Phil’s List of Movies That Dramatize Psychological Themes

By Phillip W. Weiss

*Taxi Driver* (1976), directed by Martin Scorsese, with Robert De Niro, Cybil Shepherd, Harvey Keitel, and Jodie Foster. A socially-isolated army veteran is rejected by a woman and displaces his rage on others. This movie was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Actor and Best Actress in a supporting role.

*Leaving Las Vegas* (1995), directed by Mike Figgis, with Nicholas Cage, Elizabeth Shue and Julian Sands. An alcoholic screen writer decides to commit suicide in Las Vegas. This movie won the Academy Award for Best Actor.

*Charly* (1968), directed by Ralph Nelson, with Cliff Robertson, Claire Bloom and Leon Janney. A mentally retarded man is transformed into a genius then quickly regresses back to his baseline with tragic consequences. This movie won the Academy Award for Best Actor.

*The Pawnbroker* (1965), directed by Sidney Lumet, with Rod Steiger, Geraldine Fitzgerald, Brock Peters and Jaime Sanchez. A bitter Holocaust survivor has repeated flashbacks as the squalor of his surroundings remind him of the brutality he experienced in Europe.

*As Good as It Gets* (1997), directed by James L. Brooks, with Jack Nicholson, Laura Linney, Greg Kinnear and Cuba Gooding Jr. A writer with obsessive-compulsive disorder comes out of his shell after he befriends a dog. This movie won Academy Awards for Best Actor and Best Actress.

*First Blood* (1982) directed by Ted Kotcheff, with Sylvester Stallone, Richard Crenna, Brian Dennehy and David Caruso. A Vietnam veteran and ex-prisoner of war experiences an intense flashback and reverts back to being a soldier, with dire consequences.

*Three Faces of Eve* (1957), directed by Nunnally Johnson, with Joanne Woodward, David Wayne and Lee J. Cobb. A woman is treated for multiple personality disorder. This movie won the Academy Award for Best Actress.

*The Odd Couple* (1968), directed by Gene Saks, with Walter Matthau, Jack Lemmon and Herb Edelman. Two middle aged divorced men, one slovenly and disorganized, the other fastidious and obsessively neat, share an apartment with humorous results.

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The Exorcist (1973) directed by William Friedkin, with Ellen Burstyn, Lee J. Cobb, Max Von Sydow, Jason Miller and Linda Blair. A young, innocent girl undergoes a radical personality change which defies psychiatric intervention.

Days of Wine and Roses (1962) directed by Blake Edwards, with Jack Lemmon, Lee Remick, Charles Bickford and Jack Klugman. A married couple struggle with the effects of alcoholism. This movie was nominated for five Academy Awards including Best Actor and Best Actress.

Now, Vogager (1942) directed by Irving Rapper, with Betty Davis, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains, Gladys Cooper and Bonita Granville. A shy, introverted spinster undergoes psychotherapy, asserts her independence and achieves emotional fulfillment. This movie was nominated for three Academy Awards, including Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress.

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1941), directed by Victor Fleming, with Spencer Tracy, Ingrid Bergman and Lana Turner. A mild mannered educated man experiments with a mind altering potion which transforms him into a brutal unrestrained fiend.

Safe (1995), directed by Todd Haynes, with Julianne Moore, Peter Friedman and Xander Berkeley. A woman with a phobia of chemicals in the environment takes increasingly radical measures to isolate herself in order to avoid exposure.

The Purple Rose of Cairo (1985), directed by Woody Allen, with Mia Farrow, Jeff Daniels, Danny Aiello and Irving Metzman. An actor is portrayed as having two personalities – his screen persona in which he is kind, selfless, witty and heroic, and his professional persona in which he is selfish and self-centered.

Rain Man (1988), directed by Barry Levinson, with Dustin Hoffman, Tom Cruise, Valeria Golino and Gerald R. Molen. A young man attempts to form a relationship with his older brother who is autistic and cannot tolerate being touched. This movie won four Academy Awards: Best Actor, Best Director, Best Picture and Best Writing, Original Screenplay.

The Onion Field (1979), directed by Harold Becker, with John Savage, James Woods, Franklyn Seales and Ted Danson. A police officer suffers from post traumatic stress syndrome. This movie was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor.

A Woman Under the Influence (1980), directed by John Cassavetes, with Pete Falk, Gina Rowlands, Fred Draper and Matthew Cassel. A working class man struggles to cope with his wife’s mental illness. This movie was nominated for two Academy Awards for Best Actress and Best Director.
The Picture of Dorian Gray (1945), directed by Albert Lewin, with Hurd Hatfield, George Sanders, Donna Reed, Angela Lansbury and Peter Lawford. An urbane, soft-spoken gentleman leads a double life. This movie won the Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress.

Casablanca (1942), directed by Michael Curtiz, with Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Paul Henreid, Claude Rains, Conrad Veidt and Peter Lorre. An American saloon owner is forced to deal with his feelings about a woman and the purpose of his life. This movie was nominated for eight Academy Awards, winning three: Best Director, Best Picture and Best Writing, Screenplay.

The Ten Commandments (1956), directed by Cecil B. DeMille, with Charlton Heston, Yul Brynner, Anne Baxter, Nina Foch and Edward G. Robinson. A prince of Egypt suddenly believes that he was born a Hebrew slave and undergoes a radical personality change. This movie was nominated for seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

Ben Hur (1959), directed by William Wyler, with Charlton Heston, Stephen Boyd, Jack Hawkins and Sam Jaffe. A Jewish prince in Palestine sublimates his rage in order to survive and wreak revenge on the Roman official who destroyed his family. This movie won eleven Academy Awards, including Best Actor, Best Director and Best Picture.

Psycho (1960), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, with Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh, Vera Miles and Martin Balsam. A mild mannered hotel manager vents his rage through an alter ego. This movie was nominated for four Academy Awards including Best Director and Best Supporting Actress.

Strangers on a Train (1951), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, with Robert Walker, Farley Granger, Ruth Roman and Leo G. Carroll. A psychotic man projects his homicidal tendencies onto a tennis player who he meets on a train.

Frances (1982), directed by Graeme Clifford, with Jessica Lange, Kim Stanley and Sam Shepherd. Biopic of Hollywood actress Frances Farmer who was confined in a state mental hospital. This movie was nominated for Academy Awards for Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress.

The Best Years of Our Lives (1946), directed by William Wyler, with Myrna Loy, Frederic March, Dana Andrews, Teresa Wright, Virginia Mayo and Harold Russell. Army veterans return home from the war and discover that they and their world have changed. This movie won seven Academy Awards including Best Actor, Best Director and Best Picture.
Play Misty for Me (1971), directed by Clint Eastwood, with Clint Eastwood, Jessica Walter, Donna Mills and John Larch. A radio disc jockey becomes the target of an emotionally disturbed woman.


Trading Places (1983), directed by John Landis, with Eddie Murphy, Dan Aykroyd, Ralph Bellamy, Don Ameche, Jaime Lee Curtis and Denhom Elliott. A cruel experiment goes awry with unexpected consequences. This movie was nominated for two Golden Globe Awards: Best Motion Picture – Comedy/Musical and Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture – Comedy/Musical.

Coming to America (1988), directed by John Landis, with Eddie Murphy, Arsenio Hall, James Earl Jones and John Amos. A young African prince travels to New York City to establish his own identity. This movie won the Image Awards for Outstanding Motion Picture and Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture.

Pretty Woman (1990), directed by Garry Marshall, with Julia Roberts, Richard Gere, Jason Alexander, Ralph Bellamy and Elinor Donahue. An emotionally repressed businessman lets go of his anger and undergoes a dramatic personality change. This movie was nominated for four Golden Globe Awards including Best Motion Picture.

For Whom The Bells Toll (1943), directed by Sam Wood, with Ingrid Bergman, Gary Cooper, Akim Tamiroff and Katina Paxinou. An American, fighting in the Spanish Civil War, volunteers for a dangerous mission. This movie was nominated for nine Academy Awards winning one for Best Supporting Actress.

The Graduate (1967), directed by Mike Nichols, with Dustin Hoffman, Ann Bancroft, Katherine Ross, Murray Hamilton and William Daniels. A young man graduates from college and experiences an identity crisis which causes him to make poor decisions that hurt others. This movie was nominated for eight Academy Awards, winning for Best Director.

Moon Over Parador (1988), directed by Paul Mazursky, with Richard Dreyfuss, Raul Julia, Sonia Braga, Jonathan Winters and Sammy Davis Jr. While portraying a dictator, an actor experiences identity confusion placing his life at risk. This movie was nominated for two Golden Globe Awards: Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role and Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role.
The Hospital (1971), directed by Arthur Hiller, with George C. Scott, Diana Rigg, Barnard Hughes and Richard Dysart. A medical doctor contemplating suicide meets a woman who helps him restore his faith in life and renew his purpose for living. This movie was nominated for two Academy Awards including Best Actor.

The Jazz Singer (1927), directed by Alan Crosland, with Al Jolson, Mae McAvoy, Warner Oland and Eugenia Besserer. A young man suffers an acute identity crisis when he is forced to decide if he belongs with the in-group or the out-group. This movie won an honorary Academy Award for being the pioneer outstanding talking picture, which revolutionized the industry.

Der Untergang (2004) directed by Oliver Hirschbiegel, with Bruno Ganz, Alexandra Maria Lara, Ulrich Matthes and Juliane Kohler. In the final days of the Third Reich, Adolf Hitler lapses into despair and decides to commit suicide as he realizes his dreams are shattered. This movie was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975), directed by Milos Forman, with Jack Nicholson, Louise Fletcher, Danny DeVito and Will Sampson. A young man feigning mental illness is admitted to a psychiatric hospital and discovers that he fits in with the other patients. This movie won five Academy Awards including Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, Best Writing, Screenplay, Adapted From Other Material.

Double Indemnity (1944), directed by Billy Wilder, with Fred MacMurray, Barbara Stanwyck, Edward G. Robinson and Porter Hall. A life insurance salesman and a married woman conspire to murder the woman's husband and then defraud the insurance company. This movie was nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Director, Best Picture and Best Actress.

Superman (1978), directed by Richard, with Christopher Reeve, Marlon Brando Gene Hackman, Ned Beatty and Margot Kidder. A human-like being from another planet struggles to maintain his true identity while impersonating a human being. This movie was nominated for four Academy Awards.

Batman (1989), directed by Tim Burton, with Michael Keaton, Jack Nicholson, Kim Basinger and Robert Wuhl. After witnessing the violent deaths of his parents as a child, a man sublimates his rage by wreaking revenge on criminals in the persona of a bat. This movie was nominated for six BAFTA Awards

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (1966), directed by Sergio Leone, with Clint Eastwood, Eli Wallach. Lee Van Cleef and Aldo Giuffre. During the Civil War, three sociopaths vie with each other to find a large sum of money buried somewhere in a cemetery.
The Caine Mutiny (1954), directed by Edward Dmytryk, with Humphrey Bogart, Jose Ferrer, Fred MacMurray, and Van Johnson. An emotionally disturbed commander of a U.S. Navy ship issues increasingly irrational orders which triggers a mutiny. This movie was nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Actor.

Mutiny On the Bounty (1935), directed by Frank Lloyd, with Charles Laughton, Clark Gable, Franchot Tone and Eddie Quillan. A commander of a British navy vessel displaces his rage on the crew resulting in a mutiny. This movie was nominated for eight Academy Awards winning one for Best Picture.

Empire of the Sun (1987), directed by Steven Spielberg, with Christian Bale, John Malkovich, Miranda Richardson and Joe Pantoliano. A British youth, separated from his parents, is interned in a Japanese civilian internment camp during World War Two, putting his survival skills to the test. This movie was nominated for six Academy Awards.

The Longest Day (1962), directed Ken Annakin and Andrew Marton, with John Wayne, Eddie Albert, Rod Steiger and Robert Wagner. A coalition of nations led by the United States launch a massive, complex and highly risky military operation to liberate Europe from Nazi tyranny. This movie was nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture – Drama.

Saving Private Ryan (1998), directed by Steven Spielberg, with Tom Hanks, Tom Sizemore, Edward Burns, Vin Diesel and Matt Damon. In the days immediately following the D-Day invasion of Europe, a traumatized American officer is ordered to find a missing soldier, further testing his coping skills. This movie won five Academy Awards including Best Director.

The Incredible Hulk (1978), t.v. series, with Bill Bixby, Lou Ferrigno and Jack Colvin. A scientist is exposed to radiation which changes the chemistry in his body and radically alters his personality. This show was nominated for three Emmy Awards, winning one.

The Godfather (1972), directed by Francis Ford Coppola, with Marlon Brando, Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, James Caan and Diane Keaton. A man operates a criminal empire through which he projects his contempt for society. This movie was nominated for eleven Academy Awards, winning three: Best Actor, Best Picture, Best Writing, Screenplay, Based on Material from Another Medium.

Grease (1978), directed by Randal Kleiser, with John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John, Stockard Channing and Jeff Conaway. A teenager falls in love which triggers an immediate identity crisis. This movie was nominated for five Golden Globe Awards, including Best Motion Picture – Musical/Comedy.
Scarface (1983), directed by Brian De Palma, with Al Pacino, Steven Bauer, Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Loggia. A violent man projects his anger onto everyone, destroying everything and everybody around him. This movie was nominated for three Golden Globe Awards. This movie was a remake of a 1932 movie directed by Howard Hawks and Robert Rosson, and featuring Paul Muni, Ann Dvorak, Karen Morley and George Raft.

Saturday Night Fever (1977), directed by John Badham, with John Travolta, Karen Lynn Gorney, Donna Pescow and Barry Miller. A young man experiences an intense identity crisis causing him to reevaluate his priorities. This movie was nominated for four Golden Globe Awards including Best Motion Picture.

Three Came Home (1950), directed by Jean Negulesco, with Claudette Colbert, Sessue Hayakawa and Patric Knowles. During World War Two a woman detained in a Japanese internment camp is befriended by the camp commandant who protects her because she wrote a book he liked.

Gone With The Wind (1939), directed by Victor Fleming, with Clark Gable, Vivian Leigh, Olivia de Haviland, Leslie Howard and George Reeves. During the Civil War a woman is forced to adjust to rapidly changing conditions as the world she knew collapses around her. This movie won eight Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actress in a Leading Role.

Body and Soul (1947), directed by Robert Rossen, with John Garfield, Lili Palmer, Anne Revere, Joseph Pevney and Canada Lee. A professional boxer is obsessed with making money. This movie was nominated for three Academy Awards including Best Actor in a Leading Role.

Gods and Monsters (1998), directed by Bill Condon, with Ian McKellan, Brendan Fraser, Lynn Redgrave and Lolita Davidovich. A retired movie director and veteran of the First World War suffers flash backs from the war which drive him to despair. This movie was nominated for three Academy Awards including Best Actor in a Leading Role.

Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977), directed by Steven Spielberg, with Richard Dreyfuss, Francois Truffaut, Teri Garr and Melinda Dillon. A man is exposed to a mysterious beam of light and becomes obsessed with finding a mountain. This movie was nominated for eight Academy Awards.

Requiem for a Heavyweight (1962), directed by Ralph Nelson, with Anthony Quinn, Jackie Gleason, Mickey Rooney and Julie Harris. A prize fighter struggles to maintain his dignity and integrity against overwhelming pressure to sell out for money. This movie was nominated for a DGA Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement.
"Frankenstein" (1931), directed by James Whale, with Colin Clive, Mae Clarke, John Boles and Boris Karloff. A scientist investigating the source of life creates a grotesque monster but refuses to take responsibility for his creation with tragic results.

"The Fly" (1986), directed by David Cronenberg, with Jeff Goldblum, Geena Davis and John Getz. A scientist conducting dangerous research becomes a victim of his own carelessness. This movie was nominated for six Saturn Awards, winning three awards including Best Horror Film.

"Z" (1969), directed by Costa-Gavras, with Jean-Louis Trintignant, Irene Papas and Yves Montand. A police inspector investigates the assassination of a politician despite overwhelming pressure to end the investigation. This movie was nominated for five Academy Awards, winning two awards including Best Foreign Language Film.

"My Fair Lady" (1964), directed by George Cukor, with Rex Harrison, Audrey Hepburn, Stanley Holloway and Jeremy Brett. A prudish man denies his feelings for a woman. This movie won eight Academy Awards including Best Picture.

"Fiddler on the Roof" (1971), directed by Norman Jewison, with Topol, Norma Crane, Leonard Frey and Paul Mann. A Jewish man in Czarist Russia struggles to maintain his identity during a time of rapid social change. This movie was nominated for eight Academy Awards including Best Picture.

"King Kong" (1933), directed by Merrian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Schoedsack, with Robert Armstrong, Fay Wray, Bruce Cabot and Frank Reicher. An opportunistic movie director captures a huge and powerful animal and then displays the animal in public, placing an entire city at risk.

"Doctor Zhivago" (1965), directed by David Lean, with Omar Sharif, Julie Christie, Geraldine Chaplin, Rod Steiger and Alec Guinness. During a time of sweeping social change, a medical doctor sublimates his intense anger and sexual urges by writing poetry. This movie was nominated for ten Academy Awards, winning five.

"W" (2008), directed by Oliver Stone, with Josh Brolin, Elizabeth Banks, Richard Dreyfuss and James Cromwell. An alcoholic man, considered a failure by his own family and alienated from his father, sublimates his anger through a career in politics, achieving unexpected success.

"Get Low" (2009), directed by Aaron Schneider, with Robert Duvall, Sissy Spacek, Bill Murray and Lucas Black. A man consumed by guilt isolates himself from society in order to avoid admitting responsibility for his hurtful behavior.
Jerry Maguire (1996), directed by Cameron Crowe, with Tom Cruise, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Renee Zellweger and Jonathan Lipnicki. A cynical sports agent gets in touch with his feelings and begins connecting with people. This movie was nominated for five Academy Awards, winning one.


Alexander (2004), directed by Oliver Stone, with Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie, Val Kilmer and Anthony Hopkins. A man with grandiose dreams sets out to conquer the world.

Troy (2004), directed by Wolfgang Petersen, with Brad Pitt, Eric Bana, Peter O’Toole and Brendan Gleeson. A war breaks out ostensibly to settle a personal insult.

Stagecoach (1939), directed by John Ford, with John Wayne, Claire Trevor, Thomas Mitchell and Louise Platt. A group of riders on a stagecoach put aside their personal differences to respond to a common threat. This movie was nominated for seven Academy Awards, winning two: Best Actor in a Supporting Role and Best Musical Score.

The Prestige (2006), directed by Christopher Nolan, with Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Michael Caine and Rebecca Hall. Two magicians engage in a professional rivalry which becomes personal. This movie was nominated for two Academy Awards.

Poltergeist (1982), directed by Tobe Hooper, with Craig T. Nelson, JoBeth Williams, Zelda Rubenstein and Heather O’Rourke. A family believes that their house is haunted. This movie was nominated for three Academy Awards.

Crash (2004), directed by Paul Haggis, with Matt Dillon, Don Cheadle, Sandra Bullock and William Fichtner. As people’s paths cross, stereotyping abounds generating conflict and violence. This movie was nominated for six Academy Awards, winning three including Best Picture.

The Searchers (1956), directed by John Ford, with John Wayne, Jeffrey Hunter, Vera Miles, Natalie Woods and Ward Bond. A bitter man has a reaction formation over his niece which almost results in tragedy.

10 (1979), directed by Blake Edwards, with Dudley Moore, Julie Andrews, Bo Derek, Robert Webber and Dee Wallace. A man in middle-age crisis alienates everyone who cares about him. This movie was nominated for five Golden Globe Awards.
The Third Man (1949), directed by Carol Reed, with Orson Welles, Joseph Cotton, Trevor Howard, Alida Valli and Bernard Lee. Despite overwhelming evidence, a writer refuses to accept that his best friend is a criminal. This movie was nominated for three Academy Awards including Best Director.

Avatar (2009), directed by James Cameron, with Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver and Stephen Lang. Motivated by greed, an entire civilization is deemed expendable. This movie was nominated for nine Academy Awards, winning three.

West Side Story (1961), directed by Jerome Robbins and Robert Wise, with Natalie Wood, Richard Beymer, Russ Tamblyn, George Chakiris and Rita Moreno. A young man and young woman from rival gang unexpectedly meet and fall in love. This movie won ten Academy Awards including Best Picture.

The Aviator (2004), directed by Martin Scorses, with Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett, John C. Reilly, Kate Beckinsale, Alec Baldwin and Alan Alda. A brilliant entrepreneur’s life is severely hampered by obsessive compulsive disorder. This movie was nominated for eleven Academy Awards, winning five.

East of Eden (1955), directed by Elia Kazan, with James Dean, Julie Harris, Raymond Massie and Richard Davalos. Two brothers, estranged from their mother, vie for the affection of their father. This movie was nominated for four Academy Awards.

Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948), directed by John Huston, with Humphrey Boart, Walter Huston, Tim Holt, Bruce Bennett and Alphonso Bedoya. Three men, motivated by greed, fight with nature and each other to find gold. This movie won three Academy Awards including Best Director.

There Will Be Blood (2007), directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, with Daniel Day-Lewis, Paul Dano, Sydney McAllister and Kellie Hill. A man displaces his aggressive urges onto the land and then projects his hostility on to others. This movie was nominated for eight Academy Awards.

Where’s Poppa? (1970), directed by Carl Reiner, with George Segal, Ruth Gordon, Ron Leibman and Trish Van Devere. A single man is conflicted over what to do with his elderly senile mother who lives with him.

Mildred Pierce (1945), with Joan Crawford, Zachary Scott, Jack Carson, Eve Arden and Ann Blyth. A single mother spoils her daughter who grows up to be her mother’s rival. This movie was nominated for six Academy Awards, winning one for Best Actress.
*Mommy Dearest*(1981), directed by Frank Perry, with Faye Dunaway, Diana Scarwid, Steve Forrest and Howard Da Silva. A famous actress displaces her aggression onto her adopted daughter.

*Seven Beauties*(1975), directed by Lina Wertmuller, with Giancarlo Giannini, Fernando Rey, Shirley Stoler and Mario Conti. A petty criminal incarcerated in a concentration camp suppresses his feelings and sublimates his energy in order to survive. This movie was nominated for four Academy Awards including Best Director and Best Foreign Language Film.

*Guadalcanal Diary*(1943), directed by Louis Seiler, with Preston Foster, Lloyd Nolan, William Bendix, Richard Conte and Anthony Quinn. In World War Two, courageous American soldiers invade a Japanese-held island thousands of miles from home.

*The Purple Heart*(1944), directed by Lewis Milestone, with Dana Andrews, Richard Conte, Farley Granger, Sam Levene and Kevin O'Shea. During World War Two, courageous American airmen held prisoner in Japan and accused of committing war crimes, steadfastly refuse to admit guilt.

*Tora! Tora! Tora!*(1970), directed by Richard Fleischer and Kinji Fukasaku, with Martin Balsam, Jason Robards, So Yamamura and Joseph Cotten. Denying the threat posed by Japan, the United States is caught off guard by a surprise attack by Japan that destroys much of the American Pacific fleet and triggers a huge and costly war. This movie was nominated for five Academy Awards.

*Patton*(1970), directed by Franklin J. Schaffner, with George C. Scott, Karl Malden, Bill Hickman and David Bauer. During World War Two a senior U. S. Army commander believes that he is the reincarnation of an ancient Roman general and is destined for greatness. This movie won seven Academy Awards including Best Actor, Best Director and Best Picture.

*Hotel Rwanda*(2004), directed by Terry George, with Don Cheadle, Sophie Okonedo, Nick Nolte, Desmond Dube and Neil McCarthy. A hotel clerk risks his life to protect hundred of refugees during ethnic fighting in Africa. This movie was nominated for three Academy Awards including Best Actor in a Leading Role.

*Citizen Kane*(1941), directed by Orson Welles, with Orson Welles, Joseph Cotten, Dorothy Comingore and Everett Sloane. A prominent and bombastic newspaperman, separated from his parents in childhood, suffers from anxiety disorder and fear of being alone which affects his personal relationships. This movie was nominated for nine Academy Awards.
King Rat (1965), directed by Bryan Forbes, with George Segal, Tom Courtney, James Fox and Patrick O’Neal. An American soldier imprisoned in a Japanese POW camp takes advantage of his mostly British fellow POWs to survive. This movie was nominated for two Academy Awards.

Joe (1970), directed by John G. Avildsen, with Peter Boyle, Dennis Patrick, Susan Sarandon and K Callan. An angry blue collar worker induces a troubled upper middle class businessman to commit murder. This movie was nominated for one Academy Award.

Titanic (1997), directed by James Cameron, with Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, Billy Zane and Gloria Stuart. An angry, impetuous young woman on a doomed ship meets a man and undergoes a major personality change. This movie won eleven Academy Awards including Best Picture.

Pearl Harbor (2001), directed by Michael Bay, with Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett, Kate Beckinsale and Tom Sizemore. A soldier marries his best friend’s fiancé believing that his best friend has been killed in action; his belief is later proved to be erroneous. This movie was nominated for four Academy Awards.

The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962), directed by John Ford, with John Wayne, James Stewart, Lee Marvin, Vera Miles and Edmond O’Brien. The reputation of a well known and highly respected politician is founded a lie. This movie was nominated for three Laurel Awards, winning one.

September Affair (1950), directed by William Dieterle, with Joan Fontaine, Joseph Cotten, Jimmy Lydon and Fortunio Bonanova. A well to do businessman and a female pianist throw aside convention to have an affair. This movie won a Golden Globe Award for Best Music Score.

Starship Troopers (1997), directed by Paul Verhoeven, with Casper Van Dien, Dina Meyer, Denise Richards, Michael Ironside and Clancy Brown. To unite and mobilize the people of earth, the government demonizes and attacks a planet inhabited by insects.

A Song to Remember (1945), directed by Charles Vidor, with Cornel Wilde, Paul Muni, Merle Oberon and Nina Foch. A gifted musician sublimes his libidinal drives through music. This movie was nominated for six Academy Awards.

The Woman in the Window (1944), directed by Fritz Lang, with Edward G. Robinson, Joan Bennett, Raymond Massey and Dan Duryea. A man has a dream which reveals the repressed side of his personality.
The Stranger (1946), directed by Orson Welles, with Edward G. Robinson, Orson Welles, Loretta Young and Richard Long. A Nazi war criminal adopts an entirely new identity to elude capture. This movie was nominated for an Academy Award.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939), directed by William Dieterle, with Charles Laughton, Cedric Hardwick, Maureen O’Hara, Thomas Mitchell and Edmund O’Brien. A deformed man is willing to sacrifice his life to protect a young innocent woman. This movie was nominated for two Academy Awards.

Show Boat (1936), directed by James Whale, with Irene Dunne, Allan Jones, Paul Robeson, Hattie McDaniel, Charles Winninger and Helen Morgan. Defying the wishes of her mother, a young impressionable woman marries an alcoholic who later abandons her.

Sahara (1943), directed by Zoltan Korda, with Humphrey Bogart, Bruce Bennett, J. Carrol Nash, Lloyd Bridges and Rex Ingram. A tank crew is willing to sacrifice their lives for a greater cause. This movie was nominated for three Academy Awards.

The African Queen (1951), directed by John Huston, with Humphrey Bogart, Katherine Hepburn, Robert Morley and Theodore Bikel. An preacher woman with repressed libidinal urges abandons that defense mechanism revealing a different side of her personality. This movie was nominated for four Academy Awards, winning one.

The Man Who Would Be King (1975), directed by John Huston, with Michael Caine, Sean Connery, Christopher Plummer and Saeed Jaffrey. Two men perpetrate an elaborate scam to defraud an entire country. This movie was nominated for four Academy Awards.

MASH (1970), directed by Robert Altman, with Donald Sutherland, Elliott Gould, Tom Skerritt and Sally Kellerman. Soldiers assigned to a medical unit in Korea employ various coping strategies to deal with stress caused by war. This movie was nominated for five Academy Awards, winning one.

Heaven Can Wait (1978), directed by Warren Beatty and Buck Henry, with Warren Beatty, Julie Christie, Jack Warden, James Mason, Dyan Cannon and Charles Grodin. A young man dies and his spirit is assigned the body of another man who then exhibits a radical change in behavior with humorous results. This movie was nominated for nine Academy Awards, winning one.
*Rocky* (1976), directed by John G. Avildsen, with Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire, Burt Young, Carl Weathers and Burgess Meredith. A club fighter living on fringes of society is given an opportunity which radically changes his life, yet manages to maintain ego integrity. This movie was nominated for ten Academy Awards, winning three.

*Rocky III* (1982), directed by Sylvester Stallone, with Sylvester Stallone, Mr. T, Carl Weathers, Talia Shire and Burt Young. A professional boxer learns that his reputation is based on a lie resulting in an identity crisis which affects his self-esteem and judgment. This movie was nominated for an Academy Award.

*The Man In the Gray Flannel Suit* (1956), directed by Nunnally Johnson, with Gregory Peck, Jennifer Jones, Frederic March, Lee J. Cobb and Keenan Wynn. A World War Two combat veteran is forced to cope with the consequences of his behavior during the war, and in the process gets in touch with emotions long suppressed. This movie was nominated for a DGA Award.

*Golden Boy* (1939), directed by Rouben Mamoulian, with William Holden, Barbara Stanwyck, Adolphe Menjou and Lee J. Cobb. A young man with musical talents suppresses his feelings to become a prize fighter. This movie was nominated for one Academy Award.

*City Island* (2009), directed by Raymond De Felitta, with Andy Garcia, Julianna Margulies, Steven Strait and Emily Mortimer. A corrections officer secretly pursues a career as an actor. This movie won the Tribeca Audience Award.

*The Reader* (2008), directed by Stephen Daldry, with Kate Winslet, Ralph Fiennes, David Kross and Bruno Ganz. Struggling with enormous guilt and repressed feelings, a former Nazi concentration camp guard establishes contact with people by asking them to read to her. This movie was nominated for five Academy Awards, winning one.

*Julius Caesar* (1953), directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz, with Marlon Brando, John Gielgud, Louis Calhern, James Mason, Greer Garson, Edmund O’Brien and Deborah Kerr. A powerful Roman general and politician deludes himself into believing that he is admired, causing him to let down his guard with tragic results. This movie was nominated for five Academy Awards, winning one.

*Don Juan DeMarco* (1994), directed by Jeremy Leven, with Johnny Depp, Marlon Brando, Faye Dunaway, Rachel Ticoton and Talisa Soto. A young man believes that he is Don Juan. This movie was nominated for two Golden Globe Awards.
Fort Apache, the Bronx (1981), directed by Daniel Petrie, with Paul Newman, Rachel Ticotin, Ken Wahl and Edward Asner. To maintain a relationship with a woman, a police officer violates the law and his own ethical standards with tragic consequences.

Across 110th Street (1972), directed by Barry Shear, with Anthony Quinn, Yaphet Kotto, Anthony Franciosa, Antonio Fargas, Paul Benjamin and Richard Ward. In a highly stressful work environment, a disgruntled police captain displaces his anger onto a police lieutenant in his unit, generating conflict and disharmony.

About Schmidt (2002), directed by Alexander Payne, with Jack Nicholson, Kathy Bates, Hope Davis and Dermot Mulroney. A man retires and experiences an identity crisis. This movie was nominated for two Academy Awards.

Sideways (2004), directed by Alexander Payne, with Paul Giamatti, Thomas Hayden Church, Sandra Oh and Virginia Madsen. Two men go on a vacation and start acting out as unresolved issues surface. This movie was nominated for five Academy Awards, winning one.

The Kids Are All Right (2010), directed by Lisa Cholodenko, with Annette Bening, Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo and Mia Wasikowska. A woman in a lesbian relationship has an affair with a man triggering an identity crisis as she copes with repressed sexual feelings that have now surfaced. This movie won the Teddy Award for Best Feature Film.

Splice (2009), directed by Vincenzo Natali, with Adrien Brody, Sarah Polley, Delphine Chaneac and Brandon MacGibbon. Violating ethical standards and motivated by greed, two scientists engage in dangerous biological research.

Father of the Bride II (1995), directed by Charles Shyer, with Steve Martin, Diane Keaton, Martin Short and B. D. Wong. A middle aged man experiences an identity crisis triggered by his daughter getting married. This movie was nominated for a Golden Globe Award.

Standard Operating Procedure (2008), directed by Errol Morris. A documentary about United States soldiers who allegedly abused suspected terrorists at a detention facility in Iraq. This movie was nominated for six awards.

Demolition Man (1993), directed by Marco Brambilla, with Sylvester Stallone, Wesley Snipes, Sandra Bullock, Nigel Hawthorne and Glenn Shadix. The stability of an entire society is threatened as two men brought back from the past do battle. This movie won the ASCAP Award.
*Just Friends* (2005), directed by Roger Kumble, with Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart, Ana Faris and Chris Klein. A youth is jilted by a girl in high school which affects his future relationships with women. This movie was nominated for three awards.

*Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942), directed by Michael Curtiz, with James Cagney, Joan Leslie, Walter Huston, Jeanne Cagney, Irene Manning and Rosemary DeCamp. An entertainer channels his energy into producing some of the greatest stage musicals in history. This movie was nominated for eight Academy Awards, winning three.

*Falling Down* (1993), directed by Joel Schumacher, with Michael Douglas, Robert Duvall, Barbara Hershey and Tuesday Weld. A disgruntled man loses his job and displaces his rage onto others. This movie won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Motion Picture.

*The War of the Roses* (1989), directed by Danny DeVito, with Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner, Danny DeVito and G. D. Spradlin. A man projects his anger onto his estranged wife by trying to drive her out of the house which she refuses to leave. This movie was nominated for six awards, winning two.

*Wall Street* (1987), directed by Oliver Stone, with Michael Douglas, Charlie Sheen, Martin Sheen, Hal Holbrook and Franklin Cover. A man projects his aggressive urges through unethical and illegal business practices. This movie was nominated for eight awards, winning two.

*Cast Away* (2000), directed by Robert Zemeckis, with Tom Hanks, Nan Martin, Helen Hunt and Wilson the Volley Ball. A man marooned on a island projects his self onto a volley ball to maintain human contact. This movie was nominated for thirty-four awards, winning eleven.

*Philadelphia* (1993), directed by Jonathan Demme, with Tom Hanks, Denzel Washington, Jason Robards and Joanne Woodward. A lawyer is forced to deal with is own prejudices when he represents another lawyer who was unfairly fired for having a terminal illness. This movie was nominated for five Academy Awards, winning two.

*Forrest Gump* (1994), directed by Robert Zemeckis, with Tom Hanks, Gary Sinise, Robin Wright, Sally Field and Mykeli Williamson. A man maintains his ego integrity while experiencing many changes in his life. This movie was nominated for thirteen Academy Awards, winning six.

*Apollo 13* (1995), directed by Ron Howard, with Tom Hanks, Gary Sinese, Bill Paxton, Kevin Bacon and Ed Harris. While traveling to the moon an explosion occurs placing the crew at risk and testing their coping skills. This movie was nominated for nine Academy Awards, winning two.
The Mortal Storm (1940), directed by Frank Borzage, with James Stewart, Robert Young, Margaret Sullivan, Robert Stack, Frank Morgan and Ward Bond. In Germany, the stability of a family is tested after Hitler gains power and the family divides along political lines.

Holocaust (1978), directed Marvin J. Chomsky, with Meryl Streep, James Woods, Michael Moriarity, Rosemary Harris and Joseph Bottoms. During World War Two a family struggles to survive against outside forces intent on its destruction. This series was nominated for fifteen Emmy Awards, winning eight.

Schindler’s List (1993), directed by Steven Spielberg, with Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fiennes, Caroline Goodall and Shmuel Levy. During World War Two a Sudeten German Nazi risks his life to protect a group of Jews. This movie was nominated for twelve Academy Awards, winning seven.

Das Boot (1981), directed by Wolfgang Petersen, with Jurgen Prochnow, Herbert Gronemeyer, Klaus Wenneman and Hubertus Bengsch. During World War Two the crew of a German U-boat risk their lives for a questionable cause. This movie was nominated for six Academy Awards.

Moby Dick (1956), directed by John Huston, with Gregory Peck, Richard Basehart, Leo Genn and Mervyn Johns. A captain of a whaling ship displaces his rage on a whale. This movie was nominated for five awards, winning three.

Paths of Glory (1957), directed by Stanley Kubrick, with Kirk Douglas, Ralph Meeker, Adolphe Menjou and George Macready. During World War One a French general erroneously blames his troops for a failed attack. This movie was nominated for five awards, winning two.

Lies My Father Told Me (1975), directed by Jan Kadar, with Yossi Yadin, Len Birman, Marilyn Lightstone and Jeff Lynas. An elderly junk dealer is disliked by everyone except his young grandson who recognizes and respects his grandfather’s wisdom. This movie was nominated for five awards, winning two.

The Bad and the Beautiful (1952), directed by Vincente Minelli, with Kirk Douglas, Lana Turner, Walter Pidgeon, Dick Powell and Gloria Grahame. A movie producer uses others to promote his career. This movie was nominated for six Academy Awards, winning five.

Champion (1949), directed by Mark Robson, with Kirk Douglas, Marilyn Maxwell, Arthur Kennedy, Paul Stewart and Ruth Roman. An ambitious prize fighter will stop at nothing to achieve success. This movie was nominated for six Academy Awards, winning one.

Source: IMDb.com