

Here in West Hartford, the movie theater is one of the main attractions. People go alone, with friends, or as a family to see whatever the popular movies are at the time. Right now, “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story” and “Sing!” are the two most popular films currently in theaters, and many people have already seen both. If this is you, or if you think those movies are too mainstream for you to see, here are six other top movies that you could watch.



BASED ON THE UNTOLD TRUE STORY

MEET THE WOMEN YOU DON'T KNOW.
BEHIND THE MISSION YOU DO.

HIDDEN FIGURES



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“Hidden Figures” is based on the story of Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe); three African American women who work at NASA. They are behind the scenes helping to direct the launch of astronaut Glenn Powell into orbit, one of the greatest space operations in history. It helped to turn around the Space Race, restoring the confidence of the nation.

What the critics are saying: Stephanie Zacharek, Time Magazine: “Both a dazzling piece of entertainment and a window into history ...”

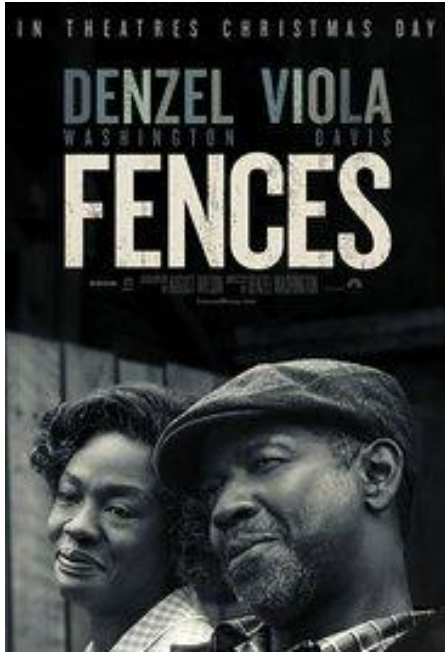
Adam Graham, Detroit News: “Johnson, Vaughan and Jackson were trailblazers whose fight deserves to be heard, and “Hidden Figures” honors them by turning their story into an audience-pleaser.”

Colin Covert, Minnesota Star Tribune: “‘Hidden Figures’ tells a singular story in textbook fashion, creating a conventional, feel-good, part-fictional history lesson that would fit in any high school.”

What the people think: “Inspiring and entertaining. A well illustrated snapshot of history to make one feel proud.”

“If I could rate more than 5 stars, I would!! This movie was excellent in every way!”

“Such a powerful story that needed to be told. Awesome cast”



Troy Maxson (Denzel Washington) is a 1950s sanitation worker who had dreams of becoming a professional baseball player, but was thought to be too old once black players began playing in the MLB. Because he is bitter about his missed opportunity, he stops his son's (Jovan Adepo) chance to meet a college football recruiter, and creates further tension in his family.

What the critics are saying: Nancy Churnin, Dallas Morning News: "Washington has pledged to bring all of plays in the cycle to the screen. The good news is he started with a home run."

Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service: "The two lead performances are stunningly complex and deeply human achievements from two of the finest actors working today."

Richard Cooper, Chicago Sun-Times: "It's a privilege to watch Washington and Davis lay it all on the line."

Greg Wakeman, CinemaBland.com: "While Denzel Washington's direction might leave a little to be desired, his acting has never been more relentless and fierce."

Susan Granger, SSG Syndicate: "Formidable drama, depicting the essential African-American experience, featuring authentic, award-worthy performances from Viola Davis and Denzel Washington."

What the people think: "Best film. Best actor. Period."

"A performance-driven piece directed by Denzel Washington and he hits it out of the park. It's simple, well-written, and beautifully directed, and the performances are all knock-outs. Especially Viola Davis who absolutely delivers in every way."



A dream..... A love... one must be given up to accomplish another one... Mia (Emma Stone), an aspiring actress, serves lattes to movie stars in between auditions and Sebastian (Ryan Gosling), a jazz musician, scrapes by playing cocktail party gigs in dingy bars, but as success mounts they are faced with decisions that begin to fray the fragile fabric of their love affair, and the dreams they worked so hard to maintain in each other threaten to rip them apart.

What the critics are saying: Gary M Kramer, Salon.com: “La La Land is a worthy showcase for the magnificent Stone's talents, and she is heartbreaking throughout.”

Jim Slotek, Toronto Sun: “I have yet to meet someone who's watched it and come out in a bad mood.”

Peter Howell, Toronto Star: “People say the movie musical is dead. Tell that that to your tapping toes while watching the enchantment of La La Land, one of the year's best films.”

What the people think: ‘There was not a single fault I could find- the direction, screenplay, plot, and acting is truly outstanding.’

“Damian Chazelle has created a masterpiece which harkens back to Hollywood's Golden Age of Cinema. The soundtrack alone is worth the price of a movie ticket”

“This movie is pure magic”



Conor (Lewis MacDougall) is dealing with far more than other boys his age. His beloved and devoted mother (Felicity Jones) is ill. He has little in common with his imperious grandmother. His father has resettled thousands of miles away. But Conor finds a most unlikely ally when the Monster (Liam Neeson) appears at his bedroom window one night. Ancient, wild, and relentless, the Monster guides Conor on a journey of courage, faith, and truth that powerfully fuses imagination and reality.

What the critics are saying: Liz Braun, Toronto Sun: “Filmmaker J.A. Bayona keeps things visually interesting at all times in *A Monster Calls*. On a storytelling level, he doesn’t pull his punches.”

Bruce Demara, Toronto Star: “*A Monster Calls* is unconventional storytelling in the best way.”

James Kendrick, Q Network Film Desk: “A visually impressive and emotionally dexterous fantasy”

What the people think: “Bring a box of tissues because this movie will leave you a blubbering wreck. A beautifully realized, emotionally performed, and deftly shot piece of cinematic art that teaches an important lesson for children while simultaneously striking a chord with adults.”

“Honest and truthful in its subject matter and gorgeous in its visual delivery, *A Monster Calls* is a devastating, powerfully acted tale that blends dark fantasy with adult drama; the result is one worthy gut punch”



Lee Chandler (Casey Affleck) is a brooding, irritable loner who works as a handyman for a Boston apartment block. One damp winter day he gets a call summoning him to his hometown, north of the city. His brother's (Kyle Chandler) heart has given out suddenly, and he's been named guardian to his 16-year-old nephew (Lucas Hedges). As if losing his only sibling and doubts about raising a teenager weren't enough, his return to the past re-opens an unspeakable tragedy.

What the critics are saying: James Berardinelli, ReelViews: “Unforced acting couples with a nuanced, insightful script to tell a story that, although seemingly simple, is achingly complex.”

Kate Taylor, Globe and Mail: “Its initial enigma seems to need no explanation; yet, once deciphered, the film does not falter but moves only deeper into the emotional territory it charts.”

Adam Graham, Detroit News, “It's painful and tragic, yet it's cut with elements of humor and laughter. Just like life.”

What the people think: “Sad but beautiful. One of, and possibly the best, film of 2016”

“Excellent and beautifully done, awards sure to follow! But, be forewarned it is slow moving at times, like life, and gut punchingly sad.”



Moana Waialiki (Auli'i Cravalho) is a sea voyaging enthusiast and the only daughter of a chief in a long line of navigators. When her island's fishermen can't catch any fish and the crops fail, she learns that the demigod Maui (Dwayne Johnson) caused the blight by stealing the heart of the goddess Te Fiti. The only way to heal the island is to persuade Maui to return Te Fiti's heart, so Moana sets off on an epic journey across the Pacific. The film is based on stories from Polynesian mythology.

What the critics are saying: Leah Pickett, Chicago Reader: "The narrative is a fairly predictable hero's journey -- Maui even calls her "The Chosen One" -- but the movie is refreshing for its lack of a love interest; instead Moana learns how to chart her own course."

Christopher Orr, The Atlantic: "An absolute delight, a lush, exuberant quest fable full of big musical numbers and featuring perhaps the most stunning visuals of any Disney film to date."

Joe Morgantern, Wall Street Journal: "[Moana] is beautiful in more ways than I can tell, thanks to the brilliance of more animators than I could count."

What the people think: "Beautiful animation and terrific catchy soundtrack. Disney managed to capture the magic yet again."

"Great music, beautiful imagery, and it passes the Bechdel test!"

"I am sorely disappointed in the lack of fanfare for this movie. We loved Moana and found the visuals stunning, the story relatable (albeit quite a bit predictable) and the music amazing."

As we can see, you “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story” and “Sing!” aren’t the only great movies in theaters now. No matter what type of movie you like, there is one for you. From thrilling drama to romance to a classic Disney animated film, you won’t have trouble finding something fun to watch that keeps you on the edge of your seat.