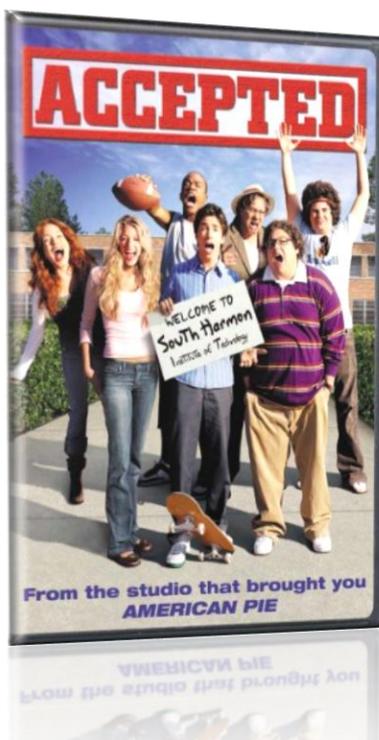


## **The Learning Curve At The Movies**

As we are all getting used to a 'new normal' the Learning Curve have compiled another movie list that reflects the current times we live in. These movies have been chosen by our resident film expert as they are about new starts and getting used to changing situations.

So get yourself comfortable, pick up some popcorn and enjoy these film classics!



### **Accepted (2006)**

Director - Steve Pink

After Bartleby Gaines (Justin Long) is rejected by every college he has applied for and his parents are disappointed and concerned for his future, he decides to set up a fake college with the help of his friends. Purchasing an abandoned hospital and creating a website that once you put in your details and click, you are accepted. Now all Bartleby needs to do is figure out what he will do for the summer, until actual students show up to the college. Now he needs to turn the fake college into a real one.

The director (Steve Pink) has worked on other movies such as 'High Fidelity, Grosse Pointe Blank and Hot Tub Time Machine' as a writer or director. Pink knows how to balance comedy and heart and he shows that here. What could have been another gross out teen comedy that could and would get lost in the shuffle of the others, does something different. It is a fun and inspiring college movie with a lot of laughs. There are many recognisable faces in the cast, as they were early in their careers such as Justin Long, Jonah Hill and Blake Lively. The cast play their roles well and have great comedy timing. This is on Amazon Prime right now, accepted is one click away.





## Monsters University (2013)

Director - Dan Scanlon

Mike Wazowski (Billy Crystal) is a small, open eyed green monster with big dreams, to be the number one scariest monster. James P. Sullivan (John Goodman) on the other hand is a big blue hairy monster who is a natural scarer and comes from family legacy of top monsters. Mike wants to prove himself and joins the scare games with other monsters who are seen lacking in the scare factor.



Monsters University is a prequel to Monsters Inc (2001). Do you need to have seen the 2001 movie to enjoy this one? No way, apart from a few call back gags you may not get, there is still a lot here to enjoy such as the amazing cast, Helen Mirren, Steve Buscemi and Aubrey Plaza who are great in the role. The animation is very colourful and sharp. The detail is amazing and every frame jumps off the screen. Monsters University is a funny, exciting, and enjoyable movie. Although it sticks close to the formula of other college movies this does have a twist, for one it's about monsters and two this has more heart. Yes, Monsters University gets an 'A' from me.

## The Aeronauts (2019)

Director - Tom Harper



It's 1862 a daredevil balloon pilot performer Amelia Rennes (Felicity Jones) and a pioneering meteorologist (Eddie Redmayne) go on a journey to discover more of an understanding of weather. They fly higher than anyone else in history, they face physical and emotional challenges in the thin air, as the ascent becomes a fight for survival.

This a beautiful movie from visual's to tone. The story is like a retelling of a fairy-tale as it has its soft moments but does not shy away from darker scenes.

The two main characters have something to prove to the world and themselves but how far will they push their luck as they battle elements to achieve their aim. An inspiring tale about the search for knowledge that takes you to new heights.





## Creed (2015)

Director – Ryan Coogler

The former World Heavyweight Champion Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone) becomes a trainer and mentor to Adonis (Creed) Johnson (Michael B. Jordan) as he follows in his father's footsteps to become champion boxer. For Johnson and Rocky the toughest fight isn't in the ring. If you are a fan of the original Rocky movie, then you will enjoy this movie too.

They are not about boxing, but about reaching your potential, your dreams and navigating through life.

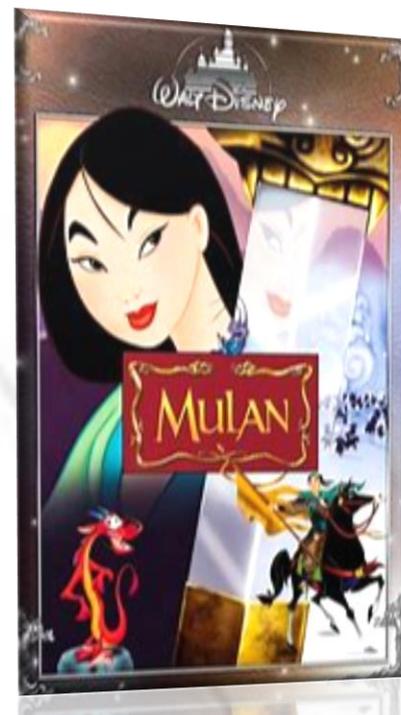
Johnson wants to follow his father's footsteps but also step out of his shadow and stand on his own two feet. This is an inspiring drama about a person struggling for his dreams and having the will to fight. Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone and Tessa Thompson are amazing here. Creed is a very well made movie that packs a punch.

## Mulan (1998)

Directors – Tony Bancroft, Barry Cook

When Mulan's ill father is drafted to join the army and go to war, she secretly goes in his place to save his life. Hiding her true identity, she must train, fight and become a hero.

There is a new Mulan movie added to Disney + but at the time of this review, you have to pay an extra £20 to watch it. Although the original is on the streaming services, which is very much worth a watch. The Mulan story is based on a Chinese poem "The Ballad of Mulan" and the Disney adaption is faithful, with only a few minor changes. The poem can be found online and is a short and nice read.



The movie, Mulan is just an average person who loves her family and wants to protect them. While in the army she must train with the men of that army, that all show hyper masculinity. Mulan may not have the same skills as the others, but she is smart, she is a problem solver and she has heart. Mulan is an exciting, heart-warming movie. The animation is beautiful, and the voice acting is on point. Mulan shows that we all have different skills, we are all on a different learning journey. As Mulan's father says when talking about flowers blossoming: "This one's late. But I'll bet that when it blooms, it will be the most beautiful of all".