

The totally opinionated, completely bespoke *CHAOTIC GUIDE* to the queer moving image (chaoticguide.com)

Welcome to the **Chaotic Guide to the Queer Moving Image**. This side is a list of key LGBTQ movies and shows that forged the long path that got us to *Heartstopper*. The other features lists of recent and classic films, with nods to the hit Netflix show. (Links to more in-depth lists, with trailers and more, at chaoticguide.com.)

Youth Movies



Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe (2022 US)
From the beloved novel, two Mexican American teens find an instant connection in 1987 El Paso.

Beautiful Thing (1996 UK)
A pair of working-class teens discover their feelings for each other in this much-loved classic.

Booksmart (2019 US)
Two nerdy BFFs finally decide to live it up at a graduation party, leading to a night of mayhem.

Boy Erased (2018 US)
The gay son of a Baptist preacher finds his own voice after being pressured into church-supported conversion therapy.

Boys (2014 NL)
A quiet teen athlete discovers his love for a fellow teammate while training for a national relay.

By Hook or by Crook (2001 US)
Two transmasculine drifters become partners in crime to escape their troubles.

Come Undone (*Presque Rien*) (2000 FR)
A story of doomed love between two teens during summer on the French coast.

Edge of Seventeen (1998 US)
A high school kid comes out in a small Midwestern town in the androgynous New Wave '80s.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch (2000 US)
An East German rock star explores their past relationships and gender identity while on tour.

The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love (1995 US)
A working-class tomboy and her affluent classmate fall in love and find themselves up against friends, family, and community in this classic lesbian romcom.

Leave It on the Floor (2011 US)
Disowned for being gay, a Black teen finds a new family and life in Los Angeles' drag scene.

Margarita with a Straw (2014 IN)
An Indian girl with cerebral palsy falls for a Pakistani blind activist while studying in New York.

Ma Vie en Rose (1997 FR)
A seven-year-old trans girl's coming out provokes outrage in her suburban community.

The Miseducation of Cameron Post (2018 US)
A teen lesbian is sent to an oppressive gay conversion camp by her conservative aunt.

Mosquita & Mari (2012 US)
Two Latinx teen girls, seemingly total opposites, find they share something in common when they become study partners.

Mysterious Skin (2004 US)
Two former childhood friends cross paths and uncover the horrible truth linking them together.

Pariah (2011 US)
A Black teen lesbian struggles with coming out to her conservative parents and finds first love.

Saving Face (2004 US)
A Chinese American lesbian's budding relationship is jeopardised when her widowed mother reveals a secret of her own.

Show Me Love (1998 SE)
The popular girl looking for excitement and the outcast looking for the popular girl find each other in this hugely successful Swedish romcom.

Times Square (1980 US)
Two teenage runaways hit the streets of New York and reinvent themselves as the punk rock hellraisers, the Slez Sisters.

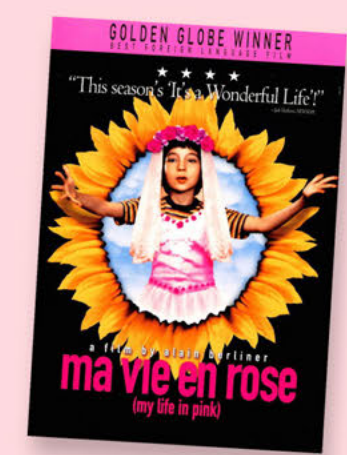
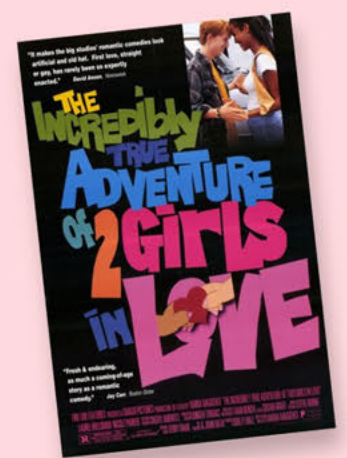
Spork (2011 US)
An intersex teen enters the school dance-off in this irreverent musical comedy.

Stranger Inside (2001 US)
A young African American butch seeks out her long-lost mother who is serving a life sentence.

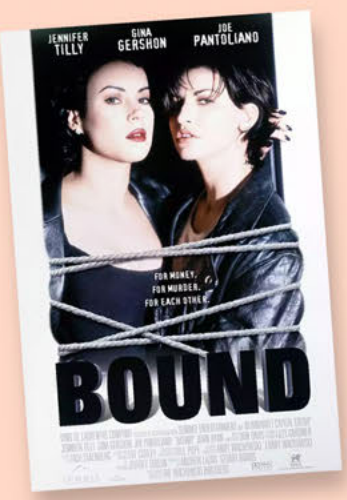
The Way He Looks (2014 BR)
A blind teen looking to leave town discovers new feelings with the arrival of a new student.

Tomboy (2011 FR)
Ten-year-old Laure begins presenting as a boy when their family moves to a new suburb.

XXY (2007 AR)
An intersex teen's parents force her to choose one way or the other when she begins to explore her sexuality in this drama from Argentina.



Essential Movies



The Birdcage (1996 US)
A flamboyant gay couple who run a Miami nightclub pretend to be straight to meet the conservative parents of their son's fiancé. With Robin Williams and Nathan Lane.

Bound (1996 US)
The Wachowski's first feature is one of the most perfect lesbian films ever made — a stylish and cinematic film noir thriller that is also well-written and cleverly designed.

Brokeback Mountain (2005 US)
Ang Lee's legendary gay love story broke new ground with its poignant and honest portrayal of two cowboys in love.

But I'm a Cheerleader (1999 US)
In Jamie Babbitt's colorful romantic comedy, Natasha Lyonne falls for Clea Duvall at a gay conversion therapy camp — with RuPaul as a supposedly straight counselor.

Carol (2015 US)
Todd Haynes's adaption of Patricia Highsmith's classic '50s lesbian pulp novel *The Price of Salt* took nearly 20 years to reach the screen, but the end result was worth the wait.

D.E.B.S. (2004 US)
Four teen girls are recruited to foil supervillain Lucy Diamond in this spy film spoof. Seamlessly incorporating a lesbian twist, the film is satisfyingly romantic while genuinely wholesome.

Desert Hearts (1985 US)
Set in Reno in the 1950s, Helen Shaver stars as Vivian, a prim and proper East Coast divorcee who falls for Cay, a spirited casino worker played by Patricia Charbonneau.

A Fantastic Woman (2017 CL)
This Chilean drama about a trans woman in the wake of her cisgender partner's death won the Oscar for Best Foreign Film and praise for breakout trans actress Daniela Vega.

Frida (2002 US)
Salma Hayek's steamy portrayal of bisexual Mexican artist Frida Kahlo earned her a Best Actress nomination in this gorgeously rendered period piece from director Julie Taymor.

God's Own Country (2017 US)
A gay romance like no other, Francis Lee's debut feature features a Yorkshire sheep farmer frustrated with rural life and the Romanian migrant worker who comes to help.

The Half of It (2020 US)
A shy Chinese American high school girl is paid by a jock to write love notes in his name to the girl they both have a crush on in Alice Wu's clever take on the classic *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

Happy Together (1997 HK)
Best Director winner at 1997's Cannes Film Festival, Wong Kar-Wai's wonderfully agonising drama of gay lovers in Buenos Aires stars Tony Leung and the late Leslie Cheung. An emotionally intense achievement in gay cinema history.

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High Art (1998 US)
In Lisa Cholodenko's gritty debut, Radha Mitchell's wide-eyed innocent tours the dark underside of New York's art world, obsessed with obscure lesbian photographer Ally Sheedy.

The Hours (2002 US)
One of the biggest, queerest mainstream films ever released has not just one, but three female leads who have sapphic facets. With Meryl Streep, Nicole Kidman, and Julianne Moore.

Milk (2008 US)
Gus Van Sant's story of a true gay hero features Sean Penn as Harvey Milk, an out and proud leader of a vibrant community.

Moonlight (2016 US)
Chiron struggles to accept his sexuality while dealing with his childhood emotional and physical abuse. Featuring an all Black cast, the first queer film to win the Oscar for Best Picture.

My Beautiful Laundrette (1985 UK)
The first fully realised gay interracial screen romance, with white punker Johnny (Daniel Day-Lewis) and British Pakistani Omar (Gordon Warnecke) confronting racism and assimilation.

Paris is Burning (1990 US)
This story of the Harlem House Ball circuit made gay men and trans women of color visible to themselves on the big screen.

Parting Glances (1986 US)
One of the most beloved gay movies of all time, this authentic story of gay life in the 1980s introduced Steve Buscemi as a sensitive, funny, non-stereotypical gay man living with AIDS.

Portrait of a Lady on Fire (2019 FR)
Céline Sciamma's Queer Palm-winning lesbian period drama is about the relationship between a painter and an aristocrat, and is distinguished by its slow-burn narrative and subtle eroticism.

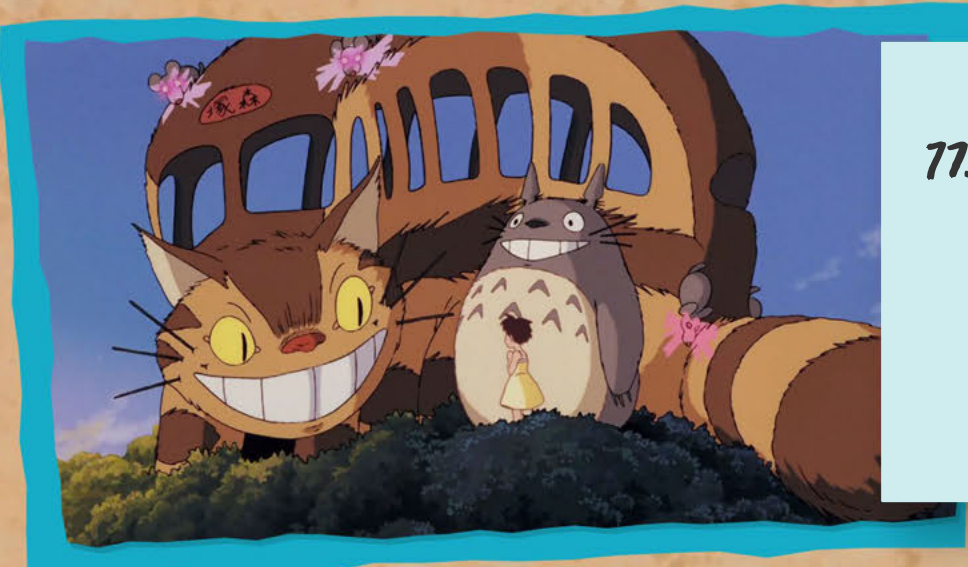
The Times of Harvey Milk (1984 US)
Rob Epstein's Oscar-winning account of the assassination of San Francisco's first openly gay elected official remains one of the most riveting gay documentaries ever made.

Tongues Untied (1978 US)
A groundbreaking documentary exploring Black gay identity, homophobia, and AIDS, Marlon Riggs's award-winning film caused a conservative firestorm over funding of queer arts.

The Watermelon Woman (1996 US)
Cheryl Dunye writes, directs, and stars as a lesbian filmmaker documenting a 1930s Black Hollywood actress known only as "the watermelon woman," interweaving faux documentary with a narrative about contemporary lesbian life and love.

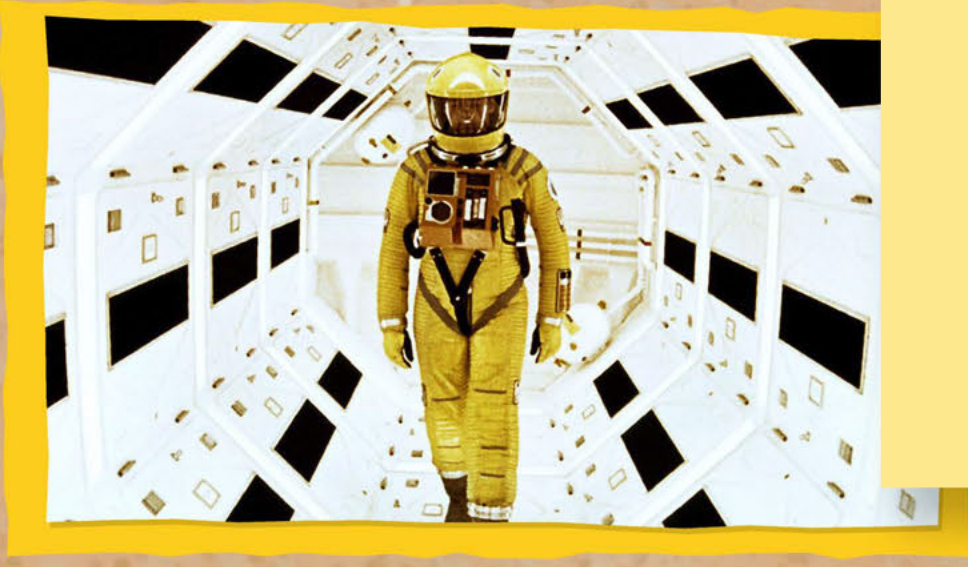
Word is Out: Stories of Some of Our Lives (1977 US)
The first widely released documentary about gay life remains groundbreaking for its direct, talking-heads approach. *Word Is Out* has stood the test of time, gaining even greater value.

Recommended: Watch *The Celluloid Closet*, an entertaining history of queer film from 1902 to 1995. Also, *Visible: Out on Television*, a recent miniseries that does the same for TV.



**THE DIFFERENCE
%0 OF SCIENTISTS CAN'T TELL**

The Aristocats (1970)
My Neighbor Totoro (Japan, 1985)
The Cat Returns (Japan, 2002)
Soul (2020)
Kedi (Turkey, 2016 doc)



**THE DIFFERENCE
%0 OF CATS CAN'T TELL**

Annihilation (2015)
Hidden Figures (2016)
2001: A Space Odyssey (1965)
Contagion (2011)
Gorillas in the Mist (1988)
Gravity (2013)

**GOOD AT EVERYTHING,
ESPECIALLY MATHS**

Good Will Hunting (1997)
Contact (1997)
Hidden Figures (2016)
Pi (1998)
The Man Who Knew Infinity (2015)
The Theory of Everything (2014)



**OFFICIALLY A BEACON
OF LEARNING**

Stand and Deliver (1988)
Like Stars on Earth (India, 2007)
Dead Poets Society (1989)
Not One Less (China, 1999)
To Sir, With Love (1967)

The Miracle Worker (1962)
The Great Debaters (2007)
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (1969)
Up the Down Staircase (1967)
Lunana: A Yak in the Class Room (Bhutan, 2019)



PASS ME A DRUMSTICK

The Mambo Kings (1992)
Drumline (2002)
Hop (2011)
Whiplash (2014)
The Sound of Metal (2019)

**THINGS TAO WANTS TO
FORCE YOU TO WATCH**

La Jetée (France, 1962)
Eraserhead (2023)
THX 1138 (1971)
The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai (1984)
The Prisoner (TV, 1967)
Pan's Labyrinth (Spain, 2006)
Lost (TV, 2004)
The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T. (1953)
Altered States (1980)
The Red Balloon (France, 1956 short)
Blue Velvet (1986)
Solaris (1972)



**BUT CHARLIE, I'M IN THE SHOWER:
AWKWARD I LOVE YOU**

Pride and Prejudice (2005)
Ghost (1990)
The Empire Strikes Back (1980)
My Best Friend's Wedding (1997)
When Harry Met Sally (1989)

AS LONG AS IT'S NOT MARVEL

Black Panther (2011)
Ms. Marvel (TV, 2022)
Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021)
WandaVision (TV, 2021)
Blade (2023)



**OK, HE DOES LOOK LIKE A
GOLDEN RETRIEVER**

Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey (1993)
Air Bud (1997)
The Art of Racing in the Rain (2019)
The Adventures of Bailey: The Lost Puppy (2010)
The Trial of Old Drum (2000)



**YOU SHOULD REALLY COME ROUND
MY HOUSE AND MEET HER**

Babe (1993)
A Dog Year (2009)
The Proud Rebel (1955)
The Boy Who Could Fly (1986)
Up the Creek (1984)
Mist: The Story of a Sheep Dog Puppy (2006)



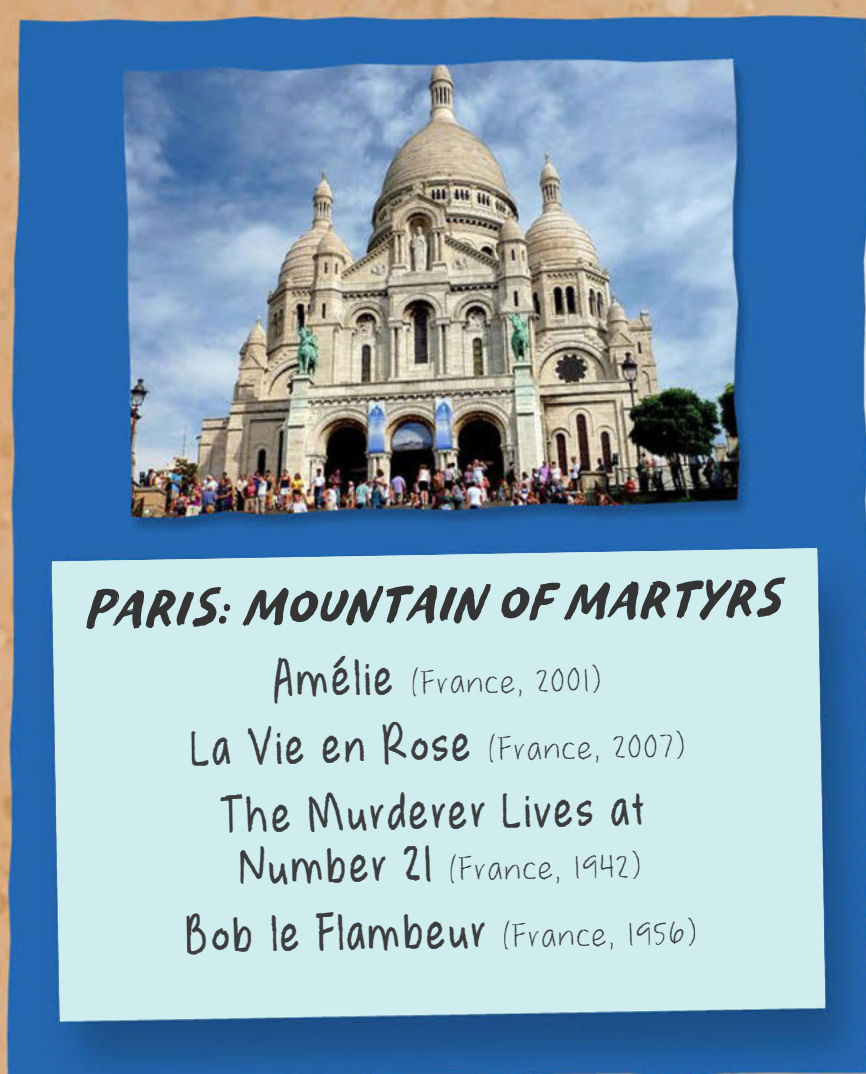
PUG-NACIOUS

Men in Black (1997)
Kingsman: The Secret Service (2014)
The Secret Life of Pets (2016)
The Adventures of Milo and Otis (1986)
Mansfield Park (1999)



**I WAS IN HERE
EVERY LUNCHTIME**

Frida (2002)
Girl with a Pearl Earring (2003)
Beyond the Visible-Hilma af Klint (2019 doc)
Artemisia (1997)
Finding Vivian Maier (2013)



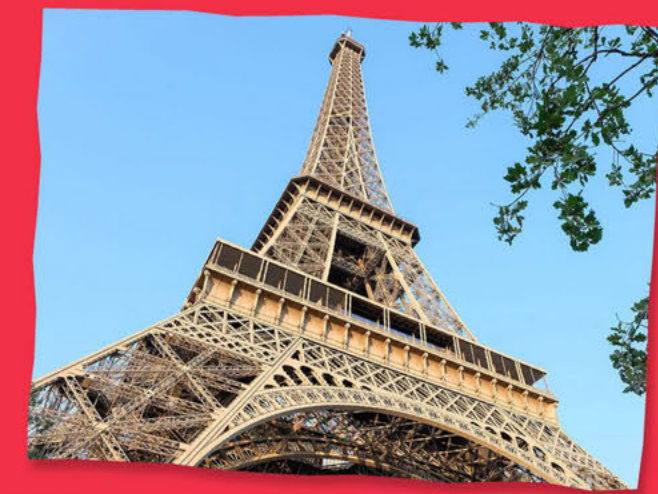
PARIS: MOUNTAIN OF MARTYRS

Amélie (France, 2001)
La Vie en Rose (France, 2007)
The Murderer Lives at Number 21 (France, 1942)
Bob le Flambeur (France, 1956)



PYRAMID SCHEME

Francophonie (France, 2015 doc)
The Da Vinci Code (2006)
The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Se (France, 2010)
Funny Face (1957)



WE ONLY PAID FOR STEPS

Hugo (2011)
The Crazy Ray (France, 1925)
The True Legend of the Eiffel Tower (France, 2005 doc)
Zazie Dans Le Métro (France, 1960)
Playtime (France, 1967)



FRIENDS & FAMILY

Black Mirror (2011)
Dangerous Liaisons (2022)
Daredevil (2015)
The End (2020)
The Essex Serpent (2022)
The Favourite (2018)
His Dark Materials (2019)
Rocketman (2019)
Sherlock (2010)
The Trials (Theatre, 2022)
We Are Lady Parts (2021)
Wilde (1997)
A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea & Tomorrow (2023)
Great Expectations (2023)
How to Date Billy Walsh (2023)



**SO YOU ARE SAYING I'M
SMALL AND WEAK!**

Handsome Devil (2016)
100 Streets (2016)
The Brighton Miracle (2019)
Forever Strong (2008)
Invictus (2009)

**HOW DOES LONDON
CALL TO YOU?**

Luther (TV, 2010)
Shakespeare in Love (1998)
Saving Mr. Banks (2013)
A Hard Day's Night (1964)
...and of course, Mary Poppins (1964)



**I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE
DISRESPECTING BUBBLE GUM
FLAVOUR IN FRONT OF ME**

Temptations Milkshake & Icecream Bar
85 Forest Rd, London E17 6JH

Miki's Paradise
221A Holloway Rd, London N7 8HG

Udderlicious Covent Garden
24 Earlham St, London WC2H 9LN

Wafflemeister
369 Oxford St, London W1C 2JW

Mamasons Dirty Ice Cream
32 Newport Ct, London WC2H 7PQ

Bubblegum Flavor - Baskin Robbins
208 Baker St, London NW1 5RT

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

Home Alone (1990)
East of Eden (1955)
On the Waterfront (1954)
My Brother's Wedding (1983)
Ran (Japan, 1985)



CLEAREST BLUE

West Side Story (1961, 2021)
Billy Elliot (2000)
Singin' in the Rain (1952)
The Red Shoes (1948)
Rize (2005)



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You can see richer, longer versions of these lists, with links to trailers, reviews and more at chaoticguide.com.

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Thank you to Alice Oseman for creating this world.