Hugo (2011) 1,2,3,4

Jo Jo rabbit (2019) 2,3

Howls moving castle (American Dub 2004) 1,2,3,4

The Last train to Busan (2016) 2,3

Dawn of the Planet of the apes (2014) 2

Return of the King (2003) 2

The boy and the heron (American Dub 2023) 1,2,3,4

A quiet place (2018)1,2,4

Darkest Hour (2017)1,2,3,4

Shadow of a Doubt (1943) 1,2,3,4

I think my criteria for movies differs slightly, but not entirely, from the one provided. I think the basic evaluation is something I want in every movie. If the production design feels cheap, or the acting is awful, or the direction leaves the movie in pieces, I don’t want to see it. If the editing is awful, or the score doesn’t feel good, I’m out. I don’t want to waste my time with something that doesn’t at least try to hold a standard. It’s ok if it’s not my favorite, as long as I can tell someone actually took the time to work on it.

I also don’t prioritize other cultures, and learn more about them through film. I like certain foreign films, but it needs to really stick out for me to latch onto it. It needs to have all the thematic elements, because it’s that much harder to watch a movie in another language, and it’s not worth the effort if the effort was not given by the movie makers. I do think I need human nature to be a part of the film. If I can’t connect to a character, or at the very least understand and bare a character's presence in the film, I can’t do it. That’s why Napoleon Dynamite is so hard for me to watch. It’s a classic, but no one feels real enough for it to be good. Now, I agree that I cannot handle gratuitous violence or nudity. Maybe it’s who I spent time with growing up, or the world I live in now, but language doesn’t bother me as much as it used to. Maybe that’s something I need to monitor a bit closer. These movies, however, have a good mix of funny moments, of suspense, of being immersed in the story, and ending in a way that feels whole.

Jo Jo Rabbit is my self proclaimed favorite movie of all time, but I haven’t watched it in 4 years. I went on a mission and discovered my love for God and raised my standards as a person in my day to day life. Maybe I need to revisit it to make sure it still means what it meant to me then.

It doesn’t need to end happily, it doesn’t need to end without loss. It doesn’t even need to end with all the answers given. It just needs to end as a whole. It needs to be finished with a satisfying completion, or a reason for dissatisfaction. I think I need to choose movies more consciously. I keep complaining that new movies are absolute garbage, and that there is no reason to go to the movie theater. Now, I have realized that there are really good, a lot of times even better than normally. I’m gonna find and choose to watch these gems. I want to watch all the Hitchcock movies. I want to see auteur’s in their complete work. I want to see a piece of someone’s human condition through their work.

I also don’t think that academy approval makes a good movie. Some of these movies got nominations, and some even won awards. Others weren’t even nominated. That means nothing to me. There is a level of nostalgia involved in these movies, but if that was the case, it meant that it changed me in some way. I’ll also need to go back and watch these movies with an analyst brain-hamster churning the running wheel of understanding all the different parts of the movie. I also realize that I don’t watch a lot of movies. All these movies were either introduced to me, or I chose to watch it with a group of other people. I need to dedicate time to watch more movies for the sake of watching them.

All in all, the things I’ve learned in this class and the movies that we’ve watched have completely changed my perspective. The reason Hugo is at the top of the list is because this was the movie where I finally saw the vision. It clicked. All the things we had talked about up to that point were clear and visible and I fell in love with it.