

Roland's Movie Ratings (as of June 9, 2017)

Movie	Watched	Grade	Notes
2 Days In New York	16J07	D	Stupid, vulgar movie about a French family visiting their daughter/sister in New York. Watched about 20 minutes before giving up.
21 Grams	13E17	B-	Silly title (refers to weight supposedly lost when person dies), disjointed film, but great acting (Sean Penn) and important issues.
42, The Jackie Robinson Story	14A17	A	A great movie! Even though I knew the basic story, it still fascinated me. Fun to see actors playing ballplayers I used to follow.
45 Years	17D21	B	One week before couple's 45th anniversary, body of his first love is found in Alpine crevice; issues of trust, secrecy, and forgiveness.
50/50	14J24	C	Vulgar, frivolous comedy about 27-year-old who has cancer, loses girlfriend, but is helped by faithful, raunchy friend.
About Elly	4/22/16	B	Weekend vacation of former Iranian college friends turns grim when invited guest, young teacher, goes missing. Good mystery.
Adaptation	16L23	C+	Screenwriter makes film about journalist who writes book about, and falls in love with, rare orchid hunter. A bit too clever & artsy.
American Hustle	14J03	B-	Based on the 1980s Abscam scandal, almost everyone in this film is phony and dishonest. A bit confusing, but pretty good.
Amour	16H12	B-	Elderly man does his best to care for his wife after she suffers 2 strokes, but she just wants to die. No transcendent hope here.
And Justice For All	13I06	B	Conscientious defense lawyer tells jury his client, a prominent judge, is <u>guilty</u> of rape. Funny, good acting, exaggerated plot.
Anna Karenina	13K01	B-	Based on Tolstoy's classic novel, this film has very high ratings, but a little too artsy for me. Semi-realistic, but partly dream-like.
Anna Karenina	15J09	B-	Watched this 2012 version for the 2nd time. Keira Knightly is great as Anna, but the way it's staged is a little confusing.
Another Year	14/F06	C+	Mature married couple try to help dysfunctional single friends; ordinary-looking actors, interesting but plot not tied together well.
Argo	14D15	B-	Rescue of six Americans during Iranian crisis when Jimmy Carter was president. Well done, but not my kind of movie.
Arranged	12B03	A-	Really enjoyable! About a friendship between two young women, one Muslim and one Jewish, who both have arranged marriages.
Artist, The	12K16	B-	Interesting film about silent movie star's difficult transition to the "talkies."
As It Is In Heaven	13B01	B	Famous but fragile musician returns to his hometown in Sweden, transforms church choir, and helps transform damaged lives.
Babel	13C01	B+	Somewhat disjointed film about inability to communicate, set in Egypt, Mexico and Japan. Disturbing but extremely interesting.
Bagdad Café	12K09	B+	Strange, funny movie, about a failing restaurant/gas station near an Indian reservation. Stranded German tourist revitalizes cafe.
Barbara	16I16	B-	East German doctor in 1980, transferred to boondocks because she asked for exit visa, allows another girl to escape in her place.

Before Midnight	15K13	B+	Part 3. Jesse and Celine, still in love, meet again when he is over 40, divorced with a little boy, and she has twin daughters.
Before Sunrise	15J/30	B	Part 1 of trilogy: young couple meet on train, spend night talking and wandering in Vienna, and make plans to meet in six months.
Before Sunset	15/K06	B	Part 2 of trilogy: they do not meet in 6 months, but do accidentally 9 years later in Paris. He's married; she's not; they still hit it off.
Being Julia	13E24	C	Aging English actress Julia, has affair with young American, but he falls for actress his age; Julia gets revenge by upstaging her.
Bella	11/L/21	A-	Beautiful, great themes (pro-life, family, single parenthood, etc.) but perhaps a little too sweet and unbelievable.
Bend It Like Beckham	12E11	B	Teenaged Pakistani girl overcomes parental disapproval to play soccer, stars on English women's team, and gets scholarship.
Bicycle Thief, The	14H08	B	Old (post WWII) Italian film; man gets job requiring bicycle, bike is stolen, can't find it, so he tries to steal a bike and gets caught.
Big Kahuna, The	12B 24	B	Danny DeVito and Kevin Spacey go to a sales convention with a young Christian guy. Funny, vulgar, and thought-provoking.
Billy Elliot	12F01	D	Young athletic boy likes ballet rather than boxing, so he is assumed to be gay. Quit watching half way through.
Blue (Kieslowski trilogy)	15E01	B-	Widow of famous composer who dies in crash tries isolation, but ultimately befriends woman who was having affair with composer.
Blue Jasmine	16I23	B	After husband commits suicide in prison, New York socialite goes to live with sister in San Francisco, but keeps losing. Funny/sad.
Book Thief, The	14I26	B	Illiterate girl placed with German family during WW II is taught to read by her new "father" and by Jewish youth hiding in basement.
Bothersome Man, The	14H22	C+	Strange Norwegian film. Man arrives by bus to remote place, car takes him to city where all seem happy, but he just doesn't fit in.
Boyhood	16A15	B-	12 years of a boy's life in a changing, dysfunctional family; he receives much advice about responsibility from irresponsible adults.
Boy in the Striped Pajamas, The	14J31	B+	Son of Nazi concentration camp commander sneaks into camp, dies with Jewish boy and other Jews in gas chamber. Sobering.
Bride Flight	15E15	B+	Post-war flight of Dutch women to meet husbands in New Zealand; marital infidelity & nudity; harsh judgment of church leaders.
Bridge of Spies	17D14	B+	Tom Hanks does a great job negotiating cold war exchange of U2 pilot (Gary Powers) for USSR spy caught in Brooklyn.
Brooklyn	17E05	B	Irish immigrant falls in love with & marries Italian in Brooklyn, then on visit to Ireland finds another man. Which will she choose?
Captain Phillips	15J02	A-	Terrific dramatization of Somali pirates seizing a U.S. container ship in 2009, with Tom Hanks as ship captain. High suspense.
Catch Me If You Can	13E30	B	Tom Hanks as FBI agent chases master fraud artist (Leonardo DiCaprio). Based on true story but probably exaggerated.
Changing Lanes	15B27	A-	Fender-bender accident leads to late appointments for drivers, nearly destroying their lives. Great acting and believable plot.

Children of a Lesser God	14J17	B	New teacher at school for deaf falls in love with emotionally damaged alumna working as custodian; they help each other grow.
Children of Chabbannes	14A31	B-	Documentary about small village in France that harbored and rescued Jewish children in WWII. Mostly interviews with survivors.
Chorus, The (Les Choristes)	17B17	B-	Predictable plot – gifted teacher changes troubled students' lives – but well done; new prefect at sadistic school starts chorus, etc.
Cinema Paradiso	15H07	B	Long, slow start, but ultimately really interesting; boy in pre-war Italy, loves movies, becomes famous director but loses girlfriend.
Company Men	13C22	C+	Executives in down-sized shipbuilding company try to cope. Fairly interesting, but not compelling plot.
Concert, The	13K14	B-	In this USSR-era comedy, former Jewish members of the Bolshoi Orchestra, travel to Paris for an improbable reunion concert.
Concussion	17A13	B	Nigerian pathologist challenged NFL after discovering that many football players suffered deep brain injuries from concussions.
Conspirator	15J23	B	Historical movie, apparently based on facts, directed by Robert Redford about trial of Mary Surat for conspiring to kill Lincoln.
Contact	14A24	C+	Atheist scientist (Jodie Foster), counterbalanced by so-called spiritual guru, travels to distant planet, finds her deceased father.
Crimes and Misdemeanors	14E02	B-	Woody Allen film. Ophthalmologist arranges to have his former mistress murdered. Funny, but weak resolution of moral issues.
Daily Special	12D27	C+	A cook heading for Paris takes over the family's Indian restaurant when his father has a heart attack. Funny in parts, but average.
Darjeeling Limited, The	15A16	C+	Beautiful but unsatisfying film about 3 brothers from dysfunctional home who take a train trip across India to rekindle their bond.
Dear God	12E25	C-	Con man gets assigned to dead letter office; he and co-workers read "Dear God" letters and try to answer some of them. Silly.
Delicacy	17B10	B-	French romantic comedy; young widow falls for Swedish co-worker who is quiet but pretty funny. Not profound, but entertaining.
Departures	13C29	B-	Japanese cello player finds new job grooming bodies for cremation. Better than it sounds, but much mushy symbolism of death.
Descendants, The	12C23	B	One of the descendants of a Hawaiian family controlling an enormously valuable chunk of land works through family problems.
Dish, The	13G20	C+	Quasi-documentary about a satellite dish in remote Australia that beamed TV images of the Apollo 11's moon landing to the world.
Doubt	14C21	B	Nun (Meryl Streep) wrongly suspects priest (Philip Seymour Hoffman) of sexual abuse of altar boy. Absorbing and well-acted film.
Drive	16H26	C+	Really an updated western, with a movie stunt man driver as the "cowboy" who kills all the bad guys, helps a young widow, and then rides out of town, alone, in his Chevvie Camero. Too violent.
Drop, The	15L18	C+	This crime drama set in Brooklyn is pretty violent, but good acting by Tom Hardy & James Gandolfini (his last film); worth watching.
Duchess, The	14L26	C+	Keira Knightley as wife of 18th century aristocrat; both adulterers; she stifles her liberal political views to avoid losing her children.

Elizabeth	11L23	B	Pretty interesting drama about the first Queen Elizabeth of England.
Encounters at the End of the World	12A27	C+	Documentary about antarctica. Interviews with scientists and others. Not very interesting to me, but beautiful photography.
End of the Affair, The	16A22	B+	Really good movie based on Graham Greene novel; wife in sterile marriage falls in love with another man ... until God interferes.
Enough Said	14A10 16K04	C C+	Somewhat far-fetched entanglements of divorced couples; watched twice (mistakenly); found it a bit more humorous second time.
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind	14B23	C	Erasing all memories of a former boy- or girl-friend. Too confusing, although if we hadn't been so tired we might have enjoyed it.
Everything Must Go	14L19	C+	Alcoholic executive fired, locked out of house with his stuff on the lawn, has big yard sale, runs out of beer and finally sobers up.
Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close	13E10	B-	Tom Hanks & Sandra Bullock as parents of nerdy boy who hunts all over NYC for lock to fit key left by his father who died in 9/11.
Eye in the Sky	16K11	B+	Helen Mirren stars in this excellent film highlighting difficult moral issues involved in using drones to kill terrorists in Ethiopia.
Far From the Madding Crowd	16I09	C+	Based on Thomas Hardy classic, Young woman inherits farm & handles everything except romance. Not too believable in parts.
Far From the Madding Crowd	17D28	B-	Enjoyable 2015 version with Carey Mulligan as Bathsheba, who inherits a farm but makes some impetuous choices; good acting.
Fill the Void	15K27	B-	18-year-old sister of Orthodox Jew who dies in childbirth is importuned by family to marry widower; she agonizes but finally agrees.
Finding Forrester	12A20	B	Black teenager from inner city, great basketball player but loves to write, gets scholarship to private school. Pretty good.
Finest Hours, The	16J07	B+	Outstanding film based on extraordinary rescue of 32 seamen on a ship that broke in half during a violent Atlantic storm.
Five Easy Pieces	14B07	C+	Young Jack Nicholson as aimless misanthrope & failed musician, quits work in oil fields, visits family and father who had a stroke.
Florence Foster Jenkins	16I07	B+	New York socialite (Meryl Streep) in 1940's dreams of becoming a great singer. Trouble is, she can't sing. Hilarious!
Freedom Writers, The	12K02	B-	Another white-teacher-revolutionizes-ghetto-school movie, set in L.A. after Watts riots. Teacher, Hillary Swank. Fairly well done.
French Lieutenant's Woman	13H03	B-	Story of Victorian sexual and social oppression, with confusing modern parallel story. Meryl Streep & Jeremy Irons.
Frozen River	13I27	B	Two desperately poor mothers, one native American, get involved smuggling aliens across a frozen river on the Canadian border.
Gift, The	14I19	B-	A woman who scrapes out a living telling fortunes helps find the body of a murdered woman, and becomes a suspect herself.
Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story	12F08	A-	Very inspiring true story of black boy, with illiterate single mother, who grows up to be chief of neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Univ.
Girl From Paris	13D05	B	Young woman quits job in Paris and buys a goat farm in a remote area from an old widower with mixed emotions about selling it.

Glory Road	15H10	B	1966 Texas Western, using all black players, beats mighty Duke in 1966 NCAA final, opening door to integrated sports in south.
Gone Girl	15E08	B-	Clever scheming wife ("Amazing Amy") frames her husband for her "murder" and then disappears, but returns to him in the end.
Gone Girl	17C24	C+	Watched again (by mistake). Seemed a little more contrived and not quite as believable, although entertaining.
Good Will Hunting	14D18	C+	Matt Damon as genius who's a janitor at MIT until helped by psychiatrist to accept himself. Interesting, but not great.
Gosford Park	16L16	C+	Murder mystery set during 1932 shooting party weekend at British country house. A big confusing and not too interesting to me.
Gran Torino	15J16	B+	Clint Eastwood is great as cantankerous retired auto worker who dislikes his Hmong neighbors, but gradually changes his mind.
Great Santini, The	13J18	C+	An obnoxious, gung-ho Marine pilot bullies his family, apparently because there's no war going on. Too much military culture!
Green Mile, The	15I11	B	Entertaining Tom Hanks film about prisoners on death row, including huge black guy wrongfully convicted of murdering 2 girls.
Grocer's Son, The	13L19	B	After 10 years away, son is summoned back home to carry on grocery business in rural France when his father has heart attack.
Hairdresser's Husband, The	15L11	C+	Funny, sexy, a bit weird and unbelievable, but pervaded with nihilism; 2 suicides, anti-child, anti-aging, live for now and then die.
Hamlet	13H09	B+	Great acting in this almost literal retelling of Shakespeare's great drama. Long, but compelling for those who like Shakespeare.
Happy-Go-Lucky	14J31	C (?)	Watched part, but seemed to be a silly British chick flick.
Heartburn	14E23	C+	Despite the efforts of Meryl Streep & Jack Nicholson, this comedy is not too believable and overall pretty flat, though funny in parts.
Help, The	12B17	B+	Very enjoyable. Plight of "colored" maids in the south in early to mid-20th century. Good acting.
Higher Ground	12C30	B-	Struggle of young woman trying to fit in a fundamentalist church. Some exaggeration, but mostly descriptive.
Homecoming	12H31	B	Very enjoyable. Mentally ill mother abandons four kids, oldest takes charge and leads them to house of estranged Grandma.
Hope Springs	15D10	C+	Tommy Lee Jones & Meryl Streep are great actors and add a lot of humor to this otherwise stupid film about marriage counseling.
House of Mirth	15G10	B	Plight of single woman in New York high society, circa 1905, based on Edith Wharton's novel. Sad but very well done.
Howard's End	13 B08	C+	Based on the novel by E.M. Forster, this movie has gorgeous scenery, good acting, but a confusing plot. with a weak resolution.
Hustler, The	16A29	B	Young Paul Newman as pool shark defeated by alcoholism but ultimately overcoming it to win big. Interesting but not great.
Ida	15F12	B	Nun in post-war Poland, born Jewish, meets her Communist aunt, discovers her family's fate, tries her aunt's lifestyle, but then returns to convent.

Illusionist, The	15B20	B+	Highly entertaining film. Viennese magician's childhood girlfriend, fiancée of a prince, may or may not have been murdered.
Imitation Game, The	17C10	B	Good but ultimately sad story of Alan Turing, British cryptologist who solved Nazi Enigma code, shortening WW2, but committed suicide after post-war arrest and "treatment" for homosexuality.
Impossible, The	17A20	B	Tsunami destroys Thailand resort, but vacationing family of four survive, barely. Pretty exciting, but sad. Based on true story.
Infernal Affairs	15C20	C+	Hong Kong crime thriller, duel between police and crime boss, with moles planted on each side. Well done but confusing to me.
Interpreter, The	12J05	B	Pretty good political thriller, set at United Nations building in NY.
In the Bedroom	17F02	B	Doctor in Maine whose son is murdered kills murderer & hides the body. Well-done, sobering film, with inconclusive ending.
It's Complicated	13E03	D	Despite good acting by Meryl Streep, this is a silly, stupid movie about adultery and sex, although not explicit. Only watched half.
Jerry Maguire	14I13	B-	Tom Cruise as sports agent is upstaged by Cuba Gooding, Jr. in this highly entertaining 1996 comedy about NFL football players.
Jude	12J19	B+	Based on Thomas Hardy's novel, this film is well acted and raises some good questions. Probably more nudity than necessary.
Kandahar	17F09	C+	Afghan born Canadian tries to get to her sister in Afghanistan who lost her legs to land mine; eye-opening but inconclusive ending.
Lady in the Van	16G07	B-	How a crotchety, ill-kempt, poor, but educated woman (Maggie Smith) lived in a van parked in a writer's driveway for 15 years.
Last Station, The	15I04	B+	Excellent movie about the end of Leo Tolstoy's life and the battle between his idealistic followers and his strong-willed wife, Sofya.
Late Quartet, A	13L12	B	Oldest member of string quartet gets Parkinson's and has to quit, but group carries on with new cellist. Good acting.
Le Havre	16H19	B	Elderly shoe-shiner in Le Havre, France, finds and protects (with help from friends) young boy who is illegal immigrant from Africa.
Les Miserables	13F14	A-	Musical adaption of Hugo's classic novel. Great acting, great voices. Thoroughly enjoyable.
Letters to Juliet	13E03	?	Probably OK chick flick, but DVD jammed part way through so only watched about a third. Beautiful setting in Verona, Italy.
Life of a King	15C06	B+	Cuba Gooding, Jr. as an ex-con who teaches inner-city kids how to play chess and "play by the rules" in life as well as chess.
Life of Pi	15I18	B+	Fascinating story (fable?); ship with family bringing exotic zoo animals from India sinks in storm; only one son and a tiger survive.
Like Sunday, Like Rain	16C11	B	Very enjoyable; 13-year-old music prodigy in rich NYC family hits it off with his young, highly inexperienced, but caring new nanny.
Lincoln Lawyer, The	15B13	B	Entertaining story of lawyer who gets rich but guilty client off on rape and murder charges, but frees wrongfully convicted client.
Lion in Winter, The	15C27	C+	A reputed classic, with Anthony Hopkins & Katharine Hepburn, it does show 12th century England, but the plot is murky to me.

Lives of Others, The	13G05	B+	Really good movie (after I saw it twice) about an East German Stasi agent who first spies on and then saves a dissident writer.
Lore	17B03	B	14-year-old daughter of Nazi couple escapes, with 4 siblings and help of a Jew, to grandmother's house in Hamburg at end of WWII.
Lost in Translation	13B22	B	Very funny in parts; married man in Tokyo alone explores the city with young married woman whose husband is always working.
Mansfield Park	12A06	B-	Good but not great. Based on Jane Austin novel.
Maria Full of Grace	16K25	B	17-year-old Colombian girl becomes a "mule" transporting drugs to U.S. in her stomach, while pregnant. Not violent, but sobering.
Marie Antoinette	15B06	C+	Kirsten Dunst is pretty good as the famous French queen, but the film is mostly a girly spectacle. Not too much substance.
Martha, Marci, May, Marlene	12D13	B-	Girl whose mother died and father abandoned her joins a commune, escapes to newly-married sister's house, but can't adjust.
Master & Commander: The Far Side of ...	15D11	B-	Based on 2 of Patrick O'Brien's naval warfare novels, set in early 19th century. Well done, but too much senseless fighting for me.
Melancholia	14E09	B	Really interesting end-of-the-world film, with good acting but unclear plot. No real hope here, but nice humanistic ending.
Michael Clayton	14L05	C+	George Clooney in legal thriller, billion dollar suit against corporation for poisoning farm land. Interesting but difficult to follow.
Midnight in Paris	13A18	B	Woody Allen film about not living in the past; funny in parts.
Mighty Heart, A	15K20	B	True life film starring Angelina Jolie as wife of Daniel Pearl, Wall Street journalist who was captured and beheaded in Pakistan.
Million Dollar Baby	15G03	B	Great acting by Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman, Hilary Swank; girl boxer gets really good but paralyzed by low blow in last fight.
Moonstruck	15I04	B-	Italian family's widowed daughter gets engaged to one man but falls in love with & marries his brother. Not profound but funny.
Mozart's Sister	13G12	C+	Fictionalized story of Mozart's older sister, also a prodigy but a victim of gender discrimination. Not too interesting to me.
Much Ado About Nothing	15H21	B	Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson star in this film version of one of Shakespeare's best-known comedies. Very enjoyable!
Mud	14F06	B	Absorbing movie about two 14-year-old boys who help a man hiding from the law on an island. Raises issues about love & family.
Music of the Heart	12G06	B-	Violin teacher (Meryl Streep) who starts successful but unfunded program teaching inner-city kids to play the violin.
My Afternoons with Margueritte	14D11	B	Enjoyable French film. Man reputed to be a stupid oaf is changed by his friendship with a 95-year-old woman he meets in a park.
Mystic River	15A09	B+	Grim, amoral, but fascinating story of child abuse, murder and (mistaken) revenge, with great acting by Sean Penn and others.
Namesake, The	12B10	C+	Three generations of Indians shuttling back and forth from Calcutta to New York. Mildly interesting.

Nebraska	14G15	A-	Great film, funny and yet thought-provoking, about an old man who travels from Montana to Nebraska to collect sweepstakes "prize."
New World, The	15G24	C+	Although beautifully filmed, this is a real snoozer about Pocahontas and founding of Jamestown, VA. Probably highly fictionalized.
Nicholas Nickleby	16/L09	C+	Entertaining but overly-sentimental movie with standard Charles Dickens' features (sadistic boys' school, crippled boy who dies).
October Baby	13C08	B-	Pro-life film about consequences of unsuccessful abortion. Great message, well-acted, not preachy, but somewhat unrealistic.
Of Gods and Men	13H23	B+	Very good movie about monks threatened, then captured (all but one), and ultimately killed by terrorists during the Algerian war.
O'Horten (a.k.a. Odd Horten)	16G14	B-	Norwegian film; droll, even weird, adventures of retiring train engineer. Subtle Scandinavian humor & odd, head-scratching scenes.
Once	14L26	B	Really enjoyable movie about a romance in Dublin between two musicians, a guy who ditched his girlfriend and a married woman.
One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest	14G25	B+	Early, funny movie, based on Ken Kesey's novel, starring Jack Nicholson in a state mental hospital; raises mental health issues.
Osama	13G27	B	Good but depressing. Young Muslim girl dresses as a boy to escape Taliban and help her family, but is discovered & punished.
Outlaw Josey Wales, The	16C04	B-	1976 Clint Eastwood film that spoofs westerns (six-shooter never misses, or runs out of bullets) but carries anti-war message.
Out of Sight	15A23	C+	George Clooney & Jennifer Lopez are good actors, but the movie was too contrived and not really believable. Pretty funny, though.
Overnighters, The	15G17	B	What happens when flawed Lutheran pastor in small N.D. town allows job-seekers, including sex offenders, to stay in church.
Painted Veil, The	13A25	B-	Shy, socially insecure epidemiologist takes hastily married bride to China, she has affair, he forgives her, then dies of cholera.
Peace, Love & Misunderstanding	12L07	C+	Aged hippie (Jane Fonda) introduces long-separated daughter and two grandchildren to hippie culture. Mildly humorous.
Philomena	15H28	B+	With help of journalist, elderly, simple Irish woman searches for son taken from her as baby and sold for adoption by nuns.
Pledge, The	14D04	B	Really good movie about retired cop (Jack Nicholson) who solves young girl's murder. Great acting, but ending not too satisfactory.
Pride and Prejudice	12H17	B-	Enjoyable, especially because I'd read the book, but not that compelling. A lot about 19th century culture and manners.
Proof	15G31	B-	After crazy math genius dies, his older practical daughter tries to take care of his younger, unstable, but brilliant daughter.
P. T. Barnum	14K21	B+	Long, very entertaining movie about a fascinating 19th century icon who was not the best family man but reinvented the circus.
Queen to Play	12D20	A-	I really enjoyed this movie. A maid who cleans rooms for a living gets excited about chess, and ultimately wins a tournament.
Rachel Getting Married	14K07	C+	Wedding of older daughter in super-dysfunctional family, full of jealousy, vindictiveness, anger, bitterness, etc. Mildly interesting.

Reader, The	12F29	A-	A lot of sexuality/nudity, but the acting is great and the story compelling – about a Nazi prison guard who never learned to read.
Red (Kieslowski trilogy)	15D22	B	Last of a trilogy by Kieslowski; absorbing but confusing story of young model and retired judge, and how their lives converged.
Red Violin, The	12K30	B-	Interesting history of famous “red violin,” made centuries ago in Italy and ultimately obtained by fraud. Difficult to follow in parts.
Ref, The	13H16	B-	Funny story of burglar surprised in the act, who escapes by taking married couple hostage, but their bickering drives him crazy.
Return to Me	12H24	C+	Chick flick, mildly humorous. Italian girl gets heart transplant, then falls in love with donor’s widower.
Revolutionary Road	13D19	C+	Bored young suburban couple decide husband will quit corporate job & they’ll move to Paris; then he gets a promotion and stays.
Room With a View, A	13F07	B-	Proper English girl is impulsively kissed by free-spirited guy, then engaged to bookish nerd, finally marries free spirit. Good story.
Royal Affair, A	15E29	B-	18th century Denmark, half-crazy king, a new queen who has affair with king’s private German doctor with overly-liberal views.
Royal Tenenbaums, The	17E26	C+	Wes Anderson film about wildly dysfunctional family coming together, sort of. Funny in parts, but not really believable.
Saving Mr. Banks	15L04	B	Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson re-enact the making of the original Mary Poppins film, which I had never seen. Very enjoyable.
Scarlet Letter, The	13A11	B-	Adapted (freely?) From Nathaniel Hawthorne’s famous novel, this movie was enjoyable although a bit hard to follow. Good acting.
Schindler’s List	13J04	A-	Sobering film about German factory owner who grew rich using Jewish slave labor but changed to rescue many from Holocaust.
Scoop	14E30	B+	Nonsensical plot about post-death experiences, but Woody Allen is really funny; also stars Hugh Jackman and Scarlett Johansson.
Secret in their Eyes, The	14G11	B	Absorbing film from Argentina about a 20-year-old murder/ rape case; a bit confusing, but raises issues of justice and revenge.
Selma	17E19	A-	Superb documentary about Martin Luther King Jr. and the famous civil rights march from Selma to Birmingham, Alabama.
S�raphine	13F28	B-	Devout house cleaner secretly paints brilliant canvases, is helped by art dealer, but her mind deteriorates and she dies in asylum.
Seventh Seal, The	13 K15	?	Watched about half of this famous Ingmar Bergman movie, without understanding much of its symbolism. Too tired to finish it.
Shakespeare High	16E13	B-	Student drama clubs from many diverse high schools compete in a Shakespeare festival. Entertaining but not great Shakespeare.
Short Term 12	16I30	B	Thought-provoking drama about group home for troubled teens.
Sideways	14G29	C	Former college roommates tour California wine country for bachelor fling, taste wine, meet and seduce girls. Funny but sad too.
Silver Linings Playbook	14C14	B-	Not profound, but very entertaining story of how two mental cases develop a relationship that helps both of them. Funny in parts.
Sixth Sense, The	12C02	B-	Psychological thriller about a little boy who can see things others can’t, like past events, dead people, etc.

Sleepwalk with Me	16J14	C	Silly but somewhat entertaining movie about a stand-up comedian who has a sleep-walking problem.
Smoke Signals	12E04	C+	Two Native American teenagers leave the reservation to find out what happened to the father of one of them. Mildly interesting.
SnowCake	12A13	B+	Absorbing movie about an autistic woman whose free-spirited daughter was killed in truck-car accident.
Social Network, The	14F27	B-	History and development of Facebook, created by Mark Zuckerberg, a Harvard student, computer genius, and social misfit,
Soloist, The	13K/16	C+	Journalist for L.A. Times discovers homeless street musician, who attended Julliard, and helps get him an apartment.
Something's Gotta Give	14F/13	B-	Not much of substance, but Jack Nicholson is pretty funny in this comedy about a middle-aged couple.
Songcatcher	15F19	B-	Music professor, passed over for promotion, goes to Appalachia, collects folk music, and falls in love with a "mountain man."
Sophie's Choice	16C25	B	Meryl Street, beautiful Polish survivor of Nazi death camp, had to choose which child to save, then lived with guilt all her life. Sad.
Spotlight	16G01	A-	How the Boston Globe, with a new Jewish editor-in-chief, uncovered the priest pedophile scandal in Catholic Church. Superb!
Station Agent, The	13J11	B	Good film about a reclusive dwarf who inherits an abandoned railway station in New Jersey and opens up to two unlikely friends.
Still Mine	14K28	B-	Quasi-documentary about 83 (or 87) year old man who, despite regulatory problems, builds a house for his wife with dementia.
Strangers	13C15	B-	Backpack mix-up between Palestinian woman and Israeli man in Berlin leads to affair, followed by personal and political problems.
Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness	15L25	A-	Inspiring documentary about a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania who risked his career to rescue thousands of Jews during WW II.
Sully	17E12	B+	Tom Hanks as the pilot of the "Miracle on the Hudson" emergency landing of an airline with 155 passengers all surviving.
Sun Don't Shine	17D07	C+	Strange but interesting movie about young couple in Everglades to hide a body (her husband's or father's?). Great acting by girl.
Tell No One	15E22	B+	Fascinating French mystery about a doctor charged with killing his wife, who turned up alive. Very complex & hard to follow.
Tender Mercies	13I20	B	Alcoholic former country singing star finds new life when church-going motel/gas station owner employs and then marries him.
Tenth Man, The	12J26	B+	Absorbing story based on Graham Greene novel set in 1941 Paris; lonely lawyer buys his way out of being executed by Nazis.
Terms of Endearment	14E16	B-	Jack Nicholson and Shirley MacLaine are funny, but overall this amoral (but not graphic) mother-daughter conflict film is so-so.
This Is Martin Bonner	17C31	B-	Retired, divorced church business manager takes job as counselor for released prisoners in Reno with mixed success; abrupt ending.
Titanic, The	14C07	A-	Kate Winslet and Leonardo DeCaprio do a great job in this realistic, exciting 1997 dramatization of an enormous tragedy.

To Be or Not to Be	16D08	C+	Slapstick comedy about Shakespearean actor & cast out-smarting the Nazis in Poland. Silly & unbelievable but Ruth Ann liked it.
Tree of Life, The	13J25	B-	Gorgeous photography. Ambitious story of life from beginning to end of time, focusing on mid-western family in 1950s, with loving but over-bearing father and sensitive 19-year-old son who apparently commits suicide. A bit too long and symbolic for me.
Trouble with the Curve	16B12	B	Predictable, formulaic, preposterous plot, but we loved it. Classic Clint Eastwood as aging baseball scout with failing eyesight.
Two Days, One Night	17C17	B-	Worker laid off for depression spends weekend trying to get fellow workers to give up their bonuses so she can get her job back.
Two Jakes, The	14B28	C	1990 film set in 1948, Jack Nicholson as a private eye involved in a marital dispute. Funny, nostalgic (old cars, etc.), but confusing.
Unforgiven	16D15	B	Clint Eastwood & Morgan Freeman as former outlaws who leave their peaceful old age to kill a cowboy who cut up a whore's face.
Vitus	15F05	B	Highly entertaining Swiss film about a not-quite-believable child prodigy who longs to become just a normal boy.
Vicky Cristina Barcelona	14K14	B-	Woody Allen film about 2 American women who find sexual and other adventures in Spain. Not great, but humorous & intriguing.
Wadjda	17B24	B	Saudi girl longs for bike and finally gets one, but her father hurts her mother by taking a second wife. Good look at Islamic culture.
Walk in the Woods, A	15I24	B	Robert Redford leaves his wife (Emma Thompson) to hike the Appalachian Trail, sort of, with Nick Nolte. Silly but very funny.
Walk the Line	16J28	B+	Life of Johnny Cash, with Reese Witherspoon as his wife, June Carter Cash. Shows effects of bad parenting and drug addiction.
Way, The	14J10	B+	Ophthalmologist learns that his son died on a pilgrimage through the Pyrennes; decides to finish the journey with his son's ashes.
Whales of August	16L02	B-	Bette Davis, Lillian Gish as 2 elderly, contrary sisters, one blind, living in an island cottage in Maine. Poignant, beautiful scenery.
What Maisie Knew	14B14	C+	Tumultuous life of little girl (5-6?) tossed back and forth between divorcing parents, new step-mother & father, etc.
When I Saw You	15A30	B	1967: bright 11-year-old boy in refugee camp in Jordan with his mother misses his father so much that he sets out to find him.
Where Do We Go Now?	13I13	C+	Lebanese comedy, a bit silly. Christian & Muslim women in same village conspire to quell potential violence of their men.
White (Kieslowski trilogy)	15D28	C+	Male hairdresser stuffs himself in suitcase to get back to Poland; gets rich & fakes his own death to get his former wife to join him.
Winter's Bone	12F22	C (?)	Watched part, but Ruth Ann said it was too grim so we stopped.
Wish You Were Here	16G29	C+	Very pregnant wife, her husband, her sister and sister's boyfriend vacation in Cambodia, but boyfriend does not return. Why not?
Woman in Gold	17C03	B+	Feisty Holocaust survivor (Helen Mirren) recovers famous painting of her aunt stolen by Nazis. Well-acted & thought provoking.
