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## Francis Grady Classic Films Every Movie Buff Should Watch

Our Friends · Monday, June 5th, 2023

Are you a movie buff looking to add classics to your viewing list? Look no further! From timeless comedies like *Some Like It Hot* to classic silent films like *The General*, these must-watch classic films have endured time and are considered among the greatest ever made. Whether comical or heartbreaking, each offers its unique brand of entertainment that has enthralled audiences worldwide for generations. So grab some popcorn and get ready – here are some classic films recommended by Springfield, MA expert Francis Grady that every movie lover should make sure they catch at least once in their life!

### The Godfather (1972)

Considered [one of the greatest films ever made](#), Francis Grady says *The Godfather* (1972) is an iconic masterpiece by Francis Ford Coppola. The movie casts Marlon Brando in the lead role of a powerful mafia boss who runs a crime empire in New York City. The film's brilliant screenplay, superb acting, and iconic imagery have made it an unforgettable cinematic experience for viewers worldwide. *The Godfather* captures the spirit of the period realistically, making it a favorite among movie enthusiasts and critics alike. Its family, power, and loyalty themes have proven timeless as the movie continues influencing pop culture, insinuating itself into TV shows, video games, and a vast array of cultural touchstones. Through its powerful storytelling and nuanced characters, *The Godfather* has become a timeless classic that has set the standard for generations of filmmakers and moviegoers.

### Casablanca (1942)

As one of history's [most iconic and beloved films](#), *Casablanca* triumphs in storytelling and filmmaking. The timeless story of love, sacrifice, and patriotism set against the backdrop of World War II still resonates with audiences today. The film features unforgettable performances from Humphrey Bogart as the brooding Rick Blaine and Ingrid Bergman as the beautiful and enigmatic Ilsa Lund. The chemistry between the two leads is palpable, and their emotional journey is heartbreaking and inspiring. But what makes *Casablanca* remarkable is how it blends genres, seamlessly shifting from romance to drama to thriller and back again. The result is a masterpiece that has stood the test of time and continues to captivate new audiences.

### Lawrence of Arabia (1962)

*Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) is a cinematic masterpiece that has endured time. The movie tells the story of T.E. Lawrence, a British soldier who played a pivotal role in the Arab Revolt against the

Ottoman Empire during World War I. From the stunning visuals of the vast desert landscape to the compelling performances of the actors, *Lawrence of Arabia* commands attention from start to finish. The film won numerous awards, including seven Academy Awards, and remains a cultural touchstone. *Lawrence of Arabia* is a must-see if you're a fan of epic historical dramas or simply love a great story.

## Sunset Boulevard (1950)

*Sunset Boulevard* is widely considered a Hollywood classic that has stood the test of time. Directed by Billy Wilder and released in 1950, it immerses viewers in Tinseltown's dangerous glamour and explores its characters' dark obsession. The film tells the story of Norma Desmond, a former silent movie star struggling to cope with the reality that her career is over. As she becomes increasingly delusional, she hires a struggling screenwriter, Joe Gillis, to help her write a comeback script. As the two become closer, Norma's emotional fragility becomes more apparent as the two become tighter, leading to a dramatic and unforgettable finale. The gripping narrative, stunning cinematography, and outstanding performances by Gloria Swanson and William Holden make *Sunset Boulevard* a must-watch for any cinema lover.

## Rear Window (1954)

Francis Grady says *Rear Window*, a classic thriller released in 1954, has captured audiences' attention for decades. Directed by the legendary Alfred Hitchcock, the movie tells the story of a man confined to his apartment due to an injury. He spends his days gazing out of his rear window, which overlooks a courtyard, observing the neighbors and their seemingly mundane lives. However, his curiosity turns into fear as he witnesses suspicious activities unfold in the apartments across the way. With his girlfriend and nurse by his side, he sets out to uncover the truth and end the dangerous events. *Rear Window* is a masterpiece that keeps viewers on the edge of their seats from start to finish.

## Citizen Kane (1941)

*Citizen Kane*, released in 1941, is a cinematic masterpiece that has stood the test of time. Directed, co-written, produced by, and starring Orson Welles, the film follows the life of Charles Foster Kane, a wealthy and influential man who dies alone in his massive estate, Xanadu. The film uses a non-linear narrative structure to unravel the mystery of Kane's life and the meaning behind his last word, "Rosebud." *Citizen Kane* showcases innovative and groundbreaking techniques, including profound focus photography and overlapping dialogue. It is widely regarded by critics and audiences alike as one of the greatest films ever made, and its legacy continues to influence filmmakers today.

## Final Thoughts

From *The Godfather*'s captivating lines to *Casablanca*'s unforgettable characters, these movies have become timeless classics that will be discussed for generations to come. From *Lawrence of Arabia*'s sweeping landscapes to *Sunset Boulevard*'s offbeat take on Hollywood, these films defy the test of time. *Rear Window* and *Citizen Kane* captivated and shocked their audiences when they premiered over 70 years ago and continue to surprise us today. It's clear that all these movies are distinctly iconic and have left an ever-lasting impression on popular culture and film-making. After watching these masterpieces, it is easy to see why they made such a significant impact, as they not only entertained us but also gave us something to think about long after the credits rolled.

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*Photo by [Jeremy Yap](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

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