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And the Oscar goes to....

March 23, 2021 (<https://www.majority.co.uk/2021/03/23/>)

Dating back to 1927, we've hand-picked the top movies for you to watch before the 2021 ceremony.

It's that time of year again where Hollywood's finest come to celebrate the best films created in the past year and the winners take home the much-loved famed gold statue. 2021 marks a strange year for award season. Gone is the red carpet in favour of social distanced selfies from home. The tradition may have changed but it's the perfect time to get swept up in Oscar fever by watching some of the best films winning Best Picture. Dating back to 1927, we've hand-picked the top movies for you to watch before the 2021 ceremony.

1920s

1927: Wings

The very first film to win Best Picture at the Academy Awards, *Wings* tells the story of Jack Powell (Charles Rogers) & David Armstrong (Richard Arlen), two World War I fighter pilots who are both in love with Sylvia Lewis (Jobyna Ralston). Clara Bow co-stars as Mary Preston, the loveable girl next door.

1930s

1932: *Grand Hotel*

At a luxurious Berlin hotel in between the wars, the once-wealthy Baron Felix von Gaigern (John Barrymore) supports himself as a thief and gambler. Adapted from the successful Broadway play, Barrymore romances Grusinskaya (Greta Garbo), an ageing ballerina and teams with Otto Kringelein (Lionel Barrymore), a dying accountant against his former boss, Preysing, a crooked industrialist (Wallace Beery), and his ambitious stenographer, Flaemmchen (Joan Crawford).

1940s

1942: *Casablanca*

Rick Blaine (Humphrey Bogart), who owns a nightclub in Casablanca, discovers his old flame Ilsa (Ingrid Bergman) is in town with her husband, Victor Laszlo (Paul Henreid). Lazlo is a famed rebel, and Ilsa needs Rick's help to get her husband out of the country.



Casablanca (Image credit: Warner Bros.)

1950s

1952: *An American in Paris*

Jerry Mulligan (Gene Kelly) is an American ex-GI who stays in post-war Paris to become a painter and falls for the charms of Lise Bouvier (Leslie Caron). However, his paintings come to the attention of Milo Roberts, a rich American heiress, who is interested in more than just art.

1960s

1962: West Side Story

Two teenage gangs, The Jets led by Riff, and the Sharks led by Bernardo, struggle for control on the Upper West Side in 1950s New York City. At a dance, The Jet's Tony falls in love with Bernardo's sister, Maria. They know they can't be together because of the gangs but that doesn't stop them.

1970s

1973: The Godfather

In the first instalment in The Godfather trilogy, the story chronicles the Corleone family under patriarch Vito Corleone (Marlon Brando), focusing on the transformation of his youngest son, Michael Corleone (Al Pacino), from reluctant family outsider to ruthless mafia boss.



The Godfather (Image credit: Paramount Pictures)

1980s

1989: Rain Man

When car dealer Charles Babbitt (Tom Cruise) learns his estranged father has died, he returns home to Cincinnati where he discovers Raymond, his autistic older brother (Dustin Hoffman). His father's \$3 million fortune is being left to the mental institution in which Raymond lives. Motivated by his father's money, Charlie checks Raymond out of the facility to return with him to Los Angeles. The brothers' cross country trip ends up changing both their lives.

1990s

1995: Forrest Gump

Forrest Gump (Tom Hanks), a man with a low IQ, recounts the early years of his life when he found himself in the middle of key historical events and his relationship with childhood friend, Jenny (Robin Wright). Sally Field stars as Forrest Gump's dedicated mother.

2000s

2009: Slumdog Millionaire

Surviving on the streets of Mumbai with his brother as a stable of thieves 18-year-old Jamal Malik (Dev Patel) becomes a contestant in the show "Kaun Banega Croorepati?", an Indian version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?". When interrogated under suspicion of cheating, Jamal flashbacks to how he got there.



Slumdog Millionaire (Image credit: Fox Searchlight Pictures)

2010s

2018: The Shape of Water

The Shape of Water is an otherworldly tale during America's Cold war era circa 1962. In the hidden high-security government laboratory where she works, lonely Elisa (Sally Hawkins) is trapped in a life of isolation. Elisa's life is changed forever when she and co-worker Zelda (Octavia Spencer) discover a secret classified experiment.

Getting caught up in Oscar fever?

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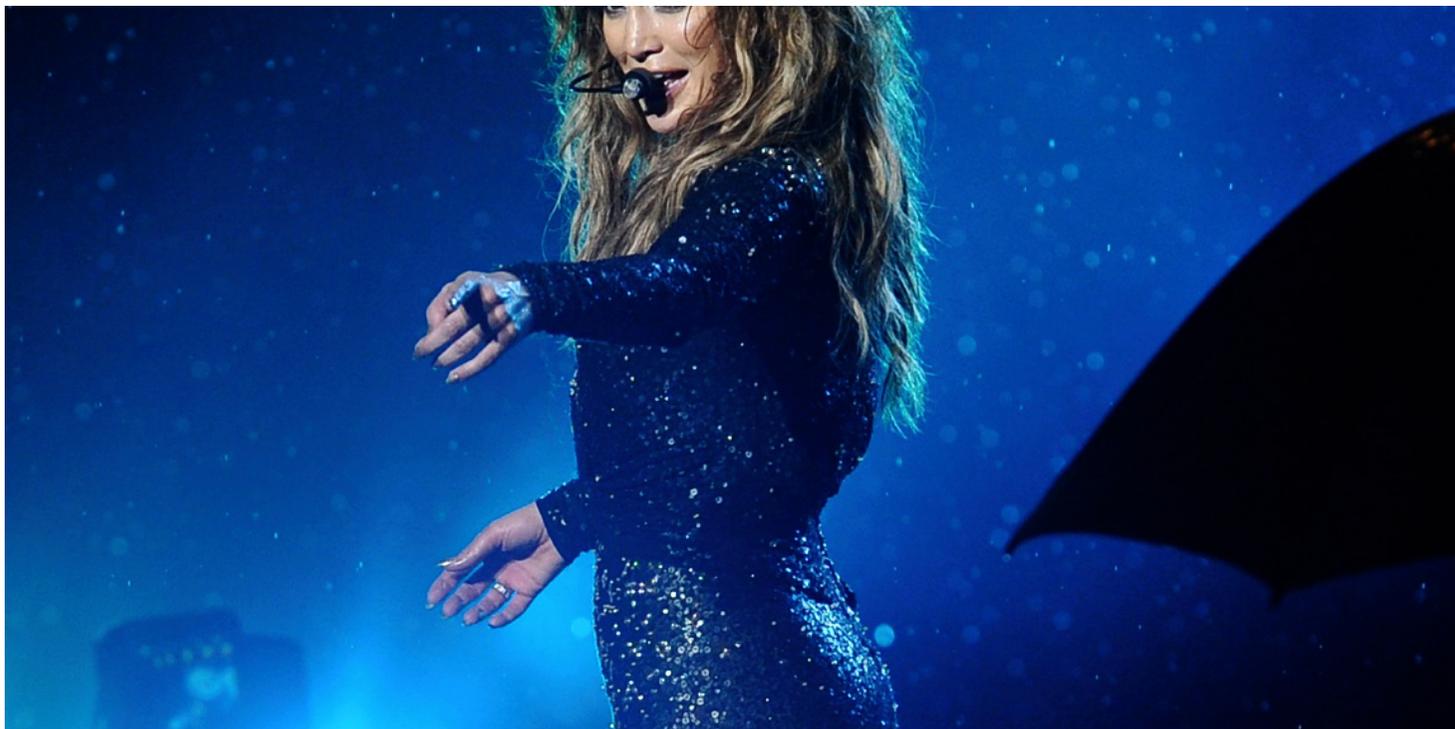


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