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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE  
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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## Best Movies Of 2006

In New York City, [626 films were released in 2006](#). So far, I've seen 126 of them. I rarely say this, but it's been a weak year for movies. I rarely say that because usually I've been to film festivals and seen so many little films at art houses and on DVD that I think there's plenty to get excited about, even if Hollywood falls short. This year, only three studio films of any sort made my list and they were all modestly budgeted affairs, two of them with no-name casts. I strongly considered listing the films alphabetically since none of them screamed out to me "best film of the year." But these are all worthwhile and worth your time. First, the list of my favorite films. Then the same list with brief comments. Then the list of all 126 films I've seen (so far) along with a rating. All ratings are on a four star scale.

### THE BEST FILMS OF 2006

Brick

Volver

Pan's Labyrinth

Borat

Half Nelson

L'Enfant

United 93

Time To Leave

Fateless

The Pursuit Of Happyness

Honorable mentions: Neil Young: Heart of Gold, CSA: The Confederate States Of America, Duck Season, Solo Con Tu Pareja, Climates, District B13.

BRICK -- a clever blending of film noir and high school, I loved "Brick" because it was such an unexpected delight. Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays

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