

## MUST-SEE FILMS

### A BASIC FIFTY

#### I. Features

##### A. Live Action Comedies

1. THE GENERAL U.S. silent Co-Directors: Clyde Bruckman, Jr. and Buster Keaton
2. DIVORCE ITALIAN STYLE Italy Director: Pietro Germi
3. THE SUITOR (LE SOUPIRANT) France Director: Pierre Etaix
4. HEAVENS ABOVE! United Kingdom Director: John Boulting
5. FATHER (APA) Hungary Director: Istvan Szabo

##### B. Live Action Dramas

1. INTOLERANCE U.S. silent Director: David Wark Griffith
2. HAMLET Great Britain Director: Laurence Olivier
3. THE SEVEN SAMURAI Japan Director: Akira Kurosawa
4. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW Italy Director: Pier Paolo Pasolini
5. A SEPARATION Iran Director: Asghar Farhadi

##### C. Live Action Musicals

1. FOOTLIGHT PARADE U.S. Director: Lloyd Bacon Choreography: Busby Berkeley
2. THE UMBRELLAS OF CHERBOURG France Director: Jacques Demy
3. A PECK ON THE CHEEK India Director: Mani Ratnam
4. SON OF MAN South Africa Director: Mark Dornford-May
5. BLANCANIEVES (SNOW WHITE) Spain Director: Pablo Berger

##### D. Live Action Documentaries

1. BERLIN: SYMPHONY OF A GREAT CITY Germany Director: Walther Ruttmann
2. OLYMPIA (OLYMPISCHE SPIELE 1936) Germany Director: Leni Riefenstahl
3. WHITE WILDERNESS Canada / United States Director: James Algar
4. SHOAH (HOLOCAUST) Poland / France / Germany / Israel / United States Director: Claude Lanzmann
5. INSIDE JOB United States / Iceland / China / Singapore Director: Charles Ferguson

##### E. Animations

1. THE ADVENTURES OF PRINCE ACHMED Germany silent Director: Carl Koch
2. PINOCCHIO United States Sequence Directors: Norman Ferguson, Thornton Hee, Wilfred Jackson, Jack Kinney, Hamilton Luske, Bill Roberts, Ben Sharpsteen
3. THE EMPEROR'S NIGHTINGALE Czechoslovakia Director: Jiri Trnka
4. NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND Japan Director: Hayao Miyazaki
5. THE SECRET OF KELLS Ireland / Belgium / Hungary / Brazil / France Co-Directors: Tomm Moore and Nora Twomey

## **II. Shorts**

### **A. Live Action Comedies**

- 1. THE CURE** United States silent Director: Charles Chaplin
- 2. SHERLOCK, JR.** United States silent Director: Buster Keaton
- 3. CHESS FEVER** Soviet Union silent

**Co-Directors: Nikolai Shpikovsky and Vsevelod Pudovkin**

- 4. RUPTURE** France Director: Pierre Etaix
- 5. THIS CHARMING MAN** Denmark Director: Martin Strange-Hansen

### **B. Live Action Dramas**

- 1. THE RED BALLOON** France Director: Albert Lamorisse
- 2. THE LAST FARM** Iceland Director: Runar Rúnarsson
- 3. AT NIGHT** Denmark Director: Christian Christensen
- 4. TOYLAND** Germany Director: Jochen Alexander Freydink YouTube
- 5. TWO AND TWO** Iran Director: Babak Anvari YouTube

### **C. Live Action Musicals**

- 1. SYMPHONY IN BLACK: A RHAPSODY OF NEGRO LIFE** U.S. Director: Fred Waller YouTube
- 2. SYMPHONY OF SWING** U.S. Director: Joseph Henabery
- 3. JAMMIN' THE BLUES** U.S. Director: Djon Mili
- 4. THE HOUSE I LIVE IN** U.S. Director: Mervyn LeRoy
- 5. WEST BANK STORY** U.S. Director: Ari Sandel

### **D. Live Action Documentaries**

- 1. NIGHT MAIL** Great Britain Co-Directors: Basil Wright and Harry Watt
- 2. THE RIVER** U.S. Director: Pare Lorentz
- 3. N.U.** Italy Director: Michelangelo Antonioni
- 4. NIGHT AND FOG** France Director: Alain Resnais
- 5. RHYTHM OF A CITY** Sweden Director: Arne Sucksdorff (in two parts on YouTube)  
wordless

### **E. Animations / Pixilations**

- 1. AFFAIRS OF THE HEART** France Director: Emile Cohl
- 2. THE CAMERAMAN'S REVENGE** Russia Director: Ladislav Starewicz
- 3. MOTION PAINTING NO. 1** U.S. Director: Oskar Fischinger
- 4. INSPIRATION** Czechoslovakia Director: Karel Zeman
- 5. MINDSCAPE** Canada Director: Jacques Druoin

## A Dozen Honorable Mentions

### A. Features

1. METROPOLIS Germany Director: Fritz Lang silent sci-fi drama
2. MAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA Soviet Union Director: Denis Kaufman a.k.a. Dziga Vertov silent experimental
3. SHOESHINE Italy Director: Vittorio De Sica Italian neo-realism drama
4. JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S DAY U.S. Director: Bert Stern concert film
5. CRIA! (RAISE RAVENS) Spain Director: Carlos Saura black comedy
6. LESSONS OF DARKNESS Kuwait Director: Werner Herzog documentary, sort of

### B. Shorts

1. THE SINKING OF THE LUSITANIA U.S. Director: Winsor McKay animation
2. REGEN (RAIN) Netherlands Director: Joris Ivens live action poetic experiment
3. TRADE TATTOO Great Britain Director: Len Lye YouTube animation
4. THE GIRL AT DOJO TEMPLE Japan Director: Kon Ichikawa YouTube marionette musical  
Though this is in Japanese, the story is translated at <http://nishikitaega.blogspot>.
5. PADDLE TO THE SEA Canada Director: William Mason documentary
6. HEDGEHOG IN THE MIST Soviet Union Director: Yuri Norstein animation

If you watch all these you will have an excellent overview of world cinema and its possibilities.

Bonus: I'LL WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE France Director: Philippe Orreindy live action short  
black comedy? drama? You tell me.