

Leadership

Movies and Television Shows

A collaborative effort among

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12 ANGRY MEN

Director: Sidney Lumet
Key Cast: Henry Fonda, Lee J. Cobb, Ed Begley, Sr., E. G. Marshall, Jack Warden, Jack Klugman, Martin Balsam, Edward Binns, Joseph Sweeney, George Voskovec, Robert Webber
Producer: Orion-Nova Productions, United Artists
Year: 1957
Length: 95 minutes
Rating: NR

Synopsis: A Puerto Rican youth is on trial for murder, accused of knifing his father to death. The twelve jurors retire to the jury room, having been admonished that the defendant is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Eleven of the jurors vote for conviction, each for reasons of his own. The sole holdout is Juror #8, played by Henry Fonda. As Fonda persuades the weary jurors to re-examine the evidence, we learn the backstory of each man. Juror #3 (Lee J. Cobb), a bullying self-made man, has estranged himself from his own son. Juror #7 (Jack Warden) has an ingrained mistrust of foreigners; so, to a lesser extent, does Juror #6 (Edward Binns). Jurors #10 (Ed Begley) and #11 (George Voskovec), so certain of the infallibility of the Law, assume that if the boy was arrested, he must be guilty. Juror #4 (E. G. Marshall) is an advocate of dispassionate deductive reasoning. Juror #5 (Jack Klugman), like the defendant a product of “the streets,” hopes that his guilty vote will distance himself from his past. Juror #12 (Robert Webber), an advertising man, doesn’t understand anything that he can’t package and market. And Jurors #1 (Martin Balsam), #2 (John Fiedler) and #9 (Joseph Sweeney), anxious not to make waves, “go with the flow.” The excruciatingly hot day drags into an even hotter night; still, Fonda chips away at the guilty verdict, insisting that his fellow jurors bear in mind those words “reasonable doubt.”

Leadership Topics: ethics; decision making; influence; group/mob mentality

BABEL

Director: Alejandro González Iñárritu
Key Cast: Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Gael Garcia Bernal, Rinko Kikuchi, Adriana Barraza
Producer: Zeta Film, Summit Entertainment, Central Films, Anonymous Content, Paramount Pictures
Year: 2006
Length: 142 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: The tragic aftermath of human carelessness travels around the world in this multi-narrative drama from filmmaker Alejandro González Iñárritu. Richard (Brad Pitt) and Susan (Cate Blanchett) are a couple from the United States who have traveled to Morocco in Northern Africa on a vacation after the death of one of their children has sent Susan into a deep depression. Richard and Susan's other two children have been left in the care of Amelia (Adriana Barraza), their housekeeper. Amelia is originally from Mexico, and her oldest son is getting married in Tijuana. Unable to find someone who can watch the kids, or to obtain permission to take the day off, Amelia takes the children with her as she travels across the border for the celebration. Around the same time, in Morocco a poor farmer buys a hunting rifle, and he gives it to his sons to scare off the predatory animals that have been thinning out their goat herd. The boys decide to test the weapon's range by shooting at a bus far away; the shot hits Susan in the shoulder, and soon she's bleeding severely, while police are convinced the attack is the work of terrorists. In Japan, Chieko (Rinko Kikuchi) is a teenage deaf-mute whose mother recently committed suicide. This despairing, confused girl experiences such rage and frustration that she causes her volleyball team to lose a match, and later yanks her underwear off and begins exposing herself to boys in a crowded restaurant. Chieko's father then struggles to reach past the emotional distance which separates him and his daughter.

Leadership Topics: chaos theory; cross-cultural leadership

BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI

Director: David Lean
Key Cast: William Holden, Alec Guinness, Jack Hawkins, Sessue Hayakawa
Producer: Columbia Pictures
Year: 1957
Length: 161 minutes
Rating: PG

Synopsis: The Bridge on the River Kwai opens in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp in Burma in 1943, where a battle of wills rages between camp commander Colonel Saito (Sessue Hayakawa) and newly arrived British colonel Nicholson (Alec Guinness). Saito insists that Nicholson order his men to build a bridge over the river Kwai, which will be used to transport Japanese munitions. Nicholson refuses, despite all the various “persuasive” devices at Saito's disposal. Finally, Nicholson agrees, not so much to cooperate with his captor as to provide a morale-boosting project for the military engineers under his command. The colonel will prove that, by building a better bridge than Saito’s men could build, the British soldier is a superior being even when under the thumb of the enemy. As the bridge goes up, Nicholson becomes obsessed with completing it to perfection, eventually losing sight of the fact that it will benefit the Japanese. Meanwhile, American POW Shears (William Holden), having escaped from the camp, agrees to save himself from a court martial by leading a group of British soldiers back to the camp to destroy Nicholson’s bridge. Upon his return, Shears realizes that Nicholson’s mania to complete his project has driven him mad.

Leadership Topics:

BRUBAKER

Director: Stuart Rosenberg
Key Cast: Robert Redford, Yaphet Kotto, Jane Alexander, Murray Hamilton, David Deith, Morgan Freeman
Producer: 20th Century Fox
Year: 1980
Length: 131 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: Fact-based drama starring Robert Redford as Henry Brubaker, the new inmate at a run-down Southern prison that's become notorious for corruption and violence. After he witnesses several instances of gross misconduct and defuses a tense confrontation with a crazed inmate (Morgan Freeman), Brubaker reveals to the guards and administrators that he's not a criminal at all, but the new warden, assigned by the governor to infiltrate the facility undercover. His identity confirmed, Brubaker takes office and sets about shaping up policies and procedures, despite resistance from, incredibly, even some of the more entitled convicts. With the help of the prison's chief trustee (Yaphet Kotto) and a compassionate ally (Jane Alexander), the warden effects some positive change, but powerful business interests line up against him when his ideas threaten their financial bottom line.

Leadership Topics: ethics

THE BUCKET LIST

Director: Rob Reiner
Key Cast: Jack Nicholson, Morgan Freeman
Producer: Zadan/Meron Productions, Reiner Greisman
Year: 2007
Length: 97 minutes
Rating: PG13

Synopsis: Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman star as two terminally ill cancer patients who decide to break out of the hospital and live their last days to the fullest in director Rob Reiner's seriocomic road movie. Edward Cole (Nicholson) is a corporate billionaire who is currently sharing a hospital room with blue-collar mechanic Carter Chambers (Freeman). Though initially the pair seems to have nothing in common, conversation gradually reveals that both men have a long list of goals they wish to accomplish before they kick the bucket, and an unrealized desire to discover what kind of men they really are. But one can't accomplish such lofty objectives from the confines of a hospital bed, so now, in order to live their lives to the absolute fullest, Edward and Carter will have to make a break for it. With a checklist that includes playing the poker tables in Monte Carlo, consuming copious amounts of caviar, racing the fastest machines on four wheels, and much more, these two terminally ill men will do their best to fit a lifetime of experience into their last remaining days while forging an unlikely, but truly remarkable, friendship.

Leadership Topics: discovering larger purpose and personal transformation through relationships; multiple approaches to achieve common outcomes

CATHERINE THE GREAT

Director: Paul Czinner
Key Cast: Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., Elisabeth Bergner
Producer: London Films, United Artists
Year: 1934
Length: 88 minutes
Rating: NR

Synopsis: This historical drama recounts the events that led up to the rule of Russia's 18th-century Catherine the Great. Arriving from Germany as a young woman who is to wed Grand Duke Peter, she soon becomes caught up in the court intrigue and marries the lit-fuse duke. As the Grand Duke's mother lays dying, she relates her fears about her son's mental states, leaving Catherine to contend with his irrational and cruel behavior. When he goes too far with his antics, he is overthrown and put to death, though not by her wishes. Soon, however, Catherine is made the new Czaritza and restores order to her country.

Leadership Topics: trait and political power

THE CAINE MUTINY

Director: Edward Dmytryk
Key Cast: Humphrey Bogart, José Ferrer, Van Johnson, Fred MacMurray
Producer: Columbia Pictures, Stanley Kramer Productions
Year: 1954
Length: 125 minutes
Rating: NR

Synopsis: Robert Francis is at the center of the story as Willis Keith, a newly-minted ensign assigned to the destroyer/minesweeper U.S.S. Caine during World War II. Soon after his arrival, the ship gets a new captain, Lt. Comdr. Philip Francis Queeg Humphrey Bogart, a tough, no-nonsense veteran officer who tries to turn the crew into proper sailors and the Caine into a tight ship, engendering resentment from some of the men and several of his officers. A veteran of difficult years of service for too long, Queeg has insecurities about himself, his command, and his career that begin to manifest themselves as spells of temper over small details that cause him to make mistakes. Lt. Keefer (Fred MacMurray), the glib-tongued communications officer, begins making suggestions to the ship's sincere but overburdened first officer, Lt. Steve Maryk (Van Johnson), that Queeg may have mental problems. Maryk initially rejects these suggestions, and tries to support the captain, but conditions deteriorate to the point where Maryk is forced to relieve Queeg of command, and is charged – along with Keith, who supported him – with mutiny. Enter Lt. Barney Greenwald (Jose Ferrer), a lawyer in civilian life, who reluctantly agrees to help them, mostly out of sympathy for the impossible predicament in which Maryk has found himself trapped.

Leadership Topics: toxic leadership; followership

CRASH

Director: Paul Haggis
Key Cast: Sandra Bullock, Don Cheadle, Matt Dillon, Jennifer Esposito, Shaun Toub, Brendan Fraser, Terrence Howard, Chris “Ludacris” Bridges, Thandie Newton, William Fichtner, Ryan Phillippe, Larenz Tate, Michael Peña
Producer: Harris Company, Bull’s Eye Entertainment, Bob Yari Productions, BlackFriar’s Bridge, ApolloProscreen, DEJ Productions
Year: 2005
Length: 112 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: Issues of race and gender cause a group of strangers in Los Angeles to physically and emotionally collide in this drama from director and screenwriter Paul Haggis. Graham (Don Cheadle) is a police detective whose brother is a street criminal, and it hurts him to know his mother cares more about his never-do-well brother than him. Graham’s partner is Ria (Jennifer Esposito), who is also his girlfriend, though she has begun to bristle at his emotional distance, as well as his occasional insensitivity over the fact he’s African-American and she’s Hispanic. Rick (Brendan Fraser) is an L.A. district attorney whose wife, Jean (Sandra Bullock), makes little secret of her fear and hatred of people unlike herself. Jean’s worst imaginings about people of color are confirmed when her SUV is carjacked by two African-American men – Anthony (Chris Bridges, aka Ludacris), who dislikes white people as much as Jean hates blacks, and Peter (Larenz Tate), who is more open minded. Cameron (Terrence Howard) is a well-to-do African-American television producer with a beautiful wife, Christine (Thandie Newton). While coming home from a party, Cameron and Christine are pulled over by Officer Ryan (Matt Dillon), who subjects them to a humiliating interrogation (and her to an inappropriate search) while his new partner, Officer Hansen (Ryan Phillippe), looks on. Daniel (Michael Pena) is a hard-working locksmith and dedicated father who discovers that his looks don’t lead many of his customers to trust him. And Farhad (Shaun Toub) is a Middle Eastern shopkeeper who is so constantly threatened in the wake of the 9/11 attacks that he decided he needs a gun to defend his family.

Leadership Topics: chaos theory; cross-cultural leadership

CRIMSON TIDE

Director: Tony Scott
Key Cast: Denzel Washington, Gene Hackman
Producer: Buena Vista
Year: 1995
Length: 115 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: Two leaders with different philosophies about battle and leadership wage war with each other in this tense military thriller. Capt. Frank Ramsey (Gene Hackman) is the commanding officer of a nuclear submarine, the U.S.S. Alabama. Ramsey is a distinguished veteran near the end of his career, and he leads his men with an iron hand; as he puts it, “We’re here to preserve democracy, not to practice it.” Ramsey is assigned a new second-in-command, Lt. Cmmdr. Ron Hunter (Denzel Washington); Hunter is much younger than Ramsey, Harvard educated, and believes the goal of the military in the nuclear age is to prevent war, not fight it. While at sea, word reaches the Alabama that a splinter group of Russian forces have seized missile silos, and the ship is put on red alert. The Alabama has orders to fire, but as it is receiving a new incoming order the radio malfunctions. It’s Ramsey’s contention that an order is an order and they are to move forward with the attack, while Hunter feels if there is any question at all about their mission, they should wait until they can receive further instruction, with Hunter going so far as to threaten mutiny against Ramsey if the missile strike is carried out.

Leadership Topics: trait and political power; acting from a moral center; understanding the “higher purpose” for which we all are made

ELIZABETH

Director: Shekhar Kapur
Key Cast: Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush, Christopher Eccleston, Joseph Fiennes, Richard Attenborough, Fanny Ardant, Kathy Burke, Eric Cantona
Producer: Channel 4, Gramercy Pictures, Polygram, Working Title Films
Year: 1998
Length: 121 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: This British-made historical drama depicts the rise of young Elizabeth Tudor to Queen of England, a reign of intrigue and betrayals. In 1554, Queen Mary I (Kathy Burke) tries to restore Catholicism as England's single faith. With no heir to the crown, she maneuvers to keep her Protestant half-sister Elizabeth (Cate Blanchett) from succeeding her, but her efforts fail. With Mary dead, Elizabeth is proclaimed Queen of England in November 1558. Elizabeth relishes the return from exile of her childhood sweetheart, Lord Robert Dudley (Joseph Fiennes). Chief adviser Sir William Cecil (Richard Attenborough) urges the young Queen to forget personal matters and instead address the country's pressing problems. England is bankrupt, has no army, and is under serious threat from abroad. Elizabeth even has enemies within her own court, the most dangerous being the Duke of Norfolk (Christopher Eccleston). Hoping for an heir, Cecil suggests marriage candidates – King Philip II of Spain or the French Duc d'Anjou (Vincent Cassel) – to secure the realm. Elizabeth agrees to meet their ambassadors, but her true feelings are revealed when she meets Dudley for a secret tryst. French "warrior queen" Mary of Guise (Fanny Ardant) amasses troops at the Scottish border. Elizabeth bows to the pro-War lobby led by Norfolk, despite protests from her Master of Spies, the enigmatic Sir Francis Walsingham (Geoffrey Rush), but the decision to fight leads to a humiliating defeat. As dark clouds of court conspiracies gather, and the possibility of assassination looms, Elizabeth strikes out at her enemies and puts her trust in Walsingham.

Leadership Topics: trait and political power

GANDHI

Director: Richard Attenborough
Key Cast: Ben Kingsley
Producer: International Film Investors, Indo-British Films, Columbia Pictures, Goldcrest Films International, National Film Development Corporation of India
Year: 1982
Length: 195 minutes
Rating: PG

Synopsis: It was Richard Attenborough's lifelong dream to bring the life story of Indian political and spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi to the screen. When it finally reached fruition in 1982, the 188-minute, Oscar-winning Gandhi was one of the most exhaustively thorough biopics ever made. The film begins in the early part of the 20th century, when Mohandas K. Gandhi (Ben Kingsley), a British-trained lawyer, forsakes all worldly possessions to take up the cause of Indian independence. Faced with armed resistance from the British government, Gandhi adopts a policy of "passive resistance," endeavoring to win freedom for his people without resorting to bloodshed. In the horrendous "slaughter" sequence, more extras appear on screen than in any previous historical epic.

Leadership Topics: trait and political power

GROUNDHOG DAY

Director: Harold Ramis
Key Cast: Bill Murray, Andie MacDowell, Chris Elliot
Producer: Columbia Pictures
Year: 1992
Length: 103 minutes
Rating: PG

Synopsis: Bill Murray plays Phil, a TV weatherman working for a local station in Pennsylvania but convinced that national news stardom is in his grasp. Phil displays a charm and wit on camera that evaporates the moment the red light goes off; he is bitter, appallingly self-centered, and treats his co-workers with contempt, especially his producer Rita (Andie MacDowell) and cameraman Larry (Chris Elliot). On February 2, 1992, Phil, Rita, and Larry are sent on an assignment that Phil especially loathes: the annual Groundhog Day festivities in Punxsutawney, PA, where the citizens await the appearance of Punxsutawney Phil, the groundhog who will supposedly determine the length of winter by his ability to see his own shadow. Phil is eager to beat a hasty retreat, but when a freak snowstorm strands him in Punxsutawney, he wakes up the next morning with the strangest sense of *déjà vu*: he seems to be living the same day over again. The next morning it happens again, and then again. Soon, no matter what he does, he's stuck in February 2, 1992; not imprisonment nor attempted suicide nor kidnapping the groundhog gets him out of the loop. But the more Phil relives the same day, the more he's forced to look at other people's lives, and something unusual happens: he begins to care about others. He starts to respect people, he tries to save the life of a homeless man, and he discovers that he's falling in love with Rita and therefore wants to be someone that she could love in return.

Leadership Topics: conditioning; servant leadership

GUNG HO

Director: Ron Howard
Key Cast: Michael Keaton, Gedde Watanabe, George Wendt, Mimi Rogers, John Turturro, So Yamamura, Sab Shimono, Rick Overton
Producer: Paramount
Year: 1986
Length: 111 minutes
Rating: PG13

Synopsis: Michael Keaton stars as a wheeler-dealer who hopes to save a failing Pennsylvania automobile-assembly factory from having to close its doors. Keaton persuades a Japanese auto firm to reopen the factory, retrain its staff, and streamline the operation. It isn't long before the American-born workers grow to resent the disciplinary demands of their new Japanese bosses, setting the stage for a comic clash of cultures. The day is saved when it turns out that the poker-faced owner of the auto company possesses a really strange sense of humor.

Leadership Topics: organizational theory and leadership

HIGH NOON

Director: Fred Zimmerman
Key Cast: Gary Cooper, Grace Kelly, Ian McDonald, Thomas Mitchell, Lloyd Bridges, Katy Jurado
Producer: Criterion, Republic, United Artists
Year: 1952
Length: 85 minutes
Rating: NR

Synopsis: This Western classic stars Gary Cooper as Hadleyville marshal Will Kane, about to retire from office and go on his honeymoon with his new Quaker bride, Amy (Grace Kelly). But his happiness is short-lived when he is informed that the Miller gang, whose leader (Ian McDonald) Will had arrested, is due on the 12:00 train. Pacifist Amy urges Will to leave town and forget about the Millers, but this isn't his style; protecting Hadleyburg has always been his duty, and it remains so now. But when he asks for deputies to fend off the Millers, virtually nobody will stand by him. Chief Deputy Harvey Pell (Lloyd Bridges) covets Will's job and ex-mistress (Katy Jurado); his mentor, former lawman Martin Howe (Lon Chaney Jr.) is now arthritic and unable to wield a gun. Even Amy, who doesn't want to be around for her husband's apparently certain demise, deserts him. Meanwhile, the clocks tick off the minutes to High Noon – the film is shot in “real time,” so that its 85-minute length corresponds to the story's actual timeframe. Utterly alone, Kane walks into the center of town, steeling himself for his showdown with the murderous Millers.

Leadership Topics: trait and political power; ethics

HOTEL RWANDA

Director: Terry George
Key Cast: Don Cheadle, Sophie Okonedo, Joaquin Phoenix, Nick Nolte
Producer: Seamus, Miracle Pictures, Inside Track, Gauteng Film Office, United Artists, Lions Gate Entertainment
Year: 2004
Length: 121 minutes
Rating: PG13

Synopsis: Hotel Rwanda tackles one of the most horrifically ugly events in recent history, when the Hutu extremists of Rwanda initiated a terrifying campaign of genocide, massacring hundreds of thousands of minority Tutsis (who had been given power by the departed Belgian colonists), while the rest of the world looked on and did nothing. Don Cheadle stars as Paul Rusesabagina, the hotel manager at the fancy Les Milles Collines hotel in Kigali. Paul is a Hutu, and a very successful businessman who smoothly greases the wheels, making powerful connections in all strata of Rwandan life. His wife, Tatiana (Sophie Okonedo), is a Tutsi. She urges Paul to use his influence to help local Tutsis, who are being harassed and beaten with increasing frequency, but Paul will only use the political capital he's built up to help his own family, if and when they need it. Soon enough, the violence escalates, and the Hutus begin their genocide of the Tutsis. European guests and staff at the hotel are flown out of the country, and Paul is left in charge. He finds that his conscience won't allow him to watch as the innocent are slaughtered, and before long, the hotel has become a well-appointed refugee camp. Paul is seen as a traitor by some, putting his life in danger, and the predicament of his "guests" grows more precarious every day, but despite good intentions on the part of a journalist (Joaquin Phoenix) and a UN peacekeeping colonel (Nick Nolte), the rest of the world is not eager to intervene and stop the massacre.

Leadership Topics: emergent leadership; transformative leadership

THE HUNT FOR THE RED OCTOBER

Director: John McTiernan
Key Cast: Alec Baldwin, Sean Connery
Producer: Paramount
Year: 1990
Length: 137 minutes
Rating: PG

Synopsis: The first of several films based on Tom Clancy’s “Jack Ryan” technothrillers, Hunt for Red October stars Alec Baldwin as eccentric CIA analyst Ryan and Sean Connery as Soviet submarine commander Marko Ramius. Ramius sets the plot in motion when he murders his political adviser, burns his orders, and steers his sub Red October towards American waters, hoping to defect. The CIA, aware that the Red October was about to embark on an evasive mission to demonstrate its ability to avoid detection and fire its nuclear missiles upon U.S. installations, believes that Ramius is insane, and that he plans to start World War III. To cover their own backs, the Russians back up the CIA’s suspicion. Only Jack Ryan believes that Ramius’ mission is not as apocalyptic as it seems – and it is Ryan who is assigned to infiltrate the Red October to prove his theory.

Leadership Topics: moral leadership

JURASSIC PARK

Director: Steven Spielberg
Key Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Richard Attenborough, Bob Peck, Martin Ferrero, Joseph Mazzello, Ariana Richards, Wayne Knight
Producer: Amblin Entertainment, Universal
Year: 1993
Length: 126 minutes
Rating: PG13

Synopsis: The film follows two dinosaur experts – Dr. Alan Grant (Sam Neill) and Dr. Ellie Sattler (Laura Dern) – as they are invited by eccentric millionaire John Hammond (Richard Attenborough) to preview his new amusement park on an island off Costa Rica. By cloning DNA harvested from pre-historic insects, Hammond has been able to create living dinosaurs for his new Jurassic Park, an immense animal preserve housing real brachiosaurs, dilophosaurs, triceratops, velociraptors, and a Tyrannosaurus Rex. Accompanied by cynical scientist Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum), who is obsessed with chaos theory, and Hammond’s two grandchildren (Ariana Richards and Joseph Mazzello), they are sent on a tour through Hammond’s new resort in computer controlled touring cars. But as a tropical storm hits the island, knocking out the power supply, and an unscrupulous employee (Wayne Knight) sabotages the system so that he can smuggle dinosaur embryos out of the park, the dinosaurs start to rage out of control. Grant then has to bring Hammond’s grandchildren back to safety as the group is pursued by the gigantic man-eating beasts.

Leadership Topics: chaos theory

THE LEGEND OF BAGGER VANCE

Director: Robert Redford
Key Cast: Will Smith, Matt Damon, Charlize Theron, Bruce McGill, Joel Gretsch, Jack Lemmon, J. Michael Moncrief
Producer: Wildwood, 20th Century Fox, Allied Artists, DreamWorks
Year: 2000
Length: 127 minutes
Rating: PG13

Synopsis: Robert Redford directed this adaptation of a novel by Steven Pressfield that uses golf as a metaphor for one man's spiritual and philosophical journeys. Rannulph Junuh (Matt Damon) was a gifted amateur golfer from Savannah, GA, until traumatic experiences during World War I shattered his confidence and sent him into a spiral of alcoholism. In 1931, Adele Invergordon (Charlize Theron), a beautiful heiress who once loved Junuh, inherits a spectacular but financially ailing golf course after the suicide of her father. To attract customers, she proposed a high-stakes match between the two most famous golfers of the day, Bobby Jones (Joel Gretsch) and Walter Hagen (Bruce McGill). Local businessmen sponsoring the match insist that a local golfer be added to the card, and Junuh is drafted for the position, but it soon becomes obvious that his game is just a shadow of its former glory. When things seem hopeless, a mysterious gentleman named Bagger Vance (Will Smith) volunteers to serve as Junuh's caddy and coach, using a mixture of ancient wisdom and past-life knowledge to help Junuh "remember" the swing he's lost. Jack Lemmon narrates the story, and J. Michael Moncrief plays Lemmon's character as a boy.

Leadership Topics: transformational leadership; coaching

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

Director: Peter Jackson
Key Cast: Elijah Wood, Ian Holm, Ian McKellen, Sean Astin, dominic Monaghan, Billy Boyd, Viggo Mortensen, Sean Bean, Orlando Bloom, John Rhys-Davies, Liv Tyler, Hugo Weaving, Cate Blanchett, Christopher Lee, Sala Baker
Producer: WingNut Films
Year: 2001
Length: 165 minutes
Rating: PG13

Synopsis: New Zealand filmmaker Peter Jackson fulfills his lifelong dream of transforming author J.R.R. Tolkien’s best-selling fantasy epic into a three-part motion picture that begins with this holiday 2001 release. Elijah Wood stars as Frodo Baggins, a Hobbit resident of the medieval “Middle-earth” who discovers that a ring bequeathed to him by beloved relative and benefactor Bilbo (Ian Holm) is in fact the “One Ring,” a device that will allow its master to manipulate dark powers and enslave the world. Frodo is charged by the wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellen) to return the ring to Mount Doom, the evil site where it was forged millennia ago and the only place where it can be destroyed. Accompanying Frodo is a fellowship of eight others: his Hobbit friends Sam (Sean Astin), Merry (Dominic Monaghan), and Pippin (Billy Boyd); plus Gandalf; the human warriors Aragorn (Viggo Mortensen) and Boromir (Sean Bean); Elf archer Legolas (Orlando Bloom); and Dwarf soldier Gimli (John Rhys-Davies). The band’s odyssey to the dreaded land of Mordor, where Mount Doom lies, takes them through the Elfish domain of Rivendell and the forest of Lothlorien, where they receive aid and comfort from the Elf princess Arwen (Liv Tyler), her father, Elrond (Hugo Weaving), and Queen Galadriel (Cate Blanchett). In pursuit of the travelers and their ring are Saruman (Christopher Lee) – a traitorous wizard and kin, of sorts, to Gandalf – and the Dark Riders, under the control of the evil, mysterious Sauron (Sala Baker). The Fellowship must also do battle with a troll, flying spies, Orcs, and other deadly obstacles both natural and otherwise as they draw closer to Mordor. The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) was filmed in Jackson’s native New Zealand, closely followed by its pair of sequels, The Two Towers (2002) and The Return of the King (2003).

Leadership Topics: ethics

MALCOLM X

Director: Spike Lee
Key Cast: Denzel Washington, Spike Lee, Angela Bassett, Al Freeman, Jr.
Producer: Largo International, 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks, Warner Brothers
Year: 1992
Length: 205 minutes
Rating: PG13

Synopsis: Writer-director Spike Lee's epic portrayal of the slain civil rights leader Malcolm X begins with the cross-cut imagery of the police beating of black motorist Rodney King juxtaposed with an American flag burning into the shape of the letter X. When the film's narrative begins moments later, it jumps back to World War II-era Boston, where Malcolm Little (Denzel Washington) is making his living as a hustler. The son of a Baptist preacher who was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan, Little was raised by foster parents after his mother was deemed clinically insane; as an adult, he turned to a life of crime, which leads to his imprisonment on burglary charges. In jail, Little receives epiphany in the form of an introduction to Islam; he is especially taken with the lessons of Elijah Mohammed, who comes to him in a vision. Adopting the name "Malcolm X" as a rejection of the "Little" surname (given his family by white slave owners), he meets the real Elijah Mohammed (Al Freeman, Jr.) upon exiting prison, and begins work as a spokesman for the Nation of Islam. Marriage to a Muslim nurse named Betty Shabazz (Angela Bassett) follows, after which X spearheads a well-attended march on a Harlem hospital housing a Muslim recovering from an episode of police brutality. The march's success helps elevate X to the position of Islam's national spokesperson. There is dissension in the ranks, however, and soon X is targeted for assassination by other Nation leaders; even Elijah Mohammed fears Malcolm's growing influence. After getting wind of the murder plot, X leaves the Nation of Islam, embarking on a pilgrimage to Mecca that proves revelatory; renouncing his separatist beliefs, his oratories begin embracing all races and cultures. During a 1965 speech, Malcolm X is shot and killed, reportedly by Nation of Islam members.

Leadership Topics: transformational leadership; value, belief, and passion

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

Director: Fred Zinnemann
Key Cast: Paul Scofield, Wendy Hiller, Leo McKern, Robert Shaw, Orson Welles, Susannah York, Nigel Davenport, John Hurt, Vanessa Redgrave
Producer: Highland Films, Columbia Pictures
Year: 1966
Length: 120 minutes
Rating: G

Synopsis: Adapted by Robert Bolt and Constance Willis from Bolt's hit stage play, *A Man for All Seasons* stars Paul Scofield, triumphantly repeating his stage role as Sir Thomas More. The crux of the film is the staunchly Catholic More's refusal to acknowledge King Henry VIII (Robert Shaw)'s break from the church to divorce his first wife and marry Anne Boleyn (an unbilled Vanessa Redgrave). Sir Thomas willingly goes to the chopping block rather than sacrifice his ideals. The "Common Man," an important bridging-the-scenes character in the original play, is removed from the film version, which does just fine without him.

Leadership Topics: trait and political power

THE MATRIX

Director: Larry Wachowski, Andy Wachowski
Key Cast: Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne
Producer: Groucho II Film Partnership, Silver Pictures, Village Roadshow Pictures
Year: 1999
Length: 136 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: What if virtual reality wasn't just for fun, but was being used to imprison you? That's the dilemma that faces mild-mannered computer jockey Thomas Anderson (Keanu Reeves) in The Matrix. It's the year 1999, and Anderson (hacker alias: Neo) works in a cubicle, manning a computer and doing a little hacking on the side. It's through this latter activity that Thomas makes the acquaintance of Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne), who has some interesting news for Mr. Anderson – none of what's going on around him is real. The year is actually closer to 2199, and it seems Thomas, like most people, is a victim of The Matrix, a massive artificial intelligence system that has tapped into people's minds and created the illusion of a real world, while using their brains and bodies for energy, tossing them away like spent batteries when they're through. Morpheus, however, is convinced Neo is "The One" who can crack open The Matrix and bring his people to both physical and psychological freedom.

Leadership Topics: chaos theory; transformational leadership; coaching and mentoring; perception and reality

THE MILAGRO BEANFIELD WAR

Director: Robert Redford
Key Cast: Ruben Blades, Richard Bradford, Sonia Braga
Producer: Universal
Year: 1988
Length: 118 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: It's advisable to know from the beginning of *The Milagro Beanfield War* that "milagro" is the Spanish word for "miracle." The scene is a rundown Hispanic community in New Mexico, bordering a posh housing development. In full control of the local water rights, the powers-that-be are secure in the belief that they'll be able to expand their development without resistance from the locals. No one can foresee that impoverished farmer Chick Vennera, during a burst of frustrated rage, will accidentally open a heretofore hidden sluice, thereby providing free water for his beanfield. At first, the locals are against Vennera's "insurrection," reasoning that the new housing development will provide jobs. But with the help of John Heard, a burned-out 60s activist who now runs the community newspaper, Vennera becomes the hero of the hour, the spiritual leader of an ever-growing "no development" movement. The evil land developers send their minions to intimidate or coerce Vennera; each time, however, he is seemingly protected from harm by Divine intervention. When Vennera is forced to shoot a trespasser on his land, it looks as though his luck has run out. Chased into the hills by private detective Christopher Walken, Vennera is once more rescued in the nick of time by what appears to be a miracle. And there are more wonders to behold before fadeout time!

Leadership Topics: chaos; cross-cultural leadership

NORMA RAE

Director: Martin Ritt
Key Cast: Sally Field, Beau Bridges, Ron Leibman
Producer: 20th Century Fox
Year: 1979
Length: 120 minutes
Rating: PG

Synopsis: Norma Rae finds Sally Field cast in the title role, a minimum-wage worker in a cotton mill. The factory has taken too much of a toll on the health of Norma Rae's family for her to ignore her Dickensian working conditions. After hearing a speech by New York union organizer Reuben (Ron Leibman), Norma Rae decides to join the effort to unionize her shop. This causes dissension at home when Norma Rae's husband, Sonny (Beau Bridges), assumes that her activism is a result of a romance between herself and Reuben. Despite the pressure brought to bear by management, Norma Rae successfully orchestrates a shutdown of the mill, resulting in victory for the union and capitulation to its demands.

Leadership Topics: organizational theory and leadership; emergent leadership; transformational leadership; transformational followership

OUTBREAK

Director: Wolfgang Petersen
Key Cast: Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo, Morgan Freeman, Kevin Spacey, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Donald Sutherland
Producer: Warner Brothers
Year: 1995
Length: 130 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: A handful of scientists struggle to prevent the destruction of a small town – and possibly the entire country – in this suspense drama. In the mid-1960s, a deadly virus is discovered in Zaire that wipes out an entire village in 24 hours. Government researchers are brought in to investigate, but the military opts to destroy the village rather than risk further infection. Thirty years later, Sam Daniels (Dustin Hoffman), an expert on contagious diseases, is called in when the virus re-emerges in Africa. A monkey carrying the bug is smuggled into the U.S., and a suburban California town soon begins to succumb to the illness. Sam scrambles to find an antidote with the help of his ex-wife Robby (Rene Russo), a Center for Disease Control researcher, and their colleague Casey (Kevin Spacey), while Gen. McClintock (Donald Sutherland) has his own reasons for wanting to use bombs to contain the epidemic, and Army surgeon Gen. Ford (Morgan Freeman) is caught in the middle.

Leadership Topics: chaos theory

THE PAPER

Director: Ron Howard
Key Cast: Michael Keaton, Robert Duvall, Glenn Close, Marisa Tomei, Randy Quaid, Jason Robards, Jr., Jason Alexander, Spalding Gray
Producer: Universal
Year: 1994
Length: 110 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: Director Ron Howard's drama follows a beleaguered reporter during a hectic 24 hours at a New York City tabloid. Michael Keaton stars as Henry Hackett, a metro editor for the struggling New York Sun. Hackett is being wooed by the Sentinel, a more upscale paper, but he's addicted to the adrenaline-stimulating, breakneck pace of the Sun's newsroom, much to the consternation of his pregnant wife Martha (Marisa Tomei). Hackett is currently pursuing a story of two minority youths who have been arrested for the murders of two men. He learns that the police think that the killings may be a mob hit. In the court of public opinion, however, the innocent suspects are being judged as guilty, and the police may bow to the pressure. As Hackett and his staff desperately work all the story's angles to find the truth, several other dramas unfold. Top editor Bernie (Robert Duvall) learns that he has prostate cancer, and tough publisher Alicia (Glenn Close) wonders if her lack of popularity is due to her cost-cutting, her personality, or the fact that she's a woman.

Leadership Topics: organizational theory and leadership

THE PATRIOT

Director: Roland Emmerich
Key Cast: Mel Gibson, Heath Ledger, Joely Richardson, Jason Isaacs, Chris Cooper
Producer: Columbia Pictures, Mutual Film Company, Centropolis Entertainment
Year: 2000
Length: 165 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin take a step back in time with this drama set during the American Revolution. Farmer Benjamin Martin (Mel Gibson) was born and raised in South Carolina, and fought bravely during the French-Indian wars. But since the death of his wife, Benjamin has renounced violence and quietly tends his crops, raising his seven children alone. In 1776, over Benjamin's objections, his oldest son Gabriel (Heath Ledger) joins the fight against the British. Gabriel returns from battle seriously wounded, with Lord General Cornwallis (Tom Wilkinson) calling for his arrest. A skirmish breaks out on Benjamin's plantation, and one of his children is killed as Gabriel is captured by Col. Tavington (Jason Isaacs) and sentenced to hang. Benjamin sets aside his vow of pacifism and rescues Gabriel; with the help of his former comrade-in-arms Harry Burwell (Chris Cooper), the father and son form a regiment of Carolina patriots whose cunning and ruthlessness make them heroes among the colonists – and wanted men by British troops.

Leadership Topics: trait and political power

PATTON

Director: Franklin J. Schaffner
Key Cast: George C. Scott, Karl Malden, Michael Bates, Karl Michael Vogler
Producer: 20th Century Fox
Year: 1970
Length: 171 minutes
Rating: PG

Synopsis: In 1943 North Africa, George Patton (George C. Scott) assumes command of (and instills some much-needed discipline in) the American forces. Engaged in battle against Germany's Field Marshal Rommel (Karl Michael Vogler), Patton drives back "The Desert Fox" by using the German's own tactics. Promoted to Lieutenant General, Patton is sent to Sicily, where he engages in a personal war of egos with British Field Marshal Montgomery (Michael Bates). Performing brilliantly in Italy, Patton seriously jeopardizes his future with a single slap. While touring an Army hospital, the General comes across a GI (Tim Considine) suffering from nervous fatigue. Incensed by what he considers a slacker, Patton smacks the poor soldier and orders him to get well in a hurry. This incident results in his losing his command-and, by extension, missing out on D-Day. In his final campaign, Patton leads the US 3rd Army through Europe. Unabashedly flamboyant, Patton remains a valuable resource, but ultimately proves too much of a "loose cannon" in comparison to the more level-headed tactics of his old friend Omar Bradley (Karl Malden).

Leadership Topics: trait and political power

PEACEFUL WARRIOR

Director: Victor Salva
Key Cast: Scott Mechlowicz, Nick Nolte, Amy Smart
Producer: Sobini Films, MHF Szeite Academy Film, Mark Amin, Lionsgate, Inferno International, DEJ Projections
Year: 2005
Length: 121 minutes
Rating: PG13

Synopsis: A talented college gymnast with serious Olympic aspirations, Dan Millman (Mechlowicz) leads a charmed life of first-place trophies, fast girls, and rowdy parties until a career-threatening injury and a chance meeting with a mysterious stranger named Socrates (Nolte) show him how little he truly knows about living. In the months that follow his tragic injury, both Socrates and elusive beauty Joy (Smart) impart to the growing young man the wisdom that he needs to leave the past behind and follow the path of destiny and fulfill his transformation into the peaceful warrior.

Leadership Topics: unlearning

REMEMBER THE TITANS

Director: Boaz Yakin
Key Cast: Denzel Washington, Will Patton, Donald Faison, Wood Harris
Producer: Technical Black, Walt Disney Productions, Jerry Bruckheimer Films
Year: 2000
Length: 113 minutes
Rating: PG

Synopsis: A high school football coach finds himself fighting for stakes much higher than the State Championship in this drama based on actual events. In 1971, a court order forces three high schools in Alexandria, Virginia (two white, one African-American), to integrate their student bodies and faculties for the first time. As a result, Coach Bill Yoast (Will Patton), longtime head coach of the T.C. Williams High School football team, is asked to step down, and Herman Boone (Denzel Washington) is appointed to replace him as the school's first black faculty member. The new coach is hardly welcomed with open arms, either by the school's staff or the students, and the newly integrated team is full of players (both black and white) who have little trust or respect for one another. But Boone is determined to put a winning team on the field – it's how he approaches the game, and his future depends on it. Against long odds, Boone helps his team overcome distrust and misunderstanding of their coach (and each other) as they become a gridiron force to be reckoned with

Leadership Topics: trait and power; transactional leadership; transformational leadership; chaos theory; cross-cultural leadership; organizational theory and leadership; ethics

SEVEN POUNDS

Director: Gabriele Muccino
Key Cast: Will Smith, Rosario Dawson, Woody Harrelson, Michael Ealy, Barry Pepper
Producer: Overbrook Entertainment, Escape Artists
Year: 2008
Length: 118 minutes
Rating: PG13

Synopsis: An emotional drama concerning an IRS agent whose quest for redemption is unexpectedly complicated after he inadvertently falls in love. Ben Thomas is an IRS agent with a fateful secret. Assuming the identity of his younger brother, Ben sets out in search of redemption. Instead, Ben discovers true love while forever changing the lives of seven complete strangers.

Leadership Topics: ethics

SOPHIE'S CHOICE

Director: Alan J. Pakula
Key Cast: Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, Peter MacNichol, Rita Karen
Producer: Keith Barish Productions, Associated Film Distribution, ITC Entertainment, Universal
Year: 1982
Length: 157 minutes
Rating: R

Synopsis: The year is 1947. Aspiring southern author Stingo (Peter MacNichol) heads to New York to seek his fortune. Moving into a dingy Brooklyn boarding house, Stingo strikes up a friendship with research chemist Nathan Landau (Kevin Kline) and Nathan's girlfriend, Polish refugee Sophie Zawistowska (Meryl Streep). There is something unsettling about the relationship; Nathan is subject to violent mood swings, while Sophie seems to be harboring a horrible secret. Stingo soon learns that both Nathan and Sophie are strangers to truth; the audience is likewise led down several garden paths by a series of sepia-toned flashbacks, depicting Sophie's ordeal in a wartime concentration camp. The scene in which we discover the facts behind Sophie's "choice" is a gut-wrenching one; it might have been even more powerful had not the film taken so long to get there.

Leadership Topics: ethics

STRICTLY BALLROOM

Director: Baz Luhrmann
Key Cast: Paul Mercurio, Tara Morice
Producer: M & A Filmi Corporation, Australian Film Finance Corporation
Year: 1992
Length: 94 minutes
Rating: PG

Synopsis: This wildly off-beat comedy is about a male dancer (Paul Mercurio) who refuses to follow the accepted rules of ballroom dancing and creates his own style of choreography, which infuriates the ballroom dancing establishment. Before he's scheduled to compete in the Pan-Pacific ballroom championships, he's forced to take up a new partner (Tara Morice), a beginner who initially seems without promise. With his help, she turns into an assured and wonderful dancer.

Leadership Topics: individual and organizational transformation; “challenging the process” (Kouzes & Posner, 2003)

THE TRUMAN SHOW

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Key Cast: Paul Cercurio, Tara Morice
Producer: M & A Filmi Corporation, Australian Film Finance Corporation
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Rating: PG

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Leadership Topics: transformational process

A WALK IN THE CLOUDS

Director: Alfonso Arau
Key Cast: Keanu Reeves, Aitana Sanchez-Gijon, Anthony Quinn, Giancarlo Giannini
Producer: 20th Century Fox
Year: 1995
Length: 103 minutes
Rating: PG13

Synopsis: In this atmospheric romantic drama, Keanu Reeves plays Paul Sutton, who has just returned home from a stretch in the Army during World War II. Still reeling from the horrors of war, Paul wants to settle down and start a farm, but his wife Betty (Debra Messing), whom he met and impulsively married shortly before shipping out, has arranged for him to take a job as a salesman peddling chocolates. While taking a sales trip to another town, he befriends a beautiful but distraught young woman, Victoria Aragon (Aitana Sanchez-Gijon). While away at college, Victoria met and fell in love with a young man and soon became pregnant; however, when her boyfriend discovered she was expecting, he abandoned her. She returns home full of shame and fearful of her father's reaction. But Paul gets an idea – he'll pose as her husband and leave after a day or two, so when she's left alone with the child, the disgrace will be on him, not her. Victoria agrees, and Paul joins Victoria as she arrives at her family's estate in the California wine country. Most of the Aragon family take to Paul readily enough, especially Grandfather Don Pedro (Anthony Quinn), but Victoria's father, Alberto (Giancarlo Giannini), senses something amiss between the young couple.

Leadership Topics: chaos theory; cross-cultural leadership

WHAT THE BLEEP DO WE KNOW?!

Director: William Arntz, Mark Vicente, Betsy Chasse
Key Cast: Marlee Matlin
Producer: Lord of the Wind Films, Captured Light Industries
Year: 2004
Length: 108 minutes
Rating: NR

Synopsis: Part narrative, part documentary, and part animation, What the Bleep Do We Know?! was filmed with the intent of expressing the neurological processes and so called “quantum uncertainty” of life. With the help of a directorial triumvirate consisting of Betsy Chasse, William Arntz, and Mark Vicente, Marlee Matlin stars as Amanda, whose uninspired daily routine is abruptly altered into a chaotic, Alice in Wonderland-style reality, complete with quirky characters and wildly different perspectives on life. As Amanda falls deeper into the experience, she’s forced to drastically reconsider her perceptions of interpersonal relationships, men, and the fundamental principles of life. What the Bleep Do We Know?! is supplemented by a host of mystics and scientists, who are interviewed intermittently throughout the film for their wisdom and knowledge concerning religion, science, the thin line between them, and the consequences of blurring that line.

Leadership Topics: raising questions; autopilot responses; perception and reality

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Director: Victor Fleming
Key Cast: Judy Garland, Frank Morgan, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley, Billie Burke, Margaret Hamilton
Producer: MGM
Year: 1939
Length: 101 minutes
Rating: NR

Synopsis: Dorothy Gale (Judy Garland), an orphaned young girl unhappy with her drab black-and-white existence on her aunt and uncle's dusty Kansas farm, yearns to travel "over the rainbow" to a different world, and she gets her wish when a tornado whisks her and her little dog, Toto, to the Technicolorful land of Oz. Having offended the Wicked Witch of the West (Margaret Hamilton), Dorothy is protected from the old crone's wrath by the ruby slippers that she wears. At the suggestion of Glinda, the Good Witch of the North (Billie Burke), Dorothy heads down the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City, where dwells the all-powerful Wizard of Oz, who might be able to help the girl return to Kansas. En route, she befriends a Scarecrow (Ray Bolger), a Tin Man (Jack Haley), and a Cowardly Lion (Bert Lahr). The Scarecrow would like to have some brains, the Tin Man craves a heart, and the Lion wants to attain courage; hoping that the Wizard will help them too, they join Dorothy on her odyssey to the Emerald City.

Leadership Topics: chaos theory

[24](#) (Fox)

Leadership Topics: organizational theory and leadership; ethics

[HOUSE](#) (Fox)

Leadership Topics: organizational theory and leadership; ethics

[M*A*S*H](#) (Nickelodeon TV Land)

Leadership Topics: organizational theory and leadership; chaos theory

[THE OFFICE](#) (NBC)

Leadership Topics: organizational theory and leadership

[SCRUBS](#) (ABC)

Leadership Topics: organizational theory and leadership; power and authority; ethics

[THE SOPRANOS](#) (HBO)

Leadership Topics: organizational theory and leadership; power and authority; ethics

[THE WEST WING](#) (NBC)

Leadership Topics: organizational theory and leadership; power and authority; ethics; chaos theory;

[THE WIRE](#) (HBO)

Leadership Topics: chaos theory; cross-cultural leadership; transformational leadership; power and authority; organizational theory and leadership