

Golfdom

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thrillers

It's a shame that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences doesn't have a separate category for thrillers, because the best thing about going to a movie theatre remains getting a swift kick in the pants from what you see on the screen.

When I hit the cinema I look for exhilaration, excitement and suspense, cut with a dart of fear, things most of us do not experience on an ongoing basis. So instead of riding with manly cowboys or the Man in Black come Oscar time, pop some corn and plop yourself down with these thrilling gems.

10. "The Hitcher" (1986): Don't laugh. This C.Thomas Howell-Rutger Hauer flick, however implausible, will freak you out. Hauer just won't quit as he harasses a young man (and lots of other poor suckers) all the way across the West.

9. "Die Hard" (1988): One of the finer action movies of the past 20 years, this shootout in a skyscraper vaulted Bruce Willis to mega-stardom, introduced us to the wicked pleasures of Alan Rickman and gave us one-liners that were actually funny.

8. "Cape Fear" (1962 or 1991): Figure it this way — whom would you rather have stalking you: Robert Mitchum or Robert DeNiro? Whether in black and white or color, the malevolent Max Cady will make you glad you're not a defense lawyer.

7. "Sexy Beast" (2000): If you don't like

DON'T LOOK UNDER THAT BED! YOU MIGHT JUST FIND

ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S MOST SUSPENSEFUL FLICKS **BY MARK LUCE**



profanity, stay away from this cuss fest of a heist movie. As gangster Don Logan, Ben Kingsley (yes, he played Ghandi) could scare even Darth Vader with his withering, acid tongue.

6. "The Third Man" (1949): This post-WWII Vienna story has a reporter searching for a friend who may or may not be dead. Spectacular shadows and great performances by Orson Welles and Joseph Cotten.

5. "Se7en" (1995): Director David Fincher serves up the seven deadly sins serial killer-style. Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman play the cops, and you really don't want to know what's in the box during the finale.

4. "Le Femme Nikita" (1990): This French gem features a young woman

who goes from street hood to assassin. Stylish, smart, explosive and raw. Don't waste your time with the American version, "Point of No Return."

3. "Fugitive" (1993): Tommy Lee Jones, as Deputy Marshal Samuel Gerard, says he wants to search every "gas station, residence, warehouse, farmhouse, henhouse, outhouse and doghouse" to find Dr. Richard Kimble (played by Harrison Ford), who's wrongly accused of murdering his wife. Arguably the best chase movie ever.

2. "Out of the Past" (1947): Tough-guy Mitchum tussles with a young, fiendishly smooth Kirk Douglas in a classic noir tale of double-cross, redemption and one extremely naughty woman.

1. "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (1981): Still the most fun I've ever had at the movie theater. Watch it again, it's better than you remember.

Honorable Mention: "The Night of the Hunter," "Psycho," "Silence of the Lambs," "Chinatown," "Manchurian Candidate," "Bullitt," "Jaws," "M."

Mark Luce lives in Kansas City, Mo., where he dreams of being a secret agent. You can criticize him for his picks by e-mailing him at msluce@sbcglobal.net.

GOLFDOM (ISSN 1526-4270) is published monthly (12 issues per year) by Questex Media Group, Inc. Corporate office: 275 Grove St., Suite 2-130, Newton, MA 02466. Advertising, Production and Circulation offices: 306 W. Michigan St., Suite 200 Duluth, MN 55802-1610. Subscription rates: One year \$39 (U.S. and possessions), \$59 (Canada and Mexico) and \$89 (all other countries). Air expedited service is available in countries outside the U.S. and Canada for an additional \$75 per year. Current issue single copies (prepaid only) \$5 (U.S. and possessions), \$7 (Canada and Mexico) and \$8 (all other countries). Back issues (if available, prepaid only) \$10 (U.S. and possessions), \$14 (Canada and Mexico) and \$16 (all other countries); add \$6.50 per order shipping and handling for both current and back issue purchases. Periodicals postage paid at Duluth MN 55806 and additional mailing offices.



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