

Nick Davis
Grateful Goddesses Podcast
Rental Suggestions 2020

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All-Time Favorites

[*The Piano*](#) (1993), Jane Campion's risky, Oscar-winning period drama about a 19th-century single mother (Holly Hunter) shipped across the world to New Zealand as a mail-order bride

[*When Harry Met Sally...*](#) (1989), perhaps the most perfect of all romantic comedies, because every line and scene is exquisite, and because "meeting cute" sometimes takes eleven years!

[*Persona*](#) (1966), one of those miraculous art films that raises new questions and possibilities every time you watch it, about two women, patient and nurse, isolated together on an island

[*Nashville*](#) (1975), in which two-dozen protagonists mingle across the smallish world of country-western music, weaving together a crazy quilt of American humor, longing, and darkness

[*Harlan County, U.S.A.*](#) (1976), one of the most distinguished documentaries in U.S. history, about a labor strike by Kentucky coal miners, with their wives as organizers and participants

[*Killer of Sheep*](#) (1977), a landmark of American independent film, rich in feeling and unique in vision, probing the souls of parents and children in a working-class African American family

[*Aliens*](#) (1986), taking "goddesses" to the edge of the galaxy and an unlikely genre, as Sigourney Weaver fights harder than any Marine against a monstrous threat, and saves an orphaned girl

Recent Gems from Off the Radar

[*The Wonders*](#) (2014), a gorgeous and lushly textured coming-of-age drama about a young girl on a rustic Italian farm, who dreams of winning a competition to appear on an exotic TV show

[*Right Now, Wrong Then*](#) (2015), a *Sliding Doors* for the arthouse crowd, where the same woman and same man meet twice, and small changes in their encounter carry them to different fates

[*Life and Nothing More*](#) (2017), a timely, quietly innovative, and profoundly moving drama about a black single mother in Florida trying to raise a toddler and a distressed teenaged son

[*Our People Will Be Healed*](#) (2017), an inspiring true story amidst these difficult times, about a Canadian school for native/indigenous students that's reversing decades of communal neglect

[*Bisbee '17*](#) (2018), a mind-blowing documentary about modern Arizonians trying to face sins of their past via an epic, town-wide theatrical production in which they play their own ancestors

[*Atlantics*](#) (2019), a love story, a ghost story, a mystery, a social-justice parable, and a chronicle of a complex city, all built around a teenage girl in Senegal whose secret fiancé disappears

Goddesses!

Real-Life Goddesses

[*What's Love Got to Do with It*](#) (1993), about Tina Turner's gradual coming into her own as a solo performer and practicing Buddhist, after years of abuse in her private and public life

[*Erin Brockovich*](#) (2000), about a single mom and former beauty queen who finds a new calling as a legal researcher and community activist against regional toxins and corporate malfeasance

[*The Interrupters*](#) (2011), a documentary about grassroots Chicago activists, including luminous Ameena Matthews, who intercede in street violence and give people tools for halting it

[*Maiden*](#) (2018), a gripping documentary about the first all-female crew to enter a boat into the Whitbread Round the World Race, the obstacles they overcame, and the insights they gained

Fictional Goddesses

[*His Girl Friday*](#) (1940), in which Rosalind Russell's whiz reporter thinks she can be happy leaving work for a dull marriage, but she can't fight the pull of the job *or* the man she loves

[*The Way We Were*](#) (1973), a romantic tearjerker for the ages, a supernova of star chemistry, and a memorable lesson for all goddesses about the loneliness of holding fast to your convictions

[*Jackie Brown*](#) (1997), arguably Quentin Tarantino's most mature and fully realized comedy-thriller, built around Pam Grier's performance as a flight attendant with a dangerous side-gig

[*The Little Girl Who Sold the Sun*](#) (1999), a colorful and inspiring 45-minute movie about a young disabled girl in Dakar, Senegal, who supports her family by selling newspapers on the street

[*Woman at War*](#) (2018), an Icelandic comedy-drama about a middle-aged woman fed up with corporate greed and ecological destruction, who forges an ingenious plan for fighting back

[*Portrait of a Lady on Fire*](#) (2019), an award-winning French drama about a young female portrait painter in 18th-century France who falls in love with a subject she is hired to paint