The following is by no means a definitive list. Many wonderful films have been neglected. However, I have tried to compile a list that is as well-rounded as possible. I apologize for missing anyone’s favorites. My intent was to create an “essentials” list of films and performers with which aspiring theatre professionals should be familiar and conversant. In order to keep the list manageable, I have confined myself to English language films. I have also concentrated on films made before 1990—assuming that more recent films will already be better known. Enjoy!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Lead Actors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>City Lights</td>
<td>Charles Chaplin</td>
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<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>It Happened One Night</td>
<td>Claudette Colbert, Clark Gable</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Twentieth Century</td>
<td>John Barrymore, Carol Lombard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Thin Man</td>
<td>William Powell, Myrna Loy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>The 39 steps</td>
<td>Robert Donat, Madeleine Carroll</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Top Hat</td>
<td>Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Edward Everett Horton</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A Night at the Opera</td>
<td>The Marx Brothers, Margaret Dumont</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Adventures of Robin Hood</td>
<td>Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland, Basil Rathbone, Claude Rains</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wuthering Heights</td>
<td>Laurence Olivier, Merl Oberon, David Niven</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ninotchka</td>
<td>Greta Garbo, Melvyn Douglas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Grapes of Wrath</td>
<td>Henry Fonda, Jane Darwell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Philadelphia Story</td>
<td>Cary Grant, Katherine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>His Girl Friday</td>
<td>Hepburn, James Stewart</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rebecca</td>
<td>Cary Grant, Rosalind Russell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Citizen Kane</td>
<td>Laurence Olivier, Joan Fontaine, Judith Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Out of the Past</td>
<td>Robert Mitchum, Jane Greer, Kirk Douglas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Red Shoes</td>
<td>Deborah Kerr</td>
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<td>1941</td>
<td>Hamlet</td>
<td>Laurence Olivier, Basil</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Treasure of the Sierra Madre</td>
<td>Sydney, Jean Simmons</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Maltese Falcon</td>
<td>Humphrey Bogart, Mary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Humphrey Bogart, Mary</td>
<td>Astor, Peter Lorre, Sydney</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Greenstreet</td>
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<td>1942</td>
<td>White Heat</td>
<td>James Cagney</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Third Man</td>
<td>Joseph Cotton, Alida Valli, Trevor Howard, Orson Welles</td>
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<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Meet Me in Saint Louis</td>
<td>Judy Garland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Double Indemnity</td>
<td>Fred MacMurray, Barnard Stanwick, Edward G.</td>
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<td>Sig Ruman</td>
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<td>1944</td>
<td>A Streetcar Named</td>
<td>Desire</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vivian Leigh, Marlon Brando, Kim Hunter, Karl Malden</td>
<td>Vivian Leigh, Clark Gable, Leslie Howard, Olivia de Havilland, Hattie McDaniel, Thomas Mitchell</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kirk Douglas</td>
<td>William Holden, Gloria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>An American in Paris</td>
<td>Swanson, Erich Von Stroheim</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron</td>
<td>All About Eve</td>
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<td>1945</td>
<td>Paths of Glory</td>
<td>Betty Davis, Georgie Sanders, Anne Baxter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12 Angry Men</td>
<td>Kirk Douglas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Bridge on the River Kwai</td>
<td>Alec Guinness, William Holden</td>
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<td>Night at the Opera</td>
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The Sweet Smell of Success
Tony Curtis, Burt Lancaster
1958

Touch of Evil
Orson Welles, Janet Leigh, Charlton Heston, Marlene Dietrich
Vertigo
James Stewart, Kim Novak
The Defiant Ones
Sidney Poitier, Tony Curtis
1959

North by Northwest
Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, James Mason
Some Like it Hot
Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis, Marilyn Monroe
Anatomy of a Murder
James Stewart, George C Scott, Lee Remick
1960

Psycho
Anthony Perkins, Vera Miles, Janet Leigh, Martin Balsam
Spartacus
Kirk Douglas, Jean Simmons, Peter Ustinov, Charles Laughton, Laurence Olivier
1961

The Hustler
Paul Newman, George C Scott, Piper Laurie, Jackie Gleason
A Raisin in the Sun
Sidney Poitier
1962

Lawrence of Arabia
Peter O'Toole, Arthur Kennedy, Alec Guinness, Omar Sharif
Lonely Are the Brave
Kirk Douglas, Walter Matthau
To Kill A Mockingbird
Gregory Peck
Long Day's Journey Into Night
Ralph Richardson, Jason Robards Jr, Katherine Hepburn, Dean Stockwell
1963

Hud
Paul Newman, Melvyn Douglas, Patricia Neal, Tom Jones
Albert Finney, Susannah York
1964

Dr. Strangelove
Peter Sellers, George C Scott, Sterling Hayden
A Man For All Seasons
Paul Scofield, Robert Shaw, Wendy Hiller
1967

Bonnie and Clyde
Warren Beatty, Faye Dunaway, Gene Hackman, Michael J Pollard
The Graduate
Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft, Katherine Ross
In the Heat of the Night
Sidney Poitier, Rod Steiger
Cool Hand Luke
Paul Newman, George Kennedy, Strother Martin
1968

The Producers
Gene Wilder, Zero Mostel
The Lion in Winter
Peter O'Toole, Katherine Hepburn, Anthony Hopkins
Oliver!
Ron Moody
1969

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid
Paul Newman, Robert Redford
Midnight Cowboy
Jon Voight, Dustin Hoffman
M*A*S*H
Donald Sutherland, Elliot Gould, Robert Duvall, Tom Skerritt, Sally Kellerman
1970

The Godfather
Al Pacino, Marlon Brando, James Cann, Robert Duvall, Dian Keaton
Cabaret
Liza Minnelli, Joel Grey
Deliverance
Jon Voight, Burt Reynolds, Ned Beatty
Sleuth
Laurence Olivier, Michael Caine
1972

Badlands
Martin Sheen, Sissy Spacek
Don't Look Now
Donald Sutherland, Julie Christie
1974

Chinatown
Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway
The Godfather part II
Al Pacino, Robert Duvall, John Cassale, Robert DeNiro
The Conversation
Gene Hackman, John Cassale, Young Frankenstein
Gene Wilder, Peter Boyle, Cloris Leachman, Marty Feldman, Madeline Kahn
1975

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
Jack Nicholson, Louise Fletcher
1976

All the President's Men
Dustin Hoffman, Robert Redford, Jason Robards Jr, Network
Peter Finch, William Holden, Faye Dunaway, Taxi Driver
Robert DeNiro
Marathon Man
Dustin Hoffman, Laurence Olivier, Roy Scheider
1977

Annie Hall
Diane Keaton, Woody Allen
1979

Alien
Sigourney Weaver, Tom Skerritt, Harry Dean Stanton
1980

Raging Bull
Robert DeNiro, Joe Pesci, Long Good Friday
Bob Hoskins, Helen Mirren
The Shining
Jack Nicholson, The Elephant Man
John Hurt, Anthony Hopkins
1982

Blade Runner
Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer, Sean Young, M. Emmet Walsh, Edward James Olmos, Tootsie
Dustin Hoffman, Jessica Lange
Gandhi
Ben Kingsley
My Favorite Year
Peter O'Toole, Mark Linn-Baker
1984

Amadeus
F. Murray Abraham, Tom Hulce
1986

Blue Velvet
Kyle MacLachlan, Dennis Hopper, Isabella Rossellini
1987

Moonstruck
Cher, Nicholas Cage, Olympia Dukakis
1988

A Fish Called Wanda
John Cleeve, Jamie Leigh Curtis, Kevin Kline, Michael Palin
1989

Do the Right Thing
Spike Lee, Danny Aiello, Ossie Davis
My Left Foot
Daniel Day Lewis, Brenda Flicker
1990

Goodfellas
Ray Liotta, Joe Pesci, Robert DeNiro, Lorraine Bracco