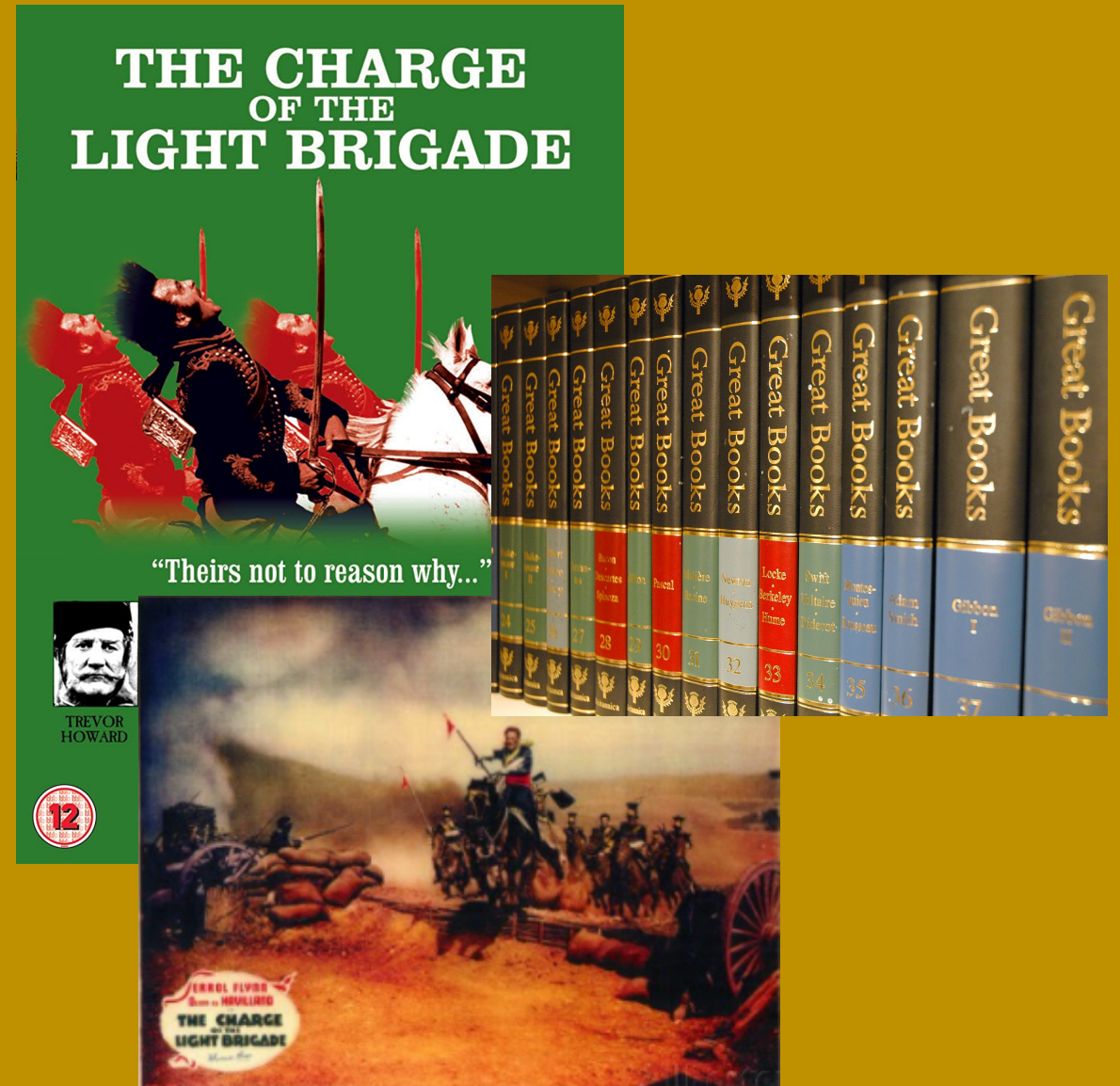


Exploding the Film Canon: What makes a film classic?

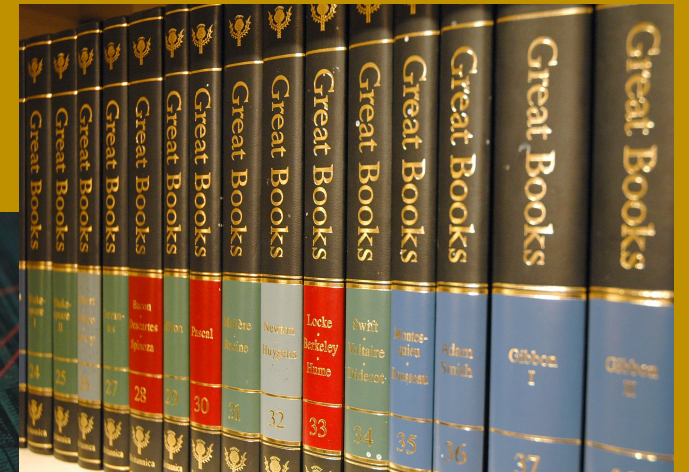
Ian Christie



Canonical?



- *Beowulf*
- Homer
- William Shakespeare
- Charles Dickens
- Charlotte Brontë
- Eudora Welty
- Flannery O'Connor
- Anne Rice
- Toni Morrison
- Judith Ortiz Cofer
- Dorothy Parker
- Ralph Ellison
- Sandra Cisneros
- Suzanne Collins
(author *Hunger Games*)
- J. K. Rowling
(author *Harry Potter*)
- Anthony Burgess
(author *The Clockwork Orange*)
- F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Robert Frost



IMDb**Movies**

- Release Calendar
- DVD & Blu-ray Releases
- Top Rated Movies
- Most Popular Movies
- Browse Movies by Genre
- Top Box Office
- Showtimes & Tickets
- In Theaters
- Coming Soon
- Movie News
- India Movie Spotlight

Celebs

- Born Today
- Most Popular Celebs
- Celebrity News

TV Shows

- What's on TV & Streaming
- Top Rated Shows
- Most Popular Shows
- Browse TV Shows by Genre
- TV News
- India TV Spotlight

Watch

- What to Watch
- Latest Trailers
- IMDb Originals
- IMDb Picks
- IMDb Podcasts

IMDb "Top 100" (Sorted by IMDb Rating Descending)

1-50 of 100 titles. | Next »

View Mode: **Compact** | DetailedSort by: Popularity | A-Z | **User Rating** ▼ | Number of Votes | US Box Office | Runtime | Year | Release Date | Date of Your Rating | Your Rating

	1. The Shawshank Redemption (1994)	9.3	☆ Rate	+
	2. The Godfather (1972)	9.2	☆ Rate	+
	3. The Dark Knight (2008)	9	☆ Rate	+
	4. The Godfather: Part II (1974)	9	☆ Rate	+
	5. 12 Angry Men (1957)	9	☆ Rate	+
	6. The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003)	8.9	☆ Rate	+
	7. Pulp Fiction (1994)	8.9	☆ Rate	+
	8. Schindler's List (1993)	8.9	☆ Rate	+
	9. Inception (2010)	8.8	☆ Rate	+
	10. Fight Club (1999)	8.8	☆ Rate	+
	11. The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)	8.8	☆ Rate	+
	12. Forrest Gump (1994)	8.8	☆ Rate	+
	13. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966)	8.8	☆ Rate	+
	14. The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002)	8.7	☆ Rate	+
	15. The Matrix (1999)	8.7	☆ Rate	+



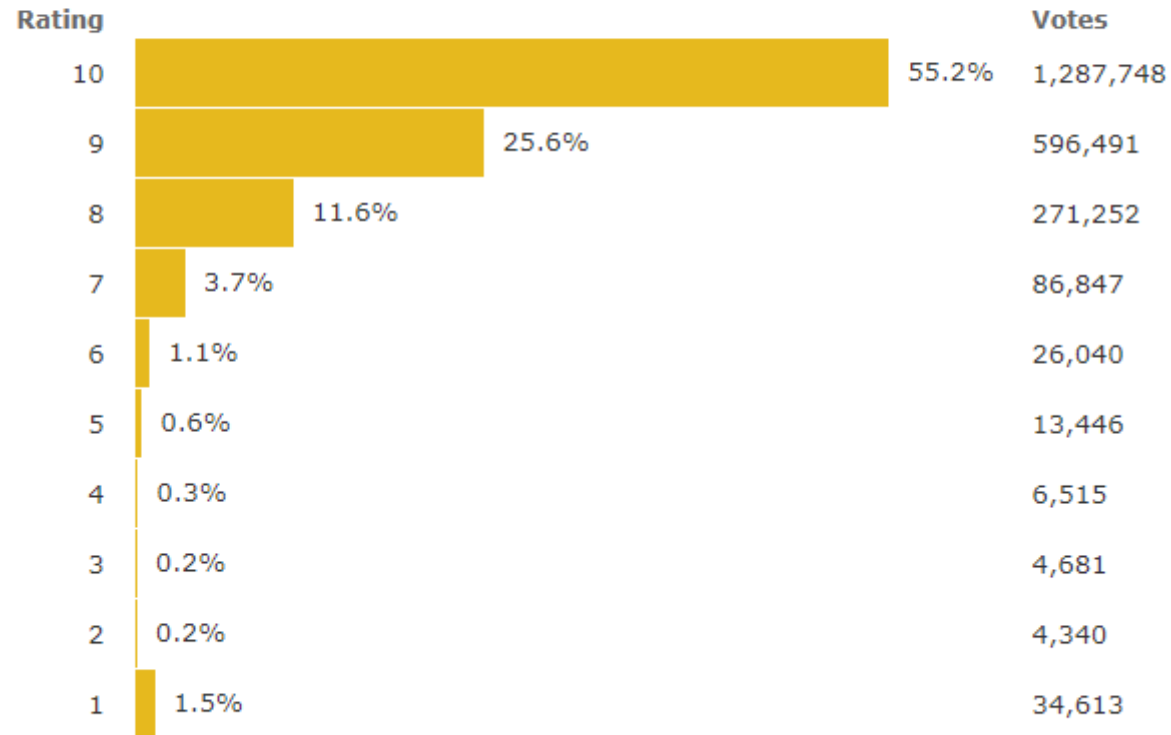
The Shawshank Redemption (1994)

User Ratings

★ 9.3 ☆ Rate

IMDb Users

2,331,973 IMDb users have given a weighted average vote of 9.3 / 10

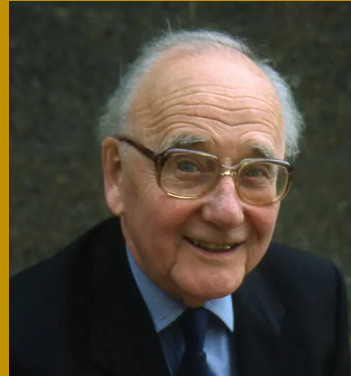
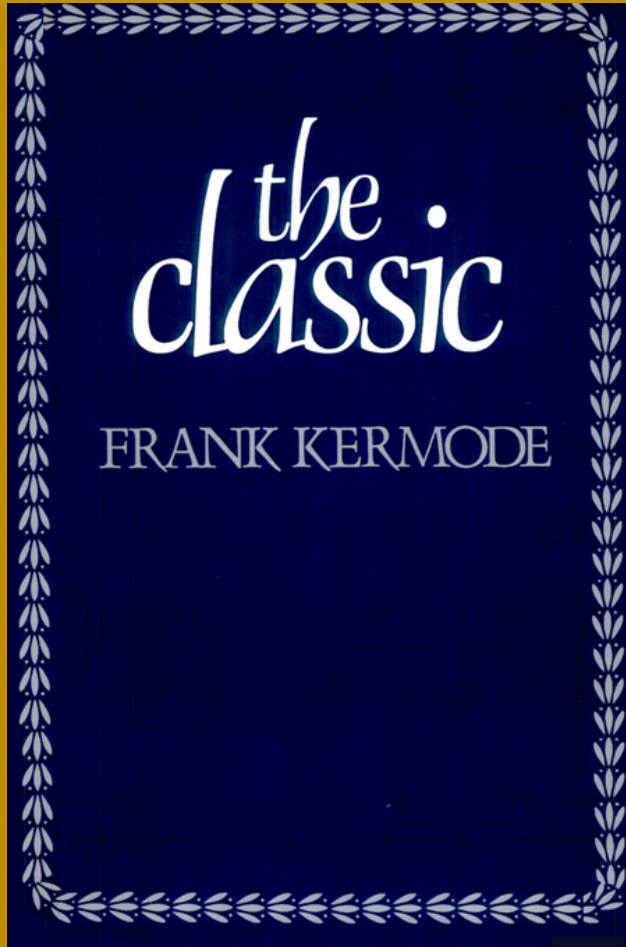


Arithmetic mean = 9.1 Median = 10



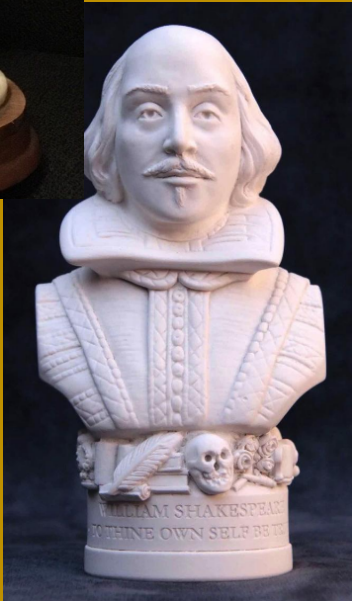
Oldest on IMDb's list:
Chaplin's **City Lights** and
Lang's **M**, both from 1931





The old conception of classic... is tied to Virgilian attitudes of empire and eternity; the modern use of the term embraces change, plurality and secularization.

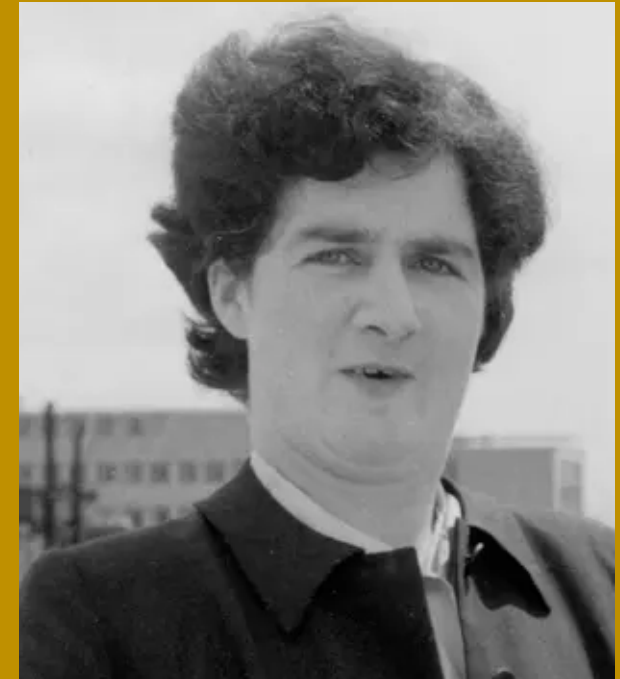
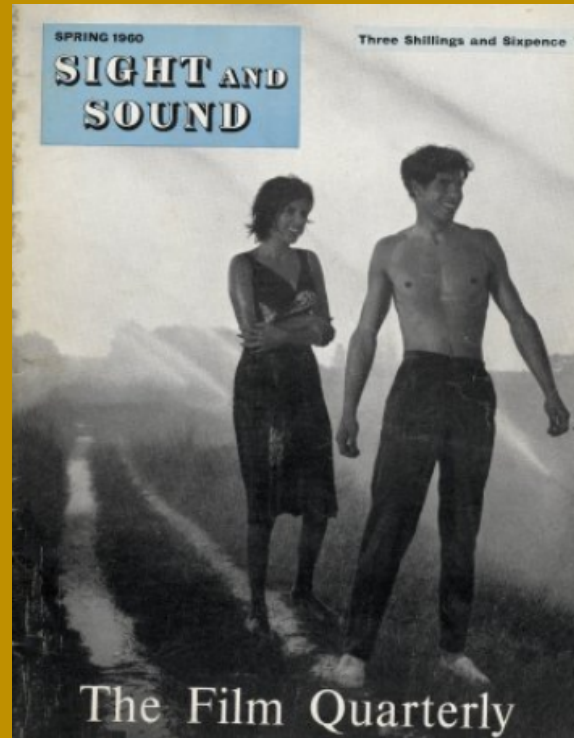




The Sight & Sound Top Ten Poll: 1952

Critics' poll

1. *Bicycle Thieves* (De Sica)
2. *City Lights* (Chaplin)
2. *The Gold Rush* (Chaplin)
4. *Battleship Potemkin* (Eisenstein)
5. *Intolerance* (Griffith)
5. *Louisiana Story* (Flaherty)
7. *Greed* (von Stroheim)
7. *Le Jour se lève* (Carné)
7. *The Passion of Joan of Arc* (Dreyer)
10. *Brief Encounter* (Lean)
10. *Le Million* (Clair)
10. *La Règle du jeu* (Renoir)



Bicycle Thieves came out as an unquestioned first choice, with The Gold Rush, City Lights and Battleship Potemkin as runners-up. The feature we ran in SIGHT AND SOUND attracted a good deal of comment and has often been referred to since.



CHARLIE CHAPLIN CITY LIGHTS

A Re-recording of the Original 1931 Score
Conducted by

Carl Davis
The City Lights Orchestra



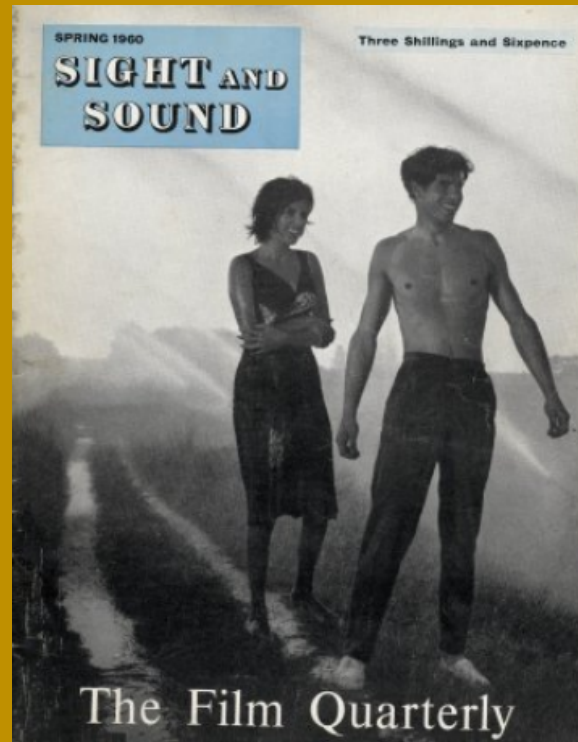
Made in
Britain
...by American
studios



The Sight & Sound Top Ten Poll: 1952

Critics' poll

1. *Bicycle Thieves* (De Sica)
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Bicycle Thieves came out as an unquestioned first choice, with The Gold Rush, City Lights and Battleship Potemkin as runners-up. The feature we ran in SIGHT AND SOUND attracted a good deal of comment and has often been referred to since.



[The 100 Greatest Films of All Time](#)

In our biggest ever film critics' poll, the list of best movies ever made has a new top film, ending the 50-year reign of Citizen Kane.

Wednesday 1 August 2012



[Directors' 10 Greatest Films of All Time](#)

The ten best films of all time, as chosen by 358 directors from around the world.

Thursday 2 August 2012



[The complete Greatest Films of All Time poll](#)

Explore all the films and all the votes in our 2012 Greatest Films of All Time poll.

Background and analysis



[How we made the Greatest Films of All Time poll](#)



[Vertigo rises: the greatest film of all time?](#)



[The unveiling of the Greatest Films of All Time](#)



IMDb Charts

Top Rated Movies

Top 250 as rated by IMDb Users

Sort by:

Rank & Title	IMDb Rating	Your Rating	
1. The Shawshank Redemption (1994)	★ 9.2	☆	<input type="button" value="+"/>
2. The Godfather (1972)	★ 9.1	☆	<input type="button" value="+"/>
3. The Godfather: Part II (1974)	★ 9.0	☆	<input type="button" value="+"/>
4. The Dark Knight (2008)	★ 9.0	☆	<input type="button" value="+"/>
5. 12 Angry Men (1957)	★ 8.9	☆	<input type="button" value="+"/>
6. Schindler's List (1993)	★ 8.9	☆	<input type="button" value="+"/>
7. The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003)	★ 8.9	☆	<input type="button" value="+"/>
8. Pulp Fiction (1994)	★ 8.8	☆	<input type="button" value="+"/>
9. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966)	★ 8.8	☆	<input type="button" value="+"/>

WorldwideBoxoffice

(in millions of U.S. dollars)

List movies by gross, whose initial release was between and .

RANK	DOMESTIC	OVERSEAS	WORLD	TITLES (1900-2020)
0001	\$ 858.4	\$ 1937.0	\$ 2795.4	Avengers: Endgame (2019)
0002	\$ 760.5	\$ 2027.5	\$ 2788.0	Avatar (2009)
0003	\$ 659.4	\$ 1528.1	\$ 2187.5	Titanic (1997)
0004	\$ 936.7	\$ 1131.5	\$ 2068.2	Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens (2015)
0005	\$ 678.8	\$ 1346.0	\$ 2024.8	Avengers: Infinity War (2018)
0006	\$ 652.3	\$ 1018.1	\$ 1670.4	Jurassic World (2015)
0007	\$ 543.6	\$ 1092.0	\$ 1635.6	The Lion King (2019)
0008	\$ 623.4	\$ 896.2	\$ 1519.6	The Avengers (2012)
0009	\$ 353.0	\$ 1163.0	\$ 1516.0	Furious Seven (2015)
0010	\$ 459.0	\$ 946.4	\$ 1405.4	Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015)
0011	\$ 477.4	\$ 875.3	\$ 1352.7	Frozen II (2019)
0012	\$ 700.1	\$ 646.9	\$ 1347.0	Black Panther (2018)
0013	\$ 381.0	\$ 960.5	\$ 1341.5	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (2011)
0014	\$ 620.2	\$ 712.0	\$ 1332.2	Star Wars: Episode VIII - The Last Jedi (2017)
0015	\$ 400.7	\$ 875.7	\$ 1276.5	Frozen (2013/I)
0016	\$ 504.0	\$ 759.5	\$ 1263.5	Beauty and the Beast (2017)
0017	\$ 225.8	\$ 1013.0	\$ 1238.8	The Fate of the Furious (2017)
0018	\$ 409.0	\$ 806.4	\$ 1215.4	Iron Man Three (2013)
0019	\$ 336.0	\$ 827.5	\$ 1163.5	Minions (2015)
0020	\$ 408.1	\$ 745.2	\$ 1153.3	Captain America: Civil War (2016)
0021	\$ 352.4	\$ 771.4	\$ 1123.7	Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011)
0022	\$ 377.8	\$ 742.1	\$ 1119.9	The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003)
0023	\$ 304.4	\$ 804.2	\$ 1108.6	Skyfall (2012)
0024	\$ 245.4	\$ 858.6	\$ 1104.0	Transformers: Age of Extinction (2014)
0025	\$ 534.9	\$ 569.0	\$ 1103.9	The Dark Knight (2008)
TOTAL	\$12802.2	\$25053.2	\$37855.4	

Stories we tell ourselves

The Cultural Impact of UK Film 1946–2006

A study for the UK Film Council

By Narval Media / Birkbeck College / Media Consulting Group



Get Carter

Look Back In Anger

Young Soul Rebels

UK FILM COUNCIL

June 2009

Impact Film	Original		Extended				Wider				
	Adm/ BO	Fest	Acad	DVD/ SpEd	Rest	Lists	COM	EE	EIBS	IMDb	YT
<i>Life & Death of Col. Blimp</i>	H	Y	–	YY	Y	YY	–	Y	Y	8.2/2,957	5+
<i>Brief Encounter</i>	M	Y	Y	YY	–	YY	–	Y	–	8.3/8,552	5+
<i>Brighton Rock</i>	H	–	–	Y	–	YY	–	Y	–	7.6/820	3
<i>Kind Hearts & Coronets</i>	H	YY	–	Y	–	YY	–	Y	–	8.4/8,616	5+
<i>Trouble in Store</i>	M	–	Y	Y	–	–	–	–	–	6.0/233	3+
<i>The Dam Busters</i>	H	–	YY	Y	–	Y	Y	Y	Y	7.4/1,198	5+
<i>Dracula</i>	H	–	–	Y	Y	–	Y	Y	Y	7.7/3,796	3
<i>Look Back in Anger</i>	M	–	Y	Y	–	–	Y	–	–	7.2/631	2
<i>Lawrence of Arabia</i>	H	–	YY	YY	Y	YY	Y	Y	Y	8.6/60,073	5+
<i>Dr No</i>	H	–	–	Y	–	Y	Y	–	Y	7.3/25,675	5+
<i>A Hard Day's Night</i>	H	–	YY	Y	–	Y	Y	–	Y	7.5/11,498	5+
<i>A Man for All Seasons</i>	M	Y	YY	Y	–	Y	Y	Y	–	8.1/9,469	5+
<i>A Clockwork Orange</i>	H	–	YY	YY	–	–	Y	Y	Y	8.5/139,303	5+
Bill Douglas Trilogy (1972-78) <i>My Childhood/My Ain Folk/My Way Home</i>	M	Y	–	YY	–	Y	–	Y	–	7.9/108	1
<i>Monty Pyth & Holy Grail</i>	H	–	–	YY	Y	–	Y	Y	Y	8.9/119,430	5+
<i>Jubilee</i>	L	Y	–	YY	–	–	–	–	Y	5.9/636	5+
<i>Porridge</i>	M	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6.9/496	0
<i>The Long Good Friday</i>	M	–	Y	YY	–	Y	–	Y	Y	7.8/4,844	5+
<i>Chariots of Fire</i>	H	Y	YY	Y	–	Y	Y	Y	Y	7.3/12,090	5+
<i>Draughtsman's Contract</i>	M	–	–	YY	Y	Y	–	–	Y	7.2/2,497	3
<i>Gandhi</i>	H	–	YY	YY	–	Y	Y	Y	Y	8.1/34,871	5+
<i>My Beautiful Laundrette</i>	M	Y	YY	Y	–	Y	–	Y	–	6.9/4,031	5+
<i>Henry V</i>	M	–	YY	Y	–	–	Y	Y	Y	7.9/12,140	5+
<i>Riff-Raff</i>	L	Y	–	Y	–	Y	–	Y	–	7.3/987	0
<i>The Crying Game</i>	H	–	YY	Y	–	Y	Y	Y	Y	7.3/16,663	5+
<i>Four Weddings & Funeral</i>	H	Y	YY	Y	–	Y	Y	Y	Y	7.1/30,505	5+
<i>The Full Monty</i>	H	Y	YY	Y	–	Y	Y	Y	Y	7.2/33,261	5+
<i>Sexy Beast</i>	M	–	YY	Y	–	Y	Y	Y	Y	7.1/15,459	5+
<i>Bend it like Beckham</i>	H	–	Y	Y	–	–	Y	Y	Y	7.1/33,430	5+
<i>HP & Prisoner of Azkaban</i>	H	–	YY	YY	–	–	Y	–	Y	7.7/77,535	5+

Key

Original impact indices

Admissions/box office: H = high; M = medium; L = low (relative to scale of release) – Festivals: Major competitive festivals only (Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Moscow)

Extended impact indices over time

Academy awards: BAFTA first; then AMPAS (Oscars®). Y = nominated; Y = won one or more award – DVD: Published on DVD in UK; Sp Ed = published in special edition, with commentary, extras etc – Rest: Film has been restored and reissued – Lists: Appears in one or more published '10/100 best' lists, eg Time Out, Sight and Sound, BBC

Wider impact indices

COM: Citation in other media, such as songs, advertisements, television show, etc. – EE: Evidence of Esteem: special commendation by cultural arbiters, prizes, exceptional awards, etc – EIBS: Evidence of Impact on behaviour or society: instances of film-influenced behaviour – IMDb: Internet Movie Database 'Adjusted user rating', followed by total of votes cast up to 30.07.08 – YT: Number of clips appearing on YouTube as at 31.08.08

Opening our eyes

How film contributes to the culture of the UK
A report for the arts by the British Academy and Ipsos MORI
July 2012



What's inside:

How and where we watch films

The sorts of films we watch

What films do

The cultural contribution
of individual films

What's inside:



Executive summary



Study method



What people told us:
How and where we
watch films



What people told us:
The sorts of films we watch

Most frequently mentioned films as having had an effect on respondents personally (Survey question D1, all films mentioned ten or more times)

Film	Number of mentions
The King's Speech	100
Schindler's List	75
Avatar	42
Shumdog Millionaire	41
Titanic	28
The Shawshank Redemption	28
Inception	27
Saving Private Ryan	24
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	20
Black Swan	19
The Sound of Music	19
The Green Mile	18
The Lord of the Rings (all mentioned)	18
Braveheart	15
Star Wars (all mentioned)	15
Harry Potter (all mentioned)	15
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest	14
The Matrix	13
Mamma Mia!	12

origins in a widely publicised 1999 news story, when middle-aged members of a North Yorkshire Women's Institute branch posed for a 'tasteful' nude calendar to raise money for cancer research. Like the earlier fame of the (fictitious) ex-steelworkers' striptease in *The Full Monty* (1996), this caught the national imagination, amplified by press and broadcasting interest, and has ensured that the phrase and associated images are likely to be known to most of the UK adult population. Like *The Full Monty*, *Calendar Girls* has also generated behavioural spin-offs, with similar stunts being widely performed for charity, and a stage version touring nationally as well as running in London's West End.⁶⁶ Additionally, although not without controversy, it has been cited as evidence of anti-ageism and the potential success of older women on screen.⁶⁷

Shaun of the Dead gained high recognition for a genre film, in this case 'zombie horror' (albeit spoof). The other results in Figure 26 show awareness of some cinema classics – 93% had heard of *Casablanca* (1942), 82% of *Citizen Kane* (1941), and 36% of *The Red Shoes* (1948, but recently restored and re-issued) as well as of a range of European 'modern classics' such as *Cinema Paradiso* (39%), *Amélie* (63%) and *Pan's Labyrinth* (58%). However, the non-English language film that achieved most recognition, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (80%), was Chinese, which may evidence a continuation of the interest in martial arts stimulated by 1970s 'kung fu' films.⁶⁸

However, one title seems to encapsulate how a film can maintain a high level of recognition over a long period of time: *The Italian Job*, a 1969 'caper' film starring Michael Caine.⁶⁹ The fact that this 40-year-old film has the second highest 'viewed' score among our respondents (73%) underlines the importance of television and



Two for the heart...?



Titanic and Avatar
Creating 'places'
of the mind and
imagination





BFI launched Connoisseur video label 1990



DRAFT FOR SIR RICHARD'S SPEECH AT SOUTHEY'S, 18 SEPT
at 7.00pm approx, from the auctioneer's podium

Ladies and gentlemen

It's my pleasure as Chairman of the British Film Institute to welcome you to the 'first night' of Connoisseur Video, and I'm sure you'll agree this is a distinctively appropriate setting to promote the concept of connoisseurship. But I'm not going to try to sell you any of the individual masterpieces of cinema that we're proud to include in our launch catalogue. Instead, looking at this impressive list of titles, I'm reminded of one of Billy Wilder's great comedies. You may recall how Jimmy Cagney, in ONE TWO THREE, delivers the immortal line: 'A world that's produced the Taj Mahal and striped toothpaste can't be all bad'. Well, I put it to you that a video label which includes among its releases films by Welles, Cocteau, Ophuls, Tati, Pasolini - not to mention such living British talents as Mike Leigh, Peter Greenaway and Philip Saville - certainly can't be all bad. In fact it promises to bring a breadth and variety to the British video market which many have felt is sorely needed.

One of the **GREATEST FILMS OF ALL TIME...**



AKIRA KUROSAWA'S
"SEVEN SAMURAI"
Cert. X

"A thriller, brilliantly directed and as brilliantly photographed and dated." *DAILY TELEGRAPH*

"By any standard, a remarkable piece of work." *DAILY MAIL*

GRAND PRIX: VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

Presented by CONNOISSEUR FILMS LTD.

(Original Japanese dialogue - English Subtitles)



KUROSAWA Seven Samurai 1954 Connoisseur UK PAL VHS VIDEO 195 Mins UN CUT UK SUBS

★★★★★ Be the first to [write a review](#).

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"Played."

Price: **£13.99**

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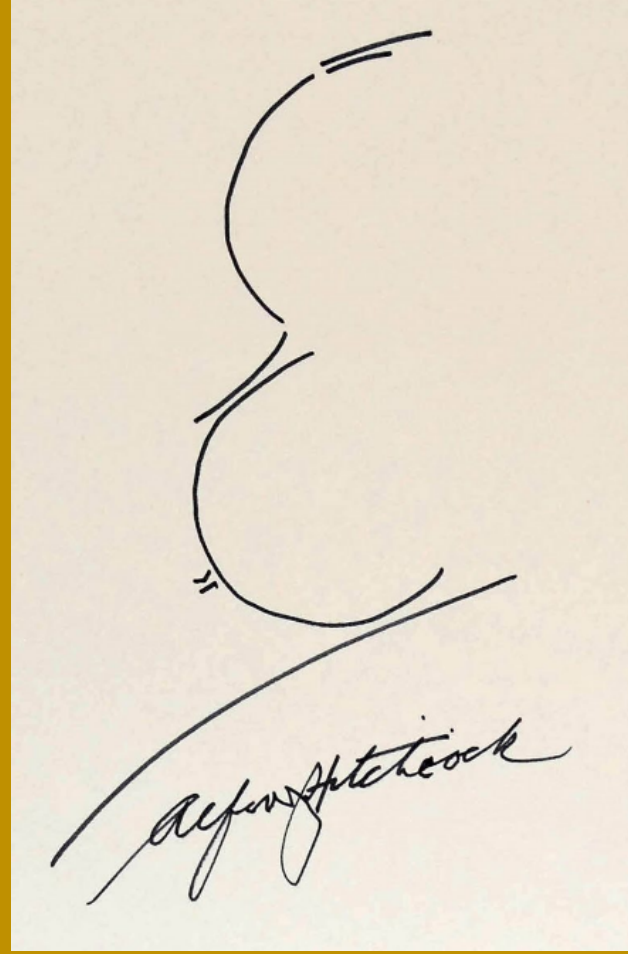
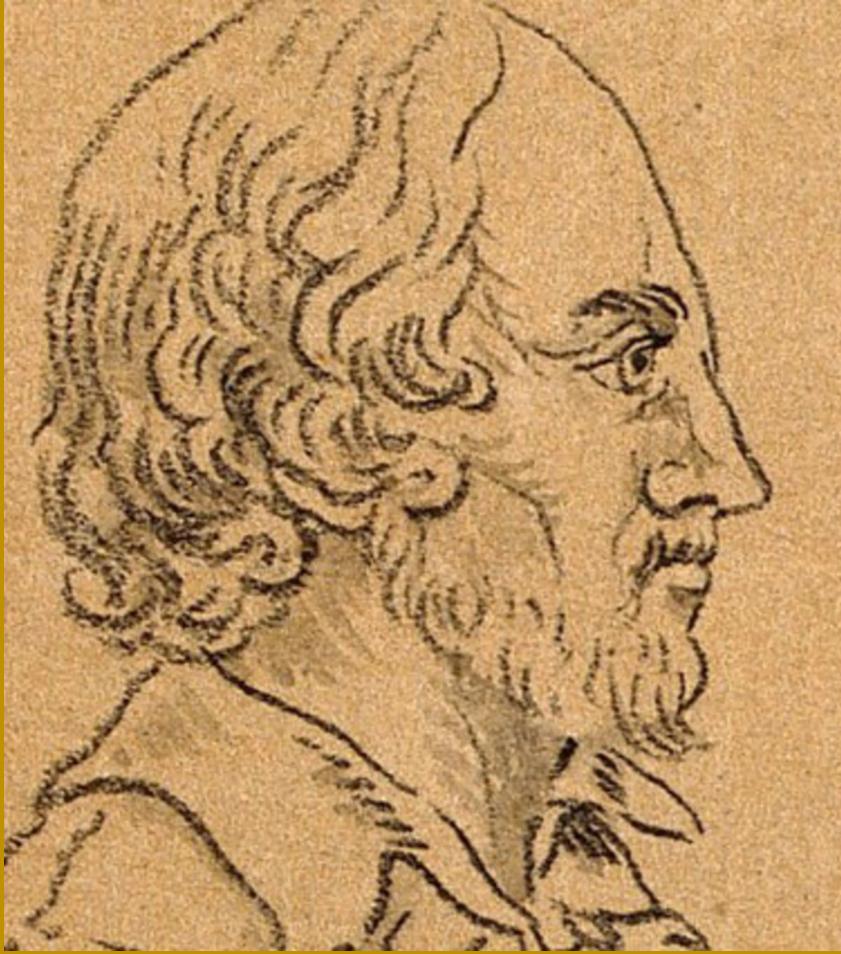
30-day returns

Posts from United Kingdom

WA-Seven-Samurai-1954-Connoisseur-UK-PAL-VHS-VIDEO-195-Mins-UNCUT-UK-SUBS



?



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Modern Classics



Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory



The Karate Kid



Ghost



Monty Python's Life of Brian



Groundhog Day



Scent of a Woman

Action & Adventure

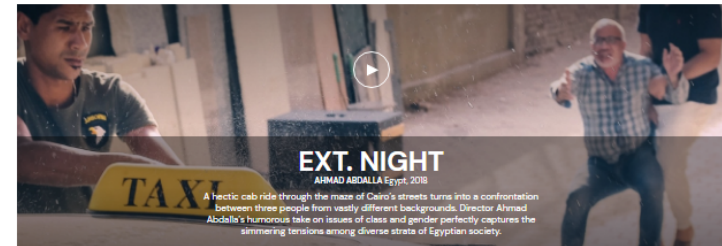


WHAT IS MUBI

A streaming service? A curator? A publisher? A distributor? A cinema lover? Yes.

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FILM OF THE DAY



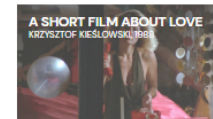
EXT. NIGHT

AHMAD ABDALLA Egypt, 2018

A hectic cab ride through the maze of Cairo's streets turns into a confrontation between three people from vastly different backgrounds. Director Ahmad Abdalla's humorous take on issues of class and gender perfectly captures the simmering tensions among diverse strata of Egyptian society.

From new directors to award-winners. From everywhere on earth. Beautiful, interesting, incredible movies — a new one, every single day. Always chosen by us.

NOW SHOWING ON MUBI



A SHORT FILM ABOUT LOVE
KRZYSZTOF KIESLOWSKI 1988

SPECIALS

BFI

New trailer for Women Make Film - on BFI Player a... Watch later

WOMEN MAKE FILM

A NEW ROAD MOVIE THROUGH CINEMA

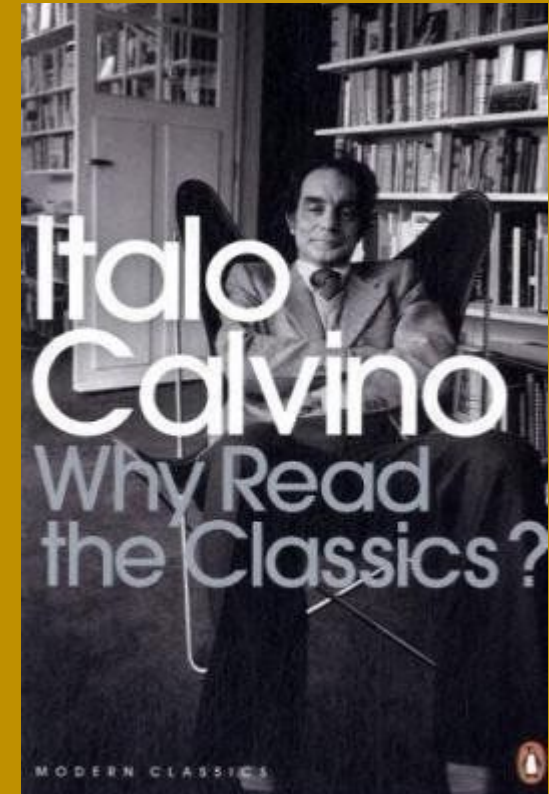
MORE VIDEOS

1:35 / 1:39

A video player interface for a trailer. The BFI logo is in the top left. The title 'WOMEN MAKE FILM' is in large bold letters, with the subtitle 'A NEW ROAD MOVIE THROUGH CINEMA' below it. A 'MORE VIDEOS' button is on the left, and a progress bar at the bottom shows 1:35 / 1:39. A 'Watch later' link is in the top right.

**DECOLONISING
THE SCREEN**

1. The classics are those books about which you usually hear people saying: 'I'm rereading...', never 'I'm reading....'
2. The Classics are those books which constitute a treasured experience for those who have read and loved them; but they remain just as rich an experience for those who reserve the chance to read them for when they are in the best condition to enjoy them.
3. The classics are books which exercise a particular influence, both when they imprint themselves on our imagination as unforgettable, and when they hide in the layers of memory disguised as the individual's or the collective unconscious.
4. A classic is a book which with each rereading offers as much of a sense of discovery as the first reading.
5. A classic is a book which even when we read it for the first time gives the sense of rereading something we have read before.
6. A classic is a book which has never exhausted all it has to say to its readers.



1. The classics are those **films** about which you usually hear people saying: 'I'm **reviewing**...', never 'I'm **going to watch**....

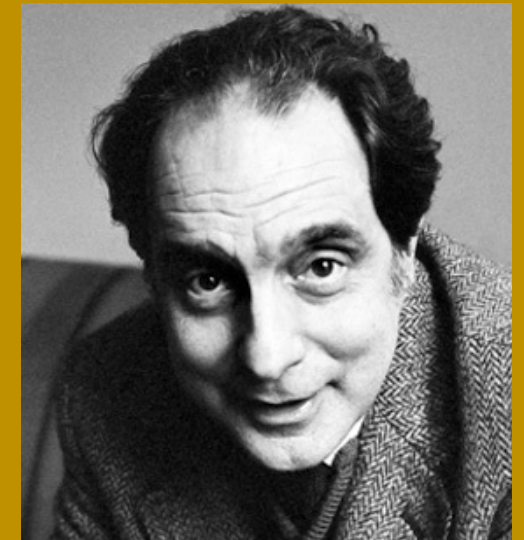
2. The classics are those **films** which constitute a treasured experience for those who have **seen** and loved them; but they remain just as rich an experience for those who reserve the chance to **watch** them for when they are in the best condition to enjoy them.

3. The classics are **films** which exercise a particular influence, both when they imprint themselves on our imagination as unforgettable, and when they hide in the layers of memory disguised as the individual's or the collective unconscious.

4. A classic is a **film** which with each **reviewing** offers as much of a sense of discovery as the first **viewing**.

5. A classic is a **film** which even when we **see** it for the first time gives the sense of **reviewing** something we have read before.

6. A classic is a **film** which has never exhausted all it has to say to its **viewers**.





SEARCH BY SUBJECT, SERIES OR SPEAKER...



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ABOUT US

Exploding the Film Canon

What makes a film 'classic'? And why might we want to argue?

In this series of three lectures Visiting Professor Ian Christie looks at the idea of a film canon, who constructs it, and at what's missing from the Western canon.

SUBJECTS

Film and Media

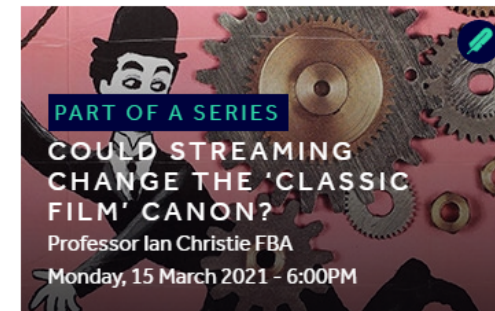
FUTURE LECTURES IN THIS SERIES



PART OF A SERIES
WHAT MAKES A FILM CLASSIC?
Professor Ian Christie FBA
Monday, 18 January 2021 - 6:00PM



PART OF A SERIES
**FAR FROM HOLLYWOOD:
NEW KINDS OF CLASSIC
FILM**
Professor Ian Christie FBA
Monday, 15 February 2021 - 6:00PM



PART OF A SERIES
**COULD STREAMING
CHANGE THE 'CLASSIC
FILM' CANON?**
Professor Ian Christie FBA
Monday, 15 March 2021 - 6:00PM