

FAVORITE FAMILY FILMS:

Hello!

Here is the categorized list again, with a number of films added since the last time it was posted. Mike sent many of the additions, some in collaboration with Leigh to compensate for our missing Westerns!

Like all categories, these are idiosyncratic, as is the choice about where to place each film. For example, “The Birth of a Nation” is currently in the Political category; “Gone with the Wind” is in the War category. Since both films show the racism of their time, they also could have been placed in the Discrimination/Civil Rights category. Similarly, “Marshall,” in the Discrimination/Civil Rights category, and “Judgment at Nuremberg” and “The Reader,” both in the Holocaust category, could have been listed instead with the Courtroom dramas, while each of the Courtroom dramas could have been included somewhere else. Ambiguities like these exist for virtually all the films, and others might have made different choices.

As before, we are grateful for your suggestions. You will see many of them scattered throughout the list, which is now a list for the ages. In addition to your specific suggestions, your comments encouraged us to think more broadly about directors/actors/genres/themes that have moved us but might not have been on the original list.

Gene initially began the list; I added movies and TV shows; you added; Gene added; I added; you added, and back and forth. The selections are unranked. Some of the selections are all our favorites. Some are Gene’s favorites. Some are my favorites. Some are your favorites. Some may not be anyone’s favorites, but just interesting enough to make the list. While no one will agree with all the selections, we think everyone will agree that the list is eclectic!

Tess asked what Gene and I liked most about the films we chose. We both feel that throughout our lives many of the choices—our favorites of the favorites—represent films to which we have had a strong emotional reaction. We are moved by films when we care about the characters they portray. We look for characters who are nuanced, who face difficult decisions, who change. We look for actors who become the characters they play. We are moved by films that remind us of causes and historical events that are important to us. We choose stories about the conflict between social and political expectations and individual behavior, or stories that reflect the illusions and distortions of memory, or stories told through the eyes of children. We choose love stories, Gothic romances, and mysteries. We

respond emotionally to some films because they remind us of events in our own lives, or of our favorite travel, books and operas. Beautiful cinematography and soundtracks, great storytelling, and powerful dialogue all make a difference. We are moved by drama whether it arises from romance, mystery, personal struggles, social change, politics, historical events, courtroom trials, or sports competitions.

We hope you enjoy the films on the list as much as we have—and a plug for the international selections, which are mostly quite easy to find on Amazon, Netflix, and other popular sites. Have fun!

With our love,
Iris

ROMANTIC COMEDY:

- City Lights
- Pygmalion (U.K.)
- To Catch a Thief
- The Philadelphia Story
- Woman of the Year
- Moonstruck
- Indiscreet
- Notting Hill (U.K.)
- Monsoon Wedding (India)
- The Shop Around the Corner

ROMANTIC DRAMA, MELODRAMA, AND SOAP OPERA:

- Casablanca
- Brief Encounter (U.K.)
- Random Harvest
- Notorious
- Giant
- An Affair to Remember
- Rebecca (U.K.)
- Shadowlands (U.K.)
- Titanic
- Out of Africa (U.S.A./U.K.)
- The French Lieutenant's Woman (U.K.)
- After the Wedding (Denmark)
- The Makioka Sisters (Japan)
- A Touch Away (Israeli TV miniseries)
- A Suitable Boy (U.K. TV miniseries, BBC)
- The Forsyte Saga (British TV series, 1967 and 2002 versions)
- A Place to Call Home (Australian TV series)
- Downton Abbey (British TV series)
- Pride and Prejudice (British TV miniseries, BBC, 1995)
- The Restaurant (Swedish TV series)
- Kara Para Ask/Black Money Love (Turkish TV series, ultimate soap opera, highly addictive, junk intermingled)

- Kordugum/Intersection (Turkish TV series, ditto)

SOCIAL DRAMA:

- On the Waterfront
- Sunset Boulevard
- A Place in the Sun
- Rebel Without a Cause
- Grapes of Wrath
- The Insider
- Erin Brockovich
- Capote
- The Social Network
- A Streetcar Named Desire
- Tender Mercies
- Vera Drake (U.K.)
- The Last Picture Show
- The Graduate
- Separate Tables
- Slumdog Millionaire (U.K.)
- The Hundred-Foot Journey
- Everybody Knows (Spain)
- A Separation (Iran)
- About Elly (Iran)
- The Day I Became a Woman (Iran)
- Gett (Israel)
- 490 Blows (France)
- Bicycle Thieves (Italy)
- The Best of Youth (Italy)
- La Dolce Vita (Italy)
- Lion (Australia)
- The Insult (Lebanon)
- The Master
- Heaven's Gate
- Network
- Rashomon (Japan)
- Tokyo Story (Japan, 1953 version)
- Drive My Car (Japan)
- Force Majeure (France, etc.)
- The Hunt (Denmark)
- A Serious Man
- The Great Dictator
- Forest Gump
- Planes, Trains and Automobiles (In the 1987 production I "crashed" a group of extras who were being filmed blocking Steve Martin as he tried to come through a revolving door in New York City. The scene made it into the movie, but I can't find myself!)
- Get Shorty
- Tin Men (Barbara Rappaport played the part of a waitress in the movie.)

- Avalon
- Hugo
- Big Night
- The Grandfather (Spain)
- Fanny and Alexander (Sweden)
- The Remains of the Day (U.K./U.S.A.)
- Shtisel (Israeli TV series)

POLITICAL DRAMA:

- The Birth of a Nation
- Citizen Kane
- The Leopard (Italy)
- A Man for All Seasons (U.K.)
- Gandhi (U.K.)
- A Passage to India
- Reds
- Good Bye Lenin (Germany)
- The Lives of Others (Germany)
- The Weissensee Saga (German TV series)
- The Last Emperor
- The Official Story (Argentina)
- The Secret in Their Eyes (Argentina)
- LBJ
- All the President's Men
- The Right Stuff
- The Lemon Tree (Israel)
- The Gatekeepers (Israel, documentary)
- One Child Nation (documentary)
- The West Wing (U.S. TV series)
- Borgen (Danish TV series)

SCHOOLS, LITERATURE, AND ARTS IN THE MOVIES:

- Goodbye, Mr. Chips (U.K.)
- Dead Poets Society
- The Winslow Boy (U.K.)
- The Class (France)
- A Footnote (Israel)
- The Blue Angel (Germany, 1930 version)
- 84 Charing Cross Road (U.K./U.S.A.)
- Il Postino (Italy)
- Death in Venice (Italy)
- Cinema Paradiso (Italy)
- Shakespeare in Love
- The Square (Sweden, etc.)
- Tim's Vermeer
- The Red Shoes (U.K.)
- Humoresque (1946 version)

- Sound of Metal
- Whiplash
- The Commitments
- The Red Violin (France)
- Shine (Australia)
- The Piano (New Zealand, etc.)
- Taking Sides (Germany, etc.)
- The Sound of Music
- The Music Man
- Fiddler on the Roof
- Oklahoma
- La Traviata (with Placido Domingo)
- Otello (with Placido Domingo)

THE DRAMA OF SPORTS AND GAMES:

- The Pride of the Yankees
- Field of Dreams
- The Rookie
- The Natural
- Bill Durham
- Hoosiers
- Breaking Away
- Ali
- Rocky
- Chariots of Fire (U.K.)
- The Kite Runner
- The Hustler
- The Color of Money
- Around the World in 80 Days
- K2
- The Rescue (documentary)
- The Alpinist (documentary)
- Free Solo (documentary)
- Quiz Show
- Searching for Bobby Fisher
- Wordplay (documentary)
- Spellbound (documentary)
- AlphaGo (documentary)

PERSPECTIVES ON DISCRIMINATION AND CIVIL RIGHTS:

- The Last of the Mohicans
- Rabbit-Proof Fence (Australia)
- Philadelphia
- Brokeback Mountain
- The Imitation Game
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- Gentleman's Agreement

- Guess Who's Coming to Dinner
- Driving Miss Daisy
- A Raisin in the Sun
- Fences
- 42
- Marshall
- In the Heat of the Night
- Do the Right Thing
- I Am Not Your Negro
- If Beale Street Could Talk
- Blindsporting (movie version, 2018)
- Moonlight
- One Night in Miami
- Cry, The Beloved Country
- Invictus
- Hotel Rwanda
- Eyes on the Prize (U.S. TV series, documentary)

WAR, CIVIL WAR, REVOLUTION, AND THEIR AFTERMATH:

- The Civil War (U.S. TV series, documentary by Ken Burns)
- Gone with the Wind
- Dr. Zhivago
- Lawrence of Arabia
- La Grande Illusion (France)
- All Quiet on the Western Front (Germany)
- To Have and Have Not
- Bridge on the River Kwai (U.K./U.S.A.)
- Paths of Glory
- Patton
- The Thin Red Line
- The Guns of Navarone (U.K./U.S.A.)
- Diplomacy (France/Germany)
- The Best Years of Our Lives
- The Vietnam War: A Film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick (U.S. TV series, documentary)
- Apocalypse Now
- The Killing Fields
- Black Hawk Down
- Eye in the Sky (U.K.)
- Crimson Tide
- The Hurt Locker
- In the Name of the Father (Ireland)
- Belfast (U.K.)
- When Heroes Fly (Israeli TV series)
- Walk on Water (Israel)
- The Debt
- Waltz with Bashir (Israel)
- The Attack (France)

- Omar (Palestine)
- Incendies (Canada)

THE HOLOCAUST AND ITS AFTERMATH:

- Schindler's List
- Shoah (France, documentary)
- The Sorrow and the Pity (France, documentary)
- Sophie's Choice
- Au Revoir les Enfants (France)
- The Shop on Main Street (Czechoslovakia)
- A Hidden Life (Germany)
- 1945 (Hungary)
- The Reader
- The Pianist (France, etc.)
- The Garden of the Finzi-Continis (Italy)
- Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport (documentary)
- Downfall (Germany, documentary)
- Judgment at Nuremberg
- Decalogue (Polish TV miniseries: conflicting moral choices played out in dramatic films built around various combinations of the 10 Commandments)

COURTROOM DRAMA:

- The Return of Martin Guerre (France)
- The Witness for the Prosecution
- The Trials of Oscar Wilde (U.K.)
- Inherit the Wind (1960 version)
- Kramer vs. Kramer
- Breaker Morant (Australia)
- The Verdict
- Anatomy of a Murder
- My Cousin Vinny
- The Caine Mutiny
- A Few Good Men
- 12 Angry Men
- Bridge of Spies
- The Trial of the Chicago 7

FILMS OF CRIME, MYSTERY, ESPIONAGE, AND ADVENTURE:

- Spotlight
- Margin Call
- Michael Clayton
- The Edukators (Germany)
- There Will Be Blood
- The Treasure of the Sierra Madre

- The Searchers
- High Noon
- Unforgiven
- Shane
- The 39 Steps
- The Third Man
- The Maltese Falcon
- The Big Sleep
- Dial M for Murder
- Double Indemnity
- The Player
- Chinatown
- L.A. Confidential
- Training Day
- Birdman
- Parasite
- The Shining
- The Exorcist
- The Bounty (U.K., 1984 version)
- North by Northwest
- Suspicion
- Shadow of a Doubt
- The Hunt for Red October
- Das Boot (Germany)
- Jaws
- The Bourne Identity
- The Mask of Zorro
- The Shawshank Redemption
- The Taking of Pelham 123
- The Sting
- Fargo
- Pulp Fiction
- Taxi Driver
- Inside Man
- GoodFellas
- The Day of the Jackal
- Murder on the Orient Express (UK, 1974 version)
- The Spy Who Came in from the Cold (UK)
- Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (U.K.)
- The Constant Gardener (U.K./Germany)
- Foyle's War (British TV series)
- Big Little Lies (U.S. TV series)
- Homeland (U.S. TV series)

SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY:

- Fantasia (My first movie!)
- E.T.
- Star Wars

2001: A Space Odyssey

- Back to the Future
- Close Encounters of the Third Kind
- It's a Wonderful Life
- Dr. Strangelove
- The Manchurian Candidate
- Young Frankenstein
- Groundhog Day
- The Truman Show
- Babe
- History of the World: Part 1
- The Secret Garden (1993 version)
- My Neighbor Totoro (Japan)
- Kiki's Delivery Service (Japan)