

Shows & Movies

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Quick Jump:

TV Shows	1
Movies	7
Documentary	8

TV Shows

Peaky Blinders (Netflix)

This is nothing new but if you have not watched Peaky Blinders yet, you are missing out! I watched 5 seasons in an embarrassing amount of time while I was on my maternity leave. This is just a really well written and acted show that my husband loves as much as I do, which is a rare find for us since I'm usually more of a Real Housewives type of gal..

-Claire Virga

Winning Time: The Rise of The Lakers Dynasty (HBO/Max)

With the "fourth wall" torn down and John C. Reilly revived, even a Hornets fan can get behind this slam dunk of a series. Adam McKay pulled out all the stops to deliver a star-packed show that is definitely not for the whole family. Watch it on HBO

-Patrick Mealy

Under the Banner of Heaven (Hulu)

I'm always a sucker for a good murder mystery and, while Under the Banner of Heaven, is less of a mystery than it's fictional counterparts, it packs a real punch and provides a thoughtful introspection on the complexities of modern faith. Watch it on FX by Hulu

-Patrick Mealy

PBS Masterpiece -- Downton Abbey, Sanditon, and Poldark

On a completely different level, I also love a good PBS Masterpiece -- Downton Abbey, Sanditon, and Poldark are favorites. They're so beautifully, classically made.

-Caroline Chambers

Tehran

We recently binged it (and there are new episodes coming out currently) and it's really high-paced and addictive.

-Caroline Chambers

Drive to Survive (Netflix)

Charles Leclerc is an absolute snack.

-Alexandra Fortune

Catherine Cohen: The Twist...? (Netflix)

She's Gorgeous on Netflix. I first saw Cat at Club Cumming in NYC during one of her "Cabernet Cabaret" performances and she has really blown up since then! She's so funny and talented, definitely go see her live if you live in New York.

-Alexandra Fortune

Spirited Away (HBO Max)

Right now you can stream all of the Studio Ghibli movies on HBOMax as well as a couple cool docs about Hayao Miyazaki.

-Alexandra Fortune

WeCrashed (AppleTV), Super Pumped (showtime), The Dropout (Hulu), The Captain (ESPN+), TopGun: Maverick (Theatres), Elvis (Theatres).

-Colton Soref

Love Island

I'm not embarrassed to say that Love Island is the most entertaining thing on television. Watch the UK version and thank me later.

-William Hicks

Gomorra (HBO Max)

This is an Italian tv crime drama about the mafia in Naples. It's sort of a cross between The Wire and The Sopranos but it's way better than either of those two (hot take alert!). The Boston Globe says "Gomorra is The Sopranos on steroids, presented here in Italian with subtitles and minus any symbolism about ducks, mommy issues or a fretful therapist." There are 5 seasons and a spinoff feature film (La 'Immortal). You need to watch it in Italian with English subtitles to appreciate it.

-Charlie Morris

Alone (Netflix)

This is a reality show, where they take 10-15 survivalist-type people and separately drop them off alone in the mountains of Canada or Alaska in the late fall with limited supplies. They have to build their own shelters and hunt/fish for their food. They try to see how long they can last into the winter and the last one to quit wins \$1M. Most contestants end up quitting because of the loneliness as opposed to hunger or cold. You can watch it from your couch and feel like you're getting a little taste of their adventure.

-Charlie Morris

What We Do In The Shadows (Hulu)

It's a mockumentary about vampires who live in Staten Island. This show makes me so happy. It is a really smart, funny show that helps you decompress after a long day. It is full of surprises, wit, and dry humor. Watching it feels like you're hanging out with your best friend.

-Jillian Pauker

Patriot (Amazon)

Patriot on Amazon Prime. It's high on my list of the best television comedy series. For context, the others that are up there for me are Arrested Development, Veep, Always Sunny in the City, and The Office. It's a dark comedy that tells the story of a US intelligence agent who is both very capable at his job and very depressed. While foreign agents try to take him down, he'd prefer to be playing sad (and far too accurate) folk guitar songs. It's a shame that it only made it two seasons, but as it stands it's one of the most underrated comedy series you'll watch.

-Griffin Roer

Avatar: The Last Airbender

Warning: this is an animated show aimed towards children. But I absolutely love it. I'm not a parent yet, but my kids will watch this show and (hopefully) dress up as little air, water, fire, or earth benders. Those of you with kids...you're welcome! Netflix is coming out with its own live-action version in 2024, but do yourself a favor and watch the animated version first.

-Emory Smith

Naked Attraction (Max)

Disclaimer! NSFW! Not safe for kids! This is not quality TV, but it's entertaining. Naked Attraction on Max is the most absurd and entertaining show out there. This was discovered on a girl's weekend, and we could not stop laughing. It is a British dating show which involves a clothed person seeing potential suitors completely nude, with faces hidden, before deciding which one to go on a date with. It's wild and would be canceled so fast if made in America.

-Beth Nash

Severance (Apple TV)

The show stars Adam Scott as a low level office employee for a giant Apple-like company called Lumon. He is one of a handful of employees that get "severed", a medical procedure which completely separates his personal memories and work memories. Basically, he has two lives that aren't aware of each other, and he slowly uncovers the truth behind his company. It's directed by Ben Stiller and is a fantastic psychological mystery and satire on workplace culture. The show has one of the best finales I've ever seen. Watch it!

-Will Hand

True Detective (but only Season 1) on HBO.

Episode 4 has the best scene of anything I've ever seen on screen.

-Dylan Hannes

Lord of the Rings EXTENDED VERSIONS on Amazon prime

If you have watched lord of the rings regular version you need to go back and watch the extended ones because they are even more epic than the original ones and your head will explode with the amount of awesomeness that was cut out of the original films.

-Caroline Andress

Life Below Zero (Disney Plus)

Nat Geo series about people who live in the most remote parts of Alaska. Don't think I could do it but added traveling to Alaska to my bucket list.

-Leah Andress

People Magazine Investigates (Youtube TV or ID Channel)

For all the true crime junkies out there. 6 seasons of all the top People Magazine crime stories available to binge

-Leah Andress

Big Timber (Netflix)

My kind of reality show. Don't really know why I'm so obsessed with it, TBH. Something about watching half-crazed loggers with admirable perseverance on a remote island off the coast of Canada that gets me... Christina definitely doesn't get it.

-Henrik Schartum

The Bridge / Broen (Netflix in Norway. Not sure about the US).

We're generally obsessed with Scandinavian/Nordic noir series and this is by far the best one. Might actually be our favorite drama/crime series ever!

-The Schartums

Bad Sisters.

It is SO good. I love it, my husband loves it, my mom loves it... you'll love it. Just watch it. (AppleTV)

-Alex French Worely

Clarkson's Farm on Amazon Prime

London city slicker and motoring enthusiast takes over a 1000 acre farm in the Cotswolds. You definitely don't have to be a farmer to know how this works out. WeCrashed on Apple TV - understanding the cult of personality. Documentary Our Father on Netflix. OB/GYN secretly fathers 200+ babies in his town and thought he was helping women?

-Virginia Hamlet

Ramy (Hulu)

Ramy on Hulu is a dramedy that focuses on the life of a first-generation Egyptian American based in New Jersey. I love this show for the different perspectives it provides. First, the show is an authentic portrayal

of Muslim American life that we don't often see on television. Second, the title character is a lost millennial, with whom many of us can relate. He turns to his religion to find meaning in life, whose ideologies often conflict with the lifestyle of a twenty-something in America. Lastly, a large part of the show highlights the character progression of Ramy's friends and family. The acting of the ensemble cast is superb and the best I have seen in a while.

-Bonnie Kong

Letterkenny

From Left Field...This show follows the residents of Letterkenny, a fictional rural community in Ontario, Canada. Episodes open with the text: "There are 5,000 people in Letterkenny. These are their problems."

-Ian Rahilly

The West Wing

This rec probably shows my age (it debuted in 1999). It's a political drama created by Aaron Sorkin. Ranked among the best television shows of all time.

-Ian Rahilly

Shantaram (Apple TV)

This is my all-time favorite book. I'm hoping Apple TV does it justice.

-Ian Rahilly

Superfan Episodes of The Office

I've been watching the "Superfan" episodes of The Office on Peacock recently. They are generally 5-7 minutes longer than what was originally aired, so it's great to see some bonus material that's still hilarious even though it didn't make it in.

-Drew Thompson

The Playbook - Coach's Rules for Life on Netflix

I was not an athlete growing up and don't watch or follow a lot of sports now (Rob, can feel you cringing right now, sorry) In the of hilarity of all hilarities, I've found myself in a profession with a lot of sports metaphors and parallels. I had to watch this series as part of a coaching training recently, and I kind of didn't want to at first, but it ended up blowing me away.

- Kate Fitzsimons

Station Eleven

It's not for everyone, but Station Eleven blew me away. It can hit a bit close to home (it's about a not-too-nice future after a deadly virus), but it's so well done and it's such an emotional roller-coaster. I watched it a year ago and still think about it.

A few other mini-series that are worth checking out:

- *Band of Brothers*
- *Watchmen*
- *Chernobyl*
- *Mare of Easttown*

-Reid DeRamus

The Sex Lives of College Girls (HBO Max)

It follows four women who are suite mates as they embark on college. It's funny, but also is strongly reminiscent of growing up during college (especially with my 10-year reunion coming up!)

-Kelly Froelich

FBOY Island

Out of all the bad TV I watch, this is the only show that Octavio will watch with me. It follows three women as they have to choose which of the thirty or so men they'd like to continue dating and if they are a self-proclaimed nice guy or fboy. At the end, if they choose an fboy, the fboy has the choice of splitting the prize money or taking it all for himself. Nikki Glaser is the host which makes this show that much funnier.

-Kelly Froelich

Stutz

This is a beautiful Netflix documentary made by Jonah Hill about his therapist, Phil Stutz. This documentary really changed my perspective and helped me identify a deeper sense of my life purpose. One concept from the film that really resonated with me is the String of Pearls, a visualization which posits that every action you take has the same value, regardless of the outcome or whatever your mind might be telling you. I found this idea so healing because I often struggle with a desire for perfection, to the point where it's impossible to start a new project or explore a creative idea. Stutz posits the best course of action in these situations is to simply start and keep going. I loved this doc so much that I ended up buying both of his books and listening to several of his podcast interviews.

-Matt Huang

Shrinking on Apple TV with Jason Segel and Harrison Ford.

-Gabe Bratton Hall

Go to Movie: The Greatest Showman or Finding Neverland.

-Gabe Bratton Hall

Offspring on Hulu

Offspring kept me happily entertained during my maternity leave. It follows an Australian obstetrician as she navigates love and life with a quirky family that always has something going on. It was made in the 2010s, so it's a bit nostalgic and of course it has Australian accents which cannot be beat.

-Maria Cain

Recent Series: Last of Us (scary but good), Painting with John (out-there but good), White Lotus (devoid of value but good).

-Sayle Atkinson

Unchained (Netflix)

Unchained was particularly entertaining as it allowed for a deeper dive into a sport I have never really kept up with. So much so, I vowed to 'get super into' the Tour this year, only to not watch a single millisecond. But, my boy Jonas Vingegaard won, so all good there.

-MacGreagor Stevenson

Abbott Elementary

Such an incredible wholesome show that is short and sweet! It gives "Parks and Rec" vibes but for educators in Philly.

-Ann Stephenson

The Summer I Turned Pretty

Guilty pleasure teeny bopper show that I can't stop watching.

-Ann Stephenson

The Bear (Season 2)

Just crushed The Bear season 2. Way better than season 1 and might have entered my top 10 seasons of TV.

-Jordan Wilson

The Leftovers

I just finished watching The Leftovers last night. Loved it. Big, big shout out. It's nice to see a show that clearly knows where it wants to go and how it ends before it starts. A non spoiler insight is-- what's so great about the show is how instead of just answering or not answering your questions, it makes you question whether your questions were even worth asking. Such a great ending.

-Connor Youngblood

The Sopranos

My husband has never seen The Sopranos (marone!!!!) so I very kindly offered to re-watch the entire series with him. I remembered how great the show was, but I completely forgot just how funny it is. Highly recommend giving it a rewatch.

Also — I'm pretty sure the phrase Positive Vibes Only comes from The Sopranos!?! Pussy says it in season 2 when they are (SPOILER ALERT) at the hospital with Christopher after he gets shot and is half dead on the operating table. LOL. It's the most unhinged moment to say PVO that I've ever seen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLrlEdgh7JA>

-Charlotte Cruze

Succession

I am obsessed with Succession right now - the writing is next-level. I also love me some reality TV when my husband is traveling for work. I am binging Top Chef which combines two of my faves in one - food and reality tv!

-Lindsey Johnson

The Last Thing He Told Me

-Sterling Douglas

Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty

The title is self-explanatory, an entertaining comedy drama that also works as fictionalized documentary detailing the incredible story behind one of the greatest basketball teams of all time

-Matias Barbero

Dopesick

With a great performance by Michael Keaton, the mini-series explores the opioid crisis in the US

+ Bonus track read the book Empire of Pain in parallel or right after. Not directly related to the TV show, this non-fiction book details the history of the Sackler family, owners of Purdue Pharma, producer of OxyContin

-Matias Barbero

Daisy Jones and The Six

This was one of my favorite books, TV Shows, and soundtracks of the Winter/ Spring. Talk about a triple threat! Now, if a show is based off a book, I usually watch the show and THEN read the book. Or I watch the show and pretend I will read the book later and never do. This time around I switched up my strategy. I read the book first (highly recommend doing it that way) and then binged the TV show (which is on Amazon Prime) and then played the soundtrack on loop. If you loved movies like "Almost Famous" and "A Star is Born," this one's for you.

-Hannah Shatzen

Black Mirror (Netflix)

When I discovered this many years ago, I had to use some shady sites to watch it because it was a BBC show and wasn't in America yet. Now, on NETFLIX, it's worth a watch, and I love every episode. It talks about the pitfalls of technology in our lives but to an extreme level.

-Marco Scerna

Black Mirror is so awesome and unique. It's dystopian, which can be a bummer, but it really makes you think deeply about technological advances and all of their potential wide-reaching implications. New episodes just dropped and I binged all of them in a day.

-Will Nitze

Happy Endings

By far one of my favorite comedies that was canceled too soon. Happy Endings is essentially an updated 'Friends.' It's very underrated and so dang funny. I am sad that it was canceled, but it's worth a watch because it's definitely a mood booster.

-Marco Scerna

The Inventor

We have all heard about Elizabeth Holmes now, but I remember seeing this doc before the HULU show was made, and it is a fascinating downward spiral full of fraud and a very sad look at a person who wanted to be 'Steve Jobs' so bad that it ruined lives.

-Marco Scerna

Better Call Saul

I'm surprised more people haven't watched this Breaking Bad spinoff. It's a super slow burn with such a rewarding payoff. I remember watching and thinking I enjoyed the ride more than Breaking Bad. Highly recommend if you enjoyed Breaking Bad and want one more trip to that universe.

-Will Holwick

Drops of God (AppleTV)

I watched Drops of God on Apple TV (actually, a rec from @Smarterinasec) over the summer and really enjoyed it -- it starts out slow, but after the first couple of episodes, it really picks up. The plot is a bit farfetched, but still very well executed and really strong character development. If you are into wine, culture, and a complex plot, I highly recommend!

-Megan G. Guffy

Movies

Wind River

This is a VERY underrated movie IMO, and it has Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen. The plot centers around an FBI agent and a game warden investigating the murder of an Indian girl on the reservation.

-Marco Scerna

Hell or High Water

Your classic bank robber/heist movie but with some grit. This has Chris Pine and Ben Foster, and the legendary Jeff Bridges.

-Marco Scerna

Language Lessons

My wife and I just watched this COVID era movie and were so impressed by it. It's totally different in concept and delivery (it is told entirely between two people speaking on video chat) but the character development and the weight of the story left us both with positive vibes and warm hearts. Rent it on Amazon Prime

-Patrick Mealy

Theater Camp

In the midst of this summer's "Barbenheimer" blitz (yes I saw both, back to back, in costume, and I wouldn't have it any other way) I almost missed what became one of my favorite movies of the year. "Theater Camp" is a hilarious romp through a fictitious summer camp in upstate New York. And lucky for

you (and me, who has returned to it several times since seeing in the theater) it's streaming on Hulu. At a quick 93 minutes, it's guaranteed to make me laugh out loud.

-Hal Melia

NYAD (Netflix)

If you're looking for a kick in the a** to start 2024, look no further than NYAD. It's a movie about sixty-four-year-old marathon swimmer Diana Nyad, who was the first person to ever swim from Cuba to Florida.

Starring Annette Bening and Jodie Foster, you will be sobbing by the end (and evermore inspired to achieve your goals).

-Julia Lynch

Secretariat

I recently went to Kentucky and remembered how good the movie Secretariat was.

-Maggie Gavigan

Max Manus (movie) - on Amazon Prime (double check if it's available in the US).

I had to include another Scandinavian favorite. Solid war story based on a true story. Really good!!

-The Schartums

Good Boys

A comedy movie about 3 rising middle school boys. It's full of inappropriate humor that will bring you right back to the most uncomfortable and awkward time in your life.

-Liddy and Grainger Stewart

Wet Hot American Summer

The original movie, not the Netflix remake. It's just so fucking weird and funny and late 90s Paul Rudd is so hot. It immediately pulls me out of any slump I'm in. I can pretty much quote the entire movie, which drives my husband insane, which makes me love it even more.

-Caroline Chambers

Arrival

When I get hooked on a creator that I enjoy, I usually dive into their content and try to go through it all chronologically. I recently watched Denis Villeneuve's Arrival from 2016 (I know, a little late), and was blown away. He also directed Dune, Sicario, and Blade Runner 2049, which were all fantastic, so I'm going back and watching all of his movies from when he first started as an indie Canadian director.

-Will Bowron

The Way

This one goes back a bit (2010) but when I saw it I could not believe I had never heard of this famous trip "The Camino de Santiago" across Spain. It inspired me to walk a section of it with 14 women--including Rob's mom and aunt! The movie is a bit quirky but I love how it captured the spirit of "The Way" and especially love the tag line--You don't choose a life. You live one.

-Kathy Izard

Everything Everywhere All at Once.

A breath of fresh air from the repetitive remakes, sequels, prequels or something based off a comic book we've been suffocated with for the past decade. This film is one of the most original I've ever seen. So inspiring and detailed it was like watching a Wes Anderson film mixed with a classic Bruce Lee picture from the 1970s. Enter the Dragon meets The Darjeeling Limited. Fuck, that was awesome.

-Remington Williams

Air

the story of how Michael Jordan ended up wearing Nikes. Pretty simple movie but executed to perfection with a great cast and just the right amount of 80's nostalgia.

-Sam Leon

Documentary

Steph Curry Underrated (AppleTV+)

The recent Steph Curry documentary was pretty inspiring... talk about perseverance & mindset!

-Evan Helda

Robin Williams: Come Inside my mind

I love Robin Williams. He was my childhood. Mrs. Doubtfire, Hook, and Jumanji are childhood classics and will have a place in my heart forever. This doc takes a look into the mind of a legend in his own words.

-Marco Scerna

"Rotten" documentaries on Netflix

This docuseries highlights how "rotten" multiple industries have become due to greed and opportunity. I had no idea that Avocados had a dark side or just how absurd some of the bottled water industry is/was until I watched these.

-Murphy Holderness

Ice Guardians on Amazon Prime Video

If you've ever wondered why in 2023 guys are still allowed to legally (kind of, 5-minute penalty) street fight on the ice in the middle of the game, this is the documentary for you! Particularly for non-hockey fans, it demonstrates why this is still part of the game and really illuminates the role of the fighter in the NHL.

Though the sport is rapidly evolving towards more of a fast-pace, skill game, you'll still see the occasional fight at games and this explains why.

-Ted Gowney

Top Gun: Maverick

This broke my post-Covid cinema virginity. Boy, was it worth it. The special effects, the characters, the storyline. It had it all. My wife and I joke that our kids are Englerican - part English, part American. This film made me walk away feeling proud to be American, even though I'm English.

-Adam Thornhill