

Movies to Watch on New Year's Eve

Going Out Is So Overrated!

This year, New Year's Eve celebrations will have to be done slightly differently due to the pandemic. So, the Learning Curve thought 'Why not just ring in 2021 with some feel-good movies in your comfy PJs instead?' After all, everyone knows that the best way to turn over a new year is snuggled up in front of the TV with a hot beverage in your hand.

The good news is, no matter how you want to feel going into the next year, there's a movie on this list that'll deliver. Best of all — you won't wake up the next day and begin January with a hangover!

Godfather Part II (1974)

Director: Francis Ford Coppola

Starring: Al Pacino, Robert De Niro, Robert Duvall



Continuing the saga of the Corleone crime family, the son, Michael (Pacino) is trying to expand the business to Las Vegas, Hollywood and Cuba. They delve into double crossing, greed and murder as they all try to be the most powerful crime family of all time. Godfather part II is hailed by fans as a masterpiece, a great continuation to the story and the best gangster movie of all time. This is a character driven movie, as we see peoples' motivations, becoming laser focused on what they want and what they will do to get it.

Although the movie is a gripping slow crime drama, it does have one flaw, and that is the length of the movie clocking in at 3 hours and 22 minutes. It does use the time well, with twists and turns throughout the story and very good character development. Godfather part 2 could have coasted on the success of the original but is a very good continuation of a crime drama and character study.

Trading Places (1983)

Director: John Landis

Starring: Eddie Murphy, Dan Aykroyd, Jamie Lee Curtis

Louis Winthorpe the 3rd (Aykroyd) is a wealthy snobbish Commodities director and Billy Ray Valentine (Murphy) is a fast talking poor homeless con artist. After a chance meeting that ends up with Valentine behind bars, a bet is made by the two callous millionaire Duke brothers. The Duke brothers reverse the positions of Winthorpe and Valentine to see the effect of the switched social classes. Winthorpe is helped by a working woman, Ophelia (Curtis) to try and get his life back together.

The comedy works very well here as the jokes come from human nature, the story of what would happen if two people from different backgrounds switched places, how would they react, how would they change?

The cast work very well and the three leads, Aykroyd, Murphy and Curtis are great actors and have very good comedy timing. The movie is good fun and has a lot of good comedy. If you are looking for a feel good comedy to end the year with, this could be the one for you!



A Long Way Down (2014)

Director: Pascal Chaumeil

Starring: Pierce Brosnan, Toni Collette, Imogen Poots and Aaron Paul

Four people just happen to meet on a roof top on New Year's Eve with plans to end their lives. They become a surrogate family and help each other through their issues.

This is a heartfelt movie, with very strong acting and has good dark humour about it. Dealing with issues of depression and the different forms it can take, like having no control, tiredness or not knowing why you feel that way. It explores these issues well, although I do wish it could explore them a little more, but it is a good start. The actors have good chemistry and work well with each other. The strongest part of the movie is these strangers become a supporting family.

A heart-warming and very enjoyable story about reaching out, supporting each other and making every second count.



Ghostbusters 2 (1989)

Director: Ivan Reitman

Starring: Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis, Bill Murray, Sigourney Weaver and Ernie Hudson



The Ghostbusters are under investigation after winning the battle against Gozer the Destructor, but leaving half a city block in rubble. While they are out of commission, a strange painting has arrived in New York City of Vigo the Carpathian and it is believed to be cursed. A mysterious pink river of ooze forms under New York City and begins to affect people's mood, making them angry. Are the two events linked? The Ghostbusters must get back into action and figure it out.

This film presses the reset button on the first story and starts all over again. The team need to get back together, Peter Venkman (Murray) and Dana Barrett (Weaver) are no longer together but are starting their relationship again. Ghostbuster 2 is a fun movie, full of jokes, amazing effects and great music. It may not be good as the original, but it certainly shouldn't be written off, as it's good to see these characters back in action.

The Apartment (1960)

Director: Billy Wilder

Starring: Jack Lemmon, Shirley MacLaine) and Fred MacMurray

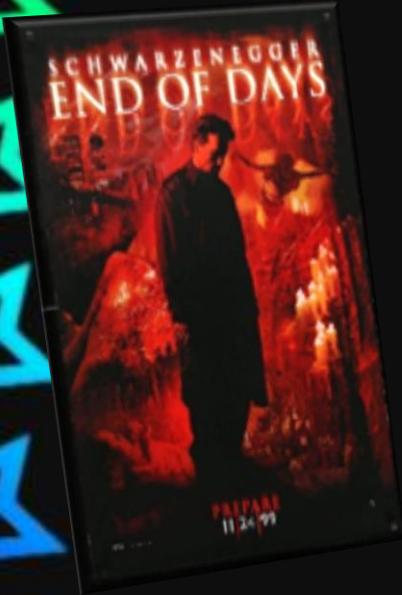
Baxter (Lemmon) is trying to fast track himself up the corporate ladder by letting his apartment to his executives, so that they have a place to take their mistresses. One night a heart broken woman, Fran (MacLaine) remains in his apartment, and now he has a problem to solve.

The characters of Baxter and Fran are two lonely hearts lost in life, and between Christmas and the New Year spend time together talking about their lowest moments. There is a nice humour to this movie as well as sadness, as the acting of Lemmon and MacLaine is amazing.

The Apartment is a nice comfortable comedy drama, which mixes funny with tragedy and love with heart break very well. All that matters is who do you start next year with.



End of Days (1999)



Director: Peter Hyams

Stars: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gabriel Byrne and Robin Tunney

At the end of the century, Satan (Byrne) returns to earth in search of Christine (Tunney) his bride and if she bears his child between 11pm and midnight on New Year's Eve, then the world will end and Hell will raise. Jericho (Schwarzenegger) a police detective, has lost his family and faith in himself and will stop at nothing to protect Christine. The name Arnold Schwarzenegger is known for action and one liners' but here, there are no one liners and very little action. This is a horror movie, with some action scenes, and it is chilling and fun.

Seeing Arnold in a different role is refreshing and he does a really good job. Byrne as Satan has a good time, chews the scenery and is fun to watch. Tunney, is playing a vulnerable person dealing with a lot and you do fear for her.

End of Days is a surprise for anyone who is fan of Arnold as he is doing something new. It is an interesting horror, action movie as it has some good twist and turns.

**Happy
New Year**

All these movies can be found on Sky, Netflix and Now TV (other streaming services are available), so sit back, relax and enjoy the film!