

2007 List of All Films Watched

Links are to longer reviews on site. All ratings based on 4 stars best. A film defined as 70 min.+ visual event.
(V) = TV, Video or DVD (+) = repeat viewing (W/O) = walked out

Note: A temporary alphabetical list of the films I've watched January thru July can be found [here](#).

January, 2007

PERFECT DAY, A (d. Peter Levin) V. Sappy TV movie wannabe *Wonderful Life*. * 3/4

WEDDING WARS (d. Jim Fall) V. Very well done issue tv flick (gay marriage) with a game perf. by John Stamos. ***

RÈGLE DU JEU, LA (d. Jean Renoir) ++ A gem, beautifully constructed social satire/French farce. *** 3/4

BASAIN (d. Subash Prasad Gajural; Nepal) W/O

FLYING SCOTSMAN, THE (d. Douglas Mackinnon) Jonny Lee Miller & Billy Boyd are good; but film predictable sports bio. ** 1/4

CHILDREN (d. Ragnar Bragason; Iceland) *** 1/2

BLACK BOOK (d. Paul Verhoeven; Netherlands) ***

SWEET MUD (d. Dror Shaul; Israel) *** 1/2

CHARITON'S CHOIR (d. Grigoris Karantinakis; Greece) * 3/4

WAY I SPENT THE END OF THE WORLD, THE (d. Catalin Mitulescu; Romania) ** 3/4

CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (d. Zhang Yimou; China) ***

AURORA (d. Oxana Bayrak; Ukraine) ** 1/2

INFAMOUS (d. Douglas McGrath) V. Better in every particular than *Capote*. Stunning acting by Jones & Craig. *** 1/2

UNITED 93 (d. Paul Greengrass) V. Impressively subtle. As close to Cinéma vérité as we're likely to get this century. *** 3/4

NOMAD (d. Sergei Bodrov; Kazakhstan) *** 1/2

BANQUET, THE (d. Feng Xiaogang; Hong Kong) ** 1/4

LIBERTAS (d. Veljko Bulajic; Croatia) ** 1/4

FOREVER FLOWS (d. Abu Sayeed; Bangladesh) **

I REMEMBER (d. Edgard Nevarro) **

PRAGUE (d. Ole Christian Madsen) *** 1/2

CECILIE (d. Hans Fabian Wullenweber) ** 3/4

SALVADOR (d. Manuel Huerca) ***

LOVE FOR SHARE (d. Nia Dinata; Indonesia) ** 3/4

PINGPONG (d. Matthias Luthardt) *** 1/4

SALTY AIR (d. Alessandro Angelini) *** 1/2

VERY SERIOUS PERSON, A (d. Charles Busch) ** 3/4

BOOK OF REVELATION, THE (d. Ana Kokkinos) ***

THICKER THAN WATER (d. Arni Olafur Asgersson) *** 1/4

MAN EXPOSED, THE (d. Aku Louhimies) ** 3/4

MATTI (d. Aleksis Mäkelä) ** 1/4

REPRISE (d. Joachim Trier; Norway) *** 1/2

ICE CREAM, I SCREAM (d. Yüksel Aksu; Turkey) * 1/4

GIRL IS MINE, THE (d. Virginie Wagon) ***

BLACK IRISH (d. Brad Gann) *** 1/4

URO (d. Stefan Faldbakken) ***

ALONG THE RIDGE (d. Kim Rossi Stuart) *** 1/2

ALPHA DOG (d. Nick Cassavetes) Better than expected. Timberlake & especially a game Ben Foster outstanding. ***

CATCH AND RELEASE (d. Susannah Grant) Predictable but well acted chick flick which involved me. ** 3/4

BLEAK HOUSE (d. various; w. Andrew Davis) Superb adaptation of complex Victorian novel. The Brits do it again. *** 1/2

CAPITOL CRIMES (p. Bill Moyers) V. Surgical dissection of the Jack Abramoff/Tom de Lay scandals. Great tv journalism. *** 1/4

February, 2007

SLEEPER CELL 2 (d. various) V. Similar, but inferior to 1st series. ** 1/2

MON ANGE (d. Serge Frydman) V. Farfetched prostitute bonds with teenage boy story. Again, Vincent Rottiers steals a film. ** 1/4

WINTER SOLSTICE (d. Josh Sternfeld) V.+ Quintessential Sundance indie film, quiet, revelatory, fine acting (Webber & Stanford rule!) *** 1/4

STATE OF MIND (d. Christopher Menaul) V. Pretty good British tv forensic psych story...Andrew Lincoln wonderful, per usual. ** 3/4

À TOUT DE SUITE (d. Benoît Jacquot) V. Jacquot doing 60's Godard pretty darn well. ***

LUCIE AUBRAC (d. Claude Berri) V. Gripping trueish French Resistance film, like [Black Book](#) or [Sophie Scholl](#), only better. *** 1/4

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 (d. Gore Verbinski) Exhaustingly repetitive, boring empty calories. * 1/2

CARS (d. John Lassiter) Inventive animation, got better as it went along, but just not up to its rep. ** 3/4

BREACH (d. Billy Ray) Well acted (esp. Chris Cooper) true story of bringing down a spy. Also Ryan Phillippe's best work in ages. ***

MUSIC AND LYRICS (d. Marc Lawrence) Great fake '80s music videos. Uninvolving romantic comedy. Grant's shtick is getting tired. ** 3/4

HANNIBAL RISING (d. Peter Webber) Now just an ordinary slasher/revenge genre pic, though Gaspard Ulliel is a very interesting actor. **

SALVATORE: THIS IS LIFE (d. Gian Paolo Cugno) ***

THREE ON THE ROAD (Baciami Piccina) (d. Roberto Cimpanelli) ***

DEATH IN VENICE (d. Luchino Visconti) ** 3/4

KREUTZER SONATA, THE - WHAT IS LOVE? (Quale amore) (d. Maurizio Sciarra) *** 1/2

FAMILY FRIEND (L'Amico di Famiglia) (d. Paolo Sorrentino) W/O

NEVER AGAIN AS BEFORE (Mai più come prima) (d. Giacomo Campiotti) *** 1/4

AMAZING GRACE (d. Michael Apted) Earnest, but sort of boring film with great perf by Ioan Gruffuid. ** 3/4

March, 2007

ZODIAC (d. David Fincher) Fascinating procedural which plays like *All the Presidents Men* rather than *Se7en*. *** 1/4

ROBBER BRIDE, THE (d. David Evans) V. Canadian tv thriller with plot gyrations, but rather predictable, if well acted. ** 1/4

DARK AGES, THE (d. Chris Cassel) V. Standard issue History channel docu. Lots of info well presented. ** 3/4

FINAL DESTINATION 3 (d. James Wong) V. Surprisingly stylish horror thriller; but when Jesse Moss was killed off I bailed. W/O

MONSTER-IN-LAW (d. Robert Lutetik) V. Totally predictable, forgettable comedy. Unwatchable. W/O

BEE SEASON (d. McGehee and Siegel) V. Involving, well acted family drama with not well defined spiritual mysteries. ***

PUFFY CHAIR, THE (d. Jay Duplass) V. Typical talky indie, sort of annoying but occasionally quite amusing. ** 1/2

LONGFORD (d. Tom Hooper) V. HBO biopic about dotty, saintly lord (fabulous Jim Broadbent) who visits hopeless prisoners. *** 1/4

NAMESAKE, THE (d. Mira Nair) Terrific immigrant family drama with a surprisingly fine perf by Kal Penn. *** 3/4

BILINGUAL LOVER, THE (El Amante Bilingue) (d. Vicente Aranda) **

CROSSING THE BORDER (Un Franco 14 Pesetas) (d. Carlos Iglesias) ***

FIRST SNOW (d. Mark Fergus) Pedestrian, twisty Amer. Indy with a great Guy Pearce perf. ** 3/4

PARIS, JE T'AIME (d. various) *** 1/4

TELL NO ONE (Ne le dit à personne) (d. Guillaume Canet) *** 1/4

SINGER, THE (Quand j'étais chanteur) (d. Xavier Giannoli) ** 1/4

TWICE UPON A TIME (Désaccord parfait) (d. Antoine De Caunes) ** 1/2

COUNTER INVESTIGATION (Contre-enquête) (d. Franck Mancusco) *** 1/2

WELCOME HOME (Bienvenido A Casa) (d. David Trueba) *** 1/4

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT LOLA (Lo que se de Lola) (d. Javier Rebollo) W/O

April, 2007

LOOKOUT, THE (d. Scott Frank) Nicely written & directed psych. thriller, with 3 super perfs. espec. Joseph Gordon-Levitt *** 1/4

CAMP (d. Todd Graff) V.++ Still more entertaining than American Idol! Guilty pleasure; but very much a pleasure. ***

MAMBO ITALIANO (d. Émile Gaudreault) V.+ Enjoyable gay family dramedy with a nice, sympathetic perf by Luke Kerby. ** 3/4

TV SET, THE (d. Jake Kasdan) Spot on satire of tv network/show running goings on. Great cast, nifty, truthful script. *** 1/4

GOOD SON, THE (d. Joseph Rubin) V. Elija Wood, great kid actor...Culkin ok. Convincing film, except for unlikely ending. ** 3/4

FLEUR DU MAL, LA (d. Claude Chabrol) V.+ Incestuous hijinx among the French bourgeoisie. Cool & intriguing. ***

CHIAVI DI CASA, LE (d. Gianni Amelio) V.+ Wonderful, moving film with sublime performances by Rampling, Stuart & Rossi. *** 1/2

IN THE LAND OF WOMEN (d. Jon Kasdan) Brody is legitimate leading man. Ryan impressive. Fine debut by young Kasdan. *** 1/4

RIGHT OF THE WEAKEST, THE (La Raison du plus faible) (d. Lucas Belvaux) *** 1/2

CHANGE OF ADDRESS (Changement d'adresse) (d. Emmanuel Mouret) ** 1/2

FAIR PLAY (d. Lionel Bailliu) *** 1/4

HUNTING AND GATHERING (Ensemble, c'est tout) (d. Claude Berri) *** 1/2

REIGN OVER ME (d. Mike Binder) Binder bites off a lot; but Cheadle & Sandler (nervy, spot on perf) make it work. ***

FAMILY HERO (Le héros de la famille) (d. Thierry Klifa) ** 3/4

HOAX, THE (d. Lasse Hallstrom) Competent, but predictable and not involving. ** 1/2

FRACTURE (d. Gregory Hoblit) Clever story, acting tour de force. Gosling is a star. *** 1/4

RED ROAD (d. Andrea Arnold) Moral ambiguity abounds in this well made, subtle thriller. *** 1/4

C.R.A.Z.Y. (d. Jean-Marc Vallée) V.+++ Still one of the best coming-of-age gay films ever made. *** 3/4

WHAT THE SUN HAS SEEN (d. Michal Rosa) 3 interwoven stories of impoverishment in modern day Poland. Long & just ok. ** 3/4

SHOOTER (d. Antoine Fuqua) Better than average paranoid govt. out of control thriller - Mark Wahlberg is quite good. ***

DISTURBIA (d. D.J. Caruso) Despite a star making turn by Shia LaBeouf this Rear Window update is ridiculously over the top. ** 1/4

May, 2007

IN THE SHADOW OF THE MOON (d. David Singleton) *** 1/4

RUNNING ON EMPTY (d. Akinci Bülent) ** 3/4

WALK INTO THE SEA, A: DANNY WILLIAMS AND THE WARHOL FACTORY (d. Esther B. Robinson) ***

FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO (d. Daniel Karlake) *** 3/4

MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES (d. Jennifer Baichwal) ***

DEATH AT A FUNERAL (d. Frank Oz) ***

INVISIBLE, THE (d. David Goyer) Ridiculous plot, guilty pleasure...I like Justin Chatwin, so sue me. ** 1/4

GUARDIAN'S SON (d. Dimitis Koutsibassakos) ** 3/4

FROZEN CITY (d. Aku Louhimies) ** 1/4

OFFSCREEN (d. Christopher Boe) ** 1/4

LUCKY YOU (d. Curtis Hanson) Predictable romantic drama; but at least they got the poker right. ** 1/2

OUT OF TIME (d. Harald Friedl) ** 3/4

NEXT (d. Lee Tamahori) *Deja Vu* with none of that films brilliant f/x & an inferior Phil Dick concept. **

BLACK IRISH (d. Brad Gunn) + *** 1/2

CHILDREN OF WAR (d. Alexandre Fuchs) ** 1/4

BATTLE OF WITS (d. Jacob Cheung) ***

2 DAYS IN PARIS (d. Julie Delpy) ***

MUSHISHI (d. Katsuhiro Otomo) ** 1/2

EX, THE (Jesse Peretz) Unfunny comedy. Braff and Bateman are worth admission; but the plot has holes & doesn't hold together. **

28 WEEKS LATER (d. Juan Carlos Fresnadillo) Spare, horrifying, pessimistic...Michael Haneke would be proud. ***

LIFE IN LOOPS (A MEGACITIES RMX) (d. Tina Novotny) * 1/2

EAGLE VS. SHARK (d. Taika Waititi) ** 3/4

VIE EN ROSE, LA (d. Olivier Dehan) *** 1/2

PAPRIKA (d. Satoshi Kon) **

CRAZY LOVE (d. Dan Klores & Fisher Stevens) *** 1/4

BET COLLECTOR, THE (d. Jeffrey Jeturian) **

SANCTUARY: LISA GERRARD (d. Clive Collier) ** 3/4

CHAMPAGNE SPY, THE (d. Nadav Schirman) ***

AMERICAN SHOPPER (d. Tamas Bojtor & Sybil Dessau) *** 3/4

SEVERANCE (d. Christopher Smith) ***

AACHI & SSIPAK (d. Joe Bum-jin) 1/2*

WAITRESS (d. Adrienne Shelly) Pleasant, well acted & directed romantic dramedy. Fillion & Russell have true chemistry. ***

JINDABYNE (d. Ray Lawrence) Intolerance Aussie style. Well directed & acted (esp. Laura Linney per usual). *** 1/4

[ELEPHANT AND THE SEA, THE](#) (d. Woo Ming Jin) * 1/2
[KING OF KONG](#) (d. Seth Gordon) ***
[AWAY FROM HER](#) (d. Sarah Polley) Julie Christie is aging gorgeously. And her Alzheimer's is totally convincing. ***
1/2
[BIG RIG](#) (d. Doug Pray) ** 1/2
[THIS IS ENGLAND](#) (d. Shane Meadows) *** 1/4
[LIFE AND TIMES OF YVA LAS VEGAS, THE](#) (d. Wiley Underdown) **
[FAY GRIM](#) (d. Hal Hartley) Wildly uneven comedy/thriller. Posey is fine, but writing not up to former Hartley films. **
3/4
[DANS PARIS](#) (d. Christophe Honoré) ** 1/2
[ROCKET SCIENCE](#) (d. Jeffrey Blitz) *** 1/4
[GOYA'S GHOST](#) (d. Milos Forman) ***
[FEVER OF '57](#) (d. David Hoffman) *** 1/4
[SON OF RAMBOW](#) (d. Garth Jennings) ***
[GYPSY CARAVAN](#) (d. Jasmine Dellal) ***
[PLEASANT MOMENTS](#) (d. Vera Chytilová) *** 1/2
[ISLAND, THE](#) (d. Pavil Louguine) ***
[WAITER](#) (d. Alex van Warmerdam) ** 1/2
[YOUTH RUN AMOK](#) (Short program)
[KNOCKED UP](#) (d. Judd Apatow) *** 1/4
[ARMIN](#) (d. Ognjen Svilicic) ** 3/4
[TAKVA - A MAN'S FEAR OF GOD](#) (d. Ozer Kiziltan) *** 1/4
[MY BEST FRIEND](#) (d. Patrice Laconte) *** 1/2
[THEM \(Ils\)](#) (d. David Moreau and Xavier Palud) ** 3/4
[FISH DREAMS](#) (d. Kiril Mikhanovsky) ** 1/2
[WAITING FOR HAPPINESS](#) (d. Abderrahmane Sissako) * 3/4
[ON THE ROAD WITH JUDAS](#) (d. JJ Lask) ***
[CHRISTMAS TREE UPSIDE DOWN](#) (d. Ivan Cherkelov and Vassil Jivkov) ***
[STRANGE CULTURE](#) (d. Lynn Hershman Leeson) *****
[GRIMM LOVE](#) (d. Martin Weisz) ** 1/2
[EL BENNY](#) (d. Jorge Luis Sanchez) ** 3/4
[SMALL ENGINE REPAIR](#) (d. Niall Heery) *** 1/4
[IT'S WINTER](#) (d. Rafi Pitts (86 min.)) **
[AGUA](#) (d. Verónica Chen) ***
[DOGHEAD](#) (d. Santi Amodeo) *** 1/4
[STRIKE](#) (Volker Schlöndorff) *** 1/2
[DAY WATCH](#) (d. Timur Bekmambetov) ***
[EXILED](#) (d. Johnny To) ** 1/4
[FRIEND OF MINE, A](#) (d. Sebastian Schipper) *** 1/4
[OUTING RILEY](#) (d. Pete Jones) ***

[June, 2007](#)
[DELIRIOUS](#) (d. Tom Dicillo) ***
[CLOUD, THE](#) (d. Gregor Schnitzler) ** 3/4
[STILL ALIVE: A FILM ABOUT KRZYSZTOF KIESLOWSKI](#) (d. Maria Zmarz-Koczanowicz) ** 1/4
[LIFE ON THE EDGE](#) (d. Ventura Pons) ** 3/4
[NO REGRET](#) (d. Leesong Hee-il) ***
[TEN, THE](#) (d. David Wain) *** 1/4
[I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP ALONE](#) (d. Tsai Ming-liang) ** 1/2
[MAN IN THE CHAIR](#) (d. Michael Schroeder) ***
[OUT AT THE WEDDING](#) (d. Lee Friedlander) *
[GAGARIN'S GRANDSON](#) (d. Andrey Panin) ** 1/2
[EMMA'S BLISS](#) (d. Sven Taddicken) *** 1/4
[ONCE](#) (d. John Carney) ***
[ETERNAL SUMMER](#) (d. Leste Chen and Patrick Mao Huang) * 3/4
[EXPIRED](#) (d. Cecilia Miniucchi) ** 1/2
[LITTLE BOOK OF REVENGE](#) (d. Jean-François Pouliot) ** 3/4
[YELLA](#) (d. Christian Petzold) ***

GRAVE DECISIONS (d. Marcus H. Rosenmüller) ** 1/2
HOUNDS (d. Ann-Kristin Reyels) *** 1/4
JOSHUA (d. George Ratliff) *** 1/2
SONS (Sonner) (d. Erik Richter Strand) *** 1/4
BAD FAITH (Mauvaise foi) (d. Roschdy Zem) ***
SUMMER RAIN (El Camino de los ingleses) (d. Antonio Bandaras) ** 3/4
PARTING SHOT, A (d. Pas douce) (d. Jeanne Waltz) *** 1/4
ALMOST ADULT (d. Yousaf Ali Khan) ** 1/2
DASEPO NAUGHTY GIRLS (Dasepo Sonyo) (d. E J-yong) *
SILENCE, THE (d. Cate Shortland) ** 3/4
TO GET TO HEAVEN YOU FIRST HAVE TO DIE (Bihisht Faqat Baroi Murdagon) (d. Djamshed Usmonov) ***
RED WITHOUT BLUE (d. Brooke Sebold, Todd & Benita Sills) *** 1/4
ALIVE (Zhivoy) (d. Alexander Veleinsky) ** 3/4
SWAY (Yureru) (d. Miwa Nishikawa) *** 1/2
I REALLY HATE MY JOB (d. Oliver Parker) * 3/4
LA LEÓN (d. Santiago Otheguy) * 1/2
LOVESICKNESS (Maldeamores) (d. Carlitos Ruíz Ruíz & Mariem Pérez) ** 3/4
LIKE MINDS (d. Gregory J. Read) *** 1/4
BEAUTY IN TROUBLE (Kraska V Nesnazich) (d. Jan Hrebejk) *** 1/4
LOVE & DANCE (Sipur Hatzi Russi) (d. Eitan Anner) ** 3/4
MAX HAVELAAR (d. Fons Rademakers) ***
MEMORY THIEF, THE (d. Gil Kofman) *** 3/4
SECRET FESTIVAL #3 ** 3/4
MR. BROOKS (d. Bruce A. Evans) Wonderful script, this audacious serial killer as anti-hero film just works. *** 1/2
RETRIBUTION (Sakebi) (d. Kiyoshi Kurosawa) ** 3/4
BROKEN ENGLISH (d. Zoe Cassavetes) *** 1/2
NOISE (d. Matthew Saville) ***
EVENING (d. Lajos Koltai) *** 1/2
WALK THE TALK (d. Matthew Allen) ** 3/4
FRESH AIR (Friss levegő) (d. Agnes Kocis and Andrea Roberti) ***
SHELTER ME (Riparo) (d. Marco Simon Puccioni) *** 1/4
PAPER WILL BE BLUE, THE (Hirtia va fi Albastra) (d. Radu Muntean) ***
SURVEILLANCE (d. Paul Oremland) ** 1/4
KYLE (d. John Bradburn) 1/2*
MY FRIEND AND HIS WIFE (Naeui Chingu, geneui anae) (d. Shin Dong-il) ***
DOL (d. Hiner Saleem) ** 3/4
STEALTH (Comme des voleurs -A l'est) (d. Lionel Baier) *** 1/4
SEX AND DEATH 101 (d. Daniel Waters) **
NU. (d. Jan-Willem van Ewijk) ** 3/4
CONFESSIONS OF PAIN (d. Andrew Lau & Alan Mak) *** 1/4
BOSS OF IT ALL, THE (d. Lars von Trier) ***
HOW IS YOUR FISH TODAY (Jin tian de yu zen me yang?) (d. Xiaolu Guo) ** 3/4
7 YEARS (d. Jean-Pascal Hattu) *** 1/4
BLACK WHITE + GRAY (d. James Crump) *** 1/4
VACATION (d. Thomas Arslan) ** 3/4
ISKA'S JOURNEY (Iszka Utazása) (d. Csaba Bollók) ** 1/2
FRENCH FOR BEGINNERS (Französisch für Anfänger) (d. Christian Ditter) ***
HOW TO COOK YOUR LIFE (d. Dorris Dörrie) *** 1/2
ONE DAY LIKE RAIN (d. Paul Todisco) 1/2*
TRAINWRECK: MY LIFE AS AN IDOIT (d. Todd Harrison Williams) ***
DRAMA/MEX (d. Gerardo Naranjo) *** 1/2
EUPHORIA (Ejfroija) (d. Ivan Vrypaev) ** 1/2
SECRET FESTIVAL #4 Redeemed the entire concept of Secret Festival for the year. *** 3/4
INTRODUCING THE DWIGHTS (Cherie Nowlan) ***
GETTING HOME (Luo ye gui gen) (d. Zhang Yang) *** 1/4
IT DOESN'T HURT (Mne ne bolno) (d. Alexey Balabanov) **
300 (d. Zack Snyder) Spectacular design, coherent narrative, even good dialog well presented. Comic book gore, but

wow. *** 1/4

BRIDGE TO TARABITHIA (d. Gabor Csupo) Xtian propaganda in a totally wonderful disguise. Moving, grounded fantasy. Hurrah! *** 1/2

EVAN ALMIGHTY (d. Tom Shadyac) Good f/x money shot; but that's about it for this bloated, unfunny "comedy". **

MIGHTY HEART, A (d. Michael Winterbottom) Great docu like feeling; but film failed to affect me emotionally. ** 3/4

HOW TO ROB A BANK (d. Andrews Jenkins) Talky, pretentious caper thriller that doesn't work at all. Even Nick Stahl can't save. * 1/2

RESOLVED (d. Greg Whiteley) Gripping & a little scary docu about HS debaters now (so different from the '50s when I was one.) *** 1/2

KABLUEY (d. Scott Prendergast) Amusing Woody Allenish comedy. Prendergast is an actor/writer/filmmaker to watch. ***

CHARLIE BARTLETT (d. Jon Poll) Anton Yelchin great as a preppy Ferris Bueller type undermining public school authority. ***

LADY CHATTERLEY (d. Pascale Ferran) A very French take of smoldering love in upper class Britain, a heterosexual *Maurice*. *** 1/4

RATATOUILLE (d. Brad Bird) My fave of all the Pixar films; its basically adult theme exalting foodie culture appeals. *** 1/2

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (d. Len Wiseman) Non-stop action, overly convoluted plot. Better than expected. ** 3/4

July, 2007

CUT SLEEVE BOYS (d. Ray Yeung) ** 3/4

TALK TO ME (d. Kasi Lemmons) *** 1/4

TRANSFORMERS (d. Michael Bay) ** 1/4

INTERVIEW (d. Steve Buscemi) ***

LICENSE TO WED (d. Ken Kwapis) *

OH HAPPY DAY (d. Ian Poitier) * 3/4

2 MINUTES LATER (d. Robert Gaston) * 1/2

SHADOWS, THE (d. Guillermo Rodriguez) **

HOLDING TREVOR (d. Rosser Goodman) *** 1/2

25 CENT PREVIEW (d. Cyrus Amini) **

MEN IN THE NUDE (d. Károly Esztergályos) ***

VITUS (d. Fredi M. Murer) + *** 1/2

BACK SOON (d. Rob Williams) ** 3/4

HARRY POTTER 5 (d. David Yates) *** 1/4

MAN OF MY LIFE, THE (d. Zabou Breitman)+ *** 3/4

HAIRSPRAY (d. Adam Shankman) *** 1/2

MOLIÈRE (d. Laurant Tirard) *** 1/4

EL CANTANTE (d. Leon Ichaso) ** 3/4

SUNSHINE (d. Danny Boyle) *** 1/4

THESE FOOLISH THINGS (d. Julia Taylor-Stanley) **

4: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (d. Tim May) **

August, 2007

BECOMING JANE (d. Julian Jarrold) ** 3/4

ACCEPTED (d. Steve Pink) V. ** 1/2

TAPAS (d. José Corbacho & Juan Cruz) V. ***

DR. BRONNER'S MAGIC SOAPBOX (d. Sara Lamm) V. ** 1/4

HABITANTE INCIERTO, EL (The Uninvited Guest) (d. Guillem Morales) V. ***

BOURNE ULTIMATUM, THE (d. Paul Greengrass) *** 1/2

STARDUST (d. Matthew Vaughn) ** 1/2

SUPERBAD (d. Greg Mattola) ** 1/2

COMPANY, THE (d. Mikael Salomon) V. *** 1/2

SIMPSONS MOVIE, THE (d. David Silverman) ***

1408 (d. Mikael Hafström) ** 3/4

NANNY DIARIES, THE (d. Shari Singer Berman, Robert Pulcini) ** 3/4

RESURRECTING THE CHAMP (d. Rod Lurie) *** 1/4

September, 2007

SHREK THE THIRD (d. Chris Miller & Raman Hui) **

LAST LEGION, THE (d. Doug Lefler) ** 1/2
SURF'S UP (d. Ash Brannon & Chris Buck) ** 3/4
3 LITTLE PIGS, THE (Les 3 p'tits cochons) (d. Patrick Huard) Fr. Canadian sex comedy which somehow works. ***
DEATH SENTENCE (d. James Wan) **
FUGITIVE PIECES (d. Jeremy Podeswa) ***
BRAVE ONE, THE (d. Neil Jordan) *** 1/4
DUCHESS OF LANGEAIS, THE (Ne toucher pas la hache) (d. Jacques Rivette) ** 1/2
BANISHMENT (Izgnamie) (d. Andrey Zvyagintsev) *** 1/4
ONE HUNDRED NAILS (Centochiodi) (d. Ermanno Olmi) ** 1/4
MY BROTHER IS AN ONLY CHILD (Mio fratello è figlio unico) (d. Daniele Luchetti) *** 1/2
CONTROL (d. Anton Corbijn) ***
JAR CITY (Mýrin)(d. Baltasar Kormákur) *** 1/4
ULZHAN (d. Volker Schlöndorff) ***
MONGOL (d. Sergei Bodrov) ** 3/4
JUNO (d. Jason Reitman) ** 1/4
BOY A (d. John Crowley) *** 3/4
XXY (d. Lucia Puenzo) ***
EX DRUMMER (d. Koen Mortier) * 1/4
LOVE SONGS (Les chansons d'amours) (d. Christophe Honoré) ***
BREAKFAST WITH SCOT (d. Laurie Lynd) ** 3/4
CHAOTIC ANA (Caótica Ana) (d. Julio Medem) *** 3/4
KING OF THE HILL (El Rey de la Montaña) (d. Gonzalo López-Gallego) *** 1/4
CHRYSALIS (d. Julien Leclercq) ** 1/2
SAD VACATION (d. Shinji Aoyama) * 3/4
LAST MISTRESS, THE (Une vieille maîtress) (d. Catherine Breillat) *** 1/2
NORMAL (d. Carl Bessai) ***
JUST BURIED (d. Chaz Thorne) ** 3/4
GIRL IN THE PARK, THE (d. David Auburn) *** 1/4
NIGHTWATCHING (d. Peter Greenaway) ** 1/2
ALL HAT (d. Leonard Farlinger) ** 3/4
BLIND (d. Tamar van den Dop) *** 1/4
BILL (d. Melisa Wallack, Bernie Goldmann) **
PAST, THE (El Pasado) (d. Héctor Babenco) *** 1/2
WEIRDSVILLE (d. Allan Moyle) *
AND ALONG CAME TOURISTS (Am Ende Kommen Touristen) (d. Robert Thalheim) ***
DÉFICIT (d. Gael García Bernal) *** 1/4
SUN ALSO RISES, THE (Tai Yang Zhao Chang Sheng Qi) (d. Jiang Wen) ** 1/4
JUST LIKE HOME (Hjemve) (d. Lone Scherfig) ** 1/2
LARS AND THE REAL GIRL (d. Craig Gillespie) *** 1/4
NEW YORK SERENADE (d. Frank Whaley) ***
HIDDEN LOVE (L'amour caché) (d. Alessandro Capone) * 3/4
GARAGE (d. Lenny Abrahamson) ***
STRAY GIRLFRIEND, A (Una novia errante) (d. Ana Katz) ** 1/4
INTIMATE ENEMIES (L'ennemi intime) (d. Florent-Emilio Siri) *** 1/4
GIRL CUT IN TWO, A (La fille coupée en deux) (d. Claude Chabrol) ***
SMILEY FACE (d. Gregg Araki) *** 1/4
ORA DI PUNTA, L' (d. Vincenzo Marra) ** 3/4
NOTHING IS PRIVATE (d. Alan Ball) ***
RECLAIM YOUR BRAIN (Free Rainer -- Dein Fernseher Lügt) (d. Hans Weingartner) ** 1/2
HUNTING PARTY, THE (d. Richard Shepard) ** 1/2
IN THE VALLEY OF ELAH (d. Paul Haggis) Strong perfs, especially Tommy Lee Jones. Resonant script. *** 1/4
INTO THE WILD (d. Sean Penn) I've been haunted by this story of a young man's spiritual journey. *** 1/2
JANE AUSTIN BOOK CLUB, THE (d. Robin Swicord) ** 3/4
3:30 TO YUMA (d. James Mangold) A perfect Western, until unmotivated ending spoiled it. *** 1/4
DECEMBER BOYS (d. Rod Hardy) Good performances, but a predictable clichéd script. ** 1/2
SILK (d. François Gerard) Slow and reflective, but beautiful. ** 3/4
ACROSS THE UNIVERSE (d. Julie Taymor) The '60s film I've been waiting 40 years for. ****

KINGDOM, THE (d. Peter Berg) Berg's docudrama style works; but the film's script is problematical. ** 3/4
EASTERN PROMISES (d. David Cronenberg) Stylized violence...best Mortensen tattoos since Indian Runner. *** 1/4
ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES (d. Andrew Dominik) Great looking; but the narrator on downers annoyed. ** 3/4

October, 2007

FEAST OF LOVE (d. Robert Benton) Emotionally affecting; but I need to read the book, which is obviously richer. ***
DARJEELING LIMITED, THE (d. Wes Anderson) Better than his last one; but I need more than a train & exotica. ** 3/4

GOOD NIGHT, THE (d. Jake Paltrow) Totally forgettable story about a shlub who lives a vivid dream life. **
WHITE LIGHT/BLACK RAIN (d. Steven Okazaki) Comprehensive, clinical docu about Hiroshima & Nakasaki. ***
WE ARE TOGETHER (THINA SIMUNYE) (d. Paul Taylor) Moving docu: So. African orphanage saved by singing. *** 1/4

STEAL A PENCIL FOR ME (d. Michèle Ohayon) Holocaust docu: Dutch survivors on their 60th wedding aniv. *** 1/4

GRACE IS GONE (d. James Strause) Subtle, well crafted & acted (especially the girls): mom killed in war. *** 1/4
SHAKE THE DEVIL OFF (d. Peter Entell) OK post Katrina docu: parish church & beloved reverend disbanded. ** 3/4

DEEP WATER (d. Osmond & Rothwell) Disquieting, excellent docu: 1969 around world boat race. *** 1/2
EGOISTE: LOTTI LATROUS (d. Stephan Anspichler) Harrowing docu: Swiss nurse's AIDS hospice in Ivory Coast. ** 3/4

KINGS (d. Tom Collins) Ireland Academy foreign film submission ** 3/4

I JUST DIDN'T DO IT (d. Masayuki Suo) Japan Academy foreign film submission *** 1/2

UNKNOWN, THE (d. Giuseppe Tornatore) Italy Academy foreign film submission *** 1/4

SILLY AGE, THE (d. Pavel Giroud) Cuba Academy foreign film submission ***

ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE (d. Shekhar Kapur) Bombastic, overdone, disappointing bodice ripper. ** 1/4

GONE BABY GONE (d. Ben Affleck) Nicely directed. Story too far-fetched; but Casey Affleck especially fine. *** 1/4

RENDITION (d. Gavin Hood) Another well directed film with a story that just doesn't add up. ** 3/4

GONE WITH THE WOMAN (d. Peter Naess) Norway Academy foreign film submission ***

KNOT, THE (d. Li Yin) China Academy foreign film submission ***

SAND AND SORROW (d. Paul Freedman) Darfur docu. Admirable subject, boring straightforward filmmaking. ** 1/2

PLEASE VOTE FOR ME (d. Weijun Chen) Illuminating Chinese docu: 3rd graders' 1st election of class monitor. *** 1/4

PRICE OF SUGAR, THE (d. Bill Haney) Admirable docu which also works: Priest in Domin.Rep. vs. sugar industry. *** 1/4

NAKED BOYS SINGING (d. Schrock & Christian) Gimmicky staged musical review. Good songs, not cinematic. **

PROMISE TO THE DEAD, A (d. Peter Raymont) Docu: Ariel Dorfman's paean to Pinochet's Chilean disappeared. ***

ORPHANAGE, THE (d. J.A. Bayona) Spain's foreign film submission ** 1/2

MAN'S JOB, A (d. Aleks Salmenperä) Finland's foreign film submission ***

SHORT CIRCUITS (Kratki Stiki) (d. Janez Lapajne) Slovenia's foreign film submission ** 3/4

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD (d. Sidney Lumet) Tight thriller- 2 brothers and the "perfect" robbery. *** 1/2

THINGS WE LOST IN THE FIRE (d. Susanne Bier) Fine direction, fantastic acting (del Toro & Barry) *** 1/4

RESERVATION ROAD (d. Terry George) Unlikely coincidence mars a well told, predictable story. ** 3/4

MEETING RESISTANCE (d. Connors & Bingham) Excellent, scary docu about Iraqi resistance fighters. *** 1/2

DUSKA (d. Jos Stelling) The Netherlands foreign film submission. * 3/4

POPE'S TOILET, THE (d. Enrique Fernández) Uruguay foreign film submission. ** 3/4

JOE STRUMMER: THE FUTURE IS UNWRITTEN (d. Julian Temple) Fabu music docu. I had no idea. *** 1/2

BLADERUNNER (Final Cut) (d. Ridley Scott) I had forgotten how fabu the production design was! New ending: eh!? *** 1/4

November, 2007

LAKE OF FIRE (d. Tony Kaye) Long, fascinating, apparently neutral docu re abortion. Some hard to take shots! *** 1/4

4 MONTHS, 3 WEEKS AND 2 DAYS (d. Cristian Mungiu; Romania) *** 1/4

YOU, THE LIVING (d. Roy Andersson; Sweden) ** 3/4

PADRE NUESTRO (d. Rodrigo Sepulveda; Chile) ***

DAYS OF DARKNESS (d. Denys Arcand; Canada) ***

KITE RUNNER, THE (d. Marc Forster) No big name stars; but boy what an emotional wallop. *** 1/2

AMERICAN GANGSTER (d. Ridley Scott) A classic gangster flick, reminiscent of *Heat*. *** 1/2
BLIND MOUNTAIN (d. Li Yang) ***
MUGGER, THE (d. Pablo Fendrik) **
LION FOR LAMBS (d. Robert Redford) Overly talky & schematic; but brilliant, important and utterly topical! *** 1/2
BAND'S VISIT, THE (d. Eran Kolirin) ** 3/4
EDGE OF HEAVEN, THE (d. Fatih Akin; Germany) *** 3/4
CHOP SHOP (d. Ramin Bahrani) ***
DOGHEAD (d. Santi Amodeo) + *** 1/4
JELLYFISH (d. Etgar Keret, Shira Gefen) ** 3/4
AUTUMN BALL (d. Veiko Ounpuu) * 1/2
MANUELA AND MANUEL (d. Paul Marchand Sanchez) ***
USED PARTS (d. Aaron Fernandez) *** 1/4
AMERICAN FORK (d. Chris Bowman) **
KING OF FIRE (d. Chatrichalerm Yukol; Thailand) ***
LIVING WAKE, THE (d. Sol Tyson) * 1/2
WITH YOUR PERMISSION (Til Doden Os Skiller) (d. Paprika Steen) ** 1/2
MARTIAN CHILD (d. Menno Meyjes) How this script aborted my friend David Gerrold's true story! ** 1/2
LOVE IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA (d. Mike Newell) Bardem is really fine, a moving "elderly" love story, but... ** 3/4
MARGOT AT THE WEDDING (d. Noah Baumbach) Dysfunctional sisters squared. Fabu acting, ugly story. ***
LATE BLOOMERS (d. Bettina Oberli; Switzerland) ** 1/4
KATYN (d. Andrzej Wajda; Poland) *** 1/2
POSTCARDS FROM LENINGRAD (d. Mariana Rondón; Venezuela) **
RUSSIAN TRIANGLE, THE (d. Aleko Tsabadze; Georgia) *** 1/4
COUNTERFEITERS, THE (Die Falscher) (d. Stefan Ruzowitzky; Austria) *** 1/2
WARDEN OF THE DEAD (Pazachyt na myrtvite) (d. Ilian Simeonov; Bulgaria) **
NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (d. Joel and Ethan Coen) Ultra bloody, almost perfectly achieved thriller. *** 1/2
AUGUST RUSH (d. Kirsten Sheridan) As delirious & affecting as Sheridan's *Disco Pigs*, but too many plot holes. ***
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM (d. Zach Helm) Nice special f/x, but nothing else special here. ** 1/2
I'M NOT THERE (d. Todd Haynes) Fascinating, but completely inscrutable, just like most of Dylan's songs for me. ***
BELLE TOUJOURS (d. Manoel de Oliveira; Portugal) **
CROSSING A SHADOW (d. Augusto Tamayo; Peru) ** 1/2
AMAZING MRS. PRITCHARD, THE (d. var.) V. Involving, realistic British political what-if fantasy miniseries. ***
DEAL, THE (d. Stephen Frears) V. British political true story, Labour deal to share power. Too parochial for U.S. ** 1/2
DAN IN REAL LIFE (d. Peter Hedges) Emotionally satisfying, breakthru film for Hedges (and for me, Carell). *** 1/4
LITTLE SECRETS (d. Pol Cruchten; Luxembourg) ** 1/2
SILENT LIGHT (d. Carlos Reygadas; Mexico) *** 3/4
ENCHANTED (d. Kevin Lima) Fun script, flaccid direction. Too bad Julie Taymore didn't get a chance with this script. ** 3/4

December, 2007

EDUART (d. Angeliki Antoniou; Greece) *** 1/4
881 (d. Royston Tan; Singapore) W/O
STARTING OUT IN THE EVENING (d. Andrew Wagner) Understated, fine acting. A very adult script. *** 1/4
DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY, THE (d. Julian Schnabel) Most expressive eye in film history. Amalric amazing! *** 3/4
SOUTHLAND TALES (d. Richard Kelly) Scrambled script, good f/x, *Fifth Element* light. Was *Donny Darko* a fluke? ** 1/2
SAVAGES, THE (d. Tamara Jenkins) So real, so personally identifying, great acting, just too much of a downer. *** 1/4
IT'S HARD TO BE NICE (d. Srđan Vuletić; Bosnia/Herzegovina) ***
DONSOL (d. Adolfo Alix, Jr.; Philippines) ** 1/2
BADLAND (d. Francesco Lucente) Except for the overamped score a fine film with a searing perf by Jamie Draven. *** 1/4
SEX & BREAKFAST (d. Miles Brandman) Reprises the least interesting thread of HBO's *Tell Me You Love Me*. ** 1/2
AMATEURS, THE (d. Michael Traegar) A silly comedy with a fine cast, mostly wasted. * 3/4
LUST, CAUTION (d. Ang Lee) Gorgeous, perverse love and revolt story with a phenomenal perf by Wei Tang. *** 1/2
I SERVED THE KING OF ENGLAND (d. Jiri Menzel; Czech Republic) *** 1/4

BEN X (d. Nic Balthazar; Belgium) *** 1/2
SECRET SUNSHINE (d. Lee Chang-dong; Korea) ***
ATONEMENT (d. Joe Wright) Wright's direction & McAvoy's acting make this a special tearjerker. Oscar? Maybe. *** 1/2
GOLDEN COMPASS, THE (d. Chris Weitz) Great f/x, muddled script. **
CASSANDRA'S DREAM (d. Woody Allen) Hitchcockian film with a little *Purple Noon* thrown in. ** 3/4
WALKER, THE (d. Paul Schrader) Stylish, fine perfs by Harrelson and Bleibtreu & several aged actresses; but elliptical, senseless plot. **
RETURN OF THE STORKS (d. Martin Repka; Slovakia) ***
M FOR MOTHER (d. Rasool Mollagholi Poor; Iran) * 3/4
SICKO (d. Michael Mann) The Cuba trick is overly cute; but docu is entertaining & useful. ***
CARAMEL (d. Nadine Labaki; Lebanon) ** 1/2
DENIAS, SINGING ON THE CLOUD (d. John de Rantau; Indonesia) ** 1/2
SATANAS (d. Andrés Baiz; Columbia) ***
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (d. Jon Turteltaub) Excessive, ridiculous, a 2 Excedrin mess. * 1/2
I AM LEGEND (d. Francis Lawrence) Too similar to *28 Days Later*; but effective filmmaking, fine f/x. ***
RAPE OF EUROPA, THE (d. Berge & Cohen) Well researched docu: WWII and stolen art. Unique footage. *** 1/4
EKLAVYA (d. Vidhu Vinod Chopra; India) ***
TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE (d. Alex Gibney) Horrific, difficult docu: American torture of prisoners since 9/11. *** 1/4
WAR DANCE (d. Sean & Andrea Nix Fine) Moving, if somewhat contrived docu of Ugandan children in camp. ***
FLOOD (d. Tony Mitchell) V. Tacky, convincing British disaster drama about 1,000 year flood of London. ** 1/4
SWEENEY TODD (d. Tim Burton) Well made; but even Sondheim's lyrics can't make me love this musical. ***
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (d. Mike Nichols) Simplistic demonizing of enemy turned me off. ** 3/4
GREAT DEBATERS, THE (d. Denzel Washington) Better than I expected. Predictable, but moving. ***
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (d. Jake Kasdan) Silly fun, but quite creative, funny pseudo biopic. ***
AUTISM: THE MUSICAL (d. Tricia Regan) Moving, heart-rending docu...nice editing & photog. *** 3/4
BODY OF WAR (d. Ellen Spiro & Phil Donahue) Another successful docu: Robert Byrd, such a hero. *** 1/2
BUCKET LIST, THE (d. Rob Reiner)V. Only for old folks; but a great travelogue. ** 3/4
NANKING (d. Guttentag & Sturman) Horrific pictures & well cast readings by actors make effective docu. *** 1/4
LAST MIMZY, THE (d. Robert Shaye)V. Pleasant enough fantasy/sf, fine kid actors; not very meaty stuff. ** 3/4
NO END IN SIGHT (d. Charles Ferguson) Impressive docu indicting the Bush administration. *** 1/4
THERE WILL BE BLOOD (d. Paul Thomas Anderson) Respect the filmmaking more than loved the film. *** 1/4
PERSEPOLIS (d. Vincent Paronnaud, Marjane Satrapi; France) *** 1/4
ROMANCE & CIGARETTES (d. John Turturro) Virtually unwatchable embarrassment for all. *
HONEYDRIPPER (d. John Sayles) Good music, but very predictable. ** 3/4
OPERATION HOMECOMING (d. Richard Robbins) Out of the tragedy of war, true art in the best of this years docus. ****
YOUTH WITHOUT YOUTH (d. Francis Ford Coppola) Beautiful, Roth is fine; but wha....!? ** 1/2

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