

THE WATCHERS

Things to Watch | Places to Watch | How to Watch

Mr Warrington's Choices

KS3 Choice (Y7-9)

King Kong on BBC iPlayer

Part of the BBC 'Silver Screen Classics' from RKO - this is the original (and the best?). Settle in for a slice of classic Hollywood and some stunning effects (y'know for 1933). Look out for: Fay Wray's screams!

KS4 Choice (Y10-11)

Ready Player One on Amazon Prime

Despite relying a little too heavily on your ability to remember obscure 1980s toys/trivia. This turned out to be a fun way of introducing my 10 year old to a lot of films and things from my own childhood. Look out for: The glaive from *Krull* and other nerdy things.

KS5 Choice (Y12-13)

Midnight Run on BBC iPlayer

Funny smart and grown up. There are so few films like this any more, perhaps *The Nice Guys* and a few choice others. Robert DeNiro bounty hunts Charles Grodin's mafia accountant. But he has to get there first. Look out for: The buddy comedy template starts here.



Found it!

The Blair Witch Project (1999) wasn't the first film to use the 'found footage' format, the idea that the film presents 'a realistic' style that suggests the film is actually real video footage, but it was hugely successful due to its cheap budget and huge box office takings. As a result, found footage went from being a technique and production decision to almost becoming its own genre due to its popularity and the sheer number of films produced using the format. Some films which used the found footage technique used fake CCTV footage, the idea that the whole film was a documentary or simply that some characters had filmed the events we're watching. Some of these films were brilliant, some less so. This week from me: three international films, two of which use "found footage" to brilliant effect.

Mr M-M.



Mr Moreno-Melgar's Choices

KS3 Choice (Y7-9)

Troll Hunter on Netflix

A silly title. A great film. And now you know what it's going to be about. A group of Norwegian students set about making a film about a suspected hunter of bears. What they discover is much more interesting, mythical and spectacular. The found footage style emphasises the situation the characters find themselves in and creates the sense of scale and peril.

Ks4 Choice (Y10-11)

What We Do in the Shadows on Amazon Prime

Co-written and Directed by Oscar-winning Taika Waititi, the genius behind films such as *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, *Thor Ragnarok* and *JoJo Rabbit*, this is a genuinely hilarious comedy about vampires in modern day New Zealand. The film is framed as a documentary and is used so that it's not just a story-telling technique but something that helps to sell the humour of the film through it's absurdity.

Ks5 Choice (Y12-13)

Infernal Affairs on Netflix

Somewhat infamously, cinema legend Martin Scorsese has won his only Best Director Oscar for the 'ok' crime drama *The Departed*, an adaptation/remake of *Infernal Affairs*. This 2002 Hong Kong masterpiece is inventive, thrilling and consistently creative in its narrative and presentation of themes that means the constantly twisting story is exciting but never confusing.

YouTube Channels

Video essays are an interesting development on YouTube and Vimeo. Ideas about various things put across in creative and persuasive ways.

The second YouTube channel we are recommending is the peerless Patrick Willems. He manages to combine a slightly offbeat sense of humour with some seriously good film analysis and is never not entertaining. His series of 'Blue Flame Special' episodes manage to explain why action is so tricky to get right and rewarding when it works. We love Patrick's channel and think it's right up there with the best of them.

Here are links to a few of his best episodes:

[Blue Flame Special - Wallace and Gromit](#)

[What if Wes Anderson directed the X-Men?](#)

[Michael Bay - An American Auteur?](#)

