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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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The Best Movies of 2007

- 1. The Assassination of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford
- 2. Lars and the Real Girl
- 3. Zodiac
- 4. The Wind That Shakes The Barley
- 5. There Will Be Blood
- 6. The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
- 7. L'Iceberg
- 8. Michael Clayton
- 9. Ratatouille
- 10. Once
- 11. The Host
- 12. This Is England
- 13. Superbad
- 14. Control
- 15. The Bourne Ultimatum

And here's why:

1. The Assassination of Jesse James By The Coward Robert

Ford -- Sure this western is beautiful and gauzy in a Terence Malick way. Sure you can tune it out as soon as t starts waxing poetic. But despite it's remarkable technical accomplishments and eye for detail (I still remember the shot of gravel starting to vibrate as a train comes down the tracks), what really sticks with me are the performances. Brad Pitt can be a fine actor and he's very good here as the wary Jesse. But Casey Affleck is just magnetic as Robert Ford, a weasely, whiny, heartbreakingly vulnerable kid who just wants to be accepted but may be too awkward and thin-skinned to ever feel like he really has been. One of the questions of the movie is what might have happened if everyone hadn't picked on Robert at one point or another. Just a remarkably assured, intelligent drama. And despite everyone making nice, I have to feel there's an even longer, even better version by

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CONTRIBUTORS

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