

APUSH Films and Descriptions

- **The Patriot (R)** - Peaceful farmer Benjamin Martin is driven to lead the Colonial Militia during the American Revolution when a sadistic British officer murders his son.
- **1776** - A musical retelling of the American Revolution's political struggle in the Continental Congress to declare independence.
- **Gangs of New York (R)** - In 1863, Amsterdam Vallon returns to the Five Points area of New York City seeking revenge against Bill the Butcher, his father's killer.
- **Glory (R)** - Robert Gould Shaw leads the U.S. Civil War's first all-black volunteer company, fighting prejudices from both his own Union Army, and the Confederates.
- **12 Years A Slave (R)** - In the antebellum United States, Solomon Northup, a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery.
- **Lincoln** - As the Civil War continues to rage, America's president struggles with continuing carnage on the battlefield as he fights with many inside his own cabinet on the decision to emancipate the slaves.
- **Tombstone (R)** - A successful lawman's plans to retire anonymously in Tombstone, Arizona, are disrupted by the kind of outlaws he was famous for eliminating.
- **Back to the Future Part III** - Enjoying a peaceable existence in 1985, Doctor Emmet Brown is about to be killed by Buford "Mad Dog" Tannen. Marty McFly travels back in time to save his friend.
- **Dances With Wolves** - Lt. John Dunbar, exiled to a remote western Civil War outpost, befriends wolves and Indians, making him an intolerable aberration in the military.
- **Newsies** - A musical based on the New York City newsboy strike of 1899. When young newspaper sellers are exploited beyond reason by their bosses they set out to enact change and are met by the ruthlessness of big business
- **The Wizard of Oz** - Dorothy Gale is swept away from a farm in Kansas to a magical land of Oz in a tornado and embarks on a quest with her new friends to see the Wizard who can help her return home in Kansas and help her friends as well.
- **Yankee Doodle Dandy** - The life of the renowned musical composer, playwright, actor, dancer, and singer George M. Cohan.
- **J. Edgar (R)** - J. Edgar Hoover, powerful head of the F.B.I. for nearly 50 years, looks back on his professional and personal life.
- **Iron-Jawed Angels** - Defiant young activists, led by Alice Paul, take the women's suffrage movement by storm, putting their lives at risk to help American women win the right to vote.
- **Singin' In the Rain** - A silent film production company and cast make a difficult transition to sound.
- **Inherit the Wind** - Based on a real-life case in 1925, two great lawyers argue the case for and against a science teacher accused of the crime of teaching evolution.
- **The Great Gatsby** - A writer and wall street trader, Nick, finds himself drawn to the past and lifestyle of his millionaire neighbor, Jay Gatsby.
- **Chicago** - Murderesses Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart find themselves on death row together and fight for the fame that will keep them from the gallows in 1920s Chicago.
- **Scarface (1932)** - An ambitious and near insanelly violent gangster climbs the ladder of success in the mob, but his weaknesses prove to be his downfall.
- **The Untouchables (R)** - Federal Agent Eliot Ness sets out to stop Al Capone; because of rampant corruption, he assembles a small, hand-picked team.
- **Public Enemies (R)** - The Feds try to take down notorious American gangsters John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson and Pretty Boy Floyd during a booming crime wave in the 1930s.

- **Cinderella Man** -The story of James Braddock, a supposedly washed-up boxer who came back to become a champion and an inspiration in the 1930s.
- **Of Mice and Men** - Two drifters, one a gentle but slow giant, try to make money working the fields during the Depression so they can fulfill their dreams.
- **Annie** - A young orphan girl's adventures in finding a family that will take her.
- **Seabiscuit** - True story of the undersized Depression-era racehorse whose victories lifted not only the spirits of the team behind it but also those of their nation.
- **Mr. Smith Goes to Washington** - A naive man is appointed to fill a vacancy in the United States Senate. His plans promptly collide with political corruption, but he doesn't back down.
- **The Great Dictator** - Dictator Adenoid Hynkel tries to expand his empire while a poor Jewish barber tries to avoid persecution from Hynkel's regime.
- **A League of Their Own** – During WWII, two sisters join the first female professional baseball league and struggle to help it succeed amidst their own growing rivalry.
- **The Monuments Men** - An unlikely World War II platoon is tasked to rescue art masterpieces from Nazi thieves and return them to their owners.
- **Casablanca** - In Casablanca in December 1941, a cynical American expatriate encounters a former lover, with unforeseen complications.
- **Saving Private Ryan (R)** - Following the Normandy Landings, a group of U.S. soldiers go behind enemy lines to retrieve a paratrooper whose brothers have been killed in action.
- **Hacksaw Ridge (R)** - WWII American Army Medic Desmond T. Doss, who served during the Battle of Okinawa, refuses to kill people, and becomes the first man in American history to receive the Medal of Honor without firing a shot.
- **42** - This movie is about Jackie Robinson and his journey to becoming a Brooklyn Dodger and his life during that time.
- **October Sky** - The true story of Homer Hickam, a coal miner's son who was inspired by the first Sputnik launch to take up rocketry against his father's wishes.
- **Saving Mr. Banks** - Author P.L. Travers reflects on her childhood after reluctantly meeting with Walt Disney, who seeks to adapt her Mary Poppins books for the big screen.
- **Pleasantville** - Two 1990s teenage siblings find themselves in a 1950s sitcom where their influence begins to profoundly change that complacent world.
- **Good Night and Good Luck** - Broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow looks to bring down Senator Joseph McCarthy.
- **Walk the Line** - A chronicle of country music legend Johnny Cash's life, from his early days on an Arkansas cotton farm to his rise to fame with Sun Records in Memphis, where he recorded alongside Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins.
- **Ray** - The story of the life and career of the legendary rhythm and blues musician Ray Charles, from his humble beginnings in the South, where he went blind at age seven, to his meteoric rise to stardom during the 1950s and 1960s.
- **Rebel Without A Cause** - A rebellious young man with a troubled past comes to a new town, finding friends and enemies.
- **American Graffiti** - A couple of high school grads spend one final night cruising the strip with their buddies before they go off to college.
- **Cry Baby** - In 1950s Baltimore, a bad boy with a heart of gold wins the love of a good girl, whose boyfriend sets out for revenge.
- **Back to the Future** - Marty McFly, a 17-year-old high school student, is accidentally sent 30 years into the past in a time-traveling DeLorean invented by his close friend, the maverick scientist Doc Brown.

- **Bye Bye Birdie** - A rock singer travels to a small Ohio town to make his "farewell" television performance and kiss his biggest fan before he is drafted.
- **West Side Story** - Two youngsters from rival New York City gangs fall in love, but tensions between their respective friends build toward tragedy.
- **Mona Lisa Smile** - A free-thinking art professor teaches conservative 1950s Wellesley girls to question their traditional social roles.
- **Bridge of Spies** - During the Cold War, an American lawyer is recruited to defend an arrested Soviet spy in court, and then help the CIA facilitate an exchange of the spy for the Soviet captured American U2 spy plane pilot, Francis Gary Powers.
- **Dr. Strangelove (Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb)** - An insane general triggers a path to nuclear holocaust that a war room full of politicians and generals frantically try to stop.
- **That Thing You Do!** - A Pennsylvania band scores a hit in 1964 and rides the star-making machinery as long as it can, with lots of help from its manager.
- **Hairspray** - Pleasantly plump teenager Tracy Turnblad teaches 1962 Baltimore a thing or two about integration after landing a spot on a local TV dance show.
- **A Raisin In the Sun** – An African-American family struggles with poverty, racism, and inner conflict as they strive for a better way of life. Based on the play by Lorraine Hansberry.
- **The Butler** – As Cecil Gaines serves eight presidents during his tenure as a butler at the White House, the civil rights movement, Vietnam, and other major events affect this man's life, family, and American society.
- **Remember the Titans** – The true story of a newly appointed African-American coach and his high school team on their first season as a racially integrated unit.
- **Mississippi Burning** – Two FBI agents with wildly different styles arrive in Mississippi to investigate the disappearance of some civil rights activists.
- **The Help** – An aspiring author during the civil rights movement of the 1960s decides to write a book detailing the African American maids' point of view on the white families for which they work, and the hardships they go through on a daily basis.
- **Ali (R)** - A biography of sports legend Muhammad Ali, focusing on his triumphs and controversies between 1964 and 1974.
- **Malcolm X** – Biographical epic of the controversial and influential Black Nationalist leader, from his early life and career as a small-time gangster, to his ministry as a member of the Nation of Islam.
- **Hidden Figures** – The story of a team of African-American women mathematicians who served a vital role in NASA during the early years of the US space program.
- **Selma** – A chronicle of Martin Luther King's campaign to secure equal voting rights via an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.
- **Across the Universe** - The music of the Beatles and the Vietnam War form the backdrop for the romance between an upper-class American girl and a poor Liverpoolian artist.
- **Thirteen Days** - A dramatization of the Kennedy administration's struggle to contain the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962.
- **Apollo 13** - NASA must devise a strategy to return Apollo 13 to Earth safely after the spacecraft undergoes massive internal damage putting the lives of the three astronauts on board in jeopardy.
- **Elvis & Nixon (R)**- The untold true story behind the meeting between Elvis Presley, the King of Rock 'n Roll, and President Richard Nixon, resulting in this revealing, yet humorous moment immortalized in the most requested photograph in the National Archives.
- **All the Presidents Men** - "The Washington Post" reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein uncover the details of the Watergate scandal that leads to President Richard Nixon's resignation.

- **Frost/Nixon (R)** - A dramatic retelling of the post-Watergate television interviews between British talk-show host David Frost and former president Richard Nixon.
- **Milk (R)** - The story of Harvey Milk, and his struggles as an American gay activist who fought for gay rights and became California's first openly gay elected official.
- **Miracle** - Miracle tells the true story of Herb Brooks (Russell), the player-turned-coach who led the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team to victory over the seemingly invincible Russian squad.
- **9 to 5** - Three female employees of a sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot find a way to turn the tables on him.
- **Argo** - Acting under the cover of a Hollywood producer scouting a location for a science fiction film, a CIA agent launches a dangerous operation to rescue six Americans in Tehran during the U.S. hostage crisis in Iran in 1980.
- **Pursuit of Happyness** - A struggling salesman takes custody of his son as he's poised to begin a life-changing professional career.
- **Black Hawk Down (R)** - 160 elite U.S. soldiers drop into Somalia to capture two top lieutenants of a renegade warlord and find themselves in a desperate battle with a large force of heavily-armed Somalis.
- **RENT** - This is the film version of the Pulitzer and Tony Award winning musical about Bohemians in the East Village of New York City struggling with life, love and AIDS, and the impacts they have on America.
- **Erin Brockovich (R)** - An unemployed single mother becomes a legal assistant and almost single-handedly brings down a California power company accused of polluting a city's water supply.
- **The Big Short (R)** - Four denizens in the world of high-finance predict the credit and housing bubble collapse of the mid-2000s, and decide to take on the big banks for their greed and lack of foresight.