



A Century of Cinema: let's explore cinema by the decade – the 1970's. A decade of Vietnam, Watergate, Godfathers, cynicism, bad hair and lots of polyester! Here are hundreds of titles - all available on DVD or through our streaming services (HOOPLA and Kanopy); recommended reading: *Cinema Speculation* by Quentin Tarantino and *The Seventies: The Great Shift in American Culture, Society, and Politics* by Bruce J. Schulman.

***Alien* (1979)** *In space no one can hear you scream.* Ridley Scott's science fiction horror stars Sigourney Weaver, Veronica Cartwright, Harry Dean Stanton, John Hurt and Ian Holm; it follows the crew of the commercial space tug *Nostromo*, who encounter the Alien, an aggressive and deadly extraterrestrial set loose on the ship.

All the President's Men* (1976)** *The most devastating detective story of this century.* Alan Pakula's political drama based on the 1974 non-fiction by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein - stars Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman as Woodward and Bernstein, the two journalists who investigated the Watergate scandal for *The Washington Post*, which inevitably brought down the Nixon Presidency. Other Pakula films of this decade: ***Klute (1971) and ***Starting Over*** (1979).

Annie Hall* (1977):** Stars Woody Allen as Alvy Singer (a neurotic, twice divorced, Jewish intellectual and comedian) and Diane Keaton as Annie Hall (a ditzy WASP from the Midwest and aspiring singer). The two fall in love - sounds like a match made in heaven, right? Other Woody Allen films: ***Bananas (1971), ***Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex * But Were Afraid to Ask*** (1972), ***Manhattan*** (1979) and ***Sleeper*** (1973).

Billy Jack* (1971)** *You've got due process, Mother's Day, supermarkets, the FBI, Medicare, air conditioning, AT&T, country clubs, Congress, a 2-car garage, state troopers, the Constitution, color television and democracy. They've got BILLY JACK.* Cult classic action film stars Tom Laughlin and Delores Taylor; set in the late 1960's, Billy Jack is a half-white, half-Indian ex-Green Beret Vietnam vet-turned-pacifist, and martial arts expert, who returns from the war to take up residence on a reservation outside a conservative Arizona town – and he's out to defend the underdog. After its success, there was the inevitable sequel – ***The Trial of Billy Jack (1974).

Black Sunday* (1977)** Political thriller film based on Thomas Harris' 1974 novel stars Robert Shaw, Bruce Dern and Marthe Keller - a Black September terrorist group attempt to blow up a Goodyear blimp hovering over the Super Bowl stadium. Other 70's thrillers: ***The Boys from Brazil (1978), ***Coma*** (1978), ***The Day of the Jackal*** (1973), ***Straw Dogs*** (1971) and ***Three Days of the Condor*** (1975).

***Breaking Away* (1979)** *Somewhere between growing up and settling down...* Coming of age film set in Bloomington, Indiana stars Dennis Christopher, Dennis Quaid, Daniel Stern Jackie Earle Haley as Dave, Mike, Cyril and Moocher four recent high school graduates who can't seem to transition into adult life; brilliant dialogue which earned Steve Tesich a Best Screenplay Oscar.

Cabaret (1972) Bob Fosse's musical based on the Christopher Isherwood's 1939 short story "Goodbye to Berlin." Set in 1930's Berlin, the film stars Liza Minelli as Sally Bowles, a night club entertainer and aspiring actress, who romances two men whilst the Nazi Party rises to power. Other Fosse works: ***All That Jazz*** (1979), ***Lenny*** (1974) and the dazzling TV Special ***Liza with a Z*** (1972).

Carrie (1976) The original *troubled-teens-with-telekinesis* movie; Brian De Palma's supernatural horror adapted from Stephen King's 1974 gothic novel stars Sissy Spacek as Carrie White, a shy 16-year-old who is consistently mocked and bullied by her peers – little do they know she possesses a strange and evil power that will turn their high school prom into a nightmare. The film also features Piper Laurie (as Carrie's batty, bible thumping mother), Amy Irving, Nancy Allen, Betty Buckley and John Travolta; Spacek received an Oscar nomination for her performance, but her breakthrough role was in Terrence Malick's ***Badlands*** (1973). Another DePalma psychological horror, and a gem, is ***Sisters*** (1972).

Chinatown (1974) *Forget it, Jake. It's Chinatown.* Roman Polanski's neo-noir thriller film stars Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway and John Huston. Los Angeles 1937: Jake 'J.J.' Gittes, a private detective, is hired to expose an adulterer, but finds himself caught up in a web of deceit, corruption, and murder. With exquisite period sets and costumes, and exceptional dialogue (Robert Towne would win Best Screenplay Oscar for his brilliant filmic writing), *Chinatown* is a 70's masterpiece.

A Clockwork Orange (1971) Stanley Kubrick's dystopian satire - based on Anthony Burgess's 1962 novel – stars Malcolm McDowell as Alex, a charismatic, antisocial delinquent whose interests include classical music (especially Beethoven), committing rape, theft and other acts of "ultra-violence." Brutal, dark and disturbing - and chock full of psychological manipulation, *A Clockwork Orange* is not for the faint of heart, but it's brilliant and frighteningly relevant.

Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977) Steven Spielberg's science fiction film stars Richard Dreyfuss, Teri Garr, Melinda Dillon and François Truffaut (the revered French director in a rare acting role); tells the story of Roy Neary (Dreyfuss), an everyday blue-collar worker in Indiana, whose life changes after an encounter with an unidentified flying object (UFO). Spielberg expertly weaves drama, terror, suspense, comic relief (who can forget the mashed potato mountain!) and stunning visuals to create a timeless classic.

The Conformist (*Il conformista*, Italy 1970) *A study in the seduction of the soul... the rape of the mind... the art of political assassination.* Bernardo Bertolucci's political drama based on the 1951 novel by Alberto Moravia stars Europe's Jean-Louis Trintignant, Dominique Sanda and Stefania Sandrelli. Set primarily in 1930's Italy, it tells the story of Marcello, a weak-willed man who becomes a fascist flunky and goes abroad to arrange the assassination of his old teacher, now a political dissident. Other Bertolucci greats of this decade: ***Last Tango in Paris*** (1972) and ***1900*** (1976).

Cries & Whispers (*Viskningar och rop*, Sweden 1972). Ingmar Bergman's intense, existential drama stars Bergman's cadre: Liv Ullmann, Ingrid Thulin and Harriet Andersson; set in early 20th century Sweden, the story of two sisters, Karin (Thulin) and Maria (Ullmann), who keep vigil for a third, Agnes (Andersson), who is dying of cancer; throughout the visit, long-repressed feelings between the siblings rise to the surface. Nightmarish and psychologically draining, yet visually stunning (Bergman's legendary cinematographer, Sven Nykvist, would take home an Oscar for his extraordinary work). Other Bergman greats: ***Autumn Sonata*** (1978), ***The Magic Flute*** (1975), ***Scenes from a Marriage*** (1974) and ***The Serpent's Egg*** (1977).

The Cross and the Switchblade (1970) One of the first faith-based films adapted from Pastor David Wilkerson 1963 best-selling nonfiction; it stars Pat Boone as Wilkerson and Erik Estrada (in his film debut) as Nicky Cruz, the teen gang member whose life was transformed. While some may find it dated

and corny, it's one of those rare films that has shown its unique power to connect with the deepest hopes and fears of youth around the world.

Day for Night (*La nuit américaine*, France 1973): *A movie for people who love movies.* François Truffaut's Oscar-winning love letter to cinema; a committed film director (played by Truffaut himself) struggles to complete his movie while coping with a myriad of crises, personal and professional, among the cast and crew. Other Truffaut works include: ***Bed & Board*** (1970), ***Love on the Run*** (1979), ***Small Change*** (1976), ***The Story of Adele H*** (1975), ***Two English Girls*** (1971) and ***The Wild Child*** (1970).

Death in Venice (*Morte a Venezia*, Italy 1971) *The celebrated story of a man obsessed with ideal beauty.* Luchino Visconti's drama based on Thomas Mann's 1912 novella stars Dirk Bogarde and Björn Andrésen. While recovering in Venice, sickly composer Gustav von Aschenbach (Bogarde) becomes dangerously fixated with teenager Tadzio (Björn Andrésen). Other Visconti films include: ***Conversation Piece*** (1974), ***L'Innocente*** (1976) and ***Ludwig*** (1973).

The Deer Hunter (1978): Michael Cimino's gripping war drama stars Robert De Niro, John Savage, Christopher Walken, John Cazale and Meryl Streep; In a small industrial town in Pennsylvania, three steelworkers and best friends go off to fight in Vietnam, become POW's and whose lives are forever changed. The film examines not only the horrors of war, but how it impacts and disrupts the lives of the soldiers and their loved ones. The Russian roulette scene is truly hell on earth - ***MAU! MAU! DIDI MAU!***

Deliverance (1972) *Four men ride a wild river. A weekend turns into a nightmare.* John Boorman's disturbing thriller, based on James Dickey's 1970 novel - about a camping trip gone very, very wrong - stars Jon Voight, Burt Reynolds, Ned Beatty, and Ronny Cox, with the latter two making their feature film debuts; The film is noted for the *Dueling Banjos* music scene, with one of the city men playing *Dueling Banjos* on guitar with a banjo-picking country boy [note: the song won a Grammy for Best Country Instrumental Performance].

Diamonds Are Forever (1971) *Bond is Back!* Based on Ian Flemings' 1956 novel it stars Sean Connery (in his penultimate performance as the suave secret agent). A diamond smuggling investigation leads James Bond to Las Vegas, where he uncovers an evil plot involving a rich business tycoon. Other 70's Bond greats: ***Live and Let Die*** (1973), ***The Man with the Golden Gun*** (1974), ***Moonraker*** (1979) and ***The Spy Who Loved Me*** (1977).

Dirty Harry (1971) *do you feel lucky punk?* Clint Eastwood stars tough-as-nails San Francisco Police Inspector "Dirty" Harry Callahan – when a madman calling himself "the Scorpio Killer" menaces the city, Harry is assigned to track down and ferret out the crazed psychopath. Eastwood's career catapulted in the 1970's (and would continue through the next century). Other films include: ***The Beguiled*** (1971), ***The Eiger Sanction*** (1975), ***The Enforcer*** (1976), ***Escape from Alcatraz*** (1979), ***Every Which Way But Loose*** (1978), ***The Gauntlet*** (1977), ***Joe Kidd*** (1972), ***High Plains Drifter*** (1973), ***Kelly's Heroes*** (1970), ***Magnum Force*** (1973), ***The Outlaw Josey Wales*** (1976), ***Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*** (1974) and ***Two Mules for Sister Sara*** (1970).

The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie (*Le charme discret de la bourgeoisie*, France 1972) Luis Buñuel's Oscar winning incisive and brilliant satire on social mores and class hypocrisy; the film is both absurd and virtually plotless - a series of dreams centered around six middle-class people and their consistently interrupted attempts to have a meal together. Other Oscar winning French films: ***Get Out Your Handkerchiefs*** (1978) and ***Madame Rosa*** (1977).

Don't Look Now (1973) Nicolas Roeg's thriller adapted from the 1971 short story by Daphne du Maurier stars Julie Christie and Donald Sutherland; Laura and John Baxter travel to Venice following the recent

accidental death of their daughter. They encounter two sisters, one of whom claims to be clairvoyant and informs them that their daughter is trying to contact them and warn them of danger; a brilliant study on the psychology of grief. Other Nicolas Roeg works: *The Man Who Fell to Earth* (1976) and *Walkabout* (1971).

The Emigrants (Utvandrarna, Sweden 1971) and *The New Land* (Nybyggarna, Sweden 1972): Jan Troell's 19th century epic dramas - based on Vilhelm Moberg's novels about poor Swedes who emigrate from Småland, Sweden to the United States - stars Scandinavia's legends Max von Sydow and Liv Ullmann. The first film focuses on the farming family's struggles in their native country and their arduous journey to new hope in America; the second on their new life in Minnesota. Intense with impeccable acting, and will give one a new found appreciation of the immigrant experience.

Eraserhead (1977) *Be warned. The nightmare has not gone away...* This bizarre, hallucinatory horror-surrealist film launched director David Lynch's film career. It tells the story of Henry Spencer, a man who is left to care for his grossly deformed child in a desolate industrial landscape. Disturbing, yet also captivating, Lynch's film explores social anxiety via jarring imagery, and has gained cult status.

The Europeans (1979) Merchant Ivory's first period drama – an adaptation of the Henry James 1878 novel; stars Lee Remick, Robin Ellis, Tim Woodward and Lisa Eichhorn, and follows the interaction between two European siblings and their American cousins. James Ivory and Ismail Merchant also directed and produced *The Autobiography of a Princess* (1975) and *Bombay Talkie* (1970).

The Exorcist (1973) William Friedkin's supernatural horror based on William Peter Blatty's 1971 novel stars Ellen Burstyn, Linda Blair, Jason Miller and Max von Sydow; Actress Chris MacNeil (Burstyn) and her 12 year old daughter Regan (Blair) have a seemingly perfect existence in DC's fashionable Georgetown – that is until Regan becomes possessed by a mysterious entity and her mother seeks the help of two priests to save her innocent child; on several top scary movie lists, after 50 plus years, it still packs a punch. Other Friedkin films: *The Boys in the Band* (1970), *The French Connection* (1971) and *Sorcerer* (1977).

Frenzy (1972) *Mr. Rusk, you're not wearing your tie.* Alfred Hitchcock's penultimate film (his last one being *Family Plot*, 1976) based on Arthur La Bern's 1966 novel *Goodbye Piccadilly, Farewell Leicester Square* stars Jon Finch, Barry Foster and Barbara Leigh-Hunt; a serial murderer is strangling women with a necktie. The London police have a suspect, but he is the wrong man.

The Garden of the Finzi-Continis (Il giardino dei Finzi Contini, Italy 1970) Based upon Giorgio Bassani's 1962 novel, it tells the story of the Finzi-Contini's, an enigmatic wealthy Jewish family and owners of a magnificent house with a lavish walled garden; oblivious to the problems in Mussolini's Italy, their adult children entertain and enjoy their exquisite surroundings – while outside the garden, tragedy and doom unfolds. Vittorio De Sica's film is visually stunning on every level (the landscapes, the sets, the actors, the costumes), yet what lies beneath is so profoundly unsettling and heartbreaking.

Gimme Shelter (1970) *Rock and roll's all-time worst day, December 6th, a day when everything went perfectly wrong.* Albert and David Maysles counterculture documentary chronicles the last weeks of The Rolling Stones' 1969 US tour which culminated with a disastrous free concert in Northern California. 300,000 members of the Love Generation - along with dozens of Hell's Angels hired as security guards - descended upon the Altamont Speedway for a free concert; promoters anticipated that it would be a "Woodstock West." Sadly this notorious and ill-fated event was anything but that; Altamont came to represent the dark side of the counterculture's dream of peace and love.

The Godfather (1972) and ***The Godfather: Part II*** (1974): *I'm gonna make him an offer he can't refuse.* Francis Ford Coppola's epic "family" drama based on Mario Puzo's novel stars Al Pacino, Marlon Brando, Robert DeNiro, Talia Shire, James Caan, John Cazale, Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton and Lee Strasberg, and follows the histories and transgressions of the Italian American mafia Corleone family. Other Coppola greats: ***Apocalypse Now*** (1979) and ***The Conversation*** (1974).

The Goodbye Girl (1977) Neil Simon's comedy stars Richard Dreyfuss, Marsha Mason and Quinn Cummings; after being dumped by her live-in boyfriend, an unemployed dancer and her 10-year-old daughter are reluctantly forced to live with a struggling off-Broadway actor. The prolific Neil Simon also wrote: ***Chapter Two*** (1979), ***The Cheap Detective*** (1978), ***Murder by Death*** (1976) and ***The Prisoner of Second Avenue*** (1975).

The Great Santini (1979) Based on Pat Conroy's 1976 novel, it stars Robert Duvall, Blythe Danner and Michael O'Keefe; Marine and alpha male father, Bull Meechum (Duvall) is a great fighter pilot, and dubs himself *The Great Santini*. While his take-no-prisoners attitude and willingness to fight has served him well in the military, he's unable to turn it off at home. Eventually his competitive nature and abusive behavior take their toll on his relationships with his wife, Lillian (Danner), and his rebellious 18-year-old son, Ben (O'Keefe). Superb acting and writing, but sadly a box office failure; with the advent of cable, it gained in popularity.

Grey Gardens (1975) The Maysles' Brothers bizarre documentary: Meet Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter "Little Edie" - high-society dropouts and the reclusive cousins of Jackie O. - who manage to thrive together amid the squalor of their East Hampton, NY, mansion (aka Grey Gardens). This eerie classic has achieved cult status.

Halloween (1978) John Carpenter's slasher scare fest set the bar for the modern day horror film and stars Donald Pleasence and Jamie Lee Curtis (in her film debut). A mental patient Michael Myers was committed for murdering his teenage sister on Halloween night when he was six years old. Fifteen years later, he escapes and returns to his hometown, where he stalks a babysitter and her friends, while under pursuit by his psychiatrist. Do not watch alone! Other Carpenter classics: ***Assault on Precinct 13*** (1976) and ***Eyes of Laura Mars*** (1978).

Harold and Maude (1971) Hal Ashby's quirky, coming-of-age black comedy stars Bud Cort and Ruth Gordon, and follow the exploits of Harold Chasen, a young man with morbid fascinations who develops a friendship (and eventual romance), with 79-year-old Maude, who teaches him the importance of living life to its fullest. With an amazing Cat Stevens soundtrack, this cult classic is not to be missed. Other Ashby films include Peter Sellers' last film ***Being There*** (1979), the Vietnam drama ***Coming Home*** (1978) and the wildly satiric ***Shampoo*** (1975).

The Honeymoon Killers (1970) Based on perhaps the most bizarre episode in the annals of American crime, it stars Shirley Stoler and Tony Lo Bianco as Martha Beck and Raymond Fernandez - an obese, embittered nurse and her toupee-wearing boyfriend who embarked on a two year murder spree - their victims being those answering lonely hearts ads. In real life, the pair were caught and electrocuted in Sing Sing Prison in 1951. Filmed in grainy black and white, this grotesque and gritty, yet oddly fascinating film is an underground classic.

I, Claudius (1976) *Let all the poisons that lurk in the mud hatch out.* Although it was not theatrically released, this BBC adaptation of Robert Graves' 1934 novel is an 11-hour epic; stars Derek Jacobi in the title role as Claudius, along with some of the UK's finest actors including Siân Phillips, Brian Blessed and John Hurt (as Caligula, unforgettable); The mini-series covers the history of the early Roman Empire, told from the perspective of the elderly Emperor Claudius who narrates. A mixture of horror and tragedy, with

lots of intrigue, murder, sex, pathos, wine and warfare – some things never change! *I, Claudius* is a timeless masterpiece.

Investigation of a Citizen Above Suspicion (*Indagine su un cittadino al di sopra di ogni sospetto*, Italy 1970). Elio Petri's provocative, psychological thriller stars Gian Maria Volontè as Dottore, a Roman police inspector investigating a heinous crime, which he himself committed; a compelling character study and a disturbing commentary on the draconian government crackdowns in Italy at the time; Won Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 1971.

Jaws (1975) Steven Spielberg's quintessential summer blockbuster based on Peter Benchley's 1974 novel stars Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw and Richard Dreyfuss; a man-eating great white shark attacks beachgoers in Amity, a summer resort town; police chief Martin Brody (Scheider) hunts it with the aid of marine biologist (Dreyfuss) and a professional shark hunter (Shaw). PS: Do not bother with the three sequels – the original thriller is the real deal.

Julia (1977) Fred Zinnemann's period drama stars Jane Fonda, Vanessa Redgrave, Jason Robards, Hal Holbrook, Rosemary Murphy, Maximilian Schell, and Meryl Streep in her film debut; based on a chapter from Lillian Hellman's 1973 book *Pentimento* about the author's relationship with a lifelong friend, Julia, who fought against the Nazis in the years prior to World War II. Post *Barbarella* days, Jane Fonda would prove to be an extremely respected and versatile actress, winning two Oscars (***Coming Home***, 1978 and ***Klute***, 1971), and starring in ***China Syndrome*** (1979), ***A Doll's House*** (1973) and ***Fun with Dick and Jane*** (1977) to name a few. Jane's little brother Peter, however, starred in some duds (albeit cult classics): ***Dirty Mary Crazy Larry*** (1974), ***Futureworld*** (1976), ***The Last Movie*** (1971) and ***Race with the Devil*** (1974).

Kramer vs. Kramer (1979): Stars Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep as Ted and Joanna Kramer, a seemingly perfect Manhattan couple whose marriage crumbles in the first scene and ends with a heartbreakingly bitter custody battle. The film explored the psychology and fallout of divorce and the challenges of single parenting; and deservedly, Hoffman and Streep picked up Oscars for their performances as the estranged couple.

La Cage aux Folles (France, 1978) Based on Jean Poiret's 1973 play, it stars Ugo Tognazzi and Michel Serrault as a gay couple operating a drag nightclub in St. Tropez whose lives are upended when the son of one of the men announces he is getting married. They try to conceal their lifestyle when the fiancée and her parents come for dinner. Upon its release, it ranked as the highest-grossing foreign-language film ever in the US.

The Last Picture Show (1971) Peter Bogdanovich's coming-of-age drama based on Larry McMurtry's 1966 semi- autobiographical novel stars Timothy Bottoms, Jeff Bridges, Cybill Shepherd (in her film debut), Ben Johnson, Cloris Leachman and Ellen Burstyn. Set in a small town in north Texas from 1951 to 1952, it tells the story of two high-school seniors and long-time friends, Sonny Crawford (Bottoms) and Duane Jackson (Bridges) – but a lot of drama unfolds in this small town; Poignant with impeccable performances (Johnson and Leachman would pick up Oscars). Other Bogdanovich films include ***Daisy Miller*** (1974), ***Paper Moon*** (1973) and ***What's Up, Doc?*** (1972).

A Little Romance (1979) Based on Patrick Cauvin's 1977 novel *E=mc² Mon Amour* it stars Diane Lane (in her film debut), Thelonus Bernard, Sir Laurence Olivier and Sally Kellerman. Two precocious youths - a French boy and an American girl - meet in Paris and begin a romance that leads to a journey to Venice where they hope to seal their love forever; a light romantic comedy with a beautiful score by Georges Delerue (for which he deservedly won an Oscar).

Lost, Lost, Lost (1976) Jonas Mekas (Lithuanian-American filmmaker, poet, artist and co-founder of New York's Anthology Film Archives) documents his early years in the city, where he and his brother, Adolfas, build their new life in America. Mekas (1922 - 2019) considered "the godfather of American avant-garde cinema" documents New York's the burgeoning downtown art scene of the 1950's and 1960's. Other documentaries for consideration (all Oscar winners): ***Best Boy*** (1979), ***Harlan County, U.S.A.*** (1976), ***Scared Straight!*** (1978) and ***Woodstock*** (1970).

Love Story (1970) Based on Erich Segal's 1970 best-selling 1970 novel, it stars Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw as Oliver Barrett IV (an East Coast heir and Harvard boy) who meets Jennifer "Jenny" Cavalleri (a quick-witted, working-class Radcliffe student of classical music); the two modern day star-crossed lovers fall in love despite their differences and then - of course - one dies. Although a box office smash at the time, it's cheesy, melodramatic – and just plain bad. The 70's had some great films, but a lot of duds too: ***The Betsy*** (1978), ***The Big Bus*** (1976), ***Days of Heaven*** (1978), ***Lipstick*** (1976), ***The Main Event*** (1979), ***Oliver's Story*** (1978), ***Pretty Baby*** (1978), ***Zardoz*** (1974) – and a special shout out to the TV Movie, ***The Boy in the Plastic Bubble*** (1976).

The Marriage of Maria Braun (*Die Ehe der Maria Braun* Germany, 1979) Rainer Werner Fassbinder's (1945-1982) - the *enfant terrible* of the New German Cinema - daring drama set in wrecked post-war Germany stars Hanna Schygulla (Germany's legendary icon and Fassbinder's muse) as Maria who marries Hermann Braun in the last days of World War II, only for him to go missing. Alone, Maria puts to use her beauty and ambition in order to find prosperity. Other Fassbinder films available: ***Ali: Fear Eats the Soul*** (1974) and ***The Merchant of Four Seasons*** (1972).

Midnight Express (1978) Alan Parker's riveting drama based on Billy Hayes's 1977 non-fiction stars Brad Davis, Bo Hopkins, and John Hurt, and tells the story of Hayes (Davis), an American college student who is caught smuggling drugs out of Turkey and thrown into prison. Critically acclaimed – Oliver Stone and Giorgio Moroder would pick up Oscars for Best Screenplay and for the pulsating Original Score. In later years, though, Hayes expressed his disappointment and regret with Stone's highly exaggerated adaptation - especially its negative portrayal of Turkey and its people.

Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975) Surreal British comedy inspired by the Arthurian legend stars the Monty Python troupe - Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, and Michael Palin. King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table embark on a low-budget search for the Holy Grail, encountering many, very silly obstacles. Never disappoints! Other Python classics include ***And Now for Something Completely Different*** (1971) and ***Monty Python's Life of Brian*** (1979).

The Muppet Movie (1979) *More entertaining than humanly possible!* While living a quiet life in the swamps, the crooner Kermit the Frog is discovered by a Bernie the agent. Kermit then embarks on a journey to Hollywood (in a beat up old Studebaker) for the audition of a lifetime. Along the way, he meets a colorful cast of puppets and humans. Jim Henson's all-star Muppet extravaganza never ever disappoints!

Nashville (1975) Robert Altman's *magnum opus*, a brilliant satire set against the backdrop of Nashville, TN - Music City, the epicenter of the country and gospel music businesses. With its multiple storyline and an ensemble cast of 24 (Ned Beatty, Keith Carradine, Geraldine Chaplin and Lily Tomlin to name a few), *Nashville* is not just about the music industry, it's an epic study of ambition, greed, talent, and politics in American culture. Keith Carradine's *I'm Easy* picked up an Oscar for Best Original Song. Other Altman films include: ***M*A*S*H*** (1970) and ***McCabe & Mrs. Miller*** (1971).

National Lampoon's Animal House (1978) John Belushi, Tom Hulce, Tim Matheson and Peter Riegert star in one of the most irreverent, politically incorrect comedies of all time; it follows a group of rowdy fraternity brothers at the fictional Faber College in 1962 and all their shenanigans.

Network (1976) *I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore.* Paddy Chayevsky's blistering satire of network television stars Peter Finch (as Howard Beale, the Mad Prophet of the Airwaves) and Faye Dunaway (as Diana Christensen, the heartless, ratings-obsessed producer), also featuring Robert Duvall and William Holden. Even after forty plus years, this Sidney Lumet's brilliant film never gets old. Other Lumet films include ***Dog Day Afternoon*** (1975), ***Equus*** (1977), ***Murder on the Orient Express*** (1974), ***Serpico*** (1973) and ***The Wiz*** (1978).

The Night Porter (*Il portiere di notte*, Italy 1974) Liliana Cavani's erotic psychological war drama stars Dirk Bogarde and Charlotte Rampling; Set in Vienna in the 1957 and centers on the sadomasochistic relationship between a former Nazi concentration camp officer (Bogarde) and one of his inmates (Rampling). The film's disturbing theme of sadism and sexual obsession, and its use of Holocaust imagery, made it highly controversial since its initial release – yet it has since developed a strong cult following.

Night Moves (1975) Arthur Penn's neo-noir stars Gene Hackman, Jennifer Warren and Susan Clark; Harry Moseby (Hackman) a Los Angeles private investigator uncovers a series of sinister events while searching for the missing teenage daughter of a former movie actress. Although not a critical success at the time, thanks to the invention of the VHS (and DVD) - this underrated film has since garnered critical acclaim.

Norma Rae (1979) Martin Ritt's drama, based on a true story, stars Sally Field and Beau Bridges, and follows Norma Rae Webster, a factory worker with little formal education in North Carolina who, after her and her co-workers' health are compromised due to poor working conditions, becomes involved in trade union activities. Ritt also directed: ***The Front*** (1976), ***The Great White Hope*** (1970), ***The Molly Maguires*** (1970) and ***Sounder*** (1972). Field, the former *Gidget* and *Flying Nun* TV star from the 60's, would prove to have some real acting chops. Prior to picking up an Oscar for the title role, she won a Primetime Emmy for her breakthrough role in the TV Mini Series ***Sybil*** (1976).

The Omen (1976) A staple in the classic horror genre that has forever stigmatized the name "Damien;" stars Gregory Peck, Lee Remick and Harvey Stephens (as the little devil). Robert and Katherine Thorn live a seemingly perfect existence until a series of mysterious events and violent deaths occur around the family; as Damien enters childhood, they come to learn he is in fact the prophesied Antichrist. Both chilling and terrifying – Jerry Goldsmith's Oscar winning score helps to darken the mood - yet at times campy and dated, *The Omen* still delivers a good show. Other 70's horror classics: ***The Abominable Dr. Phibes*** (1971), ***Alice Sweet Alice*** (1976), ***The Amityville Horror*** (1979), ***Audrey Rose*** (1977), ***Burnt Offerings*** (1976), ***Magic*** (1978), ***Phantasm*** (1979) ***Rabid*** (1977) and ***When a Stranger Calls*** (1979).

One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975): Milos Forman's film stars Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher. Randle P. McMurphy is serving a prison sentence on an Oregon work farm for multiple assaults and for statutory rape; in an effort to avoid hard labor, he gets himself transferred to a mental institution. Once there, McMurphy both endures and stands witness to the abuse and degradation of the atrocious tyrant, Nurse Ratched – and now he can't get out. First Oscar win for Nicholson and multiple for the movie (Won the Grand Slam - Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Actor, and Best Actress). Other Nicholson classics include ***Carnal Knowledge*** (1971), ***Five Easy Pieces*** (1970), ***The Last Detail*** (1973) and ***The Passenger*** (1975).

Papillon (1973) Historical drama/prison movie - based on the 1969 autobiography by the French convict Henri Charrière - stars Steve McQueen and Dustin Hoffman; the title - French for "butterfly" – refers to tattoo and nickname of the lead character. Set in the 1930's, tells the story of Charrière (McQueen) and Louis Dega (Hoffman), two French convicts serving their sentence in the South American penal colony on Devil's Island.

Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975) *On St. Valentine's Day in 1900 a party of schoolgirls set out to picnic at Hanging Rock. ...Some were never to return.* Peter Weir's ethereal work, based on Joan Lindsay's 1967 novel, was one of the first major international successes of the Australian New Wave of cinema and has gained cult status. Other Australian imports of this decade include **The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith** (1978), **Mad Max** (1979) **My Brilliant Career** (1979) and **Newsfront** (1978).

Play Misty for Me (1971) Before *Fatal Attraction* (1987), there was Clint Eastwood's directorial debut; this psychological thriller stars Eastwood, Jessica Walter and Donna Mills. Set in Carmel-by-the-Sea, California (the city where Eastwood later became the Mayor); a disc jockey's life is upended after a romantic encounter with an obsessed fan.

The Poseidon Adventure (1972) *Hell, Upside Down* Classic disaster film based on Paul Gallico's 1969 novel; with an ensemble cast including five Oscar winners: Gene Hackman, Ernest Borgnine, Jack Albertson, Shelley Winters and Red Buttons. The SS Poseidon, an aging luxury liner on her final voyage, is overturned by a tsunami. Passengers and crew are trapped inside, and a preacher attempts to lead a small group of survivors to safety. Other all-star disaster films include **Earthquake** (1974) and **The Towering Inferno** (1974).

Pumping Iron (1977) Docudrama about the world of professional bodybuilding stars Arnold Schwarzenegger (long before *The Terminator*) and Lou Ferrigno (before *The Incredible Hulk*) as they face off in a no-holds-barred competition for the title of Mr. Olympia. This critically-acclaimed film made Schwarzenegger a household name.

Rocky (1976): *Meet the "Italian Stallion": a small-time guy with big-time guts who yearns to be a hero...just once!* Sylvester Stallone wrote and starred in this rags-to-riches story of Rocky Balboa, an uneducated, kind-hearted working class Italian-American boxer, working as a debt collector for a loan shark in the slums of Philadelphia. Rocky, a small-time club fighter, gets a shot at the world heavyweight championship. The Rocky franchise spawned several sequels – but the original is by far the best.

Roma (1972) Federico Fellini's love letter to the eternal city - a virtually plotless, gaudy, impressionistic portrait of Rome; the director blends autobiography with scenes from present-day Roman life - including an ecclesiastical fashion show which is classic Fellini. Also worth viewing is the Oscar-winning **Amarcord** (1973).

Saturday Night Fever (1977) John Travolta stars as Tony Manero, a 19-year-old Italian-American, Brooklynite attempting to escape the harsh reality of his bleak family life by dominating the dance floor at the local disco. *SNF* not only made Travolta a household name, but introduced Bay Ridge Brooklyn to the world. The Grammy award-winning soundtrack epitomized the disco phenomenon. Travolta's other classic of this era is **Grease** (1978).

Seven Beauties (*Pasqualino Settebellezze*, Italy 1975) Lina Wertmüller's dark, twisted comedy - set in WWII Fascist Italy - stars Giancarlo Giannini and Shirley Stoler. Pasquale Frafuso, a thug who deserts the army and is then captured by the Germans and sent to a prison camp, where he does anything to survive. Through flashbacks, we learn about his family of seven unattractive sisters and other mishaps. Stoler as a repulsive, whip-carrying, cigar-chomping concentration camp commandant is harrowing.

Wertmüller (1928-2021) was the first female director to receive an Oscar nomination, and also directed: *All Screwed Up* (1974), *Love & Anarchy* (1973), *The Seduction of Mimi* (1972) and *Swept Away* (1974).

Shaft (1971) *Who is the man that would risk his neck for his brother, man? (SHAFT) Can ya dig it?* An adaptation of Ernest Tidyman's 1970 novel stars the charismatic Richard Roundtree in a career-defining role as John Shaft, the suave, streetwise detective hired to find a Harlem mobster's beautiful kidnapped daughter; film dealt with themes of the Black Power movement, race, masculinity, and sexuality. The first *Blaxploitation* film (there would be hundreds more, but this one rules) featured Isaac Hayes' timeless theme song, which earned him an Academy Award for Best Original Song.

Slaughterhouse-Five (1972) Adapted from by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.'s 1969 darkly satirical, antiwar novel. Billy Pilgrim, has a slight problem with time management; he's mysteriously become "unstuck" in time, whereby he travels back and forth from his life in New York; to his life on the distant planet, Tralfamadore, with a Hollywood sex kitten; and back to his horrific experiences as a POW in Dresden, Germany (prison known as *Schlachthof Fünf* or *Slaughterhouse-Five*, hence the title). Other 70's sci-fi classics: *The Andromeda Strain* (1970), *Beneath the Planet of the Apes* (1970), *Escape from the Planet of the Apes* (1971), *Conquest of the Planet of the Apes* (1972), *Battle for the Planet of the Apes* (1973), *Death Race 2000* (1975), *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1978), *Logan's Run* (1976) and *Westworld* (1973),

The Spirit of the Beehive (*El espíritu de la colmena*, Spain 1973) 1940, in a small Castilian village and in the wake of devastating Spanish civil war, six-year-old Ana attends a traveling movie show of James Whales 1931 *Frankenstein* and becomes traumatized by it. Director Víctor Erice incorporated symbolism throughout the film to mask the criticism of life under Francisco Franco's fascist regime. Considered a masterpiece of Spanish cinema - a bewitching portrait of a child's haunted inner life and one of the most visually arresting movies ever made.

Star Wars (1977) *A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...* George Lucas' summer blockbuster stars Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Alec Guinness and James Earl Jones. Luke Skywalker (Hamill) joins forces with Obi-Wan Kenobi, a Jedi Knight (Guinness), Han Solo, a cocky pilot (Ford) and some odd space creatures to save the galaxy - while also rescuing Princess Leia (Fischer) from the mysterious Darth Vader (Jones). Now titled *Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope* - before all the endless prequels and sequels; other Lucas films: *American Graffiti* (1973) and *THX 1138* (1971).

The Stepford Wives (1975) *Something strange is happening in the town of Stepford.* Psychological horror film/satire - based on Ira Levin's 1972 eerie novel - stars Katharine Ross, Peter Masterson and Paula Prentiss. Joanna Eberhart (Ross) has come to the quaint little town of Stepford, Connecticut with her family, but soon discovers there lays a sinister truth in the all too perfect behavior of the female residents.

The Sting (1973) Paul Newman and Robert Redford (hands down, the most devilishly handsome duo of that era) star as Henry Gondorff and Johnny Hooker, two grifters who team up to pull off the ultimate con. Other Paul Newman greats of that era: *The Drowning Pool* (1975) and *Slap Shot* (1977); Robert Redford: *The Candidate* (1972) and *The Great Gatsby* (1974).

Sunday Bloody Sunday (1971) *It's about three decent people. They will break your heart.* After the wild success of the then X-rated (but Oscar winning) *Midnight Cowboy* (1969) – one would think that director John Schlesinger couldn't top it; well he did with an intelligent film about the complexities of modern romance. Stars Peter Finch, Glenda Jackson and Murray Head and explores the emotional intricacies of a polyamorous relationship between young artist Bob and his two lovers: a lonely male doctor and a frustrated female office worker. Schlesinger also directed: *The Day of the Locust* (1975), *Marathon Man* (1976) and *Yanks* (1979).

Taxi Driver (1976) Martin Scorsese's psychological thriller film stars Robert De Niro as Travis Bickle - arguably one of cinema's most unforgettable, complex characters - a mentally unstable veteran who works as a nighttime cabbie to overcome his insomnia, then slowly descends into madness (*You talkin' to me?*). Also stars Jodie Foster, Cybill Shepherd, Harvey Keitel, Peter Boyle and Albert Brooks. 1970's NYC never looked more dangerous, grimy and sleazy. Other Scorsese films include: ***Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*** (1974), ***Boxcar Bertha*** (1972), ***The Last Waltz*** (1978), ***Mean Streets*** (1973) and ***New York, New York*** (1977).

10 (1979) Blake Edwards's comedy stars Dudley Moore, Julie Andrews - and "Introducing Bo Derek." George Webber is a Hollywood composer going through a mid-life crisis - regardless his partner Samantha Taylor puts up with his infantile antics and excessive drinking; but then George becomes infatuated with a sexy, newly married woman, Jenny, and embarks on an odyssey to find her. Dated and probably considered "un PC" nowadays, it's more known for having popularized Maurice Ravel's classical piece, *The Boléro*. Edwards is also known for his Pink Panther series: ***The Return of the Pink Panther*** (1975), ***The Pink Panther Strikes Again*** (1976) and ***Revenge of the Pink Panther*** (1978).

The Tin Drum (*Die Blechtrommel*, West Germany 1979) A savage, sweeping epic of society in chaos. Oskar Matzerath, a very unusual boy, is reluctant to enter a world he sees as filled with hypocrisy and injustice, and vows on his third birthday to never grow up. Miraculously, he gets his wish. As the Nazis rise to power in Danzig, Oskar wills himself to remain a child, beating his tin drum incessantly and screaming in protest at the chaos surrounding him; Germany's first film to win an Oscar for Best Foreign Film.

Tommy (1975) Rock opera based on The Who's 1969 album stars Roger Daltrey as Tommy - the deaf, dumb and blind kid, who sure plays a mean pinball. A star-studded ensemble cast including Ann-Margret, Oliver Reed, Eric Clapton, Tina Turner, Elton John, and Jack Nicholson. Other musicals include of this decade include: ***Bugsy Malone*** (1976), ***Godspell*** (1973), ***Hair*** (1979), ***Jesus Christ Superstar*** (1973), ***Mame*** (1974) and ***The Rocky Horror Picture Show*** (1975).

An Unmarried Woman (1978) Paul Mazursky's Upper East Side comedy/drama stars Jill Clayburgh (Erica), Alan Bates (Saul) and Michael Murphy (Martin); Erica's seemingly perfect, privileged Manhattan life upends when her husband/Wall Street Executive, Martin, leaves her. Clayburgh is brilliant as the newly single woman struggling to deal with her new identity and her sexuality. Other Mazursky films include: ***Harry and Tonto*** (1974) and ***Next Stop, Greenwich Village*** (1976),

Up in Smoke (1978) Buddy stoner comedy stars the counterculture team of Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong (Cheech & Chong). While negatively received upon its release, *Up in Smoke* grossed over \$104 million, is credited with establishing the stoner film genre, and is now considered a cult classic.

Voyage of the Damned (1976) War drama based on the 1974 nonfiction, featuring an all-star cast: Faye Dunaway, Oskar Werner, Lee Grant, Max von Sydow, James Mason, and Malcolm McDowell. The story was inspired by actual events concerning the devastating fate of the ocean liner St. Louis carrying Jewish refugees from Germany to Cuba in 1939.

The Way We Were (1973) Sydney Pollack's romantic drama stars Barbra Streisand as Katie Morosky (a passionate left-wing, political activist, Jewess) and Robert Redford as Hubbell Gardiner (a feckless, privileged, yet irresistibly gorgeous, WASP) - perhaps one of cinema's most mismatched couples! Chronicles roughly twenty years of their lives: from an upstate NY college in 1937; to New York City during WWII; Red Scare Hollywood in early 1950's and back to Manhattan in the late 1950's. Other Sydney Pollack films include: ***The Electric Horseman*** (1979) and ***Jeremiah Johnson*** (1972).

Willard (1971) Based on Stephen Gilbert's 1968 novel *Ratman's Notebooks*, it stars Bruce Davison, features, Elsa Lanchester, Sondra Locke and Ernest Borgnine. Willard Stiles, a social misfit uses his only friends, his pet rats, to exact revenge on his tormentors. Traumatizing to say the least – Willard undoubtedly fostered a culture of musophobia. *Tear him up!*

Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (1971) *Enter a world of pure imagination.* Musical fantasy adapted from Roald Dahl's 1964 novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* stars Gene Wilder as the enigmatic Willy Wonka; tells the story of a poor child named Charlie Bucket who, after finding a Golden Ticket in a chocolate bar, visits the mysterious chocolate factory along with four other children from around the world. With memorable lyrics and music by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley – most notably the song *The Candy Man*. *WWATCF* remained in obscurity until the 1980's where it gained a cult following due to repeated television airings and home video sales.

A Woman Under the Influence (1974) John Cassavetes' uncompromising portrait of domestic turmoil stars his wife, Gena Rowlands, and *Colombo*'s Peter Falk; details the emotional breakdown of a suburban housewife and her family's struggle to save her from herself. Rowlands and Falk give unforgettably harrowing performances as a married couple deeply in love but unable to cope. A pioneer of American independent filmmaking, Cassavetes also directed ***The Killing of a Chinese Bookie*** (1976) and ***Opening Night*** (1977).

Young Frankenstein (1974) Mel Brooks' entirely inappropriate movie parody of the 1818 novel, *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley stars Gene Wilder (as the infamous Dr. Frankenstein), Peter Boyle (as the Monster), Teri Garr, Cloris Leachman, Marty Feldman and Madeline Kahn. Script filled with hilarious dialogue, my personal favorite: the Monster singing 'UTTIN' ON THE 'IIIIITZ. Other Brooks' politically incorrect classics of this decade include ***Blazing Saddles*** (1974) and ***High Anxiety*** (1977).