

Several factors can make a movie great, such as the emotions its storyline evokes, superb acting, and dazzling visuals. Many good movies have been released over the years. While many tend to lose their luster over time, there are a few movies that have stood the test of time and continue to remain above the rest. Here are the 25 best movies of all time arranged alphabetically.

1. 12 Angry Men

This 1957 courtroom drama tells the story of a young man who is accused of murdering his father. As the jury tries to make a unanimous decision, things get more dramatic as each juror comes up with preconceptions and prejudices about the defendant, the trial, and each other. In 2007, the film was added to the United States National Film Registry to ensure it is preserved for future generations. It has a runtime of an hour and 36 minutes.

2. 2001: A Space Odyssey

In this epic film, a mysterious artificial object is buried beneath the surface of the moon. Astronauts and their intelligent computer, HAL 9000, set off on a mission to unearth its origin. The film was partly inspired by "The Sentinel," a short story written by the movie's co-writer Arthur C. Clarke. It has a runtime of 2 hours and 29 minutes. Its special effects deliver a stunning visual experience.

3. Citizen Kane

This mystery drama has been named the greatest of all time on numerous lists. The movie's storyline revolves around a group of news reporters trying to discover the meaning of the last words uttered by a publishing tycoon. While the movie faded out of the spotlight after its initial release in 1941, it achieved critical acclaim after World War II in foreign countries like France. This made American audiences rediscover it. Eventually, it achieved legendary status. The film runs for an hour and 59 minutes.

4. City of God

This crime drama received critical acclaim for its depiction of the rise to prominence of gangs in Cidade de Deus (City of God) suburb of Rio de Janeiro. It follows two young boys living in this violent neighborhood. One of them becomes a photographer, and the other enters into a life of drug dealing. It is based on Brazilian author Paulo Lins' 1997 book of the same name. The film runs for 2 hours and 10 minutes.

5. Fight Club

As one of the most talked about movies of the 1990s, this psychological thriller had an extraordinary impact on the current popular culture. It tells the story of a frustrated office worker who meets a strange soap maker. The two start an underground fight club that runs completely out of control. The movie has a runtime of 2 hours and 19 minutes. Since its release in 1999, many real life fight clubs have emerged in the United States and across the globe.

6. Forrest Gump

In this comedy-drama, Tom Hanks plays Forrest Gump, a man with a diminished intellect but good intentions. He stumbles into many famous historical moments as he tries to reunite with Jenny, his true love. The movie clocks in 2 hours and 22 minutes. It won six Oscars.

7. Good Will Hunting

This movie stars Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Stellan Skarsgård, and Ben Affleck. Written by Damon and Affleck, it follows a janitor at MIT who is mathematically gifted but needs the assistance of a psychologist to find the right direction in his life. The film runs for 2 hours and 6 minutes. It has an intelligent story, excellent writing, and brilliant acting. It sucks you in because of the manner in which it explores the human experience from many philosophical angles. It has won a total of 22 awards including an Academy Award for Best Writing in 1998.

8. Goodfellas

This film was the inspiration behind *The Sopranos*, the highly popular HBO series. It is often regarded as one of the best mob movies ever made. Robert De Niro and Ray Liotta star as gangsters who try to rise up the Mob's hierarchy. The film also stars Joe Pesci who won an Academy Award for his role. The film has a runtime of 2 hours and 26 minutes. Nicholas Pileggi, one of the writers of the screenplay, also wrote the book behind the movie.

9. Inception

Leonardo DiCaprio stars in this mind-bending film as a skilled thief that uses dream-sharing technology to steal corporate secrets. He is tasked with using his skills to plant an idea into a CEO's mind in exchange for having his criminal history cleared. The film has gained widespread acclaim for its originality and visual effects. It has won many awards including four Oscars. It runs for 2 hours and 28 minutes.

10. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

As only the second film in history to win Academy Awards in all the five major categories, it was widely considered as the best film that Jack Nicholson has ever done. In this masterpiece, a man with a criminal past pleads insanity to avoid labor duties. As a result, he is moved to a mental institution. Once there, he rallies other patients to rebel against the strict head nurse. The movie runs for 2 hours and 13 minutes. Some movie theaters in Sweden showed this movie for 11 years straight.

11. Pulp Fiction

This Quentin Tarantino masterpiece stars John Travolta, Bruce Willis, Samuel L. Jackson, Tim Roth, and Uma Thurman. This movie involves four separate stories of violence and redemption that are woven together in a non-linear fashion, consisting of a series of hilarious, bizarre, and attention-grabbing incidents. It is also famous for its eclectic dialogue and many pop culture references. It runs for 2 hours and 34 minutes. Since its release in 1994, this movie has remained consistently watched.

12. Raging Bull

This biographical sports drama is based on the book "Raging Bull: My Story" written by the retired boxer Jake La Motta with Peter Savage and Joseph Carter. It stars Robert De Niro, Joe Pesci, and Cathy Moriarty. The story is about a boxer who rises up the ranks to become a champion. Outside the boxing ring, his hot temper and violence make his relationships fall apart. The movie runs for 2 hours and 9 minutes.

13. Raiders of the Lost Ark

This 1981 action-adventure film directed by Steven Spielberg is about the popular action hero Indiana Jones who is sent by the US government to look for the Ark of the Covenant. This pits him against a band of Nazis who are also searching for it. It stars Harrison Ford, Karen Allen, Paul Freeman, and John Rhys-Davies. It runs for 1 hour and 55 minutes. It set a standard for action movies with its special effects and took home four Oscars.

14. Schindler's List

Schindler's List is another Steven Spielberg's masterpiece. It is based on the true story of German businessman Oskar Schindler who becomes worried about the mistreatment of the Jews by the Nazis. He turns his factory into a refuge for them during the Holocaust by offering them employment. He saved the lives of more than a thousand Jews. The film runs for 3 hours and 15 minutes.

15. Seven Samurai

This 1954 film is the highest-grossing Japanese film of all time. It is one of the few Japanese films to ever get into western cinema to a significant extent. It follows a veteran samurai who is facing hard times and answers a poor village's call for protection. He teams up with six other samurai to help defend the village from bandits. This film has a staggering runtime of 3 hours and 27 minutes. It is often considered a masterpiece. It continues to have an endless influence on action and adventure filmmaking.

16. Star Wars: A New Hope

This is the movie that started the Star Wars craze and paved the way for new age blockbusters. It helped launch the careers of Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, and Carrie Fisher. It follows Luke Skywalker, a young man who teams with some droids, a smart pilot, a Jedi, and a Wookiee to stop the evil Galactic Empire from using their ultimate weapon, the Death Star, while also trying to rescue Princess Leia. The movie is just over 2 hours long. It scooped six Oscars.

17. The Dark Knight

Heath Ledger's engaging performance as The Joker helps make this movie arguably the best superhero movie ever and leaves audiences wanting more. The Joker terrorizes Gotham, and only Batman can stop him. However, The Joker's big plans make life difficult for Batman. The film has a runtime of 2 hours and

32 minutes. Its haunting storyline and powerful acting made it receive critical acclaim. It was the highest grossing movie of 2008.

18. The Godfather

This crime drama has been widely regarded as the greatest movie of all time. It is based on Mario Puzo's novel of the same name. The film is about Vito Corleone, an elderly head of a crime family, who decides to transfer the control of his empire to his reluctant son. A war erupts during the transition. The movie has won many awards including three Oscars. It has a runtime of 2 hours and 55 minutes.

19. The Godfather: Part II

With six Academy awards to its name, this is one of the few movie sequels in cinematic history that is as good as the original. The film carries on with the saga of the Corleone family. It covers the early life of Vito Corleone and follows his son Michael as he tries to expand the family business into Hollywood, Las Vegas, and Cuba. The film has a total runtime of 3 hours and 22 minutes.

20. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

This film is the last installment of the Dollars trilogy. It is often regarded as the most popular Western film ever made. It stars Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleef, and Eli Wallach. The three compete to find a stash of gold buried in a cemetery. Along the way, they participate in numerous battles and duties. The movie has a runtime of 2 hours and 41 minutes. It helped Eastwood leap into stardom. The movie is still considered highly influential in its genre and one of the best films ever made.

21. The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

In this first installment of the epic trilogy, the small Hobbit Frodo sets out on a journey to Mount Doom with eight companions to destroy the One Ring in order to save Middle Earth. The movie is an adaptation of the first volume of J. R. R. Tolkien's novel "The Lord of the Rings." It has won over 100 awards including four Oscars. It has a runtime of 2 hours 58 minutes.

22. The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

Widely regarded as the best Lord of the Rings movie, it provides a hugely satisfying conclusion to the original trilogy. Frodo and Sam make a final push to Mordor to destroy the One Ring accompanied by Gollum. The other Fellowship members are committed to giving them all the time they need to accomplish their mission. The movie's total runtime is 3 hours and 21 minutes. It took home a groundbreaking 11 Academy Awards during the 76th Academy Awards.

23. The Matrix

This sci-fi masterpiece stars Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne, Hugo Weaving, and Carrie-Anne Moss. It follows a hacker who discovers some rebels that disclose the actual nature of his reality and the impending war against the controllers of this reality. The innovative special effects made this movie way

ahead of its time when it was released in 1999. The bullet time effect set a new standard for action films. The film runs for 2 hours and 16 minutes. It won four Oscars.

24. The Shawshank Redemption

In this 1994 movie, two men become friends while serving their long term prison sentences inside Shawshank. They realize that they get redemption and solace through common decency and the determination to never give up on life. Morgan Freeman and Tim Robbins play the two prisoners. It is undoubtedly the best prison movie of all time. The good narration, superb plot and dialogue, and beautiful soundtracks are some of the factors that make this movie a must-see. It clocks in at 2 hours and 22 minutes.

25. The Silence of the Lambs

This movie has a huge following even several decades after its initial release. It stars Anthony Hopkins and Jodie Foster. It follows Clarice, an FBI cadet who has to work with Hannibal Lecter, a murderer, to hunt down Buffalo Bill, another serial killer who uses a unique way to slaughter his victims. The film has a runtime of 1 hour and 58 minutes. It was only the third film to win all the top five Academy Awards.