Do Good Ratings Equate to a Good Movie?

Looking at the figures below, one will find they're all trying to do the same thing. Each shows the top ten movies of within the database dependent on highest average ratings or highest count of ratings. Let's take a look at **Figure 1**. The highest count of ratings is taken by Stars Wars, the original film, back in 1977. It's a pretty iconic film, if I do say so myself. This same movie title pops up in **Figure 3**. So, it's probably safe to say Star Wars is definitely a movie one should give a chance at watching.

Meanwhile we look over at **Figure 2**, there's movies with perfect 5/5 average ratings. But then we look at the rating_count, which tells us these movies haven't been reviewed as often, hence giving them their perfect rating status. So here comes the question, are these movies really all that amazing. At the bottom of **Figure 2**, it says *Santa with Muscles (1996)*. I go over to another trusty movie review site, IMDb.com and it has a disheartening 2.5/10 average rating for this movie. Here's where there's flaws with relying solely on these kinds of websites where you leave a review and expect a recommendation for a "good movie."

A database of movie reviews needs more ratings/reviews to improve their own recommendation management. From looking at the figures shown, in order to narrow down movies that are better qualified as "good movies" we should choose movies with higher rating_count. This allows the average rating to be more distributed. However, even in that intent itself is already confirmation bias and statistical skewing. Now, to answer the question Do Good Ratings Equte to a Good Movie, the answer is… I am not sure. What I do know is, it was interesting working with this dataset.

movie_id		title	rating_count	avg_ratings
49	50	Star Wars (1977)	583.0	4.358491
257	258	Contact (1997)	509.0	3.803536
99	100	Fargo (1996)	508.0	4.155512
180	181	Return of the Jedi (1983)	507.0	4.007890
292	294	Liar Liar (1997)	485.0	3.156701
284	286	English Patient, The (1996)	481.0	3.656965
286	288	Scream (1996)	478.0	3.441423
0	1	Toy Story (1995)	452.0	3.878319
298	300	Air Force One (1997)	431.0	3.631090
120	121	Independence Day (ID4) (1996)	429.0	3.438228

movie_id		title	rating_count	avg_ratings
1282	1293	Star Kid (1997)	3.0	5.0
1112	1122	They Made Me a Criminal (1939)	1.0	5.0
1179	1189	Prefontaine (1997)	3.0	5.0
1637	1653	Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story (1996)	1.0	5.0
1191	1201	Marlene Dietrich: Shadow and Light (1996)	1.0	5.0
1588	1599	Someone Else's America (1995)	1.0	5.0
1525	1536	Aiqing wansui (1994)	1.0	5.0
807	814	Great Day in Harlem, A (1994)	1.0	5.0
1456	1467	Saint of Fort Washington, The (1993)	2.0	5.0
1489	1500	Santa with Muscles (1996)	2.0	5.0

Left: Figure 1. A table showing the top ten movies based on number of times movie was rated
Right: Figure 2. A table showing the top ten movies based on average ratings

movie_id		title	rating_count	avg_ratings
404	408	Close Shave, A (1995)	112.0	4.491071
315	318	Schindler's List (1993)	298.0	4.466443
168	169	Wrong Trousers, The (1993)	118.0	4.466102
479	483	Casablanca (1942)	243.0	4.456790
63	64	Shawshank Redemption, The (1994)	283.0	4.445230
598	603	Rear Window (1954)	209.0	4.387560
11	12	Usual Suspects, The (1995)	267.0	4.385768
49	50	Star Wars (1977)	583.0	4.358491
177	178	12 Angry Men (1957)	125.0	4.344000
133	134	Citizen Kane (1941)	198.0	4.292929

Figure 3. A table showing the top ten movies based on average ratings and movies with more than 100 reviews