

As I have said, on numerous occasions, if you're in the business of making movies, you should probably watch one or two of them now and then.

I mean if you're going to write them, right? Might be a good idea to watch them.

There are a lot of lists out there that hail the "greatest movies of all time." If you haven't done so, I would strongly recommend watching every movie on the AFI 100. Check out the list [here](#). Most of them are on Netflix and even a few are on Hulu. Take your time, watch a couple a week. Don't do the list like I did...in a month. I would come home from work on Friday and watch movies straight through until Sunday.

Kinda brutal.

There's also book written on the subject. Books like 1,000 movies would should see before you die. That kinda crap. Nothing wrong with these kind of books, but sets a little bit of a lofty goal. Wouldn't it fucking suck if you hit 999 and then had a heart attack? That's just too much pressure!

Anyway...

Another list surfaced a couple of days ago. It's an unofficial list, apparently born out of twitter, that started making its way around the internet. Unofficially labeled "The Spielberg Curriculum," it lists the 200 movies that Spielberg says you need to see if you ever "dreamed of working with him." Translation, if you haven't seen these 200 movies (actually 206) then forget about it because I don't want to talk to you.

How awesome would that be if you met Spielberg and was like, "saw the list Steve...fucking PWND that shit, dude! What else ya got? Oh yeah, and Crystal Skull raped my youth, thanks for that!"

Wouldn't that be super sweet?

(AUTHOR'S NOTE: If you ever meet Spielberg, I strongly suggest you do NOT use the phrase above. You should also probably use "Mr." and bow before him lest ye want to end up like Megan Fox.)

Moving on...

One of the things mentioned in the story was that it was pretty sad that MOST people hadn't seen even 50 of the films Spielberg listed and only a handful had seen more than 50.

Probably some obscure shit, right? I mean we are talking about Steven Spielberg here...that would explain why so many people haven't seen a lot of the films, right?

Wrong!

We're talking about films like, 2001, Casablanca, The Godfather, Psycho and West Side Story just to name a few. (Check out the complete list [here](#).)

Upon going through the list (bragging moment) I managed to check off 133 flicks. So that means I'm only 73 away from working with Spielberg. Nanny nanny boo boo, stick your head in doo doo.

Now, granted, these are some of the greatest movies of all time and yes, you should see them. All of them. But there are some films that don't see a lot of love on these lists and I started thinking... what films SHOULD you see if you want to be successful in Hollywood. While West Side Story holds a lot of fucking merit, it's not really going to do you any good in today's market.

That got me thinking... time for me to make my own list of flicks you probably should see, but before I do a little disclaimer: with the exception of a few flicks that I have something to say, I'm not going to repeat a lot from the lists above. So let's just agree that there are certain "gimmies" that you should have already seen.

I mean it's a no brainer that you should have seen The Wizard of Oz, right? I don't need to call out anyone on that shit? If you haven't seen the Godfather because "you don't like gangster flicks" then you're a fucktard and should be escorted down Sunset Blvd. so we can throw tomatoes at you.

Anyway, I'm not going to talk about those because I'm going to assume you've seen them. So without further ado, here are some of the flicks that I think you should see (in no particular order of importance):

Die Hard – It's fun and it's simple. Guy in the wrong place at the right time, takes out terrorists and saves his wife. Come on! How is that not awesome?

Lethal Weapon and Lethal Weapon 2 – Say what you will about Mel, but you can't deny that back in the day he was pretty bad ass. And let's face it, Shane Black's Lethal Weapon changed the game for good. So much so that people in the industry still say "we're looking for the next Shane Black."

Beverly Hills Cop – Before Disney castrated Eddie Murphy, he used to be funny... he also used to have some sweet flicks and Beverly Hills Cop was no exception. Sure, the sequels sucked, but the original was top notch. While you're at it, pick up 48 hours and give that a peep too. Make it a "Eddie Murphy used to be funny double feature."

Rambo: First Blood – Yeah, these movies get kind of a bad rap. Mostly because Rambo 2 and 3 became more about the action and less about the character. Go back to the first one though and really give it a look. There's so much in that movie about how we treated the Vet's after Vietnam and say what you will about Sly, I dare you to say he's a shitty actor. Between the first Rambo and the first Rocky? Come on... give up the props!

Predator – Most of Arnold's action flicks in the 80's were full of cheese and senseless violence...I'll give you that...but you can't deny that Predator is a fucking good movie. I'll even go as far as saying that Predator is Arnie's best flick. An yes, I'm saying better than T2 (sorry, but Eddie Furlong just doesn't hold up and gets even more annoying 20 years later.) Watch Predator and pay attention to the

introduction of the characters. Watch how the story unfolds. It's quality people so get over the "cheese factor."

Speaking of Aliens...

Alien – another movie that is just so fucking simple. Really, watch that flick again. Distress signal, find an alien life form, dinner, blah, run for our lives (but run where, it's fucking space!) and blow up ship...credits. Some argue that Cameron's action fueled Aliens is a better flick, and while it's sometimes more fun to watch, Alien wins hands down.

The Matrix – Here's the thing about the Matrix. You can't think too hard about it. There are more fucking holes in this script than I care to mention. The "rules" of the Matrix tend to bend when they need it too. Put that aside and look at the spine of that script. Normal guy. Sucked into a world. Told he's Jesus. Fights the hero's call. Accepts the hero's call. Decides to be Jesus and kick some ass. Genius. More importantly, simple.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl – I wanted to mention this flick for one reason...it's fun. This really what movies should be about. Just having a good time and escaping your shitty lives for two and a half hours. The first Pirates delivers it on every level. Great action. Great acting. Thrilling chases. Funny moments.

Yeah, yeah, lots of testosterone above...so this is for the ladies...

When Harry Met Sally – When Harry Met Sally is by far, hands down, the best romantic comedy of all time. So much so that plenty of films have tried to emulate WHMS without ever catching the spark that WHMS had. The cast, the writing...there's not a moment of that film that's hard to watch. They got it right.

Love Actually – This tends to be a "love it" or "hate it" flick, but I have to say it's a VERY close second to WHMS. It's genuinely a feel good flick and the cast is absolutely amazing. It does get SLIGHTLY cheesy at times, but it definitely warms the heart. So much so that it's even a Christmas movie without ever FEELING like a Christmas movie. (Speaking of which... Die Hard...also a Christmas movie)

So there's a few movies that you really should see and the ones I wanted to comment on. Here, without any commentary, is the rest of my list...

8 ½

Salo

Rules of the Game

Stardust Memories

Mighty Aphrodite

Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie

Crimes and Misdemeanors

Wild Strawberries

Blazing Saddles

Bridge on the River Kwai  
Do the Right Thing  
Inside Man  
The 25<sup>th</sup> Hour  
Goldfinger  
Malcolm X  
Groundhog Day  
Lord of the Rings Trilogy (yes, all three)  
M\*A\*S\*H  
The Transporter  
Run Lola Run  
Amelie  
El Mariachi  
Evil Dead II (it's a better version of Evil Dead)  
The Hidden Fortress  
Throne of Blood  
Airplane!  
South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut  
Oceans 11 (the Clooney one)  
The Man with No Name Trilogy  
28 Days Later  
Dogma  
Clerks & Clerks II  
Inglorious Basterds  
Black Swan  
The Hangover  
Fight Club  
Seven  
The Fugitive  
Paranormal Activity 1&2  
Dawn of the Dead (the new one)  
Shaun of the Dead  
Hot Fuzz  
Living in Oblivion  
Batman Begins  
Shooter  
Slither  
Spirited Away  
Taken  
The Bourne Trilogy  
The Hurt Locker  
X-Men 2  
Grand Illusion  
Hard Boiled  
The Killer  
This is Spinal Tap  
Alphaville  
M

Insomnia (the original)  
The Third Man  
Black Narcissus  
My Man Godfrey  
Rififi  
Sullivan's Travels  
The Bad and the Beautiful  
The Naked City  
The Lost Weekend  
The Moon is Blue  
Y Tu Mama Tambien  
Pierrot Le Fou  
Brokeback Mountain  
Howard's End  
Milk  
The Great Dictator  
The General

There you go peeps. Homework. You'll be a much better storyteller, movie buff and overall a better person for having seen these flicks. More importantly, you can sound like you know what you're talking about at dinner parties.

Obviously, I'm going to have forgotten movies. Miss any of your favorites? Email me and let me know. I know in about a day, I'm going to kick myself in the ass and slap my forehead and say... "I can't believe I forgot..."

Ah well.

Till next week...