



# A selection of Silver Screen favorites



Years ago I completed my university studies in cinema - a field that has interested me for the greater part of my life. A common question I hear from many people is, "What is your favorite movie?" This question is one of the hardest for me to answer since I don't have just one favorite film to name. I have a list of films that have either moved or influenced or just plain entertained me. I've decided to put together a list of films that I have highly enjoyed and recommend that everyone watch at least once.

## 8 1/2 by Federico Fellini

Fellini is one of my favorite directors of all time and if ever anyone does ask me what my favorite film is, I usually just pick this one. Fellini was going through a creative slump prior to making this film and he then had the genius to make a film detailing this creative slump. He manages to mix Italian neo-realism with surrealism with such ease, it never once seeming jarring or trivial. The whole film instead just flows together beautifully.

## Bande à part by Jean-Luc Godard

OK, I had to put at least one French film on this list. Of all the French new-wave films that I've watched up to this point, I'm pretty sure this one really exemplifies what the French new-wave movement was all about: fascination with American film-noir, rejection of traditional cinematic rules and conventions, self-awareness, low-budget. It's all there.

## Shadow of a Doubt by Alfred Hitchcock

One of his earlier Hollywood films - and one of my favorite Hitchcock films - this one manages to survive the test of time - something that is quite rare. Despite the fact that he had to follow strict 1930s moral codes, Hitchcock manages to create a very creepy film even by today's standards. Incest, murder, theft...it's pretty heavy stuff for a 70 year old film.

## Kind Hearts and Coronets by Robert Hamer

A very smart and very black comedy from our kind brethren, the English. In this film, a poor distant relative of a very influential and rich family wants a stake in the family fortune and kills off the 8 heirs ahead of him in succession (all played by Alec Guinness) in order to rise to power. It's not the most technically impressive film, but the writing is so witty and smart it more than makes up for its other shortcomings.

## Sherlock Jr. by Buster Keaton

I really love silent-era films for the fact that no one at the time really knew what they were doing. They'd never seen a film growing up and so no one really knew HOW a film should be made. There's a certain savage nature to them, something almost pure. Like a child doodling on a piece of paper and creating something absolutely beautiful. Rant aside, this film showcases a man with talent. Someone who risked his life at times just to entertain the masses. There were no stunt doubles, no wires, no CGI, no blue-screen. Just Buster Keaton, his environment and a camera.