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The 10 Most Popular Movies Of All Time - A Cheat Sheet (Part 2)

By James Shenton

Are you a movie dunce? Do you not know your Corleone from your Kurosawa? Would you

recognise a lightsaber if it hit you in the face? Well, don't panic. To help you catch up on your movie knowledge here's the second instalment in your 2-part crash course in the top 10 movies of all time, as voted by the readers of the Internet Movie Database. Careful, though... here be spoilers.

5. Casablanca

Hiding out in Casablanca, Morocco during World War II, exiled American and former freedom fighter Rick Blaine passes the time running a popular nightspot. Blaine's tedium is interrupted when Czech Resistance leader Victor Laszlo arrives with his beautiful wife Ilsa — Blaine's ex-lover.

Blaine holds the key to Laszlo's safe passage out of the country, and Ilsa offers herself to him in exchange for her husband's safety. Blaine faces the choice of sacrificing Laszlo to win back Ilsa, but in the end decides to do the honorable thing...

Quote: If that plane leaves the ground and you're not with him, you'll regret it. Maybe not today. Maybe not tomorrow, but soon and for the rest of your life.

Trivia: The line `Here's lookin' at you, kid' was voted the 5th most well known movie line in history by the American Film Institute.

4. Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

The third and final instalment of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, The Return of the King offers an epic finale to Frodo's quest (thousands of extras took part in the filming to add to the drama). Finally arriving at Mt. Doom, Frodo is overcome by exhaustion and the stress of bearing the Ring. Helped by Sam, Frodo manages to make his way into the volcano.

At the last moment he finds himself unable to throw the Ring into the magma, choosing instead to wear it. Gollum, surviving Frodo's earlier attempt on his life, attacks Frodo and bites off his finger, removing

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the ring. Losing his grip, Gollum falls into the pit along with the Ring, breaking its hold over Frodo and killing Sauron.

With Sauron's death his army is destroyed, just in time to save the army of Men, poised to fight to the death at the gates of Mordor.

Quote: Come on, Mr. Frodo. I can't carry it for you... but I can carry you.

Trivia: The Return of the King used over seven times the number of special effects shots used in an average movie.

3. The Godfather: Part II

Split between two timelines, the second instalment of The Godfather trilogy follows Don Vito Corleone

through his adolescence in Sicily and New York during the early 20th Century, and later his rise to power as a Mafia Don. It also returns to a point a few years after the conclusion of the first movie, with Michael Corleone running the family interests following his father's death.

After learning that his brother Fredo has betrayed the family, Michael must order his execution.

Quote: I know it was you Fredo. You broke my heart. You broke my heart!

Trivia: Robert de Niro won an Oscar for his portrayal of a young Vito Corleone. De Niro and Marlon Brando are the only actors to win Oscars for the portrayal of the same character.

2. The Shawshank Redemption

Based on a novella by Steven King, The Shawshank Redemption tells the story of Andy Dufresne, a successful banker wrongly convicted for the murder of his wife and her lover. Given two life sentences, Dufresne is sent to the maximum security Shawshank Prison where he befriends Ellis Boyd "Red" Redding, a lifer who helps him adjust to prison life.

Over the next twenty years their friendship grows while Andy has a positive effect on the inmates, helping to establish a prison library and education system. Unfortunately, the mean-spirited and criminal warden beats down Andy's spirit until he finally escapes through a tunnel that took him two decades to dig.

In a final act of revenge Andy exposes the warden's crimes, driving him to suicide to avoid being sent to prison. Red is later released on parole, and tracks down Andy to a beach in Mexico.

Quote: Get busy living, or get busy dying.

Trivia: The mugshots of Morgan Freeman as a young man are actually pictures of his real life son, Alfonso.

1. The Godfather

Adapted from Mario Puzo's seminal Mafia novel, the first instalment of The Godfather trilogy sees Don Vito Corleone, head of the Corleone crime family, struggle with the realities of a changing world. When he refuses to work with drug dealer Virgil Sollozzo in a scheme to push heroin in New York, he falls foul of Sollozzo's backers the Tattaglia family.

When Vito is wounded in an attempted assassination his son Michael — previously determined to have nothing to do with the family business — volunteers to kill Sollozzo. Following the execution Michael is sent to Sicily to hide out until it is safe to return.

After Michael's brother Sonny is executed by the rival Barzini family, Michael safely returns and takes his place as the head of the family in time to see Vito Corleone die of a heart attack. In revenge for the attacks on his family Michael arranges for the murder of the heads of the other families, to take place during the baptism ceremony of his nephew.

Following the baptism Michael orders the execution of the father of the baptised child — and his own brother in-law — Carlo Rizzi, in retribution for Carlo's role in setting up Sonny's death. The movie ends

with the widow, Michael's sister Connie, suspecting that Michael was involved in Carlo's death.

Quote: I'll make him an offer he can't refuse.

Trivia: Sofia Coppola, the director's daughter, played the baby baptised at the end of the movie. She returned to play the role of Michael's daughter Mary in *The Godfather: Part III*.

So there you have it. If you've been paying attention you should now have just enough knowledge of the top ten movies of all time to bluff your way through a conversation with a movie buff. These bare bones won't take you far, though, so I suggest you set aside some time, get a big bucket of popcorn, sit back and enjoy the best of Hollywood. You won't be disappointed.

James Shenton is a freelance writer and Hollywood expert whose writing can be an extremely useful resource in helping your knowledge of the movie business. Further examples of his work can be found at the Internet's premiere DVD movie download portal,

<http://www.EliteMovieDownloads.com>

Ladies, Is Your Valentine the Cheating Kind?

By Ruth Houston

According to statistics, 50% to 70% of men cheat on their mates. What type of man is most likely to cheat? Ruth Houston, infidelity expert and author of "Is He Cheating on You? – 829 Telltale Signs" says, "Some men are more likely to cheat than others. You can tell by looking at certain things in their

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background, their past history, or certain character traits."

What about the man in your life? Is your valentine the cheating kind? Houston says the following questions will help you rate your mate to see if he's a potential cheater.

Has he cheated in any of his past relationships?

Does he have a parent who cheated?

Does he believe in monogamy?

Does he have male friends who are cheating on their wives or girlfriends?

Does he have a lot of female friends?

Does he thrive on adventure?

Has he had a great deal of sexual experience prior to your relationship?

Generally speaking, the more "yes" answers, the greater the likelihood that he will cheat. But some answers carry more weight than others. To find out what your answers mean and see if you're dealing with a POTENTIAL CHEATER, a COMMON "GARDEN VARIETY" CHEATER, an EXPERIENCED CHEATER, or a HARD-CORE CHEATER visit www.IsHeCheatingOnYou.com

"Even you only have one 'yes', Houston warns," there's still cause for concern. But there are certain precautions you can take. To get a FREE Tip Sheet titled "How to Handle a Potential Cheater." send an e-mail to: cheatinginfo@aol.com and place the words "Potential Cheater Tip Sheet" in the subject line.

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Ruth Houston is the author of "Is He Cheating on You? - 829 Telltale Signs." Her lifestyle and relationship articles have appeared in publications here and abroad for the past 18 years. For more information on cheating men visit

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