



And so we arrive at the end of another year that was filled with a distinctive wealth of outstanding films. From caterwauling professors and ice-cool contract killers to murderous oil men and the sexually-liberated undead, there was no shortage of intriguing content. Yet let's not ignore the ugly truths that made 2023 go down as a watershed year for cinema. The dual writer's/actor's strike brought the movie-making machine to a grinding halt while the emergence of artificial intelligence cast a dark shadow over Hollywood. Neither of those things, however, could stop filmmakers from creating powerful stories that resonated with audiences far and wide. Superhero and franchise fatigue has now become a serious issue as the year's box office proved that viewers are willing to leave their homes and spend their hard-earned dollars to see absorbing original movies on the grandest scale imaginable. And it's not just happening in America. Around the globe came riveting and exciting works that proved international features have a fair say in what hits the big screen. The first half of this tumultuous year seemed bleak for the industry with no discernible end in sight. But now, at the dawn of 2024, the ship has charted a new course for unexplored waters. From the amazing movies that made us laugh, cry and run to tell our friends, hope springs eternal for the cinematic experience. As we truly venture forth into the guts of the 2020's and with seismic change already taking place within what is only the beginning of a major transitional period for the art form, one thing is certain: a new golden age is coming.

The following list features my favorite films of the year. These are the ones that stuck in my mind and kept me thinking long after I walked out of the theater. I always go with a sturdy dozen instead of the usual top ten so as to give credit towards the few that are always the bridesmaid, never the bride. Here's to them!

Best of 2023

Selections by Vince LePlavy

American Fiction

Anatomy of a Fall

Asteroid City

Beau is Afraid

Dumb Money

The Holdovers

The Killer

Killers of the Flower Moon

Oppenheimer

Poor Things

Saltburn

Thanksgiving