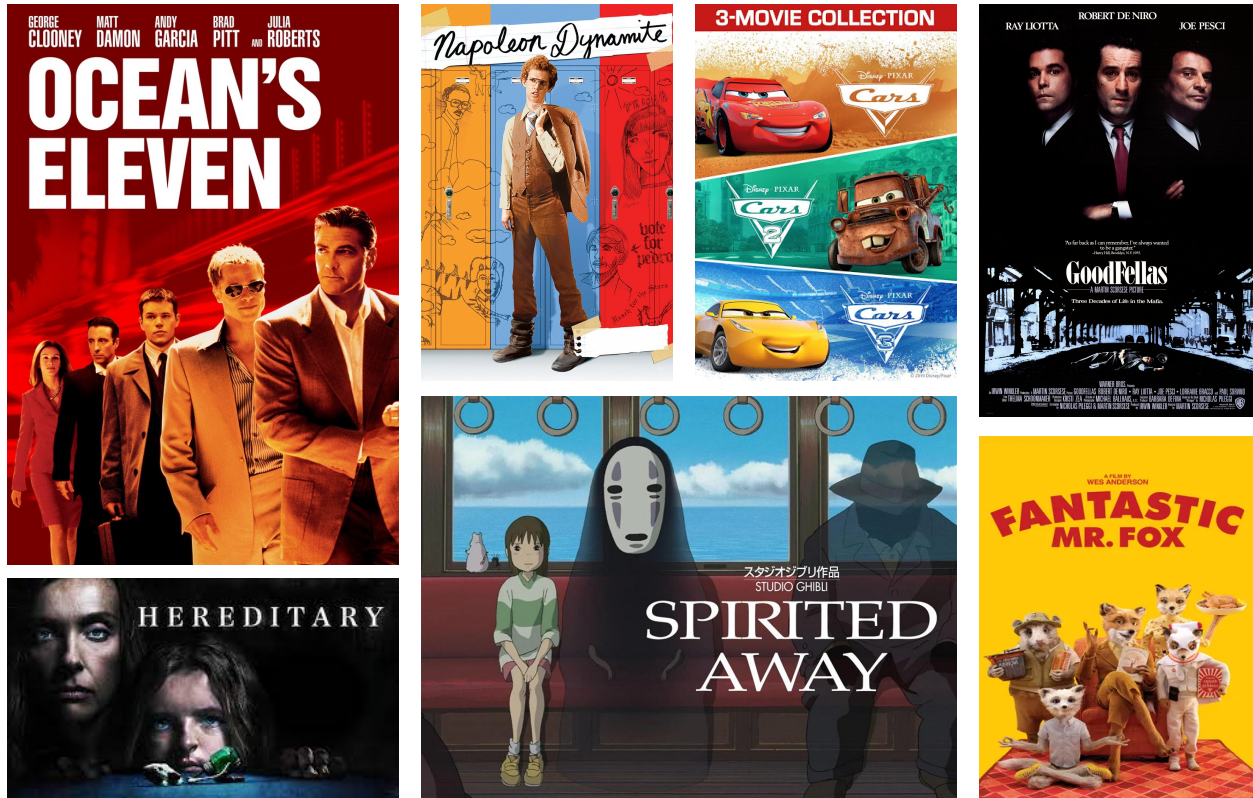


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### My Ideal Filmshelf



***Oceans Eleven (2001)*** - *Oceans Eleven* is a category I will use for many of my favorite movies. I could not pick only five, which is why I have seven as a part of my picture, but all of them are like movies to represent that genre. I don't remember the first time I watched Steven Soderbergh's *Oceans Eleven*, but it was an instant hit. This movie has opened up my life to possibly my favorite type of movie. Which would be a heist movie. As soon as I could after watching *Oceans Eleven*, I proceeded to watch *Oceans Twelve*, *Thirteen*, and *Eight*. All of these blew my mind and I still continue to come back to them and watch the series when I am bored. Because of how the stories are told in a way that mixes you knowing what's going to happen next and being clueless, they are always entertaining when I watch them again. I think that Steven Soderbergh did a great job making a movie that might not have been the most impressive display of all a director can do, but still made something that has you pay attention to every scene no matter what is going on around you.

***Napoleon Dynamite (2004)*** - *Napoleon Dynamite*, by Jared Hess, is a movie that took some convincing in order for me to watch. But once my parents got me through the first scene of Napoleon playing with his army trooper on the school bus, which I now laugh at every time I see it, I couldn't stop laughing. This movie introduced me to a new version of comedy that I now love. Unlike *Oceans Eleven*, I think that the director had a lot of fun with this movie. I love to watch it again and again and notice new things about how the shots are taken. I think that so much of the comedic power in *Napoleon Dynamite* comes from how the scenes are shot. Somehow each one is lined up in such a way to make it so much more awkward, and that lets the actors play around it. I think that the acting in this movie is unlike anything else I have ever seen. The closest similarity I can think of is Dwight and Moe from *The Office*, but even they don't come close to the number of times I was laughing from the actor's perfect amount of awkwardness and seriousness.

***Cars (2006)*** - The original *Cars* movie is the single greatest movie I have ever seen. I am not saying that as a joke, there is never a time in your life when watching the *Cars* movie would make it worse. Somehow the story told in this can always find a way to relate to your life and give you an answer to whatever questions you had. *Cars* is also amazing because it does not stop after one movie. While the sequel might not have been the most amazingly directed story, it is still an amazing movie and the fun the characters have in it is able to carry it toward the expectations of the franchise. *Cars Three* on the other hand brings us right back to where we started, an amazing movie that has absolutely no flaws. This last film ties up the story in a way I could have only dreamed of. Besides their similarity to the *Rocky* franchise, these movies are perfect. I know that because it is an animated Pixar movie, it is hard to hold it against the classics, but I think that the *Cars* franchise is able to hold its own when it comes to a movie that everyone is going to enjoy.

***Goodfellas (1990)*** - *Goodfellas* is the movie I have seen most recently out of this whole list. I only watched it for the first time last year, and I must say I am so glad I did. I understand that it probably wouldn't have been a good movie to watch when I was younger. I will admit that the sexism and the way some people are treated in this movie isn't my favorite thing, but I think that the story Martin Scorsese was able to tell is an amazing one. Following Henry from a young age and watching him figure out how to succeed in a world that is not his, makes such a good story. Because of this movie, I have gone on to watch other mob classics like *Cassino*, *The Godfather*, and *Scarface*. All of these are movies that I would have never even thought to watch a few years ago and now compete for my favorite genre. I think that this is another movie where the director really knew what he was doing. The lighting in the shots and the way they are laid out in order to show the power dynamics is something that took me a few viewings to finally see.

***Spirited Away (2001)*** - I am going to use *Spirited Away* as a placeholder to talk about all Miyazaki movies. Just like *Cars*, this is a movie I have grown up watching and I would not have

changed that if I could. I think that Hayao Miyazaki does an amazing job telling the story of his characters and each one is able to show you some new understanding. *Spirited Away* follows a girl as she loses her parents to greed in a spirit hotel, and while like all Miyazaki movies, at some times is very strange. He is able to tell his magical stories in worlds that I wished were real. The ideas he adds to his animations of family and relationships are lessons that still stay with me to this day. Besides the directing, the animations of Studio Ghibli are some of the most beautiful and captivating things I have ever seen. The way that water and food looks in their animations always finds a way to make me jealous I have to live in this real world. Even though these movies might not be considered cinematic masterpieces like other in America, you cannot argue the fact that *Spirited Away* is a classic.