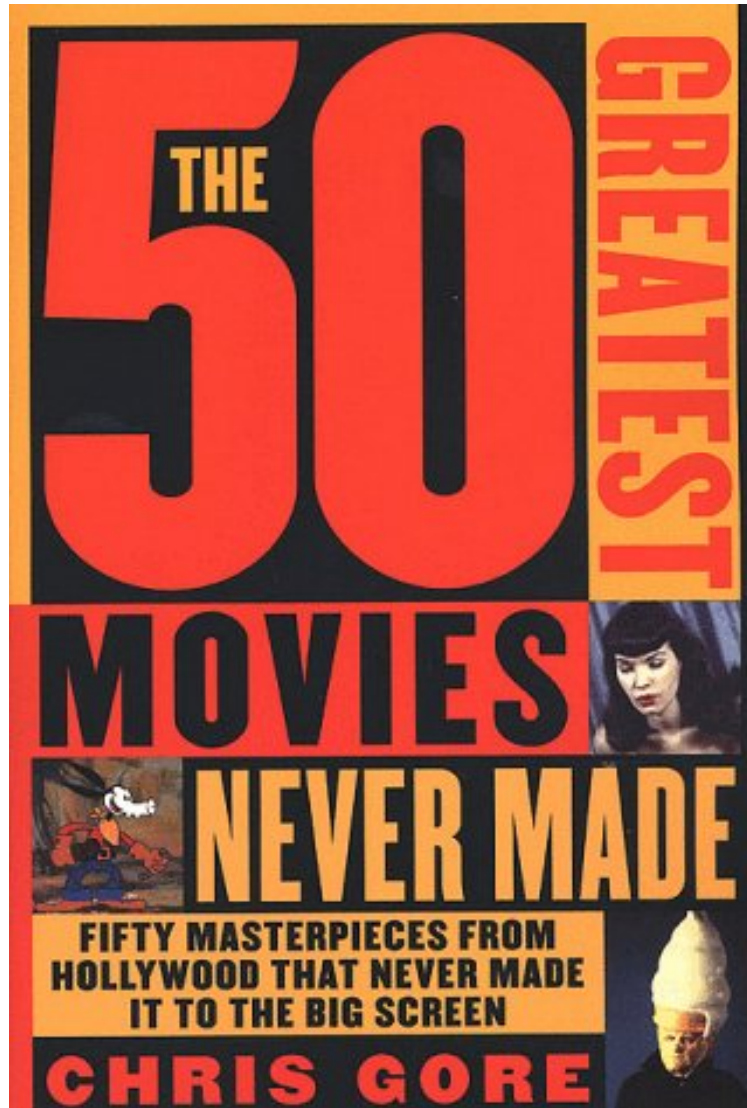


(Free pdf) The 50 Greatest Movies Never Made

## The 50 Greatest Movies Never Made

Chris Gore

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**Chris Gore : The 50 Greatest Movies Never Made** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The 50 Greatest Movies Never Made:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Could have been a great book with a different authorBy KellyI'd like to rate the book higher simply because it did bring up a lot of scripts I've never heard of and that was interesting--it also didn't repeat much of what I've already read. However, I suspect, from the information presented, that many of these "movies" never got made because they weren't actually very good (One of the greatest movies never made is a drama about a gangster with a head made of ice cream? Really??) What makes something good is certainly a matter of

opinion, so I can't really fault the author for including most of the ones he did, even if they do seem to be unworthy of the title "greatest." What makes this book bad, though, is the author, not the content. The author seems to think quite highly of his own opinion, and his attempts at wit are rarely humorous. I would have preferred a more neutral accounting of these movies that were never made, without as much personal commentary. A lot of his attempts at humor fall flat, such as using the phrase "The Short-Sighted States of America", and labeling the powerful heads of Hollywood as "kings" who are more interested in protecting their kingdoms than making (in his opinion) quality films. Some of the chapters (such as "Say It with Music") were positively dripping with scorn. It becomes apparent very quickly that the author is using the subject of movies never made as a soapbox in which to express his hatred for all things Hollywood. His insults are mainly aimed towards the studios and producers, but he has plenty to spare for various directors and writers. I don't know enough about the inner workings of Hollywood to determine if his criticisms are justified, but his complaints come across as more petty and childish than rational and intelligent. This could have been a good book if it had been in the hands of someone less biased. As it is, it was mildly entertaining, but by the end of the book it wound up being a headache-inducing slog. And ending the book with "if you want a sequel buy more copies of this book and send lots of requests to the publisher" is just plain weird. Given that this book was written in 1999 and I don't see a sequel on the way, this plea wasn't very successful.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Needs a 2nd edition in the worst way.

By Buddy Guy

So, I read this book many years ago when it was first published. And while I knew that Chris Gore was a very polarizing figure, I read the book with an open mind. While many of the past reviews of this work seem to be more a critique of the author rather than the book itself, I thought I would weigh in. This book is a fun quick read that focuses mostly on movies that Gore wished would have been made. Anyone who was an avid reader of *Film Threat* back in the 80s and 90s will find the subject matter of these movies very interesting. Betty Page to Sci-Fi, to very strange indie movies, all of the films discussed reflect the author's unique taste in film. And that is not going to be everyone's taste, as past reviews clearly show. However, I found this book to be very interesting and well researched. Why all of these movies have not been made was not clear to me back when it was first published.

UPDATE. Since this book was released, several of the movies from this book have in fact been made. *Star Trek Academy* (with a sequel soon to be released), the "Senior Citizen Animal House"? *Old School* with Will Ferrel anyone? The Silver Surfer never got his own movie, but did show up in *The Fantastic Four* movie. Alien finally fought *Predator*. And several Betty Page bio-pics have been released to critical acclaim. And even *Time Gate* was released. But the fact that you are probably hearing about it for the first time by reading this review lets you know how successful it was. Read this book. And let us hope that a updated second edition will one day pop up.

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

A more accurate title would leave out the word "greatest"

By Steven Bailey

Did you ever see the Marx Brothers comedy *A Day at the U.N.*? How about the *Roger Rabbit* sequel where it turns out that Bugs Bunny is Roger's father? If you never saw these movies, don't worry--nobody else has, either. However, they are (or were) legitimate movie projects, well-chronicled in Chris Gore's book, *The 50 Greatest Movies Never Made*. The book lovingly details 50 films which never got beyond the planning stages for various reasons. Many of them involved heavy Hollywood hitters, from Steven Spielberg (who helped to get the first *ROGER RABBIT* off the ground), to *DOUBLE INDEMNITY* director Billy Wilder (who brainstormed the aborted Marx Brothers film as well as a Laurel Hardy comedy), to Alfred Hitchcock (who proposed a movie about a blind pianist whose sight is restored). While the book is a fast-paced, popcornish read, the book's not-so-subtle point is to make film purists gnash their teeth at the thought of these potential film classics never getting made. For me, the book's only surprise was that they left out many of my favorites, including Buster Keaton's proposed take-off of *Grand Hotel*, Charlie Chaplin's *The Freak* (about a girl who sprouts wings), and an aborted Western starring The Beatles. It's easy to cry about potential film masterpieces that never got beyond the planning stage. The trouble is that, like many real lost films that come to light after being re-discovered, they often turn out to be classics only if they remain lost. And considering some of the awful ideas which do make it to the light of a movie theater--as witness the recent bomb *AT FIRST SIGHT*, starring Val Kilmer as (shades of Hitchcock) a blind artist who regains his sight--maybe these movies have rotted in Development Limbo for some very good reasons. That said, the book will be an eye-opener to novices who have never heard the term "turn-around," and brain candy for those who have seen awful ideas that \*did\* get made into movies.

Think you know Hollywood movies? Think again! No matter how many movies you've seen, no matter how many trivia contests you've won, this book is sure to have some surprises for you. The fifty flicks featured here aren't playing at the local Google-Plex or renting at your video store. These films never actually made it to the big screen---they're the gems that got lost in the Hollywood shuffle, consigned to Development Hell. Imagine, if you will: \* Alfred Hitchcock's *The Blind Man*, about a pianist suddenly given the ability to see \* *Destino*, the surreal fusion of two gigantic artistic talents: Salvador Dal and Walt Disney \* The unmade *Star Trek* film, *Starfleet Academy* \* Greta Garbo's triumphant return to the screen that never happened, *Lover and Friend* \* A senior citizens' *Animal House*?! Each movie here is a treat for the imagination, and also a lesson in the dos and (mostly) don'ts of Hollywood. In here are dramas, sci-fi flicks, comedies, sequels, animated films, and biopics certain to stir the imagination! For the movie enthusiast, this book is a speculative joy, and for the aspiring filmmaker, it's a crash course in cinematic

survival.

From Publishers Weekly In a business that produces over 40,000 spec scripts each year, of which only 3000 are optioned, and a mere 50 made, a project that never sees the light of day isn't a failure. It's the norm. In the spirit of Film Threat, Gore's alternative movie glossy, this book celebrates the most remarkable of aborted projects: "they might not have turned into great films," he writes, "but as ideas they were truly great." Many of these jettisoned movies are already Hollywood legends, and Gore's descriptions of the surviving material are full of promise: potential classics by Hitchcock and Wells, Garbo's comeback film, a Walt Disney/Salvador Dali collaboration called *Destino*. Among the star turns we'll never see are Frank Sinatra in *The Jimmy Durante Story* and Marilyn Monroe in *Something's Gotta Give*. Other ideas are intriguingly demented: Howard Stern's superhero parody *Fartman*, or a gangster movie about a Mafia don made out of ice cream. For some of these projects, there's still hope. The major players are still alive and the ideas are still film-ready, as is the case with *The Betty Page Story*, which *Variety* recently announced was slated to feature Liv Tyler. But as Gore demonstrates, casting the lead is merely a beginning, and a beginning doesn't get you far in Hollywood. This archive of stillborn pictures attests to the great feats of development and persuasion necessary to get a major film off the ground, and to the countless projects that crashed and burned along the way. (July) Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Chris Gore has been called "a pit bull of journalism" and the "Gen-X Leonard Maltin." He founded *Film Threat* magazine in 1985 and the popular magazine gave him access to scores of unfinished, underground, and cult films. He lives in Los Angeles