

Films to promote the DVD Collection / Box of Broadcasts

Rupert's list

1. **Lassie Come Home** (1943) (Available on 'Box of Broadcasts': <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/teaching/tools/videoandaudio/bob.aspx>).

Lassie never speaks (she's a collie). But a depression-era Yorkshire town set it's clocks by her. Blacksmith & butcher nod to her as she strides to the schoolyard to meet her boy owner at 4pm every working day. When well-meaning aristocrats buy her & take her up to Scotland... – well it's never going to work. Fantastic film & fantastic cast (Roddy McDowall, Elizabeth Taylor, Nigel Bruce, May Whitty).

2. **The Pervert's Guide to the Cinema** (2006) (PN1995.9.P42.P4)

Sophie Fiennes (Ralph's less well known sister) & the great Slavoj Žižek go on a weird journey through some of the greatest films in world cinema (many of which we hold in our collection) - from *Star Wars* to Andrei Tarkovsky's magnum opuses. In the follow-up (*The Pervert's Guide to Ideology* (2013) ((PN1995.9.P42.P4)) Žižek manages to put into words my own incoherent response to James Cameron's *Titanic*: that Kate Winslett should have copped it at the end rather than poor Leonardo Di Caprio.

3. **Wadjda** (2014) (PN1997.2.W235)

First feature-length film made by a female Saudi director, and Haifaa al-Mansour faced unique challenges when it came to directing this movie. Filmed on the streets of Riyadh, *Wadjda* tells the story of a girl's quest to own the bike she sees in a shop window when nobody around her seems to think it a very good idea. A brilliant film: assertive and gentle all at once.

4. **Padenie Berlina [The Fall of Berlin]** (1950) (PN1997.P2362)

Comrade Stalin takes a break from tending his rose garden to advise steel worker Alexie on the best way to woo the woman he loves (he advises him to recite poetry to her). But Alexie's dreams of sharing his life with Natasha seem to be dashed when the Nazi war machine rolls into Russia... . Cult of Stalin epic from Stalin's terrifying USSR.

5. **City Lights** (1931) (PN1997.C4884)

'Too sophisticated for the sophisticated' says Žižek of *City Lights*. From the opening scene where civic dignitaries unveil a monument to 'peace and prosperity' - only to find Chaplin's tramp sleeping on it, to the anxiety and tenderness of the final scene, this is an absolute masterpiece of cinema.

Philip's list

1) **Double Indemnity (DVD PN1997.D684)** - the ultimate Film Noir! Everything else that came afterwards was a pale imitation. An ingenious murder, plot twists by the bucket load, the best ever Femme Fatale (Barbara Stanwyck), a fantastic script by Raymond Chandler, witty and incisive direction by Billy Wilder, what more can you ask for!? If you've never seen it, you don't know what you're missing.

2) **Casablanca (DVD PN1997.C278)** - you don't have to be a romantic to enjoy this film (but it helps!). OK, so it's got Bogart and Bergman and one of the most famous endings of all-time, but there's also a rip-roaring rendition of the Marseillaise, lots of humour, great wartime propaganda and THAT tune (you must remember this – surely?!). A winner on all fronts.

3) **The Best Years of Our Lives (DVD PN1997.B4615)** - made at the end of the Second World War, this movie tackled the question of how military personnel would readjust to civilian life. Told through three interlinked stories, it tackles a multitude of issues (marriage and infidelity, un- and re-employment, disability, class conflict, the role of men and women in postwar society). This film has a great musical score, first-class acting and direction and is a key resource for anyone wanting to know more about 20th century American Social History.

4) **It's a Wonderful Life (DVD PN1997.F727)** - get your handkerchiefs ready! A perennial Christmas favourite, this is populist cinema par excellence! With Frank Capra at his directorial best and James Stewart pulling out all the acting stops, this is a classic heartwarming, tearjerking, story about small-town America and the power of love and friendship. Enjoy!

5) **The Shop Around the Corner (DVD PN1997.S4496)** - if you've seen 'I've Got Mail', you'll recognise the plot as this was the movie that spawned the remake. The difference is it's much, much better! Directed by a master of Screwball / Romantic Comedy (Ernst Lubitsch), it's another example of those feel-good films that Hollywood excelled in during its Golden Age. A great cast play it to the hilt. If you've ever wanted to know about Haberdashery in 1920s Budapest (and even if you don't!) and communication with pen and ink (aka the letter!), this one is for you.

Mark's list

1) Die Hard DVD PN1997.D4787

A Christmas film for the whole year! John McClane (Bruce Willis) adorned in the seasonal outfit of white vest and no shoes, takes on a whole menagerie of European terrorists led by Hans Gruber (Alan Rickman) who take over the Christmas Party on the 30th floor of the Nakatomi Plaza on Christmas Eve. All McClane wants to do is spend Christmas with his estranged wife and children. The ultimate action movie with the ultimate one liners. Yippee Ki Yay....Mothertrucker indeed.

2) No Country for Old Men DVD PN1997.2.N636

The hunter (Josh Brolin) becomes the hunted when a merciless killer named Chigurh (Javier Bardem) picks up the trail of missing money and a drugs deal gone astray. Set in the desert landscape of Texas, No Country for Old men finds the Coen Brothers at the peak of their directorial powers as the cat and mouse thrillers rages on around Sheriff Tom Bell (Tommy Lee Jones) and threatens the lives of all that get in the way. Oh, and while your at it, read the book. It's upstairs and its brilliant.

3) There Will Be Blood DVD PN1997.2.T549

Daniel Day Lewis' portrayal of ruthless oil-man is simply sensational. Paul Thomas' direction is quite brilliant. Jonny Greenwoods' score is breathtaking. The first two were nominated for Oscars with DDL winning. Greenwoods' score was disallowed due to a ridiculous bylaw of the ceremony. Paul Dano's portrayal of Eli goes head to head with Daniel Plainview (Daniel Day Lewis) as Plainview wrestles for control of wealth and oil in Southern California during the oil boom of the late 19th century. It's dark, brooding, violent and at times uneasy. You'll never view milkshakes the same again.

4) Pan's Labyrinth DVD PN1997.2.L224

Sometimes it's not possible to escape the brutalities of life physically, but mentally there is always a way. Set in Spain during World War II and just after the Spanish Civil War, Pan's Labyrinth finds a young girl Ofelia (Ivana Basquero) with a love of fairy tales. When her mother becomes sick, they find themselves at the whim of the sadistic Captain Vidal (Sergi Lopez.) In an attempt to free herself from the fighting all around her, Ofelia throws herself into her own fantastical fantasies of fairies, fauns and giant frogs. It's simply beautiful and the director Guillermo Del Toro creates a world never seen before on a movie screen.

5) Monsters Inc. DVD PN1997.2.M66

Many animation movies have jokes for adults and jokes for children, many have sections solely to make children laugh whilst adults will roll their eyes. Pixar craft movies that are simply sensational whatever age you are. Monsters Inc. is one of the best they've ever painstakingly made. Billy Crystal and John Goodman voice Mike and Sully who work in the largest scare factory in Monstropolis. As a pair, they are respected as two of the greatest scarers around, until they meet Boo, a girl that will change their lives forever. Randy Newman's score oversees a film that will warm your heart on any day of the year. Put that thing back where it came from indeed.