



A Century of Cinema: let's explore cinema by the decade: the 1980's - a decade of Reaganomics, Cold War, VCR's, MTV. Terminators, Teen Flicks, New Wave, Neon, Big Hair --- and lots of shoulder pads! Here are hundreds of titles - all available on DVD or through our streaming services (HOOPLA and Kanopy). Recommend reading; *Brat Pack America: A Love Letter to '80s Teen Movies* by Kevin Smokler, *Make My Day: Movie Culture in the Age of Reagan* by J. Hoberman and *The Ultimate History of the '80s Teen Movie* by James King.

***Airplane!* (1980)** The surreal and wildly un-PC disaster film parody stars Robert Hays and Julie Hagerty and features Leslie Nielsen, Robert Stack, Lloyd Bridges, Peter Graves, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and Lorna Patterson; known for its fast-paced slapstick comedy, including visual and verbal puns, gags, running jokes, and obscure humor. The tagline reads: *Winner of NO Academy Awards*, but it's in a class all by itself.

***Amadeus* (1984):** Milos Forman's film stars F. Murray Abraham and Tom Hulce – about the (sadly short) life and success Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (Hulce), the celebrated, but troubled Austrian composer. Narrated by Antonio Salieri (Abraham, which won him the Best Actor Oscar), the contemporaneous composer who was insanely jealous of Mozart and claimed to have murdered him.

***American Gigolo* (1980)** *Hired for love. Framed for murder.* Paul Schrader's neo noir set in Los Angeles stars Richard Gere as Julian, a male escort who is wrongly accused of a murder. Established Gere as a leading man and noted for the music – Blondie's number-one single "Call Me." Schrader also directed *Cat People* (1985), *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters* (1985) and *Patty Hearst* (1988). Other Gere films of this decade include: *Breathless* (1983), *The Cotton Club* (1984) and *An Officer and A Gentleman* (1982).

***Apartment Zero* (also known as *Conviviendo con la muerte/Living with Death*, UK and Argentina, 1989)** Bizarre psychological-political thriller stars Hart Bochner and Colin Firth. In a rundown area of Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the dawn of the 1980s, Adrian LeDuc (Firth) owns both a struggling movie theater and a shabby apartment building filled with eccentric, squabbling tenants; his institutionalized mother adds further pressure. To make ends meet, Adrian takes in a roommate, Jack Carney (Bochner), but soon begins to suspect that the quiet American is responsible for a series of political assassinations that are rocking the city. This creepy dark film has mixed reviews, yet also attained cult status – worth the watch.

***Arthur* (1981)** Stars Dudley Moore, Liza Minnelli and Sir John Gielgud; Dudley brilliantly plays alcoholic playboy Arthur Bach who must marry a woman he does not love, or he will be cut off from his \$750,000,000 fortune. But when Arthur falls in love with Linda, a poor waitress, he must decide if he wants to choose love or money. Gielgud took home an Oscar for his performance as Hobson, Arthur's valet/babysitter. Peter Allen, Burt Bacharach, Carole Bayer Sager and Christopher Cross won For Best Original Song – the memorable *Arthur's Theme (Best That You Can Do)*. Another lovable drunk is Tom Conti in ***Reuben, Reuben* (1983).**

***Au revoir les enfants* (France, 1987)** also known as *Goodbye, Children*; Louis Malle's heartbreaking and tragic film - based on events from Malle's own childhood; a story of friendship and devastating loss concerning two boys living in Nazi-occupied France; at a provincial Catholic boarding school, and the precocious youths enjoy true camaraderie until a secret is revealed. Other Malle films of this decade: *Atlantic City* (1980), *Crackers* (1984) and *My Dinner with Andre* (1981).

Babette's Feast (*Babettes gæstebud*, Denmark 1987) Oscar winning gastronomical experience set in the 19th century; a strict religious community in a Danish village takes in a French refugee from the Franco-Prussian War (Babette), who becomes a servant to the late pastor's daughters. After winning the lottery, Babette wants to repay them for their kindness and offers to cook a French feast (hence the title) for the elderly sisters and their friends on the 100th anniversary of their father's birth. Other Scandinavian imports: ***Fanny & Alexander*** (Sweden, 1983), ***My Life as a Dog*** (Sweden, 1985), ***Pathfinder*** (Norway, 1987) and ***Pelle the Conqueror*** (Denmark, 1987)

Back to the Future (1985) Robert Zemeckis' sci fi comedy stars Michel J. Fox as Marty McFly, a 17-year-old high school student, who is accidentally sent thirty years into the past in a time-traveling DeLorean invented by his close friend, the eccentric scientist Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd). Other Zemeckis films of this decade: ***Back to the Future Part II*** (1989) and ***Who Framed Roger Rabbit*** (1988).

Bagdad Café (*Out of Rosenheim*, West Germany 1987) Percy Adlon's quirky drama stars Marianne Sägbrecht, CCH Pounder and Jack Palance and is loosely based on Carson McCullers' 1951 novella *The Ballad of the Sad Café*; set in a remote truck stop and motel in the Mojave Desert, it centers on two women who have recently separated from their husbands, and the blossoming friendship that ensues.

Big (1988) Penny Marshall fantasy comedy s, and stars Tom Hanks as adult Josh Baskin, a young boy who makes a wish to be "big" and is then aged to adulthood overnight; also stars Elizabeth Perkins, David Moscow, John Heard, and Robert Loggia. A critical and commercial success, *Big* proved to be pivotal to Hanks' career and grossed \$151 million worldwide [Not bad for Laverne's second stab at directing].

The Big Chill (1983) *In a cold world, you need your friends to keep you warm.* Stars Tom Berenger, Glenn Close, Jeff Goldblum, William Hurt, Kevin Kline, Mary Kay Place, Meg Tilly and JoBeth Williams; a group of baby boomers who attended the University of Michigan, reunite after 15 years when their friend Alex dies by suicide. Great dialogue and amazing soundtrack with artists from the 60's and 70's - Creedence Clearwater Revival, Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye, The Temptations, the Rolling Stones and Three Dog Night.

Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) *History is about to be rewritten by two guys who can't spell...* Alex Winter and Keanu Reeves star as Bill and Ted, two seemingly dumb teens/dudes who set off on a quest to prepare the ultimate historical presentation with the help of a time machine. Not for the erudite film snob, but all the same, a most excellent watch!

Blade Runner (1982) Ridley Scott's dystopian film stars Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, Sean Young, and Edward James Olmos. Los Angeles 2019: synthetic humans (aka *replicants*) are bio-engineered by the powerful Tyrell Corporation to work on space colonies. When a fugitive group of advanced replicants escapes back to Earth, burnt-out cop Rick Deckard (Ford) reluctantly agrees to hunt them down. Other Ridley Scott films include: ***Black Rain*** (1989), ***Legend*** (1985) and ***Someone to Watch Over Me*** (1987).

The Blue Lagoon (1980) *Two children, shipwrecked alone on a tropical island. Nature is kind to them. They thrive on the bounty of the jungle and the lagoon. When their love happens, it is natural as the sea, and as powerful.* Stars Calvin Klein model-turned actress Brooke Shields and pretty boy model-turned actor Christopher Atkins; The Official Razzie Guide lists it among *The 100 Most Amusingly Bad Movies Ever Made*. Other great 80's duds include: ***Endless Love*** (1981), ***The Jazz Singer*** (1980), ***Jaws the Revenge*** (1987) ***Mannequin*** (1987), ***Mommie Dearest*** (1981), ***Shanghai Surprise*** (1986), ***Staying Alive*** (1983), ***Xanadu*** (1980) and ***Yes, Giorgio*** (1982).

Blue Velvet (1986) David Lynch's psychological cult thriller stars Isabella Rossellini, Kyle MacLachlan, Dennis Hopper and Laura Dern. Jeffrey Beaumont (MacLachlan), a young college student, returns home to

visit his ill father; he discovers a severed human ear in a field that leads to him uncovering a vast criminal conspiracy and entering a romantic relationship with Dorothy Vallens (Rossellini), a troubled lounge singer. Other Lynch films include: *Dune* (1984) and *The Elephant Man* (1980).

Brazil (1985) Terry Gilliam's dystopian black comedy stars Jonathan Pryce and features Robert De Niro, Kim Greist, Michael Palin, Katherine Helmond, Bob Hoskins, and Ian Holm. A bureaucrat in an ordered, awkward society becomes an enemy of the state as he pursues the woman of his dreams. The second in Terry Gilliam's "Trilogy of Imagination" - the first was *Time Bandits* (1981), and the third was *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* (1988).

The Breakfast Club (1985) John Hughes' teen classic stars Molly Ringwald, Anthony Michael Hall, Judd Nelson, Ally Sheedy and Emilio Estevez. Five high school students meet in Saturday detention and discover how they have a lot more in common than they thought. The film defined teen angst; Hughes (1950-2009) possessed a unique talent for writing coming-of-age stories, and for depicting fairly realistic adolescent characters. Other Hughes films include: *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* (1986), *National Lampoon's Vacation* (1983), *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* (1987), *She's Having a Baby* (1988), *Sixteen Candles* (1984), *Uncle Buck* (1989) and *Weird Science* (1985).

Bright Lights, Big City (1988) *It's 6.00am. Do you know where you are?* Based on Jay McInerney's 1984 novel, it stars Michael J. Fox as Jamie, a disillusioned young writer living in New York City who turns to drugs and drinking to block out traumatic memories. An iconic 80's story with great 80's music: New Order, Narada, Prince, Bryan Ferry, Depeche Mode to name a few.

Caddyshack (1980) *The Snobs Against The Slobs!* Stars Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield, Ted Knight, Bill Murray, Brian Doyle Murray and Michael O'Keefe. The exclusive Bushwood Club has to deal with a brash new member, a destructive dancing gopher and a cast of insubordinate employees. Hands down the funniest (and so wildly inappropriate) sports movie ever made.

Careful, He Might Hear You (Australia, 1983) Australian drama based on Sumner Locke Elliott's 1963 novel, and tells the story of two sisters who are locked in a custody battle over their young nephew, PS – he's been raised by his aunt Lila and her husband George since his mother died soon after his birth. When Lila's richer sister Vanessa returns from overseas, she seeks custody of PS, citing the opportunities she can give him. Other notable Aussie imports: Gillian Armstrong's *Starstruck* (1982) and Jane Campion's *Sweetie* (1989).

Cinema Paradiso (Nuovo Cinema Paradiso, Italy 1988) An Oscar winner – the charming film tells the story of filmmaker as he recalls his childhood in a quaint Italian village, where he falls in love with cinema (and experiences first love) and forms a deep friendship with the cinema's projectionist. Other Italian imports: *Kaos* (1984) and *Night of the Shooting Stars* (1982).

Chariots of Fire (Great Britain, 1981) Oscar winning sports drama based on the true story of two British athletes in the 1924 Olympics: Eric Liddell: a devout Scottish Christian who runs for the glory of God, and Harold Abrahams, an English Jew who runs to overcome prejudice – and who can forget Vangelis' magnetic Original Score.

Coal Miner's Daughter (1980) *She was married at 13. She had four kids by the time she was 20. She's been hungry and poor. She's been loved and cheated on. She became a singer because it was the only thing she could do. She became a star because it was the only way she could do it.* Michael Apted's fictionalized account of singer Loretta Lynn, a girl who rose from humble beginnings to become a country music phenomenon; stars Sissy Spacek (who picked up an Oscar) and Tommy Lee Jones; other Apted films: *Gorillas in the Mist* (1988) and *Gorky Park* (1983).

Cocoon (1985) *Beyond the innocence of youth, and the wisdom of age, lies the wonder of...* Cocoon Ron Howard's light sci fi about a group of elderly people rejuvenated by aliens stars Don Ameche, Wilford Brimley, Hume Cronyn, Jack Gilford, and Jessica Tandy. Other Ron Howard films of this decade: **Gung Ho** (1986), **Parenthood** (1989), **Splash** (1982) and **Willow** (1988).

Cruising (1980) William Friedkin's highly controversial film stars Al Pacino as an undercover detective trying to catch a homosexual serial killer in pre-AIDS New York City; the film is very much a time capsule of a bygone era of gay life and yes, viewer discretion is advised. Other "gritty" New York films: **Fort Apache the Bronx** (1981), **Gloria** (1980), **Last Exit to Brooklyn** (1989), **The Pope of Greenwich Village** (1984), **Prince of the City** (1981) and **Year of the Dragon** (1985).

D.O.A.: A Rite of Passage (1980) Lech Kowalski's ground-breaking "rockumentary" about the origin of punk rock; centers around the Sex Pistols 1978 (ill-fated) US tour - not only was it their only US tour, the band broke up shortly thereafter. Kowalski captured a grainy, stained snapshot of the punk movement at its peak (which includes the now famous footage of Sid Vicious and Nancy Spungen in bed) along with rare interview and concert footage of the late seventies punk rock music scene. Other notable music documentaries: Penelope Spheeris' **The Decline of Western Civilization** (1981) and **The Decline of Western Civilization Part II: The Metal Years** (1988), and don't miss Alex Cox's cult biopic **Sid and Nancy: Love Kills** (1986).

Das Boot (West Germany, 1981) also known as *The Boat*. Wolfgang Petersen's harrowing and nerve-wracking thriller adapted from Lothar-Günther Buchheim's 1973 novel; set during World War II, it follows U-96 and its crew, as they set out on a hazardous patrol in the Battle of the Atlantic. The film brilliantly captures the claustrophobic world of submarine life with its boredom, filth and sheer terror. Another foreign import for consideration: the Soviet anti-war film **Come and See** (*Idi i smotri*, Russia 1985).

Dead Ringers (1988) David Cronenberg's super creepy psychological drama stars Jeremy Irons in a dual role as identical twin gynecologists; based on the bizarre lives and shocking deaths of Stewart and Cyril Marcus in 1975 (twin doctors in NYC's Upper East Side), and on the 1977 novel *Twins* by Bari Wood and Jack Geasland. Other Cronenberg classics: **The Dead Zone** (1983), **The Fly** (1986), **Scanners** (1981) and **Videodrome** (1983).

The Decline of the American Empire (*Le déclin de l'empire américain*, Canada 1986) Denys Arcand's sex dramedy - a group of intellectuals from the Université de Montréal History Department spend a weekend at a country retreat, where (along with eating, cooking and working out) they engage in a long dialogue about their sexual affairs, and just about every taboo under the sun. First Canadian film to be nominated for an Oscar (Arcand would later pick up an Oscar for the 2003 sequel **The Barbarian Invasions**). Another Arcand film of notice is **Jesus of Montreal** (1989).

Desperately Seeking Susan (1985) Rosanna Arquette and Madonna star in this timeless classic. Roberta Glass, a bored suburban housewife suffers amnesia after an accident, and wakes up thinking she's an East Village drifter named Susan. Arguably the only film Madonna acted well in (perhaps because she just played herself). Great 80's NYC location shots, including Danceteria, Love Saves the Day, the shops along St. Mark's place and the Bleecker Street Cinema.

Diner (1982) *Suddenly, life was more than french fries, gravy and girls*. Barry Levinson's directorial debut stars Steve Guttenberg, Mickey Rourke, Kevin Bacon, Daniel Stern. Timothy Daly, Paul Reiser and Ellen Barkin (all relatively unknowns at the time); follows a close-knit circle of friends who reunite at a Baltimore diner when one of them prepares to get married. Other Levinson films of this decade: **Good Morning, Vietnam** (1987), **The Natural** (1984), **Rain Man** (1988) and **Tin Men** (1987).

Diva (France, 1981) Jean-Jacques Beineix's thriller set in Paris was an international sensation and has reached cult status (as did **Betty Blue**, 1986). The advertisement for *Diva* read: *Here Comes a new kind of French New Wave*. The original French New Wavers of the 60's were still going strong: Jean-Luc Godard's **Hail Mary** (1985), François Truffaut's **The Last Metro** (1980), Eric Rohmer's **Pauline at the Beach** (1983), Claude Chabrol's **The Story of Women** (1988). Agnès Varda's **Vagabond** (1985), and Jacques Rivette's **Gang of Four** (1989).

Do The Right Thing (1989) Spike Lee's film that launched a thousand arguments. On the hottest day of the year in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, everyone's hate and bigotry smolders and builds until it explodes into violence. Other Spike Lee "Joints" include: **School Daze** (1988) and **She's Gotta Have It** (1986).

Down and Out in Beverly Hills (1986) *See what happens when a dirty bum meets the filthy rich*. Paul Mazursky's adaption of Jean Renoir's 1932 satire *Boudu Saved From Drowning* stars Richard Dreyfuss, Bette Midler and Nick Nolte; a highly dysfunctional Beverly Hills family find their lives altered by the arrival of a vagrant who tries to drown himself in their swimming pool. Other Mazursky films include: **Enemies, A Love Story** (1989), **Moscow on the Hudson** (1984) and **Tempest** (1982)

E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982) Steven Spielberg's science fiction stars Dee Wallace, Henry Thomas, Peter Coyote, Robert MacNaughton and Drew Barrymore; tells the story of Elliott, a boy who befriends an extraterrestrial, who is left behind on Earth. Along with his friends and family, Elliott must find a way to help E.T. return home while avoiding the government. Other Spielberg films: **Always** (1989), **The Color Purple** (1985), **Empire of the Sun** (1987), **Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark** (1981), **Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom** (1984) and **Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade** (1989).

Fast Times at Ridgemont High (1982) *It's Awesome! Totally Awesome!* Based on Cameron Crowe's 1981 tell all *Fast Times at Ridgemont High: A True Story*, it stars Sean Penn, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Judge Reinhold and Phoebe Cates; and follows the exploits of a group of Southern California high school students - enjoying sex, drugs, and rock n' roll. Penn's performance as the stoner, Jeff Spicoli, is memorable. Penn films of this decade include: **Bad Boys** (1983), **Casualties of War** (1989), **The Falcon and The Snowman** (1985) and **We're No Angels** (1989). In later decades, the two-time Oscar winner would be critically recognized as an intense, versatile and accomplished actor of his generation.

A Fish Called Wanda (1988) British comedy heist stars John Cleese, Jamie Lee Curtis, Kevin Kline and Michael Palin. In London, four very different people team up on a jewel heist, and then try to double-cross one another for the loot, complicated by their efforts to fool a very proper barrister. Other British comedies of this decade: **Educating Rita** (1983), **Gregory's Girl** (1980), **Personal Services** (1987), **Shirley Valentine** (1989) and **Withnail & I** (1987) and a special shout-out to Peter Greenaway's wildly satiric **The Cook, the Thief, His Wife & Her Lover** (1989).

Flashdance (1983) Jennifer Beales stars as a Pittsburgh woman with two jobs as a welder and an exotic dancer who not only wants to get into ballet school (without any training), but also falls in love with her older boss/divorced/owner of the steel mill. Kind of a creepy premise but it worked, becoming an instant classic and indoctrinating the sweatshirt-cutting craze. Other Adrian Lyne films include **Fatal Attraction** (1987), **Foxes** (1980) and **9½ Weeks** (1986). Other 80's dance films: **Dirty Dancing** (1987), **Fame** (1980), **Footloose** (1984), **Grease 2** (1982), **Hairspray** (1988), **Urban Cowboy** (1980) and **White Nights** (1985).

Friday the 13th (1980) *They were warned...They are doomed...And on Friday the 13th, nothing will save them*. One of the greatest teen slasher films of all time – a group of camp counselors try to reopen Camp Crystal Lake, a summer retreat with a grim past, and are stalked by a mysterious killer. The *Friday the 13th* horror franchise includes twelve slasher films, a television series, novels, comic books, video games, and tie-in merchandise, and is considered one of the most successful media franchises in America.

Gallipoli (Australia, 1981) Peter Weir's World War I drama stars Mel Gibson and Mark Lee – two Australian sprinters face the brutal realities of war when they are sent to fight in the Gallipoli campaign in Turkey (The Allies unsuccessful campaign that ended in tragedy). Other Peter Weir films: **Dead Poets Society** (1989), **The Mosquito Coast** (1986), **Witness** (1985) and **The Year of Living Dangerously** (1982).

Gandhi (1982) Richard Attenborough's epic - winner of 8 Oscars including Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Director – stars Ben Kingsley as the extraordinary Mahatma Gandhi, pacifist Indian lawyer-turned - famed leader of the Indian revolts against the British rule through his philosophy of nonviolent protest.

Ghostbusters (1984) Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis star in this supernatural cult classic - three former parapsychology professors set up shop as a unique ghost removal service. Manhattan's got an otherworldly pest problem - among the stacks of the New York Public Library, in Central Park and even in a street vendor's hot-dog cart. *If there's something strange ... In your neighborhood ... Who you gonna call? Ghostbusters!*

Ginger and Fred (1986) Federico Fellini's surreal satire stars Marcello Mastroianni and wife, Giulietta Masina. Amelia and Pippo are reunited after several decades to perform their old music-hall act (imitating Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers) on a TV variety show. It's both a touchingly nostalgic journey and a sardonic attack on television, portraying it as a mindless freak show aimed at morons. Another Fellini classic of this decade is **City of Women** (1980).

Hairspray (1988) *Baltimore, 1962. The heyday of hair-dos and hair-don'ts, Heartthrobs and hefty girls, hot dates and hip talkers, beatniks and hair hoppers, and one magical potion that keeps it all together.* John Waters' cult classic stars Ricki Lake, Divine, Debbie Harry, Sonny Bono, Jerry Stiller and Colleen Fitzpatrick. Set in 1962 Baltimore, Maryland, the film revolves around self-proclaimed "pleasantly plump" teenager Tracy Turnblad as she pursues stardom as a dancer on a local TV show and rallies against racial segregation. Sadly, this would be Divine's last film - and collaboration with John Waters. Née *Harris Glen Milstead*, Divine (1945-1988) was an international icon, and a shocking, yet highly entertaining, transvestite performer. Waters and Divine's penultimate collaboration was **Polyester** (1981).

Hannah and Her Sisters (1986) Praised as one of Woody Allen's best works for its witty dialogue (won an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay) and ensemble cast: Woody Allen, Michael Caine (won Oscar for Best Supporting Actor), Mia Farrow, Carrie Fisher, Barbara Hershey, Lloyd Nolan, Maureen O'Sullivan, Daniel Stern, Max Von Sydow and Dianne Wiest (won for Best Supporting Actress); follows the intertwined stories of an extended family over two years that begins and ends with a family Thanksgiving dinner. The prolific director/writer/actor, Allen also created: **Another Woman** (1988), **Broadway Danny Rose** (1984), **Crimes and Misdemeanors** (1989), **A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy** (1982), **The Purple Rose of Cairo** (1985), **Radio Days** (1987), **September** (1987), **Stardust Memories** (1980) and **Zelig** (1983).

Hope and Glory (1987) John Boorman's critically acclaimed film based on his own experiences of growing up in war-torn London stars Sarah Miles, David Hayman and Sebastian Rice-Edwards. Bill, a young boy living on the outskirts of London experiences the exhilaration of World War II. During this period, Bill learns about sex, death, love, hypocrisy, and the faults of adults as he prowls the ruins of bombed houses.

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing (Canada, 1987) Winner of the *Prix de la Jeunesse* at Cannes; Patricia Rozema's debut feature made its star, Sheila McCarthy, an overnight celebrity. Set in Toronto, awkward, shy and delightfully funny, Polly Vandersma is an "organizationally impaired" temp (and aspiring photographer) who finally gets her first permanent job at the age of 31. While she works for the curator of an art gallery, Polly narrates her own story, sharing the comical and bittersweet pretensions of the art world. Considered one of Canada's best films, it has achieved cult status.

Jean de Florette and ***Manon of the Spring*** (France, 1986) Claude Berri's period dramas based Marcel Pagnol's 1963 *The Water of the Hills* (*L'eau des Collines*) – the collective name for the two novels – *Jean de Florette* and *Manon des Sources*. Set in the hills of Provence near Marseille in Southern France in the early twentieth century, the films tell a tale of deception, betrayal and revenge and star some of France's most prominent actors – Gérard Depardieu, Daniel Auteuil, Yves Montand and Emmanuelle Béart. Other French imports: ***Camille Claudel*** (1988), ***Loulou*** (1980) and ***Monsieur Hire*** (1989).

Kiss of the Spider Woman (USA/Brazil, 1985) Héctor Babenco's drama adapted from Manuel Puig's 1976 novel stars William Hurt, Raul Julia and Sônia Braga. Luis Molina (Hurt) and Valentin Arregui (Julia) are cell mates in a South American prison; Luis, a trans individual, is found guilty of immoral behavior and Valentin is a political prisoner. To escape reality Luis invents romantic movies, while Valentin tries to keep his mind off his circumstances. During the time they spend together, the two men come to understand and respect one another. William Hurt (1950-2022) won an Oscar for his performance. Other 80's Hurt films: ***The Accidental Tourist*** (1988), ***Altered States*** (1980), ***Body Heat*** (1981), ***Broadcast News*** (1987) and ***Children of a Lesser God*** (1986).

The Last Emperor (1987) *He was the Lord of Ten Thousand Years, the absolute monarch of China. He was born to rule a world of ancient tradition. Nothing prepared him for our world of change.* Bernardo Bertolucci's sweeping account of the life of Pu-Yi, the last emperor of China, and the leader's tumultuous reign. Winner of 9 Oscars: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Art Direction, Best Costume Design, Best Sound, Best Film Editing and Best Original Score.

Matewan (1987) John Sayles' wrenching historical drama recounts the true story of a West Virginia coal town where the local miners' struggle to form a union rose to the pitch of all-out war in 1920; stars Chris Cooper (in his film debut), James Earl Jones, Mary McDonnell and Will Oldham. Other Sayles films of this decade: ***Baby It's You*** (1983), ***The Brother from Another Planet*** (1984) and ***Eight Men Out*** (1988).

Moonstruck (1987) *When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore. When the world seems to shine like you've had too much wine, that's amore.* Norman Jewison's romantic comedy stars Cher as Loretta Castorini, an Italian-American widow and bookkeeper from Brooklyn, who finds herself in a bit of a pickle when she falls for her fiancé's brother. Cher and Olympia Dukakis received Oscars for their performances, as did John Patrick Shanley for his screenplay. Other Norman Jewison films: ***Agnes of God*** (1985) and ***A Soldier's Story*** (1984).

My Beautiful Laundrette (UK, 1985) Set in Margaret Thatcher's Britain, it stars Daniel Day-Lewis and Gordon Warneke – Omar, a Pakistani-Brit, tries to jumpstart a failing South London laundromat with the help of his ex-skinhead boyfriend, Johnny. The subversive indie film tackled issues ranging from homophobia to colonialism; it also introduced three up-and-comers: director Stephen Frears, writer Hanif Kureishi, and, of course, actor Day-Lewis, who is absolutely magnetic in this early role. Another Stephen Frears film of notice: ***Dangerous Liaisons*** (1988).

The Official Story (Argentina, 1985): Norma Aleandro (considered the Grande Dame of Argentine Theater and Cinema) stars as Alicia Marnet de Ibáñez, a high school history professor in Buenos Aires- married to a successful lawyer with a beautiful five-year-old adopted daughter, Gaby – sounds great, right? Well our story takes place during the final months of Argentinian Military Dictatorship in 1983 (aka *The Dirty War/La Guerra Sucia*), and our heroine slowly learns the harrowing details of this illegal adoption and the fate of Gaby's biological mother. The documentary ***The Mothers of Plaza De Mayo: Argentinian Mothers Fight for Justice*** (1985) highlights this grave miscarriage of justice. Other films set in South America include: ***Fitzcarraldo*** (1982), ***The Mission*** (1986) and ***Missing*** (1982).

Ordinary People (1980): Robert Redford's directorial film debut (for which he won the Oscar) is based on the Judith Guest novel, and stars Mary Tyler Moore, Donald Sutherland, Timothy Hutton and Judd Hirsch.

Variety calls the film "a devastating autopsy of the middle-class American dream -- an adaptation of the novel addressing how the façade of domestic perfection masks the difficult work of maintaining a family and marriage." Other family dramas include: *On Golden Pond* (1981), *Places in the Heart* (1984), *Tender Mercies* (1983) and *Terms of Endearment* (1983).

Poltergeist (1982) *They're here*. The consummate supernatural horror film stars JoBeth Williams, Craig T. Nelson, Heather O'Rourke and Beatrice Straight; a suburban family's home is invaded by malevolent ghosts that abduct their daughter (via the television set); other fun thrillers to check out: *Aliens* (1986), *An American Werewolf in London* (1981), *The Changeling* (1980), *Ghost Story* (1981), *My Bloody Valentine* (1981) and *The Stepfather* (1987).

The Quiet Earth (New Zealand, 1985) This post-apocalyptic cult classic is one of New Zealand's hidden gems. Zac Hobson, a mid-level scientist working on a global energy project, wakes up to a nightmare. After his project malfunctions, Zac discovers that he may be the last man on Earth. As he searches empty cities for other survivors, Zac's mental state begins to deteriorate - culminating in the film's iconic and hotly debated ending. Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson named *The Quiet Earth* one of his favorite science fiction films.

Raging Bull (1980) Martin Scorsese's sports drama based on Jake LaMotta's 1970 memoir *Raging Bull: My Story* stars Robert De Niro, Cathy Moriarty and Joe Pesci. De Niro (who picked up a Best Actor Oscar) plays Jake LaMotta, an Italian-American middleweight boxer whose self-destructive and obsessive rage, jealousy and animalistic appetite destroyed his relationship with his wife and family. Other Scorsese films: *After Hours* (1985), *The Color of Money* (1986) and *The King of Comedy* (1982).

Raising Arizona (1987) Joel and Ethan Coen's second feature film (their first being the 1984 dark thriller *Blood Simple*) – this eccentric screwball crime comedy stars Nicolas Cage, Holly Hunter and John Goodman; when a childless couple of an ex-con and an ex-cop decide to help themselves to one of another family's quintuplets, their lives become more complicated than they anticipated. *Well... it ain't Ozzie and Harriet*.

Ran (Japan, 1985) The title is loosely translated to mean "chaos" or "turmoil." Akira Kurosawa's epic drama inspired by William Shakespeare's *King Lear*. In Medieval Japan, an elderly warlord retires, handing over his empire to his three sons. However, he vastly underestimates how the new-found power will corrupt them and cause them to turn on each other...and him.

River's Edge (1986) A dark, intense portrait of troubled teenagers stars Crispin Glover, Keanu Reeves and Ione Skye; a high school slacker commits a shocking act and proceeds to let his friends in on the secret. However, the friends' reaction is almost as ambiguous and perplexing as the crime itself. The characters were the anti-Brat Pack: they drank, smoked weed, popped pills, and seemingly had no moral compass and no role models. Understandably, the film sparked controversy upon release. Shout out to another dark, but satirical teen film: *Heathers* (1988).

A Room with a View (United Kingdom, 1985) James Ivory and Ismail Merchant's charming period romance, based on E. M. Forster's 1908 novel, stars some of the UK's finest: Helena Bonham Carter (in her movie debut), Daniel Day-Lewis, Judi Dench, Rupert Graves (in his movie debut) Julian Sands and Maggie Smith. Set in England and Italy, it is about a young woman named Lucy Honeychurch (Bonham Carter) in the final throes of the restrictive and repressed culture of Edwardian England, and her developing love for a free-spirited young man, George Emerson (Sands). Other Merchant Ivory Productions include *The Bostonians* (1984) and *Maurice* (1987).

Salaam Bombay! (India, 1988) Thirty years before *Slumdog Millionaire*, there was Mira Nair's critically acclaimed debut feature *Salaam Bombay!* Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film, this gritty and

harrowing drama tells the story of Young Krishna as he struggles to survive among the drug dealers, pimps, and prostitutes in the back alleys and gutters of Bombay (now Mumbai) India.

Scarface (1983) *He was Tony Montana. The world will remember him by another name...SCARFACE.* Brian De Palma's remake of the 1932 film and based Armitage Trail's 1929 novel stars Al Pacino, Steven Bauer, Michelle Pfeiffer, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Robert Loggia; the story of Cuban refugee Tony Montana (Pacino), who arrives penniless in Miami and becomes a powerful and extremely homicidal drug lord. Other De Palma films of this decade: **Blow Out** (1981), **Body Double** (1984), **Dressed to Kill** (1980) and **The Untouchables** (1987).

Sex, Lies, and Videotape (1989) Steven Soderbergh's debut rocked the independent film scene - about a sexually repressed woman, her philandering husband, her not so nice sister and a visitor with a rather unusual fetish stars Andie MacDowell, Peter Gallagher, Laura San Giacomo and James Spader. Other indie/quirkie greats: Gus Van Sant's **Drugstore Cowboy** (1989), Paul Bartel's **Eating Raoul** (1982), Alex Cox's **Repo Man** (1984), Jim Jarmusch's **Stranger Than Paradise** (1984), Nancy Savoca's **True Love** (1989) and Hal Hartley's **The Unbelievable Truth** (1989).

The Shining (1980) Stanley Kubrick's psychological horror based on Stephen King's 1977 novel stars Jack Nicholson and Shelley Duvall. Jack Torrance (Nicholson), an aspiring writer and recovering alcoholic, accepts a position as the off-season caretaker of the isolated historic Overlook Hotel, and takes his wife, Wendy (Duvall), and young son, Danny. A sinister presence compromises Jack's sanity, while his psychic son sees horrific forebodings from both past and future. *Redrum! Redrum!* Kubrick's penultimate film would be **Full Metal Jacket** (1987).

Silkwood (1983) Mike Nichols' drama - based on the true story of Karen Silkwood, a worker at a plutonium processing plant is purposefully contaminated, psychologically tortured and possibly murdered to prevent her from exposing worker safety violations at the plant. Stars Meryl Streep in the title role, Kurt Russell and Cher. Other Nichols films include: **Biloxi Blues** (1988), **Heartburn** (1986) and **Working Girl** (1988).

Sophie's Choice (1982) Alan J. Pakula's psychological drama adapted from William Styron's 1979 novel stars Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline (in his feature film debut) and Peter MacNicol. Zofia "Sophie" Zawistowski, a Polish immigrant with a dark secret from her past, shares a boarding house in Brooklyn with her tempestuous lover Nathan (Kline) and young writer Stingo (MacNicol). Streep would pick up a second Oscar for her performance as the tortured Sophie. Other Streep films: **A Cry in the Dark** (1988), **Falling in Love** (1984), **The French Lieutenant's Woman** (1981), **Ironweed** (1987) and **Plenty** (1985).

Stop Making Sense (1984) Jonathan Demme's concert film of the iconic 80's new wave/rock band Talking Heads (performances shot over three nights at Hollywood's Pantages Theater in December 1983). Band member, David Byrne, also appeared in **True Stories** (1986); Jonathan Demme films of this decade include: **Married to the Mob** (1988), **Melvin and Howard** (1980), **Something Wild** (1986), **Swimming to Cambodia** (1987) and **Swing Shift** (1984).

The Terminator (1984) Who would've thought that the former body builder *Mr. Universe* and future governor of California would start his film career as a sexy, time-traveling assassin? Arnold Schwarzenegger coined the now-famous phrase, *I'll be back*, which turned out to be true—*The Terminator* continued into four sequels and a television series.

The Thin Blue Line (1988) Errol Morris' unprecedented documentary in that it successfully argued that a man was wrongly convicted for murder by a corrupt justice system in Dallas County, Texas. Other great documentaries of the era: **Let's Get Lost** (1988) – Bruce Weber's devastating portrait of the legendary jazz trumpeter and drug addict Chet Baker. **Marlene** (1984) – Maximilian Schell glimpse into the enigmatic Marlene Dietrich. **Matter of Heart** (1986) – explores the famous Swiss psychoanalyst, Carl Gustav Jung;

and ***Roger and Me*** (1989) Michael Moore's directorial debut and relentless quest to take down General Motors' chairman, Roger B. Smith.

This Is Spinal Tap (1984) Rob Reiner's directorial debut – mockumentary stars Christopher Guest, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer - members of the fictional British heavy metal band Spinal Tap, one of England's loudest bands; Reiner plays Martin "Marty" Di Bergi, a documentary filmmaker who follows them on their American tour. Hilarious film – with majority of the dialogue ad-libbed - satirizes the behavior and musical pretensions of rock bands. The former *All in the Family* star, Reiner would go on to direct many greats: ***The Princess Bride*** (1987), ***Stand By Me*** (1986), ***The Sure Thing*** (1985) and of course, ***When Harry Met Sally...*** (1989).

The Times of Harvey Milk (1984): Oscar-winning documentary; Harvey Fierstein narrates the story of Harvey Bernard Milk (1930-1978), an American politician and the first openly gay elected official in the history of California; with extensive news film and personal recollections, it highlights Milk's life leading up to his election, his successful efforts to politically represent San Francisco's gay community, and the city's reaction to his tragic assassination.

Tootsie (1982) *What do you get when you cross a hopelessly straight starving actor with a dynamite red sequined dress? You get America's hottest new actress.* Sydney Pollack's cross dressing comedy stars Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Lange, Teri Garr, Dabney Coleman, Bill Murray and Charles Durning. Michael Dorsey (Hoffman), an unsuccessful actor, disguises himself as a woman in order to land a role on a trashy hospital soap opera. Other Sydney Pollack films of this decade: ***Absence of Malice*** (1981) and ***Out of Africa*** (1985).

Top Gun (1986) Tom Cruise plays Lieutenant Pete "Maverick" Mitchell, a young naval aviator given the chance to train at the US Navy's Fighter Weapons School. Maverick's reckless attitude and cocky demeanor put him at odds with the other pilots - Maverick isn't only competing to be the top fighter pilot, he's also fighting for the attention of his beautiful flight instructor, Charlotte Blackwood (Kelly McGillis). Predictable and cheesy, but this film was not only a huge commercial success (grossing over \$350 million), it catapulted Cruise into international fame and into box office royalty. Other 80's Cruise films: ***All the Right Moves*** (1983), ***Cocktail*** (1988), ***Legend*** (1985), ***The Outsiders*** (1983), ***Taps*** (1981) and last but not least ***Risky Business*** (1983).

Trading Places (1983) Stars Dan Aykroyd, Eddie Murphy, Ralph Bellamy, Don Ameche, Denholm Elliott, and Jamie Lee Curtis – the story of Louis Winthorpe III, an upper-class commodities broker (Aykroyd), and Billy Ray Valentine, a poor street hustler (Murphy) whose lives cross when they are unwittingly made the subject of an elaborate bet to test how each man will perform when their life circumstances are swapped. Other Eddie Murphy greats post *SNL*: ***Beverly Hills Cop*** (1984), ***Coming to America*** (1988), ***48 Hours*** (1982), ***Harlem Nights*** (1983) and the wildly raunchy, raucous (and oh so politically incorrect) HBO special, ***Eddie Murphy: Delirious*** (1983).

The Vanishing (*Spoorloos*, Netherlands 1988) George Sluizer's Dutch horror is truly unsettling. Rex and Saskia are on holiday, a young couple in love. They stop at a busy service station and Saskia disappears without a trace. Rex embarks on an obsessive search and his three-year investigation draws the attention of her abductor, Raymond Lemorne, a mild-mannered professor with a clinically diabolical mind – and the truth behind Saskia's disappearance is more sinister than he dared imagine - an unforgettable finale.

Wall Street (1987) *Greed, for lack of a better word, is good.* The title says it all - Oliver Stone's morality tale stars Michael Douglas and Charlie Sheen. Bud Fox (Sheen), a young and impatient stockbroker, will do anything to get to the top - including insider trading; enter Gordon Gekko (Douglas), a ruthless and greedy corporate raider who takes Fox "under his wing" (or more aptly put - brings him over to the dark side). Oscar went to Douglas for his performance as the reptilian white collar criminal (note the character's surname). On one hand, Stone's film radically criticizes capitalism; on the other it offers an enticing, seductive glimpse into

the lives of ultra-rich Manhattanites. Other Oliver Stone films: ***Born on the Fourth of July*** (1989), ***Platoon*** (1986), ***Salvador*** (1986) and ***Talk Radio*** (1988).

WarGames (1983) *Let's play Global Thermonuclear War*. Matthew Broderick, Dabney Coleman, John Wood, and Ally Sheedy star in this Cold War techno-thriller. David Lightman (Broderick) is a bright, but unmotivated, Seattle high school and passes his time as a hacker; David unwittingly gains access to a United States military supercomputer programmed to simulate, predict and execute nuclear war against the Soviet Union – and the games begin! Other “Brat Pack” type movies: ***About Last Night*** (1986), ***Class*** (1983), ***One Crazy Summer*** (1986), ***Say Anything*** (1989) and ***St. Elmo's Fire*** (1985).

Wings of Desire (*Der Himmel über Berlin*, Germany 1987) Wim Wenders' opus stars Bruno Ganz as Daniel, an angel perched atop buildings high over Berlin who can hear the thoughts, fears, hopes and dreams of all the people living below. But when he falls in love with a beautiful trapeze artist, Daniel is willing to give up his immortality and come back to earth to be with her. Made not long before the fall of the Berlin wall, the film is a stunning tapestry of sounds and images with surprise cameos – Australia's *Nick Cave* and *The Bad Seeds* and *Colombo's* Peter Falk (you just have to watch it to understand).

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown (*Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios*. Spain 1988) Pedro Almodóvar's quirky black comedy brought the undisputed leader of New Spanish Cinema/post-Franco era international acclaim. Stars Carmen Maura, Antonio Banderas and Julieta Serrano. Pepa (Maura) a television actress embarks on a quest to discover why her lover abruptly left her – and along the way she encounters a variety of eccentric characters – who can forget Mambo Taxi! Other Almodóvar greats of this decade: ***Dark Habits*** (1983), ***Law of Desire*** (1987), ***Matador*** (1986), ***Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!*** (1989) and ***What Have I Done to Deserve This?*** (1984).