

101 GREATEST SCREENPLAYS

The Godfather, Casablanca, Citizen Kane, Chinatown, Schindler's List – the greatest films of all time have one thing in common: each began as the vision of writer. Long before the parts were cast and the cameras rolled, a writer gazed upon a blank page and set in motion a classic story. For the first time ever, the Writers Guild of America, west (WGAW) and the Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE) are celebrating the best screenwriters and their timeless works with the release of the *101 Greatest Screenplays* list.

A joint venture between the WGA west and WGA East, *101 Greatest Screenplays* compiles the finest achievements in film writing, as voted upon by professional film and television writers. In the summer of 2005, ballots were sent out asking WGA members to list up to ten of their favorite produced screenplays. Any film, past or present, English-language or otherwise, was eligible. The resulting list is like a travelogue of the greatest films of the century, with all decades from the 1930s on represented among the rankings. Many of the selected screenplays are Writers Guild Award and Academy Award winners; some are blockbusters, some are more obscure. Many of the names are familiar to the average filmgoer – Woody Allen, William Goldman, Billy Wilder, Nora Ephron, Mel Brooks, Charlie Kaufman – and many more, like Ernest Lehman, Steve Zaillian, Budd Schulberg and Frances Goodrich, should be. The guilds' list features playwrights, novelists, film critics, writer-directors, writer-actors, three black-listed writers, and four sets of brothers.

Like a composer of a classic symphony or an author of a beloved novel, the most memorable and moving pictures would not exist without their principal architect: the screenwriter. Too often classic films are linked only to their stars or directors, overlooking the original artists who first put pen to paper – or more recently keyboard to laptop – to create the kind of enduring works that have entertained and inspired generations of movie-going audiences around globe.

101 Greatest Screenplays will finally set the record straight by celebrating the best in film writing and bringing recognition to the wizards behind the curtain: the men and women who wrote the greatest films of all time.

And now, on with the list....

No.	TITLE	WRITER(S)
101	NOTORIOUS	Written by Ben Hecht
100	MEMENTO	Screenplay by Christopher Nolan. Based on the short story "Memento Mori" by Jonathan Nolan
99	THE WILD BUNCH	Screenplay by Walon Green and Sam Peckinpah. Story by Walon Green and Roy Sickner
98	THE GRAPES OF WRATH	Screenplay by Nunnally Johnson. Based on the novel by John Steinbeck
97	THE SEARCHERS	Screenplay by Frank S. Nugent. Based on the novel by Alan Le May
96	THE HUSTLER	Screenplay by Sidney Carroll & Robert Rossen. Based on the novel by Walter Tevis
95	HANNAH AND HER SISTERS	Written by Woody Allen
94	PATTON	Screen Story and Screenplay by Francis Ford Coppola and Edmund H. North. Based on "A Soldier's Story" by Omar H. Bradley and "Patton: Ordeal and Triumph" by Ladislav Farago
93	DO THE RIGHT THING	Written by Spike Lee
92	PSYCHO	Screenplay by Joseph Stefano. Based on the novel by Robert Bloch
91	THE VERDICT	Screenplay by David Mamet. Based on the novel by Barry Reed
90	SIDEWAYS	Screenplay by Alexander Payne & Jim Taylor. Based on the novel by Rex Pickett
89	FORREST GUMP	Screenplay by Eric Roth. Based on the novel by Winston Groom
88	FIELD OF DREAMS	Screenplay by Phil Alden Robinson. Based on the book by W.P. Kinsella
87	8 1/2	Screenplay by Federico Fellini, Tullio Pinelli, Ennio Flaiano, Brunello Rondi. Story by Fellini, Flaiano.
86	HAROLD & MAUDE	Written by Colin Higgins
85	LA GRANDE ILLUSION	Written by Jean Renoir and Charles Spaak
84	THE PRINCESS BRIDE	Screenplay by William Goldman. Based on his novel.
83	REAR WINDOW	Screenplay by John Michael Hayes. Based on the short story by Cornell Woolrich
82	COOL HAND LUKE	Screenplay by Donn Pearce and Frank Pierson. Based on the novel by Donn Pearce.
81	BEING THERE	Screenplay by Jerzy Kosinski. Inspired by the novel by Jerzy Kosinski
80	WITNESS	Screenplay by Earl W. Wallace & William Kelley. Story by William Kelley and Pamela Wallace & Earl W. Wallace
79	THE PRODUCERS	Written by Mel Brooks
78	ROCKY	Written by Sylvester Stallone
77	ADAPTATION	Screenplay by Charlie Kaufman and Donald Kaufman. Based on the book "The Orchid Thief" by Susan Orlean
76	RAGING BULL	Screenplay by Paul Schrader and Mardik Martin. Based on the book by Jake La Motta with Joseph Carter and Peter Savage

75	HIGH NOON	Screenplay by Carl Foreman. Based on short story "The Tin Star" by John W. Cunningham
74	BEING JOHN MALKOVICH	Written by Charlie Kaufman
73	AMADEUS	Screenplay by Peter Shaffer. Based on his play.
72	THELMA & LOUISE	Written by Callie Khouri
71	THE LION IN WINTER	Screenplay by James Goldman. Based on the play by James Goldman
70	THE AFRICAN QUEEN	Screenplay by James Agee and John Huston. Based on the novel by C.S. Forester
69	DOG DAY AFTERNOON	Screenplay by Frank Pierson. Based on a magazine article by P.F. Kluge and Thomas Moore
68	STAR WARS	Written by George Lucas
67	E.T. THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL	Written by Melissa Mathison
66	JERRY MAGUIRE	Written by Cameron Crowe
65	SINGIN' IN THE RAIN	Screen Story and Screenplay by Betty Comden & Adolph Green. Based on the song by Arthur Freed and Nacio Herb Brown
64	TERMS OF ENDEARMENT	Screenplay by James L. Brooks. Based on the novel by Larry McMurtry
63	JAWS	Screenplay by Peter Benchley and Carl Gottlieb. Based on the novel by Peter Benchley
62	MOONSTRUCK	Written by John Patrick Shanley
61	THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS	Screenplay by Ted Tally. Based on the novel by Thomas Harris
60	L.A. CONFIDENTIAL	Screenplay by Brian Koppelman & Curtis Hanson. Based on the novel by James Ellroy
59	IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT	Screenplay by Robert Riskin. Based on the story "Night Bus" by Samuel Hopkins Adams
58	ORDINARY PEOPLE	Screenplay by Alvin Sargent. Based on the novel by Judith Guest
57	CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS	Written by Woody Allen
56	BACK TO THE FUTURE	Written by Robert Zemeckis & Bob Gale
55	APOCALYPSE NOW	Written by John Milius and Francis Coppola. Narration by Michael Herr
54	MANHATTAN	Written by Woody Allen & Marshall Brickman
53	ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN	Screenplay by William Goldman. Based on the book by Carl Bernstein & Bob Woodward
52	THE LADY EVE	Screenplay by Preston Sturges. Story by Monckton Hoffe
51	BROADCAST NEWS	Written by James L. Brooks
50	THE SIXTH SENSE	Written by M. Night Shyamalan
49	SCHINDLER'S LIST	Screenplay by Steven Zaillian. Based on the novel by Thomas Keneally
48	THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI	Screenplay by Carl Foreman and Michael Wilson. Based on the novel by Pierre Boulle
47	THE MALTESE FALCON	Screenplay by John Huston. Based on the novel by Dashiell Hammett
46	THE TREASURE OF THE SIERRA MADRE	Screenplay by John Huston. Based on the novel by B. Traven
45	ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST	Screenplay by Lawrence Hauben and Bo Goldman. Based on the novel by Ken Kesey
44	THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES	Screenplay by Robert E. Sherwood. Based on novel "Glory For Me" by MacKinley Kantor

43	TAXI DRIVER	Written by Paul Schrader
42	RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK	Screenplay by Lawrence Kasdan. Story by George Lucas and Philip Kaufman
41	GOODFELLAS	Screenplay by Nicholas Pileggi & Martin Scorsese. Based on book "Wise Guy" by Nicholas Pileggi.
40	WHEN HARRY MET SALLY	Written by Nora Ephron
39	THE STING	Written by David S. Ward
38	AMERICAN BEAUTY	Written by Alan Ball
37	THE PHILADELPHIA STORY	Screenplay by Donald Ogden Stewart. Based on the play by Philip Barry
36	MIDNIGHT COWBOY	Screenplay by Waldo Salt. Based on the novel by James Leo Herlihy
35	THE USUAL SUSPECTS	Written by Christopher McQuarrie
34	THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS	Screenplay by Clifford Odets and Ernest Lehman. From a novelette by Ernest Lehman
33	THE THIRD MAN	Screenplay by Graham Greene. Story by Graham Greene. Based on the short story by Graham Greene.
32	FARGO	Written by Joel Coen & Ethan Coen
31	HIS GIRL FRIDAY	Screenplay by Charles Lederer. Based on the play "The Front Page" by Ben Hecht & Charles MacArthur
30	UNFORGIVEN	Written by David Webb Peoples
29	SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS	Written by Preston Sturges
28	SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE	Written by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard
27	GROUNDHOG DAY	Screenplay by Danny Rubin and Harold Ramis. Story by Danny Rubin.
26	DOUBLE INDEMNITY	Screenplay by Billy Wilder and Raymond Chandler. Based on the novel by James M. Cain
25	THE WIZARD OF OZ	Screenplay by Noel Langley and Florence Ryerson and Edgar Allan Woolf. Adaptation by Noel Langley. Based on the novel by L. Frank Baum
24	ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND	Screenplay by Charlie Kaufman. Story by Charlie Kaufman & Michel Gondry & Pierre Bismuth.
23	GONE WITH THE WIND	Screenplay by Sidney Howard. Based on the novel by Margaret Mitchell
22	THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION	Screenplay by Frank Darabont. Based on the short story "Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption" by Stephen King
21	NORTH BY NORTHWEST	Written by Ernest Lehman
20	IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	Screenplay by Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett & Frank Capra. Based on short story "The Greatest Gift" by Philip Van Doren Stern. Contributions to screenplay Michael Wilson and Jo Swerling
19	TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD	Screenplay by Horton Foote. Based on the novel by Harper Lee.
18	ON THE WATERFRONT	Screen Story and Screenplay by Budd Schulberg. Based on "Crime on the Waterfront" articles by Malcolm Johnson
17	TOOTSIE	Screenplay by Larry Gelbart and Murray Schisgal. Story by Don McGuire and Larry Gelbart
16	PULP FICTION	Written by Quentin Tarantino. Stories by Quentin Tarantino & Roger Avary
15	THE APARTMENT	Written by Billy Wilder & I.A.L. Diamond
14	LAWRENCE OF ARABIA	Screenplay by Robert Bolt and Michael Wilson. Based on the life and writings of Col. T.E. Lawrence
13	THE GRADUATE	Screenplay by Calder Willingham and Buck Henry. Based on the novel by Charles Webb

12	DR. STRANGELOVE	Screenplay by Stanley Kubrick and Peter George and Terry Southern. Based on novel "Red Alert" by Peter George
11	BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID	Written by William Goldman
10	THE GODFATHER II	Screenplay by Francis Ford Coppola and Mario Puzo. Based on Mario Puzo's novel "The Godfather"
9	SOME LIKE IT HOT	Screenplay by Billy Wilder & I.A.L. Diamond. Based on "Fanfare of Love," a German film written by Robert Thoeren and M. Logan
8	NETWORK	Written by Paddy Chayefsky
7	SUNSET BLVD.	Written by Charles Brackett & Billy Wilder and D.M. Marshman Jr.
6	ANNIE HALL	Written by Woody Allen and Marshall Brickman
5	ALL ABOUT EVE	Screenplay by Joseph L. Mankiewicz. Based on "The Wisdom of Eve," a short story and radio play by Mary Orr
4	CITIZEN KANE	Written by Herman Mankiewicz and Orson Welles
3	CHINATOWN	Written by Robert Towne
2	THE GODFATHER	Screenplay by Mario Puzo and Francis Ford Coppola. Based on the novel by Mario Puzo.
1	CASABLANCA	Screenplay by Julius J. & Philip G. Epstein and Howard Koch. Based on the play "Everybody Comes to Rick's" by Murray Burnett and Joan Alison.

**Voted on by the members of the Writers Guilds, west and East.*