1. [‘Honeyland’](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/25/movies/honeyland-review.html) (Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov)

Conceived as a government-sponsored informational video, this documentary is nothing less than a found epic, a real-life environmental allegory and, not least, a stinging comedy about the age-old problem of inconsiderate neighbors.

2. [‘The Souvenir’](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/16/movies/the-souvenir-review.html) (Joanna Hogg)

Honor Swinton Byrne plays a diffident version of the director’s younger self in an elusive autobiographical film that also functions as a kind of superhero origin story.

3.[‘Parasite’](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/10/movies/parasite-review.html) ([Bong Joon Ho](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/30/movies/bong-joon-ho-parasite.html))

I can’t think of a film that made me sadder about the state of the world and more jubilant about the state of movies.

4. [‘The Irishman’](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/27/movies/the-irishman-review.html) (Martin Scorsese)

What is cinema? If you have three and a half hours to spare — and you do — this is a pretty good answer.

5. [‘Marriage Story’](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/05/movies/marriage-story-review.html) ([Noah Baumbach](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/27/movies/marriage-story-noah-baumbach.html))

The joys and miseries of a creative family in 21st-century New York and Los Angeles.

6. ‘Little Women’ ([Greta Gerwig](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/31/movies/greta-gerwig-little-women.html))

The joys and miseries of a creative family in 19th-century Massachusetts.

## 7. [‘Peterloo’](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/04/movies/peterloo-review.html) (Mike Leigh)

British politics in 1819, full of passion and pageantry, bad faith and factionalism. It feels like a very short march from then to now.

## 8. [‘The Edge of Democracy’](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/18/movies/edge-of-democracy-review.html) (Petra Costa)

This harrowing documentary, a thoughtful inside look at the events leading up to the election of Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil’s populist president, is the scariest movie of the year.

## 9. [‘Once Upon a Time … in Hollywood’](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/24/movies/once-upon-a-time-in-hollywood-review.html) (Quentin Tarantino)

Another answer to the “what is cinema?” question, with special attention to Brad Pitt’s jawline and Margot Robbie’s feet.

## 10. [‘Atlantics’](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/14/movies/atlantics-review.html) (Mati Diop)

See No. 3. A startlingly original debut feature about the specters that haunt Dakar, and everywhere else.

And … “[American Factory,”](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/20/movies/american-factory-review.html)[“Ash Is Purest White”](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/13/movies/ash-is-purest-white-review.html) [“Birds of Passage,”](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/12/movies/birds-of-passage-review.html) [“Booksmart,”](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/22/movies/booksmart-review.html) [“The Chambermaid,”](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/25/movies/the-chambermaid-review.html)[“An Elephant Standing Still,”](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/06/movies/an-elephant-sitting-still-review.html) “[Ford v Ferrari](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/14/movies/ford-v-ferrari-review.html),” “[I Do Not Care if We Go Down in History as Barbarians](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/18/movies/i-do-not-care-we-go-down-history-barbarians-review.html),” “[Gloria Bell](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/07/movies/gloria-bell-review.html),” “[Her Smell](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/10/movies/her-smell-review.html),” “[High-Flying Bird](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/07/movies/high-flying-bird-review.html),” “[The Nightingale](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/01/movies/nightingale-review.html),” “[Pain and Glory](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/03/movies/pain-and-glory-review.html),” “Richard Jewell,” “[Transit](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/28/movies/transit-review.html),” “[Us](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/20/movies/us-movie-review.html).