG) (2002) (Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson) Second series film, adapted from J.K. Rowling's kid-lit phenomenon of the same name, wherein boy wizard Harry and his pals Ron and Hermione meet an odd elf named Dobby, investigate mysterious petrifications at Hogwarts, and deal with a new, self-absorbed Dark Arts teacher. Critics: 8-10-7-8-6

17. Hart's War (R) (2002) (Bruce Willis, Colin Farrell) WWII courtroom drama about a rich-kid law student Tommy Hart (Farrell) who enlists to fight the Nazis, gets captured, and ends up defending a black POW accused of killing a white officer. In the course of preparing his defense, Hart stumbles upon some shady goings-on involving the camp highest-ranking officer, an American colonel (Willis). Critics: 6-7-8-5-4-7

18. Ice Age (PG) (2002) (voices of Ray Romano, John Leguizamo) Energetic, computer-animated, prehistoric-era buddy-comedy about a mammoth and sloth who find a human infant and are forced to rely on the help of a shifty saber-tooth tiger to return the baby to its tribe. Critics: 9-8-9-8-7-6

19. Importance of Being Earnest, The (PG) (2002) (Rupert Everett, Colin Firth) Quintessential comedy of manners follows two 19th-century British rogues who both pretend to be a fictional character named Earnest. Trouble erupts when they appear at same country estate — where each has a fiancée engaged to "Earnest." Based on the play by Oscar Wilde. Critics: 8-7-5-5-7

20. "Infernal Affairs" (2002) (NR) (Toni Leung Chiu, Andy Lau). A story between a mole in the police department and an undercover cop. Their objectives are the same: to find out who is the mole, and who is the cop. Critics: 8-8

21. John Q (PG-13) (2002) (Denzel Washington, Robert Duvall) Socially conscious drama/thriller profiles law-abiding father who, after his terminally ill son is denied the transplant he needs by a health insurance firm, takes a hospital emergency room hostage. Critics: 6-7-8-5-4-4


25. Lesson in Murder, A (Foyle's War, 2002, NR-TV, season 1, episode 3) (Michael Kitchen, Honeysuckle Weeks) Foyle investigates the suicide of a pacifist and death threats to the judge who ruled against his conscientious objector status. Critics: 8-8


27. Lost in La Mancha (Doc.) (R) (2002) (Terry Gilliam, Johnny Depp) Amusing and heartbreaking depiction of director Gilliam's attempts to film an adaptation of Cervantes' Don Quixote. Though the project is abandoned, this documentary offers a poignant look at what might have been. Critics: 8-7-9-9-6


29. “Mostly Martha” (PG) (2002) (Martina Gedeck, Sergio Castellitto) v.o. German. Acclaimed romantic comedy tells the tale of a prestigious German cook whose precisely ordered kitchen is thrown into chaos when her eight-year-old niece comes under her care and a whimsical Italian sous chef begins working at the same restaurant. Critics: 8-7-9-8-7-7


31. Nicholas Nickleby (PG) (2002) (Charlie Hunnam, Jamie Bell) Based on the Charles Dickens novel, this romantic drama follows the titular young boy and his family who, after his father dies, travel to seek help from his rich but cruel uncle who sends the lad off to teach at an unpleasant boarding school. Many further adventures ensue. Critics: 8-8-8-8-8-8

32. Panic Room (R) (2002) (Jodie Foster, Forest Whitaker) Claustrophobic thriller about a single mother who purchases a New York brownstone which features an armored high-security secret chamber. When burglars break into the home, she and her child retreat to the secure space … only to realize that the treasure the robbers are searching for lies inside. Critics: 8-7-9-8-7-7

33. “Pauline and Paulette” (PG) (2002) (Dora van der Groen, Ann Petersen) Warm Belgian drama about two elderly sisters - one mentally retarded, one socially active - brought closer together when the former's caretaker dies. v.o. Flemish. Critics: 8-5-8-7

34. Pianist, The (R) (2002) (Adrien Brody, Ed Stoppard) WWII-era melodrama follows a successful Jewish-Polish musician who survives the Nazi invasion, only to face starvation in the Warsaw ghetto and extermination in the Holocaust. Critics: 10-9-9-7-10-8

35. Rabbit-Proof Fence (PG) (2002) (Evelyn Sampi, Kenneth Branagh) Epic drama turns a dark chapter in early 20th-century Australian history — the forced separation of Aboriginal children from their parents — into a personal quest. The story follows three such girls who escape and travel 1,500 miles across the desert to get back home. Critics: 9-9-7
36. Reign of Fire (PG-13) (2002) (Christian Bale, Matthew McConaughey) Set in an alternate future where dragons have destroyed human civilization, this sci-fi/fantasy adventure follows the efforts of a British civilian and an American soldier to eliminate the fire-breathing beasts’ species. Critics: 6-7-5-4-2-4

37. Relative Values (2000) (William Baldwin, Julie Andrews) A woman’s impending wedding to a snooty Brit is interrupted by a visit from her ex, and much chaos ensues in this lighthearted comedy adapted from a Noel Coward play. Critics: 7

38. Road to Perdition (R) (2002) (Tom Hanks, Paul Newman) Bleak crime drama about a Depression-era hit man devoted to two things — killing his targets and raising his family. But when tragedy strikes the latter, he takes his eldest son along on a horrifically bloody vendetta. Critics: 9-7-8-8-9

39. Rookie, The (G) (2002) (Dennis Quaid, Rachel Griffiths) There won’t be a dry eye in the house among baseball fans after watching this uplifting melodrama about pitcher Jim Morris’ journey from high school teacher to 35-year-old rookie for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Critics: 7-8-9-6-7

40. Santa Clause 2, The (G) (2002) (Tim Allen, Elizabeth Mitchell) Sequel to the popular seasonal comedy sees the now-experienced everyman-turned-Santa Claus in trouble — according to a “Mrs. Clause” in the magical contract that made him St. Nick, he must marry by Christmas Eve this year or turn in his red suit and sleigh keys forever. Critics: 7-5-4-5-7

41. Shackleton’s Voyage of Endurance (TV-Doc) (2002) NOVA documentary. In late 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton set forth for Antarctica with 27 men, determined to be the first man to cross the continent from coast to coast. His ship, the Endurance, became trapped in pack ice just short of the continent. When the ice crushed their ship to splinters, they were left stranded on the ice floes. Shackleton resolved to rescue each and every man, and turned disaster into one of the greatest survival stories of all time. Critics: 8-8

42. “Shaolin Soccer” (PG-13) (2002) (Stephen Chow, Vicki Zhao) Populated by balding, chubby middle-aged players, an underdog soccer team uses its mastery of kung fu to take on evil opponents for the national championship. Critics: 7-8-5-6

43. Showtime (PG-13) (2002) (Robert De Niro, Eddie Murphy) Send-up of buddy-cop movies follows an unlikely duo of policemen — a showboating publich hood and a no-nonsense detective — paired together for a cops-like reality show. Critics: 7-6-5-5-4

44. Signs (PG-13) (2002) (Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix) Eerie sci-fi thriller about a Pennsylvania farmer who discovers a crop circle in his fields and regains his religious faith after learning their true, terrible meaning. Critics: 8-7-10-7-7

45. “Son, The” (NR) (2002) (Olivier Gourmet, Morgan Marinne) Powerful minimalist drama tells the story of a carpenter who passes on his skills to troubled youths. Things intensify when it’s revealed that one of his students is connected to a painful event from the past. Super-slow, fairly good. Critics: 9-9-6

46. Spider-Man (PG-13) (2002) (Tobey Maguire, Willem Dafoe) Comic-book-based sci-fi actioner about nerdish high-school student (Maguire) who, after being bitten by a genetically modified spider, gains arachnid-like agility, super-strength, and web-slinging abilities. He uses his new-found talents to fight crime, particularly the anarchic rampage of a super-villain known as the “Green Goblin.” Critics: 8-9-8-7-7

47. Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron (G) (2002) (voices of Matt Damon, Daniel Studi) Family-friendly, gorgeously animated adventure about a mustang’s experiences — both positive and negative — with humans in the Old West. Raised in the wild, he is captured by brutal U.S. cavalry officers, befriends a Lakota tribesman, and meets a beautiful mare. Critics: 8-7-8-3

48. Spirited Away (PG) (2002) Young Chihiro and her parents explore an abandoned tunnel, and unwittingly slip into the spirit world. To save her parents (who have turned into pigs) and return home, Chihiro takes a job at a bathhouse where she befriends a dragon and a monster called No Face. Critics: 9-10-9-10-9

49. Spy Kids 2: The Island of Lost Dreams (PG) (2002) (Alexa Vega, Daryl Sabara) Imaginative sequel to wildly popular kids’ film sees its two pint-sized spies embark on another top-secret mission. This time they’re trying to beat another pair of grade-school-age agents to a remote island overrun by genetically altered creatures. Critics: 9-9-8-9-8-6

50. Standing in the Shadows of Motown (Doc.) (PG) (2002) (Joe Hunter, Richard "Pistol" Allan) Exhilarating documentary looks at the all-but-unknown studio musicians who gave some of the greatest Motown hits of the 1960s - including Smokey Robinson, the Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and many, many others - their funk and soul, and reunites them to play with modern artists. Critics: 10-8-9-9

51. Star Wars: Episode II -- Attack of the Clones (PG) (2002) (Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman) Curiously titled, lavishly produced sci-fi epic follows three heroes — the young Jedi apprentice Anakin Skywalker (Christensen), his master Obi-Wan Kenobi (McGregor), and the young monarch Amidala (Portman) — caught up in intergalactic political machinations surrounding a suspicious revolt and the creation of a sinister, genetically uniform army. Critics: 8-6-5-7-6

52. Stolen Summer (PG) (2002) (Adi Stein, Mike Weinberg) When his Jewish friend discovers he has a terminal disease, a Catholic boy attempts to help the youngster come upon a sure-fire way to get into Heaven. Critics: 5-7-7-6

53. Stuart Little 2 (PG) (2002) (voices of Michael J. Fox, Melanie Griffith) Dynamic, visually vibrant kids’ sequel combines live-action and animation in the further adventures of the plucky mouse adopted by a human family in Manhattan. This time around, Stuart learns the value of friendship when an injured bird literally falls into his life. Critics: 8-8-7-9-7-8

54. Thirteen Conversations About One Thing (R) (2002) (Matthew McConaughey, Alan Arkin) Engrossing, mosaic-like, philosophical drama follows a hot-shot attorney, a nebulous professor, an insurance company middle-manager, and a cheery maid whose lives brush up against one another in unexpected ways amidst the tumult of New York City. Critics: 10-9-8-5


57. Tuck Everlasting (PG) (2002) (Alexis Bledel, Jonathan Jackson) Victorian-era magical romance about a young woman who, chafing under the yoke of her strict parents, rebels by falling in love with a handsome stranger with a fantastic secret. Based on the award-winning novel by Natalie Babbitt. Critics: 8-7-6-5-7
58. **We Were Soldiers** (R) (2002) (Mel Gibson, Madeleine Stowe) Harrowing war drama follows a battalion of American soldiers on a late 1965 foray into a sealed valley in central Vietnam ... which just happened to be surrounded by 2,000 North Vietnamese regulars. Based on the memoir by Lt. Colonel Harold Moore and Joseph Galloway. **Critics:** 8-7-9-8-7-8

59. **White Feather, The** (Foyle’s War, 2002, NR-TV, season 1, episode 2) (Michael Kitchen, Honeysuckle Weeks) With the English army trapped in France and a German invasion imminent, a Nazi sympathizer is murdered during a pro-Fascist meeting at a country hotel. **Critics:** 8-8

60. **Windtalkers** (R) (2002) (Nicolas Cage, Adam Beach) Gritty WWII drama about a combat-traumatized marine sergeant assigned to protect a Navajo soldier whose language serves as America's most impenetrable code. However, said marine's primary orders are to “protect the code,” even if that means killing the Navajo to stop him from falling into enemy hands. **Critics:** 7-5-6-7-4

### 2001 releases

1. **61** (TV) (2001) (Barry Pepper, Thomas Jane) Poignant film that captures the 1961 chase for Babe Ruth’s home run record by Roger Maris and his Yankee teammate Mickey Mantle. The movie features wonderful cinematography, great and amusing dialogue, and an extremely accurate portrayal of the unrelenting pain and pressure Roger Maris had to go through in his quest for the record. **Critics:** 8-8

2. **American Outlaws** (PG-13) (2001) (Colin Farrell, Scott Caan) 5.5/10 Comic Western follows the notorious exploits of the James-Younger Gang who became some of the Old West's most notorious outlaws after running afoul of the law for justified vigilantism. **Critics:** 8-8-5-6-7

3. **An American Rhapsody** (PG-13) (2001) (Nastassja Kinski, Scarlett Johansson) Fact-based cultural-clash drama about the tensions that build between a young Hungarian girl and her family after she's left behind in Budapest as an infant and reunited with her family in California seven years later **Critics:** 8-8-7-8

4. **Band of Brothers (minus episode 9)** (TV) (2001) Sprawling HBO WWII miniseries follows a company of the 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from training in Georgia, to parachuting into France on D-Day, all the way to its capture of Hitler's mountain retreat in Bavaria. Based on the nonfiction novel by Stephen E. Ambrose. Runtime: 600 minutes. **Critics:** 8

5. **Behind Enemy Lines** (PG-13) (2001) (Owen Wilson, Gene Hackman). Big-budget military thriller about hotshot navy pilot (Wilson) who is shot down after he witnesses some horrific ethnic cleansing during a reconnaissance mission over Serbia. Rebelling against international indifference and director orders, his hard-nosed commander (Hackman) goes after him. **Critics:** 5-5-7-5-5-5

6. **Black Hawk Down** (R) (2001) (Josh Hartnett, Ewan McGregor) Harrowing war drama recreates the events of October 3, 1993, when a group of U.S. Army Rangers set off for a 90-minute mission to capture a Somali warlord ... and spent the next 17 hours in one of the fiercest firefight in military history. Based on the bestselling book by Mark Bowden. **Critics:** 10-9-10-10-5-8

7. **Cats and Dogs** (PG) (2001) (Jeff Goldblum, Elizabeth Perkins) Effects-packed family espionage comedy shows the secret war constantly being fought between man's best canine and feline friends. **Critics:** 7-4-5-7-6-5

8. **Conspiracy** (R) (2001) (Kenneth Brannagh, Stanley Tucci) A dramatic recreation of the Wannsee Conference where the Nazi Final Solution phase of the Holocaust was devised. **Critics:** 6-7

9. **Delivering Milo** (PG) (2001) (Bridget Fonda, Albert Finney) Delightful comedy-drama about a child who refuses to be born, and the scheme that heaven has to convince him to. **Critics:** 6-7

10. **Dish, The** (PG-13) (2001) (Sam Neill, Patrick Warburton) Offbeat, uplifting comedy about the American and Australian scientists working the radio telescope that provided video of Neil Armstrong’s historic 1969 moon walk and the excitement the event generated in the telescope’s home, Parkes, Australia. **Critics:** 9-8-9-8-7

11. **Domestic Disturbance** (PG-13) (2001) (John Travolta, Vince Vaughn) Domestic peril thriller about a divorced dad (Travolta) who learns that his kids’ new stepfather (Vaughn) isn’t the upstanding citizen everyone thinks he is. Naturally, his ex-wife (Polo) doesn’t believe a word of it. **Critics:** 6-6-4-4-6-5

12. **Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within** (PG-13) (2001) (voices of Ming-Na, Alec Baldwin) Set in 2065, this groundbreaking computer-animated adventure profiles a brilliant and beautiful scientist leading both the fight against a horde of alien invaders and efforts to unleash the power of the human soul. **Critics:** 4-7-8-9-5-6

13. “Gleaners and I” (NR-Doc.) (2001) French documentary about poor European scavengers rummaging through already reaped fields to look for scraps of food. We do not include any documentaries or foreign language features in the List, but given the favorable opinion of the critics it will be included in the next List. **Critics:** 9, 10.

14. **Hardball** (PG-13) (2001) (Keanu Reeves, Diane Lane) When a burnt-out Chicagoan (Reeves) agrees to coach a housing project's little league team, he undergoes just the sort of life-changing, self-affirming experience that would make a great sports movie. **Critics:** 8-8-9-8-8

15. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone** (PG) (2001) (Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson). Effects-packed, live-action adaptation of the phenomenally popular fantasy novel by J.K. Rowling. When a neglected British boy discovers that he has magical powers and begins attending a prestigious school for witches and wizards. **Critics:** 9-8-10-8-7

16. **Hearts in Atlantis** (PG-13) (2001) (Anton Yelchin, Anthony Hopkins) Eerie, absorbing drama about a young widow whose son befriends a kind but mysterious stranger (Hopkins) boarding in the same house. When faced with nameless threats from the outside, the two bond. Based on the bestseller by Stephen King. **Critics:** 9-8-7-8

17. “I’m Going Home” (NR) (2001) (Michel Piccoli, Catherine Deneuve) Bittersweet comedy/drama profiles a veteran French actor who, after his family is killed in a car accident, realizes that it will be soon time to take his own final bow. In French. **Critics:** 9-9-8-9

18. **I am Sam** (PG-13) (2001) (Sean Penn, Michelle Pfeiffer) Emotional drama chronicles a mentally disabled father's legal fight to keep custody of his young daughter after a social worker recommends that the girl be placed in foster care. **Critics:** 4-5-7-9-2

19. **In the Bedroom** (R) (2001) (Sissy Spacek, Tom Wilkinson). Intense, well-acted drama about a middle-aged couple coming to terms with a tragic event involving their son. Based on Andre Dubus' short story, "Killers." **Critics:** 9-10-9-8

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*Titles within quotation marks are originally in a foreign language. Underlined: my recommendation*

21. **Joe Somebody** (PG) (2001) (Tim Allen, Julie Bowen). Uneven comedy about a mild-mannered Minnesota cube slave who gets beaten up by a bully colleague over a parking space. His quest for vengeance makes him the office hero, but threatens his budding relationship with the pert company wellness coordinator. Critics: 4-7-7-4-4

22. **Jurassic Park III** (PG-13) (2001) (Sam Neill, William H. Macy) Another batch of hungry, hungry dinosaurs wreak havoc with humankind in this third installment in the popular sci-fi series. *Jurassic Park*’s Dr. Alan Grant (Neill) is persuaded to travel to Lost World’s “Site B” by a rich thrill-seeker (Macy) and discovers that the velociraptors are more intelligent than anyone had previously thought. Critics: 5-8-7-8-7-6

23. **“Kandahar”** (NR) (2001) (Nelofer Pazira, Hassan Tantai) After an Afghan woman who lives in Canada receives a letter from her suicidal sister, she takes a perilous journey through Afghanistan to try to find her. As she searches for her sister, she soon gets a clear and disturbing portrait of the toll the Taliban regime has taken upon its people. Critics: 8-7-8

24. **Kate & Leopold** (PG-13) (2001) (Meg Ryan, Hugh Jackman). Century-hopping romantic comedy about spunky modern-day executive (Ryan) falling for Victorian-era aristocrat (Jackman) who is somehow transported to the present day. Rather than figure out how to send the dashing fellow back to the 19th Century, she falls for his charm, manners, and starched collars. Critics: 7-7-8-7-5

25. **K-PAX** (PG-13) (2001) (Kevin Spacey, Jeff Bridges). Emotional, psychological drama examines strange healing effect a new mental ward patient (Spacey) has on his fellow inmates. However, the new arrival’s passionate insistence that he’s from another planet baffles the ward’s head psychiatrist (Bridges). Critics: 5-5-6-5-5-6


27. **“Lagaan: Once upon a Time in India”** (NR) (2001) (Aamir Khan, Rachel Shelley) Epic and lavish Bollywood drama, set in 1893, about a group of villagers who go up against a villainous British captain in a game of cricket. Hindi with subtitles Critics: 9-8

28. **Last Castle, The** (R) (2001) (Robert Redford, James Gandolfini) Glossy suspense/drama about a charismatic army general (Redford) being sent to military prison for disobeying orders. Once there, he begins to butt heads with the facility’s iron-fisted warden (Gandolfini) and rally fellow prisoners to his cause. Critics: 6-8-5-8-6

29. **Lord of the Rings, The: The Fellowship of the Ring** (PG-13) (2001) (Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen). Sprawling, majestic epic based on the first of J.R.R. Tolkien’s best-selling novels introduces Frodo Baggins and the other Hobbits as they leave the Shire and begin their quest to destroy the ring of power. Along the way, they are helped by men, elves, and dwarves and hunted by all manner of evil beasts. Runtime: 176 minutes. Critics: 10-9-10-8-8

30. **Majestic, The** (PG) (2001) (Jim Carrey, Martin Landau). Whimsical 1950s-set romance about a blacklisted screenwriter (Carrey) who wanders into a small town after losing his memory in a car accident. There, he’s mistaken for a killed-in-action World War II hero by the dead fellow’s father (Landau) who gives him a job at the local movie theater. Critics: 3-3-9-2-6


32. **Monsoon Wedding** (R) (2001) (Naseeruddin Shah, Vasundhara Das). A frustrated father attempts to pull off an elaborate traditional wedding for his daughter, who has agreed to an arranged marriage as an escape from a dead-end affair with a married man. Critics: 9-9-8-7-9-9

33. **Monsters, Inc.** (G) (2001) (voices of John Goodman, Billy Crystal). Eye-popping computer-generated adventure about bumbling monsters from alternate dimension scaring children in order to harness the energy from their screams. Chaos ensues when a child turns up the monsters headquarters since they’re deathly afraid of kids. Critics: 10-10-9-9-8

34. **“No Man’s Land”** (R) (2001) (Branko Djuric, Rene Bitorajac) Moving, sometimes darkly funny drama about two soldiers — one Bosnian Muslim and one Bosnian Serb — trapped in battle by enemy lines with another soldier lying on top of a live mine. Unusual anti-war drama insists there is no such thing as neutrality as it skewers the UN and the news media for their roles in the Bosnian conflict. In Serbo-Croatian v.o. with subtitles. Critics: 10-9-10-9-8

35. **One, The** (PG-13) (2001) (Jet Li, Delroy Lindo). Futuristic sci-fi action/thriller about modern policeman (Li) being hunted by an evil, near-superhuman villain from an alternate dimension who looks exactly like him. Critics: 5-5-4-5-4-4-3

36. **Osmosis Jones** (PG) (2001) (Bill Murray, voice of Chris Rock) Comedic blend of live-action and animation, about a lazy slob (Murray) who is invaded by a lethal virus and the street-wise white-blood-cell cop (Rock) who tracks down the offending microbe with the help of a straight-laced cold medication (Pierce). Critics: 8-8-9-8-6-6

37. **Others, The** (PG-13) (2001) (Nicole Kidman, Fionnula Flanagan) Eerie supernatural thriller profiles British housewife (Kidman) caring for her photosensitive children in a spooky mansion which may or may not be haunted. Critics: 9-9-8-5-9-8

38. **Planet of the Apes** (PG-13) (2001) (Mark Wahlberg, Tim Roth) Action- and effects-packed pseudo-remake of cult sci-fi classic about an American astronaut (Wahlberg) who crash-lands onto a strange planet where humans run wild and civilized apes rule with an iron fist. Critics: 4-7-6-7-7-5

39. **Poirot: Murder in Mesopotamia** (TV) (2001) (David Suchet, Hugh Fraser) When an archeologist’s wife receives murder threats, Poirot and Hastings end up on their own dig. Is the culprit her ex-husband — who was thought to be deceased — or someone else posing as him?

40. **Princess Diaries, The** (G) (2001) (Anne Hathaway, Julie Andrews) Pygmalion-like family comedy about San Francisco teen who unexpectedly learns she’s the heir to the crown of a small, fictional European principality and the transformation she undergoes at the hands of her regal grandmother. Critics: 7-9-7-4-4

41. **Recess: School’s Out** (G) (2001) (voices of Andy Lawrence, Danby Coleman) Big-screen version of animated TV series about plucky young student who uncovers a plot by a deranged former principal to create eternal winter, and thus eliminate summer vacation. Critics: 5-5-7-5-6-6-3
42. “Road Home, The” (G) (2001) (Zhang Ziyi, Sun Honglei) v.o. in Chinese. Sentimental drama about modern-day Chinese businessman travelling back to his rural hometown for his father's funeral. During the days leading up to the burial, he rediscovers some of the ancient tradition he had forgotten. Critics: 8-9-8-9-8

43. Shrek (PG) (2001) (voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy) Big-budget computer-animated fairy tale about a cranky ogre (Myers) who, while trying to clear his swampy abode of pesky fairies and unicorns, rescues a princess (Diaz) and befriends a donkey (Murphy). Loosely based on the short children's book of the same name by New Yorker cartoonist William Steig. Critics: 8-9-10-10-9-9

44. Spy Game (R) (2001) (Robert Redford, Brad Pitt). Cerebral, action-packed espionage thriller about a master spy, on the eve of his retirement, who discovers that his protégé at the CIA has been captured in China. Critics: 7-7-7-7-7-7

45. Spy Kids (PG) (2001) (Antonio Banderas, Alexa Vega) Wacky action/comedy about two children who, after their mother and father are kidnapped, discover their parents are former spies. They pair to become the world's youngest secret agents in order to save their parents — and the world. Critics: 7-9-9-8-9-7

46. Texas Rangers (PG-13) (2001) (Dylan McDermott, James Van Der Beek). Youth-oriented Western follows a group of fresh-faced deputies (Van Der Beek & Co.) trying to establish law-and-order in the wild frontier of the Lone Star State under the leadership of an embittered commanding officer (McDermott). Critics: 4-3-4-3-3

47. To End All Wars (R) (2001) (Robert Carlyle, Kiefer Sutherland). Set during WWII, a group of four Scottish P.O.W.'s endure harsh treatment from their Japanese captors while being forced to build a railroad through the Burmese jungle. Based on true events. Very Christian approach. Critics: 8


49. Warrior, The (R) (2001) (Irfan Kahn, Puru Chibber) This adventure story, set in ancient India, follows Khan, a warrior who, after renouncing his allegiance to the local feudal lord, must try to stay alive during a deadly game of cat and mouse in the Himalayas.

50. Wit (TV) (2001) (Emma Tompkin, Christopher Lloyd). Powerful drama about an overly controlled English professor dying of cancer. Adapted from prize-winning play and originally shown on HBO. Critics: 8


2000 releases

1. 42 Up (NR) (2000) British Documentary. Sixth installment in long-running documentary series revisits eleven Britons thirty five years into their lives. Fans of the series will likely find the revelations fascinating, though the subjects awkwardness may put off some. Critics: 6-9-5-9


3. Bless The Child (R) (2000) (Kim Basinger, Jimmy Smits) A nurse teams up with an FBI agent to save her six-year-old niece from the clutches of NYC Satanists in this atmospheric, creepy thriller. Respectful towards the Catholic Church. Critics: 5-5-8-2-4-4


6. Chicken Run (G) (2000) (voices of Mel Gibson, Julia Sawalha) Feature-length animated film from creators of Wallace & Gromit follows the chickens of Coop 17 making a great escape to freedom under the leadership of rugged American rooster. Critics: 8-9-10

7. Dancer in the Dark (R) (2000) (Björk, Catherine Deneuve) Dramatic musical profiles a young Czech immigrant (Bjork) living in the Pacific Northwest who escapes her depressing life and impending blindness through daydreams that take the form of vibrant musical numbers. Critics: 4-7-5-8-8

8. Deterrence (R) (2000) (Kevin Pollak, Timothy Hutton) Tense, low-budget thriller about American President faced with potential nuclear crisis while trapped incommunicado in a snowstorm. Critics: 5-5-3-6-9-5


10. Don Quixote (2000) (TV)


13. Fantasia/2000 (G) (2000) (Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck) IMAX-sized revamp of Disney's original masterpiece collects seven orchestral works accompanied by animation. Less-than-inspiring animation and pedestrian musical selection don't entirely undermine this outstanding introduction to classical music (or the original). Critics: 7-7-8

14. Finding Forrester (PG-13) (2000) (Sean Connery, Rob Brown) Male-bonding drama about an African-American aspiring writer and athlete befriended by a reclusive author (Connery) who helps the lad negotiate the perils of his mostly white prep school. Critics: 7-7-6-5-7-9

15. Founding Fathers (G) (2000) 240-minute TV Documentary/Staged Reenactments (History Channel)
16. **Frequency** (PG-13) (2000) (Dennis Quaid, Jim Caviezel) Offbeat, suspenseful sci-fi thriller about a New York homicide detective given the chance to rewrite history when a mysterious ham radio transmission reunites him with his long-dead father. **Critics:** 7.5-10-9-8-9

17. **Gladiator** (R) (2000) (Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix) Epic adventure about Roman general who, after being sentenced to death by the newly crowned Emperor, becomes popular enough through gladiatorial success to challenge the young tyrant's rule. **Critics:** 8-9-10-10-8

18. “**Himalaya**” (NR) (2000) (Karma Tensing, Thilen Lhondup) v.o. in Tibetan. Sumptuous adventure film about the lives of a group of Tibetan herdsmen journeying through the Himalayas. **Critics:** 8-7-8

19. **Hoover** (NR) (2000) (Ernest Borgnine, Cartha Deloach) **Moviguide** An incredible one-man tour de force with Ernest Borgnine playing J. Edgar Hoover, the controversial former director of the FBI. **Critics:** 5


22. **House of Mirth, The** (PG) (2000) (Gillian Anderson, Eric Stoltz) Beautifully filmed adaptation of Edith Wharton's classic about an ambitious and beautiful young woman's conflict between love and riches as she searches for a husband. **Critics:** 9-7-9-9-9

23. **In the Company of Spies** (TV) (2000). **Critics:** 7

24. **Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport** (PG) (2000) (Holocaust Documentary) Documentary chronicles the mass exodus of Jewish children from pre-WWII Germany into neutral countries, where they were adopted by new families. **Critics:** 8-9-8

25. **Jazz: A Film By Ken Burns** (TV Doc.) (2000) 10-part series on this unique musical form is given the rigorous and comprehensive Ken Burns treatment. Finishes out his "American Life" trilogy that began with *The Civil War* and *Baseball*. Runtime: 600 minutes

26. **Legend of Drunken Master, The** (R) (2000) (Jackie Chan, Anita Mui) Beautifully filmed adaptation of Edith Wharton's classic about an ambitious and beautiful young woman's conflict between love and riches as she searches for a husband. **Critics:** 9-4-9-8-9

27. **Men of Honor** (R) (2000) (Cuba Gooding Jr., Robert De Niro) Fact-based biopic of Carl Brashear, the U.S. Navy's first African-American Diver, who had to battle institutional racism, personal trauma, and crippling injury over his 30-year career. **Critics:** 6-7-8-7-7

28. **Miracle Maker, The** (G) (2000) (Voices of Ralph Fiennes, Julie Christie) Tender, dramatic Welsh production creatively depicts life of Jesus. Historical accuracy, sophisticated claymation, dramatic lighting and soundtrack, and star's voices engage adults as well as children. **Critics:** 9-8-10

29. **Mission to Mars** (PG) (2000) (Gary Sinise, Tim Robbins) Big-budget sci-fi adventure follows a problem-plagued manned mission to the Red Planet which uncovers much more than a few rust-colored rocks.... **Critics:** 3-4-8-6-3

30. **My Dog Skip** (PG) (2000) (Frankie Muniz, Diane Lane) Well-crafted coming-of-age tale set in WWII-era Mississippi follows boy's journey to maturity with the help of canine companion. Outstanding performances make up for occasional sappiness, episodic story. Ages 5 and up. **Critics:** 8-8-6-7-7-8

31. "**Not One Less"** (NR) (2000) (Wei Minzhi, Shang Huike) In Mandarin v.o. Stripped-down neo-realist drama about star student (Minzhi) of a remote Chinese school taking over her teacher duties' when the latter is called away. Cast is almost entirely non-professional actors. **Critics:** 8-7

32. **Nuremberg** (TV) (2000) (Alec Baldwin, Brian Cox) An American prosecutor, Robert Jackson, insists the captured Nazi officers be tried according to the standards of our Anglo-Saxon legal system, in the hope of establishing the "superior morality" of our side. **Critics:** 7


34. **Patriot, The** (R) (2000) (Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger) Flag-waving Revolutionary War epic profiles a pacifist American farmer (Gibson) who is forced to take up his flintlock and fight when the Redcoats start a-comin'. **Critics:** 9-9-9-10-9

35. **Pitch Black** (R) (2000) (Vin Diesel, Radha Mitchell) After a prison ship crashes on a remote alien world, its crew is forced to rely on their murderous captive to stave off the hungry beasties that come out at night. **Critics:** 5-6-7-6-5-2-1

36. **Proof of Life** (R) (2000) (Russell Crowe, Meg Ryan) High-gloss thriller about hunky Australian terrorism specialist who is called in to help negotiate the release of an American engineer from Latin American rebels. Complications of the romantic kind ensue when he falls for the kidnapped victim's wife. **Critics:** 6-7-8-7-8-7

37. **Race Against Time** (TV) (2000) (Eric Roberts, Cary Elwes) In 2008 America, when the right-to-die is now the law, a man who agrees to sell his organs to pay for his son's medical bills. He has one year to surrender his own body. Interesting futuristic premise, with lots of action. **Critics:** 7

38. **Remember the Titans** (PG) (2000) (Denzel Washington, Will Patton) Uplifting sports drama profiles real-life suburban Virginia football coach (Washington) trying to lead one high school athletics' first integrated teams to the state championship. **Critics:** 7.5-8-9-8-9-8

39. **Return to Me** (PG) (2000) (David Duchovny, Minnie Driver) Sentimental, semi-offbeat romance with a delightful supporting cast about a lonely widower who tries to rediscover love with an artist/waitress, to find that winning her heart isn't as straightforward as it seems. **Critics:** 8-5-8-7

40. **Road to El Dorado, The** (PG) (2000) (voices of Kevin Kline, Kenneth Branagh) Boisterous animated adventure follows two petty Spanish crooks' misadventures in the legendary City of Gold. Features songs by Elton John and Tim Rice. **Critics:** 7-8-5-6-8

41. **Rules of Engagement** (R) (2000) (Tommy Lee Jones, Samuel L. Jackson) Military courtroom suspense/drama about a retired marine lawyer returning to defend his friend, a much-decorated colonel, after the latter's peacekeeping troops massacre Arab civilians. **Critics:** 7-7-5

*Titles within quotation marks are originally in a foreign language

*Underlined: my recommendation*
42. **Shanghai Noon** (PG-13) (2000) (Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson) Combo kung-fu comedy/Western actioner follows an acrobatic Chinese imperial guard (Chan) who rides off into the Wild West in search of a lost princess (Liu). Critics: 8-9-9-8-9-8

43. **Small Time Crooks** (PG) (2000) (Woody Allen, Tracey Ullman) Manic crime comedy about an affable ex-con (Allen) cooking up a cunning bank robbery while working in a restaurant. Critics: 8-8-9-6-7-8

44. **Snow Day** (PG) (2000) (Mark Webber, Zena Grey) Romance blooms, professional credibility is restored, and a menacing Snow Plow Man gets his due in this surprisingly entertaining family comedy. Some potty humor, mild peril don't detract from this simple pleasure. Critics: 6-4-6-3-3-5

45. **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) (2000) (Kevin Costner, Bruce Greenwood) Nail-biting suspense/drama recreates the tense events inside the White House during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, arguably the closest the world has come to nuclear war. Critics: 7.5-9-8-9-7-9

46. **Titan A.E.** (PG) (2000) (voices of Matt Damon, Drew Barrymore) Combination computer-generated/traditional animated adventure about remnants of humanity rebuilidng civilization on Saturn's largest moon after Earth is destroyed by evil aliens. Critics: 4-8-9-8-9-4

47. **Titanic Town** (NR) (2000) (Julie Walters, Nuala O'Neill) Fact-based drama profiles Norther Irishwoman's efforts to shield her family and friends from sectarian violence during the 1970s. Critics: 7-9-7

48. **U-571** (PG-13) (2000) (Matthew McConaughey, Harvey Keitel) After a daring mission goes awry and their submarine is destroyed, some American sailors find themselves trapped on a German U-boat with the Nazi navy hot on their heels. Critics: 4-6-5-4-7-5-8

49. **Unbreakable** (PG-13) (2000) (Bruce Willis, Samuel L. Jackson) Eerie suspense/drama about a man who survives a horrific train wreck without a scratch, but who realizes that his miraculous escape has some frightening implications. Critics: 6-5-8-5-5-8

50. **Up at the Villa** (PG-13) (2000) (Kristin Scott Thomas, Sean Penn) Period romance follows an upper-crust English widow (Scott Thomas) who becomes involved with an American ex-pat (Penn) in Fascist-era Italy. Critics: 7-6-8-2-8-5

51. **Vertical Limit** (PG-13) (2000) (Chris O'Donnell, Robin Tunney) After a mountaineering expedition vanishes into thin air on the world's second-highest peak, a rescue team must brave extreme cold, dizzying heights, massive avalanches, deep crevasses, and Chris O'Donnell's acting in order to save them. Critics: 5-8-8-5-7-6


1999 releases

1. **Animal Farm** (TV) (1999) (Kelsey Grammer, Ian Holm) Made-for-TV adaptation of Orwell classic likens oppressed farm animals' lives to Stalinist Russia. Though Orwell fans may despise watered-down story, the impressive puppet effects, evocative voice-acting engage less demanding viewers. Critics: 6-7

2. **Anna and the King** (PG-13) (1999) (Jodie Foster, Chow Yun-Fat) Glossy period drama chronicles relationship between stubborn British schoolmarm and proud Thai monarch. Though the plot holds few surprises, the lavish scenery, compelling performances should satisfy armchair travelers seeking exotic eye candy. Critics: 7-7-8

3. **Arlington Road** (R) (1999) (Jeff Bridges, Tim Robbins) Paranoid thriller about a college professor who suspects his suburban neighbors of terrorism. Far-fetched plot, absurd climax rob the story of logic and suspense, but stars' fans may enjoy. Critics: 9-10-6-5-8

4. **Asterix & Obelix vs. Caesar** (PG) (1999) (Gerard Depardieu, Christian Clavier, Roberto Begnini) The well-known little village from the Asterix and Obelix-comic book is in trouble: It is the last place not controlled by Rome. When Tax collector Claudius Incorruptus does not get his money from the villagers, Julius Caesar himself comes to the place to see what's so special about their resistance. Critics: 5-6

5. **“Autumn Tale”** (PG) (1999) (Marie Rivière, Béatrice Romand) In French v.o. Warmhearted comedy/drama about woman's romantic complications when her friends contrive to find her a man. Though too slow-moving for mainstream viewers, this charming film delights Rohmer’s fans, French cinema lovers. Critics: 5-8-5-5-8

6. **Bachelor, The** (PG-13) (1999) (Chris O'Donnell, Renee Zellweger) Romantic comedy about single San Franciscan who must find a bride in 27 hours. Despite a few funny moments, the selfish characters, uncompelling stars will have even desperate romance fans filing for divorce. Critics: 6-4-3-2-4

7. **Basket, The** (PG) (1999) (Peter Coyote, etc.) Two German orphans are sent to live in the Pacific Northwest during World War I. Critics: 3-5-2-1

8. **Bicentennial Man** (PG) (1999) (Robin Williams, Embeth Davidtz) Sentimental sci-fi/romance about robot spending 200 years trying to become human. Fans of Robin Williams' cuddly shtick may enjoy, but clunky, maudlin script won't please cynics or true sci-fi enthusiasts. Critics: 6-5-7-5-5-9

9. **Blue Streak** (PG-13) (1999) (Martin Lawrence, Luke Wilson) Screenit Comedy/Adventure: An ex-con poses as an L.A.P.D. detective while trying to retrieve a valuable diamond he earlier stashed in a building that went on to become the police precinct. Critics: 8-5-4-4-4


11. **Castle, The** (R) (1999) (Michael Caton, Stephen Curry) Amiable Aussie comedy about family's home threatened by airport expansion. The unique, warm, slightly off-kilter relationships between characters make this slight comedy very endearing. Great for fans of low-budget comedy. Critics: 7-7-8-6-7


Titles within quotation marks are originally in a foreign language. Underlined: my recommendation. November 4, 2014 Page 2
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>David Copperfield</em> (TV series)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>PBS miniseries, 185 minutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>“Dinner Game, The”</em> (PG-13)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>French v.o. Wicked farce about cruel Frenchman duping laughable eccentrics into attending supper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Emperor and the Assassin, The</em> (NR)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Chinese v.o. Visually sumptuous, dramatically shallow look at Chinese concubine torn between evil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Endurance</em> (G)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Haile Gebrselassie, Yonas Zergaw Rousing docu-drama profiling Haile Gebrselassie, the Ethiopian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Eternity and a Day</em> (NR)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Denzel Ganz, Isabelle Renaud Hypnotic, meandering film about writer contemplating his existence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Grandfather, The</em> (NR)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>Spanish v.o. An old Count returns from America to his deceased son's wife and two young daughters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Haunting, The</em> (PG-13)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>A small group of people, led by a researcher who's deceived the rest, attempts to spend several</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Horatio Hornblower (Episodes 1-4)</em></td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>A &amp;E's 4-part epic version of C.S. Forester's classic Napoleonic tale of high-seas heroism and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hurricane, The</em> (R)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Denzel Washington, Vicelous Reon Shannon Loosely fact-based drama follows plight of world-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Insider, The</em> (R)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Powerful fact-based drama about tobacco whistle-blower telling story on 60 Minutes, only to have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Instinct</em> (R)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Anthony Hopkins, Cuba Gooding, Jr. Intriguing psychological thriller concerns ambitious psychiatric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Iron Giant, The</em> (PG)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Voices of Eli Marienlath, Christopher McDonald Screenit Animated Action/Adventure: A young boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Joan of Arc</em> (TV)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Screenit Miniseries follows Frenchwoman's journey from humble peasant to Medieval martyr. Lovers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Joyriders, The</em> (PG-13)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>Martin Landay, Shwan Hatosy Critics: 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Judy Berlin</em> (NR)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>Edie Falco, Aaron Hamick Offbeat drama explores alienation and loneliness within New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>King and I, The</em> (G)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Voices of Miranda Richardson, Martin Vidovic Animated remake of the popular Rogers/Hammerstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lake Placid</em> (R)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Bridget Fonda, Bill Pullman Uneven horror/comedy about motley crew of Maine-dwellers alternately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Last Days, The</em> (NR)</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>Well-crafted documentary examines last-ditch Nazi effort to exterminate Hungarian Jews at close</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Titles within quotation marks are originally in a foreign language     Underlined: my recommendation November 4, 2014 Page 1
35. Legend of 1900, The (R) (1999) (Tim Roth, Pruitt Taylor Vince) Fable-like story of enigmatic pianist wandering around Atlantic in an oceanliner. Fans of classical music, magical realism might enjoy the surreal atmosphere, but the murky plot will be too opaque for most. Critics: 6-3-8-3-6


38. Matrix, The (R) (1999) (Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne) Mind-bending action/thriller about programmer discovering his world isn't what it seems.... Some called its plot over-convoluted, but sci-fi fans should jack into the thoughtful storyline, dazzling effects, blistering action. Critics: 6.5-7-9-6-7

39. Minus Man, The (R) (1999) (Owen Wilson, Janeane Garofalo) Screenit Drama: A serial killer moves into a small town where the residents are unaware of his homicidal ways. Critics: 6-5-8-8-8-6


41. Muppets From Space (G) (1999) (the Muppets) Lonesome Gonzo receives alien messages and is subsequently abducted by mysterious government agency. Witty dialogue, furry shenanigans entertain fans, but lack of interstellar action may disappoint those seeking sci-fi parody. Critics: 6-4-4-5-6

42. Music of the Heart (PG) (1999) (Meryl Streep, Aidan Quinn) Screenit Drama: After her husband walks out on her, a woman tries to set up and then maintain a beloved but tenuously supported violin class in an East Harlem school. Critics: 7-7-4-2-8

43. Mystery Men (PG-13) (1999) (Ben Stiller, Hank Azaria) Screenit Comedy/Action/Adventure: A team of lame superhero wannabes tries to thwart the efforts of a dastardly villain who's kidnapped their city's legendary crime fighter. Critics: 5-6-4-5-7-7

44. “Not of this World” (1999) (Fuori dal mondo) (Margherita Buy, Silyvio Orlando) The rumpled owner of a dry-cleaning firm joins forces with a nun to care for an abandoned baby. Critics: 7-8-7-7


46. One Man’s Hero (R) (1999) (Tom Berenger, Daniela Romo) During the Mexican-American War, a small band of Irish immigrants change allegiance to fight for Mexico. Critics: 4

47. Princess Mononoke (PG-13) (1999) (voices of Billy Crudup, Claire Danes) Sweeping animated masterpiece chronicling struggle between forest dwellers and encroaching industrial village. Its enthralling suspense, palpable voice-acting, awe-inspiring animation, make this gem a must-see for anime lovers, casual viewers alike. Critics: 8-9-8-9


49. “Run Lola Run” (R) (1999) (Franka Potente, Moritz Bleibtreu) In German v.o. Crime comedy/surreal thriller about Berlin punker who must find 100,000 marks -- in 20 minutes. Its lightning pace, dazzling style, wry wit extend its appeal far beyond the art-house crowd. Critics: 8-8-8-8

50. Season for Miracles, A (NR-TV) (1999) (Carla Cugino, David Conrad). Hallmark Hall of Fame. The aunt of two kids takes them away rather than allow them to go to a foster home, find an unoccupied home, are welcomed by the community, but it is only a matter of time until discovered that they are not the owners. Critics: 5


52. Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace (PG) (1999) (Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor) Effects-soaked space saga about Jedi Knights uncovering galactic plot, meeting gifted boy with an uncertain future.... Despite disappointing dialogue and a preteen-packaged plot, the rousing action, stunning effects will have sci-fi fans feeling The Force. Critics: 8-9-8-5-7-5

53. Straight Story, The (G) (1999) (Richard Farnsworth, Sissy Spacek) Screenit Drama: A 73-year-old man sets out on a several hundred-mile trip on his riding lawn mower to see his sick, estranged brother. Critics: 10-10-9-10-8


55. Tarzan (G) (1999) (voices of Tony Goldwyn, Minnie Driver) Disney's high-speed adaptation of Burroughs' novel about an ape-raised orphan. With its thrilling treetop action, kid-centered humor, groundbreaking animation, and moving drama, this delights family viewers age 5 & up. Critics: 8-9-8-8-8-8

56. Tea With Mussolini (PG) (1999) (Cher, Joan Plowright) Richly evocative autobiographical drama about boy growing up among British/American expatriate women in WWII-era Italy. Captivates fans of character-driven drama with witty and sentimental story, formidable ensemble cast, Cher's vivid performance. Critics: 8-10-8-7-9-6

57. Toy Story 2 (G) (1999) (voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen) Woody and Buzz return for another computer-animated adventure. With stunning animation, a richer storyline, and the addition of a female character, this sequel that improves on the original. Must-see family entertainment for all ages. Critics: 9-10-9-9-10

60. **Virus** (R) (1999) (Jamie Lee Curtis, William Baldwin) Tepid sci-fi horror/thriller about salvage ship discovering derelict research vessel inhabited by murderous alien. With plenty of gore, few surprises, this might pass as distraction to none-too-demanding horror, S/F fans. **Critics: 2-4-7-1-3**

61. **Winslow Boy, The** (G) (1999) (Nigel Hawthorne, Rebecca Pidgeon) Family challenges government when son is accused of theft in powerful period drama. Change of pace for director Mamet captivates fans of intelligent drama with absorbing, nuanced story, rich characterizations. **Critics: 10-10-8-7**

62. **Wives and Daughters** (PG) (1999) 201 m. BBC-Miniseries, adapted from the unfinished Victorian novel of Mrs. Elizabeth Gaskell. The story centers around girl-next-door Molly Gibson and her father, the town doctor. Their idyllic lives are turned upside down when Mr. Gibson remarries the selfish, self-absorbed Claire Fitzpatrick and her beautiful daughter Cynthia Hawes joins the household. **Critics: 8**