

# THE WATCHERS

Things to Watch | Places to Watch | How to Watch

## Mr Warrington's Choices

### KS3 Choice (Y7-9)

*Clueless* on Netflix

Possibly the greatest teen movie of the 90s. The children of Beverly Hills seemed to have it all, wore it all, and drove cars at a very young age. Achingly cool, funny and genuine. This is the photo Mean Girls. Look out for: Ant-Man, he's in it. And he's not aged.

### KS4 Choice (Y10-11)

*Midnight Special* on Amazon Prime

An excellent low budget science fiction film. Roy kidnaps his own son away from the cult that practically worship him because of his strange abilities. Are they running away, or towards something? Look out for: the clever limited use of visual effects.

### KS5 Choice (Y12-13)

*Mean Streets* on Netflix

Martin Scorsese's first crime film. A freewheeling look at young Robert DeNiro and Harvey Keitel making their way as low level street gangsters. Loaded with excellent music, bar room brawls and Catholic imagery. Look out for: Keitel on 'drunk' camera.



## Learning by Watching

One week in and we hope you've been watching some of the top quality stuff that's out there. We have. This week's recommendations are in and there's a bit of crime, a bit of comedy and an unsung gem or two that may have passed you by first time around. We've found another short film for you to take a look at and we're also looking at the work of Mark Cousins, an iconic part of the film landscape from the 90s onwards in this country. Mr W & Mr M-M.



## Mr Moreno-Melgar's Choices

### KS3 Choice (Y7-9)

*Iron Man 3* on Disney+

It's one of the best MCU films. Top 5 probably. Easily top 10. Why so great? Well, a lot of the reasons would count as spoilers, but it's more ambitious than most (all?) superhero films, not in terms of the set-pieces or scale, but rather the specifics of the narrative. As a result, the confident, funny and brave story is consistently exciting and fresh.

### KS4 Choice (Y10-11)

*Beetlejuice* on Netflix

You've probably seen this already. But now you want to watch it again, right? Michael Keaton is absurdly good fun in the lead role and Director Tim Burton has arguably never been more successful in marrying his unique style with a coherent and enjoyable film. Relentlessly brilliant.

### KS5 Choice (Y12-13)

*American Animals* on Amazon Prime

This is utterly superb and remains hugely under-appreciated. The nature of the story means that any discussion of it needs to be carefully managed, but this documentary/reenactment is as audacious in its presentation and telling of the story as the story itself. A genuinely unbelievable story (which is entirely the point) told in an unbelievably creative manner.

## Short Shorts

The internet is filled with places to watch short films that aren't just YouTube. That isn't to say that there aren't great things to watch on YouTube (we've hammered through all of *Every Frame a Painting* and you should too), but there's plenty more out there so let's see if you can broaden your horizons.

Second warning though, the internet is full of unmoderated content. We can recommend specific films but the content that is out there is not always appropriate for all age groups.

This week we'll draw your attention to [filmshort.com](http://filmshort.com) - a great selection of award winning short films from the last 30 years or so. Our favourites this week are a pair of films that take a very different look at office work. Clocking in at about three minutes each *The Black Hole* and *Post-it Love* are a pair of warnings about the dangers of photocopying. You could fall to the temptation of mischief or, if you're lucky, fall in love. Both films are about as realistic as each other but they play with the environment in very different ways.

Look out for:

- The use of colour in both. The offices are basically the same but they are lit to look like very different places.
- Both offices in the films are also relatively empty. So what is different about the way the characters present themselves.
- The sound in both films is really useful for setting the mood. One film uses non-diegetic sound (sound the characters can't hear) to set the mood. What does the other film use as its main sound? Why do you think that is?





## Do you want to learn about film?

Mark Cousins has released a two hour 40 day film course. It's broken down into a series of strange constituent parts and if you only do one portion a day then it's only around five minutes of your time.

Mark illustrates his work with typically obscure clips of global film. From Thailand to India and many places between and around, he seems to have a borderline encyclopaedic knowledge of world cinema.

Have a look at his helpful slice of film education: '40 Days to Learn Film'

<https://vimeo.com/399407221>

## Film Focus: Mark Cousins

We'll try and give you a little bit extra each week to keep you busy/entertained. This week we have had a look at the work of Mark Cousins. This week alone, whilst self-isolating, Mark made a two hour guide to studying film. Things to look in film as varied as the use of colour to the success of 'wedding' films: all presented as a series of slides and videos on his Vimeo channel (see sidebar).

Perhaps Mark's biggest single achievement is his 15-hour documentary *The Story of Film: An Odyssey*. It is a comprehensive journey through everything about film from its inception to its place today. It was shown as ten 90 minutes episodes on television and remains one of the best explorations of film history out there.

It's clear from Mark's career that he cares about using cinema as a tool for education: from carting a 33 tonne cinema in a truck around the Scottish Highlands to his dedication to bringing hidden corners of the cinema producing globe to light, his work continues to push the properties of film to everyone.

More of Mark's work can be found on the BFI website where he actually said something positive about *Cats*.

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/people/mark-cousins>

