

Roland's Movie Ratings (as of May 26, 2018)

Movie	Watched	Grade	Notes
2 Days In New York	16J07	D	Stupid, vulgar movie about a French family visiting their daughter/sister in New York. Watched about 20 minutes before giving up.
10 Items or Less	17K03	C+	Morgan Freeman as aging actor researching role as supermarket manager helps feisty Latino check-out clerk search for better job.
21 Grams	13E17	B-	Silly title (refers to weight supposedly lost when person dies), disjointed film, but great acting (Sean Penn) and important issues.
42, The Jackie Robinson Story	14A17	A	A great movie! Even though I knew the basic story, it still fascinated me. Fun to see actors playing ballplayers I used to follow.
45 Years	17D21	B	One week before couple's 45th anniversary, body of his first love is found in Alpine crevice; issues of trust, secrecy and forgiveness.
50/50	14J24	C	Vulgar, frivolous comedy about 27-year-old who has cancer, loses girlfriend, but is helped by faithful, raunchy friend.
About Elly	4/22/16	B	Weekend vacation of former Iranian college friends turns grim when invited guest, young teacher, goes missing. Good mystery.
Adaptation	16L23	C+	Screenwriter makes film about journalist who writes book about, and falls in love with, rare orchid hunter. A bit too clever & artsy.
Amazing Grace	18E11	B+	Inspiring story of William Wilberforce's two decade fight, ultimately successful, to abolish slavery throughout the British Empire.
American Hustle	14J03	B-	Based on the 1980s Abscam scandal, almost everyone in this film is phony and dishonest. A bit confusing, but pretty good.
Amour	16H12	B-	Elderly man does his best to care for his wife after she suffers 2 strokes, but she just wants to die. No transcendent hope here.
And Justice For All	13I06	B	Conscientious defense lawyer tells jury his client, a prominent judge, is <u>guilty</u> of rape. Funny, good acting, exaggerated plot.
Anna Karenina	13K01	B-	Based on Tolstoy's classic novel, this film has very high ratings, but a little too artsy for me. Semi-realistic, but partly dream-like.
	15J09	B-	Watched this 2012 version for the 2nd time. Keira Knightly is great as Anna, but the way it's staged is a little confusing.
Annie Hall	17K18	C+	Supposedly Woody Allen's best film, with Diane Keaton, but to me it was funny in parts but not really memorable. Plus it's 40 yrs. old.
Another Year	14F06	C+	Mature married couple try to help dysfunctional single friends; ordinary-looking actors, interesting but plot not tied together well.
Antwone Fisher	18C09	B+	Great story about black sailor who, with help of psychiatrist, overcomes his child abuse and connects with family he never knew.
Apostle, The	18E18	C (?)	Robert Duvall as Pentecostal preacher from Texas. Only watched part; seemed too exaggerated and borderline blasphemous.
Argo	14D15	B-	Rescue of six Americans during Iranian crisis when Jimmy Carter was president. Well done, but not my kind of movie.
Arranged	12B03	A-	Really enjoyable! About a friendship between two young women, one Muslim and one Jewish, who both have arranged marriages.

Artist, The	12K16	B-	Interesting film about silent movie star's difficult transition to the "talkies."
As Far as My Feet Will Carry Me	17F23	B-	German prisoner escapes from Siberian labor camp, with help of camp doctor, and makes it back home on foot to wife & children.
As It Is In Heaven	13B01	B	Famous but fragile musician returns to his hometown in Sweden, transforms church choir, and helps transform damaged lives.
Babel	13C01	B+	Somewhat disjointed film about inability to communicate, set in Egypt, Mexico and Japan. Disturbing but extremely interesting.
Bagdad Café	12K09	B+	Strange, funny movie, about a failing restaurant/gas station near an Indian reservation. Stranded German tourist revitalizes cafe.
Barbara	16I16	B-	East German doctor in 1980, transferred to boondocks because she asked for exit visa, allows another girl to escape in her place.
Before Midnight	15K13	B+	Part 3. Jesse and Celine, still in love, meet again when he is over 40, divorced with a little boy, and she has twin daughters.
Before Sunrise	15J/30	B	Part 1 of trilogy: young couple meet on train, spend night talking and wandering in Vienna, and make plans to meet in six months.
Before Sunset	15/K06	B	Part 2 of trilogy: they do not meet in 6 months, but do accidentally 9 years later in Paris. He's married; she's not; they still hit it off.
Being Julia	13E24	C	Aging English actress Julia, has affair with young American, but he falls for actress his age; Julia gets revenge by upstaging her.
Bella	11/L/21	A-	Beautiful, great themes (pro-life, family, single parenthood, etc.) but perhaps a little too sweet and unbelievable.
Bend It Like Beckham	12E11	B	Teenaged Pakistani girl overcomes parental disapproval to play soccer, stars on English women's team, and gets scholarship.
Bicycle Thief, The	14H08	B	Old (post WWII) Italian film; man gets job requiring bicycle, bike is stolen, can't find it, so he tries to steal a bike and gets caught.
Big Kahuna, The	12B 24	B	Danny DeVito and Kevin Spacey go to a sales convention with a young Christian guy. Funny, vulgar, and thought-provoking.
Billy Elliot	12F01	D	Young athletic boy likes ballet rather than boxing, so he is assumed to be gay. Quit watching half way through.
Blue (Kieslowski trilogy)	15E01	B-	Widow of famous composer who dies in crash tries isolation, but ultimately befriends woman who was having affair with composer.
Blue Jasmine	16I23	B	After husband commits suicide in prison, New York socialite goes to live with sister in San Francisco, but keeps losing. Funny/sad.
Book Thief, The	14I26	B	Illiterate girl placed with German family during WW II is taught to read by her new "father" and by Jewish youth hiding in basement.
Bothersome Man, The	14H22	C+	Strange Norwegian film. Man arrives by bus to remote place, car takes him to city where all seem happy, but he just doesn't fit in.
Boyhood	16A15	B-	12 years of a boy's life in a changing, dysfunctional family; he receives much advice about responsibility from irresponsible adults.
Boy in the Striped Pajamas, The	14J31	B+	Son of Nazi concentration camp commander sneaks into camp, dies with Jewish boy and other Jews in gas chamber. Sobering.

Bride Flight	15E15	B+	Post-war flight of Dutch women to meet husbands in New Zealand; marital infidelity & nudity; harsh judgment of church leaders.
Bridge of Spies	17D14	B+	Tom Hanks does a great job negotiating cold war exchange of U2 pilot (Gary Powers) for USSR spy caught in Brooklyn.
Broken Flowers	17J06	C+	Older bachelor visits 4 former girlfriends to discover who may have borne son to him; mildly humorous, but not really believable.
Brooklyn	17E05	B	Irish immigrant falls in love with & marries Italian in Brooklyn, then on visit to Ireland finds another man. Which will she choose?
Captain Phillips	15J02	A-	Terrific dramatization of Somali pirates seizing a U.S. container ship in 2009, with Tom Hanks as ship captain. High suspense.
Catch Me If You Can	13E30	B	Tom Hanks as FBI agent chases master fraud artist (Leonardo DiCaprio) who poses as airline pilot, doctor & lawyer.
	18B02	B	Watched for 2nd time, only remembered 2 scenes! Apparently based, maybe loosely, on a true story. Very entertaining.
Changing Lanes	15B27	A-	Fender-bender accident leads to late appointments for drivers, nearly destroying their lives. Great acting and believable plot.
Children of a Lesser God	14J17	B	New teacher at school for deaf falls in love with emotionally damaged alumna working as custodian; they help each other grow.
Children of Chabannes	14A31	B-	Documentary about small village in France that harbored and rescued Jewish children in WWII. Mostly interviews with survivors.
Children of Heaven	18C24		Ruth Ann watched this Iranian film, which she said is excellent, but mainly for kids, about a brother and sister in a poor family.
Chinatown	17I22	B-	Early (1974) film; Jack Nicholson as private eye hired by wife to investigate husband finds incest and murder; ambiguous ending.
Chocolat	18C30	B-	Free-spirited woman opens chocolate shop in village during Lent, disturbing hypocritical Catholics. Not quite believable morality tale.
Chorus, The (Les Choristes)	17B17	B-	Predictable plot – gifted teacher changes troubled students' lives – but well done; new prefect at sadistic school starts chorus, etc.
Cinema Paradiso	15H07	B	Long, slow start, but ultimately really interesting; boy in pre-war Italy, loves movies, becomes famous director but loses girlfriend.
City Slickers	18D06	C+	Silly, bordering on frivolous, but entertaining movie about three "city slickers" who experience life at a dude ranch.
Clearing, The	18B09	B-	Interesting but not compelling story about a kidnapping and killing by a troubled man who is easily caught. Very good acting.
Company Men	13C22	C+	Executives in down-sized shipbuilding company try to cope. Fairly interesting, but not compelling plot.
Concert, The	13K14	B-	In this USSR-era comedy, former Jewish members of the Bolshoi Orchestra, travel to Paris for an improbable reunion concert.
Concussion	17A13	B	Nigerian pathologist challenged NFL after discovering that many football players suffered deep brain injuries from concussions.
Conspirator	15J23	B	Historical movie, apparently based on facts, directed by Robert Redford about trial of Mary Surat for conspiring to kill Lincoln.

Contact	14A24	C+	Atheist scientist (Jodie Foster), counterbalanced by so-called spiritual guru, travels to distant planet, finds her deceased father.
Crimes and Misdemeanors	14E02	B-	Woody Allen film. Ophthalmologist arranges to have his former mistress murdered. Funny, but weak resolution of moral issues.
Daily Special	12D27	C+	A cook heading for Paris takes over the family's Indian restaurant when his father has a heart attack. Funny in parts, but average.
Darjeeling Limited, The	15A16	C+	Beautiful but unsatisfying film about 3 brothers from dysfunctional home who take a train trip across India to rekindle their bond.
Dear God	12E25	C-	Con man gets assigned to dead letter office; he and co-workers read "Dear God" letters and try to answer some of them. Silly.
Defending Your Life	17K10	C-	Watched about half of this silly movie about a rich executive who dies and must defend how he lived on earth in "Judgment City."
Delicacy	17B10	B-	French romantic comedy; young widow falls for Swedish co-worker who is quiet but pretty funny. Not profound, but entertaining.
Departed, The	18A19	C+	Great actors (Matt Damon, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jack Nicholson) but this mobster movie set in Boston is too violent for us.
Departures	13C29	B-	Japanese cello player finds new job grooming bodies for cremation. Better than it sounds, but much mushy symbolism of death.
Descendants, The	12C23	B	One of the descendants of a Hawaiian family controlling an enormously valuable chunk of land works through family problems.
Dish, The	13G20	C+	Quasi-documentary about a satellite dish in remote Australia that beamed TV images of the Apollo 11's moon landing to the world.
Doubt	14C21	B	Nun (Meryl Streep) wrongly suspects priest (Philip Seymour Hoffman) of sexual abuse of altar boy. Absorbing and well-acted film.
Drive	16H26	C+	Really an updated western, with a movie stunt man driver as the "cowboy" who kills all the bad guys, helps a young widow, and then rides out of town, alone, in his Chevie Camero. Too violent.
Drop, The	15L18	C+	This crime drama set in Brooklyn is pretty violent, but good acting by Tom Hardy & James Gandolfini (his last film); worth watching.
Duchess, The	14L26	C+	Keira Knightley as wife of 18th century aristocrat; both adulterers; she stifles her liberal political views to avoid losing her children.
Elizabeth	11L23	B	Pretty interesting drama about the first Queen Elizabeth of England.
Encounters at the End of the World	12A27	C+	Documentary about antarctica. Interviews with scientists and others. Not very interesting to me, but beautiful photography.
End of the Affair, The	16A22	B+	Really good movie based on Graham Greene novel; wife in sterile marriage falls in love with another man ... until God interferes.
Enough Said	14A10 16K04	C C+	Somewhat far-fetched entanglements of divorced couples; watched twice (mistakenly); found it a bit more humorous second time.
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind	14B23	C	Erasing all memories of a former boy- or girl-friend. Too confusing, although if we hadn't been so tired we might have enjoyed it.
Everything Must Go	14L19	C+	Alcoholic executive fired, locked out of house with his stuff on the lawn, has big yard sale, runs out of beer and finally sobers up.

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close	13E10	B-	Tom Hanks & Sandra Bullock as parents of nerdy boy who hunts all over NYC for lock to fit key left by his father who died in 9/11.
Eye in the Sky	16K11	B+	Helen Mirren stars in this excellent film highlighting difficult moral issues involved in using drones to kill terrorists in Ethiopia.
Far From the Madding Crowd	16I09	C+	Based on Thomas Hardy classic, Young woman inherits farm & handles everything except romance. Not too believable in parts.
	17D28	B-	Enjoyable 2015 version with Carey Mulligan as Bathsheba, who inherits a farm but makes some impetuous choices; good acting.
Fences	17G28	B+	Black family struggles with well-meaning but illiterate and abusive father. Great acting by Denzel Washington & Viola Davis.
Field of Dreams	18C16	C	Watched part of this silly, disappointing movie. Iowa farmer hears voice & builds baseball diamond in cornfield. Absurd plot. Dumb.
Fill the Void	15K27	B-	18-year-old sister of Orthodox Jew who dies in childbirth is imported by family to marry widower; she agonizes but finally agrees.
Finding Forrester	12A20	B	Black teenager from inner city, great basketball player but loves to write, gets scholarship to private school. Pretty good.
Finest Hours, The	16J07	B+	Outstanding film based on extraordinary rescue of 32 seamen on a ship that broke in half during a violent Atlantic storm.
Five Easy Pieces	14B07	C+	Young Jack Nicholson as aimless misanthrope & failed musician, quits work in oil fields, visits family and father who had a stroke.
Florence Foster Jenkins	16I07	B+	New York socialite (Meryl Streep) in 1940's dreams of becoming a great singer. Trouble is, she can't sing. Hilarious!
Freedom Writers, The	12K02	B-	Another white-teacher-revolutionizes-ghetto-school movie, set in L.A. after Watts riots. Teacher, Hillary Swank. Fairly well done.
French Lieutenant's Woman	13H03	B-	Story of Victorian sexual and social oppression, with confusing modern parallel story. Meryl Streep & Jeremy Irons.
Frozen River	13I27	B	Two desperately poor mothers, one native American, get involved smuggling aliens across a frozen river on the Canadian border.
Gift, The	14I19	B-	A woman who scrapes out a living telling fortunes helps find the body of a murdered woman, and becomes a suspect herself.
Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story	12F08	A-	Very inspiring true story of black boy, with illiterate single mother, who grows up to be chief of neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Univ.
Girl From Paris	13D05	B	Young woman quits job in Paris and buys a goat farm in a remote area from an old widower with mixed emotions about selling it.
Glory Road	15H10	B	1966 Texas Western, using all black players, beats mighty Duke in 1966 NCAA final, opening door to integrated sports in south.
Gone Girl	15E08	B-	Clever scheming wife ("Amazing Amy") frames her husband for her "murder" and then disappears, but returns to him in the end.
	17C24	C+	Watched again (by mistake). Seemed a little more contrived and not quite as believable, although entertaining.
Good Lie, The	17F30	B	Four siblings who survive violence in south Sudan come to U.S., where they find home and some funny experiences in Kansas City.

Good Will Hunting	14D18	C+	Matt Damon as genius who's a janitor at MIT until helped by psychiatrist to accept himself. Interesting, but not great.
Gosford Park	16L16	C+	Murder mystery set during 1932 shooting party weekend at British country house. A big confusing and not too interesting to me.
Gran Torino	15J16	B+	Clint Eastwood is great as cantankerous retired auto worker who dislikes his Hmong neighbors, but gradually changes his mind.
Great Santini, The	13J18	C+	An obnoxious, gung-ho Marine pilot bullies his family, apparently because there's no war going on. Too much military culture!
Green Mile, The	15I11	B	Entertaining Tom Hanks film about prisoners on death row, including huge black guy wrongfully convicted of murdering 2 girls.
Grocer's Son, The	13L19	B	After 10 years away, son is summoned back home to carry on grocery business in rural France when his father has heart attack.
Hairdresser's Husband, The	15L11	C+	Funny, sexy, a bit weird and unbelievable, but pervaded with nihilism; 2 suicides, anti-child, anti-aging, live for now and then die.
Hamlet	13H09	B+	Great acting in this almost literal retelling of Shakespeare's great drama. Long, but compelling for those who like Shakespeare.
Happy-Go-Lucky	14J31	C (?)	Watched part, but seemed to be a silly British chick flick.
Heartburn	14E23	C+	Despite the efforts of Meryl Streep & Jack Nicholson, this comedy is not too believable and overall pretty flat, though funny in parts.
Help, The	12B17	B+	Very enjoyable. Plight of "colored" maids in the south in early to mid-20th century. Good acting.
Higher Ground	12C30	B-	Struggle of young woman trying to fit in a fundamentalist church. Some exaggeration, but mostly descriptive.
Hologram for the King, A	18B23	B-	American salesman (Tom Hanks) tries sell a hologram contract to king of Saudi Arabia. Not very realistic & skimpy plot, but funny.
Homecoming	12H31	B	Very enjoyable. Mentally ill mother abandons four kids, oldest takes charge and leads them to house of estranged Grandma.
Hope Springs	15D10	C+	Tommy Lee Jones & Meryl Streep are great actors and add a lot of humor to this otherwise stupid film about marriage counseling.
House of Mirth	15G10	B	Plight of single woman in New York high society, circa 1905, based on Edith Wharton's novel. Sad but very well done.
House of Sand and Fog	18E04	B	Very immature young woman ignores tax notices and her house is foreclosed & bought by former colonel in Shah's Iran. Sad ending.
Howard's End	13 B08	C+	Based on the novel by E.M. Forster, this movie has gorgeous scenery, good acting, but a confusing plot. with a weak resolution.
Hustler, The	16A29	B	Young Paul Newman as pool shark defeated by alcoholism but ultimately overcoming it to win big. Interesting but not great.
Ida	15F12	B	Nun in post-war Poland, born Jewish, meets her Communist aunt, discovers her family's fate, tries her aunt's lifestyle, but then returns to convent.
Illusionist, The	15B20	B+	Highly entertaining film. Viennese magician's childhood girlfriend, fiancée of a prince, may or may not have been murdered.

Imitation Game, The	17C10	B	Good but ultimately sad story of Alan Turing, British cryptologist who solved Nazi Enigma code, shortening WW2, but committed suicide after post-war arrest and "treatment" for homosexuality.
Impossible, The	17A20	B	Tsunami destroys Thailand resort, but vacationing family of four survive, barely. Pretty exciting, but sad. Based on true story.
In America	18C02	B-	Poor Irish immigrant family with 2 adorable girls and one deceased son are helped by African artist when facing tragedy in New York.
Infernal Affairs	15C20	C+	Hong Kong crime thriller, duel between police and crime boss, with moles planted on each side. Well done but confusing to me.
Interpreter, The	12J05	B	Pretty good political thriller, set at United Nations building in NY.
In the Bedroom	17F02	B	Doctor in Maine whose son is murdered kills murderer & hides the body. Well-done, sobering film, with inconclusive ending.
It's Complicated	13E03	D	Despite good acting by Meryl Streep, this is a silly, stupid movie about adultery and sex, although not explicit. Only watched half.
Jerry Maguire	14I13	B-	Tom Cruise as sports agent is upstaged by Cuba Gooding, Jr. in this highly entertaining 1996 comedy about NFL football players.
Jude	12J19	B+	Based on Thomas Hardy's novel, this film is well acted and raises some good questions. Probably more nudity than necessary.
Junebug	17I15	C	Sophisticated Chicago art dealer travels with husband to visit his family in N.C. Not-too-believable satire of hillbillyish southern life.
Kandahar	17F09	C+	Afghan-born Canadian tries to get to her sister in Afghanistan who lost her legs to land mine; eye-opening but inconclusive ending.
Lady in the Van	16G07	B-	How a crotchety, ill-kempt, poor, but educated woman (Maggie Smith) lived in a van parked in a writer's driveway for 15 years.
Lantana	17F16	B-	Travails of troubled marriages/relationships in Australia marked by deception & lack of trust; one wife dies mysteriously.
Last Station, The	15I04	B+	Excellent movie about the end of Leo Tolstoy's life and the battle between his idealistic followers and his strong-willed wife, Sofya.
Late Quartet, A	13L12	B	Oldest member of string quartet gets Parkinson's and has to quit, but group carries on with new cellist. Good acting.
Le Havre	16H19	B	Elderly shoe-shiner in Le Havre, France, finds and protects (with help from friends) young boy who is illegal immigrant from Africa.
Les Miserables	13F14	A-	Musical adaption of Hugo's classic novel. Great acting, great voices. Thoroughly enjoyable.
Letters to Juliet	13E03	?	Probably OK chick flick, but DVD jammed part way through so only watched about a third. Beautiful setting in Verona, Italy.
Life of a King	15C06	B+	Cuba Gooding, Jr. as an ex-con who teaches inner-city kids how to play chess and "play by the rules" in life as well as chess.
Life of Pi	15I18	B+	Fascinating story (fable?); ship with family bringing exotic zoo animals from India sinks in storm; only one son and a tiger survive.
Like Sunday, Like Rain	16C11	B	Very enjoyable; 13-year-old music prodigy in rich NYC family hits it off with his young, highly inexperienced, but caring new nanny.

Lincoln Lawyer, The	15B13	B	Entertaining story of lawyer who gets rich but guilty client off on rape and murder charges, but frees wrongfully convicted client.
Lion	17H18	B	Small boy in India gets lost, then adopted by kind Australian couple, and ultimately finds birth mother in India. Based on true story.
Lion in Winter, The	15C27	C+	A reputed classic, with Anthony Hopkins & Katharine Hepburn, it does show 12th century England, but the plot is murky to me.
Little Miss Sunshine	17I01	C+	Farcical, vulgar, but funny movie about dysfunctional family that takes trip in VW bus to get young daughter into beauty contest.
Lives of Others, The	13G05	B+	Really good movie (after I saw it twice) about an East German Stasi agent who first spies on and then saves a dissident writer.
Lore	17B03	B	14-year-old daughter of Nazi couple escapes, with 4 siblings and help of a Jew, to grandmother's house in Hamburg at end of war.
Lost in Translation	13B22	B	Very funny in parts; married man in Tokyo alone explores the city with young married woman whose husband is always working.
Manchester by the Sea	17H25	B-	Janitor haunted by negligently allowing his 3 children to die in a house fire reluctantly becomes guardian to his teenage nephew.
Mansfield Park	12A06	B-	Good but not great. Based on Jane Austin novel.
Maria Full of Grace	16K25	B	17-year-old Colombian girl becomes a "mule" transporting drugs to U.S. in her stomach, while pregnant. Not violent, but sobering.
Marie Antoinette	15B06	C+	Kirsten Dunst is pretty good as the famous French queen, but the film is mostly a girly spectacle. Not too much substance.
Martha, Marci, May, Marlene	12D13	B-	Girl whose mother died and father abandoned her joins a commune, escapes to newly-married sister's house, but can't adjust.
Master & Commander: The Far Side of ...	15D11	B-	Based on 2 of Patrick O'Brien's naval warfare novels, set in early 19th century. Well done, but too much senseless fighting for me.
Melancholia	14E09	B	Really interesting end-of-the-world film, with good acting but unclear plot. No real hope here, but nice humanistic ending.
Melvin and Howard	17K24	C+	Good natured, clueless, gas station owner left a fortune in will of hitchhiker who turns out to be Howard Hughes. Funny in parts.
Michael Clayton	14L05	C+	George Clooney in legal thriller, billion dollar suit against corporation for poisoning farm land. Interesting but difficult to follow.
Midnight in Paris	13A18	B	Woody Allen film about not living in the past; funny in parts.
Midnight Run	17L25	B+	Foul-mouthed, farcical, but fun-ny! Robert De Niro as ex-cop who dodges bad guys and bullets to turn in embezzler to collect reward.
Mighty Heart, A	15K20	B	True life film starring Angelina Jolie as wife of Daniel Pearl, Wall Street journalist who was captured and beheaded in Pakistan.
Million Dollar Baby	15G03	B	Great acting by Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman, Hilary Swank; girl boxer gets really good but paralyzed by low blow in last fight.
Moonstruck	15I04	B-	Italian family's widowed daughter gets engaged to one man but falls in love with & marries his brother. Not profound but funny.
Mozart's Sister	13G12	C+	Fictionalized story of Mozart's older sister, also a prodigy but a victim of gender discrimination. Not too interesting to me.

Much Ado About Nothing	15H21	B	Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson star in this film version of one of Shakespeare's best-known comedies. Very enjoyable!
Mud	14F06	B	Absorbing movie about two 14-year-old boys who help a man hiding from the law on an island. Raises issues about love & family.
Music of the Heart	12G06	B-	Violin teacher (Meryl Streep) who starts successful but unfunded program teaching inner-city kids to play the violin.
My Afternoons with Margueritte	14D11	B	Enjoyable French film. Man reputed to be a stupid oaf is changed by his friendship with a 95-year-old woman he meets in a park.
My Cousin Vinnie	17G14	B+	Very funny movie; new lawyer from Brooklyn tries and wins his first case when his cousin & a friend are tried for murder in Alabama.
My Mother's Smile	17L15	C	Film about Italian atheist recruited to help in possible canonization of his mother may show Catholic practice but distorts Christianity.
Mystic River	15A09	B+	Grim, amoral, but fascinating story of child abuse, murder and (mistaken) revenge, with great acting by Sean Penn and others.
Namesake, The	12B10	C+	Three generations of Indians shuttling back and forth from Calcutta to New York. Mildly interesting.
Nebraska	14G15	A-	Great film, funny and yet thought-provoking, about an old man who travels from Montana to Nebraska to collect sweepstakes "prize."
New World, The	15G24	C+	Although beautifully filmed, this is a real snoozer about Pocahontas and founding of Jamestown, VA. Probably highly fictionalized.
Nicholas Nickleby	16/L09	C+	Entertaining but overly-sentimental movie with standard Charles Dickens' features (sadistic boys' school, crippled boy who dies).
October Baby	13C08	B-	Pro-life film about consequences of unsuccessful abortion. Great message, well-acted, not preachy, but somewhat unrealistic.
Of Gods and Men	13H23	B+	Very good movie about monks threatened, then captured (all but one), and ultimately killed by terrorists during the Algerian war.
O'Horten (a.k.a. Odd Horten)	16G14	B-	Norwegian film; droll, even weird, adventures of retiring train engineer. Subtle humor & odd, head-scratching scenes.
Once	14L26	B	Really enjoyable movie about a romance in Dublin between two musicians, a guy who ditched his girlfriend and a married woman.
One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest	14G25	B+	Early, funny movie, based on Ken Kesey's novel, starring Jack Nicholson in a state mental hospital; raises mental health issues.
On the Way to School	17L08	B+	Excellent documentary showing the hardships that students in four different countries have to overcome to attend school.
Osama	13G27	B	Good but depressing. Young Muslim girl dresses as a boy to escape Taliban and help her family, but is discovered & punished.
Other Son, The	18D13	A-	Wonderful story about 2 young men, one Israeli and one Palestinian, who were switched at birth and how they & their families cope.
Our Souls at Night	17J13	C+	Robert Redford & Jane Fonda as elderly neighbors who decide to sleep together just for company. Chick flick for senior citizens.
Outlaw Josey Wales, The	16C04	B-	1976 Clint Eastwood film that spoofs westerns (six-shooter never misses, or runs out of bullets) but carries anti-war message.

Out of Sight	15A23	C+	George Clooney & Jennifer Lopez are good actors, but the movie was too contrived and not really believable. Pretty funny, though.
Overnighters, The	15G17	B	What happens when flawed Lutheran pastor in small N.D. town allows job-seekers, including sex offenders, to stay in church.
Owning Mahowny	18D20	B-	Bank manager with secret gambling addiction wins – and loses – millions, just to keep gambling; is finally caught & jailed for fraud.
Painted Veil, The	13A25	B-	Shy, socially insecure epidemiologist takes hastily married bride to China, she has affair, he forgives her, then dies of cholera.
Peace, Love & Misunderstanding	12L07	C+	Aged hippie (Jane Fonda) introduces long-separated daughter and two grandchildren to hippie culture. Mildly humorous.
Perfect Parents	17J20	B-	Non-Catholic parents bribe a priest to get their daughter into a Catholic school; sounds humorous but it leads to murder.
Philomena	15H28	B+	With help of journalist, elderly, simple Irish woman searches for son taken from her as baby and sold for adoption by nuns.
Pledge, The	14D04	B	Really good movie about retired cop (Jack Nicholson) who solves young girl's murder. Great acting, but ending not too satisfactory.
Pride and Prejudice	12H17	B-	Enjoyable, especially because I'd read the book, but not that compelling. A lot about 19th century culture and manners.
Producers, The	18E25	C	This half-century (1968) film about swindling old ladies with a fake Nazi musical was too much slapstick. Watched 15-20 minutes.
Proof	15G31	B-	After crazy math genius dies, his older practical daughter tries to take care of his younger, unstable, but brilliant daughter.
P. T. Barnum	14K21	B+	Long, very entertaining movie about a fascinating 19th century icon who was not the best family man but reinvented the circus.
Queen to Play	12D20	A-	I really enjoyed this movie. A maid who cleans rooms for a living gets excited about chess, and ultimately wins a tournament.
Rachel Getting Married	14K07	C+	Wedding of older daughter in super-dysfunctional family, full of jealousy, vindictiveness, anger, bitterness, etc. Mildly interesting.
Reader, The	12F29	A-	A lot of sexuality/nudity, but the acting is great and the story compelling – about a Nazi prison guard who never learned to read.
Red (Kieslowski trilogy)	15D22	B	Last of a trilogy by Kieslowski; absorbing but confusing story of young model and retired judge, and how their lives converged.
Red Violin, The	12K30	B-	Interesting history of famous “red violin,” made centuries ago in Italy and ultimately obtained by fraud. Difficult to follow in parts.
Ref, The	13H16	B-	Funny story of burglar surprised in the act, who escapes by taking married couple hostage, but their bickering drives him crazy.
Return to Me	12H24	C+	Chick flick, mildly humorous. Italian girl gets heart transplant, then falls in love with donor's widower.
Revolutionary Road	13D19	C+	Bored young suburban couple decide husband will quit corporate job & they'll move to Paris; then he gets a promotion and stays.
Rewrite, The	18C23	B-	Screen writer who had one big hit long ago winds up teaching in Binghamton, NY. Not profound, but engaging & funny in parts.

Room With a View, A	13F07	B-	Proper English girl is impulsively kissed by free-spirited guy, then engaged to bookish nerd, finally marries free spirit. Good story.
Royal Affair, A	15E29	B-	18th century Denmark, half-crazy king, a new queen who has affair with king's private German doctor with overly-liberal views.
Royal Tenenbaums, The	17E26	C+	Wes Anderson film about wildly dysfunctional family coming together, sort of. Funny in parts, but not really believable.
Saving Mr. Banks	15L04	B	Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson re-enact the making of the original Mary Poppins film, which I had never seen. Very enjoyable.
Scarlet Letter, The	13A11	B-	Adapted (freely?) from Nathaniel Hawthorne's famous novel, this movie was enjoyable although a bit hard to follow. Good acting.
Schindler's List	13J04	A-	Sobering film about German factory owner who grew rich using Jewish slave labor but changed to rescue many from Holocaust.
Scoop	14E30	B+	Nonsensical plot about post-death experiences, but Woody Allen is really funny; also stars Hugh Jackman and Scarlett Johansson.
Secret in their Eyes, The	14G11	B	Absorbing film from Argentina about a 20-year-old murder/ rape case; a bit confusing, but raises issues of justice and revenge.
Secret Life of Words, The	17I08	B	Sobering anti-war film; deaf solitary factory worker, who survived rape and mutilation by soldiers, nurses badly burned oil rig worker.
Selma	17E19	A-	Superb documentary about Martin Luther King Jr. and the famous civil rights march from Selma to Birmingham, Alabama.
Separation, A	17L01	B	Intriguing Iranian film about marital break-up; husband's father has Alzheimer's; woman hired to watch him miscarries. Abrupt ending.
S�raphine	13F28	B-	Devout house cleaner secretly paints brilliant canvases, is helped by art dealer, but her mind deteriorates and she dies in asylum.
Seventh Seal, The	13 K15	?	Watched about half of this famous Ingmar Bergman movie, without understanding much of its symbolism. Too tired to finish it.
Shakespeare High	16E13	B-	Student drama clubs from many diverse high schools compete in a Shakespeare festival. Entertaining but not great Shakespeare.
Short Term 12	16I30	B	Thought-provoking drama about group home for troubled teens.
Sideways	14G29	C	Former college roommates tour California wine country for bachelor fling, taste wine, meet and seduce girls. Funny but sad too.
Silver Linings Play-book	14C14	B-	Not profound, but very entertaining story of how two mental cases develop a relationship that helps both of them. Funny in parts.
Sixth Sense, The	12C02	B-	Psychological thriller about a little boy who can see things others can't, like past events, dead people, etc.
Sleepwalk with Me	16J14	C	Silly but somewhat entertaining movie about a stand-up comedian who has a sleep-walking problem.
Smoke Signals	12E04	C+	Two Native American teenagers leave the reservation to find out what happened to the father of one of them. Mildly interesting.
Sneakers	17J27	C+	Silly, preposterous plot, but funny entertaining film about computer espionage circa 1990, starring Robert Redford and Sidney Poitier.
SnowCake	12A13	B+	Absorbing movie about an autistic woman whose free-spirited daughter was killed in truck-car accident.

Social Network, The	14F27	B-	History and development of Facebook, created by Mark Zuckerberg, a Harvard student, computer genius, and social misfit,
Soloist, The	13K/16	C+	Journalist for L.A. Times discovers homeless street musician, who attended Julliard, and helps get him an apartment.
Something's Gotta Give	14F/13	B-	Not much of substance, but Jack Nicholson is pretty funny in this comedy about a middle-aged couple.
Son, The	18D27	B-	Teacher of carpentry apprentices accepts troubled youth who had killed his son while stealing a radio and was locked up for 5 years.
Songcatcher	15F19	B-	Music professor, passed over for promotion, goes to Appalachia, collects folk music, and falls in love with a "mountain man."
Sophie's Choice	16C25	B	Meryl Street, beautiful Polish survivor of Nazi death camp, had to choose which child to save, then lived with guilt all her life. Sad.
Spotlight	16G01	A-	How the Boston Globe, with a new Jewish editor-in-chief, uncovered the priest pedophile scandal in Catholic Church. Superb!
Station Agent, The	13J11	B	Good film about a reclusive dwarf who inherits an abandoned railway station in New Jersey and opens up to two unlikely friends.
Still Mine	14K28	B-	Quasi-documentary about 83 (or 87) year old man who, despite regulatory problems, builds a house for his wife with dementia.
Strangers	13C15	B-	Backpack mix-up between Palestinian woman and Israeli man in Berlin leads to affair, followed by personal and political problems.
Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness	15L25	A-	Inspiring documentary about a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania who risked his career to rescue thousands of Jews during WW II.
Sully	17E12	B+	Tom Hanks as the pilot of the "Miracle on the Hudson" emergency landing of an airline with 155 passengers all surviving.
Sun Don't Shine	17D07	C+	Strange but interesting movie about young couple in Everglades to hide a body (her husband's or father's?). Great acting by girl.
Sweet Land	17I29	B+	After WWI young Norwegian farmer gets German mail-order bride who faces and overcomes anti-German prejudice. Well-told story!
Tell No One	15E22	B+	Fascinating French mystery about a doctor charged with killing his wife, who turned up alive. Very complex & hard to follow.
Tender Mercies	13I20	B	Alcoholic former country singing star finds new life when church-going motel/gas station owner employs and then marries him.
Tenth Man, The	12J26	B+	Absorbing story based on Graham Greene novel set in 1941 Paris; lonely lawyer buys his way out of being executed by Nazis.
Terms of Endearment	14E16	B-	Jack Nicholson and Shirley MacLaine are funny, but overall this amoral (but not graphic) mother-daughter conflict film is so-so.
This Is Martin Bonner	17C31	B-	Retired, divorced church business manager works as counselor for released prisoners in Reno with mixed success; abrupt ending.
Titanic, The	14C07	A-	Kate Winslet and Leonardo DeCaprio do a great job in this realistic, exciting 1997 dramatization of an enormous tragedy.
To Be or Not to Be	16D08	C+	Slapstick comedy about Shakespearean actor & cast out-smarting the Nazis in Poland. Silly & unbelievable but Ruth Ann liked it.

Tree of Life, The	13J25	B-	Gorgeous photography. Ambitious story of life from beginning to end of time, focusing on mid-western family in 1950s, with loving but over-bearing father and sensitive 19-year-old son who apparently commits suicide. A bit too long and symbolic for me.
Trouble with the Curve	16B12	B	Predictable, formulaic, preposterous plot, but we loved it. Classic Clint Eastwood as aging baseball scout with failing eyesight.
Two Days, One Night	17C17	B-	Worker laid off for depression spends weekend trying to get fellow workers to give up their bonuses so she can get her job back.
Two Jakes, The	14B28	C	1990 film set in 1948, Jack Nicholson as a private eye involved in a marital dispute. Funny, nostalgic (old cars, etc.), but confusing.
Under the Sand	17G21	B-	Husband tells wife on beach that he is going swimming and never returns; she denies his death, finds no solace, and sees no future.
Unforgiven	16D15	B	Clint Eastwood & Morgan Freeman as former outlaws who leave their peaceful old age to kill a cowboy who cut up a whore's face.
Vanity Fair	18A26	B-	Beautiful, bright, scheming lower-class girl tries to "marry up." Probably difficult to follow for those who haven't read the novel.
Vitus	15F05	B	Highly entertaining Swiss film about a not-quite-believable child prodigy who longs to become just a normal boy.
Vicky Cristina Barcelona	14K14	B-	Woody Allen film about 2 American women who find sexual and other adventures in Spain. Not great, but humorous & intriguing.
Wadjda	17B24	B	Saudi girl longs for bike and finally gets one, but her father hurts her mother by taking a second wife. Good look at Islamic culture.
Walk in the Woods, A	15I24	B	Robert Redford leaves his wife (Emma Thompson) to hike the Appalachian Trail, sort of, with Nick Nolte. Silly but very funny.
Walk the Line	16J28	B+	Life of Johnny Cash, with Reese Witherspoon as his wife, June Carter Cash. Shows effects of bad parenting and drug addiction.
Way, The	14J10	B+	Ophthalmologist learns that his son died on a pilgrimage through the Pyrennes; decides to finish the journey with his son's ashes.
Wendy and Lucy	17G07	C+	Girl living in car arrested for stealing dog food in Oregon abandons her dog to jump a train for Alaska, where she hopes to find work.
Whale Rider	18E25	B-	12-year-old-girl aspires to lead Maori tribe with strong male culture in New Zealand. Not entirely convincing but good as tribal myth.
Whales of August	16L02	B-	Bette Davis, Lillian Gish as 2 elderly, contrary sisters, one blind, living in an island cottage in Maine. Poignant, beautiful scenery.
What Maisie Knew	14B14	C+	Tumultuous life of little girl (5-6?) tossed back and forth between divorcing parents, new step-mother & father, etc.
When I Saw You	15A30	B	1967: bright 11-year-old boy in refugee camp in Jordan with his mother misses his father so much that he sets out to find him.
Where Do We Go Now?	13I13	C+	Lebanese comedy, a bit silly. Christian & Muslim women in same village conspire to quell potential violence of their men.
White (Kieslowski trilogy)	15D28	C+	Male hairdresser stuffs himself in suitcase to get back to Poland; gets rich & fakes his own death to get his former wife to join him.
Wind River	17I19	B	Sad, violent movie describing rape of young Native American woman and her boy friend's murder, amid hopelessness of tribal life.

