

75
MOVIES
EVERY
MAN
SHOULD
SEE*

Esquire

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT

Never has a man been in a more wrong place at a more wrong time.

SLAP SHOT Mr. Paul Newman. On skates. On ice. Covered in blood.

IRON MAN He's just a man doing his best with the superpowered robotic heart that the good Lord gave him.

JAWS The shark was a giant malfunctioning puppet with fake teeth, and it still scared the ever-loving shit out of you.

SAVE THE TIGER The nominees for Best Actor, 1973: Brando, Nicholson, Redford, Pacino, Lemmon. And the Oscar goes to: Jack Lemmon.

12 ANGRY MEN All that is terrifying and wonderful about the phrase "a jury of your peers."

FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH The Tao of Spicoli.

CHINATOWN Best-written, best-cast, best-acted, most confusing, beautiful, sad, funny, tragic movie about the city most evocative of the American myth of itself.

THE GODFATHER Best-written, best-acted, most beautiful film about the immigrant experience ever contemplated. It invented most modern clichés.

FITZCARRALDO Because we've all had to carry a ship over a mountain once in our lives.

THE THIN BLUE LINE

While filming this documentary, Errol Morris found new evidence about a convicted killer serving a life sentence. The movie got the guy out of jail. Gripping.

JOHNNY DANGEROUSLY "You farking sneaky bastidge!"

THE FRENCH CONNECTION The porkpie hat is the greatest of all hats.

MILLER'S CROSSING Some people will argue this gangster twist isn't even the best Coen-brothers movie, but those people need to get hit in the face with a shovel, like the Dane got.

THE GREAT ESCAPE This movie created the 1960s. Why? Because it's not about the Nazis; it's about the Man.

DAWN OF THE DEAD You'll never look at a shopping mall the same way again.

SHAUN OF THE DEAD The best zombie movie ever made about friendship.

HATE Three kids from the projects, falling into the urban abyss, scraping frantically at the air, trying not to hit the pavement.

FIRST BLOOD First half: a great chase. Second half: a thorough revenge.

BOTTLE ROCKET A simple story about the need for careful planning. Happens to be Wes Anderson's best movie. And Owen Wilson's, too.

BAD DAY AT BLACK ROCK A mean, dirty movie that punches post-World War II welcome-home-boys America squarely in the stomach.

GHOSTBUSTERS

Man at elevator: What are you supposed to be, some kind of a cosmonaut? *Dr. Venkman:* No, we're exterminators. Somebody saw a cockroach up on twelve.

GLORY If only for the final scene, which turns Matthew Broderick—Matthew Broderick!—into not just a man but a hero.

WALL STREET Father-son issues, Hal Holbrook as the blind seer, and one of the great blowjob scenes this side of porn.

RUNAWAY TRAIN Existential action flicks are tough tricks to pull. Turns out the secret is two escaped cons and a girl on a runaway train in Alaska, chased by an evil warden in a helicopter. Easy.

ROSEMARY'S BABY This is when you learn that there are bad people in the world.

NORTH BY NORTHWEST The first Bond movie.

LONE STAR For the killer blues-and-Tejano soundtrack. For the shot panning across a bar and across a generation. And for Matthew McConaughey, who acted. Well.

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY Clint Eastwood throws on a poncho and is forged into an American icon on the Spanish plains. His theme music: the dark, jangling whistle of Ennio Morricone's score.

THE CONVERSATION Sometimes it's good to be paranoid.

THE VERDICT

Watch the first scene, in which Paul Newman is silhouetted against a bar-room window, playing pinball. The man is acting with his *shoulders*.

THE WARRIORS Bloodthirsty mimes, clown-faced baseballers, and bare-chested men in leather vests—kind of makes you miss pre-Giuliani New York City.

ALIEN Sigourney Weaver in panties. You can't see Ripley's balls, but she has them.

STALAG 17 Because it inspired a sitcom. With Nazis.

THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI When your enemy captures you and orders you to help him, how hard do you try? And other questions about pride, honor, valor, and cowardice.

THE MISFITS Two drunks and a blond walk into a Reno bar, get hammered, and embark on a scheme to wrangle mustangs. Starring Clark Gable (who would be dead before the film was released), Marilyn Monroe (who would die within two years), and Montgomery Clift (dead within six).

RESERVOIR DOGS This movie had already been made a thousand times before Tarantino, and yet it was the first of its kind. Watch it again. You'll still wince at all the same parts.

THE MALTESE FALCON Men adhere to a code of honor. Women invite you into their beds. You can't always finesse the choice.

DR. NO Because it taught a generation.

*In no particular order.

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(cont'd.)

TOOTSIE Because no movie about the impossibility of love has ever been as funny. And because of young Jessica Lange and young Geena Davis in their underwear.

BROADCAST NEWS Because dialogue has never been better since movies added sound.

THE TERMINATOR Enough said.

SHAKES THE CLOWN A reviewer called it the "*Citizen Kane* of alcoholic clown movies." Faint praise. For every man who ever hugged a toilet all night long.

DIRTY HARRY Sometimes a man has gotta forget the rules and hunt the bastard down himself, even if it's only a metaphor for his next sales call.

STRAW DOGS Three words: Sam. Peckinpah. Revenge.

RAGING BULL Long, slow, excruciating, heartbreaking self-destruction. With boxing.

CITIZEN KANE Long, slow, excruciating, heartbreaking self-destruction. With newspapers.

THE SHINING Because Stanley Kubrick turned a kid riding a tricycle into one of the most sinister images in all of film.

FATAL ATTRACTION Scariest movie ever made.

THE INCREDIBLES How to be a better man.

BLADE RUNNER Daryl Hannah, scary and doll-like, before she became scary and doll-like.

SLING BLADE A man's instinct is to protect his boy, so that boy may one day become a man. And sometimes that means using a knife with a very sharp blade—whatever you want to call it.

GIANT The history of Texas in the twentieth century, as seen through the anguished, lonesome eyes of James Dean.

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS Because no matter what line of work you're in, first prize is a Cadillac, second prize is a set of steak knives, third prize is you're fired.

SERPICO Because if it happened even a little bit like this... Jesus.

DOUBLE INDEMNITY Remember the first girl who made you want to ditch your friends? This is that girl times a million.

DOWN BY LAW Weirdest prison-escape movie ever.

THE SEARCHERS John Wayne as a new kind of hero: the despicable kind.

DO THE RIGHT THING It's about all the things nobody wants to have an opinion on.

GONE BABY GONE A brutal kidnapping story wound so tight, you'll be unraveling your feelings about it for a long, long time.

THE BIG KAHUNA Variations on being a salesman.

M*A*S*H Because war has never been funnier. Because every man wants to be Hawkeye. And because of the song.

COOL HAND LUKE

You can't keep a good man down.

THE ROAD WARRIOR The best sequel of all time. It made nihilism fun. Plus: the coolest cars ever created for film.

PATTON It created three iconic monsters: Patton, Rommel, and George C. Scott. When he slaps a shell-shocked kid—twice—any man would think again before joining the army.

TRUE ROMANCE A very funny movie in which most of the main characters are psychopaths.

RUN SILENT, RUN DEEP Vengeance and insurrection, on a submarine.

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT Kids. Killing one another for reasons they can't understand and don't want to.

PLATOON War.

CADDYSHACK The only country club we'd ever really want to belong to.

HUD "Nobody gets out of life alive."

BLAZING SADDLES Black sheriff assigned to a town that doesn't want him. Presented by Mel Brooks.

THREE KINGS A complicated end to an uncomplicated war.

PATHS OF GLORY Every nuance of morality and honor and authority and rebellion, packed into eighty-seven minutes.

ON THE WATERFRONT Terry Malloy faces just about every monumental problem a man can face. All at once. **E**