



***A Century of Cinema***: let's explore cinema by the decade – my final installment of the series, the 2010's: possibly one of the most chaotic and innovative decades in filmmaking history; the digital decade of *Black Swans*, *Parasites*, *Jokers* and lots of *Minions*. Here are hundreds of titles - all available on DVD or through our streaming services (HOOPLA and Kanopy). Recommended viewing: Mark Cousins' 2021 documentary ***The Story of Film: A New Generation***, which explores technology's role in 21<sup>st</sup> century world cinema.

***Amour*** (France, 2012) Michael Haneke's Oscar winning love story stars French legends Jean-Louis Trintignant and Emmanuelle Riva; a devastating look at an elderly couple dealing with an illness. Other French imports include: ***The Artist*** (2011), ***Evolution*** (2015), ***Faces Places*** (2017), ***Goodbye First Love*** (2011), ***Goodbye to Language*** (2014), ***Happy End*** (2017), ***High Life*** (2018) and ***Holy Motors*** (2012).

***Amy*** (2015): Oscar winning documentary - archival footage and personal testimonials present an intimate portrait of the life and career of the late British singer/songwriter Amy Winehouse, who tragically succumbed to addiction at age 27. Other music documentaries for consideration: ***Marley*** (2012), ***20 Feet from Stardom*** (2013) and ***Whitney*** (2018).

***Argo*** (2012) Historical thriller directed, produced by and starring Ben Affleck and adapted from the 1999 memoir *The Master of Disguise* by CIA operative Tony Mendez, and the 2007 *Wired* article "The Great Escape: How the CIA Used a Fake Sci-Fi Flick to Rescue Americans from Tehran" by Joshuah Bearman. The film deals with the "Canadian Caper" in which Mendez led the rescue of six U.S. diplomats from Tehran, Iran, under the guise of filming a science fiction film during the 1979–1981 Iran hostage crises.

***Arrival*** (2016) Denis Villeneuve's science fiction - based on Ted Chiang's 1998 short story "Story of Your Life" - stars Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner and Forest Whitaker. Louise Banks (Adams) is a linguist enlisted by the United States Army to discover how to communicate with extraterrestrials who have arrived on Earth before tensions lead to war. Villeneuve, a French Canadian, also directed ***Blade Runner 2049*** (2017), ***Enemy*** (2013), ***Incendies*** (2010), ***Prisoners*** (2013), ***Sicario*** (2015); other *québécois* films of this decade include: ***Gabrielle*** (2013), ***Laurence Anyways*** (2012), ***Mommy*** (2014) and ***Monsieur Lazhar*** (2011).

***Attenberg*** (Greece, 2010) Sexy, strange and beautifully deranged. A wonderfully deadpan coming-of-age story: 23-year-old Marina lives in a small, factory town by the sea where she passes her time watching Sir David Attenborough's nature programs, listening to the proto-punk songs of *Suicide*, goofing with her only friend Bella, and tending to her ailing father. When a visiting engineer comes to town, they form a tentative relationship that pushes Marina into contact with the strange and complex world of adulthood.

***Beginners*** (2010) Stars Ewan McGregor and Christopher Plummer; Oliver's world is rocked by two announcements from his elderly father, Hal: that he has terminal cancer and that he has a young male lover. Plummer (1929-2021) would pick up an Oscar; the versatile and prolific actor also starred in ***All the Money in the World*** (2017), ***Knives Out*** (2019) and ***Remember*** (2015).

***Birdman*** or (*The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*) (2014) Alejandro Iñárritu's black comedy stars Michael Keaton, Zach Galifianakis, Edward Norton, Andrea Riseborough, Amy Ryan, Emma Stone and Naomi Watts. Riggan Thomson (Keaton), a washed-up superhero actor best known for playing *Birdman*, attempts to revive his by writing, directing, and starring in a Broadway production. Winner of Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best

Director, Best Original Screenplay, and Best Cinematography. Inárritu also directed *Biutiful* (2010) and *The Revenant* (2015).

**BlacKkKlansman** (2018) *Based on a crazy, outrageous, incredible true story!* Spike Lee's biopic based on Ron Stallworth's 2014 memoir *Black Klansman* stars John David Washington, Adam Driver, Laura Harrier and Topher Grace. Set in the 1970's in Colorado Springs, Colorado: Stallworth, the first African-American detective in the city's police department, sets out to infiltrate and expose the local Ku Klux Klan chapter. Lee also directed: *Chi-Raq* (2015), *Da Sweet Blood of Jesus* (2014), *Oldboy* (2013) and *Red Hook Summer* (2012).

**Black Panther** (2018) Marvel's first black superhero epic stars Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan and Lupita Nyong'o; Boseman (1976-2020) was famous for his portrayal of T'Challa, but also his roles as pioneering African Americans: Jackie Robinson in *42* (2013), James Brown in *Get on Up* (2014), and Thurgood Marshall in *Marshall* (2017). Other films include: *21 Bridges* (2019), *Avengers: Endgame* (2019), *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018), *Captain America: Civil War* (2016), *Draft Day* (2014), *Gods of Egypt* (2016) and *The Kill Hole* (2012).

**Black Swan** (2010) Darren Aronofsky's dark, seedy tale of the New York City ballet world stars Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis, Vincent Cassel and Barbara Hershey. Nina Sayers (Portman) is a highly ambitious and obsessive dancer - who takes her craft just a little too seriously. When she lands the coveted role of the Swan Queen, she descends into madness. Note to aspiring ballerinas - head to the convent! Aronofsky also directed *Mother!* (2017) and *Noah* (2014).

**Blue Jasmine** (2013) Woody Allen's tale of a Manhattan socialite's fall from grace stars Cate Blanchett, Sally Hawkins, Alec Baldwin, Peter Sarsgaard, Louis C.K., Andrew Dice Clay, Bobby Cannavale and Michael Stuhlbarg; Blanchett picked up an Oscar for her mesmerizing performance as Jasmine French, a delusional Park Avenue wife in the throes of a mental collapse. Other Woody Allen films of this decade: *Café Society* (2016), *Irrational Man* (2015), *Magic in the Moonlight* (2014), *Midnight in Paris* (2011), *A Rainy Day in New York* (2019), *To Rome with Love* (2012), *Wonder Wheel* (2017) and *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger* (2010).

**Bohemian Rhapsody** (2018) musical biopic of the legendary Freddie Mercury (1946 – 1991), the British singer/songwriter and lead vocalist of *Queen*, stars Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton, Gwilym Lee, Ben Hardy, Joe Mazzello, Aidan Gillen, Tom Hollander and Mike Myers; follows Mercury from the formation of the band in 1970 to their 1985 Live Aid performance at the original Wembley Stadium. Malek would win the Oscar for his mesmerizing performance as the flamboyant Mercury. Another biopic of mention is Sir Elton John's *Rocketman* (2019).

**Boyhood** (2014) Richard Linklater's groundbreaking work stars Ellar Coltrane, Patricia Arquette, Ethan Hawke and Lorelei Linklater; filmed in real time (2002-2013), *Boyhood* covers 12 years in the life of a family – at the center is Mason Evans Jr. (Coltrane), who with his sister Samantha (Linklater), as they grow up in Texas with divorced parents (Arquette and Hawke). Coltrane was only 6 years old when filming began, and the viewer literally witnesses his transformation from a young boy to a young man. Linklater also directed: *Before Midnight* (2013), *Bernie* (2011), *Everybody Wants Some!!* (2016), *Last Flag Flying* (2017) and *Where'd You Go, Bernadette* (2019).

**Bridesmaids** (2011) classic zany chick flick stars Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph, Rose Byrne, Melissa McCarthy, Ellie Kemper and Wendi McLendon-Covey. The comedy put former "Gilmore Girls" co-star, Melissa McCarthy, in the spotlight – other films include *The Boss* (2016), *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* (2018), *Ghostbusters* (2016), *The Heat* (2013), *The Kitchen* (2019), *Life of the Party* (2018), *Spy* (2015) and *St. Vincent* (2014); other great chick flicks of the 2010's: *The Big Sick* (2017), *Crazy, Stupid, Love* (2011), *Love, Simon* (2018), *The Other Woman* (2014) and *Train Wreck* (2015).

**Call Me by Your Name** (2017) Luca Guadagnino's sublime coming-of-age story based on André Aciman's 2007 novel stars Timothée Chalamet and Armie Hammer. Set in the north of Italy in 1983, the story follows Elio (Chalamet), a precocious 17-year-old who falls for Oliver (Hammer), a 24-year-old scholar staying with Elio's

family of bohemian intellectuals for a summer. Guadagnino also directed *A Bigger Splash* (2015) and *Suspiria* (2018). Other LGBTQ themed films: *Blue is the Warmest Color* (France, 2013), *Carol* (2015), *The Circle* (Switzerland, 2014), *Naz & Maalik* (2015), *Reaching for the Moon* (Brazil, 2013) and *Tell It to the Bees* (UK, 2018).

*Cemetery of Splendor* (*Rak ti Khon Kaen*, Thailand 2015) Apichatpong Weerasethakul's critically acclaimed drama revolves around a spreading epidemic of sleeping sickness where spirits appear to the stricken and hallucination becomes indistinguishable from reality. The epidemic is used as a metaphor for personal and Thai societal issues. Another film for consideration, by the same director: *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* (2010).

*Cold War* (*Zimna wojna*, Poland 2018) *Love has no borders*. Paweł Pawlikowski's Oscar nominated historical drama; set in Poland and France during the Cold War from the late 1940's until the 1960's, the story follows a musical director (Tomasz Kot) who discovers a young singer (Joanna Kulig), exploring their subsequent love story over the years. The film was loosely inspired by the lives of Pawlikowski's parents; he also directed the Oscar winning *Ida* (2013) and *The Woman in the Fifth* (2011).

*Dallas Buyers Club* (2013) Jean-Marc Vallée's drama Stars Matthew McConaughey, Jennifer Garner and Jared Leto, and tells the story Ron Woodroof (McConaughey), an AIDS patient diagnosed in the mid-1980s: a time when HIV/AIDS pathogenesis and treatments were poorly understood, and the disease subjected to stigmatization. As part of an ongoing experimental AIDS treatment movement, Woodroof smuggled unapproved pharmaceutical drugs into Texas to treat his symptoms - where he distributed them to fellow people with AIDS by establishing the "Dallas Buyers Club" while facing opposition from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). McConaughey and Leto would pick up Oscars. The French Canadian Vallée (1963-2021) also directed: *Café de Flore* (2011), *Demolition* (2015) and *Wild* (2014); and a shout out to the TV mini-series *Big Little Lies* (2017) and *Sharp Objects* (2018).

*Despicable Me* (2010) You just gotta love those Minions! Other animated classics of this decade: *Despicable Me 2* (2013), *Despicable Me 3* (2017), *Finding Dory* (2016), *Frozen* (2013), *Inside Out* (2015), *The Lego Movie* (2014), *Minions* (2015), *The Secret Life of Pets* (2016), *Toy Story 3* (2010) and *Toy Story 4* (2019); special mention to the Ireland's *Song of the Sea* (2014).

*The Descendants* (2011) Alexander Payne's road movie set in Hawaii; based on Kauai Hart Hemmings 2007 novel, it stars George Clooney, Shailene Woodley, Amara Miller in her film debut, and Nick Krause. Clooney plays Matt King, a land baron who tries to reconnect with his two daughters after his wife is seriously injured in a boating accident. Payne, known for his dark humor and satirical depictions of contemporary American society, also directed *Downsizing* (2017) and *Nebraska* (2013).

*The Dinner* (*Het diner*, Netherlands 2013) based on Herman Koch's 2009 novel; Paul Lohman, a former history teacher, and his wife Claire meet at a fancy, pretentious restaurant in Amsterdam with his elder brother Serge, a prominent politician and contender for the position of Dutch prime minister, and his wife Babette. The plan is to discuss how to handle a crime committed by their teenage sons, and what they should do; it's a tragedy in five acts: from aperitif to digestif, and from satirical to horrible. The film was remade twice: in Italy (*I nostri ragazzi* 2014) and in the US (*The Dinner* 2017); another dinner party gone awry for consideration - *Beatriz at Dinner* (2017).

*Dunkirk* (2017) Christopher Nolan's compelling World War II drama with an ensemble cast: Fionn Whitehead, Tom Glynn-Carney, Jack Lowden, Harry Styles in his film debut, Aneurin Barnard, James D'Arcy, Barry Keoghan, Kenneth Branagh, Cillian Murphy, Mark Rylance and Tom Hardy. *Dunkirk* is told from the perspectives of the land, sea and air – and portrays the evacuation with little dialogue, as Nolan sought instead to create suspense from cinematography and music. Nolan also directed: *The Dark Knight Rises* (2012), *Inception* (2010) and *Interstellar* (2014).

**Elena** (Елена, Russia 2011) *Dostoyevsky meets film noir*; Andrey Zvyagintsev's critically acclaimed domestic thriller: When a sudden illness and an unexpected reunion threaten dutiful housewife Elena's potential inheritance, she must hatch a desperate plan; Zvyagintsev, considered the most internationally-acclaimed Russian filmmaker to emerge during the Putin era, expertly examines and critiques Moscow's contemporary society. He also directed *Leviathan* (2014).

**Ex Libris: The New York Public Library** (2017). Documentary filmmaker and American icon, Fred Wiseman, takes us into the inner workings of this New York institution. Wiseman (born 1930) is still going strong in his ninth decade, creating fascinating, exploratory works; in the past it was nearly impossible to see a Wiseman film unless you caught it at an obscure art house cinema or on PBS at 4 am. Now they are available in Kanopy including: *At Berkeley: Life At UC Berkeley* (2013), *Boxing Gym: The Patrons of a Texas Gym* (2010), *Crazy Horse: The Rehearsals and Performances at a French Burlesque* (2011), *In Jackson Heights: One of America's Most Ethnically Diverse Neighborhoods* (2015), *Monrovia, Indiana: A Portrait of Life in Rural America* (2018) and *National Gallery: Behind the Scenes of a London Institution* (2014).

**An Elephant Sitting Still** (*Da xiang xidi erzuo*, China 2018) Hu Bo's magnum opus - profoundly melancholy drama that follows four miscreants over the course of a single day in the country's industrial north. Born in Jinan, Shangdong, China Bo (1988-2017) studied Film Directing at the Beijing Film Academy; following two short films and several novels, *An Elephant Sitting Still* was his first feature-length film, a four-hour portrait of a society of egoists. Tragically, it would mark the final chapter in his legacy as the artist took his own life at age 29.

**The Favourite** (2018) Yorgos Lanthimos's black comedy set in early 18<sup>th</sup> Century England stars Olivia Colman (who would pick up an Oscar), Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz. This bizarre glimpse into the Royal Court is simultaneously hilarious, grotesque, decadent, perverse – and historically, wildly inaccurate; and examines the relationship between cousins Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough (Weisz), and Abigail Masham (Stone) as they vie to be court favorite of Queen Anne (Colman). Lanthimos, a Greek director, is known for his offbeat works including *Alps* (2011), *The Killing of a Sacred Deer* (2017) and *The Lobster* (2015).

**The Farewell** (2019) Based on an Actual Lie. Writer-director Lulu Wang's poignant drama (based on her real life experiences) follows a Chinese American family who, upon learning their grandmother has only a short while left to live, decide not to tell her and schedule a family gathering before she dies – an honest film about family, identity, love and loss.

**First Reformed** (2018) Paul Schrader's psychological drama stars Ethan Hawke, Amanda Seyfried, and Cedric Kyles, and follows a Protestant minister (Hawke) struggling with his faith while serving as pastor of a dwindling historic church in upstate New York. Schrader also directed *Dog Eat Dog* (2016) and *Dying of the Light* (2014).

**Flight** (2012) Robert Zemeckis drama - loosely inspired by the plane crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 in 2000 - stars Denzel Washington as William "Whip" Whitaker Sr., an alcoholic airline pilot who miraculously crash-lands his plane after a mechanical failure, saving nearly everyone on board. Although hailed a hero, an investigation soon begins to cast the captain in a different light. Zemeckis also directed *Allied* (2016), *The Walk* (2015) and *Welcome to Marwen* (2018).

**Gangs of Wasseypur** (India, 2012) Anurag Kashyap's five-plus hour Hindi-language crime epic (along the same lines as Coppola's *Godfather* saga), centers on the coal mafia (*Mafia Raj*) of Dhanbad, and the underlying power struggles, politics and vengeance between three crime families; the story spans 68 years (1941 to 2009), and is regarded as one of the best films ever made in India. One critic remarked "[the film] is a dense, unsentimental portrayal of the collision between democracy, capitalism, and gangsterism on the frayed margins of the post-colonial world." Other India imports: *PK* (2014) and *RamLeela* (2013).

**The Gatekeepers** (*Shomrei HaSaf*, Israel, 2012) Oscar nominated documentary and intriguing glimpse into the workings of the Israeli Secret Service, *Shin Bet*, from the perspective of six of its former heads. The film combines in-depth interviews, archival footage, and computer animation to recount the role that the group played in Israel's

security from the Six-Day War to the present. Other documentaries that address the complex Middle East conflict: ***Five Broken Cameras*** (Palestine, 2011), ***For Sama*** (Syria, 2019), ***The Human Factor*** (Israel, 2019) and ***Omar*** (Palestine, 2013).

***Get Out*** (2017) *Just because you're invited, doesn't mean you're welcome.* A psychological horror (sprinkled with satire and dark humor), it stars Daniel Kaluuya, Allison Williams, Lil Rel Howery, LaKeith Stanfield, Bradley Whitford, Caleb Landry Jones, Stephen Root and Catherine Keener. Chris (Kaluuya) and his girlfriend Rose (Williams) go upstate to visit her parents for the weekend. At first, Chris reads the family's overly accommodating behavior as nervous attempts to deal with their daughter's interracial relationship; but as the weekend progresses, things get increasingly bizarre (to say the least). The sketch comic Jordan Peele wrote directed and produced *Get Out*, his debut feature, a critical and commercial success. Peele became the first African American to win the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay, as well as the first African American to be nominated for producing, writing and directing in the same year. Peele's next film was *Us* (2019).

***The Ghost Writer*** (2010) *Read between the lies.* Roman Polanski's political thriller - based on Robert Harris' 2007 novel *The Ghost* - stars Ewan McGregor, Pierce Brosnan, Kim Cattrall and Olivia Williams. A ghost writer, hired to complete the memoirs of a former British Prime Minister, uncovers secrets that put his own life in jeopardy. Polanski also directed ***Carnage*** (2011) and ***Venus in Fur*** (2013).

***The Grand Budapest Hotel*** (2014) Wes Anderson's zany comedy stars Ralph Fiennes; Fiennes leads a seventeen-actor ensemble cast as Monsieur Gustave H., famed concierge of a twentieth-century mountainside resort in the fictional Eastern European country of Zubrowka; and follows the adventures of Gustave H and Zero Moustafa, the lobby boy who becomes his most trusted friend. Anderson, known for his eccentric, offbeat works also directed ***Isle Of Dogs*** (2018) and ***Moonrise Kingdom*** (2012).

***The Great Beauty*** (*La grande bellezza*, Italy 2013) Paolo Sorrentino's Oscar winner stars veteran actor Toni Servillo as Jep Gambardella, a man who has seduced his way through the lavish nightlife of Rome for decades; but after his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and a shock from the past, Jep looks past the nightclubs and parties to find a timeless landscape of absurd, exquisite beauty. Other Italian imports: ***Caesar Must Die*** (2012), ***Don't Be Bad*** (2015), ***Dormant Beauty*** (2014), ***A Five Star Life*** (2013), ***Mia Madre*** (2015), ***Naples in Veils*** (2017), ***Salvo*** (2013) and ***The Traitor*** (2019).

***The Great Gatsby*** (2013) Baz Luhrmann's highly stylized adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's 1925 novel stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Tobey Maguire, Carey Mulligan and Joel Edgerton. The film follows the life and times of millionaire Jay Gatsby (DiCaprio) and his neighbor Nick Carraway (Maguire), who recounts his encounter with Gatsby at the height of the Roaring Twenties on Long Island in New York. Midwesterner Carraway is lured into the lavish world of his neighbor, Gatsby; soon enough, however, Carraway sees through the cracks of Gatsby's nouveau riche existence, where obsession, madness, and tragedy await.

***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1*** (2010) and ***Part 2*** (2011) – the saga continues and concludes.

***The Hobbit*** is a series of three epic high fantasy adventure films directed by Peter Jackson. The films are subtitled ***An Unexpected Journey*** (2012), ***The Desolation of Smaug*** (2013), and ***The Battle of the Five Armies*** (2014).

***I Am Not a Witch*** (Zambia, 2017) a satiric feminist fairy-tale set in present-day Zambia. When 9-year old orphan Shula is accused of witchcraft, she is exiled to a witch camp run by Mr. Banda, a corrupt and inept government official. As the only child witch, Shula quickly becomes a local star and is exploited for financial gain. Soon she is forced to make a difficult decision: whether to resign herself to life on the camp, or take a risk for freedom.

***I Not Your Negro*** (2016) Oscar nominated portrait of James Baldwin (1924-1987) - the ingenious novelist, playwright, essayist, poet, and activist – and the story of race in modern America with his unfinished novel, *Remember This House*. This riveting documentary is a journey into black history that connects the past of the Civil

Rights movement to the present of #BlackLivesMatter - powerful, unforgettable, and not to be missed. Other socially conscious documentaries: ***The Central Park Five*** (2012) and ***O.J.: Made in America*** (2016).

***I Do Not Care If We Go Down in History as Barbarians*** (Îmi este indiferent dacă în istorie vom intra ca barbari Romania 2018) Radu Jude's film examines the 1941 Odessa massacre by the Romanians on the Eastern Front. The title is pulled from a speech by Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mihai Antonescu to the Council of Ministers preceding the massacre of around 34,000 Jews, Roma people, and Ukrainians. Other Romanian imports: ***Aferim!*** (2015), ***Aurora*** (2011), ***The Autobiography of Nicolae Ceausescu: A Portrait of the Romanian Dictator*** (2011), ***Child's Pose*** (2013), ***Dogs*** (2016), ***Graduation*** (2017), ***Octav*** (2017), ***Tuesday, After Christmas*** (2010), ***Two Lottery Tickets*** (2016) and ***When Evening Falls on Bucharest*** (2014).

***I, Tonya*** (2017) Margot Robbie, Sebastian Stan and Allison Janney star in this irreverent hybrid of biopic, mockumentary and black comedy; about the rise and fall of competitive ice skater Tonya Harding – from her dysfunctional upbringing, to her rising amongst the ranks at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships to her connection to the 1994 assault on her rival Nancy Kerrigan. Janney would pick up an Oscar for her performance as LaVona, undoubtedly one of the worst mothers in cinematic history. Other biopics of this decade: ***American Sniper*** (2014), ***The Battle of the Sexes*** (2017), ***The Big Short*** (2015), ***Bombshell*** (2019), ***The Fighter*** (2010), ***Ford v Ferrari*** (2019), ***Foxcatcher*** (2014), ***The Iron Lady*** (2011), ***The Theory of Everything*** (2014), ***Trumbo*** (2015) and ***Vice*** (2018).

***The Imitation Game*** (2014) political thriller based on 1983 Andrew Hodges' 1983 biography *Alan Turing: The Enigma*; stars Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley and Matthew Goode. Cumberbatch plays Turing, the mathematical genius who decrypted German intelligence messages for the British government during World War II – while also attempting to come to terms with his troubled private life. Other WWII themed films: ***The Book Thief*** (2013), ***Churchill*** (2017), ***Darkest Hour*** (2017), ***Hacksaw Ridge*** (2016), ***Midway*** (2019) and ***Unbroken*** (2014).

***In a Better World*** (*Hævnen*, Denmark 2010) Susanne Bier's moving drama follows the lives of two Danish families and the unusual, dangerous friendship that develops between them. Bier explores complex issues such as loneliness, death, divorce, vengeance and daily pressures, with outstanding dialogue and performances. Bier was also the first female director to receive the Oscar in this category. Another Danish import ***The Hunt*** (2012).

***Inside Llewyn Davis*** (2013) another Coen Brothers classic set in Greenwich Village, 1961; stars Oscar Isaac, Carey Mulligan and John Goodman. A week in the life of Llewyn Davis (Isaac in his breakthrough role), a folk singer struggling to achieve musical success while keeping his life in order Though Davis is a fictional character, the story was partly inspired by folk singer Dave Van Ronk's autobiography. Other Coen Brothers films: ***Hail, Cesar*** (2016) and ***True Grit*** (2010).

***The Intouchables*** (*Intouchables*, France 2011) Based on two memoirs *Tu as changé ma vie* (*You changed my life*) by Abdel Sellou and *Le Second Souffle* (*A Second Wind*) by Philippe Pozzo di Borgo. Sellou and Pozzo di Borgo were two people marginalized by society: Sellou a wisecracking, unemployed immigrant, just out on parole; and Pozzo, a man born to wealth and privilege, recently paralyzed from the neck down after a paragliding accident, and how they came to help each other, and the unlikely friendship that became a lifeline for them both. A critical and commercial sensation, it was remade ***Inseparables*** (Argentina, 2016) and ***The Upside*** (USA, 2017).

***The Irishman*** (2019) Martin Scorsese's epic gangster film based on Charles Brandt's 2004 nonfiction book *I Heard You Paint Houses*; stars Scorsese's usual suspects: Robert De Niro, Al Pacino and Joe Pesci, and follows Frank Sheeran (De Niro), a truck driver who becomes a hitman involved with mobster Russell Bufalino (Pesci) and his crime family, including his time working for the powerful Teamster Jimmy Hoffa (Pacino). Other Scorsese films of this decade: ***George Harrison: Living in the Material World*** (2011), ***Hugo*** (2011), ***Public Speaking*** (2010), ***Shutter Island*** (2010), ***Silence*** (2016) and ***The Wolf of Wall Street*** (2013).

**Jojo Rabbit** (2019) *An anti-hate satire.* Taika Waititi wrote and directed this dark comedy based on Christine Leunens's 2008 novel *Caging Skies*. Roman Griffin Davis portrays the title character, Johannes "Jojo" Betzler, a ten-year-old Hitler Youth member who finds out that his mother (Scarlett Johansson) is hiding a Jewish girl (Thomasin McKenzie) in their attic. JoJo then question his beliefs while dealing with the intervention of his imaginary friend (Waititi), a fanciful version of Adolf Hitler with a comedic stance on the politics of the war. The New Zealander Waititi would pick up an Oscar for his clever screenplay.

**Joker** (2019) Joaquin Phoenix's riveting performance won him as an Oscar - a haunting and disturbing study of Arthur Fleck, a professional clown and aspiring stand-up comic with (just a few) mental health issues. Times are tough in Gotham, more so for poor Arthur who descends into madness and transforms into his alternate persona - Joker. Set in the 1980's the film depicts city life in its most grim terms - not exactly an *I Love New York* promo. Phoenix also starred in: **Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Foot** (2018), **Her** (2013), **Mary Magdalene** (2018), **The Sisters Brothers** (2018) and **You Were Never Really Here** (2017).

**Judy** (2019) Stars Renée Zellweger (who picked up an Oscar) as the immensely talented, yet troubled showbiz legend Judy Garland; a loose adaptation of Peter Quilter's 2005 Olivier-nominated play *End of the Rainbow*, it follows Garland's career during the last year of her life, when she relocated her stage career to London in 1968; sadly after some initial successes, her demons catch up with her, worsening her performances as her health deteriorates. Other tragic music diva biopics for consideration: **Bessie** (2015) - about the *Empress of the Blues*, Bessie Smith; **Dalida** (France, 2016) - about the Egyptian-Italian chanteuse, Dalida and **Elis** (Brazil, 2016) - about Elis Regina, considered one of Brazil's finest and ferociously talented singers.

**The King's Speech** (2010) Tom Hopper's Oscar winner stars Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush and Helena Bonham Carter. Firth plays the future King George VI who, to cope with a stammer, sees Lionel Logue (Rush), an Australian speech and language therapist. Bonham Carter plays his supportive wife, Elizabeth (Britain's future Queen Mother). Hopper also directed: **Cats** (2019), **The Danish Girl** (2015) and **Les Misérables** (2012).

**Lady Bird** (2017) Greta Gerwig's directorial debut: this semi-autobiographical, coming of age film - set in 2002 Sacramento, California (Gerwig's hometown) - stars Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf, Tracy Letts and Beanie Feldstein. Christine "Lady Bird" McPherson (Ronan) fights with, but is exactly like her strong-willed mom, Marion (Metcalf), a nurse working tirelessly to keep her family afloat after her husband loses his job. Gerwig also directed **Little Women** (2019) and starred in **Frances Ha** (2012). Feldstein - who played Julie, Ladybird's sidekick - gained recognition from this film and also starred in **Booksmart** (2019), **The Female Brain** (2017) and **How to Build a Girl** (2019).

**Life of Pi** (2012) Ang Lee's adventure-drama film, based on Yann Martel's 2001 novel, revolves around two survivors of a shipwreck who are on a lifeboat stranded in the Pacific Ocean for 227 days. One is a sixteen-year-old Indian boy named Pi Patel (Suraj Sharma) and the other is a ferocious Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. An incredible cinematic spectacle, *Life of Pi* won four Oscars for Best Directing, Cinematography, Original Score and Visual Effects.

**Lincoln** (2012) Steven Spielberg's historical drama stars Daniel Day-Lewis as President Abraham Lincoln; loosely based on Doris Kearns Goodwin's 2005 biography *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, it covers the final four months of Lincoln's life in 1865 during the end of the Civil War and his efforts to abolish slavery by passing the Thirteenth Amendment; Day-Lewis would pick up an Oscar for her mesmerizing performance. Spielberg also directed: **The Adventures of Tintin** (2011), **The BFG** (2016), **Bridge of Spies** (2015), **The Post** (2017), **Ready Player One** (2018) and **War Horse** (2011).

**Manchester by the Sea** (2016) Writer-Director Kenneth Lonergan's devastating drama packs an emotional punch; stars Casey Affleck, Michelle Williams, Kyle Chandler and Lucas Hedges. Set in the backdrop of a blue-collar, New England community, the story of Lee Chandler (Affleck), a cripplingly depressed and grief-stricken loner who becomes the legal guardian of his teenage nephew after the death of his brother. Oscars went to Affleck for Best Actor and Lonergan for Best Original Screenplay. Lonergan also directed **Margaret** (2011).



***Marriage Story*** (2019) Writer/director Noah Baumbach's incisive and insightful examination of a dissolving marriage stars Adam Driver as Charlie, a charismatic New York theater director wedded to his work, and Scarlett Johansson as Nicole, an actor in need of change. Their hopes for an amicable divorce fade as they are drawn into a system that pits them against each other; features Alan Alda, Ray Liotta, and Laura Dern (who picked up an Oscar) as the trio of lawyers who preside over the nasty legal battle. Baumbach also directed: ***Greenberg*** (2010), ***Mistress America*** (2015) and ***While We're Young*** (2014).

***The Master*** (2012) Paul Thomas Anderson's psychological drama stars Joaquin Phoenix, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams. It tells the story of Freddie Quell (Phoenix), a World War II Navy veteran struggling to adjust to a post-war society, who meets Lancaster Dodd (Hoffman), the leader of a religious movement known as *The Cause* - a veiled account of L. Ron Hubbard's Scientology movement. PTA also directed: ***Inherent Vice*** (2014) and ***Phantom Thread*** (2017). Also for consideration, the scathing documentary ***Going Clear: Scientology & the Prison of Belief*** (2015).

***Midsommar*** (2019) Ari Aster's folk horror film stars Florence Pugh and Jack Reynor as a dysfunctional couple who travel to Sweden with a group of friends for a midsummer festival - this seemingly idyllic retreat quickly devolves into an increasingly violent and bizarre competition at the hands of a pagan cult. Received mixed, often polarizing reviews, but worth the watch. Aster also directed ***Hereditary*** (2018).

***Moonlight*** (2016): Oscar winner for Best Picture; a heart-wrenching drama written and directed by Barry Jenkins, based on Tarell Alvin McCraney's unpublished semi-autobiographical play *In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue*. Set in inner city Miami, this coming of age story explores the life and struggles of Chiron, an African-American man grappling with both his identity and his sexuality. Jenkins also directed ***If Beale Street Could Talk*** (2018).

***1917*** (2019) Inspired by Sir Sam Mendes' grandfather's experiences *The Autobiography of Alfred H. Mendes 1897-1991*, this riveting war film follows two British soldiers, Lance Corporals Will Schofield (George McKay) and Tom Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman), who are tasked with delivering a message that will stop 1,600 men from walking straight into a deadly trap. *1917* received ten Oscar nominations, winning for Best Cinematography, Best Sound Mixing, and Best Visual Effects. Mendes also directed James Bond's ***Skyfall*** (2012) and ***Spectre*** (2015). Also for consideration: Peter Jackson's WWI documentary ***They Shall Not Grow Old*** (2018).

***No*** (Chile, 2012) *Adiós, Mr. Pinochet*. Pablo Larraín's historical drama, based on Antonio Skármeta's unpublished stage play *El Plebiscito*, stars Gael García Bernal as René, an in-demand advertising executive comes up with a campaign to defeat Augusto Pinochet in Chile's 1988 referendum. Other Chilean imports: ***The Club*** (2015), ***Ema*** (2019), ***Gloria*** (2013), ***Jackie*** (2016), ***Neruda*** (2016), ***Post Mortem*** and Patricio Guzmán's documentary ***The Pearl Button*** (2015).

***Norte, the End of History*** (*Norte, hangganan ng kasaysayan*, Philippines 2013) Lav Diaz's psychological four-plus hour epic reimagines Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment" exploring themes of crime, class, and family. Diaz, a critically acclaimed filmmaker/cinematic visionary, also wrote and directed ***The Woman Who Left*** (2016).

***November*** (Estonia 2017) Andrus Kivirähk's fantasy horror based on the 2000 novel *Rehepapp ehk November* (*Old Barny aka November*). Set in a pagan village, this surreal tale centers on a love triangle among a peasant girl, a cocky stable boy & a sleepwalking baroness. *Rolling Stone* critic, Peter Travers, wrote: "This midnight-movie classic in the making uses ancient Estonian folk tales to create something shockingly unexpected. Both gravely serious and demonically funny, it's meant to knock audiences off balance. Mission accomplished."

***Once Upon a Time...in Hollywood*** (2019) Writer/Director Quentin Tarantino's homage to the final years of Hollywood's Golden Age; set in 1969 Los Angeles, it stars Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie and a large ensemble cast. The film follows fading actor Rick Dalton (DiCaprio) and his longtime stunt double Cliff Booth (Pitt, who picked up an Oscar) as they navigate the rapidly changing film industry, with the looming threat



of the Tate murders hanging overhead. Tarantino also wrote and directed: *Django Unchained* (2012) and *The Hateful Eight* (2015).

*The Ornithologist* (*O Ornitólogo*, Portugal 2016) A seductive retelling of the life of St Anthony of Padua, set in a jungle in northern Portugal; Internationally renowned Portuguese Writer/Director, João Pedro Rodrigues, calls his film a “purposefully transgressive and blasphemous re-appropriation of the saint’s life.” Stars Paul Hamy as Fernando, an ornithologist who embarks on a river journey in search of extremely rare black storks; distracted by the beauty of the landscape, Fernando is soon thrown overboard, and his saga to return to civilization becomes that of an existential journey.

*Parasite* (2019): *You know what kind of plan never fails? No plan. No plan at all. You know why? Because life cannot be planned* – these lines sum up the premise of Bong Joon Ho’s black comedy about greed and class inequity. Set in modern day Seoul, South Korea *Parasite* follows the destitute Kim clan as they deceitfully integrate themselves into the lives of the wealthy Park family – with some cruel, violent ramifications. The film was the first to win both Best Picture and Best International Film; Bong Joon Ho also won for Best Director and Best Original Screenplay (not bad for your first time on the red carpet); he also directed: *Okja* (2017) and *Snowpiercer* (2013).

*Pain and Glory* (*Dolor y Gloria*, Spain 2019) Pedro Almodóvar’s poignant drama stars Antonio Banderas as Salvador Mallo, a film director in physical and mental decline; unable to pursue new projects, Mallo reflects on his past, and a stream of vivid memories falls upon him. Compared to Federico Fellini’s 8 ½ Almodóvar’s deeply personal film captures the way life is reflected in art, and is considered Banderas’ best work to date; features Asier Etxeandia, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Nora Navas, Julieta Serrano and Penélope Cruz. Almodóvar also directed: *I’m So Excited!* (2013), *Julieta* (2016) and *The Skin I Live In* (2011); another Spanish director for consideration is Juan Antonio García Bayona (aka “J.A. Bayona”) for *The Impossible* (2012) and *A Monster Calls* (2016).

*Philomena* (2013) Stephen Frears’ drama, based on Martin Sixsmith’s 2009 nonfiction, *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee: A Mother, Her Son and a Fifty Year Search*, stars Judi Dench and Steve Coogan; the true story of Philomena Lee’s 50-year search for her son and Sixsmith’s efforts to help her find him. Throughout the decade, Frears also directed: *Florence Foster Jenkins* (2016), *Lay the Favorite* (2012), *Muhammad Ali’s Greatest Fight* (2013), *The Program* (2015), *Tamara Drewe* (2010) and *Victoria & Abdul* (2017).

*Roma* (Mexico 2018) *There are periods in history that scar societies and moments in life that transform us as individuals.* Alfonso Cuarón’s *magnus opus* - based on his childhood memories and set in the early 1970’s – depicts a year in the life of a middle-class family’s maid in Mexico City (namely the Roma section of the city). Cuarón picked up three Oscars - Best Foreign Language Film, Best Director and Best Cinematography. Cuarón also directed *Gravity* (2013). Other Mexican imports include: *Guëros* (2014), *Museo* (2018) and *The Untamed* (2016).

*Saving Mr. Banks* (2013) *Behind the beloved book is a story beyond words;* stars Emma Thompson as author P. L. Travers and Tom Hanks as film producer Walt Disney, and centers on the development of the 1964 film *Mary Poppins*. Deriving its title from the father in Travers’s story, the film depicts the author’s tragic childhood in rural Queensland in 1906 and the two weeks of meetings during 1961 in Los Angeles, during which Disney attempts to obtain the film rights to her novels. The versatile and prolific Hanks also starred in: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (2019), *Captain Philips* (2013), *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (2011) and *Sully* (2016).

*Searching for Sugar Man* (2012) *He was a star in the making, who vanished without a trace. But on the other side of the world, he inspired a generation.* Oscar-winning documentary follows Sixto Rodriguez, a 1970’s Detroit folksinger, who faded into obscurity (in the US that is). Unbeknownst to Rodriguez, his musical story continued in South Africa where he became a musical legend. Long rumored there to be dead by suicide; but then in the 1990’s a few fans decided to seek out the truth of their hero’s fate. What follows is a bizarre odyssey and one of the greatest comeback stories in music history. Other documentaries of this decade: *The Act of Killing* (2012),

*Catfish* (2010), *CitizenFour* (2014), *Exit Through the Gift Shop* (2010), *Inside Job* (2010), *Life Itself* (2014), *Three Identical Strangers*, *The Queen of Versailles* (2012) and *Undefeated* (2011).

*A Separation* (*Jodaeiye Nader az Simin*, Iran 2011) The first Iranian film to win an Oscar; Writer and Director, Asghar Farhadi, delivers a complex and honest portrayal of two families in modern-day Tehran. A married couple is faced with a difficult decision - to improve the life of their child by moving to another country or to stay in Iran and look after a deteriorating parent who has Alzheimer's disease. The internationally acclaimed Farhadi also wrote and directed: *Everybody Knows* (2018), *The Past* (2013) and *The Salesman* (2016).

*The Shape of Water* (2011) Winner of four Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Director, Guillermo del Toro's science-fiction fairy tale, set against the backdrop of Cold War era America circa 1962, stars Sally Hawkins, Octavia Spencer, Michael Shannon and Richard Jenkins. At a top secret research facility, Elisa, a lonely, mute janitor forms a unique relationship with an amphibious creature that is being held in captivity at the facility. Del Toro also directed: *Crimson Peak* (2015) and *Pacific Rim* (2013).

*Shoplifters* (*Manbiki kazoku* Japan 2018) Hirokazu Kore-eda's drama set on the margins of Tokyo, about a family that relies on shoplifting to cope with a life of poverty. Hirokazu Kore-eda also directed: *After the Storm* (2016), *I Wish* (2011), *Like Father, Like Son* (2013), *The Third Murder* (2017) and *Our Little Sister* (2015); other Japanese imports for consideration: *Happy Hour* (2015) and the documentary *Jiro Dreams of Sushi* (2013).

*Silver Linings Playbook* (2012) Based on Matthew Quick's 2008 novel, it stars Bradley Cooper Jennifer Lawrence, Robert De Niro and Jacki Weaver. Set outside Philadelphia, after a stint in a mental institution, former teacher Pat Solitano (Cooper) moves back in with his parents and tries to reconcile with his ex-wife. Things get more challenging when Pat meets Tiffany Maxwell (Lawrence), a mysterious girl with problems of her own. Lawrence picked up an Oscar, catapulting her career. In the decade, she also starred in: *American Hustle* (2013), *House at the End of the Street* (2012), *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013), *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1* (2014) – and *Part 2* (2015), *Red Sparrow* (2018), *Serena* (2014), *Winter's Bone* (2010) and *X-Men: Dark Phoenix* (2019).

*The Social Network* (2010) *Punk, genius, prophet, traitor, billionaire*. David Fincher's biopic, based on Ben Mezrich's 2009 nonfiction *The Accidental Billionaires*, portrays the founding of the revolutionary, social networking site – and all of its legal complications; and stars Jesse Eisenberg as Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, with Andrew Garfield, Justin Timberlake, Armie Hammer and Max Minghella. Fincher also directed *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (2011) and *Gone Girl* (2014).

*Snowtown* (Australia 2011) Brutal crime drama and not any easy watch: based on the grisly “Snowtown Murders” that occurred between 1992 and 1999, in and around Adelaide – one of the worst serial killing cases in Australian history. Other Aussie imports: *Animal Kingdom* (2010), *The Babadook* (2014), *Lion* (2016) and *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015).

*Son of Saul* (*Saul fia*, Hungary 2015) László Nemes's cruel film is not for the faint of heart: a Jewish-Hungarian concentration camp prisoner (part of the Sonderkommando - prisoners forced to work in the gas chambers and crematoria) sets out to give a child he mistook for his son a proper burial. During the film's preparation, the director and crew made a pledge to stick to certain rules, or a dogma: *The film cannot look beautiful. The film cannot look appealing. We cannot make a horror film. Staying with Saul means not going beyond his own field of vision, hearing, or presence. The camera is his companion, it stays with him throughout this hell*. They undoubtedly adhered to these guidelines, creating one of (if not the) most brutal Holocaust films to date.

*Spotlight* (2015) *Break the story. Break the silence*. Oscar winner for Best Picture and Original Screenplay, it Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton, Rachel McAdams, Liev Schreiber, John Slattery and Stanley Tucci; the true story of how the Boston Globe's “Spotlight” team of investigative reporters uncovered the massive scandal of child molestation and cover-up within the local Catholic Archdiocese, shaking the entire Catholic Church to its core. Tom McCarthy also directed: *The Cobbler* (2014) and *Win Win* (2011).

***A Star Is Born*** (2018) the third re-make stars Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga (the original made in 1937, with remakes in 1954 and 1976) with basically the same premise: Jackson Maine, a musician, helps Ally, an aspiring singer, find fame as age and alcoholism send his own career into a downward spiral. Their chemistry is both memorable and heartbreaking. The Original Song “Shallow” picked up an Oscar.

***Still Alice*** (2014) based on Lisa Genova’s 2007 novel it stars Julianne Moore as Alice Howland, a linguistics professor diagnosed with familial Alzheimer's disease shortly after her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Alec Baldwin plays her husband, John; Kristen Stewart, Kate Bosworth and Hunter Parrish play her children. Moore would pick up an Oscar – the prolific Moore also starred in: ***After the Wedding*** (2019), ***Bel Canto*** (2018), ***Carrie*** (2013), ***Crazy, Stupid, Love*** (2011), ***The Kids Are All Right*** (2010), ***Suburbicon*** (2017) and ***What Maisie Knew*** (2012).

***Stray Dogs (Jiao you)***, Taiwan 2013) Considered a haunting masterpiece from the great Taiwanese filmmaker Tsai Ming-liang; about an alcoholic man and his two young children barely survive in Taipei. They cross paths with a lonely grocery clerk who might help them make a better life; the title also refers to its principal characters, living the cruelest of existences on the ragged edges of the modern world. The film received numerous accolades for acting, directing and cinematography - outside the mainstream Oscar circuit; 17 wins & 20 nominations from organizations namely the Asian Film Festival, the Chinese Film Media Awards, the National Society of Film Critics, the Venice Film Festival and the Village Voice.

***Super 8*** (2011) J. J. Abrams science fiction thriller stars Joel Courtney, Elle Fanning, and Kyle Chandler and tells the story of a group of young teenagers in 1979 who are filming their own Super 8 movie when a train derails, releasing a dangerous presence into their town. Abrams also directed: ***Star Trek Into Darkness*** (2013), ***Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker*** (2019) and ***Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens*** (2015).

***Tangerine*** (2015) Written and Directed by Sean Baker, stars Kitana Kiki Rodriguez, Mya Taylor and James Ransone. A hooker tears through Tinseltown on Christmas Eve searching for the pimp who broke her heart. *Variety* calls *Tangerine* "an exuberantly raw and up-close portrait of one of Los Angeles' more distinctive sex-trade subcultures." Baker, known for his unconventional style - shooting his films on an iPhone - also directed ***The Florida Project*** (2017) and ***Starlet*** (2012).

***Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*** (2017) Martin McDonagh’s critically acclaimed crime drama stars Frances McDormand, Woody Harrelson and Sam Rockwell; Mildred, a Missouri woman, rents three roadside billboards to draw attention to her daughter's unsolved rape and murder. McDonagh, a writer, director and playwright, also directed ***Seven Psychopaths*** (2012). The versatile McDormand picked up her second Best Actress Oscar - her other notable performances of the 2010’s include ***This Must Be the Place*** (2011) and the Emmy winning TV mini-series ***Olive Kitteridge*** (2014).

***Toni Erdmann*** (Germany/Austria 2016) A bizarre, hilarious, and thought provoking film about a practical joking father who attempts to reconnect with his hard working daughter by creating an outrageous alter ego and posing as her CEO's life coach. Other German imports include: ***Barbara*** (2012), ***A Coffee in Berlin*** (2012), ***Hannah Arendt*** (2012), ***The Silent Revolution*** (2018), ***Victoria*** (2015) and ***Young Goethe in Love*** (2010).

***12 Years a Slave*** (2013): Based on the 1853 slave memoir by Solomon Northrop - a free African-American man from upstate New York, who, in 1841, was kidnapped by two conmen, sold into slavery, and forced to endure 12 years of brutal labor on Louisiana plantations. British Director (Sir) Steve McQueen takes no prisoners – the film is an unvarnished depiction of the American slavery system, and all its harsh, sadistic cruelties. Other socially conscious films: ***The Butler*** (2013), ***Fences*** (2016), ***Green Book*** (2018), ***Harriet*** (2019), ***Hidden Figures*** (2016), ***Loving*** (2016) and ***Selma*** (2014).

***We Are the Best! (Vi är bäst!)***, Sweden 2013) Lukas Moodysson’s sharply observant portrait of the rebellious spirit of youth; set in 1980’s Stockholm, the story three misfit girls - Bobo, Klara and Hedvig - who decide to form a punk band, despite having no instruments or discernible musical talent, and being told by everyone that punk is dead. Other Sweden imports: ***A Man Called Ove*** (2015) and ***The Square*** (2017).

**Whiplash** (2014). *The road to greatness can take you to the edge.* Writer/Director Damien Chazelle's gritty drama explores a brutal student-mentor relationship and the psyche of unbridled ambition; stars Miles Teller as Andrew Neiman, an ambitious young jazz drummer, and J.K. Simmons as Terence Fletcher, a ruthless instructor equally known for his talents as for his unconventional – yet unethical and terrifying – methods. Simmons deservedly picked up an Oscar for his performance. Chazelle also directed **First Man** (2018) and **La La Land** (2016).

**Wild Tales** (*Relatos salvajes*, Argentina 2014) *We can all lose control* Damián Szifron's Oscar-nominated satire about human beings from all walks of (Argentine) life whose limits are tested; a wickedly hilarious black comedy with six stand-alone episodes/vignettes about people driven to the edge of reason, and who lose control. [The final "tale" - *Until Death Do Us Apart* – a wedding reception gone awry, evolves into utter lunacy]. Other South American imports: **Aquarius** (Brazil, 2016), **Casa Grande** (Brazil, 2015), **Elvis and Madonna** (Brazil, 2010), **The Sleepwalkers** (Argentina, 2019) and **Zama** (Argentina, 2014).

**Yesterday** (UK, 2019) *Yesterday everyone knew the Beatles. Today, only Jack remembers their songs. He's about to become a very big deal.* Danny Boyle's romantic comedy stars Himesh Patel as struggling musician Jack Malik who realizes he's the only person on Earth who can remember The Beatles after waking up in an alternate reality where they never existed; also stars Lily James, Joel Fry, Ed Sheeran and Kate McKinnon. Other UK imports: **127 Hours** (2010), **45 Years** (2015), **Another Year** (2010), **The Souvenir** (2019), **Under the Skin** (2013) and **We Need to Talk About Kevin** (2011).

**Zero Dark Thirty** (2012) *The greatest manhunt in history.* Kathryn Bigelow's tense action thriller stars Jessica Chastain as Maya, a fictional CIA intelligence analyst; chronicles the decade-long hunt for al-Qaeda terrorist leader Osama bin Laden after the September 2001 attacks, and his death at the hands of the Navy S.E.A.L.s Team 6 in May 2011. Chastain's career skyrocketed in the 2010's, and she appeared in numerous films: **The Color of Time** (2012), **Coriolanus** (2011), **Crimson Peak** (2015), **The Debt** (2010), **The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby** (2013), **The Help** (2011), **The Huntsman: Winter's War** (2016), **Interstellar** (2014), **It Chapter Two** (2019), **Lawless** (2012), **Mama** (2013), **The Martian** (2015), **Miss Julie** (2014), **Miss Sloane** (2016), **Molly's Game** (2017), **A Most Violent Year** (2014), **Take Shelter** (2011), **Texas Killing Fields** (2011), **The Tree of Life** (2011), **Wilde Salomé** (2018), **Woman Walks Ahead** (2017) and **The Zookeeper's Wife** (2017).