A list of most but not all of the movies that still stick - 2026

I often experience the magic of film as entertainment. Sometimes I appreciate the magic of film as an art form. And there are times when a film also acts as what theologians of my Catholic tradition call a sacrament, a visible sign of an invisible grace as Augustine put it back in the fifth century. And what that grace feels like John Climacus in the 7th century used the Greek word harmolipi which translates as joyful sadness or bittersweet sorrow. Harmolipi can happen whether the film is a theatrical release, a TV movie, a TV miniseries, a TV series or a documentary.

Below is a list of many but not all of the movies that have scenes which continue to stick to me in some important way. The first three movies span my life between the ages of twenty and thirty. They were the doors that opened into the landscape of movies as
not just entertainment. The next twenty-five films are those most dear to me. The following seventy-five are also dear and the 100??? works as a placeholder for the many more, probably up to a hundred more, which have been part of my journey through the world of film.

For years I have acknowledged my favorite movie is City Lights (1931). If I could only watch one more movie and had to choose from the hundreds that have moved me over a lifetime of movie watching it would be City Lights. The following is a short clip from the movie which captures visually what captured me emotionally. It is best experienced with the sound off.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n953_bG32DM&list=RDn953_bG32DM&start_radio=1

City Lights acts as the mirror to the raw, beautiful, and deeply painful experiences of life. It gives me the full, unvarnished spectrum of the human condition, the poverty, the rejection, the temporary joy, and the devastating vulnerability of being seen for who we are by the beloved. It represents the bitter, the sweet, and the arbitrariness of life that we receive daily. For years it never occured to me to wonder if there might be another film I would prefer to watch if I could only watch one more movie. It seemed City Lights was the one. After a little consideration I realized it was only half of my experience of life. At first I thought the joy and sorrow needed to be balanced with my desire for a happy ending and A Canterbury Tale (1944) seemed to fit the bill. But after some more consideration I switched from the desire for a happy ending to what is of utmost importance for me, the gratitude for the life I have been given, the good, the bad, and the ugly. That is when I realized The Wednesday Morning Breakfast Club (2013) is the other side of the coin. As I watch the movie Megan represents the witness that looks back at the bittersweet memories of our adulthood. She listens to the

narrative of our lives with deep reverence. She doesn't demand that our lives be perfect or without regret; she simply listens with a profound, quiet gratitude that they occurred.

A list of most but not all of the movies that still stick - 2026

A. **Two For The Road (1967)**
B. **Kidnapped (1971)**
C. **Days Of Heaven (1978)**

1. **A League Of Their Own (1992) (TV series 2022)**
2. **A New Leaf (1971)**
3. **Brideshead Revisited (2008) (TV mini-series 1981)**
4. **City Lights (1931)**
5. **Call The Midwife (TV series – first three seasons 2012 – 2014)**
6. **Creation (2009)**
7. **Father Know Best (TV series 1955 - 1960)**
8. **The Ghost And Mrs. Muir (1947)**
9. **The Hobbit (3 movies between 2012 and 2014) & Lord Of The Ring (3 movies between 2001 and 2003)**
10. **Ida (Poland 2015)**
11. **In the Good Old Summertime (1949) Shop Around The Corner (1940) You Got Mail (1998)**
12. **Les Misérables - the musical (TV 1995) (TV 2010) (2012) Les Misérables (1995) (1998) (TV 1978) (TV mini-series 2018) (1982) Les Miserables (France 1978)**
13. **Kung Fu (TV series 1972 – 1974)**
14. **Last Of The Mohicans (1992)**
15. **Lonesome Dove saga in chronological order. All are TV mini-series (Dead Man's Walk 1996, Comanche Moon 2008, Lonesome Dove 1989, Streets Of Laredo 1995)**

16. **Miracle On 34th Street (1947) & It's A Wonderful Life (1946) It Happened One Christmas (TV movie 1977)**
17. **Million Dollar Baby (2004)**
18. **Midnight In Paris (2011)**
19. **National Velvet (1944)**
20. **Pan's Labyrinth (Mexico and Spain 2006)**
21. **Peter Pan (2003)**
22. **Queen Of Swords (Mexico TV series 2000) & Zorro (Mexico TV series 2024)**
23. **Star Wars (11 movies between 1977 and 2019)**
24. **The Wednesday Morning Breakfast Club (2013)**
25. **The Wizard Of Oz (1939) Return To Oz (1985) Oz The Great And Powerful (2013) Tin Man (TV mini-series 2007) Emerald City (TV mini-series 2017) Wicked (Part 1 - 2024 & Part 2 - 2025) The Dreamer Of Oz (TV 1990)**

26. **1883 (TV mini-series 2021)**
27. **39 Steps (TV 2009) & (1935, 1959, 1979)**
28. **A Few Good Men (1992)**
29. **A Canterbury Tale (1944)**
30. **Agnes Of God (1985)**
31. **Atonement (2007)**
32. **Angel-A (France 2007)**
33. **Angels In The Outfield (1951)**
34. **Apocalypse Now (1979)**
35. **Babette's Feast (Denmark 1987)**
36. **The Big Bang Theory (TV series 2007 - 2018)**
37. **The Bookshop (2018)**

38. **Brimstone (The Netherlands, Germany, France, Belgium, Sweden, United Kingdom 2016)**
39. **Cabrini (2024)**
40. **The Cardinal (1963)**
41. **China Beach (TV series 1988 – 1991)**
42. **Cider House Rules (1999)**
43. **Citizen Kane (1941)**
44. **Cloud Atlas (2012)**
45. **The Da Vinci Code (2006)**
46. **The English (TV mini-series 2022)**
47. **Escape (Norway - 2012)**
48. **The Fall (2006)**
49. **Forbidden Games (France 1952)**
50. **Freaks (1932)**
51. **Giant (1956)**
52. **The Girl In The Café (TV 2008)**
53. **The Godfather Saga (1972) (1974) (1990)**
54. **Goodbye Mr. Chips (1969) (1939)**
55. **The Green Mile (1999)**
56. **The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society (2018)**
57. **Homesman (2014)**
58. **Harry Potter (8 movies between 2001 – 2011) Fantastic Beasts (3 movies between 2016 - 2022)**
59. **Hero (China 200I)**
60. **Houdini (TV movie 1998)**
61. **Humans (TV series 2015 - 2018)**
62. **Ivanhoe (TV mini-series 1997)**

63. **Kill Bill 1 (2003) & Kill Bill 2 (2004)**
64. **King Arthur (2004) Camelot (1967) The Mists Of Avalon (TV 2001)**
65. **The King Of Texas (TV movie 2002)**
66. **The Librarians (TV series 2014 - 2018)**
67. **Little Women (Mini-series 1970, 1978, 1918) & (1949, 1994, 2018)**
68. **Lost Horizon (1937) (1973)**
69. **Lucy (France 2014)**
70. **Mary Magdalene (2019) (Italy TV movie 2000)**
71. **The Messenger (France 1999)**
72. **Mindwalk (1990) & Trespassing On Einstein's Lawn (YouTube lecture 2014) & Einstein's Big Idea (TV 2005**
73. **Miss Austen Regrets (TV 2008)**
74. **Nosferatu (German 1922) (2023) (2024)**
75. **Ode To Billie Joe (1976)**
76. **Ophelia (2018)**
77. **Once Upon A Time (TV series 2012 - 2018)**
78. **Once Upon A Time In The West (1968) & The Quick And The Dead (1995)**
79. **Ordet (Denmark 1955)**
80. **Patience (TV series 2025 - 2026)**
81. **The Perfect Game (2009)**
82. **The Phantom of the Opera (TV movie 1990) (2004)**
83. **The Reader (2008)**
84. **Robin And Marian (1976)**
85. **Saving Mr. Banks (2014)**
86. **Sensei (2008)**
87. **Smoke Signals (1998)**
88. **Shadowlands (TV 1985) & (1994)**

89. **Sound Of Music (1965)**
90. **Searching For Bobby Fischer (1993)**
91. **Tess Of The D'Urbervilles (TV mini-series 1998)**
92. **Testament Of Youth (TV mini-series 1979)**
93. **This Beautiful Fantastic (2016)**
94. **Three Wishes For Cinderella (Czechoslovakia and East Germany 1973) (Norway 2021) The Slipper & The Rose (1976) Ever After (1998) Disney's Cinderella (1950 & 2015)**
95. **To Kill A Mockingbird (1962)**
96. **Toy Story 2 (1999)**
97. **Wonderstruck (2017)**
98. **War & Peace (Italy, France, Russia, Germany, and Poland TV mini-series 2007)**
99. **Woman At War (Iceland 2018)**
100. **???**