

classic films

If you were unfortunate enough to see either of the latest *Star Wars* movies, you may already be familiar with the phenomena I'm about to describe. With whiz-bang digital effects and the now clichéd use of *Matrix*-type camera work, the Hollywood machine appeals more than ever to the lowest common denominator at the expense of such trifles as story, dialogue and character.

Frankly, I'm not yet old enough to clamor about how things were in the good old days. However, let me beseech you to surf against the crushing tide of the banality that has flooded contemporary commercial cinema. *Golfdom's* Official List of Smart Black-and-White Films (while admittedly biased toward the now-quaint notion of "quality") will help cure you of the hype-machine blahs and transport you to a time when men wore hats; dialogue was loaded with implication, double-entendre and wit; and there weren't any annoying computer-generated aliens who sucked the marrow out of the movies. Now, get to the classics section.

Honorable Mention: *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *The Awful Truth*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *The General*, *High Noon*, *The Maltese Falcon*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Psycho*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

10. *The Gold Rush* (1925) – Here is but one reason why Charlie Chaplin was the biggest star the world had ever known.



THESE QUALITY FILMS WILL
OFFER YOU RELIEF FROM THE
PAINFUL BANALITY OF TODAY'S
HOLLYWOOD PRODUCTS

BY MARK LUCE

The tramp's adventure in the Yukon remains as charming now as it was 75 years ago.

9. *Sunset Boulevard* (1950) – A tale told by a man already dead. A twisted, somewhat gothic story of control, fame and the effects of our lies to ourselves.

8. *The Philadelphia Story* (1940) – Hepburn, Grant and Stewart. Enough said.

7. *Casablanca* (1942) – Bogie tries to look stoic as the young Bacall flies away. Wonderful characters in this story of World War II intrigue, but remember — Rick never says, "Play it again, Sam."

6. *Double Indemnity* (1944) – Nothing beats seeing Fred MacMurray as an insurance man gone bad. His scenes with Barbara Stanwyck smolder with suggestion.

5. *Citizen Kane* (1941) – And to think Orson Welles was only 25 when he took on the establishment and a not-so-thinly disguised William Randolph Hearst in this near-perfect story about a less-than-perfect man.

4. *It Happened One Night* (1934) – Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert define "chemistry" in the quintessential romantic comedy.

3. *The Third Man* (1949) – Novelist Graham Greene writes, Welles and Joseph Cotton star in this thriller about post-war Vienna. The cinematography of Robert Krasker will take your breath away.

2. *Some Like it Hot* (1959) – Cross-dressing shenanigans with Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis make this one of the funnier things ever put on celluloid. Marilyn Monroe — complete with her ukulele — makes it one of the more fetching, too.

1. *The Thin Man* (1934) – More martinis consumed per reel than perhaps any film in history. This light hearted detective story sizzles with William Powell and Myrna Loy's breakneck banter.

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