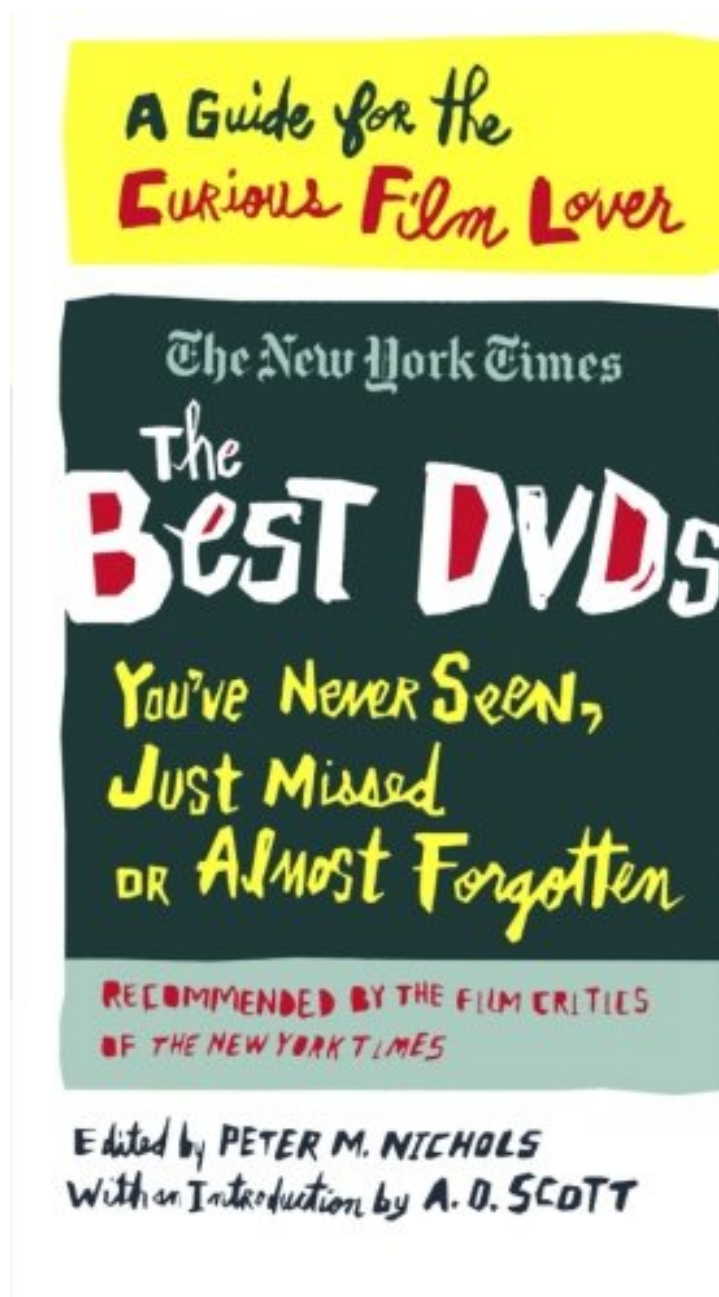


The Best DVDs You've Never Seen, Just Missed or Almost Forgotten: A Guide for the Curious Film Lover

A. O. Scott, Stephen Holden, Caryn James, Dave Kehr
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A. O. Scott, Stephen Holden, Caryn James, Dave Kehr : The Best DVDs You've Never Seen, Just Missed or Almost Forgotten: A Guide for the Curious Film Lover before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Best DVDs You've Never Seen, Just Missed or Almost Forgotten: A Guide for the Curious Film Lover*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Indie Film MinuteBy BarryWe produce a radio feature [...] that recommends great indie, documentary, and foreign films to rent. Toward this end, we are always looking for recommendations to watch and review. This book had several suggestions that reminded us of films that we loved and wanted to revisit. Though the descriptions are short and not particularly insightful, there were several reminders of films that we want to revisit. It is a cool reference.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Off the beaten path ...By Henry S. LeavittThe title explains the rationale of this guide pretty well and, for my taste, its admittedly quirky list came out about right. The five New York Times writers picked movies that I remember fondly and would like to see again, some that I had missed, and a few that I hadn't heard of at all -- a nice mix. Only a few on the list were what I'd call duds. Each film title is followed by a three or four paragraph plot description, plus the film's date, running time, MPAA rating, and a list of the director and lead actors. Except for the longer plot description, that's less information than you'll find in the Leonard Maltin or Videohound guides, so clearly this book's usefulness lies in the selection of recommended films. That, of course, is a matter of taste and preference: the connoisseur who wants an extensive list of Theo Angelopoulos' films will likely be as disappointed as someone looking for Michael Bay masterpieces. There's only so much you can do with a 500-film list aimed at a wide readership. As one reviewer correctly pointed out, this book does not include the most obscure art house features. Neither does it include Hollywood's biggest blockbusters. Most readers, I think, will find the film descriptions free of spoilers but detailed enough to make decision-making easy -- an advantage this book has over the larger guides with much briefer descriptions. Unfortunately, the book lacks an index. Films are listed alphabetically by title but there's no direct way to look up the works of favorite actors or directors. This, then, will be a great guide for some and less useful for others. Scorsese's *AGE OF INNOCENCE* and Almodovar's *ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER* are recommended, as are (flipping through at random) *BLUE VELVET*, *BOB ROBERTS*, *LES DESTINEES*, *DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS*, *GODS AND MONSTERS*, *THE GOOD GIRL*, *A HISTORY OF BRITAIN*, *HOFFA*, *MIAMI BLUES*, *A MIDNIGHT CLEAR*, *THE PAPER*, *PEEPING TOM*, *RUN LOLA RUN*, *RUSHMORE*, *13 CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ONE THING*, *THIRTEEN DAYS*, *WAKING LIFE*, and *WALKABOUT*. The Adrian Lyne *LOLITA* is here but the Stanley Kubrick version is not. If you thought *BAD SANTA* was vulgar, vile, loathsome, and misogynistic (which it was), this might not be your book. If you thought it was the funniest Santa Claus movie ever (which it also was), this book could be the perfect companion to your Must See list.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The best DVDs you've already seen...By Robert BeveridgePeter Nichols (ed.), *The Best DVDs You've Never Seen, Just Missed, or Almost Forgotten* (New York Times, 2005)This is a book whose stated aim is to bring to light obscure titles now available in America on DVD. A. O. Scott says in the preface that this is a guide to those movies "you may not have even known you were missing." Then you get to the actual movies. It's a weird, weird universe where even the casual film buff has somehow forgotten *About a Boy*, *Adaptation*, *Almost Famous*, *American Beauty*, *American Psycho*, *Angels in America*, or *Atlantic City*. Many of them were nominated for Oscars, most of them won. (The two exceptions in that list were a TV miniseries that swept a number of Emmys and one of the most controversial mainstream films of the past twenty years.) And that's just the As. You'll see a lot of Oscar nominees in this book. None of them, I think, is all too terribly obscure. And yet while Scott also alleges that the book tends towards the "art film", which in America often translates to "flicks that aren't in English", this compilation glosses over the most celebrated foreign directors--Kieslowski, Almodovar, Inarritu, Kusturica, etc.-- and manages to completely ignore a number of only slightly more obscure directors celebrated pretty much everywhere on the planet except America (for example, not a single Theo Angelopoulos movie makes an appearance). Not bad if you consider that the title should have been *The Best DVDs You've Just Never Gotten Around to Seeing After Hearing a Whole Lot of Hype About the Movies They Contain*. ***

Want to look further than the nearest mega-plex? At last, a guide for you. A.O. Scott Stephen Holden Caryn James Dave Kehr Peter M. Nichols If just trudging to the latest Hollywood blockbuster doesn't appeal to you, *The Best DVDs You've Never Seen, Narrowly Missed or Almost Forgotten* is the perfect companion. Inside, the film critics of *The New York Times* have made their top choices for those movies that are unjustly obscure, overlooked or just plain forgotten. * Newly updated reviews of 500 films---all available on DVD! * Sophisticated, intelligent, entertaining, provoking---these films run the gamut. * Each critic's top 10 picks from the book * Introduction by A. O. Scott, chief movie critic for *The New York Times* The perfect gift for any serious movie buff, no matter what they prefer, from *Waiting for Guffman* to *Happy, Texas*, *The Opposite of Sex* to *Belle Epoque*. Film noir, documentaries, drama, Westerns, animation, comedies, foreign films, even a few must-see TV shows on DVD---*The Best DVDs You've Never Seen, Narrowly Missed or Almost Forgotten* has it all.

From Publishers Weekly A self-described "source of information about films that might have been neglected or overlooked or, conversely, well known at one time and now worth a reminder," this hodgepodge guide may most appeal to readers who value a New York Times recommendation above all else. The collection includes "art films," small-scale indies and foreign-language films, as well as coming-of-age comedies and thrillers that "flourish on the far side of respectability," according to critic A.O. Scott's introduction. "The editors try to ease the anxious quandary you may face wandering up the video-store aisles in search of something to watch," he says. They succeed in that mission; the films, organized alphabetically and described in approximately one page each, range from Joseph H. Lewis's 1949 *Gun Crazy*, which Pauline Kael called "a tawdry version of the Bonnie and Clyde story," to Ridley Scott's 1977 *The Duellists*, adapted from a Joseph Conrad story, to Laurent Cantet's 2001 *Time Out*, which chronicles workers' woes at the management level. Most (though not all) of the films listed were produced within the past 30 years, and though they vary widely in terms of genre and commercial value, all are, as Scott says, "worth seeking out." Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A self-described 'source of information about films that might have been neglected or overlooked or, conversely, well known at one time and now worth a reminder,' this hodgepodge guide may most appeal to readers who value a New York Times recommendation above all else. The collection includes 'art films,' small-scale indies and foreign-language films, as well as coming-of-age comedies and thrillers that 'flourish on the far side of respectability,' according to critic A.O. Scott's introduction." - Publishers Weekly About the Author THE NEW YORK TIMES is renowned for its thoughtful, fun, and wide-ranging movie coverage. Its film critics and writers are known and admired nationwide. Critics A.O. Scott, Stephen Holden, Caryn James, Dave Kehr and Peter M. Nichols have contributed to *The Best DVDs You've Never Seen Just Missed or Almost Forgotten*.