

Oscar Winners!

Want to catch up on Oscar winning films you hadn't seen? Go to a complete listing of all the winners, nominees, categories and years on <https://www.oscars.org>. Many are available through streaming services: HOOPLA, Kanopy, Amazon, Hulu and Netflix.

In the meantime here are my top ten favorite films that have won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Don't let the subtitles intimidate you – they are well worth the watch.

2001: *In a Better World* (Denmark) The lives of two Danish families cross each other, and an extraordinary but risky friendship comes into bud. But loneliness, frailty and sorrow lie in wait. Director Susanne Bier is the first female director to receive the Oscar in this category.

2007: *The Lives of Others* (Germany) In 1984 East Berlin, an agent of the secret police, conducting surveillance on a writer and his lover, finds himself becoming increasingly absorbed by their lives. The quintessential “perfect” film.

2006 *Tsotsi* (South Africa) Six days in the violent life of a young Johannesburg gang leader. First South African film to win in this category.

2003 *The Barbarian Invasions* (Canada) During his final days, a dying man is reunited with old friends, former lovers, his ex-wife, and his estranged son.

2000 *All About My Mother* (Spain) Pedro Almodóvar's story of young Esteban who wants to become a writer and also to discover the identity of his second mother, a trans woman, carefully concealed by his mother Manuela.

1990 *Cinema Paradiso* (Italy) A filmmaker recalls his childhood when falling in love with the pictures at the cinema of his home village and forms a deep friendship with the cinema's projectionist.

1988 *Babette's Feast* (Denmark) During the late 19th century, a strict religious community in a Danish village takes in a French refugee from the Franco-Prussian War as a servant to the late pastor's daughters.

1985 *The Official Story* (Argentina) The country became the first in Latin America to win the Oscar in this category: During the final months of Argentinian Military Dictatorship in 1983, a high school teacher sets out to find out who the mother of her adopted daughter is.

1984 *Fanny & Alexander* (Sweden) Ingmar Bergman's classic story of two young Swedish children experience the many comedies and tragedies of their family, the Ekdahls.

1979 *The Tin Drum* (West Germany) Oskar Matzerath, a very unusual boy, is reluctant to enter a world he sees as filled with hypocrisy and injustice, and vows on his third birthday to never grow up. Miraculously, he gets his wish. As the Nazis rise to power in Danzig, Oskar wills himself to remain a child, beating his tin drum incessantly and screaming in protest at the chaos surrounding him.