

Hey Y'all!

Very happy Sunday to everybody! I hope you all had a great week! This week's Cavalcade features a movie that is almost a few decades old at this point. It could be that the Cavalcade will veer into some classic or a little more obscure films from the past in the next few weeks or kind of just zig zag around! In any case, I hope to have some very interesting reviews for all y'all guys and gals! And to do a little bit of a teaser, I do plan at some point to do a brief rundown of some of the television and streaming shows that I have been casually viewing these days! And I know there is an MRC Sign-Up Form, but if any of you know anyone who you think would like to receive the Cavalcade, let me know! It would be great to add additional peeps to this email newsletter! I totally enjoy sending this email out to y'all every week and I am kind of a freewheeling person in that I don't really mind sending this Cavalcade out to people yet at the same time I am reluctant to try and convince people that they should receive it, looooo! Although maybe I should change my ways on that! And I should add, if any of you for whatever reason would like to no longer receive the Cavalcade, just let me know and I would totally and completely understand! People live such hectic lives these days, and it can be liberating to declutter, and it would be relatively harmless to start decluttering with something relatively nonserious/trivial/innocuous like a Movie Review newsletter!

And now this spiel will veer into a brief personal aside. I miss being politically active. There are so many worthy causes out there in the world. If anyone knows of any causes, political or otherwise that could energize me to sign a petition, donate, protest in the streets, hunger strike, write a letter, make a phone call, ect, ect, whatever, let me know! I say this in all seriousness, but at the same time I am too afraid of being and am reluctant to be vulnerable and earnest in this spiel for a Movie Review email newsletter, looooo (but not actually afraid of being politically active, seriously tbh). But really, I wish and hope to be more politically active and if any of you know of any causes that could energize me, let me know!

Okay, back to the Cavalcade! As always any feedback on reviews or any recommendations for tv shows or films that may be interesting to watch are always amazing and great! And as always the links to the MRC Sign-Up Form, Cavalcade Archive, and Cavalcade Categories can be found below! On to the Cavalcade!

[Sneakers](#)* (link to a fan created modernized film trailer, I'd only watch a few seconds of the trailer or jump around the trailer for a few seconds if I was going to watch this film) is an old school spy caper film from 1992 with a veneer of (then) modern technology and surveillance gadgetry thrown into the mix. It features a tremendous all-star cast including Robert Redford, Sidney Poitier, Ben Kingsley, Dan Akroyd, River Phoenix, Mary McDonnell, David Strathairn, Donal Logue, a young Stephen Toblowsky, and a cameo from James Earl Jones. This film was probably fairly entertaining when it was released in 1992 and in some ways has grown a little finer with age (the way a few films do). In that way, a film is somewhat comparable to alcohol. Although a lot of alcohol grows stale with age, some alcoholic beverages grow finer. *Sneakers* is

a prescient film in the sense that it points to the burgeoning Internet and the ever growing surveillance state years before America On-Line and the world wide web became global cultural phenomenons.

The film was written and produced by the same duo who wrote the classic 1983 film *WarGames*. *Sneakers* does not nearly reach the iconic status of that classic of film Americana, but it is an also entertaining and just slightly more mature offering that in many ways is within the same vein.

The film stars Robert Redford as Martin Brice, a man who has been on the run from the law since the Vietnam era when as a graduate student he was hacking the bank accounts of the Republican party along with his young friend and accomplice Cosmo. They were students who were hacking to redirect Republican Party funds to more noble causes in the hope of changing the world for the better. His friend Cosmo got caught while Brice narrowly escaped capture and Brice has been on the run ever since under the guise of an alias, Martin Bishop.

In 1992 Bishop and his misfit crew of hackers, tech, and espionage experts run a business where they test the security systems of industrial enterprises to let them know in what areas their security systems could be improved. However, this racket isn't too lucrative for Bishop and when a \$175,000 dollar offer from the National Security Agency (NSA) comes along to retrieve an electronic box from a burgeoning star mathematician, Bishop and his crew jump at the chance for this large payday. Complicating matters, they decide this even though working for the government risks once again entangling Bishop in his sordid past that he has been running away from for decades. And mix in an old love interest and this film has all the makings of an evening's worth of interesting entertainment.

What makes this film work when viewed in today's present is how quaint it is while still retaining a sense of nimbleness. *Sneakers* points to the future in a prescient way but in a way it can't quite accurately capture due to the limitations of 1992. And it speaks to issues that are very important to us today, such as cryptography and one of it's baseis, the inability of computers to quickly and efficiently find factors for very large numbers (thus allowing modern encryption systems to exist). The burgeoning field of Quantum Computing may hold the key to breaking even this layer of cryptographic protection, which (if proved out) would make *Sneakers* an even more ahead of it's time film.

The film is ably directed by Phil Alden Robinson (Field Of Dreams), who keeps the pace moving along well enough and skillfully imbues Bishop's crew with a cool and enjoyable sense of camaraderie. And he (and the writers) keep the viewer guessing. And to mix metaphors, like an

old clunker of a car. Give this film a few hard taps with a wrench or your clenched fist like you were thwacking a carburetor, and this ole' film will show you that it still has a few thrills left in it yet that still hold up and probably would still surprise any casual viewer. Like the old folks in this cast, *Sneakers* is a fairly mature, fairly entertaining film that stands as a marker in 1992 along with other films from different eras (such as 1998's *Enemy Of The State* and 2008's *WarGames: The Dead Code*) of how quickly and all-encompassingly the government and private sector surveillance dragnets have spread and encroached on all of our lives.

Well that's it for this week's Cavalcade! I hope everyone has a great week! As always any feedback or recommendations is great and amazing! Much more next week and much more after that!

Peace Y'all!

-Nandhish

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**Sneakers* is available to rent on various streaming video sites. If I ever saw this film on television I would say it is worth a watch with a glass of whiskey or some other intoxicant or at least worth a DVR to watch later, if you can do something like that. Especially if you are a film fan or a fan of the spy caper genre. Also, I first watched this film (and totally disliked it hahaha) as a kid when I borrowed a copy on VHS from our town's local library hahaha.