



TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012

MICHAEL GILTZ AT WORK

### The IRA Top 100 Films Of All Time

The IRA film group I've been a member of for 20 years gathers annually to name their top movies of the year. You can see our top picks for 2011 here. This year -- in conjunction with the every-decade Sight & Sound poll (due out in August) -- we made our picks for the top films of all time.

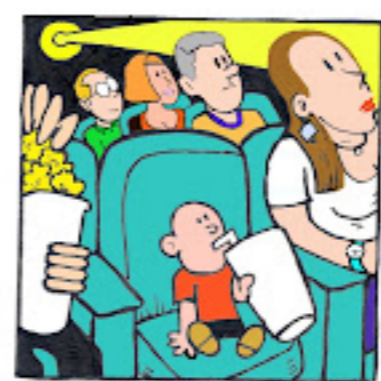
The final vote over the March 23-25 weekend was the culmination of months of debate, argument and balloting. First we each watched a bunch of movies we hadn't seen in years or classics which slipped through the cracks. Then we made our own personal lists of the Top 100 films of all time. We took all those lists, combined them and came up with a master list of the 100+ films that got the most votes. Then we broke ties and narrowed it down to exactly 100 films. I for one had never seen 20 of them so that meant more movie watching. Finally, on the big night we took those 100 films ten by ten and re-ranked them after discussion and debate. So the Top 10 vote getters (movies like The Magnificent Ambersons, The Searchers and Vertigo) were all treated as a group and ranked from #1 to #10. Then we did the same with the next batch of ten and so on.

The result? A list none of us are truly happy with, naturally. I bemoan the lack of animated films and just one documentary that made the cut. Others are embarrassed by the omission of Bollywood. And so on. But it's a good list: watch all 100 films and you will have a good grounding in some classic cinema. It happened for me. I somehow had never caught director Max Ophuls. Now The Earrings Of Madame De... is high on my personal list of the best movies of all time. Same with the ground-breaking, revelatory Jeanne Dielman. So debate and mock the list, but do watch the movies you've never seen before. Enjoy!

#### THE IRA TOP 100 MOVIES OF ALL TIME

1. *The Rules Of The Game*
2. *The Magnificent Ambersons*
3. *Citizen Kane*
4. *Vertigo*
5. *The Searchers*
6. *Letter From An Unknown Woman*
7. *The Big Sleep*
8. *Psycho*
9. *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*
10. *The Apartment*
11. *Shoah*
12. *The Earrings Of Madame de...*
13. *The Shop Around The Corner*
14. *Tokyo Story*
15. *Rear Window*
16. *Notorious*
17. *Touch Of Evil*
18. *North By Northwest*
19. *The Palm Beach Story*
20. *The General (1926)*
21. *Jeanne Dielman, 23 Quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles*
22. *The Big Heat*
23. *Sunset Blvd.*
24. *Red River*
25. *Chinatown*
26. *Sunrise*
27. *Double Indemnity*
28. *Laura*
29. *His Girl Friday*
30. *Ugetsu*
31. *Rio Bravo*
32. *Anatomy Of A Murder*
33. *The Miracle Of Morgan's Creek*
34. *Chimes At Midnight*
35. *All About Eve*
36. *The Decalogue*
37. *The Awful Truth*
38. *Some Like It Hot*
39. *Danton*
40. *Imitation Of Life*
41. *McCabe & Mrs. Miller*
42. *Sherlock Jr.*
43. *Once Upon A Time In The West*
44. *2001: A Space Odyssey*
45. *Ordet*
46. *A Man Escaped*
47. *Man With A Movie Camera*
48. *Written On The Wind*
49. *The Philadelphia Story*
50. *Kiss Me Deadly*
51. *Out Of The Past*
52. *Force Of Evil*
53. *Advise & Consent*
54. *Home From The Hill*
55. *Sweet Smell Of Success*
56. *The Lady Eve*
57. *Make Way For Tomorrow*
58. *Breathless*
59. *The Third Man*
60. *Cluny Brown*
61. *Pickup On South Street*
62. *Shanghai Express*
63. *The Passion Of Joan Of Arc*
64. *The Naked Spur*
65. *White Heat*
66. *The Crowd*
67. *The Crime Of Monsieur Lange*
68. *Night Of The Hunter*
69. *The Band Wagon*
70. *The Scarlet Empress*
71. *Red (1994)*
72. *All That Heaven Allows*
73. *Victor/Victoria*
74. *Band Of Outsiders*
75. *Day Of Wrath*
76. *Rebel Without A Cause*
77. *In A Lonely Place*
78. *The Marriage Of Maria Braun*
79. *It's A Wonderful Life*
80. *The 400 Blows*
81. *Metropolis*
82. *Diary Of A Country Priest*
83. *Casablanca*
84. *Lola Montes*
85. *Raging Bull*
86. *The Last Picture Show*
87. *Shock Corridor*
88. *Meet Me In St. Louis*
89. *Fanny & Alexander*
90. *A Star Is Born (1954)*
91. *Ali: Fear Eats The Soul*
92. *The Leopard*
93. *Play Time*
94. *A Matter Of Life And Death*
95. *How Green Was My Valley*
96. *Mildred Pierce*
97. *What Ever Happened To Baby Jane*
98. *Travels With My Aunt*
99. *Days Of Heaven*
100. *In The Mood For Love*

POSTED BY MICHAEL GILTZ AT 1:34 AM



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#### 3 COMMENTS:

- Anonymous said...

Thank you for the List.. I would appreciate it if you could put the year after the name of each movie, since many remakes are possible. What does IRA stand for?.. Thanks again

1:10 PM
- Michael Giltz said...

Thanks for commenting. The IRAs are just named after Ira, one of the founding members. The letters don't stand for anything. I suppose Psycho has been remade but you can rest assured these are all the original films. I put a year next to the 1954 A Star Is Born. The only other confusion might be over Red. That's the 1994 film by the Polish director.

2:40 AM
- Anonymous said...

How many Ira members are there? I am trying to get a mental image of how big the discussion was? 5? 10? 100?

10:44 PM