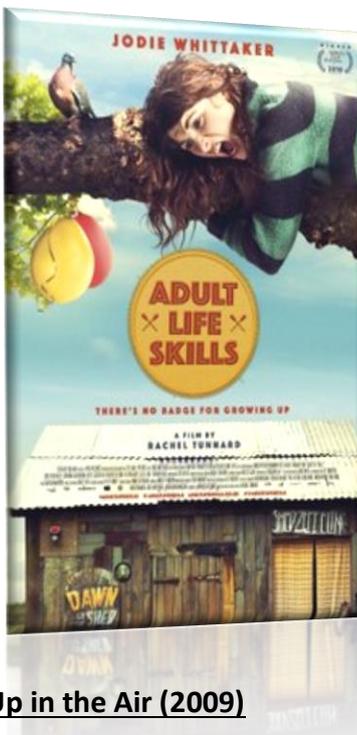


## ***The Learning Curve Goes To The Movies – The Sequel***

Have you finished watching the movies from our first film list? Don't worry our resident film expert has put some more film recommendations together to keep you going through lockdown.



### **Adult Life Skills (2016)**

Director: Rachel Tunnard

Starring Jodie Whittaker and Lorraine

Anna (Jodie Whittaker) is grieving the death of her twin brother and has retreated to living in her mother's shed and shutting out life. And yet, life keeps pushing her, her mother is trying to help her find a place of her own, her friend is trying to motivate her to go out and have fun and a little boy going through a life changing experience has come to stay.

The acting and writing is very good here. There is a lot of passion in this movie, as it started as a short movie to get the budget to make it feature length and the director and most of the actors returned, including Jodie Whittaker.

A quirky fun dramedy with a lot of heart.

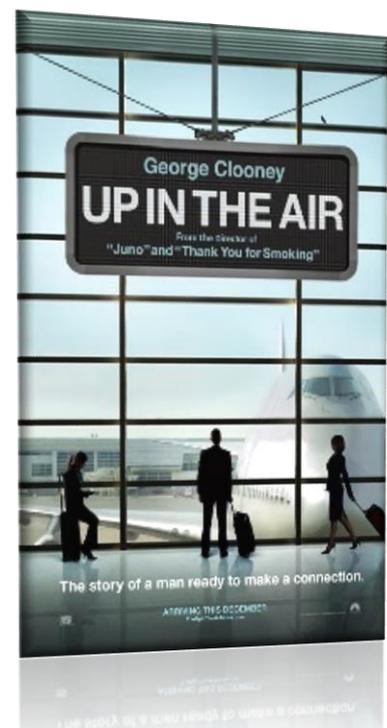
### **Up in the Air (2009)**

Director: Jason Reitman

Starring George Clooney, Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick

Ryan Bingham (George Clooney) works for a human resources consultancy firm specializing in termination, in short, he fires people. He loves the benefits of his job, flying from place to place, living out of his suitcase and he has the start of a romance with Alex Goran (Vera Farmiga) while on the road. But now Natalie Keener (Anna Kendrick) threatens his job and way of life when she introduces a new way of working online. While Ryan is training Natalie how he operates in the field they discuss life, work relationships and goals.

A cynical comedy of life changing and how little we have control over these changes. One person believes happiness is love and the other believes loneliness is happiness. A well-meaning, heartfelt movie that is able to stick the landing.





## Personal Shopper (2016)

Director: Olivier Assayas

Starring Kristen Stewart and Lars Eidinger

Maureen (Kristen Stewart) is a personal shopper and part-time medium living in Paris. She has been trying to contact her brother who has died recently. Her life becomes more complicated when she begins to receive text messages from an unknown person. Although the story is pulled in different directions as it is a ghost story, stalker, mystery and drama, it remains intriguing. This is an 'Art House' movie at its core, in the way the story is told in an unconventional way. It will not be everyone's cup of tea, but if any of this sounds interesting to you, check it out. Kristen Stewart gives a great and real performance.

## Little Monsters (2019)

Director: Abe Forsythe

Starring Lupita Nyong'o, Alexander England and Josh Gad

Dave (Alexander England) is an unlucky, out of work, struggling washed up musician sleeping on his sister's couch and has just had his heart broken. Things begin to look up for him, when he takes his nephew to school and meets Miss Caroline. Dave volunteers to chaperone the children on a field trip with Miss Caroline. This is his chance to get to know her but there's a pesky zombie outbreak they must deal with first while keeping the children safe.

An unusual feel good zombie movie. Not so much a horror comedy, than a comedy with zombies in it. This has been compared to Shaun of the Dead and Zombieland, which although fair, this does stand on its own. I would recommend this on Lupita Nyong'o's alone. A little comedy gem



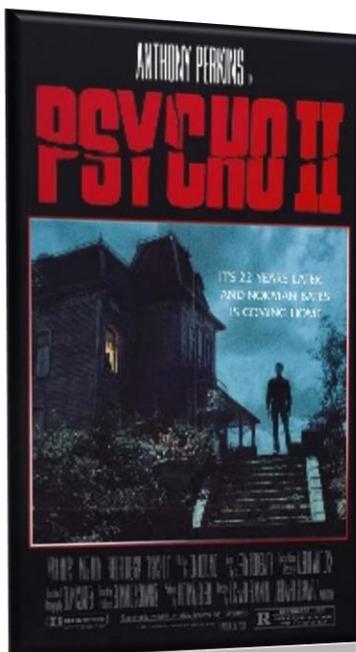
## Psycho II (1983)

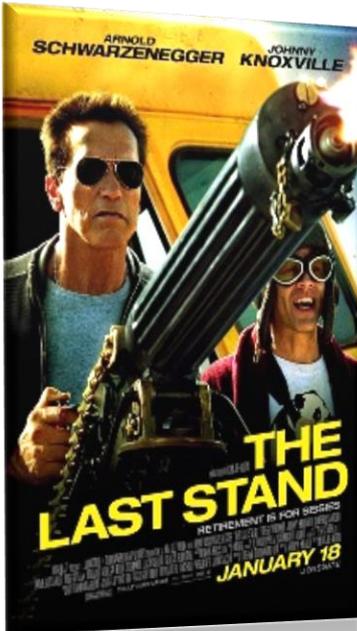
Director: Richard Franklin

Anthony Perkins, Vera Miles and Meg Tilly

After twenty-two years of psychiatry treatment, Norman Bates is now reformed and set free. Hoping to return to the motel and continue with his life but strange phone calls and a series of murders point to Norman. Has mother returned?

A follow up to Hitchcock's classic could easily be dismissed, believing that it could not live up to its predecessor or just repeat what came before. What the filmmakers do right is create an identity of its own with its own mystery. The Norman Bates character was played very well by Anthony Perkins. He is the main, sympathetic character. Bates was also a victim in the first movie and still is, in many ways. Call me crazy but Psycho 2 lives up to the first movie and is sadly underrated.





### The last Stand (2013)

Director: Jee-Woon Kim  
Arnold Schwarzenegger and Forest Whitaker

A sadistic drug lord escapes the FBI custody with the help of his crew and their race cars. He heads towards the Mexican border where only one thing stands in his way of freedom, an old Sheriff, and his inexperienced team.

Looking for something light, this may be for you. A fun, fast, well directed, Arnold Schwarzenegger action movie. He said he would be back, and he kept his word. Wow, a politician who kept his promise.

### The Babysitter (2017)

Director: McG  
Samara Weaving and Judah Lewis

12 year old Cole has many phobias and his parents are concerned about him when they are going away for a night. Bee is a good friend of Cole and will be looking after him, where they will have a night of watching movies, eating junk food and bed early. Cole decides to spy on Bee and her friends to see what they are getting up to, something he immediately regrets. He must now spend the night trying to get help and facing all his phobias.

A funny, cheesy slasher comedy. Once again this is a comedy, with some horror moments. The script is smart and the horror moments 'silly'. If you are put off by gore, maybe give it a miss, but these scenes are played for laughs. If you enjoy your silly slasher movies, then this is for you! Send the kids to bed and give it a watch!



### Blackkklansman (2018)

Director: Spike Lee  
Starring John David Washington and Adam Driver

Based on the true story about an African American police officer who infiltrates the local Ku Klux Klan over the phone. Using a member of his team to meet them in person, they work together to see what they are planning.

With everything that is happening now, this movie is very important. As with most of Spike Lee's work, he can show shocking scenes and moments later be humorous. This is a great movie that I cannot recommend enough. Once you have seen it, you will want to read the book to learn more.

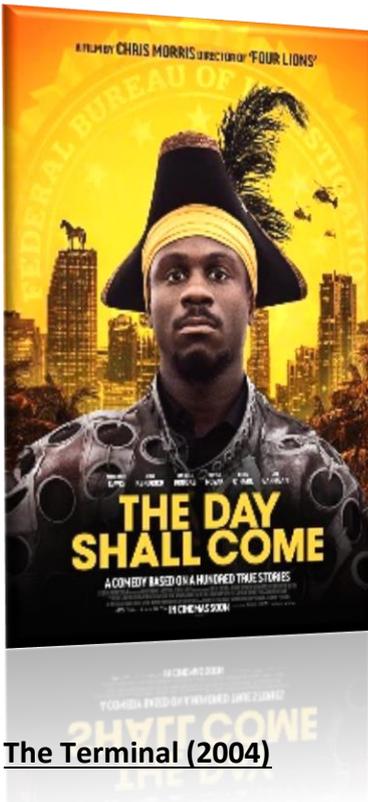
## The Day Shall Come (2019)

Director: Christopher Morris

Starring Anderl McPherson and Anna Kendrick

An impoverished leader of a small religious commune is at risk of losing his farm. He preaches that the day shall come that his army will rise up and take over, which lands him on the FBI radar. Although the FBI plan to turn him into a terrorist first by supplying him with weapons and then arrest him, in this false flag operation.

Director and writer Christopher Morris has stated that this is inspired by a hundred true stories, regarding on how the FBI operate. This is a sad and angry tale, showing how those in power can change the narrative to make heroes and villains. There is a lot of dark humour used to lighten the mood to show how absurd authority can be. This may not be Christopher Morris's best work but his work always shines a light on an important issue. This film is entertaining but will leave you angry.



## The Terminal (2004)

Director: Steven Spielberg

Starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones

An Eastern European tourist finds himself stranded in JFK after his country, Krakozhia breaks into civil war and the government collapses. The USA no longer recognizes him as an independent. He cannot enter the US or return home, so he must not remain in the airport. Finding ways to get food, where to sleep and other tasks to keep himself sane, it's not long until he forms a bond among the workers in the airport and a relationship with a flight attendant blossoms.

A feel good movie that may be what we need right now. Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones work well together. Staying in one location and showing a community building around the airport is very sweet. It is very entertaining and leaves you smiling.

