

Movies that depict street life and street people

by Phillip W. Weiss

***Anna Christie* (1930)**, about a street prostitute in New York City who lives with her father on a garbage scow.

***Frankenstein* (1931)**, a sci-fi story about a pseudo-human monster who wanders in the forest (a metaphor for the street) somewhere in Europe.

***King Kong* (1933)**, a sci-fi story about a captive anthropomorphic ape that escapes to the street in New York City.

***Man's Castle* (1933)**, about street people living in a city park.

***Hallelujah, I'm a Bum* (1933)**, a musical about street people in New York City.

***The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1939)**, in part about street people in Paris in the late medieval period.

***The Wizard of Oz* (1939)**, a musical about a teenage girl wandering on a yellow brick road (which metaphorically is the street) in a fantasy land.

***The Great McGinty* (1940)**, about a street person who becomes a politician.

***The Lost Weekend* (1945)**, based on a 1944 novel by Charles H. Jackson, about an alcoholic man who goes on a five-day binge in New York City.

***Treasure of the Sierra Madre* (1948)**, about three American vagrants in Tampico, Mexico who go prospecting for gold.

***Guys and Dolls* (1955)**, a musical about gamblers who operate a floating dice game in the street.

***Lady and the Tramp* (1955)**, an animated cartoon about a wayward male street dog and a "proper" lady dog.

***The Ten Commandments* (1956)**, about an Egyptian prince who decides to leave home and wallow in a mud pit (a metaphor for the street).

***West Side Story* (1961)**, a musical about two rival street gangs fighting over street "turf" in New York City.

***My Fair Lady* (1964)**, a musical about a relationship between a London street woman and a professor.

***Oliver!* (1968)**, a musical about a street gang in nineteenth century London.

***Midnight Cowboy* (1969)**, about a man from Texas who travels to New York City and becomes a street person.

***Joe* (1970)**, about a factory worker in New York City who conspires with a businessman to murder hippies (who metaphorically are street people).

***Cinderella Liberty* (1973)**, about a street prostitute in Seattle, Washington who hooks up with a lonely sailor.

***The Mack* (1973)**, about a street pimp in Oakland, California.

***The Gambler* (1974)**, about a college professor whose gambling addiction takes him to the ghetto (a metaphor for the street).

***Kung Fu* (1974-1977)**, a television series about a Chinese-American hobo who wanders throughout the Old West.

***Taxi Driver* (1976)**, about a New York City taxi driver who has a relationship with an underage prostitute.

***Saturday Night Fever* (1977)**, in part about a young man from Brooklyn who travels all night on the subway in New York City.

***The Deer Hunter* (1978)**, in part about a Vietnam War veteran who becomes part of the street scene in Saigon, South Vietnam.

***The Incredible Hulk* (1978-1982)**, a sci-fi series about a man who, when enraged, turns into a giant green monster and winds up on the street.

***Blade Runner* (1982)**, a sci-fi story set in a dystopian future Los Angeles populated by throngs of people on the street.

***First Blood* (1982)**, about a Vietnam War veteran hobo who is wandering in the US Northwest.

***Rumble Fish* (1983)**, about two brothers getting into trouble on the street in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

***Trading Places* (1983)**, a comedy about a businessman in Philadelphia who finds himself on the street and gets involved with a street people.

***Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* (1985)**, a sci-fi story about a hobo on the street in a town ruled by a beautiful but ruthless woman.

***Ironweed* (1987)**, about alcoholic street people scrounging in Albany, New York.

***They Live* (1988)**, a sci-fi story about a hobo in Los Angeles who makes a startling discovery.

***Pretty Woman* (1990)**, about a Los Angeles street prostitute who shacks up with a wealthy businessman.

***Leaving Las Vegas* (1995)**, about a Las Vegas street prostitute who shacks up with a suicidal alcoholic screenwriter.

***Gangs of New York* (2002)**, about two rival street gangs in lower Manhattan in the 1840s.

***Monster* (2003)** about a street prostitute in Florida who becomes a serial killer (based on a true story).

Also, during the nineteen-sixties, comedian Red Skelton performed a skit on television that featured a fictional character, a vagrant named Freddie the Freeloader.

