



SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2013

MICHAEL GILTZ AT WORK

### The IRA Top 100 Films Of The 1950s

The IRAs are a mysterious but august film society that has voted on the best films of the year since 1976. More international and indie focused than the Oscars, more mercurial than the LA Film Critics, more loyal to their favorites than the Golden Globes, the IRAs have just had a weekend in Provincetown, Massachusetts where the winners for the Best Films of 2012 were voted on and announced. The IRAs also followed up months of discussion and debate and balloting and re-watching of DVDs and DVRing of TCM to determine the best films of the 1950s. Below you'll find the list of the Best Films Of The 1950s, followed by our picks for the Top Films Of 2012.

The IRAs began when passionate film students complained about the annual awards shows, declared "We could do better" and had an all-night, knock-down, drag-out fight to establish the very first winners of the IRAs. (One of the members is named Ira but how his name became the name of the award is a story lost in the mist of time.) The rotating group of members have been profiled in the New Yorker and over the years have included Oscar-winning writers, major directors, top studio executives, best-selling and critically acclaimed authors on movies, critics and others. They have no more claim to pronounce the best films of the year than anyone else but they've been doing it for 37 years so hey, it's tradition.

If you're like me, the list will infuriate you -- some movies should be higher up, some should be lower down and some shouldn't be on the list at all. That's half the fun. If you're passionate about movies or TV or books or music or any art form, chances are you've bristled over awards season and known you and your friends have better taste. How come Archer doesn't win Best Comedy? And Breaking Bad Best Drama? Or Borgen? Or The Good Wife?

So why not form your own group? It's not just fun to hand out awards; it's the best way to make certain your youthful enthusiasm for TV or music or books or whatever doesn't lose focus when work and life intrude. When all your friends tell you you have to read such and such a book or listen to a certain CD before the annual get-together, guess what? You do! Sometimes homework can be fun.

#### IRAs: The Best Movies of 1950s

1. *The Earrings of Madame de...* (Max Ophüls, 1953) 1058 pts/81 pts  
(See note at bottom for explanation of point totals.)

- 2. *Touch of Evil* (Orson Welles, 1958) 940/55
3. *Vertigo* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958) 820/49
4. *Rear Window* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1954) 856/49
5. *The Searchers* (John Ford, 1956) 801/48
6. *In a Lonely Place* (Nicholas Ray, 1950) 776/45
7. *Anatomy of a Murder* (Otto Preminger, 1959) 787/44
8. *Tokyo Story* (Yasujiro Ozu, 1953) 885/44
9. *North by Northwest* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1959) 918/41
10. *Pickpocket* (Robert Bresson, 1959) 798/39

- 11. *A Man Escaped* (Robert Bresson, 1956) 738/61
12. *Some Came Running* (Vincente Minnelli, 1958) 773/55
13. *Ordet* (Carl Theodor Dreyer, 1955) 776/53
14. *Pickup on South Street* (Samuel Fuller, 1953) 732/52
15. *Written on the Wind* (Douglas Sirk, 1956) 766/50
16. *The Big Heat* (Fritz Lang, 1953) 732/50
17. *Kiss Me Deadly* (Robert Aldrich, 1955) 711/49
18. *The River* (Jean Renoir, 1951) 713/49
19. *Sunset Blvd.* (Billy Wilder, 1950) 725/44
20. *Some Like It Hot* (Billy Wilder, 1959)713/32

- 21. *The Naked Spur* (Anthony Mann, 1953) 693/67
22. *Ugetsu* (Kenji Mizoguchi, 1953) 681/55
23. *Night and the City* (Jules Dassin, 1950) 656/50
24. *Rio Bravo* (Howard Hawks, 1959) 651/48
25. *The Band Wagon* (Vincente Minnelli, 1953) 666/47
26. *French Cancan* (Jean Renoir, 1954) 681/47
27. *Imitation of Life* (Douglas Sirk, 1959) 672/47
28. *Pather Panchali* (Satyajit Ray, 1955) 702/47
29. *Rebel Without a Cause* (Nicholas Ray, 1955) 667/45
30. *The Night of the Hunter* (Charles Laughton, 1955) 660/42

- 31. *Kanal* (Andrzej Wajda, 1956) 608/62
32. *On Dangerous Ground* (Nicholas Ray, 1952) 600/56
33. *Sansho the Bailiff* (Kenji Mizoguchi, 1954) 649/54
34. *Bigger Than Life* (Nicholas Ray, 1956) 641/54
35. *Early Summer* (Yasujiro Ozu, 1951) 604/51
36. *Diary of a Country Priest* (Robert Bresson, 1951) 605/48
37. *Floating Weeds* (Yasujiro Ozu, 1959) 628/48
38. *Smiles of a Summer Night* (Ingmar Bergman, 1951) 607/45
39. *All About Eve* (Joseph L. Mankiewicz, 1950) 618/40
40. *Sweet Smell of Success* (Alexander Mackendrick, 1957) 600/37

- 41. *Strangers on a Train* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1951) 580/57
42. *The Man From Laramie* (Anthony Mann, 1955) 553/56
43. *Johnny Guitar* (Nicholas Ray, 1954) 595/56
44. *Gun Crazy* (Joseph H. Lewis, 1950) 564/54
45. *All That Heaven Allows* (Douglas Sirk, 1955) 566/51
46. *The 400 Blows* (François Truffaut, 1959) 559/49
47. *Lola Montès* (Max Ophüls, 1955) 560/49
48. *Viaggio in Italia* (Roberto Rossellini, 1953) 546/44
49. *The Bad and the Beautiful* (Vincente Minnelli, 1952) 558/42
50. *Bob le Flambeur* (Jean-Pierre Melville, 1956) 536/37

- 51. *Ashes and Diamonds* (Andrzej Wajda, 1958) 524/68
52. *Ride Lonesome* (Budd Boetticher, 1959) 532/62
53. *Late Chrysanthemums* (Mikio Naruse, 1954) 523/55
54. *The Asphalt Jungle* (John Huston, 1950) 512/51
55. *Senso* (Luchino Visconti, 1954) 507/51
56. *I Vitelloni* (Federico Fellini, 1953) 498/48
57. *Bend of the River* (Anthony Mann, 1952) 497/47
58. *The Quiet Man* (John Ford, 1952) 495/43
59. *A Star Is Born* (George Cukor, 1954) 524/38
60. *Pyaasa* (Guru Dutt, 1957) 494/32

- 61. *The Killing* (Stanley Kubrick, 1955) 480/56
62. *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (Don Siegel, 1956) 471/55
63. *Winchester '73* (Anthony Mann, 1950) 486/55
64. *99 River Street* (Phil Karlson, 1953) 469/54
65. *Bonjour Tristesse* (Otto Preminger, 1958) 468/53
66. *It's Always Fair Weather* (Stanley Donen, Gene Kelly,1955) 469/53
67. *The Life of Oharu* (Kenji Mizoguchi, 1952) 459/47
68. *Seven Samurai* (Akira Kurosawa, 1954) 492/41
69. *Mr. Arkadin* (Orson Welles, 1955) 474/41
70. *Stalag 17* (Billy Wilder, 1953) 463/40

- 71. *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (Otto Preminger, 1950) 449/65
72. *The Big Combo* (Joseph H. Lewis, 1955) 458/62
73. *Forty Guns* (Samuel Fuller, 1957) 426/60
74. *The Tall T* (Budd Boetticher, 1957) 456/57
75. *Touchez Pas au Grisbi* (Jacques Becker, 1954) 436/49
76. *Rashomon* (Akira Kurosawa, 1950) 445/46
77. *Wagon Master* (John Ford, 1950) 408/45
78. *The Girl Can't Help It* (Frank Tashlin, 1956) 418/45
79. *East of Eden* (Elia Kazan, 1955) 405/40
80. *Hiroshima, Mon Amour* (Alain Resnais, 1959) 414/32

- 81. *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1956) 396/59
82. *Stars in My Crown* (Jacques Tourneur, 1950) 402/58
83. *Ace in the Hole* (Billy Wilder, 1951) 363/53
84. *The Phenix City Story* (Phil Karlson, 1955) 362/51
85. *Riff* (Jules Dassin, 1955) 393/48
86. *Nights of Cabiria* (Federico Fellini, 1957) 389/48
87. *The Golden Coach* (Jean Renoir, 1952) 361/47
88. *Street of Yuma* (Kenji Mizoguchi, 1956) 402/46
89. *3:10 to Yuma* (Delmer Daves, 1957) 370/45
90. *The Flowers of St. Francis* (Roberto Rossellini, 1950) 363/40

- 91. *Wild Strawberries* (Ingmar Bergman, 1957) 346/63
92. *The Big Knife* (Robert Aldrich, 1955) 315/58
93. *The Cranes Are Flying* (Mikhail Kalozov, 1959) 359/57
94. *The Wages of Fear* (Henri-Georges Clouzot, 1953) 294/56
95. *Paths of Glory* (Stanley Kubrick, 1957) 341/54
96. *Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?* (Frank Tashlin, 1957) 262/54
97. *Mon Oncle* (Jacques Tati, 1958) 276/42
98. *Singin' in the Rain* (Stanley Donen, Gene Kelly, 1952) 328/40
99. *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (Howard Hawks, 1953) 297/39
100. *M. Hulot's Holiday* (Jacques Tati, 1953) 255/36

Note: The first point total is overall points to establish the order on the list. (Many prior ballots determined the Top 100.) This point total determined what "group" it was in (eg. 91-100, 61-70 and so on.) The second point total is for position in that group (eg. among those ten films, which one should be ranked first, which second and so on.) Some groups saw very little change in order; others saw substantial fluidity. When two or more films in a group received the same point total, we voted to break the tie. For example, "Ordet" and "In A Lonely Place" were tied for 10th place but the vote to break the tie placed "In A Lonely Place" in the Top 10 and "Ordet" in the #11-20 group. Even though it originally had the most points of any of those films, the final balloting placed "Ordet" at #13 instead of #11. On the other hand, "The Earrings of Madame de..." ranked #1 from beginning to end.

#### PREVIOUS IRA ALL-TIME BALLOTS

#### 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 Diehman, 23 Quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles*
22. *The Big Heat*
23. *Sunset Blvd.*
24. *Red River*
25. *Chinatown*
26. *Sumrise*
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 And 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 And 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. *Victory/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 Montès*
85. *Raging Bull*
86. *The Last Picture Show*
87. *Shock Corridor*
88. *Meet Me In St. Louis*
89. *Fanny And 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*

#### The Best Movies Of The Decade -- The 2000s (Voted in 2010)

- 1. *The Son/Le Fils*
2. *Zodiac*
3. *Yi Yi*
4. *The Assassination Of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford*
5. *The Edge Of Heaven* (tie)
*In The Mood For Love* (tie)
7. *The Heart Of The World* (short by Guy Maddin)
8. *Mysterious Skin* (tie)
*Bus 174* (tie)
10. *The Death Of Mr. Lazarescu* (tie)
*Head-On* (tie)
*Spirited Away* (tie)

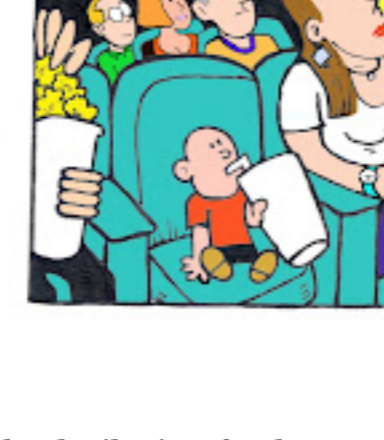
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#### BLOG ARCHIVE

- 2021 (10)
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► 2019 (93)
► 2018 (34)
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The IRA Top 100 Films Of The 1950s
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► 2008 (86)
► 2007 (781)
► 2006 (2412)
► 2005 (5)