

THE WATCHERS

Things to Watch | Places to Watch | How to Watch

Mr Warrington's Choices

KS3 Choice (Y7-9)

Contact on Amazon Prime

Jodie Foster gives an incredible performance as a scientist who believes she has made contact with another life form. Will anyone believe her? A thoughtful and insightful film. Look out for: an argument in the room - who believes her?

KS4 Choice (Y10-11)

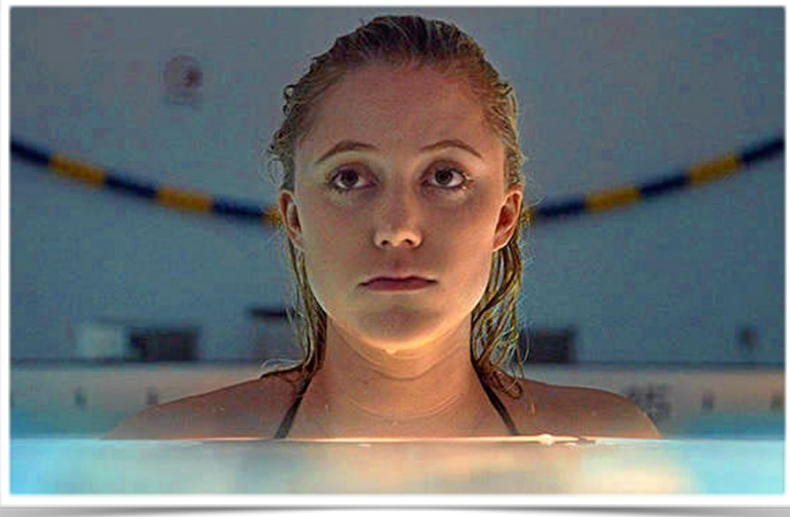
The Social Network on Netflix

I remember when they announced 'The Facebook' film was in production. How we laughed. Then we saw it. Gripping drama about how a person can climb a social ladder through brilliance and indifference. Look out for: Justin Timberlake's superb cameo.

KS5 Choice (Y12-13)

It Follows on BBC iPlayer

One of the smartest and most unusual horror films of recent years. The central conceit of the film will change the way you watch, always scanning the edges of the frame to see if they are, indeed, being followed at that point. Look out for: anyone, everyone!



Escapism

Technology and horror, we're running the gamut this week. Films are often cited as escapism and a way of making us feel things, the sympathy we feel for a character in pain, like Jodie Foster in *Contact*, driven by grief to achieve something wonderful. Or sometimes a film can give us the escapism of a good scare. *It Follows* is an extraordinary film that doesn't bother explaining where the curse/creature is from but it does something very special in changing the way you watch the film itself. Or maybe you can look at how one of the great financial giants of the modern world, Facebook, span out of a college student's ideas about dating.

Mr W & Mr M-M.



Mr Moreno-Melgar's Choices

KS3 Choice (Y7-9)

The Martian on Netflix

The Director of *The Martian*, Ridley Scott, is responsible for some of the greatest sci-fi films of all time. His output in the last 10 years has been patchy but the highlight is perhaps this, a tale of an astronaut stuck on Mars. It's an ambitious, tense and thrilling tale that draws the audience in through use of the emotional connection to the solitary martian

KS4 &5 Choice (Y10-13)

Ex Machina and *Annihilation* on Netflix

In a previous issue I recommended Alex Garland's challenging but beautiful *Annihilation*. This time around, it's his other, tense and challenging sci-fi film, *Ex Machina*. This is the type of film that works best when you know little about it, but the setting, almost exclusively set inside a foreboding, claustrophobic but astonishingly beautiful house, is the mystery box that we're invited into and have no control over. As our protagonist discovers new things, as we do we, and the beautiful cinematography by the hugely talented Rob Hardy, is constantly emphasising what we feel and what we don't want to feel.

YouTube Channels

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

The first YouTube channel we're going to recommend isn't always about film, but it is always good. The Nerdwriter makes videos on film, art, politics and even linguistics and he makes them interesting. With 2.8 million subscribers he's doing quite well for himself.

Here are links to a few of his best episodes:

[How David Fincher hijacks your eyes](#)

[Arrival: A response to bad movies](#)

[How Alfred Hitchcock blocks a scene](#)

