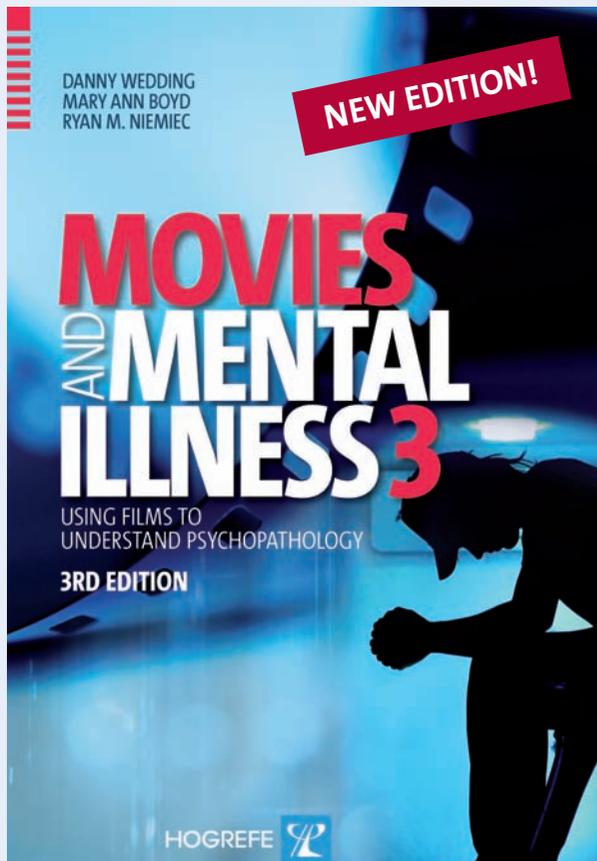


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Danny Wedding, Mary Ann Boyd,
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Movies and Mental Illness

Using Films to Understand Psychopathology

3rd revised and expanded edition 2010, xii + 340 pages
ISBN: 978-0-88937-371-6, US \$49.00

The popular and critically acclaimed teaching tool - movies as an aid to learning about mental illness - has just got even better!

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Films are a powerful medium for teaching students of psychology, social work, medicine, nursing, counseling, and even literature or media studies about mental illness and psychopathology. *Movies and Mental Illness*, now available in an updated edition, has established a great reputation as an enjoyable and highly memorable supplementary teaching tool for abnormal psychology classes. Written by experienced clinicians and teachers, who are themselves movie aficionados, this book is superb not just for psychology or media studies classes, but also for anyone interested in the portrayal of mental health issues in movies. The core clinical chapters each use a fabricated case history and Mini-Mental State Examination along with synopses and scenes from one or two specific, often well-known films to explain, teach, and encourage discussion about the most important disorders encountered in clinical practice.

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Appendix F

Films Illustrating Psychopathology

Key to Ratings

Ψ	Description provided for your information only; don't bother with the film
ΨΨ	Mildly interesting and somewhat educational; probably worth your time
ΨΨΨ	A good film relevant to your education as a mental health professional
ΨΨΨΨ	Highly recommended both as art and as professional education
ΨΨΨΨΨ	A must-see film that combines artistry with psychological relevance

Anxiety Disorders

40 Year Old Virgin, The (2005) Comedy ΨΨ

Screwball comedy depicting issues relevant to those suffering from social phobia, such as fear of embarrassment, dating/sex fears, social inadequacy, and avoidance behavior.

Adaptation (2002) Comedy/Action ΨΨΨΨ

Multi-layered Spike Jonze film in which Nicholas Cage plays twin brothers, one of whom is a neurotic screenwriter struggling to write a story based on a book about orchids.

Analyze That (2002) Comedy/Action ΨΨ

The follow-up film to *Analyze This*, in which a panic-disordered mob boss (De Niro) malingers to get released from prison, tries to maintain an ordinary job, and is convinced to return while stringing along his psychiatrist (Crystal).

Analyze This (1999) Comedy/Action ΨΨ

The original Billy Crystal/Robert De Niro comedy where Deniro plays the lead thug in a New York mafia group who develops panic attacks. De Niro sees a psychiatrist (Billy Crystal) for treatment.

Arachnophobia (1990) Comedy/Horror ΨΨ

A story about a doctor with a paralyzing fear of spiders. (Actually, the spiders in this film are pretty intimidating, and fear appears to be a perfectly reasonable response.)

As Good As It Gets (1997) Romance ΨΨΨ

Jack Nicholson won his third Academy Award

as Best Actor for this film, in which he portrays a homophobic, racist novelist with an obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Aviator, The (2004) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨΨΨ

Directed by Martin Scorsese, this film depicts Howard Hughes Jr.'s (Leonardo DiCaprio) early years (1920–1940s) and the progression of his obsessive-compulsive disorder. Winner of five Academy Awards and a Voice Award.

Batman Begins (2005) Action/Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Sophisticated Christopher Nolan film telling the story of Bruce Wayne, a young boy with a phobia who watches his wealthy parents' murder and becomes a superhero. Wayne's phobia of bats is conquered through systematic exposure. The movie demonstrates the importance of facing up to what one fears the most.

Big Parade, The (1925) Romance/War ΨΨΨΨ

Epic film about World War I gives the viewer a sense of the stress of combat and the trauma of returning to civilian life minus a leg or an arm.

Big White, The (2005) Drama/Crime Ψ

Black comedy starring Robin Williams, Holly Hunter, Giovanni Ribisi, and Woody Harrelson. Margaret (Hunter) is diagnosed with Tourette's syndrome, which appears to be adult onset (i.e., it doesn't match DSM-IV criteria); she has little self-control over her verbal outbursts.

Black Rain (1989) Drama ΨΨΨ

Black-and-white film by Japanese filmmaker Shohei Imamura about the aftermath of the bomb-

ing of Hiroshima and its long-term psychological effects.

“Who’s gonna love me, Dad? Whoever’s going to love me?”

Ron Kovic in *Born on the Fourth of July*
(1989)

Born on the Fourth of July (1989)

Drama/War/Biography ΨΨΨΨ

Oliver Stone film about the anger, frustration, rage, and coping of paralyzed Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic (Tom Cruise). Kovic was thrown out of the 1972 Republican convention, but went on to address the Democratic convention in 1976. The film has especially memorable VA hospital scenes.

Brave One, The (2007) Crime/Thriller Ψ

Jodie Foster plays a radio talk show host and newlywed. She survives a brutal attack that leaves her fiancé dead. Following the attack, her fear heightens yet she forces herself to get revenge.

Broken English (2007) Comedy/Drama/Romance ΨΨ

Parker Posey portrays an organizer/secretary/event planner who is bored and passes each day searching for a lover on the Internet. She chooses men who are unavailable because of a fear of commitment. When she gets close to a genuine commitment, she has dramatic panic attacks.

Bubble (2005) Crime/Drama ΨΨ

Minimalist Steven Soderbergh project about three characters in a poor town, working at a factory. One suffers from anxiety and panic attacks.

Cars that Ate Paris, The (1974, Australia) Comedy Ψ

Early Peter Weir film that takes place in a secluded town in rural Paris, Australia, where the main source of income is the revenue from the instigating accidents and salvaging valuables from the wrecks. Panic attacks and exposure are depicted.

Casualties of War (1989) War ΨΨΨ

Brian De Palma film about five GIs who kidnap, rape, and murder a young Vietnamese girl. The film deals with themes of guilt, stress, violence, and, most of all, the dehumanizing aspects of war.

Coming Home (1978) Drama/War ΨΨΨΨ

Jon Voigt plays a paraplegic veteran who becomes Jane Fonda’s lover in this sensitive antiwar film. Fonda’s Marine Corps husband winds up committing suicide. Interesting analysis of the different ways different people respond to the stress of war.

Copycat (1995) Suspense/Thriller ΨΨ

Sigourney Weaver plays a criminal psychologist who struggles with agoraphobia symptoms as she helps police track down a serial killer (Harry Connick, Jr.).

Coyote Ugly (2000) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

A young woman moves to New York City to try to make it as a songwriter. She takes a job as a “coyote” bartender at a wild, interactive bar and the experience helps her overcome her social anxiety.

Creepshow (1982) Horror ΨΨ

A man with an insect phobia winds up being eaten alive by cockroaches. Directed by George Romero, who also directed the classic film *Night of the Living Dead*. Stephen King wrote the screenplay, and the film is actually better than one might initially expect.

Da Vinci Code, The (2006) Drama/Mystery ΨΨ

This is a Ron Howard film about a murder inside the Louvre. Clues in Da Vinci’s paintings lead to the discovery of a religious mystery protected by a secret society for two thousand years -- which could shake the foundations of Christianity. Tom Hanks’ character experiences somatic anxiety symptoms including shortness of breath and discomfort in social situations.

Deer Hunter, The (1978) War ΨΨΨΨΨ

Robert De Niro in an unforgettable film about how Vietnam affects the lives of three high school buddies. The Russian roulette sequences are among the most powerful scenes in film history. Psycho pathology themes include drug abuse, PTSD, and depression. The movie won five Academy Awards, including one for best picture, and De Niro has described it as his finest film.

Departed, The (2006) Crime/Drama/Mystery ΨΨ

Engaging Martin Scorsese film starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jack Nicholson, and Martin Sheen portraying Irish mafia, undercover detectives, and corrupt federal agents. DiCaprio’s character experiences panic attacks and anxiolytics are prescribed.

Dirty Filthy Love (2004, UK) Drama/Comedy
ΨΨΨΨΨ

An outstanding movie about Mark Furness whose life falls apart as a result of his affliction with obsessive compulsive disorder and Tourette's Disorder. Treatment, support groups, and severe symptoms of OCD and Tourette's are shown in the film.

Dummy (2002) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

A predictable film starring Adrian Brody as Steven, an aspiring ventriloquist, who is unemployed, naïve, passive, and socially awkward but finds meaning and social support through his "dummy." Interesting metaphor of the socially phobic person finding their "inner voice." All ventriloquism in the film is actually performed by Adrian Brody. The DVD features interviews and comic classes with champion ventriloquist Jeff Dunham.

"I'm not sure there is any help for you."

The dummy's comment to his ventriloquist Steven in *Dummy* (2002)

Elling (2001) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Norwegian film about two men released from a psychiatric hospital and must prove themselves capable of coping with everyday life. Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Film.

Enduring Love (2004) Drama/Mystery ΨΨΨ

Several men try to save a boy in a hot air balloon that is out of control. All but one let go and the one who hangs on dies; the resulting PTSD and delusional disorder are portrayed.

Everything Is Illuminated (2005) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

A young Jewish American travels to the Ukraine to find the woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis. He stores everything in small plastic bags and claims to have a phobia of dogs, but ends up sitting in the backseat of a car with a dog; he and the dog wind up sleeping in the same bed.

Feardotcom (2002) Thriller/Horror Ψ

Various characters access a deadly website that makes their deepest fears or phobias come true (e.g., one has a phobia of beetles and soon is covered by them).

Fearless (1993) Drama ΨΨ

Jeff Bridges in an engaging film that portrays some of the symptoms of anxiety in airline crash survivors. Interesting vignettes showing group therapy for PTSD victims.

Final Cut, The (2004) Drama/Thriller Ψ

Some PTSD symptoms are displayed in a man (Robin Williams) who creates "rememories" for people at funerals using a microchip implanted in the people's heads while they were living.

Fisher King, The (1991) Drama/Fantasy/Comedy
ΨΨΨ

Jeff Bridges plays a former talk show personality who unwittingly encourages a listener to go on a shooting spree. Bridges' withdrawal, cynicism, and substance use can all be interpreted and understood in the context of a post-traumatic stress disorder.

"If you ladies leave my island, if you survive recruit training... you will be a weapon, you will be a minister of death, praying for war. But until that day you are pukers."

Drill instructor Hartman in *Full Metal Jacket* (1987)

Full Metal Jacket (1987) War ΨΨΨ

Stanley Kubrick's Vietnam film. The first half of the film is devoted to life in a Marine boot camp, and it is a good illustration of the stress associated with military indoctrination. One of the recruits kills his drill instructor and then commits suicide in response to the pressure of boot camp.

Hamburger Hill (1987) War ΨΨ

A graphic presentation of the stress and horror of war.

High Anxiety (1977) Comedy ΨΨ

Mel Brook's spoof of Hitchcock classics about a psychiatrist who works at "The Psycho-Neurotic Institute for the Very, Very Nervous." The film is better if you've seen the Hitchcock films on which the parody builds.

Home of the Brave (2006) Action/Drama ΨΨ

Soldiers returning from the war in Iraq attempt to reintegrate back home but struggle with the memo-

ries and ramifications of having served in war. Winner of a Voice Award.

House of Games (1987) Crime ΨΨ

Lindsay Crouse in the lead role plays a psychiatrist who has just written an important book on obsessive-compulsive disorders. She becomes obsessed with confidence games and is slowly drawn into the criminal life.

In Country (1989) Drama ΨΨ

Bruce Willis plays a Vietnam veteran with post-traumatic stress disorder who is unable to relate meaningfully to the world around him until he visits the Vietnam memorial.

In the Bedroom (2001) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨΨ

Introspective film with a talented cast that examines grief, despair, and revenge after the murder of someone deeply loved. Marisa Tomei's character develops an Acute Stress Disorder following the trauma. The film makes good use of silence; these scenes underscore the tension, unspoken feelings, and underlying pain associated with the death of a loved one.

Inside Out (1986) Drama ΨΨ

A little known but interesting film in which Elliott Gould plays a man with agoraphobia. He sends out for food, sex, and haircuts but finds that he cannot meet *all* his needs without leaving home.

Jacob's Ladder (1990) Drama ΨΨ

Complex film about a Vietnam veteran who has dramatic hallucinations of indeterminate etiology (possibly the result of military exposure to experimental drugs).

"What does your therapist think of all this?"

"Oh, I would never tell my therapist."

"Why not?"

"Because it's private."

Dialogue in *Kissing Jessica Stein* (2002)

Kissing Jessica Stein (2002) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

Quality independent film about a neurotic, young woman who in exploring her sexuality and intrapersonal life is able to extend beyond her rigidity and generalized anxiety.

Lady in a Cage (1964) Drama/Suspense ΨΨ

Olivia de Havilland plays an upper class woman trapped inside her home elevator. The film melodramatically represents claustrophobia and panic.

"Take it all but in the name of humanity, let me out of this cage."

Cornelia Hilyard in *Lady in a Cage* (1964)

Manchurian Candidate, The (2004) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ

The new version of this classic film stars Denzel Washington as a Gulf War veteran with PTSD, paranoia, and memories he cannot understand, which lead him to unravel a conspiracy involving brain washing and political maneuvering.

Manchurian Candidate, The (1962) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ

Original version stars Frank Sinatra as the veteran who experiences flashbacks and PTSD symptoms.

M*A*S*H (1970) Comedy/War ΨΨΨ

Wonderfully funny Robert Altman film about military surgeons and nurses who use alcohol, sex, and humor to cope with the stress of war. The portrayal of Hawkeye Pierce, half-drunk but always ready for surgery, is troubling.

Matador, The (2005) Comedy ΨΨ

Pierce Brosnan plays a narcissistic, antisocial "hit man." He suffers from panic attacks (without agoraphobia) that affect his ability to work.

"I've got things a certain way."

Roy Waller in *Matchstick Men* (2003)

Matchstick Men (2003) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

Nicholas Cage plays Roy Waller, a con man with OCD, agoraphobia with panic, tics, and antisocial personality in this interesting Ridley Scott film. Upon meeting his estranged daughter things begin to change for Waller.

Nothing (2003) Comedy ΨΨΨ

A Vincenzo Natali film about two men who make things disappear by hating and wishing. The film is based on the relationship two good friends, a travel agent who works from home and suffers from agoraphobia and a self-absorbed loser who is treated with contempt.

Obsession (1976) Thriller Ψ

Brian De Palma version of Hitchcock's *Vertigo*. The De Palma film doesn't live up to the original.

Open Water (2003) Suspense Ψ

A young couple on a scuba diving trip is left behind to fend for themselves. Sharks circle, distant boats do not see the divers, and fish bite them. While the film depicts the terror someone would experience if abandoned in the open water, it is not a notable depiction of an anxiety disorder.

Panic Room (2002) Crime/Suspense Ψ

Jodie Foster plays a claustrophobic woman who becomes imprisoned in the panic room of her own house when burglars enter her newly purchased home.

"Sergeant, I want you to arrange for the immediate transfer of this baby out of my regiment. I won't have any of our brave men contaminated by him."

Paths of Glory (1957)

Paths of Glory (1957) War ΨΨΨΨΨ

Kirk Douglas in an early Stanley Kubrick film about the horrors and stupidity of WWI. There is a memorable scene in which a general repeatedly slaps a soldier, trying without success to bring him out of his shell-shocked state. The scene was repeated in the 1970 film *Patton*.

Pawnbroker, The (1965) Drama ΨΨΨ

Rod Steiger plays a concentration camp survivor who watched his wife being raped and his children being murdered; he copes by becoming numb. Interesting flashback scenes. Steiger lost the 1965 Academy Award for best actor to Lee Marvin in *Cat Ballou*.

Patton (1970) War/Biography ΨΨΨΨ

George C. Scott is perfect in the role of the

controversial general who was relieved of his command after slapping a crying soldier who had been hospitalized for combat fatigue, or what we would probably now call post-traumatic stress disorder. The film won an Academy Award as best picture and George C. Scott won the Oscar for Best Actor.

"I want you to remember that no bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country."

Gen. George S. Patton Jr. in *Patton* (1970)

Phobia (1980) Horror/Mystery Ψ

Canadian film about the systematic murders of phobic psychiatric patients.

Play It Again Sam (1972) Comedy/Romance ΨΨ

Early Woody Allen film depicting social anxiety. A neurotic film critic's wife leaves him and he is crushed. His hero is a tough guy (Humphrey Bogart) whose apparition begins showing up to give him advice. He actually tries dating again and is unsuccessful until he learns to relax.

Princess and the Warrior, The (2000) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A nurse at a psychiatric hospital is hit by a truck and saved by a crook who cuts a hole in her throat and breathes for her. Upon recovering, the nurse goes on a journey of purpose to find this man. A minor character has PTSD. One intensely graphic and chilling scene depicts a kind-hearted adolescent with **pica**; believing the nurse has rejected him, the teenager eats glass.

Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) Adventure ΨΨ

Steven Spielberg film with Harrison Ford as anthropologist Indiana Jones, who is forced by the situational demands of heroism to overcome his snake phobia.

Red Eye (2005) Horror/Thriller Ψ

Wes Craven film portraying a character who hates to fly but finds herself on the red eye flight to Miami trapped with a villainous and charming middle-man in a plot to assassinate a Homeland Security official.

San Francisco (1936) Romance/Disaster ΨΨΨ

This is one of the greatest disaster films ever made, and the special effects give the viewer some appreciation for the acute stress one would experience in a real earthquake. Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy have unforgettable roles in this film.

She's One of Us (2003, France) Drama ΨΨ

A socially awkward and anxious woman struggles in her social interactions. Watch for echoes of Dostoyevsky's "Dream of a Ridiculous Man."

Shoah (1985) Documentary ΨΨΨΨΨ

Widely praised nine-hour documentary about the Holocaust. The film offers some insight into the behavior of both the German officials and their victims and illustrates antisocial personalities and post-traumatic stress disorders.

Something's Gotta Give (2003) Comedy ΨΨ

Jack Nicholson stars as a man who experiences panic attacks while grappling his interest in relationship with a woman played by Diane Keaton.

Stranger the Fiction (2006) Comedy ΨΨΨ

An IRS auditor (Will Ferrell) suddenly finds himself the subject of a novel being read by the author that only the auditor can hear. The narration affects his entire life – his work, relationships, living situation, and livelihood – including his obsessive behavior (e.g., counting toothbrush strokes and steps).

Twelve O'Clock High (1949) War ΨΨΨ

Gregory Peck in an interesting presentation of the stress of combat and the ways in which leaders can influence the behavior of those they lead.

Unmarried Woman, An (1978) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

Tender, sensitive, and funny film about Jill Clayburgh learning to cope with the stress of being a single parent after her husband abandons her. Her friends, a psychiatrist, and an affair with Alan Bates all help.

"I have this acrophobia. I wake up at night and I see that man falling."

John Ferguson describing his symptoms in *Vertigo* (1958)

Vertigo (1958) Thriller ΨΨΨΨΨ

Wonderful Hitchcock film in which James Stewart plays a character whose life is dominated by his fear of heights. He attempts a self-styled behavior modification program early in the film without success.

Waiting for Ronald (2003) Short Film/Drama ΨΨΨ

This film about a man who leaves a supervised residence to live with a friend in the community depicts OCD with a hand-washing compulsion.

Walking on Water (2002) Drama ΨΨ

Australian film about a man who becomes haunted by intrusive memories and deteriorates into self-destructive behavior after suffocating a gay friend who was dying of AIDS.

War of the Worlds (2005) Action ΨΨ

Directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Tom Cruise, Dakota Fanning, and Tim Robbins, this film depicts the impact of an alien invasion on a blue-collar father and two children. Cruise's character responds to tragedy with shock; his daughter develops a phobia; and Robbins' character has a psychotic break.

What About Bob? (1991) Comedy ΨΨ

Bill Murray plays an anxious patient who cannot function without his psychiatrist, played by Richard Dreyfuss. Not a great film, but a fun movie that explores the doctor-patient relationship and the obsessive-compulsive personality.

"As a four limb person, I don't feel incomplete. It's more of a feeling that my body doesn't belong to me."
 "The relief from the 50 years of torment I had was indescribable."
 "I'm complete now."

Comments from individuals who want or have had healthy limbs removed in *Whole* (2003)

Whole (2003) Documentary ΨΨ

Fascinating documentary about individuals who have a strong desire to have one of their limbs amputated, despite being totally healthy. Presents interesting differential diagnostic questions. Is

this OCD, Body Dysmorphic Disorder, an identity disorder, or self-mutilation? One psychiatrist, who interviewed 53 people with this condition, proposed the rubric “Body Integrity Identity Disorder.”

Without a Paddle (2004) Drama/Comedy Ψ

Three friends go canoeing after the death of a friend. One is painfully neurotic with numerous phobias including fear of small spaces, the dark, and cellophane wrap. He copes with difficult situations by pretending he is a Star Wars character.

Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders

3 Women (1977) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Strange but engaging Robert Altman film about two California women who seem to exchange personalities.

Agnes of God (1985) Mystery ΨΨΨ

Good performances by Anne Bancroft, Meg Tilly, and Jane Fonda. Fonda plays a court-appointed psychiatrist who must make sense out of pregnancy and apparent infanticide in a local convent. Good examples of *stigmata*, an example of conversion.

Altered States (1980) Science Fiction ΨΨ

Not entirely satisfying film based in part on the sensory deprivation experiments of Dr. John Lilly. The scientist (William Hurt) combines isolation tanks with psychedelic mushrooms to induce altered states of consciousness. Good special effects.

“This is poetry, and don’t you deny it. Come back to me when you’ve written something really perverse, really depraved.”

An editor reviews Isabelle’s work in *Amateur* (1994)

Amateur (1994) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

Hal Hartley film in which a man who is amnesiac as a result of a traumatic head injury takes up with a nun who has left the convent to write pornographic novels. Almost every character in the film

has a complex double identity and is uncertain about who he or she *really* is.

Anastasia (1956) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Yul Brynner, Helen Hayes, and Ingrid Bergman star in this film about an amnesiac woman who is believed to be the lost princess Anastasia, daughter of the last czar of Russia.

Bandits (2001) Comedy ΨΨ

Loosely based on a true story about two criminals who rob banks in a non-violent way. One of the men (Billy Bob Thornton) is hypochondriacal. In interviews, Thornton stated it was not much of a “stretch” to play this role—he has a well-documented phobia of antique furniture.

Black Friday (1940) Horror ΨΨ

Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi star in this film about transplanting a gangster’s brain in a college professor’s cranium.

Butterfly Effect, The (2003) Drama/Suspense ΨΨ

A young man (Ashton Kutcher) tries to change his traumatic past with unpredictable and increasingly problematic consequences. When he reflects on blackouts, he enters the memory and is able to change it for the long-term but must face the consequences of the change each time. The film attempts to depict chaos theory, and opens with a famous quotation.

Cyrano de Bergerac (1990) Romance ΨΨΨ

Gerard Depardieu stars as the inimitable Cyrano, a man obsessed with the size of his nose and convinced it makes him forever unlovable.

Dark Mirror, The (1946) Thriller Ψ

Olivia De Havilland plays both parts in a story of twin sisters, one of whom is a deranged killer.

Dead Again (1991) Mystery/Romance ΨΨΨ

Emma Thompson costars with her husband, Kenneth Branagh (who also directed the film). The movie illustrates traumatic amnesia and its treatment through hypnosis. The hypnotist, an antique dealer, is not the most professional of therapists!

Despair (1979) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Fassbinder film based on a novel by Vladimir Nabokov. A Russian Jew émigré in Germany who runs a chocolate factory kills another man who looks like him, and tries to pass it off as his own suicide. When his plan fails, he becomes psychotic.

Devils, The (1971) Drama/Historical ΨΨΨ

Ken Russell film adapted from Aldous Huxley's book *The Devils of Loudun*. The film traces the lives of seventeenth-century French nuns who experienced highly erotic dissociative states attributed to possession by the devil.

Double Life of Veronique, The (1991) Fantasy/Drama ΨΨ

The lives of two women turn out to be linked in complex ways the viewer never fully understands.

Double Life, A (1947) Crime ΨΨ

Ronald Coleman plays an actor who is unable to sort out his theatrical life (in which he plays Othello) and his personal life.

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1932) Horror ΨΨΨΨ

Fredric March in the best adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story about the ultimate dissociative disorder. Stevenson was an alcoholic, and alcohol may be the model for the mysterious liquid that dramatically transforms Jekyll's personality.

Exorcist, The (1973) Horror ΨΨ

Linda Blair stars as a 12-year-old girl possessed by the devil in William Friedkin's film based on the William Peter Blatty novel. One of the most suspenseful films ever made.

"It's only after we've lost everything
[that] we are free to do anything."

A premise of *Fight Club* (1999)

Fight Club (1999) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨΨ

A disillusioned, insomniac (Edward Norton) meets a dangerous, malcontent part of himself in the character of Brad Pitt. Norton then establishes "fight clubs" in which men can unload their aggressions onto one another. Interesting look at Norton's deterioration.

Forgotten, The (2004) Drama ΨΨ

A woman grieving over the loss of her nine-year-old son is told by her husband and her therapist that her son never existed, and that all her memories were created in response to a miscarriage. The mother isn't buying it.

Freud (1962) Biography ΨΨΨ

Montgomery Clift in an interesting account of the early years of Freud's life. The film illustrates paralysis, false blindness, and a false pregnancy, all examples of somatization disorders.

Great Dictator, The (1940) Comedy ΨΨ

A satire of Adolph Hitler, with Charlie Chaplin in the role of a Jewish barber who suffers amnesia and eventually finds himself assuming the personality of Adenoid Hynkel, the dictator of Tomania.

Hannah and Her Sisters (1986) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Mickey (Woody Allen) is a hopeless hypochondriac who was formerly married to Hannah (Mia Farrow). Mickey spends his days worrying about brain tumors, cancer, and cardiovascular disease.

"Every husband should go blind for a little while."

Val in *Hollywood Ending* (2002)

Hollywood Ending (2002) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Woody Allen film about a struggling film director (Allen), Val, who develops a conversion disorder (hysterical blindness) and has to direct the film blind.

Home of the Brave (1949) Drama/War ΨΨ

A black soldier develops a conversion disorder following his return from combat.

Identity (2003) Suspense/Thriller ΨΨΨ

A serial killer with a dissociative identity disorder is at his final hearing before receiving the death penalty. This story juxtaposes with another tale of several people suddenly stuck at an isolated motel and living in terror as they are killed one by one. These two components are cleverly weaved together as the people represent DID alters being killed off.

Last Temptation of Christ, The (1988) Religious ΨΨΨ

Challenging and controversial Martin Scorsese film in which Jesus, while on the cross and in great pain, has a dissociative episode in which he imagines himself as an ordinary man who married Mary Magdalene and lived a normal life.

Lizzie (1957) Drama ΨΨ

Eleanor Parker, a woman with dissociative identity disorder is treated by psychiatrist Richard Boone.

Loverboy (2004) Drama ΨΨ

An overly protective mother illustrates the rare but fascinating phenomenon of factitious disorder by proxy.

Method (2003) Suspense/Thriller Ψ

An actress studying and playing the role of a past serial killer tries too hard to “feel her character” and she dissociates and takes on her model’s past behavior.

Mirage (1965) Drama ΨΨ

A scientist who makes an important discovery develops amnesia after viewing the death of a friend.

My Girl (1991) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

The film centers on an 11-year-old girl whose mother has just died and whose grandmother has Alzheimer’s disease. The child responds by developing a series of imaginary disorders. Strong performances by Dan Aykroyd and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Nurse Betty (2000) Drama/Mystery ΨΨΨΨ

Neil LaBute film about a woman (Renee Zellweger) who witnesses a traumatic event and develops a dissociative fugue. She travels to Los Angeles to find a character in a soap opera. Zellweger’s character presents an interesting springboard for a debate about the differences between dissociative fugue and delusional disorder.

Numb (2007) Drama ΨΨ

Matthew Perry portrays a character who develops a depersonalization disorder that he overcomes by falling in love.

Overboard (1987) Comedy ΨΨ

Goldie Hawn plays a haughty millionairess who develops amnesia and is claimed by an Oregon carpenter as his wife and forced to care for his children.

Pact of Silence, The (2003, France) Drama ΨΨ

A Jesuit priest tries to make sense out of a nun’s psychosomatic fits that turn out to be related to the experiences of the nun’s incarcerated twin sister.

Paris, Texas (1984) Drama ΨΨΨ

Wim Wenders film about a man found wandering in the desert with no personal memory.

Persona (1966) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Complex, demanding, and absolutely fascinating Bergman film starring Liv Ullmann as an actress who suddenly stops talking after one of her performances. Ullmann is treated by a nurse, and the two women appear to exchange “personas.” Highly erotic description of a beach memory.

“I have not spoken since I was six years old. Nobody knows why, least of all myself.”

Ada’s thoughts at the beginning of *The Piano* (1993)

Piano, The (1993) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Jane Campion film about a woman who had voluntarily stopped speaking as a child. She communicates with written notes and through playing the piano, a pleasure forbidden to her by her New Zealand husband. There are scenes of extraordinary sensuality between Harvey Keitel and Holly Hunter and a dramatic suicide attempt.

Poison Ivy (1992) Drama Ψ

Newcomer into a pathological family plans to take over the role of wife and mother. The father is alcoholic, the mother a hypochondriac.

Prelude to a Kiss (1992) Comedy/Romance ΨΨ

The ultimate example of a dissociative disorder. A beautiful young woman and a sad old man kiss on her wedding day and exchange bodies. The film makes this extraordinary event seem almost plausible.

Primal Fear (1996) Drama ΨΨΨ

Richard Gere stars in this suspenseful drama about a man who commits heinous crimes, ostensibly as a result of a dissociative disorder. The film raises useful questions about the problem of malingering and differential diagnosis.

“Mother, my mother, uh, what is the phrase? – She isn’t qu-quite herself today.”

Norman Bates in *Psycho* (1960)

Psycho (1960) Horror/Thriller ΨΨΨΨΨ

Wonderful Hitchcock film starring Anthony Perkins as Norman Bates, who vacillates between his passive, morbid personality and his dead mother's alter ego. In the final minutes of the film, a psychiatrist offers a somewhat confused explanation for Bates' behavior. The shower scene is one of the most famous shots in film history.

Queen Margot (1994) Drama ΨΨ

Period film set in 1572 France at a time of heavy religious warfare (Catholic vs. Protestant). The king in the film is highly somatic to stress and various situations.

Raising Cain (1992) Thriller/Drama Ψ

Confusing De Palma film about a child psychologist with multiple personalities who begins to kill women and steal their children for experiments.

Return of Martin Guerre, The (1982)

Historical ΨΨΨ

Gerard Depardieu as a sixteenth-century peasant who returns to his wife after a seven-year absence. His true identity is never made clear. This film, the basis for the American movie *Sommersby*, is based on a true story.

Safe (1995) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A rare film almost exclusively focusing on a woman (Julianne Moore) with a somatoform disorder, various treatment approaches, and the effects on her family. This satirical film is cleverly directed by Todd Haynes.

Secret of Dr. Kildare, The (1939) Drama ΨΨΨ

The good Dr. Kildare works hard to cure a patient's conversion disorder (blindness) in this dated but still interesting film.

Secret Window (2004) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ

Mort Rainey (Johnny Depp) finding his wife cheating on him in a motel; the film jumps forward six months to a scene in which Mort is an isolated writer in a house in the woods and now separated from his wife. He is visited and threatened by an odd psychopath (John Turturro). Based on the Stephen King short story, "Secret Window, Secret Garden." *Identity* meets *The Sixth Sense*.

Send Me No Flowers (1964) Romance/Comedy Ψ

Rock Hudson plays a hypochondriac convinced he will die soon. Hudson sets out to find a suitable replacement so his wife will be able to get along without him.

Seventh Veil, The (1945) Drama ΨΨΨ

Psychological drama about a pianist who loses the ability to play. Hypnotherapy makes it possible for Ann Todd to play the piano again and sort out her complex interpersonal relationships.

Sisters (1973) Thriller/Horror ΨΨ

De Palma film about Siamese twins separated as children; one is good, the other quite evil. The use of Siamese twins is a Hitchcock-like twist on the theme of multiple personality.

Something's Gotta Give (2005) Comedy ΨΨ

Jack Nicholson plays a 63-year-old man obsessed with younger women; he has a genuine heart attack that is followed by a series of panic attacks.

Sommersby (1993) Drama ΨΨ

Richard Gere returns to wife Jodie Foster after a six-year absence during the Civil War. Gere is remarkably changed, so much so that it appears he is a different man.

Sorry, Wrong Number (1948) Thriller ΨΨ

Barbara Stanwyck and Burt Lancaster in a murder film. Stanwyck is a rich heiress who is bedridden with psychosomatic heart disease and paralysis.

Spellbound (1945) Thriller ΨΨΨΨ

Ingrid Bergman and Gregory Peck star in this Hitchcock thriller. Peck is an amnesiac patient who believes he has committed a murder; Bergman is the psychiatrist who falls in love with him and helps him recall the childhood trauma responsible for his dissociative state.

Steppenwolf (1974) Drama ΨΨ

Film adaptation of Herman Hesse's remarkable novel about Harry Haller (played by Max von Sydow), a misanthropic protagonist who wrestles with the competing forces of good and evil within himself.

Stigmata (1999) Suspense/Horror Ψ

Beautician begins to have episodes of visions, seizures, and stigmata wounds on her body after her mother sends her a sacred rosary from Brazil.

Suddenly, Last Summer (1959) Drama ΨΨΨ

Adaptation of a Tennessee Williams story about an enmeshed and pathological relationship between a mother (Katharine Hepburn) and her homosexual son and a dissociative amnesia in a cousin who witnessed the son's death. Among its other virtues, the film includes a fascinating discussion of the benefits of lobotomy.

“He-he was lying naked on the broken stones... It looked as if-as if they had devoured him!... As if they’d torn or cut parts of him away with their hands, or with knives, or those jagged tin cans they made music with. As if they’d torn bits of him away in strips!”

Suddenly, Last Summer (1959)

Sullivan’s Travels (1941) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨΨ
Joel McCrea plays a movie director who goes out to experience life as it is lived outside a Hollywood studio. He winds up getting a head injury, becoming amnesic, and being sentenced to six years on a chain gang.

Sybil (1976) Drama ΨΨΨ
Made-for-TV movie in which Joanne Woodward, the patient in *The Three Faces of Eve*, plays the psychiatrist treating a woman with 16 different personalities.

Thérèse: The Story of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (2004) Drama ΨΨΨ
The story of Saint Thérèse, the Carmelite nun who wrote *Story of a Soul*, and suffered from various somatic symptoms.

Three Faces of Eve, The (1957) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
Joanne Woodward won an Academy Award for her portrayal of a woman with three personalities (Eve White, Eve Black, and Jane); based on the book by Thigpin and Cleckley.

Twelve O’Clock High (1949) War ΨΨΨΨΨ
Gregory Peck plays the role of General Frank Savage, an effective leader who develops a conversion disorder (psychosomatic paralysis) in response to his role in the death of several of his subordinates. The film is based on a true story.

Unconscious (2004) Drama ΨΨ
A Spanish film that satirizes psychoanalysis; the movie includes examples of hypochondriasis and conversion disorder.

Unknown White Male (2005) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
An excellent exploration of the fugue state based on a true story about a man who discovers himself on a Coney Island subway with no recollection of who he is or how he got there.

Up in Arms (1944) Musical/Comedy/War Ψ
Danny Kaye plays a hypochondriac in the Army.

Voices Within: The Lives of Truddi Chase (1990) Drama ΨΨ
Made-for-TV movie about a woman with multiple personality disorder; based on the best selling-book *When Rabbit Howls*.

Whatever Happened to Baby Jane? (1962) Drama ΨΨΨ
Bette Davis and Joan Crawford star as two elderly sisters who were formerly movie stars. Jane (Bette Davis) had been a child star, but her fame was eclipsed by the renown of her talented sister, now confined to a wheelchair. Jane torments her sister and experiences a dramatic dissociative episode in the final scene in the movie.

X-Men: The Last Stand (2006) Action/Science Fiction ΨΨ
Superheroine mutant Jean Grey is portrayed as someone with a dissociative identity disorder; the actress playing the role researched DID to make her character more realistic.

Zelig (1983) Comedy ΨΨ
Quasi-documentary about Woody Allen as Zelig, a human chameleon whose personality changes to match that of whomever he is around. He is treated by psychiatrist Mia Farrow, whom Zelig eventually marries. Watch for Susan Sontag, Saul Bellow, and Bruno Bettelheim.
Psychological Stress and Physical Disorders

3 Needles (2005) Drama Ψ
Brutal and disturbing film depicting the transmission of HIV and the misconceptions that arise (e.g., the belief that having sex with a virgin will cure the disease).

12 Angry Men (1957) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ
Henry Fonda stars in this fascinating courtroom drama that illustrates social pressure, the tendency toward conformity in social settings, and the stress associated with noncompliance with societal norms.

61 (2001) Biography/Drama Ψ
Billy Crystal film with a subplot focused on the impact of stress on the body of Roger Maris during his quest to beat Babe Ruth’s home run record.

Alive (1993) Action/Adventure/Drama ΨΨ
The survivors of a plane crash in the Andes survive

for more than 70 days by eating the passengers who died. The film is a vivid portrayal of traumatic stress and its consequences.

All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

This remarkable film illustrates the horror of war and celebrates pacifism as its only solution. The film poignantly documents that it is young men who fight our wars and shows the folly of jingoism and blind patriotism.

“Oh, God! why did they do this to us? We only wanted to live, you and I. Why should they send us out to fight each other? If they threw away these rifles and these uniforms, you could be my brother, just like Kat and Albert. You’ll have to forgive me, comrade. I’ll do all I can. I’ll write to your parents.”

Paul attempts to comfort a man he has killed in *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930)

Barbarian Invasions, The (2003) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨΨΨ

Friends and family gather to support a stubborn, outspoken man suffering from a terminal illness. The film vacillates from light to heavy, from the somber to the humorous. This Canadian film won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film.

Best Years of Our Lives, The (1946) Drama ΨΨ

Sam Goldwyn film about servicemen adjusting to civilian life after the war. One of the sailors has lost both hands.

Blue (1993) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

British filmmaker Derek Jarman’s last film; he died from AIDS shortly after the movie was completed. Jarman reviews his life and analyzes the ways in which his life has been affected by his disease.

Blue Butterfly (2004) Adventure/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

The mother of a terminally ill boy convinces an entomologist to take her son to the Costa Rican rainforest. The boy’s brain cancer disappears and both lives are changed forever. The film is based on a true story.

Bone Collector, The (1999) Suspense/Thriller ΨΨ
Denzel Washington is a crime scene specialist with quadriplegia.

Brief History of Time, A (1992) Biography ΨΨΨ
A documentary about the life of Stephen Hawking, a theoretical physicist coping with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Bubble Boy (2001) Comedy Ψ

Outlandish comedy about a boy born without immunity who must live in a bubble.

Bucket List, The (2008) Comedy ΨΨΨΨΨ

Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman meet as roommates in a hospital. Both are newly diagnosed with cancer and are given less than one year to live. Each makes a list of experiences they want to have before they “kick the bucket”. These two very different men spend their last few months together in pursuit of their dreams.

Cactus (1986) Romance ΨΨΨ

Australian film about a woman who loses one eye and considers giving up sight in the other in order to more fully understand the world of her blind lover.

Children of a Lesser God (1986) Romance ΨΨΨ

The film examines the complications involved in a love relationship between William Hurt, a teacher in a school for the deaf, and Marlee Matlin, a young deaf woman who works at the school. Much of the conflict in the film revolves around Matlin’s refusal to learn to lip-read. Matlin won an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actress for her role in this film.

Chinese Roulette (1976) Drama ΨΨ

Fassbinder film about a disabled girl and the ways in which she dominates and manipulates her family.

Chrystal (2004) Drama Ψ

Independent film in which one subplot involves a woman suffering from significant chronic pain caused by a motor vehicle accident.

Cinema Paradiso (1988) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

A young boy is mesmerized by a movie theater in a small, post-WWII, Italian town, and befriends a crusty yet warm-hearted projectionist who goes blind after a fire accident. Classic Giuseppe Tornatore film.

Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt (1989)

Documentary ΨΨΨ

This HBO film examines the lives of five individu-

als linked by a common illness—AIDS. The movie won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature in 1989.

Crash of Silence (1953) Drama ΨΨ

Mother agonizes over whether to keep a hearing impaired daughter at home or send her to a special school.

Crazy Sexy Cancer (2007) Documentary ΨΨ

Young woman faces the stress of her illness by transforming her lifestyle and attitude.

Cure, The (1995) Drama ΨΨ

Two adolescent boys become best friends. One has AIDS from a blood transfusion, leading the boys to set off in search of a miracle cure.

Dance Me to My Song (1998, Australia) Drama ΨΨΨ

A woman with debilitating cerebral palsy competes with her caretaker for a love interest.

Dancer in the Dark (2000, Denmark) Drama ΨΨΨ

Björk portrays Selma, an immigrant, factory worker and single mother with limited intelligence whose vision is deteriorating. Her impending blindness affects her work, her relationships, and her personal life. Her son Gene will probably suffer the same fate unless she can pay for an operation.

Darius Goes West (2007) Documentary ΨΨΨ

Depiction of a man with Duchenne's muscular dystrophy and his journey with friends to get his wheelchair customized by MTV's "Pimp My Ride."

Deaf Smith and Johnnie Ears (1973) Western ΨΨ

A deaf Anthony Quinn teams up with Franco Nero to cope with the challenges of life in rural Texas.

Diving Bell and the Butterfly, The (2007, France) Drama, Biography ΨΨΨΨΨ

Jean-Dominique Bauby, editor of *Elle*, emerges completely paralyzed from a 3-week coma following a stroke. He cannot speak or move his body except for his left eye. Bauby responds to his situation with creativity and bravery. Much of the film is presented in the first person to help the viewer identify with his experience.

Doctor, The (1991) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

William Hurt plays a cold and indifferent physician

whose approach to treatment changes dramatically after he is diagnosed with throat cancer.

Dreamland (2006) Drama Ψ

Coming of age story of a young woman in a remote desert trailer park who makes many sacrifices supporting her family and a friend who has multiple sclerosis and chronic pain.

"Why don't you ask me probing questions about my childhood?"

Stephanie Anderson queries her therapist in *Duet for One* (1986)

Duet for One (1986) Drama ΨΨ

Julie Andrews plays a world class violinist who learns to cope with multiple sclerosis. Good illustration of the effects of chronic illness on psychological health. Max von Sydow plays the role of Andrews' therapist.

Dummy (1979) Drama ΨΨ

Made-for-TV movie about a hearing impaired and mute teenager who is charged with murder and defended by a deaf attorney.

Early Frost, An (1985) Drama ΨΨΨ

Excellent made-for-TV movie (available on videocassette) that explores the pain and anguish involved as a young man explains to his family and friends that he is gay and has AIDS.

Eating (1990) Comedy ΨΨΨ

An extended conversation that examines the relationship among life, love, and food.

"I am NOT an animal! I am a human being!"

John Merrick in *The Elephant Man* (1980)

Elephant Man, The (1980) Drama ΨΨΨ

David Lynch film about the life of John Merrick, a hideously deformed man who is befriended by a London physician. The film is effective in forcing the viewer to examine his or her prejudices about appearance.

Emmanuel's Gift (2005) Documentary ΨΨΨ

Emmanuel was born in Ghana in 1977 with a deformed leg and was destined to become a beggar. However, his mother instilled confidence and hope. This is an inspirational film that challenges negative stereotypes of people with disabilities.

Eye, The (2002) Suspense/Thriller ΨΨΨ

A young, blind woman regains her sight through a cornea transplant. She immediately begins to see ghosts which she identifies as the souls of the dead. Pang Brothers film in the tradition of *The Sixth Sense* and *The Ring*.

Falling Down (1994) Drama ΨΨΨ

Good presentation by Michael Douglas of the cumulative effects of stress on a marginal personality. The film does not give us enough information to clearly diagnose the character played by Douglas, but he displays enough symptoms to justify an Axis II diagnosis of paranoid personality disorder.

Gabby—A True Story (1987) Biography ΨΨΨ

A true story about a woman with cerebral palsy who goes on to become a respected author. Contrast this story with the life of Christy Brown told in *My Left Foot*.

Glengarry Glen Ross (1992) Drama ΨΨΨ

A hard-hitting and powerful presentation of job-related stress and interpersonal conflict in the real estate business. Wonderful cast, with Jack Lemmon playing a figure whose despair with his job is reminiscent of Willy Lomax in Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.

Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, The (1968) Drama ΨΨ

Alan Arkin stars in this adaptation of Carson McCuller's sad, poignant novel about a simple friendship between two men. One of the men is deaf; the other is mentally retarded. If you have to choose between the film and the novel, read the novel.

Honkytonk Man (1982) Drama Ψ

Clint Eastwood produced, directed, and starred in this film about a country and western singer with leukemia who hopes to make it to Nashville before he dies.

Hunchback of Notre Dame, The (1939) Horror ΨΨΨΨΨ

Charles Laughton plays Quasimodo in this film adaptation of the Victor Hugo novel. The film is a classic in the genre examining the relationship between body image and self-concept.

Ikiru (*To Live*, 1952, Japan) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

A city bureaucrat learns that he is dying of cancer and wants to find some meaning in his life. He becomes assertive in promoting projects for the public good. Until this time, he had lived a very mundane life. Peers reflect on his change in behavior.

In America (2003) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Irish family immigrates to the United States to Hell's Kitchen. They befriend a Nigerian painter who is suffering with AIDS.

In for Treatment (1979) Drama ΨΨΨ

Dutch film about the indignities suffered by a cancer patient who has to deal with an impersonal health care system.

I Sent a Letter to My Love (1981) Drama ΨΨΨ

French film about a sister caring for her paralyzed brother. They each seek romance by writing to a newspaper personals column; without realizing what is happening, each winds up corresponding with the other.

Italian for Beginners (2002) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

In a hodge-podge of interrelated stories, one character has pancreatic cancer and suffers extraordinary pain.

It's My Party (1996) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Sensitive film about a man with AIDS who throws one last party before killing himself. Much of the film centers on the issue of voluntary suicide and the ethics of euthanasia.

Jacquot (1993) Biography ΨΨ

Moving film about the life of French director Jacques Demy, who died from a brain tumor shortly after the film was released.

Johnnie Belinda (1948) Drama ΨΨ

Jane Wyman (who was Ronald Reagan's wife at the time) earned an Academy Award for her performance as a deaf-mute woman who is stigmatized and raped. The film is dated but still offers insights into the ways in which people who are hearing impaired are perceived.

Kurt Cobain About a Son (2006) Documentary ΨΨ

Sensitive portrayal of the infamous grunge rock star using only interviewed audio recordings. Documents Cobain's suffering with severe sto-

mach problems and the stress associated with his illness.

La Symphonie Pastorale (1946) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

French adaptation of André Gide novel about a Swiss minister who falls in love with his blind protégée and abandons his wife to be with her. When the blind girl later regains her sight, she is tormented by the decisions he has made because of her.

Leap of Faith (1992) Drama ΨΨ

Steve Martin plays itinerant evangelist Jonas Nightengale, whose faith healing stunts require technological support from backstage assistant Debra Winger. Contrast Martin's role with that of Burt Lancaster in *Elmer Gantry* (1960) and the documentary *Marjoe* (1972).

Life on a String (1991) Drama ΨΨΨ

Lyrical movie about a blind Chinese musician who believes his sight will be restored when he breaks his thousandth banjo string. He grows old and wise while he waits.

Light That Failed, The (1939) Drama ΨΨ

Adaptation of Kipling novel about a great artist who goes blind as a result of an injury while in Africa.

Living End, The (1992) Comedy ΨΨ

Two HIV positive men hit the road and explore what it means to live purposefully with their disease.

"Let go. It's all right. You can let go now."

Bruce Davison comforts his dying lover
in *Longtime Companion* (1990)

Longtime Companion (1990) Drama ΨΨΨ

This film explores the ways in which AIDS has affected a group of gay friends and traces the love and loss that is shared between two men as one of them dies from the disease.

Man Without a Face, The (1993) Drama ΨΨ

Mel Gibson directs and stars in this film about a man whose face becomes terribly disfigured after an automobile accident. He becomes reclusive but finds redemption in his relationship with the 12-year-old boy he tutors.

Marvin's Room (1996) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A compelling examination of the way in which chronic illness affects caregivers and families.

Mask (1985) Drama ΨΨΨ

Cher stars in this film about her character's son, Rocky Dennis, a spunky teenager whose life has been dramatically affected by craniodiaphyseal dysplasia, a disorder that distorts the shape of his skull and face. This is a feel good movie that succeeds. The thwarted love relationship between Rocky and a blind girlfriend underscores our tendency to judge people by their appearance.

Men, The (1950) Drama ΨΨΨ

Marlon Brando in his first film role plays a paralyzed WWII veteran full of rage about his injury and his limitations.

Miracle Worker, The (1962) Biography ΨΨΨ

Patty Duke and Anne Bancroft star in this well-known film about the childhood of Helen Keller and the influence of a gifted teacher.

Motorcycle Diaries (2004, Argentina) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Based on the true coming of age story of "Che" Guevara. Two men travel the countryside of South America seeing indigenous cultures while logging observations and experiences in a diary. They help out in communities and at a hospital in Peru with leprosy patients. One of the young men struggles with asthma.

Music Within (2007) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

The true story of Richard Pimentel, a brilliant public speaker, who returned from Vietnam disabled by a severe hearing impairment. He became a passionate advocate for the disabled and is responsible for the creation of the 1990 American with Disabilities Act.

My Flesh and Blood (2004) Documentary ΨΨΨ

Moving documentary about Susan Tom, who adopted 11 special needs children and raised them on her own. The children suffer in a variety of ways; their problems include cystic fibrosis, severe burns, developmental disabilities, the absence of legs, and a genetic skin disorder that causes severe pain.

My Left Foot (1989, Ireland/UK)

Drama/Biography ΨΨΨΨ

Based on the true story of Christy Brown, a successful artist/author who triumphed over cerebral

palsy. Brown grew up as part of a large, poor, working class Irish family. At that time, the world was ill equipped to understand or care for people with cerebral palsy. A prisoner in his own body, Brown never gave up. He painted and wrote several novels and books of poetry.

My Life (1993) Drama ΨΨ

Michael Keaton learns he is dying from cancer and makes a series of videotapes for his still-unborn son, including one in which he teaches his son how to shave.

My Life Without Me (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

A 23-year-old woman is diagnosed with ovarian cancer and decides not to tell her family but instead live her life more fully and prepare them for when she is gone.

Niagara, Niagara (1998) Drama ΨΨ

Two teenagers on the lam encounter multiple problems en route. Reminiscent of *Bonnie and Clyde*, the film is chiefly memorable because it is one of the few films in which Tourette's syndrome is sympathetically and realistically portrayed.

Noise (2007) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Street noise is a stress stimulus for David Owen (Tim Robbins) who becomes the Rectifier, a vigilante who takes noise personally. He damages noisy cars and destroys car alarms. He also seriously damages his relationships and loses his job and family.

Oasis (Korea) (2002) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A quirky young man is released from prison after serving 2.5 years for accidentally killing someone while driving. He becomes curious and interested in the victim's daughter who has cerebral palsy. Both individuals are isolated and outcast from their families, and they find friendship and comfort in one another.

One Last Thing (2005) Comedy Ψ

A boy with terminal cancer gets a last wish from the Wish Givers Foundation. He gets to spend a week alone with a supermodel.

"My whole life disappeared with you that morning"

Grieving in *Open Hearts* (2003)

Open Hearts (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

Danish film about a random car accident that leaves a man paralyzed from the neck down. He lashes out in anger unable to accept the reality of his losses. His girlfriend begins an affair with the driver's husband.

Passion Fish (1992) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

The stress of disability and the demands a disabled person can make on caregivers are nicely chronicled in this film about a querulous paraplegic actress and her caretaker/companion.

Patch Adams (1998) Comedy ΨΨ

Robin Williams plays a medical student, nicknamed Patch, who defies the medical institution and crosses boundaries in using humor and holistic medical practices with various patients throughout a hospital. Some humorous and touching scenes occur on the children's cancer ward and with other suffering patients.

Phantom of the Opera, The (1925) Horror ΨΨΨ

A disfigured music lover, played by Lon Chaney, lives in the bowels of the Paris opera house, unable to achieve romantic love because of his hideous face. He is eventually hunted down and killed by an angry mob.

Philadelphia (1993) Drama ΨΨΨ

Tom Hanks won an Academy Award for his portrayal of an AIDS-afflicted attorney who is fired from a prestigious law firm once his illness becomes known to the partners. There is a particularly moving scene in which Hanks plays an opera and explains to Denzel Washington why he loves the music so passionately.

Joe Miller: "What do you love about the law, Andrew?"

Andrew Beckett: "I... many things... uh... uh... What I love the most about the law?"

Joe Miller: "Yeah."

Andrew Beckett: "It's that every now and again – not often, but occasionally – you get to be a part of justice being done. That really is quite a thrill when that happens."

Philadelphia (1993)

Pieces of April (2003) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

A young woman, estranged from her family, is

determined to impress them with a Thanksgiving dinner. She has a particularly tenuous relationship with her cynical mother who is dying of cancer.

Places in the Heart (1984) Drama ΨΨ

Sally Field won an Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in this film about a widowed woman struggling to keep her farm and her family in a small Texas town during the Depression. The film is memorable for bringing together John Malkovich as a blind World War I veteran and Danny Glover as a hapless drifter. The standoff between a blind Malkovich and the local chapter of the Ku Klux Klan is especially memorable.

Promises in the Dark (1979) Drama ΨΨ

Melodrama about a young woman dying from cancer.

Proof (1992) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Australian drama about a blind man who takes photographs to document his life and its meaning.

Rails and Ties (2007) Drama ΨΨΨ

Engineer Tom Stark (Kevin Bacon) cannot avoid crashing his train into a parked car occupied by a suicidal mother and her 11-year-old son who escapes the car unscathed. Stark's wife Megan (Marcia Gay Harden) is dying of cancer. The film depicts the relationship between the Starks and the young boy who help one another cope with life and death.

Rory O'Shea Was Here (2005) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Depicts the quest for independence and friendship between two young men, one coping with muscular dystrophy, the other with cerebral palsy.

Savage Nights (1993) French Drama /Biography ΨΨΨΨ

This controversial film was directed by French filmmaker Cyril Collard, who died from AIDS three days before *Savage Nights* was selected as the Best French Film of the Year. The movie deals with the existential decisions made by a bisexual antihero who continues to have unprotected sex even after learning he has AIDS.

Shadowlands (1993) Biography ΨΨΨ

Wonderful Richard Attenborough film about the late-life romance of C. S. Lewis (Anthony Hopkins) and Joy Gresham (Debra Winger). Lewis must come to grips with the meaning of pain, suffering, and loss when Joy develops cancer.

Shootist, The (1976) Western ΨΨ

John Wayne's last film, about an aging gunfighter dying from cancer. Also stars Jimmy Stewart, Lauren Bacall, Ron Howard, Harry Morgan, John Carradine, Hugh O'Brian, and Richard Boone. John Wayne, a heavy smoker, died from lung cancer after making this film.

"You aim to do to me what they did with John Wesley Hardin. Lay me out and parade every damn fool in the state past me at a dollar a head, half price for children, and then stuff me in a gunny sack and shovel me under."

John Bernard Books confronts the undertaker in *The Shootist* (1976)

Shop on Main Street, The (1965) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Czechoslovakian film about a man appointed as the "Aryan controller" of a button shop in World War II. He befriends and hides the Jewish owner of the shop, who does not understand the situation because she is deaf. She assumes the new arrival has been sent as her assistant; when he later hides her to avoid deportation to the death camps, she smothers. Overcome with remorse, he kills himself. Selected as the Best Foreign Film of 1965.

Simple Men (1992) Comedy Ψ

Deadpan comedy from auteur director, Hal Hartley, that depicts a character suffering with epilepsy.

Smile (2005) Drama ΨΨ

Well-intentioned film depicting the suffering experienced by those with physical deformities such as cleft palates.

Storytelling (2001) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

Two separate stories explore issues of race, sex, and exploitation. In first story, a teenager allows herself to be exploited by her teacher after getting bored with her boyfriend who has cerebral palsy. In the second story, a shoe-store worker dreams of being a documentary filmmaker and uses a disillusioned teenager and his family as his subjects.

Tell Me That You Love Me, Junie Moon (1970) Comedy ΨΨ

Otto Preminger film in which three unusual roommates come together as a family. Liza Minnelli

is disfigured; another has epilepsy; the third is wheelchair-bound.

Terms of Endearment (1983) Comedy ΨΨΨ
Shirley MacLaine, Debra Winger, and Jack Nicholson star in this poignant but funny movie about relationships, caring, and cancer.

Test of Love, A (1984) Drama ΨΨ
An Australian film based on a true story of a teacher's successful attempt to reach out to a disabled girl.

Unbreakable (2000) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨΨ
Samuel L. Jackson plays Elijah, a comic book collector, who was born with a rare genetic bone disease which makes him highly susceptible to injury. Bruce Willis, on the other hand, plays a security officer who is in a train wreck and is the one survivor and does not have even a scratch on him. Second mainstream film by master story-teller, M. Night Shyamalan.

Unfinished Life, An (2005) Drama ΨΨ
A physically abused woman escapes her abuser with her daughter and moves in with her father-in-law (Robert Redford) and a man (Morgan Freeman) he is taking care of. The latter was mauled by a bear, needs daily injections, walks with crutches, and cannot take care of himself.

Vanilla Sky (2001) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ
Cameron Crowe film in which Tom Cruise plays a wealthy businessman in NYC who has a car accident and must re-establish his life with a severe facial deformity. This changes his interactions especially with a woman he is falling in love with (Penelope Cruz). He begins to break down further as his dead friend (Cameron Diaz) reappears.

"Got you in a halo, huh. I call that thing a crown of thorns. I thought they was gonna screw it into my brain."

A paralyzed patient describes his rehabilitation in *The Waterdance* (1992)

Waterdance, The (1992) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
Realistic film about the way spinal cord injuries have changed the lives of three men who meet in a rehabilitation hospital.

Whales of August, The (1987) Drama ΨΨΨ
Vincent Price and Ann Sothern support Lillian Gish and Bette Davis in a remarkable film about what it means to grow old. Davis plays the blind and embittered sister who is still loved by Gish.

Whatever Happened to Baby Jane? (1962) Drama ΨΨ
Bette Davis and Joan Crawford portray two elderly sisters. Crawford is wheelchair-bound as a result of an automobile accident possibly caused by her sister. Davis is obviously demented and terrorizes her younger sister. Surprise ending.

White Heat (1949) Crime ΨΨΨΨ
James Cagney plays a ruthless gangster who has debilitating migraine headaches that only his mother can cure. The film ties into the psychoanalytic ideas of the day and features a famous ending in which Cagney blows up an oil tank.

"Cody Jarrett. He finally made it to the top of the world. And it blew up in his face."

White Heat (1949)

Wind Will Carry Us, The (1999, France/Iran) Drama ΨΨ
A man and his film crew travel to a remote Iranian village to film the special ceremony that occurs after an old woman dies. Directed by Abbas Kiarostami.

Whose Life Is It Anyway? (1981) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
Richard Dreyfuss plays a sculptor paralyzed from the neck down after a car crash. He argues convincingly for the right to die.

Woman's Tale, A (1991) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
An Australian film directed by Paul Cox about the final days in the life of a 78-year-old woman dying of cancer.

World's Fastest Indian, The (2005, New Zealand) Drama ΨΨΨ
Heart disease threatens the life of New Zealander Burt Munro, who spent years building a 1920 Indian motorcycle. Despite the stress of physical illness, Munro pushes forward in an attempt to break a land speed record at the Bonneville Salt Flats.

Wrestler, The (2008) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Randy “the Ram” is a professional wrestler who is forced to retire due to multiple physical problems following use of steroids and body enhancers. He breaks down (vomits and faints) with a heart attack after a challenging match fighting with glass, a staple gun, and barb. He attempts a comeback in both his personal life and in wrestling. Directed by Darren Aronofsky.

Yesterday (2004, South Africa) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

A woman named Yesterday focuses largely on the present and future as she takes care of her daughter, her dying husband, and her own HIV.

Mood Disorders and Suicide

American Splendor (2003) Comedy/Drama/Documentary/Animation ΨΨΨΨ

Small time comic book writer and curmudgeon, Harvey Pekar, reaches cult status including several appearances on the David Letterman show. This film integrates a narrative about a depressed couple trying to get along and manage life’s stressors, comic book animation, and documentary of the real Harvey Pekar.

“Right now I’d be glad to spare some growth for some happiness.”

Harvey Pekar in *American Splendor*
(2003)

Anna Karenina (1935) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Greta Garbo leaves her husband (Basil Rathbone) and son to follow a new love (Fredric March); when she sees him kissing another woman, she commits suicide by stepping into the path of an oncoming train. Based on a Tolstoy novel.

Art of Failure: Chuck Connelly, The (2008) Documentary ΨΨ

Quirky, neo-expressionist painter of the 1980s, inspired by Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollack. The film depicts an agitated depression but it also presents a caricature of the “troubled artist.”

Bell Jar, The (1979) Biography Ψ

An unsuccessful attempt to capture the spirit of

Sylvia Plath’s autobiographical novel *The Bell Jar*. Plath eventually committed suicide by putting her head into an oven and turning on the gas.

Blue Sky (1994) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Jessica Lange won an Academy Award for her role as a military wife with a bipolar disorder.

Broken Flowers (2005) Drama ΨΨ

Bill Murray is a depressed Lothario who moves from one casual affair to the next until he gets a letter telling him that he has a 19-year-old son and he begins a quest to find the anonymous former girlfriend who wrote the letter.

Cache (2005, France), Mystery/Thriller ΨΨ

A married couple begins to receive videotapes at their doorstep that depict surveillance of their house. The film provides an interesting commentary on the psychology of guilt.

Cooler, The (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

Unlucky, depressed man (William H. Macy) walks around the casino as “the cooler,” someone paid to bring bad luck to successful gamers by appearing near their gambling tables. He is paying off his enormous gambling debts owed to the casino owner Alec Baldwin.

Crossover (1983) Drama Ψ

A male nurse is plagued by self-doubts after one of the psychiatric patients commits suicide.

Devil and Daniel Johnston, The (2005)

Documentary/Biography ΨΨΨΨ
Portrait of a musical genius who vacillates between madness and brilliant creativity.

Eye of God (1997) Drama ΨΨ

Some of the scenes in this film address a boy who witnesses his mother’s suicide, experiences acute stress disorder, and kills himself at age 14.

Faithless (2000) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Liv Ullmann directed this film about a woman who has an affair with a deeply depressed man.

Field, The (1990) Drama ΨΨ Ψ

Dramatic presentation of the suicide by drowning of a young man who finds he cannot live up to his father’s expectations.

Flying Scotsman, The (2006, Germany/UK) Drama ΨΨ

Champion cyclist who constructed his bike out of

pieces of washing machines suffers with depression and suicidal thoughts. This film received an “Honorable Mention” at the Voice Awards.

Fox and His Friends (1975) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Werner Fassbinder’s scathing indictment of capitalism revolves around the life of a poor gay circus performer who wins money, only to lose it through the exploitation of those he assumes are his friends. He responds by committing suicide.

Garden State (2004) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

A young man flies to his hometown in New Jersey for his mother’s funeral. He has been estranged from his family for several years. Without his “bipolar” medication for the first time, he begins to experiment with life and find love.

Good Morning, Vietnam (1987)

Comedy/Drama/War ΨΨ

Robin Williams as an Air Force radio announcer in Vietnam. Williams has a funny, frenetic style that could be described as hypomanic.

Hairdresser’s Husband, The (1992)

Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

A woman chooses to commit suicide rather than face the incremental loss of love that she believes will accompany aging. This is a beautiful movie, despite the somewhat grim ending.

Harold and Maude (1971) Comedy ΨΨΨ

An acting-out teenager and an iconoclastic old woman bond and support one another’s eccentricities, including Harold’s repeated feigned suicide attempts.

Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, The (2005)

Comedy Ψ

One of the major characters, a robot, exhibits a number of symptoms of depression.

Horse Feathers (1932) Comedy ΨΨ

Groucho Marx plays a manic college president who displays flight of ideation and pressured speech.

Hospital, The (1971) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

George C. Scott is first rate as a disillusioned and suicidal physician despondent in part because of the ineptitude he sees everywhere about him. There is an especially memorable scene in which Scott is interrupted as he is about to commit suicide by injecting potassium into a vein.

House of Sand and Fog (2003) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Jennifer Connelly and Sir Ben Kingsley play opposite one another in a gripping and deeply poignant story about two seemingly very different people, each with a legitimate claim to ownership of the same house. The film accurately portrays depression, alcohol abuse, suicide attempts, and suicide.

Hours, The (2002) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Well-acted and well-crafted tapestry integrating three stories from different times—Nicole Kidman as the renowned novelist, Virginia Woolf, struggling to write her novel *Mrs. Dalloway*; Julianne Moore, who is reading the novel decades later; and Meryl Streep who embodies many of Mrs. Dalloway’s characteristics. Each of the four main characters (the three aforementioned and Ed Harris) struggles with some form of mood disorder.

“You cannot find peace by avoiding life.”

Virginia Woolf in *The Hours* (2002)

Imaginary Heroes (2004) Drama ΨΨ

A young boy commits suicide by shooting himself, and each member of the family responds to the tragedy in their own way.

Inside Moves (1980) Drama ΨΨ

A man who has failed in a suicide attempt makes new friends in a bar and regains the will to live. Mainly notable as the comeback film for Harold Russell, the double amputee from *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946).

Into the Wild (2007) Biography ΨΨΨΨΨ

Sean Penn directed this film that is based on a true story about an Emory student who graduates, gives away the money he had saved for law school, and moves to Alaska. It is a useful pedagogical exercise to speculate about potential diagnoses for this young man.

It’s a Wonderful Life (1946) Drama ΨΨΨ

A Christmas tradition. The film actually presents Jimmy Stewart as a complex character who responds to the stress of life in Bedford Falls by attempting suicide.

Jellysmoke (2005) Drama/Romance ΨΨ

A young man with bipolar disorder is released

from a psychiatric institution and struggles to adapt to his new life. Winner of a Voice Award.

“You see, George, you’ve really had a wonderful life. Don’t you see what a mistake it would be to throw it away?”

Clarence in *It’s A Wonderful Life* (1946)

Juliet of the Spirits (1965) Drama ΨΨΨ

Frederico Fellini film about a bored, lonely, depressed, and menopausal homemaker who hallucinates about the life of the exotic woman next door.

Last Days (2005) Drama ΨΨΨ

Slow moving Gus van Sant film depicting the final days of Nirvana singer/guitarist, Kurt Cobain. Various manic and depressive symptoms are displayed.

Last Days of Disco, The (1998) Drama Ψ

One of the characters has bipolar disorder and is stereotyped as “looney” and “crazy”; however, he is depicted as compliant with Lithium, and his life is stable and balanced. Interesting contrast to the frequently portrayed stereotypes of bipolar disorder.

Last Picture Show, The (1971) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Peter Bogdanovich adaptation of Larry McMurtry’s novel describing the events—and personalities—involved in the closing of the town’s only movie theater. There is a striking presentation of the symptoms of depression in the coach’s wife.

Life Upside Down (1965) Drama ΨΨΨ

French film about an ordinary young man who becomes increasingly detached from the world. He is eventually hospitalized and treated, but with little success.

Little Miss Sunshine (2006) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Steve Carrell plays a renowned gay Proust scholar who has just been released from the hospital after a suicide attempt.

Lonely Guy, The (1984) Comedy Ψ

Steve Martin plays a depressed and suicidal New Yorker.

Lonesome Jim (2006) Drama ΨΨΨ

Steve Buscemi directed this engaging film about a depressed and discouraged writer who returns to his childhood home in Indiana after failing to make his mark in New York City.

Maboroshi No Hikari (1995) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A Japanese film about the effects of a man’s seemingly irrational suicide on the wife who is left behind to care for their 3-month-old infant.

Melinda and Melinda (2004/5) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

This Woody Allen film alternates between two versions of a story, one tragic, one comic. In the tragic version, we find a depressed and suicidal Melinda.

Michael Clayton (2007) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Tom Wilkinson plays the role of a brilliant attorney whose bipolar-manic episodes make it almost impossible for him to function as an attorney.

Mind the Gap (2004) Drama ΨΨΨ

The lives of five isolated, lonely and desperate people are intertwined in complex ways: eventually each live intersects with the other four. One poignant segment portrays a suicidal African American man who gets life-saving advice from a priest.

Mishima (1985) Biography ΨΨΨ

A fascinating film about one of the most interesting figures in contemporary literature, Yukio Mishima. Mishima, a homosexual, traditionalist, and militarist, committed ritual suicide (*seppuku*) before being beheaded by a companion.

Mommie Dearest (1981) Biography ΨΨ

Biographical film based on the book by Joan Crawford’s adopted daughter. Faye Dunaway plays Crawford. The film suggests the great star was tyrannical, narcissistic, and probably bipolar.

Monsieur Ibrahim (2003) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

An elderly widower and troubled teen form a unique friendship while living in Paris in the 1960s. A secondary character, the boy’s father, suffers from agitated, masked depression, and eventually abandons his son (who had already been abandoned by his mother) and commits suicide.

Monster’s Ball (2002) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Emotionally jarring film about two lost, self-hating people who begin to experience emotion and face

their pain through their relationship. Stars Billy Bob Thornton and Halle Berry, the latter who won an Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in this film.

"It takes a human being to really see a human being."

Monster's Ball (2002)

Mosquito Coast, The (1986) Adventure ΨΨΨ
Harrison Ford is an eccentric American inventor who flees the U.S. for Central America because of his paranoia. His diagnosis is never clearly stated, but Ford appears to be bipolar (although almost continually manic in the film).

My First Wife (1984) Drama ΨΨ
A moving and well-directed Australian film about a man who falls apart after his wife decides to leave him.

Network (1976) Drama ΨΨΨ
A veteran anchorman who has just been told he is being fired announces on national TV that he will commit suicide on the air in two weeks. Ratings soar. He eventually reneges on his promise but becomes the leader of a national protest movement.

"... I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!"

Newscaster Howard Beale in *Network* (1976)

Nightmare Alley (1947) Crime ΨΨ
Tyrone Power's favorite film. Power plays a carnival huckster who teams up with an unethical psychologist to dupe the public. Memorable carnival "geek" scenes include biting the heads off chickens.

Nine Lives (2005) Vignettes ΨΨΨ
This film is directed by Rodrigo Garcia, the son of the novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez. It consists of nine relatively brief vignettes about the lives of nine women, one of whom is suicidal.

Ordinary People (1980) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
This film was Robert Redford's debut as a director. It deals with depression, suicide, and family pathology and presents a sympathetic portrayal of a psychiatrist, played by Judd Hirsch. Conrad, the protagonist, would probably meet *DSM-IV* criteria for PTSD as well as depression.

Outcry, The (1957) Drama ΨΨΨ
Antonioni film about a man who becomes depressed and confused when he is rejected by his lover.

Pollock (2000) Drama ΨΨΨ
Ed Harris portrays the troubled painter, Jackson Pollack, who struggles with alcoholism and bipolar disorder.

Prozac Nation (2001) Drama ΨΨΨ
A dramatic and realistic portrayal of depression and borderline personality disorder in a Harvard undergraduate.

Rain (2001) Drama ΨΨ
Coming-of-age New Zealand film about a young girl whose mother is a depressed alcoholic.

Respiro (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ
An Italian film about a woman with a serious bipolar disorder who has to flee and hide in a cave to avoid coerced psychiatric treatment.

Running with Scissors (2006) Biography ΨΨ
Annette Bening plays the role of a bipolar mother who turns over her son's life to her psychiatrist.

Scent of a Woman (1992) Drama ΨΨΨ
Al Pacino plays Colonel Slade, a depressed blind veteran who seems to have lost all meaning in his life until he is challenged by a younger man.

September (1987) Drama ΨΨ
A Woody Allen film in which Mia Farrow plays a depressed woman recovering from a suicide attempt.

Seven Pounds (2008) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
Will Smith plays a character who attempts to use his suicide to gain redemption for an accident he caused that resulted in the deaths of seven people.

Seventh Veil, The (1945) Drama ΨΨ
Psychological drama about a gifted musician who loses the ability to play the piano and becomes depressed and suicidal. Hypnotherapy makes it possible for Ann Todd to play again, as well as to sort out her complex interpersonal relationships.

Shawshank Redemption, The (1994) Drama **ΨΨΨΨ**

An outstanding film, memorable in part because of the suicide of one character who finds himself unable to adjust to life outside an institution.

Shopgirl (2005) Drama **ΨΨ**

A depressed salesgirl learns about the meaning of love through an affair with a much older man (played by Steve Martin, who also wrote the screenplay and the novella upon which the film was based).

Spanglish (2004) Comedy **Ψ**

An offbeat comedy about a talented cook and his manic wife who hire a Latina housekeeper.

Station Agent, The (2003) Drama/Comedy **ΨΨΨΨ**

Heartwarming, honest story of three lonely and disparate characters who form a unique friendship with one another. The three characters are a schizoid dwarf whose only desire is isolation, a woman who has repeated conflicts with her husband and attempts suicide, and a talkative man from New Jersey. Good mix of both healthy and unhealthy coping approaches to loneliness and depression.

Suicide Club (2002) Drama/Suspense **ΨΨΨ**

Fifty-four young girls collectively jump in front of an oncoming subway train, which triggers individual and group suicides around the country. This mysterious Japanese film raises questions of cause, documenting links between suicide and adolescence, violence, and consumerism.

Summer Wishes, Winter Dreams (1973) Drama **Ψ**

Joanne Woodward is a bored, depressed housewife searching for meaning and purpose in her life. The film includes dreams that may be hallucinations, and a possible somatoform disorder.

Sylvia (2003) Drama **ΨΨ**

Gwenyth Paltrow portrays the life of respected American poet, Sylvia Plath, who committed suicide in 1963.

Taste of Cherry (1997) Drama **ΨΨΨΨ**

An Iranian film about a man who wants to commit suicide but who can't find anyone to help him.

Tenant, The (1976) Horror **ΨΨΨΨ**

Roman Polanski film in which a man rents an apartment previously owned by a woman who committed suicide. The man begins to assume the

personality of the woman and becomes suicidal himself.

Tout de Suite, À (2004) Drama **ΨΨ**

A naive teenager runs away from home with her Moroccan boyfriend who has just killed a man in a bank robbery. She winds up abandoned in Morocco, depressed and sexually exploited.

Umberto D. (1952) Drama **ΨΨΨΨΨ**

Classic Vittorio De Sica film about an indigent old man in Rome who is being evicted and must face the prospects of homelessness and isolation. The old man fails a suicide attempt and finds a reason for living to continue to care for his dog.

Vincent (1987) Biography/Documentary **ΨΨΨ**

An interesting examination of the life of Vincent van Gogh. The focus is on the artist's work rather than his mental illness.

Vincent & Theo (1990) Biography **ΨΨΨ**

This Robert Altman film deals sensitively with van Gogh's troubled relationships with Gauguin and Theo, the incident with the prostitute and his ear, van Gogh's hospitalization, and finally his suicide.

Virgin Suicides, The (1999) Drama **ΨΨ**

Sofia Coppola's directorial debut about a repressed family with five daughters, who in response to their mother's control, repression, and forced group isolation, decide to commit suicide.

Visitor, The (2007) Drama **ΨΨΨΨ**

This film illustrates the apathy and indifference that can sometimes accompany depression. Richard Jenkins plays the role of Professor Walter Vale, a man coping unsuccessfully with the death of his wife.

War Within, The (2005) Drama **ΨΨ**

An examination of the motives behind the behavior of a suicide bomber.

Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself (2002)

Drama/Comedy **ΨΨ**

Disappointing and highly stereotypic movie of both suicide and boundary-crossing psychotherapists. Perpetrates the misconception that love can conquer mental illness (in this case, multiple, severe suicide attempts).

Winter Passing (2005) Drama **ΨΨ**

A depressed young woman living in New York City uses alcohol, drugs and casual sex to cope.

She travels to the upper peninsula of Michigan to visit her father, an alcoholic novelist, to see if she can obtain copies of the letters he wrote to her recently deceased mother years earlier.

Woman Under the Influence, A (1974)

Drama **ΨΨΨ**

A John Cassavetes film in which Gena Rowlands plays a homemaker who has to be hospitalized because of a mental illness that appears to be bipolar disorder. Peter Falk plays her mystified husband.

Wristcutters: A Love Story (2006) Fantasy **ΨΨ**

A man commits suicide and then finds himself in purgatory, surrounded by other individuals who have all committed suicide in one way or another.

Wrong Man, The (1956) Crime **ΨΨ**

Hitchcock film in which a man and his wife (Henry Fonda and Vera Miles) become depressed in response to an unjust accusation of murder.

Personality Disorders

25th Hour (2002) Drama **ΨΨΨΨ**

A Spike Lee film about a young man (Edward Norton) about to go away to prison for 7 years for marijuana trafficking. In making the most of his final hours, he meets with his “recovering alcoholic” father, girlfriend, friends, and an “underground” boss and his henchmen. Look for tributes to 9/11 throughout the film (it was the first film to use Ground Zero as a film scene).

Accidental Tourist, The (1988) Comedy **ΨΨΨ**

William Hurt plays a withdrawn, unemotional writer whose isolation is compounded when his 12-year-old son is senselessly murdered in a fast-food restaurant.

Aguirre: The Wrath of God (1972) Historical/Drama **ΨΨΨΨΨ**

Klaus Kinski stars in this Werner Herzog film about the growing delusion of a grandiose Spanish conquistador obsessed with finding the lost cities of gold in the South American Amazon.

Alfie (2004) Comedy **ΨΨΨ**

Jude Law stars as a man with a narcissistic personality who prides himself in being a womanizer and not committing in relationships. Law’s asides to the audience provide insight into his narcissistic thinking. By the end of the film, Alfie begins to face the impact of his behavior on others.

Amelie (2001) Comedy/Romance **ΨΨΨΨΨ**

Audrey Tautou stars as Amelie, an avoidant woman who wants an intimate relationships with others but is unable to be direct. Upon deciding to change her life by making a difference in others’ lives, she adopts extreme and creative measures to bring joy to others and make connections. Brilliantly directed by the Frenchman Jean Pierre-Jeunet.

American Beauty (1999) Comedy/Drama **ΨΨΨΨΨ**

Kevin Spacey has the lead role in this remarkable film about a very dysfunctional family and the ennui that accompanies life in suburbia. Annette Bening plays a woman with a classic Histrionic Personality Disorder. Almost every character exhibits some degree of psychopathology. The film is a compelling examination of what Freud called the psychopathology of everyday life.

American Gangster (2007) Crime/Drama **ΨΨΨ**

An honest detective (Russell Crowe) tries to bring down a heroin kingpin (Denzel Washington) in this Ridley Scott film.

American History X (1998) Drama/Suspense **ΨΨΨ**

Edward Norton plays an antisocial, white supremacist who decides to change his life when he sees his younger brother is following his example.

American Psycho (1999) Drama/Suspense **ΨΨΨ**

Christian Bale is Patrick Bateman, a narcissistic Wall Street executive, who emphasizes excess and style over substance in everything from business cards and facial cleansers to restaurant selection and conversation. He is depicted as a serial killer who saves the victim’s heads in his refrigerator. However, there is enough cinematic evidence to suggest that there were no murders at all, and everything in the film simply reflects the fantasies of an antisocial mind.

Anatomy of a Murder (1959) Drama **ΨΨΨΨ**

Jimmy Stewart as an attorney defending a man accused of murder. His case rests on the contention that the defendant could not help behaving as he did because the man he murdered had allegedly raped his wife. The film raises interesting questions about the irresistible impulse defense.

Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy (2004) Comedy **Ψ**

A narcissistic anchorman (Will Ferrell) competes with an ambitious female journalist.

Anything Else (2003) Comedy ΨΨ

Woody Allen film about a young man with dependent personality who falls for an erratic young woman (Christina Ricci).

“See where I’m standing? That’s where I’m from.”

Sonny in *The Apostle* (1997)

Apostle, The (1997) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Robert Duvall directs, writes, and stars as a philanthropic but dedicated minister who flees his hometown after committing a violent act. His redemptive journey takes him to a small town where he builds a ministry until his past catches up with him.

Apt Pupil (1998) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ

A high school student becomes fascinated with his discovery of a man (Ian McKellen) who was formerly a Nazi henchman. Kurt Dussander is living (and hiding out) in a local town. The student manipulates him to tell him detailed stories of his previous work.

“To the whole world I am a monster.”

An escaped Nazi in *Apt Pupil* (1998)

Arsenic and Old Lace (1944) Comedy ΨΨ

Frank Capra film about Cary Grant’s two aunts who practice mercy killing by giving their gentlemen guests poisoned elderberry wine. Grant worries about the fact that mental illness not only runs in his family, it gallops!

Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford, The (2007) Crime ΨΨΨ

The humanization and glorification of infamous outlaw, Jesse James (Brad Pitt) is depicted, along with the young, timid Robert Ford who shot him. James was an antisocial personality who was (understandably) paranoid.

Bad Santa (2003) Comedy Ψ

This Terry Zwigoff film stars Billy Bob Thornton as a rule breaking, crass alcoholic who works as

Santa Claus at a department store. The female co-star has a “Santa fetish.”

Bad Seed, The (1956) Drama Ψ

Interesting examination of whether or not evil is congenital.

Bartleby (2001) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

This dark comedy brilliantly casts Crispin Glover as the aloof, quirky clerk, Bartleby, who repeats the same phrase “I would prefer not to” when asked to work. Ironically colorful set design and a hodge-podge of quirky personalities as supporting cast. This is clearly a “love it or hate it” film, based on a short story by Herman Melville. Bartleby’s character is a classic depiction of a person with a schizoid personality.

Bartleby (1970) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Original, black and white, version of the Herman Melville short story, *Bartleby the Scrivener*. More slow, dark, and dreary than its recent counterpart, yet still an excellent depiction of schizoid personality.

Basic Instinct (1992; 2006) Thriller/Drama Ψ

Sharon Stone as Catherine Tramell, a seductive and manipulative woman with many borderline traits.

Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead (2007) Drama/Crime ΨΨΨ

Sidney Lumet directs Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ethan Hawke, Marisa Tomei, and Albert Finney in a heist (of one’s own family) gone terribly wrong and the antisocial behaviors that result.

Being Julia (2004) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

Annette Bening portrays an actress with qualities of each of the Cluster B personality disorders, in addition to a work addiction.

Believer, The (2001) Drama ΨΨΨ

Fascinating character study of Danny Burrows who is living his life in an impossible contradiction as a Jewish Nazi. As he faces his true self, his ruthless antisocial characteristics begin to crumble. Based on a true story of events that occurred in Burrows’ life in the Fall of 1965.

Bitter Moon (1992) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Roman Polanski film in which a couple becomes entangled with a woman who meets several criteria for borderline personality.

Black Snake Moan (2006) Drama ΨΨΨ

Samuel L. Jackson plays a broken man who res-

cues a promiscuous, erratic woman (Christina Ricci) left for dead on the road. Both characters face and share their dark sides.

Box of Moonlight (1996) Drama ΨΨΨ

A rigid, orderly, rule-obsessed man, played by John Turturro, takes extra time off from his blue-collar, managerial position and from his family to re-discover his lost adolescence. The title becomes a beautiful, transformational metaphor in the film.

Breach (2007) Thriller/Drama ΨΨΨ

A pathological, manipulative CIA official (Chris Cooper) leads a double life in this intriguing thriller. Based on the true story of the worst FBI spy in U.S. history, someone who eventually cost the U.S. government billions of dollars.

Breathless (1960, France) Drama/Crime ΨΨΨΨΨ

Classic antisocial hoodlum in a classic film by French New Wave director, Jean-Luc Godard. The pacing of the film justifies the title, as does the lead performance of the anti-hero.

Bruce Almighty (2002) Comedy Ψ

Whimsical comedy about a man (Jim Carrey) given the opportunity to “be God” for a day.

Butley (1974) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Alan Bates in a Harold Pinter film adaptation of a London play about the life of a British university professor. Bates’ wife and lover are both leaving him, and his colleagues are estranged. Bates seems to fail in every interpersonal encounter.

Caine Mutiny, The (1954) Drama ΨΨΨ

Humphrey Bogart is the ship’s paranoid captain, who decompensates under the pressure of testimony when he is called to the witness stand. Humphrey Bogart plays the role of Captain Queeg.

Catch Me If You Can (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

Steven Spielberg directs Leonardo DiCaprio who plays the role of a manipulative con man with an antisocial personality. He repeatedly changes his identity while defrauding banks and keeping FBI agent (Tom Hanks) one step behind him. Based on the true story of Frank Abagnal, Jr.

Character (1998) Drama ΨΨΨ

Best Foreign Film winner (Dutch) about a young man’s personal and financial struggle to be free of his antisocial father. His mother appears to have a schizoid personality disorder.

“That boy, I’ll strangle him for nine tenths and the last tenth will make him strong.”

Dreverhaven describing his son in
Character (1998)

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨΨΨ

Tim Burton remake of the classic story is well-casted with beautiful set designs. Johnny Depp’s portrayal of an eccentric, isolated, and perceptually disturbed Willy Wonka is one of the best depictions of schizotypal personalities captured on film.

Child, The (2005, France) Drama/Crime ΨΨΨ

Bruno, who leads a gang of petty thieves, decides to sell his newborn for money.

Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean (1982) Drama ΨΨ

A Robert Altman film in which Sandy Dennis plays a local woman in a small Texas town who is convinced she bore a son by James Dean when he was in town filming *Giant*.

Compulsion (1959) Drama/Crime ΨΨΨ

Two young fraternity brothers believe their perfect crime of murder is “the true test of the superior intellect.” Their defense attorney (Orson Welles) gives a memorable speech in an attempt to save their lives.

Conspiracy Theory (1997) Drama ΨΨ

Mel Gibson plays a cab driver with virtually no personal life, who is obsessed with a woman, and who writes a newsletter on conspiracies. His paranoia takes him to every possible place and situation, including one conspiracy that turns out true.

Conversation, The (1974) Drama ΨΨΨ

A Francis Ford Coppola film in which Gene Hackman plays a surveillance expert with a paranoid personality.

Corporation, The (2004) Documentary ΨΨ

Interesting, albeit one-sided, review of corporations that documents the similarities between them and the characteristics of a psychopathic personality disorder.

Criminal (2004) Drama/Crime Ψ

John C. Reilly portrays an antisocial con-artist who

takes an apprentice. The film suffers from a contrived ending, standard fare for “con” films.

Crush, The (1993) Drama/Suspense Ψ

Alicia Silverstone plays a 14-year-old temptress who is obsessed with a 28-year-old man who is simply not interested in her. This is an interesting portrayal of a character who is likely to qualify for a diagnosis of Antisocial Personality Disorder (as soon as she turns 18).

Dark Knight, The (2008) Action/Crime ΨΨΨΨ

Christopher Nolan’s follow-up to *Batman Begins* stars Heath Ledger in incredible form as “the Joker,” a clever and fearless psychopath who battles Batman (Christian Bale).

Decalogue, The (1989, Poland) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Ten, 1-hour films loosely based on the ten commandments, originally made for Polish television by director Krzysztof Kieslowski. This set of films was hailed as one of the most significant productions in recent , and the late Stanley Kubrick once said it is the only film masterpiece he knows. Multiple psychological disorders are portrayed in various characters living in an apartment complex.

Dementia 13 (1963) Horror Ψ

Third rate film about an ax murderer; interesting primarily because it is Francis Ford Coppola’s first “serious” film.

Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood (2002) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

A group of friends teach a young woman (Sandra Bullock) about her troubled mother. Ellen Burstyn and Ashley Judd play the erratic, labile, and abusive mother.

Dogville (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

Nicole Kidman stars as a woman on the run who finds refuge in a small, isolated town. If a town could be diagnosed, this one would clearly be “antisocial” as group contagion results in manipulation, deceit, and abuse. Unique set design of a town without any houses or doors and is set as if on a theater stage.

Dot the I (2003, UK/Spain/US) Drama/Romance Ψ

A love triangle set in London with various twists of deceit and sabotage that leave the viewer wondering who is manipulating whom.

Dream Lover (1994) Drama Ψ

A sociopathic woman plots to marry a man and then have him committed to an insane asylum.

Employee of the Month (2004) Comedy/Drama Ψ

Dark comedy with Matt Dillon experiencing a day when everything in his “perfect” life goes wrong. Watch for numerous Buddhist references to the fact that “everything is an illusion.”

End of Violence, The (1997) Drama ΨΨΨ

Wim Wenders film about a paranoid personality played by Bill Pullman.

Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room (2005) Documentary ΨΨ

Depicts the antisocial personalities of the Enron corporation leaders and the back-story of their rise to power and eventual downfall.

Equilibrium (2002) Action ΨΨ

This film depicts a futuristic society in which all must take a drug to block the disease called “human emotion.”

Eulogy (2003) Comedy Ψ

Dark comedy about a dysfunctional family of self-serving, self-absorbed, hypocrites.

Evita (1997) Drama/Musical ΨΨ

Madonna portrays Argentina’s first lady, Eva Peron, and depicts her rise from poverty and scandal to fame, fortune, and the adulation of a nation. Eva (Evita) does what it takes to climb the ladder of success, eventually marrying military leader Juan Peron. She speaks out on his behalf, mobilizes the people of Argentina, frees him from jail, and helps him get elected. Antonio Banderas plays her alter ego with running commentary, warnings, criticism, and song.

Family Man, The (2000) Family/Comedy ΨΨ

Corporate executive (Nicholas Cage) obsessed with money, fame, and power gets an opportunity to see how his life would have turned out if he had married his college sweetheart. The film includes obvious parallels with *It’s a Wonderful Life*.

Fatal Attraction (1987) Thriller/Romance ΨΨΨ

Glenn Close displays classic characteristics of borderline personality disorder, including fears of abandonment, unstable interpersonal relationships, impulsivity, suicidal gestures, inappropriate and intense anger, and affective instability. This remarkable film is flawed by a contrived and artificial ending.

Fargo (1996) Comedy ΨΨΨΨΨ

Dark comedy from the Coen brothers about a car salesman (William H. Macy) whose plot to

kidnap his wife has gone horribly awry. Frances McDormand has a memorable role as police chief Marge Gunderson.

Finding Forrester (2000) Drama ΨΨ

A high school student befriends an aloof, retired professor and writer who has avoided people for years. Their relationship is “rocky,” taking many turns, yet each individual has a profound impact on the other.

Five Easy Pieces (1970) Drama ΨΨΨ

Jack Nicholson, raised in an upper class and gifted family, is a talented pianist who left his affluent life to work in the oil fields. The plot is thin, but the character Nicholson plays is complex and fascinating.

Fracture (2007) Thriller/Drama Ψ

Anthony Hopkins and Ryan Gosling star in this courtroom suspense film in which Hopkins kills his wife and gets away with it.

Freaks (1932) Horror ΨΨΨΨ

Fascinating film about a “normal” trapeze artist who marries a midget and then tries to poison him. When his friends find out, they kill her strong-man lover and turn her into one of them.

From Dusk Till Dawn (1995) Horror Ψ

Quentin Tarantino and George Clooney portray psychopaths who rendezvous at a biker bar that turns out to be run by vampires. The film is actually two very different movies combined—the first is Tarantino-like in character interaction and dialogue, and the second half is a horror show. Robert Rodriguez directs the films.

From the Life of the Marionettes (1980) Drama ΨΨΨ

Bergman film in which an executive rapes and kills a prostitute.

Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai (1999) Crime/Drama ΨΨΨ

Jim Jarmusch film about a reclusive man who lives with pigeons and believes he is indebted to a mob boss who once saved his life.

Girl, Interrupted (1999) Drama ΨΨ

A depressed, young woman (Winona Ryder), sent to a psychiatric hospital and labeled with Borderline Personality Disorder, encounters a dangerous patient (Angelina Jolie) with an Antisocial Personality Disorder.

Godfather, The (1972; 1974; 1990) Crime/Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

The classic trilogy directed by Francis Ford Coppola about a New York Mafia family who are kind and generous to those who support the family and ruthless to those who oppose it.

God Is Great and I Am Not (2003) Comedy ΨΨ

Audrey Tautou plays a dependent woman who obsessively conforms to the religion of any man she is dating.

Gone with the Wind (1939) Romance/Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

In the classic love story, Scarlett O’Hara meets full criteria for histrionic personality disorder; however, some have argued that these surface features are the result of the social forces of her culture & time and that her deeper character structure would not be considered histrionic.

Grey Gardens (2009) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨ

Drew Barrymore and Jessica Lange portray the infamous mother and daughter, Edie and Edith Beales. Lange’s character was a first cousin to Jackie Onassis-Kennedy, and displays dependent personality and extreme symptoms of what might be agoraphobia. The extreme avoidance and pathology of the characters results in a deteriorating mansion that is nothing but a cesspool of filth, cat urine, and dilapidation.

Grifters, The (1990) Crime ΨΨΨΨ

Anjelica Huston stars in this fascinating introduction to the world of the con. Contrast this film with a movie almost as good, David Mamet’s *House of Games* (see Treatment section).

Guy (1997) Drama ΨΨ

Fascinating story about a documentary filmmaker (Hope Davis) who chooses one person (Vincent D’Onofrio) at random and relentlessly follows him, filming his daily life for several days despite the victim’s resistance and threats. Her obsession of filming him becomes his obsession with being filmed. The movie addresses narcissism and suggests that obsessions are a core part of human nature.

Heavy (1995) Drama ΨΨΨ

An obese, schizoid man loses his mother (whom he has lived with) and becomes even more withdrawn as he grieves.

I, Robot (2004) Action/Suspense ΨΨ

Surprisingly high quality action film about an

agent who battles robots threatening to take over the world. Will Smith's role illustrates paranoid personality traits.

"I did it because I could."

In the Company of Men (1997)

In the Company of Men (1997) Comedy ΨΨΨ
Misogynistic satire of two men (with varying levels of narcissism) who deliberately seduce the same vulnerable girl, lead her on, and then abandon her. Directed by Neil LaBute.

Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple (2006) Documentary/Biography ΨΨ
Discussion and explanation of the events that led up to the largest mass suicide in modern history, brought about by the manipulative tactics of the antisocial preacher Jim Jones.

Kalifornia (1993) Thriller ΨΨ
Early Brad Pitt performance as a quirky, ruthless, psychopathic killer who teams up with his naïve sweetheart (Juliette Lewis), a woman with a borderline IQ. There is not a hint of remorse or empathy in Pitt's character.

Knife in the Water (1962) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
One of Roman Polanski's earliest films. A man and his wife on a sailing holiday pick up a hitchhiker. There is mounting sexual tension between the older man and his younger rival. The younger man eventually makes love to the wife after a complex turn of events that occur when the couple becomes convinced the young man has drowned.

La Cage aux Folles (1978) Comedy ΨΨΨ
Zaza (Albin), the transvestite nightclub performer, is a wonderful example of a histrionic personality. He is dramatic and flamboyant and threatens suicide when things do not go his way.

Ladies Man, The (2000) Comedy Ψ
Tim Meadows plays a narcissistic talk-show host and "player." Spin-off of a successful Saturday Night Live skit.

Ladykillers, The (2004) Comedy ΨΨ
Tom Hanks leads a group of thieves in a caper to steal money from a casino by digging underground

from an oblivious, good-hearted, elderly woman. Good portrayal of how people with antisocial personalities can use language to manipulate. Directed by the Coen Brothers.

Land of Plenty (2004, US/Germany) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
Wim Wenders film about misguided patriotism and paranoia in post-911 times in America; the protagonist is a classic paranoid personality disorder; this condition has rarely been portrayed so well.

Last King of Scotland, The (2006) Drama/Documentary/Biography ΨΨΨ
Forest Whitaker in an unforgettable, terrifying role as Idi Amin, the charming, charismatic, and paranoid ruler of Uganda who killed over 300,000 people during his reign.

Last Supper, The (1996) Comedy Ψ
Dark comedy of five liberal graduate students seeking revenge against reactionary and conservative dinner guests. The film depicts elements of antisocial and compulsive behavior.

Le Boucher (1969) Thriller ΨΨΨ
Claude Chabrol film in which a butcher who is also a murderer commits suicide when the woman he loves realizes he is a criminal.

Leave Her to Heaven (1945) Romance/Crime ΨΨ
Protagonist commits multiple murders, watches her brother-in-law drown, and terminates her pregnancy by throwing herself down a flight of stairs with no sense of shame or remorse. Dated but interesting portrayal of an antisocial personality.

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ
Jim Carrey plays a comical psychopath who adopts multiple disguises in an attempt to inherit a family fortune that rightfully belongs to three orphans whose parents have died in a fire.

Levity (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ
Billy Bob Thornton plays a "recovered antisocial," who, after his release from prison, tries to make amends with a family member (Holly Hunter) of a boy he killed decades ago. Morgan Freeman plays an antisocial preacher.

Lord of War (2005) Action/Drama Ψ
Nicholas Cage portrays Uri, an antisocial man who sells illegal arms to various countries. Based on actual events.

Loveline (1997) Comedy ΨΨ

Film about a group of friends and their struggles in relationships, many with symptoms of disorders that prevent them from connecting—the depressed intellectual, the dependant woman, and the neurotic voyeur—but the standout is the narcissist professor.

Mad Love (2002) ΨΨ

Spanish film about a princess who marries and later becomes queen and is nicknamed “Joan the Mad” because of her worries about her philandering husband.

Man from Elysian Fields, The (2001) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Married man (Andy Garcia) becomes an escort and his life falls apart.

Man Who Cried, The (2000) Drama ΨΨ

Slow-moving film of a young woman (Christina Ricci) who left a very poor Russian family years ago to make it as a dancer in the theater. Sub-par film with an all-star cast including Johnny Depp (in another vagrant role), Cate Blanchett, and John Turturro as a grandiose opera singer.

Man Who Wasn't There, The (2001) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

This Coen Brothers' film noir is a fascinating character analysis of Ed Crane (Billy Bob Thornton) who is an aloof, taciturn, and unemotional barber struggling to find purpose.

Margot at the Wedding (2007) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Nicole Kidman portrays Margot, a woman with a borderline personality disorder who displays loose boundaries, lability, anger, impulsivity, inappropriate affect, and fears of abandonment during a short visit to her sister's house.

Marriage of Maria Braun, The (1978) Drama/War ΨΨΨ

This Fassbinder film, an allegory about postwar Germany, portrays the dehumanizing effects of war and its aftermath as we watch the commercial success and personal failures of Maria Braun. There is an explosive finale.

Match Point (2005) Drama/Crime ΨΨΨΨ

Very engaging and dark Woody Allen film about a young man who responds to a bad situation with murder inadvertently murders someone and then demonstrates significant antisocial abilities to keep from getting caught.

Me and You and Everyone We Know (2005) Comedy Ψ

A number of odd and quirky characters exhibit subclinical syndromes and features of personality disorders.

Minus Man (1999) Drama ΨΨ

Owen Wilson stars as a charming, kind, drifting serial killer. The film does not explain his behavior, which he claims is spontaneous.

Monster (2004) Docudrama ΨΨΨΨ

Graphic, disturbing film based on the life of Aileen Wuornos, a prostitute and drifter turned serial killer. Charlize Theron won an Oscar for her powerful performance as Wuornos.

My Summer of Love (2004) Drama/Romance Ψ

Coming-of-age tale of a girl who falls in love with a girl her age who turns out to have an antisocial personality disorder (compare this film with Neil Labute's *The Shape of Things*).

My Super Ex-Girlfriend (2006) Comedy/Romance Ψ

Uma Thurman portrays G-Girl, a superheroine with great powers but one who also exhibits borderline traits, fear of abandonment, hostility, all-or-none thinking, and revengeful behavior.

Naked (1993) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Fascinating story about an “existential antisocial,” Johnny, wandering the streets of London exchanging philosophical beliefs with various quirky characters. Comedy, love, drama, and violence flow throughout this film. Written and directed by renowned British director Mike Leigh.

No Country For Old Men (2007) Drama/Crime ΨΨΨΨΨ

Javier Bardem gives one of the most chilling portrayals of psychopathology in cinema history in the role of Anton Chigurh, an evil man who plays with the destiny in everyone he encounters.

Notes on a Scandal (2006) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Judi Dench and Cate Blanchett engage in battle of manipulation and deceit in a movie that depicts ephrophilia, emptiness, objectification, obsession, and borderline traits.

Odd Couple, The (1968) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Jack Lemmon is magnificent as the obsessive-compulsive Felix Unger, who uses air freshener

and leaves notes on the pillow of housemate Walter Matthau.

One Hour Photo (2002) ΨΨΨ

Robin Williams in a quirky, dramatic, and disturbing role as the personality disordered, Sy the Photo Guy. Sy collects photographs from a customer's family and finds meaning through their lives until he discovers they are not the perfect family.

"The things we fear the most have
already happened to us."

Sy, the Photo Guy, in *One Hour Photo*
(2002)

Overnight (2003) Documentary/Drama ΨΨ

A rags to riches to rags story about a narcissistic bartender, Troy Duffy, who is offered an attractive deal by Miramax for his screenplay only to have his pathology eventually sabotage this opportunity.

Paper Moon (1973) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

Fun Peter Bogdanovich film, with Ryan O'Neal and daughter Tatum working together as a pair of con artists in the early 1930s.

Pacific Heights (1990) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ

Michael Keaton plays a classic antisocial personality who becomes a tenant of a Victorian home and refuses to leave or pay rent, reaping significant havoc.

Perfume: The Story of a Murderer (2006, Germany) Drama/Crime ΨΨΨΨ

A young man with a phenomenal sense of smell becomes obsessed with capturing the perfect scent, but he takes his obsession too far. Directed by Tom Tykwer.

Phone Booth (2003) Action/Suspense ΨΨ

A one-dimensional, narcissistic New Yorker begins to unravel as he is manipulated and forced to stay on the phone on the busy streets of Manhattan with a serial killer (Kiefer Sutherland). Worth seeing for the ending which cinematically shows the deep wounds underlying many narcissistic personality disorders.

Plumber, The (1979, Australia) Mystery/Drama ΨΨ

In this early Peter Weir film, a strange and mysteri-

ous plumber seems to be manipulating a woman as he repeatedly returns to her house to check pipes and fix the plumbing. The film raises important questions about trust and class.

Pumpkin Eater, The (1964) Drama ΨΨ

Most memorable for the scene in which Anne Bancroft, responding to the stress of eight children and an unfaithful husband, breaks down in Harrods.

Rampage (1992) Drama/Thriller ΨΨΨ

A film that explores the insanity defense, sociopathy, and mass murder. Directed by William Friedkin, who was also the director for *The Exorcist*.

Reign Over Me (2007) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Adam Sandler portrays a man with a schizotypal personality who is lost in pathological grief. An old friend (Don Cheadle) works hard to re-orient him back to the world around him. Winner of a Voice Award.

Remains of the Day (1994) Romance/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Anthony Hopkins plays a butler whose rigid personality will not allow him to experience intimacy or genuine love. Few films have been more effective in presenting this reserved, over-controlled, and limiting personality type.

Rick (2003) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Satirical comedy starring Bill Pullman as Rick, a narcissistic corporate executive who is self-serving, misanthropic, and cruel. The film has strong independent cinema elements.

Roger Dodger (2002) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Manhattan executive teaches his 16-year-old nephew about women in one night by taking him to the streets of New York. Great portrayal of narcissism.

Royal Tenenbaums, The (2001) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

Dark comedy classic about highly dysfunctional Tenenbaum family where the parents (Gene Hackman and Angelica Huston) raise three genius children (Ben Stiller, Gwyneth Paltrow, and Luke Wilson) who develop significant problems (paranoia/anger, depression/incest, dependency/suicidal thoughts/incest, respectively). The family is reunited when the narcissistic father returns home stating he is dying of stomach cancer. We are left to see the dysfunctional dynamics of the family take place in comical form. Schizotypal personality is also portrayed (Owen Wilson)—a cinematic rarity.

Saw (2004) Horror Ψ

Jigsaw, a serial killer and torturer, manipulates people whom he believes are ungrateful to test of how far they will go to save themselves, such as cutting through one's own foot with a rickety saw in order to set oneself free.

Séance on a Wet Afternoon (1964) Crime ΨΨΨΨ

A British film in which Kim Stanley plays a medium who persuades her husband (Richard Attenborough) to kidnap a child so they can then use her power of clairvoyance to "find" the missing child.

Servant, The (1963) Drama ΨΨΨ

Joseph Losey film in which a wealthy British gentleman and his manservant wind up switching roles. There are strong homosexual overtones in the relationship between the two men, and a complex relationship develops with two women. The film is an interesting examination of dominance and submission.

Sexy Beast (2001) Drama ΨΨΨ

Ben Kingsley portrays a brutal antisocial personality who is anything but sexy.

Shadow of Fear (2004) Drama/Suspense Ψ

Disappointing film about a young businessman who is blackmailed after he accidentally kills a man with his car and tries to cover it up. James Spader's character displays strong antisocial characteristics.

Shape of Things, The (2003) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Disturbing comedy of a woman who helps transform an anxious, insecure man through physical alteration and love only to later reveal it was all a manipulative, self-serving project. Another film by director Neil LaBute who has been appropriately nicknamed by some film critics as Neil La-Brute because of his often brutal character portrayal of people or society.

Shattered Glass (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

Based on a true story of a young journalist for the popular New Republic magazine, Stephen Glass (well acted by Hayden Christensen), who in 1998 made up several of his published stories. He was fraudulent with people, places, and events, making up fake business cards, notes, websites, numbers, and voice mails. Great depiction of "the antisocial in trouble," where the person becomes neurotic and remorseful. The "real" Glass, a self-proclaimed "pathological liar" in reference to the events in the film, admits that 27 of his 41

published magazine stories were partially or completely made up.

"I wanted every story to be a home run."

The real Stephen Glass in a 60 Minutes interview, speaking of being out of control and doing anything to please the readers

Silence of the Lambs, The (1991) Personality Disorders ΨΨΨ

Anthony Hopkins plays one of film history's greatest antisocial personalities, psychiatrist and cannibal Hannibal Lector. Jodi Foster is the FBI agent.

"A census taker once tried to test me.
I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice Chianti."

The Silence of the Lambs (1991)

Sleeping with the Enemy (1991) Suspense ΨΨ

Julia Roberts plays the battered wife of a possessive and sadistic husband played by Patrick Bergin. Roberts fakes her death and assumes a new identity in a desperate attempt to escape.

Small Time Crooks (2000) Comedy Ψ

Woody Allen plays a "foolish antisocial" who devises a plan to rob a bank with his not-so-bright pals. Hugh Grant plays a manipulative, charming, self-serving narcissist.

Sneakers (1992) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

This film has a star cast that includes Dan Akroyd, who plays an ex-convict with paranoid traits who sees conspiracy in almost every situation.

Speed (1994) Drama ΨΨ

Dennis Hopper plays a deranged sociopath who programs a bomb to explode if a city bus slows to less than 50 miles per hour.

Stagecoach (1939) Western ΨΨΨ

Classic John Ford movie, with Thomas Mitchell playing a drunken physician. Mitchell won an

Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role.

Strangers on a Train (1951) Thriller ΨΨΨΨΨ
Classic Hitchcock film in which Farley Granger is unable to extricate himself from his involvement with sociopath Robert Walker.

Streetcar Named Desire, A (1951) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ
Elia Kazan film starring Marlon Brando and Vivian Leigh. Blanche DuBois offers a striking example of a histrionic personality. Brando is unforgettable in the role of Stanley Kowalski.

“They’re dead, they’re finished! There was a time in this business when they had the eyes of the whole wide world. But that wasn’t good enough for them. Oh, no. They had to have the ears of the world, too. So they opened their big mouths, and out came talk. Talk! Talk!”

Sunset Blvd. (1950)

Sunset Blvd. (1950) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ
Billy Wilder film in which a narcissistic, histrionic, and delusional Gloria Swanson clings to the memories of her former greatness as a silent screen star. William Holden plays a young man who exchanges attention and sexual favors for security.

Suspect Zero (2004) Thriller/Crime ΨΨ
Ben Kingsley plays a serial killer who tries to catch a serial killer by attempting to tune into the killer’s thoughts, intentions, and feelings.

Swimfan (2002) Drama/Suspense Ψ
Girl’s one-night-stand with a fellow classmate shifts from infatuation to the “If I can’t have you, no one will” belief.

Swimming With Sharks (1994) Comedy ΨΨ
Dark comedy with Kevin Spacey as a nasty, heartless, business executive who is held hostage and tortured by an employee he has verbally abused over the years.

Swimming Pool (2002) Drama/Mystery ΨΨΨΨ
Mystery writer leaves London to find peace, quiet,

and inspiration at her publisher’s secluded home in a French village. She overcomes her writer’s block by writing about the adventures of a seductive, provocative young woman, the publisher’s daughter, who has spontaneously moved in.

“I always thought it would be better to be a fake somebody than a real nobody.”

Tom Ripley describing his secretive double life in *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999)

The Talented Mr. Ripley (1999) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ
Matt Damon is the deceitful, charming, clever, impersonator, Tom Ripley, who manipulates anyone in his path until he sees enough of his “shadow” that he can no longer turn away. Breakthrough film for supporting actor Jude Law.

Tao of Steve, The (2000) Comedy Ψ
Self-serving, amateur philosopher uses some ideas from Buddhist philosophy to pursue and sleep with women.

Tape (2001) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ
Creative, engaging, and honest story of how people manipulate other to meet their own desires and how they react when their secrets are exposed. It also shows what can happen when someone has unresolved psychological issues. The entire film takes place in one motel room with only three characters—all young veterans—Ethan Hawke, Robert Sean Leonard, and Uma Thurmond.

Taxi Driver (1976) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ
The premonitory personality of Travis Bickle illustrates delusional paranoid thinking. Bickle would probably meet the criteria for a diagnosis of schizotypal personality disorder.

“You talkin’ to me? [slower] You talking to me? You talking to me? Well, then, who the hell else are you talking— you talking to me? Well, I’m the only one here.”

Travis Bickle rehearsing in *Taxi Driver* (1976)

Thin Blue Line, The (1988) Documentary ΨΨΨΨ
Gripping documentary examining the unjust incarceration of a man accused of the murder of a Texas policeman.

Toto le Heros (1991) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨΨ
An old man in a nursing home reviews his life and his lifelong hatred for his next-door neighbor, who appeared to have every advantage. Wonderful example of a paranoid personality disorder.

Tsotsi (2005, UK, South Africa) Crime/Drama ΨΨΨΨ
An African gangster accidentally kidnaps an infant and in learning to care for child makes some changes in himself.

Unfaithful (2002) Drama/Suspense Ψ
Married man (Richard Gere) finds out his wife (Diane Lane) is having an affair and he seeks revenge.

Very Bad Things (1999) Comedy Ψ
Dark comedy about a bachelor party gone horribly wrong. As the five men try to cover up an accidental murder, more problems arise.

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (2008) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
High quality, Woody Allen film about two young women touring Barcelona for the summer who encounter a handsome man and his erratic, labile ex-wife (Penelope Cruz).

Violette Noziere (1978) Biography/Crime ΨΨ
Claude Chabrol film based on the true story about a teenage girl who poisoned her parents, eventually killing her father, whom she claimed had raped and abused her.

Wannsee Conference, The (1984) Historical/War ΨΨΨ
Recreation of the Berlin meeting in which Nazi officers first outlined the “final solution” for dealing with the “Jewish problem.”

Whisperers, The (1966) Drama Ψ
Dame Edith Evans stars as a lonely old woman, divorced from her husband and estranged from her son, who devotes her days to worry and paranoid ramblings.

White Oleander (2002) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
Young girl is tossed around from home to home when her mother is incarcerated. Range of mother figures played by Michelle Pfeiffer (antisocial),

Renee Zellweger (dependent), and Robin Wright-Penn (histrionic). Fascinating dynamics of a young girl’s resilience with each personality disordered mother-figure.

“Loneliness is the human condition.
Love humiliates you. Hatred cradles
you.”

A mother teaching her philosophy to her
teenage daughter in *White Oleander*
(2002)

Wild at Heart (1990) Comedy/Drama/Romance ΨΨΨ
David Lynch film with ex-con Nicolas Cage and his lover, Laura Dern, as two antisocial personalities (despite their apparent commitment to each other). Won the Palme d’Ore at Cannes, but not all critics were impressed. Too violent for some tastes.

Willard (2003) Drama ΨΨ
Crispin Glover plays a schizoid man whose only contact is his critical mother and numerous rats living in his basement. He uses the rats for revenge until they turn on him.

Wise Blood (1979) Drama ΨΨΨ
John Huston’s adaptation of Flannery O’Connor’s gothic Southern novel about an obsessed preacher.

Zoolander (2001) Comedy Ψ
Absurd, over-the-top depiction of a narcissistic model who is brainwashed to become an assassin. Ben Stiller directed, co-wrote, and starred in this film.

Substance Use Disorders

Alcoholism

16 Blocks (2006) Drama ΨΨΨ
A corrupt, burnt out, alcoholic cop risks his job and life by confronting authority in order to save a criminal from being killed. He drinks on the job, is unshaven, overly fatigued, exhausted, has poor stamina, slowed movement, and colleagues repeatedly comment about his alcohol abuse.

16 Years of Alcohol (2003, UK) Drama ΨΨ

The impact of parental alcoholism on a boy who eventually becomes an alcoholic. A transformation occurs when he becomes a member of AA and works at letting go of his anger and violent patterns.

28 Days (2000) Drama ΨΨΨ

A writer (Sandra Bullock) is court-ordered into a drug/alcohol rehabilitation center after a drinking and driving accident. The film depicts symptoms of alcoholism and its impact on a family.

Arthur (1981) Comedy ΨΨ

Dudley Moore as a drunken millionaire who falls in love with Liza Minnelli. A genuinely funny film, but upsetting in its cavalier approach to alcoholism and drunken driving.

Susan: "A real woman could stop you from drinking."

Arthur: "It'd have to be a real BIG woman."

Arthur (1981)

Bad News Bears (2005) Comedy Ψ

Richard Linklater remake portraying a despicable alcoholic (Billy Bob Thornton) who attempts to coach a little league baseball team that has minimal talent.

Barfly (1987) Comedy/Romance/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Faye Dunaway and Mickey Rourke play two alcoholics whose lives briefly touch. Good examination of skid row alcoholism; based on a story by cult poet Charles Bukowski.

Basketball Diaries, The (1995) Drama ΨΨΨ

Adolescent basketball stars succumb to drug abuse in this film that stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Wahlberg. Adapted from a Jim Carroll novel.

Beloved Infidel (1959) Biography Ψ

Gregory Peck plays F. Scott Fitzgerald and Deborah Kerr is columnist Sheila Graham, who tries to save Fitzgerald from his alcoholism.

Born on the Fourth of July (1989) Drama/War/Biography ΨΨΨΨ

Tom Cruise plays paralyzed and alcoholic Vietnam

veteran Ron Kovic in Oliver Stone's film. Stone won an Oscar as best director for this film.

"You're a T6—paralyzed from the mid-chest down... you'll be in a wheelchair for the rest of your life."

Ron Kovic's grim prognosis in
Born on the Fourth of July (1989)

Capote (2005) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨ

Philip Seymour Hoffman portrays the writer Truman Capote, and a segment of his life in which Capote gets material from a man who killed a family of four in Kansas for a new non-fiction book. Capote becomes depressed when he is unable to prevent the man from being hanged. He abuses alcohol and never writes again.

Cat Ballou (1965) Comedy/Western Ψ

Light-hearted film, with Jane Fonda playing a schoolteacher turned outlaw. Lee Marvin got an Oscar for his role as an alcoholic gunman. The film perpetuates the myth of the down-and-out drunk whose shooting skills return after he has had a few drinks. Marvin won an Oscar as Best Actor for his role in this film.

"Big Daddy! Now what makes him so big? His big heart? His big belly? Or his big money?"

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1958)

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1958) Drama ΨΨΨ

Paul Newman, Elizabeth Taylor, and Burl Ives in a subdued adaptation of Tennessee Williams' play about "mendacity." Alcohol plays a prominent role in the life of almost all the character's lives.

Changing Lanes (2002) Drama ΨΨ

A successful lawyer from a corrupt firm collides with an alcoholic insurance salesman who is on his way to court for a custody hearing and misses the court appearance. The role of Alcoholic Anonymous and the ongoing struggle associated with recovery are depicted.

Charlie Wilson's War (2007) Drama/Biography ΨΨ

Mike Nichols film about a legendary congressman who's also an alcoholic.

Children of Men (2006) Thriller/Drama Ψ

Alcohol abuse and marijuana abuse are depicted in this film about saving the human race.

Come Back, Little Sheba (1952) Drama ΨΨΨ

Burt Lancaster and Shirley Booth in a film about alcoholism and marriage. Booth won an Academy Award for Best Actress for her role.

Come Fill the Cup (1951) Drama ΨΨ

James Cagney and Jackie Gleason star in this serious examination of the problems of alcoholism in an ex-newspaperman.

Dark Obsession (1989) Drama/Mystery ΨΨ

Five drunken British military officers are involved in a hit-and-run accident in which the victim dies. The five men take a vow of silence; one is troubled by the decision. Interesting analysis of responsibility for one's behavior while intoxicated.

Days of Wine and Roses (1962) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Blake Edwards film starring Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick. Lemmon teaches Remick how to drink. Lemmon is saved by AA; Remick is unable to stop drinking, despite the consequences.

"You see, the world looks so dirty to me when I'm not drinking. Joe, remember Fisherman's Wharf? The water when you looked too close? That's the way the world looks to me when I'm not drinking."

Kristen describes why she continues to drink in *Days of Wine and Roses* (1962)

Drunks (1995) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

This film is the best available introduction to Alcoholics Anonymous. It is highly recommended for any student who will be working with substance abuse issues.

Educating Rita (1983) Drama ΨΨ

Michael Caine as an alcoholic college professor who takes on the task of educating a working-class woman.

Factotum (2005) Comedy ΨΨ

A struggling writer works multiple odd jobs and sleeps with multiple partners. He consistently drinks on the job and while writing. He loses several jobs, but is unable to stop drinking. The film accurately portrays alcohol dependence.

Fire Within, The (1963) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

French filmmaker Louis Malle's remarkable account of alcoholism, suicide, and the existential choices that confront us all.

For One More Day (2007) Drama ΨΨ

A child of divorced parents grows up feeling guilty about his mother's death. As an adult, he becomes depressed and an alcoholic. His suicide attempt is interrupted by his deceased mother who gives him one last day to spend with her. Based on Mitch Album's novel.

Gervaise (1956) Drama ΨΨΨ

French film based on Emile Zola's story about a young Parisian woman with an alcoholic husband.

"Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me. Aren't you?"

The Graduate (1967)

Graduate, The (1967) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

A telling indictment of the shallow values of the time (e.g., "plastics"). Mrs. Robinson's alcoholism impairs her judgment and ruins her life.

Great Man Votes, The (1939) Drama ΨΨ

John Barrymore plays an alcoholic college professor fighting to maintain custody of his children.

Harvey (1950) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Elwood P. Dowd's (Jimmy Stewart) imaginary friend is a six foot white rabbit named Harvey with whom he has a good relationship. Dowd drinks daily, goes to taverns, and has hidden bottles behind books. He always gets two drinks, one for himself and one for Harvey, and therefore has two drinks at a time.

Henry Fool (1997) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

Hal Hartley film about a taciturn garbage man who befriends a roguish alcoholic.

Iceman Cometh, The (1973) Drama ΨΨ

Lee Marvin in an adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's play about alcoholism and the pathos of dreams unfulfilled.

I'll Cry Tomorrow (1955) Biography ΨΨΨ

Singer Lillian Roth (Susan Hayward) attempts suicide as a way of coping with her alcoholism before AA support helps her find her way.

Ironman (2008) Action/Adventure Ψ

Robert Downey, Jr. portrays a weapon-specialist and superhero who's also an alcoholic.

Ironweed (1987) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep in compelling roles as homeless alcoholics. The film, a very realistic portrayal of life on skid row, should be contrasted with another excellent film made the same year, *Barfly*.

Key Largo (1948) Crime ΨΨΨ

Claire Trevor won Best Supporting Actress for her role as an alcoholic singer forced to beg gangster Edward G. Robinson for a drink during a hurricane in Key West.

Last Night at the Alamo (1983) Drama ΨΨΨ

Fascinating examination of bar culture in a small Texas town. Unforgettable characters, most of whom are coping with alcoholism and adultery.

Leaving Las Vegas (1995) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Nicholas Cage delivers a stunning performance as an alcoholic who has no interest in quitting. He develops a relationship with a prostitute (Elisabeth Shue) who is the first to truly understand him. Gripping alcohol dependence portrayal with painful delirium tremens on screen.

"You can never, never ask me to stop drinking. Do you understand?"

An alcoholic giving instructions in *Leaving Las Vegas* (1995)

ily, and plays cards all night. He returns to golf in a promotional event against the top two golfers in the game with the help of an inspirational caddy and mentor, Bagger Vance (Will Smith).

Libertine, The (2004) Drama ΨΨ

John Wilmot, the second Earl of Rochester in 17th century Europe, a poet and author and close friends of Charles II (John Malkovich), desperately uses alcohol to cope with banishment. He drinks constantly for 5 years and the long-term consequences of alcohol use are shown.

Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne, The (1987) Romance ΨΨ

Maggie Smith plays a lonely alcoholic who mistakenly believes she has a last chance to find love and meaning in her life.

Long Day's Journey into Night (1962) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Alcohol is a part of daily life for this deeply troubled family. Numerous examples of family pathology, conflict between father and sons, and denial.

Lost Weekend, The (1945) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Billy Wilder classic starring Ray Milland as a writer struggling to overcome his alcoholism. Some scenes were filmed at Bellevue, and the examples of delirium tremens are very convincing. Polanski borrowed scenes from *The Lost Weekend* as models for his film *Repulsion*.

"It shrinks my liver, doesn't it, Nat? It pickles my kidneys, yeah. But what it does to the mind? It tosses the sandbags overboard so the balloon can soar. Suddenly I'm above the ordinary. I'm competent. I'm walking a tightrope over Niagara Falls. I'm one of the great ones."

Don Birnam talking to his bartender about what it feels like to be drunk in *The Lost Weekend* (1945)

Legend of Bagger Vance, The (2000) Drama/Inspiration ΨΨΨ

Matt Damon plays Rannulph Junuh, a talented golfer whose game has deteriorated because of his war experiences. He isolates himself, drinks heav-

Love and Diane (2002) Documentary ΨΨ

A mother recovers from an addiction to crack as she attempts to start a new life and connect with the children she had abandoned. [should this really be in the [Alcohol](#) section?]

Love Song for Bobby Long, A (2004) Drama ΨΨ

A young woman returns to her hometown, New Orleans, for a funeral and finds two drunken dwellers living in her deceased mother's home. Bobby Long (John Travolta), an English professor, and his former assistant have no intentions of moving.

Maria, Full of Grace (2004) Drama ΨΨΨ

Fascinating, independent film depicting the realities and dangers young girls from Colombia face as they take jobs as "mules," smuggling drugs into the United States by swallowing them in large latex packages. While this film is not about substance abuse, it depicts the drug trade and problems related to ingesting drugs for illegal purposes. [should this really be in the [Alcohol](#) section?]

My Favorite Year (1982) Comedy ΨΨΨ

A great actor (modeled after John Barrymore and Errol Flynn) who has become a pathetic drunk must confront one of the greatest challenges of his career – a live television performance.

My Name Is Bill W. (1989) ΨΨ

Made-for-TV movie about the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous.

National Lampoon's Animal House (1978) Comedy ΨΨ

One of the best of a hundred or so college films that portray fraternity life as a series of beer busts interspersed with an occasional class. At one point, John Belushi, not the brightest of the fraternity brothers, chugs a fifth of Jack Daniels.

Night of the Iguana, The (1964) Drama ΨΨ

Richard Burton and Ava Gardner star in John Huston's adaptation of Tennessee Williams' play. Burton plays a very convincing alcoholic and erstwhile clergyman.

No Such Thing (2001, Iceland/US) Ψ

Hal Hartley film about a belligerent, foul-mouthed monster who is also an alcoholic.

"Think of an idea to change our world...
and put it into action."

A student assignment in *Pay It Forward*
(2000)

Pay It Forward (2000) Drama/Inspiration ΨΨ

Haley Joel Osment plays a seventh grader implementing a class assignment that has profound effects on the people around him. His mother (Helen Hunt) is a struggling alcoholic.

Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio, The (2005) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A stay-at-home mother (Julianne Moore) in the 1950-60s, confronts her alcoholic and dependent husband (Woody Harrelson) with unswerving optimism. The film shows the social expectations of women who stay in relationships with abusive husbands.

Proud and the Beautiful, The (1953) Romance ΨΨ

A film about a woman who helps an alcoholic physician overcome his problems and regain some sense of dignity. Filmed in France and Mexico.

Ray (2004) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨΨ

Story of Ray Charles' rise to fame and the numerous obstacles he faced after witnessing his brother's death and the subsequent loss of his sight. As an adult, Ray Charles struggled with addictions to heroin and sex, and he lived several different lives (e.g., family man with wife and children, lover with his mistress, a secret life as a drug abuser, a life as a famous singer and musician). Stellar performance by Jamie Foxx.

Sideways (2004) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Two men tour California's wine country. One is a depressed alcoholic craving a relationship; the other is going to be married later that week, but he begins an affair with a woman he meets on the trip.

Skin Deep (1989) Comedy ΨΨ

A funny Blake Edwards film about an alcoholic writer who continues to deny his alcoholism long after it has become apparent to everyone else.

Smash-Up, the Story of a Woman (1947) Drama ΨΨ

Melodramatic Susan Hayward film about a movie star who must come to grips with her alcoholism.

Some Like It Hot (1959) Crime/Comedy ΨΨ

Marilyn Monroe portrays a performer constantly sneaking drinks; she is nearly fired for alcohol abuse.

Streamers (1983) Drama ΨΨΨ

Robert Altman film about three soldiers waiting

to go to Vietnam. The film deals with themes of homosexuality, violence, and racism, but also illustrates the alcohol abuse that is pervasive in military life.

Sweet Bird of Youth (1962) Drama ΨΨ

Paul Newman in an adaptation of Tennessee Williams' play about a has-been actress (played by Geraldine Page) addicted to alcohol and drugs who takes up with a young, vital Newman.

Taxi Blues (1990) Drama ΨΨΨ

Alcoholic jazz musician becomes friends with an anti-Semitic taxi driver. This Russian film won the prize for Best Director at Cannes. Fascinating examination of the role of alcohol in the daily lives of the protagonists in Moscow society.

Tender Mercies (1983) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Sensitive and optimistic film in which Robert Duvall plays a successfully recovering alcoholic songwriter. Duvall won an Oscar for this almost perfect performance.

Trees Lounge (1996) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

Steve Buscemi wrote and directed this compelling film, and he plays the lead character, a 31-year-old unemployed auto mechanic. Few contemporary films present a more vivid picture of the problems associated with alcoholism.

Under Capricorn (1949) Drama Ψ

A little-known Hitchcock film starring Joseph Cotton and Ingrid Bergman. Bergman is a wealthy socialite whose life is ruined by her alcoholism.

Under the Volcano (1984) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

John Huston directing Albert Finney; excellent portrayal of chronic alcoholism.

Edward J. Concannon: "Why wasn't she getting oxygen...?"

Dr. Robert Towler: "Well, many reasons, actually..."

Edward J. Concannon: "Tell me one?"

Dr. Robert Towler: "She'd aspirated vomitus into her mask..."

Edward J. Concannon: "She threw up in her mask. Let's cut the bullshit. Say it: She threw up in her mask."

The Verdict (1982)

Verdict, The (1982) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Paul Newman in a wonderful role as a disillusioned alcoholic lawyer who becomes genuinely involved with a brain-injured client who is the victim of medical malpractice. He wins the case but continues to drink. Interesting analysis of codependency.

Vital Signs (1986) Drama ΨΨ

Ed Asner in a surpassingly good made-for-TV movie about a father and son, both surgeons, fighting the twin problems of alcoholism and drug abuse.

Vodka Lemon (2003, France/Armenia) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Minimalist film about grieving widows who befriend one another in a culture where everyone seems to drink vodka.

What Price Hollywood? (1932) Drama ΨΨ

Alcoholic director helps Hollywood waitress become a star. The figure of the alcoholic director may have been modeled after John Barrymore.

When a Man Loves a Woman (1994) Drama ΨΨ

Meg Ryan as a middle-class alcoholic. This is a melodramatic and somewhat predictable film, but an interesting introduction to AA and Al-Anon. The film explores the role of codependency and a husband's role in his wife's alcoholism.

Drug Abuse

21 Grams (2003) Drama/Mystery ΨΨΨΨ

Complicated, well-integrated stories of an ex-con and recovering alcoholic (Benicio Del Toro), a cocaine addict (Naomi Watts), and a terminal man awaiting a transplant (Sean Penn), all brought together by an accidental death.

"They say we all lose 21 grams at the exact moment of death... everyone. The weight of a stack of nickels. The weight of a chocolate bar. The weight of a hummingbird."

21 Grams (2003)

Bad Lieutenant (1992) Drama ΨΨΨ

Harvey Keitel stars in one of his most powerful roles

as a police lieutenant addicted to cocaine, alcohol, and prostitutes. The film illustrates stark abuse of power and the deterioration of family life that accompanies addiction. Keitel's character at one point has a hallucination in which Jesus Christ comes to him.

Big Lebowski, The (1998) Comedy ΨΨ

Coen Brothers film portraying The Dude (Jeff Bridges), a cannabis-smoking, unemployed drifter in this entertaining, film noir comedy.

Bird (1988) Biography ΨΨ

Clint Eastwood directed this biographical film of the life of jazz great and drug addict Charlie "Bird" Parker. Parker was an addict for all of his adult life, and his addiction killed him at the age of 34.

Blow (2001) Drama ΨΨΨ

Johnny Depp stars as George Jung, a man who claimed to have imported about 85% of all cocaine in America in the late 1970s.

Born on the Fourth of July (1989) Drama/War/Biography ΨΨΨΨ

Antiwar film by Oliver Stone starring Tom Cruise as Ron Kovic, who uses alcohol and drugs to cope with the frustration of paralysis. One of the best of its genre.

Chappaqua (1966) Drama Ψ

Heroin addict checks in for treatment. The film is most notable for short roles by William Burroughs, Ravi Shankar, and Allen Ginsburg.

Christiane F. (1981) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Powerful and frightening examination of the life of a teenage drug addict in West Berlin. Based on a true story, the film is still gripping almost two decades after it was made.

Clean and Sober (1988) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Good portrayal of AA, cocaine addiction, and alcoholism.

"The best way to break old habits is to make new ones."

Clean and Sober (1988)

Cocaine Fiends, The (1936) Drama Ψ

Another "word of warning" film that portrays

the dangers of cocaine. Made in the same year as *Reefer Madness*. The message in this film is exaggerated and histrionic but somewhat more realistic in its estimate of the dangers of the drug.

Coffee and Cigarettes (2003) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Various conversational skits (starring a variety of talents, including Bill Murray, Roberto Benigni, Cate Blanchett, Iggy Pop, and Steve Buscemi) linked through the characters' use of coffee, tea and smoking. Portrayals of compulsive use of each, side effects, and the desire to quit or avoid the substance.

Connection, The (1961) Drama ΨΨΨ

Heroin addicts in New York wait for their pusher.

Dopamine (2003) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

Independent film explores the chemistry behind male-female relationships. One character uses amphetamine pills and large quantities of caffeine. Interesting debate on how physical attraction emerges.

"Most people don't know how they're gonna feel from one moment to the next. But a dope fiend has a pretty good idea. All you gotta do is look at the labels on the little bottles."

Addict reflecting on the pleasures of drugs in *Drugstore Cowboy* (1989)

Drugstore Cowboy (1989) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Matt Dillon leads a group of junkies who rob pharmacies to support their habit. William Burroughs plays a junkie priest.

"The governor of Louisiana gave me this. Madame Tinkertoy's House of Blue Lights, corner of Bourbon and Toulouse, New Orleans, Louisiana. Now, this is supposed to be the finest whorehouse in the south. These ain't no pork chops! These are U.S. Prime!"

Jack Nicholson plans for his trip to New Orleans in *Easy Rider* (1969)

Easy Rider (1969) Drama ΨΨΨ

Classic film of the late 1960s with Jack Nicholson as an alcoholic lawyer and Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper as marijuana-smoking, LSD-using free spirits. The film is dated but still worth seeing.

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) Fantasy ΨΨ

Terry Gilliam's adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's Gonzo journalism classic. The book is better than the film; although the movie does not glorify drug use, it clearly models the behavior and tacitly condones the practice of driving while intoxicated.

Half Baked (1998) Comedy Ψ

Exaggerated comedy about smoking "weed." Interesting for its classification of different types of marijuana smokers: "you should have been there smoker," the "scavenger," the "enhancer," the "medicinal," the "after school special," the "father, I'm 40 and still cool," the "MacGyver smoker," the "straight-up potheads," and the "I'm only creative if I smoke" smoker.

Half Nelson (2006) Drama ΨΨΨ

A drug-addicted teacher/coach (Ryan Gosling) at an inner city school uses cocaine regularly and smokes crack in the girl's locker room after a game. He has a history of failed rehabilitation, and tries to rebuild relations but struggles with anger and is disengaged from his family.

Hatful of Rain, A (1957) Drama ΨΨ

Melodramatic film about the life and problems of a drug addict. This was one of the earliest films to honestly examine the problem of drug addiction.

High Art (1998) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

Realistic, well-acted independent film about several people whose lives intersect for drugs, support, and conversation in a New York City apartment.

Hustle and Flow (2005) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

In this Sundance Audience Choice Award film, an aspiring Memphis disc jockey works to get his first record made as he approaches mid-life. He is a pimp, drug user, and dealer who questions his life's purpose and the decisions he has made along the way.

I Don't Buy Kisses Anymore (1992) Comedy/Romance Ψ

Lightweight but entertaining film about an obese male who falls in love with a woman using him as a subject for her master's thesis.

I'm Dancing as Fast as I Can (1982) Drama ΨΨ

Jill Clayburgh plays the role of a high-powered documentary filmmaker who becomes addicted to Valium and requires hospitalization in a special program for addicts. Based on a true story.

Jungle Fever (1991) Drama/Romance ΨΨΨ

Interesting film about race relations and sexual stereotypes, with a subplot involving Gator, the crack-head brother of the protagonist, who is destroying his middle-class family.

La Femme Nikita (1990) Action/Drama ΨΨ

Sociopathic and drug-addicted woman is sentenced to die for murder and then is transformed into a government agent. Most memorable for the drug-store robbery that opens the film.

Lady Sings the Blues (1972)

Biography/Musical ΨΨ

Diana Ross plays heroin addict Billie Holiday.

Long Day's Journey into Night (1962) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Katharine Hepburn plays a morphine-addicted, histrionic mother with an alcoholic son (Jason Robards). One of O'Neill's greatest plays; one of Hepburn's greatest roles. Hepburn's character is a good illustration of a histrionic personality disorder.

Love Liza (2002) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

Philip Seymour Hoffman skillfully plays a man who huffs gasoline in response to his wife's suicide. A rare and tremendous depiction of inhalant abuse and intoxication.

Luna (1979) Drama Ψ

Disappointing Bernardo Bertolucci film, with Jill Clayburgh playing the mother of a drug addict son. The film hints at an incestuous relationship between mother and son.

"What the fuck do I need to be sober for so I can see how fucked up shit really is, please. High is how I am gonna be. I'm high till I die"

A crack addict in *MacArthur Park* (2001)

MacArthur Park (2001) Drama ΨΨΨ

A crack addict struggles to leave drug dependence

and his home in the park to live with his estranged son. A quality independent film.

Man with the Golden Arm, The (1955) Drama ΨΨ

Frank Sinatra and Kim Novak in a dated but interesting portrayal of drug addiction. Good example of the challenge of “cold turkey” withdrawal.

Mask (1985) Biography ΨΨΨ

Bogdanovich film with Cher as the mother of deformed but spunky teenager Rocky Dennis. Sympathetic portrayal of motorcycle gangs. Cher struggles with her angry father and her compulsive use of alcohol and drugs as she works hard to be a good mother.

Mighty Wind, A (2003) Comedy ΨΨ

Hilarious Christopher Guest parody of folk music. One character displays significant remnants of years of drug abuse.

Naked Lunch (1991) Drama/Science Fiction/Fantasy ΨΨ

This film is based on the novel by William Burroughs and deals with drug abuse, paranoia, and homicide.

New Jack City (1991) Action/Crime ΨΨ

Wesley Snipes and Ice-T in a realistic movie about the business of drugs. Good introduction to cocaine addiction and Narcotics Anonymous.

“If the First Amendment will protect a scumbag like me, it will protect all of you.”

Larry Flint on free speech
in *The People vs. Larry Flint* (1996)

People vs. Larry Flynt, The (1996) Biography/Drama ΨΨΨ

A good movie about a controversial figure, the film forces the viewer to examine his or her views on pornography and free speech. The film is included in this section because of the effects of drugs on the lives of Flynt and his wife, Althea (Courtney Love), after he is shot and becomes addicted to narcotics.

Platoon (1986) War ΨΨΨΨ

Vietnam veteran Oliver Stone directed *Platoon*,

one of the most realistic of dozens of war movies. There is an interesting juxtaposition of “boozers” (those who use alcohol to escape) and “heads” (those who take refuge in marijuana and other illegal drugs).

Postcards from the Edge (1990) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Mike Nichols’ adaptation of a Carrie Fisher story about life as the daughter of a famous actress. The mother is alcoholic; the daughter abuses multiple drugs, including cocaine and sedatives. There are brief scenes of therapy and a terrific cast.

Pulp Fiction (1994) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Quentin Tarantino film about drugs, crime, depravity, the underworld, and life in urban America. One especially memorable scene involves Vincent Vega (John Travolta) smashing an adrenaline-filled needle into Mia Wallace’s (Uma Thurman) chest to revive her after she inadvertently overdoses on heroin.

“What now? Let me tell you what now. I’ma call a coupla hard, pipe-hittin’ niggers, who’ll go to work on this soon-to-be-dead hillbilly rapist here with a pair of pliers and a blow torch. You hear me talkin’, hillbilly boy? I ain’t through with you by a damn sight. I’ma get medieval on your ass.”

Planning revenge in *Pulp Fiction* (1994)

Quitting (2001) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Slow-moving but interesting Chinese film about a one-time famous actor who deteriorates due to a heroin addiction. The emotional and psychological withdrawals depicted are memorable. This is an important film on addiction and withdrawal.

Ray (2004) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

This award winning film depicts 20 years in the life of Ray Charles when he was addicted to heroin. Physical disability (blindness) and childhood psychological traumas shape the personal life of this renowned artist.

Reefer Madness (1936) Drama Ψ

Camp film depicting the dangers of marijuana. Ironically, several thousand college students have

gone to see this film high on the very drug the film condemns.

Requiem for a Dream (2000) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Greatly disturbing film about four drug addicts whose lives deteriorate. Unforgettable performances and critically acclaimed. Cinematically crafted with excellence by Darren Aronofsky.

“I’m somebody now, everybody likes me.”

Requiem for a Dream (2000)

Rose, The (1979) Musical ΨΨ

Bette Midler portrays Janis Joplin and her problems with Southern Comfort and drugs.

Rush (1991) Crime/Drama ΨΨΨ

Two undercover narcotics agents find addiction to be an occupational hazard.

Scarface (1983) Crime ΨΨΨ

Brian De Palma movie starring Al Pacino as a Cuban immigrant mobster who becomes addicted to the cocaine he is marketing. This long film, which tends to be loved or hated, is based on a 1932 Howard Hawks classic with the same name.

Seven Percent Solution, The (1976) Mystery ΨΨ

Sigmund Freud treats Sherlock Holmes’ cocaine addiction. Creative idea and historically accurate in documenting Freud’s early enthusiasm for cocaine.

Shadow Hours (2000) Drama Ψ

Wealthy man manipulates a young gas station attendant into drug relapse and fraternizing with three types of “night owls”: (1) those who find their prince charming or princess and end at midnight, (2) vampires—prostitutes, drug dealers, (3) and Mr. Hydes—those that can’t sleep.

SherryBaby (2006) Drama ΨΨΨ

A woman leaves prison following a 6 year history of heroin addiction and neglect of her daughter; despite the history of abuse, she eagerly wants to re-unite with her daughter and attempt to start anew.

Sid and Nancy (1986) Biography ΨΨΨΨ

Compelling biography of Sid Vicious of the Sex

Pistols; offers insight into the worlds of drugs and rock and roll.

“Dog had a litter of about 8, and my Mother was bending over killing each one of these little puppies in the bathtub. I remember I said ‘why?’... She said ‘I’m just killing what I can’t take care of.’ Then my momma said to me, she looked at me and she said, ‘I wish I could do that to you.’”

A recollection by the cook in *Spun* (2002)

Spun (2002) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

A well-done, intense film about methamphetamine addiction.

Stardust (1975) Drama Ψ

British film about a rock star whose success is tarnished by drug addiction and mental illness.

Sweet Nothing (1996) Drama ΨΨΨ

An effective examination of the futility, desperation, and violence associated with crack addiction. This is a true story based on diaries found in a Bronx apartment in March of 1991.

Synanon (1965) Drama ΨΨ

Interesting only insofar as the film documents the treatment methods practiced in this highly praised treatment program.

Traffic (2000) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Steven Soderbergh film thematically intersects the lives of a newly hired government drug czar (Michael Douglas), his daughter who experiments with crack, police officers struggling with drug cartels, and a suburban wife of a drug lord.

“I’ve been known to sniff it, smoke it, swallow it, stick it up my arse and inject it into my veins. I’ve been trying to combat this addiction, but unless you count social security scams and shoplifting, I haven’t had a regular job in years.”

Trainspotting (1996)

Trainspotting (1996) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

A realistic and disturbing film about the heroin scene in Edinburgh. The film presents accurate depictions of cold turkey withdrawal. There is one memorable scene in which a young mother's baby dies while she is high, and she immediately needs a fix to cope with her grief. Several scatological scenes seem gratuitous and unnecessary.

Veronika Voss (1982) Drama ΨΨ

Rainer Werner Fassbinder film about a German movie star who becomes addicted to morphine. Fassbinder himself died from abuse of alcohol and heroin.

Wasted (2002) Drama ΨΨ

Teens, covering up inner pain, fear, and loneliness, battle their heroin addiction.

What's Love Got to Do with It? (1993)

Musical/Biography ΨΨ

Excellent film biography of singer Tina Turner includes some memorable scenes of husband Ike strung out on cocaine.

Who'll Stop the Rain? (1978)

Crime/Drama ΨΨ

Also known as *Dog Soldiers*, this film explores the world of drug smuggling and addiction.

Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders

8mm (1999) Mystery/Thriller ΨΨ

Joel Schumacher film about the underground world of "snuff" films. Depicts the worst kind of sadism.

Adjuster, The (1991) Drama ΨΨΨ

This interesting Canadian film explores voyeurism and exhibitionism.

"Being a man one day and a woman the next isn't an easy thing."

Bernadette complaining about life as a transsexual in *Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (1994)

Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert (1994) Comedy ΨΨ

Terence Stamp plays an aging transsexual who

joins with two friends to travel from Sidney to Alice Springs in the Australian outback to perform a lip-synching routine. Much of the film revolves around the prejudice and homophobic hostility the three transsexuals encounter.

AKA (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

Fascinating artistry where most of the screen is split into three where the viewer is simultaneously shown past & present, different character reactions, different camera angles, and even the internal thoughts & behaviors of a character. The lead character, sexually abused by his father, escapes on a journey exploring his sexual and psychological identity. As in *Memento*, the viewer must pay close attention throughout the film.

All About My Mother (1999) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

Pedro Almodovar film about a nurse who tragically loses her beloved son and in her grief and travels meets a transvestite prostitute and a pregnant nun (Penelope Cruz). Winner of an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

Angels and Insects (1995) Drama ΨΨΨ

Complex drama about social class, passion, and hidden sexual secrets in a wealthy Victorian household.

Another Time, Another Place (1983) Drama ΨΨΨ

Sensitive film in which a Scottish woman in an unhappy marriage has a brief affair with an Italian prisoner of war working as a laborer on the farm. The man is accused of a rape he did not commit; his lover can save him, but only at the cost of revealing her adultery.

Bad Timing: A Sensual Obsession (1980) Drama ΨΨ

Art Garfunkel (playing a psychology professor), Harvey Keitel, and Theresa Russell star in a provocative and explicit film about a psychiatrist who becomes sexually obsessed with a young woman after she makes a suicide attempt.

Basic Instinct (1992) Suspense/Thriller ΨΨ

Psychological thriller about a novelist (Sharon Stone) who is a sex addict that entangles an investigator (Michael Douglas) into a complex mystery of murder, sex, and fascination.

Beautiful Boxer (2003, Thailand) Action/Drama ΨΨ

Male to female transsexual makes use of kickboxing skills to pay for a sex change operation.

Psychologist: "Nick, when you recollect your childhood, are your recollections pleasing to you?"
 Nick: "Number 1, I don't remember how often I used to jerk off, but it was a lot. Number 2, I wasn't pissed off at my dad, even when I was old enough to know what he and mom were doing in the bedroom. Number 3, I don't look in the toilet before I flush it. Number 4, I haven't wet my bed for a long time. Number 5, why don't the two of you go fuck yourselves; I'm outta here."

Feeling threatened by a psychological interview in *Basic Instinct* (1992)

Beginner's Luck (1983) Comedy ΨΨ

Lightweight comedy about a law student who becomes involved in a *ménage à trois*.

Belle de Jour (1967) Drama ΨΨΨΨ?

Luis Buñuel film with Catherine Deneuve playing a bored housewife who amuses herself by working in a brothel from two until five every afternoon, at least until her sexual obsessions begin to complicate her life. Buñuel may be filming what is just an erotic dream.

Birdcage, The (1996) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Mike Nichols and Elaine May's remake of *La Cage aux Folles*. This film is almost as good as the original, thanks to strong performances by Robin Williams and Gene Hackman.

"Al, you old son of a bitch! How ya doin'? How do you feel about that call today? I mean the Dolphins! Fourth-and-three play on their 30 yard line with only 34 seconds to go!"

A transvestite trying to act masculine in *The Birdcage* (1996)

Breakfast on Pluto (2005) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Neil Jordan's film about an Irish Catholic abandoned child who is raised by a parish priest but later becomes a flamboyant transsexual.

Blame It on Rio (1984) Comedy ΨΨ

Two men take their teenage daughters to Rio's topless beaches, and one of the men, 43 years old, has an affair with the 15-year-old daughter of the other. The film has a vaguely incestuous theme and is modeled after the French film *One Wild Moment*.

Bliss (1997) Drama Ψ

Very fragile woman with a borderline personality disorder goes to a charming sex therapist who sleeps with his patients. The husband finds out; when he confronts the therapist, the husband converts and becomes his disciple. The film illustrates numerous ethical violations, and it demeans sacred Hindu tantric practices.

Blue Angel, The (1930) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Classic film about a phlegmatic professor who loses everything because of his obsession with a cabaret singer.

Blue Car (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

Independent film about an adolescent girl who is tutored by her teacher. Good depiction of the disturbing, subtle aspects of seduction and sexual exploitation.

Blue Velvet (1986) Mystery ΨΨΨΨ

A powerful and engrossing David Lynch film about drugs, sexual violence, and sadomasochism. Dennis Hopper portrays Frank Booth, one of the most sociopathic and sadistic villains in film history.

Bound (1996) Suspense/Drama ΨΨ

A tough female ex-con and her new female lover concoct a scheme to steal mob money. This film noir is The Wachowski Brothers' directorial debut.

Boys Don't Cry (1999) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

One of the best films to ever depict the pain and problems that can emerge from gender identity disorder. A brutal, powerful film.

"Are you sleeping with other men just to feed his sick fantasies?"

A question put to Bess in *Breaking the Waves* (1996)

Breaking the Waves (1996) Drama ΨΨΨ

A Danish film in which a devout Catholic wife

submits to sexual degradation to satisfy the voyeuristic demands of her paralyzed husband.

Burn After Reading (2008) Comedy Ψ

Clever, dark comedy by the Coen brothers in which George Clooney's character has a sexual addiction.

Cabaret (1972) Musical/Drama/Dance ΨΨΨΨ

Liza Minnelli in a film about sadomasochism, bisexuality, and the relationship between sex and power. *Cabaret* won Oscars for Best Actor, Best Actress, and Best Director. One scene in the film is as unforgettable as the classic confession of incest in *Chinatown*.

Caesar and Rosalie (1972) Comedy/Romance ΨΨ

Lighthearted and amusing examination of a ménage à trois.

"Don't worry, you've got everything under control."

A therapist's comments to a pedophile who was worried he might molest his own children; he later molests numerous children in a class he teaches out of his home in *Capturing the Friedmans* (2003)

Capturing the Friedmans (2003) Documentary ΨΨΨΨ

Extraordinarily disturbing and emotional documentary about a father and son accused of pedophilia. Important film to see regarding sex addiction, pedophilia, and the importance of not casting judgment too quickly.

Carnal Knowledge (1971) Drama ΨΨ

This Mike Nichols film traces the sexual lives of two college roommates, played by Jack Nicholson and Art Garfunkel, as they age and become increasingly disenchanted with sex, love, and the possibilities inherent in relationships.

Chinatown (1974) Mystery ΨΨΨΨ

A film about power, incest, and the complexity of human relationships. Actors includes Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway and John Huston.

"You see, Mr. Gettes, most people never have to face the fact that, at the right time and in the right place, they are capable of anything."

Chinatown (1974)

Claire's Knee (1971) Drama ΨΨΨ

An intelligent film in which a middle-aged man becomes obsessed with a young girl's knee.

Close My Eyes (1991) Drama ΨΨ

A British film about brother-sister incest.

Closer (2004) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

A quality film with good dialogue and superb acting by Jude Law, Natalie Portman, Julia Roberts, and Clive Owen. Important issues related to sexuality are portrayed, including deceit, infidelity, the failure to self-disclose, dependency, the impact of guilt and shame, and relationship testing. One scene depicts an amusing online conversation between two men sending erotic instant messages.

Collector, The (1965) Drama ΨΨΨ

Terence Stamp stars as a young man who collects butterflies. He becomes obsessed with Samantha Eggar, kidnaps her, and winds up inadvertently killing her.

Comfort of Strangers, The (1990) Drama ΨΨ

Sexual conflict and disorders abound as two couples find themselves entangled with one another in Venice.

Crash (1996) Drama ΨΨΨ

A David Cronenberg film about people who become sexually aroused by automobile accidents. The film presents a plausible hypothesis; people have developed fetishes for stranger things, and there are erotic overtones to both cars and speed.

"You couldn't wait for me?
You did the Jane Mansfield crash without me!"

One of many strange interactions in
David Cronenberg's *Crash* (1996)

Crime of Father Amaro, The (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

A young priest, newly ordained, goes to a small, Mexican town to serve a parish. He witnesses his pastor having sex with women and he falls for a woman whom he secretly uses for sex until she becomes pregnant.

Cruising (1980) Crime Ψ

Controversial William Friedkin film starring Al Pacino as an undercover police officer who infiltrates gay bars and bathhouses. Gay activists condemned the film because it perpetuates stigma and stereotypes.

Crying Game, The (1992) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

This Neil Jordan film explores homosexuality, transsexualism, interracial sexuality, and the ability of two human beings to love one another deeply in an asexual relationship. Too complex to explain simply, the film must be seen to be fully appreciated.

Damage (1992) Drama ΨΨΨ

A Louis Malle film starring Jeremy Irons as a man who develops a sexual obsession for his son's fiancée. Both the father and the son's girlfriend seem powerless to control their erotic attachment despite its inevitable consequences.

Day in the Country, A (1936) Romance ΨΨΨΨ

Jean Renoir's adaptation of a short story by Guy de Maupassant that describes the seductions of a man's wife and daughter.

De-Lovely (2004) Musical/Comedy/Biography ΨΨ

The story of the life of Cole Porter and his sexual addiction.

Diary of a Sex Addict, The (2001) Drama ΨΨ

Depiction of a classic sex addict who denies, rationalizes and continues a series of affairs until he finally can deceive no longer. He continues his compulsive behavior, even after the consequences of this behavior are almost fatal. The film offers a realistic portrayal of a sex addict.

Therapist: "Which one is really you? The family man or the other guy?"
Patient: "Both"

The Diary of a Sex Addict (2001)

Dirty Shame, A (2004) Comedy Ψ

A woman becomes promiscuous after a head injury.

Door in the Floor, The (2003) Drama ΨΨ

A couple separates after the death of their twin

sons. The catalyst for the breakup is Eddie, a 16 year old who takes a job as Jeff Bridges' assistant. Eddie is infatuated by Kim Basinger and masturbates using her photos and undergarments to become aroused. Basinger eventually seduces Eddie, who reminds her of her dead sons. Based on a novel by John Irving.

Dreamers, The (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

Fraternal twins take in a roommate in this Bernardo Bertolucci exploration of politics, the cinema, and sexuality. The dynamics become complicated when the new roommate falls in love with the female twin, taking her virginity and challenging her enmeshment with her brother.

"A filmmaker is like a peeping Tom, a voyeur. It's as if the camera is the key to your parent's bedroom and you spy on them and you're disgusted and you feel guilty but you can't... you can't look away."

The Dreamers (2003)

Eros (2004) Drama ΨΨΨ

Three noted directors (Michelangelo Antonioni, Steven Soderbergh and Wong Kar Wai) each contribute a short film dealing with some aspect of sexuality (e.g., a menage-a-trois, voyeurism, and prostitution).

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex *But Were Afraid to Ask (1972) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Woody Allen classic includes vignettes on cross-dressing, bestiality, sex in public, and the inner workings of the brain during sexual excitement.

Evil Alien Conquerors (2002) Comedy Ψ

Painfully bad film in which Saturday Night Live star, Chris Parnell, has a foot fetish.

Eyes Wide Shut (1999) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

The final Stanley Kubrick film about a man (Tom Cruise) who discovers a sexual underworld after his wife (Nicole Kidman) tells him of her fantasies and previous sexual encounters. Depiction of ephebophilia (sexual attraction of adults to adolescents), orgies, sexual rituals, exhibitionism, prostitution, infidelity, sexual fantasy, seduction,

and betrayal. Mythological and Jungian psychology themes are omnipresent.

Far From Heaven (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

Julianne Moore, living in a conservative area in a conservative time, finds out her husband is a homosexual. Interesting film that explores racism, stereotypes, and secrets.

Fellini Satyricon (1970) Historical ΨΨΨΨ

Controversial Fellini film about the decadence of ancient Rome. The film is visually stunning and explores human vices ranging from homosexual pedophilia to cannibalism. The film can be a springboard for a discussion of hedonism.

Female Perversions (1996) Drama ΨΨΨ

Confused and often confusing examination of the relationship between women, power, sexuality, and psychopathology. Based on a scholarly book with the same title by psychoanalyst Louise J. Kaplan.

Fetishes (1996) Documentary ΨΨΨ

True examination of the clients of Pandora's Box, an elite club catering to the sexual fetishes of New York City.

Fist in His Pocket (1966) Drama ΨΨΨ

Italian film about a dysfunctional family with multiple examples of psychopathology including epilepsy, murder, and incest.

Flawless (1999) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

Philip Seymour Hoffman plays a drag queen named Rusty who is saving money for a gender modification operation; Robert DeNiro is the homophobic neighbor who takes voice lessons from Rusty following a stroke.

Fried Green Tomatoes (1991) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Presents a positive, healthy, loving view of an (assumed) lesbian relationship. We are quickly caught up in the complex and intertwined story of these two women.

Girl 6 (1996) Drama/Comedy Ψ

Spike Lee film about a woman who takes a job as a phone sex operator for the money.

God's Little Acre (1958) Drama Ψ

Buddy Hackett and Michael Landon star in this adaptation of Erskine Caldwell's tale of depravity and Georgia farm life.

Good Mother, The (1988) Drama ΨΨΨ

A provocative film in which Diane Keaton plays the divorced mother of a six-year-old daughter. Keaton falls in love with an iconoclastic artist, who allows the daughter to touch his penis when she sees him in the bath and expresses normal childhood curiosity. Keaton is eventually forced to denounce her new lover in order to maintain a relationship with her daughter.

Joe: "What do you think would happen if I got him a professional... you know..."

Bill: "A professional?"

Joe: "Hooker. You know, the kind that can teach things... first-timers, you know... break him in."

Bill: "But Joe, he's 11."

Joe: "You're right, you're right. It's too late."

Cultures clash in *Happiness* (1998)

Happiness (1998) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Disturbing dark comedy portraying a variety of quirky characters. The most striking are the pedophilic psychiatrist who rapes his son's best friend and Philip Seymour Hoffman as a man who is obsessed with telephone scatologia. Director Todd Solondz has a cameo as a doorman.

Hard Candy (2005) Drama ΨΨ

A pedophile arranges to meet a 14-year-old girl who turns things around and winds up being the aggressor.

Harold and Maude (1972) Comedy ΨΨΨ

A cult film that examines sexual and romantic attraction across generations; this movie will force you to reexamine your feelings about age and death.

Henry & June (1990) Drama ΨΨ

Adaptation of Anais Nin diary detailing her *ménage à trois* with novelist Henry Miller and his wife June.

Holy Smoke (1999) Drama ΨΨΨ

Jane Campion film about a family who believes their daughter (Kate Winslet) is under the power of a cult leader. They hire a renowned "cult exiter" (Harvey Keitel) whose role is to isolate the subject,

provoke them, and then reintegrate them into the family. His power role reverses and he finds himself developing a sexual obsession.

Human Nature (2001) Comedy ΨΨ

Fascinating study on instinct and desire about a man raised in the wild and the scientists he encounters.

I am a Sex Addict (2005) Biography/Comedy Ψ

A recovering sex addict describes how his life and marriages have been changed by his addiction to prostitutes.

In the Realm of the Senses (1977) Drama ΨΨΨ

A sadomasochistic relationship intensifies into highly graphic and unforgettable scenes of autoerotic asphyxiation and the severing of an adult penis.

Intimacy (2000) Drama ΨΨ

Depressed man and woman meet for anonymous sex in a dilapidated apartment once a week. The man becomes curious about the woman and follows her to learn more about her. Slow, dark film that depicts the double life of the addict.

Ju Dou (1990) Drama/Historical/Romance ΨΨΨΨ

Wonderful, visually stunning film examining the complex links that bind a husband, his wife, her lover, and the son of the illicit union. Good illustrations of sexual passion and sexual torment.

Jules and Jim (1961) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Beautiful and engaging Truffaut film about a complex *ménage à trois* and an ultimate suicide. The film deals with far more than sexuality; it explores fundamental dimensions of human relationships and the boundaries of friendship and love.

“Love is the answer, isn’t it?
But, sex raises a lot of very interesting questions.”

Kinsey (2004)

Kinsey (2004) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨΨ

Examination of the life of Alfred Kinsey, a sex researcher who revolutionized the way Americans viewed sexuality. The film depicts Kinsey’s obsessive-compulsive personality, his inability to con-

nect in deep way, and the failure to set boundaries for his own (and his research team’s) sexual practices.

Kiss of the Spider Woman (1985) Prison ΨΨΨΨ

A homosexual and a political activist share a prison cell and grow to understand and appreciate each other. William Hurt won an Academy Award for his performance.

Kissed (1996) Drama ΨΨΨ

A controversial but sensitive film dealing seriously with necrophilia. Molly Parker is the protagonist, a young woman obsessed from childhood with death. She gets a job in a mortuary and has ritualistic sex (“crossing over”) with the bodies she embalms. Her boyfriend commits suicide in an attempt to compete for her affection and attention.

“I told them my father was a Cultural attaché.

What will they think when they find out he lives with a drag queen?”

Renato’s son in *La Cage aux Folles* (1978)

La Cage aux Folles (1978) Comedy ΨΨΨ

A gay man and his transvestite lover manage a popular St. Tropez nightclub. Much of the humor revolves around sex roles and the folly of trying very hard to be something you’re not.

Last Exit to Brooklyn (1989) Drama ΨΨ

A film based on a controversial book about life in a sordid Brooklyn neighborhood. The film deals with rape, prostitution, homosexuality, and transvestism, but mostly with the sad and bleak reality of the lives of its characters.

Last Tango in Paris (1973) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Marlon Brando stars in a classic Bernardo Bertolucci film about a man who begins a casual sexual liaison on the day his wife commits suicide. The two lovers never exchange names. The film includes themes of depression, sexuality, loneliness, and cynicism.

Lianna (1983) Drama ΨΨΨ

Sensitive film portraying the emotional life of a woman who leaves her husband and two children after she becomes romantically involved with a

lesbian professor teaching a night course in child psychology.

Little Children (2007) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

This film portrays a number of sexually troubled characters, but is especially memorable for the roles of Jackie Earle Haley playing a pedophile and Kate Winslet playing the role of a parent who overcomes her repugnance to befriend him.

Lolita (1962) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

James Mason and Sue Lyons star in a loose adaptation of Vladimir Nabokov's novel about pedophilia and murder. Laurence Olivier turned down the role of Humbert Humbert. Directed by Stanley Kubrick; watch for Peter Sellers as Dr. Zempf, the Beardsley High School psychologist.

"What drives me insane is the twofold nature of this nymphet... this mixture in my Lolita of tender, dreamy childishness and a kind of eerie vulgarity."

Humbert Humbert in *Lolita* (1962)

Luna (1979) Drama ΨΨ

A Bertolucci film that explores mother-son incest and addiction. The film is not Bertolucci's best effort.

Magenta (1996) Drama Ψ

Happily married physician crosses boundaries sexually with his sister-in-law, creating havoc in his family.

Manhattan (1979) Comedy/Romance ΨΨΨΨ

Classic Woody Allen film in which his former wife, played by Meryl Streep, has taken a lover, found happiness, and written a book to tell the world about Allen's kinky habits. Allen's character (in an example of art imitating life) is consumed with guilt over the fact that he is living with a teenage girl.

Marie Antoinette (2006) Drama/Biography Ψ

The Queen finds herself in a loveless and asexual relationship with her husband, Louis XVI.

Mark, The (1961) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A British film about a pedophile who serves his sentence and is released, supposedly cured.

However, a journalist who reveals the man's past hampers his rehabilitation. Interesting film in light of recent court decisions about sex offenders.

Matador (1986) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

Almodovar film about a bullfighter who acts in snuff films.

Menage (1986) Comedy ΨΨ

A French film that examines sex roles, sexual stereotypes, and the need for novelty and excitement in sexual relationships.

Midnight Cowboy (1969) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Jon Voight leaves Texas to make his fortune in New York City working as a stud; instead, he winds up hanging out with Ratso Rizzo, who dies before the two can escape to Florida. This film is a fascinating and complex character study.

"Well, I'll tell you the truth now. I ain't a real cowboy, but I am one helluva stud."

Joe Buck in *Midnight Cowboy* (1969)

Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy, A (1982) ΨΨ

Excellent Woody Allen film about friends and acquaintances who gather at a country house in the woods at the turn of the century. Sexual boundaries blur in this homage to Shakespeare, Renoir, and others.

Mona Lisa (1986) Crime ΨΨΨ

Interesting Neil Jordan film about prostitution, exploitation, drug addiction, and love. Filmed in Soho, the film gives some insight into the two different worlds of prostitution: that of the call girl and that of the streetwalker.

Montenegro (1981) Drama ΨΨ

A Dusan Makavejev film about a bored housewife slowly becoming psychotic. She becomes sexually liberated and then murders her lover. Despite its psychopathological theme, the film is really about politics and social class.

Mrs. Doubtfire (1994) Comedy ΨΨ

Robin Williams cross-dresses as an English nanny to have time with his children.

“Well, I hope you’re up for a little competition. She’s got a power tool in the bedroom, dear. It’s her own personal jackhammer. She could break sidewalks with that thing. She uses it and the lights dim, it’s like a prison movie. Amazed she hasn’t chipped her teeth.”

Daniel Hillard disguised as Mrs. Doubtfire tries to discourage Stu, his ex-wife’s new lover, in *Mrs. Doubtfire* (1994)

Murmur of the Heart (1971) Comedy ΨΨ

A sensitive, intelligent, and funny French film about an incestuous relationship between a young mother and her adolescent son.

My Beautiful Laundrette (1985) Drama ΨΨ

The two lead characters are homosexuals, although this fact is almost incidental to the story about alcoholism, street gangs, race relations, and social class.

My Favorite Season (1993) Drama ΨΨΨ

A French film dealing with adolescent sexuality, family dynamics, and love between a brother and sister.

My Life to Live/Vivre sa Vie (1963) ΨΨΨ

Jean-Luc Godard’s 12-part examination of the life of a prostitute, starring Anna Karina.

My Own Private Idaho (1991) Drama ΨΨ

River Phoenix, who subsequently died of a drug overdose, plays a homosexual prostitute.

Mystery of Alexina, The (1985) Drama ΨΨ

A story about the psychological sequelae of the decision to raise a male child as a female.

Nine and ½ Weeks (1986) Drama/Suspense ΨΨ

Excellent character portrayals by Mickey Rourke and Kim Basinger who meet at a grocery store and later engage in sensual sexual exploration and mild sadomasochism.

Normal (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

A man (Tom Wilkinson) after 25 years of marriage tells his wife (Jessica Lange) he is a woman trapped in a man’s body and he wants gender modification surgery.

Nos Amours, A (1984) Drama ΨΨΨ

A French film exploring the sexuality of a 15-year-old girl and the way it affects her family.

Of Human Bondage (1934) Drama ΨΨ

Bette Davis stars in this film about the sexual obsession of a club-footed physician for a cruel, vulgar, and manipulative waitress. Based on a novel by Somerset Maugham. This film is far superior to the two adaptations that followed it.

“You dirty swine! I never cared for you... It made me sick when you kissed me. I only did it because you drove me crazy. And after you kissed me I always used to wipe my mouth – wipe my mouth!”

Of Human Bondage (1934)

OH in Ohio, The (2006) Comedy ΨΨΨ

A married couple become open to new sexual experiences with different partners after a decade of insipid sex. Sexual desire and sexual disorders are depicted.

Old Boy (2003) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

This is an unforgettable Korean film directed by Chan-Wook Park about a man kidnapped and imprisoned for 15 years who becomes involved in an unwitting incestuous relationship with the daughter he had not seen for 15 years.

On-line (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

A film about internet addiction. Emphasis on the lack of connection and relational intimacy of the addict. Depicts an obsession with fantasy that becomes confused as reality.

Oscar Wilde (1960) Biography Ψ

Robert Morley plays Oscar Wilde, the wit and playwright who was convicted of sodomy.

Peeping Tom (1960) Thriller ΨΨΨ

Controversial film about a sexual psychopath who photographs his victims as they are dying. Look for the full-length version of the film, which was released in 1979.

Personal Best (1982) Sports ΨΨΨ

Fascinating film that explores the sexual relation-

ship that develops between two women competing for a position on an Olympic team.

“It’s being aware of what it means to lose oneself before being completely abandoned.”

The Piano Teacher (2001)

Piano Teacher, The (2001) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

This is a powerful French film about a prominent, masochistic piano teacher who becomes sexually involved with one of her pupils. The film makes sexual obsession understandable and plausible.

Pillow Book (1997) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Complex Peter Greenaway film about a woman who becomes sexually obsessed with calligraphy. This film is a meditation on love, art and imagination, eroticism, order, and decay.

Pretty Baby (1978) Drama ΨΨ

This Louis Malle film about pedophilia introduces Brooke Shields as a 12-year-old New Orleans prostitute.

Pretty When You Cry (2001) Drama/Suspense Ψ

Mostly flashbacks as detectives follow up a murder investigation with a young man who tells the story of his infatuation and love for a beautiful woman who was in an abusive relationship. The masochistic-sadistic relationship is portrayed, as well as physical, verbal and emotional abuse.

Princesa (2001) Drama Ψ

Brazilian transvestite moves to Italy and earns money as a prostitute in order to get money for his sex change operation.

Priest (1994) Drama ΨΨ

A priest struggles to deal with the sanctity of confession after a young girl tells him she is being molested by her father.

Private Lessons (1981) “Drama Ψ

A French maid seduces a 15-year-old boy and betrays his trust.

Private Parts (1997) Comedy Ψ

Inside look at radio personality Howard Stern and his obsession with sex and outlandish comedy.

Psychopathia Sexualis (2006) Drama Ψ

Based directly on the classic Krafft-Ebing text, the film depicts a variety of fetishes and other paraphilias.

“Look, maybe your method of massage differs from mine, but touchin’ his lady’s feet, and stickin’ your tongue in her holiest of holies, ain’t the same ballpark, ain’t the same league, ain’t even the same fuckin’ sport. Foot massages don’t mean shit.”

A discussion of foot massage in
Pulp Fiction (1994)

Pulp Fiction (1994) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Quentin Tarantino film depicts an underworld sadomasochistic den of iniquity run by two sexual sadists in the basement of an Army surplus store. A masochistic slave dressed totally in leather lives in a box in the back of the room.

Quills (2000) Drama ΨΨΨ

Depiction of the last years of the Marquis de Sade (well played by Geoffrey Rush) who was sent to the Charenton Asylum for the Insane as punishment for his erotic writings. Interesting portrayal of various paraphilias.

Reader, The (2008) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Kate Winslet plays Hanna Schmitz, a Nazi concentration camp guard who seduces a young boy who later grows up and becomes a prominent attorney.

Reflections in a Golden Eye (1967) Drama ΨΨ

A John Huston film in which Richard Burton plays the role of a repressed homosexual Army officer serving on a small Georgia military base. Elizabeth Taylor is his sadistic and sexually liberated wife. The film was banned by the Catholic Film Board.

Rita, Sue and Bob Too (1986) Comedy ΨΨΨ

British film about a married man who winds up in a sexual relationship with the two working-class teenage girls who baby sit for his children. Interesting examination of the appropriate age for consent and issues of sexual exploitation.

Rocky Horror Picture Show, The (1975)

Comedy/Horror/Musical/Dance Ψ

A fun film about a Transylvanian transsexual. From a psychological perspective, the film is not nearly as interesting as those fans who have turned it into a cult classic.

Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea, The (1976) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Interesting story of adult romance and child psychopathology; based on a Mishima novel.

Salo or The 120 Days of Sodom (1975) Horror Ψ
Pasolini's adaptation of de Sade's famous novel. Set in the fascist Italy of World War II, this violent film is an interesting introduction to the practice of sadism.

Secretary (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

A self-injurious, depressed woman is hired as a secretary after leaving a mental hospital; she takes a new job and begins to enjoy the criticism and punishment of her boss. They develop a sadomasochistic relationship in the work setting and eventually fall in love and marry.

"In one way or another I've always suffered. I didn't know why exactly. But I do know that I'm not so scared of suffering now. I feel more than I've ever felt and I've found someone to feel with. To play with. To love in a way that feels right for me."

Reflections on masochism in *Secretary* (2002)

Sergeant, The (1968) Drama ΨΨ

Rod Steiger plays an Army sergeant sexually obsessed with a young private in his outfit. Filmed in France.

Sex and Zen (1993) Comedy Ψ

Second rate film about a Buddhist who leaves his master and new wife to seek out a life of debauchery and erotic pleasures.

Sex is Zero (2002) Comedy Ψ

A Korean *Animal House*, but not as clever. The film involves lots of teens sexually acting out in lots of different ways.

sex, lies, and videotape (1989) Drama ΨΨΨ

The film revolves around an impotent young man who can achieve orgasm only when masturbating while watching videotapes of women whom he has persuaded to share the most intimate details of their sexual lives. This film won the top award at the Cannes Film Festival.

Short Cuts (1993) Drama ΨΨ

Most memorable for a scene in which a bored woman talks dirty on the phone to earn a few dollars while she changes her baby's diapers. Her husband wonders why she never talks to *him* like that.

Short Eyes (1977) Prison ΨΨΨΨ

A powerful film about life in "The Tombs," New York City's Men's House of Detention. Short Eyes is prison slang for a child molester.

Short Film About Love, A (1988) Drama ΨΨΨ

This Krzysztof Kieslowski film deals with themes of voyeurism, exhibitionism, humiliation and suicide.

Sliver (1993) Drama Ψ

William Baldwin plays a voyeur who is the landlord of an apartment complex with high tech cameras set up in the tenants' rooms.

"The imagination is the most powerful force known to mankind. And it is my imagined self, the one who is beautiful and loving and worthy of being loved, that has been my guiding force. My inspiration. I can only hope to become the person Barry imagined me to be. I pray for the courage it will take to become a real, live soldier's girl."

Soldier's Girl (2003)

Soldier's Girl (2003) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨ

Based on the true story of Barry Winchell who entered the military and fell in love with a transsexual dancer at a club. Military peers find out about the secret relationship and the situation ends tragically.

Something About Amelia (1984) Drama ΨΨ

Popular made-for-TV movie about father-daughter incest.

Southern Comfort (2001) Documentary ΨΨ
Female to male transgender faces hate and prejudice in this award-winning film.

Strange One, The (1957) Drama ΨΨ
Ben Gazzara stars in this film about homosexuality and sadism in a Southern military academy.

Swept Away (1975) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ
Lina Wertmuller's examination of sex roles. A rich woman and a poor deckhand are marooned on an island and find sexual excitement and satisfaction in the new roles each assumes.

That Obscure Object of Desire (1977) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ
Surrealistic film by Luis Buñuel about violence, love, and sexual obsession in a middle-aged man. The film is complex, intriguing, and full of symbolism.

This Girl's Life (2003) Drama Ψ
A female porn star starts a business by getting women concerned about their husbands' fidelity to pay her to attempt to seduce them.

This World, Then the Fireworks (1997) Drama ΨΨ
This film traces the development of incestuous twins who eventually become con artists.

Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down! (1990) Comedy/Romance ΨΨΨ
A Pedro Almodovar film about a former mental patient, kidnapping, masochism, and sex roles. Some critics have maintained that the film trivializes the problem of sexual violence and denigrates women.

Director: "I'd like to make her look a little more attractive, How far can you pull back?"
Cameraman: "How do you feel about Cleveland?"

Tootsie (1982)

Tootsie (1982) Comedy/Romance ΨΨΨΨ
Funny Dustin Hoffman film in which an unsuccessful actor finds success when he impersonates a woman. He learns from the process, and the audi-

ence learns some important lessons about gender, sex roles, and human relationships.

Torch Song Trilogy (1988) Drama ΨΨΨ
Anne Bancroft and Matthew Broderick in a film adaptation of Harvey Fierstein's play about a homosexual drag queen and his lovers, enemies, and mother.

Towelhead (2007) Drama ΨΨΨ
A naïve, 13-year-old, Arab-American girl moves from Syracuse to Houston and encounters a number of challenges associated with her emerging sexuality, including being the victim of ephebophilia.

Transamerica (2005) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ
A presurgical male to female transsexual takes a cross country journey with the son she just met for the first time.

Two Women (1961) Drama/War ΨΨΨ
Classic Vittorio De Sica film starring Sophia Loren. The film is about love, war, rape, and a mother's love for her teenage daughter.

Unbearable Lightness of Being (1988) Romance ΨΨΨ
A highly sensual film about a Prague neurosurgeon and his inability to separate sex and love. The film is based on the novel of the same name by Milan Kundera.

Unfaithful (2002) Drama/Suspense ΨΨ
Richard Gere finds his wife (Diane Lane) is cheating on him and plots revenge.

Venus (2006) Drama ΨΨΨ
Peter O'Toole plays an aging actor with prostate cancer who falls in love with a teenage girl.

Victor/Victoria (1982) Musical/Comedy ΨΨ
Blake Edwards film with Julie Andrews as a down-on-her-luck singer who becomes a sensation when she pretends to be a male-female impersonator.

Viridiana (1961) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
This complex Luis Buñuel film tells the story of a young woman who returns home to visit her uncle just before taking vows as a nun. She resembles her dead aunt, and her uncle drugs her while she is wearing her aunt's wedding dress. He plans to rape her but is unable to commit the act. He commits suicide; she inherits his estate and devotes her life to serving the poor.

Visiting Desire (1996) Documentary ΨΨ

Twelve strangers are brought together to act out their sexual fantasies.

“Stealing images from life is my life.”

A voyeur describes himself in
Voyeur Confessions (2001)

Voyeur Confessions (2001) Drama ΨΨ

This film captures the pain associated with the life of the voyeur. The movie touches on the etiology of voyeurism, and helps serious students better understand the paraphilias.

Warm Water Under a Red Bridge (2001, Japan) Drama ΨΨΨ

Shohei Imamura film about a businessman who encounters a woman with a peculiar problem – fluids build up in her and she can only release them by stealing or having an orgasm.

We Don't Live Here Anymore (2004) Drama ΨΨΨ

Two couples (played by Peter Krause, Naomi Watts, Mark Ruffalo, and Laura Dern) find both their marriages failing, in part due to adultery. The movie includes themes of deceit, manipulation, lack of integrity, and the excitement of secrecy. Each couple battles against boredom and idleness, using sex to escape the emptiness of their lives.

Wild Orchid 2: Two Shades of Blue (1991) Drama Ψ

Disappointing film about the daughter of a heroin addict who becomes a prostitute to support her father's habit while maintaining a double identity.

Woodsman, The (2004) Drama ΨΨΨ

Kevin Bacon plays a pedophile recently released from prison struggling to establish a satisfying sexual relationship with a mature coworker.

World According to Garp, The (1982) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

John Lithgow plays transsexual Roberta Muldoon in a film in which troubled sexuality is commonplace.

Yentl (1983) Musical ΨΨ

Barbra Streisand directed and produced this film,

and she has the lead role as a young woman in Eastern Europe who has to pass herself off as a man in order to get an education. Interesting examination of sex roles; terrific performance by Streisand.

Young Adam (2003) Drama ΨΨ

Ewan Macgregor as a sexual addict who acts out sexually with his boss' wife, her sister, and a woman he meets at a ship's port.

Zerophilia (2005) Comedy/Romance Ψ

A young man discovers that he has “zerophilia,” which means he can switch sexual identities and experience pleasure as either a man or a woman. The film is a less than satisfying exploration of sex roles.

Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders

11'09"01 – September 11 (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

Eleven renowned directors from around the world look to their own cultures to create a short film in tribute to the tragedy of September 11, 2001. This fascinating collection of films includes an allegory from Japan's Shohei Imamura about a man who returns from war believing he is now a snake.

13 Moons (2002) Drama ΨΨ

Three priests, a bail bondsman, a musician, and two clowns cross paths on night-time city streets. One character, a drug addict needed for an organ transplant, is blatantly psychotic throughout the film.

Aguirre, the Wrath of God (1972, West Germany/Peru/Mexico) Adventure ΨΨΨΨ

Werner Herzog film about Spanish conquistadors searching for the mythic treasure of El Dorado deep into the Amazon of Peru. The narcissistic leader deteriorates into psychosis.

Alone in the Dark (1982) Suspense Ψ

A psychiatrist's family is besieged by a psychotic patient during a citywide blackout.

Amadeus (1984) Biography/Musical ΨΨΨ

The film opens with the court composer Salieri, now old, mad, and suicidal, wondering if he murdered Mozart. Salieri is obsessed with the genius of Mozart and can never forgive his rival for his talent or himself for his mediocrity.

Angel at My Table, An (1990) Biography/Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Jean Campion's biography of New Zealand novelist Janet Frame, who was misdiagnosed with schizophrenia and mistreated with electroconvulsive therapy.

Angel Baby, An (1995) Drama ΨΨΨ

Australian film about two mentally ill people who meet in an outpatient clinic, fall in love, and try to face life together. Unfortunately, their lives fall apart as a consequence of an ill-fated decision to mutually discontinue their medication.

Angel in Red (1991) Suspense Ψ

A psychotic pimp goes gunning for his former employee after she turns to a rival pimp for protection.

Assassination of Richard Nixon, The (2004) Biography/Drama ΨΨΨ

Sean Penn portrays Sam Bicke, an aloof, taciturn, delusional furniture salesman who attempted to kill President Nixon. The film promotes the misconception that people with mental illness are violent.

Asylum (2005) Thriller/Drama ΨΨ

A husband takes a job at a psychiatric institution and his wife begins to have an affair with a dangerous patient. The film perpetrates the misconception that people with mental illness are violent and dangerous.

Bee Season (2005) Drama Ψ

A father (Richard Gere) becomes over involved in his daughter's spelling bee competitions and looks to Jewish mysticism for support.

Benny & Joon (1993) Comedy ΨΨΨ

A generally sympathetic portrayal of schizophrenia, with a vivid example of decompensation on a city bus; the film trivializes the problem of schizophrenia by suggesting love alone is enough to conquer the problem.

Berlin Alexanderplatz (1980) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

This film, a 15-hour Fassbinder masterpiece, traces the gradual moral and mental disintegration of a man who leaves prison resolved to live a good life. The film explores exploitation of women, violence, homosexuality, and mental illness.

Betrayed (1988) Political/Thriller Ψ

Debra Winger plays an undercover agent who falls

in love with a seemingly simple farmer, actually a right-wing, paranoid fanatic.

Betty Blue (1986) Drama ΨΨΨ

Artistic, erotic French film about two young lovers and their passions that lead from poverty to violence and destruction. One particularly shocking scene depicts self-mutilation resulting from psychosis.

Bill of Divorcement, A (1932) Comedy ΨΨ

A mentally ill man is discharged from a psychiatric hospital and returns home to his wife and daughter. Katharine Hepburn's debut as a film actress.

Birdy (1984) Drama/War ΨΨΨΨ

Nicolas Cage tries to help his friend, Matthew Modine, who is a catatonic inpatient in a military hospital. Both men are Vietnam veterans, but Modine's problems seem to predate the war.

Birth (2004) Drama/Mystery ΨΨΨ

A rare depiction of shared psychotic disorder (*folie a deux*) featuring Nicole Kidman.

Boxing Helena (1994) Drama ΨΨ

Eminent surgeon is rebuffed by a beautiful woman. His obsessions of her turn delusional as he captures her and eventually amputates her arms and legs while paradoxically fawning over her. Interesting dynamic of his forcing the woman to be physically dependent upon him emerging from his psychological dependence on her. Directorial debut of Jennifer Chambers Lynch, daughter of distinguished filmmaker, David Lynch.

"I am still haunted by my love for her... those dreams."

A character in *Boxing Helena* (1994) leaves the viewer to ponder how much of the film is delusion, reality, or a dream

Bubba Ho-tep (2002) Comedy/Thriller Ψ

Two rest home residents who believe they are Elvis Presley and John F. Kennedy team up to fight evil.

Camille Claudel (1988) Biography ΨΨΨ

Biographical film of the mistress of Rodin, who spent the last 30 years of her life in an asylum.

Canvas (2006) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

A remarkable portrayal of schizophrenia and its impact on the family, starring Marcia Gay Harden. Winner of a Voice Award for its outstanding depiction of mental illness.

Caveman's Valentine, The (2001) Crime/Drama ΨΨ

Depicts a homeless composer with schizophrenia living in a cave in New York City.

Crimson Gold (2003, Iran) Crime/Drama ΨΨ

A taciturn pizza delivery man becomes explosive after being mistreated.

Dead Man on Campus (1998) Comedy Ψ

Two roommates try to find a roommate who is likely to commit suicide so that they can have their flailing grades excused. The film perpetrates misconceptions that people with mental illness are violent, that people with mental illness are always psychotic, and that those who are paranoid are the most likely to commit suicide.

Dead of Night (1945) Horror ΨΨΨΨ

Five short episodes loosely linked together. The last of these, "The Ventriloquist's Dummy," stars Michael Redgrave, who has to be hospitalized after he becomes convinced that he and his dummy are exchanging personalities (and, in fact, they are).

Delusions of Grandeur (1973) Comedy Ψ

In seventeenth-century Spain, a wily servant saves his king from the intrigues of a tax collector.

Derailroded (2005) Documentary/Biography ΨΨΨ

Portrays the music and life of cult-rock icon "Wild Man Fischer," a man with schizophrenia; the film is both funny and informative, and it is not exploitative.

Don Juan DeMarco (1995) Drama ΨΨΨ

Marlon Brando plays a compassionate psychiatrist to Johnny Depp who plays a delusional man who thinks he is the legendary Don Juan.

"I am the world's greatest lover!"

Don Juan DeMarco (1995)

Donnie Darko (2001) Drama ΨΨΨ

Although this film is about a delusional college student who frequently hallucinates a "demon bunny" instructing him that the end of the world is near, the film is fairly complex with important comments on fear, the pain of mental illness, and the nature of reality.

Don't Say A Word (2001) Suspense/Mystery ΨΨ

Michael Douglas plays a psychiatrist whose daughter is kidnapped for the ransom of a 6-digit code locked in the brain of a very disturbed psychiatric patient (Brittany Murphy).

Dressed to Kill (1980) Thriller Ψ

Popular film in which Michael Caine plays Angie Dickinson's psychiatrist. The film confuses transsexuality and schizophrenia, but it is exciting, if not always accurate.

Edmond (2005) Thriller ΨΨ

Interesting and memorable story about a man (William H. Macy) who slowly loses touch with reality and never fully returns.

Entertainer, The (1960) Drama Ψ

This film, starring Laurence Olivier and Albert Finney, portrays Olivier as a third-rate vaudevillian whose delusions of grandeur alienate people around him.

Fan, The (1982) Horror Ψ

A Broadway star played by Lauren Bacall is terrorized by an embittered fan.

Fan, The (1996) Drama Ψ

Robert De Niro and Wesley Snipes are wasted in this tired film about a baseball fan who is obsessed with a Giants center fielder.

Final (2001) Drama ΨΨΨ

Well-acted performance by Denis Leary who plays "Bill" in this Campbell Scott film. Bill awakens from a coma in an isolated, bright room of a psychiatric hospital. He has frequent paranoid delusions, anger outbursts, and hallucinations as his therapist helps him remember flashbacks of his car accident and his father's death. Interesting portrayal of the "doctor-patient" relationship, presenting many questions about boundaries, ethics, and relational dynamics.

Fisher King, The (1991) Drama/Fantasy/Comedy ΨΨΨ

Terry Gilliam film in which Robin Williams plays

a homeless, mentally ill man who is befriended by a disillusioned former disc jockey. The movie is funny but confusing, and it misleads the public with its suggestion of a traumatic etiology for schizophrenia.

Flightplan (2005) Suspense/Drama ΨΨ

While on a long flight, a woman (Jodie Foster) frantically claims she has lost her child, however, other passengers do not remember a child traveling with her. For much of the film, the viewer is left questioning whether Jodie Foster has a psychotic disorder. The film suggests that individuals referred to as delusional or psychotic are actually telling the truth and their delusions may well be reality-based.

Frailty (2001) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ

Bill Paxton plays a serial killing, religious zealot with a delusional disorder who believes he's on a mission from God to fight off demons (his human victims).

"Now you stay down here until you see the truth. Pray to god, Fenton. Pray for a vision. Only he can help you now!"

Frailty (2001)

Gothika (2004) Suspense ΨΨ

Halle Berry plays Dr. Miranda Grey who works to unravel the mystery of her patient's (Penelope Cruz) psychopathology and is confronted by disturbing secrets and the supernatural.

Goya in Bordeaux (1999) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨ

Spanish film, depicting the famous painter, Francisco de Goya on his deathbed, who recalls major events of his life, hallucinates, and experiences severe migraines. Addresses themes of psychosis and creativity, integrity vs. despair, and the interrelationship of life and death.

Grizzly Man (2005) Documentary ΨΨΨ

Werner Herzog film about Timothy Treadwell, a well-known naturalist who lived with grizzly bears for 13 summers. The viewer wonders if Treadwell had a psychotic or bipolar disorder as he became increasingly wild, and his behavior increasingly bizarre.

Happy Accidents (2001) Romance/Sci-Fi Ψ

A man states he is from the future of 2470.

He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not (2002) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A must-see film for depiction of delusional disorders that is so unique that it could only be done cinematically. First, the viewer sees reality from the young woman's perception and flashes back to the beginning giving the viewer the vantage point of the man she loves. This French film stars *Amelie's* Audrey Tautou.

House of Fools (2002) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Based on a true story: the staff in a mental institution flee due to conflicts in Chechnya, leaving the patients to fend for themselves. Soon soldiers occupy the hospital and the viewer is left with various questions of war, politics, mental health treatment and which is most "crazy." Loaded with psychopathology examples, including a fire-starter, all the schizophrenia subtypes, and a woman who believes she is the fiancé of singer, Bryan Adams (who appears in the film).

Housekeeping (1987) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

An eccentric aunt comes to care for two sisters in the Pacific Northwest after the suicide of their mother. The girls can't decide if their aunt is simply odd or seriously mentally ill. The viewer confronts a similar dilemma.

I'm a Cyborg, But That's OK (2006, South Korea) Drama/Romance ΨΨΨ

Despite the odd title, this is a fascinating film about a psychotic woman who believes she is a cyborg and is admitted to psychiatric institution.

I Never Promised You a Rose Garden (1977) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Accurate rendition of the popular book by the same name. The patient has command hallucinations that tell her to kill herself. There is a sympathetic portrayal of psychiatry and treatment; a breakthrough occurs when the protagonist first realizes she is able to feel pain.

Images (1972) Drama ΨΨΨ

Robert Altman's examination of the confused life of a woman with schizophrenia. A difficult film, but interesting, with a heuristic presentation of hallucinations.

Julien Donkey-Boy (1999) Drama ΨΨ

Director Harmony Korine breaks the narrative

flow in this film about the horrors of schizophrenia, based on and dedicated to his uncle whom he wanted to take out of a psychiatric institution to be in the film. The film is sometimes shocking and insightful and at other times comedic.

Keane (2004) Mystery/Thriller ΨΨΨ

An engaging depiction of a man who begins to mentally deteriorate because he believes his daughter is missing. The film leaves the viewer wondering what is real and what is psychosis. Unfortunately, a powerful scene in which the protagonist randomly chases and attacks another man will stick out in the viewer's mind as a terrifying link between violence and mental illness.

Killing of John Lennon, The (2006, UK) Biography/Drama ΨΨΨ

Inside-look within the delusional Mark Chapman leading up to the day he murdered John Lennon. Chapman was obsessed with Holden Caulfield from *The Catcher in the Rye* and believed he was the protagonist; he read from the book at the murder scene and trial. Promotes the misconception that people with mental illness are violent and that Salinger's classic work somehow had something to do with Lennon's murder.

K-Pax (2001) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Multi-layered film in which Kevin Spacey plays Prot, a man claiming he's from a far away planet who is able to give convincing evidence for his case to astrophysicists. The viewer is left to hypothesize whether the character has schizophrenia, dissociative fugue, or is an enlightened spiritual being; whichever the case, the portrayal and diagnostic criteria are convincing for each.

La Dolce Vita (1960) Drama ΨΨΨ

Vintage Fellini film with an interesting vignette in which hundreds of Roman citizens develop a mass delusion following reports of a sighting of the Virgin Mary.

Lars and the Real Girl (2007) Drama/Romance/Comedy ΨΨΨΨΨ

A man's (Ryan Gosling) delusional disorder becomes apparent when he purchases an internet-doll that he believes to be his girlfriend. Sensitive, meaningful film with a quality portrayal of a physician acting as a psychotherapist implementing exposure therapy.

Love Object (2004) Thriller Ψ

A young man dealing with work stress copes by

purchasing a \$10,600 lifelike, silicone doll that he begins to believe is subtly torturing him as he deteriorates into psychosis.

Lunatics: A Love Story (1992) Comedy ΨΨΨ

A former mental patient spends six months hidden away in his apartment. The lead character has been described in reviews as agoraphobic, but a more serious diagnosis seems appropriate, especially in light of the patient's delusions and hallucinations.

Lust for Life (1956) Biography ΨΨΨΨ

Kirk Douglas as Vincent van Gogh and Anthony Quinn as Paul Gauguin. The film portrays the stormy relationship of the two men and van Gogh's hospitalization and eventual suicide. Contrast with *Vincent* (1987) and Robert Altman's *Vincent and Theo* (1990).

Madness of King George, The (1994)

Historical Biography ΨΨΨ

Nigel Hawthorne as King George III in an adaptation of a stage play examining the reactions of the court and family as the king becomes increasingly demented (due to porphyria, a genetic metabolic disorder).

"One may produce a copious, regular evacuation every day of the week and still be a stranger to reason."

An observation by a court doctor
in *The Madness of King George* (1994)

Magic (1978) Thriller ΨΨ

Anthony Hopkins' talents are largely wasted in this Richard Attenborough film about a ventriloquist obsessed with his dummy. Not nearly as good a film as the 1945 movie *Dead of Night*.

Man From Earth, The (2007) Drama/Sci-Fi Ψ

A mysterious, successful professor attempts to convince his friends he can live forever and that he has met a variety of history figures (e.g., Buddha).

May (2002) Thriller Ψ

Macabre psychological study of an isolated, socially awkward girl who sinks into psychosis as she tries to make a "best friend" by assembling the

best parts of other people's bodies. Promotes the misconception that people with mental illness are violent.

Misery (1990) Horror ΨΨ

Kathy Bates plays an apparently delusional woman who becomes convinced she is justified in capturing a novelist and forcing him to rewrite his latest novel to meet her tastes. The movie, like Wagner's music, is better than it sounds.

Out of the Shadow (2004) Documentary ΨΨΨΨ

Realistic and moving depiction of schizophrenia and its impact on the family.

Outrageous! (1977) Comedy ΨΨ

Canadian film about a gay hairdresser and a woman with schizophrenia who is pregnant.

People Say I'm Crazy (2003) Documentary ΨΨΨ

Cinema verite styled documentary of the daily life of a man with paranoid schizophrenia. Interesting for discussions on differentiation of schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, and mood disorders. Deeply honest, enlightening, and inspiring.

"I cannot trust my own perceptions."

John Cadigan, who directs and plays himself in *People Say I'm Crazy* (2003)

Perfect Strangers (2003) Drama/Suspense ΨΨ

A mysterious man (Sam Neill) invites a woman he has just met to his private island home and then kidnaps her. The two become romantically involved, and she nurses him back to health after he is injured. His obsessions transfer to the woman who frequently hallucinates after her lover dies.

Possessed (1947) Drama ΨΨΨ

Joan Crawford stars in a suspenseful film depicting catatonic schizophrenia with examples of waxy flexibility and numerous other symptoms of severe mental illness.

Promise (1986) Drama ΨΨ

A made-for-TV movie, starring James Garner, about a man who honors a commitment made to his mother to care for his brother with schizophrenia. Excellent illustrations of the symptoms of schizophrenia.

Proof (2005) Drama ΨΨΨ

Gwyneth Paltrow portrays the daughter of a famous mathematician (Anthony Hopkins). She begins to develop similar symptoms of schizophrenia similar to those shown by her father as she attempts to solve a rare proof that has baffled other mathematicians.

Rampo Noir (2005, Japan) Horror Ψ

Four short, surreal horror films that are adaptations and tributes to the Japanese poet, Rampo. Portrayals of hell, mental illness, and psychosis.

Red Dragon (2002) Thriller/Drama Ψ

Ralph Fiennes, as the serial killer in this prequel to *Silence of the Lambs*, deepens in his delusional framework as he becomes convinced he is a dragon. In one scene, he eats a painting of a dragon in order to internalize it.

Repulsion (1965) Horror ΨΨΨΨΨ

Powerful, unforgettable film about sexual repression and psychotic decompensation. Memorable examples of hallucinations (e.g., arms reaching out from walls); the film culminates in an unforgettable murder scene. This was Roman Polanski's first English language film.

Ruling Class, The (1972) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

Brilliant British black comedy in which a member of the House of Lords inadvertently commits suicide and leaves his fortune and title to his son who is delusional and has schizophrenia (Peter O'Toole), who believes he is Jesus (at first) and later Jack the Ripper.

Saint of Fort Washington, The (1993) Drama ΨΨΨ

A man with schizophrenia is evicted from his home winds up in a shelter, where he is befriended by a street-wise Vietnam veteran. Good portrayal of the life of people who are both mentally ill and homeless.

Santa Sangre (1989) Horror/Thriller ΨΨΨΨ

A disturbing film about a young man forced to witness the mutilation of his mother and the suicide of his father. We never know if these events are real or simply delusions of a patient. The film is complex and visually stunning.

Save the Green Planet (2003, Korea) Drama/Thriller ΨΨ

A young man pursues individuals he perceives are aliens from Andromeda to keep them from destroying the planet.

Scissors (1991) Suspense Ψ

The paranoid delusions of a traumatized young woman take on a frightening reality when she finds her assailant dead.

Scotland, PA (2001) Comedy ΨΨ

Dark comedy that's a subtle parody of Macbeth, about greed, power, love, and "going crazy." A young couple who take over the work at a restaurant after killing the owner, begin to deteriorate with rumination, guilt, and poor coping as police detective (Christopher Walken) investigates the murder case.

"David, if you go you will never come back to this house again. You will never be anybody's son. The girls will lose their brother. Is that what you want?... You want to destroy the family... if you love me you will stop this nonsense."

David Helfgott's father admonishes him about leaving home in *Shine* (1996)

Shine (1996) Biography/Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

True story of David Helfgott, an Australian prodigy whose brilliant career is interrupted by the development of an unspecified mental illness that is probably schizophrenia. The film not so subtly suggests that David's domineering father was directly responsible for his mental illness and conveys the misleading but endearing message that love and hope can conquer mental illness.

Shock Corridor (1963) Drama ΨΨ

Journalist feigns insanity in order to get a story from a man admitted to a psychiatric hospital; later the journalist begins to lose touch with reality.

Snake Pit, The (1948) Drama ΨΨΨ

One of the first films to document the treatment of patients in a mental hospital.

Soloist, The (2009) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨΨΨ

Outstanding portrayal of schizophrenia in which Jamie Foxx portrays a brilliant, isolated musician, Nathaniel Ayers and the development of his friendship with an L.A. Times reporter (Robert Downey, Jr.).

Something Like Happiness (2005, Czech Republic) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

Three adult friends from childhood support one another as they try to find happiness along different paths; one is admitted to a psychiatric hospital.

Sophie's Choice (1982) Drama ΨΨΨ

Meryl Streep won an Academy Award for her portrayal of a concentration camp survivor infatuated with Nathan, who is described as having paranoid schizophrenia but who may suffer from a bipolar disorder. Based on William Styron's novel.

Special (2006) Drama/Mystery ΨΨΨ

A man obsessed with comic books decides to take an experimental drug. The medication suppresses self-doubt and the man quickly believes he has superpowers – including telepathy, the ability to go through walls, and superhuman crime fighting.

Spider (2002) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Ralph Fiennes, a patient with schizophrenia, disorganized type, is released from the hospital to a group home. It's a dark, bleak, psychologically complex film and a brilliant portrayal of the isolation and inner world of schizophrenia. Directed by David Cronenberg. The DVD cover reads: "The only thing worse than losing your mind, is finding it again."

Spiderman (2002) Fantasy/Drama ΨΨ

Sam Raimi classic based on the Marvel comic book series. The Green Goblin (Willem Dafoe) hears voices and seems to be mentally ill. The film perpetuates the myth that people who are mentally ill are also violent.

Stateside (2004) Drama ΨΨ

A young, spoiled, rich man turns his life around after he joins the Marines and falls in love with a woman with schizophrenia. Winner of a Voice Award.

Stay (2005) Mystery/Suspense Ψ

Ewan McGregor portrays a psychiatrist who tries to prevent one of his patients (Ryan Gosling) from committing suicide.

Story of Adèle H., The (1975) Biography ΨΨ

François Truffaut story about the sexual obsession of the daughter of Victor Hugo for a young soldier she can never marry.

Stroszek (1977) Comedy ΨΨ

Offbeat Werner Herzog comedy about three Germans who come to America in search of the

American dream. They fail to find it in Railroad Flats, Wisconsin. One of the three has schizophrenia.

Summer of Sam (1999) Drama/Documentary ΨΨΨ

This Spike Lee film succeeds artistically and presents interesting insights into ethnic dynamics and the process of scapegoating; however, it provides little insight into the motives or the mental illness that drove serial killer David Berkowitz, the highly publicized “Son of Sam,” to commit multiple murders. The emphasis is on the fear and psychological trauma of people living in New York City who know a serial killer is still loose.

Sweetie (1989) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

Director Jane Campion paints a memorable and realistic picture of a woman with schizophrenia and the difficulties her illness presents for her and her family.

Sylvia and the Phantom (1945) Drama ΨΨΨ

French film about a young woman who must distinguish between reality and fantasy, hallucination and phantom, love and illusion. Her many seducers include a narcissist, a lover, a criminal, and a phantom.

Synecdoche, New York (2008) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Interesting mix of delusion, physical illness, and existential angst in Charlie Kaufman’s surrealistic film starring Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Tarnation (2003) Documentary ΨΨΨΨ

Poignant, disturbing, dramatic, and realistic film chronicles the life of a family plagued by mental illness. *Tarnation* illustrates schizophrenia and depersonalization disorder as well as the effects of brain damage and traumatic abuse. The film integrates home movies, photographs, short videos, diaries, and pop culture artifacts into a striking visceral experience. If you can find this independent film, you should watch it.

Taxi Driver (1976) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Robert De Niro becomes obsessed with Jodi Foster and determines to rescue her from prostitution.

Tenant, The (1976) Horror ΨΨΨ

Roman Polanski film about an ordinary clerk who moves into an apartment in which the previous owner committed suicide. The new owner assumes the personality of the old owner, becomes para-

noid, and commits suicide in the same way as the previous owner.

“Someday a real rain will come and wash all the scum off the streets.”

Taxi Driver (1976)

Through a Glass Darkly (1962) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Powerful and memorable Bergman film about a recently released mental patient who spends the summer on an island with her husband, father, and younger brother.

Truman Show, The (1998) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

This Peter Weir film stars Jim Carrey as Truman Burbank, who unbeknownst to him, has had his entire life broadcasted on a popular television show where all the people in his life are actors and his home and town are part of an elaborate production studio. This film provides a fascinating setup for a discussion of delusional disorders.

Virgin (2003) Drama Ψ

A 17-year-old is raped by a man she is infatuated with and subsequently is ostracized, engages in kleptomania, and experiences delusions.

Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (1966) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A Mike Nichols film, with Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, who appear to have a shared psychotic disorder involving a son who never really existed; the film also portrays alcoholism and interpersonal cruelty. Elizabeth Taylor and Sandy Dennis both won Academy Awards for their performances in this film.

World Traveler (2001) Drama ΨΨ

Julianne Moore has a supporting role as an alcoholic with a delusional disorder.

“Now that we’re through with Humiliate the Host... and we don’t want to play Hump the Hostess yet... how about a little round of Get the Guests?”

Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf? (1966)

Zebraman (2004, Japan) Drama/Crime ΨΨ

A passive teaching supervisor becomes the superhero, Zebraman, to escape his miserable, mundane life. The more he accepts his character, the stronger his powers become.

Neuropsychological Disorders

50 First Dates (2004) Comedy Ψ

Adam Sandler plays a veterinarian and womanizer who falls in love with a woman (Drew Barrymore) with a fictional cognitive disorder in that she has no long-term memory as she awakens each morning forgetting everything from the day before (so she repeats the same activities each day, enabled by her family). A flawed *Memento*.

Accidental Hero, The (2002, France) Drama ΨΨ

A boy comes to more fully appreciate his mother after she is involved in a serious car accident and experiences a profound retrograde amnesia.

Alzheimer's Project, The (The Memory Loss Tapes) (2009) Documentary ΨΨΨΨ

Poignant and important HBO series integrated into a deeply meaningful film revealing seven vignettes of individuals at various stages of Alzheimer's Disease and their families. The film addresses both the suffering caused by the disease and the challenges of the caregiver, such as themes of the adult-child role reversal, wandering, loss of independence, and the emotional grieving process. To watch the film online, see <http://www.hbo.com/alzheimers/memory-loss-tapes.html>

Assisted Living (2003) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

Watching this film will give you some sense for what life is like on a day to day basis in a nursing home.

Awakenings (1990) Drama ΨΨΨ

Robin Williams as neurologist Oliver Sacks treats patient Robert De Niro in a Bronx hospital. The film documents the use of L-Dopa in the treatment of patients with advanced Parkinson's disease. Good portrayal of the daily life of a mental hospital.

Away from Her (2006, Canada) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Sarah Polley's directorial debut about a woman (Julie Christie) who realizes she has Alzheimer's disease and convinces her husband (Gordon Pinsent) to take her to a care facility. He visits her

regularly despite discovering that she has fallen in love with another man.

Ballad of Narayama, The (1983) Drama ΨΨΨ

This Japanese film tells the story of a small village where by tradition all old people are taken up to the top of a mountain and left to die.

City of No Limits, The (2002) Drama ΨΨ

A family patriarch becomes paranoid and delusional because of a brain tumor; as a result, he shares long hidden family secrets.

"This is not a hospital. They are not doctors or nurses. Didn't they tell you? They all believe that the city has got no limits."

A dying character's confusion and paranoia in *The City of No Limits* (2002)

Dark Victory (1939) Drama ΨΨΨ

Bette Davis, George Brent, and Humphrey Bogart star, but watch for Ronald Reagan. Davis has a fatal brain tumor. She spends what little time she has left with her brain surgeon husband. The "dark victory" refers to living life well, even when facing death. Remade (not very effectively) with Susan Hayward in *Stolen Hours* (1963).

Death Be Not Proud (1975) Biography ΨΨ

A made-for-TV film based on John Gunther's moving account of his son's struggle with a brain tumor, which killed the boy at the age of 17. The book provides considerable insight into the neurology of brain lesions.

Do You Remember Love? (1985) Drama ΨΨ

Joanne Woodward won an Emmy for her portrayal of a middle-aged college professor who develops Alzheimer's Disease.

Harder They Fall, The (1956) Sports ΨΨΨΨ

Humphrey Bogart in his last film, made the year before his death. The movie is very critical of the sport of boxing and the exploitation of fighters by promoters. A slow-witted boxer has a brain clot and is almost killed in his last fight.

Iris (2001) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨΨ

Based on the life of the famous British novelist

and philosophical writer, Iris Murdoch (played by Judi Dench), who deteriorates because of her Alzheimer's Disease. Oscar-winner, Jim Broadbent plays John Bayley, Iris' extraordinarily loving husband. A powerfully realistic and emotional film.

Jacket, The (2005) Drama/Thriller ΨΨ

Adrien Brody portrays a man with retrograde amnesia who is mistreated in a psychiatric hospital in this avant-garde film.

Lookout, The (2007) Drama ΨΨΨ

A high school student suffers a brain injury, and his life is changed forever. The film is a good introduction to many of the symptoms experienced by someone with a traumatic brain injury.

Lorenzo's Oil (1992) Drama ΨΨΨ

True story of the Odone family and their desperate struggle to save their son's life. The boy has a rare neurological disease that they are told is ultimately fatal. Good illustration of the effects of chronic illness on family functioning.

Majestic, The (2001) Drama ΨΨ

Jim Carrey plays a disenfranchised screenwriter who develops amnesia after his car topples over a bridge. He washes on the shore of a small town whose citizens take him in as a lost war hero.

Man Without a Past, The (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

A man is severely beaten while sleeping outside and is proclaimed dead. He awakens with amnesia and begins to create a new life for himself before eventually discovering parts of his old life.

Memento (2001) Suspense/Mystery ΨΨΨΨΨ

Christopher Nolan directs this one-of-a-kind, exquisitely crafted masterpiece about a man suffering from anterograde amnesia. The film demands the viewer have very good short-term memory as the major plot progresses backwards scene by scene while juxtaposing past events (going forward) in black-and-white. This is a film not to be missed.

"How am I supposed to heal if I can't feel time?"

Memento (2001)

Memories of Me (1988) Comedy ΨΨ

Henry Winkler directs Billy Crystal, a high-powered surgeon who has just had a heart attack, and Alan King, his actor father who may have Alzheimer's. It turns out that an aneurysm is present, and father and son eventually learn to care for one another.

Memory of a Killer, The (2003) Drama ΨΨ

A hit man in the early stages of dementia attempts to do one last job before retiring.

Mercy or Murder? (1987) Drama ΨΨ

Made-for-TV movie about a Florida man who went to prison after killing his wife because she had advanced Alzheimer's Disease. The film raises interesting questions that society will increasingly be forced to confront.

Million Dollar Baby (2004) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A female prize fighter (Hilary Swank) is paralyzed from the neck down after being sucker punched by an angry opponent between rounds; she pleads with her trainer (Clint Eastwood) to end her life before she loses the memory of the crowd's applause.

Mulholland Drive (2001)

Mystery/Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨΨ

David Lynch film about a woman who experiences a head injury from a car accident, becomes amnesic, and finds refuge in an aspiring Hollywood actress' condominium. This is characteristic Lynch in its non-linearity and themes of reality vs. illusion, identity confusion, and nightmarish dream sequences.

My Girl (1991) Comedy ΨΨ

Eleven-year-old girl is a hypochondriac with a mortician for a father and a grandmother who has Alzheimer's disease.

Notebook, The (2004) Drama ΨΨΨ

Gena Rowlands and James Garner play a couple coping with her ever worsening Alzheimer's disease. Based on the best-selling novel by Nicholas Sparks.

On Golden Pond (1981) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Sensitive portrayal of an aging couple (Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn) cherishing and struggling with his increasingly apparent dementia.

On the Waterfront (1954) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Classic Elia Kazan film starring Marlon Brando as Terry Malloy, a prizefighter of limited intelligence

who is exploited by almost everyone around him. Brando won an Oscar as Best Actor for his performance as Terry Malloy, who took a dive and spent the rest of his life regretting it.

“You was my brother, Charley, you should’ve looked out for me just a little bit so I wouldn’t have to take them dives for the short-end money.”

On the Waterfront (1954)

Pride of the Yankees, The (1942) Biography ΨΨΨ

Gary Cooper stars in this Samuel Goldwyn film about legendary Yankees’ first baseman Lou Gehrig, who had to give up baseball due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, which came to be known more widely by the eponym “Lou Gehrig’s disease.”

“Some people say I’ve had a bad break, but I consider myself to be the luckiest man on the face of the earth.”

Lou Gehrig giving up baseball in
The Pride of the Yankees (1942)

Private Matter, A (1992) Biography ΨΨ

Provocative made-for-TV movie starring Sissy Spacek as a TV personality who gets national attention after her decision to abort a child likely to be affected by the drug thalidomide.

Raging Bull (1980) Biography/Sports ΨΨΨΨΨ

Powerful film depicting the psychological, moral, and mental decline of a prizefighter. Robert De Niro won an Oscar for his portrayal of Jake LaMotta.

Regarding Henry (1993) Drama ΨΨ

Attorney has his life permanently altered following a head injury; his values change as well as his personality.

Safe House (1998) Thriller ΨΨ

An ex-intelligence operative begins to develop Alzheimer’s Disease.

Savages, The (2007) Drama ΨΨΨ

A brother and sister find themselves becoming closer as they attempt to cope with the challenges associated with caring for their father who is suffering from Alzheimer’s disease.

Sea Inside, The (2004) Biography/Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

A sensitive and moving story about a Spanish citizen’s quest to end his life.

Shattered (1991) Mystery/Suspense ΨΨ

A man in a near-fatal car accident experiences amnesia and undergoes reconstructive facial surgery. He begins to find inconsistencies in stories from loved ones about his past and his own memories, only to face a shocking truth.

Song for Martin, A (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

An interesting portrayal of the ways in which a married couple deeply in love is affected by his Alzheimer’s disease.

Son of the Bride (2002) Drama/Comedy/Romance ΨΨΨΨ

Moving drama from Argentina with many inspirational and comic moments about a man too busy for his families who reevaluates his life after he has a heart attack. A major sub-story is the man’s aging father, who steadfastly expresses unconditional love to his wife who is deteriorating with Alzheimer’s Disease.

Tuesdays with Morrie (1999) Drama/Inspiration ΨΨ

Made-for-TV movie based on the best-selling Mitch Albom book about a journalist who befriends and finds inspiration from a man dying of ALS.

Waltz with Bashir (2008, Israel) Animation/Biography ΨΨΨΨ

An exploration on the construction and shifting nature of memory. Ari Folman served in the Israeli army during the Lebanon War of 1982 but has no recollection of the events and he attempts to reconstruct them in this film.

Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence

Ali Zaoua: Prince of the Streets (2000) Drama ΨΨΨ

Four young homeless boys, living in poverty on

the streets of Morocco, rebel against their gang leader's oppressive rule.

Beautiful Ohio (2006) Drama Ψ

Independent film about two brothers growing up in the Midwest, one is gifted but also has severe oppositional tendencies.

Best Little Girl in the World, The (1981)

Drama ΨΨ

Good made-for-TV movie in which a psychiatrist treats a girl who is suffering from anorexia nervosa.

Butcher Boy, The (1997) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

Dark comedy about a schizophrenic boy, Francie Brady, living in Ireland in the 1960s. Francie's behavior ranges from absurd and humorous to delusional and dangerous.

"He took me, with the stink of filthy roadhouse whiskey on his breath, and I liked it. I liked it! With all that dirty touching of his hands all over me. I should've given you to God when you were born, but I was weak and backsliding, and now the devil has come home."

A psychotic Francie Brady in
The Butcher Boy (1997)

Carrie (1976) Horror ΨΨ

This Brian De Palma film is based on a Stephen King novel and depicts the cruelty of adolescents and some of the stresses associated with caring for a mentally ill mother. Sissy Spacek's performance is remarkable.

Chorus, The (2004) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

A newly hired boarding school teacher tries to transform troubled kids into positive problem solvers through music and positive rewards. The headmaster, who believes in restriction and punishment, reluctantly agrees to let the new teacher try more positive approaches.

City of God (2003) Drama/Foreign ΨΨΨΨ

Painful, sobering and graphic examination of the violence associated with gang-life, drug trafficking, and poverty in Rio de Janeiro. This film depicts of young children and adolescents who

grow up in an environment in which guns and murder are commonplace.

City of Lost Children, The (1995) Fantasy/Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

A mad scientist is aging prematurely so he tries to capture children to steal their dreams. Implicit in the film is the use and abuse of children; film critics have commented that this kind of film could not have been made in the United States. The movie is a black comedy that has been praised for its cinematic craft, creative set design, and the use of quirky, unique characters.

Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys, The (2002) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

High school outcasts express rebellion in a variety of ways, including abuse of an authoritarian nun (played by Jodie Foster).

Don't Come Knocking (2005) Drama ΨΨΨ

A former Western movie star drowns his sorrow in alcohol and self-pity until he discovers he has a son and sets out to find him.

Elephant (2003) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Well-crafted, foreboding, eerie Gus van Sant film addressing the tragedy of recent school shootings. Powerful parallels with Columbine. Winner of the Palm award at Cannes for Best Picture and Best Director.

"And most importantly, have fun, man!"

Final words of an adolescent to his
co-assassin preparing to enter a school
building in Elephant (2003)

Equus (1977) Drama ΨΨΨ

Richard Burton examines the meaning and purpose of his own life as he attempts to unravel the psychosexual roots that led an adolescent to blind six horses. Wonderful soliloquies by Burton.

Every Man for Himself and God Against All (1975) Biography ΨΨΨΨΨ

Werner Herzog film based on a true story about a man who spent an isolated childhood virtually devoid of stimulation. This movie should be contrasted with Truffaut's film *The Wild Child* and the more recent film *Nell*.

Face to Face (1976) Drama ΨΨ

Bergman film in which Liv Ullmann plays a suicidal psychiatrist estranged from her husband and 14-year-old daughter. During a coma that results from an overdose of sleeping pills, Ullmann dreams about a childhood experience in which she was punished by being locked in a closet.

Fanny and Alexander (1983) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Bergman film about two young children and the ways in which their lives change when their father dies and their mother remarries. The film is sensitive, tender, and haunting and shows how the world looks through the eyes of a 10-year-old.

Firestarter (1984) Drama/Suspense Ψ

Early Stephen King film in which Drew Barrymore portrays a young girl with pyrokinetic, telekinetic, and telepathic powers. Barrymore is able to set fires simply by staring at whatever she wants to set on fire.

Forbidden Games (1951) War/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

This beautiful French film is about two children who create and share a private fantasy world. The movie juxtaposes the innocence of childhood with the horror of war.

Four Hundred Blows, The (1959) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Semiautobiographical film by François Truffaut about a 13-year-old boy who is caught up in a life of truancy and petty crime. His mother sleeps around; his father is preoccupied and distant. *Four Hundred Blows* is reported to be Truffaut's favorite film.

Psychiatrist: "Your parents say you're always lying."

Antoine Doinel: "Oh, I lie now and then, I suppose. Sometimes I'd tell them the truth, and they still wouldn't believe me, so I prefer to lie."

Strange behavior explained in *The Four Hundred Blows* (1959)

Great New Wonderful, The (2005) Drama ΨΨ

Several stories of New Yorkers converge, including one depicting a child with a serious behavior disorder.

Gummo (1997) Independent ΨΨΨ

This extremely disturbing and unforgettable film directed by Harmony Korine depicts life in a small, rural town after its destruction by a tornado. Despite the lack of a coherent plot, the film gets high marks for its honesty and realism. Various types of psychopathology are presented with an emphasis on conduct disorders.

Harvie Krumpet (2003) Animation/Comedy ΨΨΨ

Short film about a character who faces innumerable tragedies and challenges.

Hate (1995, France) ΨΨ

Conduct disorders abound among adolescent gangs in a French suburban ghetto in this film about racism and oppression.

Holes (2002) Family ΨΨΨ

One of the better non-animated Disney films about troubled youth who are sent to a work camp to dig deep holes in the middle of the desert to help three criminals find a lost treasure. Sigourney Weaver has a memorable role in this film.

Innocents, The (1961) Horror ΨΨΨ

Deborah Kerr plays a governess hired to care for two precocious children. Is she hallucinating or delusional, or are there really ghosts in the house? Interesting sexual tension develops between Kerr and the boy. Based on the Henry James novella *Turn of the Screw*.

Island on Bird Street (2000) Drama ΨΨΨ

Polish film about an adventurous, high-spirited boy who escapes from Nazi control; inspired by Robinson Crusoe, he creates a hide-out and waits for his father's return.

"If you deflower a girl... you're the man. No one can ever do that again. You're the only one. No one, no one, has the power to do that again."

Telly describes his fascination with virgins in *Kids* (1995)

Kids (1995) Drama ΨΨΨ

Gritty and disturbing film about urban adolescents, sex, drugs, and violence. The main character is a

teenager with AIDS who preys on young adolescent girls, taking particular pride in seducing virgins.

Leolo (1992) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

Leo, an adolescent boy growing up in a very dysfunctional family in Montreal, is unable to accept the reality of his genetic heritage and concocts a fantasy in which he was accidentally conceived by sperm that crossed the Atlantic in a Sicilian tomato. (The film is better than this brief synopsis suggests.)

Life as a House (2001) Drama ΨΨΨ

Touching film about the transformation of the relationship between a rebellious, addicted adolescent (Hayden Christensen) and his terminally ill father (Kevin Kline).

Lilja 4-ever (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

Heartbreaking film about a girl, rejected by her family and society, who seems to meet with tragedy just when it appears she is headed in the right direction. Lilja is physically, emotionally, and sexually abused in the film.

Little Man Tate (1991) Drama ΨΨΨ

Jodi Foster directed this film about a child prodigy and the tensions that arise between his mother and the psychologist to whom the child's education is entrusted. Foster acknowledged that the film is partly autobiographical.

Lord of the Flies (1963) Drama ΨΨ

Film adaptation of William Goldman's novel about a group of schoolchildren who quickly shed the thin veneer of civilization and become savages. Both the film and book raise interesting questions about nature and nurture. Remade in 1990.

Los Olvidados/The Young and the Damned (1950) Drama ΨΨΨ

Luis Buñuel film about juvenile delinquency in the squalid slums of Mexico City.

Magdalene Sisters, The (2002) Docudrama ΨΨΨ

Troubled adolescent girls are sent to a dehumanizing boarding home where they are abused, mistreated and exploited by the nuns who run the home. One particularly abused adolescent sexually acts out with a priest and later becomes psychotic.

Manic (2001) Drama ΨΨΨ

A psychologist played by Don Cheadle tries to help an angry adolescent. Interesting group therapy sessions and inpatient hospital scenes with ado-

lescents who have bipolar disorder, intermittent explosive disorder, major depression, self-injurious behavior, and night terrors.

Mommie Dearest (1981) Biography ΨΨ

A film about the pathological relationship between Joan Crawford and her adopted daughter. The movie suggests that Crawford suffered from bipolar disorder.

"What are wire hangers doing in this closet? Answer me! I buy you beautiful dresses, and you treat them like they were some dishrag. You do! Three hundred dollar dress on a wire hanger!"

Joan Crawford in a manic state berates her daughter in *Mommie Dearest* (1981)

Monsieur Ibrahim (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

Heart-warming French film about an adolescent boy raised by a critical, neglecting father; he develops a meaningful friendship with a local store-owner.

My First Mister (2001) Drama ΨΨ

Adolescent girl struggles with severe isolation, depression, self-injurious behavior, and other acting out behaviors until she befriends a 49-year-old man. The teen has a host of behavioral problems including "huffing," autoerotic asphyxiation, isolation from her family, and prostitution.

My Flesh and Blood (2004) Documentary ΨΨΨ

Moving story of Susan Tom, who adopted 11 special needs children and raised them on her own. One has cystic fibrosis and severe anger and oppositional behaviors directed at most people around him.

Nell (1994) Drama ΨΨΨ

Jodi Foster plays a feral child raised in isolation in the North Carolina woods. She is terrified of the doctor who discovers her and eventually learns her own odd language. The doctor consults an expert on child psychology. Interesting examination of Rousseau's concept of the "natural savage."

Noi the Albino (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

A film about a troubled but gifted teen who strug-

gles with conduct problems in Iceland. The movie provides a realistic evaluation of a gifted adolescent who is out of place in both school and life.

Pelle the Conqueror (1986) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Moving film about lust, passion, dreams, aging, hope, pragmatic romance, and, most of all, the love between a father and his son. The film won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Film Festival and an Academy Award as Best Foreign Film.

Pieces of April (2003) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Previously troubled adolescent estranged from her family tries to create a pleasant, memorable experience for her dysfunctional family's Thanksgiving dinner. Well-acted by Katie Holmes and Patricia Clarkson.

Pixote (1981) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

A powerful film about the squalid, depressing lives of street children in Sao Paulo. In the film, the child, Pixote, commits his first murder at the age of 10. Ironically, the child star actually was shot and killed by the police five years after the film was released.

Ratcatcher, The (1999) Drama ΨΨΨ

Young adolescent living in Glasgow has to cope with trash-covered streets, lice, and dead rats. He acts out as he tries to cope with poverty.

Rebel Without a Cause (1955) Drama ΨΨΨ

Dated but still interesting examination of teenage alienation, violence, and family pathology. James Dean is the rebellious protagonist. All three stars (Dean, Natalie Wood, and Sal Mineo) met violent deaths (a car wreck, a drowning, and a murder).

"Boy, if, if I had one day when I didn't have to be all confused, and didn't have to feel that I was ashamed of everything"

Rebel Without a Cause (1955)

Salaam Bombay! (1988) Drama ΨΨΨ

Remarkable story about the way indigent children manage to survive to adulthood on the mean streets of Bombay.

Sixth Sense, The (1999) Drama ΨΨΨ

Bruce Willis plays a Philadelphia child psycho-

logist treating a child who sees himself surrounded by dead people. If this child were seen at a clinic, he would probably be diagnosed with childhood schizophrenia. The film has a surprise ending and offers some insight into a troubled marriage, but it offers little to help us understand child psychopathology.

Cole Sear: "We were supposed to draw a picture, anything we wanted. I drew a man who got hurt in the neck by another man with a screwdriver."

Malcolm Crowe: "You saw that on TV, Cole?"

Cole Sear: "Everyone got upset. They had a meeting. Mom started crying. I don't draw like that any more."

Malcolm Crowe: "How do you draw now?"

Cole Sear: "Draw... people smiling, dogs running, rainbows. They don't have meetings about rainbows."

A child figures out how to play the system
in *The Sixth Sense* (1999)

Splendor in the Grass (1961) Drama ΨΨ

A teenage girl unable to come to grips with adolescent sexuality winds up in a psychiatric hospital.

Squid and the Whale, The (2005) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

This excellent film depicts a family of four going through a divorce. The two children act out in significant ways.

Thirteen (2003) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Important film about the rise and fall of teen friendships, sexual promiscuity, self-hate, rebellion, and the intense need adolescents fill to fit in and be accepted. Holly Hunter plays the recovered alcoholic mother struggling with the delicate balance between giving her daughter appropriate levels of freedom and setting limits.

Thumbsucker (2005) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

An adolescent boy self-soothes by secretly sucking his thumb. He is unable to stop and is diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder. His life is transformed after he begins treatment with stimulant medication.

Tin Drum, The (1979) Drama/War ΨΨΨΨ
Political allegory about a child who decides to stop growing. Based on a Gunter Grass novel, the film won an Academy Award as Best Foreign Film. The film recently received considerable attention because a scene in which the child has oral sex with an adult was judged to be obscene under Oklahoma law.

“She did something that in our society is unspeakable. She kissed a black man. Not an old uncle, but a strong, young Negro man. No code mattered to her before she broke it, but it came crashing down on her afterwards.”

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)

To Be and To Have (2002, France) Documentary/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A creative teacher finds ways to managing children with a variety of behavioral problems.

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962) Drama ΨΨ

Robert Duvall makes his film debut as Boo Radley, a man with mental retardation who kills another man in order to protect two children.

Tree Grows in Brooklyn, A (1945) Drama ΨΨΨ

Elia Kazan film about a poor Irish family living in Brooklyn at the turn of the century. The family's problems are complicated by the father's alcoholism.

United States of Leland, The (2004) Drama ΨΨΨ

Interesting story about Leland P. Fitzgerald (Ryan Gosling), an adolescent who kills an autistic boy but can't explain why. His emotions are blunted, his social behavior is quirky, yet his thoughts are often insightful and perceptive. Kevin Spacey co-stars.

Weather Man, The (2005) Drama ΨΨ

A meteorologist struggles in his personal life which includes supporting his depressed daughter.

Welcome to the Dollhouse (1996) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Interesting examination of families, emerging sexuality, and the cruelty of adolescents.

Wild Child, The (1969) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

François Truffaut's engaging film about the life of

a feral child, the “Wild Boy of Aveyron.” Based on a true story and the journal of Jean Itard, the doctor who set out to educate the child. Truffaut himself plays the role of Itard.

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) Family ΨΨ

Five lucky children win a free tour of a wonderful chocolate factory. Four of the five children (excluding the hero, Charlie) are either oppositional, obsessed, or enormously selfish.

Wish You Were Here (1987) Drama ΨΨ

A teenage girl coming of age in Great Britain in the early 1950s must come to grips with her emerging sexuality.

Mental Retardation and Autism

Antonia's Line (1995) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

A film with unforgettable characters, including Loony Lips and Dede, two mentally challenged people who fall in love and get married. The film is a joyful celebration of life and family.

Being There (1979) Comedy ΨΨ

Peter Sellers plays the role of a gardener with mild mental retardation who finds himself caught up in a comedy of errors in which his simple platitudes are mistaken for wisdom. This film is a precursor to *Forrest Gump*.

Best Boy (1979) Documentary ΨΨΨΨ

Ira Wohl's moving tribute to his cousin (who has mental retardation) examines the options facing the young man when his father dies and his aging mother is no longer able to care for him. This film won an Academy Award as Best Documentary film.

Best Man: “Best Boy” and All of Us Twenty Years Later (1997) Documentary ΨΨΨ

A sequel to the 1979 film documenting that director Ira Wohl's cousin has a rich, full and meaningful life, despite his cognitive limitations.

Bill (1981) Biography ΨΨ

Mickey Rooney won an Emmy for playing a man with mental retardation who was forced to leave an institution after 46 years in this made-for-TV movie.

Boy Who Could Fly, The (1986) Fantasy ΨΨ

Love story about the affection that develops

between a teenage girl whose father has just committed suicide and a new neighbor who is autistic.

Breaking and Entering (2006) Drama ΨΨΨ

A Bosnian boy robs an architect who secretly follows the young thief home and eventually becomes involved with the boy's mother. The architect and his live-in girlfriend are raising her adolescent daughter who has a pervasive developmental disorder, but the stress of caring for the child interferes with the adults' relationship. The film also depicts Seasonal Affective Disorder.

"Why is that people who would never dream of making fun of a blind man or a cripple will make fun of a retard?"

Charly wonders about the cruelty of people in *Charly* (1968)

Charly (1968) Drama ΨΨ

Cliff Robertson won an Oscar for his role as man with mental retardation who is transformed into a genius, only to find himself reverting to a state of retardation. (Compare this film with *Molly* [1999].)

Child Is Waiting, A (1963) Drama ΨΨ

Burt Lancaster and Judy Garland star in this film about the treatment of children with mental retardation living in institutions.

City of Lost Children, The (1995) Fantasy/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A mad scientist is aging prematurely so he tries to capture children to steal their dreams. The circus strongman named One, who has a developmental disability, teams up with a bold, bright young girl to save the children.

Dangerous Woman, A (1993) Drama ΨΨ

Debra Winger plays a woman with mild mental retardation who becomes involved with an itinerant alcoholic.

Day in the Life of Joe Egg, A (1972) Comedy ΨΨ

British black comedy that examines the issue of mercy killing.

Dead Mother, The (1993, Spain) Drama/Thriller ΨΨΨ

Child with characteristics of autism and a devel-

opmental disability witnesses her mother's murder by a petty thief who kidnaps the child, now a man, two decades later.

Dodes'ka-den (1970) Drama ΨΨΨ

Akira Kurosawa film about a boy with mental retardation living in the slums of Tokyo. This was Kurosawa's first color film. Although now regarded as a classic, this film was not well received by the public or by critics when it was released, and its failure led to Kurosawa's attempt to commit suicide by slashing his wrists in 1971. Kurosawa died in 1998 in Tokyo.

Dominick and Eugene (1988) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

This is a coming-of-age film about two brothers. Eugene, who is finishing medical school, is the primary caregiver for his brother Dominick who has mental retardation and works as a Pittsburgh trash collector. Dominick's income supports the brothers but Eugene wants to move to California for his residency.

Forrest Gump (1994) Fantasy ΨΨΨΨ

Traces the life of Forrest Gump, who triumphs in life despite an IQ of 75 and a deformed spine. The film will make you examine your stereotypes about mental retardation.

Forrest Gump: "Lieutenant Dan, what are you doing here?"
 Lieutenant Daniel Taylor: "I'm here to try out my sea legs."
 Forrest Gump: "But you ain't got no legs, Lieutenant Dan."

Forrest Gump (1994)

House of Cards (1993) Drama Ψ

Tommy Lee Jones is wasted in an insipid movie about a young girl who becomes autistic and withdrawn.

I Am Sam (2001) Drama ΨΨΨ

Sean Penn portrays a man with mild mental retardation who fights for custody rights for his daughter.

Junebug (2005) Comedy/Drama Ψ

An autistic painter has a minor but highly stereotypical role in an otherwise good film.

Larry (1974) Biography ΨΨ

Dated but still interesting film about a man discharged from a psychiatric hospital and forced to cope with the outside world. The film suggests the patient himself isn't really ill but still acts strange because he has grown up in a world where everyone acts a little odd.

Mozart and the Whale (2005) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

Based on a true story, two people with Asperger's meet and develop a life long relationship.

Molly (1999) Drama Ψ

This film tries hard to be *Rain Man* with a female autistic character (Elisabeth Shue) but ends up being highly stereotypic, unrealistic, and unhelpful in educating the public about autism.

Of Mice and Men (1992) Drama ΨΨΨ

John Malkovich as Lenny, a farmhand with mental retardation. This is a wonderful film, but see the 1939 original as well.

"He's a nice fella. Guy don't need no sense to be a nice fella."

A comment on Lenny's personality in
Of Mice and Men (1992)

Other Sister, The (1999) Comedy ΨΨ

This film portrays a young woman's struggles to be an independent adult and to distance herself from an overly protective family. She is successful in her special school, enters the local community college against her father's wishes, and develops friendships.

Pauline and Paulette (2000) ΨΨΨΨ

Following the death of their older sister Martha, two sisters unwillingly become responsible for their sister Pauline who is developmentally disabled.

Radio (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

Cuba Gooding Jr. plays a mentally challenged man who when given a chance by the coach (Ed Harris) of the local football team, inspires and influences many lives. With regard to the portrayal of disabilities, the pros outweigh the cons in this heart-warming, true story.

"I know you're in there somewhere."

Charlie Babbitt responds to his brother
Raymond in *Rain Man* (1993)

Rain Man (1993) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Dustin Hoffman plays an autistic man who is also a savant, initially exploited by an older brother. Hoffman read widely about autism and worked with autistic people when preparing for this role.

Ringer, The (2005) Comedy ΨΨ

A man desperate for money decides to fix the Special Olympic by entering to beat the reigning champion.

Silent Fall (1994) Drama ΨΨΨ

A retired child psychiatrist works with a boy with autism who witnessed his parent's murder.

Sling Blade (1996) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Billy Bob Thornton wrote the screenplay, directed the film, and played the lead in this remarkable film, which examines the life of a 37-year-old man with mental retardation who has been incarcerated in a mental hospital for the past 25 years after killing his mother and her lover. The fact that Childers winds up committing a third murder after being released perpetuates the myth that people who have mental retardation are potentially dangerous.

"I reckon I got no reason to kill no one.
Uh, huh."

Karl Childers in *Sling Blade* (1996)

Snow Cake (2006) Drama ΨΨ

Sigourney Weaver portrays a woman with high functioning autism. This film received an "honorable mention" at the Voice Awards.

There's Something About Mary (1998) Comedy ΨΨ

Ted (Ben Stiller) tries to track down and rekindle love with Mary (Cameron Diaz). Mary has a brother with a developmental disability who plays a significant role in the story.

Tim (1979) Drama ΨΨ

In this Australian film, an older woman has an affair with a man with mild mental retardation.

Unforgotten: 25 Years After Willowbrook (1996) Documentary ΨΨΨΨ

Geraldo Rivera follows up on the original Willowbrook State School expose and contrasts the grim reality of institutional life with the current success of some survivors, including Bernard Carabello, a man abandoned by his parents at age three because he had cerebral palsy, who spent 18 years at Willowbrook.

Village, The (2004) Drama/Suspense ΨΨ

Director M. Night Shyamalan's latest "surprise-genre" film about a village surrounded by forest containing the highly feared "those we don't speak of." Adrian Brody's character is a purposefully stereotypic portrayal of a developmental disability—the "village idiot." The least powerful of Shyamalan's four films.

What's Eating Gilbert Grape (1993) Drama ΨΨΨ

Johnny Depp stars in this interesting portrayal of the dynamics of a rural Iowa family and small town America. Depp's life revolves around the care of his brother (who has mental retardation) and his morbidly obese mother.

Sleep, Eating, Impulse Control, and Adjustment Disorders

12 Monkeys (1995) Science Fiction/Suspense ΨΨ

Terry Gilliam film about a time traveler (Bruce Willis) trying to save the world from a deadly plague. Brad Pitt co-stars as a character with paranoid schizophrenia. At times, the film seems to take on a cinematic representation of a nightmare.

21 (2008) Drama ΨΨ

A young man is accepted into Harvard medical school but in order to afford the tuition joins a group of card counters led by their teacher. Kevin Spacey plays the ringleader.

2046 (2004, China/Hong Kong) Fantasy/Drama ΨΨ

One character has a compulsive gambling problem in this film that blends present and future; the movie is directed by War Kar Wai, who films without a script. "Love is all a matter of timing –

it's no good meeting the right person too soon or too late."

Behind the Red Door (2001) Drama ΨΨ

Keifer Sutherland plays a man dying of AIDS who exhibits explosive anger.

Best Little Girl in the World, The (1981) Drama ΨΨ

Good made-for-television movie in which a psychiatrist treats a girl who is suffering from anorexia nervosa.

Best in Show (2000) Comedy ΨΨ

A couple entering their beloved dog in a competitive dog show continuously fight, and their fights escalate in response to the tension and anxiety associated with the show. They later cure themselves of their "adjustment" problem by blaming their dog for being self-deprecating and purchasing a new dog who does not mind watching them have sex.

Bookies (2003) Drama ΨΨ

Three college roommates, obsessed with gambling, secretly launch a "bookie" operation.

California Split (1974) Comedy ΨΨ

Robert Altman movie starring George Segal and Elliott Gould as two compulsive gamblers. Not as strong a film as *The Gambler*.

Casino (1995) Drama ΨΨ

Martin Scorsese film explores the mafia's relationship to Las Vegas and gives an inside look at casinos and some gambling addiction. A strong cast includes Robert De Niro, Joe Pesci, Sharon Stone, and James Woods.

Center Stage (2000) Drama ΨΨ

A woman fights her way to the top role as a dancer and performs well despite encouragement to drop out. One dancer has bulimia and the portrayal is accurate and well-done; however, the film is clichéd and predictable.

Control (2003, Hungary) Crime/Mystery/Comedy ΨΨ

Themes of good vs. evil come to life in this farcical film depicting a variety of odd characters interacting in the vast, underground Budapest subway system. One character has narcolepsy.

Cooler, The (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

Unlucky, depressed man (William H. Macy) walks

around the casino as “the cooler” carrying bad luck to successful gamblers by appearing near their gambling tables. He is paying off his own enormous gambling debts and appears to have given up the behavior.

Deuce Bigalo, Male Gigolo (1999) Comedy Ψ

Rob Schneider takes a job as a male escort—one of his “calls” is for a woman with Tourette’s Disorder and the other is a woman with narcolepsy. The latter falls asleep in the middle of her bowling stride.

Dinner Rush (2001) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

In New York City sits an upscale restaurant frequented by high brow customers, self-centered art critics, hoodlums from Queens, and casual customers. One of the cooks has a gambling problem.

Elling (2001) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Norwegian film about two men released from a psychiatric hospital who must prove themselves capable of coping with everyday life. One man suffers from intermittent anger episodes. Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Film.

Fever Pitch (2005) Comedy Ψ

Jimmy Fallon’s character has an obsession with the Boston Red Sox and struggles to adjust to a new relationship that impacts his passion. **[American remake of the 1997 UK film of the same title, based on the Nick Hornby novel, in which the main character’s (Colin Firth) obsession is with the Arsenal soccer team.]**

Gambler, The (1974) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

James Caan plays a university professor of literature who can’t control his compulsive gambling. One of the best film portrayals of pathological gambling.

Godsend (2004) Suspense/Thriller Ψ

Highly disappointing film starring Robert DeNiro as a genetics researcher cloning human beings. He clones a child who begins to experience night terrors, hallucinations, delusions, and murderous behavior.

Good Thief, The (2002) Drama ΨΨ

Nick Nolte plays a junkie gambler.

Happy-Go-Lucky (2008, UK) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

Poppy, an optimistic realist, interacts with a driver education instructor with intermittent explosive disorder in this Mike Leigh film.

House of Games (1987) Drama ΨΨ

A psychiatrist specializes in the treatment of gambling addiction. Fascinating introduction to the world of the con.

Hulk (2003) Action/Drama ΨΨΨ

Ang Lee converts the famous “Incredible Hulk” comic series to film and in doing so creates a wonderful representation of anger and intermittent explosiveness.

Insomnia (2002) Drama/Mystery ΨΨΨΨ

Al Pacino stars as Will Dormer, a cop tracking down a minor writer (Robin Williams) in a murder investigation. Dormer deteriorates with insomnia as he battles guilt, stress, and an Alaskan environment where the sun doesn’t set. Directed by Christopher Nolan.

“Guess I’m a little cranky, lack of sleep, ya know.”

Insomnia (2002)

I Want Someone to Eat Cheese With (2007) Comedy Ψ

Portrayal of binge-eating disorder, the challenges of keeping a diet, and Overeaters Anonymous support group meetings.

Klepto (2003) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

Rare film in which the struggles associated with kleptomania are depicted.

Last Kiss, The (2006) Drama ΨΨΨ

Cautionary tale, particularly for those around age 30 about midlife issues, falling in love, rites of passage, fear of commitment, and the importance of honesty. The film also portrays adjustment disorder.

Life is Sweet (1990) Drama ΨΨΨ

Mike Leigh film about a dysfunctional British family. One of the twin girls binges and purges on chocolate bars.

Lost in Translation (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

Two Americans (Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson) “stuck” in Japan find solace, excitement, and friendship in one another. Both characters suffer with severe insomnia symptoms.

Machinist, The (2004, Spain) Mystery/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Christian Bale lost 80 pounds to play the gaunt Trevor Reznik who suffers from severe insomnia that causes what appear to be symptoms of psychosis (one year later Bale gained the weight back to play the muscular Batman in *Batman Begins*).

“I’ll be rejected if I meet a good person.”

Lyle, defending his façade of anger in
Manic (2003)

Manic (2003) Drama/Action ΨΨΨ

Adolescent inpatient unit has patients with intermittent explosive disorder, bipolar disorder, major depression, self-injurious behavior, and night terrors.

Marnie (1964) Thriller/Romance ΨΨ

Hitchcock film about a sexually frigid kleptomaniac who dominates her new husband. As in other Hitchcock films, the protagonist’s problems are found to be rooted in childhood trauma. Watch for the use of a word association test.

Matrix Reloaded, The (2003) Action ΨΨΨ

Keanu Reeves is Neo in this first sequel of the daring Trilogy by the Wachowski Brothers. Neo suffers from insomnia though on a more important level, his insomnia functions as a metaphor for being “awake” and “alive.” He also experiences nightmares and frequently worries at night about decisions he needs to make the next day.

Maverick (1994) Western/Drama ΨΨ

Mel Gibson and Jodi Foster star as charming gamblers and cons in a game of high stakes poker.

Maxed Out (2006) Documentary ΨΨ

Interesting statistics and depiction of the struggles and realities of American credit card debt. The film depicts the consequences of “spending” addictions and impulse control disorders.

Meet Bill (2007) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

Aaron Eckhart portrays a man whose depression worsens when he discovers his wife is having an affair.

Melvin Goes to Dinner (2003) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Interesting dialogue film about an unplanned

get-together between four people. They discuss religion, God, faith, ghosts, affairs, and sex. The character Melvin probably has an adjustment disorder.

Mortal Transfer (2001) Mystery/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

French film depicting one of a psychoanalyst’s patients undergoing psychoanalysis and struggling with her kleptomania.

Mother Ghost (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

A man (Mark Thompson) begins to have significant adjustment problems after his mother’s death (she died a year ago) resulting in marital conflict, increased alcohol use, and other personal problems. Interesting interaction and therapy with a radio psychologist (Kevin Pollack) on the air.

My Own Private Idaho (1991) Drama ΨΨ

River Phoenix stars as a young male prostitute who has narcolepsy. He is befriended by Keanu Reeves, and the two leave Portland and travel together. Interesting presentations of dreams that occur during narcoleptic episodes.

Oscar and Lucinda (1997) Drama/Romance ΨΨΨΨ

Pathological gambling and anxiety disorders are well-depicted in this film set in mid-1800s England, starring Ralph Fiennes and Cate Blanchett

Owning Mahowny (2003) Drama ΨΨΨ

Philip Seymour Hoffman, one of today’s finest character actors, plays a pathological gambler. Great portrayal of the addictive cycle and elements of denial, deterioration, and self-destruction. The film is based on a true story.

Popeye (1980) Drama ΨΨ

The archetypal Bluto, a character with an intermittent explosive disorder, is foiled by the heroic Popeye, played by Robin Williams.

Primo Amore (2004, Italy) Drama/Romance ΨΨΨ

A goldsmith falls for an art-school model and becomes obsessed with controlling her diet and appearance. This film provides an interesting examination of eating disorders, and it can be viewed as a metaphorical commentary on society’s beliefs about the female body.

Punch Drunk Love (2002) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

Adam Sandler in a serious role about a man who alternates from an awkward passivity to explosive anger. Falling in love changes him. Quirky cine-

matic elements are added by director Paul Thomas Anderson.

Pushing Tin (1999) Drama/Comedy ΨΨ

John Cusack portrays an air traffic controller with Adult-ADD

Rat Race (2001) Comedy Ψ

Several characters travel long distances in a competition for monetary reward. One character, played by Rowan Atkinson, has narcolepsy.

Return to Oz (1985) Adventure/Family Ψ

A follow up to the classic story, this film depicts Dorothy returning for more adventures in Oz after evading ECT and “dangerous psychiatric treatment” and struggling with a sleep disorder.

Rounders (1998) Drama ΨΨ

Matt Damon stars as a poker player who has gambled away his life savings to a Russian mobster, gives up gambling, and is lured back into the game by his friend (Edward Norton).

Seabiscuit (2003) Drama ΨΨ

Tobey Maguire plays a disc jockey with bulimic symptoms in order to keep his weight down and compete in horse-racing championships. Bulimic symptoms are fairly common among jockeys, though this is not an emphasis in the film.

Secondhand Lions (2003) Family ΨΨ

A young adolescent (Haley Joel Osment) is forced to live with his two rich uncles (Robert Duvall and Michael Caine), one of whom often sleepwalks.

Secret Lives of Dentists, The (2002) Drama ΨΨ

A married couple, both dentists, is unable to adjust to both living and working together. One begins an affair while the other stewes in anger.

Story of Us, The (1999) Comedy/Drama ΨΨ

Bruce Willis and Michelle Pfeiffer star as a couple on the brink of separation after 15 years of marriage. Directed by Rob Reiner.

Tennis, Anyone...? (2005) Comedy ΨΨ

Two small time actors cope with life and find meaning despite the significant stressors in their lives.

Thin (2006) Documentary ΨΨΨ

Four women with anorexia or bulimia allow their treatment experiences – the struggles, progress, relapse, and symptoms – to be documented on film.

To Live (1994) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

This epic film by Zhang Yimou follows a Chinese family through tragic and wonderful times. One of the early struggles of the lead character, Fugui, is gambling, he loses his family home and his fortune gambling with dice.

Two for the Money (2005) Drama ΨΨΨ

A young, savvy, football game predictor (Matthew McConaughey) gets hired by a pathological gambler (Al Pacino) to work in a fast-paced business as a gambler’s advisor to gamblers betting on football games. Based on a true story.

Upside of Anger, The (2005) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Joan Allen portrays a woman with an adjustment disorder who discovers her husband has gone off to Sweden with another woman leaving his home and family. She befriends a jovial alcoholic to cope with her anger and the family disruption.

Waking Life (2001) Drama/Animation ΨΨΨ

This unique, creative film follows a character searching for answers to life’s most important questions in a world that seems surreal and dream-like. The film is a surrealistic blend of animation and drama with a heavy philosophical and existential bent. The film questions whether we are sleepwalking through our days and our lives, and whether we are more awake when we interact with others or when we dream.

Wrong Man, The (1956) Drama/Crime ΨΨ

Hitchcock film in which a man and his wife (Henry Fonda and Vera Miles) become depressed in response to an unjust accusation of murder.

Violence and Physical and Sexual Abuse

2LDK (2002) Drama/Action ΨΨΨ

A little known but striking independent film about two girls rooming together temporarily as they compete in an acting audition. A simple argument turns into an outrageously violent battle between the two roommates. The methods of violence are unique and extraordinary, despite being contained in one apartment.

3-Iron (2004, South Korea) ΨΨΨ

A man breaks into houses when people are away for vacation and engages in mundane activities

while living there temporarily. He encounters a mute woman who is the victim of domestic violence and they continue his activities together.

5 x 2 (2004, France) Drama ΨΨΨ

Five stages of a couple's romance are portrayed backwards from their divorce; the film depicts conflict, rape, emotional stonewalling, poor decision-making, and relationship neglect.

8 Mile (2002) Drama ΨΨ

Director Curtis Hanson depicts the struggles, racism, and abuse of rapper, Eminem. "8 mile" is a road in Detroit that represents several cinematic themes: it is the borderline and boundary between black and white, city and suburbia, and the authentic and non-authentic.

300 (2006) Action/History ΨΨΨ

Leonidas, the fearless leader of Sparta, leads 300 men against the vast Persian army of well over 100,000 in the infamous 480 B.C. Battle of Thermopylae.

Accused, The (1988) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Jodi Foster won an Academy Award for Best Actress for her role as a woman who is gang raped in a bar. Her character chooses to prosecute for rape rather than aggravated assault; and the film examines the legal relevance of lifestyle (alcohol, drugs, and promiscuity) to the event and the complicity of bystanders. Based on a true story.

Aileen: Life and Death of a Serial Killer (2003) Documentary ΨΨΨ

Nick Broomfield directed this documentary about serial killer Aileen Carol Wuornos, a highway prostitute who was executed in Florida in 2002 for killing seven men. The film includes the film maker's testimony at Wuornos' trial. (See also *Monster*.)

Air I Breathe, The (2007) Crime/Drama ΨΨ

Violent, action-filled gangster movie that takes interesting themes – happiness, pleasure, sorrow, and love – yet falls short in delivering something meaningful.

American History X (1998) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ

Edward Norton plays a former skinhead who has decided to leave gang-life but must also convince his younger brother.

American Psycho (1999) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ

Christian Bale plays Patrick Bateman, a narcissis-

tic Wall Street executive, who emphasizes excess and style over substance in everything from business cards and facial cleansers to restaurant selection and conversation. He also has a pathologically violent mind.

Amores Perros (2000) Action/Suspense ΨΨΨ

Mexican film with a non-linear plot with various hit men, murderers, and other perpetrators of highly graphic violence. Abuse and senseless killing of humans and animals are depicted.

Anatomy of a Murder (1959) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Classic courtroom drama in which Jimmy Stewart plays a prosecuting attorney in a case involving rape and promiscuity. The film presents an interesting analysis of the "irresistible impulse" defense.

Antonia's Line (1995) Comedy ΨΨΨΨ

Remarkable film about the resiliency of the human spirit, the power of love, and the importance of families. It is included here because of its treatment of a rapist, but also because of its treatment of people with mental retardation, the suicide of a major character, the film's open acceptance of sexual differences, and its healthy attitudes about aging and death.

"Every man has got a breaking point. You and I have.

Walter Kurtz has reached his. And, very obviously, he has gone insane."

An Army general tries to describe the aberrant behavior of Colonel Kurtz in *Apocalypse Now* (1979)

Apocalypse Now (1979) War ΨΨΨΨΨ

Francis Ford Coppola produced and directed this classic war film, which stars Marlon Brando, Robert Duvall, and Martin Sheen. The film is loosely based on Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and was designed to drive home the madness of war, as well as its folly. Perhaps the best-known line in the film is "I love the smell of Napalm in the morning."

Apocalypto (2006) Thriller/Drama ΨΨ

Exceedingly violent Mel Gibson film depicting the collapse of the Mayan civilization.

Babel (2006) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Stories from a variety of cultures (Morocco, Mexico, Japan) interweave around themes of communication and the tragic consequences of violence and miscommunication.

Bad Lieutenant (1992) Drama ΨΨΨ

Cocaine-addicted, alcoholic police officer who abuses his position and his family reexamines his life and values after investigating the case of a nun who refuses to identify the man who has raped her.

Badlands (1973) Crime/Drama ΨΨΨ

Film based on a true story about a sociopathic young man who takes up with a 15-year-old girl and goes on a killing spree. The film effectively portrays the lack of guilt and remorse that in part defines the antisocial personality.

Blood Diamond (2006) Action/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Leonardo DiCaprio portrays a rough, mercenary, diamond smuggler who grapples with an American journalist (Jennifer Connelly) and must decide between money and assisting a fisherman (Djimon Hounsou) whose child has been kidnapped and turned into a terrorist. The film is a wake-up call on the topic of conflict diamonds.

“He kidnapped them to control her, to make her do things. Then she wanted to commit suicide so he started cutting off ears as a warning to her to stay alive. I’m not kidding. Frank loved blue. Blue velvet.”

Blue Velvet (1986)

Blue Velvet (1986) Mystery ΨΨΨΨ

A powerful and engrossing film about drugs, sexual violence, and sadomasochism. Dennis Hopper plays Frank Booth, a sociopathic and sadistic drug addict who appears to be evil personified.

Bonnie and Clyde (1967) Crime ΨΨΨ?

Perhaps the best of its genre, this landmark film examines the lives of five of the most fascinating characters in the history of crime.

Boston Strangler, The (1968) Crime ΨΨ

Tony Curtis, George Kennedy, and Henry Fonda

in a film that attempts to portray the inner life of a serial killer.

“I ain’t much of a lover boy. But that don’t mean nothin’ personal about you. I never saw no percentage in it. Ain’t nothin’ wrong with me. I don’t like boys...”

Clyde Barrow to Bonnie Parker in
Bonnie and Clyde (1967)

Bridge on the River Kwai, The (1957) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Alec Guinness plays an Academy Award-winning role as a British colonel who becomes so obsessed with building a bridge that he loses sight of his loyalty and allegiance to the allied forces.

“Do not speak to me of rules. This is war. This is not a game of cricket. He’s mad, your Colonel. Quite mad.”

The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957)

Cape Fear (1991) Thriller ΨΨΨΨ

Interesting Scorsese remake of a 1962 classic. This version includes Nick Nolte playing a sleazy attorney and Robert De Niro is a sociopathic ex-con out to get revenge by hurting Nolte and his family and seducing his teenage daughter.

Casualties of War (1989) Drama ΨΨΨ

Sean Penn leads a group of five soldiers who kidnap and rape a Vietnamese girl and subsequently kill her. Michael J. Fox subsequently shows the moral courage to confront the four rapists and murderers. Based on a true story.

Celebration, The (1998, Denmark/Sweden) Drama ΨΨΨ

A man confronts his sexually abusive father during a family gathering celebrating his father’s 60th birthday. Film attempts to depict a realistic approach to abuse confrontation and its effect on a family.

City of God (2003) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Painfully sobering and graphic look at violence

associated with child and adolescent gang-life, drug trafficking, and poverty in a section of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Depiction of young children and adolescents walking around with no fear, guns, and only revenge on their minds.

Clockwork Orange, A (1971) Science Fiction ΨΨΨΨΨ

Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece about "ultraviolence," stereotypes, Beethoven, pathological youth, the future of society, the evils of aversion therapy, good vs. evil, the rehabilitation of prisoners, and free will vs. determinism is regarded by many film experts as one of the greatest films ever made.

Cold Mountain (2003) Drama/Romance ΨΨ

Amidst a dramatic love story (between characters played by Jude Law and Nicole Kidman) is a lot of antisocial behavior, violence, immoral behavior, attempted rape, and senseless tortures and killings.

Compulsion (1959) Crime ΨΨΨ

Two homosexual law students kidnap and kill a young boy. Based on the Leopold-Loeb case, the film examines the morality of capital punishment and features Orson Wells in the role played by Clarence Darrow in the actual case.

Cook, the Thief, His Wife & Her Lover, The (1989) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Peter Greenaway film far too complex to capture in a sentence or two. Full of psychopathology, the film deals with passion, deceit, gluttony, murder, cannibalism, and man's inhumanity to man.

Copycat (1995) Drama ΨΨΨ

Sigourney Weaver plays a forensic psychologist trying to understand the psyche of a serial killer who models his murders after those committed by infamous murderers, such as Son of Sam and the Boston Strangler.

Crash (2004) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Director Paul Haggis blends several stories in this eclectic mix of races and ethnicities in Los Angeles that takes a meaningful look at racism, discrimination, corruption, and the possibility of redemption.

Das Experiment (2001) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ

Depiction of psychological research experiment in a prison setting where subjects are divided into prisoners who waive their civil rights and guards who are to maintain peace and order. While this film bears some initial structural similarity to the

famous Zimbardo Prison Experiment, it in no way portrays it accurately as the film's violence goes well beyond actual events.

"They got me on a greased rail to the Death House here."

Dead Man Walking (1995)

Dead Man Walking (1995) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn star in this dramatic examination of a nun's need to understand and help a man sentenced to die for the rape and murder of two teenagers. The film skillfully examines the death penalty, family dynamics, themes of redemption, and the mitigating role of drugs without ever providing easy answers. Sarandon won an Academy Award for her performance in this film.

Deliberate Stranger, The (1986) Drama Ψ

Made-for-TV movie about serial killer Ted Bundy.

"Lewis, don't play games with these people."

Deliverance (1972)

Deliverance (1972) Adventure ΨΨΨΨ

Jon Voight, Ned Beatty, and Burt Reynolds on a white water rafting trip in Appalachia. Beatty winds up being sodomized, and Reynolds kills the rapist, using a bow and arrow. Based on a James Dickey novel, the film raises interesting questions about personal responsibility and social justice.

Disclosure (1994) Drama ΨΨ

A less-than-illuminating film about reverse sexual discrimination. Stars include Demi Moore and Michael Douglas; based on a novel by Michael Crichton.

Dog Day Afternoon (1975) Crime ΨΨΨ

Al Pacino holds up a bank to get enough money to fund a sex-change operation for his homosexual lover. Good illustration of a basically good person caught up in an stressful situation.

Domino (2005) Action Ψ

A tough, rebellious, female bounty hunter tries to fight fair.

Don't Tell (2005, Italy/UK/France/Spain) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A young adult woman realizes she has repressed nearly all of her childhood, and following the death of her parents, begins to have nightmares of her father sexually abusing her as a young girl. She consults with her brother to put the pieces together.

Down and Dirty (1976) Drama ΨΨ

An interesting examination of the effects of poverty, squalor, and alcoholism on an Italian family.

Dressed to Kill (1980) Thriller Ψ

The film confuses transsexualism and schizophrenia but offers good suspense. Mimics Hitchcock.

Eastern Promises (2007) Thriller/Drama ΨΨΨ

David Cronenberg film about Russian gangsters. The film features an unforgettable, intense battle scene in steam room.

Elephant (2003) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Well-crafted, foreboding, eerie Gus van Sant film that attempts to explain a tragic school shooting. Powerful parallels with Columbine. Winner of the Palm award at Cannes for Best Picture and Director.

End of Violence, The (1997) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨ

Bill Pullman plays an action/violence film director who is almost murdered so he hides out from society and starts a new life. While his character both promotes and greatly fears violence, a secret government worker (Gabriel Byrne) tries to prevent violence by watching over the city with thousands of cameras.

Executioner's Song, The (1982) Made for TV Drama ΨΨ

Tommy Lee Jones plays serial killer Gary Gilmore. Based on a story by Norman Mailer.

Extremities (1986) Drama Ψ

Farrah Fawcett plays a victimized woman who gets revenge on the man who rapes her.

Fight Club (1999) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨΨ

A disillusioned, insomniac (Edward Norton) meets a dangerous, malcontent part of himself in the character of Brad Pitt. Norton then establishes

“fight clubs” where men can violently release their aggressions by fighting one another.

“The great war is a spiritual war; the great depression is our lives.”

Fight Club (1999)

Freedomland (2006) Mystery/Drama Ψ

Julianne Moore portrays a neglectful mother; her character stands in marked contrast to Samuel L. Jackson's character who is attempting to redeem himself by caring for his adult son who is in prison.

Gangs of New York (2002) Crime/Drama ΨΨΨ

Martin Scorsese film about the revenge perpetrated upon a gang kingpin named Bill “the Butcher” Cutting (Daniel Day-Lewis).

Godfather, The (1972), **The Godfather, Part II** (1974), and **The Godfather, Part III** (1990) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

The three-part gangster trilogy, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, examines violence, corruption, and crime in America.

“We'll make him an offer he can't refuse.”

The Godfather (1972)

Gone Baby Gone (2007) Crime/Drama ΨΨΨΨ

An interesting and complex film, and Ben Affleck's directorial debut. The film is about a young girl who has been neglected by her drug-dependent mother and has gone missing. The movie raises fascinating questions about how to raise children and the role of society.

Grindhouse: Death Proof (2007) and **Grindhouse: Planet Terror** (2007) Thriller ΨΨ

Two feature lengths films often shown together that pay homage to gory exploitation films. Both feature significant violence – the first involves a gang of women who face off with a murderous racecar driver and the second features an army of flesh-eating zombies. Not surprisingly, the Tarantino-directed film (the first one) is more

engaging and interesting than the second one (directed by Robert Rodriguez).

Halloween I-V and H2O (1978, 1981, 1982, 1988, 1989, 1998) Horror Ψ

Infamous mass murderer depicted as an escaped mental patient and a deranged toy maker. These films have contributed significantly to the negative stereotypes of mental illness.

Hand That Rocks the Cradle, The (1992) Thriller/Drama Ψ

Sociopathic woman seeks revenge for the suicide of her husband by moving in and taking over the family of the woman she holds responsible for her husband's death. Predictable performances, but still an engrossing film.

Heavenly Creatures (1994) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A New Zealand film directed by Peter Jackson and based on the true story of two adolescent girls who grow up sharing a fantasy world. When the mother of one of the girls decides to separate the children, they murder her. One of the girls, Ann Perry, now lives in England and writes mystery novels.

Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer (1990) Crime/Horror ΨΨΨΨ

A violent, controversial film about mass murderer and sociopath Henry Lee Lucas. A scene in which Lucas and his roommate videotape one of their murders is especially unnerving.

"She'd make me watch it... She'd beat me when I wouldn't watch her... She'd make me wear a dress and they would laugh."

Henry Lee Lucas describing abuse by his prostitute mother in *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer* (1990)

History of Violence, A (2005) Drama/Mystery ΨΨΨΨ

David Cronenberg film about a quiet, unassuming family man who springs to action when the workers and customers of his café are threatened by thugs. His fighting prowess causes his family to question his past and who he really is.

Honeymoon Killers, The (1970) Crime Ψ

A very realistic black-and-white film based on the

true story of a couple who lured, exploited, and then killed lonely women. Both the man and the woman were executed at Sing-Sing Prison.

Hotel Rwanda (2004) Drama/Documentary ΨΨΨΨΨ

Depicts the genocide of the Hutus upon the Tutsis in Rwanda and the courageous efforts of Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager who saved over 1200 refugees. The film illustrates courage and persistence; also it also shows how one ordinary man can be extraordinary and triumph over evil.

House of 1000 Corpses (2003) Horror Ψ

Musician Rob Zombie directed this film about a family of eerie serial killers that contains some comic relief.

I Spit on Your Grave (1980) Horror Ψ

A terrible film in which a woman systematically gets revenge on the four men who raped her.

"They all felt physically inferior or sexually inadequate. Their childhood was violent... They couldn't distinguish between fantasy and reality. They didn't hate their victims, they didn't even know them."

A doctor describes serial killers in *In Cold Blood* (1967)

In Cold Blood (1967) Biography/Crime ΨΨΨ

This film is based on a Truman Capote biographical novel about two sociopaths who kill a Kansas family. The film explores the family dynamics that in part lead to the senseless murders.

"I've kept you alive for two reasons. First reason is information... But I am gonna ask you questions and every time you don't give me answers, I'm gonna cut something off. And I promise you they will be things you will miss!"

The Bride in *Kill Bill: Vol. 1* (2003)

Kill Bill: Vol. 1 (2003) Action/Suspense ΨΨΨΨΨ
Dynamic Tarantino story of a samurai bride (Uma Thurmond) betrayed by her ex-lover and boss. This first film sets up the mythology and the world of the characters. It has more extensive graphic violence than Vol. 2 and an “eastern” martial arts emphasis.

Kill Bill: Vol. 2 (2004) Action/Suspense ΨΨΨΨΨ
Tarantino’s conclusion to the revenge story of The Bride. This part emphasizes the unfolding of the stories and further deepening of characters amongst a more “western” style.

“I’m a killer. I’m a murdering bastard and there are consequences for breaking the heart of a murdering bastard”

Bill in *Kill Bill: Vol. 2* (2004)

Killing Fields, The (1984) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ
Gripping film about the horrors of war and the particularly gruesome and cruel practices of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia following the evacuation of American soldiers from Vietnam in 1975.

Lilja 4-Ever (2002) Drama ΨΨΨΨ
A powerful depiction of the cruelty of violence. An adolescent girl experiences neglect, abandonment, rejection, physical and sexual abuse, gang rape, exploitation, and forced prostitution, all by the age of 16.

Looking for Mr. Goodbar (1977) Drama ΨΨ
Diane Keaton plays a special education teacher with a compulsive need to pick up men in bars and engage in sadomasochistic sex. There are numerous examples of family pathology in the film, and it is interesting to remember how casual sexuality was in a time before AIDS.

M (1931) Crime/Drama/Horror ΨΨΨΨΨ
A must-see Fritz Lang film (his first “talkie”) starring Peter Lorre as a sexual psychopath who molests and murders little girls. When tried by a vigilante jury, he pleads irresistible impulse, but the jury is not impressed.

Magdalene Sisters, The (2002) Docudrama ΨΨΨ
Troubled adolescent girls are sent to a dehumanizing, boarding home where they are treated by

nuns who run the home with abuse, neglect, and humiliation. The film follows four girls in particular as they experience and respond differently to the highly abusive situation.

Metallica: Some Kind of Monster (2004) Documentary ΨΨΨ

Inside look at the heavy metal band, Metallica, and their personal and interpersonal struggles. The handling of anger is a key theme in the film. The honest expression of emotions by these “stars” is likely to have a positive impact on many fans.

Midnight Express (1978) Biography ΨΨΨ

True story about an American college student who is busted for trying to smuggle two kilograms of hashish out of Turkey and is treated brutally in Turkish prisons before eventually escaping.

Monster (2003) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A powerful film based on the life of Aileen Carol Wuornos, a highway prostitute who was executed for killing seven men in the state of Florida during the 1980s. (See also *Aileen: Life and Death of a Serial Killer*.)

Murder in the First (1995) Drama ΨΨ

A man imprisoned in Alcatraz for petty theft in the 1930s is put in solitary confinement for three years, becomes deranged, and then kills a guard. The film suggests the system is to blame for the crime. Based on a true story.

Mysterious Skin (2004) Drama ΨΨΨ

Two boys are sexually molested by their coach and their lives go in completely different directions. Intense, realistic portrayal of the ways sexual abuse affects children when they become adolescents and adults.

“Insane, no. Psychotic, yes. A menace to living creatures, yes. But to suggest that they’re insane gives the impression that they don’t know right from wrong. Mickey and Mallory know the difference between right and wrong. They just don’t give a damn.”

A psychiatric opinion in
Natural Born Killers (1994)

Natural Born Killers (1994) Crime/Drama ΨΨΨ

A violent Oliver Stone film based on a story written by Quentin Tarantino and starring Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis. The film depicts a couple who celebrate their roles as mass murderers and find their new status as cult figures a welcome reprieve from the dreariness of the life they left behind.

Night Porter, The (1974) Drama/War ΨΨ

A former Nazi officer who sexually abused a 14-year-old girl in a concentration camp has the tables turned on him when she shows up at the hotel in which he works. This is one of several films linking Nazi practices with sadomasochistic sex.

No Man's Land (2001) Drama/Suspense ΨΨΨΨ

A Bosnian escapes a firing attack and finds himself in "No Man's Land" between enemy lines. A Serb goes to ensure there were no survivors and finds himself in a standoff with the Bosnian. Another Bosnian survivor, barely alive, awakes on top of a land mine that will explode if he rises. Heated debates, murder attempts, threats, desperation, and hopelessness characterize each of the three men.

North Country (2005) Drama ΨΨΨ

Charlize Theron transforms herself again (following up her role as a serial killer in *Monster*), this time to play a woman who goes to great lengths to support her children by working in a blue-collar mine where she experiences significant sexual harassment.

"It's the same old story. I've got to learn to keep my mouth shut."

Beth blaming herself for the beating she has received from her husband in *Once Were Warriors* (1994)

Once Were Warriors (1994) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Important New Zealand film about substance abuse and domestic violence among urban Maori tribes people. The film will help you understand a different culture, as well as the ways in which alcoholism interacts with spousal and child abuse in almost every society.

Osama (2003, Afghanistan) Drama ΨΨΨ

Based on a true story of the heavy discrimination, abuse, and oppression of women under Taliban rule.

Passion of the Christ, The (2004)

Drama/Biography ΨΨΨΨΨ

Mel Gibson film depicting the violent torture and suffering of the final hours of Jesus Christ. This highly controversial film is intensely graphic and visual in its portrayal of violence. It is interesting to note that it is Mel Gibson's hand that nails Jesus to the cross.

Peeping Tom (1960) Thriller ΨΨΨ

Controversial film about a psychopathic murderer who photographs his victims as they die.

Personal Velocity (2002) Drama ΨΨΨ

Independent film about three strong women divided into three segments. One segment addresses issues of domestic violence.

"She imagined going back to him like she had done so many times before but this time her body wouldn't follow."

Narration on the escape from an abusive husband in *Personal Velocity* (2002)

Play Misty for Me (1971) Thriller ΨΨΨ

The first film directed by Clint Eastwood. A California disc jockey becomes involved with a listener who is clinging, dependent, fanatical, and ultimately homicidal. Interesting portrayal of sexual obsession.

Prick Up Your Ears (1987) Biography ΨΨΨΨ

A film showing the homosexual relationship and eventual murder/suicide of playwright Joe Orton and his lover.

Rampage (1992) Thriller ΨΨΨ

This movie, directed by William Friedkin, challenges many of the assumptions educated people are likely to hold about the insanity defense.

Rashomon (1950) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Classic Akira Kurosawa film in which a rape-murder is described from four different perspectives by

the four people involved. The film makes the point that reality is subjective and that truth, like beauty, is truly in the eye of the beholder.

Rendition (2007) Drama/Thriller ΨΨΨ

An Egyptian man traveling in South Africa at a conference is detained without due process. The film addresses “extraordinary rendition” – detaining suspected terrorists and interrogating them on foreign soil without judicial process – and depicts torture (e.g., water-boarding), brainwashing/training of suicide bombers, and the various realities politicians face.

Reservoir Dogs (1992) Drama ΨΨΨ

Extremely violent but powerful Tarantino film with a graphic and realistic torture scene in which a sociopathic sadist derives great pleasure from using a razor to slowly torment a bound and gagged undercover police officer.

“Now I’m not gonna bullshit you. I don’t really care about what you know or don’t know. I’m gonna torture you for a while regardless. Not to get information, but because torturing a cop amuses me. There’s nothing you can say, there’s nothing you can do. Except pray for death.”

The sadistic Mr. Blonde in *Reservoir Dogs*
(1992)

River’s Edge (1986) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A riveting film based on a true-life incident in which a young man kills his girlfriend and then shows the decomposing body to a series of friends. It takes days before one of his friends finally notifies authorities about the murder.

Rope (1948) ΨΨ

Experimental Hitchcock film about two young homosexual men who kill a friend for sport and then hide the body in a room in which they are hosting a cocktail party. Based on the Leopold-Loeb case.

Santa Sangre (1989) Horror ΨΨΨΨ

A controversial but unquestionably powerful Jodorowsky film about a boy growing up in bizarre circumstances. There are strong themes of violence

and incest. Roger Ebert called this film “a collision between Freud and Fellini.”

Saving Private Ryan (1998) War/Action ΨΨΨ

Steven Spielberg World War II film regarded by some as the most realistic and powerful war film ever made.

Series 7: The Contenders (2001) Suspense/Comedy ΨΨΨ

Highly violent, tongue-in-cheek film about a reality television show where the contestants must seek out and kill one another.

Seven (1995) Drama ΨΨΨ

Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt star in this engrossing film about a serial killer (Kevin Spacey) who is obsessed with the seven deadly sins (pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, covetousness, and sloth) and who kills his victims accordingly (e.g., a man who is gluttonous is forced to eat until he dies from overeating).

Seven Beauties (1976) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Lina Wertmuller film in which the protagonist (the brother of the seven sisters alluded to in the title) must perform degrading sexual acts for the female commandant of a German prison camp to survive the war.

Shelter Island (2003) Drama/Suspense Ψ

A lesbian couple goes to get away at an island house to relax. A stranger (Stephen Baldwin) appears on their doorstep during a storm and things are not what they seem. Simplistic psychology that is not well-applied or developed.

Sin City (2005) Action/Noir ΨΨΨ

Stylized graphic violence tempered by computerized graphics, based on Frank Miller’s comic books, with an all-star cast.

Sleepers (1996) Drama ΨΨΨ

Guards at a reform school physically and sexually abuse young boys. After the boys grow up, they avenge their abuse and attempt to manipulate the courts to avoid sentencing. Many stellar actors including Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman, Brad Pitt, and Kevin Bacon.

Slumdog Millionaire (2008) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

The Academy Award winning rags to riches story about a young man’s destiny that intersperses his performance on “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” with flashbacks showing significant life experiences

that include poverty, abuse, and torture. The film is a classic underdog story with poignant themes of persistence, integrity/honesty, and self-confidence.

South Central (1992) Action/Suspense ΨΨ

A man is released from prison and tries to lead a “clean,” gang-free life.

Stone Boy, The (1984) Drama ΨΨ

Robert Duvall and Glenn Close star in this slow-moving but intelligent film about a young man who accidentally shoots his brother and the effect the shooting has on the entire family.

Straw Dogs (1971) Crime ΨΨΨ

Provocative and violent Sam Peckinpah film, with Dustin Hoffman as a peace-loving mathematician who resorts to violence after his wife is raped.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (2007) Musical/Thriller ΨΨΨ

Extensive violence tuned to music and dance in Tim Burton’s story of revenge starring Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter.

Tattoo (1981) Drama Ψ

Mentally ill tattoo artist kidnaps a model and uses her body as a canvas for his art. This is the type of movie that perpetuates stigma and prejudice about mental illness.

Thelma and Louise (1991) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

Two women friends on the road for a weekend lark wind up fleeing from the law and end their lives in a defiant suicidal act. Powerful feminist film.

There Will Be Blood (2007) Drama/Thriller ΨΨΨ

Daniel Day-Lewis portrays a charismatic, ruthless oil prospector in this story of greed, religion, and family.

Time to Kill, A (1996) Drama ΨΨΨ

Samuel Jackson plays an angry father who murders two white men who have raped his daughter. The film explores themes of racial and social injustice, temporary insanity, and justifiable homicide.

Treasure of the Sierra Madre, The (1948) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Tremendous John Huston film starring Humphrey Bogart. The movie explores obsessive greed, the folly of avarice, and the ways in which love of money can come to be the dominant force in one’s life. Bogart’s character is an example of a paranoid personality disorder.

“Badges? We ain’t got no badges! We don’t need no badges. I don’t have to show you any stinkin’ badges!”

The Treasure of the Sierra Madre
(1948)

Triumph of the Spirit (1989) Biography ΨΨΨ

Story of Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II. Good introduction to the horrors and stress of concentration camp life.

Twist of Faith (2004) Documentary ΨΨ

A firefighter faces the trauma of childhood sexual abuse by a priest, speaking to the shame, horror, anger, and dissociation that occurs. He discusses the significant impact of abuse on his life.

Two Women (1961) War/Drama Ψ

This Vittorio de Sica film starring Sophia Loren examines war, rape, coming of age, and mother-daughter relations. Loren won an Academy Award as Best Actress for this film.

Virgin Spring, The (1959) Drama ΨΨΨ

An Ingmar Bergman film examining the rape and murder of a young girl by three bandits.

Vulgar (2002) Drama ΨΨ

A man working as a clown for children decides he can make more money working as a clown at bachelor parties. He is tortured, gang raped, and blackmailed by a psychopath and his two sons. The film graphically depicts trauma and violence, but there are also comic moments.

Waitress (2007) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Inspirational story of a young, pregnant waitress (Keri Russell) who is not enthusiastic about her pregnancy because the child’s father is her psychologically abusive and controlling husband (Jeremy Sisko). Sadly, the film’s director, Adrienne Shelly, was murdered before the film was widely released to critical acclaim (Shelly’s young daughter appears in the final scene).

War of the Roses (1989) Drama/Thriller ΨΨ

Marital conflict slowly progresses into an incredible, destructive battle between Oliver and Barbara Rose (Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner).

Warrior, The (2011, UK/France/Germany) Drama/Adventure ΨΨΨ

A warrior, working for a cruel lord as an executioner in feudal India, takes up the practice of non-violence. His new mission becomes particularly challenging when his son is kidnapped and killed in front of him.

Zodiac (2007) Crime/Biography ΨΨ

Jake Gyllenhaal portrays an amateur detective in San Francisco who becomes obsessed with tracking down a serial killer in this David Fincher film.

Treatment

Antwone Fisher (2003) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨ

Troubled and angry sailor gets in fights and is referred to a psychiatrist (Denzel Washington). Their relationship develops and he becomes comfortable sharing his history of childhood abuse and trauma; he makes amends with his past and healing begins. Fair and balanced portrayal of a psychiatrist.

Article 99 (1992) Comedy Ψ

Unsuccessful M*A*S*H*-like attempt to ridicule the quality of care provided in Veterans Administration medical centers.

Bad Timing: A Sensual Obsession (1980) Drama ΨΨ

Interesting and provocative film in which a psychiatrist becomes sexually involved with a troubled and self-destructive woman.

Badlands (1973) Crime/Drama ΨΨΨ

This film is based on a true story about a sociopathic young man who takes up with a 15-year-old girl and goes on a killing spree. The film effectively portrays the lack of guilt and remorse that in part defines the antisocial personality.

“Without treatment, John, the fantasies may take over entirely.”

Dr. Rosen attempting to educate John Nash on the importance of continuing his treatment regimen in *A Beautiful Mind* (2001)

Beautiful Mind, A (2001) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Based on Sylvia Nasar’s biography with the same name. Russell Crowe portrays John Forbes Nash, a mathematical genius and Nobel Prize laureate in Economics, who battles schizophrenia and is treated with antipsychotics and insulin-shock therapy.

Beautiful Dreamers (1992) Drama/Biography ΨΨΨΨ

True story about poet Walt Whitman’s visit to an asylum in London, Ontario. Whitman is shocked by what he sees and persuades the hospital director to offer humane treatment. Eventually, the patients wind up playing the townspeople in a game of cricket.

Beyond Therapy (1987) Comedy Ψ

Disappointing Robert Altman film about New York yuppies and their psychiatrists.

Butcher’s Wife, The (1991) Romance/Fantasy ΨΨ

Greenwich Village psychiatrist Jeff Daniels finds Demi Moore, the butcher’s wife, is giving advice at least as good as his own.

Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, The (1919) Horror ΨΨΨΨΨ

German expressionistic film about hypnosis and the power of a hypnotist to induce others to do his bidding. One of the earliest stereotypic presentations of the madman who runs a psychiatric hospital.

Captain Newman, M.D. (1963) Comedy/Drama ΨΨΨ

Sympathetic story about an Army psychiatrist (Gregory Peck) taking on the military bureaucracy to provide effective treatment for Bobby Darin. Darin is clearly manic and ultimately commits suicide.

Carefree (1938) Musical/Dance ΨΨ

Fred Astaire is a psychiatrist who was talked out of being a dancer. Ginger Rogers is referred to him for treatment (hypnosis) so she can learn to love one of Astaire’s friends; he complies with her request, but predictably falls in love with her himself.

Caretakers, The (1963) Drama Ψ

Second-rate film that documents life in a West Coast psychiatric hospital and portrays some of the problems associated with introducing innovations in hospital settings.

Changeling (2008) Drama ΨΨΨ

Based on a true story, Angelina Jolie portrays a desperate but persistent mother whose son is kidnapped by a serial child murderer. She battles with a corrupt Los Angeles police force and a manipulative psychiatrist who twists her words, attempts to blackmail her, uses ECT to punish his patients, and holds innocent women captive in the hospital to protect the police department.

Chattahoochee (1990) Drama ΨΨΨ

Korean War veteran with a post-traumatic stress disorder is hospitalized and treated. Dennis Hopper has a major role as a fellow patient.

Clockwork Orange, A (1971)

Science Fiction ΨΨΨΨΨ

Fascinating interpretation of Anthony Burgess' novel. The portrayal of aversion therapy is somewhat heavy-handed but raises legitimate questions about the appropriate limits of behavior modification.

“There was me, that is Alex, and my three droogs, that is Pete, Georgie, and Dim. . . and we sat in the Korova Milkbar trying to make up our rassoodocks what to do with the evening.”

Alex in *A Clockwork Orange* (1971)

Color of Night (1994) Drama Ψ

Bruce Willis plays a disillusioned psychologist who gives up his practice after a patient commits suicide. Willis discovers he is no longer able to perceive the color red. Much of the plot revolves around a patient with multiple personalities who is simultaneously a group therapy patient (as a male) and, unknown to Willis, his lover (in a core personality named Rose).

Couch Trip, The (1988) Comedy Ψ

Dan Aykroyd plays the role of a psychiatric patient who escapes from an institution and then passes himself off as a Beverly Hills psychiatrist. The film reinforces the notion that psychiatry is mainly pretentious language and social manipulation.

Dark Past, The (1948) Crime ΨΨΨ

A psychologist who is taken prisoner tries to use his training to help his captor. Remake of the film *Blind Alley*.

David and Lisa (1962) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A dated but still sensitive portrayal of life in a psychiatric institution. Perpetuates the myth that love will conquer mental illness. Strong and balanced portrayal of a compassionate psychiatrist.

Dead Man Out (1989) Drama ΨΨ

Superior and timely made-for-TV movie about a psychiatrist treating a convict so the man will be sane enough to be executed. The film raises meaningful questions about ethical issues and the appropriate limits of professional practice.

Jack McDermott: “What about dinner? Who’s gonna get us our dinner?”
 Billy: “... aren’t you the same guy who changed water into wine? Huh? J.C.? Ain’t the son of God good for a burger in his town? You get us something!”

The Dream Team (1989)

Dream Team, The (1989) Comedy ΨΨ

Four psychiatric patients are being taken to a game in Yankee Stadium when their doctor/escort is knocked unconscious and hospitalized. The entire film appears to be based on the well-known (and better done) shipboard outing by Jack Nicholson and his friends in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest*.

Face to Face (1976) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Liv Ullmann plays a psychiatrist whose life is falling apart. She attempts suicide by taking an overdose and winds up in a coma. Interesting dream sequences with Bergman’s usual presumption of childhood trauma as the trigger for adult unhappiness.

Fear Strikes Out (1957) Biography/Sports ΨΨΨ

Anthony Perkins as baseball player Jimmy Piersall, who suffers a mental breakdown as a result of his inability to please a domineering, demanding father. Piersall was successfully treated with psychotherapy and ECT and eventually staged a comeback.

Final Analysis (1992) Thriller/Drama ΨΨ

A complex film that pays homage to Hitchcock; interesting issues of childhood sexual abuse, repressed memories, professional responsibility, and the doctor-patient relationship.

“Just repeat the last two words they say and phrase it like a question.”

A psychiatrist joking about his profession in *Final Analysis* (1992)

Fine Madness, A (1966) Drama ΨΨΨ

Sean Connery plays Samson Shillitoe, an eccentric and unconventional poet who is hospitalized and lobotomized because of his sexual peccadilloes and the fact that he can't conform to societal expectations. The film was ahead of its time in raising important issues about the rights of people with mental illness.

Flame Within, The (1935) Drama Ψ

Dated and insipid film about a psychiatrist who falls in love with a patient.

Frances (1982) Biography ΨΨΨΨΨ

A vivid portrayal of the life of actress Frances Farmer, including her institutionalization, lobotomy, and alcoholism.

Good Will Hunting (1997) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Robin Williams won an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actor for his role as a counseling psychologist teaching at a community college and treating a troubled young man who is extraordinarily gifted mathematically.

High Anxiety (1977) Comedy ΨΨ

Mel Brooks spoofs Hitchcock films and introduces The Psycho-Neurotic Institute for the Very, Very Nervous.

Home of the Brave (1949) Drama/War ΨΨΨ

Black soldier suffers a mental breakdown and is treated by a sympathetic psychiatrist. One of the first films to deal honestly with racism and bigotry.

House of Games (1987) Crime ΨΨ

A David Mamet film about a psychiatrist specializing in the treatment of gambling addiction. Fascinating introduction to the world of the con.

House of Fools (2002) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Based on a true story: the chief psychiatrist and treatment staff of a mental institution flee due to conflicts in Chechnya, leaving the patients to fend for themselves. Soon soldiers occupy the hospital and the viewer is left with various questions of war,

politics, mental health treatment and which is more crazy—the mentally ill or the politics of war. The film is loaded with examples of psychopathology.

I Heart Huckabees (2005) Comedy/Mystery ΨΨΨ

Dustin Hoffman and Lilly Tomlin play existential psychologists in this quirky, offbeat comedy. Although there is no formal therapy, there are plenty of therapeutic moments.

Inside/Out (1997) Drama ΨΨΨ

A Rob Tregenza film about life in a psychiatric hospital that was well received at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival. The film documents that both patients and staff find it hard to cope with the difficult demands of life.

Intimate Strangers (2004, France) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

A woman mistakenly receives psychotherapy from an accountant in this thoughtful film.

King of Hearts (1966) Comedy/Drama/War ΨΨΨΨ

A Scotsman separated from his unit wanders into town, abandoned by all except the inmates of the local insane asylum. Must-see film for those interested in public attitudes about mental illness.

Ladybird, Ladybird (1993) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Dramatic presentation of the clash between the rights of a parent and society's need to protect children.

Lilith (1964) Drama ΨΨ

Strong cast (Peter Fonda, Gene Hackman, Warren Beatty, and Kim Hunter) supports a weak script about a psychiatric inpatient who seduces a neophyte therapist.

Lost Angels (1989) Drama ΨΨ

Donald Sutherland plays a psychiatrist treating a Los Angeles adolescent who is angry and troubled but probably not mentally ill.

“When insurance paid for a year in a place like this, we said it took a year to help a kid. Now insurance pays for three months, and, presto, it takes three months to turn a kid around.”

Dr. Charles Loftis complaining about the system in *Lost Angels* (1989)

Ludwig (1973) Biography Ψ

Long and somewhat tedious film about the mad King Ludwig of Bavaria. Good costumes and scenery, but the film teaches us little about mental illness or Ludwig himself.

Macbeth (1971) Drama ΨΨΨ

Powerful Roman Polanski adaptation of Shakespeare's play. It is interesting to speculate about the obsessions of Lady Macbeth and to compare Polanski's version with the earlier Orson Welles' adaptation.

Man Facing Southeast (1986) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

Fascinating Argentine film about a man without identity who shows up at a psychiatric hospital claiming to be from another planet. It seems that this is not just another patient, and neither the hospital staff nor the film's audience ever figures out exactly what is happening. (In a line that is meaningful to one viewer in a thousand, Bill Murray's character in *What About Bob?* pays homage to this film by asking if he can arrange his bed so it faces southeast.)

Man Who Loved Women, The (1983) Comedy Ψ

A remake of the François Truffaut film of the same name. This film involves long sequences in which Burt Reynolds unburdens himself to his psychiatrist.

Marat/Sade (1966) Drama ΨΨΨΨ

In the early 1800s, the inmates of a French asylum put on a play directed by the Marquis de Sade (a patient) based on the bathtub assassination of Jean Paul Marat. The play incites the patients to riot.

Mine Own Executioner (1947) Drama ΨΨ

Confused and troubled psychoanalyst tries to help out a schizophrenic veteran.

Mr. Deeds Goes to Town (1936) Comedy ΨΨΨ

Frank Capra film in which Gary Cooper inherits \$20 million and is judged insane when he decides to give it all away to needy farmers.

Mr. Jones (1993) Drama/Comedy ΨΨΨ

Richard Gere portrays a bipolar patient treated by a psychiatrist who falls in love with him. This film raises interesting questions about the therapeutic relationship and boundary issues in psychotherapy.

Mumford (1999) Drama ΨΨΨ

A man named Mumford pretending to be a psychologist sets up shop in a small town named Mumford and begins to help the townspeople.

No Time for Sergeants (1958) Comedy Ψ

Andy Griffith stars; Don Knotts plays an Army psychiatrist.

No Way Out (1950) Drama ΨΨΨ

This was Sidney Poitier's first film. Poitier plays a black physician treating two racist hoodlums. When one dies, his brother (Richard Widmark) incites a race riot. The film was one of the earliest serious examinations of racism in postwar America.

Nobody's Child (1986) Biography ΨΨ

Marlo Thomas won an Emmy for her role as a woman who experiences tremendous personal and professional success when she is released after spending 20 years in a mental hospital.

"Oh Jerry, don't let's ask for the moon. We have the stars."

Charlotte Vale addressing her married lover in *Now, Voyager* (1942)

Now, Voyager (1942) Drama ΨΨΨ

Her psychiatrist and inpatient treatment help sexually repressed Bette Davis find meaning and purpose in her life by serving as a surrogate mother for the daughter of a man she loves. The title comes from Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* ("The untold want by life and land ne'er granted / Now voyager sail thou forth to seek and find.")

Nuts (1987) Drama ΨΨΨ

Barbra Streisand plays a prostitute who has killed a patron. She is resisting an insanity defense, and through flashbacks we learn that she was sexually abused as a child. Interesting examination of civil liberties and forensic psychiatry.

"They was giving me ten thousand watts a day, you know, and I'm hot to trot! The next woman takes me on's gonna light up like a pinball machine and pay off in silver dollars!"

Randle P. McMurphy commenting on ECT in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (1975)

Office Space (1999) Comedy Ψ

A hypnotherapist induces a trance in a patient but suffers a heart attack before the patient comes out of the trance.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Classic film with Jack Nicholson as Randle P. McMurphy, who takes on Nurse Ratched and the psychiatric establishment. The film offers good insight into life on an inpatient ward, although the portrayal of ECT is stereotyped and inaccurate; in addition, the suicide of Billy seems to be simplistically linked to his domineering mother. This film took all five of the top Oscars in 1975: Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, and Best Screenplay.

Passion of Joan of Arc, The (1928) Historical ΨΨΨ

Historically important silent film that portrays the burning of Joan of Arc as a heretic. The mental status of Joan of Arc remains a controversial subject for historians interested in psychopathology.

President's Analyst, The (1967) Spy/Comedy ΨΨ

James Coburn plays a psychoanalyst working for the President of the United States.

Pressure Point (1962) Drama ΨΨΨ

A black psychiatrist (Sidney Poitier) treats a racist patient (Bobby Darin). Based on a case from Linder's *The Fifty-Minute Hour*.

Prime (2005) Drama ΨΨ

A therapist discovers that her patient is having an affair with the therapist's son and fails to disclose this dual relationship.

Prince of Tides, The (1991) Drama/Romance ΨΨΨ

Barbra Streisand plays a psychiatrist who becomes sexually involved with the brother of one of her patients (Nick Nolte). The film raises interesting questions about the proper limits of the doctor-patient relationship.

Quills (2000) Drama ΨΨΨ

Geoffrey Rush stars in this Philip Kaufman film about the notorious French author who is responsible for the word sadism. The film depicts the abuses that occurred in the eighteenth century in the Charenton Insane Asylum, a mental hospital located in the suburbs of Paris. The Marquis de Sade died at Charenton in 1814.

"I write of the great, eternal truths that bind together all mankind. The whole world over, we eat, we shit, we fuck, we kill and we die."

The Marquis de Sade describes his views on literature in *Quills* (2000)

Rampage (1992) Drama/Thriller ΨΨΨ

William Friedkin film about a sociopath who is arrested and tried for murder. The film raises important questions about capital punishment, the not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI) plea, and the role of the expert witness in the courtroom.

See You in the Morning (1989) Drama ΨΨ

A film about a Manhattan psychiatrist with multiple problems, including a failed first marriage. Interesting group therapy sequences and lots of speculation about motivation and purpose.

Shock Corridor (1963) Drama ΨΨ

Samuel Fuller film in which a journalist has himself admitted to an insane asylum in order to get an inside story on a murder but soon becomes psychotic himself. The film is better than it sounds.

"Good night and sweet dreams... which we'll analyze in the morning."

Spellbound (1945)

Spellbound (1945) Thriller ΨΨΨΨ

Ingrid Bergman plays a psychiatrist treating Gregory Peck's amnesia. Salvador Dali helped design the film's dream sequence. Producer David Selznick wanted the film to be based on his own experiences with psychotherapy and he used his own analyst as a technical advisor. Watch for the Hitchcock cameo.

Still of the Night (1982) Thriller Ψ

A psychiatrist becomes romantically involved with a woman who may have murdered one of his patients.

Teresa (1951) Drama Ψ

Notable only because it stars Rod Steiger in his first role. Steiger plays a psychiatrist in the film.

Through a Glass Darkly (1962) Drama ΨΨΨΨΨ

Classic Bergman film that follows the life of a mentally ill woman after she is treated with ECT and released from a mental hospital.

Tin Cup (1996) Comedy ΨΨ

A promiscuous Texas real estate sales person becomes a psychologist and trades off psychotherapy for golf lessons, eventually winding up in bed with the golf pro.

Touched (1983) Romance Ψ

Two patients on a psychiatric ward fall in love and try to set up a life together after they escape.

What About Bob? (1991) Comedy Ψ

Bill Murray plays Bob Wiley, a patient who becomes overly dependent on his therapist, Leo Marvin, played by Bill Murray. The film is very funny, and it raises interesting questions about transference and countertransference. Note the inane discussion of potential psychotropic medications.

"I'm not a shmuck Bob, and I'm not going to let you breeze into town and steal my family away just because you're crazy enough to be fun."

Dr. Leo Marvin to patient Bob Wiley
in *What About Bob?* (1991)

Whispers in the Dark (1992) Thriller/Drama ΨΨ

This murder mystery revolves around a psychiatrist who becomes overly involved in the lives of her patients. Mainly useful as a vehicle for discussion of professional issues and lessons on how *not* to behave in therapy.