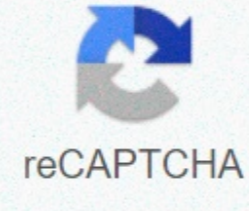




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Movie Theaters explain why movies look and sound so real as you breathe that giant tub of buttered popcorn and box of minty JuJu beans at the local plywood. Ad Ad Photo: ShutterstockTime, space, people, place. When companies open and events start to happen again, I keep thinking about these factors. Spending a lot of time in an enclosed space with many other people is not where I want to be on the COVID-19 risk spectrum. And that doesn't mean cinemas for a long time. But some theaters are opening. So are a lot of other things that rank pretty high on the risk spectrum: Some churches are starting to have in-person services again. The president held a meeting. Restaurants in many areas are open for indoor dining. As the rules relax, we should ask ourselves some strange questions: Is it safe to see a friend? Go to the Read MoreI'm not interested in any of those, personally, as a customer. But I'm also concerned about the workers in these places, because they're subject to all our germs. As a customer you decide that you still eat out occasionally, as a treat. As a server, you can't decide that you'll work from time to time. So if we see more opportunities to get out of the house, we need to weigh these risks carefully, because other people – companies, governments – do not necessarily act with our interest. Just because something's open doesn't mean it's safe. Movie theaters try to keep their security measures subtle, the Washington Post reports, because they're worried that people won't feel comfortable going at all as they're constantly reminded of how risky a movie theater can be. Maybe it should be. Businesses reopen in many areas, and it's perfectly understandable if you're tempted... Read morePersonally, I do my best to avoid situations with: crowdsmaskless peoplesing or shouting in by meeting periods near others! go shopping. I might consider, one day, a short trip to the gym in off-peak hours for some social-distance squats. I'm not going on a plane anytime soon and I'm certainly not going to sit in a movie theater for two hours. How about you? Long before the days of coronavirus-inspired social distancing and self-quarantine, there was a time when countless families, groups of friends and couples regularly enjoyed the cinema experience in a bubble of their own making, free to consume whatever snacks they brought, sure they wouldn't have to interact with anyone else watching the movie around them. It was the era of drive-in cinemas, and if that bygone era in cinema ever gets a sequel, it could be. Going viral The impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak has Hollywood faltering, and every day of the ongoing pandemic brings news of more productions stopped and release dates postponed - occasionally without any future premiere date specified. Several state and federal governments have put restrictions on public gatherings to slow the spread of the virus, and dire warnings have been issued about the danger of gathering everywhere in large numbers, with cinemas providing a good example to avoid. While the evolution of home theater systems and the proliferation of streaming media offers plenty of relatively tasty options for self-quarantine movie fans, there may be some value in looking to the past for anyone who wants to experience the common theater without the increased threat of a highly contagious, debilitating viral episode. Yes, the time of drive-in cinemas would have finally come around... Again. Nostalgia, redux At the moment, more than 300 drive-in cinemas remain active in the US, providing a place for moviegoers to screen new releases and classic movies from the comfort of their cars. There, they are simultaneously cut off from their fellow audience members as they experience what is happening on screen, along with them. (In New York, for example, six drive-in theaters open per season within a 60-mile radius of the state capital in Albany.) While the number of drive-in theaters nationally has shrunk dramatically from the more than 4,000 that existed in the 1950s, there are still many out there with an experience that is both nostalgic and - given the current state of affairs - a safer alternative to the traditional theater experience. Getty The business of making movies is in uncharted waters right now, because there has never been anything like the coronavirus pandemic in the modern age of cinema. Streaming video is fast becoming a major economic force in the industry, but the basis of Hollywood's business model is still rooted in the movies' theatrical runs. A big-budget flop could set a studio back in big ways for years to come and cost many people their jobs, regardless of whether the success of the film (or lack thereof) had something to do with its content. An extended period of time that keeps audiences out of theaters would have a disastrous effect on more than just the studios' bottom lines. It can hinder the ability to invest in lower-profile projects that may have been funded by the success of a tentpole film, and limit studios' willingness to give riskier projects a chance. there is a very real chance that cinemas could become ghost towns at best, and dangerous hot zones of infection at worst if the coronavirus outbreak becomes the multi-month affair that experts fear it will, there is a very real chance that cinemas could be at its best, and dangerous hot zones of infection at worst. All those movies banking on big opening weekends in April, and even May might have a problem, and so the studios and filmmaking teams could get behind them. Drive-in cinemas, however, may offer a solution. Timing is everything The typical drive-in theater season begins in the spring, with many theaters planning their first screening in April or May. The timing couldn't be better for studios to revive their appreciation for these nostalgic holdovers, and with a little collaboration, create a win-win situation for all involved. Think of a scenario in which a film that had postponed its traditional, theatrical debut now becomes available to watch in drive-in theater prior to its (possibly uncertain) theatrical premiere. The film would be able to make some money early, and possibly generate some additional positive buzz prior to its eventual arrival in traditional theaters. It would also be a new experience for moviegoers who have left drive-in theaters long ago or have never had such an experience, while also serving a much-needed boost to local small business owners that have become drive-in theaters. Getty With so few drive-in theaters available, it's also unlikely that the film would experience a noticeable drop in opening weekend numbers when it finally premieres. In the end, the viewing experience ends up being both common and virus-free, which feels like a victory all around. Nice to imagine Sure, it's an extremely unlikely scenario, given the movie business politics and the mountains of red tape wrapped around every major movie these days, but it's certainly fun to think about – especially if you're the kind of concern about the spread of the coronavirus only slightly outweighs your love of the common movie-watching experience. While we're probably not going to see major movie studios line up to embrace the mom-and-pop settings that have become drive-in theaters any time soon, that doesn't mean you should cross drive-ins off the list when exploring ways to combine watching a movie, being social, and avoiding the coronavirus (or some other nasty plague), for that matter). At a time when streaming is poised to become the most popular it's ever been, drive-in theaters offer a tempting alternative to movie-watching in isolation, and a happy medium between experiencing a big-budget spectacle on your family television and playing a role in the viral apocalypse. Be sure to bring a lot of hand sanitizer. You never have to be safe. Recommendations from the editors What makes a film so great? Why do some stand the test of time, while others slowly (or rather quickly) lose their value? For some it's the emotion that the story evokes. Sometimes an actor's performance is so unforgettable that it attracts our attention. Every now and then a film is so visually stunning that it can't be forgotten. I have a one of the 30 best films of all time. To warn you in advance, this is not the usual movie snob list of black and white classics and foreign movies meant to show off my knowledge of classic cinema. These are the movies we watch because we want to, not because we're told.30 Avatar (2009) Avatar is one of the most visually beautiful movies ever made. Even people who complain about special effects in movies dropped their jaws when seeing it for the first time. This film pushed modern cinematic technology into a new era, ushering in the era of stereoscopic 3D. Among its beauty, the film features a cross-species love story and a social message. Avatar is a must see for any movie fan. Best quote: Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) I became a Marine for hardship. I told myself I can pass every test a man can pass. All I ever wanted was a thing worth fighting for. 29. Scarface (1983) There are a lot of gangster movies out there, but Scarface is easily the most quoted. The story of Cuban immigrant turned maniacal gangster Tony Montana is gritty from front to back. The chainsaw scene at first still gives me trembling. As he gains more power, his greed begins to get the best of him. He makes a few bad decisions that lead to one of the best death scenes in movie history. Best quote: Tony Montana You need people like me so you can point your fingers and say, That's the bad guy. So... What does that make you? Good? You're not good. You know how to hide, how to lie. I don't have that problem. I always tell the truth. Even if I lie. So say good night to the bad guy! 28. The Notebook (2004) In the interest of full disclosure, I must admit that I have never seen The Notebook. The reason I know it's a great movie is because every time I tell a woman I've never seen, she tries to convince me to watch it. The premise is that a boy falls in love with a girl. They have a budding romance, a conflict gets in the way, and they end up together when they're older. This movie is the bar in which many women measure a man. Best quote: Noah (Ryan Gosling) says: I'm nothing special: Just an ordinary man with common thoughts, and I have led a common life. There are no monuments dedicated to me and my name will soon be forgotten. But in one respect, I have succeeded as gloriously as anyone who has ever lived: I have loved another with all my heart and soul; And for me, this has always been enough. 27. Audition (1999) I rate horror movies by how many full length cartoons I have to watch afterwards so I can go and Audition is easily a 10 show movie. A widower auditions for women for his new wife. He chooses a young beautiful woman named Asami Yamazaki (Eihi Shiina)... which turns out to be the most creepy psychotic movie character of all time. Yamazaki has scenes of torture so cruel that they almost and the pleasure she takes in her work is more than disturbing. Best quote: Asami Yamazaki: Kiri kiri kiri kiri kiri kiri kiri! (Translation: Pain pain pain pain pain pain pain!) 26. Young Frankenstein (1974) Mel Brooks is a king of screwball comedy, and Young Frankenstein's film Scary Movie wishes it was. The cast delivers brilliant lines with impeccable comic timing. Igor's (Marty Feldman) sarcastic responses to Dr Frankenstein (Gene Wilder) crack me every time. If you're negative for older movies, this could be the one that changes your mind. Best quote: Igor: Dr. Frankenstein... Frankenstein: Fronkenstein. Igor: You put me on. Frankenstein: No, it is pronounced 'Fronkensteen.' ... You have to be Igor. Igor: No, it's pronounced Eye-gor. 25. The One Percent (2006) The One Percent is the second of Johnson &amp; Johnson heir Jamie Johnson's documentaries about a lifestyle that 99% of us will never have. Born rich, Jamie gives the rest of us a glimpse into the lives of some of America's richest families. Jamie's father Jim spends most of the film against it. With the crash of the artificial housing market shortly after and the Occupy movement popping up 5 years later, it's easy to see what he's afraid of. Best quote: Jamie Johnson: The top 1% of Americans, like my family and I, own about 40% of the country's wealth, and we share a total net worth that exceeds the bottom 90% of individuals combined. 24. Cinderella Man (2005) James Braddock (Russell Crowe), a washed-up boxer who fights impossible odds to compete for the heavyweight championship is one of cinema's most memorable underdogs. Director Ron Howard expertly reconstructs the 1930s setting to draw you into this based on a true story sports drama filled with award-winning actors. Cinderella Man is all you want in a sports movie. Best quote: James Braddock I have to believe that if things go bad I can change them. 23. Bad Boys (1995) Hate on Michael Bay all you want, the guy knows how to make a fun movie. Bad Boys is a buddy cop movie that never gets old, thanks to the personalities of Will Smith and Martin Lawrence. Filled with flashy car chases and spectacular shoot outs, this is a movie that you sit down and watch when it's on television, no matter how far in it is. Best quote: Marcus Burnett (Lawrence) You made me think you were going to shoot me for a minute. Mike Lowrey (Smith) I was. 22. Unforgiven (1992) Before he went crazy and started talking to chairs, Clint Eastwood was responsible for some of the most classic westerns in American cinema. In Unforgiven he plays Will Munny, a retired gunslinger who lets his old friend Ned (Morgan Freeman) convince him Collect a bounty from some. Along the way they come to other bounty hunters and a hardnosed hardnosed (Gene Hackman). It takes a lot for Munny to break, but once he does, you'll be glad you're watching from a distance. Best quote: Will Munny Okay, I'm coming out. Every man I see there, I shoot him. Every sumbitch shoots at me, I'm not just going to kill him, but I'm going to kill his wife, all his friends, and burn down his damn house. 21. Leon: The Professional (1994) This story of professional hitman Léon (Luc Besson) is dramatic and sincere. He takes in a young girl (Natalie Portman) whose drugged parents are killed by their psychotic dealer (Gary Oldman) then proceeds to teach her the tricks of the trade while protecting her and seeking revenge. Léon: The Professional is one of those movies where you can not help but the side of the killer, which deep down has a heart of gold. Best quote: Léon The rifle is the first weapon you learn to use because it will keep your distance from the customer. The closer you get to a pro, the closer you get to the customer. The knife, for example, is the last thing you learn. 20. Love & Basketball (2000) Although many romantic films are hard to watch for men, Love & Basketball goes a long way in attracting men into this chick flick genre by incorporating an underlying sports theme. Quincy (Omar Epps) and Monica (Sanaa Lathan) meet on the basketball court as children, and their love/hate keeps their lives intersecting as they live their individual dreams of playing pro ball. Best quote: Monica It's a trip, you know? As a child, you see the life you want, and it never gets to the point where it won't turn out that way. 19. The Hurt Locker (2008) War. What's it good for? Great movies. Hurt Locker is an exciting look at the realities of the Iraq War, and modern warfare in general. It's not a propaganda film. It doesn't take sides. It focuses on the decisions soldiers face, notably SFC's William James (Jeremy Renner). Hurt Locker is at the same time a war film and a technically responsible thriller. I don't believe in war, but I believe Hurt Locker is the second best war movie ever made, with the good and the bad in every soldier. Best quote: SFC James You love to play with that. You like to play with all your hugs. You love your mama... Your father. You love your pajamas. You love everything, don't you? Yes. But you know what, buddy? As you get older... Some of the things you love may not seem so special anymore. 18. Princess Bride (1987) Fairy tale films are a dime a dozen. The Princess Bride stands head and shoulders above them all. It's a playful children's film with enough for adults to love too. It has everything a fairy tale needs: a main character (Cary Elwes), a giant (André the Giant), sword play, a princess, and a happy ending. The Princess Bride is a reminder of That's right about humanity. Best quote: Westley (Elwes): If you're in such a hurry, you can lower a rope or a tree branch or find something useful to do. Inigo Montoya (Mandy Patinkin): I could do that. I have some rope here, but I don't think you'd accept my help, because I'm just waiting to kill you. Westley: That puts a damper on our relationship. 17. Inside Man A cop (Denzel Washington) tries to talk down a criminal mastermind (Clive Owen) in the best bank robbery movie ever on film. What makes Inside Man so big is the cat-and-mouse tension. As the story progresses, you find out that this is much more than the average bank robbery. It's not just money these guys are after, and even knowing they'll get away with it won't take away the shock of seeing how... and why... Best quote: Dalton Russell (Owen): This time next week, I'll be sucking down piña colodas in a hot tub with six girls named Amber and Tiffany. Keith Frazier (Washington): More like taking a shower with two guys named Jamal and Jesus, if you know what I mean. And here's the bad news: that thing you suck on? It's not piña colada! 16. Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991)Godfather 2 is often mentioned in the argument of sequels surpassing the original film, but Bogus Journey deserves a spot on that list. Bill S. Preston, Esq. (Alex Winter) and Ted Theodore Logan (Keanu Reeves) were the models of slacker youth away for Beavis and Butthead. The first Bill & Ted movie explored the most triumphant time travel in a phone booth, but the second film ups the ante, as the dimwitted couple battle death on a journey through heaven & hell. Under the schlock, Bogus Journey is a light-hearted look at a scary subject. Best quote: Bill And here, our bassist, the Duke of Ghost, the Doc of Shock, The Man Without Tan, say hello to death himself, the Grim Reaper. 15. Mr. & Mrs. Smith (2005) This is the film in which Brad Pitt & Angelina Jolie met. Looking at their chemistry on screen, it's easy to see how they've lasted so long. No matter how many times this movie is on TV, it's hard not to watch it. Filled with shootouts, explosions, comedy, romance and flat out sex appeal, Mr. & Mrs. Smith is a spy film with something for everyone. It doesn't make you think; It just invites you to sit, stare and laugh. Best quote: John Smith (Pitt) Your goal is as bad as your cooking sweetheart... And that says something! 14 Love Actually (2003) Love Actually follows the intertwined stories of eight British couples dealing with love in very different ways. It's a romantic comedy and a Christmas movie, but it's in no way sappy. It's a moving comedy full of great moments. It is impossible to to watch without laughing, crying, and falling in love with at least one character. Love actually is the best best comedy once written. Best quote: Billy Mack (Bill Nighy) Hiya kids. Here's an important message from your Uncle Bill. Don't buy drugs. Become a pop star, and they'll give you them for free! 13. Good Will Hunting (1997) A janitor with an attitude problem (Matt Damon) solves a complicated math problem at MIT, is sent to a psychiatrist (Robin Williams), and has to choose between his street life and becoming a respected mathematician. Good Will Hunting's is a charming drama with great writing, brilliant acting, and an intelligent story. The film explores many philosophical angles about human experience in a way that attracts you. Best quote: Sean (Williams) So if I asked you about art, you'd

probably give me the skinny one on every art book ever written. Michelangelo, you know a lot about him. Life's work, political aspirations, him and the pope, sexual orientation, the whole work, right? But I bet you don't tell me what it smells like in the Sistine Chapel. You've never stood there and looked at that beautiful ceiling: seen that. 12. Where The Buffalo Roam (1980) While Johnny Depp is often praised for his portrayal of cultural icon Hunter S. Thompson, Bill Murray nailed it on the head first. Where The Buffalo Roam mashes together some of Thompson's writings about his adventures with his lawyer, Oscar Zeta Acosta. Murray gives a great performance, perfectly capturing everything we love about Thompson, and proving that he's much more than just a comedian. Best quote: Hunter In my case, you know, I hate to advocate for drugs or drink, violence, insanity for all. But in my case, it worked. 11. Back to the Future (1985) Back to the Future is a time travel film packed with memorable characters. Biff (Thomas Wilson) is a typical bully with some of the best quotable lines in cinematic history. Doc Brown (Christopher Lloyd) inspired a generation of children to become scientists. What makes the movie so great, though, is that protagonist Marty McFly (Michael J Fox) is just a normal kid in a crazy situation, and he overcomes. If he can overcome, anyone can. Best quote: Doc Don't worry. As long as you hit that wire with the connecting hook at exactly 88 miles per hour, the moment lightning hits the tower... Everything's going to be okay. 10. Grandma's Boy (2006) Grandma's Boy is an ensemble comedy that hits the right notes. The story of a 35-year-old video game tester forced to live with his grandma and her Golden Girl roommates, it's literally LOL funny all the way through. Filled with zany characters played by actors normally confined to bit roles, this film is a hilarious gem in a pile of modern comedies. Everything about Grandma's Boy is best when you're viewed high, but works just as Empty. Best quotes: Jeff (Nick Swarden) What does 'high score' mean? New high score... Is Is Bad? What does that mean? Did I break it? 9. The Shawshank Redemption (1994) The story of two men who form a friendship during long prison sentences, Shawshank is the best prison film ever made. Morgan Freeman's narration is so good, it launched him a second career. Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) is the kind of protagonist any movie should have. The dialogue and plot so beautiful. The soundtrack is beautiful. Dufresne dancing in the rain after crawling through miles of sewage is an epic movie moment. You'll be tempted to run out and dance with him. Best quote: Red (Freeman) If they put you in that cell... and those bars slam home... that's when you know it's real... A whole life blown away in the blink of an eye. Nothing more than all the time in the world to think about it... 8. Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003) When the teaser for this film first appeared in cinemas, we all had doubts. How in the world could Disney turn a substandard ride into a two-hour epic? Three words: Captain. Jack. Sparrow. Johnny Depp's role as a drunken, smart-mouthed, and shockingly resourceful captain without a ship made Pirates an instant classic. With a well-rounded cast, gorgeous sets, and a brilliant mix of comedy, action and drama, Curse of The Black Pearl is all we love about Disney rolled into a rare live action gem. Best quote: Captain Jack Sparrow I, I'm dishonest. And an dishonest man you always trust to be dishonest. Fair. It's the honest thing you want to look out for. Because you never predict when they're going to do something incredible... Dom. 7. Network (1976) What makes Network so great is that it is a universally realistic representation of media in society. TV anchor Howard Beale (Peter Finch) gets tired of dealing with society's ills so he goes live on air and gives the most epic speech in cinematic history. His brutal honesty makes him an instant icon, reviving his career. The TV network exploits its anti-establishment following for profit. Beale's star power grows until it finally pops, and he needs to be removed. The message in Network is becoming increasingly important as our digital society progresses. Best quote: Beale I don't know what to do about the depression and inflation and the Russians and the crime in the street. All I know is you have to get mad first. You have to say, I'm a human being, damn it! My life has VALUE! So I want you to get up now. I want you all to get out of your seats. I want you to get up now and go to the window. Open it, and stick your head out, and scream, 'I'm as crazy as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!' 6. (1995) Braveheart is the best war film ever made... Period. Mel Gibson both directed and starred in this epic film depicting William William (Gibson) war for Scotland's freedom from English rule. The battles are brutal and graphic. The speeches are inspiring. The cinematography and soundtrack in Braveheart is so moving that you really enjoy bagpipe music. By the credits, you will find yourself wanting to paint your face blue and scream FREEDOOOMMM!!! until your last breath. Best quote: Wallace Yes, fight and you can die. Run and you will live... at least for a while. And dying in your bed many years from now, you would be willing to trade all the days of this day for an opportunity - just a chance to come back here and tell our enemies that they can take our lives, but they will never take our freedom! 5. Gandhi (1982) Richard Attenborough's three-hour biography of Mahatma Gandhi (Ben Kingsley) is the best biopic ever made. Gandhi was a lawyer who liberated India from British rule. Where William Wallace fought with his sword, Gandhi fought violence with nonviolence and compassion, and became one of the most prolific revolutionaries in human history. The film deals with as many highlights as possible from his life, in which he shows his wisdom how everyone can follow in his footsteps. Best quote: Gandhi When I despair, I remember that the way of truth and love has always won. There may be tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they may seem invincible, but in the end they always fall. Think about it: always. 4. Caddyshack (1980) Golf is perhaps the dullest sport to watch. Caddyshack, a comedy centered on golf, is without a doubt the funniest movie ever made. With an array of comedy legends at the top of their game, it's not just a laugh-a-minute drive, it's a visually beautiful movie. With multiple simultaneous storylines, a variety of comic styles, a great soundtrack, and the best pool scene ever on film, watching Caddyshack feels like a party everyone is invited to. Best quote: Ty Webb (Chevy Chase) You're quite attractive to a pretty girl with a great body. 3. Dark Knight (2008) When it was announced Heath Ledger would play The Joker in a new Batman movie, The Dark Knight, the internet erupted with anger. He'll never be as good as Jack Nicholson, we cried. I wish Heath Ledger could have lived to see the collective jaw of the world fall. Ledger's Joker is the best character performance in movie history. The Dark Knight is not only the best Batman movie. It's not just the best superhero movie. It is one of the undisputed best movies ever made. Best quote: Joker (Ledger) Do you want to know why I use a knife? Guns are too fast. You don't enjoy all the... few emotions. In their final moments, people show who they really are. So in a way, I know friends better than you ever did. Do you want to know which of them were cowards? 2. The Iron Giant (1999) Let the fact that The Iron Giant is animated movie fool you. It's pure cinematic brilliance. It's a sci-fi movie with a giant alien robot weapon of mass destruction. After crashing into the earth, he is rescued by a young boy named Hogarth (Eli Marienthal), and they develop a friendship. The film approaches war and world destruction from the eyes of a child. It makes you fall in love with a robot... And then it breaks your heart. If you don't cry towards the end of this movie, you're the robot. Best quote: Hogarth (Marienthal) Oh, here. This is Superman. He looks a lot like you. Crash-landed on Earth, didn't know what he was doing... But he uses his powers only for good, never for evil. Remember that. 1. Forrest Gump (1994) Forrest Gump is the best film ever made. It spans generations to tell the fictional story of the most likeable, honest, caring and truly good person this world will ever see. If everyone in this world had even a fraction of Gump's heart, we would solve all the problems in the world. The soundtrack is a classic. Tom Hanks is great. Forrest constantly overcomes adversity in the film. His life consists of every heroic act in the news on any given day. From the first second to the last honor, everything about this film is flawless. You watch it 100 times and never get tired of it. Forrest Gump is the reason there are movies. Best quote: Forrest Stupid is as stupid does. Does.

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