**Amélie** 2001 (watched: 7)

Romance, Comedy

Director: Jean-Pierre Jeunet

Audrey Tautou, Mathieu Kassovitz

Amélie is a story about a girl named Amélie whose childhood was suppressed by her Father's mistaken concerns of a heart defect. With these concerns Amélie gets hardly any real life contact with other people. This leads Amélie to resort to her own fantastical world and dreams of love and beauty. She later on becomes a young woman and moves to the central part of Paris as a waitress. After finding a lost treasure belonging to the former occupant of her apartment, she decides to return it to him. After seeing his reaction and his new found perspective - she decides to devote her life to the people around her. Such as, her father who is obsessed with his garden-gnome, a failed writer, a hypochondriac, a man who stalks his ex girlfriends, the "ghost", a suppressed young soul, the love of her life and a man whose bones are as brittle as glass. But after consuming herself with these escapades - she finds out that she is disregarding her own life and damaging her quest for love. Amélie then discovers she must become more aggressive and take a hold of her life and capture the beauty of love she has always dreamed of.

The reason why I like this film.

I like every part of this film, including the plot, characters, color, soundtrack, details, director’s sense of humor, and etc (except the poster because I thought it was a horror movie when I saw it). First of all, I am personally influenced by Amelie a lot. Her kindness and imagination plays an important role throughout this film, which I find like a healing power. Moreover, the two colors occurs through the whole movie are red and green. I believe the director used Kodak film that creates the dreamy effect. A fun thing is that I actually heard the soundtrack that my mother bought first and started to be interested in the film itself. Now the soundtrack become the major instrumental music I will listen to.

**Finding Nemo** 2003 (watched: 1)

Animation, Adventure

Director: Andrew Stanton, Lee Unkrich

A clown fish named Marlin lives in the Great Barrier Reef loses his son, Nemo. After he ventures into the open sea, despite his father's constant warnings about many of the ocean's dangers. Nemo is abducted by a boat and netted up and sent to a dentist's office in Sydney. So, while Marlin ventures off to try to retrieve Nemo, Marlin meets a fish named Dory, a blue tang suffering from short-term memory loss. The companions travel a great distance, encountering various dangerous sea creatures such as sharks, anglerfish and jellyfish, in order to rescue Nemo from the dentist's office, which is situated by Sydney Harbor. While the two are doing this, Nemo and the other sea animals in the dentist's fish tank plot a way to return to Sydney Harbor to live their lives free again.

The reason why I like this film.

Finding Nemo is definitely a must-watch movie when people from my generation were young. I was not really into adventure movie especially with the situation that family got set apart. However I still found this movie attracting because they met all different kinds of fish during their journey, just like my life journey meeting different kinds of people gaining different experience.

**Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind** 2004 (watched: 2)

Drama, Romance

Director: Michel Gondry

Joel is stunned to discover that his girlfriend Clementine has had her memories of their tumultuous relationship erased. Out of desperation, he contracts the inventor of the process, Dr. Howard Mierzwaik, to have Clementine removed from his own memory. But as Joel's memories progressively disappear, he begins to rediscover their earlier passion. From deep within the recesses of his brain, Joel attempts to escape the procedure. As Dr. Mierzwiak and his crew chase him through the maze of his memories, it's clear that Joel just can't get her out of his head.

The reason why I like this film.

People are lonely so they seek for someone who they can accompany with. The fate, determines the two persons who are meant to be together to be together. The two characters choose to forget each other, but finally even when they don’t have any memory about each other, they are still attracted to each other. I always believe everyone’s fate has been planned out already when one was born. Also, I love how imaginative the director is, especially in Joel’s dream that he is about to forget but trying not to. It is also ironic how people finally know to cherish something when they lose something.

**The Truman Show** 1998 (watched: 2)

Drama

Director: Peter Weir

In this movie, Truman is a man whose life is a fake one... The place he lives is in fact a big studio with hidden cameras everywhere, and all his friends and people around him, are actors who play their roles in the most popular TV-series in the world: The Truman Show. Truman thinks that he is an ordinary man with an ordinary life and has no idea about how he is exploited. Until one day... he finds out everything. Will he react?

The reason why I like this film.

I have been doubted the world surrounding me is not real since I was a kid. The world is controlled by someone who just plays the world like playing the Sims.

**Monsters, Inc.** 2001 (watched: 1)

Animation, Adventure

Director: Pete Doctor, David Silverman, Lee Unkrich

A city of monsters with no humans called Monstropolis centers around the city's power company, Monsters, Inc. The lovable, confident, tough, furry blue behemoth-like giant monster named James P. Sullivan (better known as Sulley) and his wisecracking best friend, short, green cyclops monster Mike Wazowski, discover what happens when the real world interacts with theirs in the form of a 2-year-old baby girl dubbed "Boo," who accidentally sneaks into the monster world with Sulley one night. And now it's up to Sulley and Mike to send Boo back in her door before anybody finds out, especially two evil villains such as Sulley's main rival as a scarer, chameleon-like Randall (a monster that Boo is very afraid of), who possesses the ability to change the color of his skin, and Mike and Sulley's boss Mr. Waternoose, the chairman and chief executive officer of Monsters, Inc.

The reason why I like this film.

**Hard Candy** 2005 (watched: 3)

Director: David Slade

Patrick Wilson, Ellen Page

After three weeks of chatting with the thirty-two year old photographer Jeff Kohlver over the Internet, fourteen year old Hayley Stark meets him in the Nighthawks coffee shop. Hayley flirts with him in spite of the age difference and proposes to go to his house. Once there, she prepares a screwdriver for them and Jeff passes out. When he awakes, he is tied up to a chair, and Hayley accuses him of pedophilia. Jeff denies the accusation, and Hayley begins to torture him in a cat and mouse game.

The reason why I like this film.

This film definitely has a strange plot. At the beginning, I was really worried about the little girl going to a stranger’s house alone. However, the plot twists real quick that I totally did not expect. Hayley keeps aggressively asking Jeff questions about his first love Janelle and Jeff keeps lying and asking for mercy. I am impressed by how Hayley, being a teenager, takes this revenge on Jeff for abusing her friend.

**My Neighbor Totoro** 1988 (watched: 3)

Hayao Miyazaki

Two young girls, Satsuki and her younger sister Mei, move into a house in the country with their father to be closer to their hospitalized mother. Satsuki and Mei discover that the nearby forest is inhabited by magical creatures called Totoros (pronounced toe-toe-ro). They soon befriend these Totoros, and have several magical adventures.

The reason why I like this film.

I remember the first time watching it was with my mother when I was probably 5 or 6. Totoro, a creature with huge furry body, will only appear by chance. I wanted to meet Totoro and make friends with him really badly when I was a kid. Totoro seems to be happy all the time, living in no-worry life. I watched this film again when I got a little older. It cured me just like before.

**Spirited Away** 2001 (watched: 2)

Hayao Miyazaki

Chihiro and her parents are moving to a small Japanese town in the countryside, much to Chihiro's dismay. On the way to their new home, Chihiro's father makes a wrong turn and drives down a lonely one-lane road which dead-ends in front of a tunnel. Her parents decide to stop the car and explore the area. They go through the tunnel and find an abandoned amusement park on the other side, with its own little town. When her parents see a restaurant with great-smelling food but no staff, they decide to eat and pay later. However, Chihiro refuses to eat and decides to explore the theme park a bit more. She meets a boy named Haku who tells her that Chihiro and her parents are in danger, and they must leave immediately. She runs to the restaurant and finds that her parents have turned into pigs. In addition, the theme park turns out to be a town inhabited by demons, spirits, and evil gods. At the center of the town is a bathhouse where these creatures go to relax. The owner of the bathhouse is the evil witch Yubaba, who is intent on keeping all trespassers as captive workers, including Chihiro. Chihiro must rely on Haku to save her parents in hopes of returning to their world.

The reason why I like this film.

I hated this film when I first watched it. It didn’t seem like a film for young kids. When I saw their parents got turned to pigs I was totally horrified. No kids living happily with their parents would want to see that scene and suffer through that kind of fear. However, it is a piece for both adults and children. It teaches children to be independent without parents holding their hands. Sen is lucky to meet Haku to guide her in that bad situation. I couldn’t really imagine I was Sen who grows up so much and becomes a strong person in this film. And then I watched again when I was a little older. Miyazaki’s strange yet fascinating plot attracts me a lot.

**Pride and Prejudice** (2005) (watched: 3)

Drama, Romance

Director: Joe Wright

Keira Knightly, Matthew Macfadyen

In Georgian England, Mrs. Bennet raises her five daughters - Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Kitty and Lydia with the purpose of getting married with a rich husband that can support the family. They are not from the upper class, and their house in Hertfordshire will be inherited by a distant cousin if Mr. Bennet dies. When the wealthy bachelor Mr. Bingley and his best friend Mr. Darcy arrive in town to spend the summer in a mansion nearby their property, the shy and beautiful Jane falls in love for Mr. Bingley, and Lizzie finds Mr. Darcy a snobbish and proud man, and she swears to loathe him forever. This is the beginning of their wonderful love story.

The reason why I like this film.

Such a classic movie with new faces. I have not got a chance to read the book yet, but the movie itself definitely makes me want to read the book. Jane Austin’s depiction of English countryside 200 years ago is lively illustrated by the director using some long shots. Every character’s personality are clearly drawn out.

**Coco before Chanel** 2009 (watched: 2)

Biography, Drama

Director: Anne Fontaine

Audrey Tautou

The life of Coco Chanel before her fame as a fashion designer is presented. Born with the name Gabrielle (Coco a nickname given to her from her singing the song, "Qui qu'a vu Coco dans l'Trocadéro?"), she and her older sister Adrienne live in their mother and being abandoned by their father. They stay together into their young adulthood, working as seamstresses during the day, and performing in a cabaret at night in Moulins. Fashion in an off-handed manner is already present in her being, she always decrying both their costumes and the general style of the day for women, both which are in her mind overly frilly and constraining. She and Adrienne are different personalities, Adrienne who aspires to that of most young women, love and marriage to a husband that will take care of her. Coco, on the other hand, has a streak of independence, bluntly speaking her mind, stretching the truth or lying to get what she wants, and not believing in love or a man in her life. She believes security can be had by getting to Paris and performing in the famous Alcazar. En route, she begins a symbiotic relationship of sorts with Étienne Balsan, a wealthy stable owner who she met in Moulins. Through Blasan, Coco will meet two other people that play important parts in her life. One is actress Emilienne d'Alençon, who, while still adhering to the style of the day, admires certain aspects of Coco's own individual style, especially her simple straw hats. The other is English coal magnate Arthur Capel - nicknamed Boy - who may make Coco change her mind about love.

The reason why I like this film.

If she was not an orphan, if she was not so poor that she had to work as a tailor and a singer, if she did not stay at Balsan’s house, if she did not constantly strive to become stronger, will she still be Chanel? I am not a big fan of Chanel the brand personally, but I am definitely impressed by their proposition behind the Chanel brand that women should be free and independent.

**He’s Just Not That into You** 2009 (watched: 4)

Comedy, Drama

Director: Ken Kwapis

Jennifer Aniston, Jennifer Connelly, Ben Affleck, Bradley Cooper, Scalett Johansson

The needy Gigi Haim is a young woman seeking her prince charming somewhere amongst her unsuccessful dates. After dating estate agent Conor Barry, Gigi anxiously expects to receive a phone call from him. However Conor never calls her. Gigi decides to go to the bar where he frequents to see him, but she meets his friend Alex who works there. They become friends and Alex helps Gigi to interpret the subtle signs given out by her dates.

The reason why I like this film.

**La Marche de l'Empereurr (March of the Penguins)** 2005 (watched: 1)

Documentary

Director: Luc Jacquet

Each winter, alone in the pitiless ice deserts of Antarctica, deep in the most inhospitable terrain on Earth, a truly remarkable journey takes place as it has done for millennia. Emperor penguins in their thousands abandon the deep blue security of their ocean home and clamber onto the frozen ice to begin their long journey into a region so bleak, so extreme, it supports no other wildlife at this time of year. In single file, the penguins march blinded by blizzards, buffeted by gale force winds. Guided by instinct, by the otherworldly radiance of the Southern Cross, they head unerringly for their traditional breeding ground where--after a ritual courtship of intricate dances and delicate maneuvering, accompanied by a cacophony of ecstatic song--they will pair off into monogamous couples and mate. The females remain long enough only to lay a single egg. Once this is accomplished, exhausted by weeks without nourishment, they begin their return journey across the ice-field to the fish-filled seas. The male emperors are left behind to guard and hatch the precious eggs, which they cradle at all times on top of their feet. After two long months during which the males eat nothing, the eggs begin to hatch. Once they have emerged into their ghostly white new world, the chicks can not survive for long on their fathers' limited food reserves. If their mothers are late returning from the ocean with food, the newly-hatched young will die. Once the families are reunited, the roles reverse, the mothers remaining with their new young while their mates head, exhausted and starved, for the sea, and food. While the adults fish, the chicks face the ever-present threat of attack by prowling giant petrels. As the weather grows warmer and the ice floes finally begin to crack and melt, the adults will repeat their arduous journey countless times, marching many hundreds of miles over some of the most treacherous territory on Earth, until the chicks are ready to take their first faltering dive into the deep blue waters of the Antarctic.

The reason why I like this film.

March of the Penguins is my favorite documentary film. The narrative of penguins’ activities purely depicts the hard situation they are facing. They are seeking for a safe place to protect their eggs/babies. I love animals, especially seeing how they working so hard to survive. It takes so much effort to raise their babies, however, when babies grow up the parents might not get a chance to see them again ever after. I am just simply moved by their tenacious will to live and to give birth so that the whole species will not be extinct.

**My Blueberry Nights**

Drama, Romance

Director: Kar-Wai Wong

Norah Jones, Jude Law, Natalie Portman

Elizabeth's heart is broken. For solace, she drops in late at night a few times at Jeremy's diner for blueberry pie a la mode; they talk. Once, he watches her sleep, her head on the counter. Abruptly, she leaves New York City to get away from her pain. She works a couple of jobs in Memphis. There, a heart-broken cop is drinking himself into oblivion, his ex occasionally showing up where he drinks and Lizzy works. Then, she's in Nevada, working at a casino where she uses her savings (she wants a car) to stake Leslie, a busted gambler, in a high rollers' game. After, Beth drives Leslie to Vegas where Leslie's estranged father lives. Broken relationships. What about Jeremy?

The reason why I like this film.

Life is a journey from which we can always learn things. This is what I came up with after I watched the movie. Ironically, I truly hope to take a journey without purpose, meet random individuals and learn from every single scene like Elizabeth does. My favorite scene in the entire film is after Elizabeth buys the car, she and Leslie wave goodbye at the crossroad in highway. Kar-wai Wong’s successful use of the light, the camera and the background music worked together and generated an intense atmosphere of separation. Then she comes back to the town where she has suffered before, with a totally different and brand new mood. Her expression in her eyes of saying goodbye to the apartment where her ex-boyfriend used to live is no longer depressed and angry, instead, she can smile at this “painful memory” at this point.