

For Further Viewing

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The American Gangster Film

List of the 50 best American gangster films; in reverse order

American Gangster (Ridley Scott, 2007; Denzel Washington)
King of New York (Abel Ferrara, 1990; Christopher Walken)
The Friends of Eddie Coyle (Peter Yates, 1973; Robert Mitchum)
Killing Them Softly (Andrew Dominik, 2012; Brad Pitt)
The Untouchables (Brian DePalma, 1987; a great cast)
The Killing (Stanley Kubrick, 1956; Sterling Hayden)
Scarface (Brian DePalma, 1983; Al Pacino)
Mean Streets (Martin Scorsese, 1973; Harvey Keitel and Robert De Niro)
Donnie Brasco (Mike Newell, 1997; Johnny Depp and Al Pacino)
Angels with Dirty Faces (Michael Curtiz, 1938; James Cagney and Pat O'Brien)
The Departed (Martin Scorsese, 2006; Leonardo Di Caprio, Jack Nicholson, and Matt Damon)
Boyz n the Hood (John Singleton, 1991; Laurence Fishburne)
Miller's Crossing (Coen brothers, 1990; Gabriel Byrne and Albert Finney)
The Public Enemy (William A. Wellman, 1931; James Cagney)
Once Upon a Time in America (Sergio Leone, 1984; Robert De Niro)
The Godfather (Francis Coppola, 1972; Marlon Brando, James Caan, and Al Pacino)
Goodfellas (Martin Scorsese, 1990; Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta, and Joe Pesci)
The Godfather II (Francis Coppola, 1974); Al Pacino and Robert De Niro

Murder Mysteries

List of the best American murder mysteries; in reverse order

Clue (Jonathan Lynn, 1985; based on the board **game**)
Gosford Park (Robert Altman, 2001)
Gone Girl (David Fincher, 2014; Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike)
The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (David Fincher, 2011; Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara)
Murder on the Orient Express (Sidney Lumet, 1974; Albert Finney, Lauren Bacall, Ingrid Bergman, et al.)
Mystic River (Clint Eastwood, 2003; Sean Penn, Kevin Bacon, Tim Robbins, Laurence Fishburne)
Zodiac (David Fincher, 2007; Robert Downey, Jr., Jake Gyllenhaal)
Knives Out (Rian Johnson, 2019; Daniel Craig, Ana Armas, Jamie Lee Curtis, Chris Evans)
Memento (Christopher Nolan, 2000; Guy Pearce, Carrie-Ann Moss)
Rear Window (Alfred Hitchcock, 1954; James Stewart, Grace Kelly, Thelma Ritter)
Laura (Otto Preminger, 1944; Dana Andrews, Gene Tierney, Clifton Webb)

The Cop Film

List of the best American cop films; in reverse order

Cop Land (James Mangold, 1997; Sylvester Stallone, Robert De Niro, Harvey Keitel, Ray Liotta)
Manhunter (Michael Mann, 1986; Hannibal Lecter's debut)
Speed (Jan de Bont, 1994; Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock)
Beverly Hills Cop (Martin Brest, 1984; Eddie Murphy)
Bullitt (Peter Yates, 1968; Steve McQueen)
Witness (Peter Weir, 1984; Harrison Ford)
RoboCop (Paul Verhoeven, 1987; Peter Weller)
Lethal Weapon (Richard Donner, 1987; Mel Gibson, Danny Glover)

End of Watch (David Ayer, 2012; Jake Gyllenhaal, Michael Peña)
Inside Man (Spike Lee, 2006; Denzel Washington, Clive Owen, Jodie Foster)
The French Connection (William Friedkin, 1971; Gene Hackman and Roy Scheider)
Serpico (Sidney Lumet, 1973; Al Pacino, based on a true story)
Dirty Harry (Don Siegel, 1971; Clint Eastwood)
Training Day (Antoine Fuqua, 2001; Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke)
Minority Report (Steven Spielberg, 2002; Tom Cruise, Colin Farrell)
In the Heat of the Night (Norman Jewison, 1967; Sidney Poitier, Rod Steiger)
Fargo (Coen brothers, 1996; Frances McDormand and Steve Buscemi)
Blade Runner (Ridley Scott, 1992; Harrison Ford)
L.A. Confidential (Curtis Hanson, 1997; Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce, Kevin Spacey, Kim Basinger)
Heat (Michael Mann, 1995; Robert De Niro and Al Pacino)
Se7en (David Fincher, 1997; Morgan Freeman, Brad Pitt)

The Private Detective Film

Best American Private Detective Films; in reverse order

Dead Again (Kenneth Branagh, 1991; Branagh, Emma Thompson)
Klute (Alan J. Pakula, 1971; Jane Fonda, Donald Sutherland)
Blood Simple (Coen brothers, 1984; John Getz, Frances McDormand)
Vertigo (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958; James Stewart, Kim Novak)
The Big Sleep (Howard Hawks, 1946; Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall)
Night Moves (Arthur Penn, 1975; Gene Hackman, Melanie Griffith)
Kiss Kiss Bang Bang (Shane Black, 2005; Robert Downey, Jr., Val Kilmer)
Shaft (Gordon Parks, 1971; Richard Roundtree, Moses Gunn)
Devil in a Blue Dress (Carl Franklin, 1995; Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Jennifer Beale)
The Nice Guys (Shane Black, 2016; Russell Crowe, Ryan Gosling)
The Long Goodbye (Robert Altman, 1973; Elliott Gould, Sterling Hayden)
The Maltese Falcon (John Huston, 1941; Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor)
Chinatown (Roman Polanski, 1974; Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway, John Huston)