



**A Century of Cinema:** let's explore cinema by the decade – the 2000's: Y2K, a decade of cell phones, social media, dysfunctional families, chick flicks, buddy films, Harry Potter, mockumentaries, Marvel-mania and Avatars. Here are hundreds of titles - all available on DVD or through our streaming services (HOOPLA and Kanopy). Recommended reading: *Film After Film: Or, What Became Of 21st Century Cinema?* by J. Hoberman and *The Good, the Bad and the Godawful: 21st-Century Movie Reviews* by Kurt Loder.

**About Schmidt** (2002) Alexander Payne's comedy-drama based on Louis Begley's 1996 novel stars Jack Nicholson, Hope Davis, Dermot Mulroney and Kathy Bates. Warren Schmidt (Nicholson) has arrived at several of life's crossroads all at the same time: he is retiring from a lifetime of service at Woodmen of the World Insurance Company; his only daughter Jeannie (Davis) is about to marry a boob (Mulroney); and his wife of 42 years dies suddenly. Feeling utterly adrift, he embarks on road trip in his new Winnebago – and the journey begins. Payne also directed the wine-infused road film *Sideways* (2004).

**Adaptation** (2002) Spike Jonze's wildly audacious comedy-drama loosely based on Susan Orlean's book *The Orchid Thief* stars Nicolas Cage (in dual roles), Meryl Streep and Chris Cooper – a lovelorn screenwriter becomes desperate as he tries and fails to adapt *The Orchid Thief* for the screen. Cooper would pick up an Oscar for his performance as John La Roche, the toothless eccentric orchid collector.

**After the Wedding** (*Efter brylluppet*, Denmark 2006) *champagne is poured... secrets are spilled.* Susanne Bier's critically acclaimed, Oscar-nominated drama stars Scandinavian greats Mads Mikkelsen, Sidsel Babs Knudsen and Rolf Lassgård. A manager of an orphanage in India is sent to Copenhagen, Denmark, where he not only attends his benefactor's daughter's wedding, but discovers a life-altering family secret. Other Danish imports: *Italian for Beginners* (2000) and *Terribly Happy* (2008).

**Amores perros** (Mexico, 2000) Alejandro González Iñárritu psychological drama (and directorial debut) sent shock waves through the Mexican film industry and the world. Set in Mexico City, it contains three distinct stories connected by a car accident: a teenager in the slums who gets involved in dogfighting; a model who seriously injures her leg; and a mysterious hitman - three strangers who collide in a tragic twist of fate that forever alters their personal journeys. [Note: some argue that Paul Haggis' Oscar winning *Crash* (2006) is a rip off]. *Amores perros* is the first installment in Iñárritu's *Trilogy of Death* succeeded by *21 Grams* (2003) and *Babel* (2006). Other Mexican imports: *Battle in Heaven* (2005), *The Crime of Padre Amaro* (2002), *Nora's Will* (2008), *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006), *Sin Nombre* (2009), *The Violin* (2005) and *Y tu mamá también* (2001).

**The Art of the Steal** (2009) Documentary about the controversial move of the Barnes Foundation - generally considered to be the world's best collection of post-Impressionist art and valued to be worth at least \$25 billion - from Merion, Pennsylvania to Philadelphia. Other engaging documentaries for your consideration: *Born Into Brothels: Calcutta's Red Light Kids* (2004), *Capturing the Friedmans* (2003), *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* (2005), *Food, Inc.* (2009), *Into the Arms of*

*Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport* (2000), *Jesus Camp* (2006), *Man On Wire* (2008), *No End In Sight* (2007), *Paragraph 175* (2000), *Religulous* (2008), *Standard Operating Procedure* (2008) and *Super Size Me* (2004).

*Avatar* (2009) James Cameron's action adventure fantasy - a paraplegic Marine dispatched to the moon Pandora on a unique mission becomes torn between following his orders and protecting the world he feels is his home; critically acclaimed for its groundbreaking visual effects, an international success, and to date, the highest grossing movie of all time (over 2.8 billion dollars). Other action/fantasy films: Peter Jackson's trilogy: *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (2003), *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* (2002) and *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (2001).

*The Band's Visit* (*Bikur Ha-Tizmoret*, Israel 2007) The eight Egyptian musicians who comprise the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra arrive by mistake in a small town in Israel's Negev Desert. Their booking set for a different city and with no transportation out of the town or any hotels to stay at, the band settles at a restaurant whose proprietor offers them lodging. Overcoming ethnic barriers, the Egyptians find diversion and companionship with the Israelis. Sadly this gem was denied eligibility by the Academy due to its excessive use of the English language and ironically, the only reason English is spoken is due to it being a necessary plot device as the common language between Egyptians and Israelis. Other Israeli imports: *Ajami* (2009), *Lemon Tree* (2008) and *Waltz with Bashir* (2008).

*Barking Dogs Never Bite* (*Flandersui gae* South Korea 2000) Bong Joon-Ho's feature directorial debut; A black comedy about an idle part-time college lecturer who is annoyed by the yapping sound of a nearby dog – so he decides to take drastic action. Although a commercial flop, BJH achieved a cult following, and achieved both critical and commercial success with his subsequent films: *Memories of Murder* (2003), *The Host* (2006) and *Mother* (2009). Other South Korean imports: *A Bittersweet Life* (2005), *Lady Vengeance* (2005), *Oasis* (2002), *R-Point* (2004), *Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance* (2002) and *A Tale of Two Sisters* (2003).

*The Barbarian Invasions* (*Les invasions barbares*, Canada 2003): A provocative new comedy about sex, friendship, and all other things that invade our lives. Denys Arcand's belated sequel to *The Decline of the American Empire* (1986). A Montreal college professor, Remy, learns that he is dying of liver cancer and decides to make amends and reunite with old friends, former lovers, his ex-wife, and his estranged son. Not only the first Canadian film to receive the Oscar, but also the first sequel to win - both films worth the watch. Another Canadian (and Spanish) import: *My Life Without Me* (2003) which stars Canada's renowned Sarah Polley.

*A Beautiful Mind* (2001) Ron Howard's Oscar winning biopic loosely based on Sylvia Nasar's 1997 biography of the mathematician John Nash (1928-2015), a Nobel Laureate in Economics, a genius who sadly suffered from paranoid schizophrenia; stars Russell Crowe as Nash, and Jennifer Connelly as his devoted wife Alicia (Connelly would pick up an Oscar). Other Ron Howard films: *Angels & Demons* (2009), *Cinderella Man* (2005), *The Da Vinci Code* (2006), *Frost/Nixon* (2008), *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (2000) and *The Missing* (2003).

*Before Night Falls* (2000) Julian Schnabel's riveting biopic based on Reinaldo Arenas' memoir of the same name stars Javier Bardem. Arenas (1943 - 1990) was a Cuban poet, novelist, and playwright known as a vocal critic of Fidel Castro, the Cuban Revolution, and the Cuban government. His memoir of being a political prisoner was dictated after his escape to the United States during the 1980 Mariel

boatlift and published posthumously. Schnabel, the Neo-Expressionist downtown NYC artist turned filmmaker also directed *Berlin* (2007) and *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (2007).

*Best in Show* (2000) Christopher Guest's hilarious mockumentary- a behind-the-scenes look into the highly competitive, cut-throat world of dog shows; stars Guest and his troupe: Jennifer Coolidge, John Michael Higgins, Michael Hitchcock, Eugene Levy, Jane Lynch, Michael McKean, Catherine O'Hara, Parker Posey and Fred Willard. Other Guest mockumentaries: *For Your Consideration* (2006) and *A Mighty Wind* (2003).

*Brokeback Mountain* (2005) Ang Lee's heartbreaking tale of forbidden love - based Annie Proulx's short story - stars the late Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal as Ennis and Jack, a ranch hand and a rodeo cowboy, who meet in the summer of 1963 and unexpectedly forge a lifelong connection. Lee would be the first Asian to pick up a Best Director Oscar. Lee also received Best Foreign Language Film Oscar for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000). Lee also directed *Lust, Caution* (2007) and *Taking Woodstock* (2009).

*Broken Flowers* (2005) Jim Jarmusch road film stars Bill Murray, Jeffrey Wright, Sharon Stone, Frances Conroy, Jessica Lange, Tilda Swinton, Julie Delpy, Mark Webber, Chloë Sevigny, Christopher McDonald, and Alexis Dziena. Don Johnston (Murray), an aging "Don Juan" embarks on a cross-country journey to track down four of his former lovers after receiving an anonymous letter stating that he has a son. Jarmusch also directed *Coffee and Cigarettes* (2003) and *The Limits of Control* (2009). Murray's other brilliant performance of this decade was in Sophia Coppola's *Lost in Translation* (2003).

*Camp* (2003) Before Disney's *Camp Rock* (2008), there was this little known gem *A Comedy About Drama*; about all the trials and tribulations at an upstate New York performing arts summer camp (Stephen Sondheim even makes an appearance). *Camp* is notable as the film debut of future three-time Tony nominee Robin de Jesús (*In the Heights*, *La Cage aux Folles* and *The Boys in the Band*) and future Academy Award nominee Anna Kendrick (*Up in the Air*, 2009).

*Capote* (2005) Biopic loosely based Gerald Clarke's 1988 biography stars Philip Seymour Hoffman as Truman Capote, and follows the writer's journey into creating his magnum opus - *In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences*. Hoffman would pick up Oscar for his brilliant performance as the eccentric Capote. An extremely versatile stage and screen actor, Hoffman (1967-2014) also starred in: *Almost Famous* (2000), *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* (2007), *The Boat That Rocked* (2009), *Charlie Wilson's War* (2007), *Doubt* (2008), *Love Liza* (2002), *Owning Mahowny* (2003), *Punch-Drunk Love* (2002), *State and Main* (2000), *25th Hour* (2002) and *Synecdoche, New York* (2008).

*Caramel* (*Sukkar banat*, Lebanon 2007) Nadine Labaki stars (also wrote and directed) in this critically acclaimed romantic comedy set in Beirut; focuses on the lives of five Lebanese women dealing with issues such as forbidden love, binding traditions, repressed sexuality, the struggle to accept the natural process of age, and duty versus desire. Labaki's film is unique for not showcasing a war-ravaged Beirut but rather a warm and inviting locale where people deal with universal issues.

*Catch Me If You Can* (2002) Steven Spielberg's cat and mouse comedy-drama - based on Frank Abagnale Jr.'s 1980 semi-autobiographical book *Catch Me If You Can: The Amazing True Story of the Youngest and Most Daring Con Man in the History of Fun and Profit* - stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hanks. Barely 21 yet, Frank (DiCaprio) is a skilled forger who has passed as a doctor, lawyer and

pilot. FBI agent Carl (Hanks) becomes obsessed with tracking down the con man, who only revels in the pursuit. Other Spielberg films include: **Minority Report** (2002), **Munich** (2005) and **The Terminal** (2004).

**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** (2005) Tim Burton's remake of the 1971 classic and based on Roald Dahl's 1964 novel stars Johnny Depp as the enigmatic Willy Wonka and Freddie Highmore as poor Charlie Bucket who, after finding a Golden Ticket in a chocolate bar, visits the mysterious chocolate factory along with four (very spoiled, obnoxious) children from around the world. Other Burton films: **Big Fish** (2003), **Corpse Bride** (2005) and **Planet of the Apes** (2001).

**Chicago** (2002) *It's Just A Noisy Hall Where There's A Nightly Brawl...and All That Jazz* Bob Fosse's musical comes to life on the screen. Catherine Zeta-Jones and Renée Zellweger star as Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart, two death-row murderesses that develop a fierce rivalry while competing for publicity, celebrity, and a sleazy lawyer's attention (played by Richard Gere); first movie musical (since 1968's *Oliver!*) to take home the Best Picture Oscar (also picked up five more including Zeta-Jones for Best Supporting Actress). Other musicals of this decade: **Across The Universe** (2007), **Dancer In The Dark** (2000), **Enchanted** (2007), **Hedwig and the Angry Inch** (2001), **Moulin Rouge!** (2001) and **Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street** (2007).

**Chocolat** (2000) Lasse Hallström's charming film based on Joanne Harris' 1999 novel Juliette Binoche, Johnny Depp and Judi Dench; When single mother Vianne Rocher (Binoche) and her six-year-old daughter, Anouk, move to rural France and open a chocolate shop, with Sunday hours, they are met with some skepticism. But as soon as they coax the townspeople into enjoying their delicious products, they are warmly welcomed. Hallström also directed: **Hachi: A Dog's Tale** (2009), **The Hoax** (2006), **The Shipping News** (2001) and **An Unfinished Life** (2005).

**City of God** (*Cidade de Deus*, Brazil 2002) Fernando Meirelles' internationally acclaimed, riveting crime drama based on Paulo Lins' 1997 semi-autobiographical novel - depicts the growth of organized crime in the Cidade de Deus – Rio's infamous favela (Brazilian slum/shantytown) between the end of the 1960's and the beginning of the 1980's. Other Brazilian imports to watch: **Love for Sale** (2006), **Madame Satã** (2002) and **The Year My Parents Went on Vacation** (2006).

**The Constant Gardener** (2005) Based on John le Carré's 2001 novel and stars Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz; Justin Quayle, a British diplomat in Kenya and widower, is determined to get to the bottom of a potentially explosive secret involving his wife Tessa's murder, big business, and corporate corruption. Other political thrillers: **The Bourne Identity** (2002), **Day Night Day Night** (2006), **Michael Clayton** (2007), **Syriana** (2005), **Thirteen Days** (2000) and **The Quiet American** (2002).

**The Counterfeiters** (*Die Fälscher*, Austria 2007) Oscar winning film based on Adolf Burger's 1983 memoir *The Devil's Workshop*, tells the story Operation Bernhard, a secret plan by Nazi Germany during World War II to destabilize the United Kingdom by flooding its economy with forged Bank of England pound notes; and centers on a Jewish counterfeiter, Salomon 'Sally' Sorowitsch, who is coerced into assisting the operation at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

**Crazy Heart** (2009) Based on Thomas Cobb's 1987 novel, it stars Jeff Bridges as a down-and-out country music singer-songwriter who tries to turn his life around after beginning a relationship with a young journalist (Maggie Gyllenhaal). Bridges would pick up an Oscar for his riveting performance.

***Crimson Gold*** (*Talaye sorkh*, Iran 2003) Iran's two master filmmakers, Abba Kiarostami and Jafar Panahi teamed up as writer and director, respectively to create a subtle tragedy on class conflict in Iran. Set in modern day Tehran, the film recounts the fate of a poor Hussein, a pizza delivery man, driven over the edge by official double standards, sadism and injustice. Sadly, *Crimson Gold* was never distributed in Iranian theatres, because the government deemed it too "dark" – a truly heartbreaking and haunting film. Another Iranian import for consideration: Panahi's ***Offside*** (2006).

***The Departed*** (2006) Martin Scorsese's crime-action tour de force and winner of Academy Awards (Best Picture, Best Director, Best Writing and Best Editing); stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Jack Nicholson, and Matt Damon - an undercover cop and a mole in the police attempt to identify each other while infiltrating an Irish gang in South Boston. Scorsese also directed: ***The Aviator*** (2004), ***Gangs of New York*** (2002), the Bob Dylan documentary ***No Direction Home*** (2005) and the Rolling Stones documentary ***Shine a Light*** (2008).

***Fahrenheit 9/11*** (2004) Michael Moore's scathing documentary on what occurred to the United States after September 11 and how the Bush Administration allegedly used the tragic event to push forward its agenda for unjust wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. This documentary is the most commercially successful to date (grossing over 100 million). Moore also directed the Oscar winning ***Bowling For Columbine*** (2002), ***Capitalism: A Love Story*** (2009) and ***Sicko*** (2007). The 2000's were a great decade for documentaries, both artistically and commercially - shout out to Errol Morris' ***The Fog of War*** (2003), Werner Herzog's ***Grizzly Man*** (2005) and Al Gore's ***An Inconvenient Truth*** (2006).

***Faithless*** (Sweden: *Trolösa*, 2000) A collaboration by cinematic legends Ingmar Bergman (Writer) and Liv Ullmann (Director); this psychologically intense drama about adultery and its repercussions stars Lena Endre and Erland Josephson. Other Swedish imports: ***The Dragon Tattoo Trilogy*** (2009): Based on Stieg Larsson's phenomenal mysteries, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *The Girl who Played with Fire* and *The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest*; the disturbing boarding school drama, ***Evil*** (2003) and Roy Andersson's ***Songs from the Second Floor*** (2000).

***Far from Heaven*** (2002) Todd Haynes homage to Douglas Sirk's Technicolor melodramas; stars Julianne Moore and Dennis Quaid as Cathy and Frank Whitaker, the seemingly perfect 1950's family living in wealthy suburban Connecticut; all goes awry when Cathy catches Frank kissing another man, and in her confusion and grief, she finds consolation in the friendship of their African-American gardener, Raymond - a socially taboo relationship. Haynes film explores race, gender roles, sexual orientation, and class in the context of 1950's America. Haynes also directed ***I'm Not There*** (2007).

***Fateless*** (*Sorstalanság*, Hungary 2005) *You can close your eyes. You can turn away. But you will never forget.* Lajos Koltai's Holocaust film based Nobel Prize Winning author, Imre Kertész's 1975 semi-autobiographical novel *Fatelessness*. 14-year-old György's life is torn apart in WWII Hungary, as he is deported first to Auschwitz and then to Buchenwald, where he is forced to become a man in the midst of hatred.

***Finding Nemo*** (2003) Andrew Stanton's Pixar masterpiece features more than 50 species of marine animals; an overprotective clownfish named Marlin (voice of Albert Brooks) who, along with a regal blue tang named Dory (voice of Ellen DeGeneres), searches for his missing son Nemo (voice of Alexander Gould). Along the way, Marlin learns to take risks and comes to terms with Nemo taking care of himself. Other Pixar classics: ***Cars*** (2006), ***The Incredibles*** (2004), ***Monsters, Inc.*** (2001), ***Ratatouille*** (2007), ***Up*** (2009) and ***WALL·E*** (2008).

***4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days*** (4 luni, 3 săptămâni și 2 zile, Romania 2007) Winner of the Palme d'Or: Cristian Mungiu's uncompromising, devastating look at the ramifications of an illegal abortion. Set in 1987, during the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu, college roommates Otilia and Găbița seek an illegal abortion for Găbița. In unflinching but empathetic detail, the film recounts the events of twenty-four perilous hours in their lives, culminating in their encounter with a manipulative and menacing abortionist – not a date movie. Other Romanian imports: ***12:08 East of Bucharest*** (2006), ***The Death of Mr. Lazarescu*** (2005) and ***The Way I Spent the End of the World*** (2006).

***Gladiator*** (2000) Ridley Scott's epic Roman drama stars Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix, Connie Nielsen and Oliver Reed (in his final role). A former Roman General turned gladiator, Maximus (Crowe), sets out to exact vengeance against the corrupt emperor, Commodus (Phoenix) who murdered his family and sent him into slavery. Crowe picked up Best Actor Oscar, and the film also received Best Picture, Best Costume Design, Best Sound and Best Visual Effects. Scott also directed ***Black Hawk Down*** (2001), ***Body of Lies*** (2008), ***Hannibal*** (2001) and ***Matchstick Men*** (2003).

***Gomorrah*** (*Gomorra*, Italy 2008) Matteo Garrone's grim Neapolitan mob drama based on Roberto Saviano's 2006 exposé is anything but *The Godfather* – an unforgiving, stark, shocking vision of contemporary gangsterdom, and one of cinema's most authentic depictions of Naples' mafia (known as the *Camorra*). Using mostly untrained actors, Garrone depicts five microcosmic stories of the brutal underground mafia scene in Naples – a tough, unsettling watch, but worth it - *e' un film geniale*.

***Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*** (2001), ***Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*** (2002), ***Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*** (2004), ***Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*** (2005), ***Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*** (2007) and ***Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*** (2009): no descriptions needed.

***High Fidelity*** (2000) John Cusack stars as 30-something Rob Gordon, a former club DJ, hopeless romantic, vinyl-obsessed music aficionado, and owner of a not so lucrative used record store in Chicago, who recounts his most painful breakups, seeking to find a reason for his failed romances. Directed by Stephen Frears and based Nick Hornby's 1995 novel, it's both hilarious and poignant, with great music, snappy dialogue – AND a cameo appearance by Bruce Springsteen. Frears would also direct: ***Chéri*** (2009), ***Dirty Pretty Things*** (2002), ***Liam*** (2000), ***Mrs. Henderson Presents*** (2005) and ***The Queen*** (2006).

***High School Musical*** (2006) Kenny Ortega's wildly successful Disney Channel Original Movie stars Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, Ashley Tisdale, Lucas Grabeel, Alyson Reed, Corbin Bleu, and Monique Coleman; a popular high-school athlete and an academically-gifted girl get roles in the school musical and develop a friendship that threatens East High's social order. Ortega would also direct: ***High School Musical 2*** (2007), ***High School Musical 3: Senior Year*** (2008) and the documentary ***This Is It*** (2009) – a behind the scenes look at the Michael Jackson tour (that sadly never happened due to his untimely death).

***The Hurt Locker*** (2008) Kathryn Bigelow's Iraq War thriller stars Jeremy Renner, Anthony Mackie, Brian Geraghty, Christian Camargo, Ralph Fiennes, David Morse, and Guy Pearce; an intense portrayal of elite soldiers who have one of the most dangerous jobs in the world: disarming bombs in the heat of combat. Winner of six Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director - Bigelow became the first woman to win an award in this category.

***In the Bedroom*** (2001) Todd Field's dramatic thriller - based on the 1979 short story *Killings* by Andre Dubus - stars Sissy Spacek, Tom Wilkinson, Nick Stahl and Marisa Tomei. Set in idyllic Camden, Maine: the Fowler family's only son Frank (Stahl) comes home from his freshman year at college for summer vacation, and gets involved with an older single mother, Natalie Strout (Tomei). His mother Ruth (Spacek), the school choir director, isn't thrilled with the arrangement whilst his father Matt (Wilkinson), the town doctor, doesn't see a problem; and then Natalie's abusive jilted husband causes them all problems until an unthinkable tragedy occurs. The late author, Dubus, also wrote ***House of Sand and Fog*** (2003).

***Kissing Jessica Stein*** (2001) romantic comedy set in Manhattan stars Jennifer Westfeldt and Heather Juergensen (they also wrote it) - Jessica Stein (Westfeldt) is a single, straight, successful, journalist looking for love; she realizes she's not so straight when she begins an intense friendship with career woman Helen Cooper (Juergensen), which ultimately leads to romance. Other 2000's chick flicks: ***Bridget Jones's Diary*** (2001), ***The Devil Wears Prada*** (2006), ***The House Bunny*** (2008), ***Juno*** (2007), ***Legally Blonde*** (2001), ***Mean Girls*** (2004), ***Serendipity*** (2001) and ***Sex and the City*** (2008).

***La Vie en Rose*** (*La Môme*, France 2007) Biopic of the iconic French singer Édith Piaf stars Marion Cotillard; Cotillard became the first French actress to win an Academy Award for Best Actress for a French-language performance. Other French imports: ***Amélie*** (2001), ***Caché*** (2005), ***The Chorus*** (2004), ***The Class*** (2008), ***In Praise of Love*** (2001), ***March of the Penguins*** (2008), ***Persepolis*** (2007), ***The Piano Teacher*** (2001), ***Swimming Pool*** (2003) and ***With a Friend Like Harry*** (2000).

***Lantana*** (Australia, 2001) Critically acclaimed drama based on Andrew Bovell's play *Speaking In Tongues* stars Anthony LaPaglia, Kerry Armstrong, Geoffrey Rush and Barbara Hershey. Set in suburban Sydney, it focuses on the complex relationships of four couples; the film's name derives from the plant Lantana, an invasive species of shrub which is attractive on the surface but a tangle of dead wood on the inside. In the film it is a symbol of relationships, marriage in particular. Other Aussie Imports: ***Beneath Clouds*** (2002), ***Chopper*** (2000), ***Ned Kelly*** (2003), ***Rabbit-Proof Fence*** (2002) and ***Wolf Creek*** (2005).

***The Lives of Others*** (*Das Leben der Anderen*, Germany 2006): *Before the Fall of the Berlin Wall, East Germany's Secret Police Listened to Your Secrets*. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's first feature film and winner of Nine German Film Awards (and countless other critical accolades, including an Oscar), it is the quintessential "perfect" film. East Berlin 1984: Gerd Wiesler is a rigid, lonely officer with the Stasi (secret police) who conducts surveillance on a writer and his lover; but the more Gerd listens, the more he becomes increasingly absorbed by their lives. Other German imports: ***The Baader Meinhof Complex*** (2008), ***Downfall*** (2004) ***Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*** (2005), ***The White Ribbon*** (2009) and ***A Woman in Berlin*** (2008).

***The Magdalene Sisters*** (Ireland/UK 2002) Peter Mullan's devastating drama based on the 1998 documentary *Sex in a Cold Climate* is guaranteed to make your blood boil; set in 1960's Ireland, three teenage girls (Rose, Bernadette and Margaret) are unjustly sent to the Magdalene asylums as they were deemed "fallen" women. Maintained by the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, the asylums – also known as the "Magdalene Laundries" – existed from for over 200 years, where women were imprisoned, forced to carry out unpaid labor and subjected to severe psychological and physical maltreatment – the last one closed in 1996! Mullan's film won the top prize at the Venice Film Festival (The Golden Lion) and went on to become a box-office hit in Ireland.



***Maria Full of Grace*** (Colombia, 2004) *Based on 1,000 true stories.* Catalina Sandino Moreno (in an outstanding debut) stars as María Álvarez, an underpaid seventeen-year-old Colombian rose packager stuck in a tedious life, a dead-end relationship – and pregnant; desperate for money, María accepts the risky offer to become a drug mule, smuggling drugs from Bogotá to New York City; a “drug movie” with no machineguns, no chases, no clichés; it takes us through her physical and spiritual ordeals - a very engaging, human story depicting the universal struggle of the poor desperate to escape their imprisoning lives.

***Memento*** (2000) *Some memories are best forgotten.* Christopher Nolan’s neo-noir thriller stars Guy Pearce, Carrie-Anne Moss and Joe Pantoliano. Leonard Shelby (Pearce) suffers from anterograde amnesia, resulting in short-term memory loss and the inability to form new memories; and he is searching for the people who attacked him and killed his wife, using an intricate system of Polaroid photographs and tattoos to track information he cannot remember. Considered Nolan’s finest work, he also directed: ***Batman Begins*** (2005), ***The Dark Knight*** (2008), ***Insomnia*** (2002) and ***The Prestige*** (2006).

***Milk*** (2008) *His life changed history. His courage changed lives.* Sean Penn stars (and won the Oscar) in Gus Van Sant’s bio-pic about Harvey Milk (1930-1978), a true man of the people and first openly gay man elected to major public office. Van Sant also directed: ***Elephant*** (2003), ***Last Days*** (2005) and ***Paranoid Park*** (2007). Penn also starred in: ***All the King's Men*** (2006), ***The Assassination of Richard Nixon*** (2004), ***I Am Sam*** (2001), ***The Interpreter*** (2005) and ***It's All About Love*** (2003); the versatile actor also directed ***Into the Wild*** (2007) and ***The Pledge*** (2001) .

***Monster*** (2003) Based on the life of serial killer Aileen Wuornos, a street prostitute who murdered seven of her male clients between 1989 and 1990 and was executed in Florida in 2002; stars Charlize Theron (who would pick up an Oscar for her unglamorous, riveting performance) and Christina Ricci as her semi-fictionalized lover, Selby Wall. To witness the real deal, watch the documentary - ***Aileen: Life and Death of a Serial Killer*** (2003).

***Monster's Ball*** (2001) - the title refers to the macabre celebration held the night before the execution of a death-row inmate. Marc Forster’s compelling drama set in Georgia stars Billy Bob Thornton and Halle Berry, featuring Peter Boyle, Sean “Diddy” Combs and Heath Ledger. After a family tragedy, a racist prison guard, Hank Grotowski (Thornton) re-examines his attitudes while falling in love with Leticia Musgrove (Berry), the African-American wife of the last prisoner he executed. Berry became the first woman of color to win the Academy Award for Best Actress. The German-born filmmaker, Forster, also directed: ***Everything Put Together*** (2000), ***Finding Neverland*** (2004), ***The Kite Runner*** (2007), ***Quantum of Solace*** (2008), ***Stay*** (2005) and ***Stranger Than Fiction*** (2006).

***Mystic River*** (2003) Clint Eastwood’s haunting drama based on Dennis Lehane’s 2001 novel stars Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, Kevin Bacon, Laurence Fishburne, Marcia Gay Harden and Laura Linney. Three boyhood friends in an Irish neighborhood of Boston – Jimmy (Penn), Sean (Bacon) and Dave (Robbins) – are forever marked when one of them was abducted by child molesters; as adults, their lives are shattered by another tragedy. Oscars went to Penn and Robbins for their riveting performances. Eastwood also directed: ***Blood Work*** (2002), ***Changeling*** (2008), ***Gran Torino*** (2008), ***Flags of Our Fathers*** (2006), ***Invictus*** (2009), ***Letters from Iwo Jima*** (2006) and ***Million Dollar Baby*** (2004).

***Napoleon Dynamite*** (2004) *He's out to prove he's got nothing to prove.* Jon Heder stars as the titular character: a listless, nerdy high-schooler who helps his new immigrant friend, Pedro, to win the class



presidency while dealing with his bizarre family life back home. This random, hilarious and undeniably unique gem has achieved cult status since its release. Other quirky films of this decade: ***American Splendor*** (2003), ***Borat*** (2006), ***Garden State*** (2004), ***Ghost World*** (2001), ***Laurel Canyon*** (2002), ***Mulholland Drive*** (2001) and ***The Room*** (2003).

***Nobody Knows*** (*Dare mo shiranai*, Japan, 2004) Inspired by 1988 Sugamo child abandonment incident which gained international attention; set in Tokyo, a reckless single mother, Keiko, with four children ages five to twelve (from four different fathers) illegally houses them in a small apartment, then subsequently abandons them, leaving them to fend for themselves for months, unmissed and undetected; a harrowing story that sadly reminds audiences that child neglect is an international epidemic. Other Japanese imports, both Oscar winners: ***Departures*** (2008) and ***Spirited Away*** (2001).

***The Others*** (2001) Alejandro Amenábar's eerie haunted house horror stars Nicole Kidman as Grace Stewart, a deeply Christian woman who lives with her two photosensitive children in a dark Jersey manor in 1945 and becomes convinced that her beloved home is haunted. A creepy ghost story with eerie performances, a relentlessly dread-filled atmosphere and a double plot twist ending – it doesn't disappoint. Other horror/thrillers of this decade: ***American Psycho*** (2000), ***The Deep End*** (2001), ***The Devil's Backbone*** (2001), ***Donnie Darko*** (2001), ***Open Water*** (2003), ***Red Dragon*** (2002), ***Session 9*** (2001) and ***What Lies Beneath*** (2000). Shoutout to two Nordic thrillers: ***Dead Snow*** (*Død snø* Norway, 2009) and ***Let the Right One In*** (*Låt den rätte komma*, Sweden 2008).

***Osama*** (Afghanistan, 2003) Siddiq Barmak's devastating film - after the rise of the Taliban and the restriction of women in public life, a pre-teen girl is forced to masquerade as a boy in order to find work to support her mother and grandmother. It was the first film to be shot entirely in Afghanistan since 1996, when the Taliban regime banned the creation of all films. To date, it is the highest-grossing Afghan film of all time. Documentaries for consideration: ***Afghan Star: Following the Contestants of a Pop Music Competition in Afghanistan*** (2009), ***Afghanistan Unveiled: The First Team of Women Journalists in Afghanistan*** (2003) and ***Enemies of Happiness: Malalai Joya Fights for Women's Rights in Afghanistan*** (2006).

***Paradise Now*** (*al-Janna al-'āna* Palestine, 2005) Hany Abu-Assad's internationally acclaimed political drama about two childhood friends, Khaled (Ali Suliman) and Said (Kais Nashif), who are recruited by a terrorist group to become suicide bombers in Tel Aviv. Fascinating, intense and deeply unsettling, Abu-Assad's film does not condone terrorism, but rather delves into the minds of suicide bombers, and depicts the complexities within Palestinian culture; the first Palestinian film to win the Golden Globe and to be nominated for an Academy Award; other Palestinian imports for consideration: ***Divine Intervention*** (2003), ***Rana's Wedding*** (2002) and ***Salt of the Sea*** (2008).

***The Passion of the Christ*** (2004) Mel Gibson's biblical epic – as the title, it primarily covers the final twelve hours before Jesus Christ's death, known as "the Passion." To portray historical accuracy, the dialogue is entirely in reconstructed Aramaic, Hebrew, and Latin. Although it is, to date, the highest grossing foreign language film U.S. box office history, and the highest grossing religious film in the worldwide box office of all time, it received polarized reviews. Some critics regard the film as a religious and holy experience, while others found it to be antisemitic and the graphic violence to be extreme and emotionally draining.

***The Pianist*** (2002) *Music was his passion. Survival was his masterpiece.* Roman Polanski's riveting holocaust drama based on Władysław Szpilman's 1946 memoir about a Polish-Jewish pianist and composer who struggled to survive the German occupation of Warsaw and the Holocaust; stars Adrien

Brody. Winner of three Oscars: Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Actor. Other historical biopics: ***Good Night, and Good Luck*** (2005), ***Hotel Rwanda*** (2004), ***The Last King of Scotland*** (2006) and ***The Motorcycle Diaries*** (2004).

***A Prairie Home Companion*** (2006) Robert Altman's final film: a behind-the-scenes look at the long-running public radio show of the same name; features Altman's signature ensemble casting: Woody Harrelson, Tommy Lee Jones, Garrison Keillor, Kevin Kline, Lindsay Lohan, Virginia Madsen, John C. Reilly, Maya Rudolph, Meryl Streep, and Lily Tomlin. In his final decade, Altman (1925-2006) directed: ***The Company*** (2003), ***Dr. T & the Women*** (2003) and ***Gosford Park*** (2001).

***Raising Victor Vargas*** (2002) a coming-of-age tale stars Victor Rasuk as Victor (Vargas), a lower east side Latino (Dominican Republic) teen-ager who struggles to find some sanity while surrounded by an eccentric grandmother, a crazy new girlfriend, and a longing younger brother. Refreshing in that the film avoids the tired conventions of gangs, drugs, crime and urban poverty, and focuses on love and old-fashioned family values.

***The Reader*** (2008) based on Bernhard Schlink's 1995 novel and directed by Stephen Daldry, it stars Kate Winslet, Ralph Fiennes, and David Kross. Post-WWII Germany: Nearly a decade after his affair with an older woman came to a mysterious end, law student Michael Berg re-encounters his former lover, Hanna Schmitz, as she defends herself in a war-crime trial. Daldry also directed: ***Billy Elliot*** (2000) and ***The Hours*** (2002). Winslet would pick up an Oscar and star in: ***All the King's Men*** (2006), ***Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*** (2004), ***The Holiday*** (2006), ***Little Children*** (2006), ***Revolutionary Road*** (2008) and ***Romance & Cigarettes*** (2005).

***Requiem for a Dream*** (2000) Directed by Darren Aronofsky and based on Hubert Selby Jr.'s 1978 novel, stars Ellen Burstyn, Jared Leto, Jennifer Connelly and Marlon Wayans in one of the most devastating and harrowing films about the ravages of drug addiction; terrifying but also hypnotic and intense - and not for the faint of heart. Aronofsky would also direct: ***The Fountain*** (2006) and ***The Wrestler*** (2008). Other drug addiction themed films: ***Blow*** (2001), ***Enter the Void*** (2009), ***Half Nelson*** (2006) and ***Pineapple Express*** (2008).

***The Royal Tenenbaums*** (2001) Wes Anderson eccentric family comedy (ostensibly based on a nonexistent novel) stars Danny Glover, Gene Hackman, Anjelica Huston, Bill Murray, Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben Stiller, Luke Wilson and Owen Wilson – quirky and hard to explain, just watch it. Anderson would also direct: ***The Darjeeling Limited*** (2007), ***Fantastic Mr. Fox*** (2009) and ***The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*** (2004).

***Russian Ark*** (*Russkiy kovcheg*, Russia 2002) the tagline reads: *2000 Actors. 300 years of Russian History. 33 Rooms at the Hermitage Museum. 3 Live Orchestras. 1 Single Continuous Shot.* Alexander Sokurov's experimental historical drama is widely regarded as one of the greatest Russian films of all time. A 19th century French aristocrat, notorious for his scathing memoirs about life in Russia, travels through the Russian State Hermitage Museum and encounters historical figures from the last 200 plus years. Sokurov is the driving force of the art house movement in Russia, and revered by younger generation of artists. The internationally acclaimed director is also known for: Also ***Alexandra*** (2007), ***Father and Son*** (2003) and ***The Sun*** (2005).

***The Savages*** (2007) part black comedy/part ultimate dysfunctional family film, it stars acting greats Laura Linney, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Philip Bosco; Jon and Wendy Savage are two siblings in emotional and professional ruts, and have spent their adult years trying to recover from the wrath of

their loathsome, abusive father, Lenny Savage. Suddenly, a call comes in that Lenny has dementia and the Savage siblings feel obliged to take care of him, even though they've been estranged for decades - with brilliant dialogue and performances, *The Savages* is in a class all by itself. Other Dysfunctional Family Movies: *Death at a Funeral* (2007), Yorgos Lanthimos' *Dogtooth* (*Kynodontas*, Greece 2009), *Little Miss Sunshine* (2006), *Margot at the Wedding* (2007), *Pieces of April* (2003), *Precious* (2009), *Rachel Getting Married* (2008), *The Squid and the Whale* (2005), *Thirteen* (2003), *Transamerica* (2005), *We Don't Live Here Anymore* (2004) and *White Oleander* (2002).

*The Sea Inside* (*Mar adentro*, Spain 2004) Alejandro Amenábar's Oscar winner stars Javier Bardem and is based on the real-life story of Ramón Sampedro, who was left quadriplegic after a diving accident, and his 28-year campaign in support of euthanasia and the right to end his life. Other Spain imports: Pedro Almodóvar's *Bad Education* (2004), *Broken Embraces* (2009), *Talk to Her* (2002) and *Volver* (2006).

*The Secret in Their Eyes* (*El secreto de sus ojos*, Argentina, 2009) Oscar-winning political crime thriller stars Ricardo Darín (one of Argentina's biggest movie stars) as Benjamín Esposito, a retired legal counselor who writes a novel with the hopes to find closure for one of his past unresolved homicide cases and for his unreciprocated love with his superior - both of which still haunt him decades later. Other South American imports: *The Headless Woman* (Argentina, 2008), *Liverpool* (Argentina, 2008), *The Maid* (Chile, 2009), *Live in Maid* (Argentina, 2004), *Machuca* (Chile, 2004) and *Tony Manero* (Chile, 2008).

*A Serious Man* (2009) Joel and Ethan Coen's dark comedy, set in 1967 Minnesota, stars Michael Stuhlbarg as Larry Gopnik, a Jewish physics professor whose life crumbles both professionally and personally, leading him to questions about his faith. Other Coen classics of this decade: *Burn After Reading* (2008), *Intolerable Cruelty* (2003), *The Ladykillers* (2004), *The Man Who Wasn't There* (2001), *No Country for Old Men* (2007) and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000).

*Sexy Beast* (UK, 2000) Jonathan Glazer's directorial debut; black comedy/crime film stars Ray Winstone and Ben Kingsley; Gary "Gal" Dove (Winstone) is a retired ex-gangster, living it up in Southern Spain – until Don Logan (Kingsley), a brutal gangster from his past, "recruits" safecracker Gal for one last job. Other UK imports: *Atonement* (2007), *Bend It Like Beckham* (2002), *An Education* (2009), *Hunger* (2008), *In Bruges* (2008), *My Summer of Love* (2004), *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) and *Vera Drake* (2004).

*A Single Man* (2009) Based on Christopher Isherwood's 1964 novel - stars Colin Firth, Julianne Moore and Matthew Goode, and was American fashion designer, Tom Ford's directorial debut. Set in Southern California 1962, it depicts one day in the life of George Falconer, an English Literature teacher who, for the past eight months, has been grieving the death of Jim (his lover of 16 years). Unable to live without him anymore, George prepares his last day on Earth. While beautifully acted and visually exquisite, *A Single Man* is also a heartbreaking portrait of grief.

*Stranded: I've Come from a Plane that Crashed on the Mountains* (Uruguay, 2007) Gonzalo Arijón's riveting documentary about the 1972 ordeal suffered by a group of Uruguayan rugby players whose airplane crashed in the Andes. Seventy-two days later, 16 survivors came home, having endured injuries, life-threatening cold, starvation, avalanches and unspeakable emotional and physical hardship; Piers Paul Read's 1974 book *Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors* recounts their stories in gripping detail; this documentary takes their ordeal one step further in that the survivors themselves finally appear on camera to recount their harrowing tale.

***There Will Be Blood*** (2007) – Paul Thomas Anderson’s critically acclaimed magnum opus, loosely based on Upton Sinclair ‘s 1927 novel *Oil!*, stars Daniel Day-Lewis as Daniel Plainview, a silver miner turned oilman on a ruthless quest for wealth during Southern California's oil boom of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Day-Lewis would pick up a Best Actor Oscar, as would Robert Elswit for Best Cinematography.

***Training Day*** (2001) Antoine Fuqua’s compelling crime thriller stars Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke. Jake Hoyt (Hawke), an ambitious rookie cop up for promotion, is assigned to Detective Alonzo Harris (Washington), a highly decorated narcotics officer, for a one-day evaluation. The two spend the day in LA’s gang-infested neighborhoods - but Harris has ulterior motives. Washington would pick up a Best Actor Oscar as the rogue detective.

***Traffic*** (2000) Steven Soderbergh’s adaptation of the 1989 British TV series *Traffik* explores the illegal drug trade from a number of perspectives: users, enforcers, politicians, and traffickers; with an ensemble cast, including Don Cheadle, Benicio del Toro, Michael Douglas, Luis Guzmán, Dennis Quaid and Catherine Zeta-Jones. Oscars: Best Director (Soderbergh), Best Supporting Actor (del Toro), Best Adapted Screenplay and Best Editing. Soderbergh also directed: ***Che*** (2008), ***Erin Brockovich*** (2000), ***Full Frontal*** (2002), ***The Good German*** (2006), ***Ocean’s Eleven*** (2001), ***Ocean’s Twelve*** (2004) and ***Ocean’s Thirteen*** (2007).

***Vicky Cristina Barcelona*** (2008) Woody Allen’s romantic comedy stars Javier Bardem, Penélope Cruz, Rebecca Hall and Scarlett Johansson; two American women, Vicky (Hall) and Cristina (Johansson), spend a summer in Barcelona, where they meet the sexy artist, Juan Antonio (Barden) - who is not only attracted them both, but still in love with his emotionally unstable ex-wife María Elena (brilliant played by Cruz who won an Oscar); the prolific Allen also directed: ***Anything Else*** (2003), ***Cassandra’s Dream*** (2007), ***The Curse of the Jade Scorpion*** (2001), ***Hollywood Ending*** (2002), ***Match Point*** (2005), ***Melinda and Melinda*** (2004), ***Scoop*** (2006), ***Small Time Crooks*** (2000) and ***Whatever Works*** (2009).

***The Visitor*** (2007) Tom McCarthy’s deeply moving drama stars veteran character actor Richard Jenkins. Walter Vale, a college professor and lonely widower, life changes when discovers a pair of homeless, illegal aliens living in his New York apartment; this chance encounter forces him to face issues relating to identity, immigration, and cross-cultural communication in post-9/11 New York City. McCarthy also directed ***The Station Agent*** (2003).

***W.*** (2008) Oliver Stone's biopic of George W. Bush stars Josh Brolin (as our 43<sup>rd</sup> President) and Elizabeth Banks (as wife Laura). Through flashbacks, it chronicles his rise, from a ne'er-do-well party boy and son of privilege to president of the United States. After trading in booze for religion, George mends his aimless ways and sets his sights first on the Texas governorship, then on the presidency. Stone also directed: ***Alexander*** (2004) and ***World Trade Center*** (2006).

***Walk the Line*** (2005) A chronicle of country music legend Johnny Cash – based on his two autobiographies - stars Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon (for which she won an Oscar); film follows Cash's early life on an Arkansas farm to his ascent in the country music scene, his romance with June Carter, and his struggle with drug addiction. Other artist biopics: ***Dream Girls*** (2006), ***Frida*** (2002), ***Pollock*** (2000) and ***Ray*** (2004).

***Wedding Crashers*** (2005) *They're just a couple of guys who just wanna have fun.* Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn star in this comedy about John and Jeremy, two divorce mediators who crash weddings in an attempt to meet and seduce women. Other buddy films of this decade: ***The 40-Year-Old Virgin*** (2005), ***The Hangover*** (2009), ***Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle*** (2004), ***I Love You, Man*** (2009), ***Shaun of the Dead*** (2004), ***Step Brothers*** (2008) and ***Superbad*** (2007).

***Whale Rider*** (New Zealand, 2002) Niki Caro's critically acclaimed drama based on Witi Ihimaera's 1987 novel *The Whale Rider* stars Keisha Castle-Hughes (in her film debut) as Kahu Paikea Apirana, a twelve-year-old Māori girl whose ambition is to become the chief of the tribe and who fights to fulfill a destiny her grandfather refuses to recognize. Niki Caro also directed ***A Heavenly Vintage*** (2009) and ***North Country*** (2005).

***Wonder Boys*** (2000) *A weekend from hell became the time of his life.* Curtis Hanson's quirky coming-of-age saga based on Michael Chabon's 1995 novel stars Michael Douglas, Frances McDormand, Tobey Maguire, Robert Downey Jr. and Katie Holmes. Set in Pittsburgh, 50-something Professor Grady Tripp (Douglas) has a case of writers block - and a slew of personal problems. His weekend proves even worse than imagined as he finds himself reeling from one misadventure to another in the company of a new wonder boy author, James Leer (Maguire). Bob Dylan picked up an Oscar for Best Original Song *Things Have Changed*.

***X-Men*** (2000) one of many Marvel Comics-based movies released this decade. Others include: ***Hulk*** (2003), ***The Incredible Hulk*** (2008), ***Iron Man*** (2008), ***Men in Black II*** (2002), ***X2*** (2003), ***Spider-Man*** (2002), ***Spider-Man 2*** (2004), ***Spider-Man 3*** (2007), ***X-Men: The Last Stand*** (2006) and ***X-Men Origins: Wolverine*** (2009).

***Yesterday*** (South Africa, 2004) a gut-wrenching story about an everyday mother who contracts HIV from her philandering husband. Resigned to her fate, she resolves herself to live to see the day of her daughter's first day of school. Brimming with raw emotions and power, this Zulu-language film puts a human face on a terrible disease that still threatens the lives of so many. Other imports South African imports: the science fiction thriller ***District 9*** (2009) and the Oscar winning ***Tsotsi*** (2005).

***You Can Count on Me*** (2000) Writer/Director Kenneth Lonergan's debut stars Laura Linney Mark Ruffalo and Matthew Broderick. Sammy, a single mother living in a small Catskill Mountains town, life is thrown into turmoil after her struggling, rarely seen younger brother returns to town. Linney, an accomplished and versatile theater, film and television actor, would also appear in: ***Breach*** (2007), ***Driving Lessons*** (2006), ***Kinsey*** (2004), ***Man of the Year*** (2006), ***The Nanny Diaries*** (2007) and a special shout out to for her portrayal of Abigail Adams in the TV mini-series ***John Adams*** (2008), for which she won an Emmy and a Golden Globe.

***Zoolander*** (2001) *I'm pretty sure there's a lot more to life than being really, really, ridiculously good looking. And I plan on finding out what that is.* Hilarious satire on the fashion industry stars Ben Stiller (as the dimwitted supermodel, Derek Zoolander), Owen Wilson, Christine Taylor, Will Ferrell and Jerry Stiller. Stiller appeared in several films this decade including: ***Along Came Polly*** (2004), ***Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*** (2004), ***Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story*** (2004), ***The Heartbreak Kid*** (2007), ***Meet the Parents*** (2000), ***Meet the Fockers*** (2004), ***Night at the Museum*** (2006), ***Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian*** (2009), ***Starsky & Hutch*** (2004) and ***Tropic Thunder*** (2008).