

# 10 Films I Really Should Have Seen by Now

At the time of writing, I'm currently 38-years-old. For some questionable reason, the first film I ever saw at the cinema was Moonwalker, probably because my mom wanted to appease my twin sister who was heavily into Michael Jackson at the time. This would have occurred in 1988 for our 9<sup>th</sup> birthday. For someone who would turn into a die-hard movie fan, I'm not particularly proud of the fact that this was the first flick I went to see in theatres. For years, I got away with passing it off that it was actually Return of the Jedi, in spite of only being 4 at the time of its release.

However, there are more embarrassing things I could admit when it comes to supposedly living a life in and through film. They are, of course, those shamefully gargantuan black holes in my movie knowledge. The films I should have seen by now but for a variety of reasons, I simply haven't. I'm going to put my life on the line and risk getting creamed by my fellow enthusiasts – most notably Mr Foote himself – but nonetheless I've decided to air my dirty laundry in public.

For an added slice of entertainment and your reading pleasure, I've written as much as I know about each film without conducting ANY RESEARCH whatsoever (save the year of release). One, because we writers love it when we don't need to look shit up and two, you'll have seen them all, right?

If you need me I'll be cowering in the naughty corner thinking about what I've NOT done.

## Ben Hur (1959)

Tied with LOTR Return of the King and Titanic for the films with the most Oscars of all time (11), the only reason I know that is because I use it as a film trivia question on occasion. I've heard this is an old-school biblical behemoth of a movie, but I think the major thing that put me off is Charlton Heston. I've always thought he was a terribly overrated actor, bordering on as wooden and as 2D as the sets he would have walked on in this feature. If I'm allowed to write for this website again it'll be a miracle.

## The Treasure of Sierra Madre (1948)

The older classics might be a bit easier to slip under the radars of all but the most committed movie buffs, but this Humphry Bogart flick regularly crops up respectfully high on "best movies of all time" lists. I think it's a western, and I'm guessing it might have something to do with prospecting for gold? Other than that, I know zip.

## **Singing in the Rain (1952)**

My mom would have murdered me for admitting this. Now don't get me wrong, I must have seen Gene Kelly do his famous, splashy-splashy song and dance number about a gazillion times, but outside of that, I haven't the foggiest idea what this is all about. I always preferred Fred Astaire anyway. Come to think of it, I've not seen anything he's done in its entirety either.

## **The Graduate (1967)**

OK, I got this. This is Dustin Hoffman dressing as a lady, right? Backed by the Mrs Robinson tune from The Birds? Or is it Byrds? Maybe I'm barking up the wrong tree entirely. I'm getting so confused. I vaguely remember something about a stocking on someone's leg and someone else (whom I believe to be Hoffman) looking on rather nervously. Strangely, I know all the words to the song, but not a damn thing about the movie. Tootsie! That's the cross-dressing one! Maybe I need to write more than one article.

## **Once Upon a Time in the West (1968)**

Another western, and I want to say a spaghetti one at that. Sergio Leone directing...I'd really like to say Clint here but that would just be a cop-out answer. I'm at a loss, apart from the fact that for some reason I believe it to have an exorbitantly long running time. With the recent superhero movie saturation, my ability to sit still for longer than 90 minutes has been seriously affected.

## **The Lady and the Tramp (1955)**

I've never been a massive fan of Disney, and if they manage to screw up Star Wars the world is never likely to forgive them. There are plenty more I've not seen from their back catalogue, but this is a classic I really should have under my belt. Apart from the spaghetti kiss scene (one which I lovingly recreate with my dog on a regular basis) the plot is a mystery to me. But as far as Disney goes, I'll be making an even more devastating confession soon enough.

## **Jumanji (1995)**

The late, great Mr Robin Williams is sorely missed. I've seen nearly everything else he graced us with but for some reason this jungle romp passed me by. A couple of kids find an old game while complaining they don't have any iPads in 1995, little realising it's a magical door to another world. There's lions and tigers and bears (oh my) and that British-looking, evil, moustachioed, Victorian-hunter dressed chap who is most likely to really be British. Still, the funniest thing I know about this film is when Homer tries to stop a stampede of animals by shouting JUMANJI in an episode of the Simpsons. I peed myself laughing in spite of never actually having seen the source material.

## **The Godfather Part III**

I've hidden this one way down here in the hope that most people will have read the first few and skipped to the last. This one I'm not very proud of at all, but there's a solid reason for it so hear me out. Everyone says it's a pile of shit. If that's the case, why spoil two of the finest things ever committed to celluloid and potentially tarnish masterpieces by watching this crap? Admittedly, I don't actually know it's crap because I've never seen it, it's just what I've heard from decades of popular culture references. I'm a fraud.

## **Sunset Boulevard (1950)**

I have totally and utterly no idea what this is about, but somehow, I've still never been interested in watching it. Funny how that works, eh?

## **The Lion King (1994)**

Ahhhh, the circle of life – has not yet come around to me. This is without doubt the number one film people are most shocked by when I admit to never having seen one frame of it. I've even been physically abused during the confession. Yes, I understand it's a stone-cold classic that influenced a generation, but all I know about it is Elton John did the soundtrack and those two creatures sang something about a problem-free philosophy. I couldn't even tell you what kind of animals they are. Oh, and isn't there's a bit where (I want to say a baboon) holds a baby lion over a cliff edge? Someone needs to get a hold of that boy's parents.

Well, there you have it, I've totally come clean. I should point out that I've obviously not seen every other film ever made, it's just I feel that these entries are particularly embarrassing for someone chasing a career in the medium. That being said, now it's your turn. Don't be shy – the challenge has been set, the gauntlet laid down, the stake's pyre is ready to be lit. Let's hear your admissions of guilt on the films you've not seen but should have.

I'm going to watch The Godfather III before I send this article for publishing.