My Logline

A FILMMAKER'S YEAR

365

films every filmmaker can learn from.

One film a day. One craft lesson each.
A trip through film history, 1902 to 2024.

WHY THIS LIST

Write better films by watching better ones.

Every film you love began as a single sentence: a logline. Strip away the budget, the stars and the soundtrack, and what's left is a character, a conflict and a promise.

Filmmakers learn to see that skeleton by watching closely and then writing it down. This syllabus gives you one film for every day of the year, in the order cinema happened: from a 1902 trick film to 2024, through Hollywood blockbusters, Bollywood epics, Tollywood spectacle and the quiet masterpieces in between.

Each title comes with one craft lesson, a thing to look for, so you're studying the film rather than just consuming it. Start on day one, or open the list anywhere and watch what calls to you.

How to use it

1
Watch with intent
Read the one-line lesson first, then hunt for it on screen.

2
Note the move
Jot down the shot, cut or scene turn that made it land.

3
Write its logline
Pitch the film back in one sentence: who, what they want, what stands in the way.

A logline in action

JAWS (1975)

When a great white shark begins terrorising a summer beach town, a reluctant police chief teams up with a scientist and a seasoned fisherman to hunt it down.

One sentence: a hero, a goal, an obstacle and a ticking clock. That's all a logline needs.

A curated syllabus, not a complete canon: no list of 365 can hold every film worth studying. Treat it as a starting line.

001 **A Trip to the Moon (1902)**
Study how a few bold images establish screen fantasy.

002 **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920)**
Learn how painted sets externalize a narrator's unstable mind.

003 **Nosferatu (1922)**
Watch silhouette, location, and delayed appearance build horror.

004 **Battleship Potemkin (1925)**
Study rhythmic montage that turns a crowd into a dramatic force.

005 **The General (1926)**
Learn visual cause and effect from precisely staged silent action comedy.

006 **Metropolis (1927)**
Study visual scale and design as engines of science-fiction world-building.

007 **The Passion of Joan of Arc (1928)**
Learn the emotional force of close-ups and stripped-down space.

008 **Un Chien Andalou (1929)**
See editing used to follow dream association instead of continuity.

009 **Man with a Movie Camera (1929)**
Watch editing invent a city from everyday fragments.

010 **Earth (1930)**
Learn how faces and landscape make political change feel mythic.

011 **City Lights (1931)**
Watch physical comedy and pathos build a complete emotional arc without dialogue.

012 **Limite (1931)**
Study lyrical editing that follows emotion more than plot.

013 **M (1931)**
Watch sound motifs and offscreen action create a citywide thriller.

014 **The Goddess (1934)**
Study silent performance and urban melodrama centered on a single mother.

015 **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937)**
Study how character animation, songs, and jeopardy sustain a feature-length fairy tale.

016 **Grand Illusion (1937)**
Study how ensemble relationships carry an antiwar argument.

017 **Street Angel (1937)**
Watch music and street life reveal social divisions in Shanghai.

018 **Alexander Nevsky (1938)**
Study battle staging synchronized with music and graphic composition.

019 **The Wizard of Oz (1939)**
Watch color, production design, and music turn a simple journey into an emotional world.

020 **The Rules of the Game (1939)**
Learn layered staging in scenes where every character pursues a different desire.

021 **His Girl Friday (1940)**
Study overlapping dialogue and pace that reveal character while pushing plot.

022 **Citizen Kane (1941)**
Examine deep focus, fractured testimony, and visual storytelling in a character mystery.

023 **Casablanca (1942)**
Learn how a love triangle can carry politics, sacrifice, and impeccable scene turns.

024 **Double Indemnity (1944)**
Watch voiceover, shadow, and fatal desire define film noir.

025 **Rome, Open City (1945)**
See urgency and location shooting reshape wartime drama.

026 **Bicycle Thieves (1948)**
Learn how a modest quest reveals an entire economic system.

027 **The Red Shoes (1948)**
Study how dance, color, and editing turn an artistic obsession into spectacle.

028 **The Third Man (1949)**
Study tilted compositions, locations, and delayed character revelation.

029 **Kind Hearts and Coronets (1949)**
Watch controlled tone and repeated casting drive black comedy.

030 **Late Spring (1949)**
Learn how still camera placement and small gestures carry family change.

031 **Sunset Boulevard (1950)**
Learn to fuse satire and tragedy through an unreliable narrator.

032 **All About Eve (1950)**
Study sharp dialogue, status games, and layered female ambition.

033 **Los Olvidados (1950)**
Watch brutal social realism collide with surreal dream imagery.

034 **Orpheus (1950)**
Learn simple camera tricks that make myth feel immediate.

035 **Rashomon (1950)**
Study contradictory testimony and shifting perspective.

036 **Awaara (1951)**
Study how songs, social melodrama, and star persona travel across cultures.

037 **Singin' in the Rain (1952)**
See how every musical number advances character, romance, or industry satire.

038 **Umberto D. (1952)**
Watch tiny practical problems accumulate into devastating emotional stakes.

039 **The Wages of Fear (1953)**
Learn suspense from physical tasks, clear geography, and scarce resources.

040 **Do Bigha Zamin (1953)**
Watch a rural family's economic crisis become urgent urban drama.

041 **Tokyo Story (1953)**
Watch restrained scenes and ellipsis make generational distance devastating.

042 **Ugetsu (1953)**
Learn fluid camera movement that blurs domestic realism and ghost story.

043 **On the Waterfront (1954)**
Watch performance and moral choice make an internal conflict cinematic.

044 **Rear Window (1954)**
Learn suspense by restricting the camera to one observer's viewpoint.

045 **Seven Samurai (1954)**
Study ensemble introduction, action geography, and escalating siege structure.

046 **Godzilla (1954)**
Watch a monster movie carry collective nuclear anxiety.

047 **The Night of the Hunter (1955)**
Study fairy-tale imagery that makes menace visible without realism.

048 **Rififi (1955)**
Study the nearly silent heist as a lesson in visual procedure.

049 **Pather Panchali (1955)**
Learn observational storytelling that finds wonder in ordinary life.

050 **Floating Clouds (1955)**
Learn to make emotional damage visible across years of repeated encounters.

051 **The Searchers (1956)**
Examine framing and landscape in a western that interrogates its hero.

052 **Night and Fog (1956)**
Examine archival montage and narration when representing historical atrocity.

053 **12 Angry Men (1957)**
Learn to vary blocking and shot size in one-room drama.

054 **The Seventh Seal (1957)**
Watch philosophy become drama through concrete images and character conflict.

055 **Wild Strawberries (1957)**
Learn to move between memory, dream, and present without losing emotion.

056 **Nights of Cabiria (1957)**
Study episodic encounters anchored by one resilient performance.

057 **The Cranes Are Flying (1957)**
Watch mobile camera work translate wartime loss into subjective experience.

058 **Mother India (1957)**
Watch a mother's choices organize a national epic of sacrifice and justice.

059 **Pyaasa (1957)**
Learn how songs express a poet's interior life and social critique.

060 **Throne of Blood (1957)**
Study how weather, movement, and Noh performance remake Shakespeare.

061 **Vertigo (1958)**
Study subjective camera, color, and repetition as tools of obsession.

062 **Ashes and Diamonds (1958)**
Learn how a single night can carry a nation's postwar conflict.

063 **Cairo Station (1958)**
Study how a train station becomes a pressure cooker of desire and class.

064 **Some Like It Hot (1959)**
Watch disguise, escalation, and reversals build a durable comedy.

065 **The 400 Blows (1959)**
Learn to align camera movement with a child's search for freedom.

066 **Hiroshima mon amour (1959)**
Study how memory and intimacy interrupt linear storytelling.

067 **Ballad of a Soldier (1959)**
Study episodic encounters that deepen a simple homeward journey.

068 **Psycho (1960)**
Learn how editing, sound, and a mid-film protagonist shift reset audience expectations.

069 **The Apartment (1960)**
Study props and spatial repetition that turn romantic comedy into social critique.

070 **Breathless (1960)**
See jump cuts and location shooting turn style into youthful attitude.

071 **La Dolce Vita (1960)**
Watch episodic excess reveal an empty social world.

072 **Saturday Night and Sunday Morning (1960)**
Learn to give working-class realism wit and physical momentum.

073 **L'Avventura (1960)**
Study absence and duration as sources of narrative tension.

074 **Mughal-e-Azam (1960)**
Study scale, performance, and spectacle in a historical romance.

075 **The Cloud-Capped Star (1960)**
Watch expressionist sound and melodrama embody Partition's aftermath.

076 **The Housemaid (1960)**
Watch domestic space become a volatile class and sexual thriller.

077 **Yojimbo (1961)**
Learn to stage action around a character who manipulates rival factions.

078 **The Exterminating Angel (1962)**
Learn how one impossible premise can expose an entire class system.

079 **Cléo from 5 to 7 (1962)**
Watch near-real time transform a character's relationship to the city.

080 **Jules and Jim (1962)**
Learn montage, voiceover, and shifting pace in a decades-long triangle.

081 **Lawrence of Arabia (1962)**
Learn to link epic landscapes and set pieces to one person's contradictions.

082 **Harakiri (1962)**
Study delayed revelation that changes the meaning of every prior scene.

083 **8½ (1963)**
Study how fantasy and production anxiety can coexist inside one character arc.

084 **Contempt (1963)**
Watch blocking and color chart a relationship's collapse.

085 **Dr. Strangelove (1964)**
Learn to use comic escalation to expose institutional absurdity.

086 **Black God, White Devil (1964)**
Learn how folklore, landscape, and politics generate epic cinema on lean means.

087 **The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (1964)**
Learn to make sung dialogue carry everyday choices and heartbreak.

088 **Charulata (1964)**
Learn to show loneliness and desire through movement inside a home.

089 **Woman in the Dunes (1964)**
Watch texture and confinement turn a simple premise existential.

090 **Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors (1965)**
Watch camera movement, color, and ritual immerse us in Hutsul culture.

091 **Guide (1965)**
Study a flawed protagonist's spiritual arc through music and shifting tone.

092 **Persona (1966)**
Study faces, silence, and doubling as instruments of psychological drama.

093 **Blow-Up (1966)**
Watch a mystery deepen when images fail to produce certainty.

094 **Andrei Rublev (1966)**
Learn to build a historical epic around artistic doubt rather than biography alone.

095 **Daisies (1966)**
Study anarchic editing and performance as feminist satire.

096 **Closely Watched Trains (1966)**
Watch sexual comedy coexist with occupation and resistance.

097 **The Battle of Algiers (1966)**
Learn documentary-style staging of insurgency and state violence.

098 **Black Girl (1966)**
Learn how a concise story exposes colonial power through a worker's viewpoint.

099 **Playtime (1967)**
Learn comic staging across wide frames with simultaneous action.

100 **Belle de Jour (1967)**
Study ambiguity that lets fantasy and reality contaminate each other.

101 **The Red and the White (1967)**
Learn to stage shifting power across a wide battlefield.

102 **Marketa Lazarová (1967)**
Study fragmented medieval storytelling driven by weather, movement, and sound.

103 **The Firemen's Ball (1967)**
Watch a village event become a devastating political farce.

104 **2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)**
Study visual ellipsis, scale, and sound in nearly wordless science fiction.

105 **Memories of Underdevelopment (1968)**
Study essayistic montage that puts private alienation against revolution.

106 **The Hour of the Furnaces (1968)**
See documentary form used as an openly political intervention.

107 **Lucía (1968)**
Learn to connect national history through three distinct female stories and styles.

108 **Mandabi (1968)**
Watch bureaucracy become comic conflict with material stakes.

109 **The Jackal of Nahueltoro (1969)**
Watch a true-crime case expose class, literacy, and state violence.

110 **Kes (1969)**
Watch patient observation build a child's world beyond plot mechanics.

111 **Z (1969)**
Learn to turn political investigation into a fast, legible thriller.

112 **Army of Shadows (1969)**
Study quiet procedure and moral cost in a resistance film.

113 **The Color of Pomegranates (1969)**
Learn symbolic tableau as an alternative to conventional biography.

114 **The Cow (1969)**
Watch a village fable make grief and identity inseparable.

115 **Bhuvan Shome (1969)**
Learn playful voiceover and editing in a compact character transformation.

116 **Uski Roti (1969)**
Study duration, framing, and repetition as expressions of waiting.

117 **Wanda (1970)**
Learn how sparse dialogue and location work can build a complex outsider.

118 **The Conformist (1970)**
Watch architecture, light, and camera movement express political submission.

119 **The Land (1970)**
Study collective rural struggle through vivid characters and physical labor.

120 **A Touch of Zen (1971)**
Learn wuxia choreography that grows from character, terrain, and spiritual scale.

121 **Wake in Fright (1971)**
Watch hospitality turn into psychological entrapment in the outback.

122 **The Godfather (1972)**
Study family ritual, motivated violence, and an exact character arc.

123 **Aguirre, the Wrath of God (1972)**
Learn to turn a difficult landscape into a character's fevered mind.

124 **The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie (1972)**
Study recurring interruptions as a surreal comic structure.

125 **Sambizanga (1972)**
Learn to build an anti-colonial drama through a woman's search for her husband.

126 **The Spirit of the Beehive (1973)**
Watch childhood perception make political aftermath haunting.

127 **Don't Look Now (1973)**
Learn cross-cutting and visual motifs that turn grief into dread.

128 **Day for Night (1973)**
Study filmmaking itself as ensemble comedy and emotional labor.

129 **Amarcord (1973)**
Watch memory become a series of theatrical community portraits.

130 **Touki Bouki (1973)**
Study restless montage, music, and fantasy in a young couple's escape dream.

131 **A River Called Titas (1973)**
Watch a river connect community stories, loss, and landscape.

132 **Enter the Dragon (1973)**
Study how a star's physical presence structures action set pieces.

133 **The Conversation (1974)**
Watch sound perspective turn a surveillance plot into psychological suspense.

134 **The Godfather Part II (1974)**
Learn to braid timelines so inheritance becomes a visual argument.

135 **Jaws (1975)**
Study delayed revelation and reaction shots in blockbuster suspense.

136 **Nashville (1975)**
Study overlapping lives and live music in a sprawling ensemble mosaic.

137 **Jeanne Dielman, 23 quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles (1975)**
Learn how repetition and duration make tiny changes seismic.

138 **Barry Lyndon (1975)**
Study painterly light and ironic distance in historical storytelling.

139 **Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975)**
Learn how visual gags and abrupt reversals sustain absurdist comedy.

140 **Chronicle of the Years of Fire (1975)**
Learn to make anti-colonial history epic without losing ordinary lives.

141 **Xala (1975)**
Learn how a bodily curse can satirize postcolonial elites.

142 **Muna Moto (1975)**
Watch a love story expose the economic force of bride-price customs.

143 **Kaddu Beykat (1975)**
Study a hybrid of fiction and documentary rooted in rural women's work.

144 **Sholay (1975)**
Watch western structure, comedy, friendship, and action fuse into mass entertainment.

145 **Deewaar (1975)**
Study the dramatic power of two brothers choosing opposite moral paths.

146 **Manila in the Claws of Light (1975)**
Study a city as a maze of labor, desire, and exploitation.

147 **Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975)**
Learn to sustain a mystery through atmosphere and unresolved absence.

148 **Network (1976)**
Watch satire build from credible workplace conflict to public hysteria.

149 **Taxi Driver (1976)**
Study subjective urban imagery and voiceover that expose a disturbed protagonist.

150 **Dona Flor and Her Two Husbands (1976)**
Watch popular comedy blend sensuality, fantasy, and social life.

151 **The Last Supper (1976)**
Watch a contained historical drama reveal power through a single meal.

152 **Harvest: 3000 Years (1976)**
Study epic social conflict built from rural labor and land.

153 **Manthan (1976)**
Learn to dramatize collective organizing through specific human stakes.

154 **In the Realm of the Senses (1976)**
Watch repetition and intimacy turn desire into fatal obsession.

155 **Insiang (1976)**
Watch cramped domestic space sharpen betrayal and revenge.

156 **Star Wars (1977)**
Learn clean world-building, archetypal stakes, and visual effects in service of story.

157 **News from Home (1977)**
Watch letters and city images create a film about distance without conventional scenes.

158 **The Ascent (1977)**
Study stark images and moral pressure in a resistance story.

159 **Perfumed Nightmare (1977)**
Learn playful essay-film form in a critique of imported modernity.

160 **Killer of Sheep (1978)**
Learn how small scenes reveal a working-class neighborhood's emotional life.

161 **The 36th Chamber of Shaolin (1978)**
Learn training montage as character development and action grammar.

162 **Drunken Master (1978)**
Study comic timing and bodily invention in martial-arts performance.

163 **Alien (1979)**
Watch production design and offscreen space create science-fiction horror.

164 **Apocalypse Now (1979)**
Study sound, spectacle, and episodic structure in a descent narrative.

165 **Stalker (1979)**
Watch duration and production design transform space into philosophical suspense.

166 **Mad Max (1979)**
Study lean action storytelling built from vehicles, location, and momentum.

167 **My Brilliant Career (1979)**
Watch a protagonist choose art over the expected romantic ending.

168 **Raging Bull (1980)**
Learn to make fight choreography express the fighter's inner life.

169 **Pixote (1980)**
Learn to work with nonprofessional performers without smoothing away hard realities.

170 **Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)**
Study action geography and cause-and-effect set pieces.

171 **Elippathayam (1981)**
Study visual metaphor and domestic space in a portrait of feudal decline.

172 **Blade Runner (1982)**
See how visual design makes a philosophical question tangible.

173 **The Thing (1982)**
Study practical effects, spatial distrust, and ensemble paranoia.

174 **Koyaanisqatsi (1982)**
Learn how montage and music can create an argument without dialogue.

175 **L'Argent (1983)**
Study precise gestures and offscreen consequences in a compressed moral tale.

176 **Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro (1983)**
Watch farce expose corruption through escalating misunderstandings.

177 **The Official Story (1985)**
Study political revelation through a protagonist's changing knowledge.

178 **The Kiss of the Spider Woman (1985)**
Watch stories within stories build intimacy in a prison setting.

179 **Shoah (1985)**
Learn the power and ethical demands of testimony, place, and patient duration.

180 **My Beautiful Laundrette (1985)**
Watch personal relationships carry class, race, and sexuality without speeches.

181 **Come and See (1985)**
Learn subjective sound and image in an uncompromising antiwar film.

182 **Wings of Desire (1987)**
Learn to shift perspective through sound, camera movement, and color.

183 **Where Is the Friend's House? (1987)**
Watch a child's small obligation generate moral suspense.

184 **Yeelen (1987)**
Watch Bambara mythology shape a visually striking initiation quest.

185 **Nayakan (1987)**
Learn to localize a gangster saga through family, city, and community.

186 **Pushpaka Vimana (1987)**
Study dialogue-free physical comedy with precise visual cause and effect.

187 **Cinema Paradiso (1988)**
Watch nostalgia earn its payoff through recurring images and relationships.

188 **A Short Film About Killing (1988)**
Study visual texture and parallel violence in a moral argument.

189 **Time of the Gypsies (1988)**
Watch magical realism emerge from community life and family tragedy.

190 **Salaam Bombay! (1988)**
Watch location work and child performances anchor social realism.

191 **Akira (1988)**
Study animation that makes urban destruction feel tactile and politically charged.

192 **My Neighbor Totoro (1988)**
Learn to sustain wonder through quiet observation and child behavior.

193 **Grave of the Fireflies (1988)**
Study animation used for intimate, unsparing antiwar drama.

194 **Do the Right Thing (1989)**
Watch color, heat, music, and ensemble tension build to communal rupture.

195 **The Cook, the Thief, His Wife & Her Lover (1989)**
Study theatrical sets and color changes as narrative weapons.

196 **Yaaba (1989)**
Learn how children's perspective changes a story about prejudice.

197 **A City of Sadness (1989)**
Watch family chronicle reveal national trauma through partial views.

198 **The Killer (1989)**
Learn how action choreography can express loyalty and melodramatic feeling.

199 **Goodfellas (1990)**
Study propulsive voiceover and camera movement that make complicity seductive.

200 **Close-Up (1990)**
Study documentary reenactment that questions authorship and empathy.

201 **Daughters of the Dust (1991)**
Learn to make family memory and cultural inheritance visible through image and voice.

202 **Delicatessen (1991)**
Learn heightened production design and physical comedy in a closed world.

203 **A Brighter Summer Day (1991)**
Study a large youth ensemble within a precise social world.

204 **Raise the Red Lantern (1991)**
Watch color and ritual define power inside one household.

205 **The Blue Eyes of Yonta (1992)**
Learn how romance reveals the afterlife of revolution.

206 **Living in Bondage (1992)**
Study the home-video thriller that helped define Nollywood's popular storytelling.

207 **Jurassic Park (1993)**
Study clear spectacle staging and the balance of practical and digital effects.

208 **Naked (1993)**
Watch long, volatile dialogue scenes reveal character and social damage.

209 **Three Colours: Blue (1993)**
Study subjective sound and recurring color in a grief narrative.

210 **Sankofa (1993)**
Watch time travel confront slavery from an African diasporic viewpoint.

211 **Farewell My Concubine (1993)**
Learn to braid performance, identity, and political history across decades.

212 **The Scent of Green Papaya (1993)**
Watch sound and close detail make domestic labor sensuous.

213 **The Piano (1993)**
Learn to make objects, music, and touch carry a character's voice.

214 **Pulp Fiction (1994)**
Watch nonlinear order refresh familiar crime material.

215 **Hoop Dreams (1994)**
Learn how long-term observation turns sports into a social epic.

216 **Before the Rain (1994)**
Learn circular structure that makes violence feel both personal and historical.

217 **The Silences of the Palace (1994)**
Learn how a daughter's memory reveals class and gendered power.

218 **Through the Olive Trees (1994)**
Watch fiction and filmmaking blur inside a simple courtship.

219 **Bandit Queen (1994)**
Study how biography and violence challenge the audience's gaze.

220 **Chungking Express (1994)**
Study music, speed, and fragmented narration in a city romance.

221 **The Rice People (1994)**
Study family survival through agricultural work and seasonal change.

222 **Once Were Warriors (1994)**
Study emotionally direct family drama rooted in Māori urban life.

223 **Toy Story (1995)**
Study goal-driven character animation and economical world rules.

224 **Underground (1995)**
Study grotesque spectacle and music in a political tragicomedy.

225 **Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995)**
Watch songs and family conflict shape a diaspora romance.

226 **Bombay (1995)**
Study how a couple's melodrama carries communal conflict at city scale.

227 **Ghost in the Shell (1995)**
Watch animated design and philosophical action question the body's boundaries.

228 **Cyclo (1995)**
Learn vivid color and fragmented encounters in an urban crime odyssey.

229 **The Watermelon Woman (1996)**
Study a playful film-within-a-film that invents a missing queer archive.

230 **Fargo (1996)**
Learn how regional speech and tonal restraint sharpen crime comedy.

231 **Secrets & Lies (1996)**
Learn ensemble performance and revelation through patient conversation.

232 **Titanic (1997)**
Watch romance anchor disaster scale and complex visual effects.

233 **Taste of Cherry (1997)**
Study repetition and open-ended dialogue in an existential road film.

234 **Perfect Blue (1997)**
Learn editing that destabilizes identity, performance, and time.

235 **Princess Mononoke (1997)**
Study competing moral claims in fantasy without a simple villain.

236 **Central Station (1998)**
Learn how a road movie changes a guarded character through encounters.

237 **Run Lola Run (1998)**
Watch repetition, split timing, and music create kinetic structure.

238 **West Beirut (1998)**
Learn to observe civil war through adolescent play and shifting streets.

239 **The Matrix (1999)**
Study how action design can make abstract rules instantly legible.

240 **The Blair Witch Project (1999)**
Learn to turn format limits and unseen threat into horror.

241 **Beau Travail (1999)**
Study bodies, rhythm, and landscape as substitutes for exposition.

242 **Rosetta (1999)**
Learn close handheld following that binds us to a character's immediate need.

243 **Nine Queens (2000)**
Study misdirection and character chemistry in a tightly plotted con game.

244 **Amores Perros (2000)**
Study intersecting stories united by one violent event and one city.

245 **The Gleaners and I (2000)**
Watch a filmmaker's curiosity shape an essay from ordinary encounters.

246 **Werckmeister Harmonies (2000)**
Watch long takes turn collective fear into physical movement.

247 **The Circle (2000)**
Watch relay structure pass oppression from one woman to another.

248 **In the Mood for Love (2000)**
Watch repetition, costume, and withheld contact create longing.

249 **Yi Yi (2000)**
Learn to connect family-scale stories with an entire city's rhythms.

250 **Mulholland Drive (2001)**
Study dream logic, performance shifts, and unanswered questions.

251 **Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner (2001)**
Learn storytelling rooted in Inuit language, landscape, and oral tradition.

252 **Y Tu Mamá También (2001)**
Watch an omniscient narrator widen a coming-of-age road movie into social portrait.

253 **Amélie (2001)**
Study visual motifs and narration that give whimsy narrative discipline.

254 **No Man's Land (2001)**
Learn to compress an entire war into one absurd standoff.

255 **Lagaan (2001)**
Learn to turn a long sporting contest into clear collective stakes.

256 **Spirited Away (2001)**
Study fantasy rules discovered through a child's actions.

257 **City of God (2002)**
Learn kinetic editing and perspective shifts in an ensemble crime saga.

258 **Talk to Her (2002)**
Learn interwoven stories built around care, silence, and moral discomfort.

259 **Divine Intervention (2002)**
Study deadpan visual gags in political storytelling.

260 **Abouna (2002)**
Learn to make child protagonists carry a story of abandonment without sentimentality.

261 **The Clay Bird (2002)**
Study a child's viewpoint amid religion, family division, and national change.

262 **Devdas (2002)**
Study expressive sets, costume, and song in operatic melodrama.

263 **Infernal Affairs (2002)**
Watch mirrored undercover roles generate suspense and identity crisis.

264 **Whale Rider (2002)**
Watch a child's goal confront tradition through performance and landscape.

265 **Dogville (2003)**
Watch bare-stage production design expose a community's social bargains.

266 **At Five in the Afternoon (2003)**
Learn to frame aspiration amid the physical aftermath of war.

267 **Oldboy (2003)**
Learn how a revenge mystery uses staging and revelation to reframe violence.

268 **Memories of Murder (2003)**
Study tonal shifts and procedural failure without losing momentum.

269 **Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter… and Spring (2003)**
Watch seasonal structure carry spiritual change.

270 **The Story of the Weeping Camel (2003)**
Learn to blur documentary observation and narrative around Mongolian herding life.

271 **Ong-Bak (2003)**
Watch stunt performance and wide action coverage preserve physical skill.

272 **Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind (2004)**
Watch fragmented chronology carry a simple emotional question.

273 **The Motorcycle Diaries (2004)**
Study landscape and episodic encounters in political awakening.

274 **The Holy Girl (2004)**
Watch sound and withholding create moral ambiguity.

275 **Moolaadé (2004)**
Study collective action and village space in a drama of women's resistance.

276 **Sepet (2004)**
Study a cross-cultural romance grounded in speech, family, and Malaysian daily life.

277 **Tropical Malady (2004)**
Learn to shift from romance to myth without explaining away mystery.

278 **Shutter (2004)**
Study the delayed visual reveal in a guilt-driven ghost story.

279 **Brokeback Mountain (2005)**
Study restraint, landscape, and ellipsis in a long-span romance.

280 **The Death of Mr. Lazarescu (2005)**
Study real-time procedure as institutional satire.

281 **Tsotsi (2005)**
Watch a crime plot hinge on one disruptive act of care.

282 **The Forsaken Land (2005)**
Watch sparse dialogue and stillness express life under suspended war.

283 **The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros (2005)**
Watch child perspective soften a crime story without erasing danger.

284 **Pan's Labyrinth (2006)**
Study how fantasy creatures reflect a child's real political danger.

285 **Still Life (2006)**
Study wide compositions that place personal quests within a changing landscape.

286 **The Host (2006)**
Watch monster action, family comedy, and political satire work in one film.

287 **Ten Canoes (2006)**
Learn nested oral storytelling shaped by Indigenous language and worldview.

288 **There Will Be Blood (2007)**
Learn how performance, sound, and visual scale embody power.

289 **4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days (2007)**
Watch offscreen threat and long takes intensify a clandestine ordeal.

290 **Caramel (2007)**
Watch a salon ensemble build female solidarity through everyday scenes.

291 **The Band's Visit (2007)**
Study awkward silence and small hospitality in cross-cultural comedy.

292 **Secret Sunshine (2007)**
Learn to follow grief and faith through unpredictable performance.

293 **The Headless Woman (2008)**
Learn to render denial through restricted perception and elliptical scenes.

294 **The Secret in Their Eyes (2009)**
Study how a procedural carries memory, romance, and obsession.

295 **The Milk of Sorrow (2009)**
Watch folklore and bodily metaphor express inherited trauma.

296 **The White Ribbon (2009)**
Learn how withheld causality makes collective violence unsettling.

297 **Ajami (2009)**
Learn interlocking viewpoints in a multilingual neighborhood thriller.

298 **Samson and Delilah (2009)**
Study near-wordless romance and survival through precise visual detail.

299 **Nostalgia for the Light (2010)**
Learn to connect cosmic imagery with historical testimony.

300 **Viva Riva! (2010)**
Watch a Congolese crime thriller build energy from urban locations and scarcity.

301 **Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives (2010)**
Study how ghosts and nature can inhabit everyday realism.

302 **Once Upon a Time in Anatolia (2011)**
Watch a nighttime search reveal character through talk and waiting.

303 **A Separation (2011)**
Study how every new fact changes the moral balance of a family conflict.

304 **The Raid (2011)**
Study clean action geography and escalating floor-by-floor structure.

305 **Stories We Tell (2012)**
Study how interviews and reenactments complicate documentary truth.

306 **The Hunt (2012)**
Watch rumor spread through restrained performance and community scenes.

307 **Wadjda (2012)**
Learn to make a child's concrete goal illuminate social rules.

308 **The Act of Killing (2012)**
Examine reenactment's power and ethical risk in documentary.

309 **The Great Beauty (2013)**
Study spectacle and wandering structure in a portrait of spiritual fatigue.

310 **Ida (2013)**
Learn how headroom and fixed framing express absence and history.

311 **Lucia (2013)**
Learn to braid dream and reality inside a low-budget psychological thriller.

312 **The Lunchbox (2013)**
Learn to build romance through letters, routine, and absence.

313 **A Touch of Sin (2013)**
Watch linked stories reveal violence across different social worlds.

314 **The Grandmaster (2013)**
Learn to shoot combat as memory, weather, and romantic loss.

315 **Ilo Ilo (2013)**
Learn how a household ensemble reflects migration and economic precarity.

316 **The Missing Picture (2013)**
Learn to represent absent archival images through handmade figures and narration.

317 **Norte, the End of History (2013)**
Watch long-form narrative contrast an intellectual's crime with a family's endurance.

318 **On the Job (2013)**
Watch a corruption thriller maintain speed while exposing institutions.

319 **The Tribe (2014)**
Study visual storytelling through sign-language dialogue presented without subtitles.

320 **Theeb (2014)**
Watch desert geography and shifting alliances drive a coming-of-age survival film.

321 **Timbuktu (2014)**
Learn to portray oppressive rule through varied daily lives rather than a single speech.

322 **Court (2014)**
Study institutional absurdity through patient, multilingual observation.

323 **Ice Poison (2014)**
Study spare realism in a story of migration, poverty, and drug trade.

324 **The Babadook (2014)**
Watch a horror creature embody a parent's grief and exhaustion.

325 **Embrace of the Serpent (2015)**
Study mirrored journeys that question colonial ways of seeing.

326 **Ixcanul (2015)**
Learn how language and landscape shape a protagonist's available choices.

327 **Son of Saul (2015)**
Watch shallow focus and restricted viewpoint confront the limits of representation.

328 **Mustang (2015)**
Study sisterly ensemble and increasing confinement through space and costume.

329 **Baahubali: The Beginning (2015)**
Learn mythic scale and visual spectacle built around legible family stakes.

330 **Moonlight (2016)**
Study three-part structure, intimate framing, and identity across time.

331 **White Sun (2016)**
Learn how a funeral journey reveals political division across generations.

332 **Sairat (2016)**
Watch romantic energy turn into a confrontation with caste violence.

333 **Get Out (2017)**
Watch genre mechanics reveal social power through a single point of view.

334 **A Fantastic Woman (2017)**
Watch genre shifts protect a character's dignity amid public scrutiny.

335 **Village Rockstars (2017)**
Watch a child's musical dream grow from place and everyday detail.

336 **Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts (2017)**
Learn to transplant western form into an Indonesian landscape and woman's perspective.

337 **Roma (2018)**
Study long takes and deep staging that keep personal and political action together.

338 **The Wolf House (2018)**
Study handmade animation that turns changing rooms into psychological space.

339 **Capernaum (2018)**
Watch a child's performance carry an urgent social melodrama.

340 **Rafiki (2018)**
Study vivid color and intimate framing in a queer romance under social pressure.

341 **Tumbbad (2018)**
Watch folklore horror grow from production design, weather, and greed.

342 **Shoplifters (2018)**
Study incremental revelations that revise the meaning of family.

343 **Burning (2018)**
Watch class tension grow through ambiguity and missing information.

344 **Monos (2019)**
Learn atmosphere and group dynamics in a war film without a fixed front line.

345 **Bacurau (2019)**
Watch western, horror, and satire unite a community around resistance.

346 **The Invisible Life of Eurídice Gusmão (2019)**
Study melodramatic time jumps and parallel lives.

347 **La Llorona (2019)**
Learn how a ghost story can confront historical atrocity.

348 **Portrait of a Lady on Fire (2019)**
Learn to build desire through looking, listening, and delayed touch.

349 **Atlantics (2019)**
Watch ghost story and romance express migration's human cost.

350 **Super Deluxe (2019)**
Study several outrageous plots bound by one moral universe.

351 **Parasite (2019)**
Learn how architecture and movement turn class conflict into suspense.

352 **Quo Vadis, Aida? (2020)**
Learn to sustain historical urgency through one civilian's impossible choices.

353 **The Great Indian Kitchen (2021)**
Learn how repeated household tasks become a precise feminist argument.

354 **Drive My Car (2021)**
Study rehearsal, silence, and adaptation as ways to reveal grief.

355 **Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022)**
Learn to keep emotional stakes clear amid rapid genre and universe shifts.

356 **Argentina, 1985 (2022)**
Watch courtroom procedure organize national memory into human stakes.

357 **The Blue Caftan (2022)**
Learn to communicate love and loss through craft, touch, and restraint.

358 **RRR (2022)**
Watch song, action, and impossible feats express friendship at blockbuster scale.

359 **Joyland (2022)**
Watch family melodrama reveal desire and gendered expectations without easy villains.

360 **Decision to Leave (2022)**
Watch visual transitions and point of view build romantic mystery.

361 **The Settlers (2023)**
Learn to use western grammar to expose colonial violence.

362 **The Zone of Interest (2023)**
Watch offscreen sound and banal routine represent atrocity with chilling restraint.

363 **Monster (2023)**
Learn how repeated events from new viewpoints transform judgment.

364 **The Seed of the Sacred Fig (2024)**
Study family suspense shaped by paranoia and public protest.

365 **All We Imagine as Light (2024)**
Study how city sound and quiet solidarity shape a women-centered ensemble.

Sources

Cross-checked against the 2022 Sight and Sound critics' and directors' polls, BBC Culture's foreign-language poll, the BFI's curated film lists, the Cineteca Nacional de Chile and Criterion's restorations. The one-line lessons are original curatorial judgments.

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