



Fantasy

Cinema is often seen as the ultimate form of escapism. If that's the case then fantasy movies are surely the best forms of transportation from everyday life. They grab the viewer, plunging them into distant lands and magical concepts that question our own relationship with the real world. Fantasy films feature fantastic themes, such as; magic, supernatural events, mythology, folklore, or exotic fantasy worlds. However, as our list proves, not all fantasy movies are filled with wizards, dragons and epic battles. Here we've included magical creatures, superhero extravaganzas, as well as a healthy dose of sword and sorcery.

All of these films can be borrowed from the library using our Click & Collect Service. So pick-up your popcorn and let The Learning Curve take you to a magical place far away....

Percy Jackson – Sea of Monsters (2013)

Director: Thor Freudenthal

Stars: Logan Lerman, Alexandra Daddario, Brandon T. Jackson

Percy Jackson returns in this follow-up which finds Percy (Logan Lerman) and Annabeth (Alexandra Daddario) racing out to the Sea of Monsters (aka the Bermuda Triangle) in search of the Golden Fleece that could save their world. In their quest to confront the ultimate evil, Percy and his friends battle swarms of mythical creatures with powers beyond human comprehension...

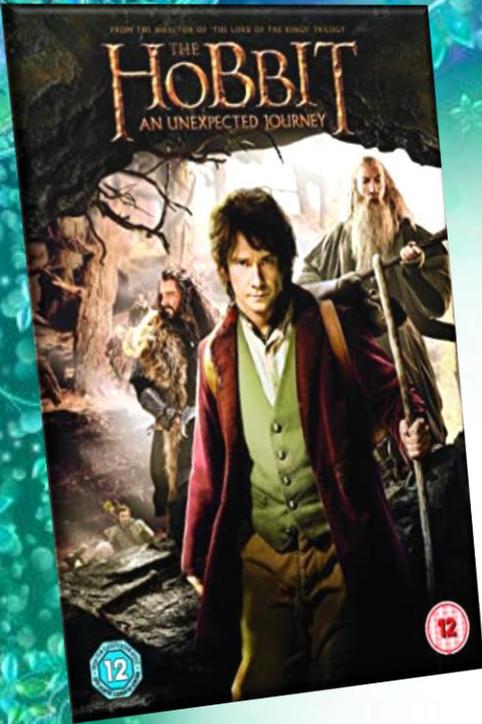


The Hobbit – An Unexpected Journey (2012)

Director: Peter Jackson

Stars: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage

Bilbo Baggins is swept into a quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor from the fearsome dragon Smaug. Approached out of the blue by the wizard Gandalf the Grey, Bilbo finds himself joining a company of thirteen dwarves led by the legendary warrior, Thorin Oakenshield. Their journey will take them into the Wild; through treacherous lands swarming with Goblins and Orcs, deadly Wargs and Giant Spiders, Shapeshifters and Sorcerers. Although their goal lies to the East and the wastelands of the Lonely Mountain first they must escape the goblin tunnels, where Bilbo meets the creature that will change his life forever ... Gollum. Here, alone with Gollum, on the shores of an underground lake, the unassuming Bilbo Baggins not only discovers depths of guile and courage that surprise even him, he also gains possession of Gollum's "precious" ring that holds unexpected and useful qualities ... A simple, gold ring that is tied to the fate of all Middle-earth in ways Bilbo cannot begin to know.



Alice in Wonderland (2010)

Director: Tim Burton

Stars: Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter

Alice, an unpretentious and individual 19-year-old, is betrothed to a son of an English nobleman. At her engagement party, she escapes the crowd to consider whether to go through with the marriage and falls down a hole in the garden after spotting an unusual rabbit. Arriving in a strange and surreal place called "Underland," she finds herself in a world that resembles the nightmares she had as a child, filled with talking animals, villainous queens and knights, and frumious bandersnatches. Alice realizes that she is there for a reason--to conquer the horrific Jabberwocky and restore the rightful queen to her throne.





Pans Labyrinth (2007)

Director: Guillermo del Toro

Stars: Ivana Baquero, Ariadna Gil, Sergi López

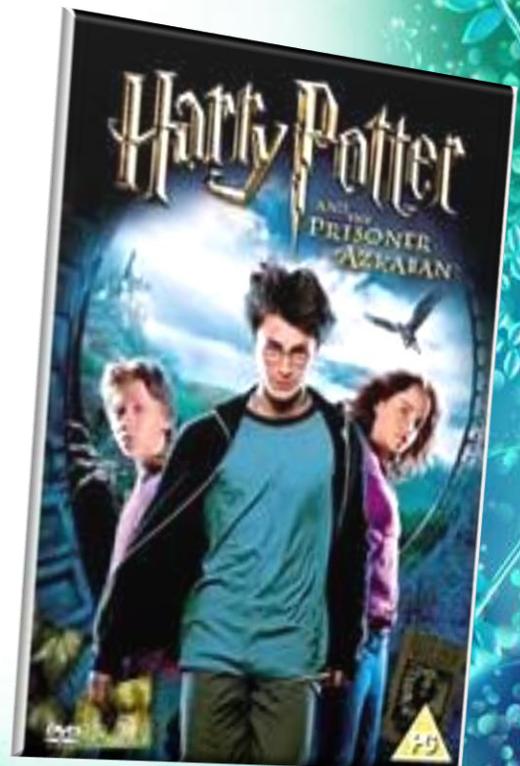
In 1944 Falangist Spain, a girl, fascinated with fairy-tales, is sent along with her pregnant mother to live with her new stepfather, a ruthless captain of the Spanish army. During the night, she meets a fairy who takes her to an old faun in the centre of the labyrinth. He tells her she's a princess, but must prove her royalty by surviving three gruesome tasks. If she fails, she will never prove herself to be the true princess and will never see her real father, the king, again.

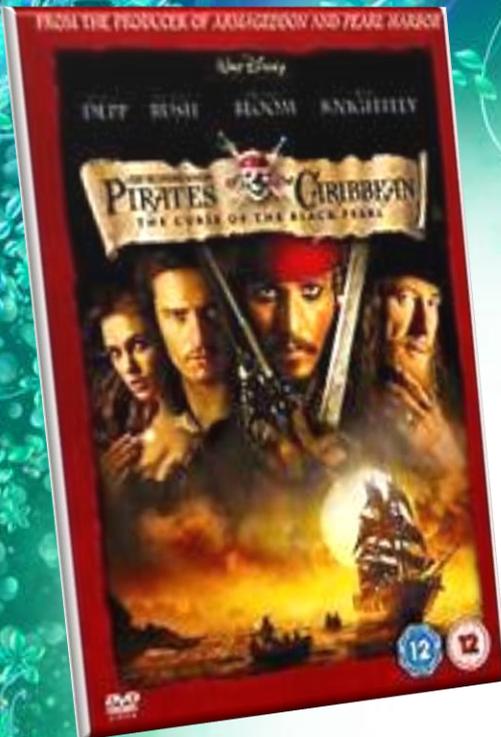
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (2004)

Director: Alfonso Cuarón

Stars: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint

Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) is having a tough time with his relatives (yet again). He runs away after using magic to inflate Uncle Vernon's (Richard Griffiths') sister Marge (Pam Ferris), who was being offensive towards Harry's parents. Initially scared for using magic outside the school, he is pleasantly surprised that he won't be penalized after all. However, he soon learns that a dangerous criminal and Voldemort's trusted aide Sirius Black (Gary Oldman) has escaped from Azkaban Prison and wants to kill Harry to avenge the Dark Lord. To worsen the conditions for Harry, vile creatures called Dementors are appointed to guard the school gates and inexplicably happen to have the most horrible effect on him. Little does Harry know that by the end of this year, many holes in his past (whatever he knows of it) will be filled up and he will have a clearer vision of what the future has in store.





Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003)

Director: Gore Verbinski

Stars: Johnny Depp, Geoffrey Rush, Orlando Bloom

This swash-buckling tale follows the quest of Captain Jack Sparrow, a savvy pirate, and Will Turner, a resourceful blacksmith, as they search for Elizabeth Swann. Elizabeth, the daughter of the governor and the love of Will's life, has been kidnapped by the feared Captain Barbossa. Little do they know, but the fierce and clever Barbossa has been cursed. He, along with his large crew, are under an ancient curse, doomed for eternity to neither live, nor die. That is, unless a blood sacrifice is made

The Wizard of Oz (1939)

Directors: Victor Fleming, George Cukor, Mervyn LeRoy

Stars: Judy Garland, Frank Morgan, Ray Bolger

After a tornado hurls through Kansas, a teenager named Dorothy and her dog Toto are swept away from their farm and wake up in the colourful and vibrant Land of Oz. In order to find their way back home, they must embark on a journey to the Emerald City, where the Wizard of Oz resides. On their way there, they are accompanied by a Scarecrow who longs for a brain, a Tin Man who desires a heart, and a Cowardly Lion who seeks courage. All four are hopeful that the 'Great Oz' will be able to fulfil their wishes, but not far behind them is the Wicked Witch of the West, who is out for revenge on Dorothy after she accidentally killed her sister, the Wicked Witch of the East.



X-Men (2000)

Director: Bryan Singer

Stars: Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman, Ian McKellen

Born with extraordinary abilities in a world filled with fear, prejudice, and intolerance, the next link in the chain of human evolution, the powerful meta-humans, will soon have to choose sides. As the telepathic mutant, Professor Charles Xavier, struggles to achieve a peaceful coexistence between the two species, hoping that the gifted students of his institute will use their powers for good, his old friend and super-human antagonist, Magneto, prepares for war. Now, Professor X's newest students--the teenage mutant with the deadly touch, Rogue, and the body-regenerating, adamantium-infused Logan, aka Wolverine--find themselves caught in the middle of a violent confrontation; one that would either stop or usher in a new era in the history of homo superior. Can Xavier's X-Men put an end to Magneto's megalomaniac vision?



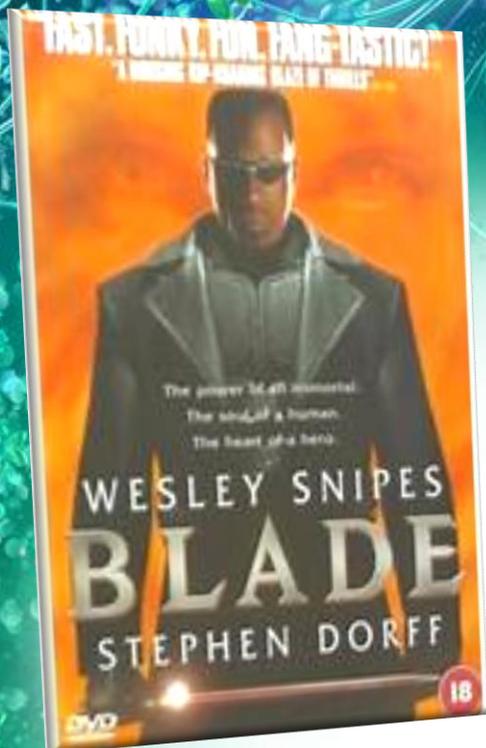
Jurassic Park (1993)

Director: Steven Spielberg

Stars: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum

Huge advancements in scientific technology have enabled a mogul to create an island full of living dinosaurs. John Hammond has invited four individuals, along with his two grandchildren, to join him at Jurassic Park. But will everything go according to plan? A park employee attempts to steal dinosaur embryos, critical security systems are shut down and it now becomes a race for survival with dinosaurs roaming freely over the island.





Blade (1998)

Director: Stephen Norrington

Stars: Wesley Snipes, Stephen Dorff, Kris Kristofferson

Imbued with the cursed gift of immortality, the invincible half-human/half-vampire hybrid, Blade, embarks on an endless mission to rid humankind of the blood-suckers that infest the Earth. Suppressing his feral thirst for human blood, the preternatural "Day-walker" crosses paths with the megalomaniac vampire, Deacon Frost, whose ambitious plans threaten to end the world as we know it. Now, Blade and his loyal mentor, Whistler, seem to have met their match. Can they put an end to Deacon's nightmarish scheme?

Avengers Assemble (2012)

Director: Joss Whedon

Stars: Robert Downey Jr. Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson

Nick Fury is the director of S.H.I.E.L.D., an international peace-keeping agency. The agency is a who's who of Marvel Super Heroes, with Iron Man, The Incredible Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Hawkeye and Black Widow. When global security is threatened by Loki and his cohorts, Nick Fury and his team will need all their powers to save the world from disaster which is formed by Loki and his team.

