

Entertainment Picks



Top 2021 Films

Welcome to our Entertainment Picks newsletter where we will share with you Films on Kanopy.

Little Ted's Big Adventure

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

This Play School series is an exploration of transport and all things that move. From steam trains, to tall ships, hot air balloons, helicopters and horse and carriage. All adventures show exciting and unique ways of getting from one place to another.





Maurice's Big Adventure

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Play School's much loved teddy bear Maurice is invited along to experience important events in a preschooler's life, joining his young friends as they embark on exciting adventures into school, new family members and beyond.

Jemima's Big Adventure

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Get swept away with Jemima as she is invited on the ultimate play date, through the red garden doorway and into the imagination of Australian preschoolers. For the very first time children are given access to play with Jemima, transporting her into a fantasy filled Play School world. In each episode Play School's Luke Carroll and Jemima will arrive at their secret garden and are given clues to the play date as they approach the front door.

Humpty's Big Adventure

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Determined not to fall off the wall again, Play School's Humpty Dumpty sets out on a thrilling adventure to discover different ways we can balance and move our bodies. Humpty joins Play School presenters and inspiring young children from a range of disciplines encompassing the arts, sporting and recreational arenas. Humpty's Big Adventure is action packed and full of ideas to get kids up and moving in a non-competitive arena.

The Little Bird and the Squirrel

Magnet Film

It is Autumn; at the end of a branch hangs a red leaf. A little black bird comes along to water it when suddenly, a squirrel nicks the bird's bright green watering can. The bird follows the cheeky thief and so begins an exciting chase through the forest. Nominated for Generation Kplus - Best Short Film at the Berlin International Film Festival.





The Little Bird and the Leaf

Magnet Film

A single yellow leaf hangs on the bare branch. A gust of wind blows and it begins to float through the white winter forest. In joyful pursuit, a little bird takes off into a breathtaking flight. In the meantime a fiery red fox licks its lips in anticipation. Winner of an Audience Award - Short Film at the New York International Children's Film Festival.

The Little Bird and the Caterpillar

Magnet Film

It's summer. High above in a tree the little Bird cherishes and nurtures the green leaves of his home. Suddenly a hungry caterpillar sets out to eat the appetizing leaves. The little Bird manages to lure away the glutton and an adventurous journey begins.

Big Ted's Big Adventure

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Get ready as Big Ted, Zindzi and Michelle venture into the Animal Kingdom to get up close with some of preschoolers' most treasured animals. Big Ted will learn about the animals and add their photo to his photo album.

Play School Story Time

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

A delightful new Play School series featuring some of Australia's most loved celebrities as they snuggle up on the Story Time couch and read entertaining picture books written by Australian authors.





Born This Way

A&E®

BORN THIS WAY follows a group of seven young adults born with Down syndrome as they pursue their passions and life long dreams, explore friendships, romantic relationships, and work, all while defying society's expectations.

Hoot, Hoot, Go!

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

A comical pre-school adventure series that takes place in the land of Giggle and Hoot. It features owl pals Hoot and Hootabelle as they work together to solve all missions big and small.

Dune

Umbrella Entertainment

Frank Herbert's highly acclaimed 1974 sci-fi novel DUNE, first adapted by David Lynch in 1984, is stunningly realised in this four-and-a-half hour miniseries produced by the Sci-Fi Channel. William Hurt stars as Duke Leto Atreides, charged to rule the desolate planet Arrakis, the universes only source of Melange, a spice that enhances mental performance and makes interstellar travel possible. But soon Leto's bitter enemy, the evil Baron Vladimir Harkonnen (lan McNeice), a former ruler, wins back Arrakis and hands power to his brutal nephew, Rabban. When the Atreides family escape into the inhospitable desert with the help of the Fremen - a race of displaced desert nomads - the strengthening power of Melange enables Paul (Alec Newman), the Duke's son, to organise the oppressed Fremen and wage war on the Empire. Unfolding over three compelling feature-length episodes, this sci-fi classic is brilliantly realised through powerful performances and stunning visuals from Oscar-winning cinematographer Vittorio Storaro (Apocalypse Now).

I'm Brave!

Weston Woods

Come visit the firehouse and discover all the tools that firetrucks need to do their jobs and what it takes to be brave.





Elena Undone

Wolfe Video

When fate brings Peyton, an out lesbian writer into the life of Elena, a straight, woman and wife of a pastor, friendship transforms swiftly from a crush into a torrid extramarital affair. Elena can barely begin to rationalize the nature and magnitude of her desires, which are complicated by her dedication to her son, Nash, and her sense of responsibility to her marriage. As their relationship evolves into love, Elena confronts the choice of leaving Barry and fracturing the family or ending it with Peyton and continuing to live a lie. But the decision may be moot. As Peyton risks more of her heart, her fear of breaking it causes her to step away and Elena faces the looming challenge of convincing Peyton that they were meant to be.

Alice

Visit Films

ALICE (Emilie Piponnier) is the perfect wife and mother, living happily with her husband Francois and their son in an apartment in Paris. When her credit cards are declined one day while shopping, ALICE discovers that Francois has been living a secret life, spending all of their money at a high-end escort service and leaving them completely bankrupt. Even worse is that Francois has suddenly abandoned them, leaving ALICE and their son to fend for themselves. When she learns that the bank will foreclose on their home in just a few weeks, she becomes desperate and visits the same escort service that Francois was addicted to in the hopes of finding a way to quickly make some cash and save the apartment. At first reluctant in her new profession, ALICE soon begins to thrive with the help of another escort who befriends her, giving ALICE both financial independence and a sense of empowerment that she has never felt before. But when Francois shows up again at their doorstep, ALICE is forced to reconcile between the life she had shared with him and the new one she has built for herself.

Mulholland Drive

StudioCanal

A love story in the city of dreams... Blonde Betty Elms has only just arrived in Hollywood to become a movie star when she meets an enigmatic brunette with amnesia. Meanwhile, as the two set off to solve the second woman's identity, filmmaker Adam Kesher runs into ominous trouble while casting his latest project. David Lynch's seductive and scary vision of Los Angeles's dream factory is one of the true masterpieces of the new millennium, a tale of love, jealousy, and revenge like no other.

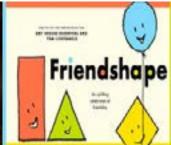
Mister America

Utopia

Despite being completely inexperienced and broke and having just defeated a murder charge, a man mounts a campaign to unseat the San Bernardino district attorney.







Judaism and Synagogues under Christian Rule

The Great Courses

As Christianity spread across the Holy Land, synagogues became increasingly larger and more elaborate in an attempt to bolster Judaism. See how this was done by peering closely at the remains of the synagogues at Capernaum, Hammath Tiberias, and Beth Alpha: as well as their (sometimes surprising) decorations.

The American Farm

The History® Channel

THE AMERICAN FARM puts viewers on the front lines of the fight to go from seed to stalk, and from farm to fork. It's an honest, true tale of risk and reward.

Friendshape

Weston Woods

The bestselling creators of EXCLAMATION MARK! introduce a triangle, circle, square, and rectangle who celebrate the gift of friendship. This joyous book rejoices in the simple beauties of friendship, and reminds readers of all ages that it's good to have a group of pals.

The Art of the Silver Screen

The Great Courses

Professor Williams introduces his passion for film by explaining exactly what makes movies magic for him. He provides a brief history of movies and foreshadows elements of the course that he will be digging deeper into including music, framing, and the three-act structure, tying the whole thing together by familiarizing you with what he considers one of the most important movie elements: tension.





WWII in HD

The History® Channel

The first documentary to show World War II from the perspective of both sides in full, immersive HD color, the world premiere HISTORY?

Children of Dune

Umbrella Entertainment

The future of humanity is left in doubt as the twins of Paul Atreides become embroiled in the turbulent political landscape of Arrakis. Born with special abilities and superhuman prescience that not only empowers them but places them in considerable jeopardy amongst their kind, Leto (James McAvoy, Atonement) and Ghanima (Jessica Brooks, Supernova) continue the fight against the malevolent forces of Baron Harkonnen. With the looming threat of civil war amongst the Fremen and Princess Wensicia's (Oscar winner Susan Sarandon, Dead Man Walking) own devious plot to assassinate the Atreides heirs, their survival is paramount to ensure the future of the universe for generations to come.

Harry The Dirty Dog

Weston Woods

In this charming classic story, Harry runs away before bath time and plays outside until he changes into a black dog with white spots. Back home again, he must use all his wits and tricks to convince his family who he really is.

The Grand Seduction

Madman Entertainment

The small Newfoundland, Canada, harbour of Tickle Cove is in dire need of a doctor so that the town can land a contract to secure a factory which will save the town from financial ruin. Village resident Murray French (Brendan Gleeson) leads the search, and when he finds American doctor Paul Lewis (Taylor Kitsch) he employs tactics - and the whole town - to seduce him into wanting to stay permanently. When they learn of the American's odd interest in Cricket, the smalltown Canadians learn the rules. When they discover his favourite food is an obscure Indian curry, the menu of the only restaurant in town now features it. And when they hear that the good doctor is lonely for female company, the acid-tongued postal worker, Kathleen, is there for him. "It's graceful and sweet and wise where it counts, and often brilliantly acted, and it made me laugh." - Matt Zoller Seitz, RogerEbert.com







Iris - A Fashion Icon

Madman Entertainment

IRIS pairs legendary documentarian Albert Maysles (GREY GARDENS, GIMME SHELTER) with Iris Apfel, the quick-witted, flamboyantly dressed 93-year-old New York style icon and muse. More than just a fashion film, it is a story about creativity, design and how her soaring free spirit continues to inspire. IRIS portrays a woman whose enthusiasm for fashion, art and people are life's sustenance and reminds us that dressing, and indeed life, is nothing but an experiment. "Maysles often said that he made [his films] with a sense of love for his subjects. That is certainly true of this film, which is a great parting gift to us all." - Paul Byrnes, Sydney Morning Herald

Suzi Q

Madman Entertainment

Story of trailblazing American rock singer-songwriter Suzi Quatro, who helped redefine the role of women in rock 'n' roll when she broke out in 1973.

Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus

Weston Woods

When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a very unlikely volunteer springs up to take his place -- a pigeon! But you've never met one like this before.

The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith

Umbrella Entertainment

Fred Schepisi's internationally acclaimed masterpiece, based on the novel by Thomas Keneally, is the shocking tale of an indigenous man driven to madness and revenge. Jimmie Blacksmith (Tommy Lewis) is a young Aboriginal half-caste' raised in central NSW at the turn-of-the-century, a boy initiated by his tribe but also educated by a stern Methodist minister (Jack Thompson). Looking to gain respectability in European society, Jimmy finds a white bride while performing back-breaking work on local farms, but cannot escape his skin colour, suffering ongoing racism and oppression. Discovering that he may not be the father of his wife's child, and fired without pay, Jimmie explodes in a fury of violent revenge and escapes into the bush with his brother Mort, cutting a bloody path of retribution upon the society that has forsaken him. In 1901, the year Australian democracy is born, Jimmie Blacksmith finally faces his fate, and with it the fate of his people.







Putting It All Together

The Great Courses

This lecture integrates elements including color, line, shape, composition, light, symbolism, point of view, and focal point. Using the viewing tools you've developed, look deeply at four diverse masterpieces, including a sculpture by Thorvaldsen, a "vanitas" still life by Van Oosterwyck, a lithograph by Bonnard, and a painting by Van der Weyden.

This Way of Life

Collective Eye Films

Against the stunning beauty of New Zealand's rugged Ruahine Mountains, Peter Karena and his wife Colleen raise their six children on the thin edge between freedom and disaster. As Peter hunts, trains wild horses, and struggles to instill in his kids the values of independence, courage and happiness, his escalating struggle with his own father has profound consequences on the entire Karena clan. THIS WAY OF LIFE captures the Karena's precipitous existence with equal parts glorious abandon and painful suspense. Trying to carve out a different type of life for himself, Peter often seems like a man out of step with this century--he can tame a wild horse, or field dress a deer, but he can't find a home for his family--but ultimately, this complete immersion in another way of life reveals that the price of freedom is something that is well worth paying. Winner of a Crystal Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Skid Row Marathon

Giant Pictures

A criminal court judge starts a running club on LA's Skid Row, where he trains a motley but motivated group of homeless, addicted, and criminal men and women to run international marathons.

Summer With Monika

The Criterion Collection

Inspired by the earthy eroticism of Harriet Andersson, in the first of her many roles for him, Ingmar Bergman had a major international breakthrough with this sensual and ultimately ravaging tale of young love. A girl (Andersson) and boy (Lars Ekborg) from working-class families in Stockholm run away from home to spend a secluded, romantic summer at the beach, far from parents and responsibilities. Inevitably, it is not long before the pair are forced to return to reality. The version initially released in the U.S. was reedited by its distributor into something more salacious, but the original SUMMER WITH MONIKA (Sommaren med Monika), presented here, is a work of stunning maturity and one of Bergman's most important films.





Re-Animator

Umbrella Entertainment

Adapted from H.P. Lovecraft's sepulchral 1922 pulp horror story, arguably the first such tale to ever consider scientifically affected corpses as zombies, Re-Animator is Stuart Gordon's cult classic trip into the realm of the living dead. Conducting clandestine experiments within the morgue at Miskatonic University, scientist Herbert West (Jeffrey Combs, From Beyond) reveals to fellow graduate student Dan Cain (Bruce Abbott) his groundbreaking work concerning the re-animation of fresh corpses. West's secret reagent is a powerful injection with the capacity to give life where there is none - destined to capture the imagination of the entire scientific community. However, between life and death is a thin thread of understanding and when obsession gets the better of West, there is no stopping his wicked ways - dead or alive! Re-Animator is a true horror-fest of mortal manipulation in the most demented sense.

The Dressmaker

Film Art Media

Based on the best-selling novel by Rosalie Ham, THE DRESSMAKER is a bittersweet, comedy-drama set in early 1950s Australia. Tilly Dunnage, a beautiful and talented misfit, after many years working as a dressmaker in exclusive Parisian fashion houses, returns home to the tiny middle-of-nowhere town of Dungatar to right the wrongs of the past. Not only does she reconcile with her ailing, eccentric mother Molly and unexpectedly falls in love with the pure-hearted Teddy, but armed with her sewing machine and incredible sense of style, she transforms the women of the town and in so doing gets sweet revenge on those who did her wrong.

Why Would God Cause Natural Evil?

The Great Courses

It is one thing for God to grant humans the freedom to do evil, but it's harder to understand the existence of natural evils such as earthquakes and plagues. Evaluate different approaches to this problem, including the suggestion that God exists but didn't create our universe.

Sophie and the Rising Sun

Umbrella Entertainment

A sweeping tale of forbidden romance and drama, set in the autumn of 1941 as World War II rages across Europe, SOPHIE AND THE RISING SUN is a tender and moving story of two lovers in the small township of Salty Creek, South Carolina. Official Selection at the Sundance Film Festival.





Behind Convent Walls

Cult Epics

An erotic film set in a convent, where a Mother Superior tries to maintain order to prevent the nuns from temptation. But when things get out of control, the church inflicts cruel punishment to the nuns for their sins. BEHIND CONVENT WALLS is an erotic arthouse films by Cult director Walerian Borowzcyk (The Beast). One of the most beautifully shot Nunsploitation films, alongside School of the Holy Beast, with cinematography by Luciano Tovoli (Suspiria) Warning: This film contains graphic content and may be upsetting and/or offensive to some people

Do We Know What Knowledge Is?

The Great Courses

Address a famous problem concerning the nature of knowledge, posed by contemporary philosopher Edmund Gettier. Use different thought experiments to test the traditional definition of knowledge. Discover firsthand the bafflement and enlightenment that comes from doing philosophy.

A Marine Story

Wolfe Video

The remarkably hard-bodied actress, aerialist and P90X star Dreya Weber (The Gymnast) portrays Alex, a decorated Marine officer unexpectedly discharged from wartime duty. Returning to her conservative home town she agrees to coach troubled teen Saffron (Paris Pickard), who faces jail time - or much worse - if she doesn't enlist. No-nonsense Alex is the authority figure Saffron needs, and inspires the young woman's transition from slacker to boot campready Marine recruit. But an ugly campaign to "reveal the truth" about Alex's discharge threatens to derail both women's futures. Official Selection of Frameline: San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival and Outfest Film Festival