

Top 30 Films

By Eddie Ivermee

Top 30 films as chosen by me, they may not be perfect or to everyone's taste. Like all good art however they inspire debate.

For that feeling you get when the lights get dim in the cinema

Because of getting to see Heath Ledger on the big screen for the final time in The Dark Knight

Because of Quentin Tarentino's knack for rip roaring dialogue

Because of the invention of the steadicam

For saving me from the drudgery of nightly weekly TV sessions

Because of Malik's ability to make life seem more beautiful than it really is

Because of Brando and Pacino together in The Godfather

Because of the amazing combination of music and image, e.g. music in Jaws

Because of the invention of other worlds, see Avatar, Star Wars, Alien etc.

For making us laugh, cry, sad, happy, scared all in equal measure.

For the ending of the Shawshank Redemption

For allowing Jim Carey lose during the 1990's

For arranging a coffee date on screen of De Niro an Pacino

For allowing Righteous Kill to go straight to DVD so I could turn it off

For taking me back in time with classics like Psycho, Wizard of Oz ect

For making dreams become reality see E.T, The Goonies, Spiderman, Superman

For allowing Brad Pitt, Michael Fassbender, Tom Hardy and Joesph Gordon Levitt ply their trade on screen for our amusement.

Because of making people **Die Hard** as **Rambo** strikes with a **Lethal Weapon** because he is a **Predator** who is also **Rocky**.

For a certain cameo in Zombieland

For Edward Norton's rant in 25th Hour, something everyone's always wanted to say I'm sure

For David Wenham in Getting Square

For movie marathons, all 4 Die Hards in one night, yes please!

For the on screen incarnation of Children of Men

For the gasps created when I've been blindsided, see Sixth Sense, The Prestige, Inside Man etc.

For introducing us to Morgan Freeman's voiceover ability's, does it get any better?

For any number of Jack Nicolson's performances

Because of the excitement of watching a trailer, who thought two minutes could be so exciting?

For introducing me to Jessica Alba in Sin City ©

For writers like Aaron Zorkin, making the mundane cool again

For Russell Crowes arrival proper in Gladiator, long live Maximus

For showing us you don't need big bucks to do a big movie, see Primer, Donnie Darko, Brick etc.

For the opening sequence of Southland Tales

For making characters like Indiana Jones, James Bond etc. real enough to become a part of our lives

For Pixar's entire catalogue, oh wait Cars 2 scratch that, all bar one of Pixar's catalogue

Because of Avatar in 3-d, it really does work when done right, too bad it seems to be the only one

For the build-up of This Is England

For seeing King Kong on top of the world, at least in New York terms

For giving John Goodman a chance to shine in the Big Lebowski

For all the weirdness and glory of men like Burton, The Coens, Bekmanbetov ect

Because John Carpenter wrote, directed and scored his films each to the same awesome effect.

For the mist in **The Mist**

For making Gollum a real living creature

For documentary's that can change the way you think, see **Gasland**, **Murderball**, **Man On Wire**, **King of Kong** etc.

Because of the casting of Chistoph Waltz in Inglorious Basterds

Because no matter how bad he is, Scarface is one wicked cool guy

For unflinching brutality that is sometimes necessary, see **Fight Club**, **Zodiac**, **The Proposition**, **The Wrestler** etc.

For making us fall in and out of love in the space of 90 minutes in **500 Days Of Summer** For random sing-alongs see **Anchorman**, **Magnolia**, **Muppets Tressue Island** etc.

For all of Paul Thomas Andersons American classics

Because of actors turned directors see Into the Wild, The Town, Mystic River, Zoolander Because of zombies

For found footage, see Blair Witch Project, Paranormal Activity, Cloverfield ect

For making us think that it can't be fake in mocumentarys

For my monthly Empire magazine, my second Bible really

Because I can watch a biopic instead of a reading a long winded book, see **The Hurricane**, **Walk the Line** etc.

For allowing comic books to jump out of the pages and into our lives

For Zac Snyder may his over styled over acted and over edited movies live on

Because I got to see **Sunshine** on the big screen, nah nah nah

For allowing us to watch Mel Gibson become a star and fall like one to

For Ferris Buelers Day Off, feels like a day off when you watch this classic

For allowing me to re live my care free days, see **Goonies**, **Dazed and Confused**, **Stand By Me**, **Home Alone** etc.

For making beloved figures evil/cool see **Bad Santa**, **Rare Exports**, **Abraham Lincoln Vampire Hunter** etc.

For allowing musicians ply their trade on film see There Will be Blood, Tron: Legacy, Hanna etc.

For allowing **Dirty Harry** to come out of retirement in **Gran Torino** to make sure he doesn't die

Unforgiven and can live on as a Million Dollar Baby

Because of Indiana Jones's whip

For introducing us to the worlds coolest weapon, the Lightsaber

For the makeup in Pan's Labyrinth

For letting us spend time with people like Jules Winfield, Tyler Durden, Flint etc.

For keeping us entertained at night during Glouster camp

Because of bullet time in The Matrix

Because a movie about fighting robots can make 1 billion dollars, not bad pocket change

For Michael Bay's ability to be able to blow things up

Because of movie speeches, see Friday Night Lights, Braveheart, Any Given Sunday etc.

For making me believe in magic see Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings, etc.

For Nic Cages Hair!

Because of that creepy feeling you get watching characters such as Hannibal Lector



Top 30 -

1. The Godfather (1972) - Francis Ford Coppola, Marlon Brando/ Al Pacino

The aging patriarch of an organized crime dynasty transfers control of his clandestine empire to his reluctant son.



In many a varied other opinions this is the quintessential film of the moving picture age. All the elements combined to make a classic movie epic about the trials and triumphs of an Italian American crime family.

Francis Ford Coppola's opus was blessed to feature Pacino and Brando on career best form, add to the two main actors; great music, production design, dialogue and rich characters and you can see why *The Godfather* all these years later still resonates and inspires.

2. The Shawshank Redemption (1994) - Frank Darabont, Tim Robbins/Morgan Freeman

Two imprisoned men bond over a number of years, finding solace and eventual redemption through acts of common decency.



A real blight on the cinema going public that upon release this classic adaptation of a little known Steven King short story was overlooked at the box office despite 7 Academy Award nominations and many a glowing review.

This blight has been rectified over time however with *The Shawshank Redemption* finding a second life on VHS and beyond. Highly regarded as one of the greatest movies ever made, the story of wrongly imprisoned Andy Dufresne continues being adored by a new generation of film lovers to this day.

3. Children of Men (2006) - Alfonso Cauron, Clive Owen

In 2027, in a chaotic world in which humans can no longer procreate, a former activist agrees to help transport a miraculously pregnant woman to a sanctuary at sea, where her child's birth may help scientists save the future of humankind.



Alfonso Cauron's modern day sci-fi masterpiece is one of the most realistic and bleak created for the silver screen. Somehow though like Clive Owen's anti-hero we the audience find a beauty in the world around we are a part of.

Featuring the finest turn of Clive Owen's career and some of the most unforgettable moments in recent cinema history this overlooked on release classic deserves to be sought out and admired for the flawless filmmaking that it is.

4. The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) – Andrew Dominik, Casey Affleck

Robert Ford, who's idolized Jesse James since childhood, tries hard to join the reforming gang of the Missouri outlaw, but gradually becomes resentful of the bandit leader.

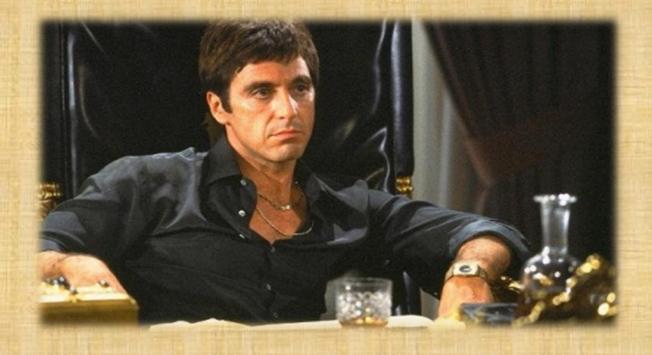


Australia's very own Andrew Dominik (who grew to fame overseas with his Australian Classic *Chooper*) here created a western of almost unrivalled beauty.

The story of the Jesse James and Robert Ford plays out almost as if in a day dream against the back drop of the dying Wild West. Both Brad Pitt and Casey Affleck make the characters their very own and create a modern masterpiece that is as beautiful as any artistic work thanks to legendary cinematographer Roger Deakins.

5. Scarface (1983) - Brian De Palma, Al Pacino

In 1980 Miami, a determined Cuban immigrant takes over a drug cartel while succumbing to greed.



Over time since its 1983 release Al Pacino's depiction of immigrant/drug fuelled crime boss Tony Montana has infiltrated pop culture as much as any other screen character.

Watching this gloriously over the top crime epic and it's not hard to see why this is so.

Brian De Palma was at his playful and over the top best when he made *Scarface*. The performances, the directing and the expletive ridden dialogue of the then up and coming Oliver Stone all mould together to create one journey of an American dream that lives on strong to this day.

6. Into the Wild (2007) – Sean Penn, Emile Hirsch

After graduating from Emory University, top student and athlete Christopher McCandless abandons his possessions, gives his entire \$24,000 savings account to charity and hitchhikes to Alaska to live in the wilderness. Along the way, Christopher encounters a series of characters that shape his life.



Sean Penn has carved out quite a respective career behind camera to go along with his electric presence on camera. Never more so is this apparent than with Penn's masterpiece *Into the Wild*. Using the true life story of Christopher McCandless to create a unique and touching coming of age movie, Penn hit a career high.

Filled with wonderful real life characters who are played by equally wonderful actors. Emile Hirsch, Hal Holbrook, Kristen Stewart and even Vince Vaughan all finding beauty and warmth in the roles they were prescribed. Impossible for the viewer not to be moved!

7. The Station Agent (2003) - Tom McCarthy, Peter Dinklage/Bobby Cannavale

When his only friend dies, a man born with dwarfism moves to rural New Jersey to live a life of solitude, only to meet a chatty hot dog vendor and a woman dealing with her own personal loss.



Before he was everybody's favourite dwarf in *Game of Thrones* miniature actor Peter Dinklage shot to fame with his great central turn in actor turned director Thomas McCarthy's loveable indie.

Dinkalge was surrounded by talent including Bobby Cannavale as loveable loser Joe and Patricia Clarkson as lost Olivia. The slice of life story may be as small as its star but is big on heart and warmth.

8. There Will Be Blood (2007) - Paul Thomas Anderson, Daniel Day Lewis

A story about family, greed, religion, and oil, centred around a turn-of-the-century prospector in the early days of the business.



Paul Thomas Anderson knows nothing else but big when he makes a film, big in more ways than one when referring to *Boogie Nights*. When referring to his career peak however, Daniel Day Lewis's performance as Daniel Plainview is as big as the oil well's his character builds.

Modelling both the movie and the central performance on the 1948 John Huston classic *Tressure of Sierra Madre,* Anderson made a movie version of the beginning of industrial America, filled with comments on religion, family and oil. A movie that lingers on in the memory thanks to its stark beauty, performances and unforgettable ending.

9. The Dark Knight (2008) - Christopher Nolan, Christian Bale/Heath Ledger

When Batman, Gordon and Harvey Dent launch an assault on the mob, they let the clown out of the box, the Joker, bent on turning Gotham on itself and bringing any heroes down to his level.



It's hard not to concentrate on Heath Ledger's take on the legendary Batman villain the Joker in Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy centrepiece. What can't be overlooked though is the way Nolan moulded comic book fantasy into a realistic and thrilling good vs evil tale.

Everything about the film is pure genius. From the haunting score, the terrific acting all the way through to the real deal stunts and explosions. Working with his brother Jonathon, Christopher Nolan's script is now a measuring stick for other comic book adaptations. For many though, that is a measuring stick that will not soon be surpassed.

10. Friday Night Lights (2004) - Peter Berg, Derek Luke/ Lucas Black

Based on H.G. Bissinger's book, which profiled the economically depressed town of Odessa, Texas and their heroic high school football team, The Permian High Panthers.



Peter Berg showed his directing chops with this touching and realistic sports drama that spawned the hugely successful tv show of the same name.

The setting of the small town with high hopes resonates with those who can relate to such a place. Berg coaxing fantastic performances from not only the once great Billy Bob Thornton but the young brigade lead by Derek Luke and Lucas Black. You'd be hard pressed not to be cheering for the boys of The Permian High Panthers watching this involving and confronting true story.

11. Casino (1995) - Martin Scorsese, Robert De Niro/ Joe Pesci

Greed, deception, money, power, and murder occur between two mobster best friends and a trophy wife over a gambling empire.



Martin Scorsese's career catalogue of narrative films, documentary's and TV shows is about as amazing and varied as your ever likely to see. Many deem that Scorsese hit a career peak of subject and characters with his 1990 mobster classic *Goodfella's*. As great a film as that is it has somewhat overshadowed Scorsese's later work of mobster art *Casino*.

This is a shame because in Casino we have a 3 hour epic of life in Sin City that is about as perfect as a mob movie could be. With stellar performances from his 3 main actors in De Niro, Pesci and Sharon Stone, Scorsese's tale and the uniqueness in which he tells it will leave a lasting impression on the viewer.

12. The Goonies (1985) - Richard Donner, Sean Astin/Corey Feldman

A group of kids embark on a wild adventure after finding a pirate treasure map.



The influence of Steven Spielberg runs through the heart of this 1980's kids classic (the people's beard was producer as well as a script consultant). The story of the Goonies, a rag tag bunch of kids chasing long lost pirate tressure all the while being pursued by a bunch of low life criminals is a film that to this day remains a favourite of new and returning watchers.

The film is quintessential 1980's from the fashion, the actors (Mr Feldman!) and soundtrack (featuring original hits performed by Cyndi Lauper) and the un-pc script which features plot elements that today would be scorned at by parent advocacy groups. *The Goonies* is a film for the child in all of us, that's from many a viewing in my childhood and many a reminisce in my adulthood. The movie can be summed up in its famous tagline "Goonies never say die!".

13. Man on Wire (2008) - James Marsh

A look at tightrope walker Philippe Petit's daring, but illegal, high-wire routine performed between New York City's World Trade Center's twin towers in 1974, what some consider, "the artistic crime of the century."



Watching James Marsh's excellent documentary on the fabulously colourful Philippe Petit is a two for the price of one experience not yet matched in any documentary I have seen.

Man on Wire plays out in part like any typical character study doco, featuring real life talking heads, archival footage and photos. These elements however are offshoot by footage that blends in amazingly tense and realistic re-enactments of the daring art "heist" that Philippe and his team staged on the then towering Twin Towers.

The film has a strange emotional pull and resonance that affects the viewer and takes them away on a journey that not only brings a smile to your face but a tear to your eye.

14. Heat (1995) - Michael Mann, Robert De Niro/Al Pacino

A group of professional bank robbers start to feel the heat from police when they unknowingly leave a clue at their latest heist.



Never before or never again since has Michael Mann's unique filming palette been so effective than in his modern crime classic *Heat*. The crime epic is perhaps most fondly remembered for the first onscreen shared scene by De Niro and Pacino, or the unmatched intensity of the street shoot-out between cops and robbers but it is Mann's direction that makes this film stand out from the crowd.

Many of the scenes are shot at night, giving a real sense of unease to proceedings as De Niro's group of baddies get further and further into trouble and Pacino's cops get closer and closer to capturing there long sought after targets. Featuring masterwork performances from the legendary Pacino and De Niro, *Heat* is a true crime classic that spawned many less interesting imitators.

15. A Prophet (2009) - Jacques Audiard, Tahir Rahim/Niels Aristrup

A young Arab man is sent to a French prison where he becomes a mafia kingpin.



One of the most original and well-made foreign films ever produced, Jacques Audiard's 150 minute saga of the rise up the jail ranks of Tahir Rahim's Arab criminal is a movie any crime loving cinema aficionado needs to track down.

The story is wholly believable yet mix's some truly mesmerizing and out there scenes into the mix. These otherworldly and spiritual like scenes add to the movie's themes of regret and violence. The central performance of Rahim is a great showpiece but the real star of the show is veteran actor Niel's Aristrup's turn as aging gang leader Cesar. Cesar's character is just one of many in a film that has an abundance of style, classic scenes and story that all click to create one trip to the jailhouse that you will not likely forget.

16. This Is England (2006) - Shane Meadows, Thomas Turgoose/Stephen Graham

A story about a troubled boy growing up in England, set in 1983. He comes across a few skinheads on his way home from school, after a fight. They become his new best friends even like family. Based on experiences of director Shane Meadows.



Shane Meadow's is one of the most unique and consistently surprising filmmakers in not only Brittan, but the world. Meadow's created his most personnel and affecting films with his 2007 movie *This Is England*, about one young boy's journey through his teens with a rag tag bunch of skinheads and misfits.

Featuring a great child performance from Thomas Turgoose the real star of this show is the incredibly fiery performance of Stephen Graham as hardened criminal Combo. Graham's on screen incarnation is a true tour de force, going from friendly to volatile in the space of seconds. *This Is England* was filled with so many great characters and story's that Meadow's has successfully transported the story to the small screen in some great spin off series for channel 4.

17. Dear Zachary: A Letter to a Son about his Father (2008) – Kurt Kuenne

A filmmaker decides to memorialize a murdered friend when his friend's ex-girlfriend announces she is expecting his son.



Kurt Kuenne's documentary tribute to his best friend Andrew Bagby is a film that deserves to be seen. A movie that is best watched without any previous knowledge of where the true life story will take you.

Dear Zachary's power lies in the way Kuenne takes the viewers on his journey. You the viewer feel not like a passenger in the film but a participant in it, feeling every triumph and trial his journey takes him on. One of the most heart-warming and heart shattering movies ever produced, Dear Zachary continues to reward those who seek it out.

18. Pulp Fiction (1994) - Quentin Tarantino, John Travolta/Samuel L. Jackson

The lives of two mob hit men, a boxer, a gangster's wife, and a pair of diner bandits intertwine in four tales of violence and redemption.



Reservoir Dogs may have allowed Quentin Tarrantino to introduce himself to Hollywood, but with his genre defining multi layered classic Pulp Fiction, QT introduced himself to the world!

Bringing together a cast of colourful actors including the then comeback kid John Travolta, QT's sprawling tale of revenge, violence, humour and yes bare feet took the cinema going public by storm in 1994 including the Oscars where it deservedly won best original screenplay.

The film has many fantastic scenes and swabs of dialogue that have now become synonymous with the QT brand. Anyone who has not had the pleasure of seeing where this master's work really took off needs to track down this tale of fantastic fiction ASAP, ok perhaps after picking up a Royale with cheese.

19. Fight Club (1999) - David Fincher, Edward Norton/Brad Pitt

An insomniac office worker and a devil-may-care soap maker form an underground fight club that transforms into a violent revolution.



David Fincher's manic style has never been more suited to a story than in this adaptation of Chuck Palahniuk cult novel. The movie on release was meet with mild interest by both critics and audiences but on DVD and VHS found a following of its own not unlike Ed Norton's protagonist's titular Fight Club.

Ed Norton and Brad Pitt are both fantastic as the two opposites that attract and form a merry band of underground fighters and anarchists. Fincher's telling of the story is moulded in a great visual style, a witty and sharp script and great use of music. Never before or since has there been a movie quite like this Fincher classic, just remember the rules. You must tell people about *Fight Club*.

20. Psycho (1960) - Alfred Hitchcock, Anthony Perkins

A thirty-something secretary steals \$40,000 from her employer's client, and subsequently encounters a young motel proprietor too long under the domination of his mother.



Every film lover has a favourite Hitchcock film (at least they should have if they do truly love films) mine would be by a country mile Hitch's risky 1960 thriller *Psycho*.

The movie to this day has the ability to shock, thrill and intrigue like no other. Hitch asked a lot of his cast in the filming of *Psycho* and their hard work is quite evident on screen especially the eerily menacing presence of Anthony Perkins Hotel manager Norman Bates. One to watch on a cold windy night and preferably not before having a shower!

21. Ferris Bueller's Day Off (1986) – John Hughes, Matthew Broderick

A high school wise guy is determined to have a day off from school, despite of what the principal thinks of that.



A true inspiration to all high school students either past or present, Ferris Bueller's titular day off is a classic 80's romp that still feels fresh today.

Broderick was immortalized in viewers minds after his turn here as the films hero Ferris who does what every high schooler dreams of doing on a daily basis, having a "sick day" off school. His adventures include his girlfriend Sloane and timid friend Cameron, making a team of friends you're not likely to forget.

John Hughes carved out a career as a comedy director and writer, here with Ferris Bueller's Day Off he made his career classic that to this day stands out as one of the best teenager/comedy films ever put to screen.

22. The Tree of Life (2011) - Terrence Malick, Brad Pitt

The story of a family in Waco Texas in 1956. The eldest son witnesses the loss of innocence and struggles with his parents' conflicting philosophies.



No one quite does art in film like Texan auteur Terrence Malick. Over his 30 plus years in the industry his films have consistently astounded and confounded audiences in equal measure. His latest big screen incarnation was no different.

Malik's film is very non-linear, covering the birth of the universe in amazingly beautiful fashion right through to the mundane daily goings on of a typical 1950's family. Malick's use of cinematography, music and narration is enough to put casual viewers off but if you go along with the ride you become transfixed by the pure beauty on screen as with all of Malik's films. You will be truly blown away both emotionally and artistically by this amazing and unique film.

23. Elephant (2003) – Gus Van Sant, Alex Frost

Several ordinary high school students go through their daily routine as two others prepare for something more malevolent.



Gus Van Sant's haunting high school drama is a film that takes it's time to paint the picture. Van Sant's slow methodical approach to the story as he follows interweaving high school students around school grounds and their homes is probably to much for most viewers.

The style that he implements though acts as a way to draw us into the world of the school, we feel like we are wondering the hall ways, we feel the atmosphere of the school grounds. *Elephant* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival where it went on to win the Palme De Or, an award appropriate for such a unique and disquietingly harrowing motion picture.

24. American History X (1998) – Tony Kaye, Edward Norton

A former neo-nazi skinhead tries to prevent his younger brother from going down the same wrong path that he did.



It's quite sad that ever since the release of this powerful tale of race and identity director Tony Kaye has specialised in direct to dvd fare. Supposedly the director and his impressive star Edward Norton had a falling out over editing and it made Kaye want to disown his now classic movie. These troubles behind the scenes do not however affect the on screen results.

American History X remains one of the quintessential movies about race and also redemption. Kaye elicited fantastic performances from his two Edwards and created many scenes that have now been etched onto the minds of those who have seen the film. American History X is a film that act's as not only a thoughtful view on life but a cautionary morality tale that rings true no matter who you are or what background you come from.

25. The Thing (1982) – John Carpenter, Kurt Russell

Scientists in the Antarctic are confronted by a shape-shifting alien that assumes the appearance of the people that it kills.



John Carpenter's originally overlooked horror triumph still lives on to this day thanks largely to its impressive practical effects work, haunting music score and stand out scenes of pure tension (the blood test scene!). What really makes *The Thing* a true horror masterpiece is it's incredibly creepy story portrayed to perfection by Carpenters direction and his acting team lead by Carpenter regular Kurt Russell.

The way Carpenter wracks up tension to almost unbearable levels in the isolated Antarctic research base is a masterstroke of direction that has rarely been bettered in the Horror genre. *The Thing* was recently remade as a prequel, the finished product arrived as a reminder to us all just how hard it is to make such a film and how amazing the original was and still is.

26. The Prestige (2006) - Christopher Nolan, Hugh Jackman

The rivalry between two magicians is exacerbated when one of them performs the ultimate illusion.



Made in between his two now classic Batman entries, Begins and Dark Knight director Christopher Nolan's film about the rivalry of two 18th century magicians may be smaller in scale but no less ambitious in scope.

Creating a truly unique story (written with brother and collaborator Jonathon) Nolan made a movie that asks the audience "are you watching closely"? What the audience gets is a film filled with twists, turns, love and hate. Conjuring great performances from Bale and also Jackman, in what arguably could be his finest film performance.

It may not be as popular or as well-known as his blockbuster work but the brilliance of Nolan is no less evident in this magical movie.

27. Jaws (1975) - Steven Spielberg, Roy Scheider

When a gigantic great white shark begins to menace the small island community of Amity, a police chief, a marine scientist and grizzled fisherman set out to stop it.



Jaws may be the movie that launched its young ambitious director Steven Spielberg into the spotlight but more importantly in the sense of a cinema changing event, Jaws also launched the summer blockbuster!

If you were at a deserted beach around the time of 1975 it is more than likely due to the fact everyone else had seen *Jaws* or was currently watching it. The movie with the famous dread inducing music and "Bruce" the hungry great white shark created such buzz and fanfare that Americans and people the world over were abandoning the beach in droves.

Spielberg's first foray into the summer blockbuster realm got everything right and quite deservedly so to this day *Jaws* continues to frighten and entertain.

28. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (2008) - David Fincher, Brad Pitt

Tells the story of Benjamin Button, a man who starts aging backwards with bizarre consequences.



Fans of David Fincher are accustomed to his love of crime and thriller movies, what perhaps surprised many was Fincher's decision to film the "unfilm-able" adaptation of this F. Scott Fitzgerald short story. Fincher however used his keen eye to direct one of the more beautiful and strangely touching love stories in recent times.

The tale of Brad Pitt's Benjamin Button used ground-breaking special effects to portray the life of one growing up in reverse. These fabulous effects make the viewer believe in the tale of Benjamin's life, as you get taken on his quite different journey through life and love.

Benjamin Button may be to slow for the casual film viewer but those with a true appreciation of the art of film will be taken away and moved by Fincher's grand opus.

29. The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada (2005) - Tommy Lee Jones, Barry Pepper

Ranch hand Pete Perkins looks to fulfil the promise to his recently deceased best friend by burying him in his hometown in Mexico.



Everyone's favourite on screen "grumpy old man" Tommy Lee Jones showed a true care and talent behind the camera with this moving story of grizzled farm worker Pete Perkins and his journey to deliver the body of his only friend back to his home town.

Jones truly captured the feel of not only the outback west were Mexico meets America but those who inhabit the harsh and unforgiving lands. Pete's journey to Mexico runs him across many a different worn and wearied character and delves into everyday problems that these people face.

Three Burials is a film that may be hard viewing, barely a laugh or respite in sight but this makes the movie a true reflection of the story and those that inhabit it.

30. The Machinist (2004) - Brad Anderson, Christian Bale

An industrial worker who hasn't slept in a year begins to doubt his own sanity.



Christian Bale is well renowned for his commitment to his role both in mind and body, never more so has this been more evident on screen than in Brad Anderson's dark and foreboding mystery.

Bale lost 63 pounds for his role as insomniac Trevor Reznik whose fractured mindset grows continually more and more dangerous for not only himself but those around him. Anderson has crafted a nice career from small unique movies and also as a go to director for high end TV programs such as Boardwalk Empire, The Wire and Treme. After witnessing *The Machinist* you will be wishing that once again he can hit the heights in film that he did here.

END



Honourable mentions/personal favourites – assassination of Richard Nixon, Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring, Paranoid Park, Saving Private Ryan, Escape from New York, 300, Murderball, A Beautiful Country, A Clockwork Orange, Animal Kingdom, Snatch, Narc, The Interview, The Departed, Zodiac, Atonement, The Warriors, Barney's Version, Avatar, Star War: A New Hope, American Graffiti, Dazed and Confused, Shutter Island, Changeling.

