




**Schindler's List** (1993) [194m] D: Steven Spielberg. C: Liam Neeson, Ben Kingsley, Ralph Fiennes, Caroline Goodall, Embeth Davidtz, Jonathan Sagall.




A devious entrepreneur (an unforgettable Neeson) seizes an opportunity to capitalize on German occupied Poland by hiring Jews—of which there is no incentive to pay wages—to operate a profitable metal production facility. However, once he oversees their atrocities and persecution, his company becomes a sanctuary for over 1,200 Jews eluding Nazi tyranny during World War II.

A genuine article of cinematic proficiency and the apex of its celebrated director—who was awarded his first Best Director Oscar. An unflinching and powerful display of humanism rarely captured (in stark black and white no less) on celluloid. Based on the bestseller by Thomas Keneally.

Other merited Academy Awards include Picture, Screenplay (Steven Zaillian), Musical Score (John Williams), Cinematography (Janusz Kaminski), Art Direction, and Editing (Michael Kahn).   

**Kubo and the Two Strings** (2016) [101m] D: Travis Knight. C: Charlize Theron, Art Parkinson, Mathew McConaughey, Ralph Fiennes, Rooney Mara, George Takei.

Ingeniously infectious parable about a one-eyed urchin (charmingly voiced by Parkinson) gifted with magical storytelling and pursued by his wicked aunts and grandfather. On his quest to recover sacred family relics, to aid him in his battle, he is joined by an overprotective monkey and a scatterbrained beetle.

An absolute knockout: a vibrantly satisfying voyage that seamlessly integrates state of the art computer generated imagery with traditional stop-motion animation to construct a world of wonder and imagination. A true gem.   



*Mark WHELAN*