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Hsu: Attention Movie Lovers!

- CBS 2 Anchor Cindy Hsu's Guide to Fun Things to do in the City

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NEW YORK (WCBS)

It's been a tough year to find a good movie, but here are a few of my favorites that you may have missed. Check the video store if they've left the theatre, and if you're tired of paying \$10 to see a film try Discount Movie Passes. They sell passes for as low as \$6.50!

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Italian for Beginners-2002 (Danish/Italian-subtitled)

This is a really sweet movie about lonely singles finding love by taking a course in Italian. It's set in Denmark, and the characters will touch your heart. It's not all warm and fuzzy. The movie also explores mental abuse and how it can scar a person's life, but overall it's a very uplifting film.

Black Hawk Down-2001 Starring: Josh Hartnett, Ewan McGregor, Sam Shepard

I'm not a big action fan, but this is an important story about the deadly US mission in Somalia in 1993. 19 American soldiers were killed along with hundreds of Somalis. No matter how you feel about whether the US should've been there, this movie gives you a taste of what soldiers go through and the sacrifices they'll make to save each other.

If you're interested in learning more about the mission, the History Channel is running a very good documentary called The True Story of Black Hawk Down. You hear from Somalis as well as soldiers who survived the battle.

The Shipping News-2001 Starring: Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore, Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett

I always cheer for the underdog, and Kevin Spacey plays a guy who's been stripped of every shred of self-confidence. He's trampled on by everyone, and slowly builds a meaningful life as well as a backbone when he moves to Newfoundland with his daughter and finds love.

No Man's Land-2001 (Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian-subtitled)

This film shows the craziness of war. A Croatian soldier and a Serbian soldier are caught in a trench together, right between enemy lines. It takes place in

1993 during the Bosnia-Herzegovina civil war. You see how both men were born hating each other, and yet they're not so different. There are actually some funny scenes as United Nations forces try to settle things, but the severity of war sobers you up.

Monsters, Inc.-2001 Animated Voices: John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Steve

Monsters, Inc. 2001 Animated, voices: John Goodman, Emily Crystal, Steve Buscemi, Jenny Tilly

If you have a child you probably saw this one, but I bring it up because it's great even if you don't have a little one to go with. It's an animated movie about a company that scares children for a living. The top scaring monster gets a conscience when a little girl captures his heart. This one's really cute.

Iron Monkey-2001 (Cantonese-subtitled)

I enjoyed this martial arts film a lot more than Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. It's more of the real deal fighting sequences versus hard to imagine running through the trees type scenes. This film was first released in 1993, but was re-released last year after Quentin Tarantino dug it up. It's about a Chinese Robin Hood who takes from the rich and gives to the poor. The director is the same guy who choreographed The Matrix and Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. If you watch it, just know that the actor who plays the amazing little boy is really a little girl. I love that!

Dinner Rush-2001 Starring: Danny Aiello, Vivian Wu, Sandra Bernhard, John Corbett

A great New York movie about changing generations. Danny Aiello plays a long-time restaurant owner who's well respected and strong on loyalty and tradition. His son is a star chef who's trying to modernize the business which causes problems. You get an interesting look at what happens behind the scenes in a busy restaurant.

Happy Accidents-2001 Starring: Marisa Tomei, Vincent D'Onofrio

My friend and I walked out of this film sighing, "we want a back traveler". This is a romantic comedy about a New York woman who's just about given up on finding a man.. then meets a sweet guy from Iowa. But things get weird, when the guy says he's a back traveler from the year 2470. So is he a lunatic or a time traveler? This movie shows why Marisa Tomei deserves that Oscar she won years ago.

Under the Sun-2001 (Swedish-subtitled)

A bittersweet story about an illiterate farmer who tries to find a woman by hiring a housekeeper. A beautiful and sophisticated blonde takes the job and turns his world upside down. She's got a lot of baggage and he's got a lot of heart.

The Road Home-2001 (Chinese-subtitled)

Director: Zhang Yimou who did Raise the Red Lantern, JuDou, Not One Less

A young woman falls in love with a teacher, but tradition in the village means it'll take a long time before these two can get together. They end up sharing a love that's strong, pure and full of sacrifice. I'm not big on scenery, but the colors in this film were amazing.

Together-2001 (Swedish-subtitled)

This film is about the strength of friendship and love inside a free-living commune in 1975. You've got a woman who's escaping an abusive relationship, a couple of misfit children who finally find friendship and a whole cast of interesting characters. Plus there's lots of ABBA music.

Bridget Jones's Diary-2001 Starring: Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant

Most women I know see themselves in this wonderful comedy about a single lady trying to find a man. I especially relate to the pigging-out scene on the couch while watching Frazier. Renee Zellweger put on extra weight and a British accent to play this slightly funny character who falls for the wrong guy.

British accent to play this slightly trumpy character who falls for the wrong guy.
Sound familiar?

The Widow of St. Pierre-2001 (French-subtitled)

Starring: Juliette Binoche, Daniel Auteuil

This is a story of true love and redemption. The film is set in France in 1849, and revolves around a Captain's wife who shows compassion for a man waiting to be executed for murder. She's kind to a killer and speaks her mind, which doesn't go over well with the society folks. But her husband defends everything she does to the very end.

Shakleton's Antarctic Adventure-2001 I-Max Film/Documentary Narrator: Kevin Spacey

You'll walk out of this one saying, "I'm not worthy." This documentary tells the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his expedition to the Antarctic in 1914. You'll see how he saved his 28-man crew, when his ship got stuck in the ice. It took him two years to get them out! You see the kind of determination, faith and courage we all wish we had.

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