



Leonard Maltin's 151 Best Movies You've Never Seen

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Popular film critic and esteemed cinema historian Leonard Maltin offers a fresh look at underappreciated screen gems in *Leonard Maltin's 151 Best Movies You've Never Seen*. From the over 17,000 entries in his definitive yearly collection *Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide*, Maltin has selected great movies that will appeal to serious film buffs, but that may have fallen through the cracks. A must-have reference source for the bookshelf of movie connoisseurs everywhere.

Leonard Maltin's 151 Best Movies You've Never Seen Details


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From Reader Review Leonard Maltin's 151 Best Movies You've Never Seen for online ebook

John says

The list is, uh, interesting. There are some terrible movies on the list. There are some very good movies on the list. Most importantly, there are a lot of movies you've never heard of on the list. (It really irks me when someone makes a list of 'Best Movies You've Never Seen' and almost all of them are films anyone with more than a passing interest in cinema has already seen.) So the list would've been fine if it were published on Maltin's website or included as a bonus in one of his movie guides. The problem with the book is the writing, which feels like a half-hearted, tossed-off first draft. Is his prose usually this bad? I remember reading his book on Disney films a long time ago and I don't recall the quality of the writing. I respect Maltin as a film historian and champion of classic cinema, but I'm not sure I enjoy his prose or his judgement when it comes to modern film.

Tracy says

I could make better list

I'm glad this was a free book lol. Pretty sure I could make better list. Maybe. Its just me. Or not.

Jill Hutchinson says

This book made me realize that I am not half the film buff that I think I am!!! Of the 151 films mentioned in this book, I have heard of ten, and seen one. Not a very good percentage for a supposed film *maven*. Maltin, who has filled the void left by the passing of Roger Ebert, gives a short and often humorous description of the 151 films with not a spoiler in sight. He covers both US and overseas films and makes the reader want to start searching for several of them. I was surprised at the number of overlooked films that were unfamiliar to me that starred popular actors but flopped at the box office. This is a quick and enjoyable read but is intended for the film lover. Recommended and hopefully other readers will be aware of more of the films than I was!!!

j_ay says

Most of these movies are from the last 25 years...and most most of them are...just not great movies. This says more about the quality of more modern films than it does Maltin's taste. Once the 'certified' "Best" movies are listed, there is pretty much just of bunch of crap to sift through. Which is sad. And this are only getting worse.

I've seen 24 out of the 151 (16%)

- 1.American Dreamz
- 2.**The Animal Factory**
- 3.Aurora Borealis
- 4.Baadassssi
- 5.The Ballad of Little Joe
- 6.Better Than Sex
- 7.The Big Hit
- 8.**Blood and Wine**
- 9.Brick
- 10.Brothers
- 11.Bubba Ho-Tep
- 12.Career Girls
- 13.Casanova
- 14.Chop shop
- 15.Citizen Ruth
- 16.Connie and Carla
- 17.C.R.A.Z. Y.
- 18.Criminal
- 19.Crush
- 20.Dark Days
- 21.The Dead Girl
- 22.**The Devil's Backbone**
- 23.Diamond Men
- 24.Dick
- 25.The Dinner Game
- 26.Dinner Rush
- 27.The Dish
- 28.Disney's Teacher's Pet
- 29.**The Door in the Floor**
- 30.Driving Lessons
- 31.Duck Season
- 32.East is East
- 33.Everything Put Together
- 34.Fast, Cheap & Out of Control
- 35.**15 Minutes**
- 36.**Find Me Guilty**
- 37.Firelight
- 38.Following
- 39.Gilles' Wife
- 40.Gloomy Sunday
- 41.Go Tigers!
- 42.Going in Style
- 43.**The Great Buck Howard**
- 44.The Greatest Game Ever Played
- 45.The Hard Word
- 46.The Harmonists
- 47.Hedwig and the Angry Inch
- 48.Hidalgo
- 49.A Home at the End of the World
- 50.The House of Sand
- 51.**How to Lose Friends & Alienate People**

- 52.I Served the King of England
- 53.**Idiocracy**
- 54.In the Shadow of the Moon
- 55.Indigenes (Days of Glory)
- 56.Innocent Blood
- 57.Intermission
- 58.Island in the Sky
- 59.Julia
- 60.Keeping Mum
- 61.Kill Me Later
- 62.**King of California**
- 63.The King of Masks
- 64.King of the Hill
- 65.Kontroll
- 66.La Ciudad / The City
- 67.La Petite Lili
- 68.La Promesse
- 69.Lady For A Day
- 70.The Last Shot
- 71.Lawless Heart
- 72.Levity
- 73.Look Both Ways
- 74.The Lookout
- 75.Love and Death on Long Island
- 76.Mad Money
- 77.**The Maltese Falcon** (1931)
- 78.The Man From Elysian Fields
- 79.Man Push Cart
- 80.Marvin's Room
- 81.The Matador
- 82.**Matchstick Men**
- 83.**Matewan**
- 84.Maybe Baby
- 85.The Merry Gentleman
- 86.Metroland
- 87.A Midnight Clear
- 88.The Mighty
- 89.Millions
- 90.Mirrors
- 91.Moonlighting
- 92.Mountains of the Moon
- 93.Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont
- 94.**My First Mister**
- 95.The Mystery of Picasso
- 96.Nine Lives
- 97.Nothing But the Truth
- 98.October Sky
- 99.Off the Map
- 100.Once Were Warriors
- 101.One Fine Day
- 102.**Owning Mahowny**

- 103.The Painted Veil
- 104.Paradise Now
- 105.Peter's Friends
- 106.Phoebe in Wonderland
- 107.**The Pledge**
- 108.**Hors de prix (Priceless)**
- 109.Prisoner of Paradise
- 110.The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio
- 111.Queen of Hearts
- 112.Quinceanera
- 113.Raising Victor Vargas
- 114.Resurrecting the Champ
- 115.Resurrection
- 116.**Safe Men**
- 117.**Scarecrow**
- 118.Seven Me From Now
- 119.Shadowboxer
- 120.Something New
- 121.**Son of Rambow**
- 122.Songcatcher
- 123.Spring Forward
- 124.Starting Out in the Evening
- 125.Startup.com
- 126.**State of the Union**
- 127.The Steel Helmet
- 128.Still Crazy
- 129.Stone Reader
- 130.Sweet Land
- 131.The Tao of Steve
- 132.Taste of Cherry
- 133.The Third Miracle
- 134.Thumbsucker
- 135.Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story
- 136.Tumbleweeds
- 137.Tuvalu
- 138.**The TV Set**
- 139.Two Family House
- 140.Two Lovers
- 141.Waking the Dead
- 142.**The Weather Man**
- 143.Welcome to Sarajevo
- 144.Went to Cony Island on a Mission From God...Be Back in Five
- 145.**What Doesn't Kill You**
- 146.The Whole Wide World
- 147.The Wide Blue Road
- 148.Winter Solstice
- 149.Word Wars
- 150.The World's Fastest Indian
- 151.Zathura: A Space Adventure

A few I would add:

The Big Picture
Miami Blues
The Spanish Prisoner
U-Turn

And I would need to rewatch them to be sure, but also:

The Big Blue
Stealing Home

Daniel DeLappe says

Loved this book. Found a few movies to watch. The Author has a great love for movies and proves it with this great book

Zeljka says

I really liked this reference book, mostly because he mentioned in this book some movies I'd liked too. In general our tastes are alike, so I am confident many of those movies would be really worth of my attention. Some might complain there aren't many movies from decades before year 2000, but I do not think this is bad per se - we have many books that cover these decades, while there aren't many that cover this new generation of movies, that is especially vulnerable to marketing biases. I was - and still am - often surprised when I discover a little movie gem from this decade that I had no clue it was made at all, because it wasn't mentioned anywhere in - what some are supposed to call *reliable* - movie news sources. It is funny though how many come to say actors are into movies only for good money - sure, why wouldn't they be, it is their way they make their living - but most do say so because they are oblivious of movies they also make, not for money but for the love of art and good story. And Maltin here shares with us that kind of movies.

Avi says

Plenty of interesting obscure entries in here. Definitely worth a skim.

Blog on Books says

With Oscar season upon us, we thought it would be a good time to take a look at some of the movies you won't be hearing about on the telecast. Between all the Avatars and Clooneys of the world, there are a host of smaller movies (or box-office duds) that are well deserving of your time and attention.

Or so says film critic Leonard Maltin, who would probably be a good judge, as he probably sees about a dozen movies a week in his job as a journalist and TV personality. Maltin's latest book singles out films from the last 20 years that, unless you are an extreme movie aficionado, chances are that most of these selections never hit your radar.

Films like "The Door in the Floor" (Jeff Bridges, Kim Basinger, Mimi Rogers, Bijou Phillips) or "The Great Buck Howard" (Tom Hanks, John Malkovich, Griffin Dunne, etc.) may not have made a big splash at your local cinema, but they are among Maltin's picks as key flicks to go back and find. (Nearly every major actor is represented from Robert DeNiro to Meryl Streep to Leo DiCaprio and all the rest.)

The films are divided into roughly three categories; mainstream studio fare, foreign and independent films that often struggle for attention here and a few choice gems from the first half of cinematic history. Maltin rightly focuses most of his light on movies from the last 20 years. (As there are already many books that highlight pictures from the golden age of cinema.)

Of course, it's hard to tell just how great the book is without sampling a host of the films that Maltin singles out for a revisit, but next time you are at Blockbuster or on Netflix, keep this book handy and see if one of Maltin's picks might sound worthwhile even while it would pass your normal purview. Just be ready to fire up that old VHS machine in the garage, as many of these gems have never made the leap to DVD.

Mark says

While I was taken aback at how short the review/summary entries were at first, I realized that Mr. Maltin is working very hard to give you a taste of the film in question without giving away its secrets... and once I made that connection, the book was an informative read.

I'd only seen 6 of the movies he listed: Hildago (a good if not great adventure film), Matchstick Men (which I did not like), October Sky (a very good coming-of-age film), The Whole Wide World (an odd biography of Robert E. Howard), Word Wars (excellent documentary on competitive Scrabble) and Zathura: A Space Adventure (substantially better than Jumanji though w/a similar plot gimmick... this film made me excited about Jon Favreau directing the Iron Man films).

On my list to watch (recommended by the book): The Dish, Fast Cheap & Out of Control, The Greatest Game Ever Played, How to Lose Friends & Alienate People, In the Shadow of the Moon, Lady for a Day, Millions, Prisoner of Paradise The Painted Veil, Spring Forward & Stone Reader.

Emily says

The title is apt - I'd only seen three of the 151 films listed.

Mr. Maltin has selected films across a wide spectrum of genres, including a significant number of foreign films. Each film offers something intriguing or unique or especially touching. While he admits in the introduction to emphasizing films from the last two decades with only a smattering of films representing the 1930s through 1980s, there is an incredible variety in the list. Mr. Maltin manages to make just about all of them sound appealing, but honestly describes what drew him to each film, allowing the reader to determine whether it is one that piques the reader's interest as well.

I appreciate the backstories that Mr. Maltin includes on many of the films as well: snippets of interviews or conversations with actors and directors, insights into the lives of the screenwriters, other projects completed by the same teams. The reactions of his USC film class are telling, too. A great collection of recommendations of films just slightly off the beaten path.

For more book reviews, come visit my blog, Build Enough Bookshelves.

Don says

My take on Maltin is the usual for so-called 'Reviewers' of movies and films where sometimes they are completely right-on with their opinions, but most times way out in left field on the likes and dislikes on themes Hollywood releases (or not) onto the general viewing public. The same holds true to the movies listed in this book.

Most of the movie titles Maltin lists may be interesting to read about, yet I do not see myself running around frantically just having to see them.

It's a matter of personal taste in the films we each like and dislike for reasons all of our own.

What Maltin lists as Must See are only in his own opinion and his opinion alone.

Though, there were a few movies I have not seen that perked my interest: 'The Devils Backbone' was one. Tuvalu is yet another. (Both have been found on eBay and purchased DVDs are currently on their way to me.)

Conclusion? Used as a Reference Book, 151 Best Movies You've Never Seen was worth the effort to read. Can't say it was fantastic, but was interesting in its own certain way and did what it set out to accomplish.

Amy says

Another free book from work, good for adding some hidden gems to the Netflix queue. Most of the synopses are pretty dull, though -- it's more like "125 boring things, and a handful of stuff that might be worth a try because it has Janet McTeer or JK Simmons in it."

Kim B. says

Leonard Maltin isn't one of my all-time favorite film critics, but I still enjoy his writing on movies every so often; since my taste in movies tends to lean more toward the lesser-known titles and I liked his Reelz channel show Maltin on Movies a decade or so ago, this book seemed right up my alley. While I wouldn't consider this a definitive guide to movies the public might not know about (for one thing, a lot of 'em aren't really too obscure), it's still a neat little pickup. One of my all-time favorite movies is in here (Phoebe in Wonderland), and I'm happy to see the shout-outs to cult favorites Brick and Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Some other very-good-to-great movies he's mentioned here are King of California, Mirrormask, The Tao of Steve, Matchstick Men, Thumbsucker, and The Devil's Backbone; if you were asking me, I'd say those were must-sees out of this book.

But what makes this book a treat, much like Maltin on Movies was, is that you actually get the sense that he really does love movies (even though he's infamous for some of his negative reviews). I especially liked this quote from his review of Phoebe in Wonderland: "I, for one, would rather see an imperfect movie with great moments and memorable performances than a film that's consistent, or slick, but mediocre." That's the way I

approach movies as well, and part of what makes me more drawn to the sort of movies talked about in this book than a lot of more popular fare.

Ken Proudfoot says

Movie lovers will find many many discoveries to explore. Lots of great suggestions and so many you really HAVE never heard of!

Jenny says

I started watching the movies listed in this book about a year ago and have been seriously working through the list since May. I am halfway through the K's so far. I have been able to find most of the movies on DVD through my library system or from Netflix. There have been some gems, some duds and a few that I am not sure about. Some of the movies are silly but I have also encountered some beautiful photography, great acting by both well known and unknown actors, and clever plots. The selections range from classic American noir, to silly and sweet British comedy, to campy horror, or realistic violence. The list also includes a number of documentaries.

Watching them has been a bit of an adventure. I watched Bubba Ho Tep with my 18 year old son who continues to tell me about references he finds to the movie. I watched Gloomy Sunday and The Harmonists during a book discussion of In the Garden of Beasts. I have been recommending The Dish to people I work with. I watched Dinner Rush a second time to take a careful look at the food.
